Have you ever wondered how documentation involved in live subject research is related to the ethics of research and the university as a whole? After considering each one of the departments that conducts live subject research on campus, we have selected the Biological division of the Psychology Department. The role of ethics and documentation has had dramatic effects on the growth and prosperity of experimental psychology. Ever-changing rules, regulations, and ethics in the laboratory setting have significantly changed the methods of research that can be used on live subjects. Documentation has also changed with the times, following closely with any laws that are placed on the research.

In 1867 the University of Illinois was established as a land grant education institution and only twenty-five years later the department of Psychology was founded. The first laboratory at the university was established in 1892, but much of the growth of the department occurred in 1897. Part of the neuroscience program at the University of Illinois, the Biological division is described as “the behavioral neuroscience portion of the expanding field of neuroscience” (Youn’s citation). In order to discover and “understand how the brain works to produce behavior,” the researchers within this division use “neuroscience techniques mostly…in animals” to facilitate these goals. (Youn’s citation).

OVERVIEW OF ETHICS