**FabLab In-Depth Interviews**

Review short questionnaire data if already obtained. If not, the interview should start with those basic questions.

The in-depth questions are structured around 6 key sections.

**1. Product development and different types of production**

How do you currently use the FabLab? Are you developing a particular product? If so, can you explain to us how you have worked through the process from idea development through to prototyping?

 What equipment do you use in the FabLab?

 Do you use the 3D printers? If not, why not? If so, how did you find the process of learning how to use them? What challenges did you face? Was peer support with this learning process helpful?

 Are there limits to the usage you are able to get from the FabLab? If so, where can you go to access the equipment you need?

 Do you work alone in the FabLab?

 Have you been able to derive any commercial benefits from your time/projects at the FabLab?

**2. User engagement with ‘Making’ and the ‘new industrial revolution’**

Are you aware of the ‘Maker’ movement? If so, have you engaged with any Makers? Do you consider yourself to be a Maker? What is a Maker?

Some people argue that the technologies available in FabLabs represent a ‘new industrial revolution’ that will transform the economy? What do you think of this idea?

 Do you see yourself contributing to a new era of production? If so, how? If not, why not? Is the FabLab environment different to the Maker environments? If so, how?

 Are you aware of the origins of the FabLab movement and the aims of the Manufacturing Institute in the UK [or Japanese equivalent here]?

 What is the role for students/entrepreneurs/casual users in the development of new production methods?

 Will FabLabs help to make our society more or less equal?

**3. Knowledge exchange within FabLabs and beyond**

Do you use the FabLab for free? If so, have you uploaded your designs?

 Have you accessed the shared FabLab resources? If so, which ones and how did you use them?

 Do FabLab users help each other?

 Have you benefitted from assistance from other FabLab users here in Manchester/name of other city? How?

 Have FabLab users in other cities helped you with your project? If so, how?

 Do you use web-based resources and design repositories? [need to check terminology here]

 How does face-to-face knowledge sharing compare to that of the web-based sources?

 Do you interact with FabLab (or other fabrication spaces) users in other countries?

 If so, how do users compare?

**4. Management**

 Do FabLab users trust each other?

 Do all FabLab users respect the principles in the FabLab Charter?

 Not all hackerspaces are part of the FabLab network. What benefit do you get from using a FabLab instead of another hackerspace?

**5. Local economic development**

How important is this FabLab as a resource for students/entrepreneurs/casual users in Manchester [or name of other city]?

 How far would you be prepared to travel to access a FabLab?

 How does the FabLab contribute to idea development?

 How does the FabLab support commercial development? Are any other agencies connected to the FabLab to offer business development services?

 If you have developed a commercially successful product, were any other agencies involved? Did you access public funds?

 Is Manchester/name of other city an innovative place?

 How does the FabLab impact on the local and regional economy?

**6. Future developments and user aspirations**

Will you continue to use the FabLab?

 Do you anticipate your usage changing over time? If so, how and why?

 Will you be using the FabLab in four years’ time?

 Given your individual connection to fabrication and different fabrication spaces, do you think that FabLabs (and other spaces) will increase in number? How do you think 3D printing will evolve?

 Are additive technologies going to change how we make and consume products?

 Do you see yourself playing a role in this?