



Research Report	Component 2
Student Name:	Adea Celestino
Student Number:	2118944
Lecturer Name:	Seyed Nasporogoei
Course Module Code:	BMSW4003_BIRM
Course:	Digital Skills and Research Methods



Abstract

A group project was initiated by conducting a research, questionnaire and in-depth study about the most commonly used digital skills used amongst students and staff at UWTSD. The purpose of this research report was to establish the outcome of the most commonly tool used to collaborate at UWTSD. Methodology used for the project was a combination of quantitative and qualitative research, analysis of outcomes, an individual questionnaire completed by students (19 respondents), and a conclusion following the methods.

The main findings and conclusions were not the same as the group's initial hypothesis. At first as a group we hypothesised that Microsoft Teams is the most commonly used tool to collaborate at UWTSD. Interestingly the outcome of the questionnaire concluded that in fact that feedback suggested that both Microsoft Teams and Whatsapp were most commonly used for collaboration scoring par 42.1%.

Participants were also asked to rank the applications in order according to how frequently any of the below were used to collaborate with others, during this exercise MS Word scored the most frequent as per Figure 1 below.

Rank	Percent
Moodle	21.1%
WhatsApp	15.8%
MS Word	31.6%

OneDrive	15.8%
MS Teams	26.3%

Figure 1. Microsoft Forms questionnaire outcome scores.

Contents

Abstract.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Research design	5
Research Question	8
Method	8
Ethical Considerations	9
Results.....	9
Discussion	9
Conclusion.....	10
Reference List	10
Appendix A – A blank copy questionnaire.....	11

Introduction

Education has benefited greatly from technological advancements. The importance of technology in modern education is undeniable, and it is now much more so in light of the pandemic's current advances and upheavals.

There have been some arguments in higher education over how technology is integrated into classrooms, although mixed-mode and distance-education delivery are the most frequent options. This is distinguished while the course or programme is being developed, the course's design, and the impact on students who are not on campus full-time. Bates, A.W., and Poole, 2003) To put the delivery modes into context, mixed-mode delivery refers to the use of classic methodologies like scaffolding, instructional, and collaborative pedagogies. Rather than an instructor being the old source of information, technology is employed to assist an educator in assuring the interactive presentation and exchange of learning content. (Ahmad and Kashi, 2021)

The value of social interaction in the educational process has received a lot of attention. The way instructors offer learning outcomes and students learn has been impacted by modern technology teaching methods. It has also had a significant influence on educational quality. It's worth mentioning that the platforms analysed were developed during a period of crisis, allowing learners to train, learn, adapt, and 'make-use' of the platforms for education, professors, and students.

Research design

Our chosen research question as a group was 'Which digital tool is most commonly used to collaborate at UWTSD' under the topic of 'How do we use technology to collaborate at UWTSD'.

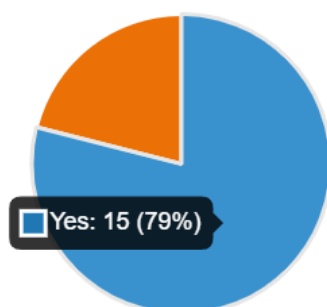
Collaboration online requires new skills and hidden 'collaboration work', above and beyond 'actual work'. (Riemer and Schellhammer, 2018)

During the research towards the conclusion of the main question we included methods to obtain our details electronically via library platforms, visiting local libraries, reading articles and collecting data via feedback questionnaires. The presentation was successful and included ethical considerations, rational, research timeline, proposed method, and hypotheses to display the findings of the most commonly used digital tool to collaborate with peers and the source of the educational platform.

The research was conducted whilst ethically managing research data, ensuring it is identifiable, retrievable, and accessible. In our group we ensured data and research were conducted anonymously and treated confidentially. (BERA, 2018:21)

A copy of the questions asked are as follows:

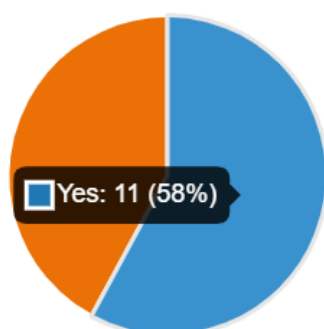
Do you use MS Teams more than other digital tools to work with your peers or colleagues?



Yes 79%

No 21%

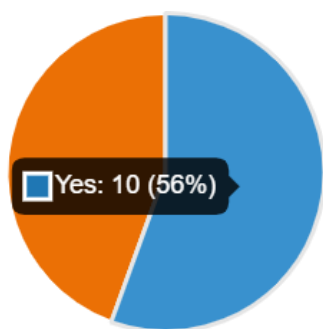
Do you use OneDrive more than other digital tools to collaborate with peers or colleagues?



Yes 58%

No 42%

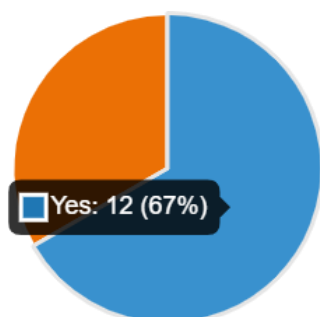
Do you use WhatsApp more than other digital tools to collaborate with your peers or colleagues?



Yes 56%

No 44%

When collaborating with peers do you use one digital tool more than others?



Yes 67%

No 33%

QuestionRank these applications in order according to how frequently you use them to collaborate with others. (Most frequent at the top)

Rank	Percent
MS Forms	21.1%
MS Teams	5.3%
MS Excel	15.8%
MS Word	42.1%
MS PowerPoint	5.3%

Rank these applications according to how frequently you use them to collaborate with others on OneDrive **(Most frequent at the top)**

Please select ONE response to the questions below:

I use MS Teams most frequently to collaborate with others.

I use the OneDrive more than I use MS Teams to collaborate with others

I use WhatsApp more than I use MS Teams to collaborate with others

I do not use any digital tools to collaborate with peers

I use a range of different digital tools to collaborate

There is no digital tool that I use more frequently than others

I use both MS Teams and the OneDrive equally often when working with others

Research Question

Digital tools are the essence of connecting us to learning paths, furthering knowledge, and equipping learners to gain access to and between vital links to study. Therefore, a chosen research question of 'Which digital tool is most commonly used for collaboration at University of Wales Trinity St David' was chosen to enable us to really look into this, equipping the reader of my report with sufficient knowledge further to digital tools, and the links between collaboration with students, staff and the University.

Digital skills are the vital links connecting us to equipping ourselves for our future, this exciting thought led me to choose my research question.

Barnes, 2016 quoted *'From the beginning of time, humans have communicated in some way, shape, or form. Whether the method was writing on cave walls or is today's tweeting, people have and always will leverage the power of available technology to stay connected.'*

Method

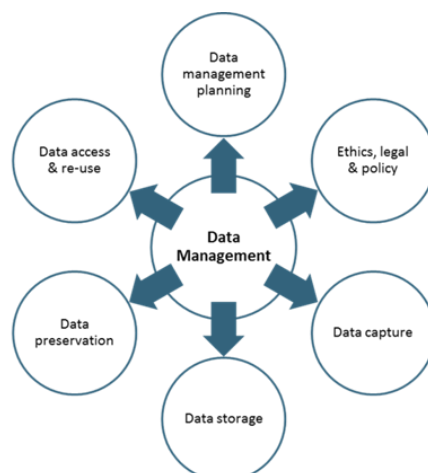
Research is about enquiry, about discovery, about revealing something that was previously not known.

According to Groenewald (2004) "a research design is a plan or blueprint of how you intend conducting the research".

Subjective research study conductions, interviews with peers and other students, and sending out a Microsoft Form questionnaire to experiment with findings and conclusions to

form a final outcome were all part of the proposed methodology to conduct the findings of the question 'Which digital tool is most commonly used to collaborate at UWTSD?'

Ethical Considerations



Confidentiality was a primary concern and ethical consideration during the study and questionnaire, as was informed consent and anonymity. During the research questionnaire, persuasion and pressure were not mentioned. Participants were promised that their financial interests would not be revealed, and that any additional information shared for research reasons would be kept anonymous.

Results

A literature review was published following the results of the research to conclude that Microsoft Teams still is the most commonly used digital tool to collaborate at UWTSD, but other digital platforms scored in the high ranks along with Microsoft Teams.

According to Clark (2020) there are several digital alternatives for coordinating cooperative activities, providing feedback, and creating an online educational environment.

Discussion

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Identification of Research areas.	Objectives of our Research Defined.	Writing the Proposal of Research gathered. Class divided in groups	Analysing all the collected data.	Writing our conclusion for the assignment.	Final research .
Introduction with class and the teachers.	Writing the information and Research gathered.	Data collection process.	Writing all the evidence of our research gathered.	Harvad referencing and bibliography.	Submitted our assignment.

The table above shows our research timeline in which we conducted the survey and found further information. During the process other digital platform areas were unexpectedly highlighted and brought to light.

Conclusion

It is hypothesised that Microsoft Teams is the most used tool at UWTSD for collaboration. In this report, we looked at the link between digital abilities and digital skill projections for the future. We discovered that non-routine digital platforms, problem-solving, and the development of digital outputs are the digital talents most likely to be needed in the future via the most commonly used platforms, mostly Microsoft Teams and One Drive following this report. In conclusion, it appears that not all digital talents are equally important. These disparities should be considered when making investment decisions in digital skills development. Otherwise, we risk supporting digital skills training that will become obsolete in the not-too-distant future.

Reference List

Barnes, M. 2016. Using Social Media for Worldwide Sharing. In: 2016. *5 Skills for the Global Learner: What Everyone Needs to Navigate the Digital World*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin. pp. 15-22 Available at: <<https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781483393254.n3>> [Accessed 24 Mar 2022].

Bates, A.W. & Poole, G. (2003). *Effective Teaching with Technology I Higher Education: Foundations for Success*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

British Educational Research Association (2018) *Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research*. Fourth Edition (2018). BERA.

Clark, J.T., 2020. *Distance education in Clinical engineering handbook* (pp.410-415). 'Academic Press'.

Groenewald, T., 2004. A phenomenological research design illustrated. *International journal of qualitative methods*, 3(1), pp.42-55.

Mifrah Ahmad and Hesaam Kashi (2021) 'Expectations Vs. Reality: A Narrative Anecdotal Approach to Examining the Digital Tools Used to Engage Undergraduate Students During Pandemic', *Journal of higher education theory and practice*, 21(3), pp. 29–43. doi:10.33423/jhetp.v21i3.4139.

Riemer K., Schellhammer S. (2019) 'Collaboration in the Digital Age: Diverse, Relevant and Challenging'. *Collaboration in the Digital Age*. Progress in IS. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-94487-6_1 (Accessed 18 February 2021)

Appendix A – A blank copy questionnaire.

Thank you for taking part in my questionnaire, your participation is greatly appreciated.

The questions below are based on my chosen research question: 'Which digital tool is most commonly used for collaboration at UWTSD?'



Required

1. Do you use MS Teams more than other digital tools to work with your peers or colleagues?

Yes

No

2.Do you use OneDrive more than other digital tools to collaborate with peers or colleagues?

Yes

No

3.Do you use WhatsApp more than other digital tools to collaborate with your peers or colleagues?

Yes

No

4.When collaborating with peers do you use one digital tool more than others?

Yes

No

5.QuestionRank these applications in order according to how frequently you use them to collaborate with others. (Most frequent at the top)

WhatsApp

OneDrive

MS Word

Moodle

MS Teams

6.Rank these applications according to how frequently you use them to collaborate with others on

OneDrive (**Most frequent at the top**)

MS PowerPoint

MS Word

MS Teams

MS Excel

MS Forms

7. Please select ONE response to the questions below:

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Neutral

I use MS Teams most frequently to collaborate with others.

I use the OneDrive more than I use MS Teams to collaborate with others

I use WhatsApp more than I use MS Teams to collaborate with others

I do not use any digital tools to collaborate with peers

I use a range of different digital tools to collaborate

There is no digital tool that I use more frequently than others

I use both MS Teams and the OneDrive equally often when working with others

You can print a copy of your answer after you submit

This content is created by the owner of the form. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner. Microsoft is not responsible for the privacy or security practices of its customers, including those of this form owner. Never give out your password.

Powered by Microsoft Forms

|

The owner of this form has not provided a privacy statement as to how they will use your response data. Do not provide personal or sensitive information.

| [Terms of use](#)