

Digital Skills and Research Methods

BMSW4001

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Introduction

Technology has been at the forefront of learning tools in education for decades and within the last couple of years has advanced even more so.

During this presentation we will investigate whether, there is a need to provide training on how to use technology to collaborate at UWTSD?

The Importance of Providing Training



Training is important as it promotes inclusivity as everyone is taught the same skill set.



For the most part higher education consists of people from many different walks of life.



Given this, not everyone is starting off with the same knowledge on newer systems like Office365, various social media platforms and internal apps.

Collaborating via technology

Everything from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and even TikTok are accessible from mobile phones and apps, these form a large part of today's communication and teachers can use this reliance to encourage collaborative learning.

With technology, students can collaborate in real time with an Internet connection.

Student collaboration is important in learning social skills, exploring areas of interest and also working in group projects.



Image taken from google images
<https://www.vivi.io/collaborative-technology-tools-for-students/>



Image taken from google images.
<https://www.vecteezy.com/free-vector/facebook-twitter-instagram>

Quantitative and Qualitative Research

Quantitative research uses numbers or measurable data for investigations.

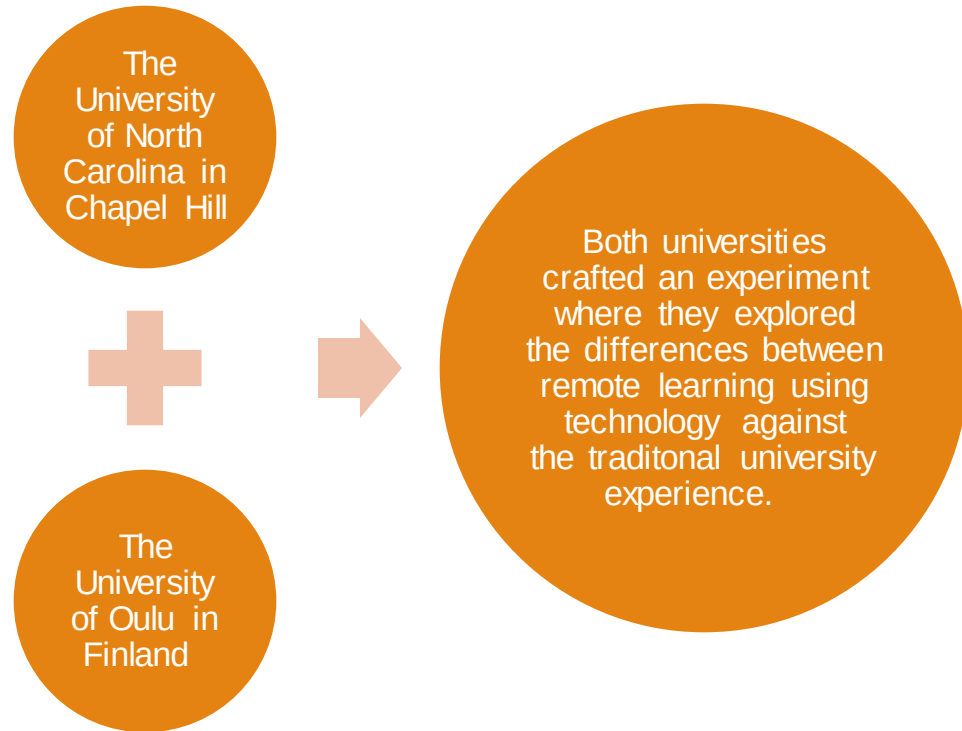
Qualitative research uses statements or open-ended questions for investigations.



What is your favourite colour? 1.Pink, 2.Green or 3.Red

How do you prefer to travel? 1.Bus, 2.Walk, 3.Drive or Other

Rationale



The investigation found that collaboration technology did not reduce the need for student-faculty interactions. Although the participants did benefit from the experiment, in comparison to their counterparts who weren't given the same opportunity.

(Diane H. Sonnenwald¹, Mirja Iivonen², Jeffrey A. Alpi¹, Heli Kokkinen²- Collaborative Learning Using Collaboration Technology: Report from the Field- page 16)

We hope to use secondary research, alongside our own primary findings to investigate the importance of training students on how to collaborate using technology.

Ethical Considerations

"Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do." - Justice Potter Stewart

Privacy of those taking part

- The survey will remain anonymous.

Respect for Others

- The questions in the survey will be of a sensitive nature.

Voluntary participation and the right to withdraw

- Students will be asked to take part in the survey without the expectation to do so.
- They are also allowed to withdraw from the experiment any point.

Upholding Data Protection Laws

- We will exercise our basic knowledge of the UK's data protection laws.
- Data will be kept for no longer than necessary.
- The information will be used lawfully, fairly and transparently.

Saunders et al (2019) outlined key ethical principles that any researcher needs to apply to their research experiments, the four outlined in this slide will be taken into consideration for our survey.

Extracts taken from UWTSD- Week 4 Research and Skills- slide 4/5

Gov.uk, Data Protection Act- Page 1

Timeline



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In the coming weeks we will create a Microsoft Form for students at UWTSD to complete, there will be a deadline of 2 weeks from publishing for students to return their answers. A reminder will be sent after a week has passed encouraging students to complete the survey.

We will collate the findings and the information will be retained until the end of the semester, in order to be able to revisit the information for future assessments, after this point in time we will destroy all the data collected.

Our Hypothesis

We believe once we receive the results of our findings, that there will be a mixed understanding of whether training in technology is required to collaborate at UWTSD.

The demographic of our classroom has already established in previous lessons, that some students have not had the same exposure to technology as their peers. We will take into consideration the students age, highest level of education and understanding of various software when conducting our survey, as these factors will form some of the questions.

In addition to this, we contemplate that the qualitative results compared to the quantitative results will differ greatly, as there is more room of expression with qualitative questioning.

References

Saunders, M.N.K., Lewis, P. and Thornhill, A. (2019) *Research methods for business students*. 8th edition. Harlow: Pearson.

The Data Protection Act 2018, <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection>

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Research Skills and Ethical Questions.

Alchemer, Formerly Survey Gizmo- *Quantitative Questions Versus Qualitative Questions in Surveys*, <https://www.alchemer.com/resources/blog/quantitative-questions-vs-qualitative-questions-in-surveys/>