

Research Report

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Digital Skills and Research Methods.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of this report is to analyse the results of a survey that was given to UWTSD students to find out how important they think it is to have digital skills and research methods. The questionnaire had a total of six questions, and each one asked about a different aspect of how important digital skills are. For example, one question asked about how confident the respondent was in using Microsoft Office 365. Other questions asked about how important a specific digital skill was, how important other digital skills were, or why these skills were important.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

In today's society, having digital skills is becoming more and more important, with a focus on how useful they are in business and school settings. The main goal of this study is to find out how important digital skills are to college students by looking at how they see their value and how much they affect how well they do in school. Zare and Rahimi (2017) investigated the relationship between digital skills and employability in Iranian higher education graduates. Their findings indicated that digital skills were positively associated with employability, highlighting the importance of these skills in today's job market.

2.1 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How important are digital skills to university students?
- Are you confident at using Microsoft Office 365?
- Using which digital skill is important for UWTSD students? (Rank this application in order with the top being important)
- Why do you think using the skill ranked at one above is important for UWTSD students?

- I feel that using MS teams is more important than OneDrive for UWTSD students.
- I feel that using Moodle is more important than Outlook for UWTSD students.

2.2 METHODOLOGY:

This study will use a mixed-methods approach, which means that both quantitative and qualitative data will be collected and looked at in equal amounts. Both qualitative and quantitative data are important for judging progress and figuring out how to move forward. are all examples of quantitative data that can be evaluated numerically. When qualitative and quantitative research methods are used together, the pros and cons of each can be lessened. It could give you more convincing proof, which would give you more faith in what you've found. McInerney (2000).

Sampling: The research will focus on gathering responses from a representative sample of 9 university students representing a range of academic areas and study levels. A sampling method called convenience sampling is going to be used, and the survey is going to be made available through google forms.

Data Collection: Information will be gathered by means of an online questionnaire, which will consist of both open-ended and closed-ended questions. The survey will be broken up into three separate sections. The first section will consist of questions about the respondent's demographics, such as age, gender, academic level, and academic specialty. The second section of the test will be made up of multiple-choice questions that will require students to rank the significance of a variety of digital skills, as well as provide an overall evaluation of the significance of digital skills. In the third section, there will be questions that are open-ended, which will provide students the opportunity to submit comments that are more extensive and insights into their experiences with digital skills.

2.3 DATA ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics, such as frequency counts, means, and standard deviations, will be used to conduct the analysis of the quantitative data. The qualitative data will be evaluated using a thematic approach, which will involve locating significant themes and patterns in the responses (Sapsford et al 1996). A graph and a chart were used to visually represent the data. With the purpose of providing a deeper comprehension of the result.

2.4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Consent that is given after being fully informed is an essential component of every research study that includes human subjects. Participants in this study will be provided with comprehensive information regarding the purpose of the study, including the outcomes that the researchers hope to attain as a result of their work. In addition to this, they will be given the assurance that the data they provide will be kept secure and would be guarded against any illegal access or disclosure. Last but not least, participants will be made aware that, should they so choose, they are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without incurring any kind of punishment or having their connection with the researcher or the institution be negatively affected in any way. This guarantees that participants are provided with all of the relevant information and are able to deliberate and decide whether or not to take part in the study based on that information.

2.5 EXPECTED RESULTS

It is expected that the study will provide evidence to support the hypothesis that digital abilities are regarded as being of the greatest priority by university students. It is also anticipated that students in various academic fields will have diverse perspectives on the perceived significance of having digital abilities. Last but not least, it is anticipated that students who have higher degrees of digital abilities will achieve better results in their academic careers.

3. RESULTS

Just one of the eight students polled did not believe that having digital skills was important, while seven of the students thought that having them was highly important. According to figure 1. Out of a total of 9 respondents, 75% said they were confident in their ability to use Microsoft Office 365, while 25% said they were not confident in their ability.

Fig. 2 demonstrates that students selected Microsoft Teams as the second most significant skill, with WhatsApp taking the top spot. If you were asked, "Why do you think using the skill ranked at one above is crucial for UWTSD students?" what would your response be?

When asked why they considered WhatsApp to be the most important digital skill for UWTSD students, the majority of respondents (65%) stated that it was because it enables efficient communication and collaboration among students and friends. When asked why they believed that WhatsApp should be the most important digital skill for UWTSD students, the majority of respondents (65%) stated that it was because it allows for effective. the use of Moodle is of a higher priority than that of OneDrive for students at UWTSD, out of the 9 people who provided feedback, 70% of them agreed or strongly agreed with this statement, whilst 30% of them objected or strongly disagreed with it. please refer to the figure below for more details.

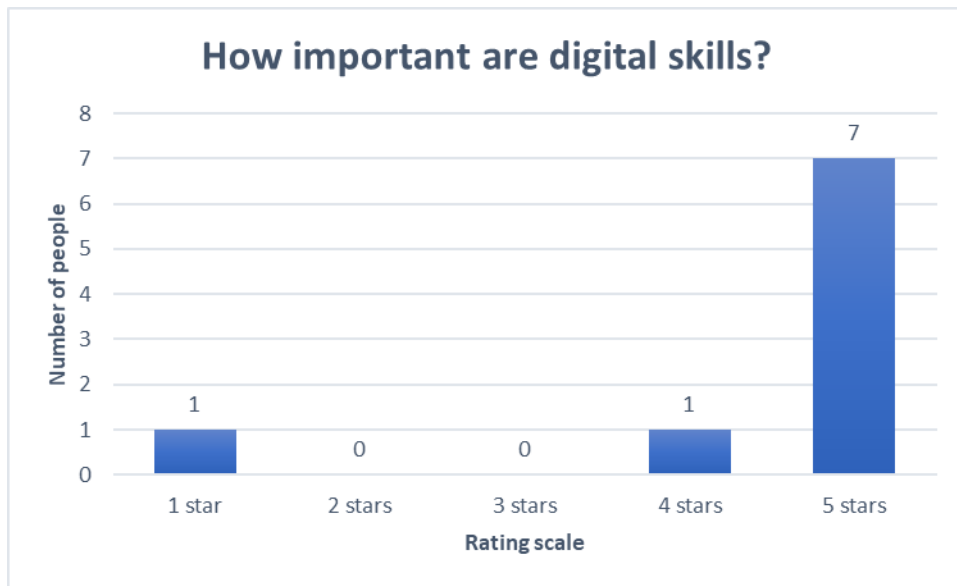


Fig 1: How important are digital skills?

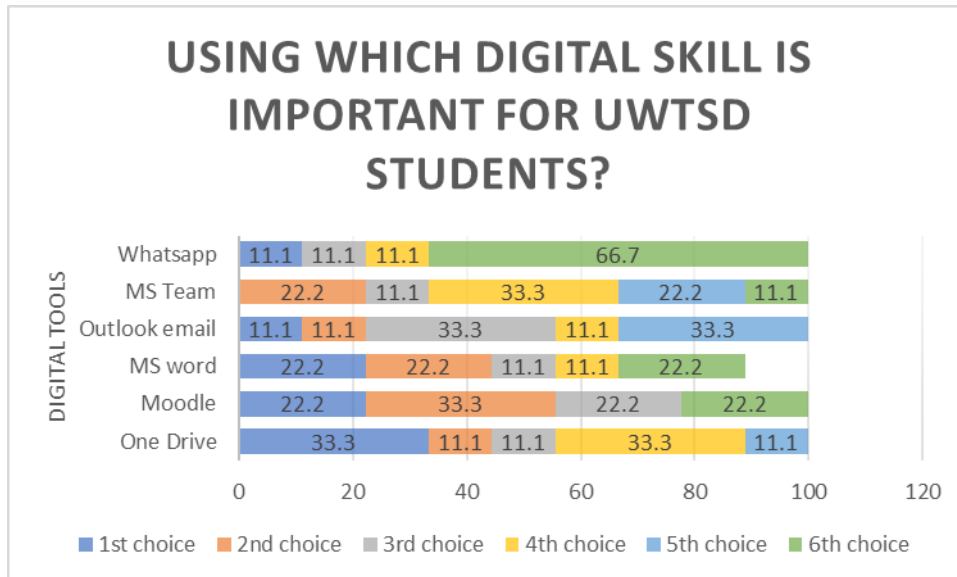


Fig 2: Using which digital skill is important for UWTSD students

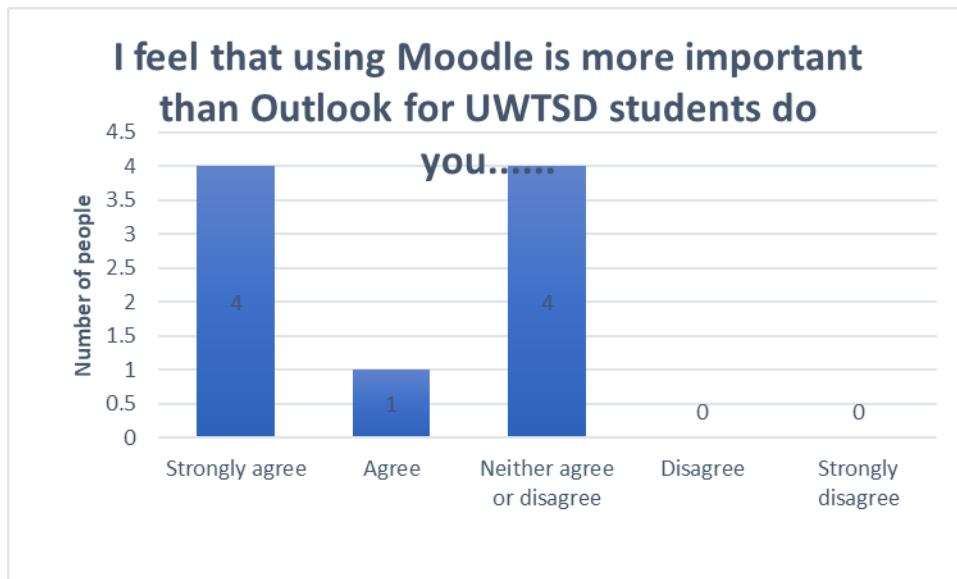


Fig 5: I feel that using Moodle is important

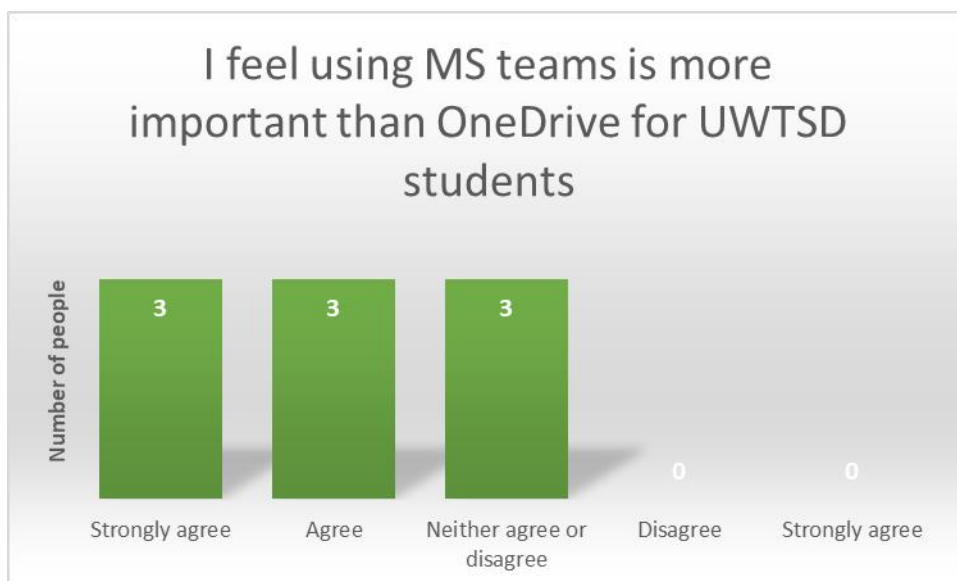


Fig 4: I feel that using MS teams is more important Than OneDrive for UWTSD students.

4. DISCUSSION

The findings of this survey shed new light on how important it is for students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David to have excellent digital abilities (UWTSD). According to the findings, the majority of respondents placed a high value on digital

abilities, with the majority responding that they consider them to be very important. This indicates that the majority of respondents believe that having digital skills is extremely significant. This shows that students are aware of the growing importance that technology plays in modern society, notably in the workplace and in educational settings. [Citation needed]

Another intriguing finding was that the respondents had a high level of confidence in their abilities to utilise Microsoft Office 365. This is an interesting finding because it suggests that the respondents are competent computer users. This is a promising development, considering that mastery of this software package is required for achievement in a wide variety of academic and professional contexts.

According to the findings from the survey, students at UWTSD consider proficiency in WhatsApp to be the single most important digital ability. The ability to effectively interact with others and work together with others was highlighted as the key explanation for this trend. The respondents, on the other hand, were of the opinion that Moodle was more significant than OneDrive. Moodle, which is a well-known learning management system, was noteworthy in its own right. On the other hand, perspectives differed over the degree to which it had to be prioritised in comparison to email sent using Outlook. When it came to respondents' perspectives on what was more crucial for academic achievement, Moodle was held in higher esteem by some, while email communication using Outlook was held in higher regard by others.

The results of this poll, taken as a whole, provide some insightful and helpful information regarding the digital abilities that are essential for UWTSD students. It stresses the need for students to gain competence in Microsoft Office 365, particularly Moodle, and suggests that collaboration and communication are crucial components of digital literacy with WhatsApp. Specifically, it highlights the need for students to develop proficiency in digital communication.

5. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study make it clearly clear that students at UWTSD place a high importance on the learning of digital skills. Particularly, knowing how to use WhatsApp was seen as the most significant digital skill because of the messaging service's capacity to improve the efficiency of both communication and teamwork. However, In terms of the real-world implications, the university should think about expanding the number of training sessions and workshops it provides to students in order to assist them in developing their digital abilities, in particular their skill with Microsoft Teams. This could be useful not just for academic success but also for future career possibilities, as digital skills are increasingly becoming a need in the job market. This could be beneficial not only for scholastic success but also for future employment prospects. It is strongly suggested that UWTSD maintain its emphasis on the significance of digital skills and continue to provide students with training and support in this area. In addition, it could be beneficial to investigate the reasons why certain students place a higher priority on Moodle WhatsApp than their MS Teams, and to address any problems that may come up as a result of this investigation.

6. REFERENCES

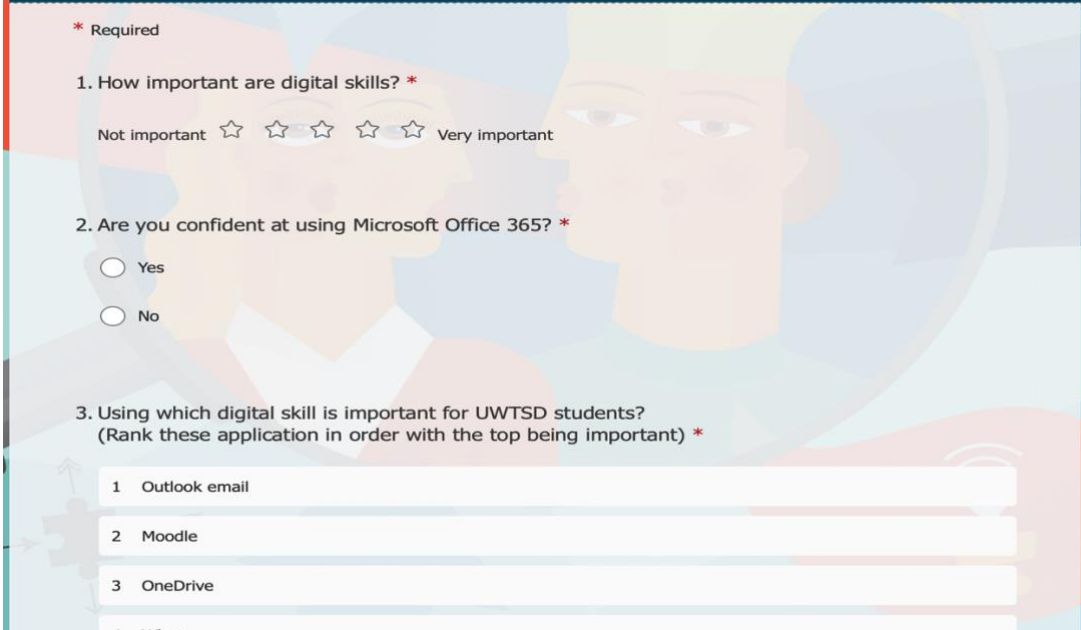
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7. APPENDIX



Digital Skills and Research Methods Quiz

The reason for this survey is to collect information from UWTSD students on digital skills.
Thank you for taking your time out to fill my questionnaire.
This survey is anonymous and confidential.
I consent to take part voluntarily.

...

* Required

1. How important are digital skills? *

Not important ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ Very important

2. Are you confident at using Microsoft Office 365? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Using which digital skill is important for UWTSD students?
(Rank these application in order with the top being important) *

1	Outlook email
2	Moodle
3	OneDrive
...	...

4. Why do you think using the skill ranked at one above is important for UWTSD students ? *

Enter your answer

5. I feel that using MS teams is more important than OneDrive for UWTSD students.... *

Strongly
agree

Agree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Do you

☐☐☐☐☐

6. I feel that using Moodle is more important than Outlook for UWTSD students... *

Strongly
agree

Agree

Neither
agree nor
disagree

Disagree

Strongly
disagree

Do you

☐☐☐☐☐

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