

ARE DIGITAL SKILLS IMPORTANT FOR STUDY AND WORK

Are UWTSD students
confident in using their
digital skills?

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INTRODUCTION

- Digital skills greatly impact daily life and are an important aspect to learning especially in this day and age because everything is digitalized and online. We as a group will be proposing questions in the form of a survey to the University of Wales students to identify if they as UWTSD students are confident in using their digital skills.
- Digital skills improve your confidence but if you are not familiar with using digital skills it can impact you negatively too, this survey will illustrate how digital skills impact the UWTSD students learning.
- Technology is used widely in all aspects of daily life and is also a crucial part of education and learning. UWTSD students will be using digital skills for their learning too but due to different factors they will be at different experience levels which we will establish through the survey.
- Digital skills are needed even for those jobs that do not require high levels of qualifications and experience. Hence why it is an important skill for UWTSD students to attain to help them throughout their studies

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RATIONALE

- Because Education is widely available and easily accessible to most people, those who have not previously studied are now going back to education to gain qualifications.
- During the pandemic there was an increase in the use of technology which pushed and resulted in more people having no choice to go online for their studies and work.

“RESULTS: Data from 1255 participants were included at a response rate of 66.4%. More than one third (37%) of the students took 25 or more online E-learning sessions and 47% preferred Zoom as an online platform...”

“..More than one third of the students preferred classroom teaching and 34% of the students did not feel confident enough to take exit exams after E-learning sessions.”

Abbasi, et al. (2020)

- For those who have not previously studied or are coming back to education after a gap will find that digital skills are a barrier to their learning.
- We will propose a set of questions to a diverse group of students from different backgrounds and learning abilities.
- Our survey will be conducted to gather information on how confident the new UWTSD students are using digital skills to complete skills.
- With the advancement in digital technology and its implementation communication is now more convenient and improved between students and staff.

“In general, ICT investments have improved the availability of digital resources and the quality of the interactions between teachers and students or among students. ICTs are responsible for students’ greater involvement in their work and self-learning, both individually and collectively.”

Ben Youssef, A,: et al (2022)

RATIONALE

- Increased usage of digital technology means that more people including students will be pushed to using and acquiring digital skills in order to navigate through their studies successfully. Digital technology and its access means that:
 - ✓ Access to information is easier
 - ✓ Better opportunities for learning
 - ✓ Improved quality of life
- There digital skills are a necessity and people in general including UWTSD students will need to learn and become more confident in using digital skills by acquiring qualifications and or practicing them and learning the relevant digital skills.

"We urgently need a globally coordinated response to help students acquire digital skills, which are needed to keep pace with this fast-changing landscape. It is especially important to cultivate digital citizenship along with a broader set of digital skills that can facilitate participation and support students in maximizing opportunities and minimizing risks in the digital world".

Jackman, J.A.,: et al (2021)

PROPOSED METHOD

- We have compiled a set of questions in the form of a survey to put forward to UWTSD students to establish if they are confident in using their digital skills for learning. Students will be randomly selected to complete the survey and will be from varied educational background levels so all will be at different digital capabilities. This will give us a brief overview an insight into UWTSD students digital skills.
- We have carefully selected 6 basic questions pertaining to the use of digital skills which we will attach below and use to gather our information which later will use to create a report.
- Amongst the questions that we will pose to our UWTSD students will be from different categories i.e. open questions, closed questions, rank order questions and likert scale questions.

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ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Ethical considerations are a set of key principles that guide your research protecting the rights, dignity and welfare of all participants i.e. UWTSD students and you as a researcher.
- It is important to maintain confidentiality to ensure no privacy is breached this is to show respect for others. So it is important that our UWTSD students are confident that any information that they are giving is not exposed.
- To avoid any harm to the participant and you as a researcher
- It is vital to ask for consent, the participant needs to opt out of their own free will voluntarily agree to answering the questions. We will first and foremost ask if they want to take part and answer the questions only if they agree then we will go ahead with our survey.
- This will help ensure the data retrieved from our UWTSD students is adequate and accurate.

RESEARCH TIMELINE

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- Our Research Process consisted of the following phases:
- Initially in week 2 and 3 we identified a research question to pose forth to the UWTSD students regarding digital skills.
- We also conducted a literature review on existing literature pertaining to our research in week 3.
- We then will plan our research and carefully consider the ethics surrounding our research in week 4
- In week 6 we will then present a research proposal for approval
- We will then in week 7 create a survey and collect data from our UWTSD participants if they consent to doing so.
- We will then in week 8 create an analysis of our findings.
- Week 9 and 10 will be dedicated to writing up a report with discussions in accordance with our findings and we will draw up a conclusion accordingly.

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HYPOTHESIS

- Our hypothesis having read the research, we as group feel that UWTSD students will not all be confident using digital skills.
- Considering students who come to the university from different educational backgrounds, learning abilities and familiarity with digital skills some will find it easier to navigate and use digital technology and the university website and others will struggle initially to get the hang of using the University hub, Moodle etc.
- Some students will feel they require more support and instruction using digital technology especially those who have never used computers and or have come to education after a big gap.
- We feel that some UWTSD students will have some knowledge and ease at using certain basic applications/software's but those which have been more so prevalent in the recent years due to the pandemic such as Zoom/Teams, students will need instruction and guidance to use such applications.

"The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the widespread digitalization of numerous sectors that were unprepared. One of the most affected groups has been K12 students, many of whom have been forced to switch to online schooling. The rapid transition has been challenging and compounded by issues such as limited digital skills, technology access, inequality, and systemic racism".

Jackman, J.A., (2021)

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