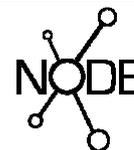


# TechNODE bulletin 2011



## Key Findings from the 2010-11 survey

- Mobile phone and smartphone ownership are high although tablet-style device ownership is relatively low
  - Laptop ownership remains high although students don't necessarily bring them to campus
- Personal and 'outside the classroom' use of tools has been consolidated into YouTube, Facebook and discussion boards
  - Students do not use social networking tools for learning and list WebCT, Lectopia and PowerPoint as the most useful
- Students are aware of online privacy issues and take steps to protect themselves
  - Students consider the online behaviour of their peers to be relatively more risky than their own
- As in previous years, students prefer face-to-face teaching but expect all lectures to be recorded
  - Students are highly connected and frequently online and use SMS as their preferred way of contacting friends
- Interest in mobile versions of UWA web services is moderate with student email the most likely to be used if available
  - eBooks are used by little over half the respondents who read them on a laptop or desktop rather than an eBook reader

## Overview of the NODE survey

The NODE project (**N**etworking **O**nline to **D**iversify **E**ngagement) now forms part of the Online Student Journey Project which also manages the UWA Students Facebook fan page at [www.facebook.com/UWASStudents](http://www.facebook.com/UWASStudents). UWA Students are surveyed at the end of their first year of undergraduate study. This report summarises data gathered in 2010-11 from the 2010 First Year cohort.

## New in 2010-11

New questions focus on e-books, tablet devices, mobile web-sites, online privacy and the reasons students do (or don't) bring laptops to campus. 568 First Year students responded to the 2010-11 survey (response rate of 13.4% from a 4218 survey population).

## Ownership of devices

- 99.6% own a mobile phone; a figure similar to that found each year since 2006-07
- 76% have a mobile internet device (consistent with 75% in 2009 and up from 42% in 2008)
- 86% own a laptop in 2010 (up from 84% in 2009, 72% in 2008 and 57% in 2006-07)
- 11% of laptop owners bring them to campus every day, 26% do 'most of the time', 51% do 'only if they specifically need it' and 25% never do.
- 8.7% own a tablet-style device (such as an iPad) and of those 12% have used it to take lecture notes.

## Experiences with emerging technologies

What tools are students using/accessing?

First Year students in 2010 said:

- YouTube **93%** (\*97%)
- Facebook profiles **89%** (92%)
- Facebook groups/pages **83%** (89%)
- Discussion boards **89%** (84%)
- IM **75%** (80%)
- Wikis (inc Wikipedia) **49%** (51%)
- Blogs **48%** (50%)
- Podcasts **41%** (44%)
- MySpace **37%** (47%)
- Google apps **34%** (41%)
- Twitter **24%** (21%)
- RSS **13%** (12%)
- Virtual worlds **7%** (6%)
- LinkedIn **3%** (n/a)

Which tools improve student learning?

First Year students in 2010 said:

- WebCT **94%** (n/a)
- Lectopia **91%** (n/a)
- PowerPoint **80%** (n/a)
- Discussion Boards **63%** (83%)
- Course website **52%** (n/a)
- Online social networks **20%** (21%)
- Podcasts **15%** (52%)
- IM **10%** (35%)

What should UWA use to engage students?

First Year students in 2010 said:

- Discussion Boards **88%** (\*90%)
- Facebook groups/pages **70%** (58%)
- YouTube **64%** (55%)
- Podcasts **62%** (65%)
- Wikis **47%** (48%)
- IM **49%** (43%)
- Blogs **44%** (42%)
- RSS **32%** (39%)
- LinkedIn **15%** (n/a)
- Virtual worlds **14%** (16%)
- MySpace **10%** (12%)

## Mobile versions of web services

To gain an indication of interest in mobile versions of online content, new questions were added in the 2010-11 survey. 62% said they would use a mobile version of their UWA email, 58% would use a mobile version of studentConnect, 53% would use a mobile version of the UWA website and 49% would use a mobile version of the UWA Library catalogue if it was provided.

### Expectations

- 79% think that the internet access on campus is adequate or above expectations.
- 54% thought that wireless internet was adequate or above expectations (23% thought it was poor, 27% didn't know).
- 58% thought that the current IT facilities for group study on campus are adequate or above expectations (16% thought they were poor, 25% didn't know).
- 69% thought that both the existing school/faculty computer labs and the shared labs (eg libraries) on campus are adequate or above expectations.
- 39% thought that compared to other Universities, the computer facilities at UWA are adequate or better (7% thought they were poor in comparison, 54% didn't know).
- 57% thought the printing facilities on campus are adequate or above expectations.

### Privacy online

Questions about online behaviours and privacy were asked for the first time in the 2010-11 survey.

- 55% indicated that they are happy with what information appears about them online
- 84% make efforts to protect their privacy online
- 78% think about who will be able to access information about them online
- 61% read the terms of services of online tools when they register their accounts
- 74% said that they have seen friends upload online content that they think they will regret later

## Student learning experiences and preferences

45% like to use ICT for studying and like it when lecturers use it in their teaching

27% believe they learn better from online resources and teaching than from face-to-face delivery

39% would like training in technologies to improve study techniques (down from 68% in '08 and 46% in '09)

94.9% expect ALL of their lectures to be recorded in some way (up from 91% in 2008)

86% are online at least twice a day

53% use SMS as their preferred communication method to contact their friends, followed by social networking sites (26% prefer them), phone (9%), IM (9%) and email (3%).

8% prefer reading eBooks to hard-copy texts, 46.5% said they read eBooks 'when they have to' and 45.5% never read them. Of those that ever access eBooks, laptops/netbooks are the most commonly used and preferred device (51%) followed by desktops (26%), mobile phones (6%), tablet devices (7%) and eBook readers (6%).

Students listed, in priority order, 1) cabled network connection, 2) recharge stations, 3) secure storage and 4) simpler printing arrangements as the factors that would make it easier to bring laptops to campus

### Other useful resources

- TechNODE bulletin overview document — information on the NODE project and surveys
- The 2009, 2010 and 2011 TechNODE bulletins are available from the project website (see below)
- NODE project webpage contains all project documents and contact information

The survey is administered annually by Dr Lisa Cluett and Dr Judy Skene from UWA Student Services.

This bulletin should be referenced as:

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2011) TechNODE bulletin 2011: an annual synopsis of student access to, experiences with and expectations of ICT at The University of Western Australia. Available from:

[<http://tiny.cc/9uREu>]

### Contact

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