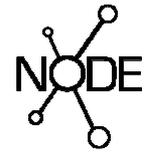


TechNODE bulletin 2009



Key Findings from the 2008-09 survey

- Students appreciate and prefer face-to-face learning but also want and expect more widespread recording of lectures.
- Students don't necessarily want more tools to be used in their units; but they expressed a widespread desire for existing tools to be applied in a consistent, student-centric and reliable way.
- The request for content and support for mobile devices (for listening to lectures, accessing the UWA website etc) has been raised in the 2008-09 survey.
- Students have high levels of access to computers, internet, printing and mobile devices yet use a small number of core tools. YouTube and Facebook remain popular with use of podcasts and RSS remaining lower.

Overview of the NODE survey

The NODE survey is administered annually by Dr Lisa Cluett and Dr Judy Skene from UWA Student Services as part of ongoing efforts to actively engage students online.

The survey was initially part of the NODE project (**N**etworking **O**nline to **D**iversify **E**ngagement) which also developed an internally hosted online social network for UWA students. In 2009 the node.live community was moved to the UWA Students Facebook fan page at www.facebook.com/UWAStudents

The survey continues to run annually with approximately 4000 students surveyed each year and an average response rate of 24% (792 respondents in the 2008-09 survey).

Ownership of devices

- 72% of respondents own a laptop (up from 57% in the 06-07 survey)
- 95% of students who use the internet 'at home' (whether at their parents' home, in a share house or in their own house) have a broadband connection (up from 88% in 06-07)
- 99% of respondents own a mobile phone which is consistent with the 06-07 level of 98%
- 42% of students surveyed in 2006 owned a mobile device with internet capabilities. This question will be re-run in the 2009-10 survey.

Experiences with emerging technologies

What tools are UWA First Years using?

First Year students in 2008 said:

- YouTube (89% in '08 up from 67% in '06)
- wikis (inc Wikipedia) (87% in '08 up from 80% in '06)
- discussion boards (79% in '08 up from 66% in '06)
- IM (73% compared to almost 80% in '06)
- Facebook (68% in '08)
- blogs (56% in '08 up from 42% in '06)
- MySpace (47% in '08 down from 59% in '06)
- lists and news alerts (33% in '08)
- podcasts (25% in '08 and 24% in '06)
- RSS (12% in '08 and '06)

What should UWA use to complement teaching?

First Year students in 2008 said:

- Forums and discussion boards (83%)
 - Podcasts (52%)
 - Wiki tools (51%)
 - YouTube (40%)
- Lists and news alerts (37%)
- Instant messaging (IM) (35%)
 - Blogs (24%)
 - RSS (23%)
- Facebook (21%)
- MySpace (10%)

Students, ICT and Teaching and Learning

What technologies do students access during their studies (either provided by lecturers, used during assignments or accessed as part of group work)?

First Year students in 2008 said:

Lectopia 89% used it 91% said it helped them learn 83% enjoyed using it
WebCT 95% used it 93% said it helped them learn 79% enjoyed using it
MS Powerpoint 78% used it 78% said it helped them learn 71% enjoyed using it

Discussion boards 70% used them 61% found them useful 58% enjoyed using them
IM 33% used it 29% said it helped them learn 44% enjoyed using it
Course web page 81% used one 77% said it helped them learn 67% enjoyed using it

Podcasts 21% used them 25% found them useful 24% enjoyed using them
Blogs 10% used them 12% found them useful 14% enjoyed using them
Social networking 27% used it 17% found it helpful 40% enjoyed using it

Students demonstrated that they advocate a sensible, considered use of ICT in teaching and engagement and warned against 'using technology for the sake of it'. More specifically, whilst 85% of respondents agree that they like to use ICT for studying and like lecturers to incorporate it into teaching, they also said that they learn better from face-to-face delivery (79%) and prefer learning face-to-face (83%).

75% expect ICT to be used more as they progress through their course/degree and 68% of respondents would like to receive training in ICT to improve their study techniques.

Student comments in the 2008-09 survey were focused on:

1. Asking for more Lectopia recordings of lectures
91% expect ALL of their lectures to be recorded in some way
2. Commenting on usability issues of some systems (WebCT, UWA Website and OLCR included)
Students commented on the use of WebCT by their lecturers and on its accessibility
3. Some concerns were raised that will hopefully be fixed with the introduction of UWA Google apps
List includes stability of webmail, storage capacity, internet quotas, single sign-on, email forwarding etc
4. Requesting greater access to IT systems and services
Students want extended wireless coverage, access to more computers, faster internet speeds etc

Other useful resources

- TechNODE bulletin overview document—gives more information on the NODE project and surveys
- Full report for the 2006-07 survey is available online
- NODE project webpage containing all project documents and contact information

This bulletin should be referenced as:

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2009) TechNODE bulletin 2009: 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

Web: Online Student Journey project page: <http://tiny.cc/9uREu>

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