

# Template Information/Technology Engagement Survey Module

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Char Booth, E-Learning Librarian @ UCB: [charbooth@gmail.com](mailto:charbooth@gmail.com)

Similar to the template instrument published as an Appendix in *Informing Innovation* (ACRL 2009, [tinyurl.com/boothii](http://tinyurl.com/boothii)), the purpose of this draft module is to provide a range of survey questions that can be adapted as a digital or analog means to establish local baseline data into student library and technology use, ownership, and perceptions. Items focus on technology use in an academic context, and seek to determine attitudes toward computing and communication hardware, software, and communication media, as well as student engagement with information and library resources.

Questions and response choices are geared towards a higher education student population, but can be easily modified for use in other contexts. Demographic items are not included, but several can be found in the original *Informing Innovation* survey template at [tinyurl.com/boothins](http://tinyurl.com/boothins)

This template instrument is Creative Commons licensed and can be downloaded and modified without permission or attribution. I am, however, always interested in learning about projects or institutions that use it in local research – please email me at [charbooth@gmail.com](mailto:charbooth@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to let me know about this instrument's application in local research project.

## 1. How frequently during this academic year have you done the following?

Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Once a year, 3 = Once per quarter/semester, 4 = Monthly, 5 = Weekly, 6 = Several times per week, 7 = Daily, 8 = Several times a day

- Visit a campus computer lab
- Contact campus technology or computer support
- Visit a campus library
- Visit the library website
- Contribute to a course-related blog
- Contribute to a course-related forum or online discussion
- Use images, video, or other media in an assignment
- Log into [campus course management system, i.e. Sakai, Blackboard, etc.]
- Email, IM, or call your instructors

## 2. Indicate whether you own the following items, and if so how old they are:

Scale 1 = Less than 1 year old, 2 = 1-2 years old, 3 = 3-4 years old, 4 = More than 4 years old, 5 = Don't own, but plan to within 12 months, 6 = Don't own, don't plan to

- Desktop computer
- Laptop computer
- Notebook computer
- eReading device (Kindle, iPad)
- Handheld mobile browser (iPod Touch, etc.)
- Mobile phone (non-web enabled)
- Smartphone (web-enabled iPhone, Palm Pre, etc.)
- Printer
- Thumb or USB drive
- External hard drive
- Portable media player (iPod, etc.)
- Gaming console (PS3, etc.)
- Handheld gaming device (Nintendo DS, etc.)
- Digital camera

## 3. Indicate how many hours you spend online in a typical week for the following purposes:

Scale 1 = Less than 5, 2 = 6-10, 3 = 11-15, 4 = 16-20, 5 = 21-25, 6 = 26-30, 7 = 31-35, 8 = more than 40

- Paid work/job
- Academic work
- Personal/leisure

**4. How do you usually access the internet?**

- Dial-Up
- Wired Broadband
- Wireless Broadband
- Not sure

**5. Do you use your mobile phone to access the internet (e.g., to check email, download podcasts, or perform web searches)?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't own a mobile phone

(If you answered 'No' or 'Don't own a mobile phone,' to item 5, skip to question 7)

**6. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, how often do you use your mobile phone for the following?**

*Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Once a year, 3 = Once per quarter/semester, 4 = Monthly, 5 = Weekly, 6 = Several times per week, 7 = Daily, 8 = Several times a day*

- Check email
- Search the web
- View/upload/download images
- Listen to streaming radio
- Download/listen to podcasts
- Watch web TV or video
- Download music/listen to music
- Read ebooks
- Check news sites
- Read blogs
- Use social networking sites (Facebook, etc.)
- Send status updates (Twitter, etc.)
- Play games
- Use GPS/map applications
- Use augmented reality applications (Layar, etc.)
- Shop/make purchases
- Take/make notes or lists
- Do research
- Other (please specify)

**7. Which of the following best describes you? "I tend to..."**

- avoid using new technologies.
- take a while to use technologies.
- use new technologies at the same time other people do.
- use new technologies somewhat before others do.
- use new technologies before anyone else does.

**8. Which of the following statements describes how you prefer to use technology in your courses?**

- I prefer courses that use *no* technology.
- I prefer courses that use a *small* amount of technology (e.g., use the course management system for email or to turn in assignments).
- I prefer courses that use a *moderate* amount of technology (e.g., frequent PowerPoint presentations, online readings).
- I prefer courses that use a *high* amount of technology (e.g., meets virtually at times, online chats, web-based assignments).
- I prefer courses that use an *extensive* amount of technology (e.g., meet entirely online).
- I have no preference.

**9. When studying or engaged in academic work, how often do you use/do/have the following open at the SAME TIME?**

*Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Occasionally, 4 = Somewhat often, 5 = Often, 6 = Very often*

- Social networking sites (e.g., Facebook)
- Chat/instant messaging

Twitter  
Gaming sites  
Mobile/online calling  
Text messaging  
Watch TV/DVDs  
Listen to music  
Hang out with friends

**10. Which of the following do you use to stay informed? Check all that apply.**

Blogs  
AM/FM Radio  
Satellite Radio  
Online news sites  
Television  
Search alerts  
Microblogging service (Twitter)  
Social networking sites  
Print newspaper  
Online forums  
Friends/family  
Instructors  
Other (please specify)

**11. How often do you do the following at your college/university library?**

*Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Once a year, 3 = Once per quarter/semester, 4 = Monthly, 5 = Weekly, 6 = Several times per week, 7 = Daily, 8 = Several times a day*

Use library computers  
Use a laptop  
Do research for an assignment  
Work on non-research coursework  
Search for items in the library catalog  
Ask a librarian for help  
Check out course reserves  
Check out books/journals  
Study alone  
Study with a class group  
Study with friends  
Socialize  
Sleep  
Listen to music  
Watch videos/DVDs  
[Use the café]  
Other (please specify)

**12. How often do you use the campus library website to do the following?**

*Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Once a year, 3 = Once per quarter/semester, 4 = Monthly, 5 = Weekly, 6 = Several times per week, 7 = Daily, 8 = Several times a day*

Ask a Librarian for help  
Use research guides or tutorials  
Search for books  
Search for articles  
Check library hours/locations  
Search/access course reserves

**13. How do you prefer to access course readings?**

Read entirely online  
Download and print out  
Buy a course reader  
No preference

Briefly describe why you selected your answer in 13.

**14. Rate your abilities *now* and *when you first arrived* at this college/university in the following areas:**

Scale 1 = Very poor, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good, 5 = Very Good, 6= Excellent

- Finding information online using search engines or other web tools
- Evaluating information you find online for credibility and reliability
- Using the library website
- Doing research for assignments
- Using [*the campus course management system*]
- Defining a research question or paper topic
- Using presentation software (e.g., PowerPoint)
- Using word processing software (e.g., Word)
- Using graphics/multimedia software (e.g., Photoshop)
- Using programming/coding languages (e.g., C++,HTML)
- Troubleshooting computer problems

**15. How easy is it to use each of the following to FIND resources?**

Scale 1 = N/A = I don't use this resource, 2 = Very difficult, 3 = Difficult, 4 = Neither hard nor easy, 5 = Easy, 6= Very easy

- Search engine (e.g., Google)
- Wikipedia
- Library website
- Article database (e.g., JSTOR)
- Google Scholar
- Ask friends/family
- Ask my instructor
- Ask a librarian

**16. What is the overall QUALITY of information you find using the following?**

Scale 1 = N/A = I don't use this resource, 2 = Very low, 3 = Low, 4 = Fair, 5 = High, 6= Very high

- Search engine (e.g., Google)
- Wikipedia
- Library website
- Article database (e.g., JSTOR)
- Google Scholar
- Ask friends/family
- Ask my instructor
- Ask a librarian

**17. How frequently do you do the following?**

Scale 1 = Never, 2 = Once a year, 3 = Once per quarter/semester, 4 = Monthly, 5 = Weekly, 6= Several times per week, 7 = Daily, 8 = Several times a day

- Text message
- Instant message or online chat
- Play online games
- Play games on a console (PS3, XBOX 360, Wii, etc.)
- Play handheld games (PSP, Nintendo DS, etc.)
- Download music or videos
- Listen to podcasts
- Watch videos online
- Use Skype or other web calling program
- Use Facebook, MySpace, etc.
- Update your status in Facebook or Twitter
- Post to a blog
- Comment on a blog
- Read a blog
- Edit a Wikipedia article

Read a Wikipedia article  
Receive search alerts

**18. For each of the following web tools or social sites, select the phrase that best describes you.**

Scale 1 = Never heard of it, 2 = Never use it, 3 = Used to use it, 4 = Using it less lately, 5 = Using it more lately, 6 = Use it all the time

Facebook  
MySpace  
LinkedIn  
Virtual world (e.g., Second Life)  
Social bookmarking site (e.g., Delicious)  
Web Calling program (e.g., Skype, Google Talk)  
Microblogging site (e.g., Twitter, FriendFeed)  
Citation software (e.g., Zotero, Refworks, Endnote)  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**19. Which of the following Google tools do you currently use? Check all that apply.**

Search  
Gmail  
Book search  
Blog search  
Scholar  
Documents  
Reader  
Labs  
Maps  
Calendar  
Groups  
Wave  
Personalized home page (iGoogle)  
Search alerts  
News  
Video  
Voice  
Image search  
Talk  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**20. What web browser do you prefer?**

Mozilla Firefox  
Internet Explorer  
Safari  
Chrome  
Opera  
Not sure  
No preference  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**21. Do you customize your web browser with add-ons, extensions, and/or toolbars?**

Yes  
No  
Not sure

**22. Which of the following have you used in your classes? Check all that apply.**

Course blog  
Wiki tools  
Podcasts/Videocasts  
Online screencast tutorials  
Online discussion forums

Online document/collaboration sites (e.g., Google Docs)  
Social networking tools (e.g., Facebook)  
Virtual worlds (e.g., Second Life)  
Student response system (e.g., “clickers”)  
Online presentation slides

**23. Have you ever taken an online course or courses at [your institution]? Check all that apply.**

- I have taken at least one course that met entirely online.  
I have taken at least one course that met at least partially online.  
Neither

**24. For each of the following statements, choose the best answer:**

*Scale 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Somewhat disagree, 4 = Somewhat agree, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly agree*

- My instructors tend to be skilled in their use of technology in the classroom.  
My instructors tend to have reasonable expectations of my technology-related skills and abilities.  
Technology makes my instructors more accessible and responsive.  
Technology helps me collaborate with other students.  
Technology increases my engagement with courses.  
The [course management system] is helpful and easy to use.  
The technology skills I am learning at this university will benefit me in my future career.  
In general, I wish my instructors used more technology in my classes.  
Technology helps me learn.  
My campus provides adequate technology support and computing facilities.  
I am able to afford the technology I need to succeed as a student at this university.  
Technology helps me be more productive.  
I feel that I am generally able to learn new technologies fairly quickly.  
I feel that I am able to keep up with technology trends.

**25. Does your campus library support your academic experience? Why or why not?**

**26. Describe the study/academic environment in which you are most productive.**

**27. Name one way your university could better support your technology needs.**

**28. What is the biggest challenge you face when using technology for academic purposes?**