

A survey relating to Learning Technology

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Affiliation

All papers are required to have an abstract. This short paragraph should explain why this development constitutes a piece of research – note that reports of development work will not be accepted for publication unless they represent a new method, a novel application or some other important principle that is relevant to other academics or support staff. The application should be described briefly, the methods for testing should be explained and any important findings noted.

Introduction

This short section should state what the survey was about and why it was carried out.

Background

Surveys may be about a range of issues (attitudes, usage, etc.) but all are, in essence, aiming to provide a picture of the prevalence of something (enthusiasm, uptake of software, etc.) in relation to some model of the population. To set this up, it will be necessary to review the literature that shows that this issue is important and to establish that there is a need for this survey. (This might be, for example, because the last one is considered out of date, or because the topic is new, or because no survey has been carried out on this topic or with this population before.) It might also be necessary to cite literature that describes the population being surveyed (e.g. lecturing staff, technicians, etc.).

Methodology

The most important element of a survey's methodology will be the population model and the sampling methods. If the population has not been carefully described in the background, it should be outlined here. Then, the method of inviting individuals from this population to take part in the survey should be described. Any distinctive features of this survey should be noted. (Does it extend existing literature by using a standard instrument such as the learning styles inventory? Was it delivered over the web?) Also, ethical issues should be discussed (such as confidentiality, informed consent, whether ethical approval was sought). It may also be useful to include sample questions (or at least describe the types of questions – e.g. open ended, multiple response) that were used. If hypotheses are being investigated through this survey, then these should be stated (and any variables assumed to be of importance should be defined).

* Email address

Findings

The findings should summarise the results of the survey. It will normally be necessary to group these results under sub-headings; these could be split according to question type (e.g. open-ended, Likert responses), topic or group of respondents. It may be appropriate to include tables, charts and quotations in these sections, depending upon the types of questions asked.

Discussion

The discussion should revisit the initial literature and show how the survey has supported, challenged or illuminated this. The limitations of the survey should be made clear, and the implications of this for drawing inferences from the data should be spelt out.

Conclusions

This section is likely to focus on a few claims about the prevalence of a phenomenon within the given population. This might involve quite general statements (“85% of people thought this was good”) or it might single out interesting exceptions or anomalies (“However, no-one from institution x had ever heard of this piece of software”). The implications of the survey for policy, practice and/or research should be discussed, and any new questions raised by the survey should be identified.

References

These should be listed in the standard format:

Author, A. & Author, B. (Date) Title of article, *Title of journal*, Volume, page start – page end.

Author, A. (Date) *Title of book* (Place of publication, Publishing company).

Author, A. (Date) Title of chapter, in A. Editor A. (Ed) *Title of book* (Place of publication, Publishing company).

Author, A. (Date) *Title of technical report or other document* (Place of publication, Institution or other producing organisation).

Where references include online elements, cite them in the following format:

Organisation (n.d. – short for No Date) Available online: www.URL, last accessed date.

Author, A. (Date) *Title of technical report or other document* (Place of publication, Institution or other producing organisation). Available online: www.URL, last accessed date.