The Student Digital Experience: A Summary of Student Use of Information Technology at LACCD

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The Student Digital Experience

- A profile of student use of information technology, based on survey data collected in Spring 2007
- Four categories of use:
  - To make the decision to attend
  - To complete school work
  - To access college services
  - To learn and interact with faculty and students

The Los Angeles Community College District – Fast Facts

- Our nine colleges serve more than 36 cities and communities covering an area of more than 882 square miles

City	17,478
East	24,892
Harbor	8,739
Mission	10,239
Pierce	22,164
Southwest	7,284
Trade Tech	14,503
Valley	18,436
West	10,780
District total	135,103

The Los Angeles Community College District – Fast Facts

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Vocational	36%
Transfer	31%
General Education	10%
Transitional	7%
Unknown/Undecided	17%

The Los Angeles Community College District – Fast Facts

STUDENT PROFILE

82% "Minority"

40% Non-Native English speaking

40% Below the poverty line

25% From homes where parents received
          only elementary education

Los Angeles Community College District Spring 2007 Student Survey

- Generally, every two to three years since 1976
- Paper and pencil survey, approximately 200 items, administered in class
- Includes Student ID
- Stratified random sample of classes
  - 1,303 classes sampled, 86% class response rate
  - Over 20,000 student responses, approximately 63% student response rate

LACCD Survey Results: Respondent Profile

	Survey		District
Female	11,966	60%	60%
Male	7,851	40%	40%

LACCD Survey Results: Respondent Profile

Ethnicity	Survey		District
Amer Ind/ Other Non-White	515	3%	3%
Asian	2,969	16%	15%
Black	2,838	15%	15%
Latino	9,175	49%	48%
White	3,409	18%	18%

LACCD Survey Results: Respondent Profile

Age		Survey	District
Under 20	6,227	30%	28%
20 - 24	6,159	30%	30%
25 - 34	4,238	21%	22%
35 and over	3,910	19%	20%

LACCD Survey Results:
Respondent Profile

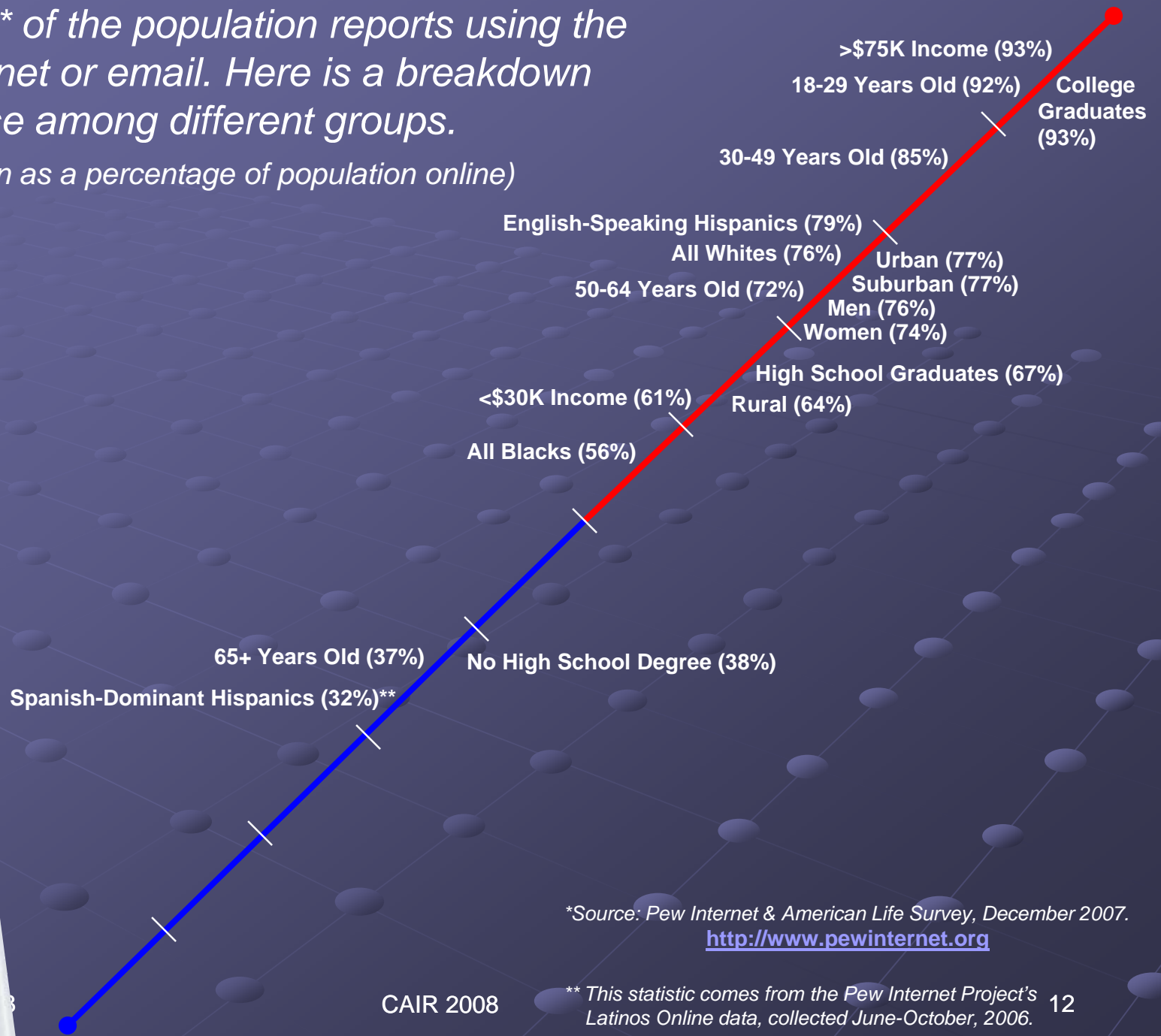| Units attempted	Survey	District
Less than 6	18%	35%
6 to 11.5	40%	38%
12 or more	42%	27%

LACCD Survey Results: Background Data

- An extensive literature search in ERIC identified no major studies on computer use by community college students
  - Some older (5+ years), single campus studies exist
  - CCSSE has 2 items in their survey
- The Pew Internet and American Life Project reports that (2006 data):
  - 73% of adults in the U.S. go online
  - 88% of "Digital Natives" (age 12-29) go online

75%* of the population reports using the internet or email. Here is a breakdown of use among different groups.

(shown as a percentage of population online)

>$75K Income (93%)
18-29 Years Old (92%)
College Graduates (93%)

30-49 Years Old (85%)

English-Speaking Hispanics (79%)
All Whites (76%)
Urban (77%)
50-64 Years Old (72%)
Suburban (77%)
Men (76%)
Women (74%)

High School Graduates (67%)

<$30K Income (61%)
Rural (64%)

All Blacks (56%)

65+ Years Old (37%)
No High School Degree (38%)

Spanish-Dominant Hispanics (32%)**

*Source: Pew Internet & American Life Survey, December 2007.
http://www.pewinternet.org

CAIR 2008

** This statistic comes from the Pew Internet Project's Latinos Online data, collected June-October, 2006.

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LACCD Survey Results:
Four Categories of Technology Use

- To make the decision to attend
  - Importance of online sources of information
- To complete school work
  - By location (home, work, school)
- To access college services
  - Online registration, college or library websites
- To learn and interact with faculty and students
  - Internet use for assignments
  - Email faculty or students

LACCD Survey Results:
To make the decision to attend

How important were the following sources of information in your decision to enroll at this college?

	Very Import	Important	Some-what	Not
Published class schedule	54%	28%	10%	9%
On-line class schedule	41%	24%	16%	19%
College or District website	37%	28%	15%	20%
Family or friends	35%	27%	17%	20%
Current or former students	25%	29%	20%	27%
High school advisor or counselor	25%	22%	16%	37%
College representative coming to my HS	17%	20%	16%	47%
Special events for HS students and/or the community at this college	14%	21%	21%	43%
Newspaper, radio or television ad	8%	16%	25%	51%

LACCD Survey Results:
To Complete School Work

How often do you use a computer for each of the following activities?

To do school work

	Often	Sometime	Seldom	Never
At Home	69%	18%	6%	8%
On Campus	25%	22%	18%	35%
At Work	18%	11%	10%	60%

LACCD Survey Results:
To Access College Services

How often do you use a computer for each of the following activities?

	Often	Sometime	Seldom	Never
Use the Internet to apply, register, check grades, add or drop classes	64%	18%	8%	11%
Use the College Website	36%	33%	18%	14%
Use the Library Website	16%	19%	23%	42%

LACCD Survey Results:
To Access College Services

Use the College Website

Units Attempt	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Less than 6	27%	29%	20%	23%
6 to 11.5	35%	34%	18%	13%
12 or more	41%	34%	16%	9%
Total	36%	33%	18%	13%

LACCD Survey Results:
To Learn and Interact w/Students & Faculty

How often do you use a computer for each of the following activities?

	Often	Sometime	Seldom	Never
Use the Internet to get information for an assignment	59%	24%	9%	8%
Use email, instant messaging or other electronic method to work on an assignment with other students	28%	19%	18%	34%
Use email, instant messaging or other electronic method to communicate with an instructor	24%	25%	23%	28%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Interacting with Students

At this College, how often do you do each of the following?				
	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Work with others outside class to prepare assignments	16%	29%	26%	28%
Discuss ideas from your classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)	33%	37%	17%	13%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Digital Access to Students

Work with others outside of class to prepare class assignments				
	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
	16.0%	29.4%	26.3%	28.3%
Email students/work assign				
Often	50.7%	31.9%	23.7%	15.9%
Sometimes	18.6%	26.2%	20.5%	11.4%
Seldom	10.9%	18.3%	25.7%	15.7%
Never	19.8%	23.6%	30.1%	57.1%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Digital Access to Students

Discuss ideas from your classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)			
Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
33.1%	37.1%	17.1%	12.8%

Email students/work assign	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Often	37.8%	25.3%	23.5%	17.9%
Sometimes	17.9%	23.5%	17.4%	12.1%
Seldom	15.6%	19.6%	23.5%	14.7%
Never	28.6%	31.6%	35.6%	55.3%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Interacting with Faculty

How would you describe your interactions with instructors?				
	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Visit instructors during their office hours	8%	21%	29%	43%
Discuss ideas ... with instructors outside of class	12%	22%	26%	40%
I talk about education or career plans with an instructor	15%	28%	28%	29%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Digital Access to Faculty

I visit instructors during their office hours				
	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
	8%	21%	29%	43%

Use email…to communicate with an Instructor				
Often	53%	32%	22%	15%
Sometimes	21%	34%	30%	19%
Seldom	11%	19%	29%	23%
Never	16%	15%	19%	43%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Digital Access Faculty

I discuss ideas from my readings or classes with instructors outside of class

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
	12%	22%	26%	40%

Use email…to communicate with an Instructor

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Often	49%	30%	20%	15%
Sometimes	20%	33%	29%	21%
Seldom	14%	19%	29%	24%
Never	17%	18%	22%	40%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

LACCD Survey Face to Face Results: Interacting with Faculty

I talk about education or career plans with an instructor			
Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
15%	28%	28%	29%

Use email…to communicate with an Instructor			
Often	44%	25%	20%	15%
Sometimes	22%	32%	27%	20%
Seldom	14%	21%	28%	23%
Never	20%	21%	25%	42%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The Student Digital Experience: Conclusions…and Implications?

- The college website and online schedule are important decision-making tools (outreach?)
- Students use technology in the home at rates consistent with the general population (digital divide?)
- Students use online college services to varying degrees (information literacy?)
- Students interact with each other and faculty online, even if they never interact with each other face-to-face (engagement?)

The Student Digital Experience

- Survey results are available at:
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