

Summary of Dissertation

Zoltán Vig

Research on Higher Education Students' Internet Attitude and Use

From 2002 The Department of Technical Education, Budapest University of Technology and Economics conducted a research to investigate the students' Internet and information and communication technology use. That year questionnaire surveys were carried out regularly in two institutions of higher education: students of technical instructor training at Budapest University of Technology and Economics and students of Budapest College of Management were drawn in. In the latter case students of the optional subject of 'Introduction to information society' from each branch of studies of the college completed the questionnaires. The reason why these two groups were selected is the fact that the research hypotheses could either be confirmed or rejected on the basis of the sample. That is why, a wide range of students – between the age of 18 and 50, full-time and part-time alike, studying technical education and economics – were selected for the sample.

The results of the research were published, but in connection with other researches it was supposed that the parameters of the Internet use of these groups of students had changed.

The period between 2002 and 2007 brought the significant change of Internet use in Hungary. The number of Internet users among the total population had grown, however not as expected, fixed-fee access to broad-band Internet had widely spread, which had an impact on the usage indicators.

The then information-and-communication-technology-based innovations in education justified the repetition of the survey among identical students. This way, when the research has been carried out, it is possible to compare the students' groups and the changes in usage habits in time can also be revealed as a panel investigation.

The survey at Budapest College of Management and Budapest University of Technology and Economics was carried out in two phases: at the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester, with a mainly identical set of questions. The aim was to indicate the effects of the knowledge of the ICT-related subjects acquired over the semester on the usage attitude.

The research process consisted of four main elements in accordance with the research objectives of 2002:

1. Questionnaire investigation of the Internet attitude
2. Survey of the Internet competency
3. Instructional material development / modification
4. Evaluation of the results, feedback

By the iterative use of the process it was possible to realize a group-tailored instructional material. By the continuous upgrading of the topics it is possible to provide the students up-to-date information, which is inevitable in this field.

The dissertation summarize of these researches based about 1300 surveys in five years and shows the developed instructional materials also.