

BUS 1000 – Business Foundations - Technology Survey Results.

You will recall the model of a business organization that your teams presented in class last week. We are now looking at a business organization's *External Environment for Business*: Information Technology, Economy, Legal and Regulatory Forces, Social Responsibility and Ethics, Competition. This week, in class, we focused specifically on Information Technology from the perspective of how students in this class (*Digital Natives*) use it. The survey that was taken in class yielded results that indicate that students in the class are adept users of different types of digital technologies and applications. It demonstrated that students have a grasp of how such technologies are likely to change the ways in which organizations function in the future, through looking at their current organizational environment, which is focused on education and learning. A brief summary of the survey results can be found below:

Students indicated that they used quite a large number of digital technologies and applications daily, often on a 24/7 basis. Common among these were: Laptop computers, iPads, Smart Phones. It was indicated that the ones that was used more than others were the Laptop Computers and Smartphones. Some students indicated that they use their Smart Phones 'for everything'. Students also access streaming video such as Hulu, Netflix, Pandora, Amazon Prime. A very large number of students use twitter, and access Facebook and other social networks regularly. All students access the Internet and various sites in doing research and accessing information. Other applications and sites commonly accessed are: Slicker, Dictionary, Yahoo Answers, Moodle, Twitter, Snapchat, Spotify, Google Docs., Google Drive, YouTube, Instagram.

Students reported, that since they had started schooling (elementary, through secondary schools) that many have used computers, online textbooks, along with whiteboards, smartboards, online classes. All learned keyboarding early on in school, some before starting school. A couple of students reported that they were from other countries and had never used technologies for learning in their schooling. Even if information technology was not readily available in the schools, parents purchased digital technologies for them which they could use for completing their schoolwork. One student recalled that, "I remember when teachers preferred using paper to turn in work", as if it were something of the distant past. Some indicated that they started out submitting paper assignments, but as time went on more submitted assignments online. Regarding more current digital development, a student commented: "I definitely read less paper printed materials (because) whenever I go to my phone I can access news, current events, even casual media apps., and with all other things I have to fit in my schedule it is a lot easier to access everything on my phone or laptop."

Students responded to how they saw learning technologies progressing in the future, and how it would change education and learning. Here are some of their ideas regarding digital development related to education and learning: "People are becoming more dependent on their smartphones – we can definitely take advantage of this and make more educational materials available on social apps – eventually education will consist of a lot of online material." "Some classes are now hybrid, and online is becoming more popular." "I think learning will be done completely online – it could have a negative effect as it may be harder for them to stay focused." "We may not have to go to school to classes – live (virtual) classes will be common." "It will further broaden classroom activities such as simulations, and virtual reality." "Completely getting rid of books as a whole, and having online classes." "They will improve because of 'picture' answers to questions – it will help students achieve, and succeed in their classes – (online apps.) are important, because without them people would have to spend more time researching." "Instead of having actual textbooks we will have books that will be a thin-mirror-like paper, and a robot (virtual) teacher." "I see school definitely becoming online – this will get rid of (real)

teacher-student relationships, as well as taking notes and studying (the way it's done now.)" "I think that (publishers) will put more books online, and teachers will teach classes online more." "(There will) possibly be more virtual reality and 3D. There will be less paper and books, probably none at all – education and learning will become easier for us, but we (may) become (so) dependent on technology that we may not be able to think for ourselves – technology is and will become more of a way of life." "Perhaps teachers will be able to let gifted students accelerate, and (pay) more attention to those students who need it." "Everything will eventually be on electronic devices, hard copies will disappear, paperwork will transform onto digital devices – social networking will play a larger role in education and learning." "The future will be more holographic, and virtual." "It's going to change very fast (and a great deal). It will be really useful for (both) students and workers." "It will be better, with more interaction, and more artificial intelligence." "I am scared, to be quite honest. Technology changes so quickly, soon we will have conference classes (online) instead of real-life – learning, I think, has already changed (as) you no longer have to dig for information (as) everything is so in reach..."

In sum: it would appear that students see online education and learning as continually, and rapidly developing towards far less paper-oriented media, and more online applications with 24/7 availability. There is a definite trend (preference?) for online education and learning, but coupled with a fear of a loss of interpersonal interaction, as indicated by some students. Students see a trend towards the development of virtual reality, increased use of digital technologies that facilitate social networking and apps that promote learning. The development of virtual JIT teachers (holograms) is also indicated by some students as a possibility in the future. It is also indicated that learning can become more individualized, allowing for different styles of learning, as well as students being able to move at their own speeds.