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New Directions: Faculty Use of Technology and Attitudes Toward Library Research Instruction

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New Directions: Faculty Use of Technology and Attitudes Toward Library Research Instruction

Primary Research Questions

- How are faculty using technology in instruction?
- How do faculty perceive library research instruction?
- How can librarians incorporate technology into library instruction?

Information Literacy

“A set of abilities requiring individuals to ‘recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.’”¹

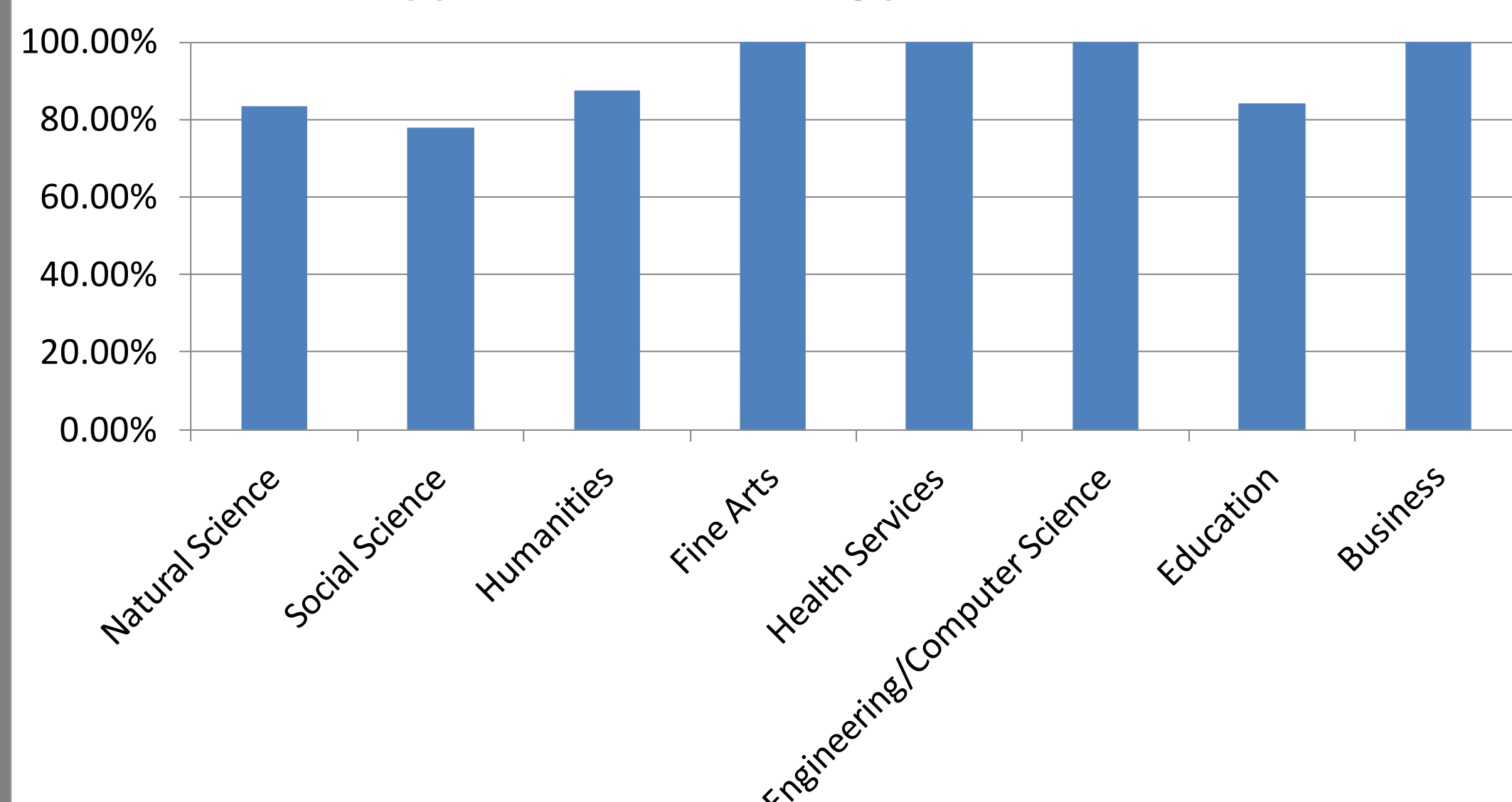
Librarians at WMU focus on teaching students these skills to improve their research abilities in college and beyond.

¹<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency>

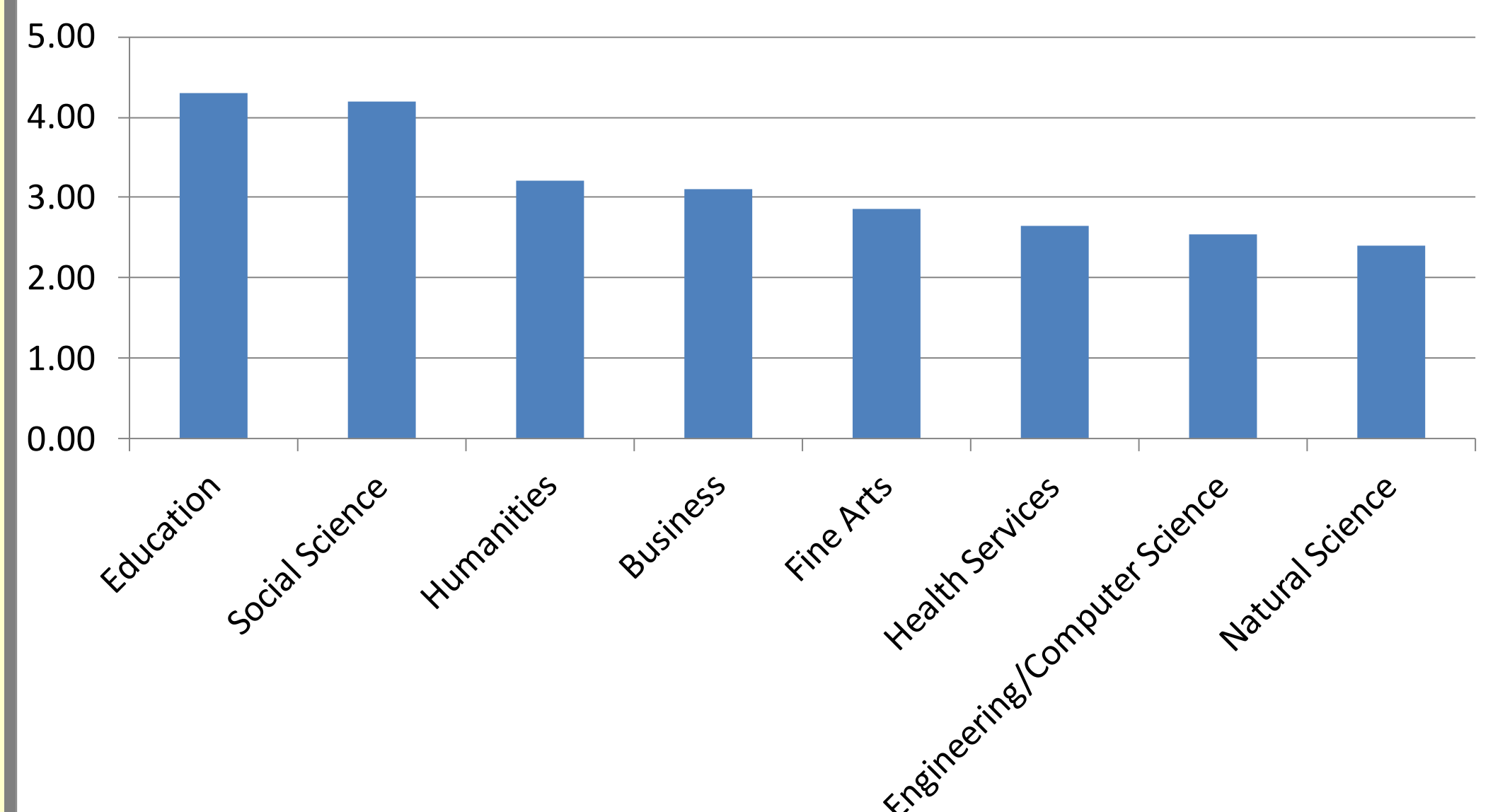
Methodology

- 19-question survey sent to faculty
- 14.2% response rate (118 respondents)
- We asked:
 - ♦ What kinds of technologies have you used in instruction?
 - ♦ Perception of students’ research abilities
 - ♦ What kind of library research instruction have you done?
 - ♦ What kind of library instruction would you like in the future?

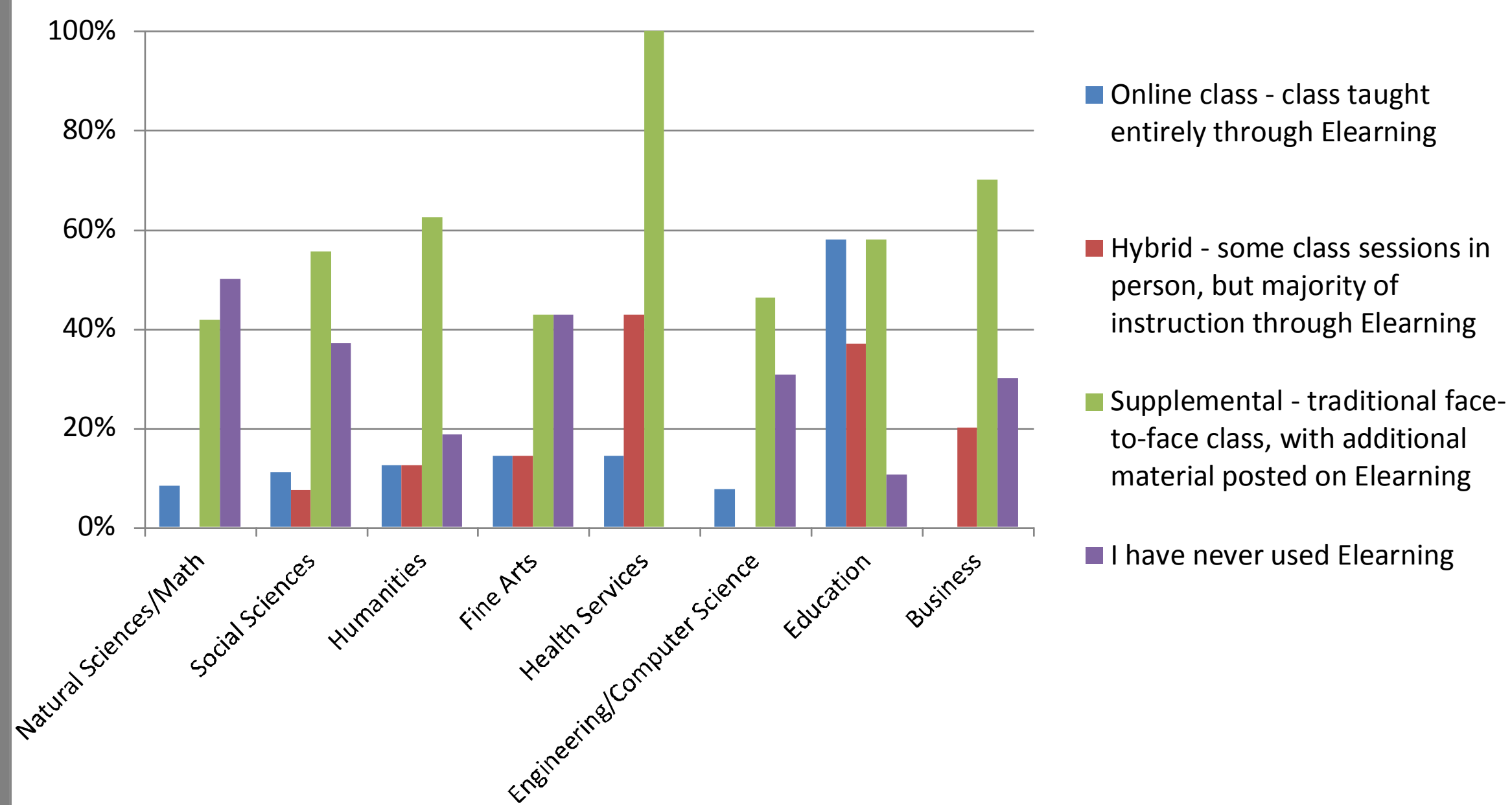
Percent of faculty who have used at least one type of technology in instruction



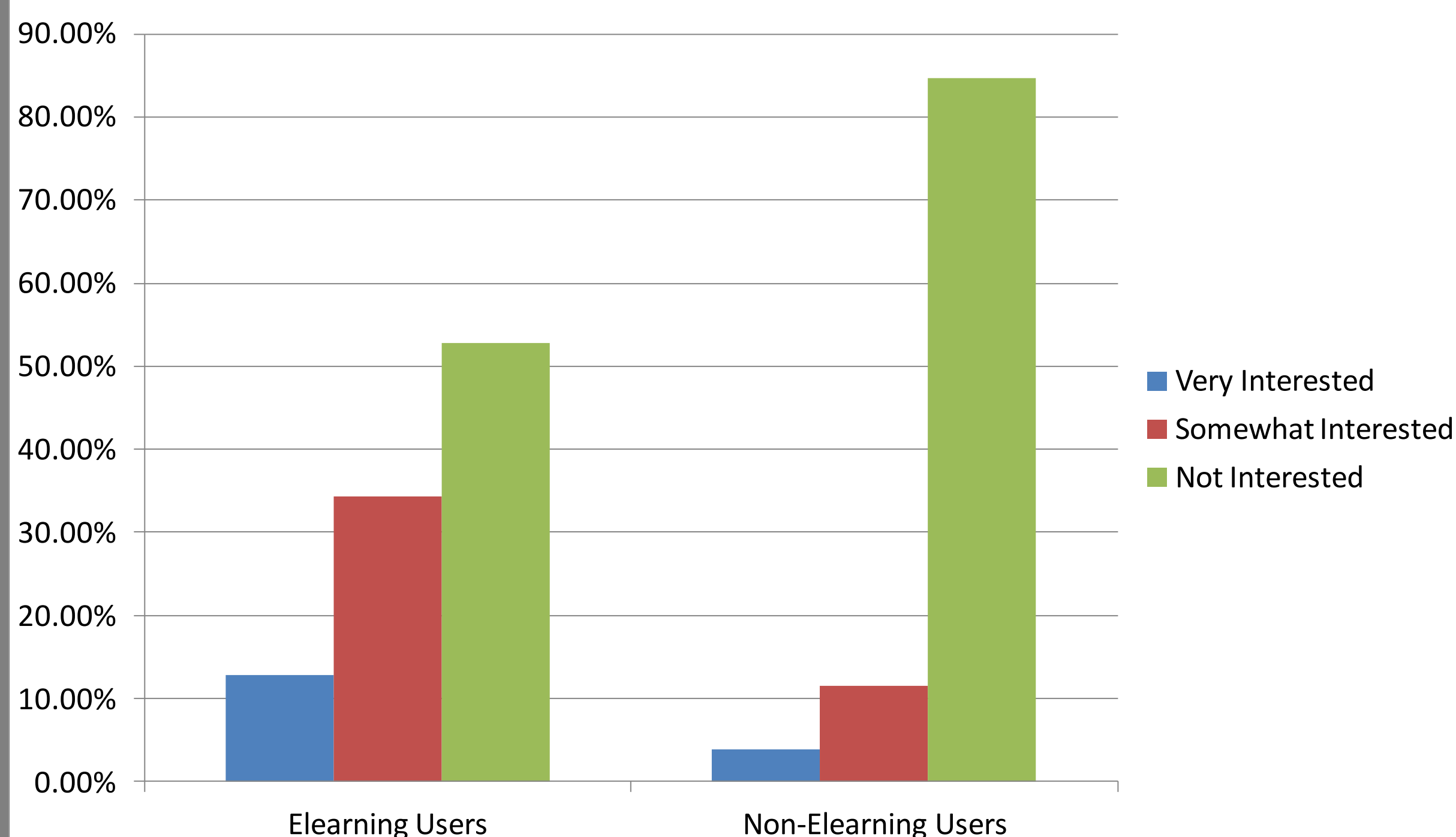
Average number of technologies used by faculty (of those who use technology)



Faculty Use of Elearning (LMS)



Librarian Embedded in Elearning Course Percent of Faculty Interest



Librarian Embedded in Elearning Course (Sample)

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Elearning HIST-3000-950 - Arts/Ideas Anc/Medvl - Steven Cartwright - 16062

Edit Course | Course Home | Content | Links | Dropbox | Chat | Discussions | Groups | Quizzes

HIST 3000

Course Intro / Pre-historic Art & Culture - Mesopotamia - Egypt - Research Paper Preparation - Greece - Rome - Ancient Israel & Early Christianity - Late Antiquity & Byzantium - Islam - Early Middle Ages - High Middle Ages - Late Middle Ages

Course Administration

Design

Course Design Accelerator
Instructional Design Wizard
Course Builder
Learning Activity Library

General

Navigation
Course Offering Information
Homepages
Widgets

Administration

News

News Item

Questions About your Research Paper?

If you need help finding or using scholarly sources for your research paper, remember that I am here to help! I have added a section to the class guide about finding primary documents. The [Online Class Guide](#) will help with your research. My contact information is available in the guide. Remember--research takes longer than you think so be sure to give yourself enough time.

Maria Perez-Stable, History Librarian

Good advice from Stephen Colbert

<https://elearning.wmich.edu/>

Library Instruction Formats by Level of Faculty Interest

1. Online class guide
- 2 (tied). Online tutorial
- 2 (tied). Librarian visits class <30 minutes
4. Students attend optional instruction session
5. Class visits library
6. Librarian visits class >30 minutes
7. Class video conferences with librarian
8. Librarian present in online course (Elearning)

Online Subject Guide

Engineering

Last updated: Feb 23, 2012 | URL: <http://libguides.wmich.edu/engineering> | [Print Guide](#) | [RSS Updates](#) | [SHARE](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

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Meet the Engineering Librarian

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Useful Reference Books

- [Career Success in Engineering: a Guide for Students and New Professionals](#) (Bernard R)

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General Engineering Databases

- [Engineering Village](#) Engineering Village features access to the Compendex and PaperChem databases.
- [Applied Science & Technology Abstracts](#) Applied Science & Technology Abstracts™ contains indexing and abstracts for nearly 800 core English-language, scientific and technical publications back to 1983. Content includes coverage of a wide variety of applied science specialties —acoustics to aeronautics, neural networks to nuclear and civil engineering, computers and informatics and much more.
- [ASTM Standards and Engineering Digital Library](#) A vast collection of standards and technical information covering a broad range of engineering disciplines, including aerospace, biomedical, chemical, civil, environmental, geological, industrial, materials science, mechanical, nuclear.

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University Libraries

Next Steps for WMU Libraries

- Take advantage of technology in electronic classrooms
- Use iClickers as available
- Develop/maintain interactive online research tutorials (e.g. ResearchPath, Jing)
- Create/expand library presence in blogs, SNSs, etc.
- Work toward library component in all Elearning courses
- Provide “mini” instruction sessions
- Offer sessions in instructors’ regular classrooms

Faculty comments on online videos:

“Illustrative and motivating”
“Changes up the presentation”
“Convenient and economical”

Percent of Faculty Using Different Technologies
(ordered by total number of faculty who use each technology)

	Natural Sciences/ Math	Social Sciences	Humanities	Fine Arts	Health Services	Engineering/ Computer Science	Education	Business
Elearning	50%	63%	81%	57%	100%	69%	89%	80%
Online or embedded videos	42%	44%	63%	43%	43%	31%	63%	60%
Personal Web page or WMU "homepage"	33%	52%	50%	43%	21%	54%	47%	20%
Discussion boards/ forums	17%	44%	31%	29%	43%	15%	84%	40%
Electronic reserve items	8%	48%	31%	14%	43%	8%	42%	10%
Podcasts	8%	15%	13%	29%	0%	31%	11%	20%
Social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Delicious, etc.)	0%	11%	0%	43%	7%	8%	5%	30%
Video conferencing	25%	19%	13%	0%	7%	8%	21%	10%
Blogs	0%	19%	19%	14%	0%	0%	5%	30%
iClickers	17%	0%	6%	0%	0%	15%	5%	10%
Wikis	0%	11%	6%	14%	0%	15%	5%	0%
RSS feeds	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	8%	5%	10%

Faculty comments on blogs:

“Uniform disaster”
“Students do not take them seriously”
“Would never use them again”

Recommendations

- Gather your own data—one size does not fit all
- Take advantage of existing technology at your institution
- Avoid technology overload—don’t try everything at once
- Organize staff training
- Partner with early adopters on your campus
- Solicit administrative support—time and money
- Market the services often and through multiple avenues
- Consider disparities between faculty and student technology use