Digital Access Assignment

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Part I: Assistive Technology Survey

This week’s assignment was to create an online survey pertaining to digital access in my work environment or community. To that end, I used Survey Monkey to construct a fifteen question survey about assistive technology in the classroom. (You can view the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MF86KB9>.) I administered the survey to teachers in the K-12 environment, as well as to teachers in adult education and higher education. My ultimate goal was to determine how informed teachers are when it comes to assistive technology. I also wanted to determine if schools are offering assistive technology services and, if they are, if training is being offered, too. Here are the questions that were asked.

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| **Assistive Technology Survey** |
| 1. What is your gender?  * Female * Male |
| 1. How old are you?  * 18-20 * 21-29 * 30-39 * 40-49 * 50-59 * 60-64 * 65 or older |
| 1. What is the highest level of education you have completed?  * Less than high school * High School/GED * Some College * 2-Year College Degree (Associates) * 4-Year College Degree (BA, BS) * Master’s Degree * Doctoral Degree * Professional Degree (MD, JD) |
| 1. Which of the following certifications do you presently hold? (You may select more than one.)  * Teacher – Early Childhood General Education * Teacher – Early Childhood Special Education * Teacher – Elementary General Education * Teacher – Elementary Special Education * Teacher – Middle School General Education * Teacher – Middle School Special Education * Teacher – High School General Education * Teacher – High School Special Education * College Education * Adult Education * N/A * Other (please specify): |
| 1. How long have you been teaching?  * Under 1 year * 1-5 years * 6-10 years * 11-15 years * 16-20 years * Greater than 21 years |
| 1. Do you understand what is meant by the term assistive technology?  * Yes * Somewhat * No |
| 1. Have you worked with at least one student who has used assistive technology?  * Yes * No |
| 1. How comfortable are you with the use of assistive technology?  * Very comfortable * Comfortable * Somewhat comfortable * Not at all comfortable |
| 1. How comfortable are you with identifying students who could benefit from using assistive technology?  * Very comfortable * Comfortable * Somewhat comfortable * Not at all comfortable |
| 1. Do you know about the Federal laws that impact the provision of assistive technology and special education services?  * Yes * Somewhat * No |
| 1. Does your school offer assistive technology services?  * Yes * No * I do not know |
| 1. Do you know who to contact at your school if you have questions related to assistive technology?  * Yes * No |
| 1. Do you know that many assistive technologies are available online for free or for a nominal fee?  * Yes * No |
| 1. Has your school offered training on assistive technologies?  * Yes * No * They plan to in the future * I do not know |
| 1. Would you be interested in receiving assistive technology training at your school?  * Yes * Maybe * No |

Figure 1: Assistive Technology Survey

Top of Form

The results of the survey were enlightening, but somewhat discouraging. A total of six teachers responded. While all of the respondents indicated that they understand what is meant by the term assistive technology, only one respondent knew about the Federal laws that impact the provision of assistive technology and special education services. Even more discouraging, four respondents indicated that their school has never offered teacher training on assistive technologies. That being said, not all of the results were dismal. All six of the respondents indicated that their school offers assistive technology services and four indicated that they would be interested in receiving assistive technology training if it was offered. Here are the results of the entire survey.

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| **Results of Assistive Technology Survey** |
| 1. What is your gender?  * Female 100% (6 out of 6) * Male 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. How old are you?  * 18-20 0% (0 out of 6) * 21-29 50% (3 out of 6) * 30-39 16.67% (1 out of 6) * 40-49 16.67% (1 out of 6) * 50-59 16.67% (1 out of 6) * 60-64 0% (0 out of 6) * 65 or older 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. What is the highest level of education you have completed?  * Less than high school 0% (0 out of 6) * High School/GED 0% (0 out of 6) * Some College 0% (0 out of 6) * 2-Year College Degree (Associates) 0% (0 out of 6) * 4-Year College Degree (BA, BS) 83.33% (5 out of 6) * Master’s Degree 0% (0 out of 6) * Doctoral Degree 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Professional Degree (MD, JD) 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Which of the following certifications do you presently hold? (You may select more than one.)  * Teacher – Early Childhood General Education 0% (0 out of 6) * Teacher – Early Childhood Special Education 0% (0 out of 6) * Teacher – Elementary General Education 66.67% (4 out of 6) * Teacher – Elementary Special Education 50% (3 out of 6) * Teacher – Middle School General Education 33.33% (2 out of 6) * Teacher – Middle School Special Education 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Teacher – High School General Education 0% (0 out of 6) * Teacher – High School Special Education 0% (0 out of 6) * College Education 0% (0 out of 6) * Adult Education 0% (0 out of 6) * N/A 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Other (please specify): 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. How long have you been teaching?  * Under 1 year 0% (0 out of 6) * 1-5 years 50% (3 out of 6) * 6-10 years 33.33% (2 out of 6) * 11-15 years 16.67% (1 out of 6) * 16-20 years 0% (0 out of 6) * Greater than 21 years 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Do you understand what is meant by the term assistive technology?  * Yes 100% (6 out of 6) * Somewhat 0% (0 out of 6) * No 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Have you worked with at least one student who has used assistive technology?  * Yes 50% (3 out of 6) * No 50% (3 out of 6) |
| 1. How comfortable are you with the use of assistive technology?  * Very comfortable 50% (3 out of 6) * Comfortable 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Somewhat comfortable 33.33% (2 out of 6) * Not at all comfortable 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. How comfortable are you with identifying students who could benefit from using assistive technology?  * Very comfortable 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Comfortable 66.67% (4 out of 6) * Somewhat comfortable 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Not at all comfortable 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Do you know about the Federal laws that impact the provision of assistive technology and special education services?  * Yes 16.67% (1 out of 6) * Somewhat 83.33% (5 out of 6) * No 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Does your school offer assistive technology services?  * Yes 100% (6 out of 6) * No 0% (0 out of 6) * I do not know 0% (0 out of 6) |
| 1. Do you know who to contact at your school if you have questions related to assistive technology?  * Yes 66.67% (4 out of 6) * No 33.33% (2 out of 6) |
| 1. Do you know that many assistive technologies are available online for free or for a nominal fee?  * Yes 50% (3 out of 6) * No 50% (3 out of 6) |
| 1. Has your school offered training on assistive technologies?  * Yes 0% (0 out of 6) * No 66.67% (4 out of 6) * They plan to in the future 0% (0 out of 6) * I do not know 33.33% (2 out of 6) |
| 1. Would you be interested in receiving assistive technology training at your school?  * Yes 66.67% (4 out of 6) * Maybe 33.33% (2 out of 6) * No 0% (0 out of 6) |

Figure 2: Results of Assistive Technology Survey

In closing, I found this assignment to be helpful on multiple levels. From a technology standpoint, I was exposed to a great survey tool (Survey Monkey). I learned about how to construct a survey and how to interpret the results and then report on them. Most importantly, I learned firsthand that our educational institutions still need to work on providing equitable access to learning and technology to all students, including those who may be at a disadvantage due to a physical limitation or learning disability. Assistive technology is an important tool that we can use to level the playing field. I think it would be helpful to administer the survey to a larger number of people. With more respondents, the survey would be more statistically accurate and paint a more realistic picture of the state of digital access and assistive technology in schools and universities.