Learning Via Distance Education

Our research focuses on faculty and student opinions of the common incorporation of online learning software (Compass, Moodle, etc.) and e-books into classes at the University of Illinois. We wanted to find out to what extent online resources were used on the U of I campus and how these technologies should progress.

Results

• Most students use Moodle or Compass on a day-to-day basis.
• Professors also enjoy the online component to their classes.
• Students often prefer to have notes and assignments available online rather than only relying on information given in class.
• Students and faculty are critical of various online learning software. Most suggest ways they can be improved to increase usability.
• There was much less consensus on the use of e-texts. Although the majority preferred e-texts, many still would choose the physical text.

Textbooks

For the books you are required to buy for class, what do you usually do with the books once the class is finished?

- Sell the Book
- Keep the Book
- I usually rent the book
- I try not to buy required texts

54% 23% 12% 11%

What format would you prefer classroom texts to be in?

- Digital e-texts
- Physical Copy

62% 38%

Conclusion

Through our primary research of interviews and surveys, we discovered that although various online software are helpful, there is much room for improvement. Many students feel that these websites need:
• To be streamlined with less clutter,
• To be more organized,
• To have bugs fixed.

The rhetoric professor we interviewed felt these websites lacked adaptability to suit the needs of an individual class.

Everyone surveyed used some sort of online learning software.

• 100% of the students surveyed had used Compass.
• 88.5% of the students surveyed had used Moodle.
• Many other students had used other websites not listed in the survey.