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ADAPTECH PROJECT COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
SURVEY OF POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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1999

This survey contains 29 questions. This audio tape version of the survey has been adapted from the print version. It has been designed with the assumption that you will be tape recording, typing or Brailleing your answers, or writing to a disk. If you plan on filling in the enclosed print survey, please note that the instructions that you will find here differ from those on the print copy. This is because the print version has check boxes and other visual layout features that are not suitable for audiotape.

Help Desk: If you have any problems or questions, feel free to call our Help Desk collect at (514) 488-2376 Monday through Thursday from 6 P.M. to midnight and Sundays from 3 P.M. to midnight Eastern time. You can also e-mail your questions to adaptech@concordia.ca

(2 second pause)

Beginning of survey.

1. Are you female or male ?

(4 second pause)

2. How old are you?

(4 second pause)

3. Which language do you speak more often, English or French? Choose one.

(4 second pause)

4. What province or territory are you considered a resident of? (for example, for voting, income tax). If you are an international student please specify country.

(4 second pause)

5. What is the name of your educational institution and where is it located?

(2 second pause)

Name of institution:

(2 second pause)

City:

(2 second pause)

Province or Territory:

(4 second pause)

6. What is your field of study?

(4 second pause)

7. Which of the following are you currently pursuing? Choose only one.

a. college certificate or diploma

(2 second pause)

b. university degree

(2 second pause)

c. I have not been a student since 19- (specify the year)

(2 second pause)

d. other (for example, just taking courses) - specify the situation

(2 second pause)

Indicate your response by specifying a, b, c, or d. If you answered c or d, specify the year or situation.

(4 second pause)

8. We would like to know what disabilities or impairments you have and how long you have had them. Please indicate all that apply from the following list. Use a 3 point scale with 1 equaling all or most of my life (before age 10), 2 equaling part of my life and 3 equaling recent (past 3 years).

For example, if you have been totally blind all of your life, you would write a for totally blind and 1 for all of your life.

a. totally blind

(2 second pause)

b. visually impaired or partially sighted

(2 second pause)

c. Deaf

(2 second pause)

d. hearing impaired or hard of hearing

(2 second pause)

e. speech or communication impaired

(2 second pause)

f. learning disabled

(2 second pause)

g. wheelchair user

(2 second pause)

h. mobility impaired (for example, walk with difficulty, use a cane)

(2 second pause)

i. difficulty using hands or arms

(2 second pause)

j. health or medically related impairment (for example, diabetes)

(2 second pause)

k. psychological or psychiatric disability

(2 second pause)

l. other (specify impairment or disability)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 8

(4 second pause)

9. Please answer yes or no for all items.

At home I use:

a. a desktop computer: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

b. a laptop computer: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

c. adaptive computer hardware (for example, Braille display): yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

d. adaptive software (for example, software that enlarges what is on the screen): yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

e. the internet: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

f. other computer technology: yes or no, choose one

If you answered yes, specify the technology

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 9

(4 second pause)

10. Please choose the letters of the items that apply to you from the following list.

I don't have the following technologies at home, but wish I did:

a. a desktop computer

(2 second pause)

b. a laptop computer

(2 second pause)

c. adaptive computer hardware (for example, Braille display)

(2 second pause)

d. adaptive software (for example, software that enlarges what is on the screen)

(2 second pause)

e. the internet

(2 second pause)

f. other computer technology - please specify the technology

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 10

(4 second pause)

11. Please answer yes or no for all items.

At my educational institution I have used:

a. a desktop computer: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

b. a laptop computer: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

c. adaptive computer hardware (for example, Braille display): yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

d. adaptive software (for example, software that enlarges what is on the screen): yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

e. the internet: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

f. other computer technology: yes or no, choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered yes, specify technology

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 11

(4 second pause)

12. Please choose the letters of the items that apply to you from the following list.

I have had no access to the following technologies at my educational institution, but wish I did:

a. a desktop computer

(2 second pause)

b. a laptop computer

(2 second pause)

c. adaptive computer hardware (for example, Braille display)

(2 second pause)

d. adaptive software (for example, software that enlarges what is on the screen)

(2 second pause)

e. the internet

(2 second pause)

f. other computer technology - please specify the technology

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 12

(4 second pause)

13. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Refer to your current situation. Use a 6 point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, 2 equaling somewhat disagree, 3 equaling slightly disagree, 4 equaling slightly agree, 5 equaling somewhat agree and 6 equaling strongly agree.

(2 second pause)

a. In general, I rarely use computer technologies.

(2 second pause)

b. In general, I consider my level of expertise with computer technologies to be very good.

(2 second pause)

c. Computer technologies that meet my needs are unavailable to me.

(2 second pause)

d. Getting my work done more easily is important to me.

(2 second pause)

e. I am a person who dislikes computers.

(2 second pause)

f. There are opportunities for me to learn how to use computer technologies.

(2 second pause)

g. Computer technologies are inadequate in meeting my needs effectively (for example, too inaccurate or slow).

(2 second pause)

h. I do not plan to become more knowledgeable about computers.

(2 second pause)

i. What friends think about computers is unimportant to me.

(2 second pause)

j. When I have problems with my computer technologies I can get help easily.

(2 second pause)

k. Computers crash often.

(2 second pause)

l. Computer technologies I need cost too much.

(2 second pause)

m. I think working efficiently on computers is unimportant.

(2 second pause)

n. Using computer technologies effectively is likely to help me get my work done more easily.

(2 second pause)

o. Friends don't think using computers is helpful.

(2 second pause)

p. In general, there are good computer facilities for me to use.

(2 second pause)

q. I can comfortably use computer technologies if I need to.

(2 second pause)

r. There are people available to show me how to use computer technologies.

(2 second pause)

s. My friends think I should use computer technologies.

(2 second pause)

t. In general, my financial situation allows me to meet my needs.

(2 second pause)

u. Overall, I am very dissatisfied with my experiences with computers.

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 13

(4 second pause)

14. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, 2 equaling somewhat disagree, 3 equaling slightly disagree, 4 equaling slightly agree, 5 equaling somewhat agree and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

Please indicate the product names if you know them.

(2 second pause)

The following adaptive computer technologies are or could be useful in getting my work done:

(2 second pause)

a. a screen reader (software that reads what's on the screen).

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

b. software that enlarges what is on the screen.

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

c. a scanner

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

d. Braille translation software

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

e. a portable note taking device (not referring to a laptop)

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

f. a large screen monitor

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

g. a Braille printer

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

h. a spell checker or grammar checker

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

i. other specialized software for learning disabilities (for example, word prediction)

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

j. keyboard adaptations (for example, "sticky keys")

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

k. mouse adaptations(for example, head mouse, track ball)

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

l. dictation software(voice recognition software that types what you say)

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

m. voice control software (you give voice commands like "file," "open," - for example, VoicePad)

(2 second pause)

product name

(2 second pause)

n. having material available in electronic format (for example, books, hand-outs)

(2 second pause)

o. other (specify adaptive hardware or software and product name)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 14.

(4 second pause)

15. Which of the following suggestions would you like to make to adaptive computer hardware and software companies? Choose 5 of the 12 suggestions that are most important to you.

(2 second pause)

a. provide student discounts

(2 second pause)

b. provide trial periods

(2 second pause)

c. make product more user friendly

(2 second pause)

d. provide better technical support

(2 second pause)

e. ensure that advertising reaches students with disabilities

(2 second pause)

f. make adaptive hardware and software less expensive to purchase

(2 second pause)

g. make manuals or tutorials available in alternative formats

(2 second pause)

h. make manuals or tutorials easier to understand

(2 second pause)

i. when designing a piece of hardware or software, include accessibility features for a variety of users with disabilities

(2 second pause)

j. provide grants to educational institutions to purchase equipment

(2 second pause)

k. provide training

(2 second pause)

I. other (specify suggestion)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of Question 15

(4 second pause)

16. Do you use a computer? yes or no

(2 second pause)

If you answered "YES," skip the rest of this question and go to number 17.

If you answered "NO," rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, 2 equaling somewhat disagree, 3 equaling slightly disagree, 4 equaling slightly agree, 5 equaling somewhat agree and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

I do not use a computer because:

a. it is unavailable to me

(2 second pause)

b. it costs too much

(2 second pause)

c. I am not interested in using it

(2 second pause)

d. it is too difficult to learn

(2 second pause)

e. it is too expensive to maintain

(2 second pause)

f. I don't know how to use it

(2 second pause)

g. the technology makes me anxious

(2 second pause)

h. I am uncertain about where to buy it

(2 second pause)

i. adaptive technology I need to access a computer works poorly for me

(2 second pause)

j. It is impossible for me to get it through a government program or an educational institution

lending program

(2 second pause)

k. available computers don't have appropriate adaptive hardware or software on them

(2 second pause)

l. other (specify reason)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 16.

(4 second pause)

IF YOU DO NOT USE A COMPUTER, GO TO THE LAST QUESTION, NUMBER 29.

IF YOU DO USE ONE, CONTINUE WITH THE NEXT QUESTION.

(2 second pause)

17. Please answer yes or no for all items.

What type of computer do you use?

a. IBM compatible - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

b. Macintosh - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

c. other type of computer - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered yes, specify the type.

(4 second pause)

18. Please answer yes or no for all items.

I have used a computer:

a. at home - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

b. during class lectures (for example, writing lecture notes, in-class assignments) - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

c. in the library (for example, doing assignments on a computer located in the library) - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

d. in a Disabled Student Services Office or specialized lab - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

e. in a computer lab - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

f. at work - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

g. elsewhere - yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered yes, specify the location.

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 18

(4 second pause)

19. Approximately how much time during a typical school week have you spent:

a. using a computer - not including time spent on the internet (number of hours per week)

(2 second pause)

b. using the internet (number of hours per week)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 19

(4 second pause)

This is the end of tape 1 side 1. Please fast forward this cassette to the end and turn it over for side 2.

This is tape 1 side 2. Continuing with: ADAPTECH PROJECT COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES SURVEY OF POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

20. Do you use the internet? choose yes or no

(2 second pause)

If you answered " YES," skip the rest of this question and go to number 21.

If you answered "NO," rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, and 6 equaling strongly agree. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9

(2 second pause)

I do not use the internet because:

a. it costs too much

(2 second pause)

b. I have no access to a computer that is equipped to go on-line

(2 second pause)

c. the available browser or e-mail program (for example, Netscape, Eudora) does not work well for me

(2 second pause)

d. it is unavailable in my area

(2 second pause)

e. I am not interested in using it

(2 second pause)

f. some features of web sites are inaccessible to me

(2 second pause)

g. it is not available at school

(2 second pause)

h. it ties up the phone line

(2 second pause)

i. other (specify the reason)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 20

(4 second pause)

IF YOU DO NOT USE THE INTERNET, SKIP THE NEXT QUESTION, AND GO TO NUMBER 22.

IF YOU DO USE THE INTERNET, CONTINUE WITH THE NEXT QUESTION.

(2 second pause)

21. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, 2 equaling somewhat disagree, 3 equaling slightly disagree, 4 equaling slightly agree, 5 equaling somewhat agree and 6 equaling strongly agree. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

(2 second pause)

I use the internet for:

a. doing research

(2 second pause)

b. e-mailing friends or family

(2 second pause)

c. entertainment

(2 second pause)

d. accessing library materials

(2 second pause)

e. looking for a job

(2 second pause)

f. taking courses on-line

(2 second pause)

g. e-mailing my professors

(2 second pause)

h. participating in listservs or news groups

(2 second pause)

i. participating in chat rooms

(2 second pause)

j. banking or shopping

(2 second pause)

k. getting software or updates or demos

(2 second pause)

l. other (specify activity)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 21.

(4 second pause)

22. Did you take advantage of a government program to obtain a computer or adaptive computer technologies? yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered " YES," skip the rest of this question and go to number 23.

If you answered "NO," rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

I did not take advantage of a government program to obtain a computer or adaptive computer technologies (for example, Braille display, software that enlarges the screen) because:

a. there were too many restrictions

(2 second pause)

b. my own or my family's income was too high for me to qualify

(2 second pause)

c. my disability was excluded by existing programs

(2 second pause)

d. the waiting period was too long

(2 second pause)

e. I did not want to take the required evaluation

(2 second pause)

f. I was unaware that there were any programs out there for me

(2 second pause)

g. I or my family preferred to buy the equipment I needed

(2 second pause)

h. the process for applying was too complicated

(2 second pause)

i. the equipment I need was unavailable through existing programs

(2 second pause)

j. other (specify the reason)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 22.

(4 second pause)

IF YOU DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, SKIP THE NEXT QUESTION, AND GO TO NUMBER 24.

IF YOU DID TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, CONTINUE WITH THE NEXT QUESTION.

(2 second pause)

23. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

(2 second pause)

My experience with a government program has been that:

a. There were many restrictive rules and regulations

(2 second pause)

b. I had no say in what hardware or software I received

(2 second pause)

c. the equipment I received met my needs

(2 second pause)

d. I received excellent training on the technology

(2 second pause)

e. the waiting period was very long

(2 second pause)

f. the program's documentation was unavailable in a format I could read myself (for example, no large print or tape)

(2 second pause)

g. the program was flexible in meeting my needs

(2 second pause)

h. contacting the necessary people to discuss my needs was easy

(2 second pause)

i. the process for applying was complicated

(2 second pause)

j. the equipment I received was up-to-date

(2 second pause)

k. the evaluation process was unpleasant

(2 second pause)

l. other (specify the experience)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 23

(4 second pause)

24. Do you have a computer that you use at home? yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered " NO," skip the rest of this question and go to number 25.

If you answered "YES", answer the rest of the question.

How did you get your computer and/or your adaptive computer technologies as a student?
Choose all that apply.

a. through the Federal Government (specify the name of the program)

(2 second pause)

b. through the Provincial Government (specify the name of the program)

(2 second pause)

c. through a foundation or organization (for example, Kiwanis Club, Neil Squire

Foundation - specify the name of the foundation or organization)

(2 second pause)

d. by borrowing it from my family or friends

(2 second pause)

e. from my family who bought it for me

(2 second pause)

f. by buying it myself

(2 second pause)

g. through my educational institution's lending program

(2 second pause)

h. other (specify how you obtained it)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 24.

(4 second pause)

25. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

Computer technologies cause problems for me because:

a. they are difficult to learn

(2 second pause)

b. they cost too much to buy

(2 second pause)

c. using them causes me physical discomfort

(2 second pause)

d. they are frustrating or difficult to use

(2 second pause)

e. they crash

(2 second pause)

f. they need to be repaired often

(2 second pause)

g. there are hardware and software compatibility problems (for example, document saved on one computer does not work on another)

(2 second pause)

h. they are inadequate in meeting my needs

(2 second pause)

i. they have to be upgraded continuously

(2 second pause)

j. they make me dependent on them

(2 second pause)

k. computer labs where my courses are held lack suitable adaptations for me (for example, no dictation software)

l. manufacturers fail to support their products

(2 second pause)

m. there are few opportunities for training on adaptive technologies

(2 second pause)

n. other (specify problem)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 25.

(4 second pause)

26. Rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

I have had problems using computers at my educational institution because:

a. using computer technology in class is disruptive (for example, too noisy)

(2 second pause)

b. my schedule and the hours of access to computers have been incompatible

(2 second pause)

c. the computer programs I use at home are unavailable at my educational institution

(2 second pause)

d. there has been insufficient technical support available to me

(2 second pause)

e. using computer technologies in class makes me stand out

(2 second pause)

f. computer labs or adaptive center have always been full

(2 second pause)

g. there has been a lack of suitable adaptive technology for my disability

(2 second pause)

h. I have received insufficient training on existing adaptive technology

(2 second pause)

i. other (specify problem)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 26.

(4 second pause)

27. Do you need any special adaptations to use a computer? yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered " NO," skip the next question and go to the last one, number 29.

If you answered " YES," go to the next question, number 28.

(4 second pause)

28. Do you use adaptive computer hardware or software? yes or no choose one

(2 second pause)

If you answered " YES," skip the rest of this question and go to the last one, number 29.

If you answered "NO," rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements. Use a 6-point scale with 1 equaling strongly disagree, and 6 equaling strongly agree. Please be sure to rate all items. If an item is not applicable to you, write 9.

I do not use adaptive hardware or software (for example, Braille display, software that enlarges what's on the screen) because:

a. it is unavailable to me

(2 second pause)

b. it costs too much

(2 second pause)

c. I am not interested in using it

(2 second pause)

d. it is too difficult to learn

(2 second pause)

e. it is too expensive to maintain

(2 second pause)

f. I don't know how to use it

(2 second pause)

g. the technology makes me anxious

(2 second pause)

h. I am uncertain about where to buy it

(2 second pause)

i. adaptive technology I need to use a computer works poorly for me

(2 second pause)

j. it is impossible for me to get it through a government program or an educational institution lending program

(2 second pause)

k. available computers don't have appropriate adaptive hardware or software on them.

(2 second pause)

l. other (specify the reason)

(2 second pause)

This is the end of question 28.

(4 second pause)

29. Please let us know if there are other computer technology issues that are important to you that we have not asked about. Also, put any comments about this questionnaire here.

(4 second pause)