Future university students' expectations about their technology requirements for learning

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Abstract: This paper is a report on the findings of a study conducted with students aged 10-14 who could attend university 2020. The aim of the study was to determine their thoughts about their technological requirements when they attend university in 2020. Semi-structured interviews were completed with three groups of students from three schools. Thematic analysis was used to identify themes under three headings: about the student; about technology; and about university. Findings indicate that students have a desire to attend university; they are using a variety of technologies outside formal school settings; and they have clear thoughts about what technology should look like at university. Universities need to consider the importance of future student voice in strategic planning of student information technology requirements.

Introduction

This project was initiated as part of the strategic information technology planning process for a university. With a range of stakeholders being invited to participate, it was decided to obtain the views of future students. It was determined that students aged 10-14 would be attending or starting university in 2020. These students were currently enrolled in Year 6 to Year 10 classes and therefore would be invited to participate through their school. To conduct this research, ethical clearances were approved and consent from the school principal and parents before data collection commenced. Thirteen schools were invited to participate. These schools were selected because they were known to the research team. Of the thirteen schools, four accepted the invitation but then only three were able to participate in line with the timeframe. Three 45-minute semi-structured interviews were completed at these schools. A total of 48 (n=48) students participated in the interviews. This poster will present some of the finding from these interviews.

Acknowledgement