

MEASURING ATTITUDES TOWARD COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE AMONG POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate and measure postgraduate students' attitudes toward the Internet and computer usage. Specifically, the present study sought answers to the following questions: What is the overall profile of postgraduate students' attitudes toward the Internet and computer usage? Do postgraduate students' attitudes toward Internet and computer usage differ in terms of gender? Do postgraduate students' attitudes toward the Internet and computer usage in instruction differ in terms of field of study? Do postgraduate students' attitudes toward the Internet and computer usage differ in terms of ethnicity? What is the relationship between age of postgraduates and their attitudes toward Internet and computer? A total of 600 postgraduate students participated in this study. Attitudes scales to assess postgraduate student's attitudes toward the usage of Internet and computer were used. Results reveal that: (1) participants have a high level perception of the usefulness and their control of the computer and Internet, (2) no significant differences were found between participants' attitudes toward the Internet and computer related with gender, field of study, and ethnicity, and (3) there are significant relations between participants' age and their attitudes towards Internet and computer usage.

Keywords: Anxiety, Attitudes, Computer, Enjoyment, Internet, Usefulness.

Introduction

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is becoming increasingly widespread, influencing many aspects of our social and work lives, as well as many of our leisure activities. For instance, ICT dexterities constitute a major part of educational programs (Thomas & Stratton, 2006). In many developed countries, nearly all schools are equipped with the infrastructure to conduct ICT mediated teaching and learning. In Malaysia, the main goals of