**Background**
The purpose of this telephone study was to benchmark students’ use of the Internet outside of personal communications such as e-mail and instant messaging. In particular, this study asked students how often they used the Internet for academic purposes as well as other activities such as managing money and entertainment.

Telephone contact was attempted with 1430 undergraduate students. Of those, 46%, or 658, were wrong numbers. For the remaining 772 students, Sixty percent (60%), or 461 students, agreed to participate in the survey.

**Results**

**Do you own a personal computer?**
- 96% did own a computer

**What type of Internet connection do you use for your personal computer?**
- 78% used broadband services to access the Internet (e.g., cable modem, DSL, Resnet)
- 15% used dial-up services
- 5% used wireless access
- 2% did not have an internet connection

**What type of devices do you use for accessing the internet (mark all that apply)?**
- 68% used a home desktop computer
- 34% used a laptop computer
- 30% used an A&M owned computer in a lab, department, or other area
- 9% used a cell phone
- 3% used a PDA device

**During the academic year, on average, how often do you access the internet, other than for e-mail and instant messaging?**
- 98% accessed the internet a few times a week or more
- 2% accessed the internet once a week or less
- <1% said they never accessed the internet

**When you are on the internet, are you…**
- 72% said “at home more than a campus computer lab”
- 16% said “at home and at a campus computer lab about the same”
- 11% said “at home less than campus computer lab”
- 1% said they did not know

**When searching for academic resources or information, do you:**
- 83% said “use the Internet more than the library”
- 11% said “use the Internet and the library about the same”
- 5% said “use the Internet less than the library”
- 2% said they did not know

**During the academic year, estimate the number of hours per week you spend on the internet, excluding e-mail and instant messaging, doing the following: (1-10 hours per week)**
- 90% searching for specific sites/topics
- 86% doing class-related work
- 85% entertainment (games, music, sports)
- 55% managing money (paying bills, banking, etc.)
- 41% sharing files
- 36% making purchases
- 15% chatting in a chat room

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements (Strongly Agree and Agree)**
- 95% agreed that “I am comfortable using the Internet as a communication tool”
- 94% agreed that “The Internet has had a positive impact on my college academic experience in general”
- 76% agreed that “My professors use Internet applications such as WebCT”
- 67% agreed that “Information on the Internet is reliable”
- 24% agreed that “The Internet has been beneficial in my relationship with classmates”

**How often do your professors discuss academic integrity related to citing sources on the Internet?**
- 62% said their professors almost always or frequently discussed academic integrity related to citing sources on the Internet

*Prepared on: March 8, 2005
For a complete report, please visit the Student Life Studies web page.*