

Investigating the ICT Needs of 'Digital Natives' in the Learning of English in a Public University in East Malaysia

Abstract

This paper examined the undergraduates' patterns and perceptions of technology use in the teaching and learning of English in an attempt to throw further light into the current debate of the need to change the knowledge content and method of delivery in universities to cater to the needs of "digital natives." A questionnaire survey was used to collect data and was analysed quantitatively through the use of descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed a large majority of the university students surveyed are comfortable with the use of technology, and are incorporating a range of traditional and emerging technologies in their daily and academic lives. However, areas where the use of and familiarity with technology based tools are far from universal or uniform among the students, implying that any effort to optimise the use of technology in language teaching and learning in the university has to be appropriate to the learning environment.