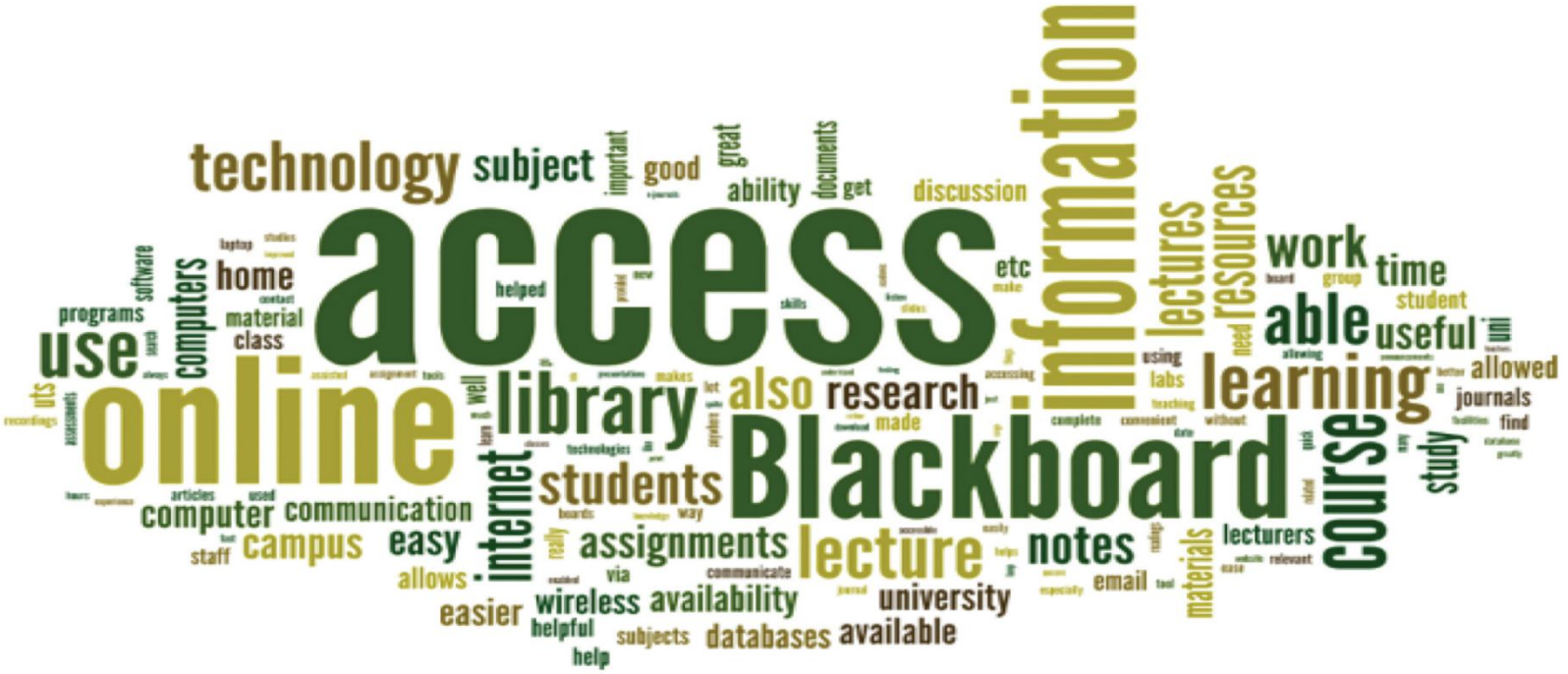
Students' engagement with technologies: Implications for university practice



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The project: broad scale survey

Scope: across three Sydney universities

Aims:

- Students' access to technologies
- Use of technology in students' daily lives
- Experience with using technologies for learning
- The quality and consistency of experience of IT on-campus
- Expectations of what the university should provide

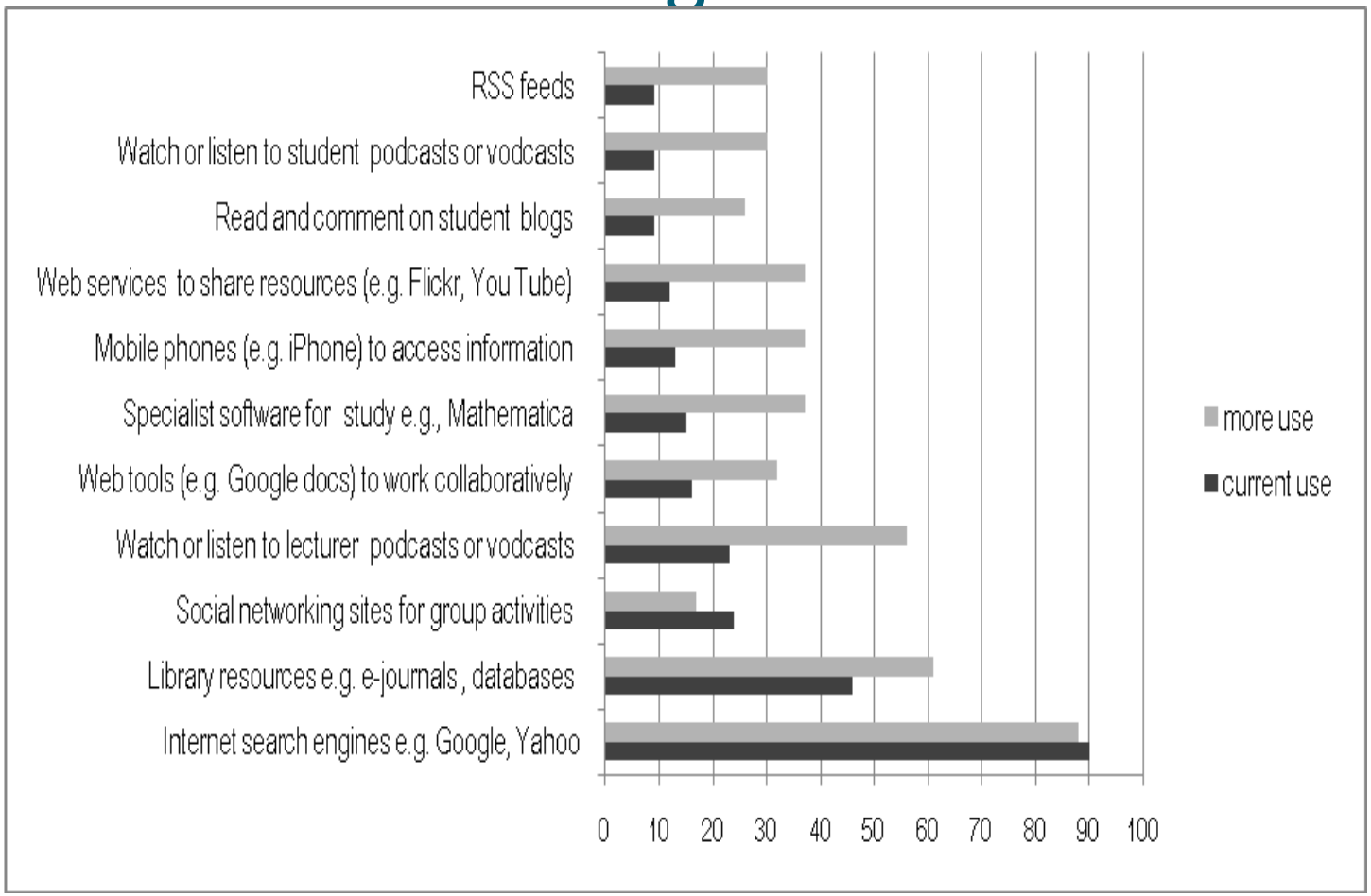
Method: online survey

Response: 10,269 full responses: 1104 (MQ), 7419 (UWS), 1754 (UTS)

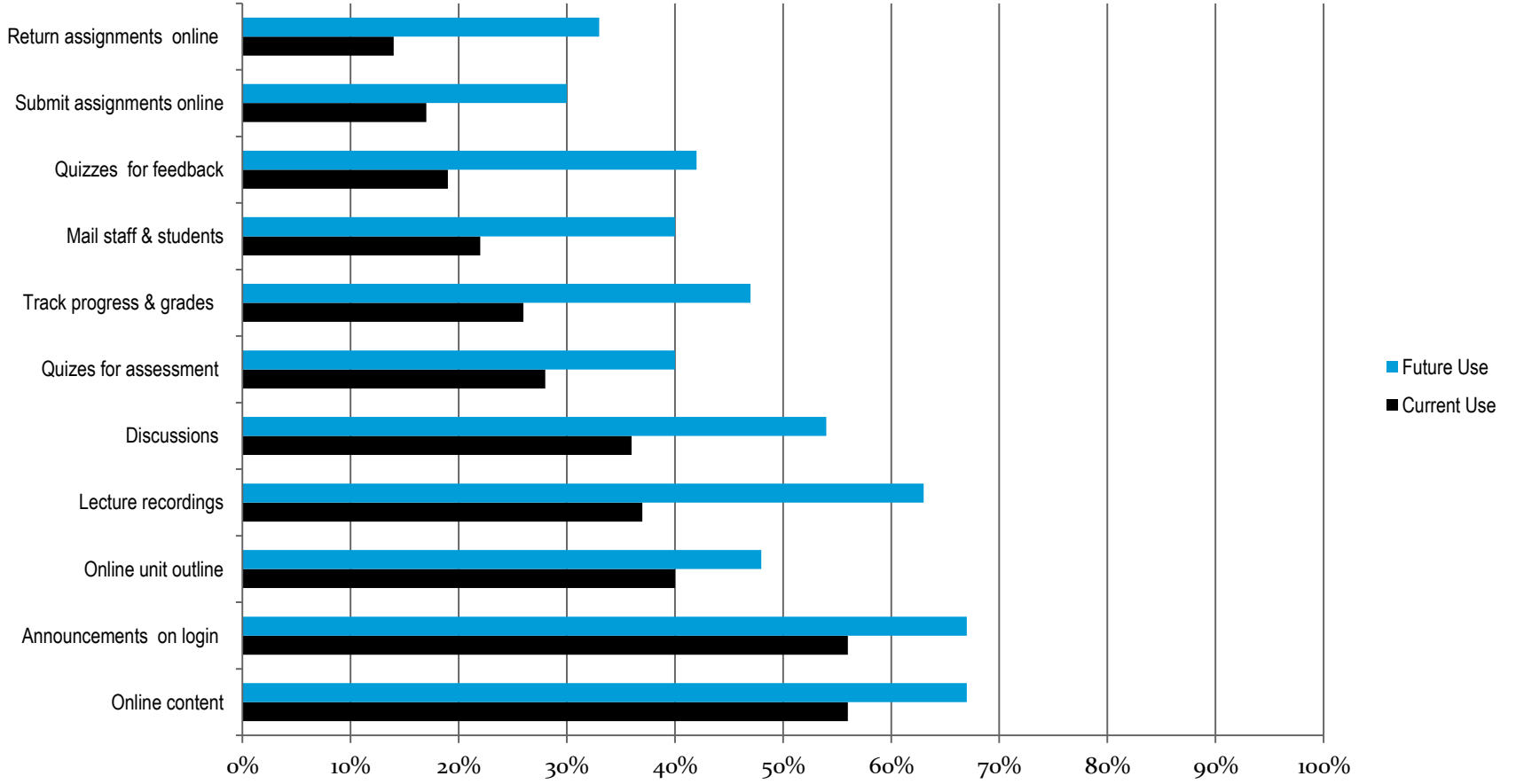
Survey

- 25 technologies were surveyed
- 127 survey questions about use of technology for learning, administration, communication, social and work purposes.
- Students rated use of technologies on a 5 point scale. Percentages in the tables in slides show the percentage of students who used technologies in top 2 categories
- 4 open-ended questions

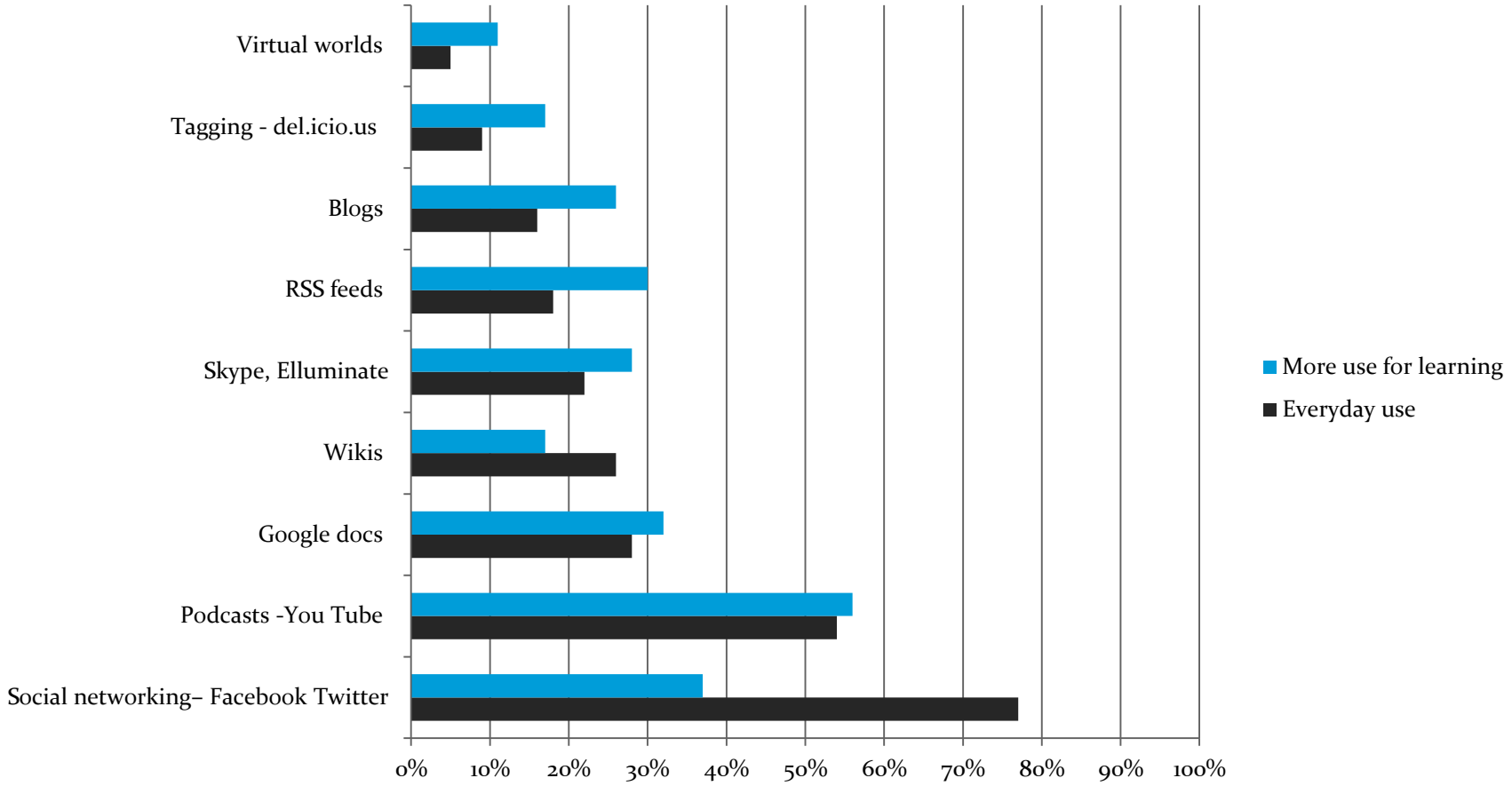
Students' current use of technologies compared with preferred use for coursework learning



Current and preferred use of tools in Blackboard



Students' current everyday use of Web2.0 compared with their preferred use for coursework learning



Summary of findings

- At each University, students expressed surprisingly high satisfaction levels generally with the use of technology at their university
- Responses were remarkably similar across all three Universities, and across different cohorts including low SES
- Students are seeking access, efficiency and connectedness
- Students don't want or expect the latest technologies simply because they are there: they want technologies they know will work
- Students want more effective use of the core technologies – LMS and iLecture:
  - Online submission, email, quizzes, reporting on grades
- Students want an increasing focus on interaction and connectedness – discussion forums, RSS, collaborative tools (skype/ad Adobe Connect, interactive whiteboards, blogs

More findings

- Students have regular, but not extensive, use of social media in their personal lives but don't (yet?) show a preference for it for coursework learning
- Students want better technical infrastructure:
  - powerpoints to charge electronic devices
  - better wireless networks on campus
  - spaces on campus to use mobile technologies
  - better on-campus access to computing facilities
- Students highlighted a need for further professional development of staff:
  - 82% of students are satisfied with their skill level
  - 59 % are satisfied with the skill level of academic staff

Implications for planning

- Continue to invest in robust and reliable infrastructure
- Improve investment in professional learning for academic staff to make best use of the technologies
- Maintain core technologies, such as the LMS, online Library technologies, lecture recordings etc. Students rely on these, they value them.
- Careful and strategic planning for integration of new technologies and new learning spaces on campus
- Managing student expectations – the evidence is that students show a high use of ownership and use of technologies in their personal lives so they expect access to technologies at University.