

Smithsonian Ocean Portal Educators Survey Results

Elizabeth Ban
Smithsonian Institution
NOAA Education Council Presentation
October 21, 2009

Educator Focus Group and Online Survey

SCOPE OF WORK



- Smithsonian Ocean Portal Development
- Educators Corner
 - What will educators use?
 - What won't they use?
 - What is limited by school resources?
 - Learn the current norms and needs of teachers
 - Accurately design online resource to fit needs without unnecessary functionality
 - Internet Survey and Focus Group

Educator Focus Group and Online Survey

SCOPE OF WORK



- Smithsonian Ocean Portal Development
- Hired Funny Garbage (Contractor - <http://www.funnygarbage.com/>) to find out how science teachers currently use the Internet in planning classes.
- Information:
 - Demographics
 - Current Internet Usage/Resources
 - Classroom Planning and the Internet

Educator Online Survey

PROCESS

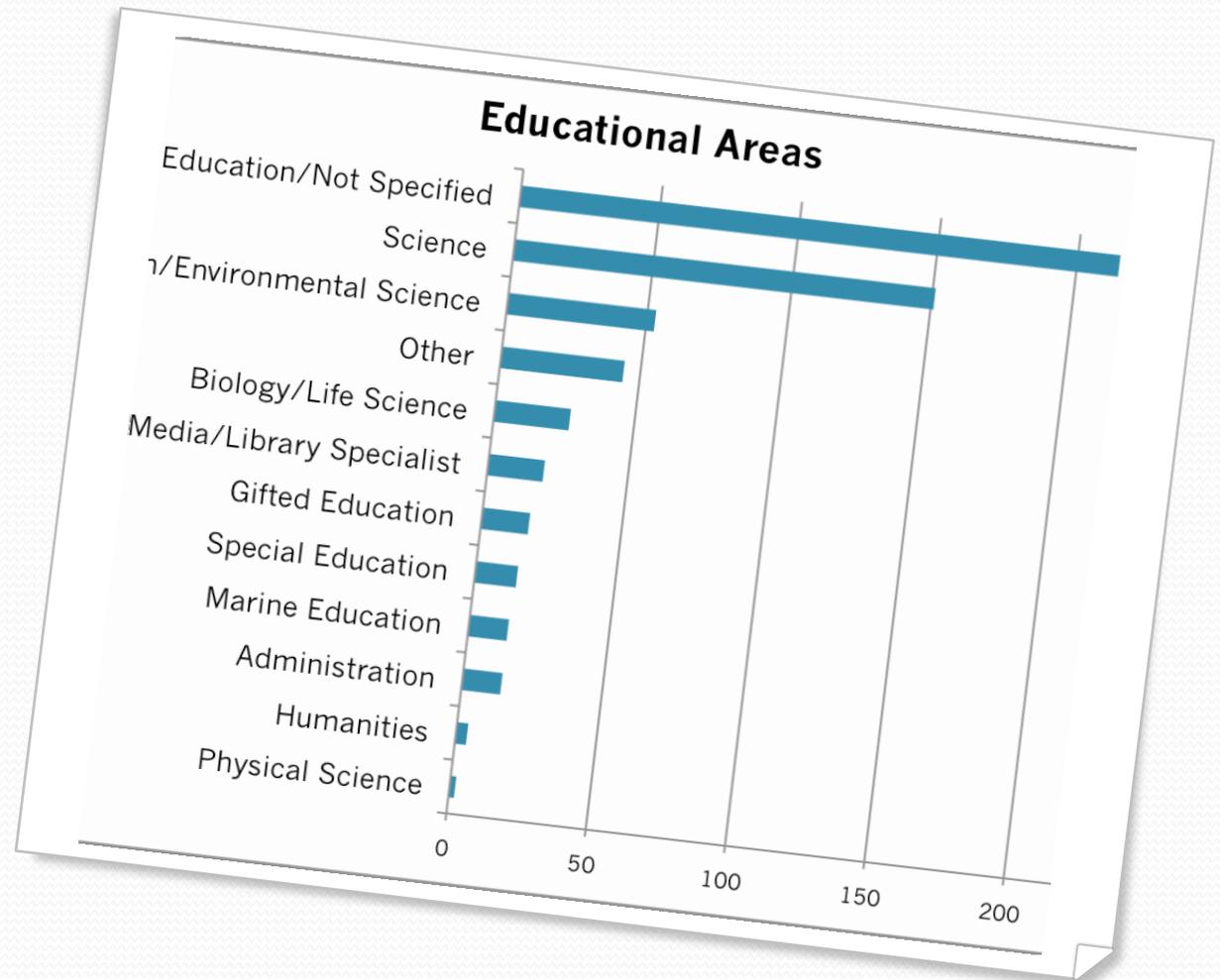


- Online educators survey August 17 and September 8, 2009.
- Gather information about how educators across the US use tools and information on the Internet to inform their curricula.

Educator Online Survey

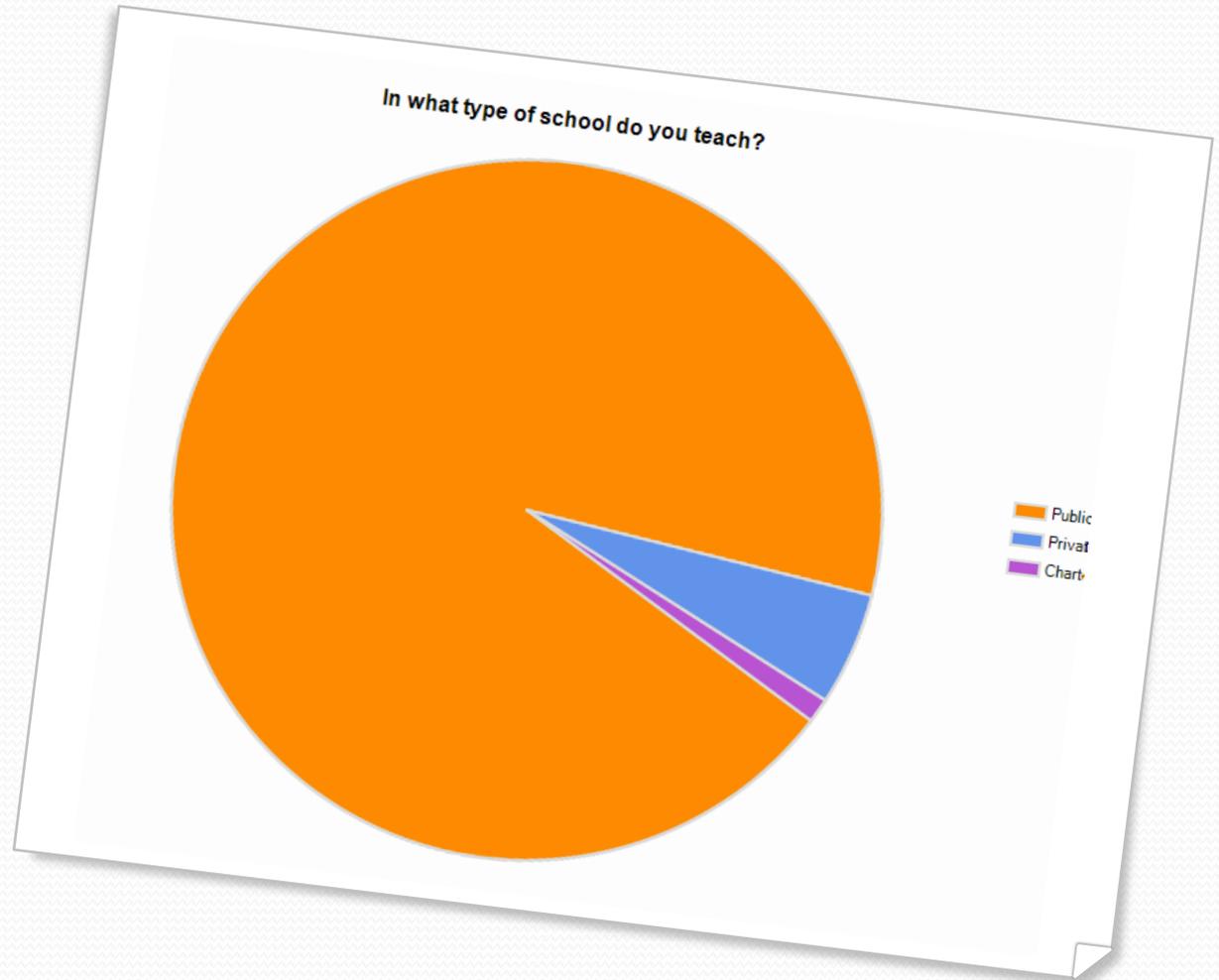
Educator Demographics

- 586 participants started survey
- 75.8%(444 total) completed



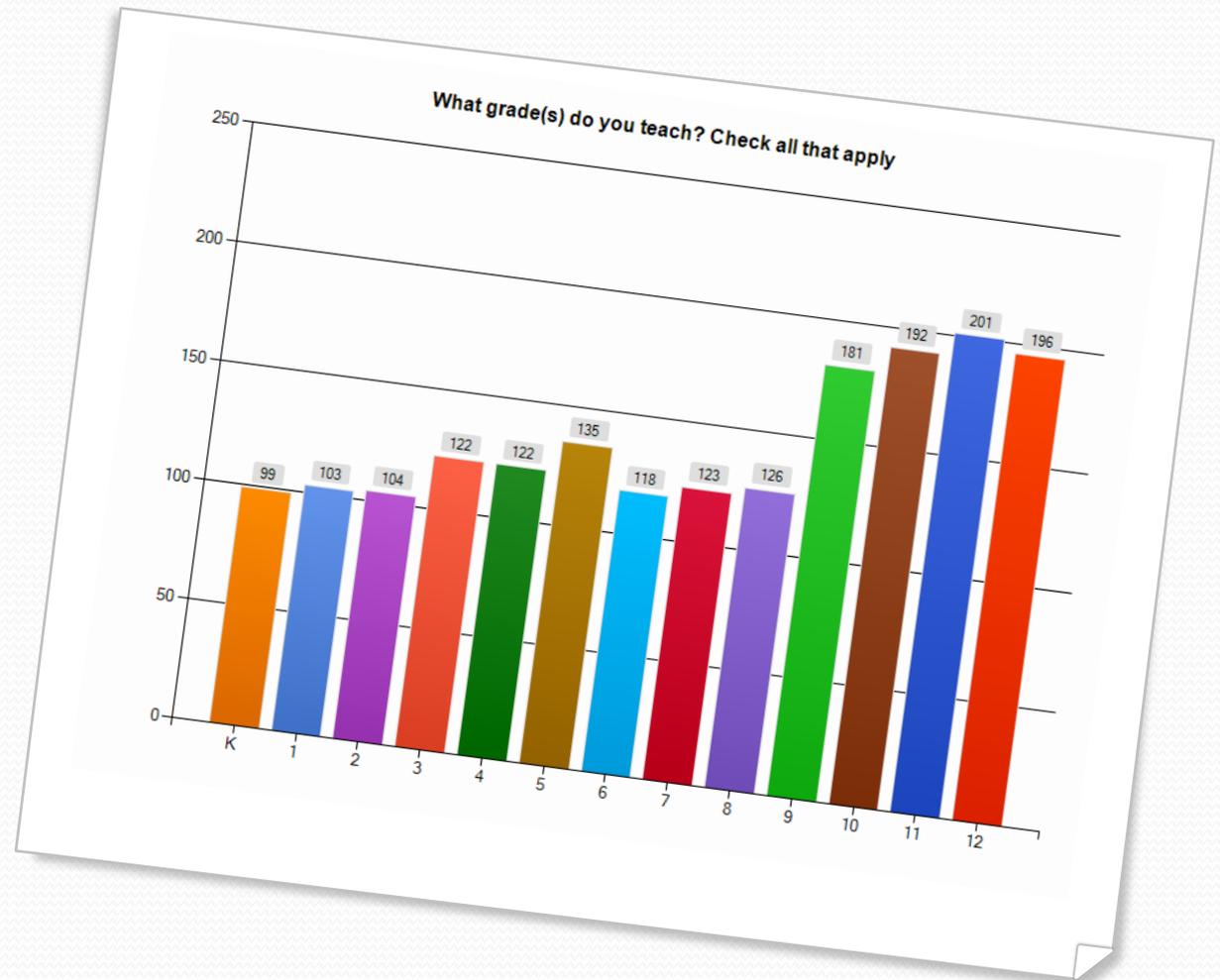
Educator Online Survey

Educator Demographics



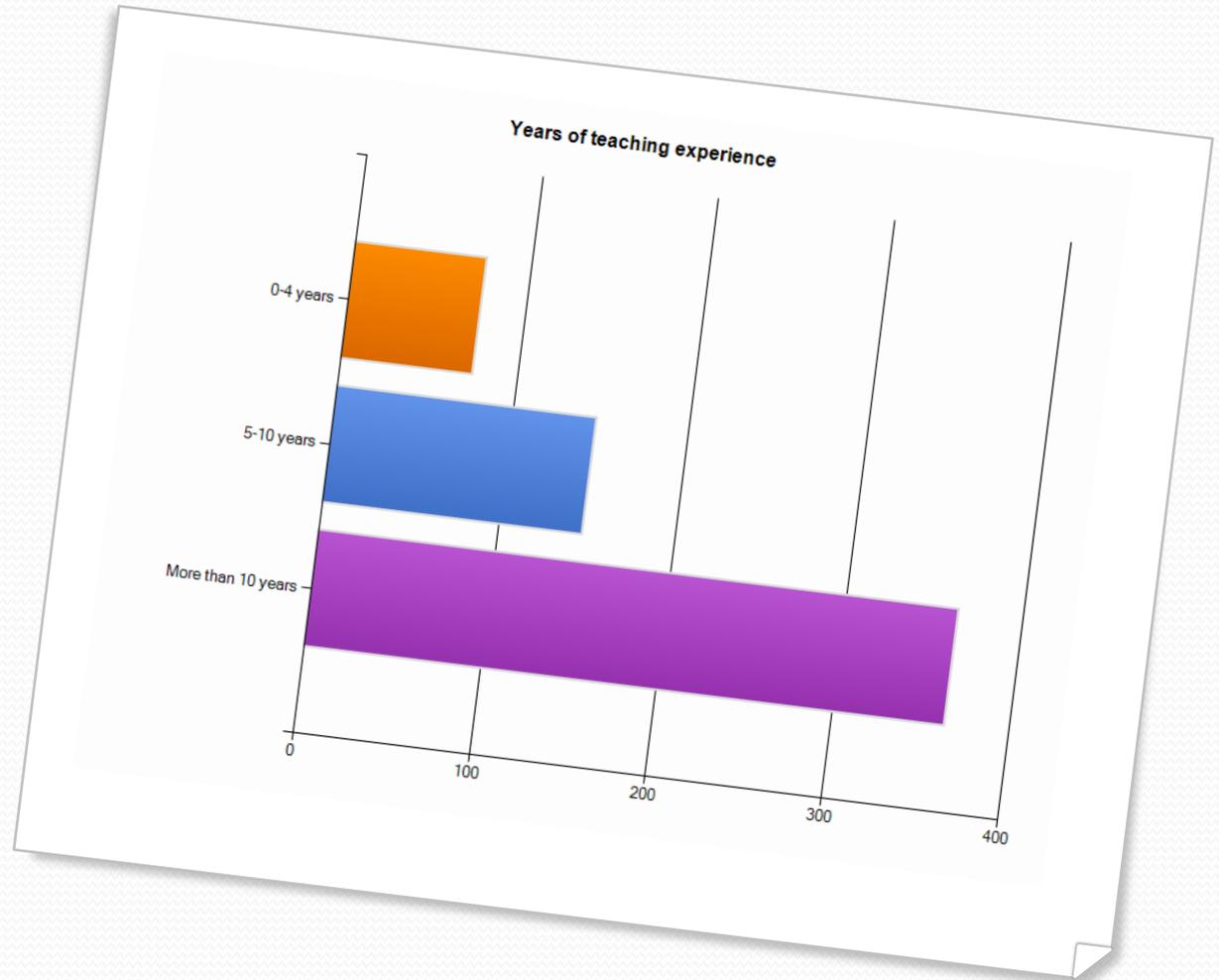
Educator Online Survey

Educator Demographics



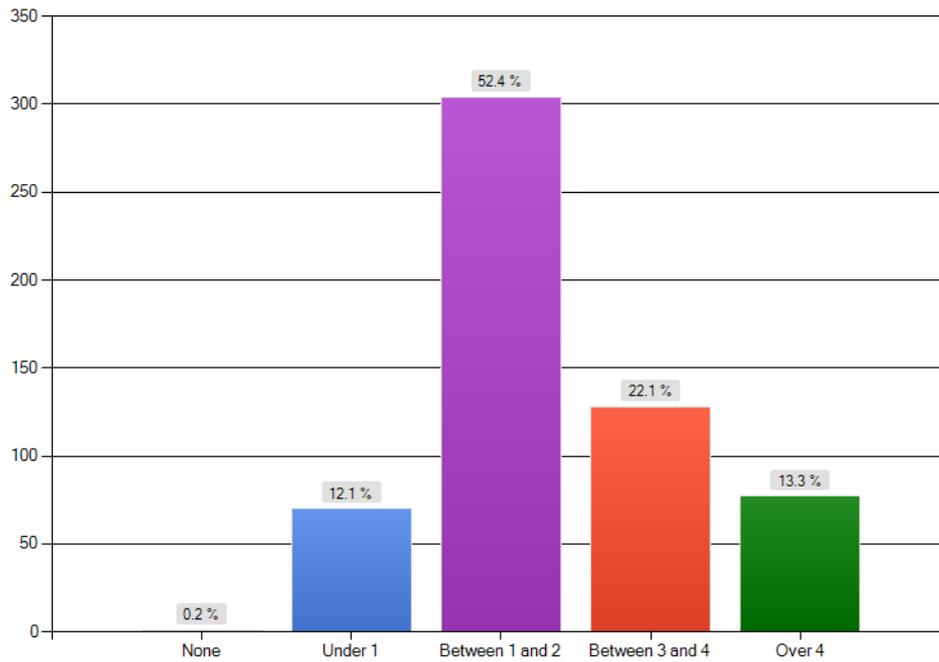
Educator Online Survey

Educator Demographics



Educator Online Survey

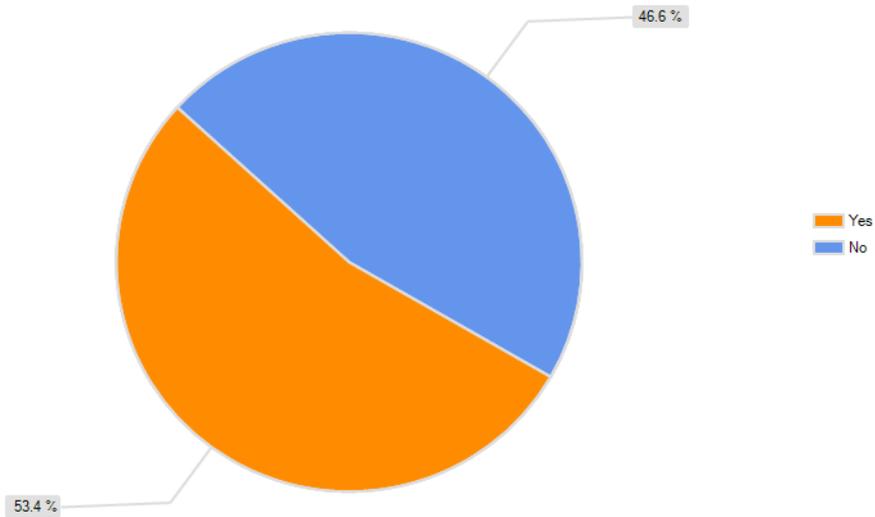
How many hours per day do you spend online?



Educator Internet Usage

Educator Online Survey

Do you use social networking sites (such as LinkedIn, Facebook, etc)?

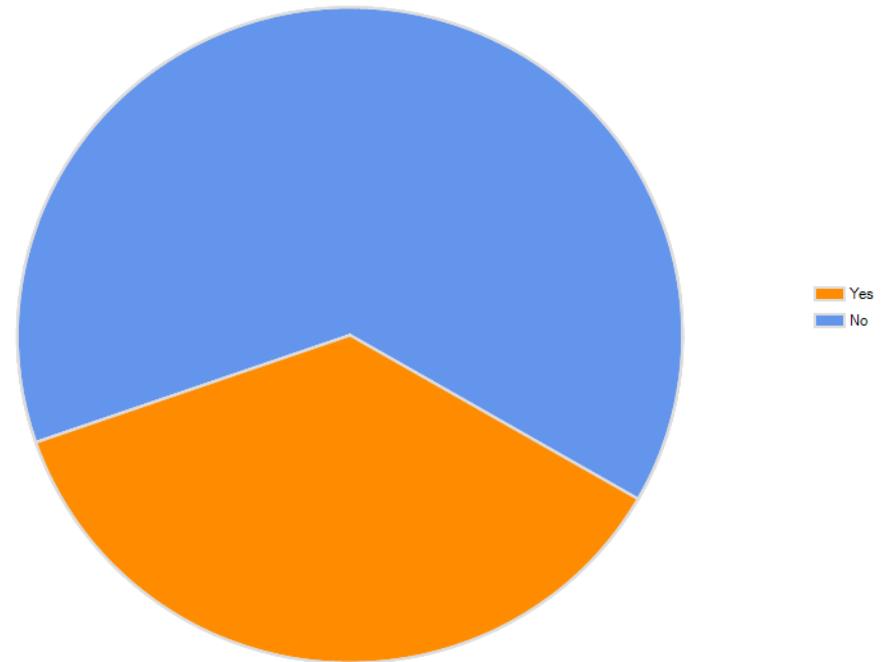


Educator Internet Usage

Educator Online Survey

Internet Resources

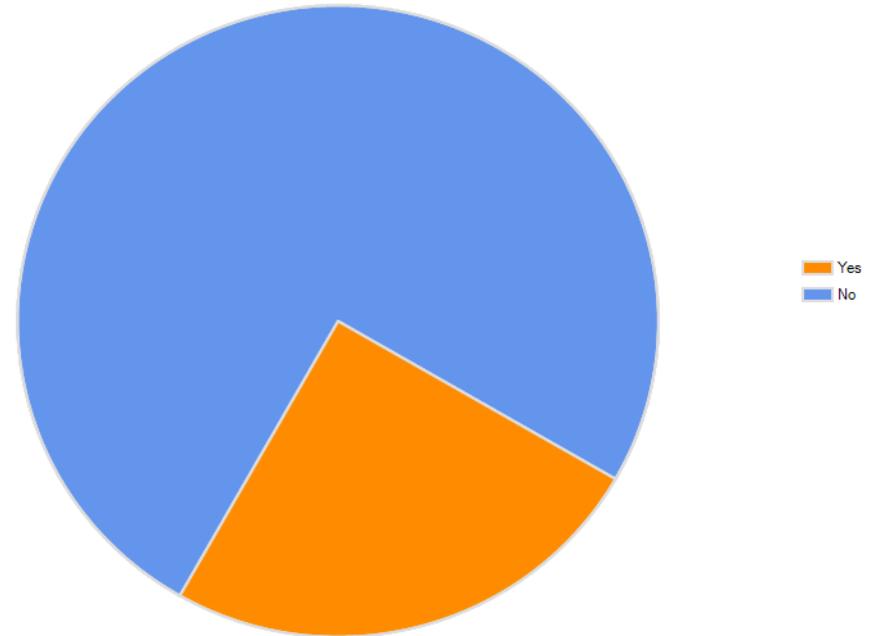
Do you ever take part in chat or online discussions with people?



Educator Online Survey

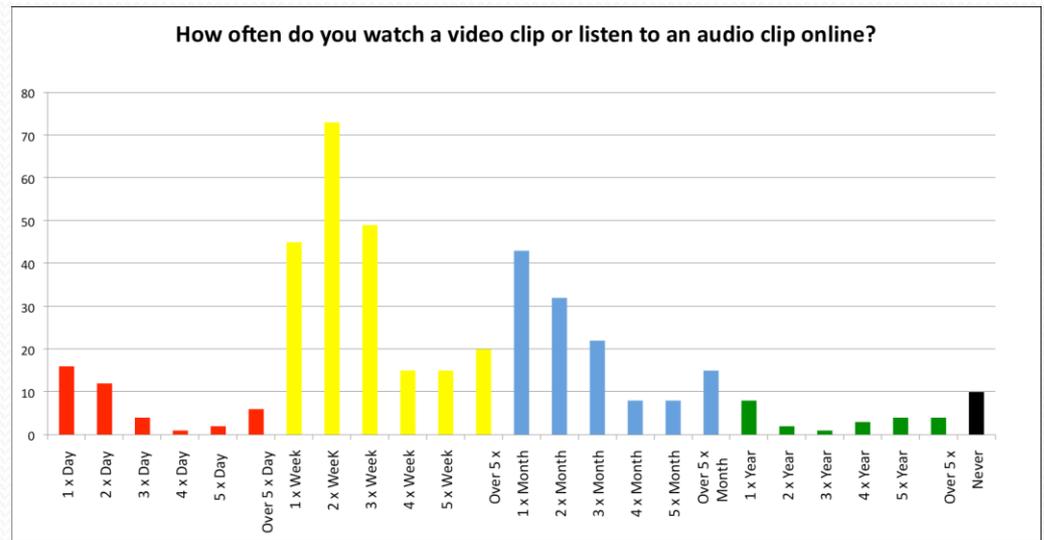
Internet Resources

Ever categorized or tagged online content, like a photo on flickr.com or bookmarks on delicious.com?



Educator Online Survey

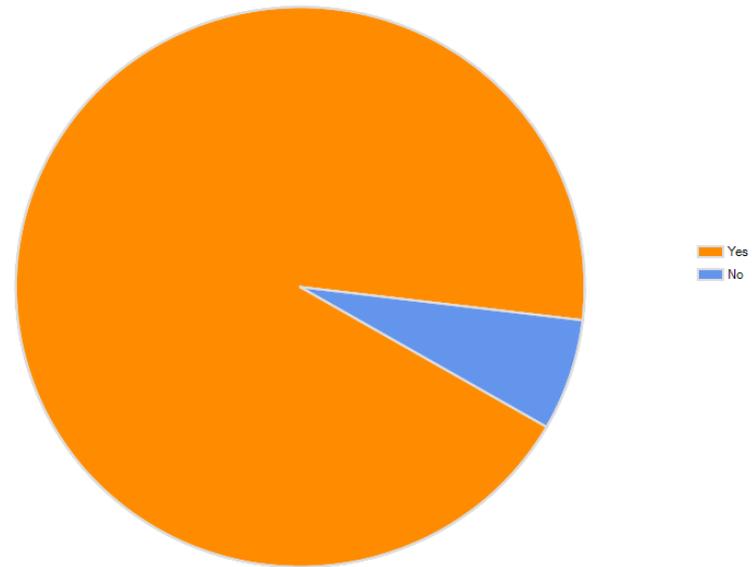
Internet Resources



Educator Online Survey

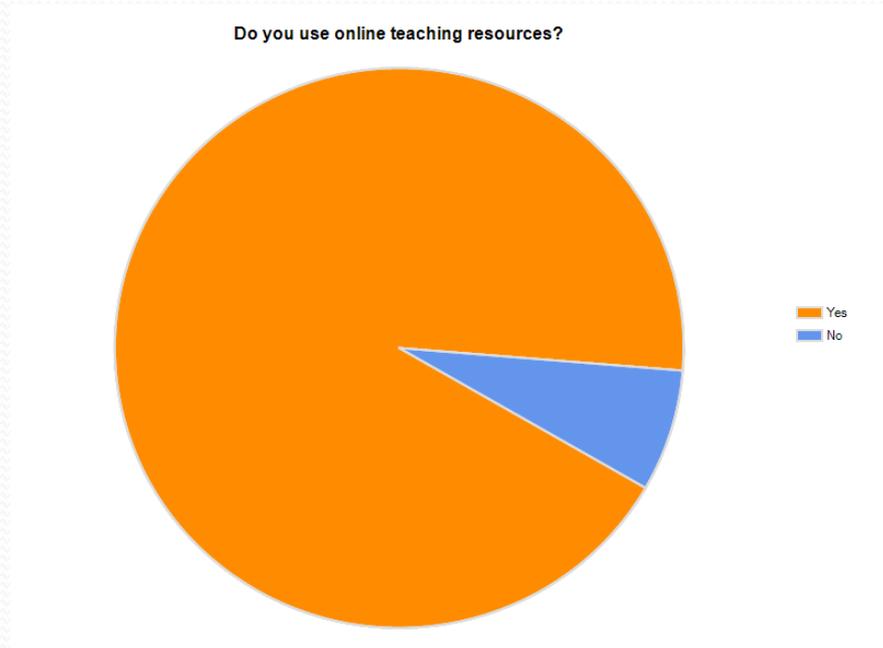
Internet Resources

Not including email, do you do any work or research for your job online?



Educator Online Survey

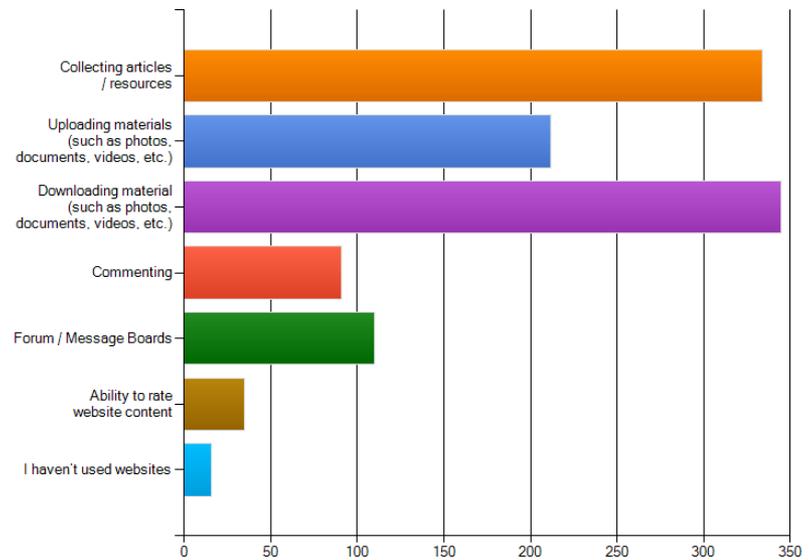
Internet Resources



Educator Online Survey

Internet Resources

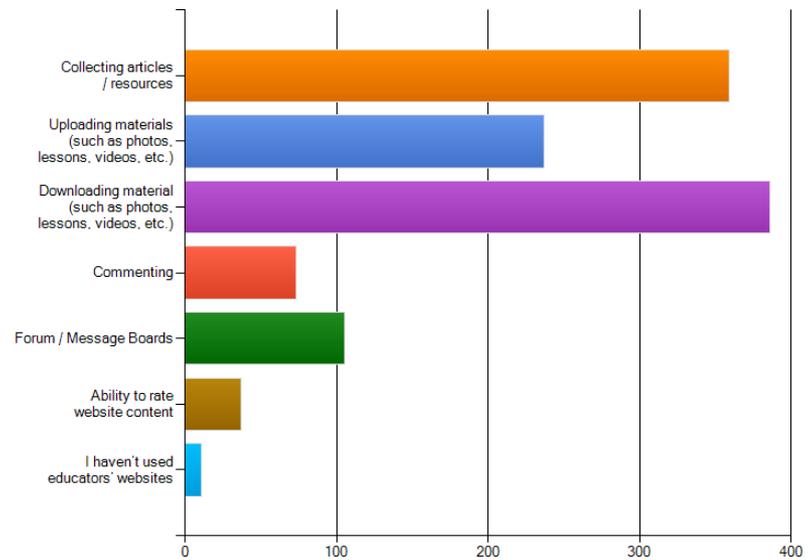
I have used nonacademic websites with the following feature(s). Check all that apply.



Educator Online Survey

Internet Resources

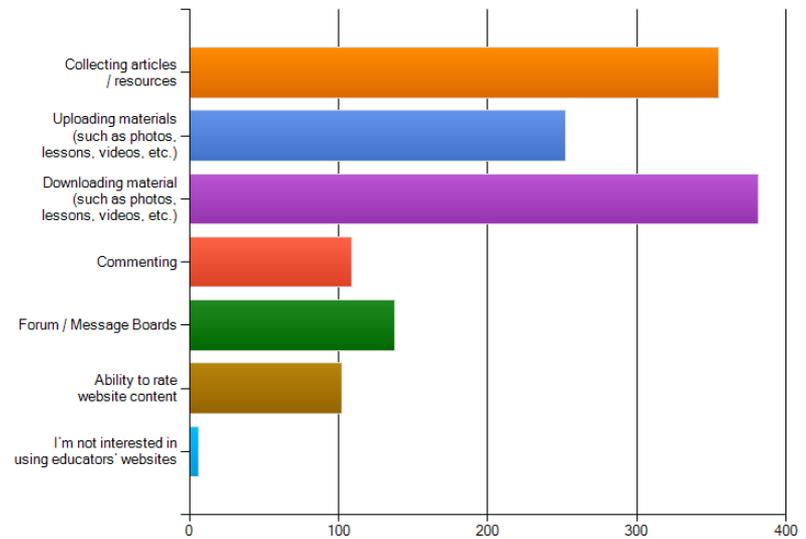
I have used educators' websites with the following feature(s). Check all that apply.



Educator Online Survey

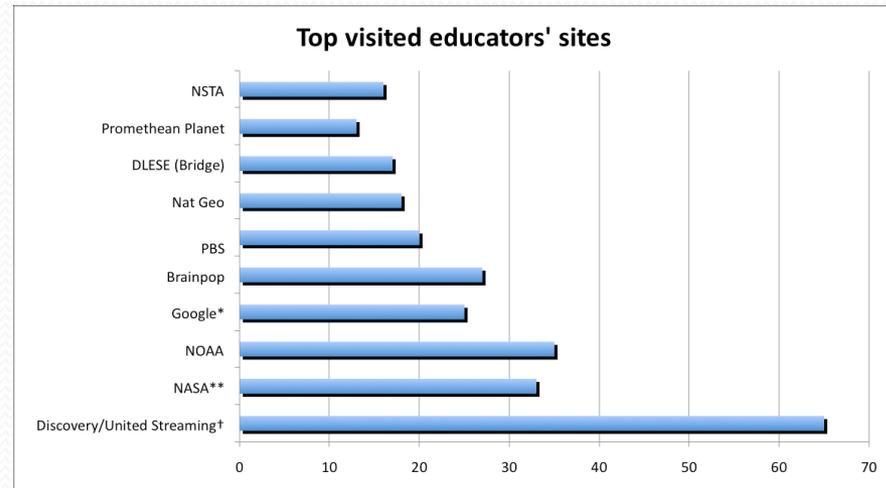
Internet Resources

I would like to use an educators' website with the following feature(s). Check all that apply.



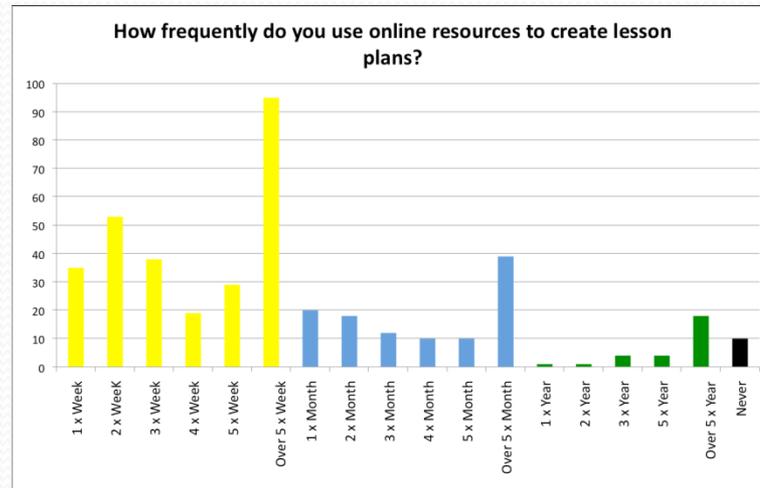
Educator Online Survey

Internet Resources

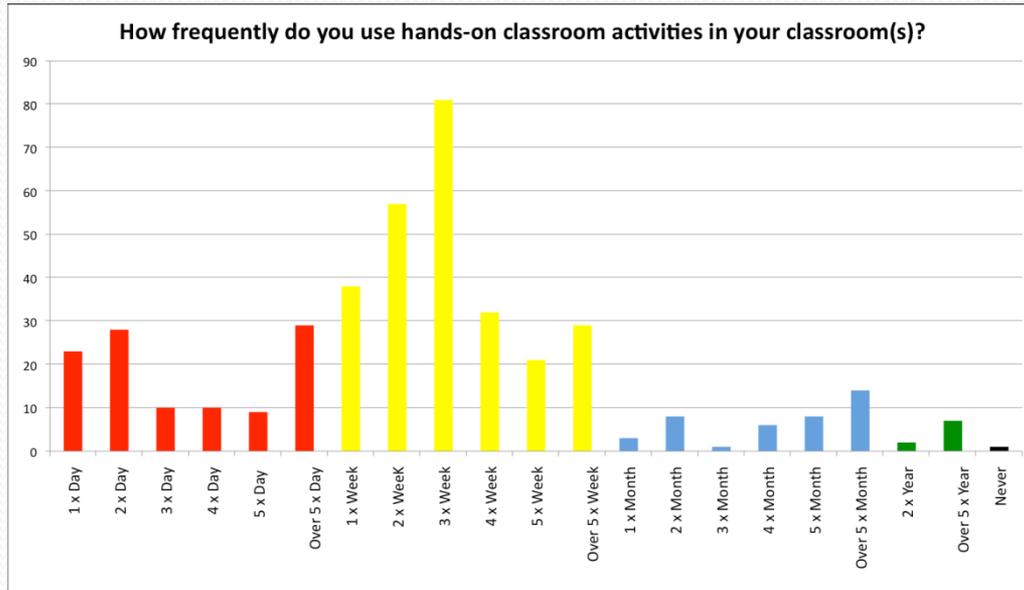


Educator Online Survey

Internet Resources

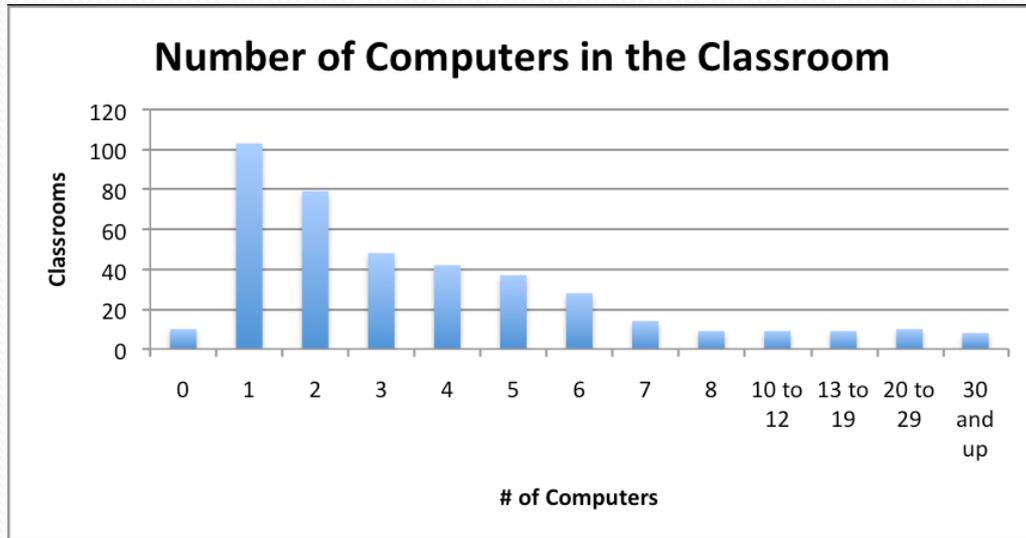


Educator Online Survey



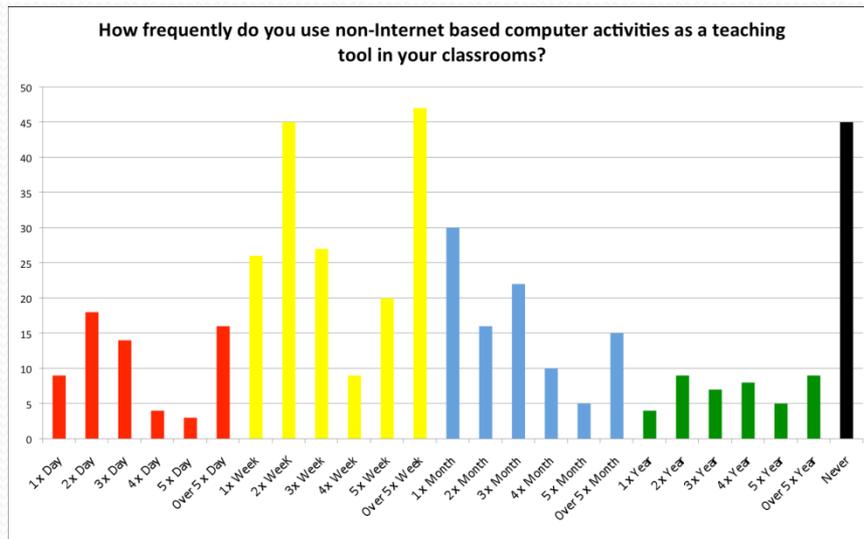
Classroom Planning

Educator Online Survey



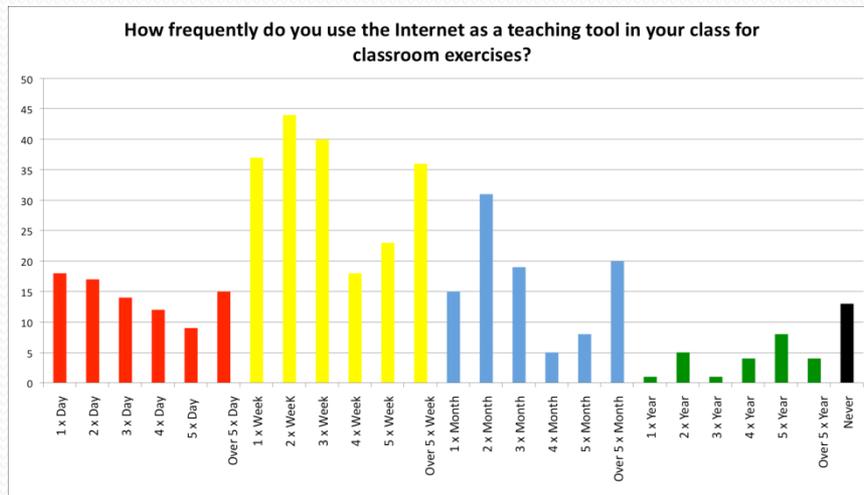
Classroom Planning

Educator Online Survey



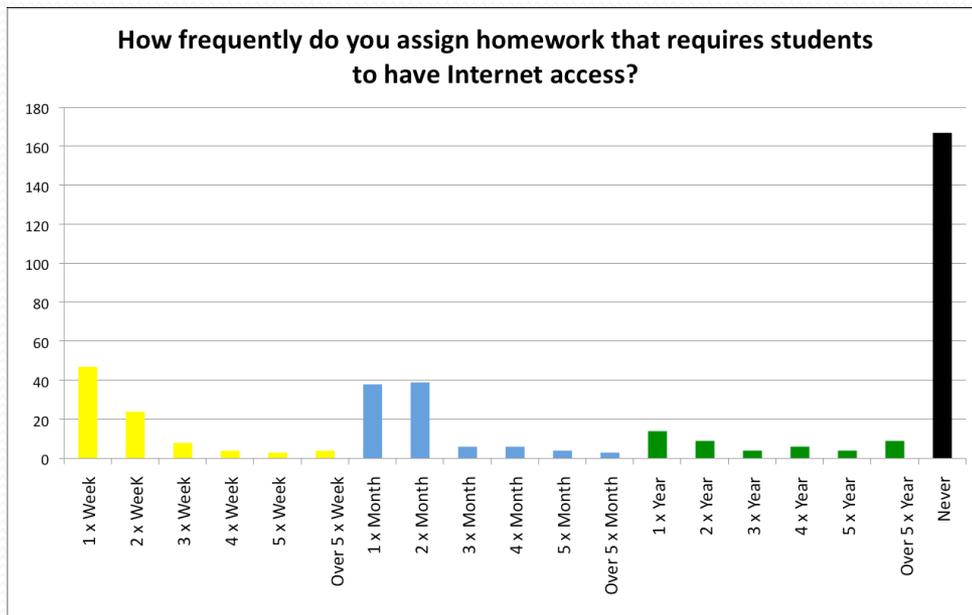
Classroom Planning

Educator Online Survey



Classroom Planning

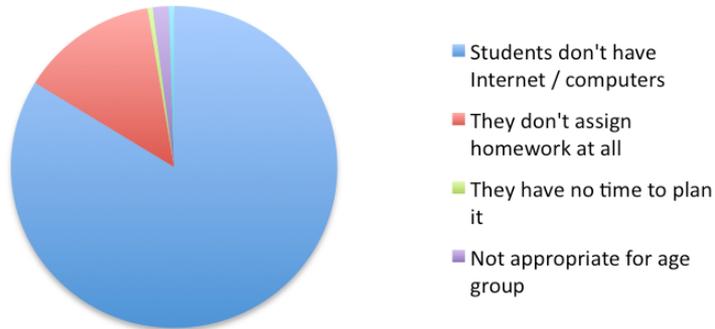
Educator Online Survey



Classroom Planning

Educator Online Survey

Reasons Why Teachers Don't Assign Homework Requiring Internet Access



Classroom Planning

Educator Online Survey



Classroom Planning

- Because of school wide firewalls, many educators cannot access sites like YouTube.com that could provide valuable resources

Educator Online Survey

Other Observations

LIKES

- Specifically address state standards
- Very current events information
- Streaming live events
- Interactive sites
- Curriculum activities
- Searchable and topic driven
- Great photographs
- Short animations with quiz (younger kids)
- Grade level appropriate
- GPS/Geo-located activities
- Labs
- Free sites

Educator Online Survey Other Observations

DISLIKES

- Poor navigation
- Advertising
- Fees
- Barriers to entry
- Login functionality



Educator Online Survey Conclusions

- Most are interested in online teaching resources
- Most were familiar with and would like to use collecting, uploading, and downloading functionalities on educators websites to access materials and resources
- Most reported running hands-on activities multiple times a week in their classrooms
- An overwhelming number of educators do not assign homework that involves computers since many students still do not have computers at home
- Many teachers would not use a site that would require a login
- Teachers are looking for resources applicable to their state teaching standards, localized to their region, and usable within the classroom

Educator Focus Group

PROCESS



- NYC Focus Group, August 2009.
- Gather information about how educators across the US use tools and information on the Internet to inform their curricula.

Educator Focus Group Conclusions

- "Lesson Plans" aren't what teachers are looking for - they want more individual, granular items like activities, labs, and handouts
- Use related content indicators instead of prepackaging resources
- Educational standards are very important
- Resource listings should be brief and to-the-point
- It is essential to have classroom resources that would be useful to subjects other than just marine science.
- Trips and personal experiences are preferable to reading / writing
- Offering Professional Development would bring teachers back to the website repeatedly
- Teachers would probably not bother creating a login / user profile unless they knew they would come back to the site many times, for resources covering many different units they teach.

Thank you

Questions:

Elizabeth Ban
BanE@si.edu