Do We look at Broadband? A meta-analysis of study design, 1991-2011

National initiatives, like Florida's Digital Learning Now Act, promote the development of 21st century learning and focus strongly on children's abilities to find, use, evaluate, analyze and create Internet-based information.

Overarching Research Question

What is the relationship between broadband access and children's information seeking for school work and homework in the United States as reflected in the literature published between the years 1991-2011?

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Background

Speed is Essential

Broadband offers the opportunity to personalize learning content & pace, create efficiencies & participatory environments and assess progress in real-time. (U.S. DOE, 2012)

Old, Sparse & Slow!

The dominant standard for Internet connectivity architecture was developed in 1972 (TCP/IP) and continues to support the vast expansion of the World Wide Web. (Mowery, 2002; Internet Society, 2012).

Not in All Homes

Since 2009, the U.S. has continued to experience a persistent 30% of households without broadband adoption. (NTIA, 2012; Technet, 2012). and is 17th out of 160.

Systematic Literature Review

Selection Criteria

- Studies conducted in the United States
- Journal articles published between 1991-2011
- Full-text, Peer-reviewed
- Study participants 5 yrs-12 yrs old
- Studies examined information seeking using the Internet
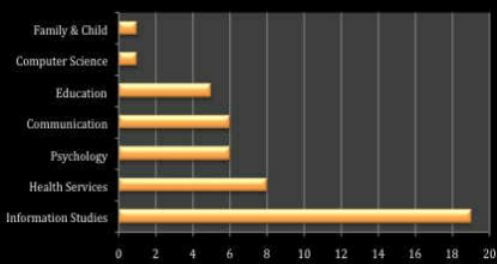- Available in 9 FSU Libraries Databases
  - Elsevier
  - Web of Knowledge
  - IngentaConnect
  - ERIC
  - Gale
  - ProQuest
  - Omni
  - EbscoHost
  - Sage

Search Terms

child* OR youth OR teen*
AND seek* AND information**

Preliminary Findings
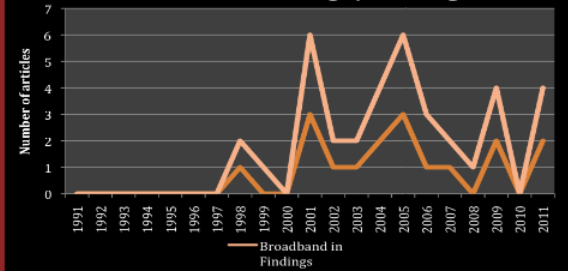

Total Relevant Articles by Discipline

Total number of results from nine databases using broad search terms = 3290

Relevant results (information seeking studies, with/without Internet) = 6.1% (n=199)

Articles based on information seeking using the Internet= 23.1%(n=46)

Broadband in Design/Findings

The FCC defines broadband as "Broadband or high-speed Internet access allows users to access the Internet and Internet-related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through "dial-up" Internet access services.

20 — # of relevant articles noting Broadband in either Design or Findings, from 1991-2011

10.1 — % of relevant articles noting Broadband in either Design or Findings (20/199)

16 — # of relevant articles noting Broadband in BOTH Design & Findings, from 1991-2011

34.8 — % of articles noting Broadband in BOTH Design & Findings (16/46)

4 — # of relevant articles noting Broadband in Findings with NO mention in Design

19 — Information Studies accounts for 41.3% (n=19) of relevant articles

So What? Broadband research suggests it's important to access and use information yet we don't include it in study design or results. Why?