

The Perceived Values and Benefits of Integrating a Web Conferencing Tool in Online Courses

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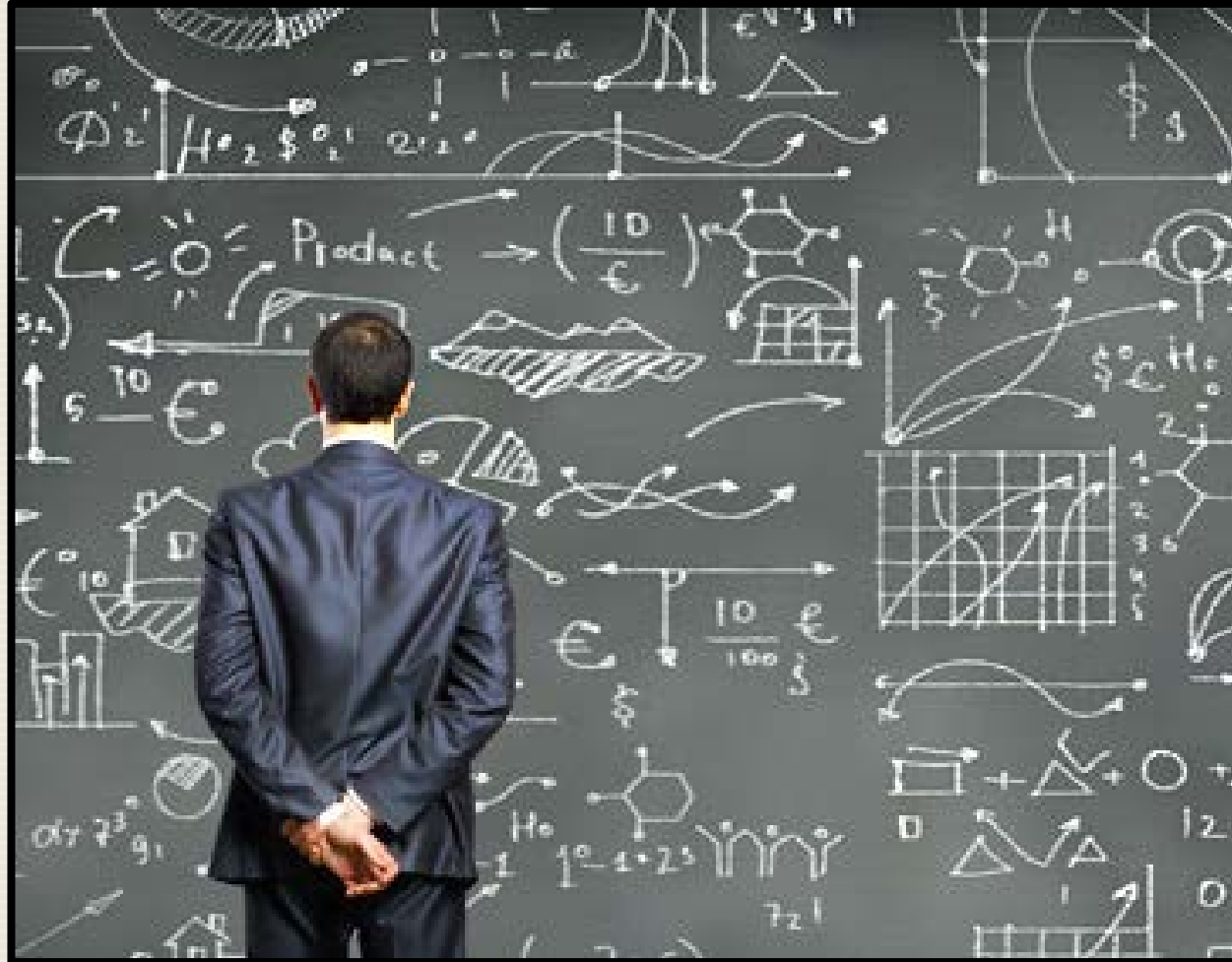
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Overview

Examines how students perceived and valued the use of the Wimba Classroom as web conferencing tool to supplement to the delivery of their online learning experience.

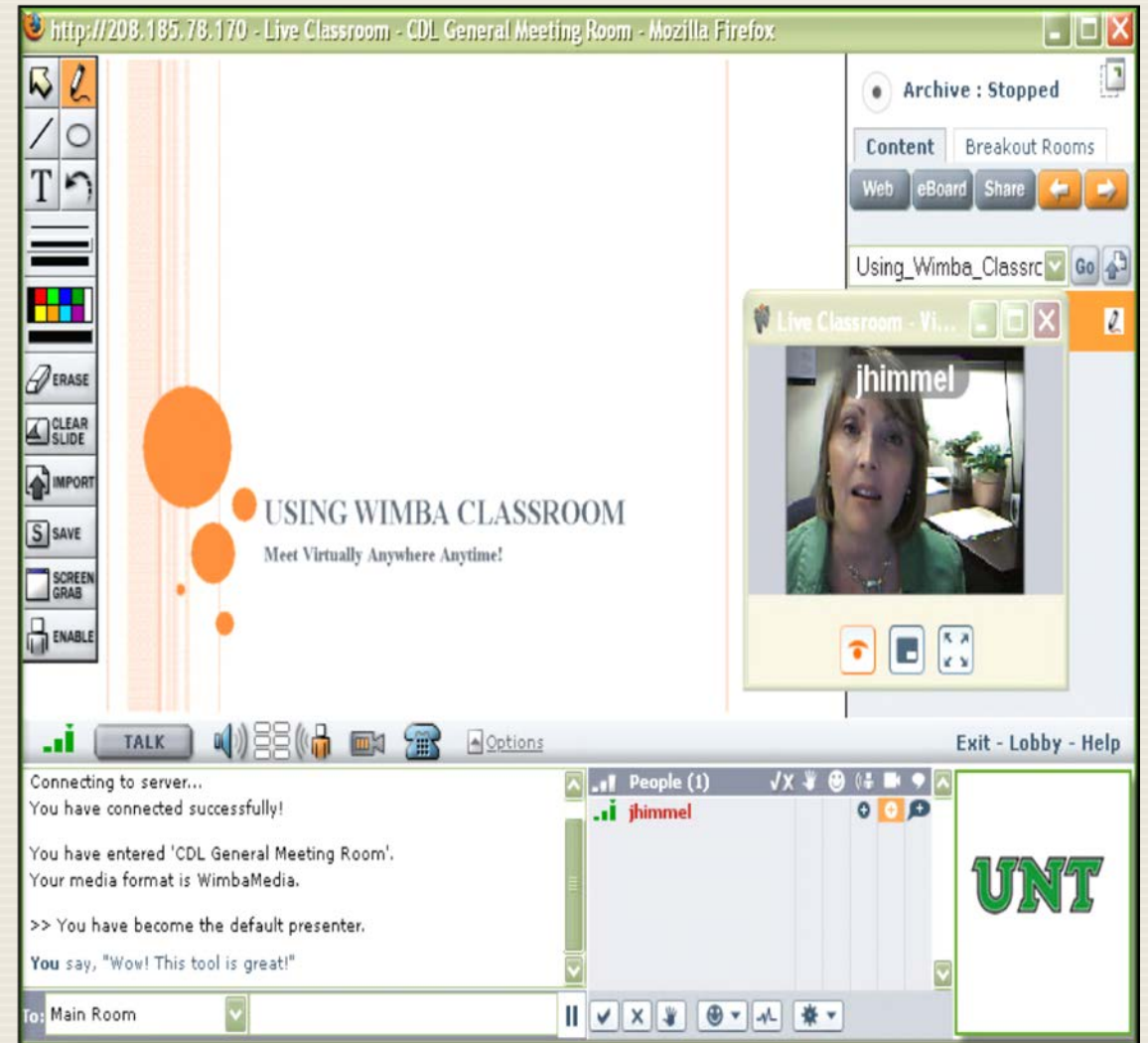


Wimba Classroom

Web conferencing tool that allows for synchronous communication between individuals

Tools to facilitate communication:

- Chat
- Telephone Access
- Webcast
- Virtual Classes

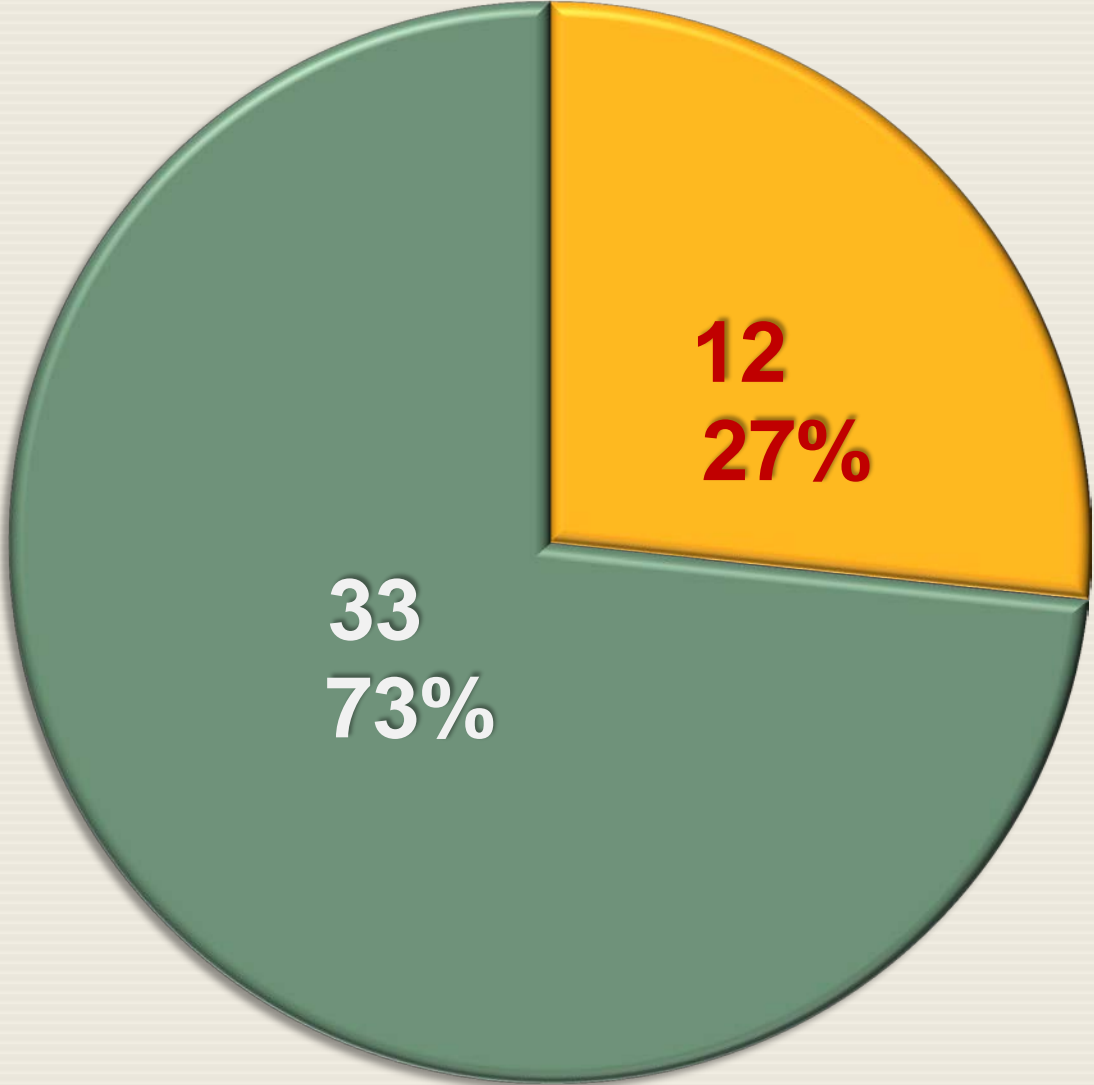


Research Questions

- How did students perceive the values of a web conferencing tool?
- What features did students find most helpful?
- What improvements did students suggest to make future web conferencing experiences better?



Population



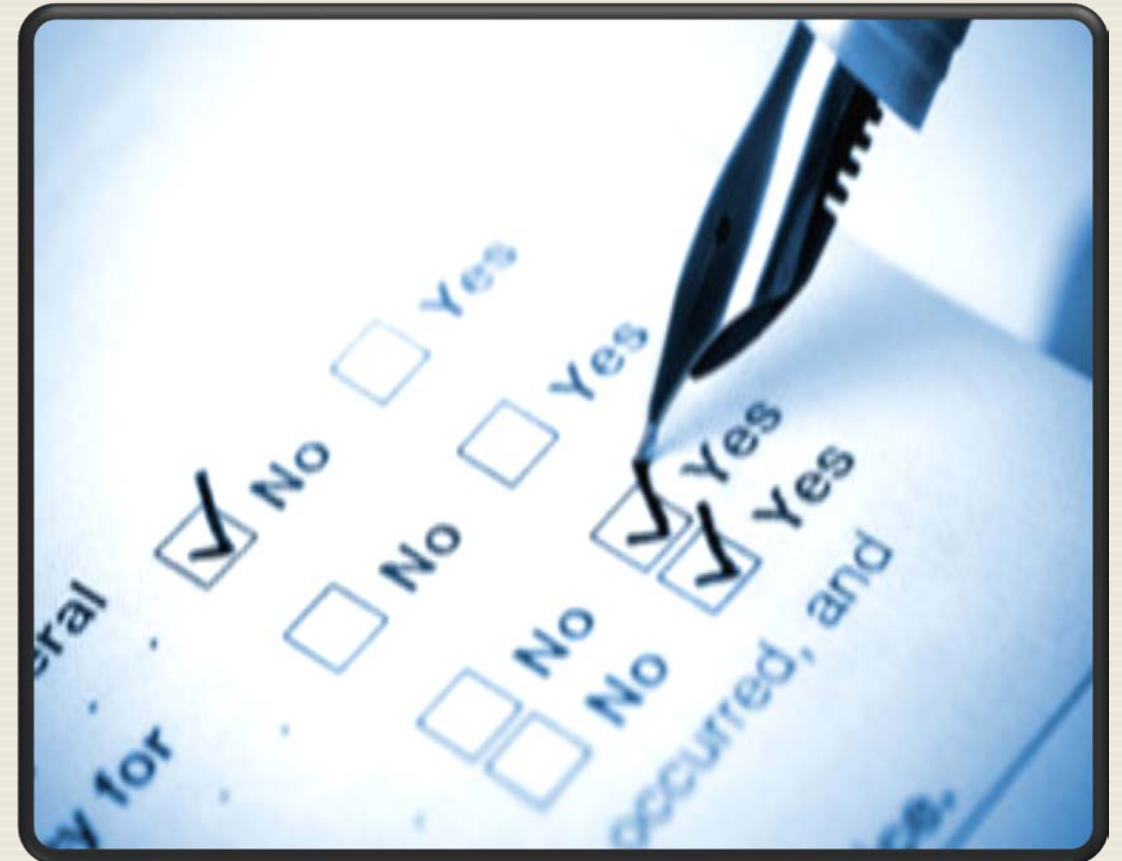
- Male
- Female

Data Collection

Completed end of session surveys from online graduate courses.

Source of Qualitative and Quantitative Data

1. What is your general impression of the Wimba Classroom to support the interactive delivery of our class?
2. What is helpful to you in this Wimba Classroom experience?
3. How can we improve your Wimba Classroom experience?
4. How would you rate this Wimba Classroom experience?



Data Analysis

- Determined if students valued sessions as positive, negative, or neutral
- Examined responses for features that were valued
- Responses organized using Excel spreadsheets



Positive Impressions

What is your general impression of the Wimba Classroom to support the interactive delivery of our class?

Positive Impressions	V.1		V.2		V.3		V.4		V.5		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Chat	4	13	2	1	0	0	1	4	1	3	29
Information	0	3	3	10	5	8	3	11	3	15	61
Interaction	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12
Questions/Clarification	1	8	2	12	0	3	2	10	0	4	42
Technology	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Number of Respondents	6	23	5	24	7	13	5	23	4	21	
Total	7	33	8	24	5	12	6	25	5	22	

Negative Impressions

What is your general impression of the Wimba Classroom to support the interactive delivery of our class?

Negative Impressions	V.1		V.2		V.3		V.4		V.5		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Chat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Interaction	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Questions/Clarification	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Technology	1	7	0	2	0	0	1	6	0	0	17
Number of Respondents	6	23	5	24	7	13	5	23	4	21	
Total	1	8	0	3	0	1	1	6	0	1	

Helpfulness

What is helpful to you in this Wimba Classroom experience?

Helpfulness	V.2		V.3		V.4		V.5		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Chat	1	9	3	8	3	9	6	8	47
Examples/ Overviews	1	7	1	0	0	1	0	2	12
Information/ Explanations	5	16	3	14	7	14	2	17	78
PowerPoints	1	5	2	3	0	2	1	2	16
Questions/ Clarification	5	12	4	5	2	13	2	8	51
Number of Respondents	8	29	8	27	10	30	8	27	
Total	13	49	13	30	12	39	11	37	

Improvements

How can we improve your Wimba classroom experience?

Improvement	V.2		V.3		V.4		V.5		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Better Technology	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	5
More Examples	1	1	3	3	1	5	1	4	19
No Improvement	4	13	5	13	6	18	7	16	82
Outlines/Slides Before Session	1	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	8
Student Attention	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	10
Video	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	4
Number of Respondents	8	23	9	23	10	24	9	25	
Total	7	23	8	23	7	24	9	25	

Session Rating

How would you rate this Wimba Classroom experience?

Rating	Session	0	1	2	3	4	N	Mean	Median	Mode
Male	V.3	0	0	1	1	7	9	3.66	4	4
	V.4	0	0	0	1	9	10	3.90	4	4
	V.5	0	0	2	1	6	9	3.22	4	4

Rating	Session	0	1	2	3	4	N	Mean	Median	Mode
Female	V.3	1	0	3	4	19	27	3.48	4	4
	V.4	1	0	3	3	23	30	3.56	4	4
	V.5	0	0	2	0	25	27	3.85	4	4

Summary of Findings

- Most had positive perceptions to using a web conferencing tool
- Most valued the use of a web conferencing tool
- Most found the use of a web conferencing tool helpful



Improvements & Challenges

- Better/more reliable technology
- More engagement

Limitations and Recommendations

Limitations

- Relatively small sample: 45 graduate students
- Inconsistent participation during sessions
- Inconsistent completion of after session surveys



Recommendation → Use a larger population

