

SAMPLE PROPOSAL – ON-LINE SURVEY

Name: Margaret Clark

Advisor: Professor Yuko Aoyama

Address:

Project_Title: Use of Instant Messenger by College Students

Grant_Agency:

question1

The purpose of this project is to gather original research on instant messenger usage. My subjects are Clark University undergraduate students. There are no special physical or psychological characteristics defining the subject population. There are no circumstances that compromise a person's ability to consent such as age or mental handicap.

question2

2. The potential subjects will be identified and approached through a classroom situation, and will be asked to voluntarily participate in the survey. I have been given permission by the instructor of both GEOG 257, Internet Geography, and GEOG 16 Intro to Economic Geography to distribute emails to the class through the instructor. I am also planning on asking the instructor of GEOG 190, Introduction to GIS and GEOG 014, Weather, Climate and Landscapes for their permission as well. A link to the online survey website will be sent to students who will then have the opportunity to forward the link to other Clark University students, and no one else. I anticipate that those who answer the survey and are not from Clark University will be minimal and that it will have marginal effects on the results. This will be the statement used: "My name is Margaret Clark and I am

a senior geography major. I am doing a project on Instant Messenger usage and am looking to do some original research. I have come up with a survey to help me with this research, and it can be found online at this address: (To be determined) It would be greatly appreciated if you could go to the website and fill out the survey, which will only take about ten minutes. Participation in filling out the questionnaire will have no effect on your class standing, or your treatment in class. Thank you for your help.” The estimated number of students in my sample is 80.

question3

3. The testing procedure will take about ten minutes and there are no anticipated potential psychological or physical implications. A copy of the questionnaire is attached.

question4

4. There is no anticipated physical, psychological, legal or social risk associated with the survey. Anonymity will be insured by the online survey program. The online survey ensures anonymity as it makes it impossible to put identifiable marks on the questionnaire. I will be working with an ITS staff person to make sure that this condition is met. There is a sufficient number of participants so that no person is identifiable from the demographic information requested. I do not anticipate that the project’s procedure will change the participant in any way including their opinions, beliefs, attitudes, and emotions.

Consent_Text

5. A consent form is not necessary because they survey will be done through an online program which guarantees anonymity, and participation is voluntary.

question6

6. No deceit is involved in this survey.

question7

7. There is no estimated risk involved with the survey including no physical, psychological, social, or legal risk for the subject.

Use of Instant Messenger by Clark University Students

This is a project undertaken by myself, Margaret Clark, a senior at Clark University, with the guidance of my advisor, Professor Yuko Aoyama. This questionnaire is intended for participants who have an internet connection available, and are users of only the AIM service or Instant Messenger through an AOL account.

Participation is voluntary, and the participants are welcome to stop the questionnaire at any time or refuse to answer any of the questions contained in the survey. The answers to the questions below will be strictly anonymous when answered through an online survey program available at Clark University. The answers obtained are intended to be used as original research for an Internet Geography project.

1) What is your age? (Please check one)

- Under 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23 and over

2) What is your gender?

- Male Female

3) Do you own a personal computer?

- Yes No

4) If yes, what type of computer?

- Desktop Laptop

5) How are you connected to the internet?

- Dial up modem
 Local Area Network
 Wireless modem
 Not connected

If you answered "not connected" to question 5, please go to the end of the survey and submit your answers

6) How often is your computer connected to the internet?

- All the time
 Regularly
 Only when you need to use the internet for email, research etc.
 Never

7) How many screen names do you have on your AIM or AOL Instant Messenger Buddy List?

8) From the above number, please quantify them into the following categories

Friends from college _____

Friends from home _____

Family _____

Co-Workers _____

Classmates _____

Professors _____

Screen Names you got from someone else or someone else's profile

Cyber Friends that you have met online

Other _____

9) How many buddies on your list do you talk to

All the time (At least 5 times a week) _____

Frequently (A few times a week) _____

Often (At least once a week) _____

Occasionally (At least once a month) _____

Seldom (Less than once a month) _____

Never _____

10) Approximately how much time do you think you spend instant messaging per day?

Less than 30 minutes

30 minutes to one hour

One to two hours

Two to three hours

- Over three hours

11) Compared to the quantity in question 10, how much time do you think you spend emailing per day?

- More
- Less
- About the same

12) Compared to the quantity in question 10, how much time do you think you spend talking on a landline or cellular phone per day?

- More
- Less
- About the same

13) What features do you personalize on your Instant Messenger account?

(Please check all that apply)

- Buddy Icon
- Text font, size, style and color
- Sounds
- Away messages
- Profiles
- Other _____

14) What kind of information do you include in away messages and profiles?

(Please check all that apply)

- Contact information (Address, email, phone number including cell phone)
- Quotes from songs or movies
- Quotes from other instant message conversations
- Links to other websites including a subprofile or pictures

- Information on what you are doing at the current time
- A message to a specific person
- Information on sports, clubs, or organizations you are involved in
- Other _____

15) How many times a day do you check others away messages on your buddy list?

- Too many to count
- Five times a day
- Twice a day
- Once a day
- Never

16) Please explain some of the reasons you check buddies away messages

17) Do you ever talk to people over instant messenger who are in the next room?

- Yes
- No

18) Personally, is it easier to find out what your friends are doing by
(Please check one)

- Checking their away message
- Calling a home or cell phone
- Sending a text message to a cell phone

19) When you are not connected to AIM, do you feel disconnected from your friends?

- Yes No

20) When you are not connected to AIM do you feel that it is harder to get in touch with your friends?

- Yes No

21) Do you ever forward instant messages to your mobile phone?

- Yes No

22) Do you think that the use of instant messaging has helped you to form new or stronger social relationships?

- Yes No

23) How would you characterize your use of Instant Messaging?
(Please check one)

- An essential communication tool
- A mere procrastination application
- An important socialization tool
- An important socialization tool that I have become dependent on
- An important socialization tool that I am addicted to

Thank you for your participation in this questionnaire.

Name: Margaret Clark

Advisor: Professor Yuko Aoyama

Address: Box #422

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B1: Submit

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