Personal digital assistant usage among undergraduate medical students: exploring trends, barriers, and the advent of smartphones

Trish Chatterley, MLIS; Dagmara Chojecki, MLIS

APPENDIX B

Focus group guiding questions

1.   What influenced you to buy a handheld electronic device/personal digital assistant (PDA) in the first place? What features were particularly attractive to you?
2.   How does your use of your PDA differ from your use of your computer/laptop? (i.e., What do you use your computer for as opposed to your PDA and vice versa?)
3.   How do you use your PDA for your studies?
4.   What do you find are deterrents for use of PDAs? What are the disadvantages? Prompt with the following examples:
a.   small screen size
b.   cost (of device and of data downloading)
c.   fragility
d.   wireless access
e.   programs that are not useful
f.   storage capacity
g.   hard to enter data
h.   protection of patient information
i.   limited computer knowledge
j.   technical issues/software download problems
5.   What was hardest part about learning to navigate/use your PDA?
6.   Have you seen/utilized this library resource before (show the library's PDA Zone web page)? What information would you like to see added to it?
7.   In general, how can the library facilitate usage of mobile technologies for you?
8.   If the library were to evaluate devices for you, what information about each do you most want to know about (memory, cost, etc.)?
9.   If the library were to evaluate software/resources for your device, what information about each do you most want to know about (size, cost, coverage, currency)?
For students in 3rd and 4th year, the following additional questions were asked:
1.   Has the use of your PDA changed over the course of your program? Or, more specifically, when you started your clinical experience?
2.   Has the use of your PDA influenced/changed your clinical experiences? How?