

Title of paper: *“Attitudes of Older Adults in Rural and Urban Areas toward Computer Usage and the Internet.”*

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Abstract of paper:

The purpose of this study was to survey older adults in Wyoming and Colorado so that we could find out their general attitudes toward using computers and the Internet. The survey was designed by examining the literature in the field. It consisted of three sections that addressed attitudes, barriers, and perceived use; another section that asked about specific interest areas; and a final section to gather demographic information. Fifty surveys were distributed to each of eight senior centers in Wyoming and Colorado; 204 surveys were returned (51% response rate). Most frequent respondents were female Caucasians, 76 or older, who described themselves as having “some college” and careers that were “professional.”

Our research questions were answered primarily by the three attitude subscales (attitudes, barriers, and perceived use) of the survey. We found that their attitudes were very positive ($M=3.68$ on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is low and 5 is high), perceived barriers were moderate ($M=2.94$), and use was seen as moderate ($M=3.01$). Thus, th

In addition, we asked the respondents about their possible use of various computer/Internet applications and found that they were most interested in using computers and the Internet for correspondence, continued learning, and leisure/creative activities respectively. They reported the least interest in shopping and banking activities.

We concluded that the older adults in our study were very positive about using computers and could benefit from training that included instruction on using computers and the Internet for correspondence with friends and family as well as learning and leisure/creative opportunities.