the bulletin

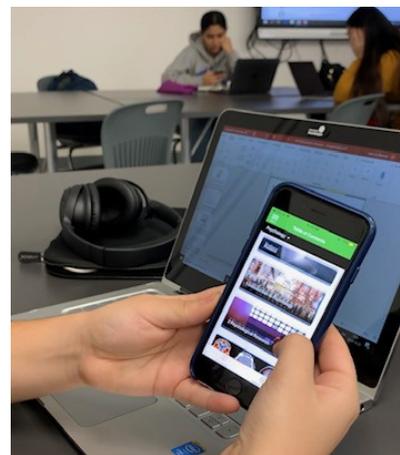## Mobile Tech Use by Dawson Students with Disabilities

Mobile devices have become an integral part of students' personal and academic lives. Last year we (Catherine Fichten, Alice Havel, Laura King, Mary Jorgensen and Adaptech Research Network students) conducted focus groups of students with disabilities and professionals to find out what mobile technologies and apps students use in class and for school work outside the classroom. In addition to the expected inappropriate uses (i.e., texting, checking Facebook, checking Léa and Moodle, doing homework for other classes, using Google to look up "random" things, playing computer games) students also used their mobile devices appropriately. Findings on students with disabilities are similar to results on students without disabilities. This year, along with Anick Legault, we are investigating how teachers can use smartphones in their teaching.

Appropriate Uses in Class

Use Google Search to look up concepts related to course materials or to answer questions
Record lectures (e.g., Voice Memos, Easy Voice Recorder)
Take pictures of diagrams and formulas on blackboard or whiteboard
Take notes in class
Participate in class groups to share course-related information (e.g., Google Docs for group work)
Take pictures of PowerPoint slides
Use Google Translate
Check the time
Follow along with the PowerPoint in class
View high resolution images
Respond to professor-initiated activities (e.g., Kahoot, Poll Everywhere, course management system)
Access a dictionary or thesaurus
Complete online quiz on the course management system
Take notes using PowerPoint on laptop
Use digital books / e-books in class
Use in active learning classrooms to communicate with interactive whiteboards (e.g., Smart Boards)

Pilot study of the free online textbook from OpenStax in General psychology. This is also in connection with the use of Smartphones in the classroom, an ECQ funded project.

Photo: Anick's student using online book.

Appropriate Uses Out of Class

Use Microsoft Office, Pages
Check course management systems
Access online library services
Submit assignments online
Read e-books
Review course PowerPoint or Google Slides
Listen to voice recording of PowerPoint
Watch videos posted by professors
Participate in course blog
Start writing essays on smartphone during commute
Dictate essays
Do research assignments (e.g., Google Search, YouTube)
Use Turnitin
Do exams on course management system
Provide proof of doing an activity (e.g., video of exercise, selfie at a museum)