

# Is there a need for CoLab? Student Views

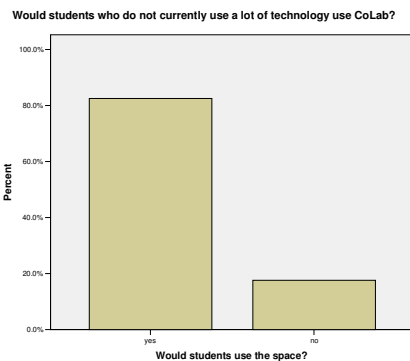
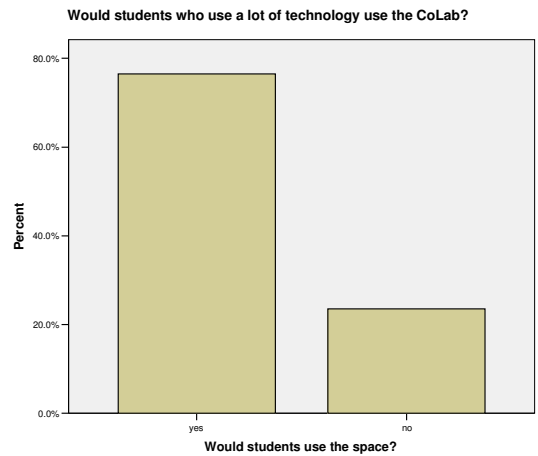
Ehsan Rahman, Sarah Cambell, Jessica Chivinge, George Prassinos

CoLab is an innovative idea for a student-run technology business. Providing services to students from those who are technologically advanced to those who fear anything with a microchip, this space will be a hub of social and academic technological learning and activity, involving existing and new technologies.

A survey is being conducted to ascertain whether students feel there is a need for CoLab, whether they would use it and what services it should provide. 80 students have currently been questioned, and the results are strongly in favour of a student need for CoLab.

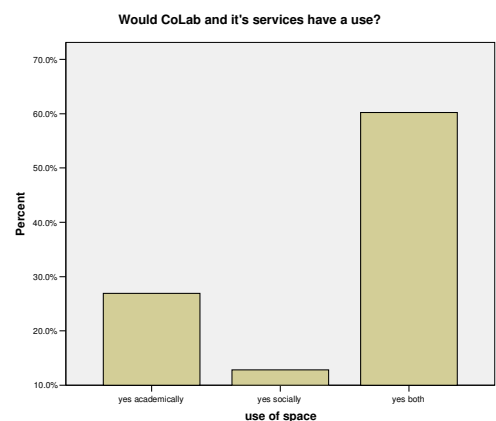
The use of technology by students is high - 70% of students questioned use 3 or 4 of the technologies listed in the survey instrument. Students were asked whether they would use a space with the characteristics of CoLab and whether it would have any academic or social value for them. As the graphs show there is overwhelming support for the idea. Furthermore, many students indicated that they would be willing to share their expertise through CoLab – an important objective of the enterprise. Students showed such a keen interest that most questioned even took the time to come up with possible names for the space, such as 'LabLounge', 'Internetworking' and 'Techspace'. Most students wanted to be added to a mailing list to keep them updated about the progress of CoLab.

**Over 75% of students polled who currently use a lot of technology, would use CoLab and are willing to share their expertise**



**Over 80% of students polled who do not currently use a lot of technology would use CoLab**

**All students felt CoLab would be valuable, with over 60% of students believing it would have both an academic and a social value.**



The students polled were enthusiastic about the concept of coLab and gave suggestions for other services they felt CoLab could provide, such as recording and filming facilities, peer workshops and research possibilities. Whilst the survey is still ongoing and much of the qualitative data needs to be compiled, the results already show that students would really support a technology space of this nature and feel it would be a much used and valuable addition to the University's facilities and services for students. CoLab would provide an innovative and creative learning experience for those running it and those using it. It would appear from these interim results that there would be strong support from the student body including the Students' Union.