

IN HIGHER EDUCATION

DEMOGRAPHICS | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | GLOBAL EDUCATION | LEARNING | POLITICS | TECHNOLOGY

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The world of postsecondary education remains unsettled, driven in part by the economic turmoil, but also by the realities of continuing changes in political and business interest in an educated workforce. While it appeared that the economy was slowly turning up in the US, the Japanese tsunami and earthquake, continued debt crises in Europe, and a weaker than hoped for recovery have stalled hopes of a significant increase in employment. It remains to be seen how this recession will further the globalization and reordering of higher education. Meanwhile, demographics, technology, and research on learning push institutions to change.

Note: Due to the time sensitive nature of some URLs, we cannot guarantee that all links will be active. Some links may require a subscription.

DEMOGRAPHICS

OBSERVATION

The economy and changing US demographics are influencing the future success of children in some deep ways, and with those, their likely experiences in K-12 and higher education.

Fifty-three percent of US preschool students, four-years old and under, are Hispanic; of college students, 12 percent are Hispanic.

The Internet Time Machine Guys, downloaded on November 12, 2010, "A Demographic Oddity", www.theinternettimemachine.com; *Hispanic Outlook*, January 3, 2011, v 21, pp 46-48

The recession appears to have erased the last 35 years of progress in family economic wellbeing; 22 percent of children in the US now live in poverty.

USA Today, June 8, 2010, www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-06-08-1Achild08_ST_N.htm

In 2008, it was estimated that eight percent of the births in the US were to parents who did not have legal status.

Pew Hispanic Center, August 11, 2010, J. Passel, P. Taylor, "Unauthorized Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children," www.pewresearch.org/pubs/1696/unauthorized-immigrants-babies-born-united-states-citizens

OUR THOUGHTS

Unfortunately, the negative effects on cognitive functions of insufficient food and poverty are well documented.¹ In the US, one in seven Americans now receive food assistance.² How will the class of 2025 arrive at institutions?

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty#Effects_of_poverty

² Stateline, February 11, 2011, <http://stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=548024>

Even as the economy improves, it's increasingly likely that students will live with parents, not on campus.

Reuters, December 15, 2010, www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6BE62820101215

Selectivity has risen at a small number of schools, while falling at other colleges, as top students no longer make proximity to home a priority in applying or enrolling in higher education.

National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2009, C. Hoxby, "The Changing Selectivity of American Colleges", www.nber.org/papers/w15446

The balance between high school graduates from public and private schools is shifting, with more graduates expected from public high schools and fewer from private schools over the next decade.

Hispanic Outlook, S. Nyhan, "Report Projects Drop in High School Graduates", August 23, 2010, v 20, # 21, pp 16-17, www.nacacnet.org/PUBLICATIONSRESOURCES/BRIEFING/Pages/default.aspx

OBSERVATION

The demographic shifts expected globally over the next 30–40 years will affect higher education through their likely impacts on regional economies. For most developed nations, there will be far fewer workers to support aging populations, or their own children.

Forecasters predict that by 2022 there will be more middle class people in the world than those in poverty.

The Christian Science Monitor, May 17, 2011, www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2011/0517/In-the-fast-lane-to-the-middle-class

In 2015, there will be more Chinese citizens above 60 than below the age of 14. By 2050, those over 60 will represent 30 percent of the population, nearly a half-billion people.

China Daily eClips, May 19, 2011, www.cdeclips.com/en/opinion/fullstory.html?id=66106

The birthrate has dropped across the world, dropping from an average of 4.5 children for each woman in 1970 to 2.7 in 2000. The United Nations forecast that in 2050 the global birthrate will have declined to 2.05 births per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1.

G. Friedman, *The Next Hundred Years*, 2009, Anchor Books, NY

OUR THOUGHTS

Immigration and the birthrate of US Hispanics have kept the US from suffering the same decline below replacement level seen in Europe, Japan, Russia, and the rest of the developed world.

USA Today Your Life, June 3, 2011, <http://yourlife.usatoday.com/parenting-family/babies/story/2011/06/Is-Americas-love-affair-with-kids-waning/47969424/1>; G. Friedman, *The Next Hundred Years*, 2009, Anchor Books, NY

States are responding by allowing undocumented students to receive in-state tuition and the US Supreme Court has declined to hear a case from California that would reverse that policy.

Inside Higher Ed, November 16, 2010, www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/11/16/california; *The Christian Science Monitor*, June 6, 2011, www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2011/0606/In-state-tuition-for-illegal-immigrants-survives-Supreme-Court-declines-case

The University of Colorado-Boulder conducted a study on the use of socioeconomic status as a weight in admissions versus the use of minority or legacy status. They found that socioeconomic status weighting yielded a more diverse pool of potential students with virtually no difference between their academic preparation levels.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 17, 2010, www.chronicle.com/blogs/innovations/colorados-affirmative-action-experiment/27024

Complicating matters are the real differences among various Latino immigrants, including which groups are most likely to identify as Hispanic.

California Community College Chancellor's Office, December 12, 2010, www.cccco.edu/SystemOffice/Divisions/Tech/ResearchandPlanning/AbstractsofResearch/tabid/298/Default.aspx

ECONOMICS

OBSERVATION

The year started with modest optimism about an economic recovery, at least at a national and global level.¹ Unfortunately, that's not the way it's turned out, as employment gains remain anemic and consumers continue to lack confidence in their prospects.²

1 *ViewsWire: Economist Intelligence Unit*, January 19, 2011, <http://viewswire.eiu.com>

2 *The New York Times*, June 3, 2011, www.nytimes.com/2011/06/04/business/economy/04jobs.html

The economic slow down has kept the price of oil from skyrocketing again, but it has still risen to over \$100 a barrel. The US public has settled into the reality of \$4.00 a gallon gasoline.

The New York Times, May 6, 2011, www.nytimes.com/2011/05/07/business/07oil.html

China is faced with a devastating drought, inflation concerns, and a general slow down in its economy.

The New York Times, May 16, 2011, www.nytimes.com/2011/05/17/world/asia/17drought.html; *China Daily*, May 12, 2011, www.cdeclips.com/en/nation/fullstory.html?id=65564

Deflation has become increasingly probable over the next few years.

Knowledge@Wharton, September 15, 2010, <http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=2587>

OUR THOUGHTS

What events or actions will ease the concerns of people worldwide? Until the very real problems in the global economy are tackled in a way that reassures many more, the recovery, such as it is, will remain slow or stagnant.

The continued volatility of global stock exchanges appears to be a reflection of anxiety, as much as its cause.

The New York Times, September 5, 2011, www.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/business/global/daily-stock-market-activity.html



Executives from around the world have grown more pessimistic about their nations' economies, although not about the future of their own companies.

McKinsey Quarterly, June 2011, www.mckinseyquarterly.com/Economic_Conditions_Snapshot_June_2011_McKinsey_Global_Survey_results_2818

The end of state funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), combined with the need to start paying interest on the money borrowed for unemployment benefits means that general fund spending in states will continue to decline.

National Governor's Association, "Fiscal Survey of the States: Spring 2011," www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/FSS1106.pdf; *Stateline*, September 2, 2011, <http://stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=597982>

OBSERVATION

The cost of delivering higher education in the US rose at the smallest rate in the history of the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), less than one percent. The drop was due almost exclusively to a drop in the cost of utilities.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 16, 2010, www.chronicle.com/article/Higher-Education-Price-Index/124456

The median total health-care premium cost rose 7 percent in 2010, nearly double the costs of the year before.

College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), September 9, 2010, www.cupahr.org/newsroom/news_template.aspx?id=6874

Businesses in the US have continued to shift the costs of health care premiums to workers, who now pay 30 percent of the cost for a family plan.

The Wall Street Journal, September 3, 2010, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703431604575467902840224786.html>

For the second year in a row, there was no cost of living increase in Social Security benefits.

The Washington Post, October 21, 2011, www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/20/AR2010102006047.html

OUR THOUGHTS

The ability of institutions to recruit faculty members, particularly those with private sector employment options, will continue to erode. Not only are health care premiums increasing, pension and retirement plans are facing additional uncertainty.

States reported a \$477 billion decline in revenues for "insurance trust funds," primarily pension fund investments, which will drive state contributions up considerably in future years.

The New York Times, January 5, 2011, www.nytimes.com/2011/01/06/us/06states.html

A majority of all workers at public colleges and a third of full-time faculty members are enrolled in defined-benefit pension plans, while private colleges have largely embraced defined-contribution plans, that spread costs.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, August 29, 2010, www.chronicle.com/article/As-Pension-Costs-Rise-Public/124150

The University of California raised the minimum retirement age to 55 and the age at which employees can receive maximum pension benefits to 65, in spite of warnings about its effects on faculty recruitment and retention.

The Sacramento Bee, October 27, 2010, www.sacbee.com/2010/10/27/3137026/uc-president-recommends-cutting.html

ENVIRONMENT

OBSERVATION

Clean energy (biomass, hydro, wind, solar, and geothermal), has now surpassed nuclear power as an energy source in the US.

Next 100, July 6, 2011, www.next100.com/2011/07/clean-energy-still-has-a-long.php

Global investment in renewable energy increased 32 percent in 2010, with developing nations spending slightly more on utility projects than developed ones \$72 billion versus \$70 billion.

USA Today, July 7, 2011, www.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2011-07-07-green-energy-spending_n.htm

Biomass may hold the most promise as a renewable energy supply, since it does not suffer from the intermittent nature of solar and wind.

Miller-McCune, February 17, 2011, www.miller-mccune.com/environment/think-biomass-not-natural-gas-28366; *Next 100*, August 16, 2011, www.next100.com/2011/08/make-biomass-while-the-sun-shi.php

Renewables now account for 13 percent of the world's energy supply.

National Geographic News, January 17, 2011, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2011/01/110117-100-percent-renewable-energy/>



OUR THOUGHTS

China and the US are only two of the nations competing to become major clean-energy exporters. Trade conflicts are likely to increase over the next few years as each competitor tries to claim another is erecting trade barriers that go beyond acceptable subsidies.

The Christian Science Monitor, October 19, 2010, www.csmonitor.com/Commentary/the-monitors-view/2010/1019/The-cold-war-in-clean-energy

Over two billion people rely on energy sources that produce 'black carbon', second only to CO₂ as a principal driver of climate change. Affordable renewables may not reach them, so finding ways to reduce these emissions is critical.

E/The Environmental Magazine, January 11, 2011, www.emagazine.com/view/?5490; Pew Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-basics/blackcarbon-factsheet

The majority of the Earth's over seven billion people now live in urban areas. One billion people live in slums or shantytowns, with little access to clean water or sanitation, in addition to using black carbon energy sources.

Design With The Other 90%: Cities, Accessed on December 1, 2011, www.designother90.org/cities/home

Unfortunately, even with clean-energy's potential role in reducing global warming, as expected, little significant came out of the UN Climate-Change Summit in Durban, South Africa.

Time, November 29, 2011, www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2100430,00.html

OBSERVATION

The global recession has had a negative effect on US adults' attitudes toward green purchases.

Herman Trend Alert, November, 30, 2011, www.hermangroup.com/archive.html

The typical American lifestyle annually requires the equivalent of 100 people cranking 24/7 producing electricity.

E/ The Environmental Magazine, November 8, 2010, www.emagazine.com/archive/5402

US industrial and business leaders, however, are increasingly focusing on their own cost-saving, sustainable practices and how 'being green' is good for their brands.

Knowledge@Wharton, January 19, 2011, <http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=2677>

While 40 percent of consumers say they are willing to purchase green products, only 4 percent of consumers actually do so when given the choice.

11 Crucial Trends for 2011, www.trendwatching.com/trends/11trends2011/

OUR THOUGHTS

Research on what is already known about changing human behavior toward sustainable practices will need to be more widely undertaken and implemented if we are to truly live within the planet's means.

American Psychologist, Special Issue: Psychology and Global Climate Change, May-June, 2011

Research by McConochie suggests that US citizen concern for the environment is interwoven with political attitudes, religious beliefs, attitudes about human rights, and even with personality traits.

Ecopsychology, McConochie, W., "Psychological Correlates of Pro-environmental Attitudes," v 3, n 2, pp 115-123

Ascher notes that in order for long-term strategies for sustainable development to be implemented, policy makers must enlarge their views to include ways to remove psychological and institutional obstacles to planning.

Sustain Sci, Ascher, W., "Long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development: Strategies to Promote Far-sighted Action," July 27, 2006, pp 15-20

Global surveys indicate that US, nonscientist, citizens are less likely to accept humanity's role in climate change than nonscientist citizens of other countries.

American Psychologist, Weber, E. and Stern, P., "Public Understanding of Climate Change in the United States," May-June, 2011, pp 315-328

GLOBAL EDUCATION

OBSERVATION

The economic crisis has affected higher education around the globe, with some countries investing more in postsecondary education and some much less.

Inside Higher Ed, September 16, 2010, www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/09/16/oecd

University mergers and a reduction in the number of institutions have been the results of the economic crisis in Europe. For example, Denmark has reduced its number of universities and research institutions from 25 to 11 since 2007.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 2, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/University-Mergers-Sweep/125781



Tuition and fees, which didn't exist in England in 1998, were tripled in 2011 to £9,000.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, December 17, 2010, <http://chronicle.com/blogs/innovations/the-backdrop-to-the-current-uk-tuition-crisis/28149>

The US plans on cutting spending for programs in foreign language and area studies, to levels below 2001.

Inside Higher Ed, April 15, 2011, www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/04/15/international_education_takes_hit_in_2011_budget

OUR THOUGHTS

Pressure on countries to increase access to tertiary education has led to an imbalance in funding streams, with more systems forced to move to a tuition and fees/private support model. The issues of accountability, productivity, and quality have become highly global.

Inside Higher Ed, September 16, 2010, www.insidehighered.com/news/2010/09/16/oecd

What effects will Europe's debt crisis have on higher education? The European Commission presented a new higher education strategy that focuses on employability and jobs.

University World News, September 24, 2011, www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110924082216426

The Chinese Ministry of Education has indicated that university programs will be downsized or eliminated if less than 60 percent of their graduates fail to find work within two years.

China Daily, November 23, 2011, www.chinadaily.com.cn/2011-11/23/content_14145141.htm

Throughout the world, lower-socioeconomic status decreases access to higher education, regardless of the rate of tuition and fees.

P. Altbach, L. Reisberg, and L. Rumbley, *Trends in Global Higher Education: Tracking an Academic Revolution*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2010

OBSERVATION

The move to a knowledge economy has convinced nearly every nation that it must increase its numbers of college graduates and retain them once they graduate.

Australia has relaxed its visa requirements seeking to revitalize its once thriving international student population.

The Economic Times, September 24, 2011, http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-09-24/news/30194590_1_student-visa-assessment-levels-knight-review

India and China now treat each other's degrees as equivalent, except in medicine and pharmacy.

Hindustan Times, August 27, 2010, www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPagePrint/592794.aspx

US, Europe, and China each contribute 20 percent of the world's researchers, but the economic crisis has caused a decrease in R&D in developed nations, so expect research to continue to increase in China, India, and Brazil.

University World News, November 14, 2010, www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101113063321888; *University World News*, March 20, 2011, www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110318130151658

OUR THOUGHTS

Student, faculty, and researcher mobility will continue to reduce the hold that English-speaking nations have had on attracting international talent.

China, in particular, has used 'soft power' to bring higher education, not only to its own citizens, but to other developing nations. Soochow University in Laos is due to open in 2012.

Peoples Daily Online, April 20, 2011, <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/7356347.html>

China announced plans to increase from its present 8 million higher education students to 200 million by 2020 and students will be judged more on merit and skills than affiliation with the Communist Party.

University World News, October 3, 2010, www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20101002093207698

Bilateral trade has been found to be a significant predictor of overseas student flows, which could spell trouble for the US if trade relations with China don't improve soon.

University World News, September 23, 2011, www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110923080251929

LEARNING

OBSERVATION

Persistence and retention are cornerstones for increasing the rate at which students complete certificates and degrees. Recent research has shed light on the factors that influence staying in school.

Providing low-income parents 'pay for performance' (i.e., based on grades earned, unrestricted funds could be garnered) in community colleges in Ohio increased the number of credits earned, although it appeared to have no effect on retention.



MDRC, October 2010, P. Cha and R. Patel, "Rewarding Progress, Reducing Debt: Early Results from Ohio's Performance based Scholarship Demonstration for Low-Income Parents," www.mdrc.org

A study in Wisconsin, using random assignment of additional need-based financial aid for Pell Grant Recipients in 13 public universities, found that it increased persistence for students who were most likely to leave, while those who were already most likely to persist exhibited no effects of the additional cash transfer.

Institute for Research on Poverty, July 7, 2011, S. Goldrick-Rab, D. Harris, J. Benson, and R. Kelchen, "Conditional Cash Transfers and College Persistence: Evidence from a Randomized Need-Based Grant Program," Discussion Paper no. 1393-11, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Two separate studies of community college students both reinforced the importance of engaging students in their first year with a defined program of study or concentration to increase persistence and completion.

Community College Research Center, April 2011, D. Jenkins, "Get with the Program: Accelerating Community College Students' Entry into and Completion of Programs of Study," CCRC Working Paper no. 32, <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?uid=885>; Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, August 2011, C. Moore and N. Shulock, "Sense of Direction: The Importance of Helping Community College Students Select and Enter a Program of Study," www.csus.edu/ihelp

OUR THOUGHTS

Graduation rates have, unfortunately, become a standard accountability measure of an institution's quality. Even though the rates are calculated on a minority of students attending most institutions, they are the focus for the completion agenda in the US.

Graduation rates fell at one-third of four-year colleges between 2003 and 2008.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, December 5, 2010, www.chronicle.com/article/Graduation-Rates-Fall-at/125614

A recent study indicates that, unlike earlier research, there is no statistical difference in the likelihood of graduation within six years between 'rising juniors' and community college transfer students.

The Journal of Higher Education, May/June 2011, T. Melguizo, G. Kienzl, and M. Alfonso, "Comparing the Educational Attainment of Community College Transfer Students and Four-Year College Rising Juniors Using Propensity Score Matching Methods," v. 82, n. 3, pp. 265-291

Studying the reasons for non-completion does not yield any obvious candidates for increasing graduation likelihood.

American Educational Research Journal, June 2011, P. Attewell, S. Heil, L. Reisel, "Competing Explanations of Undergraduate Noncompletion," v. 48, n. 3, pp. 536-559

The decision to withdraw from college may be based on a series of events that create 'shocks' to a student; if enough occur, the student withdraws.

Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, December 2010, T. Pleskac, J. Keeney, S. Merritt, N. Schmitt, and F. Oswald, "A Detection Model of College Withdrawal," doi:10.1016/j.jobhdp.2010.12.001

OBSERVATION

The question of what students learn in college, not just if they graduate, will likely raise its profile as a measure of contention and accountability.

The Lumina Foundation released a draft of a degree qualifications profile in 2011 in an effort to spark discussions on what a college graduate should be able to know and do.

Lumina Foundation, January 2011, "The Degree Qualifications Profile," www.luminafoundation.org/publications/The_Degree_Qualifications_Profile.pdf

ACT continues to promote options for people to document workforce skills so they can stack credentials that are transferrable. Accomplishing this will go a long way to transforming the role of higher education beyond certification.

ACT, 2011, "Breaking New Ground: Building a National Workforce Skills Credentialing System," www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/BreakingNewGround.pdf

The MacArthur Foundation and Mozilla have partnered to create a digital badge system that would help holders identify the competencies gained via informal learning.

eSchool News, October 11, 2011, www.eschoolnews.com/2011/10/11/digital-badges-could-help-measure-21st-century-skills/

OUR THOUGHTS

For-profit businesses will continue to find ways to help people document their skills in ways accepted by employers. What value will brick and mortar institutions be able to add?

Online learning portals that allow students to have their skills assessed by college professors for credit through providers like Learning Counts and Knext will likely become increasingly acceptable to employers as proof of competency.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 29, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/Online-Learning-Portals-/127694

Open courseware is likely to be accepted and available on every campus as a support to traditional learning and, increasingly, as a substitute for sitting in a classroom.

eCampus News, February 14, 2011, www.ecampusnews.com/technologies/distance-learning-dean-open-courseware-on-every-campus-by-2016; *Boston Globe*, December 30, 2011, http://articles.boston.com/2011-12-30/editorials/30568654_1_new-tech-initiatives-universities-model-of-higher-education

Seven out of ten students report avoiding the purchase of one or more textbooks due to cost. Instead, they share textbooks, find similar material on the web, or simply photocopy some portions.

Boulder Daily Camera, August 22, 2011, www.dailycamera.com/cu-news/ci_18723969; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 4, 2012, www.chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/new-study-shows-e-textbooks-saved-many-students-only-1/34793

POLITICS

OBSERVATION

Judicial decisions and laws have affected intellectual property rights and patent law for institutions in the US.

The America Invents Act may require more and earlier spending on potential patents, as the change from ‘first-to-invent’ to ‘first-to-file’ means that early disclosure becomes significantly more important.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, November 6, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/To-Protect-Your-Next-Bright/129653

The US Supreme Court ruled that individual inventors’ rights to a patent supersede those of a university, if the university has not explicitly had the researcher assign rights to all potential inventions at the start of employment.

Inside Higher Ed, June 7, 2011, www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/06/07/supreme_court_rules_against_stanford_in_patent_case

Increasingly, institutions need to consider how to handle the intellectual property rights of students. Undergraduate research, an emphasis on entrepreneurship, and the digital revolution have now made such policies mandatory.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 31, 2011, www.chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/iphone-app-raises-questions-about-who-owns-student-inventions/29265; *Huffington Post*, January 24, 2011, www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/24/young-inventors-prompt-co_n_812907.html

OUR THOUGHTS

Security and privacy are two policy areas where institutions need to try and stay ahead of the game, but that won’t be easy with the move to ‘bring it with you’ technology and the increasing use of mobile devices.

The University of Connecticut had to defend its right to keep a database of potential donors as a ‘trade secret’ to the US Supreme Court. Freedom of Information requests have entered new territory.

Courant News, December 5, 2011, www.courant.com/news/Connecticut/hc-supremes-uconn-trade-secrets-1206-20111205,0,3216797.story

The push to create a uniform data sharing system for K-20 education has meant that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) rules have been rewritten and require that everyone who has access to student data would be held to the same privacy and security requirements.

Education Week, April 7, 2011, http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/inside-school-research/2011/04/education_department_proposes.html; *eSchool News*, April 7, 2011, www.eschoolnews.com/2011/04/07/gov-takes-huge-step-to-protect-student-privacy; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 8, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/New-Rules-Would-Allow-for/127047

As institutions move some services to outside providers and the cloud, their ability to directly monitor or enforce compliance with privacy policies is compromised. When tablet devices are taken into account, campus IT has an even bigger problem with securing data and privacy.

EDUCAUSE Review, May/June 2011, pp. 60–61; *The Washington Post*, January 5, 2012, www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/the-ipad-is-an-incredible-tool-for-work-if-your-it-department-will-allow-it/2012/01/04/gIQArdIaP_story.html

OBSERVATION

Economics and politics in the US will likely mean not just less funding for institutions, but also increased accountability in areas they may not expect.

After a 2010 law passed, Tennessee now bases its higher education funding solely on institutional outcomes, such as students’ accumulation of credits, degrees awarded, and job placements.

Tennessee Higher Education Commission Outcomes Based Formula, www.tn.gov/thec/complete_college_tn/ccta_summary.html

Missouri will move to performance based funding starting in 2013. While the criteria have not yet been determined, institutions will be expected to meet targets in five categories including student retention and graduation and performance on professional certification exams.

Stateline, September 8, 2011, www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=598855; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 14, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/Shifts-in-Politics-and/128641



In order to continue receiving Title IV financial aid, all institutions that offer non-degree career-technical education programs, including community/technical colleges, must now report gainful employment data on the program's home page and they must report program and student-level data to the US Department of Education.

Association for Institutional Research, *AIR Alert* #40, August 2011, www.airweb.org; US Department of Education, www.ifap.ed.gov/GainfulEmploymentInfo

OUR THOUGHTS

While asking more of institutions, federal and state governments are both reducing funding and increasing regulation.

As a way to save money, states are increasing fees for students who take more credit hours than are necessary to graduate in four years.

Stateline, August 10, 2011, www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=593021

The National Institutes of Health predicted that budget cuts would cause researchers' grant-success rate to be as low as it's ever been; reducing one of the alternative funding sources on which institutions are increasingly relying. At the same time, NIH is also reducing the rate at which it compensates researchers, putting pressure on universities to make up the difference.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, May 11, 2011, www.chronicle.com/article/Budget-Straits-Mean/127472; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 6, 2012, www.chronicle.com/article/New-Budget-Rules-Say/130256

Federally subsidized loans for graduate students were eliminated in the debt ceiling compromise, making it harder and more costly for the people who are hoping graduate programs provide increased employment opportunities.

Inside Higher Ed, August 17, 2011, www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/08/17/students_will_bear_brunt_of_changes_to_graduate_financial_aid

TECHNOLOGY

OBSERVATION

The speed with which the technology used in and out of educational institutions changes continues apace with Moore's Law. With two billion users online worldwide, the globe may soon experience a different resource crisis, a lack of bandwidth.

Trendwatching, September 2010, www.trendwatching.com/trends/maturailism; *The New York Times*, January 5, 2012, www.nytimes.com/2012/01/06/technology/top-1-of-mobile-users-use-half-of-worlds-wireless-bandwidth.html

Students are "bringing it with them," mobile technologies are the future landscape for learning; and they'll include gesture, search, voice, and video capacities.

Gartner, October 18, 2011, www.gartner.com/it/page.jsp?id=1826214

K-12 students perceive mobile devices as presenting significantly greater opportunities for learning in their classrooms than do either their teachers or IT administrators.

CDW-G, June 27, 2011, "The 2011 CDW-G 21st Century Classroom Report," <http://webobjects.cdw.com/webobjects/media/pdf/newsroom/CDWG-21st-Century-Classroom-Report-0611.pdf>

The annual EDUCAUSE review of the top ten issues in higher education IT now includes one for mobile technologies and their implications for campuses.

EDUCAUSEreview, May/June 2011, www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume46/TopTenITIssues2011/228654

OUR THOUGHTS

The digital universe is growing as quickly as the technology that supports it, perhaps even faster. The IDC Digital Universe study predicts that data will grow 50 times by 2020. In 2011 alone, the globe was predicted to create 1.8 trillion gigabytes of data.

IDC Digital Universe, June 2011, www.emc.com/collateral/demos/microsites/emc-digital-universe-2011/index.htm

Unfortunately, there is likely to be an under supply of IT professionals, let alone librarians, to manage and curate all that data.

Computer World, June 28, 2011, www.computerworld.com/s/article/9217988/World_s_data_will_grow_by_50X_in_next_decade_IDC_study_predicts

How will faculty members help students effectively use this vast amount of data? Curation is becoming an issue for everyone, not just archivists.

The Horizon Report, The NEW MEDIA COSORTIUM and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, <http://net.educause.edu/library/pdf/HR2011.pdf>

When children under 12 were asked to predict the future of technology, their answers reflected trends that are already emerging—the use of embedded sensors, image and voice recognition, near field communication—the Internet of Things (IoT).

eSchool News, July 12, 2011, www.eschoolnews.com/2011/07/12/kids-predict-the-future-of-technology; *Gartner*, October 18, 2011, www.gartner.com/it/page.jsp?id=1826214



OBSERVATION

A recent ethnographic study of students' use of IT on campus revealed that some technology use is so ingrained that students don't even think to report it, although it was frequently observed during the study.

EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research, November 29, 2011, C. Cooley, T. Malaby, and D. Stack, "How Are Students Actually Using IT? An Ethnographic Study," www.educause.edu/Resources/HowAreStudentsActuallyUsingITA/242026

Student respondents to a recent survey by CourseSmart™ indicated that they used an average of three different digital devices on a daily basis, with 98 percent indicating that they own a digital device.

Reuters, June 1, 2011, www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/01/idUS141122+01-Jun-2011+PRN20110601

Higher education is using social media, but mostly for admissions' purposes.

Center for Marketing Research, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, N. Barnes and A. Lescault, "Social Media Adoption Soars as Higher-Ed Experiments and Reevaluates Its Use of New Communications Tools," www.umassd.edu/cmrr/studiesandresearch/socialmediaadoptionsoars

A Pew Research Center report from August indicated that 57 percent of recent college graduates reported using a laptop, smartphone, or tablet device in class at least sometime.

Pew Research Center, August 28, 2011, www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/College-presidents.aspx

OUR THOUGHTS

The merging of mobile devices and learning in traditional institutions has yet to be realized. Some educators have been effective, but the vast majority are not even thinking about it.

The Atlantic, September 2011, www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2011/09/social-medias-slow-slog-into-the-ivory-towers-of-academia/244483

The amount of time people spend reading online is nearly equal to the amount of time they spend reading print.

Gartner, May 10, 2011, gartner.com/it/page.jsp?id=1673714

By 2015, more people in the US will access online content through mobile devices than through wired Internet connections.

Campus Technology, September 12, 2011, www.campustechnology.com/articles/2011/09/12/mobile-to-surpass-wired-internet-connections.aspx

Unfortunately, the digital divide will remain. Among lower-income children, 27 percent have a parent with a smart phone; among upper-income children it's 57 percent. In fact, 38 percent of lower-income parents report they don't know what an 'app' is, compared with just 3 percent of upper-income parents.

eSchool News, October 25, 2011, www.eschoolnews.com/2011/10/25/study-more-than-half-of-young-children-use-digital-media



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