

DLESE “USER SURVEY” RESULTS SUMMARY

As of January 11, 2005

Prepared by the DLESE Evaluation Core Services¹

The “User Survey” is a three-question instrument that has appeared on the results page of the discovery system since October 14, 2004 and on the front page of DLESE since October 29, 2004. The reason for choosing only three questions was to increase response rate. The first two questions were “multiple choice” (or open-ended); the third question asked simply whether the visitor wished to tell us anything. The purpose of deploying the survey was to find out who uses DLESE and what they had come to DLESE for on that particular visit. Users were able to repeat the survey, but were asked not to repeat it on the same visit. Following are the responses to date.

- **Who are the current users accessing the discovery system? What are the proportions of users in each group? Is this more or less than expected?**

K-12 Teachers	College/University Faculty	K-12 Students	College Students
31%	13%	11%	13%

Of those answering the short user survey (n = 425), 31% are K-12 science teachers and 13% are college/university faculty members. Other groups represented include K-12 students (11%), college students (13%) as well as developers of educational materials (8%). Smaller percentages of parents (4%), librarians (2%) and developers of curriculum (2%) answered the survey. The remaining respondents include teachers in other disciplines (e.g., English and Health), outreach coordinators, and professional development experts.

- **What is their purpose in using the discovery system?**

Seeking Materials for Students	Seeking Information for an Assignment	Seeking Information about DLESE	Seeking Information for Curriculum Development
25%	18%	13%	7%

Searching for materials for students (25%) is the most frequently cited purpose for those answering the user survey. Other purposes include finding something for an assignment

¹ Special thanks to Tim Weston of ATLAS Evaluation & Research, University of Colorado

(18%), learning general information about the resources in the library (13%), and finding information for developing a curriculum (7%). Smaller percentages were looking for information for their own learning (6%), collaborators for a project (5%) or something for students to use on their own (5%).

- **Are there differences across groups in terms of why the users access the DLESE discovery system?**

Seeking Materials for Students	Seeking Information for an Assignment	Seeking Information about DLESE
55% of K-12 teachers	43% of K-12 students	11% of K-12 teachers
35% of higher education faculty	34% of undergraduate students	23% of higher education faculty

Fifty-five percent of K-12 teachers and 35% of college/university faculty members answering the short survey looked for materials for their students. 11% of K-12 and 23% and higher education faculty looked for general information about DLESE. Find information for an assignment was the most frequently cited reason by K-12 and undergrad students for visiting the site (43% and 34%, respectively).