

(OBS*) NETWORKING RESEARCH REVIEW

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INTERNET SURVEY RESEARCH

The Networking Research Review by Observatorio(OBS*) journal aims to allow a better understanding of current academic publishing and research being carried in different countries, allowing the networking of researchers, and with their audiences. Therefore, this aim is two-fold: to provide researchers with knowledge of empirical research being carried by different research teams and research networks around the world; also, to provide the readers of (OBS*) with knowledge of research currently under development and encourage networking with the researchers involved.

(OBS*) Networking Research Review 1 is dedicated to Internet Survey Research.

Over the last 10 years, the Internet, as a social and organisational phenomenon, has been a subject of attention for many social scientists. From economy to sociology, research work has been carried out and many publications have been made available to the scientific community.

Internet Survey Research has been carried at three different geographical levels: worldwide, regional, and national. We will focus our attention at the World Internet Project, [PIC – Project Internet Catalonia](#), Project 'Network Society in Portugal' and [Oxford Internet Surveys \(OxIS\)](#).

Although such projects are mainly based on survey research, there are some differences in their nature and scope. The WIP, OxIS and Network Society in Portugal were designed for a comparative and longitudinal analysis at the international and national levels. Their outcomes provide global trends in Internet use and specific national patterns and profiles of Internet uses and users, both across countries and over time.

On the other hand, PIC was designed for a regional and sectorial analysis of Internet use, complementing internet survey analysis with in-depth case studies of specific sectors and systems (e-administration, e-university in Catalonia, etc). Its outcomes provide not only a rich and multilayered profile of Internet uses and e-systems in Catalonia today, but also the specificities of the relationship between Internet uses, organisational change, social and cultural change currently undergoing in various Catalan systems (business, health, education, public administration).

WORLDWIDE

The [World Internet Project](#) (WIP) is an international collaborative project which studies the social, economic and political implications of the Internet, and is presently carried out at 28 universities and research centres around the world. The WIP carries out detailed surveys in every member country to help understand how individuals adopt and use the Internet and other technologies, and what implications this has on their everyday lives — from their use of time to their role within their community.

The WIP was founded in 1999 by Professor Jeff Cole (USC Annenberg School Center for the Digital Future) in collaboration with the Osservatorio Internet Italia at Bocconi University, Milan, Italy and the NTU School of Communication Studies in Singapore. In 2007, there are already 28 countries participating in the WIP, from America, Europe, Asia, and Oceania. The WIP aims to widen its coverage by including a national partner from every country. National partners can come from

universities, institutes, think tanks or any other qualified institutions with survey research experience and abilities. Please visit [WIP website](#) to find how to become a partner.

By containing a core of questions which are common to the questionnaires administered in all WIP countries, one can place each country's findings on trends of Internet adoption and use in a comparative perspective both cross-nationally and over time. Participation in WIP allows national partners to take a leadership role in a worldwide collaborative effort, and to become an authoritative source of independent research and analysis of global trends in Internet use, and the specific country patterns.

Research aims, methodologies, and top-line data from the national surveys and reports are made public and available online by each country's hosting research centre. Please visit the WIP partners' websites:

Argentina: [Foundation for Latin American Economic Research \(FIEL\), Institute of Applied Economics \(IEA\)](#)

Australia: [Swinburne University of Technology](#)

Bolivia: [Universidad NUR](#)

Canada: [Canadian Internet Project \(CIP\)](#)

Chile: [School of Communications, Universidad Catolica de Chile \(UC\)](#)

China: [Chinese Academy of Social Sciences](#)

Colombia: [Centro de Investigación de las Telecomunicaciones \(CINTEL\)](#)

Czech Republic: [Faculty of Social Studies Masaryk, University in Brno](#)

Estonia: [Baltic Internet Research Center](#)

France: [Centre de Recherches Politiques de Sciences Po \(CEVIPOF\)](#)

Germany: [Deutsches Digital Institut](#)

Great Britain: [Oxford Internet Institute \(OII\), University of Oxford](#)

Hong Kong: [City University of Hong Kong](#)

Hungary: [TARKI Social Research Centre Social Science Databank](#)

India: [Dept of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University](#)

Iran: [Faculty of Social Science and Economics, University of Alzahra](#)

Italy: [SDA Bocconi, Bocconi University](#)

Japan: [Toyo University](#)

Macao: [University of Macao](#)

Mexico: [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#)

New Zealand: [Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication, Auckland University of Technology](#)

Portugal: [CIES - Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia, ISCTE](#)

Singapore: [Singapore Internet Research Centre \(SIRC\)](#)

South Korea: [Yonsei University](#)

Spain: [Servilab](#)

Sweden: [World Internet Institute](#)

Taiwan: [National Chung Cheung University](#)

USA: [Center for the Digital Future, USC Annenberg School for Communication](#)

REGIONAL LEVEL

In Europe, probably one of the longer, wider, and most interesting research projects beyond WIP is [PIC – Project Internet Catalonia](#), hosted at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3), in Catalonia, Spain.

PIC began in September 2001 and is about to end in July 2007, and is co-led by professors Manuel Castells and Imma Tubella.

PIC covers various research lines:

The Network Society in Catalonia (“The transition to the network society”);

The Network Company in Catalonia (“ICT, productivity, competitiveness, salaries and performance in Catalonia’s companies”);

Schooling in the Network Society ([Internet in non-university education](#));

E-government and Public Administration (case studies on e-government and public services, e-governance and citizen information, and on Barcelona City Council’s Barcelona II model);

Internet and the Public Universities Network;

Internet in the Audiovisual Context of Catalonia (“Communication and Social change in the information age”);

Internet and the Catalan Public Health System ([“Technological modernisation, organisational change and service delivery in the Catalan Public Health System”](#)).

For an overview of PIC research areas, methodologies and timelines, visit

<http://www.uoc.edu/in3/pic/esp/index.html>

PIC Publications:

Amongst PIC research lines, E-government and Public Administration, and Universities have already completed and released their final research reports, between 2003 and 2006. These reports (written in Catalan only) are available online at:

[Govern electrònic i serveis públics: un estudi de cas sobre el portal interadministratiu](#) (directed by Eduard Aibar)

[E-governança i atenció ciutadana. La Generalitat de Catalunya en el context internacional](#) (directed by Eduard Aibar)

[El model Barcelona II: l'Ajuntament de Barcelona a la societat xarxa de Catalunya](#) (directed by Manuel Castells)

[Internet i la xarxa d'universitats catalanes](#) (directed by Teresa Sancho)

Other PIC research areas: [Final Reports](#) (written in Catalan) and [Summaries](#) (written in English) are scheduled for publication later this year, between October and December 2007.

NATIONAL LEVEL – PORTUGAL

In Portugal, the Project ‘Network Society in Portugal’ has been coordinated by Gustavo Cardoso at the research center CIES-ISCTE which is the WIP’s national partner.

National surveys have been undertaken in 2003 and 2006.

The [2003 Portuguese Survey](#) comprised 9 thematic blocks: Social profile of the Portuguese internet users; Practices and reasons for internet use; Technological equipments amongst internet users; Daily activities of internet users; Social relationships and sociabilities; Civic intervention and social participation; Identities and personal development; Authonomy project; Communicational practices and media. [Statistical data](#) (English version), [the questionnaire](#) and [the book “A Sociedade em Rede. Do Conhecimento à Acção Política”](#) (in Portuguese only) are available online.

The [2006 Portuguese Survey](#) added up some new themes, like ICT and Health; Youth and New Media; social appropriation of Mobile Phones; Cinema, Music, Videogames and Internet usage. Reports and thematic papers will soon be made available at [OberCom website](#) ([Portuguese version](#), [English version](#)).

NATIONAL LEVEL – THE U.K.

[Oxford Internet Surveys \(OxIS\)](#) carried out by the [Oxford Internet Institute \(OII\)](#) are the UK's input into the World Internet Project. Launched in 2003, OxIS is an authoritative source of information about Internet access, use and attitudes. Some of the areas covered include: digital and social inclusion and exclusion; regulation and governance of the Internet; privacy, trust and risk concerns; social networking and entertainment; and online education, in the UK.

Surveys have already been undertaken in 2003, 2005 and 2007 of nationally representative random samples of 2000 people in the UK. By comparing different datasets over time, careful predictions about the future of the Internet are made in relation to how the Internet is affecting our society.

In late July 2007, OxIS is presenting and discussing the OxIS 2007 Report. The OxIS 2007 Report focuses on how digital inclusion and exclusion might be changing over time, and also looks closely at the recent phenomenon of online social networking.

Methodology - <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/oxis/methodology.cfm>

Publications - <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/oxis/publications.cfm>

Research team - <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/oxis/team.cfm>

Future interest and research - <http://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/microsites/oxis/events.cfm>

Please, **contact us if you have further suggestions**
on research teams and networks that are leading/developing relevant research work on this topic.
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