

## **Conference Abstract**

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#### **Cultural Differences in Computing Practices, Knowledge and Attitudes of Business Students (2004)**

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This paper describes a quantitative study in the form of a survey of cultural differences in the computing skills, practices and attitudes of business students enrolled in the Bachelor of Business degree (BBus) and the New Zealand Diploma in Business (NZDipBus) at a New Zealand tertiary institution. Previous studies have indicated that students are becoming more computer literate but very little has been done to research the computing skills and attitudes of International students. The main aim of this study is to determine students' access to IT, what software applications students have access to and use, and how confident students feel using computer technology. Most importantly this study investigates students' actual knowledge of the Internet, e-mail, word processing, spreadsheets and databases to see if the variance in computer literacy among tertiary students is diminishing and to investigate any differences in computer literacy between New Zealand students and Chinese students. This study found that Chinese students were more likely to have access to a computer and the Internet than New Zealand students and spent more time using a computer. New Zealand students rated themselves more confident using computers and scored higher on the MS Word and MS Excel tests than the Chinese students. The Chinese students reported themselves to be less competent and confident on the attitudes survey.