

Digital Divide in Gender

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Team 4

The Divide

Florida State University

LIS3201 – Fall 2021

Individual Environmental Scan

Introduction

- 1) My team's topic is the digital divide. More specifically, our research purpose is to explore the digital divide in terms of gender. In my subsection, we dive deeper into this topic by looking at this divide in terms of education.
- 2) It is apparent that there is a digital divide in terms of gender, especially in the STEM career field. Researchers agree that women are under-represented in the STEM career field. Women are just as prevalent in the general workforce as their male counterparts but are lacking in the STEM career field. The U.S. Census Bureau states that, in 2019, women made up 48% of all workers, yet only accounted for 27% of STEM related jobs (Martinez & Christnacht, 2021). Comparably, Funk and Parker point out that women with STEM degrees are less likely to land a STEM career in comparison to their male counterparts. They state that "among those who majored in computers or computer science, women are less likely than men to be working in a computer occupation (38% vs 53%). Similarly, women who majored in engineering during their undergraduate studies are less likely than men to be working in engineering jobs (24% vs. 30%)" (Funk & Parker, 2018). It seems that women are just not being educated at the same level as their male counterparts. However, there are some researchers who think that's not the case. A report from the US Department of Commerce points out that women hold just as many degrees as their male counterparts. Noonan states that, "While nearly as many women hold undergraduate degrees as men overall, they make up only about 30 percent of all STEM degree holders. Women make up a disproportionately low share of degree holders in all STEM fields, particularly

engineering” (Noonan, 2017). It is apparent that there is a gendered digital divide, and it has some roots in education.

References

- Funk, C., Parker, K. (2018, January 9). *Women and men in STEM often at odds over workplace equity*. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2018/01/09/women-and-men-in-stem-often-at-odds-over-workplace-equity/>
- Martinez, A., & Christnacht, C. (2021, January 26). *Women making gains in stem occupations but still underrepresented*. The United States Census Bureau. Retrieved September 10, 2021.
- Noonan, R. (2017, November 13). *Women in STEM: 2017 Update*. U.S. Department of Commerce.

Criteria	Rating
Relevance of the selected articles to the research problem (8 pts) - At least two peer-reviewed academic journal/conference articles were selected based on relevancy (4 each) -If they are not in Zotero, they will not be counted!!!!	
Appropriate research problem in IT research and practice in the statement (4 pts) - Consistent with your team's research problem (2) - At least one in-text citation to elaborate your research problem or your argument in the introduction paragraph (2). If it is not in Zotero it will not be counted!!	
Writing fluency of the statement (20 pts) - Minimum 300 words (2) - Paragraphs are organized by theme not by article (5) - Every argument is supported by citation (5) - Statement demonstrating critical assessment of chosen articles: Include your own interpretation by using the phrase like "This finding implies that -."(8)	
APA style and file formatting (8 pts) - In-text citations and references are matched (2) - Appropriate in-text citation format and reference format by APA style (5) - File name: LastName_ES (1 pts)	
* Being involved in a plagiarism issue will lead to 0 point and we will directly report to the department and the school per the school policy and the syllabus. * This is an individual assignment. Do not copy/paste a sentence or a paragraph from any other team assignments.	