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Jordan Abbott, Hanni Thoma, Rebecca Steinberg, & Ezekiel Kimball

Research Question 1: What happens when high school students with disabilities search the internet for information about college?
Research Question 2: What content is available and what is the user experience on high-frequency websites?

Digital Lives of Teens

- 95% of Teens Have a Smart Phone
- 45% of Teens Say They Are Online "Almost Constantly"

Source: www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/



"Massachusetts" AND "ADHD" AND "COLLEGE"

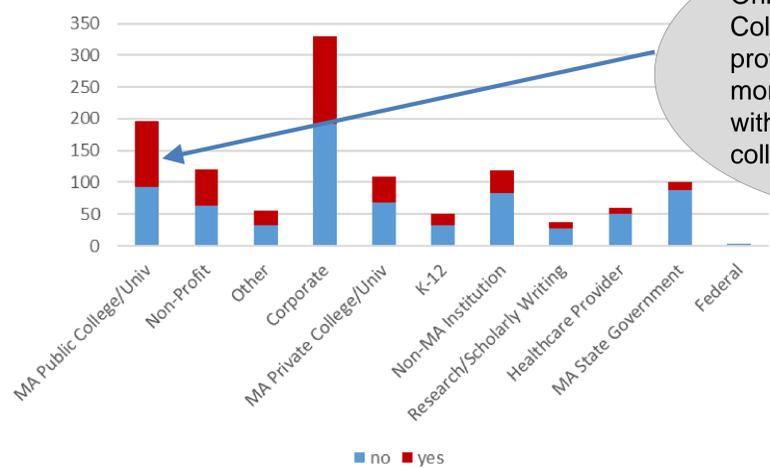
100 search phrases involving:
a) either *MA* or *Massachusetts*
b) a disability-related keyword or phrase
c) either *college* or *university*
25 disability-related terms/phrases based on IDEA and literature

1182 results

796 distinct webpages
38% of results provided information about college-going
Corporate: largest percentage of search results (28%)
Corporate: most common type among first results and among first five results

Highest proportion of college-going information: ADHD (78%), Intellectual Disability (74%), Learning Disability (73%)
Lowest proportion of college-going information: Language Impairment (10%), Vision Impairment (10%), Traumatic Brain Injury (2%), Communication Disorder (0%)

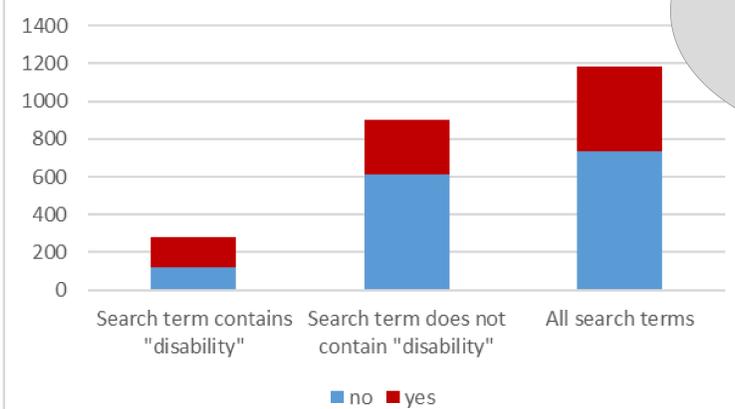
Information on College-Going by Type of Page



Only Massachusetts Public Colleges and Universities provided useful results more often than results without information on college-going (53% yes).

Most of the links in the lists of Google search results were to webpages that did not contain information useful to a student in the college search or choice process, such as a webpage about graduate programs in communication disorders, or the educational background of a therapist treating anxiety.

"Disability" in search language increases likelihood of college-going information



Many students do not consider themselves a person with a disability, despite having a qualifying diagnosis.

Narrative representation of findings

Using a speech-to-text search engine, Tabitha spoke the only three things she thought she knew about her college search: "blind," "Massachusetts," and "university." Then she used her keyboard to scroll through the results with her screenreader. First, ads. One for high-quality window blinds. Nope. Next. Two for online institutions. Nope. Next. Finally, the main search results. Two listings of colleges with need-blind admissions. A bit ableist? And totally unhelpful. Next. A link to the Perkins School for Blind. Not helpful, but getting closer. Next. A website from CollegeChoice.Net promising to provide information about the "50 Best Disability Friendly Colleges and Universities." Promising, Tabitha thought, as she clicked the link.