

loss. If scholars are to perform efficiently they must be empowered to examine all relevant incoming messages and respond in a rational and timely way.

The purpose of this study was to look at productivity measures of individual university scholars (publication and grant counts) and measures of the use and management of email and to determine whether or not a correlation between the two variables exists; to what extent email use is associated with scholarly productivity. The data was gathered from information management systems of Bar-Ilan University and a survey questionnaire. The scholarly community of Bar-Ilan University was surveyed; the n was 390. Statistical analysis included univariate, bivariate and multivariate analyses, and was performed with the SPSS package.

Most previous studies limited measurement of email use to the amount of messages sent in a day, and to whether or not membership entries in association directories contained an email address. This study goes beyond the existing research in the nature of the variables, the scope of the study population and the depth of analysis.

Univariate and bivariate analyses of data were used to assess the correlation between email use and scientific productivity. Pearson's Chi Square and Spearman's Rho were used to analyze many of the bivariate relationships. Chi square tests were used to help determine a relationship between rank and discipline and to determine gender differences in the responses to the variables. Chi-Square was also used to test whether CMC users were disproportionately represented in certain groups, such as rank, academic status, and gender. t-tests and ANOVA were used to determine productivity by looking at the quantity of messages sent and the extent to which email is used for professional tasks. Multivariate regression techniques including MANOVA were used to examine the statistical relationship between email usage and productivity. Cross tabulations were used to examine return variations between academic disciplines. ANOVA were performed to test differences of perceptions and to test differences among group means.

This study confirmed the major findings of previous research in this domain: there is a direct relationship between the use of email and the productivity levels of academics. Evidence suggests that the direction of this relationship is that productivity is dependent on email communication, to a certain degree. Among various demographic population groups – gender, age, disciplinary – variance still exists, but the gaps are decreasing.

We conclude from the evidence of this examination that with increased email usage for work-related purposes one is indeed a more productive scholar. Email is mediating the work of science, as it is mediating all knowledge work and knowledge workers.

The significance of this study is in two principal areas: bringing awareness to the university scientist of email management issues and empowering information professionals to provide better service to the scholars. Through this study, it is anticipated that information professionals will be informed of how email management will likely affect the productivity of university scholars and how these professionals may transfer this information to the scholars.

System no.: 1156057