Comments on technology information questions

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My comments on the questions appear in blue color below.

- The goal of the survey should be stated at the outset.
- If a sample of respondents is being questioned, the sampling method should be identified.

Current Technology Information
i. What information technology is being used including library resources?

This question is too broad for many respondents to answer. I believe we should supply a list of different information technologies in the questionnaire and then ask the respondents to select those that they use.

ii. How frequently are the technologies being used?

What is the significance of this question? There should be a justification for asking it.

iii. What is the learning or other objective for each tool being used?

Significance of question?

iv. What barriers are there to achieving these objectives? (This can be used to identify opportunities to advocate for the program.)

v. List any department policies regarding usage of the technology. (This can be used to determine adherence with University standards.)

This is a too broad and open-ended question. I can imagine a respondent being hard pressed articulating any technological policies, especially when such a policy may not exist. I suggest that we break up the question into two parts. In the first part simply ask whether any technological policy regarding usage of IT exists, and in the second part ask for a statement of the policy if it exists.

vi. List any innovative uses of the technology. (This can be used to identify improved practices across the University.)
vii. What is the skill of faculty and staff utilizing the technology? (This can be used to advocate for additional training)

Again the question is too broad. We need to list all skill sets and then ask the respondents to select from the list. A person with expertise in IT should prepare the list.

I would add the following questions to the list.

VII. Would you like/need assistance in formulation of IT policy for your department?
VIII. Do you find the College IT staff member helpful in providing assistance in use of IT or resolving IT issues you face?

The following questions should form the basis for face-to-face interviews conducted by an interviewer who has an in-depth knowledge of IT.

New Technology Information
i. What new information technologies are you piloting or would like to explore?
ii. What is the learning or objective in using this technology and what is the level of efficiency of using this tool?
iii. Why is this technology needed? EX: Is it a replacement for something currently used or is it increasing learning objectives?
iv. How does it fit into the strategic components of the University?