

→ Fast Facts



News IQ

A new survey of the U.S. public found that a large majority (73 percent) is able to correctly identify the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour but few (only 20 percent) know the share of Americans living at or below the federal poverty line. Sixty percent know that Ukraine was once part of the Soviet Union.

Pew Research Center, "From ISIS to Unemployment: What Do Americans Know?" October 2014, www.people-press.org/files/2014/10/Final-Knowledge-Release3.pdf (retrieved October 6, 2014).



Educational mobility

Education at a Glance 2014, an OECD publication, says that educational mobility has started to slow down in the industrialized world. The number of people with lower qualifications than their parents is 9 percent among 55 to 64 year-olds to 12 percent among 35 to 44 year-olds and 16 percent among 25 to 34 year-olds. In addition, the greater the share of college students in a given country, the smaller the wage premium earned for young workers in those countries.

OECD, "Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators," OECD Publishing, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/eag-2014-en> (retrieved October 7, 2014).



Learning Management Systems

Most U.S. colleges and universities employ some form of learning management system (LMS) software (e.g., Blackboard, Moodle, Sakai, etc.). While 85 percent of faculty uses the LMS, 83 percent of students use it. Fifty six percent of students say they use the LMS in most or all of their courses. "Faculty say they could be more effective instructors—and students say they could be better students—if they were more skilled at using the LMS."

Eden Dahlstrom, D. Christopher Brooks, and Jacqueline Bichsel, "The Current Ecosystem of Learning Management Systems in Higher Education: Student, Faculty, and IT Perspectives," Research report. Louisville, CO: ECAR, September 2014, www.educause.edu/ecar.https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ers1414.pdf (retrieved October 6, 2014).



ILS implementations

"One of the key components of Library Technology Guides is the libraries.org directory of libraries that provides details about libraries and the major technology products they use. The advanced search provides the ability to select libraries according to geographic categories, collection size, library type, and other factors. An additional tool is now available that produces reports of academic libraries in the United States and their automation systems according to the Carnegie Classification Levels of their parent institutions."

Marshall Breeding, "New Resource available in Library Technology Guides: ILS implementations by Carnegie Classification," August 13, 2014, <http://librarytechnology.org/blog.pl?ThreadID=279> (retrieved October 6, 2014).



Useable Knowledge

"What's the point of research if it doesn't get into the hands of practitioners? That's the idea behind Useable Knowledge, the new education research website from the Harvard Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. The website features interviews with and discussions among Harvard researchers and their co-investigators elsewhere about new research, books and best practices. The site will be updated regularly with new content relating to both K-12 and higher education. Current offerings include a discussion about remediation with Bridget Terry Long, the school's academic dean, and recommendations from Harvard's Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) about how to make the tenure and promotion process clearer and less 'painful' for faculty members."

Inside Higher Ed, "Harvard Launches Education Research Website @insidehighered," September 10, 2014, <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2014/09/10/harvard-launches-education-research-website> (retrieved September 10, 2014).

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@email.unc.edu