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Developing on-line questionnaires for mathematicians.

Hewitt, Dave (ed.), Proceedings of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics. Vol. 26 (2). Proceedings of the day conference, Bristol, UK, June 17, 2006. London: British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics (BSRLM). 67-72 (2006).

Summary: In this paper the author discusses the development of an on-line questionnaire that he has designed for his dissertation research. By employing this questionnaire, he gauges university mathematicians' use of Computer Algebra Systems (CAS) in undergraduate mathematics courses and to understand their thinking about the advantages and disadvantages of CAS use in university-level teaching. The development of the questionnaire is based on an interview study with mathematicians that was conducted in 2005. This integrates issues that emerged from this earlier study with concerns described in the mathematics education literature. The complexity of the questionnaire design is complicated by the fact that it examines mathematicians in three countries, Hungary, the United Kingdom, and the United States, which requires to consider different aspects of international comparative research and differences in cultures. The author reports on the difficulties encountered during the design process of this questionnaire and highlights issues which researchers must pay attention to when they decide to use on-line questionnaires.

Classification: C80 R20 D30

Keywords: CAS use; questionnaires; educational research; universities; online questionnaire design