

ZMATH 2015c.00157

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How do high school students get help on their mathematics homework? A study of digital and non-digital resource use.

J. Comput. Math. Sci. Teach. 33, No. 4, 455-483 (2014).

Summary: No one is born with all of the answers, and therefore it is not unusual for students of all ages and ability levels to need assistance completing their homework assignments. Traditionally, resources for seeking help on homework included class notes, textbooks, teachers, friends, tutors, and parents. Now, however, the internet has greatly extended this set of resources. Given their exposure to technology, together with an expanded pool of accessible resources, how do students today seek help on their homework? Based on a survey of more than 1,800 high school students, this paper documents how and where students seek help on their mathematics assignments, their perceived need for additional help, and their awareness of free digital resources. Comparisons between students in remedial, core, and advanced courses are made. Findings indicate that students at all levels strongly favor non-digital over digital resources, and that class notes are the predominant resource used by students in core and advanced courses. Implications for these findings and for improving homework help are discussed.

Classification: C40 U70 U50 C30

Keywords: help seeking; use of digital resources; use of non-digital resources; homework