LOOKING THROUGH THE GAPS OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT
The paper is based on a sample of 719 University of Chile students taken in 2004. It analyzes the differences between material cultural capital and incorporated capital in connection with access to and use of new information and communication technologies (NICTs). Using different methods of quantitative analysis, different levels in the digital divide regarding these tools become apparent. The digital divide appears to be especially linked to gender but also to socioeconomic status. The latter variable, despite its presence, has a more indirect effect and does not appear to influence the attitude and mind-set of students regarding the use of NICTs. Results indicate that further study about gender differences is needed and that they are also necessary to determine the responsibility of universities and their approach to this matter.

Key words: NICT, university students, socioeconomic status, gender, digital divide, cultural capital

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