

Internet Use Survey – Summary of Findings

Morrison County Historical Society

March 9, 2011

MCHS conducted an Internet Use Survey between November 23, 2010, and February 28, 2011. Paper versions of the survey were sent to members via the newsletter. An online version was set up at SurveyMonkey. We solicited responses to the online version via the MCHS blog, Facebook page, and Twitter feed.

While the questions were the same in the paper and online versions, the numbering of the questions was slightly different between the two. We asked the following questions (numbering is from the paper survey):

- 1) How often are you online? Never, Rarely (less than once a month), Sometimes (once or twice a week), Often (several times a week), Daily

If your answer is Never, why don't you go online?

- 2) Do you use email? Yes, No

If yes, do you use it for ... (check all that apply) Work, Personal use, School, Volunteer work

- 3) List the 5 websites you visit most often.

- 4) Have you ever contributed content to an online site? Yes, No

- 5) Have you ever purchased anything online? Yes, No

- 6) Have you ever visited the Morrison County Historical Society's website at <http://www.morrisoncountyhistory.org>? Yes, No

If yes, how often do you visit?

Are there any resources you'd like to see added to the MCHS website? If so, please explain what you'd like to see.

We received a total of 44 responses, 34 through the online survey and 10 through the paper survey.

Here's how they responded to each question:

- 1) How often are you online?

Never: 2

Rarely: 2

Sometimes: 1

Often: 5

Daily: 33

Skipped question: 1

For those who never go online, the stated reason was that they didn't own computers.

- 2) Do you use email?
Yes: 40
No: 2
Skipped question: 2

If yes, do you use it for ... (check all that apply)

Work: 25
Personal use: 39
School: 4
Volunteer work: 19
Skipped question: 4

- 3) List the 5 websites you visit most often.

Skipped question: 9
Answered question: 35

This question had lots of answers to compile. By far, the most popular website was Facebook, with 18 people mentioning it within their 5 most-visited websites. Second was Google, with 7 responses, followed by Amazon.com, Great River Regional Library, and Wikipedia, each with 5 mentions.

Rather than list each individual set of responses, we've broken the websites listed into broad categories by type of website. The websites mentioned above (Facebook et. al.) are within these compiled numbers.

History & genealogy: 29 mentions
Social media: 28
News: 28
Shopping & entertainment: 19
Books & literature: 15
School-related: 9
Weather: 7
Travel: 3
Finance/banking: 2
Government: 2
Miscellaneous websites: 20 mentions (these sites didn't fit into the other categories)

- 4) Have you ever contributed content to an online site?
Yes: 25
No: 17
Skipped question: 2

- 5) Have you ever purchased anything online?
Yes: 33
No: 10
Skipped question: 1

- 6) Have you ever visited the Morrison County Historical Society's website at <http://www.morrisoncountyhistory.org>?

Yes: 32

No: 10

Skipped question: 2

If yes, how often do you visit? This was an open-ended question. Respondents said the following (repeated answers are only shown once here for brevity):

Occasionally; quarterly; once or twice a month; approximately once a month; 4-5 times a week; every few months; monthly; probably 2X a month; once a week; about once a year --- NOT often enough!; once a month, more if I need answer to a genealogy question; new to site; several times a week; hard for me to get online where I live, would go to the website if I had internet in my home; almost daily; a few times a year; weekly to bi-weekly; Once – looking for cemetery information, and I found what I needed; twice a year; a few times per month; occasionally – usually when I receive a routine e-mail from MCHS; Whenever it shows up in a Google Alert – suspect SEO is not as developed as it might be; I had not visited the MCHS website for a long time. I am so impressed with the current website!

Are there any resources you'd like to see added to the MCHS website? If so, please explain what you'd like to see.

More visuals

I think more articles with pictures would be great! :)

Dynamic pages with basic search info, ability to write on the record (tagging), and way more on Nathan Richardson!

can't think of any at the moment

no.

OMG, my **DREAM** would be to have all the copies of the Pierz Journal and Little Falls Transcript digitized and searchable online. If that's too much to ask (!) then digitizing all the WPA pioneer biographies would be simply amazing too, but the newspapers would be better because they're deteriorating and really NEED to be readable for future generations as well as for US.

List of books resources held

Minnesota historical Society, genealogy web sites, historical web sites, county historical web sites

local data on cemetery's...names of people buried in cemetery Local News Papers
...before 1900

Show more photographs of known and unknown people.

more genealogy

More indexes of our resources, a formal photo gallery, a community section covering the brief history of each Morrison County community

Photos and brief bios on the MCHS board

newspaper indexes, county obituaries, WPA biographies, family histories

More stuff, more of everything. More photographs of unknown people in your collection.

Little Falls Daily Transcript archive -- but I know that would be too expensive. Maybe some rich person will donate funds for this?

I think that you have an excellent list of resources on your websites.