



Using technology to strengthen our community

Worcester Institute for Senior Education
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What we'll cover today

- ▶ About WISE
- ▶ About us
- ▶ Where we are
- ▶ Where we're headed
- ▶ What we've learned

These slides, including notes and references, are available on www.assumption.edu/wise.





About WISE

- www.assumption.edu/wise
- www.facebook.com/WISEWorcester
- Founded 1993
- Membership: 435
- Courses per year: 66
- Travel: Domestic and foreign
- Monthly special events



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WISE is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a series of events in June 2013. For more information, visit our website – www.assumption.edu/wise and our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/WISEWorcester.

Our mission

- ▶ **Mission:**
 - The Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE) at Assumption College is a member-directed organization providing lifelong learning opportunities for older adults.
- ▶ **Vision:**
 - Our vision is to be a learning community that offers older adults intellectual stimulation, socialization, personal growth, and opportunities for service.
- ▶ **Values:**
 - WISE values lifelong learning, the empowerment of older adults, peer support, and mutual respect in a collegial environment.



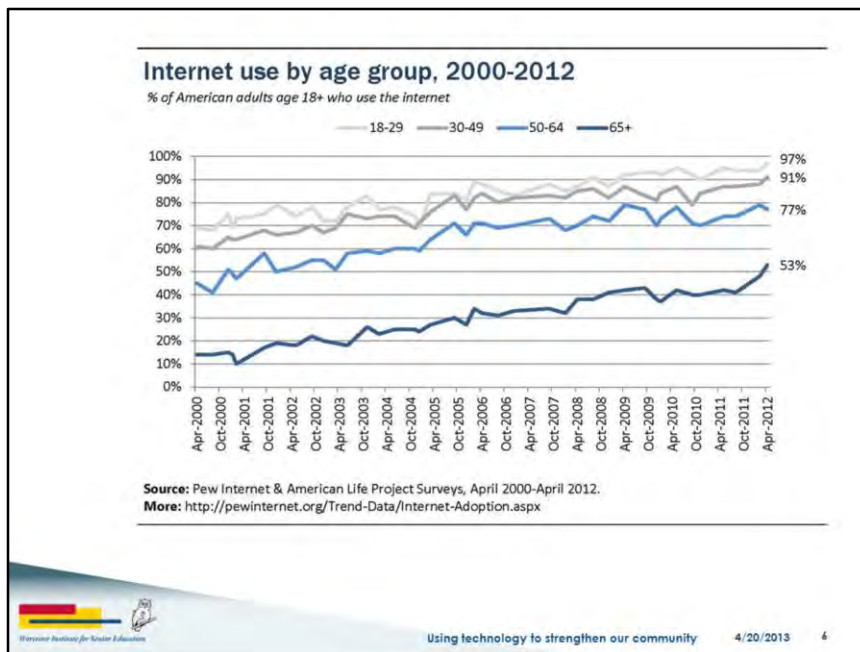
About us



 Worcester Institute for Senior Education

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Our biographies are in the program materials.



The Pew Internet & American Life Survey shows a steady increase in Internet usage by people 65 and above.

Within WISE, we've seen an even faster increase. More than 80% of our members use email. (We suspect that the number may be even higher; some people are not confident about the usage and so don't share their email addresses.)

In addition, we've observed more and more tablets and smartphones in our classes.



- ▶ Email communications
- ▶ Newsletter
- ▶ Facebook page
- ▶ Workshops and study groups
- ▶ Social networking courses
- ▶ Communications committee
 - Provide technical support to Council, staff, and other committees
 - Develop infrastructure for online activities



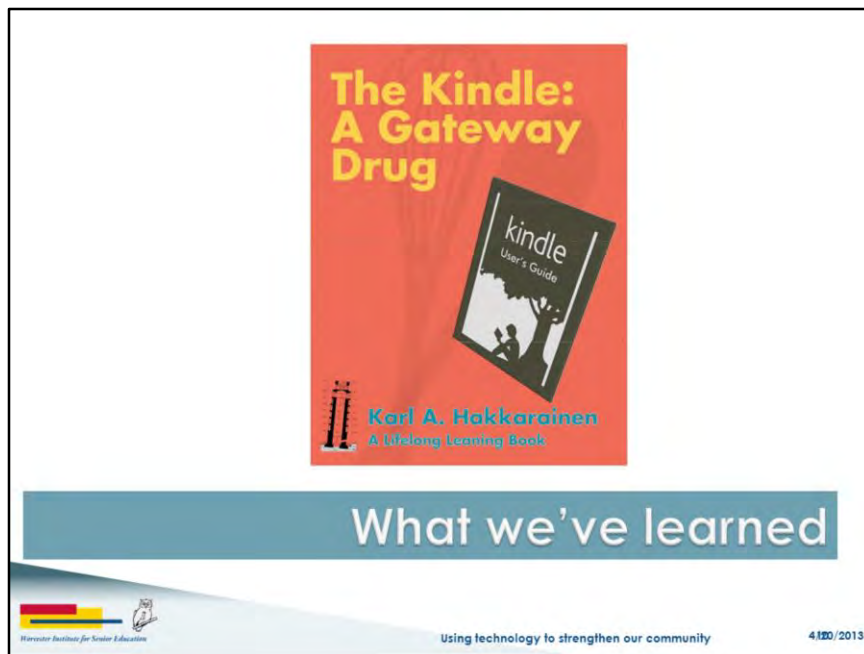
In March 2013, we concluded our Future of the News Business with a conversation with Tracy Novick, a Worcester School Committee member, and Mike Benedetti, a Worcester activist and video producer. Mike hosts a weekly show, 508, on the Worcester community cable access channel, WCCA.

Mike recorded an episode of 508, asking class members how they obtained and used local news.


[Link to video on YouTube](#)



- ▶ All-electronic communications
- ▶ Online distribution of course materials
 - Blackboard
 - Kindle, Nook, and other e-Readers
- ▶ Increased use of Facebook, Google+, and others to support sharing about courses
- ▶ Video
- ▶ Privacy policies




- ▶ When the 92-year-olds are buying iPads, you know that you've crossed the tipping point
- ▶ Kindle as a gateway drug
 - Reading for the visually impaired
 - Portability
- ▶ Strong interest for learning about technology
 - Keeping in touch with grandchildren and scattered families
 - Staying relevant
- ▶ Small amounts of personal attention yields big results



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Questions?



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