Topic:

The legal information needs of women who experience online harassment.

Victoria

- MLIS candidate
- First Nations Concentration Curriculum (FNCC)
- Interested in feminism and the information needs of women
- Undergraduate in Global Development and Social Justice and Peace Studies

Jocelyn

- MLIS candidate
- Interested in feminism and the information needs of women
- Interested in legal research and the information needs of minority groups
Method:

A print questionnaire, developed by the researchers, consisting of four sections:
- Demographics
- Online Harassment Experience
- Responding to Harassment
- Information Search

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants:</th>
<th>Procedure:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female UBC students who have experienced online harassment in any form.</td>
<td>Participants were recruited in-person at UBC’s IK Barber, Allard Law building, and the Student Union Building.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where have you experienced online harassment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Platform</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Forum</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumblr</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games Chat Room</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinkedIn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Dating websites i.e. Tinder, OkCupid
- Personal blogs
- TripAdvisor
When asked how they responded to their harassment...
When asked how they responded to their harassment...

82% said they ignored it.
30% of participants conducted an information search regarding their harassment
30% of participants conducted an information search regarding their harassment

11% searched for legal information specifically
What did participants search for?

★ 22% Stories of others’ experiences with online harassment

★ 15% An overview of the topic

★ 11% Statutes and legislation regarding online harassment
Further Questions:

Why do so few women report conducting an information search regarding their online harassment?
Why do so few seek legal information regarding their rights?

Study Limitations:

- One limitation of using a survey is the lack of qualitative data it garners
- Limited to UBC students over 19

On-Going Research:

- Directed research project
- Focus groups
- Add qualitative data to our current quantitative data
- Hope to publish in CAIS
References:


http://www.crime-research.org/library/Cyberstalking.htm