



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MÁLAGA

**‘THE USE OF THE INTERNET BY THE ELDERLY IN
THE UK AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THEIR WELL-
BEING PERCEPTIONS.**

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The objectives

- The elderly: 65 or more years old
- The use of the Internet:
 - How they use it.
 - The frequency
 - The perception of their own abilities
 - Their attitudes towards Internet
- Their perceptions of the influence of the Internet in their lives.
- Their well-being perceptions:
 - Lack of companionship
 - Left out
 - Isolation

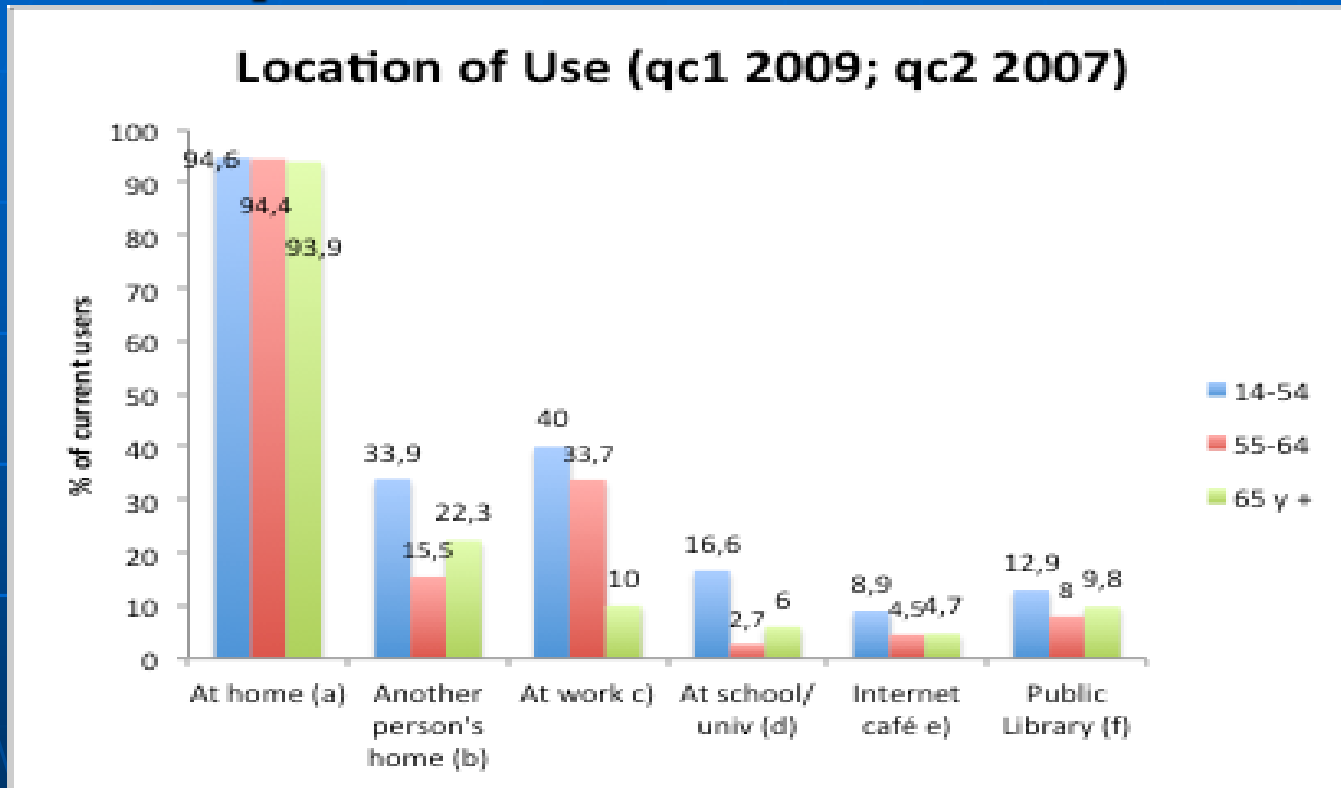
Objectives

- **Study the use of the Internet by the elderly in the UK.**
- **Get to know if the use of the Internet by the elderly influences their well-being perceptions**

1.A. How do elderly use the Internet in the UK

1. How do elderly use Internet in UK?

1- Ubiquitous Access:

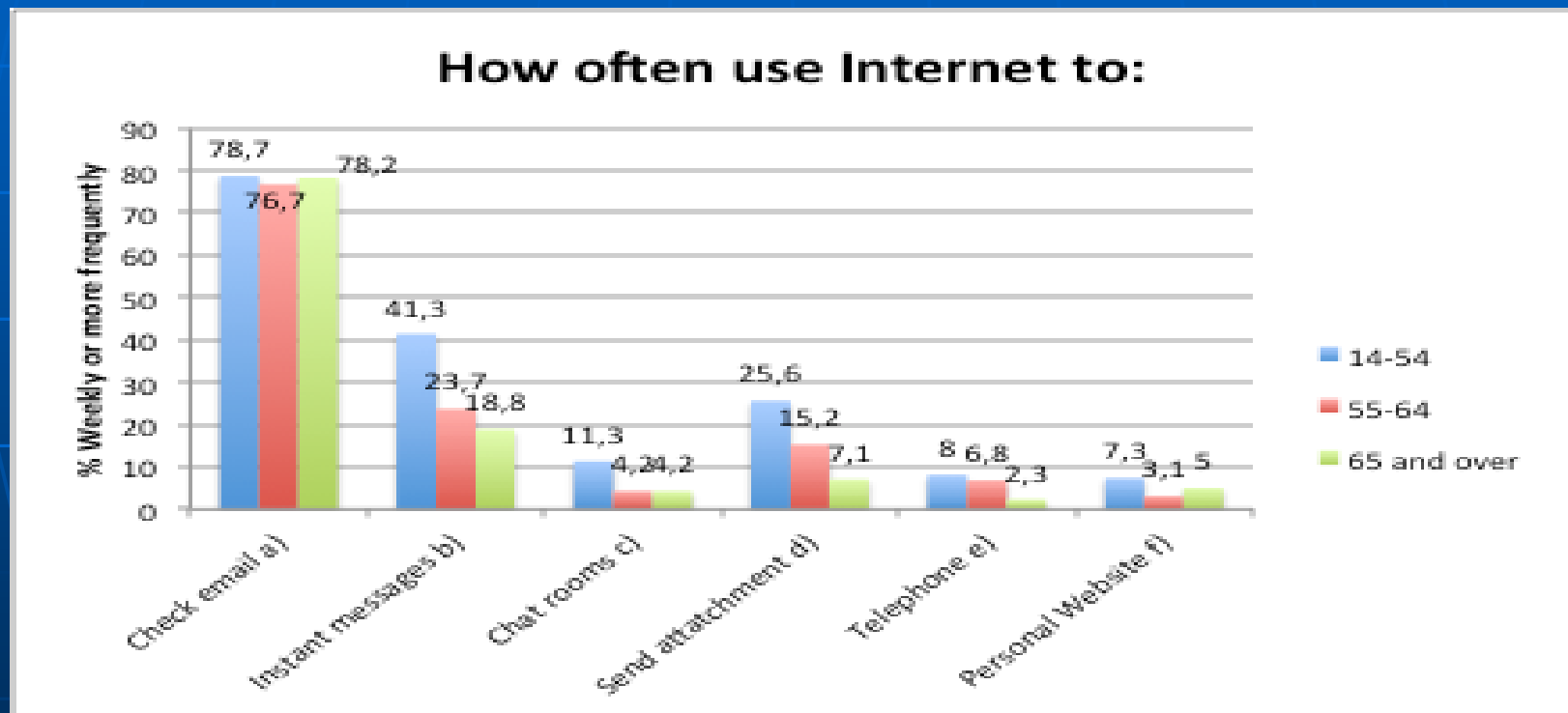


- Oxis 2007, 2009. Na=2,902; Nb= 2,797; Nc=2,821; Nd=2,777; Ne= 2,772; Nf=2,786 users (without ex users)

Instrumental Activities by Internet

2. Communication online (qc22, qc24)

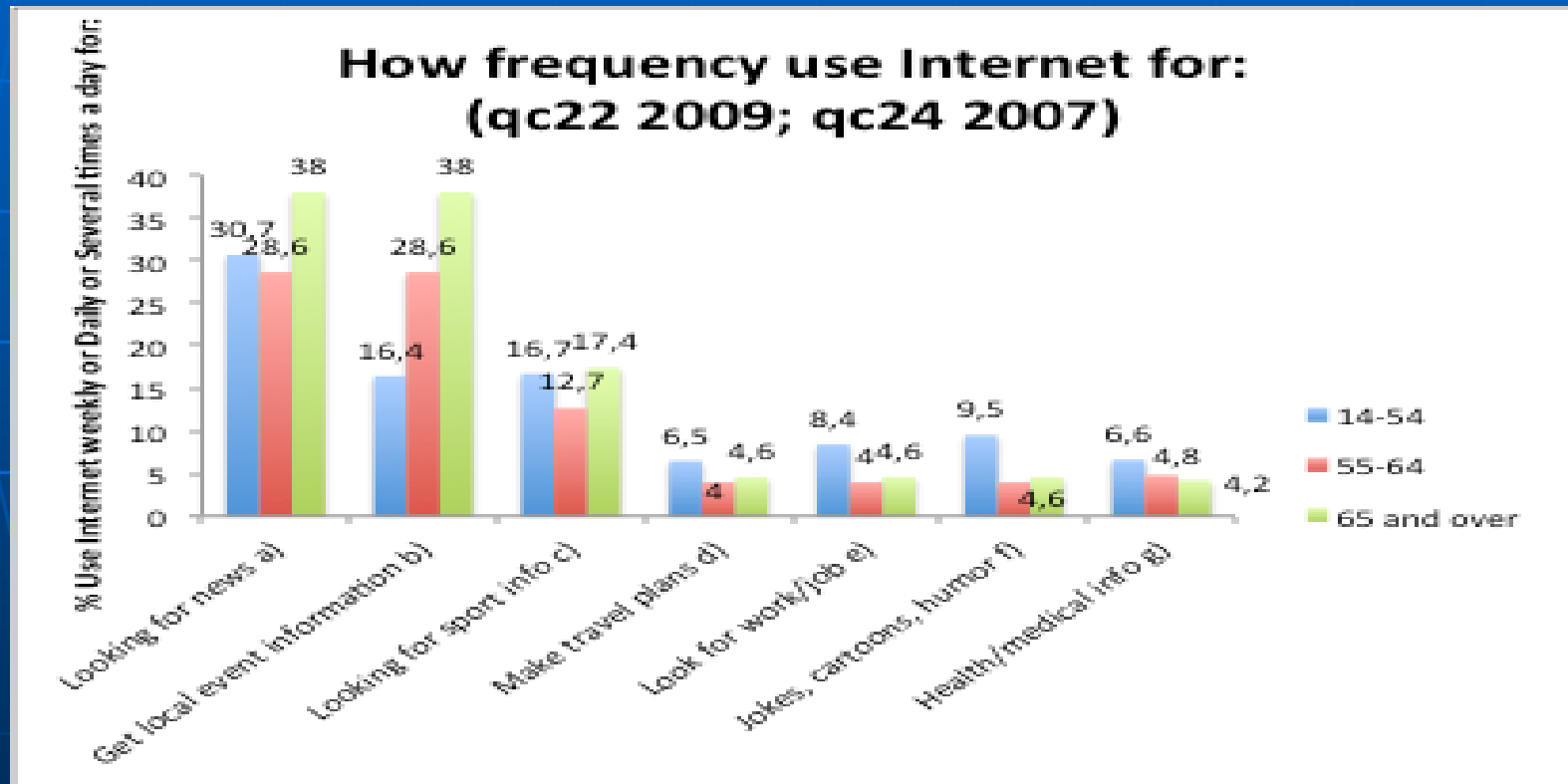
- Frequency of use by different type of uses



OxIS 2007, 2009. Na=2,286; Nb=1,071; Nc=286; Nd=891; Ne=213; Nh=91 users
(without ex users)

Instrumental Activities by Internet

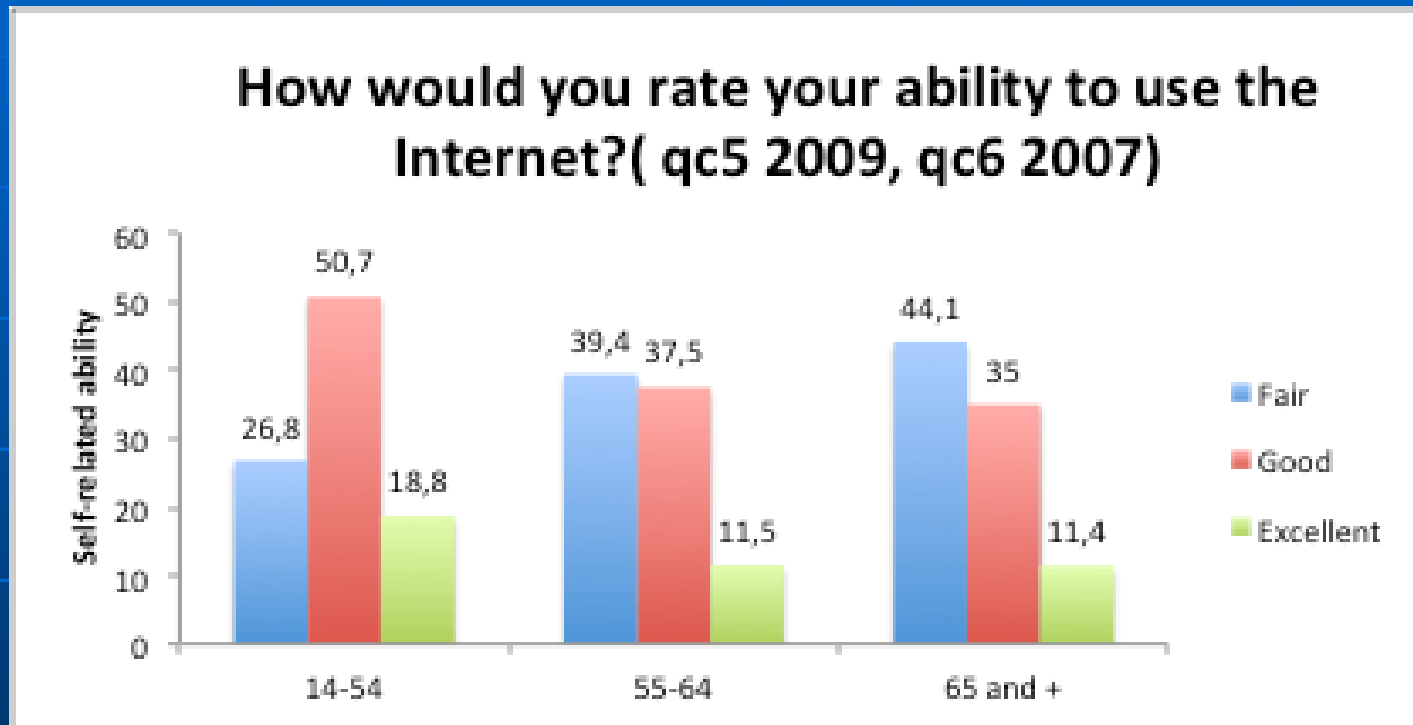
- 2.2.- Weekly or more than weekly use for Information seeking



OxIS 2007, 2009. Na=2,896; Nb=2,889; Nc=2,895; Nd=2,902; Ne=2,875; Nf=2,893; Ng= 2,890 users (without ex users)

How do elderly use Internet in UK?

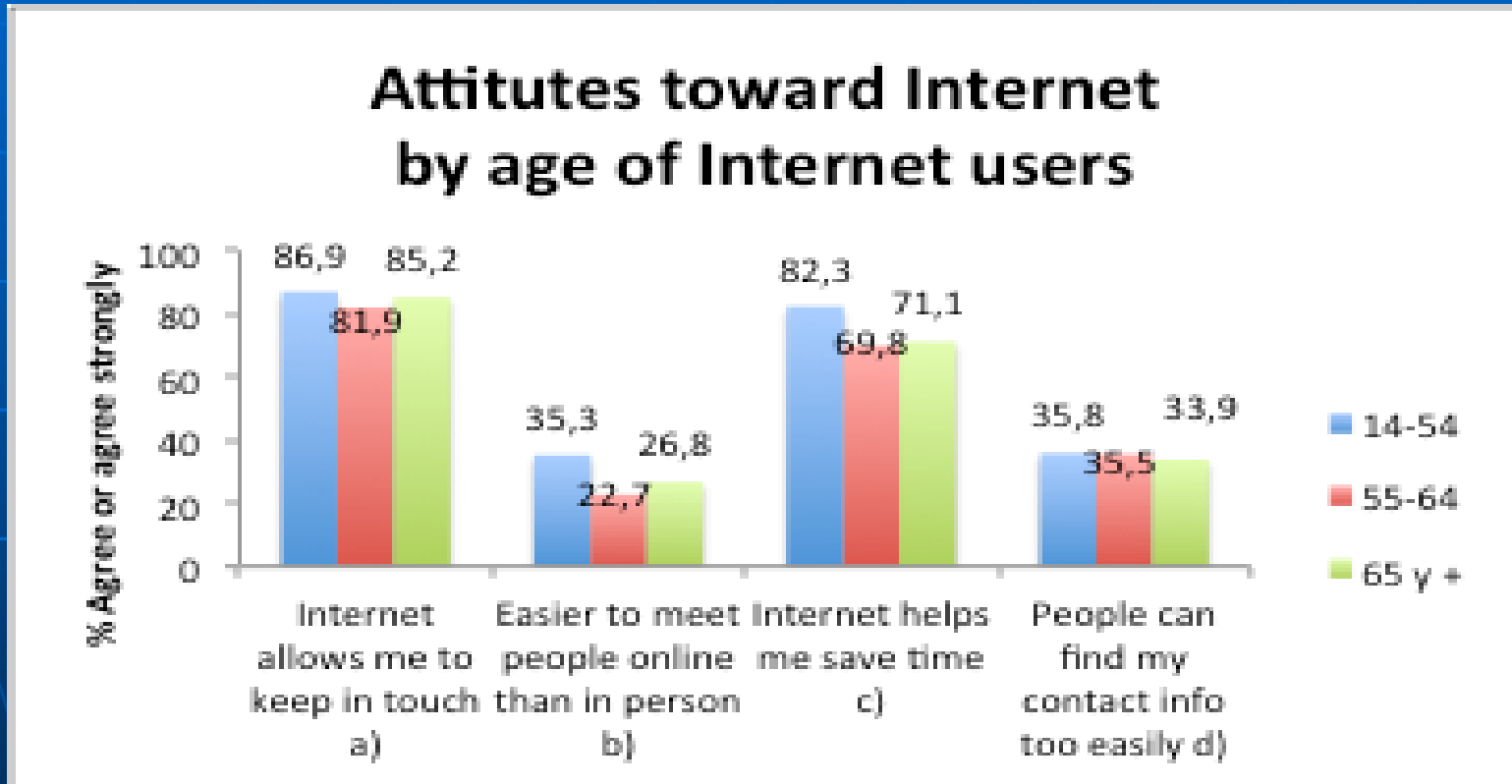
■ 3- Skill and Expertise:



OxIS 2007, 2009. N=2,916 users (without ex users)

How do elderly use Internet in UK?

■ 4- Attitudes of Internet Users



OxIS 2007, 2009. Na=2,912; Nb=2,785; Nc=2,911; Nd=2,747 users
(without ex users)

Table 1. Proportion of Internet users by age group and characteristics¹ Ex_users excluded. Weighted Data 2007-2009 World Internet Survey (Oxford Internet Institute).

Variable	de 14 a 54 años	de 55 a 64 años	65 años y más
Gender:			
male	0.878	0.647	0.387
female	0.861	0.541	0.283
Marital status:			
livingtogether	0.882	0.635	0.425
single	0.875	0.480	0.555
divorced	0.774	0.591	0.369
widowed	0.608	0.337	0.140
Education:			
no university	0.842	0.524	0.293
university	0.975	0.957	0.702
Other language:			
no	0.861	0.562	0.294
yes	0.905	0.785	0.575
Situation:			
retired	0.422	0.556	0.287
working	0.904	0.681	0.684
others	0.818	0.396	0.546
Disability:			
no disability	0.886	0.634	0.406
disabilitynolimit	0.673	0.469	0.227
dissab_limituse	0.610	0.252	0.150
Interest in politics:			
no	0.866	0.572	0.314
yes	0.919	0.813	0.577
Shy:			
no	0.890	0.630	0.348
yes	0.772	0.459	0.290
Religion:			
sí	0.870	0.584	0.312
no	0.866	0.617	0.433
Place:			
big city	0.887	0.608	0.359
small city	0.868	0.529	0.315
suburbs	0.863	0.641	0.334
country village	0.888	0.729	0.434
other	0.936	0.809	0.198
Year:			
2007	0.847	0.597	0.333
2009	0.894	0.589	0.337
Number of observations (weighted)	2761	513	825

1.B. Which are the factors that are related to the use of the Internet among elderly in the UK?

SOME RESULTS

- The age, the marital status, the level of education, speaking a second language and being in the labour market influence the use of the Internet among the elderly.
- It can be observed that the older they get the less predisposition to use the Internet.
- The marital status influence on the use of the Internet among the elderly. In the United Kingdom, those elderly that are widowed or divorced tend to use the Internet in a lower level than those that are married.
- The level of studies influence the use of the Internet, those with a university level tend to show a higher predisposition to use the Internet than those with a lower level of education.
- Among the elderly sex doesn't have an influence on the use of the Internet.

SOME RESULTS

- There are some other factors that influence the use of the Internet among the elderly: being interested in political issues and being no religious. Those elderly that live in country villages show a higher propensity to use the Internet than those living in big cities.
- And finally, the elderly that answer to the 2009 survey show a higher predisposition to use the Internet than those who answer to the 2007 Survey.

2. The influence of the use of the Internet by the elderly on their well-being perceptions

- We offer an alternative perspective to evaluate the effects of the use of Internet on the elderly well being consists of the direct analysis of their auto evaluation to the role that New Technologies and the Internet play in their lives.

WELL-BEING

Table 4. Use of Internet and well-being: some indicators

Indicators	14 -54		55- 64		65 and over		Total		N
	non-user	user	non-user	user	non-user	user	non-user	user	
Tech is making things better	0.373	0.821	0.303	0.715	0.304	0.793	0.326	0.808	2979
Internet makes life easier	0.401	0.877	0.387	0.798	0.432	0.767	0.412	0.859	2979
Loosing Internet would be a problem*		0.667		0.534		0.550		0.641	1254
How often do you feel: (some of the time to always)									
Lack companionship**	0.295	0.146	0.291	0.131	0.312	0.191	0.303	0.149	1401
Left out**	0.267	0.109	0.247	0.081	0.201	0.162	0.229	0.111	1401
Isolated**	0.285	0.117	0.261	0.084	0.277	0.142	0.276	0.116	1401

* Only 2007 Survey.

** Only 2009 Survey.

Table 6. Feelings and the use of the Internet

Variables	Lack of				
	Coef.	Coef.	Coef.		
		<i>Lack of companion</i>	<i>Isolated</i>	<i>Left out</i>	
Groups:					
User [55-64] years old	0.018	-0.285	-0.010		
65 year old or over User	0.438	0.139	0.832	**	
Non user [14-54] years old	0.674 ***	0.762 ***	0.840 ***		
Non user [55-64 years old]	0.693 **	0.651 **	0.765 **		
Non user 65 years old or over	0.218	0.054	0.338		
Female	0.217 ^	0.205	0.216		
Marital status (Ref.: married or living with partner)					
single	1.094 ***	1.238 ***	1.227 ***		
divorced	1.397 ***	1.590 ***	1.605 ***		
widowed	1.807 ***	1.513 ***	1.017 ***		
University	-0.092	-0.391 *	-0.390 *		
Situation (Ref.: retired)					
Working	-0.003	-0.429	-0.157		
Other situations	0.362	0.163	0.603 *		
Disability	0.864 ***	1.079 ***	0.956 ***		
Place (Ref.: Big city)					
Small city	-0.231	-0.232	-0.160		
Suburbs	-0.063	-0.327	-0.077		
Country village	-0.104	0.031	0.086		
Other	-0.599	-1.246	-1.062		
constant	-2.570 ***	-2.527 ***	-3.056 ***		
Number of observations	1764	1764	1764		
LR chi2	211.95 ***	237.32 ***	202.18		
Log likelihood	-741.46	-641.10	-611.57		
Pseudo R ²	0.1251	0.1562	0.1419		

Conclusions

- The majority of the elderly users accede to the Internet at home and there are not differences between the groups.
- The older they get the lower self-rated abilities they have.
- One of the most positive attitude towards Internet is related to the fact that it allows them to keep in touch
- Those elderly who show the highest propensity to use the Internet are: married or living as married, those with university studies, speakers of a second language, those that are still working, no disable, those that have political interests, non religious, living in country villages and those that answered to the 2009 Survey.
- Marital status and disability are variables that are relevant to explain the well-being.

Conclusions

- The elderly group offer a positive perception of the role that New Technology and the Internet play in their lives.
- It have bee proved that among the youngest groups the feeling of lack of companionship, left out and isolation from others is higher between non-users of the Internet than between users.
- In the case of the elderly the marital status, the level of education and their disability situation help to explain the well-being perception.

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