

A Comparative Analysis of Student Usage of the Virtual Learning Environment Moodle in AIT in 2009 and 2011

Dr. Sheila Faherty

Department of Nursing and Health Science, AIT

Tunku Badariah Tunku Ahmad

Institute of Education, IIUM

Nuala Harding

The Teaching and Learning Unit, AIT

L&T Showcase

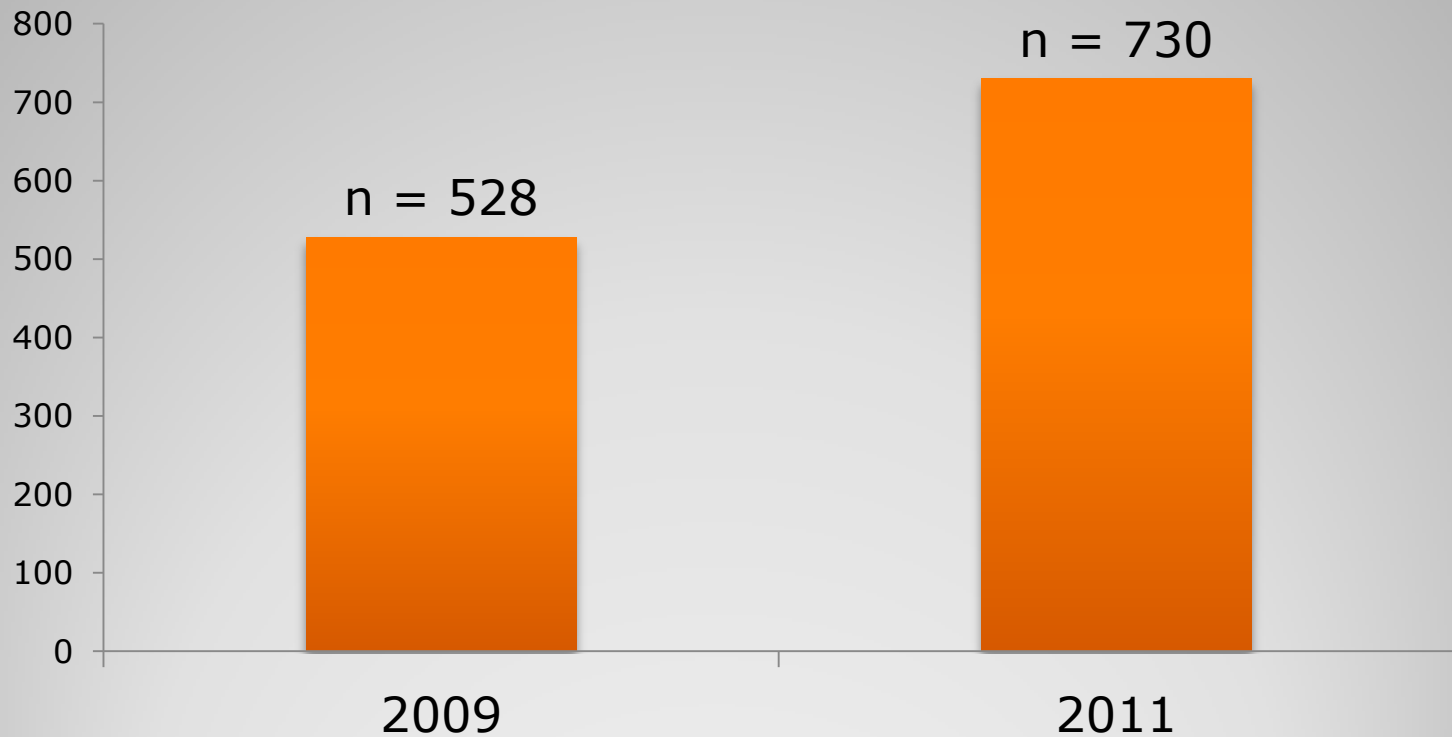
June 10, 2013

Athlone Institute of Technology, Ireland

Demographic Information of Respondents

Total Number of Respondents

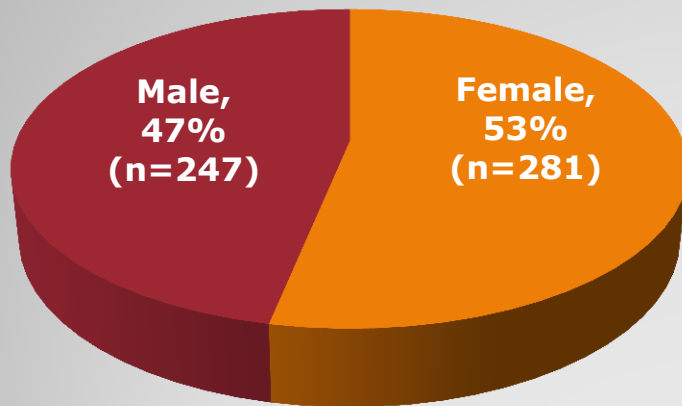
(by year)



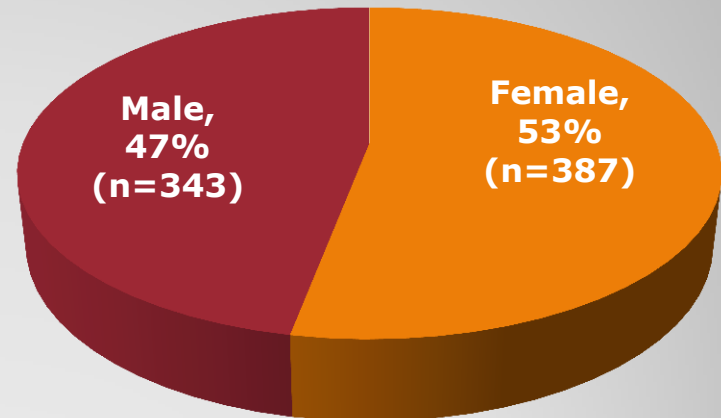
Breakdown of Respondents

(by Year & Gender)

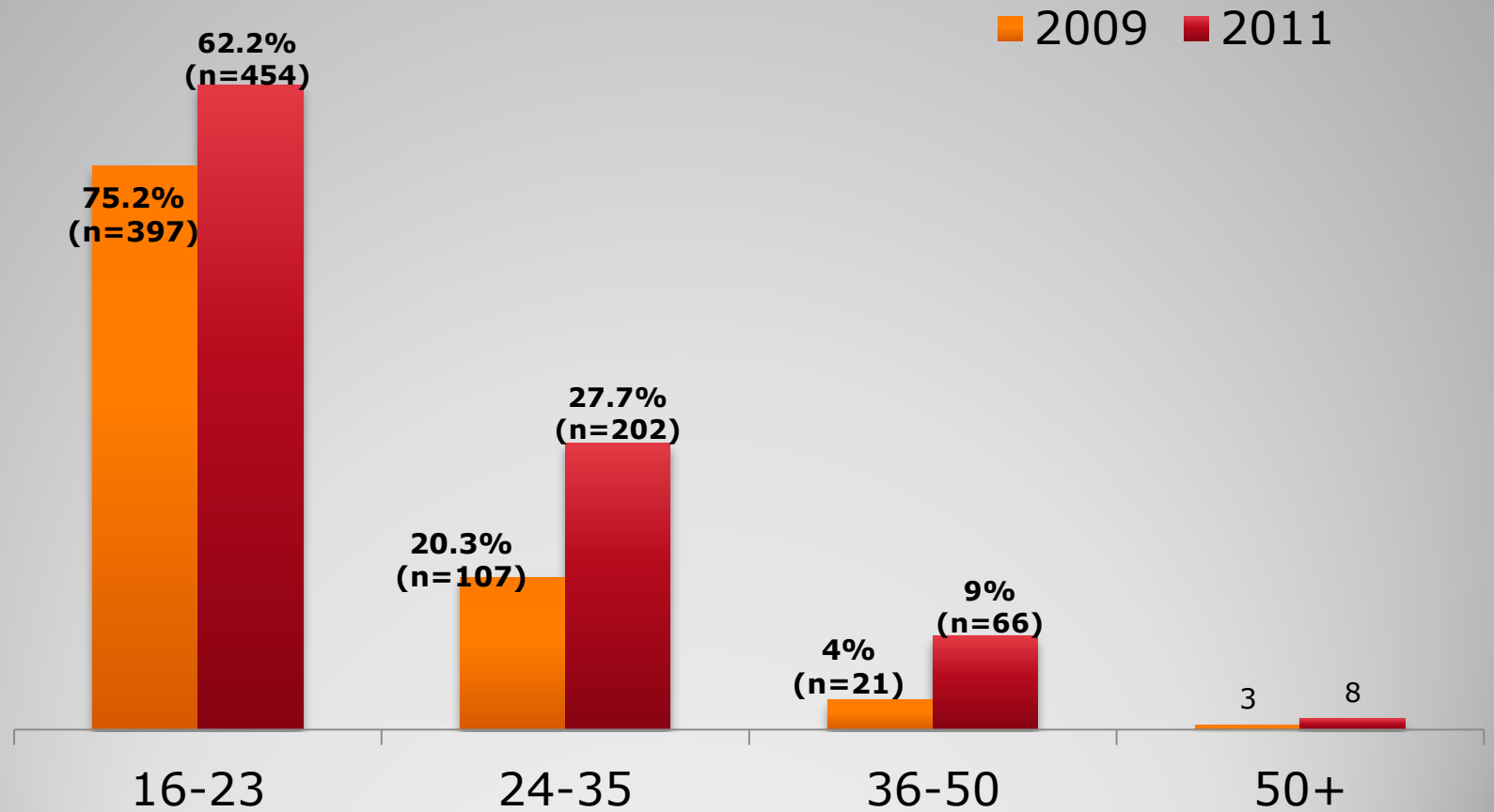
2009



2011

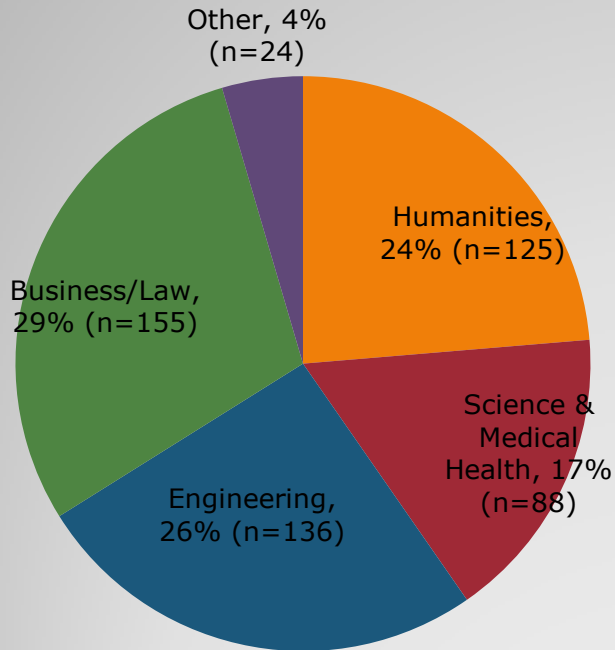


Respondents' Age

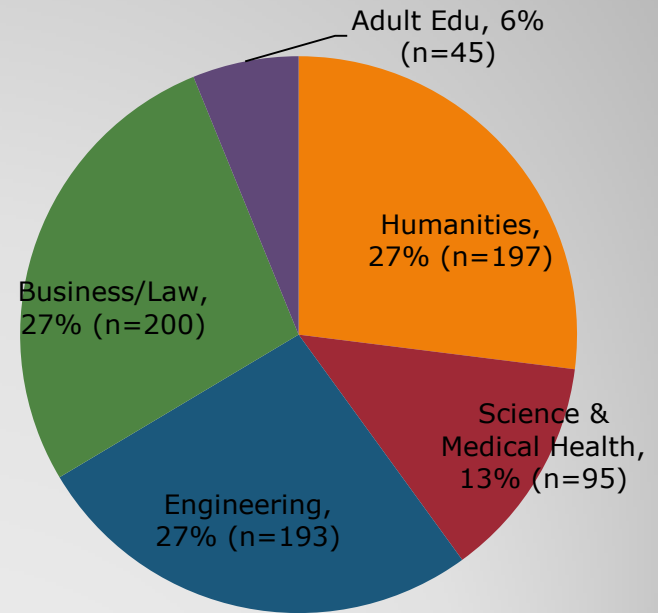


Field of Study

2009

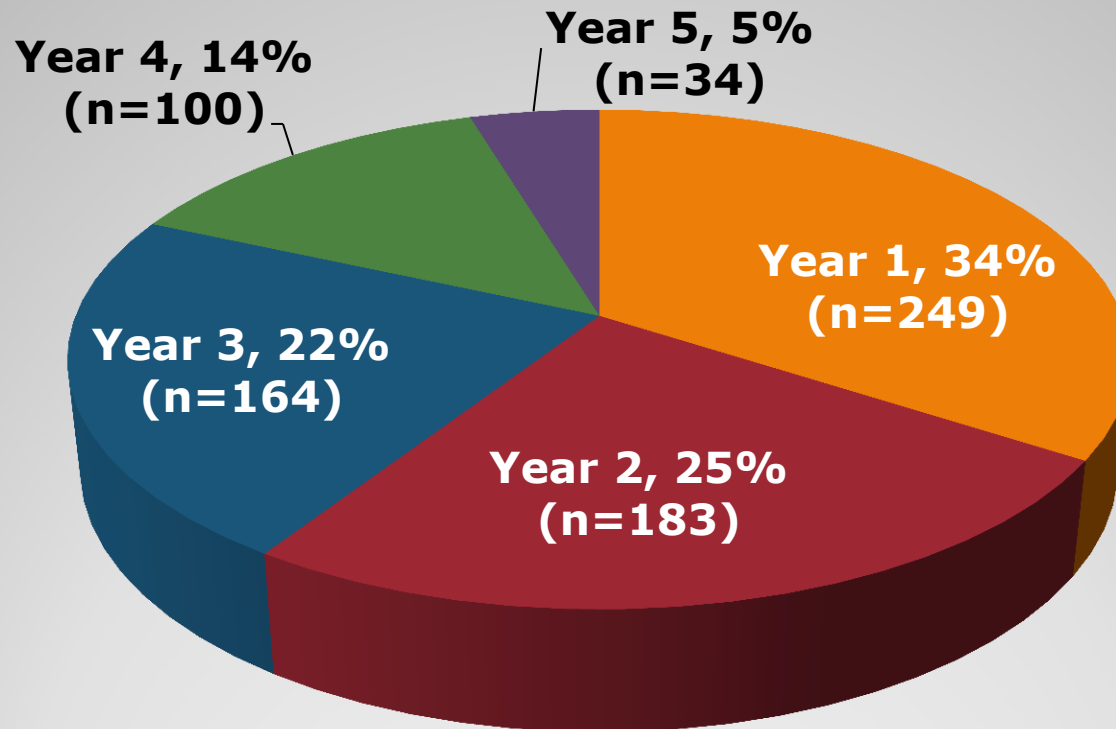


2011



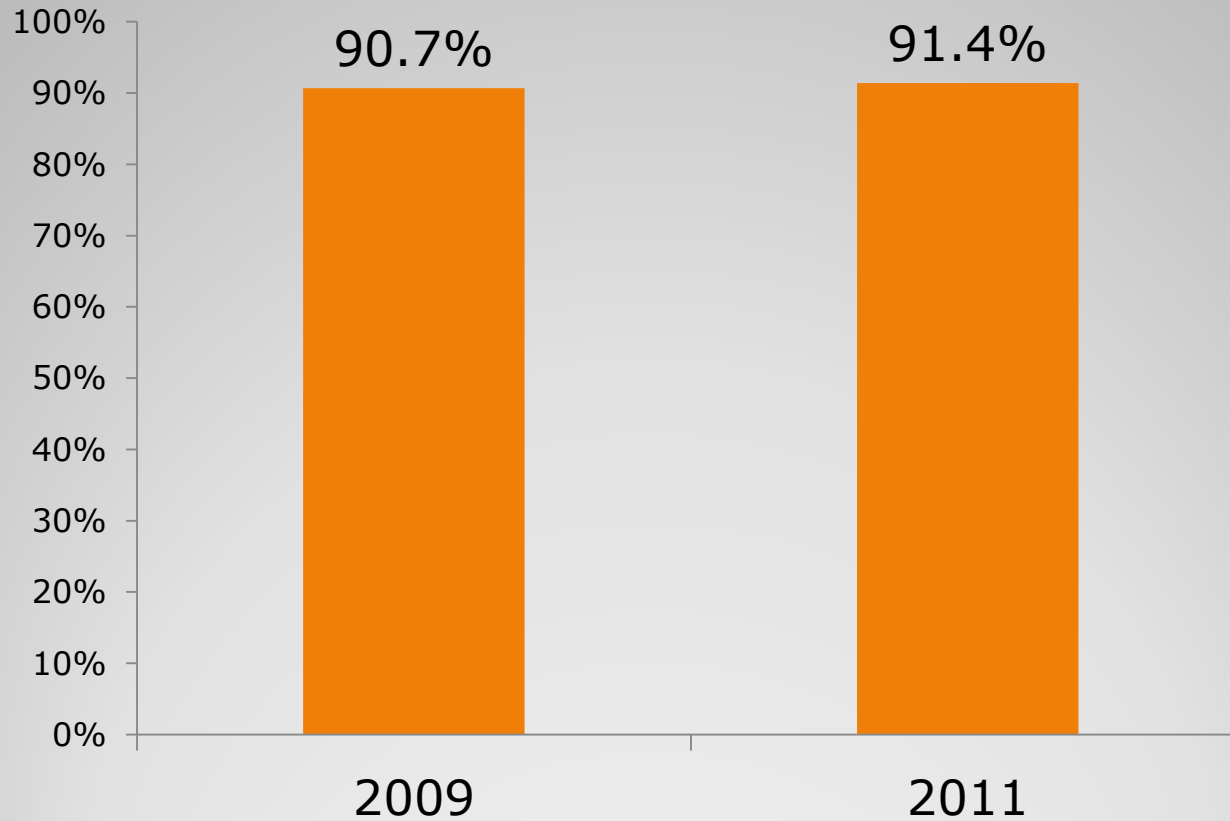
Year of Study

(note: this was recorded only for 2011)

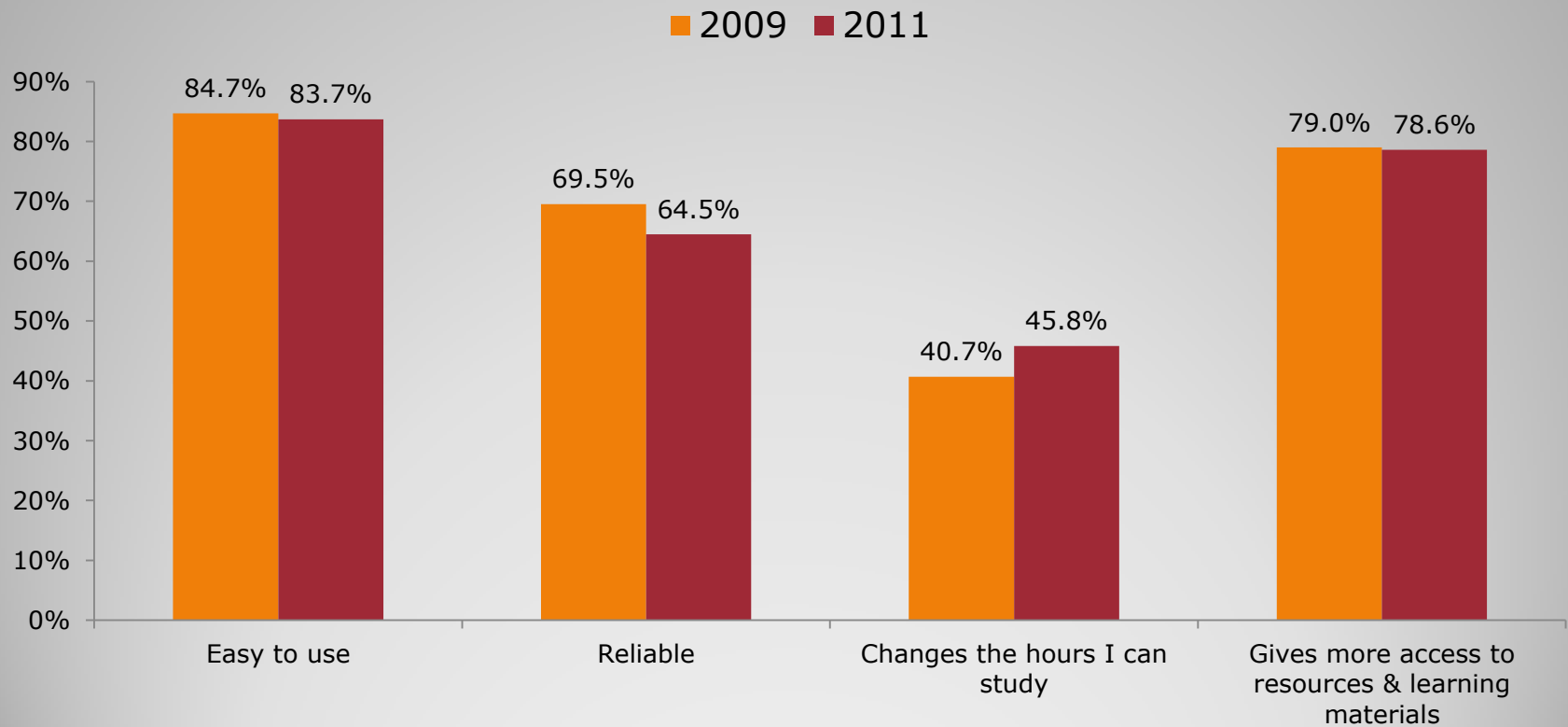


Student Perceptions towards the VLE

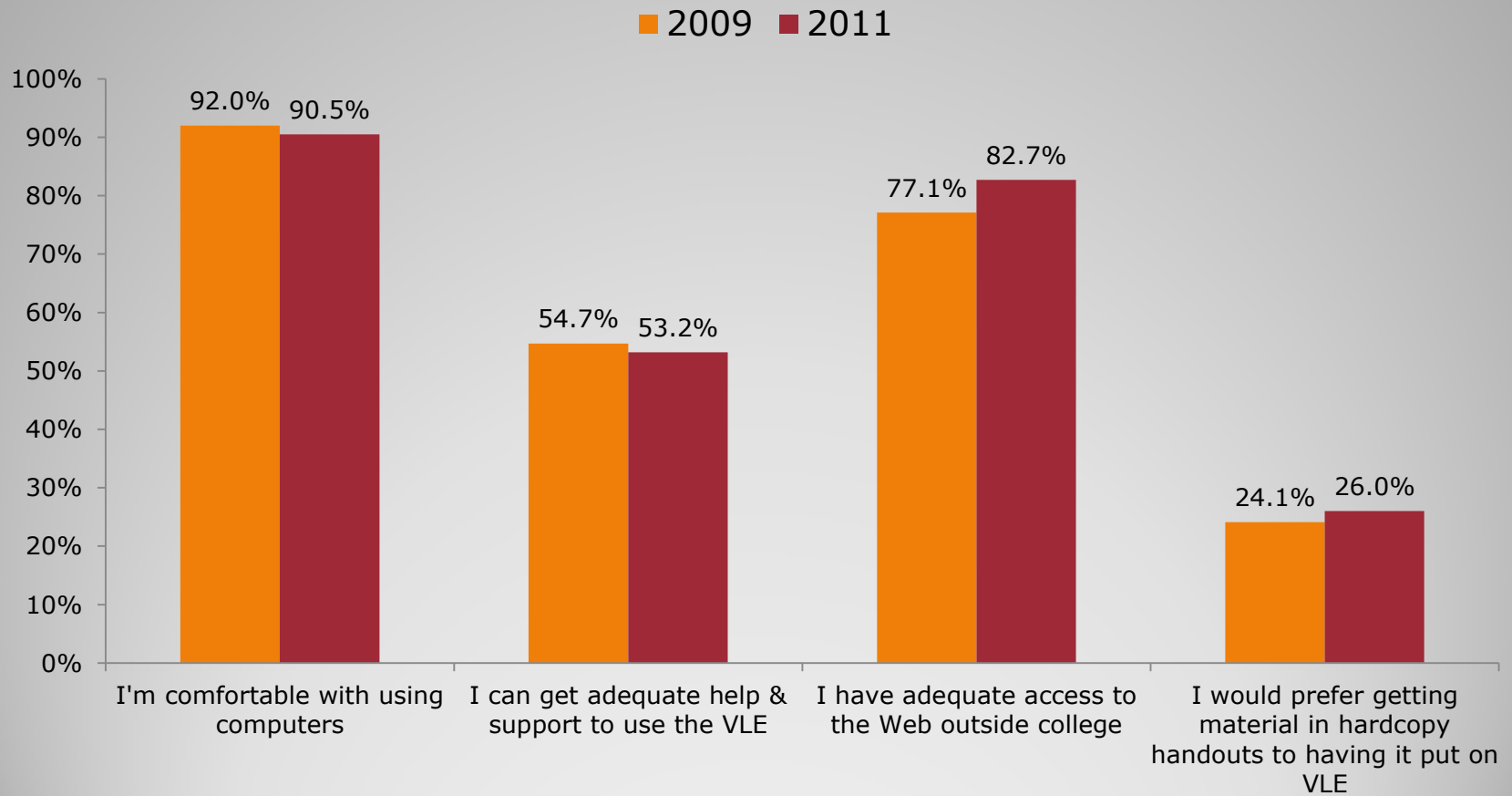
I think systems like the VLE are useful



The VLE's Ease of Use & Reliability, Flexible Learning, Access to Resources

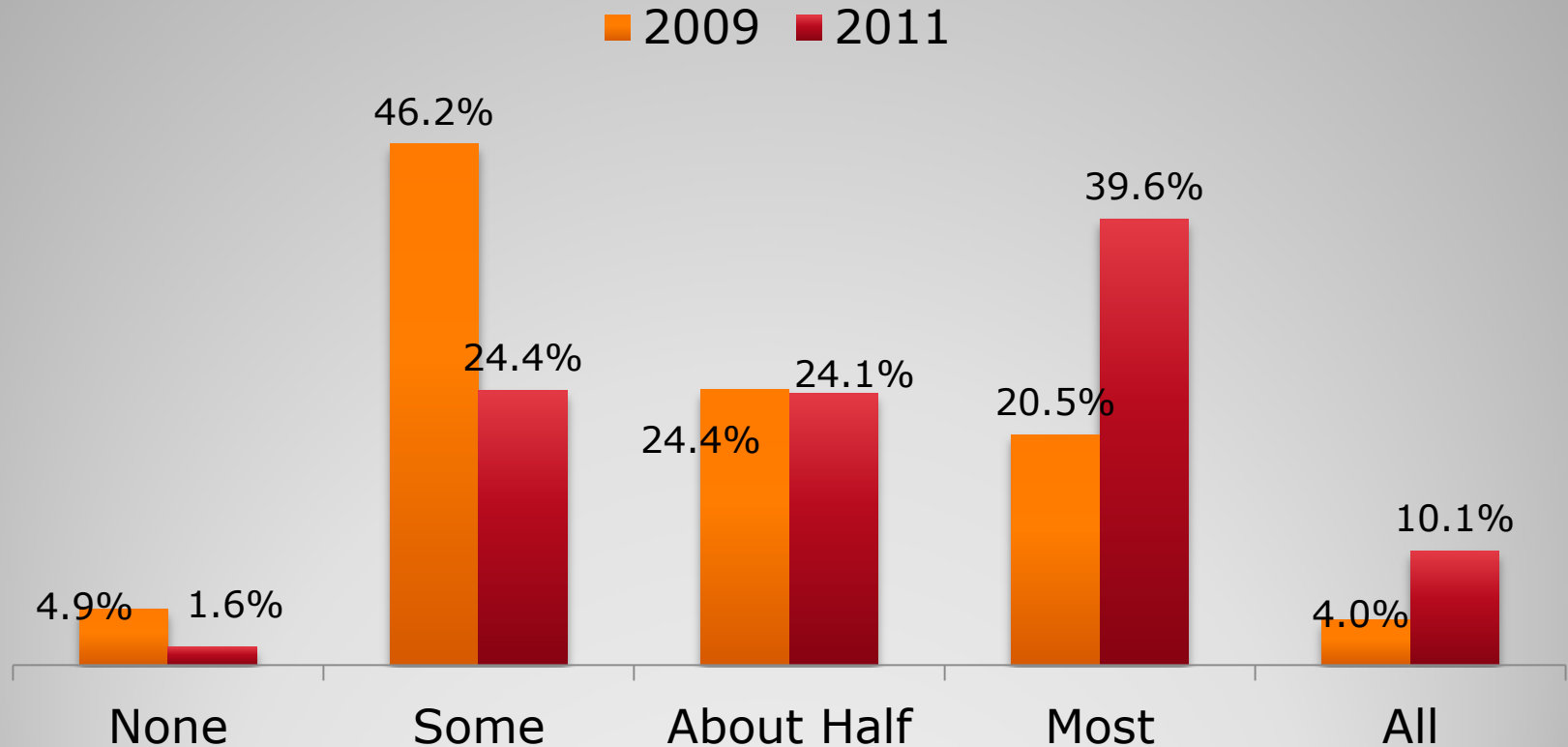


Digital literacy, support, access & preference



Patterns of VLE Use 2009-2011

Proportion of Coursework with Material on VLE



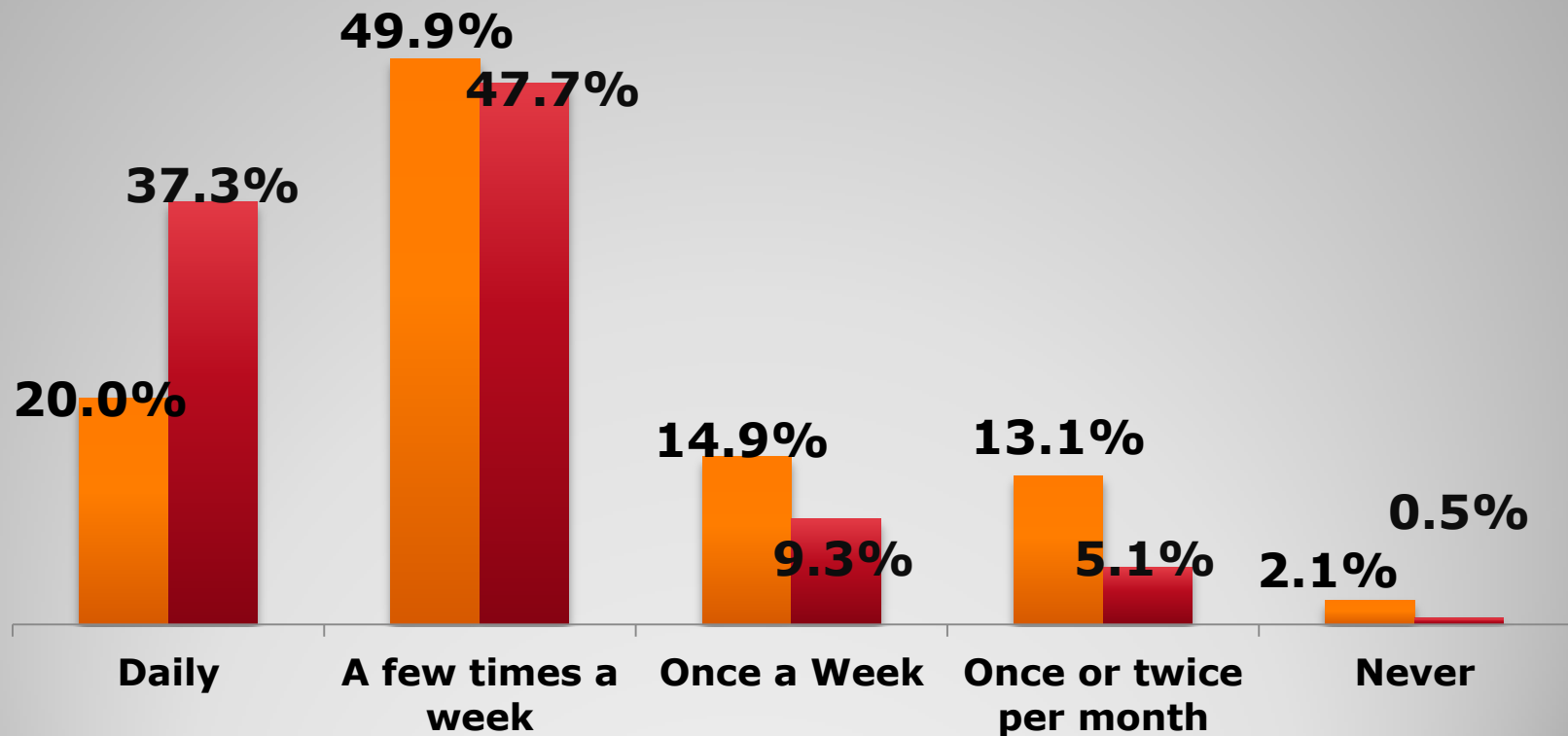
Note: More course material was being put on VLE, looking at the increases in the responses for MOST (an increase of 19.1%) and ALL (6.1% increase).

“Some [lecturers] only put small bits on it. All class notes should be up. It is hard to get all notes if you play sport with the college.”

(Arts/Humanities student)

How Often Do You Use VLE?

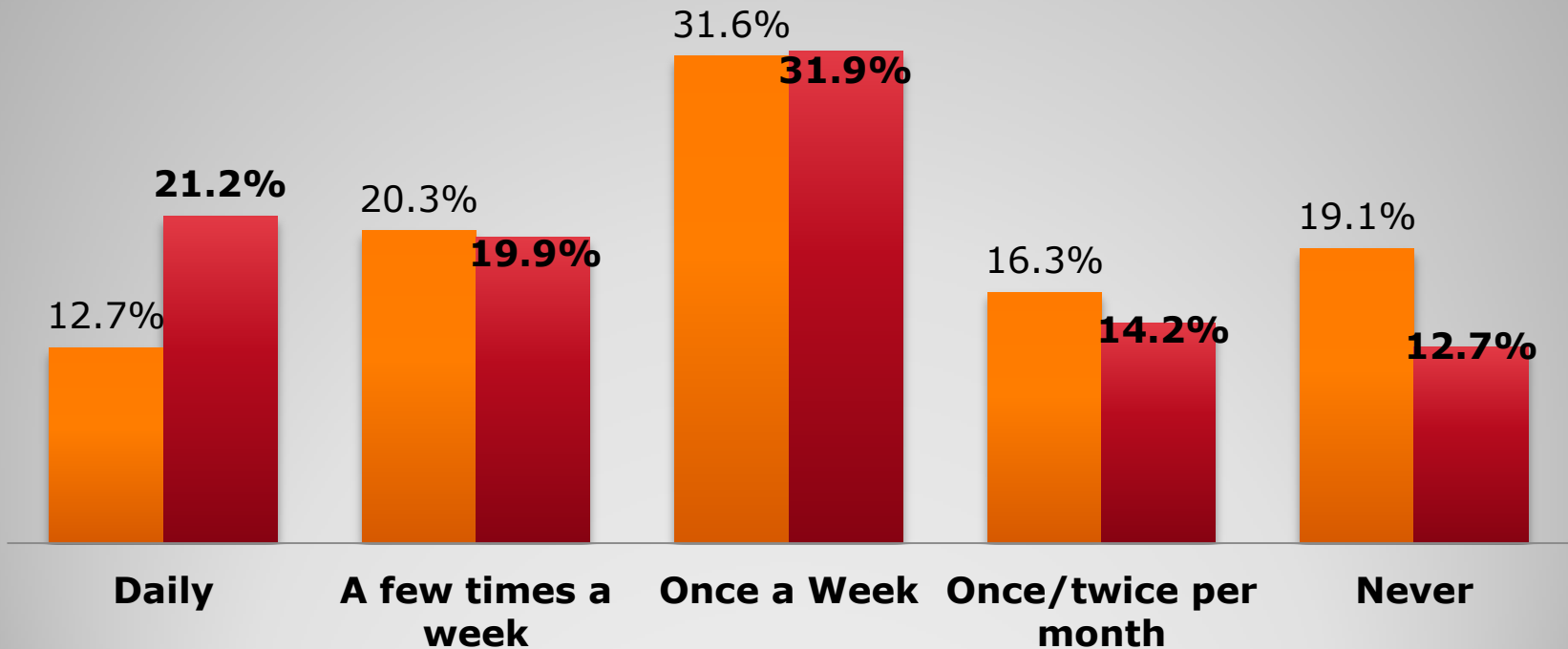
2009 2011



Note: a 17.3% increase of daily users

Access Notes on VLE **BEFORE** class

2009 2011

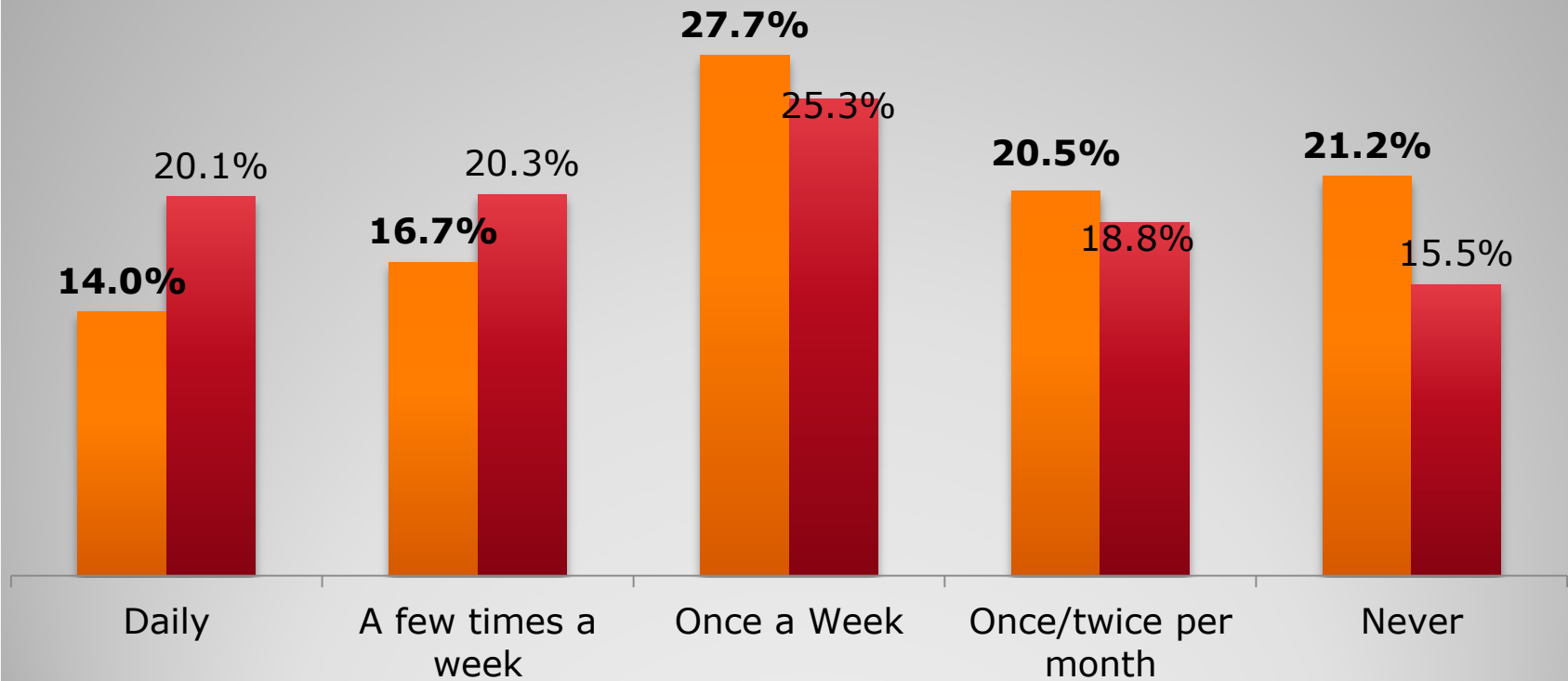


“I think lecturers should put the notes up on Moodle **in advance** of lectures as we are paying ourselves for the print outs and it’s up to us to get them.

Also I think it would give us a better opportunity to learn as I personally find it very difficult to take notes while listening.” *(Arts/Humanities student)*

Print and bring VLE Notes to class

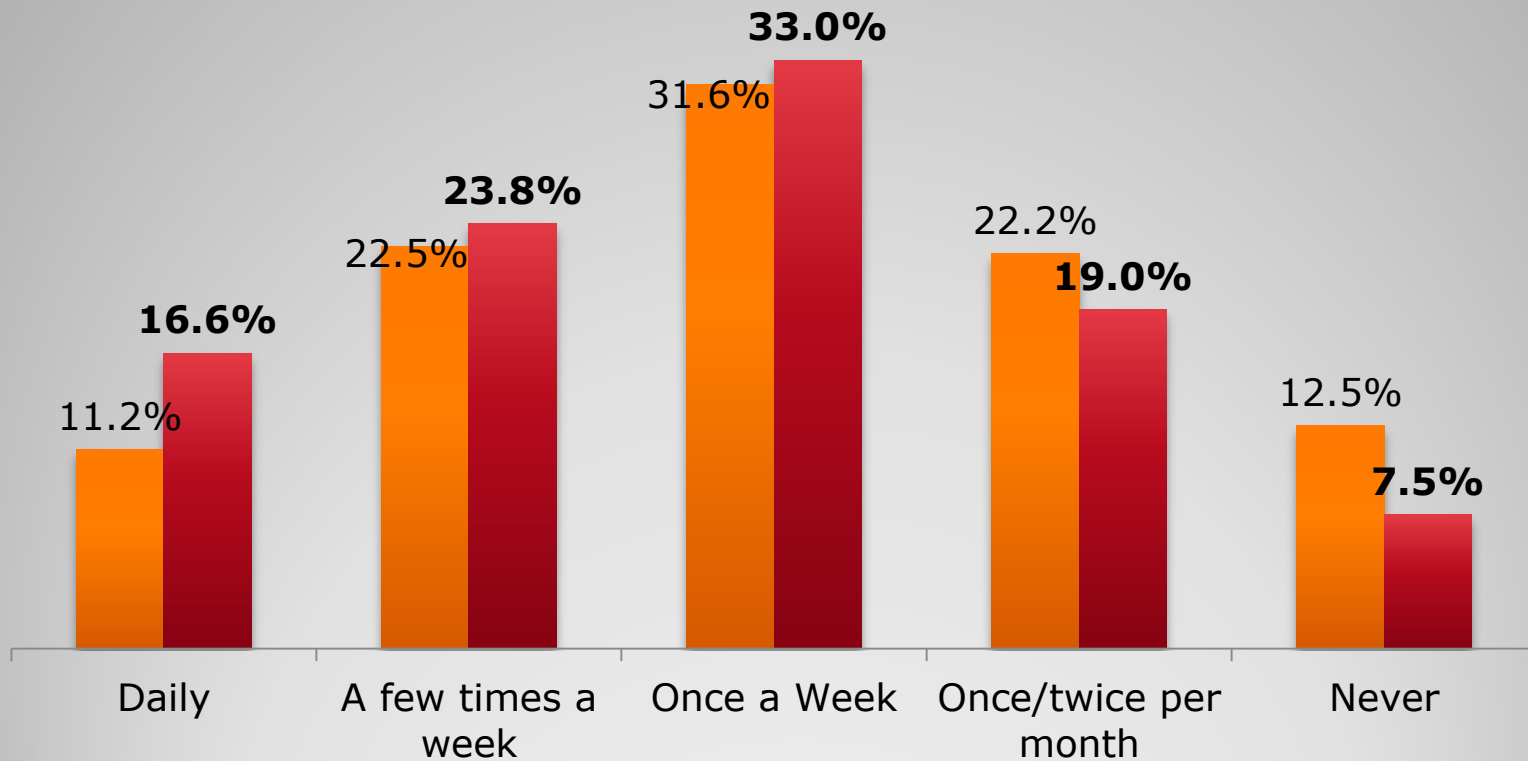
2009 2011



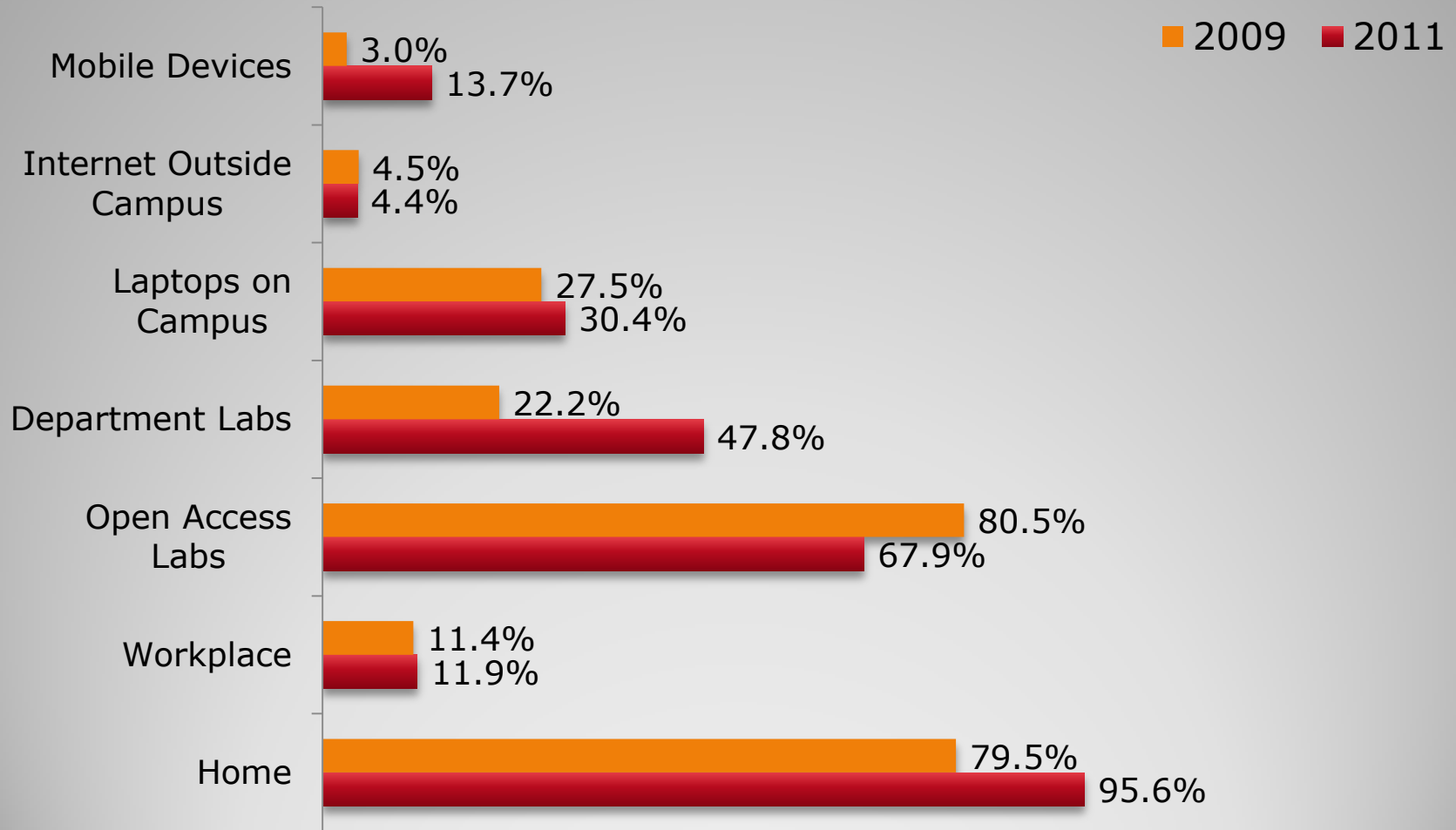
“Some lecturers don’t put up the notes until after their classes which is a pain as it’s easier to write in additional notes if you have the notes in front of you.” *(Arts/Humanities student)*

Access VLE Notes **AFTER** class

2009 2011

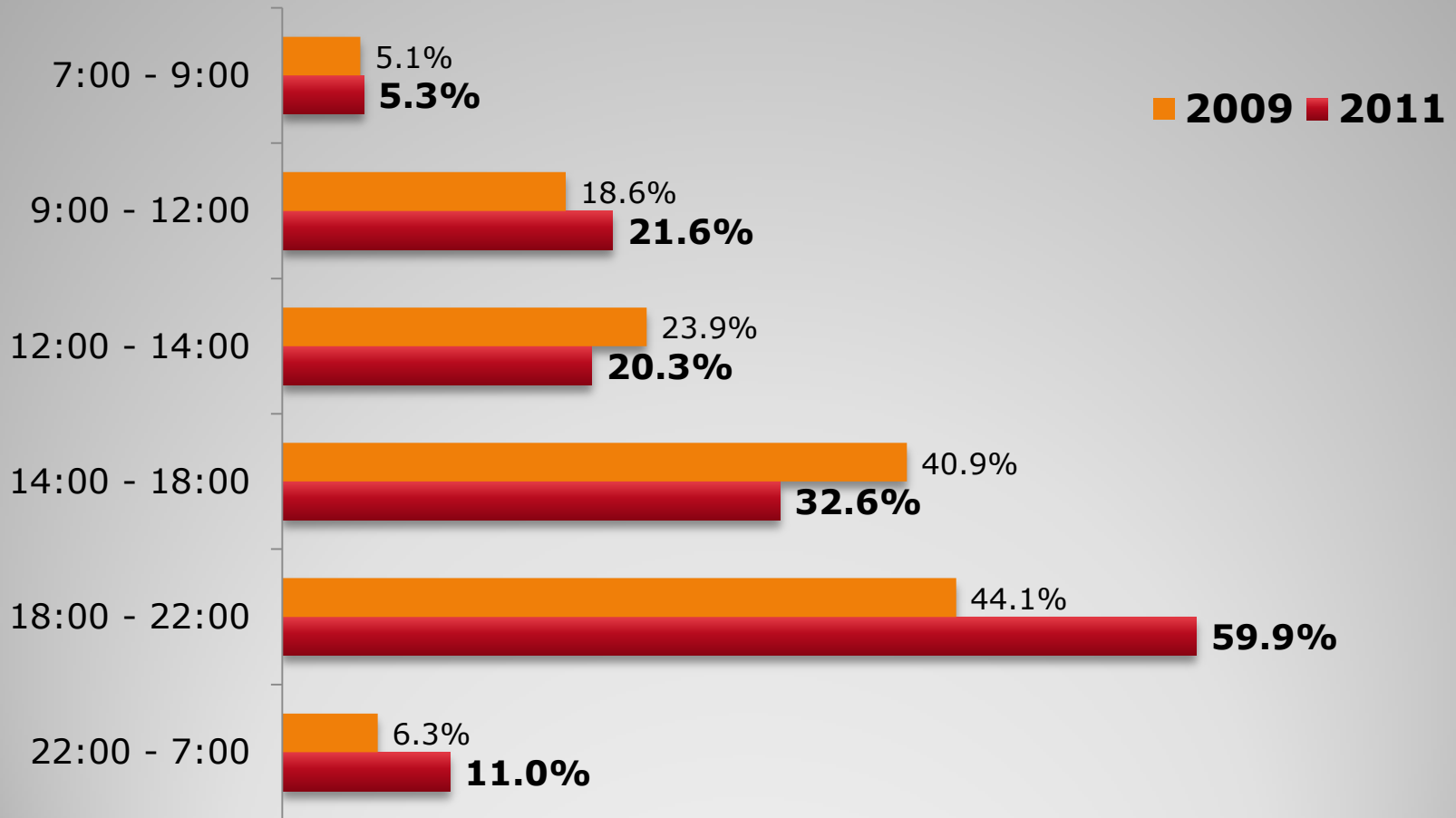


VLE Access Points

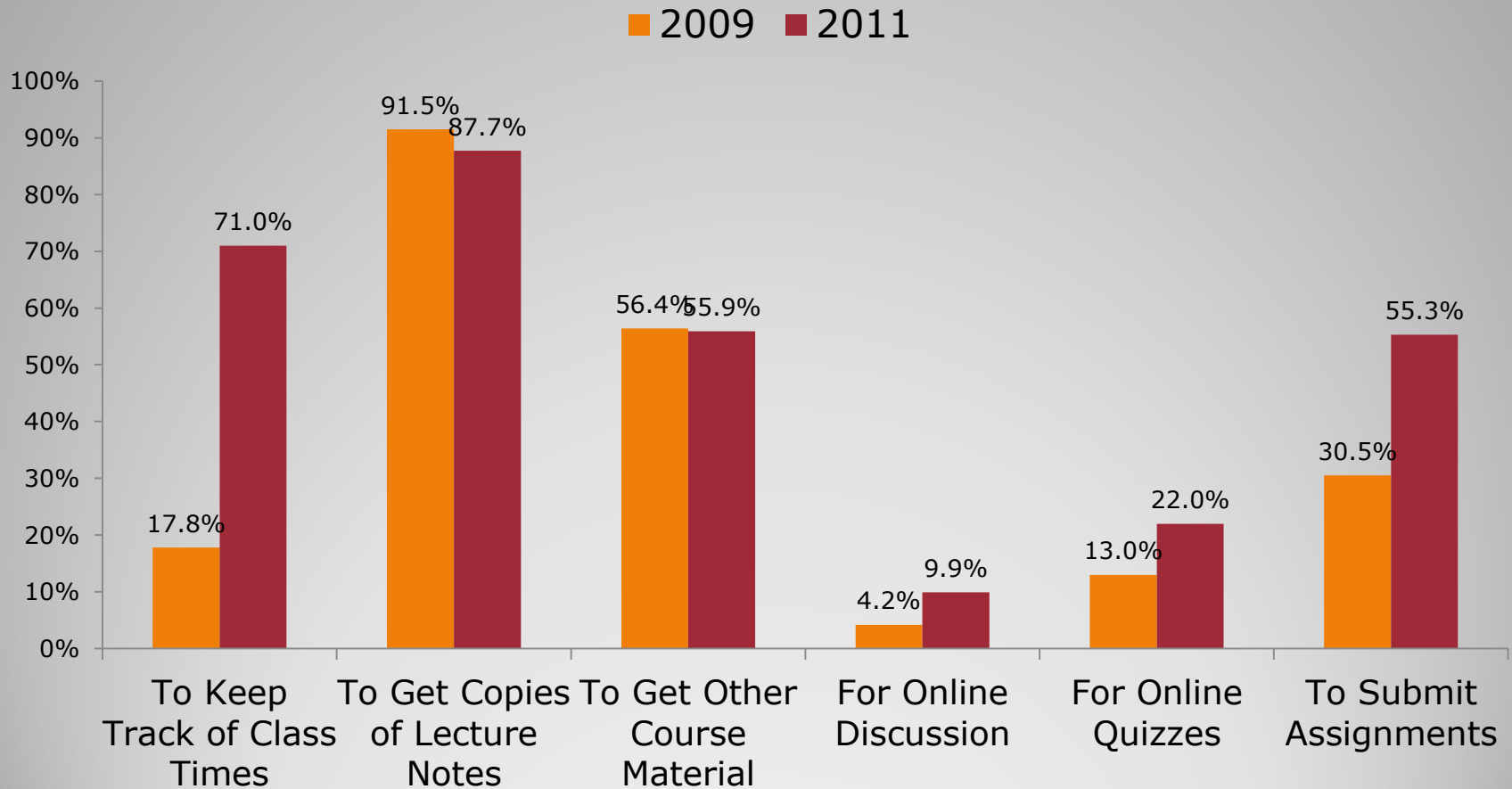


Note: Most students accessed VLE from home & open access labs

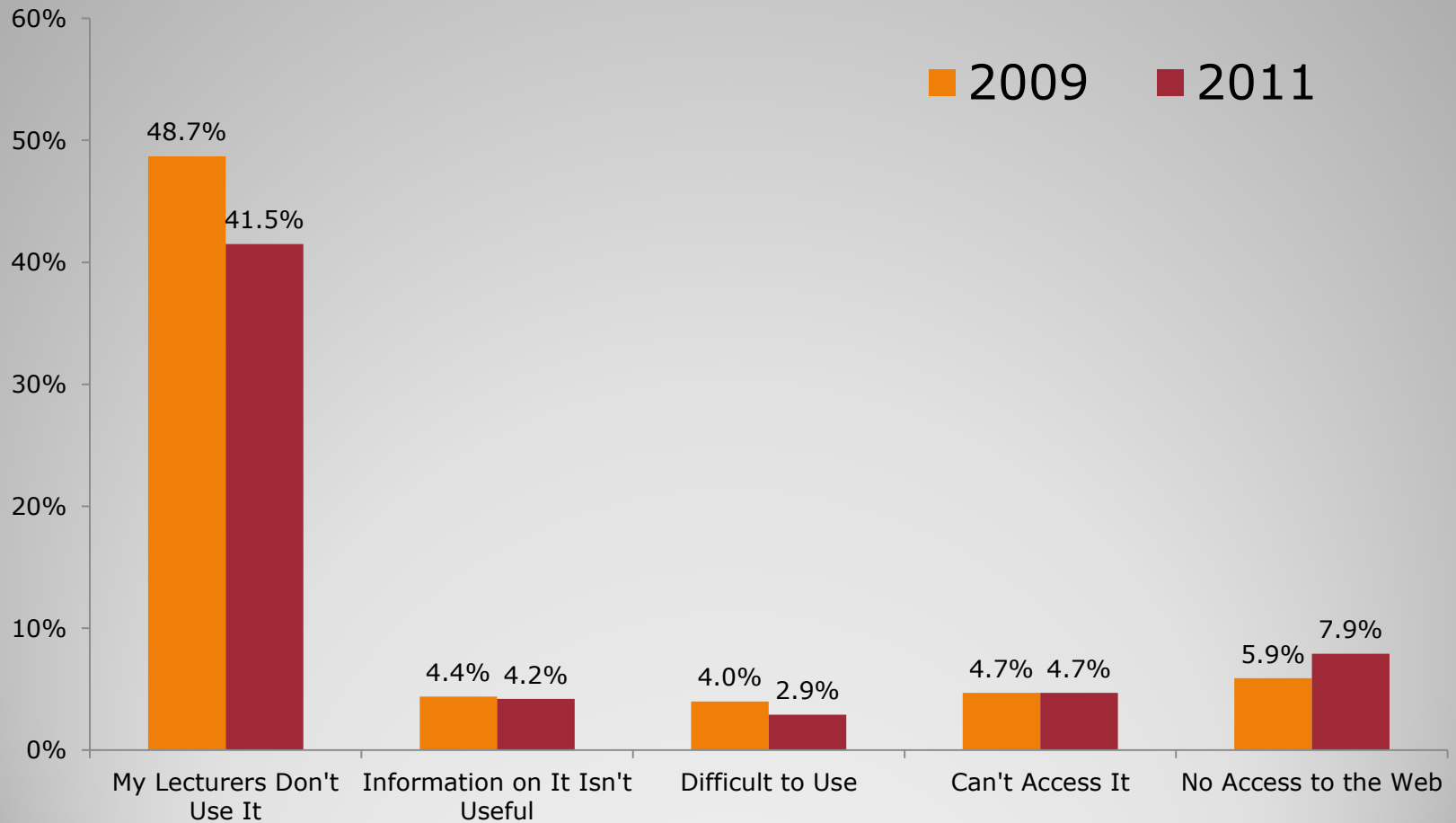
VLE Access Time



If you use the VLE, why?



If you do not use the VLE, why not?



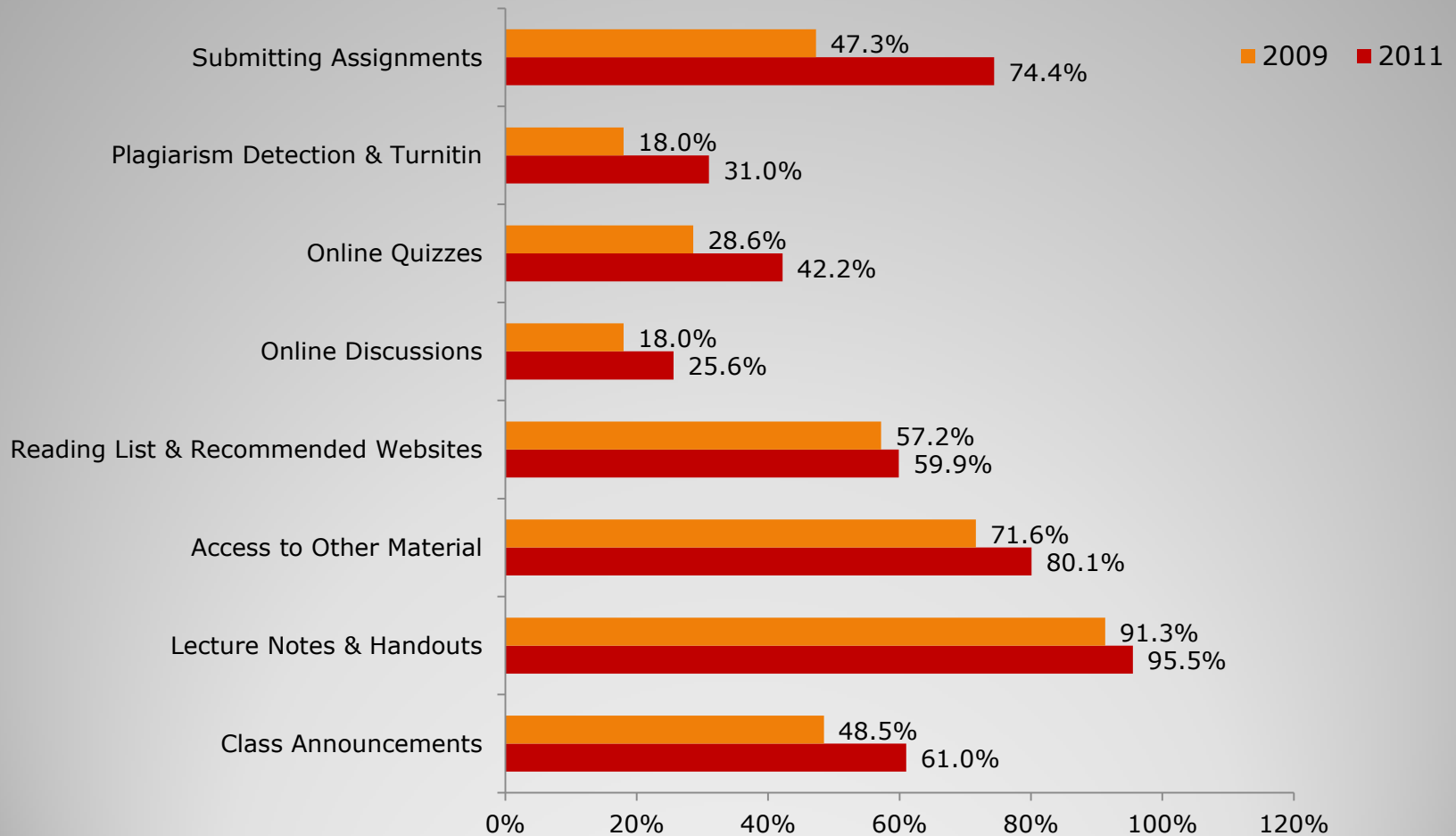
“Only when some lecturers won't use it.” (*Civil Engineering student*)

“Sometimes system crashes in college and can't access Moodle because it's down.” (*Business/Law student*)

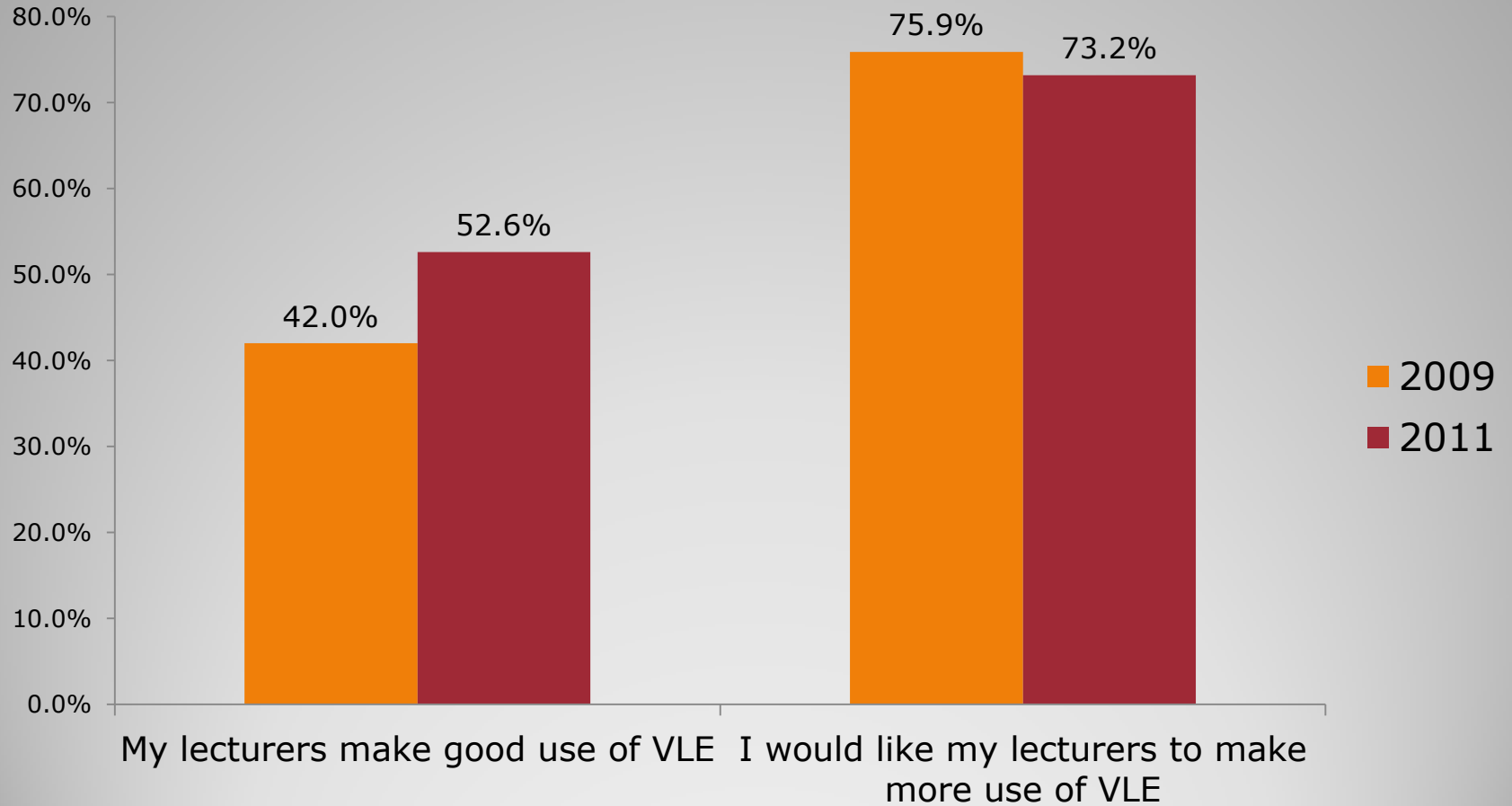
“No other reason than there was something wrong with my computer.” (*Student in Foundation Course*)

“Sometimes it does not allow access off campus for no apparent reason. Therefore I find it unreliable.” (*General Nursing student*)

What do you use the VLE for?



Lecturer Usage

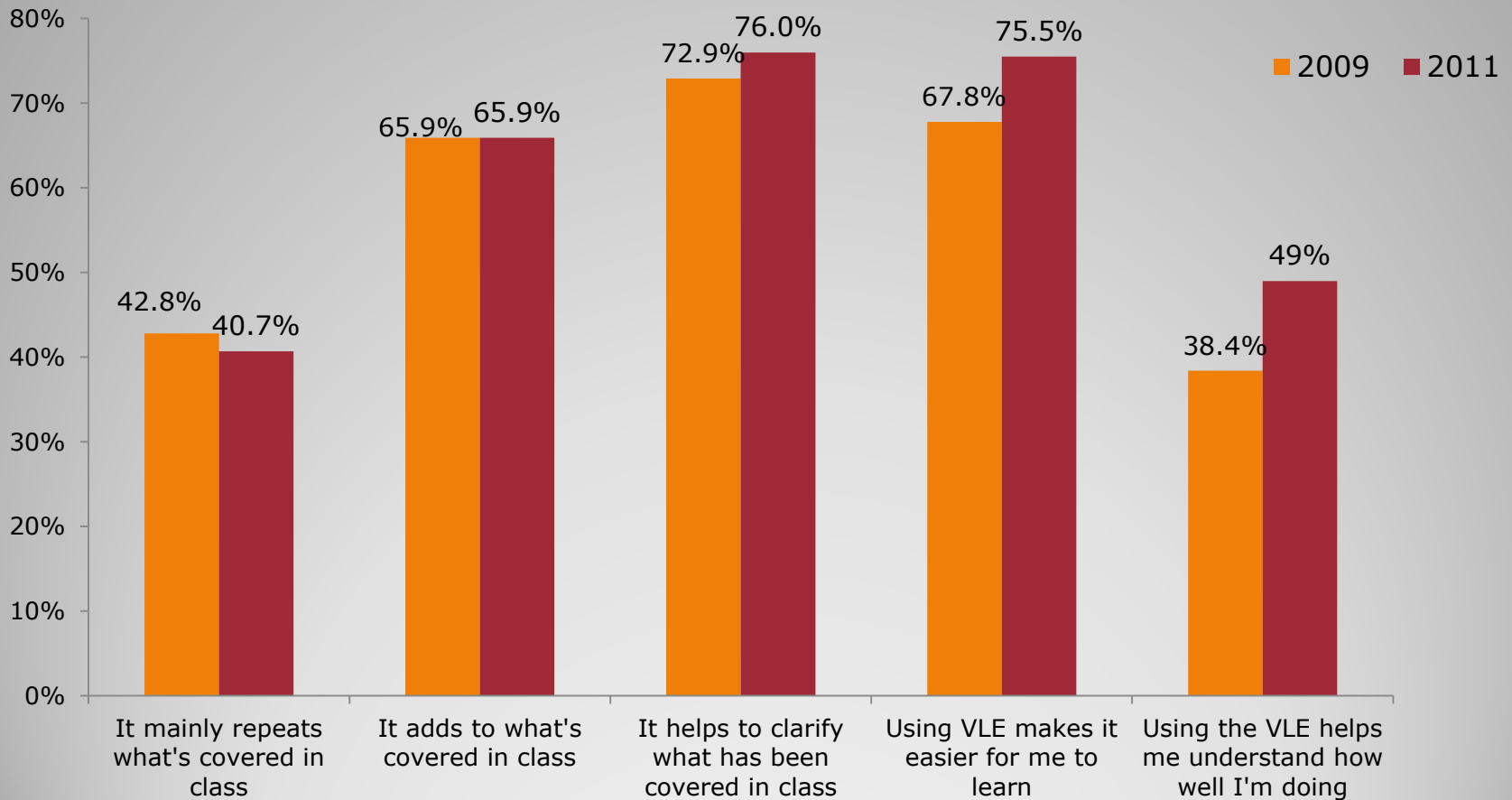


“Not enough lecturers use it. Only 1 of my 6 lecturers used it this year!” *(Business/Law student)*

“Most lecturers in my course don’t use it. I think it would be a great help if they did.” *(Mechanical Engineering student)*

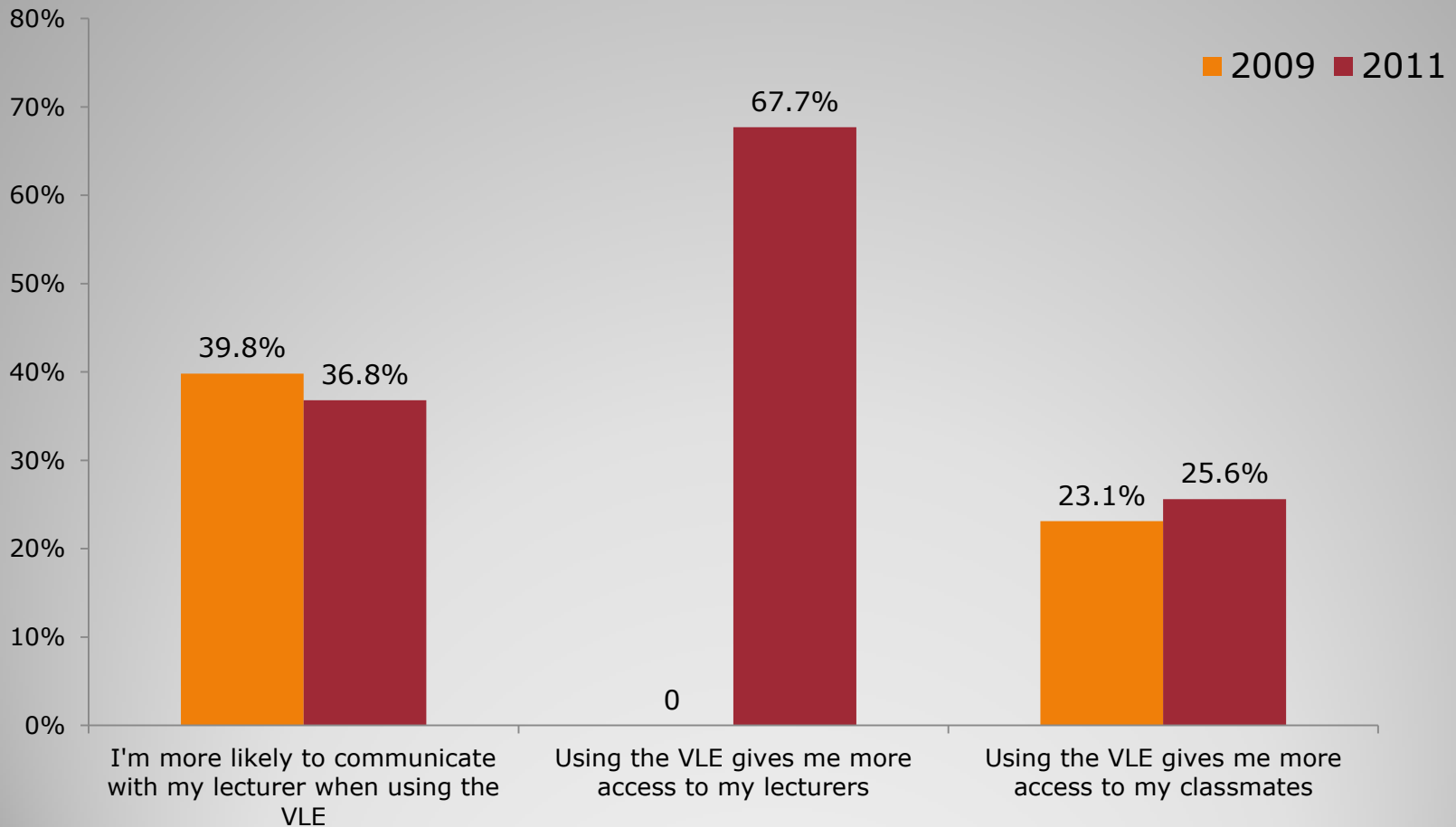
“Not enough lecturers use it and when they do, they don’t use it enough.” *(Arts/Humanities student)*

How the VLE influences learning



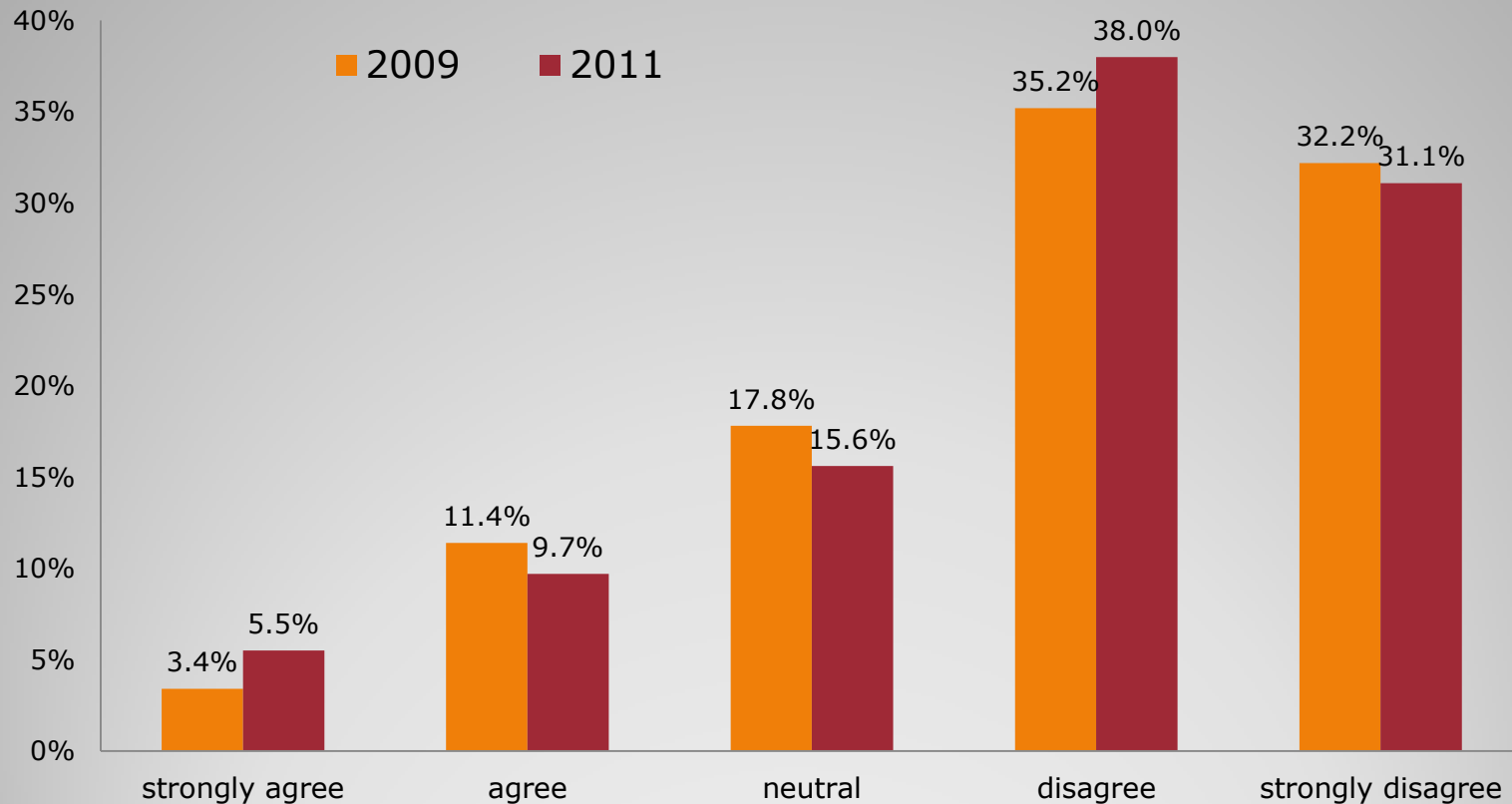
“Some lecturers refuse to put their notes up. This means when we are taking notes, we’re trying to listen to explanations at the same time. Very hard!” *(Arts/Humanities student)*

How does the VLE influence communication?



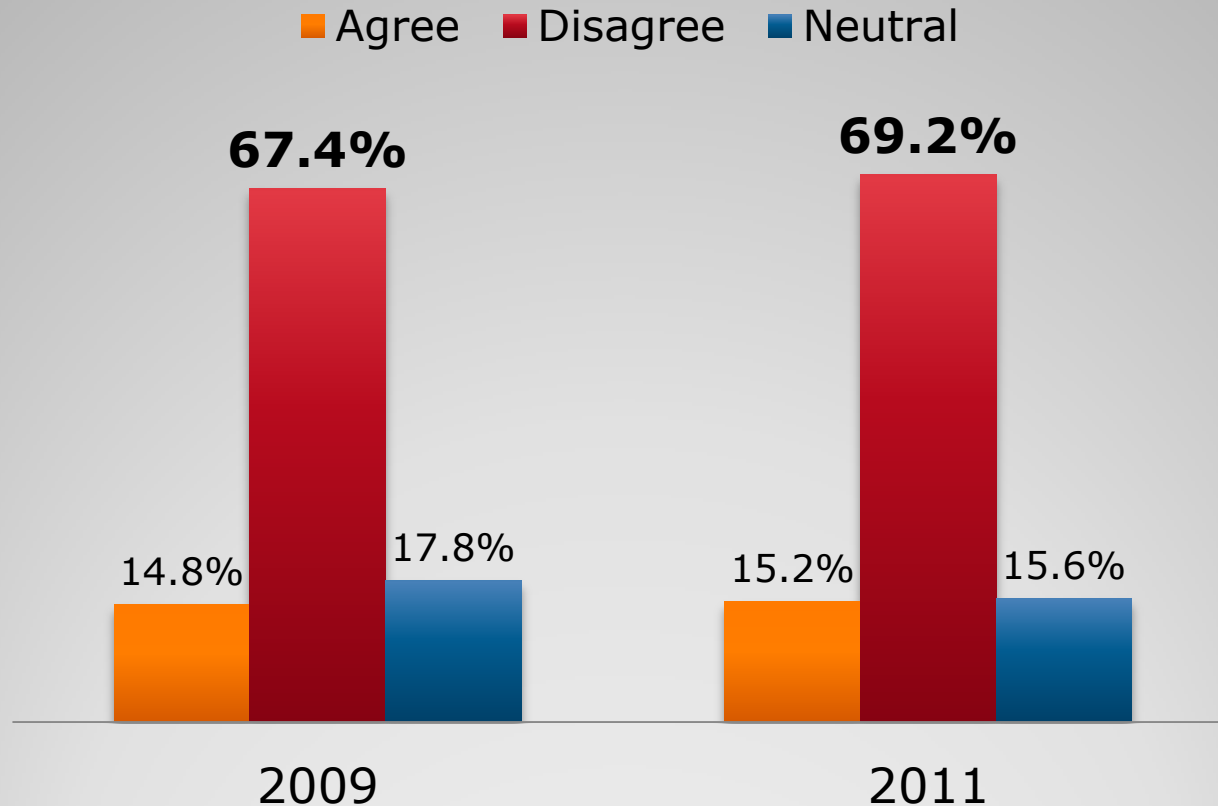
Will VLE use affect student attendance?

Getting notes on the VLE makes me less likely to go to lectures



67.4% (2009) and 69.2% (2011) disagreed

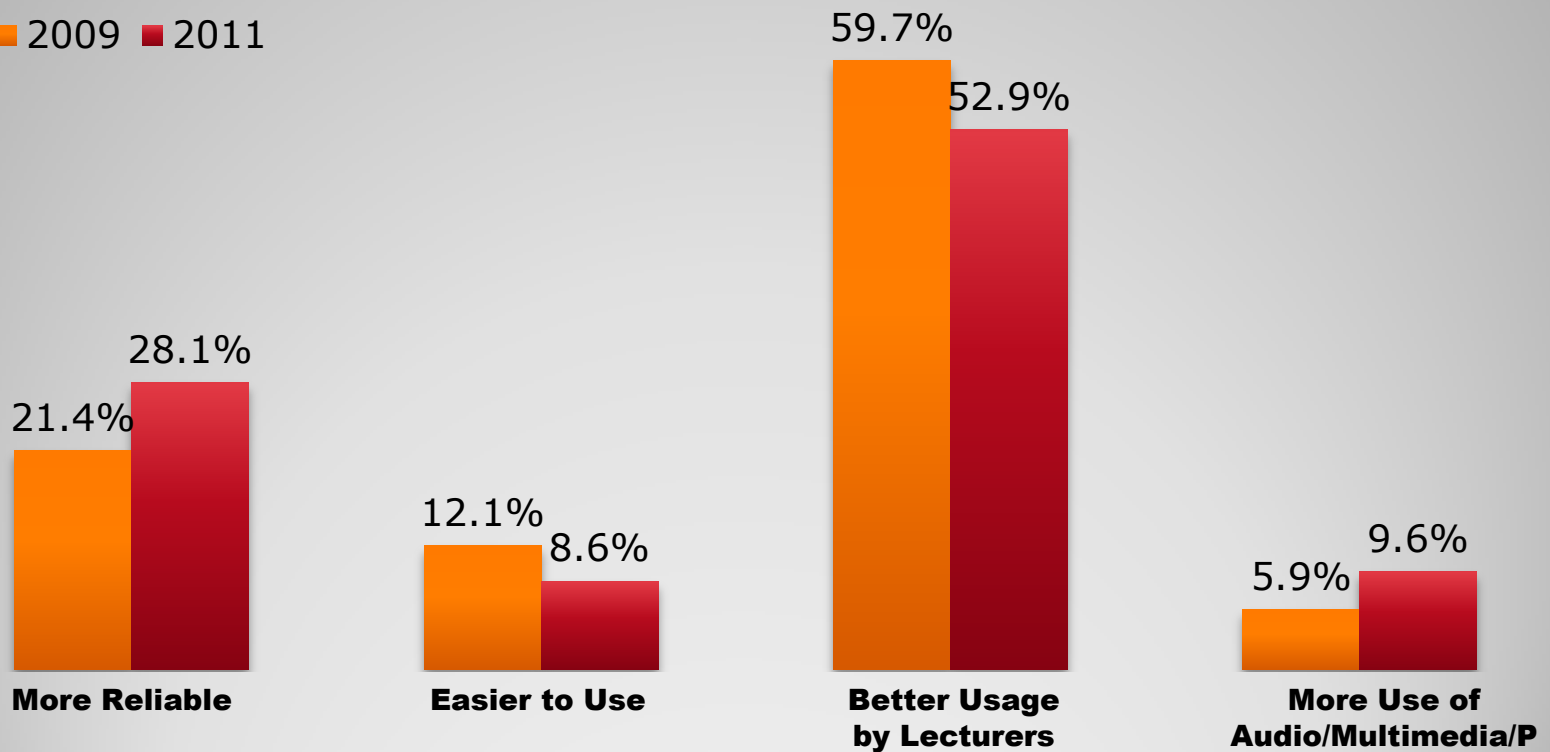
Getting notes on VLE makes me less likely to go to lectures



Note: Based on the % of disagreement to this item, most students would still go to class despite being able to access lecture notes on VLE. It's a good sign/finding suggesting that VLE use is not likely going to result in absenteeism.

Most Important Thing to be Improved about the VLE

2009 2011



Note: It's quite clear that most students would like to see better lecturer usage/more lecturers use VLE

“[The VLE] is not being used to its potential.” *[Science/General Nursing Student]*

“I’d like to see more interactive learning on the VLE; lecturers should put more diverse types of learning tools such as story-telling.” *[Arts/Humanities student]*

“**M**oodle is essential for studying at home when it comes to exam time. It would be great if all our lecturers made proper use of it. Some have all of their material nicely organised and easy to access, others have everything jumbled up and mixed between courses.” *[Computer Engineering Student]*