

## ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Needs of Information Technology Use Among  
the Blind Students in Thailand.

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The purpose of this study was to survey and analyze the conditions, problems and the present needs of information technology among blind students in Thailand.

Data collection was administered through questionnaires and answer sheets which were transcribed into braille and distributed to 92 students who were studying at four secondary schools for the blind. The author used descriptive statistics and hypothetical tests as the methods of analysing the collected data by using t-test and one-way ANOVA.

Major findings and conclusions included:

1. Large percentage of the blind students relied on information technology through teachers, radio or television programs. They utilized information technology such as telephone, computer with speech

output / speech synthesizer, braille output and braille translation, for communication, document production and self-entertainment. These students also had information needs covered various subjects and served different purposes, such as learning, studying, searching, doing homework and current awareness of information.

2. Most of the schools for the blind used information technology such as computer with speech output / speech synthesizer, printer, and braille translation for educational material production, teaching and self-studying activities for the blind students.

3. Problems concerning information technology among these blind students in terms of using, users, teachers and administrators were shown at moderate level. Male students were found of having more problems with teachers in addition to those with reading, listening and comprehending than female students. Students with different educational level had significantly different problems in terms of using, users, and teachers of information technology. However, those, who had differences in sex, age and experience of using information technology, had no significant difference not only in terms of problems of using information technology, but also the needs of using it.

These findings indicated that blind students' needs for information technology use and information should be emphasis on literacy, comprehension and skills as needed.