

## An ACS Summer Technology Fellowship Report

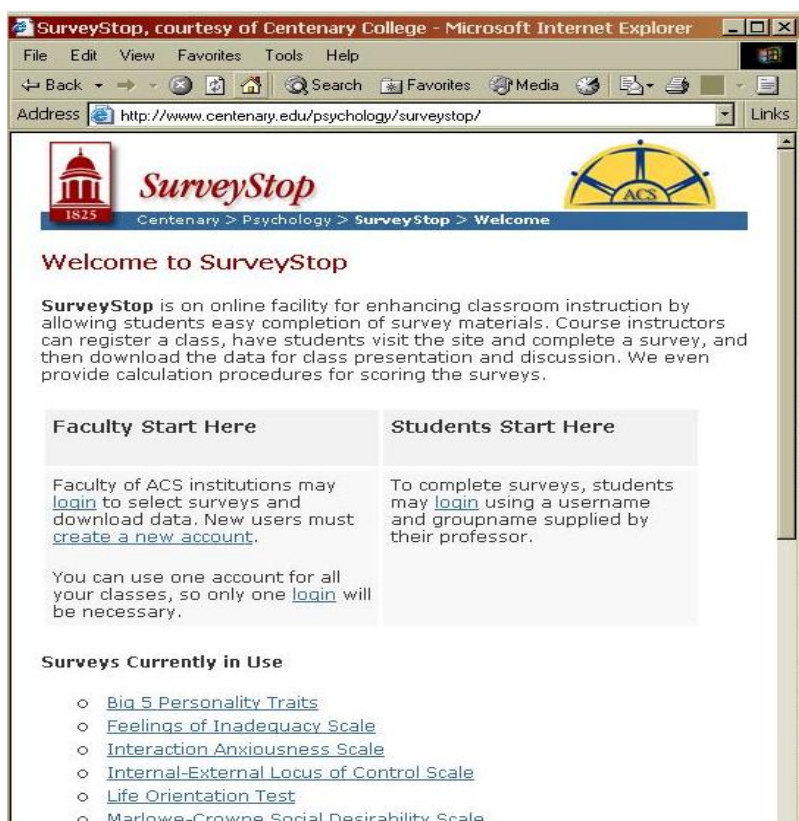
### SurveyStop: An Online Tool to Ease Survey Completion for Classroom Use

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SurveyStop was developed in response to a need for students to complete survey materials for class discussion. For example, in an introductory psychology course, an instructor may want students to complete a brief measure of depression or anxiety, or perhaps complete a measure of the Big 5 personality traits. The object of completing these materials is to allow students to experience the concept of interest and facilitate discussion. However, completing these materials during class involves having students complete the survey and score it before discussion can take place. SurveyStop allows students to complete the measure prior to class time and collects the data for the instructor. The instructor can then download the data, score it using procedures available at SurveyStop, and present the final results in class. This project was conceived out of my own experiences with sacrificing class time to familiarize students with a survey so we could have a meaningful discussion. Ultimately, the goal was to ease the burden of instructors and promote more effective use of class time.

#### Overview



**Figure 1.** SurveyStop homepage

After being provided a login name and password (currently, SurveyStop is only available to ACS institutions), faculty instructors can set up individual classes and select from a series of surveys that include measures of depression, anxiety, and personality tests.

From the homepage (figure 1), there is also a link students can take to log in using the information provided by their instructor. Once logged in, students can access only the surveys preselected for their class.

Sample information for each survey is also available from the homepage.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "SurveyStop, courtesy of Centenary College - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.centenary.edu/psychology/surveystop/summary.php?studyID=7&surveyStop=d32d6bbdb09569d2c1>. The page header includes the SurveyStop logo and navigation links: Centenary > Psychology > SurveyStop > Summary of Big 5 Personality Traits. Below the header, there is a "Big 5 Personality Traits" section with a "back to... Welcome" button. The main content area features a source citation: "Source: John, O. P., Donahue, E. M., & Kentle, R. L. (1991). The "big five" inventory -- versions 4a and 54 (Tech. Report). Berkeley, CA: Institute of Personality Assessment and Research". Below this is a table with two columns: "Description" and "Discussion".

Description	Discussion
The Big 5 personality traits (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, Emotional Stability/Neuroticism) are widely discussed in personality and social psychology. Their predictiveness and temporal stability have been demonstrated in numerous studies. This short form produces an individual score for each of the 5 traits.	The Big 5 are popular topics of discussion in multiple psychology classes. In the past, my students have enjoyed discussing their scores. In addition, this easy measure is good to tack on to any other survey so you can look at the relationship between the personality factors and the other measured variables.

Below the table is a "Useful Files" section with the text: "The SPSS and Excel files below are designed to provide for the calculation of individual scores per respondent, taking into account any necessary recoding of scores. Survey response data (available through your account management page)".

**Figure 2.** Example of the main page for a survey.

Figure 2 provides an example of the main page for an available survey; specifically, a version of the Big 5 personality test.

For each survey, standard information provided includes:

- A citation
- A brief description
- Several suggestions for using the survey in class or where it could be inserted into class discussion.
- A sample of the survey.
- Downloadable files for calculating survey scores, using MS Excel spreadsheets or SPSS syntax.

Instructors can offer suggestions for surveys to be added to SurveyStop and several enhancements, including more introductory examples and greater flexibility in using the surveys, are planned for potential upgrades.

## Technical Information

SurveyStop is intentionally simplistic in function and design, making it accessible to all instructors. No special technical skills are necessary, though proficiency in MS Excel or SPSS is helpful in calculating the survey scores. All materials for setting up and completing the surveys is online, so no special software is necessary beyond that used in calculating the scores. Also, the ease of setup for a given survey allows us to add new surveys should a registered user have something specific in mind. Currently, new surveys can only be added by the administrator (Matthew Weeks, Centenary College), though a new feature that allows users to upload new surveys to the available set might be available in an updated version of SurveyStop. The availability of such a feature would depend on user need and request.

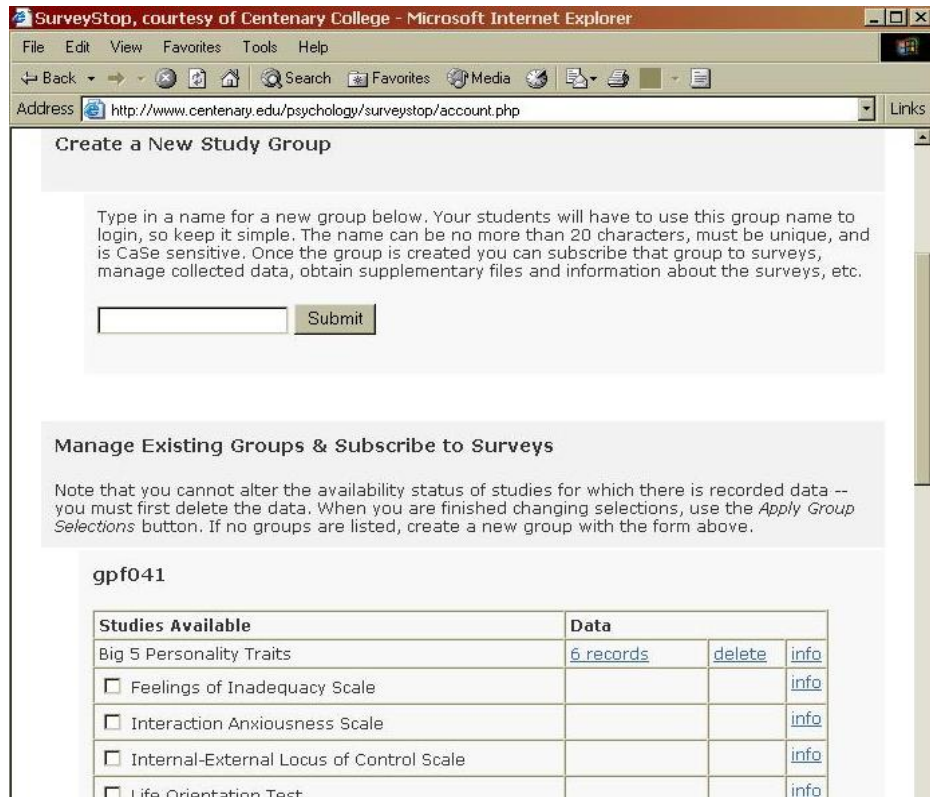


Figure 3 displays the setup page for creating new study groups (e.g., for a new class) and selecting surveys to be available for a specific class. For each group an instructor has created (for example, the group titled “gpf041” for a 1pm section of general psychology in the fall of 2004 in figure 3), the table indicates what surveys are available, access to information for each survey, and how many respondents have completed a selected survey.

**Figure 3.** Faculty page for creating new groups and selecting available surveys.

## Dissemination and Evaluation

SurveyStop is currently available to all ACS faculty. Initial availability was targeted at professors in the social sciences, though other faculty could potentially benefit. Social science faculty were targeted with an email, introducing them to SurveyStop and providing contact information to obtain a username and password. Entering the spring semester of 2005, these faculty will be emailed and asked to inform the site administrator of any problems they experience. The end of the spring semester will see a short survey being sent to each of these individuals regarding their experiences with SurveyStop.

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