

Figure 14-2. A COLLES survey report summary

### View responses

This allows a user to read survey responses via the “View xx survey responses” link at the top right of the survey page.

### Download responses

This allows a user to download survey responses.

## Choices

*This section covers the following MTC skills: 5.3 Choice*

Unlike surveys, the choice tool allows you to ask any question you’d like, as long as it’s multiple-choice. Once you’ve set up your choice, it acts as a poll in your course. Students click on the choice and select their answer. You can choose when and if students see the results of the choice and even let them change their minds.

## Creating Choices

To create a choice:

1. Click the “Turn editing on” button.
2. Select Choice from the “Add an activity” drop-down menu.
3. On the “Adding a new choice” page, as shown in Figure 14-3, give the choice a descriptive name.

4. Enter the question text in the choice text area.
5. Choose whether to limit the number of responses allowed. If this is enabled, each response can be assigned a different limit. When the limit is reached, nobody else will be able to select the response. If limiting the number of responses is disabled, then any number of participants can select each of the responses.
6. Enter responses in each choice field. If you require more than 5 fields, click the “Add 3 fields to form” button. You can fill in any number of choice fields—if you leave some blank, they will not be displayed.
7. If you want the question to be available for a limited time, click the “Restrict answering to this time period” checkbox and set the opening and closing dates and times for the choice.
8. Select the miscellaneous options:

#### *Display mode*

Choose whether the responses are displayed horizontally or vertically.



A small number of responses looks better displayed horizontally, and a large number of responses and/or long responses look better displayed vertically.

#### *Publish results*

You have four options for revealing the results of the choice to students:

- Do not publish results to students
- Show results to students immediately after they answer
- Show results to students only after the choice is closed (if you’ve set a closing time above)
- Always show results to students

#### *Privacy of results*

Depending upon your “Publish results” setting, you can choose whether to display students’ names with their response in the results.

#### *Allow choice to be updated*

If you want to allow students to change their minds after they’ve answered, set this to Yes. Otherwise, students will be able to answer the question only once.

#### *Show column for unanswered*

This option determines whether students will see the number of people who haven’t answered the question when they see the choice results.

9. Select the common module options:

**General**

Choice name\*

Choice text\*

Trebuchet 1 (8 pt) Lang **B** *I* U ~~S~~ x<sub>2</sub> x<sup>2</sup>

Path:

Format  HTML format

**Limit**

Limit the number of responses allowed

**Choice 1**

Choice

Limit

**Choice 2**

Choice

Limit

Figure 14-3. Adding a new choice

#### *Group mode*

This is another location in which to set the group mode for the activity. If group mode is forced in the course settings then this setting will be ignored.

#### *Visible*

This determines whether students may view the activity or not.

10. Click the “Save changes” button.

Once you’ve created the choice, it will be available to students after the opening time, if you’ve set one.

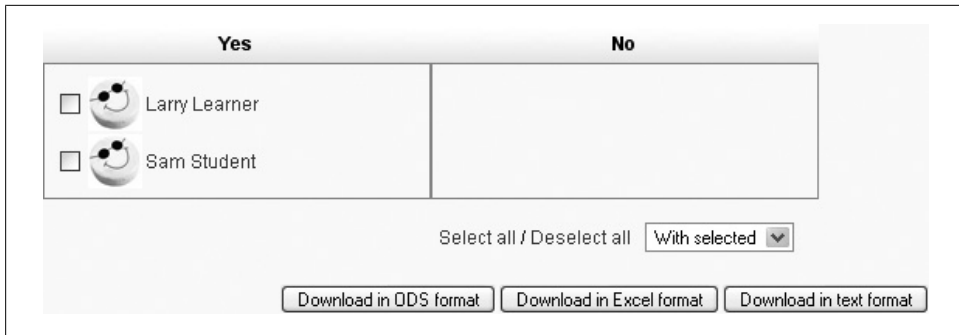


Figure 14-4. Viewing choice responses

## Administering Choices

After students have answered the choice, you can see their responses via the “View xx responses” link at the top right of the choice page. Unlike the students’ view of the results, irrespective of whether results are published anonymously, you’ll see a column for each response with the student’s picture and name, as shown in Figure 14-4.

Selected responses may be deleted if you wish. You may like to delete any test response you made.

As for surveys, results may be downloaded in a choice of three formats by clicking the appropriate button at the bottom of the choice responses page.

## Choice Capabilities

The choice module capabilities are restricted to managing the responses from students:

### *Record a choice*

This allows a user to answer the choice.

### *Read responses*

This allows a user to view other users’ responses.

### *Delete responses*

This allows a user to delete choice responses.

### *Download responses*

This allows a user to download the full dataset of responses from other users.

## Using Surveys and Choices

Surveys and choices represent two different tools for gathering feedback data from students. Moodle surveys are formal and based in theory. Choices are quick and simple for both you and your students. They can both provide useful data about your course and your students’ success.

The COLLES and ATTLS surveys are a bit too long to be used frequently. They provide useful feedback if you want to revise your course to meet student needs, but answering a set of 24 questions on a regular basis can become tedious for your students.

*Jason:* I recommend using the ATTLS or COLLES survey three times per semester (or twice a quarter if you're on the quarter system). You may want to deliver the first survey after the first few weeks to get some early feedback on student perceptions of the course, once at the midterm to make adjustments for the second half, and once at the end of the course to get summative feedback to include in the next semester's course design.

Of the available surveys, the COLLES and Critical Incidents are the most useful for making decisions about your course design. In the COLLES survey, pay close attention to the relevance scores. Student perception of course relevance is very important in determining student satisfaction and learning. If a student believes a course isn't relevant to her life, she will have difficulty spending the time required to be successful. Her performance will suffer, and her perception of the value of the course will diminish.

The Critical Incidents survey can provide useful feedback at the end of a topic or week. If you're trying something new, use this survey to get student feedback on the success of the topic. Because it's only five questions long, you can use it more frequently than the other two surveys.

Choices can be offered much more frequently. Many web sites use quick polls to inform or entertain their readers. Local and national news outlets run informal, nonscientific polls through their sites to gauge public opinion. You can use your choices to do the same. Choices can be about anything from course content to current school events.

Choices can also be used to provide an opportunity to share starting points through which students are encouraged to think about and articulate existing knowledge and understanding of a topic. Choices can encourage students to think in advance of a follow-up related activity, such as a forum discussion or an online text assignment.