

2. Method

For purposes of this study, we defined digital government research as the application of computer and information sciences, as well as the social and behavioral sciences, to the information-related needs, problems, and missions of government agencies and democratic societies. A 62-item survey was created to elicit the publishing experiences, opinions, preferences, and professional characteristics of individuals conducting digital government research. We compiled a purposive sample of digital government researchers from several lists including: (1) authors and co-authors of papers published in the top five academic journals in public administration, public policy, and management information systems between 1999 and 2003; (2) presenters and attendees at the 2003 National Conference on Digital Government Research (dg.o2003); (3) presenters in the e-government cluster at the 2002 and 2003 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS); and (4) all National Science Foundation (NSF) digital government grantees (both principal investigators and co-investigators). A total of 458 participants were sent the online survey. The survey achieved a 41 percent response rate (n=188) after two contacts.