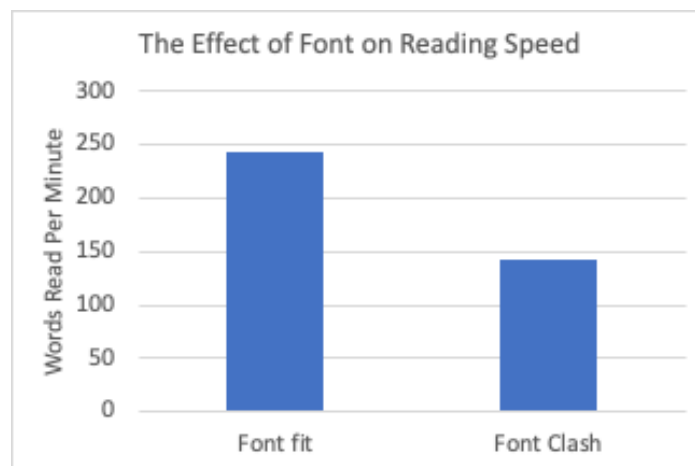


Format Readability Pilot Study Research Summary

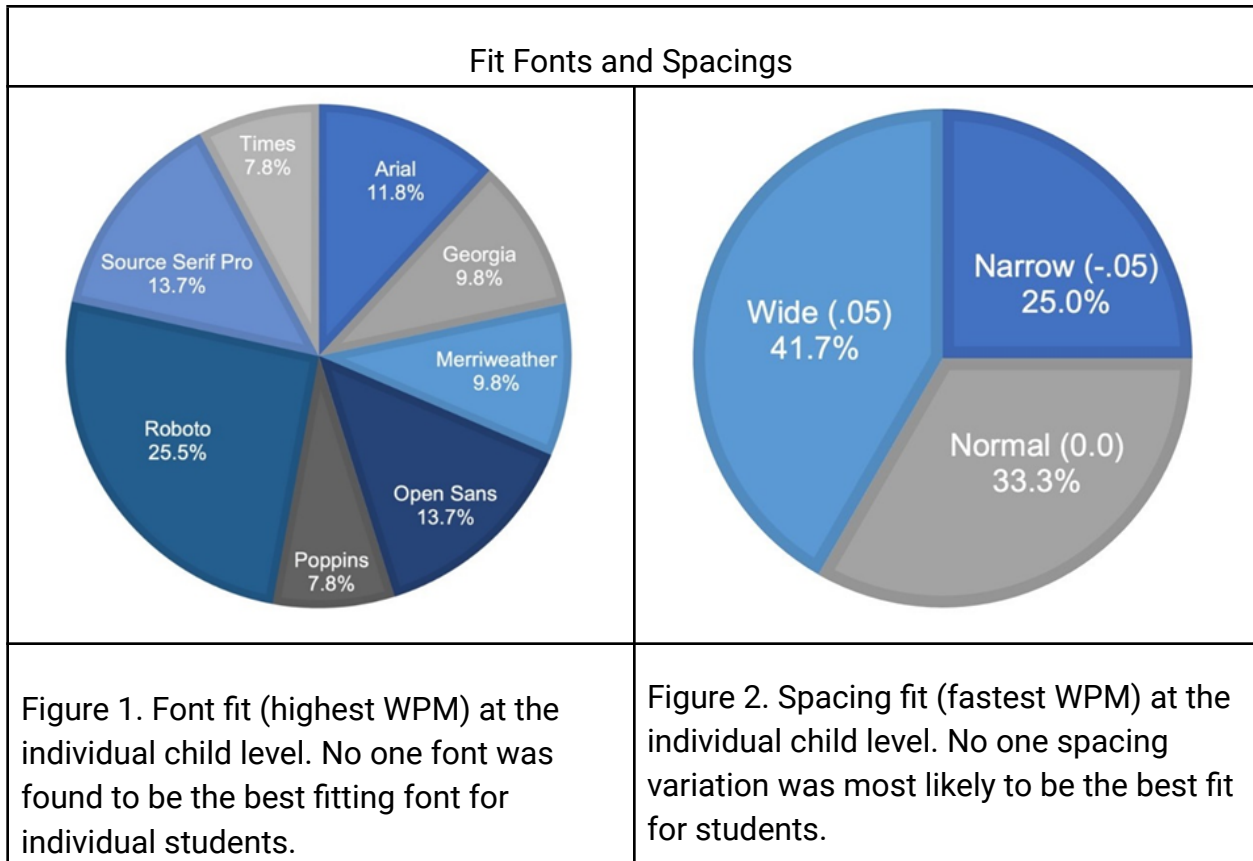
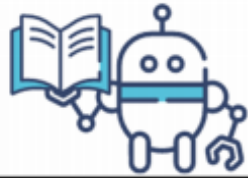
The Virtual Readability Lab Pilot Study aimed to test the effects of font and spacing on the reading performance of students in grades 3 to 5. It examined how seemingly minor typographic elements could significantly impact the way young readers engage with digital text. This research explored the influence of various fonts and spacing formats on reading speed and comprehension. Students read short passages that varied in the font and spacing in which they were displayed and then answered comprehension questions.

Key Findings:

- Overall, passages displayed in Roboto and Arial fonts were read significantly faster compared to other fonts tested.
- Individually, students experienced significant boosts in words read per minute (speed) between their best fitting font and their font clash.



- Further, the findings also demonstrated that no single font or spacing format was more likely to be a students' best fitting font or spacing variation. In other words, although some fonts may have been read more quickly by the sample as a whole, these fonts were not necessarily best for all students. Best fitting fonts and spacing varied in the sample.



- When considering the role of comprehension, we found no evidence of a speed-comprehension trade-off, suggesting students maintained their comprehension.

Implications for Future Research:

- Overall, these results suggest that font and spacing impact reading speed.
- More research is needed to better understand the specific typographic features that have the greatest impact on reading performance, with additional focus on comprehension.
- Longitudinal research will allow for us to determine the stability of format recommendations over time.
- Aligned with previous format readability research, these findings suggest that there may not be one “best” format for all students and that students may have individual formatting needs.
- Ultimately, this research carries important implications for how educational technology can be better tailored to each student's unique reading needs.