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5-31-2024

Poster: Do our graduate students know the library's books are online now?

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Recommended Citation

Brush, Denise and Kipnis, Daniel G., "Poster: Do our graduate students know the library's books are online now?" (2024). *Libraries Scholarship*. 61.

https://rdw.rowan.edu/lib_scholarship/61

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Motivation for the study

I encountered a graduate student in my library looking for a book on the shelf and explained that it was probably available through the library online as an e-book.

I decided to survey our graduate students to see if they were aware that most of our books are available as e-books, not in print.

Methodology

1. Created an IRB approved online survey in Qualtrics with 13 questions.
2. Solicited responses for 2 months in fall 2023 from members of the university's graduate student listserv.
3. Received 113 responses; analyzed by population.

Results

- Most (71%) of graduate students were aware of library e-books.
- Doctoral students had a high level of awareness of e-books (80%), while master's students had less (64%).
- Usage of e-books was lower than awareness, especially between master's (52%) and doctoral students (78%).

Do our graduate students know the library's books are online now? A study of graduate students' e-book awareness & usage.

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<u>Student group</u>	<u>Aware of library e-books?</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Doctoral (n = 46)	37 Yes 9 No	37 of 46 (80%) 9 of 46 (20%)
Master's (n = 67)	43 Yes 24 No	43 of 67 (64%) 24 of 67 (36%)
Degree program requires thesis or dissertation (n = 70)	55 Yes 15 No	55 of 70 (79%) 15 of 70 (21%)
International (n = 18)	12 Yes 6 No	12 of 18 (67%) 6 of 18 (33%)
Domestic (n = 95)	68 Yes 27 No	68 of 95 (72%) 27 of 95 (28%)
100% Online (n = 42)	25 Yes 17 No	25 of 42 (60%) 17 of 42 (40%)

Of note: Graduate students who had used library e-books praised their availability at point of need from the library website - versus having to visit in person to check out a physical book. But surprisingly, our 100% online students had the least awareness of e-books!

Accepted for publication in forthcoming issue of *Digital Library Perspectives*



Reasons for using e-books

- By far the most common reason was because it was recommended by their instructor for a course

<u>Graduate student reasons for using an e-book</u>	<u>Number</u>
Required textbook	39
Required textbook, Non-academic book	24
I have never used an e-book	21
Other	15
Non-academic book	10
Required textbook, Other	3
Required textbook, Non-academic book, Other	1

Additional findings

- More than half of respondents use e-books more often now since the COVID-19 pandemic
- Most students read e-books on laptop computers, very few on tablets or phones