Student Readership Survey

Dear University of Pittsburgh Faculty Member,

As you know, scholarly journals are rapidly migrating to electronic media and many journals are including value-added features such as backward and forward citation links and links to databases and images. The University Library System plans on providing access to more journals in electronic form in the future. This is an appropriate time to examine current information seeking and reading patterns of faculty, students and staff to ensure that the ULS journal collection continues to meet the needs and requirements of readers. A survey of faculty and students is an important element toward achieving this objective.

Unfortunately, students are notorious for not responding to surveys. For this reason, we have found that the best way to get them to respond to important surveys is to ask a sample of faculty to distribute the survey instruments in a class and have them fill them out at the beginning or end of a class and hand them back in when they leave.

You have been chosen randomly to fulfill this task. The enclosed survey instrument is very brief and should not take the students more than five minutes to fill out.

If you are willing to perform this task we will send copies of the questionnaire to you in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Please indicate the number of questionnaires you will need.  

Your cooperation is very much appreciated. If you are interested in receiving the results of this survey, please check here and we will send it to you.

Please return this letter to me at:

Donald W. King  
Sara Fine Institute  
School of Information Sciences  
601 IS Building, 135 N. Bellefield  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Sincerely,

Donald W. King,  
Research Professor, School of Information Sciences
SECTION 1: JOURNAL ARTICLE READING

34. In the Fall Semester (2002), approximately how many journal articles did you read? Articles can include those found in journal issues, Web sites, or separate copies such as preprints, reprints, and other electronic or paper copies. Reading is defined as going beyond the table of contents, title, and abstract to the body of the article.

Number of articles read/used in the fall semester: __________ articles
If none, skip to Section 2, page 3.

35. Approximately what proportion of these articles that you read was the result of a classroom assignment? ________ %

36. Do you ever read articles from electronic journals or other electronic sources?
   Yes ........1  No ........2

The following questions in this section refer to the ARTICLE YOU READ MOST RECENTLY, even if you had read the article previously. Note that this last reading may not be typical, but will help us establish the range of patterns in reading.

37. What is the title of the journal from which this last article was read or, if not from a journal, what is the topic of the article?

   Journal title
   __________________________________________________________
   or

   General topic of article:
   __________________________________________________________

38. Approximately what year was this article published/posted? ________ - ___

39. Please indicate your best estimate of the time in minutes that you spent reading this article. ________ minutes
40. For what purpose(s) was this last article read? Circle all that apply.
This article was specifically assigned in a class .................................1
This article was found as a classroom assignment ..............................2
This article was for a research project ..............................................3
This article was to keep up with the literature .................................4
This article was just of personal interest ..........................................5
Other (specify) ..................................................................................6

41. How did you find out about this last article you read? Circle only the best answer
a. A professor/teacher told me about it ..............................................1
b. Cited in another publication ......................................................2
c. Found while I was searching:
   An indexing/abstracting database (e.g., Web of Science, ProQuest,
   FirstSearch, SilverPlatter) ...............................................................3
   Web search engine (e.g., Google, Yahoo) ........................................4
   Online journal collections (e.g., HighWire, ScienceDirect) ............5
   A current awareness service (e.g., Current Contents)
      Print version ...............................................................................6
      Electronic version ....................................................................7
   A preprint/e-print service .........................................................8
d. Found while browsing:
   A University Library System print subscription ............................9
   A University Library System electronic subscription ..................10
   A print subscription copy in your school, department, unit, etc.
   collection ...............................................11
   A personal print subscription .....................................................12
A personal electronic subscription

……………………………………………………….13

Other digital collection (please specify)………………………………………14

e. Don’t know or other (please specify)………………………………………15

42. From what source did you last read this article? Circle only the best answer
a. A University Library System print subscription

……………………………………………………. 1

b. A University Library System electronic subscription

……………………………….  2

c. A personal print subscription

…………………………………………………….  3

d. A personal electronic subscription

…………………………………………………….  4

e. A print subscription located in a school department unit, etc.
collection……  5

f. A separate copy of an article:
Copy handed out/given in class

…………………………………………………….  6

Interlibrary loan or document delivery service

…………………………………………………….  7

Preprint

……………………………………………………………………..……………..  8

Reprint

…………………………………………………………………………………  9

Copy from a friend

…………………………………………………………………………………  10

Author’s Web site

…………………………………………………………………………………  11

Other Web site (please specify)

……………………………………………………………  12

g. Other (please specify)

……………………………………………………………  13

43. In what form was the article when last read? Circle only the best answer
a. Print

…………………………………………………………………………………….  1

b. Photocopy or facsimile copy

…………………………………………………………………………………….  2

c. Computer display of e-text

…………………………………………………………………………………….  3
44. If the last reading was from an electronic source, where were you when the article was obtained?
- Didn’t read from electronic source
- At my school/department
- Out of town
- Campus library (specify)__________
- Elsewhere (please specify)
- At home

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

37. What year are you in school?
- Freshman …………………1
- Sophomore ……………….2
- Junior ……………………...3
- Senior ………………………4
- Masters Student ……………………..5
- Ph.D. Student ……………………..6

38. What is your major?

39. How many credit hours did you take in the Fall Semester (2002)? _____ hours

40. What is your GPA? _____ Unknown 1

41. Gender/sex:
- Male……1
- Female……2

42. Where do you live?
- On campus ………………………1
- Within one mile of campus …………………2
- More than one mile from campus …………3

43. Do you have online access to electronic journals from where you live?
44. How many personal subscriptions to professional journals do you receive, including those obtained as a member of a professional society? (Personal subscriptions are those which are personally addressed to you at your home, office, or lab.)

_______ print subscriptions   _______ electronic journal subscriptions

Please return to your professor/teacher at the end of class.

THANK YOU!!