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Reading Habits Across Disciplines: A Study of Student E-book Use

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Reading Habits Across Disciplines

A Study of Student E-book Use

Lee Cummings | Anne Larrivee | Leslie Vega

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Libraries

BU at a glance

University Demographic

- ❖ 13,000 Undergrads
- ❖ 3,000 Grads



Library Stats

- ❖ 2.5 million texts
- ❖ Over 475,000 electronic texts

Hypothesis

The data obtained will assess preferences in regards to print vs. e-book usage.

- ❖ Aiding collection development
- ❖ Observing subject-specific trends
- ❖ Conclusions drawn = previous assumptions?

Methodology + Survey Design

Q6

Edit Question ▼

Add Question Logic

Move

Copy

Delete

6. When accessing e-books from the libraries, what feature do you consider to be the most important?

- Easy navigation of chapters / sections
- Ability to download the e-book
- E-book is always accessible (multiple concurrent users)
- Ability to print from the e-book
- PDF version available
- Other (please specify)

+ Add Question ▼

Split Page Here

Q7

Edit Question ▼

Move

Copy

Delete

7. Do you have a preferred e-book platform (i.e., Ebrary, EBL, EBSCOHost, Oxford Scholarship Online, MyiLibrary, Project Muse, ACLS Humanities E-Book, etc.)? If so, please identify it in the box provided. If not, please move on to the next question.

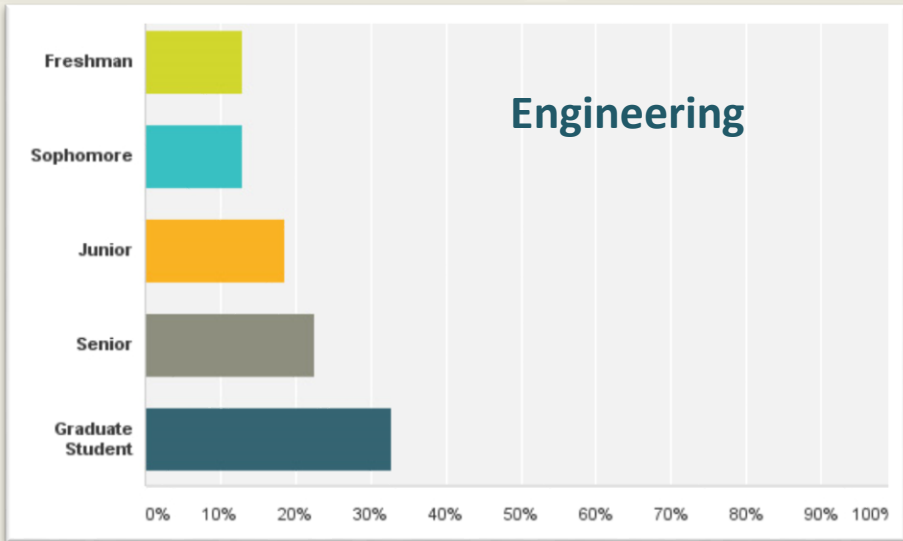
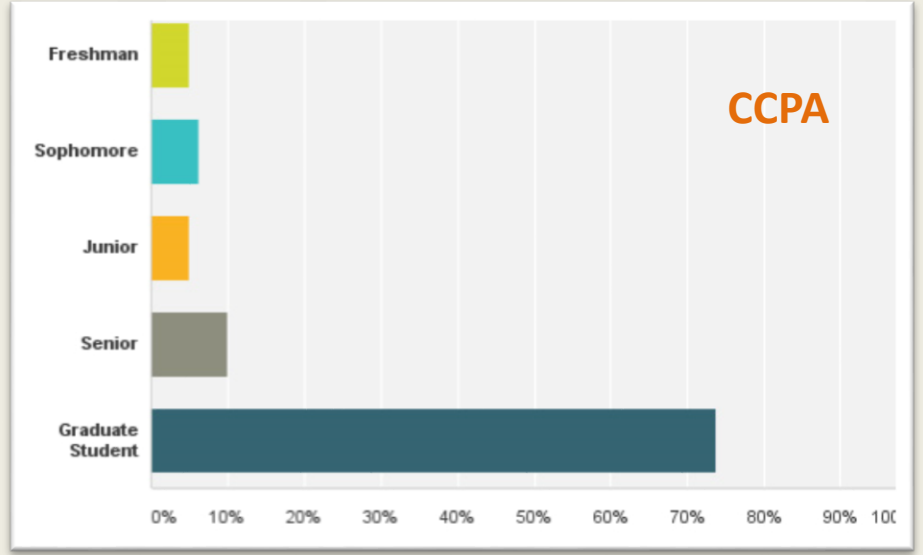
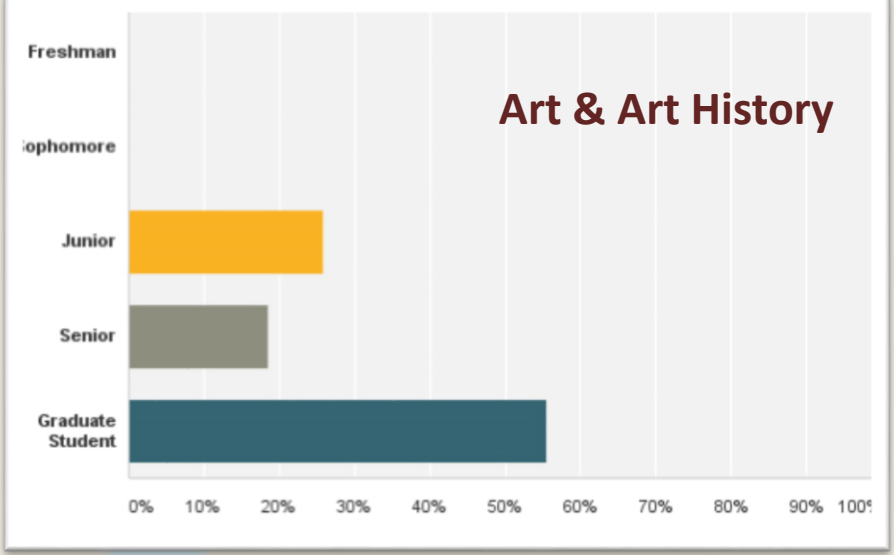
- ❖ 9 Questions
- ❖ 3 BU colleges
- ❖ 2 months (Oct-Nov)

Influential Articles

*Levine-Clark, M. 2006. Electronic book usage: a survey at the University of Denver. *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* 6(3): 285-299.

*Nariani, R. (2009). E-Books in the Sciences: If We Buy It Will They Use It?. *Issues In Science & Technology Librarianship*, (59), 3.

<i>Discipline / Departments</i>	<i>Total Population of department</i>	<i># of Respondents</i>	<i>Percent of Population who responded</i>
❖ Art & Art History	185	27	14.5 %
❖ College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA)	772	81	10.4 %
❖ Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science	2,747	146	5.3 %



What is your **class** or academic rank?

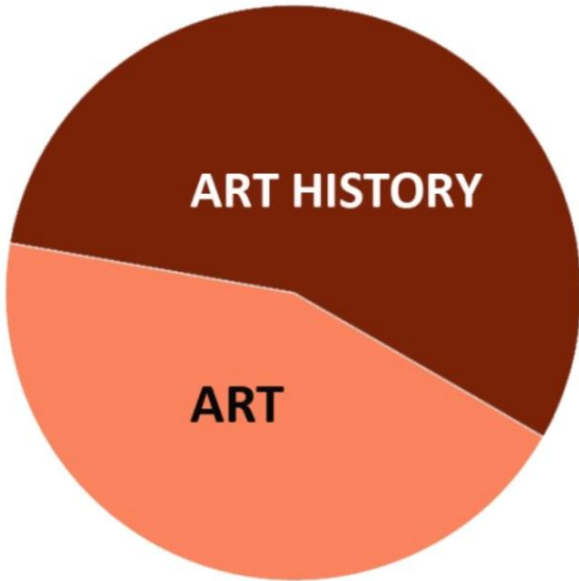
Art & Art History: 55.6% Graduate Students
Engineering: 32.9% Graduate Students
CCPA: 73.8% Graduate Students

Participation

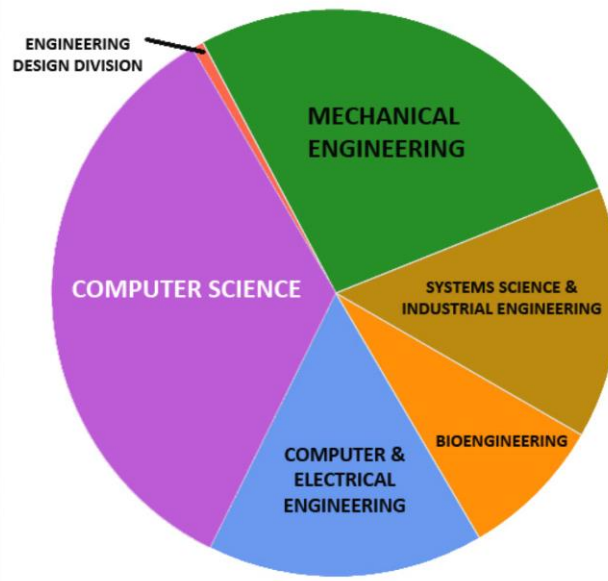
Art & Art History
15%

Engineering
5%

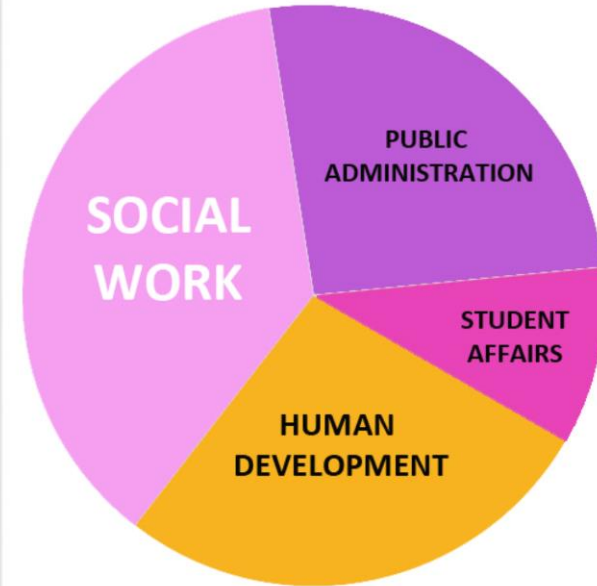
CCPA
11%



27 respondents/
185



146 respondents/
2.745

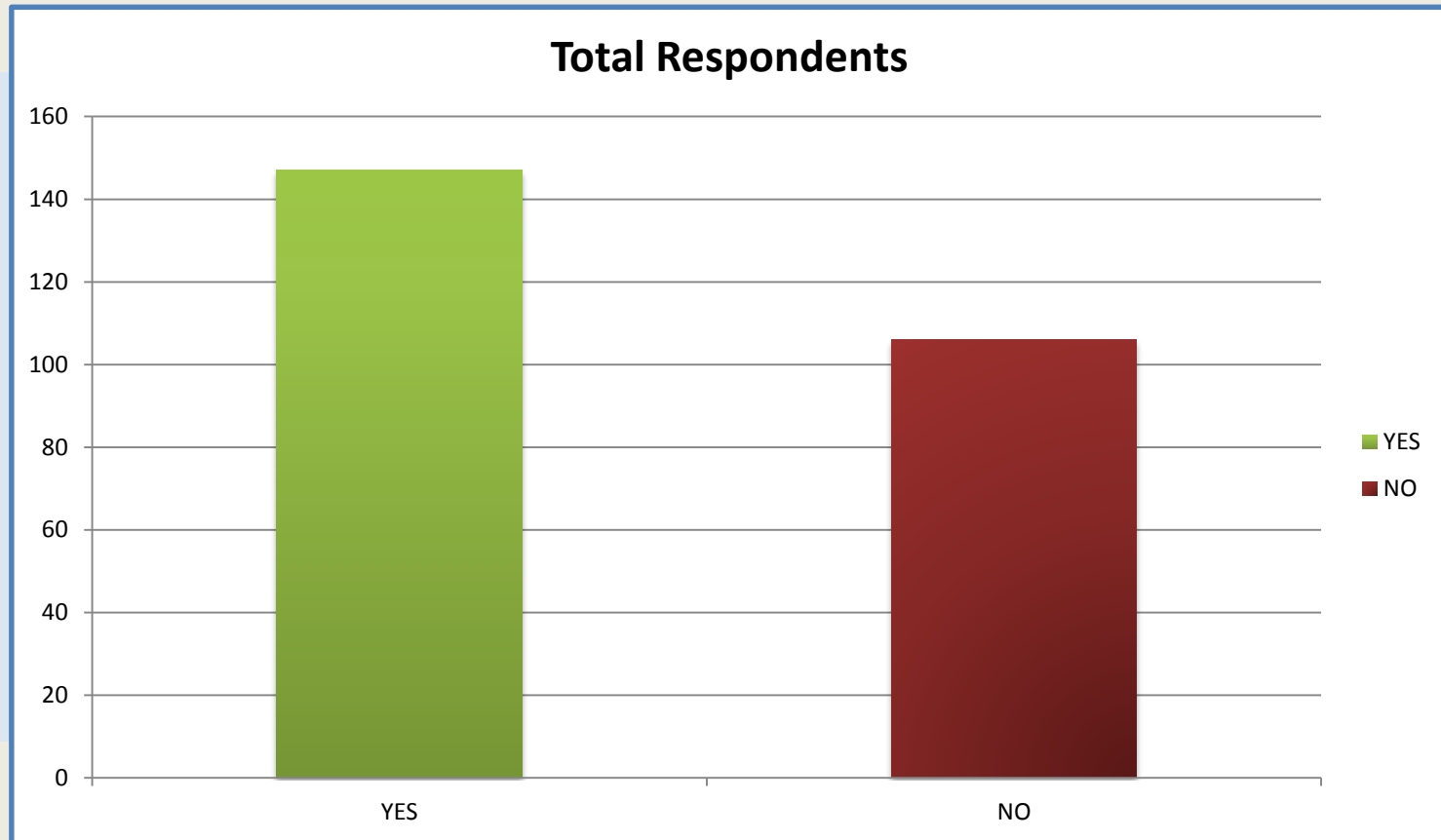


81 respondents/
755

With which **department** are you primarily affiliated?

In the course of your academic studies, have you used **books** from the collections of Binghamton University Libraries?

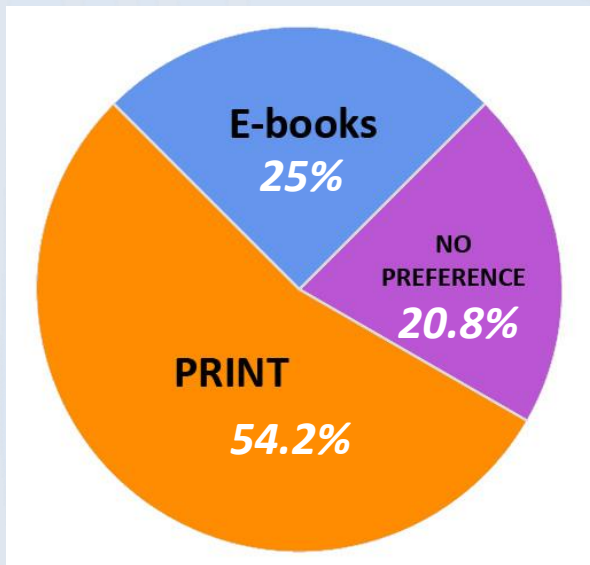
Art & Art History: 93% **YES**
Engineering: 52% **NO**
CCPA: 65% **YES**



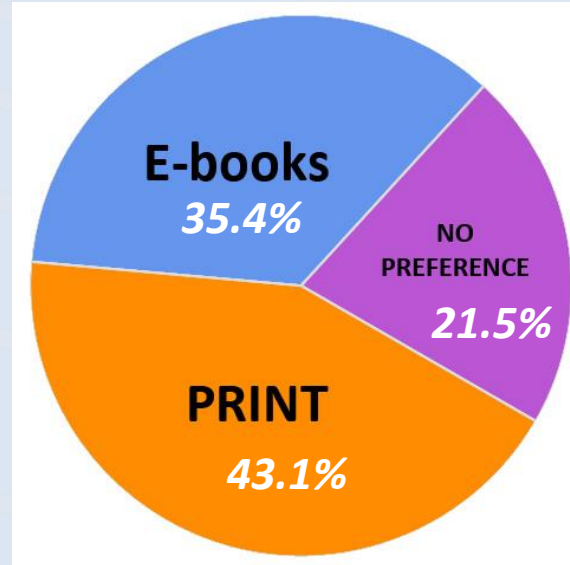
58% students have used physical books

When using books from the libraries, do you **prefer** print or electronic books (e-books)?

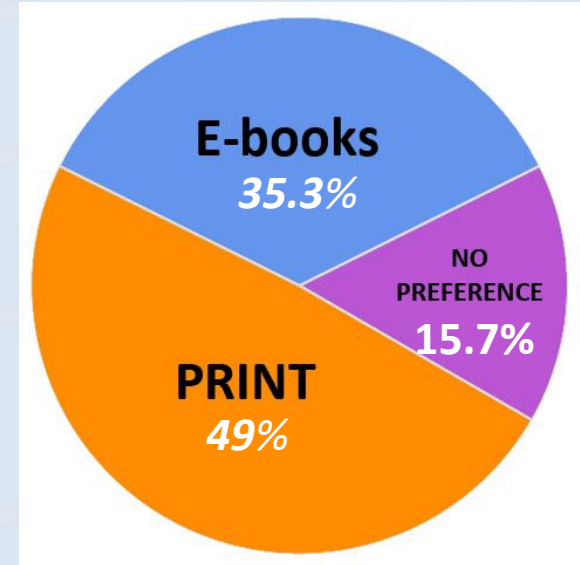
Note: For the purposes of this survey, e-books include electronic versions of any books which can be read electronically and accessed through the libraries' catalog, Find It!, or the subscription databases. Please exclude electronic journal articles, government documents, and e-books available freely on other websites.



Art & Art History



Engineering



CCPA

Art & Art History:

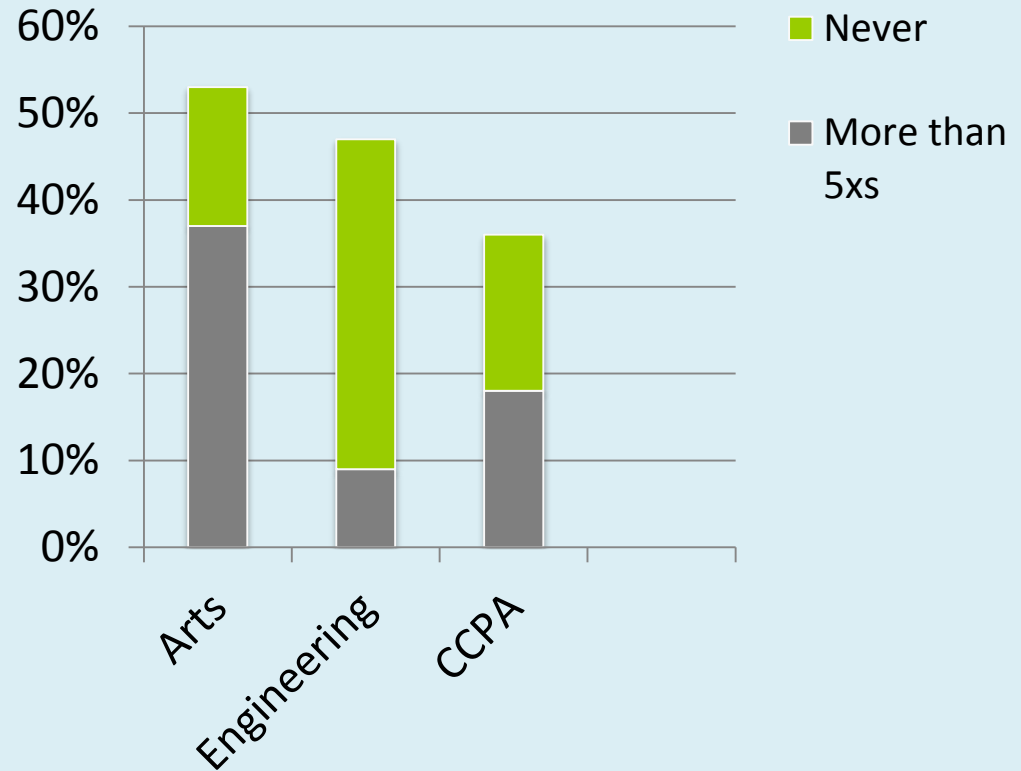
*More than 5 times a semester = 37.5%,
never = 16.7%*

Engineering:

*More than 5 times a semester = 9.4%,
never = 37.5%*

CCPA:

*More than 5 times a semester = 17.6%,
never = 17.6%*



How often do you use e-books from the libraries?

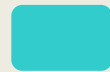
Total e-book usage across departments



Less than once per semester



More than 5 X per semester

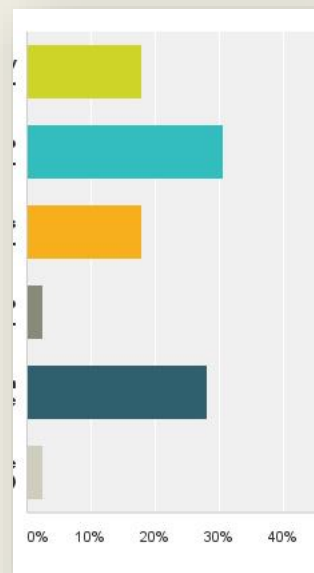
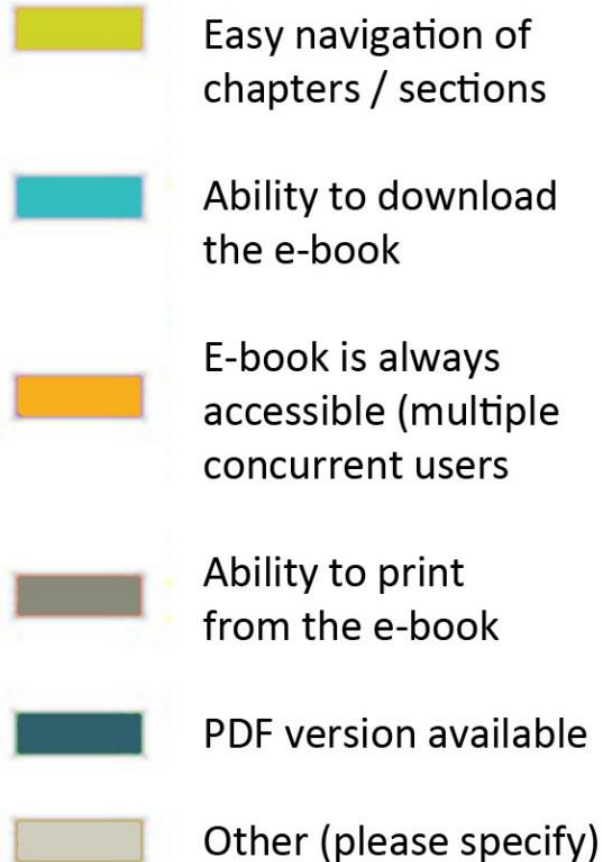


1-5 X per semester

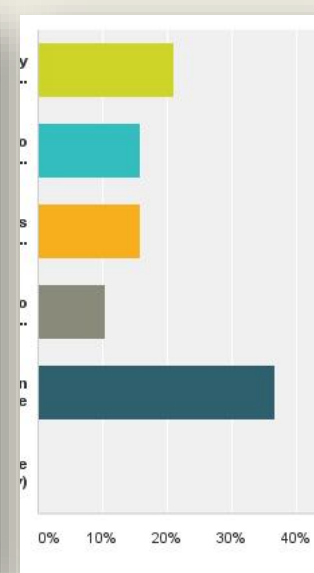


Never

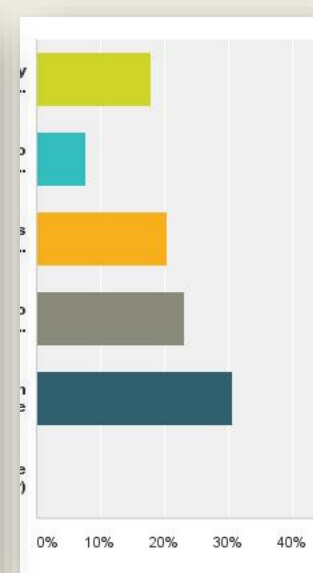
Important E-book Features



Engineering



Art & Art History



CCPA

- ❖ **Most important feature**
 - ❖ PDF availability
- ❖ **Least important feature**
 - ❖ Printing (Engineering & Arts)
 - ❖ Downloading (CCPA)
- ❖ **Overall Differences**

Do you have a preferred e-book platform ?

Art & Art History

- (1) JSTOR, Project Muse
- (1) ACLS Humanities E-books

Engineering

- (1) PDF
- (2) Safari books

CCPA

- (5) EBSCO or EBSCOhost
- (1) JSTOR
- (1) Oxford Scholarship Online
- (1) PDF version

When accessing e-books from the libraries, what type of **device** do you most often use?

Desktop computer, Laptop computer, E-book reader (i.e. Kindle, Nook), Tablet computer (i.e. iPad, Galaxy Tab), Mobile Phone

Art & Art History

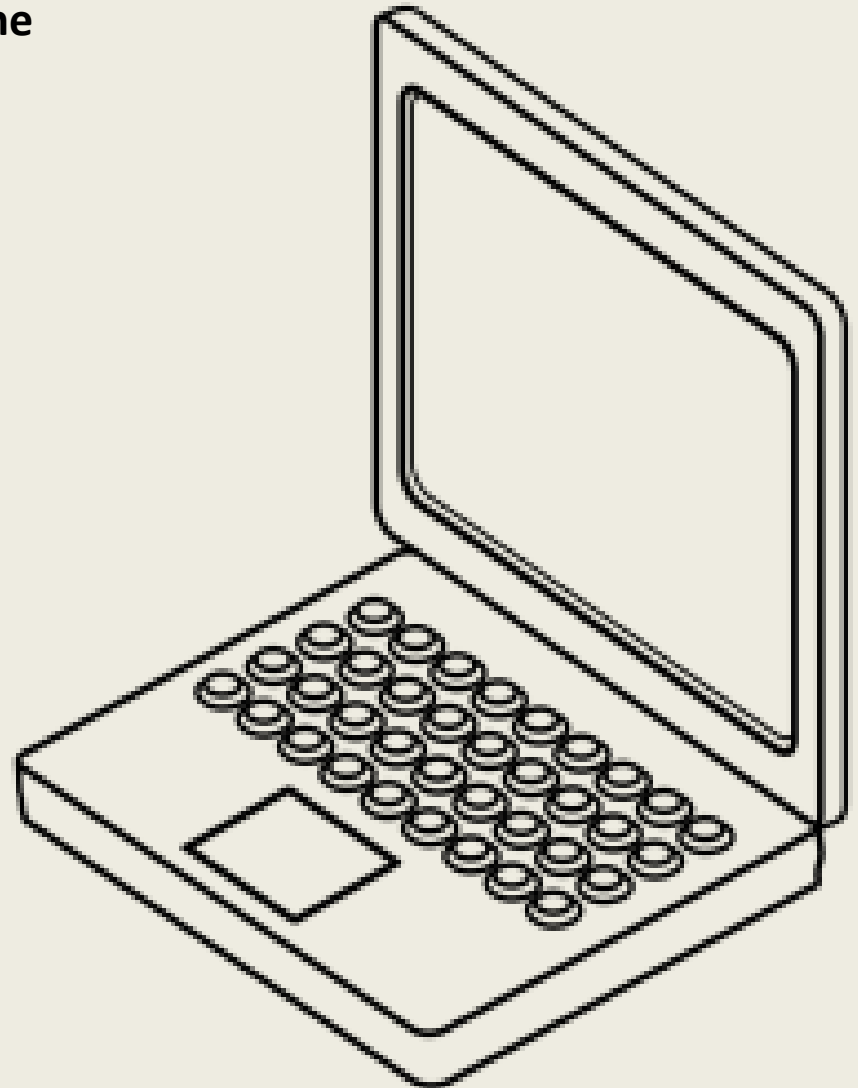
Laptop Computer 68.4%

Engineering

Laptop Computer 76.9%

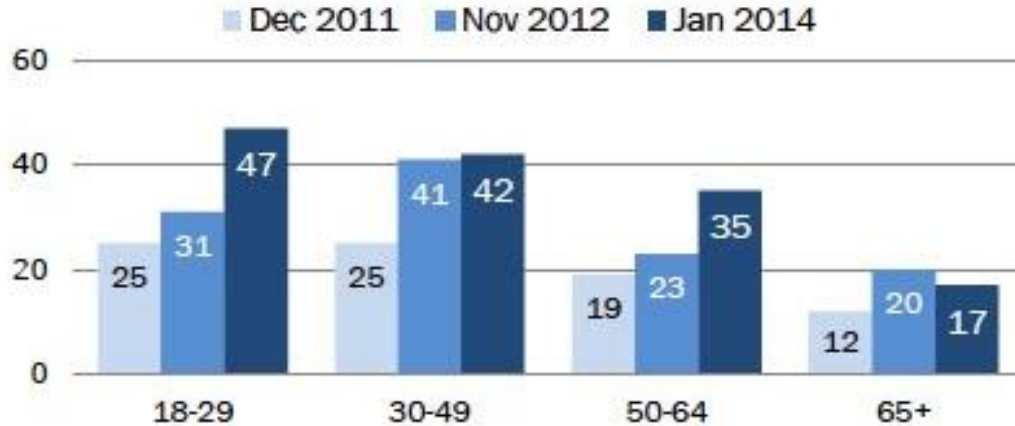
CCPA

Laptop Computer 48.7%



Almost half of readers under 30 read an e-book in the past year

Among those in each age group who read at least one book in the past year, the % who read an e-book during that time



Source: Pew Research Center surveys, Dec 2011-January 2014. Interviews were conducted on landlines and cell phones, in English and Spanish.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

“A Snapshot of Reading in America in 2013”

January 16, 2014

by Kathryn Zickuhr and Lee Rainie

Review of the E-book Literature

“If it’s too inconvenient, I’m not going after it.”

(Connaway et al., 2011)

E-book use and attitudes

- ❖ Arts
- ❖ Engineering
- ❖ Social Sciences
- ❖ Comparative Studies

Comment Analysis

Frequently Mentioned

ACCESS (14)

- ❖ Convenience
- ❖ Location

Complaints (13)

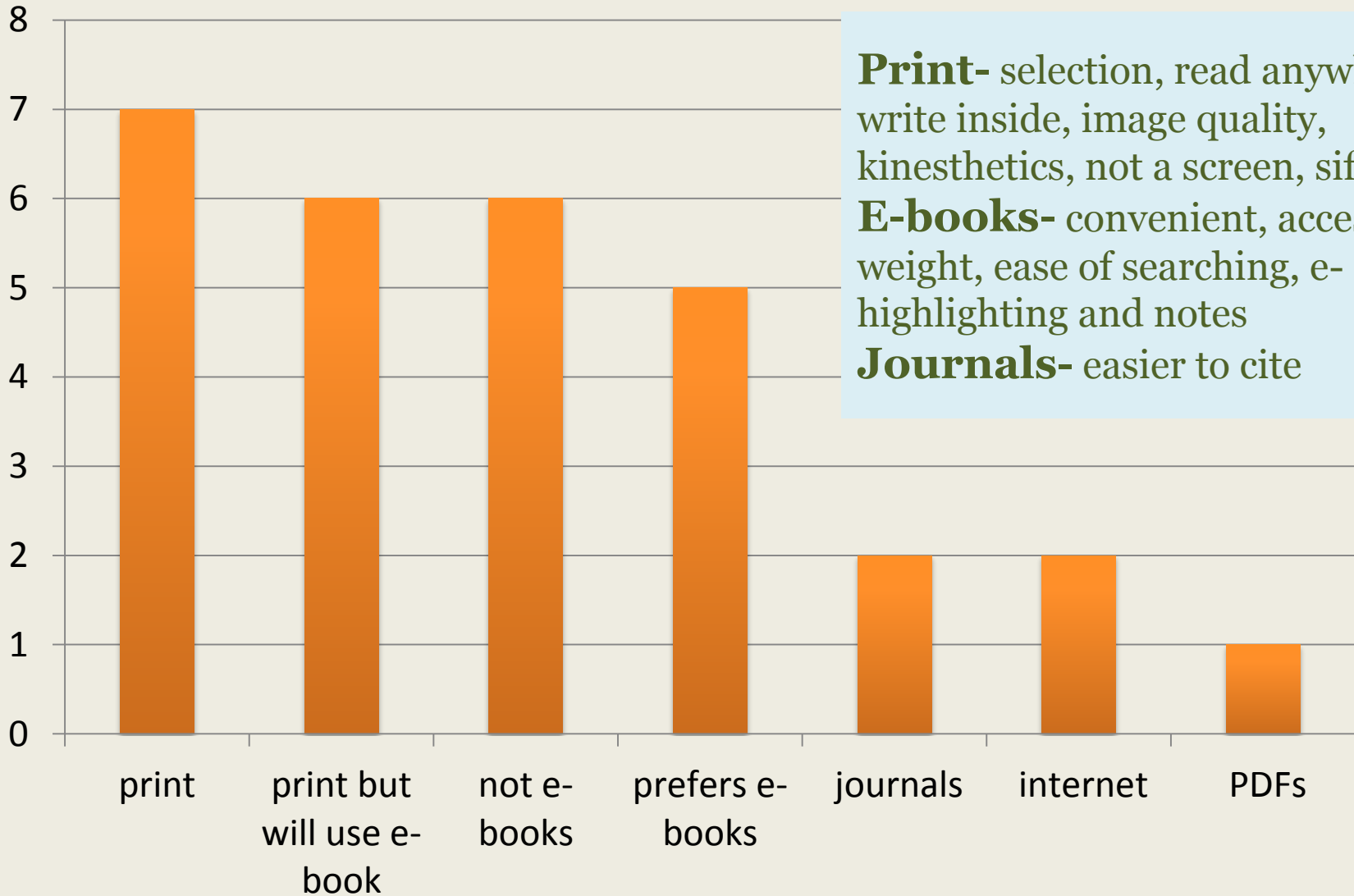
- ❖ E-book features (9)
- ❖ Selection (4)

Unaware (5)

Frequent Terms:

- ❖ E-book readers (5)
- ❖ Textbooks (7)
- ❖ Convenience (8)
- ❖ Access (11)

Format Preference Comments



Print- selection, read anywhere, can write inside, image quality, kinesthetics, not a screen, sift-able

E-books- convenient, accessible, weight, ease of searching, e-highlighting and notes

Journals- easier to cite

Comments

“Print books are particularly important to art historians and others who look at images frequently.” *ART HISTORY*

“Just have everything available online please.” *ENGINEERING*

“... Ebooks are hard to navigate and crosslink. I always preferred printed books. However, if there's an efficient way to crosslink related topics in ebooks, I think it will be helpful.” *ENGINEERING*

“End of print books = End of Civilization” *CCPA*