JISC Project: Promoting the Uptake of E-Books in Higher Education Academics Questionnaire

A project has been commissioned by JISC (the Joint Information Systems Committee) which includes finding out what lecturers think about e-books. The term "e-book" may be broadly interpreted for the purposes of the study, and includes reference works, monographs, textbooks, electronic databases and "grey" literature (conference proceedings, etc.). The outputs of the study will be a report and a practical manual, which I hope may be of help to you.

I should be extremely grateful if you could spare time to answer the following questions, either by filling in the questionnaire and returning it to the librarian who gave it to you, or by typing in your answers and returning it to me by e-mail.

Please feel free to add any further comments or information which you think may help.

Neither you nor your university will be identified in the report or the manual without your express permission.

My contact details are given at the end of the questionnaire.

General Questions

A.   Did you know that your university library has a stock of e-books?

Yes   No

B.   If the answer was "Yes", have you worked with the librarian on selecting e-books?

Yes   No

C.   Whether or not you use e-books, do you use web resources for teaching and studying purposes?

Yes   No

If the answer was "Yes", please give brief details.

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E-Books Specific Questions

1. Do you or have you ever used e-books?

Yes   €   No   €

If the answer is "No", please go to Question 3, and when answering the remaining questions (except Question 8, which relates specifically to non-users), please consider which of the options you think you would choose if you did use e-books, where appropriate relating them to your experiences with printed books. For example, please state when answering Question 5 which of the possible routes of finding information about e-books is most likely to appeal to you.

2. If the answer is Yes, for which of the following have you used an e-book:

    a)   to prepare lectures   €
    b)   to prepare course material, handouts, etc.   €
    c)   to carry out research   €
    d)   to consult tables, formulae, etc.   €
    e)   to find out general reference information   €
    f)   for private reading / pleasure   €
    g)   Other (please specify):

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3. Do you obtain, or would you be most likely to obtain, e-books from:

    a)   the university library   €
    b)   other libraries   €
    c)   publishers   €
    d)   booksellers   €
    e)   free from the Internet   €
    f)   Other (please specify)

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4. Do you recommend, or would you be most likely to recommend, e-books to students, by:

    a)   including them on reading lists   €
    b)   recommending them verbally   €

5. How do you find out, or how would you be most likely to find out, about e-books?

    a)   via the library catalogue
    b)   through library training sessions
    c)   with the help of your subject librarian
    d)   via information received from publishers
    e)   via information received from booksellers
    f)   from reviews
    g)   via recommendation from colleagues
    h)   via recommendation from students
    i)   via your library's web pages
    j)   via a web search
    i)   other (please specify)

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6. Some e-books are just straightforward electronic versions of the text. Others offer various "functionalities". Could you indicate which of the following you have used, or would be most likely to use? If you have used, did you find the function helpful?

	Yes	No	Helpful
Straightforward reading (browsing)	€	€	€
Straightforward reading (at least one chapter)	€	€	€
Keyword search facility	€	€	€
Highlight facility	€	€	€
"Bookmark" facility	€	€	€
Annotate facility	€	€	€
Download facility (part book)	€	€	€
Download facility (whole book)	€	€	€
Printing out facility (part book)	€	€	€

7. Have you ever experienced any technical problems with e-books?
   If the answer is "yes", please give brief details.

   Yes   €   No   €

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8. Do you think that in the future your use of e-books will:

   Increase   €
   Decrease   €
   Stay the same   €

   Please add comments to expand on this answer if you wish

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9. If you are not currently using e-books, is it because:

   a) generally, you have not considered them   €
   b) you are not aware of what is available in your area   €
   c) you consider that they offer no advantages over print €
   d) you think that you would experience access problems   €
   e) you think students would experience access problems   €

f) other (please specify)

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10. If purchasing / recommending a book available in either print or electronic format, would you choose the e-book if it was significantly cheaper than the printed book?

Yes   €   No   €

11. It would be appreciated if you could summarise your views on the use of e-books as a resource for teaching, learning and research in higher education here.

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12. It would be appreciated if you could give details of your discipline and the students that you teach:

Discipline   …………………………………………………

1st year undergraduates   €
2nd year undergraduates   €
3rd year+ undergraduates   €
postgraduates   €

If further help is required for the survey and you are prepared to be contacted again, please give your details here:

Name…………………………………e-mail address………………………….

Telephone Number……………………………………………………………..

Thank you very much indeed for helping with this survey. Please return the questionnaire to your librarian, or post or e-mail to Linda Bennett, Gold Leaf, Highfields, Upperfield Lane, High Hoyland, Barnsley S75 4BH. goldleafuk@yahoo.com