

**Samuel C. Williams Library**  
Stevens Institute of Technology

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***Library resources survey: Faculty and researcher needs***  
January-February, 2008

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**SURVEY RESULTS**

**Survey start date:** Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Survey end date :** Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

## **Survey Summary/Analysis**

In order to assess and meet the research needs of the faculty and researchers, a survey was conducted during the period of January 15<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2008. The focus of the survey was to evaluate the research resources currently used and get feedback on what resources need to be added to meet the research requirements.

The survey targeted faculty members and doctoral students who are involved in research activity. It asked the users to answer questions about their past and future involvement in research, areas of research, type of resources used on a regular basis, available currently used and unavailable desired journals, available currently used and unavailable desired databases and the level of use of the inter-library loan/document delivery service provided by the library. Finally, they were given the opportunity to express their opinions' on any aspect of the library services in general.

The results are outlined as follows:

### **User Population:**

793 people were invited to take the survey (493 faculty, of which 107 are adjunct, and 300 doctoral students). Because we were not able to obtain an accurate list of research faculty, the survey was sent to all faculty. We also were not sure that the 300 doctoral student emails were all accurate. So, considering the above data we can say that we had a decent response rate.

- 150 users responded to the survey
- 70% of the respondents were faculty members and 30% doctoral students and research staff
- About 58% of the respondents belong to the School of Engineering and Science, followed by 16% from the School of Technology Management, 14% from the School of Systems and Enterprises and 11% from the College of Arts and Letters (any discrepancy is due to the fact that some users skipped some questions)

### **Research activity:**

- About 75% of the respondents said they published a scholarly work in the past five years
- About 94% of the respondents plan to publish scholarly work in the next two years
- The list of research fields is too long to list here and can be found in the results for question 4 on page 4. This list needs to be looked at closely by the Provost and the Deans, to confirm the actual research areas.

### **Resources:**

- **Types of resources used on a regular basis:** (note: most respondents use a combination of the list below)
  1. 74% use free full text journal papers available on the Internet
  2. 73% use print books
  3. 70% use full text journals through the library
  4. 58% use print journals
  5. 54% use conference proceedings
  6. 34% use e-Books
  7. 33% use researcher's personal website
  8. 16% use patents
  9. 12% use standards
- **Five most frequently used journals currently available through the library**
  1. 14% of the respondents listed SCIENCE journal
  2. 10% of the respondents listed NATURE journal
  3. 5% of the respondents listed ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT journal
  4. 5% of the respondents listed ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW journal
  5. About 3% of the respondents listed MIS QUARTERLY journal
- **Five most desired journals currently unavailable through the library**
  1. About 7% of the respondents listed Journal of American Chemical Society
  2. 6% listed Nano Letters (ACS)
  3. 4% listed Langmuir (ACS)
  4. 2% listed ACS journals

5. 2% listed Analytic Chemistry (ACS)

These numbers show beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the ACS journals are strongly needed. It's a collection of core journals in the chemistry and chemical engineering fields.

- **Five most frequently used databases currently available through the library**
  1. 19% listed Science Direct
  2. 19% listed Scopus
  3. 15% listed IEEE Electronic Library
  4. 10% listed ABI/INFORM
  5. 7% listed Academic Search Premier

These numbers mirror the usage statistics and show the popularity of these databases.
- **Five most desired databases currently unavailable through the library**
  1. 18% listed ISI-Web of Science
  2. 5% listed ACS (American Chemical Society) Publications
  3. 5% listed SpringerLink
  4. 3% listed JSTOR –full collection
  5. 3% listed Project Muse
- **Frequency of use of the Library's Inter-Library Loan and Document Delivery Services**
  1. About 36% placed one to five requests per year
  2. About 33% never use it
  3. 22% place more than 10 requests per year
  4. 9% place between 6 and 10 requests per year
- **Do you ever ask a colleague at another institution to obtain documents for you?**
  1. 34% said yes and made between 1 and 5 requests per year
  2. 29% said no
  3. 26% said yes and made over 10 requests per year
  4. About 9% said yes and made between 6 and 10 requests per year
- **Is there a professional need to perform citation searches?**
  1. 60% said yes
  2. 40% said no
- **If there is a need to perform citation searches, how often?**
  1. 33% said between 1 and 5 times a year
  2. 17% said 10 or more times a year
  3. 7% said between 6 and 10 times a year
- **If there is a need to perform citation searches, for what purpose?** (many respondents do it for a combination of purposes)
  1. 44% said to evaluate the impact of their own research
  2. 35% said to evaluate the impact of colleagues' research
  3. 25% said for promotion and tenure purposes
  4. 17% said for hiring purposes
  5. 15% gave various reasons such as evaluating student papers, private consulting, etc.
- **How do you currently perform citation searches?** (many respondents use a combination of tools)
  1. 39% use tools available on the free web
  2. 30% use Scopus through the Stevens Library
  3. 21% use the Web of Science in some other institution
  4. 18% do not perform any citation searches
  5. 14% ask other people to do it for them
- **How do you currently find journal impact factor information?** (many respondents use a combination of tools)
  1. 35% use tools available on the free web

2. 33% do not look for it
  3. 20% get it from the Journal Citation Reports database at some other institution
  4. 9% ask other people, go to journal publisher websites or have no need for it
- How useful would access to the Web of Science database be for your research?
    1. 32% said extremely useful
    2. 30% said useful
    3. 18% said a little useful
    4. 13% said not useful at all
  - How useful would access to the Journal Citation Reports database be for your research?
    1. 24% said extremely useful
    2. 26% said useful
    3. 23% said a little useful
    4. 16% said not useful at all

The comment section shows that teaching faculty are more concerned about building a strong book collection that supports the curriculum, while the researchers are more concerned with the journal collection.

Below is the list of comments made by the users grouped into categories:

- More management books
- More journals for the research areas
- Acquire resources for the School of Art and Letters
- User satisfied with Library resources
- User satisfied with Library staff
- User satisfied with Document Delivery
- User unsatisfied with Library resources
- Faculty supporting Library efforts
- Textbook acquisition
- Off-campus access issues
- Representation of dated in the Journal Locator
- Music listening facility

The actual data from which these results were obtained can be accessed in the complete survey document.