Medical students and textbooks as e-books - a survey
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Background

• General turn towards e-resources in education and publishing

• Investments in e-books at NTNU University Library

• However: What do the users say?
Aim of this survey

• Explore attitudes toward e-books in general

• Map students knowledge of and experience with the e-books services from our library

• Find out what we can do to increase use of our e-books
Methods

• Electronic survey
  – Medical students
  – Lecturers at the Faculty of Medicine

• Compare findings with a recent multinational study
  (Landøy, A. et. al 2015)
Findings: Students format preferences

Q4 If an academic text is more than 7-10 pages, I prefer to read it in print

Besvart: 130  Hoppet over: 5

Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Findings: Students format preferences

'SAVED BY AN E-BOOK'

Grant forgot he needed to cite some books for his history paper that's due tomorrow, but PCL closed 2 hours ago!!

Luckily, his roommate is the MacGyver of laziness, and knows how to do anything and everything without leaving the dorm.

Dude, don't freak out - just use an e-book!

WWW.BITSTRIPS.COM
Findings: Budget scenario

Q12 The library's budgets for literature acquisition is limited. If we had to prioritize, would you prefer us to cut in acquisition of:

Besvart: 127  Hoppet over: 8

E-books

Printed books
"I prefer to read printed books, but electronic resources gives me quite a different level of availability. I buy the printed version myself of the (e)-books I use most".

"I use the e-books in the library to consider which books I should buy in print myself".

“I prefer to read at home because I have a dog. Convenient with e-books!”
Findings: Study techniques (1)

Q8 I usually highlight and notate my printed course material

Besvart: 129   Hoppet over: 6

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Findings: Study techniques (2)

Q19 What kind of study technique tools in e-books are you familiar with?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highlight text</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take notes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a list of contents</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m not familiar with</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besvart: 124  Hoppet over: 11
Findings: Use of e-books

Q21 What would make you use e-books more than you do today?

- Learning more about how to...
- Better platforms,...
- Having access to more...
- I do not want to use e-books
- Other (please specify)

Besvart: 124  Hoppet over: 11
Findings: Lecturers survey

Q1 Have you any knowledge of the libraries tailor-made e-book collection for the medical study?

Responses: 34, Skipped: 0
Findings: Students survey

Q17 Have you any knowledge of the libraries taylor-made e-book collection for the medical study?

Besvart: 125  Hoppet over: 10

- Yes
- No

Comment

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
Comments: Lecturers

"What about a newsletter about e-books and other offers from the library?"

"I did not know about this e-book collection of medical books."

"Our library is the sunshine of my life!"

“Important to invest in e-books!”

Photo: Kathy Mathews, www.cookiedoughcreations.net
Conclusion

• Confirms previous studies on student reading format preferences
• Provides support for further investments in e-books
• Students want to learn more about using e-books

Actions based on findings

• Workshops/lectures in using e-book interfaces
• Inform lecturers about our e-book collection
• Follow-up study to find effects of our initiatives
Thank you!

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Contributors:
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