

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
FACULTY SURVEY: ELECTRONIC RESOURCES
2007-2008
GENERAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Faculty Survey: Electronic Resources Report

Objective: This survey of faculty regarding electronic resources will inform the FAU Libraries' as to what resources are deemed essential and needed for both research and teaching. The information gathered will guide the FAU Libraries in its decisions with regard to retention and/or cancellation of electronic resources specifically over the next few years when significant budget cuts are expected.

Outcome: Information submitted via the survey will identify resources that faculty use in their research and teaching. Faculty will also identify resources that they recommend to their students and/or that they know their students use. Electronic resources deemed non-essential in subject areas will be identified as well as essential e-resources not being provided currently.

Assessment Method: Survey (Attached). Surveys were distributed by subject selectors via email, either as an attachment or as a link to a survey form. Depending on current communication protocols between the Library and the College, these messages may have been sent directly to faculty, to the Dean for distribution, or to the Colleges' Library representatives for distribution. Some selectors chose to include additional questions that were specific to the Colleges/Departments they represent. Additionally, reports of currently subscribed electronic resources associated with each College were generated and included as attachments in the above mentioned email messages.

Each selector will tabulate the responses and submit these to the Electronic Resources Unit for final tabulation.

Criterion for Success: In conducting this survey we expect to identify those resources the faculty find essential to their research and teaching. This information will inform the decision making process when an electronic resource comes up for renewal, and the library must determine the need for the product within the constraints of a particular budget. The results will support the library's decision to either retain or cancel a particular resource.

Data Summary: A total of 150 faculty members responded to the survey and identified 172 electronic resources as being essential to faculty and/or student research. Faculty identified 18 specific resources that are needed and are not currently held by the FAU Libraries. Other responses to the question regarding needed resources were more generic; such as, "More Journals" and "Many, Many." Twenty-five (25) resources currently held by the FAU Libraries were identified as not needed. All but 3 of these had been identified as essential by other faculty members. Only one resource was identified as being able to replace another resource currently held by the FAU Libraries.

General assessments, based on responses, are that "electronic" or "online" is the preferred format for journals and databases, and that electronic journals and electronic journal packages are essential for both faculty and student research.

Selectors will be able to use the results as one criterion in collection development decisions related to electronic resources at both the institutional and State level. These decisions include renewal of current subscriptions, initiation of new subscriptions/purchases, cancellations, and replacements.

Program Improvement: Although an increase in participation is desirable, a survey was the best option for gathering the desired information. If further study is deemed necessary, the method(s) of distributing the survey will be reviewed and reevaluated with an increased response rate as a desired outcome.