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COVID-19 Pandemic and Student Perceptions and use of eBooks Survey

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COVID-19 Pandemic and Student Perceptions and use of eBooks Survey

Authors: Grace Ansani, Mallory Jallas, KatieRose McEneely, and Jen Schwartz

Abstract: This survey was created and administered in the spring of 2022 by the CARLI Counts eBook Team to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student perceptions and use of eBooks. This survey is a supplement to the ACRL 2023 Contributed Paper, *"eBooks are a life saver" vs. "I'm not a fan of eBooks": Discerning student attitudes towards academic eBooks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic*. Reuse and adaptation of this survey are encouraged. This document is licensed under [CC BY NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

1. I am willing to participate in this study [If no, don't continue]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

2. I am 18 or older [If no, don't continue]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. I am currently physically located outside of the European Economic Area [If no, don't continue]*
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

4. Were you a full or part-time student at an educational institution (including high school), during March 2020? [If no, don't continue]
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Please refer to the definitions below for academic and personal use for the following questions.

Academic use: Material read, consulted for, or related to coursework. Can include textbooks, essays, citation style guides, or other books used as reference when writing a paper, preparing for class discussions, or completing assignments. May also be referred to as academic research.

Personal use: Material read or consulted for enjoyment or development unrelated to your own coursework

5. Prior to March 2020, did you use eBooks for: (check all that apply)
 - a. Personal use
 - b. Academic use
 - c. Did not use eBooks prior to March 2020 at all

6. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, do you use eBooks? (Select all that apply) [If no, don't continue]
 - a. Yes, personal use
 - b. Yes, academic use
 - c. No (If no, conditional format them out of the survey? or include "have used an eBook since March 2020" in the call for participants)

7. What device(s) have you used to read eBooks? Check all that apply
 - a. Laptop or desktop computer
 - b. Smartphone
 - c. Tablet (iPad, Android Tab, Kindle Fire with browser)
 - d. eReader (Kindle, Kobo, etc.)
 - e. Other (Please specify)

8. Have you ever used an eBook from your University Library?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure / I don't know

9. Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the likelihood you would use eBooks for future academic use?
 - a. More likely to use eBooks
 - b. Less likely to use eBooks
 - c. No change in how I use eBooks
 - d. Not sure / I don't know

10. Prior to March 2020, did you prefer reading eBooks or print books for academic use?
 - a. Preferred eBooks
 - b. Preferred printed books

- c. No Preference
 - d. Not sure / I don't know
11. Prior to March 2020, did you prefer reading eBooks or print books for personal use?
- a. Preferred eBooks
 - b. Preferred printed books
 - c. No Preference
 - d. Not sure / I don't know
12. Do you currently prefer eBooks or print books for academic use?
- a. Prefer eBooks
 - b. Prefer printed books
 - c. No Preference
 - d. Not sure / I don't know
13. Do you currently prefer eBooks or print books for personal use?
- a. Prefer eBooks
 - b. Prefer printed books
 - c. No Preference
 - d. Not sure / I don't know
14. Has the frequency of your eBook use for academic use changed since March 2020? I have used:
- a. More eBooks
 - b. Fewer eBooks
 - c. No Change
 - d. Not sure / I don't know

15. How important are the following features of eBooks for academic use?

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Important	Extremely important	Not sure / I don't know
Immediate access online					
Ability to annotate a text (ex. add highlighting, notes and bookmarks)					
Searching eBook by keyword					
Ability to print a chapter or section of the eBook					
Ability to print an entire eBook					
Ability to download a chapter or section of the eBook					
Ability to download an entire eBook					
Automated citation tools (ex. MLA, APA, AMA, Chicago)					
Ability to use screen readers or other assistive technology?					

Please list any other important features not listed above: _____

16. How often have you experienced these obstacles with academic eBooks ?

	Never	Rarely	Some- times	Often	Always	Not sure / I don't know
Limitations on the ability to download						
Limitations on the ability to print						
Limitations on citation tools (ex. MLA, APA, AMA, Chicago)						
Limitations on ability to annotate a text (ex. add highlighting, notes and bookmarks)						
Difficulty navigating the eBook						
Inability to access without internet						
All eBook copies in use						
Technical difficulties; for example, issues with eBook software, log-in problems, or other						

Please list any other obstacles not mentioned above: _____

17. Have you ever asked for help accessing and/or reading an eBook?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure / I don't know

[If Yes]

18. Who have you asked for help? (randomize order of answers) check all that apply.
- Instructor/Professor
 - Friend
 - Relative
 - Librarian
 - University tech support
 - Other University staff (not in the library). For example, tutor, academic advisor, etc.
 - Other (please specify)
19. If you need to complete a reading assignment of about 25 pages and the University library has both a physical copy of the book and an eBook copy available, what would you do?
- Read print book
 - Read eBook
 - Not complete the reading assignment
 - Other (please specify)
20. If you need to complete a reading assignment of more than 100 pages and the University library has both a physical copy of the book and an eBook copy available, what would you do?
- Read print book
 - Read eBook
 - Not complete the reading assignment
 - Other (please specify)
21. If your library has an eBook that you need to read for a class assignment, but you can't access it when you need it (Example: someone else is using it or there's a technical issue), what is your first choice?
- I would purchase or rent the ebook from another source
 - I would borrow a print copy from my library or another library
 - I would look for something similar
 - I would wait and try to access to library's copy of the eBook later
 - I would not complete the reading assignment
 - Other (please specify)
22. Tell us anything else you would like to share about your feelings and/or experiences with academic ebooks:

23. What is your degree being sought:
- Undergraduate
 - Graduate/professional/doctoral
 - I prefer not to answer this question
24. What is your major:
25. Did you receive a Pell Grant?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 - I prefer not to answer this question
26. What is your race/ethnicity (select all that apply)
- American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian or Asian American
 - Black or African American
 - Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or Latinx
 - Middle Eastern or Northern African
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - White
 - Another option not listed here (please specify): ____
 - I prefer not to answer this question
27. Please indicate your gender(s); select all that apply:
- Male
 - Female
 - Nonbinary
 - Transgender
 - Another option not listed here (please specify): ____
 - I prefer not to answer this question
28. What is your age?
29. Do you attend most classes in-person or remotely?
- In-person
 - Remote
 - Hybrid (Combination of in-person and remote attendance)
 - I prefer not to answer this question