

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 1. Survey Introduction

We are conducting a survey of how libraries are currently purchasing, marketing, and judging electronic reference books. For the purposes of this survey, "electronic reference books" are being defined as reference works in the online format: handbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, gazetteers, and any other work that would be considered more reference than a read cover-to-cover monograph.

This survey will take you approximately 10-15 minutes to complete; you may choose to exit at any time if you do not wish to complete it. The survey includes several optional questions where you may provide details about your library; however, please be assured that no personally identifying information is required to complete the survey.

This survey is being conducted by the Committee on Electronic Reference Books, Newton Gresham Library, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. If you have questions or concerns regarding this survey, you may contact the committee chair, Abe Korah, at [apk002@shsu.edu](mailto:apk002@shsu.edu).

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 2. Setting / Background

\* 1. Please indicate the type of library in which you work:

2. OPTIONAL: Name of your library / institution:

\* 3. Please indicate the approximate size of the population served by your library (number of FTE students or population of community served):

\* 4. My main library function is (choose all that apply, if you are equally responsible for multiple areas):

Electronic resources

Technical services

Reference / subject bibliography

Administration

\* 5. I have \_\_\_\_ years of experience working in a library setting in a professional capacity:

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## 3. Collection

\* 6. Please indicate the approximate number of individual e-Reference book TITLES (NOT volumes) to which your institution has access (through license, subscription, or purchase):

\* 7. Please indicate the approximate number of individual e-Reference book PACKAGES (Oxford Reference Online, Credo, etc.) to which your institution has access (through license, subscription, or purchase):

\* 8. Please indicate the length of time you have had access to / been purchasing e-Reference books:

\* 9. In general, in what ways does your library purchase e-Reference resources (choose all that apply):

- Online only
- Online in addition to print
- Print only

\* 10. In your library, does the trend seem to be moving toward acquiring...

\* 11. Please rate the importance of each factor when considering the purchase of e-Reference books in your library:

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very Important
Patrons want online access	jn	jn	jn	jn
Distance student needs	jn	jn	jn	jn
Physical space savings	jn	jn	jn	jn
Cost savings	jn	jn	jn	jn
Statistical measures of usage	jn	jn	jn	jn
Enhanced functionality (embedded audio/video, searchability, etc.)	jn	jn	jn	jn
More frequently/quickly updated	jn	jn	jn	jn

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## 4. Policy

\* 12. In your library, is there a COLLECTION policy for electronic resources (journals, books, etc.) IN GENERAL?

Yes

No

Unknown

\* 13. In your library, is there a COLLECTION policy SPECIFICALLY for e-Reference books?

Yes

No

Unknown

\* 14. In your library, is there an ACQUISITION policy for electronic resources (journals, books, etc.) IN GENERAL?

Yes

No

Unknown

\* 15. In your library, is there an ACQUISITION policy SPECIFICALLY for e-Reference books?

Yes

No

Unknown

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 5. Selection / Acquisition

16. In your library, who has responsibility for selection of e-Reference books?  
(choose all that apply)

Electronic Resources Librarian

Subject Bibliographers

Reference Librarian(s)

Other (please specify)

17. Academic libraries ONLY: The role of non-library faculty in choosing e-Reference books is:

\* 18. In your library, how are e-Reference books handled in the budget?

19. Your library's biggest concern/issue related to e-Reference books is (choose all that apply):

Technology issues with access

Cost

What happens if we discontinue subscription

Licensing agreements

Other (please specify)

\* 20. Your plans for purchasing e-Reference books are:

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 6. Use

21. The primary users of e-Reference books in your library are (choose all that apply):

Students

Public

Faculty

Other

Staff/Employees

Unknown

Other (please specify)

\* 22. From your perspective, average patron awareness of e-Reference books is:

\* 23. In your library, what has been the primary reaction of patrons to e-Reference books?

\* 24. Rate how helpful you find e-Reference books to be in . . .

	Not helpful	Somewhat helpful	Helpful	Very helpful	Unknown	Not applicable
Conducting research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisting patrons	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing instruction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 7. Marketing / Discovery

25. In your library, how do users find e-Reference books? (choose all that apply)

- Catalog
- Subject guides
- Separate page on library website
- Integrated into databases

26. If e-Reference books are on a separate page of the library website, how are they arranged? (choose all that apply)

- Alphabetically
- By subject
- By vendor
- By publisher

Other (please specify)

27. If e-Reference books are listed with the databases, how are they arranged? (choose all that apply)

- Alphabetically
- By subject
- By vendor
- By publisher

Other (please specify)

28. We market e-Reference books to users via . . . (choose all that apply)

- Library website
- Library flier, handout, bookmark, etc.
- Instruction sessions
- Library blog or wiki

Other (please specify)

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## 8. Comments and Contact Information

29. Please provide any additional comments that may be useful.

30. If you would like to be contacted with the results of this survey, please provide your contact information:

Email:

(Optional) Name:

\* 31. If you are interested in answering several additional follow-up questions, please click "Yes" now. These additional questions will only require another 1-2 minutes of your time. If you would like to stop now, click "No." Thank you.

Yes

No

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## 9. Additional Follow-Up Questions

32. Please indicate how you would classify your library's location:

33. Please indicate in what geographic region your library is located:

Other (please specify)

34. OPTIONAL: Indicate the state (if U.S.) or country in which your library is located.

35. Select all vendors with which you subscribe to e-Reference book packages (choose all that apply):

Columbia University Press

netLibrary

Taylor & Francis

Elsevier

Oxford Univ Press

Wiley-Blackwell

GVRL

Sage

IGI Idea Group

Springer

Other (please specify)

# Survey on Electronic Reference Books

## 10. Survey Complete - Thank You!

Thank you for completing our survey on electronic reference books. If you have provided your email address, we will share the results of this survey with you after it is complete.