

Evaluating the digital library: 1: Academics use of e-journals at Loughborough University Library, UK

**Dr Graham Walton, Service Development Manager
and Honorary Research Fellow**



Users and uses of digital
library module:

University of Parma

23/ 10/08

Powerpoint by Peter Lund

What we did

- Online survey in May 2007
- Work done by Jeff Brown, Graham Walton, Peter Lund
- 225 responses
- Spread across all faculties

The questions we asked

- Frequency of use
- Age of e-journals used
- Barriers
- Locating e-journals
- Training needed
- The future



What researchers told us

- 84% use e-journals either daily or weekly
- Use is mainly in offices and off campus not in the library
- More e-journals are needed
- Strong preference for electronic over paper
- Main barrier is lack of access
- Need to improve off campus access
- Backfiles are important
- Hard copy is still used by some as a last resort
- Training in reference management still needed

A couple of free text comments...



Convenience of e-journals

“Personally, I would happily have no print versions at all, if I could have more papers available online.”

Importance of print...

“Print journals are important because amongst them are the oldest and the most prestigious.”

Where do we go from here?



- Buy more current subscriptions as e-journals...more “big deals”
- Buy more e-journal backfiles
- Create a virtual private network to allow off campus access to IP address authenticated journals
- Remove current journal display

Survey can be found at...

www.lboro.ac.uk/library/about/PDFs/ejournal_survey.pdf