Distance Learning Student Survey 2016: Summary

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Distance Learning Student Survey 2016: Summary

Abstract
The following is a report which was presented to the Reference & Instruction Division of Parks Library summarizing the 2016 Distance Learning Committee's Distance Learning Student Survey findings.

Disciplines
Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research | Library and Information Science

This report is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/refinst_conf/32
Distance Learning Student Survey 2016

Summary
Survey Goals & Background

**Goals:**
- Ongoing ISU DL Student Library needs assessment
- Assess student awareness/use of ISU Library resources & services
- Measure any change since 2011 & 2013 surveys

**Background:**
- IRB approved research
- Re-run of 2013 Student Survey with a few new questions
- Administered March 22-April 22, 2016
# Results at a Glance

## Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Respondents *</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Rate</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 100+ Miles away</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Grad Students</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Usable responses (over age 18)

## Library Resource Use Important to my DL Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not much/Not at all</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### New Question: Major Area of Study

#### STEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; Life Sci</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math CompSci</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhysSci &amp; Engin</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VetMed</td>
<td>.04%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SSH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Design</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BusEcon</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SocSci &amp; Educ</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA/Undecided</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=462
“Library resource use not important to my DL course success”

73% Stem Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ag &amp; Life Sci</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math CompSci</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhysSci &amp; Engin</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VetMed</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37% SSH Major

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SSH</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Design</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BusEcon</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SocSci &amp; Educ</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA/Undecided</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=107

Clip art – Clker.com; US Embassy Prague; UVM Bored
Three Views on DL Student Success

Library Resource Use Important to DL Success = 77% agree

Research Skills....
“Able to find what I need…”

- ALWAYS: 15%
- ALMOST ALWAYS: 53%
- NOT VERY OFTEN-NEVER: 8%
- NOT RELEVANT: 25% library research not relevant to my DL coursework

N = 462

ISU Library Website....
“My success in finding what I need…”

- VERY GOOD: 24%
- GOOD: 45%
- POOR-VERY POOR: 7%
- NOT RELEVANT: 24% library research not relevant to my DL coursework

N = 462
“Used & Liked” vs Ease of Use
Comparing 2013 and 2016 responses

2013 “Used & liked”

I ♥ the Lib

- 75% agree ISU Library is important to their DL success
- QUICK SEARCH
  41% used & liked
- Article Indexes & Databases
  44% used & liked
- EJOURNALS & ARTICLES
  49% used & liked
- LIBRARY WEBSITE
  54% used & liked

2016 “Ease of use”

Easy to use to find what I need

- 77% agree ISU Library is important to their DL success
- QUICK SEARCH
  62% Easy to Very Easy
- Article Indexes & Databases
  57% Easy to Very Easy
- EJOURNALS & ARTICLES
  61% Easy to Very Easy
- LIBRARY WEBSITE
  64% Easy to Very Easy

2013 N = 405; varies by Question
2016 N = 458 - 462; varies by Question
2016 Survey Respondents on “Ease of Use”

“How easy was it for me to use to find what I needed for my DL coursework”

Ease of Use for Finding Resources for DL Courses
(N varies by item from 458 - 462)

- Research & Course Guides
- Electronic research journal articles
- Online Article Indexes & Dbs
- Interlib Loan DD Svcs
- “Ask Us” service
- Course Reserve
- Quick Search
- Library’s website

Very Easy | Easy | Not easy | Not easy at all | Have not used

0.0% 10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0% 100.0%
5 Areas of Difficulty

**LIBRARY WEBSITE**
“Library website is terrible. Hard to navigate.”

**NEED INSTRUCTION**
“Very difficult to figure out how and what to search for and searching capability doesn’t seem flexible…”

**FINDING ARTICLES**
“...it is challenging to find my way to the correct library site to find my journal articles.”

**LOSING USERS**
“It is ok but sometimes Google is more relevant sadly even for scholarly articles.”

**LOGIN DIFFERENT**
“I don’t like that ISU Library requires a different password from ISU Net ID”

Grad students made all these comments.
2016 DL Student Survey IRB

DL Committee & IRB

Linda Anderson
Dan Coffey
Jesse Garrison
Rano Marupova
Dawn Mick
Susan Vega García, PI