

2015

Ithaka S+R (Strategic Consulting + Research) Local Faculty Survey at UCF

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Recommended Citation

(2015) "Ithaka S+R (Strategic Consulting + Research) Local Faculty Survey at UCF," *Illuminations*: Vol. 3 : No. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/illuminations/vol3/iss1/5>



Illuminations

NEWSLETTER FOR NEW FACULTY

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Ithaka S+R (Strategic Consulting + Research) Local Faculty Survey at UCF

March 9, 2015



From April 1, 2014, to May 14, 2014, the Ithaka survey was open for completion by faculty at UCF. Approximately 2,000 faculty members were invited to complete the survey. Invitees included adjuncts and non-teaching faculty.

174 respondents started the survey, with 88 completions and 27 substantive comments.

Respondents supported the traditional role of the library in building collections, and in a role of providing support for publication, as well as the preservation of data and repositories for scholarly work.

Interestingly, respondents also embraced electronic formats while supporting continuing maintenance and collection of print. A comment from one respondent seemed to summarize the results: “I embrace digital materials and resources; however, Librarians and materials in print—specially books and textbooks are indispensable as well. The appropriate balance between both mediums enhances the quality of teaching and research—and by extension the act of learning. Librarians are indispensable members of our academic community.”

Some feedback from the survey requested action by the library:

“Increase funds for more journals.”

Additional funding is not available, but the library strives to leverage its spending on journals by collaborating through consortia with other academic libraries for more favorable pricing, to strive to negotiate the best possible prices on journals, and to make journal articles available through an efficient Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Service. Inflation affects the reach of the library’s budget, but efforts to spend it most effectively continue.

“I would like to see the Library do more collaborative research and grants with UCF colleges. I think that the UCF Office of Research and Commercialization should help support faculty and student research by better support for the Library.”

Librarians have successfully collaborated with academic departments on a number of UCF Technology Fee proposals. Faculty can contact a subject librarian to discuss services and resources to support grant applications and research,

<http://library.ucf.edu/SubjectLibrarians/> (<http://library.ucf.edu/SubjectLibrarians/>)

“It would be helpful if there was a quick link for conference proceedings on the library homepage in the same area as the online journals and articles and databases. It is very difficult and frustrating to find conference proceedings using the library website.”

Finding conference proceedings can be challenging. Because proceedings appear sometimes as monographs, sometimes in journals or in serials, a simple link to proceedings is not feasible. Besides title, author and subjects, keyword or Google searches can be attempted using the name of the editor, or linking keywords with location of the conference and other details. Other options include requesting the proceedings through [Interlibrary Loan \(http://library.ucf.edu/ILL/Default.php\)](http://library.ucf.edu/ILL/Default.php) and contacting [Ask A Librarian \(http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/\)](http://library.ucf.edu/Ask/) for help.

Some interesting Ithaka Survey results:

- The importance of library collections to UCF faculty came through clearly. 83.74% felt that the library’s collection was the most important source for journals (Q5). Respondents felt that it is the library’s role to purchase and pay for collections (88.7%) (Q10).
- Respondents indicated that they did not agree that the role of librarians is less important given the easy access to online content (Q12). 66.67% felt that the library’s primary role was providing access to materials, while 53.51% felt that the library’s primary role was supporting undergraduate education.
- The most important factor in the decision on publishing an article is the high impact factor or excellent academic reputation of a journal (81.91%) (Q14), because they want it to reach scholars in their field of research (91.21%) (Q19)
- Repositories for scholarly publications at the university (43.82%) or cross-institutional repositories (47.19%) are extremely important to many respondents (Q20). National response on those questions regarded depositories as less important than UCF faculty.
- 80.65% of respondents build up collections of qualitative, quantitative, or primary source research data (Q41), while 68.48% accumulate digital collections of image or media research data (Q42). Much of the data collected for research by responding faculty is organized and managed on their own computers, 93.10% (Q49). 63.33% would value support from the library in managing or preserving data (Q50).
- Only 23.4% of respondents expect that the use of e-books will be so prevalent that in 5 years, it will not be necessary to maintain library print collections (Q52). 77.78% feel that electronic versions of scholarly monographs play an important role in research and teaching (Q52), contrasted with a response of 57% in the national survey results.

Committee: Michael Arthur, Richard Harrison, Meg Scharf, chair

