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A Usage Comparison for Print and Electronic Books in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Analytics

Michael Fernandez. A Usage Comparison for Print and Electronic Books in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A Master's paper for the M.S. in L.S. degree. April, 2003. 43 pages. Advisor: David W. Carr

This study compares library usage of monographs in both print and electronic formats at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The purpose of the study was to assess the value of comparing usage statistics for collection development as well as to evaluate how subject areas affected user preference for the print or electronic format.

For this study, a sample of thirty titles was taken in ten separate subject categories. The number of usages was aggregated for UNC's print collection and their netLibrary collection of electronic books for each of the ten categories. Comparing the usage data, the overall trend showed that on the average, print books were used more than their electronic counterparts. Within the different subject categories, comparative usage varied, with some subjects having higher usages of electronic books and others having higher usage of print books.

Headings

- Use studies -- Electronic books
- College and university libraries -- Book collections
- College and university libraries -- Collection development

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Abstract

This study compares library usage of monographs in both print and electronic formats at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The purpose of the study was to assess the value of comparing usage statistics for collection development as well as to evaluate how subject areas affected user preference for the print or electronic format. For this study, a sample of thirty titles was taken in ten separate subject categories. The number of usages was aggregated for UNC's print collection and their netLibrary collection of electronic books for each of the ten categories. Comparing the usage data, the overall trend showed that on the average, print books were used more than their electronic counterparts. Within the different subject categories, comparative usage varied, with some subjects having higher usages of electronic books and others having higher usage of print books.

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