

The changes in Japanese researchers' usage and perception of electronic resources: Result of SCREAL Survey 2011

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Introduction

Online questionnaire survey by SCREAL
(Standing Committee for Research on Academic Libraries)
from October to December 2011
3,922 responses (response rate - 6.04%)

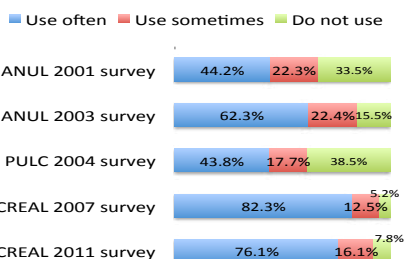
To see changes in . . .

- researchers' and graduate students' usage & perception of electronic resources
- their expectation & requirements for academic libraries in today's circumstances

And to identify

what is essential in making academic libraries upgrade their e-resources service/management

Natural Sciences



Perceptual changes in the need of printed journals (Fig. 3 & 4)

- drastically larger ratio of those who think "printed journals are unnecessary when EJ are accessible"
- large divergence between 2 user groups (int'l and domestic documents)
Only 34.9% (NAT SCI) and 19.3% (HUM/SOC SCI) of domestic document users supported the item

To be noted:

Greater preference for EJ-only environment even in domestic document users than in 2007

Methods

3 precedents (*Survey on Current and Future Use of E-Journals at Universities*)
by JANUL (JPN Association of National University Libraries)
& PULC (Public and Private University Libraries)

. . . partly inheriting questionnaire items from them . . .

SCREAL 2007

incorporated the items of the last-reading surveys by Tenopir et al. (2006), and was conducted in 2007

and now

SCREAL 2011

with new items on e-books added to the 2007 version

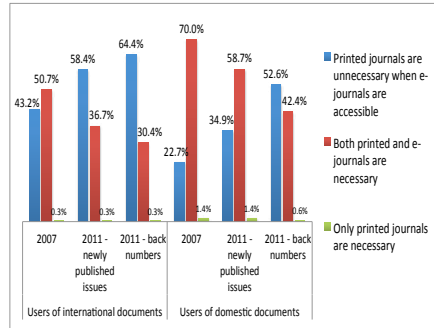
Comparison by Documents Used

International vs Domestic (Table 1 & 2)

2 user groups— int'l documents and domestic documents
(according to responses to the last-reading articles)

- 50% in HUM, SOC SCI etc use domestic documents (difference in EJ usage strongly associated with disciplinary dependence on documents written in Japanese)
- identifiable difference in "Frequency of EJ use" (differences b/n 2 groups, both in NAT SCI and HUM/SOC SCI, statistically significant by the 1% level)

. . . probably reflecting unique situation of Japan . . .
(domestic journals, though essential in some disciplines, has been very slow in being digitized)



Findings

EJ Use in Natural Sciences (Fig. 1 & 2)

- 90%+ use EJ at least once or twice monthly
- 50%+ use EJ almost everyday
- EJ use even more prominent in 2011

EJ Use in Humanities and Social Sciences (Fig. 1 & 2)

- EJ use not as large as in natural sciences
- increase of regular users remarkable
(i.e. "use often" plus "use sometimes" in Fig. 2.
EJ used at least once or twice a month)
- EJ now recognized as essential information resources even outside of STM fields

Table 1 Proportion of use of international/domestic documents

	Users of International documents	Users of Domestic documents	Total
Medicine	181 90.5%	19 9.5%	200
Dentistry	111 81.6%	25 18.4%	136
Pharmaceutical	104 98.1%	2 1.9%	106
Agriculture	183 85.9%	30 14.1%	213
Zootechnical & Veterinary Medicine	123 94.6%	7 5.4%	130
Biology	254 96.9%	8 3.1%	262
Physics	161 97.6%	4 2.4%	165
Geosciences	118 92.2%	10 7.8%	128
Chemistry	294 99.3%	2 0.7%	296
Engineering	442 81.7%	99 18.3%	541
Mathematics	69 97.2%	2 2.8%	71
General fields	186 68.6%	121 39.4%	307
Complex & new fields	86 78.7%	26 21.3%	112
Social sciences	257 48.2%	278 51.8%	535
Humanities	143 43.3%	187 56.7%	330
Others	16 68.6%	7 30.4%	23
Total	2,738 76.8%	825 23.2%	3,563

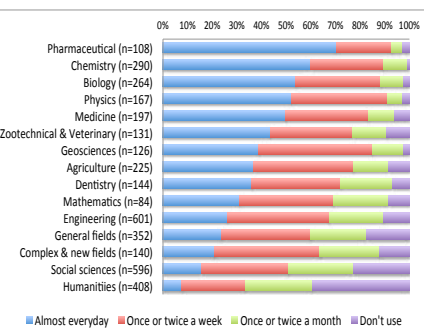
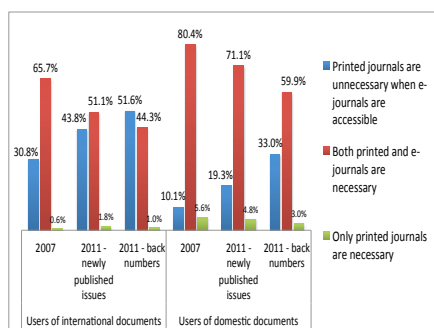


Table 2 Frequency of EJ use compared between users of international documents and those of domestic documents

	Almost everyday	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Have used in the past	Don't use / Never heard	Total	Pearson's X2 test
Natural Sciences							
Users of international documents	1,070 46.2%	908 39.2%	278 12.0%	26 1.1%	33 1.4%	2,315	p-value = .000
Users of domestic documents	33 9.0%	115 31.5%	118 32.3%	61 16.7%	38 10.4%	365	
Humanities & Social Sciences							
Users of international documents	81 20.4%	177 44.5%	94 23.6%	26 6.5%	20 5.0%	398	p-value = .000
Users of domestic documents	45 9.7%	114 24.7%	127 27.5%	82 17.7%	94 20.3%	462	

Conclusion

General similarities with reports from US and Europe

- changes in Japan slow esp. in HUM/SOC SCI
- slowness tied to traditional use of domestic, printed journals

. . . however,

Steady increase in preference & expectations for EJ regardless of preference for int'l or domestic documents

Promotion of further transition expected

- visibly greater access to scholarly information e.g. Open Access publishing and Open Access self-archiving

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