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Boston University 2012 graduate student library survey report

Boston University Libraries Assessment Committee
Boston University

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Boston University
This document contains supplementary data for the Boston University 2012 Graduate Student Library Survey Report published by BU’s Library Assessment Committee in September, 2012. The survey was conducted in the spring of 2012. The survey was sent to 13,298 BU graduate students and 4,055 responded, a response rate of 30%.

The survey asked nineteen questions about demographics, library resources, research methods, library services, and overall contributions and satisfaction. In these figures, responses from respondents who answered any part of a multi-part question (including responses of N/A) were counted in the calculations for that question. Responses from respondents who left an entire question blank were not counted in the calculations for that question.

This survey was adapted from a survey developed by the Assessment Committee at the University of Washington with their permission.

Figure 1. Is your primary affiliation with a Distance Education or Online Learning program at BU?
Figure 2. With which campus are you primarily affiliated?

Figure 3. What is your degree program?
Figure 4. As a graduate student at BU, have you...? (yes responses displayed).

Figure 5. What is your primary discipline?
Figure 6. With which college/school are you primarily affiliated?
Figure 7. How frequently do you visit a BU library in person?
Figure 8. How frequently do you access BU Libraries’ resources, services, or websites online?

Figure 9. Please rate the IMPORTANCE of these resources to your work.

Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about the importance of various types of library resources.
Satisfaction with Library Resources

- Databases: 29% Very Satisfied, 36% Satisfied
- E-Journals: 29% Very Satisfied, 34% Satisfied
- Print books: 16% Very Satisfied, 27% Satisfied
- Print journals: 14% Very Satisfied, 23% Satisfied
- E-Books: 14% Very Satisfied, 23% Satisfied
- Manuscripts: 13% Very Satisfied, 19% Satisfied
- Data sets: 11% Very Satisfied, 17% Satisfied
- Audiovisual media: 9% Very Satisfied, 13% Satisfied

Figure 10. Please rate your SATISFACTION with these BU library resources.
Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about their satisfaction with library resources.

Importance of Skills

- Finding scholarly information: 69% Very Important, 17% Important
- Evaluating information sources critically: 60% Very Important, 22% Important
- Developing and refining research topics: 61% Very Important, 21% Important
- Using information ethically: 63% Very Important, 19% Important
- Managing citations: 56% Very Important, 22% Important
- Ability to conduct a literature review: 53% Very Important, 18% Important

Figure 11. How important have these skills been to your success in your current academic program?
Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about the importance of various skills.
Figure 12. Please rate the importance of these for FINDING the resources you need for your work.

Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about the importance of various finding aids.

Figure 13. Select the BU libraries you visit IN PERSON on a regular basis.
Figure 14. Are BU Libraries open when you need them during these periods?

Percent (of graduate students who responded to each question with something other than N/A) who responded with a 4 or 5 on a five-point scale when asked if BU Libraries are open when they need them during each period.

Figure 15. Please rate the IMPORTANCE of these BU library services to your work.

Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about the importance of various library services.
Figure 16. Please rate your SATISFACTION with these BU library services.

Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about their satisfaction with various library services.

Figure 17. Please rate how useful augmenting these library services would be for your work.

Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked about the usefulness of augmenting various library services.
Figure 18. What contributions do the BU Libraries make to your…?
Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked what contribution BU Libraries make to each activity.

Figure 19. How satisfied are you with the BU Libraries?
Percent (of graduate students responding to each question) giving a 4 or 5 rating (on a 5-point scale) when asked their overall satisfaction with each aspect.