

Executive Summary of the 2016 Library Survey of Faculty and Students

The survey, distributed via email to all faculty and all students, was open from October 24 - November 4, 2016. Response was moderate, but very helpful. Sixteen faculty members (approximately 18.2%) and 119 students (approximately 21.4%) completed the survey.

What You Like...

Respondents submitted very positive responses about several core library services and resources: reference, course reserves, ILL services, library collections and databases, and library workshops all received multiple notes of commendation. Additionally, you like the library space for study and gathering.

While browsing journals in print in the library and receiving recommendations from other scholars continue to be popular ways of locating relevant journal articles, many of you also like both the [Browzine](#) tool and the [Online Journals Portal](#) for locating articles. A majority—though certainly not all patrons—like the [Summon](#) web-scale discovery and search feature on the library's homepage. A significant number of you report using the [PTS Web Archive](#) and [Manuscripts Guides](#) to locate archival material related to your research.

Improvements You Suggest

Many more of you report reading scholarly e-books than in previous surveys (50% faculty; 65.5% students), and you expressed a desire for the library collection to expand to include more e-books. Additionally, you expressed a desire for more newspapers and other digital content.

You'd like to see more library workshops on an expanded list of topics, including general research skills and the use of particular tools like databases and Summon.

You'd really like to see Blackboard's dated interface upgraded or another learning management system considered. More of you depend on Zotero than Endnote, and you'd like help exploring Zotero's bibliographic management and citation features. Most of you use Accordance instead of BibleWorks, but you'd like to see an upgrade to Accordance on library and lab computers. You want more digital media and for it to be simple to search and use.

Done!

While some improvements will take more time, we have taken a few of your ideas and made some immediate changes, where possible.

- Slide conversion: the Digital Scholarship Center has equipment and training services to show you how to digitize your slides.
- Expanded newspaper access: Early American Newspapers 1690-1922 and American Religion: Denominational Papers are both available.
- Expanded database access this fall, including:

- Alexander Street Press Twentieth Century Religious Thought—Christianity
- Brill's Coptic Gnostic Library Online
- Brill's Dead Sea Scrolls Online—Biblical and Non-biblical texts
- Brill's Context of Scripture Online
- Brill's Flavius Josephus Online
- Gale's Encyclopaedia Judaica
- HeinOnline Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law
- JSTOR Religion and Theology Collection
- JSTOR Arts and Sciences XIII Collection

We Continue to Work On...

The relationship with the Princeton University Libraries. Like all academic libraries, the PTS library is committed to finding creative ways to balance patron desire for more resources with budget realities. PTS is fortunate in its reciprocal borrowing relationship with the Princeton University Libraries. This relationship provides the PTS research community with access to an extremely wide array of interdisciplinary materials. In some cases, joint shared database access is possible—for example, [with Humanities Source Complete and SocINDEX with Full Text](#). While we work to expand shared resources in the future, it is cost prohibitive to provide fully shared access to all Princeton University databases. However, all Princeton University databases can be searched within Princeton University libraries, less than 1 mile away. In an era of limited funding and escalating resource costs, the Princeton University relationship is important in allowing the library to focus its resources on collecting deeply in core collection areas— theology and religion.

The Academic Technology Librarian has surveyed the learning management system (LMS) landscape and has provided an executive summary, including recommendations, for consideration by the Library and Technology Advisory Committee of the faculty. Conversations and next steps will continue via that committee.

Library workshops, while appreciated, are generally sparsely attended. The reference librarian has found that research instruction presented in classrooms at the invitation of instructors reaches many more students and impacts positively their awareness and use of resources. The reference librarian will continue to offer departmental services for in classroom presentations.