E-books in the Sciences - Gauging Faculty and Graduate Students Needs

Rajiv Nariani

rajivn@yorku.ca

York University Libraries

Toronto, Canada
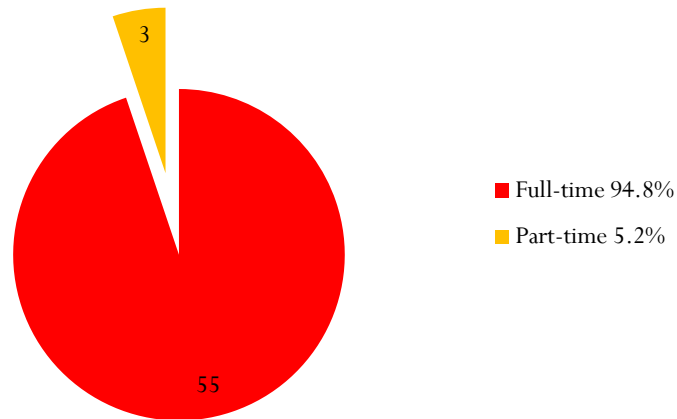
Money spent on E-books

- By YUL: **$132,000** in 2008-09 fiscal year

- CARL Libraries: $1,127 372 in 1999-00 to $6,048 491 in 2006-07- a **436.5%** increase

- In 2007, CARL libraries acquired 2, 890 369 electronic monograph items

- Electronic monographs currently represent approximately 13% of total monograph titles held by CARL libraries, and that number is expected to continue to grow over the next several years
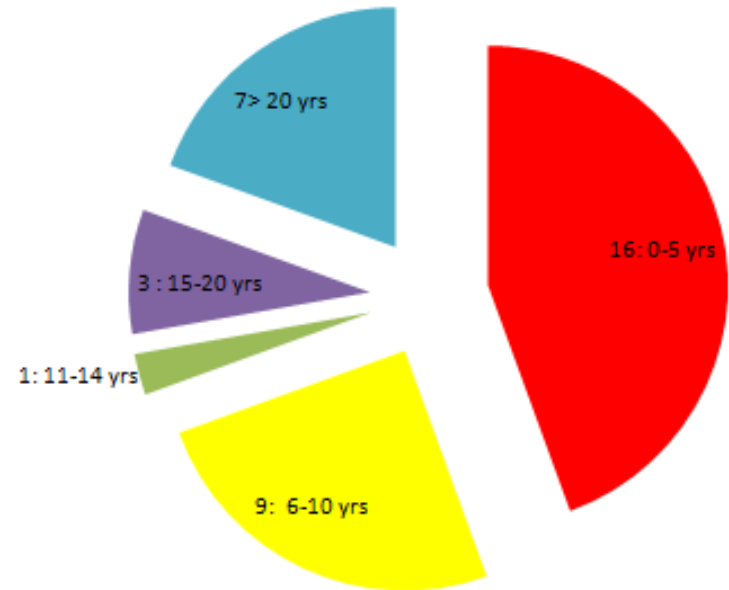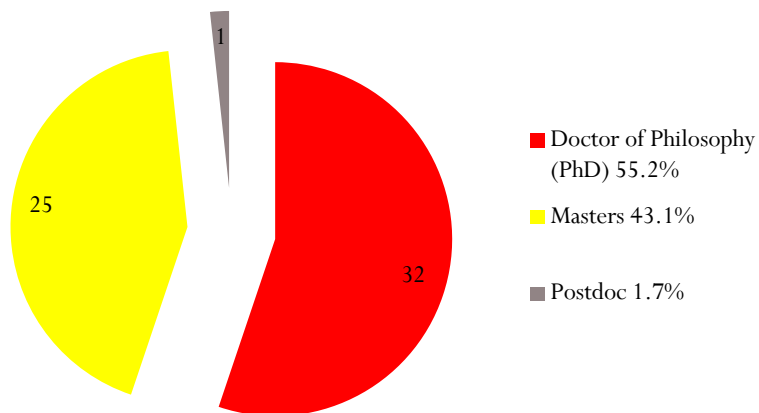
Today's discussion

- Reason for the survey

- Target audience

- Do they know about E-books? How?

- Which ones are they using?

- Preferred features

- Challenges & promoting E-books at YUL

Population Distribution:
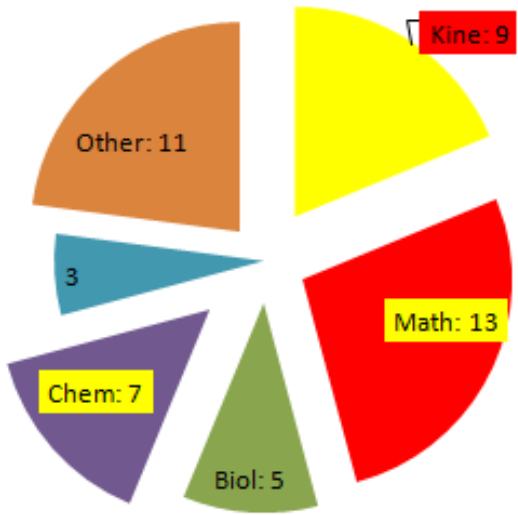# Science Graduate students & Faculty members

Graduate Students

- Full-time 94.8%
- Part-time 5.2%

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) 55.2%
- Masters 43.1%
- Postdoc 1.7%

7> 20 yrs
16: 0-5 yrs
3 : 15-20 yrs
1: 11-14 yrs
9: 6-10 yrs

Full-time faculty and years of teaching experience

Affiliation / Program

Graduate Students

- Kinesiology & Health Sciences
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- ESSE
- Other (please specify)

Kine: 9
Math: 13
Biol: 5
Chem: 7
3
Other: 11

Faculty

Kine 12
Biol 6
ESSE 5
Chem: 1
other: 12
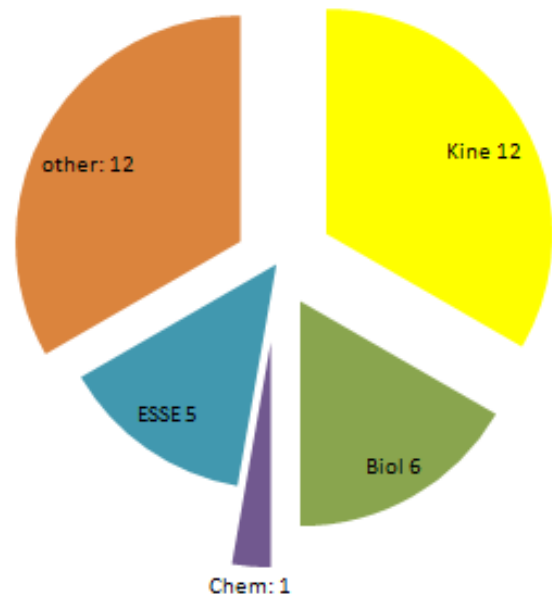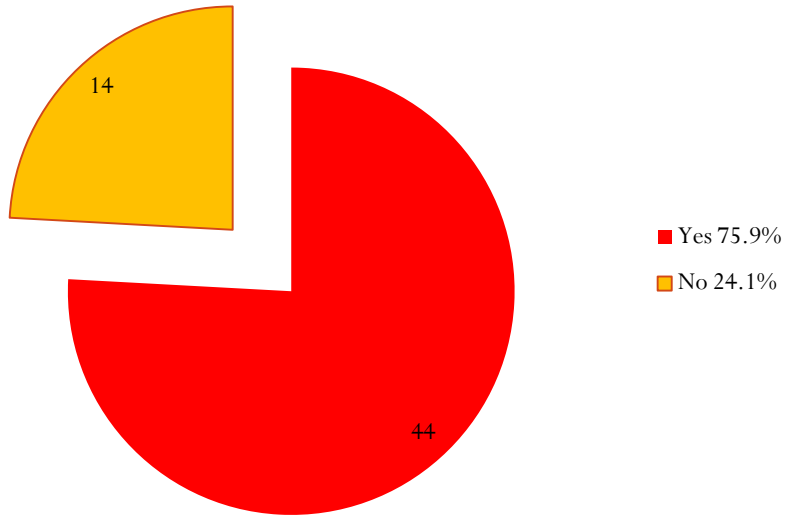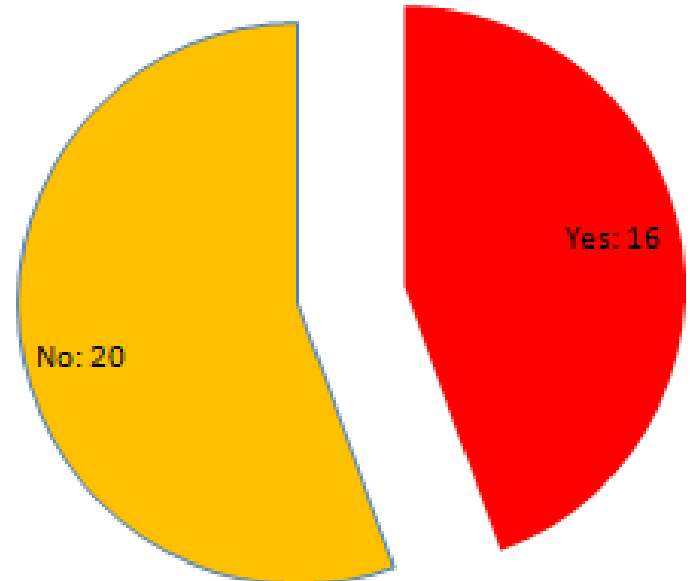
- Kinesiology & Health Sciences
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- ESSE
- Other (please specify)

Do you use E-books?

14

44

■ Yes 75.9%

■ No 24.1%

Faculty

Graduate Students

Yes: 16

No: 20
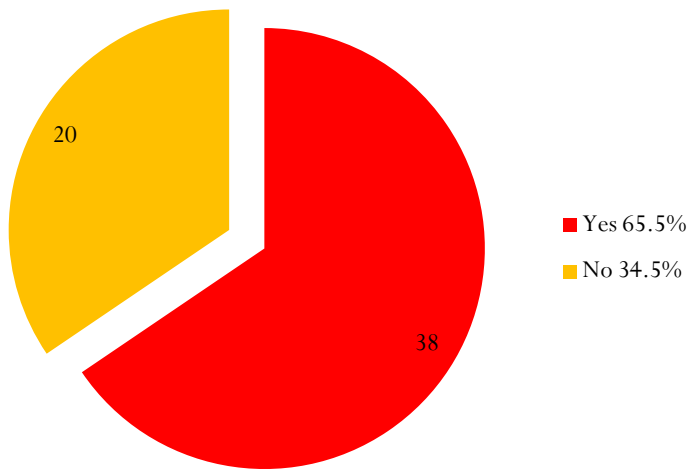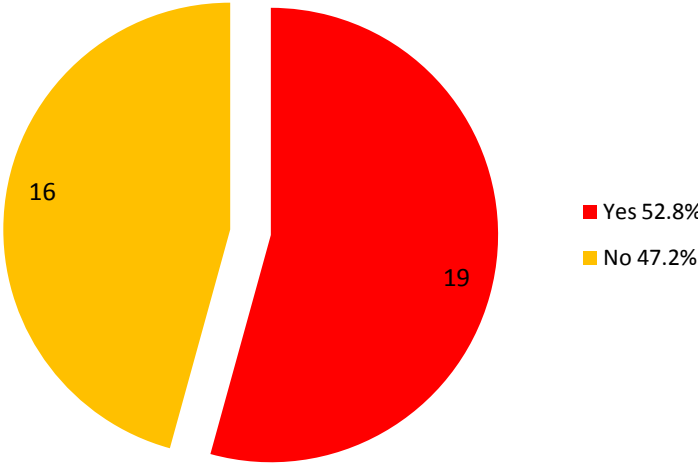
Are you aware that the libraries subscribe to various E-books from different content providers and/or publishers?
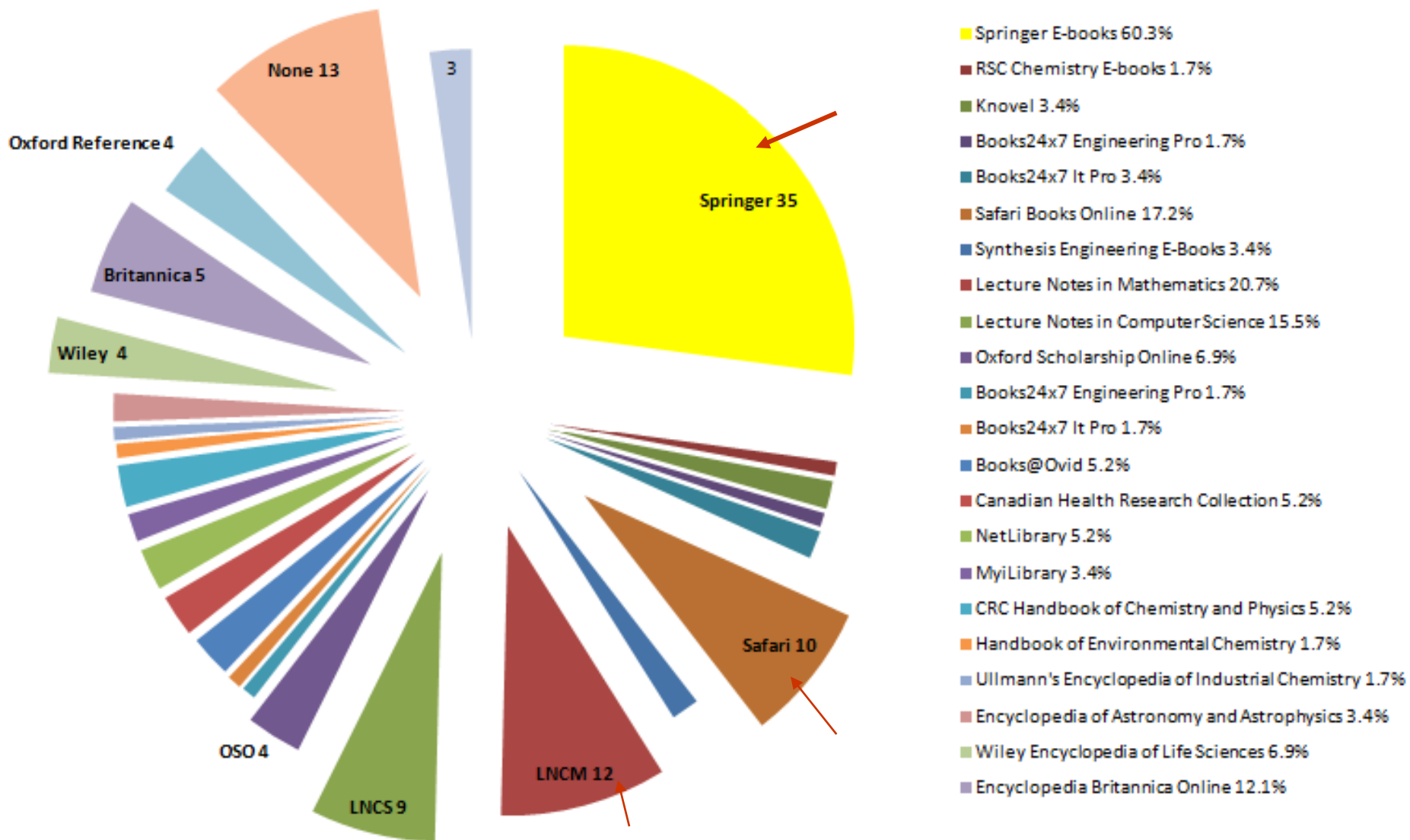

Graduate Students

- Yes 65.5%
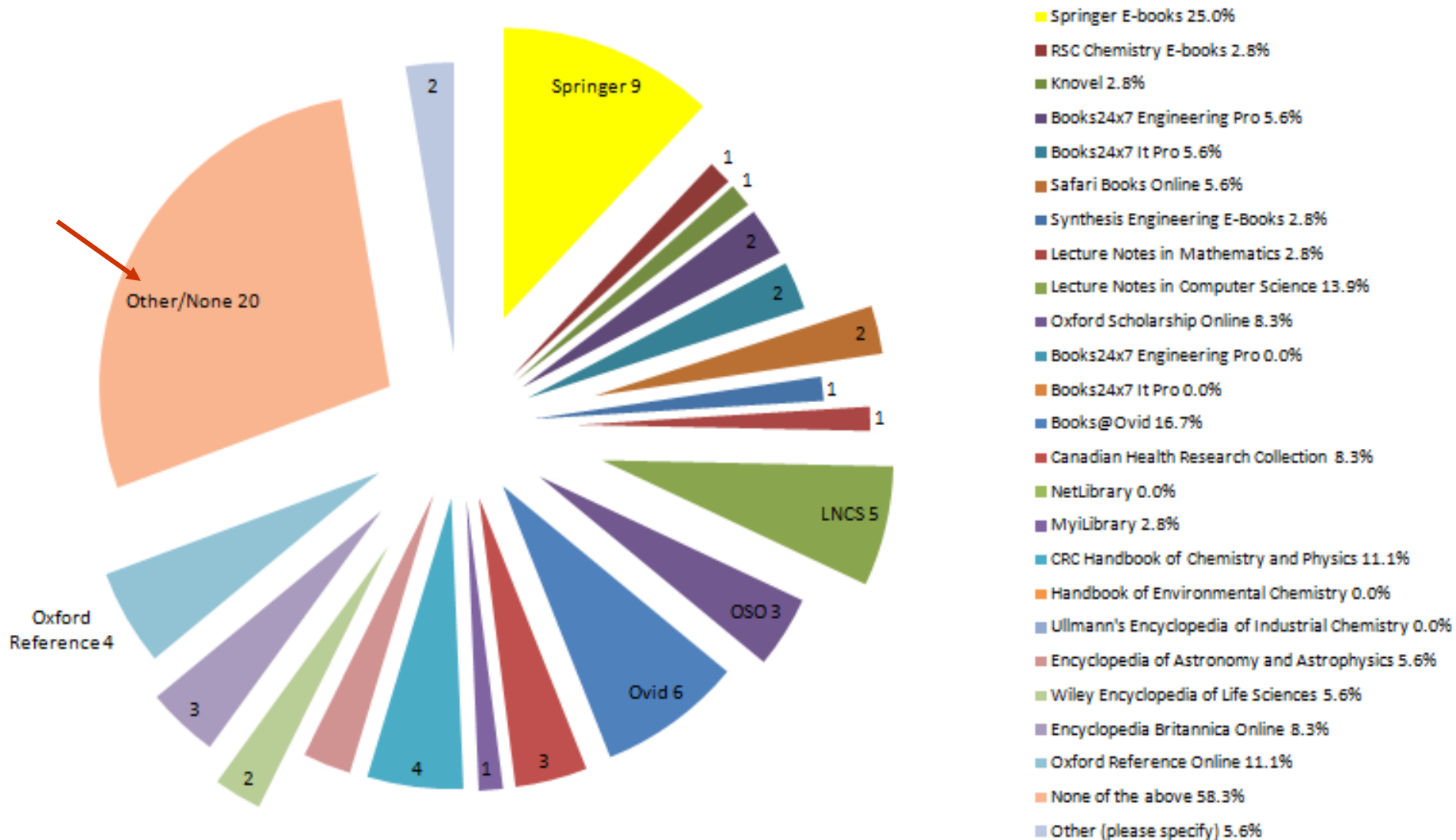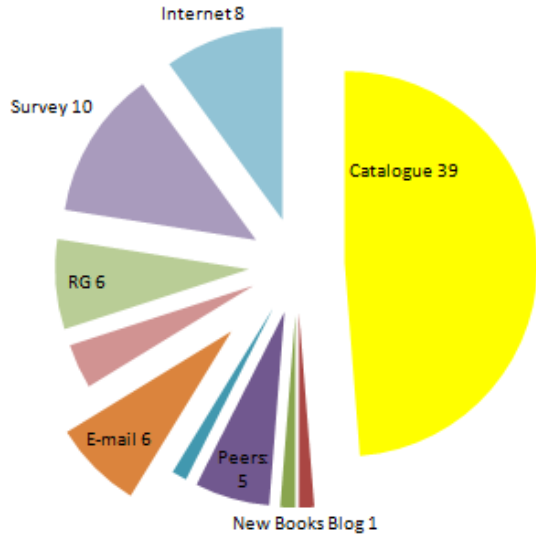- No 34.5%

20
38

Faculty

- Yes 52.8%
- No 47.2%

16
19

Graduate Students: Which of these E-books have you used?

Legend:
- Springer E-books 60.3%
- RSC Chemistry E-books 1.7%
- Knovel 3.4%
- Books24x7 Engineering Pro 1.7%
- Books24x7 It Pro 3.4%
- Safari Books Online 17.2%
- Synthesis Engineering E-Books 3.4%
- Lecture Notes in Mathematics 20.7%
- Lecture Notes in Computer Science 15.5%
- Oxford Scholarship Online 6.9%
- Books24x7 Engineering Pro 1.7%
- Books24x7 It Pro 1.7%
- Books@Ovid 5.2%
- Canadian Health Research Collection 5.2%
- NetLibrary 5.2%
- MyiLibrary 3.4%
- CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics 5.2%
- Handbook of Environmental Chemistry 1.7%
- Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry 1.7%
- Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics 3.4%
- Wiley Encyclopedia of Life Sciences 6.9%
- Encyclopedia Britannica Online 12.1%

Chart labels: None 13, 3, Springer 35, Oxford Reference 4, Britannica 5, Wiley 4, OSO 4, LNCS 9, LNCM 12, Safari 10

Faculty: Which of these E-books have you used?

Pie chart with the following segments:

- Springer 9
- Other/None 20
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 1
- 1
- LNCS 5
- OSO 3
- Ovid 6
- 3
- 1
- 4
- 2
- 3
- Oxford Reference 4

Legend:
- Springer E-books 25.0%
- RSC Chemistry E-books 2.8%
- Knovel 2.8%
- Books24x7 Engineering Pro 5.6%
- Books24x7 It Pro 5.6%
- Safari Books Online 5.6%
- Synthesis Engineering E-Books 2.8%
- Lecture Notes in Mathematics 2.8%
- Lecture Notes in Computer Science 13.9%
- Oxford Scholarship Online 8.3%
- Books24x7 Engineering Pro 0.0%
- Books24x7 It Pro 0.0%
- Books@Ovid 16.7%
- Canadian Health Research Collection 8.3%
- NetLibrary 0.0%
- MyiLibrary 2.8%
- CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics 11.1%
- Handbook of Environmental Chemistry 0.0%
- Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry 0.0%
- Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics 5.6%
- Wiley Encyclopedia of Life Sciences 5.6%
- Encyclopedia Britannica Online 8.3%
- Oxford Reference Online 11.1%
- None of the above 58.3%
- Other (please specify) 5.6%

How do you find and access E-books?
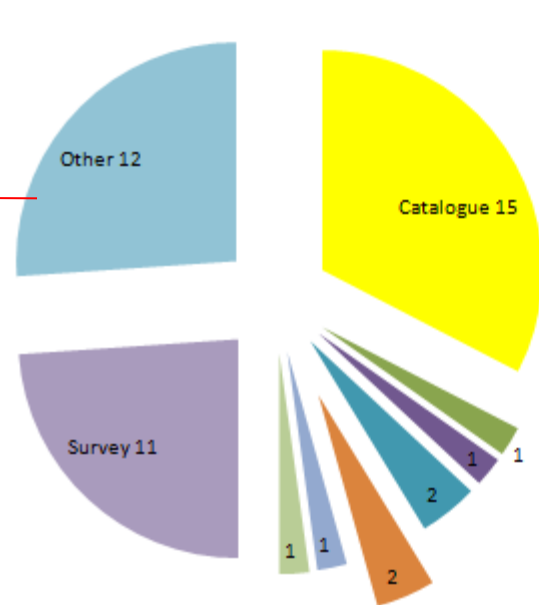
Promotion: New Books Blog

NEW BOOKS@STEACIE SCI. & ENG. LIBRARY

HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE NEW BOOKS AT STEACIE SCIENCE LIBRARY. THIS LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE SERIES. PLEASE SEE YORK LIBRARY CATALOG FOR COMPLETE LISTING OF RESOURCES.

Mathematics Aug. 21-31

Shape Analysis and Structuring
Available online through Springer E-books

A Theory of Shape Identification
Available online through Springer E-books

Mathematical Epidemiology
Available online through Springer E-books

The Frailty Model
Available online through Springer E-books

Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Insurance and Finance
Available online through Springer E-books

A

Select Category

ARCHIVES

May 2009

April 2009

March 2009

February 2009

January 2009

December 2008

November 2008

October 2008

September 2008

Springer & Morgan & Claypool Blogroll

List of E-books

E-books @ York University Libraries:

- Health Sciences, Biology, Kinesiology, Nursing
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Computer Science & IT
- Physics
- Multidisciplinary
- Free E-Books
- Reference Handbooks & Encyclopedias
- Dictionaries

Health Sciences, Biology, Kinesiology, Nursing

- **Anatomy Study Guide (through Primal Pictures)**

  Primal Pictures provides a dynamic interactive multimedia overview of human anatomy from head to toe. It features three-dimensional animations that illustrate function, and biomechanics. It covers a detailed anatomy study guide and includes detailed notes and figures of the skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular, nervous, digestive, reproductive and endocrine system.

- **Books@Ovid (Health)**

  Description: *Ovid* delivers key medical, nursing, sports science and pharmacy texts from a variety of publishers to clinicians' desktops through the *Books@Ovid* database. YUL provides access to 71 full text online handbooks, drug guides, nursing care plans, diagnostic tests, clinical procedures and more.
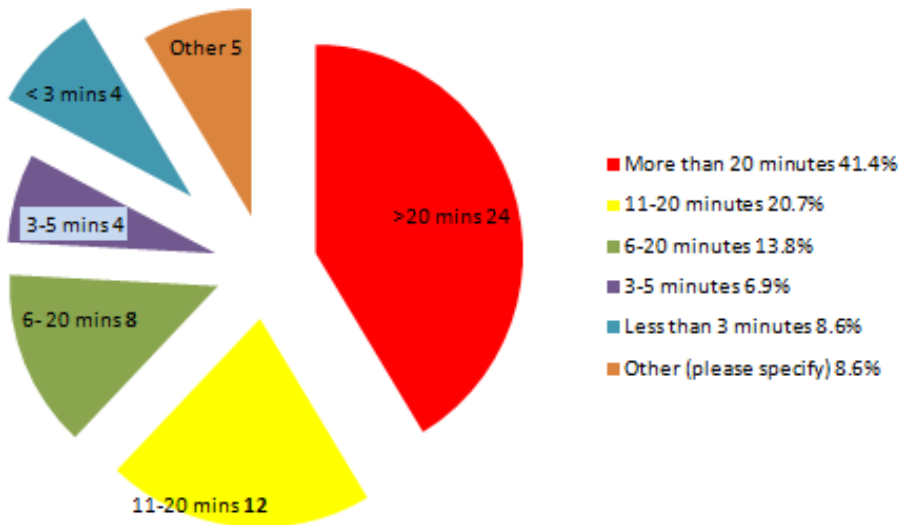
- **Canadian Health Research Collection**

  This is a collection of monograph publications from Canadian research institutes, government agencies and university centres working in the area of health and medical research. The publications included are of a specialized clinical or technical nature.

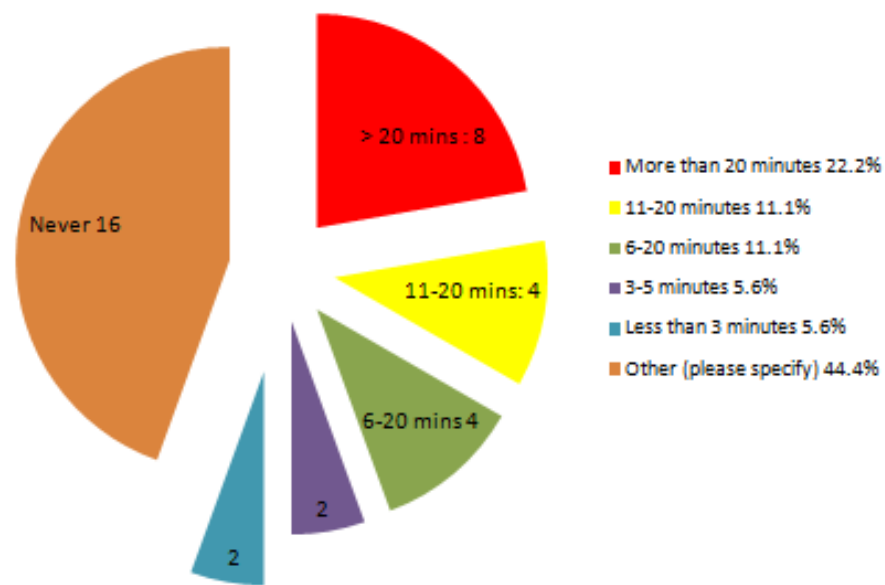- **Cognet**

  An interdisciplinary online collection in cognitive and brain sciences includes 7 MIT Press e-journals, over 400 online books, the MIT Encyclopedia of Cognitive Sciences and other reference sources. Covers areas of cognitive science such as psychology, linguistics, computational intelligence, philosophy, and neuroscience. Browse books by *Title, Author* or *Topic* in MITCogNet Library

How long do you spend reading a book online

Graduate Students

Other 5
< 3 mins 4
3-5 mins 4
6- 20 mins 8
>20 mins 24
11-20 mins 12

- More than 20 minutes 41.4%
- 11-20 minutes 20.7%
- 6-20 minutes 13.8%
- 3-5 minutes 6.9%
- Less than 3 minutes 8.6%
- Other (please specify) 8.6%

Faculty

Never 16
> 20 mins : 8
11-20 mins: 4
6-20 mins 4
2
2

- More than 20 minutes 22.2%
- 11-20 minutes 11.1%
- 6-20 minutes 11.1%
- 3-5 minutes 5.6%
- Less than 3 minutes 5.6%
- Other (please specify) 44.4%

How much of that E-book did you read online in one sitting?

Whole book 2

Browsed book 17

Several chapters 11

Read one whole chapter 7

< one chapter 21

- I read the whole book 3.4%
- I read several chapters 19.0%
- I read one whole chapter 12.1%
- I read less than one chapter 36.2%
- I browsed through the book 29.3%

Graduate Students

Faculty

Several chapters 6

Browsed 13

Whole chptr 5

< one chapter 12

- I read the whole book 0.0%
- I read several chapters 16.7%
- I read one whole chapter 13.9%
- I read less than one chapter 33.3%
- I browsed through the book 36.1%
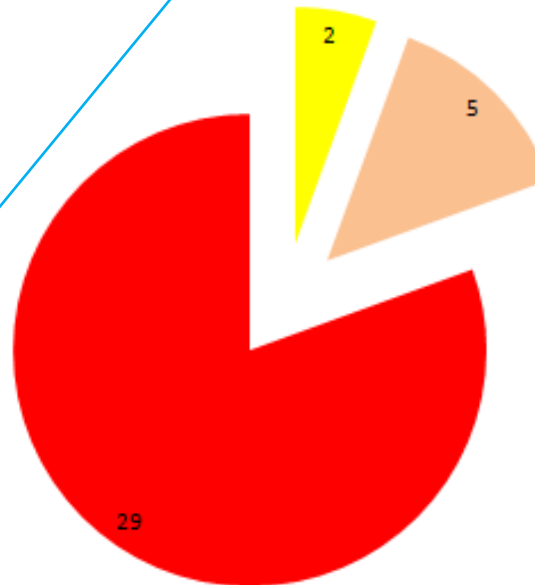
# Do you recommend or actively encourage your students to read E-books?
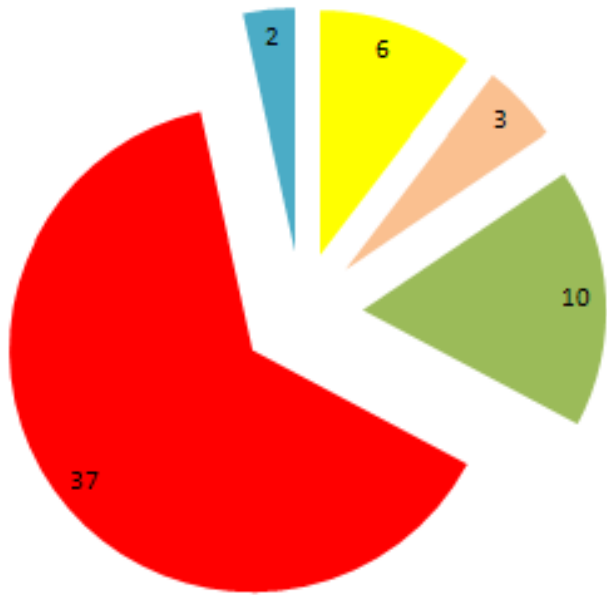
Yes, e-books are on my reading lists or handouts 10.3%

Yes, e-books are included as course reserve material 5.2%

No 17.2%

Not Applicable 63.8%
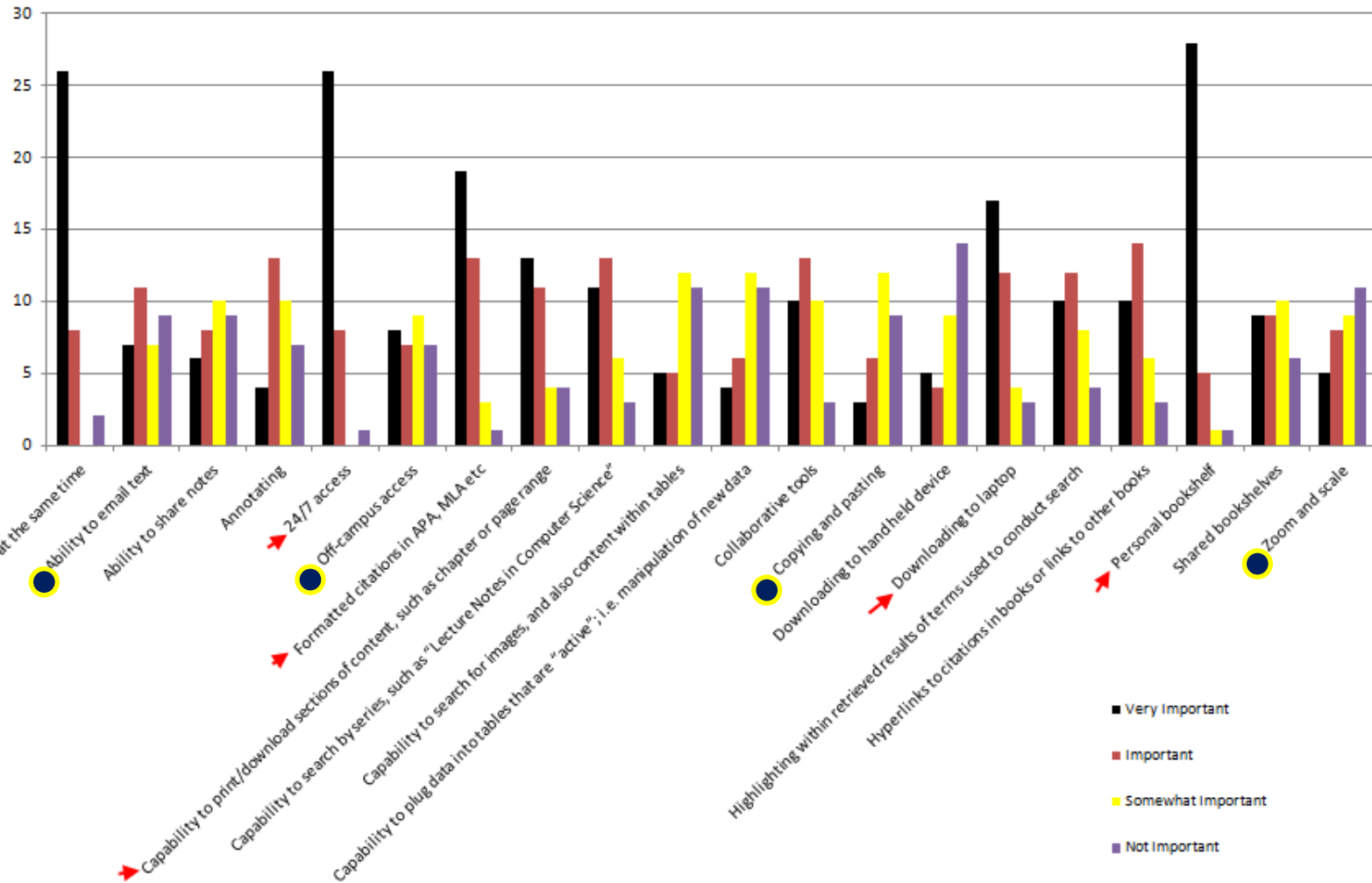
Other (please specify) 3.4%

Faculty

Graduate Students

Yes, e-book are included in a Learning Management System (such as WebCT or Moodle) 5.6%

Yes, e-book are on my reading lists or handouts 13.9%

Yes, e-books are included as course reserve material 0.0%

No 80.6%

Graduate Students: Features preferred in E-books
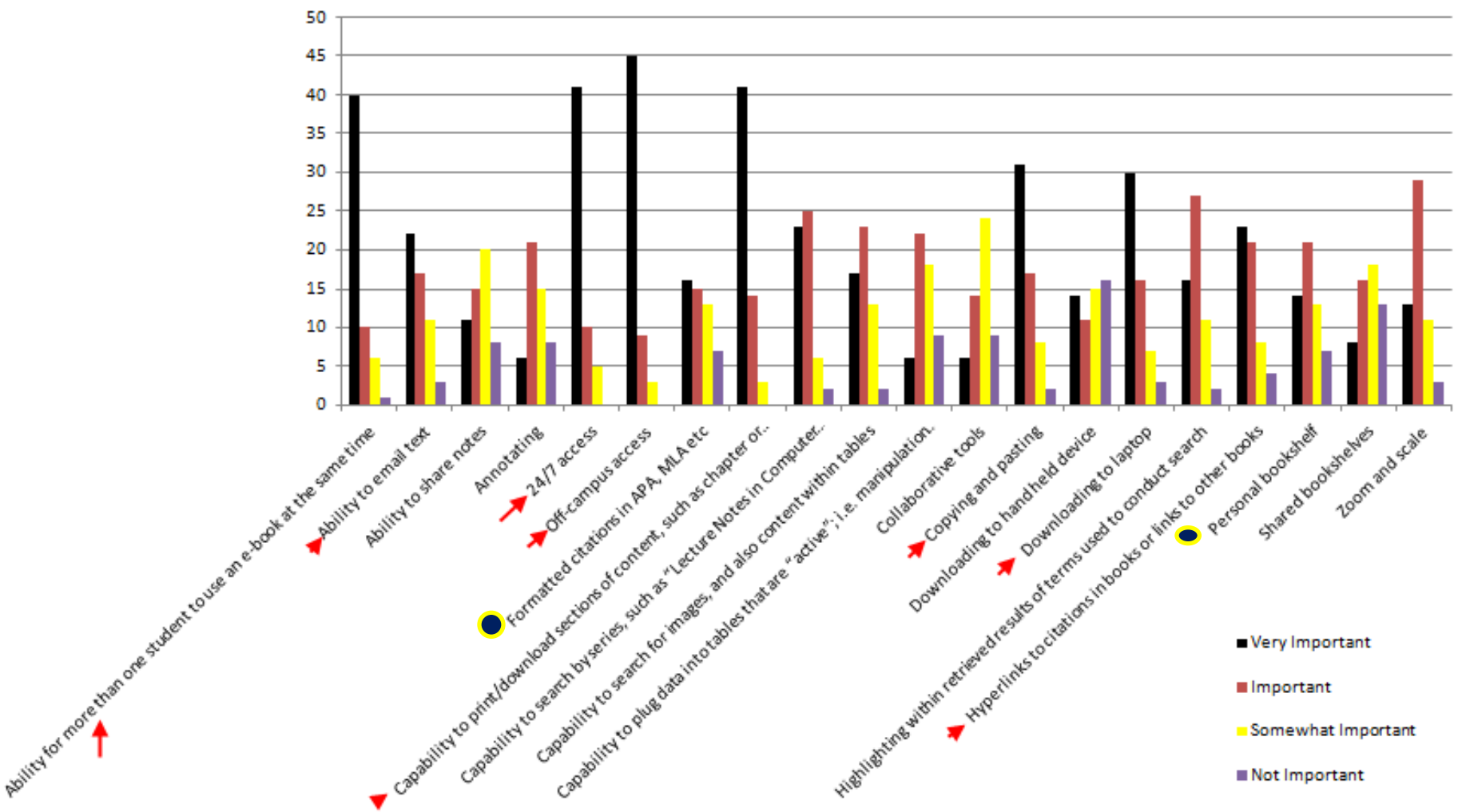
Faculty: Features preferred in E-books

Very Important & Important features: Desired by the academic community

Very Important features in e-books	% Graduate students	% Faculty
Ability for more than one student to use an e-book at the same time	70.2	72.2
Ability to email text	41.5	20.6
24/7 access	73.2	74.3
Off-campus access	78.9	80
Formatted citations in APA, MLA etc	31.4	25.8
Capability to print/download sections of content, such as chapter or page range	70.7	52.8
Copying and pasting	53.4	27.8
Downloading to laptop	53.6	47.2
Hyperlinks to citations in books or links to other books	41.1	30.3
Capability to search by series, such as "Lecture Notes in Computer Science"	41.1	40.6

Some comments…

- Very good collection
- Life saver for mature students
- More promotion of E-books required (posters, e-mail, brochures)
- Difficulty in finding the print button on the E-book page. Interface issues
- DRM issues
- Solution/instructor manuals in electronic format desired
- More E-books in specific subjects: Comp Sci. and Engineering, Earth Sciences