VHLC Book Survey for Librarians 2019

Jeremy Taylor and Jane Edwards on behalf of the VHLC Committee

- Sent to all VHLC member libraries May 2019
- 24 responses – 17 metro-based institutions, 7 regional-based
- 22 libraries provided e-books/online books to clients
Libraries not providing e-books

- The 2 libraries that did not provide e-books cited cost factors as a reason
- They were unsure about future prospects for providing e-books
- They reported no decline in print book usage over the last 5 years

VHLC Book Survey for Librarians 2019

How do you purchase or subscribe to e-books? Select as many as apply

- Online package - HTML format: 12
- Online package - reader software required (e.g., Adobe): 11
- Online package - mixed model - eg, including purchase acquisition: 10
- Other (please specify): 7

Other specified models included single title purchase and patron driven acquisition
VHLC Book Survey for Librarians 2019

Are you satisfied with the usage of e-books in your institution?

- Yes: 47.62%
- No: 52.38%

What are the most popular types of e-books in your library?

- Textbooks: 22
- Atlases: 1
- Revision material - such as MCQs, case studies etc: 6
- Other (please specify): 6

Has usage of print books declined in your library over the last 5 years?

- Yes: 14
- No: 7
- Unsure: 2

Do you think that the usage of print books has been affected by the availability of e-books?

- Yes: 10
- No: 6
- Unsure: 7
Are there particular subjects or formats of print books that have retained usage despite the availability of e-book versions?

Answers included:

- Critical care and emergency medicine
- Leading and key medical texts, and well known authors in particular areas.
- Books read cover to cover such as the On Call series.
- Literature on leadership and business skills.
- Nursing, allied health, O&G,
- Medical texts tend to be requested in print more so than allied health fields.
- Revision material/study guides.
- Nursing text books
- Student texts are still borrowed. The basic texts, MCQs, case studies etc.

Conclusions:

- Half the respondents were not happy with e-book usage stats in their library
- Usage of print books is declining, but it's not entirely clear if e-books are the main cause of this
- The variety of platforms and access methods for e-books may be a barrier for clients.

Questions?