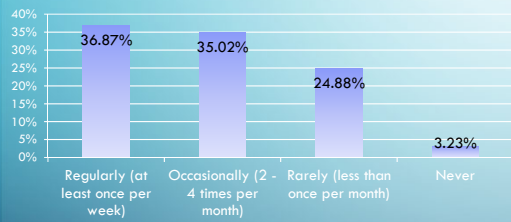
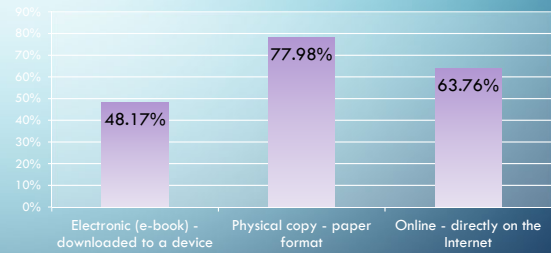


BOOK USERS SURVEY – MAY 2019

On average, how often do you read professional information in book format?



In which formats do you read professional books?



BOOK USERS SURVEY – MAY 2019

Do you prefer particular book formats in which to read certain kinds of subject matter?

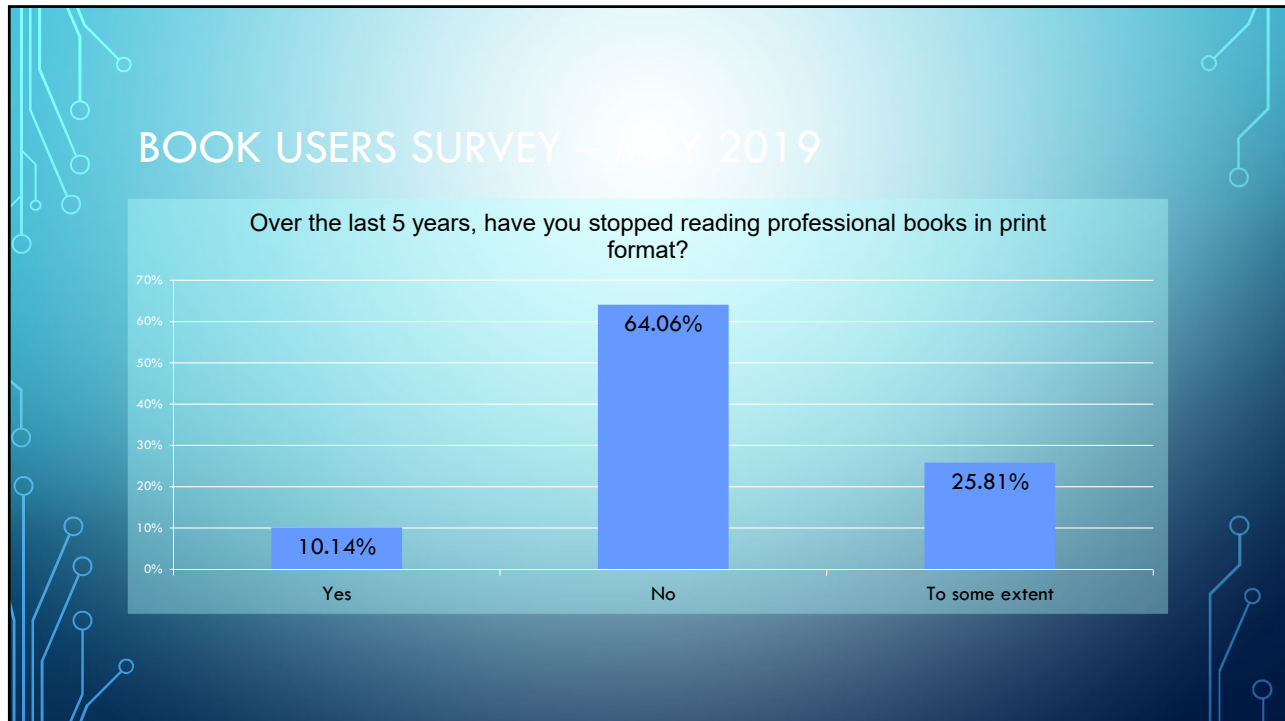
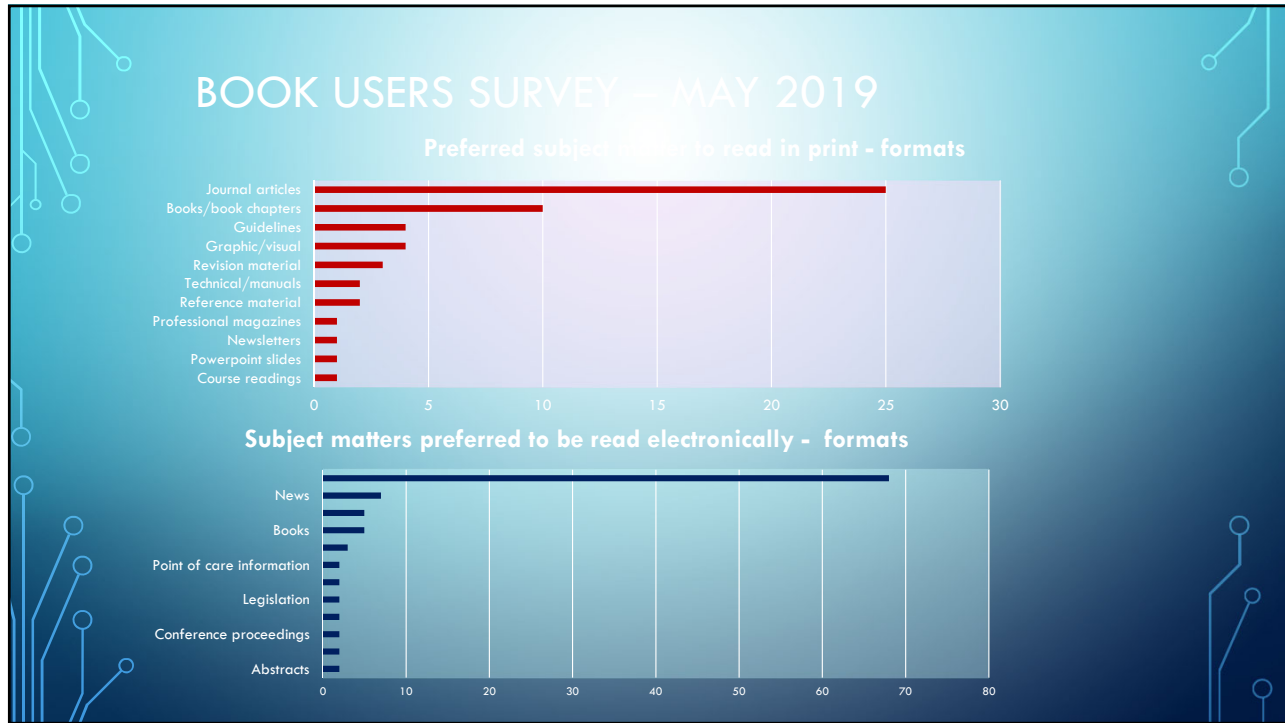
60.19% YES

40.74% NO

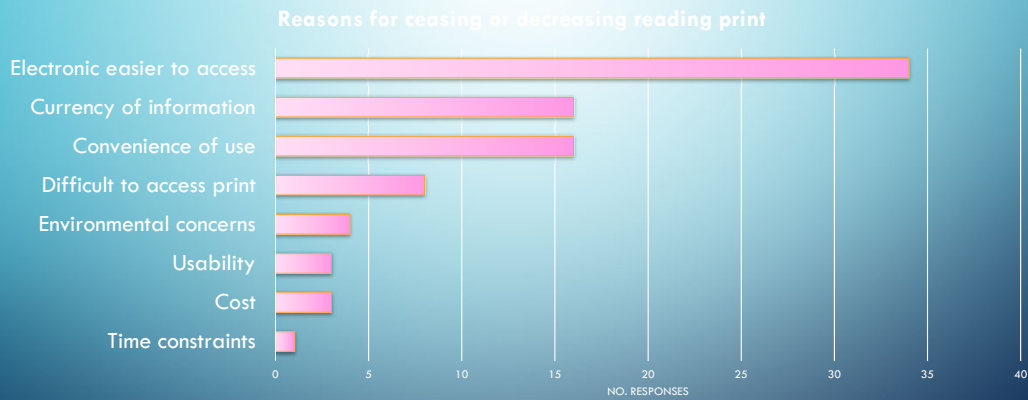
Respondents offered comments in free text. A definite preference for one format was indicated in 79 responses as per below.

Preference reasons expressed in some way included:

- Physical books are easier to read – less tiring than screen reading
- Easier to bookmark, flip back and forth with physical books
- Retain more information reading from print
- Physical books more portable
- Electronic or online more accessible
- Online can chase up references and search more easily



BOOK USERS SURVEY – MAY 2019



BOOK USERS SURVEY – MAY 2019

Conclusions:

Many hospital staff are still reading professional information in book format and prefer to do this for a variety of reasons.

Many staff also read books in electronic format, and some prefer this format.

Health libraries should consider the format preferences of users for books where practical and appropriate.

BOOK USERS SURVEY – MAY 2019

Conclusions:

The sentiments expressed in this survey in many ways mirror results from a recent paper from Edith Cowan University:

Nicole Johnston & A.M. Salaz (2019) Exploring the reasons why university students prefer print over digital texts: an Australian perspective.

Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association, 68:2, 126-145