Annual Academic Services/Library Student and Faculty Survey
Fall 2013
Executive Summary

This year's Annual Student and Faculty Survey was multifaceted and focused on scholarly reading practices, mobile device ownership, and perceptions of the new library. The online survey was distributed to students and faculty via email late November 11, 2013 and remained open for one week.

Scholarly Reading Practices

Respondents included 132 students and 15 members of the faculty. The high response is encouraging as it indicates keen interest in these topics within the PTS community and will permit the library to incorporate these results into its long term planning. There are clear preferences for reading academic literature as a vast majority have a proclivity for electronic journals and print books. 80% of students and 62% of faculty depend on electronic access to scholarly journals, while the numbers were practically reversed regarding books – 82% of students and 84% of faculty rely on print editions. Just under half of the participants had read a scholarly e-book (49% of students; 46% of faculty), while faculty had a much higher rate of reading recreational material electronically (39% of students; 54% of faculty). 69% of faculty were aware of the library's holdings of electronic books, including important works from Oxford, Cambridge and Routledge, while only 38% of students knew of these offerings suggesting the need for the library to better promote its electronic holdings.

Device Ownership and Use

When looking at device ownership, Apple products were dominant with 72% of students and 62% of faculty owning at least one iOS device. Kindle products were not ignored with 20% of students and 15% of faculty owning one of these Amazon products. Surprisingly, Android operating systems were quite low with only 23% of students and less than 8% of faculty owning either an Android smartphone or tablet device. More than half of respondents used their mobile device for academic work. While expected uses such as reading and email were common, the adoption of several apps into students' academic ecosystems highlights the breadth and depth of mobile use. Notable apps included Blackboard Mobile,

GoodNotes, EverNote, iAnnotate, EBSCOhost Mobile, Dropbox and Google Drive. Incorporating these apps as well as capitalizing on these devices' capacity for networked learning (ready reference, collaborative work) provide a clear indication that students and faculty are increasingly relying upon their mobile devices for academic pursuits.

Mobile App

Survey results reveal that the majority of both students and faculty were unaware of the Library's mobile app (available here), pointing the Library toward the need for both promotion and training on the app. Several good suggestions for possible future mobile app development were submitted, including apps for a walking tour of PTS campus/history, Biblical exegesis, accessing PTS audio/video resources, "how to" guides for library tools like scanners and microreader machines, accessing the Master Calendar, and reimagining the library card as an app.

Open Access

At present, only small numbers of faculty (18.2%) and students (4.2%) have published in open access journals, though those numbers will continue to grow in the coming year. Responses to the question about which open access scholarly journals faculty and students regularly read reveals that there is some confusion about what constitutes open access. Similarly, both groups expressed confusion and uncertainty about the best way to stay current on copyright issues surrounding publishing as a scholar and/or pastor.

Physical Space in the Library

Several physical spaces in new library building were identified as particularly conducive to research and teaching, with many respondents commenting positively on the smart classrooms, café, second floor South Gallery, Ph.D. Suite, Reference Reading Room, Scholar Commons room, and small group rooms, and ample seating throughout the building. Library hours were ranked as extremely or very convenient for the majority of students (63.6%) and faculty (54.5%), with some suggestions for extended hours offered, particularly around weekends. *Please note that the library is in the midst of conducting a semester-long hours study; results of this survey question will be folded into that larger study. The library hours study will be released in early 2014.

Resource Use

Resource use patterns are quite scattered for both students and faculty, with results showing a wide divergence in resources consulted, use of the Library search box, and frequently consulted databases (JSTOR, ATLA Religion Database, Academic Search Premier, Princeton University Library, and WorldCat.org are currently the most popular).

Thank you to all faculty and students who took the time to complete the survey; your comments will be used to guide planning in this area going forward. The winner of the student drawing for the Kindle Fire e-reader is **Joshua Nelson**. The winner of the faculty drawing is **Brian Rainey**. Please contact Academic Services at academic.services@ptsem.edu to arrange a time to pick up your prize!

Sincerely,
Princeton Theological Seminary Library