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# Beyond Downloads: Digital Usage of Scholarly Articles Survey Instrument

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## **Beyond Downloads: Digital Usage of Scholarly Articles Survey Instrument**

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## Introduction

You are invited to participate in an online survey that focuses on how researchers download and store scholarly articles, as well as how and why they share content. Your responses will help us understand how researchers use scholarly articles and potentially will help improve publishing practices. The survey will be sent to researchers internationally.

**At the end of the survey, there will be an opportunity to enter your email address to enter a prize draw to win an iPad Mini. Your email information will not be connected to your survey answers.**

This survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

You may exit the survey or leave a question unanswered at any time. We encourage you to be complete in your answers and answer all your questions, although you may skip any questions.

The survey is housed on a secure site with access restricted to research team members. All answers are anonymous. Any papers or conference presentations reporting data gathered through the survey will only contain summary data without direct links to an individual survey response. There is minimal risk attached to your participation when the data is made available to the public in the unlikelihood that someone infers your identity through demographic answers given in the survey. The final dataset will be cleaned to remove any potentially identifying information. The final dataset may be available in a data repository.

You must be 18 years or older to participate in this research.

The survey will be conducted by researchers from the University of Tennessee for a project funded by Elsevier.

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures (or you experience adverse effects as a result of participating in this study,) you may contact the primary researcher, Dr. Carol Tenopir (University of Tennessee, 451 Communications Building, 1345 Circle Park Drive, Knoxville, TN, 37996, USA; [ctenopir@utk.edu](mailto:ctenopir@utk.edu), 00 1 865 974 7911). If you have questions about your rights as a participant, contact the University of Tennessee Office of Research Compliance Officer at 00 1 865 974 3466.

By clicking on NEXT, you give permission to gather and analyze the answers you give to the questions that follow.

## Section 1: Demographics

*Please take a moment to tell us a little about yourself.*

1. Which of these broad subject headings best describes your subject area of interest?

*Choose only one.*

- Life sciences
- Physical sciences
- Medical or health sciences
- Computer sciences
- Mathematics
- Engineering
- Social sciences
- Business
- Psychology
- Education
- Law
- Humanities / Fine arts
- Other (please specify):

2. What is the highest degree that you hold?

- Bachelor (of science or arts)
- Masters (of science or arts)
- JD (juris doctor, law)
- MD (medical doctor)
- PhD
- Other, please specify:

3. In what year did you receive your highest degree?

4. What is your rank/position?

- Professor / Faculty member / Researcher in an academic institution
- Researcher in a private or non-academic institution
- Masters or PhD student
- Undergraduate student
- Other, please specify:

5. In which country are you based? (Choose from the drop down menu.)

6. How old are you?

## Section 2: Downloading

*Scholarly articles can include articles found in print or electronic journal issues, websites, or separate copies such as preprints, reprints, and other electronic copies downloaded for the purposes of researching or teaching.*

*To download articles is defined as accessing and saving scholarly articles from search engines, library e-collections, or scholarly databases.*

7. Keeping the above definition in mind, do you ever download scholarly articles?

- Yes
- No

8. Thinking about your last research project, please estimate how many scholarly articles (including articles you have written) did you download for **research** purposes?

9. What percentage of your downloads for the **research project** were from the following sources?  
*Total should equal 100%.*

Percentage of downloads for a research project were from:

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Library subscriptions or databases											
Non-library or non-publisher databases											
Institutional or subject repositories											
Publisher websites											
Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu											
Other websites or social media											

10. Thinking about your last academic term, please estimate how many articles did you download for **teaching** purposes?

*If you do not teach, please click NEXT to skip this question.*

11. What percentage of your downloads for **teaching** were from the following sources?  
*Total should equal 100%.*

Percentage of downloads for teaching were from:

	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Library subscriptions or databases											
Non-library or non-publisher databases											
Institutional or subject repositories											
Publisher websites											
Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu											
Other websites or social media											

### Section 3: Saving

*The next questions focus on how you save and organize your articles after you have downloaded them.*

12. What percentage of **FULL-TEXT** articles do you save to the following choices?  
*Your answer does not have to equal 100%.*

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Desktop or laptop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile or tablet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External storage device	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cloud	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. What percentage of **REFERENCES or LINKS** without full-text do you save to the following choices?  
*Your answer does not have to equal 100%.*

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Desktop or laptop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile or tablet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External storage device	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cloud	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Thinking about the last articles downloaded for a **research** project, what percentage do you read for a second time by:

*Your answer does not have to equal 100%.*

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Returning to a saved copy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downloading again	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Thinking about the last articles downloaded for **teaching** purposes, what percentage do you read for a second time by:

*Your answer does not have to equal 100%.*

*If you do not teach, please click NEXT to skip this question.*

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Returning to a saved copy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downloading again	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## Section 4: Sharing

Now we would like you to describe how you share scholarly articles with colleagues, students, and others.

16. What percentage of the scholarly articles that you share are:

Your answer does not have to equal 100%.

	0%	1-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Full-text articles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
References only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
URLs / Links only	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. Please rank your preferred methods of sharing **FULL-TEXT** scholarly articles for *research* purposes (1=most preferred; 9=least preferred).

- Email
- Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)
- Cloud services such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs
- Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote
- Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle
- Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu
- General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn
- Blogs
- Other (please specify):

18. Please rank your preferred methods of sharing **REFERENCES** or **LINKS** without full-text for *research* purposes (1=most preferred; 10=least preferred).

- Email
- Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)
- Cloud services such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs
- Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote
- Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle
- Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu
- General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Blogs
- Other (please specify):

19. Please rank your preferred methods of sharing **FULL-TEXT** scholarly articles for *teaching* purposes (1=most preferred; 9=least preferred).

*If you do not teach, please skip this question by clicking NEXT.*

- Email
- Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)
- Cloud services such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs
- Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote
- Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle
- Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu
- General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn
- Blogs
- Other (please specify):

20. Please rank by preferred method the following methods of sharing **REFERENCES** or **LINKS** without full-text for *teaching* purposes (1=highest; 10=lowest).

*If you do not teach, please skip this question by clicking NEXT.*

- Email
- Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)
- Cloud services such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs
- Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote
- Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle
- Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu
- General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Blogs
- Other (please specify):

21. Do you ...

- Share more articles than you receive from colleagues
- Receive more articles than you share
- Receive and share articles equally.

22. Why do you share scholarly articles?

*You may choose more than one reason.*

- To further scientific and academic discovery
- To fulfill an information need
- To facilitate collaboration
- To promote my own work
- To promote others' work
- Other (please specify):

## Section 5: Your scholarship

*The following questions ask about sharing your own work.*

23. Have you ever published any scholarly work including journal articles, books, book chapters, or theses?

- Yes
- No

24. Have your own scholarly articles been shared by colleagues?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

25. How did you feel about your work being shared with others?

26. When sharing scholarly articles that **you** have written, are you more likely to share:

- a preprint version
- accepted manuscript
- published version
- other (please specify):

27. When sharing scholarly articles written by **others**, are you more likely to share:

- a preprint version
- accepted manuscript
- published version
- other (please specify):

28. Thinking back to the **last** scholarly article that you published, please estimate how many times and/or with how many people you shared **FULL-TEXT** articles through the following means:

*Please answer in numbers only*

	Full-text article sharing	
	number of times posted	number of people potentially reached
Email	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Cloud service such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Blogs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

29. Thinking back to the **last** scholarly article that you published, please estimate how many times and/or with how many people you shared **REFERENCES or LINKS** without full-text through the following means:

*Please answer in numbers only.*

	References or links shared	
	number of times posted	number of people potentially reached
Email	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Password-protected internal networks (within your home institution)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Cloud service such as Dropbox or GoogleDocs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reference management software such as Mendeley or Endnote	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Learning management software such as Blackboard or Moodle	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Research social networks such as ResearchGate or Academia.edu	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
General social networks such as Facebook or LinkedIn	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Twitter	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Blogs	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

30. Tell us in what ways (if any) your sharing practices differ when you are sharing your own work versus work by others.

## Section 6: Sharing perceptions

You're almost finished!

*These last questions ask about your feelings regarding sharing scholarly articles.*

31. If all scholarly articles are available freely on the internet, without restrictions

- I would share more.
- I would share less.
- My sharing habits would not change.

32. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagre	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Most of my work is done in a research group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have increased the amount of sharing of journal articles in the last 5 years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I expect to increase the amount of sharing of journal articles in the next 5 years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet technology has an increasingly important role to play in accessing and managing research materials.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traditional publishers should adapt their systems of usage measurement to take account of sharing behavior.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Embargo periods that restrict sharing of scholarly articles for 6 months are reasonable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Embargo periods that restrict sharing of scholarly articles for 1 year are reasonable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Embargo periods that restrict sharing of scholarly articles for 2 years are reasonable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am familiar with RRO/CMO (Reproduction Rights Organization) copyright licenses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am familiar with Creative Commons license.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. When working with a research group ...

- I share scholarly articles more often than otherwise.
- I share less often than otherwise.
- My sharing is unaffected.

35. Finally, is there anything you would like to add about downloading and/or sharing scholarly articles?