

# Use and Perception of E-Books in academic libraries: A case study of the University of Zululand

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Introduction

Research Problem

Objectives of the study

Methodology

Summary of the findings

Conclusions

Recommendations



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# Introduction

- E-books via specialised software has created a paradigm shift in the way academic libraries operate.
- Keeping up with the development and changes in e-books is a major challenge for academic libraries. (Tedd 2005:65)
- Academic libraries have battled with how to integrate e-books into their collection, because of the smaller budget for small academic libraries.
- As financial problems become more difficult academic libraries want to ensure that they get the best use out the material that was purchased.



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# Research problem

## Low usage of e-books

- Even though the library provides training on electronic resource that includes e-books but it seems they are not utilised as they suppose. They have not reached a level where they can be said to become an important library service.



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# AIM OF THE STUDY

- To investigate the use of e-books amongst academic students and the challenges experienced by users.



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# RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To establish whether students use electronic books;
- To determine the extent to which students are using e-books;
- To identify the attitude of students towards the use of e-books;
- Identify challenges experienced by librarians with e-books; and
- To recommend guidelines for institutions on the use of e-books



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# METHODOLOGY

## Mixed method

- The study used the two research methods, namely quantitative and qualitative research approaches.
- Quantitative research was used where measurement was required to capture data and qualitative research was used to find understanding and investigate the users' perception, ideas and values as indicated by (Wisker, 2007:138)

## Sampling methods

- Convenience sampling was used for questionnaire



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# METHODOLOGY

## **Population**

- The target population were students and information librarians

## **Research Instruments**

- Questionnaire, Interviews, and Literature review

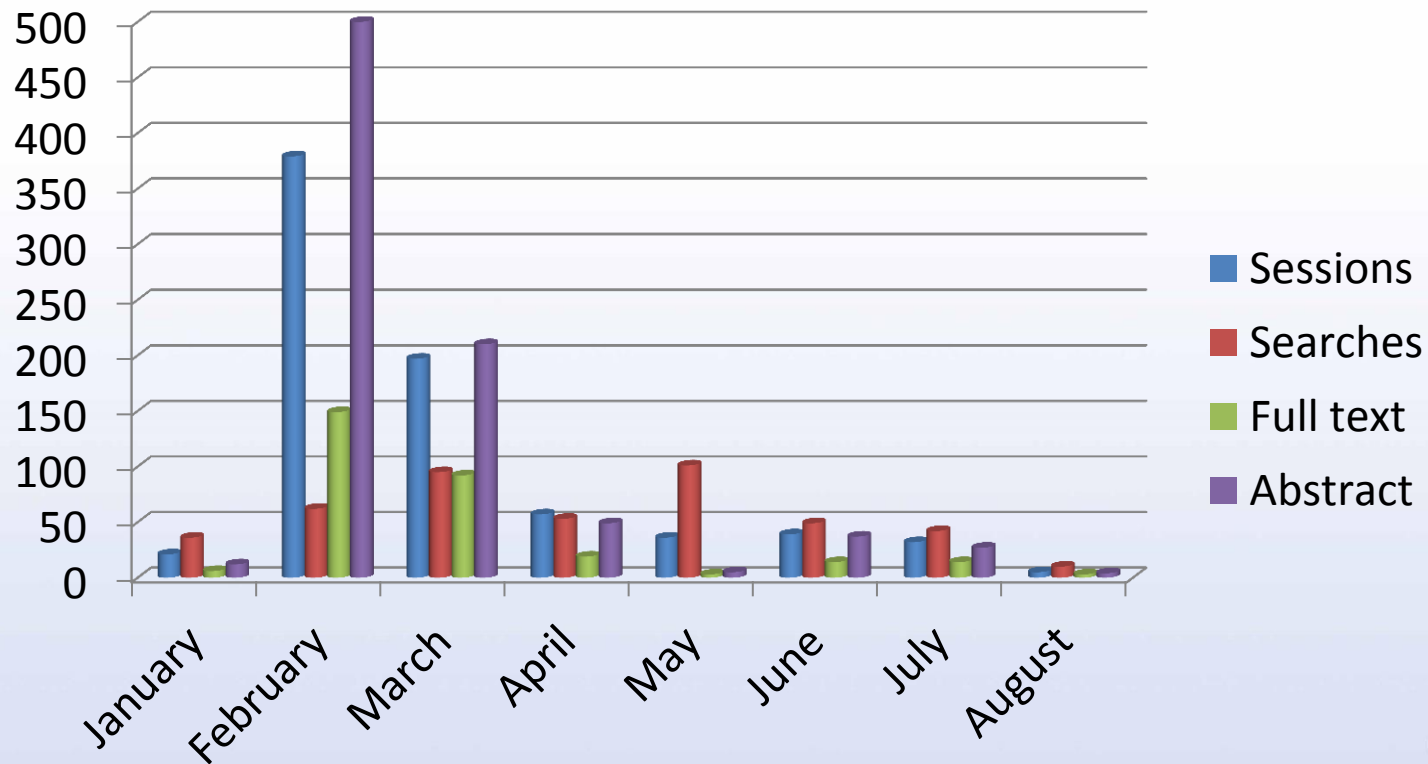


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# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## Usage statistics



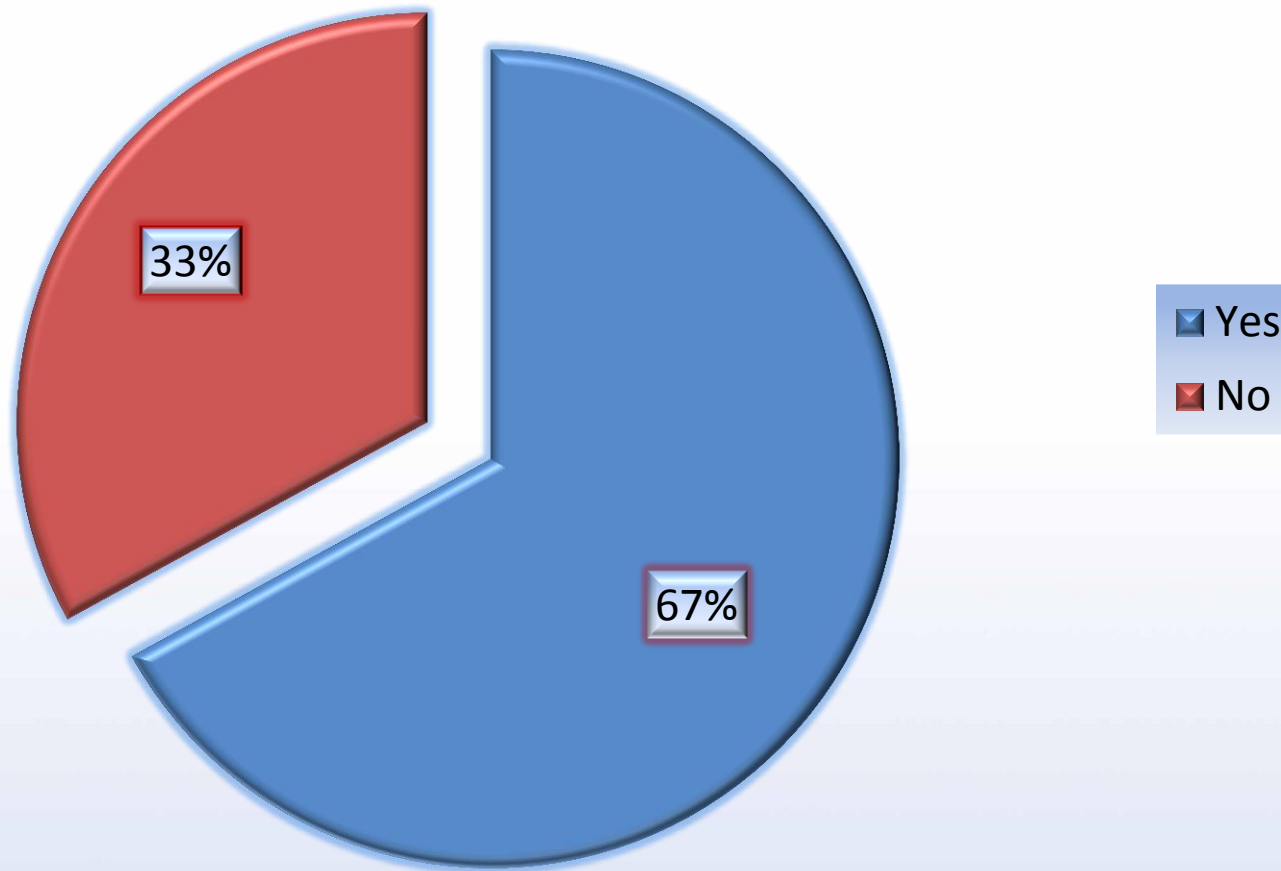
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Book Title	Purchased	Usage
Principles of Regenerative Medicine	Y	117
Stem Cells	Y	99
Plant Growth and Development	Y	86
Medical Biochemistry	Y	60
SOA and Web Services Interface Design	Y	57
Models for Planning Wildlife Conservation in Large Landscapes	Y	44
Groundwater Science	Y	44
Plant Biochemistry	Y	43
Tea in Health and Disease Prevention	Y	42
Nanochemistry	Y	36
Naturally Occurring Bioactive Compounds	Y	35
Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture	Y	33
Principles of Regenerative Medicine	Y	32
Studies in Natural Products Chemistry	Y	32
Essentials of Stem Cell Biology	Y	31
Characterization of Semiconductor Heterostructures and Nanostructures	Y	27
Bioactive Foods in Promoting Health	Y	24
Vaccines	Y	22
The Practical Pumping Handbook	Y	21
The Fungi, 2nd ed.	Y	20
Principles of Tissue Engineering	Y	20
Advances in Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology	Y	20
Environmental Biotechnology	Y	19



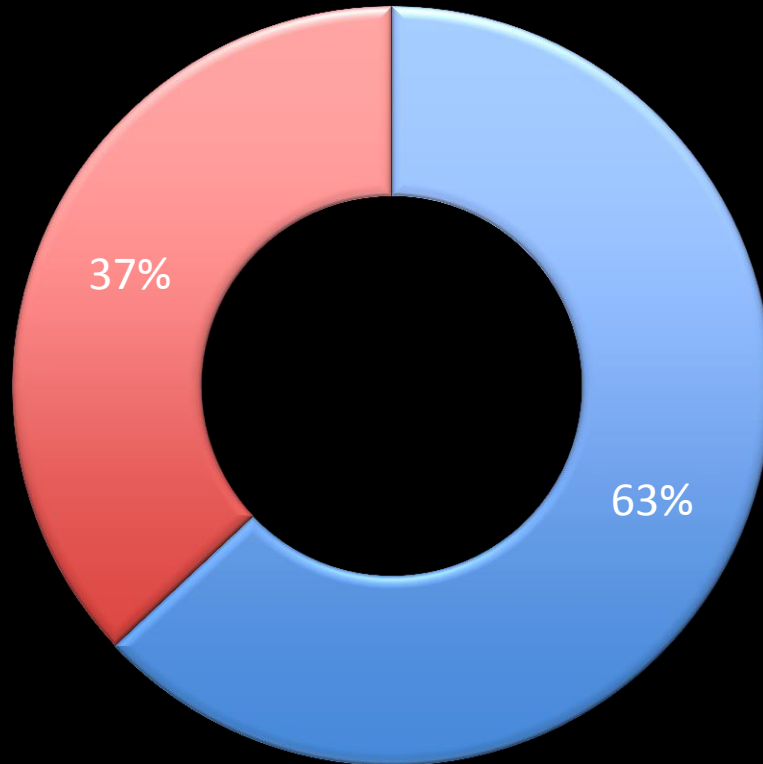
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# EBOOK AWARENESS



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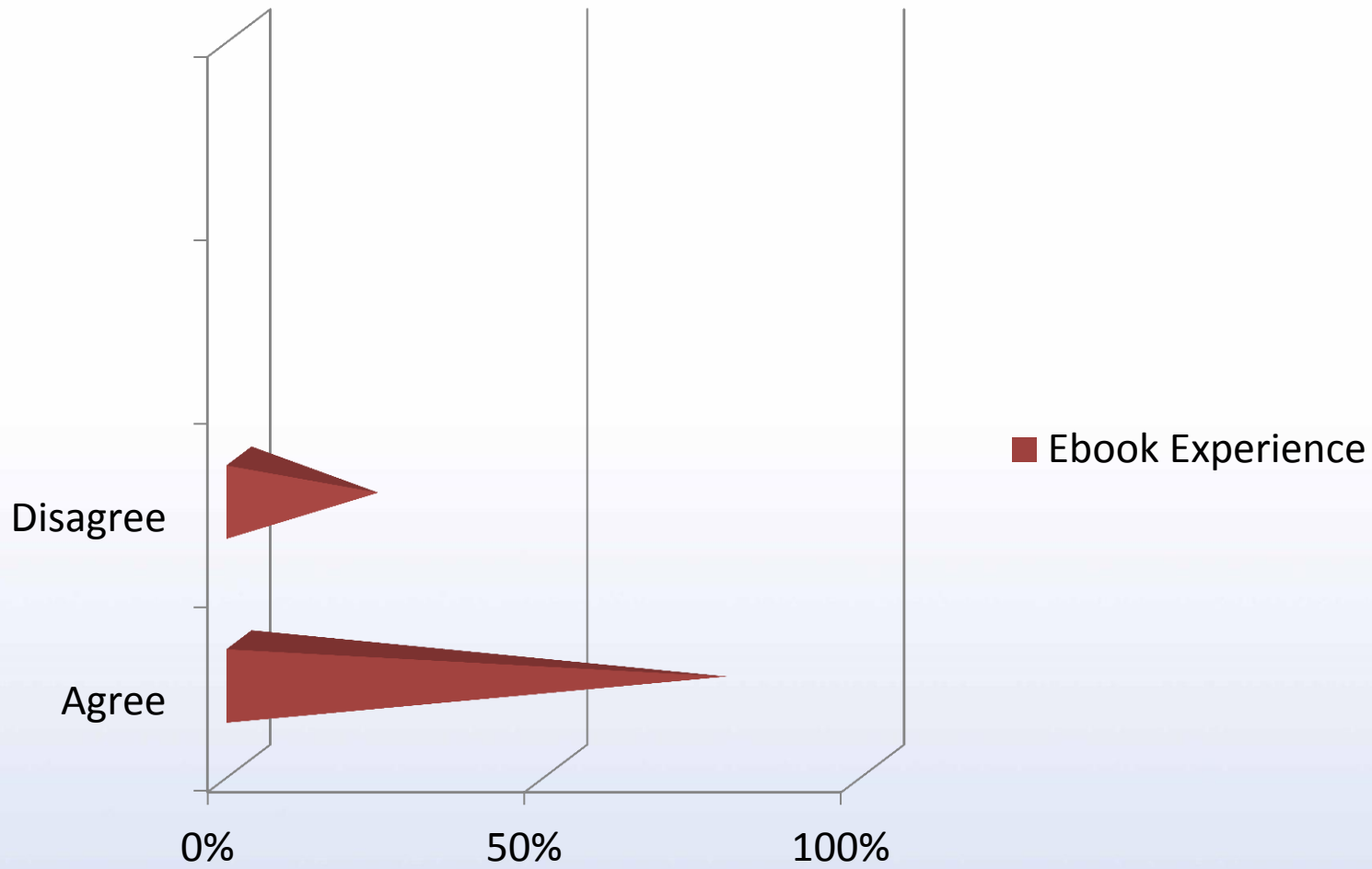
## E-BOOK USAGE



- Those who use E-books
- Those who have not used E-books



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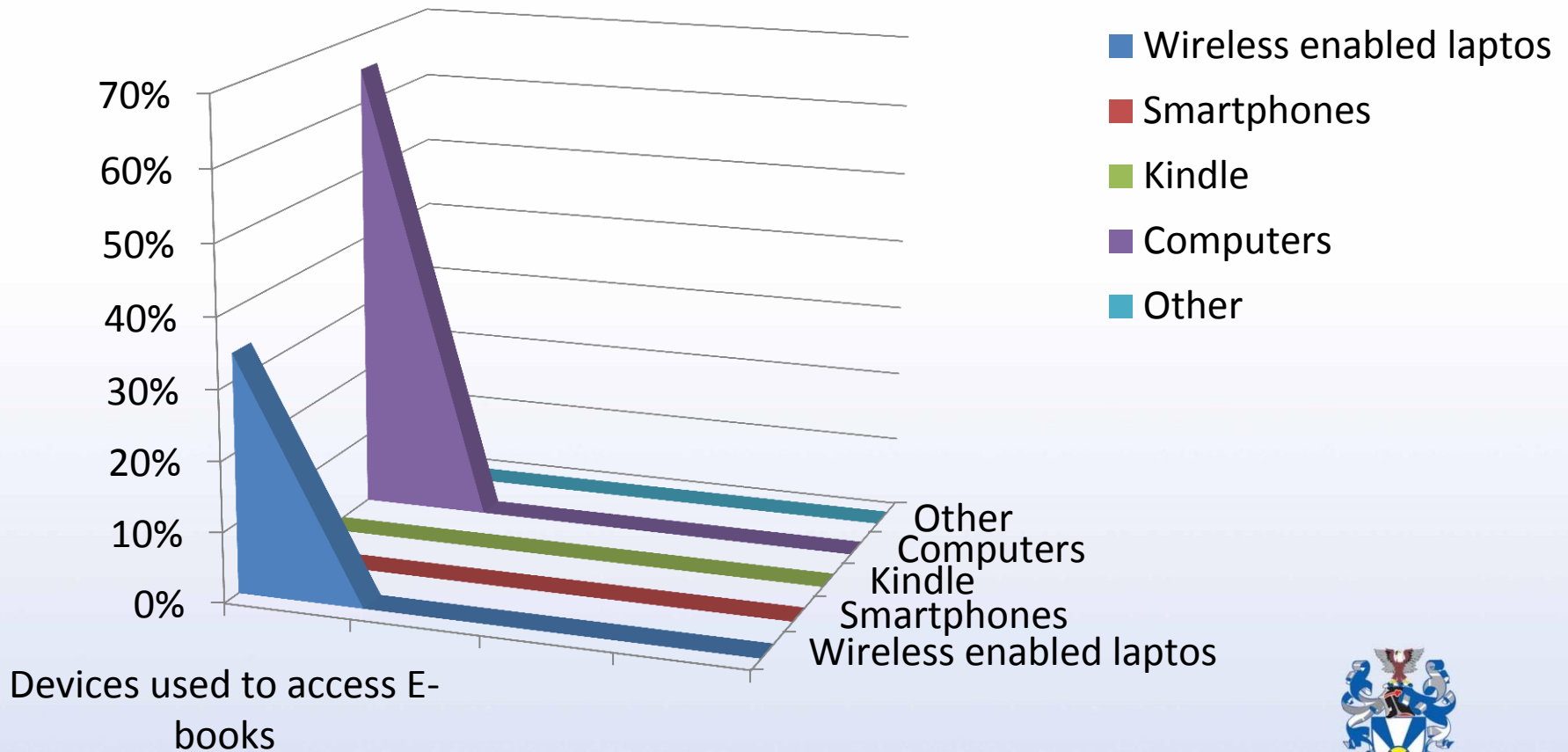
# Print vs E-books

Print	32%
E-book	11%
Both	57%



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# Devices used to access E-books



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# Conclusions

- Results indicate that e-books have gained some attention with users but are still at infant stage considering the usage statistics that show that e-books have not yet become an important service offering as print
- User prefer both e-books and print, however constraints within the technology used to access e-books, this obliges other users to prefer only print
- Users are aware of e-books collection but are not using them this is due to devices to access e-books, digital literacy and lack of infrastructure
- Access restriction was pointed out by the users and the librarians as a major disadvantage of E-books



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# Recommendations

- Massive information literacy training should be carried out to inform library users on e-books that available and how to access them.
- Loaning of e-book readers to students
- Purchasing e-books from providers who offer the appropriate levels of access and usage rights
- Stay informed about new technologies within e-books but they should also understand the legal content for instance copyright issues when it comes to e-books
- Consider building consortium and share resources that would help reduce the cost of e-books



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# THANK YOU



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