

# Information Seeking Behavior of Scientists

## Part 1. Background Information

**1: 1. What is your department?**

Please write your answer here:

**2: 2. What is your building name?**

Please write your answer here:

**3: 3. What is your position?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Associate Professor
- ☐ Assistant Professor
- ☐ Research Staff/Adjunct
- ☐ Post Doctoral
- ☐ Doctoral Student
- ☐ Masters Student
- ☐ Other

**4: 4. What is your age?**

Please write your answer here:

**5: 5. What is your gender?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

**6: 6. Do you have internet access in your office or lab?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**7: 7. How far from your office is the campus library you use most often?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Same building
- ☐ 1/4 mile
- ☐ 1/2 mile
- ☐ 1 mile or more

**8: 8. In a typical week, how many hours do you spend reading information relevant to your research work?**

Please write your answer here:

**9: 9. How many articles have you published in refereed journals in the last 5 years?**Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1 - 3
- ☐ 4 - 7
- ☐ 8 - 12
- ☐ 13 - 18
- ☐ 19+

**10: 10. Indicate the percentage of your research that is collaborative with researchers outside of your academic unit.**Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ 0-20%
- ☐ 21-40%
- ☐ 41-60%
- ☐ 61-80%
- ☐ 81-100%

**Part 2. Types of Resources Used****11: 11. How often do you use web-based scientific databases (not article databases) for your research?**

Examples: GenBank, ENSEMBL, TIGR,  
SWISSPROT, FlyBASE, ChemIDplus, EPA  
Envirofacts, Stuttgart Matlab

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Never

**12: 12. How often do you use the following types of resources as a primary source of information for your research?**

For each item, please select one of the values on  
the following scale

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

	Never	Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Journals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preprints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at conferences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference proceedings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web pages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online databases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part 3. Keeping current****13: 13. What are the five most important individual sources (journal, web site, listserv, etc) that you read to stay current in your field? Please list the specific sources and do NOT list categories of**

**things or database search pages, i.e. do NOT say "journal", "listserv", "database", or "pubmed", "ACM digital library", etc.**

For example, Nature, Cell, Public Library of Science Biology, BioinformaticsNews ([http://www.bisti.nih.gov/bistic\\_news.cfm](http://www.bisti.nih.gov/bistic_news.cfm)), Chemical Engineering Listserv ([listserv@ulkyvm.louisville.edu](mailto:listserv@ulkyvm.louisville.edu)), MathNews ([http://www.maa.org/news/mathnews\\_scinews.html](http://www.maa.org/news/mathnews_scinews.html)), Dartmouth bioinformatics listserv ([bioinformatics@listserv.dartmouth.edu](mailto:bioinformatics@listserv.dartmouth.edu)).

Please write your answer(s) here:

1.:

2.:

3.:

4.:

5.:

### 13.1: 13.1 How often do you read X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 13.2: 13.2 How often do you read X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 13.3: 13.3 How often do you read X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 13.4: 13.4 How often do you read X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 13.5: 13.5 How often do you read X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**14: 14. Do you use any current awareness services, or alerts, to help you know when new literature becomes available that is relevant to topics that interest you? If you do, please list them in order of importance (#1 most important).**

Examples: PubMed Alerts, ISI Personal Alert and Reference Update, INSPEC Current Awareness, Faculty of 1000

Please write your answer(s) here:

1.:

2.:

3.:

4.:

5.:

## Part 4. Searching for Information

**15: 15. What are the five most important individual tools that you use to search out information when researching? Please list your answers in order of importance (#1 most important), and indicate how often you access them.**

Examples: ISI Science Citation Index, PubMed, ArticleFirst, Google, colleague, specific listserv, CiteSeer, BIOSIS, Chemical Abstracts, ERIC, INSPEC, Mathematical Reviews, ACM Digital Library, Physics Abstract, online books (NetLibrary, Safari, StatNetBase, etc), online journal search engines (Kluwer, Link Springer, etc)

Please write your answer(s) here:

1.:

2.:

3.:

4.:

5.:

### 15.1: 15.1 How often do you use X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐

### 15.2: 15.2 How often do you use X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐

### 15.3: 15.3 How often do you use X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐

### 15.4: 15.4 How often do you use X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐

### 15.5: 15.5 How often do you use X?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly ☐ Weekly ☐ Daily ☐

**16: 16. In a typical month, how many articles did you retrieve to read from the following sources? Please indicate (or estimate) the number for each of the following sources. Please use numeric format (e.g. 17).**

Please write your answer(s) here:

[Electronic] Personally subscribed journal:

[Electronic] Lab subscribed journal:

[Electronic] Library subscribed journal:

[Electronic] Open Access (or free) Journal  
or Institutional:

[Electronic] Web site (e.g., author's web site):

[Electronic] Personal digital library:

[Electronic] Copy of colleague's electronic copy:

[Print] Personally subscribed journal:

[Print] Lab subscribed journal:

[Print] Library subscribed journal:

[Print] Copy of colleague's print copy:

[Print] Article in personal collection:

Interlibrary loan:

Document delivery service:



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**17: 17. How confident are you that you are finding everything you should on your topic?**

1 = Very Not Confident, 5 = Very Confident

Please choose **only one** of the following

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

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**Part 5. Personal Article Collection**

**18: 18. Do you maintain a personal bibliographic database for print and/or electronic references?**

Examples: EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager,  
etc

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

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[Only answer this question if you answered 'Yes' to question '18']

**18.1: 18.1 Which software do you use?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Biblioscape  
☐ Bibtex  
☐ EndNote  
☐ Nota Bene  
☐ Papyrus  
☐ ProCite  
☐ Reference Manager  
☐ RefWorks

☐ Other

**19: 19. Do you maintain a personal article collection, in print or electronic form?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

[Only answer this question if you answered 'Yes' to question '19']

**19.1: 19.1 Indicate the approximate size of both your print and electronic article collections**

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

	0-49	50-99	100-499	500-999	1000+
Print	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

[Only answer this question if you answered 'Yes' to question '19']

**19.2: 19.2 How often do you utilize your personal article collection?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Never  
☐ Annually  
☐ Quarterly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Weekly  
☐ Daily

[Only answer this question if you answered 'Yes' to question '19']

**19.3: 19.3 Of articles you have in your personal article collection, on what percentage of them have you made some sort of notes?**

Please write your answer here:

[Only answer this question if you answered 'Yes' to question '18' and if you answered 'Yes' to question '19']

**19.4: 19.4 Of the articles you have in your personal article collection, what percentage of them have entries in your personal bibliographic database?**

Please write your answer here:

**Part 6. Searching and Using Information**

**20: 20. If given the option, how would you prefer to search for information?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Print versions of databases and journals  
☐ Electronic versions of databases and journals

**21: 21. If given the option, how would you prefer to read retrieved information (journal articles, etc)?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Print (hardcopy) only  
☐ Electronic (computer) only  
☐ Both/it depends

**22: 22. Which type of interface would you rather use to begin your search process?**

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ Google search page  
☐ Your library's home page
- 

**23: 23. How many times did you visit University libraries in person in the last 12 months?**

Please write your answer here:

**24: 24. Please indicate the number of times you visited the library in the last month with the primary purpose of**

Please write your answer(s) here:

Photocopying materials:

Getting assistance from a librarian:

Using computers:

Performing searches:

Reading current journals or other materials:

Quiet reading space:

Meetings:

Browsing:

Picking up/dropping off materials:

**25: 25. How many times did you use the following services to remotely interact with your library in the last month?**

Please write your answer(s) here:

Phone:

IM, IRC, chat :

Email :

Other?:

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**26: 26. What determines your choice of journals for the publication of your work?**

Please choose the appropriate response for each item

Insignificant

Significant

Ability to include links, color, graphics, multimedia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Audience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Author having to pay page charges for long articles or color figures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability on campus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editorial board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page charges for long articles or color figures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed of publication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Standing of journal in your field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support of open access to journal articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**27: 27. In your opinion, what are the shortcomings of the library, and what new or different services you would like to see provided?**

Please write your answer here:

**28: 28. In your opinion, what are the successes of your library?**

Please write your answer here:

**29: 29. Imagine that you could have information made available to you in any form you desired. What one thing would you change to improve your access to, or use of, scholarly information?**

Please write your answer here:

**Submit Your Survey**

Thank you for completing this survey. Please fax your completed survey to: .