

# Medical faculty's use of print and electronic journals: changes over time and in comparison with scientists

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# Background

- King & Tenopir studies
  - Started in 1977
  - Use standard questionnaire for all specialties
  - Updated in 1990s to include electronic use
  - *Towards Electronic Journals: Realities for Scientists, Librarians, and Publishers.*

# Literature Review

- Journals are the most common source for information
- Personal subscriptions are most common source for journal articles
- “Medical faculty made use of their personal journal subscriptions as much as other scientific fields make use of library subscriptions.”
- Time and quantity to find/read are barriers
- Print is used differently than electronic

# Methods

- Survey sample
  - >1,000 faculty; 263 sampled; 79 responded
  - Demographics: age, degree, specialty, roles
- Questionnaire
  - Standard King & Tenopir instrument
  - Reader-related vs. reading-related questions
  - Critical-incident technique

# Discussion, 1

- Medical faculty read more than other scientists, and more than nonacademic MDs
- Principal purposes: primary research, writing, teaching, consulting
- Need to read to get new ideas/information
- Tend to read articles once only
- Tend to read in depth
- Tend to read very recent articles
- Spend less time in reading

# Discussion, 2

- Increased reading correlates to amt. published, number of awards, etc.
- 22% readings come from library
  - Tend to be more valuable than from other sources
  - Spend more time reading library articles
- Rely heavily on personal subscriptions
  - Much higher proportion than other disciplines
- Browsing is primary means of discovery

# Discussion, 3

- Print heavily preferred over electronic
  - Especially by MDs
  - Especially when browsing
  - Not significant difference by age or specialty



# Take Home Message

- Medical faculty...
  - Read more but spend less time doing it
  - Value currency but want things summarized
  - Heavily use journal literature
  - Depend on personal subscriptions for convenience & portability

# KT's Questions

- Issue of summarized info is concluded but not actually studied.
- Browsing numbers don't make sense...
- How does PubMed LinkOut change this?
- Fuzzy line between print vs. printed out
- How do you know which subscription you're using online?
- What do faculty subscribe to vs. use in library?
- Problem with sample size!
- How does use of UTenn libraries compare to ACRL peers?