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# USFSP Student Ithaka Survey : Executive Summary, USFSP, 2015-2016

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

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**Executive Summary**

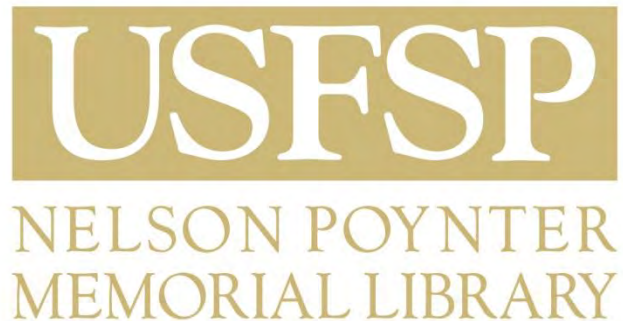
**USFSP Student Ithaka Survey**

**2015 - 2016**

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

*Compiled by Kaya van Beynen with input from Deb Henry and Tina Neville*

2016



## **Executive Summary**

During the fall 2015 semester, the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg implemented the Ithaka S+R Student Survey. This questionnaire covers topics in several key areas including: students' objectives in obtaining an advanced degree; their use of assigned course materials; and the role of the library in supporting students' needs. The following report provides an executive summary of the findings from the USFSP student survey as they pertain to the role of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

## **Methodology**

4,733 USFSP graduate and undergraduate students received an email invitation to participate in a survey about student studying and research habits. In total, 609 students started the survey (about 13% of those who received the email invitation) and 445 completed the survey, for a 9% response rate.

## **Demographics**

349 students identified themselves as undergraduate students (238 were CAS students, 86 were COB students, 20 were COE students, and 5 were from other programs). 87 respondents identified as grad students (31 respondents from CAS, 28 were COB students, 17 were COE students, and 11 were from other programs).

Among the respondents, 287 were male, 136 female, and 22 respondents did not want to identify or answer this question. Among the undergraduate respondents, 5% were international students, while among the graduate respondents, 9% were international students. 74% of undergraduate respondents reported that they lived on-campus, while among the graduate students, only 12% live on-campus. 73% of undergraduate students have taken an online course at USFSP, while 75% of graduate students reported having taken an online course at USFSP.

## **Highlights of USFSP Results**

Please refer to the Appendix for a more detailed view on undergraduate and graduate results in table format. These results are organized into the categories of: coursework and academics, information literacy instruction and support, virtual and physical use of the library, and the students' perception regarding the role of the library.

## **Institutional Insights**

The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is contributing to the USFSP Strategic Mission by supporting student coursework and academics through a variety of resources regularly used by undergraduate and graduate students. USFSP librarians help students develop their research skills and the library, both virtually and physically, serves as a starting point for information sources, studying, and collaborating with colleagues. While the library website is not the most frequent starting point, the majority of undergraduate and graduate students both regularly access library electronic resources from off-campus and visit the library each month. As both undergraduate and graduate students advance in their academic careers and work on independent research and projects, they increasingly rely on library resources, assistance and instruction from librarians, and other services and space provided by the library.

## Appendix: Highlights of USFSP Results in Tables

### Coursework and Academics

In the courses you are currently taking, how often are you assigned each of the following types of work?

	Undergrad Sometimes	Undergrad Regularly	Grad Sometimes	Grad Regularly
Literature reviews	--	--	36.62%	26.76%
Literary essays or papers that do not require research	33.62%	26.27%	27.78%	18.06%
Research papers	39.77%	37.78%	31.94%	54.17%
Presentations or multimedia projects	42.09%	31.64%	33.80%	49.30%
Group projects	40.79%	38.53%	38.89%	44.44%

In the courses you are currently taking, how often do you use each of the following types of sources of information for your coursework or research projects?

	Undergrad Sometimes	Undergrad Regular	Grad coursework stage Sometimes	Grad coursework stage Regularly	Grad research stage Sometimes	Grad research stage Regularly
News or magazine articles	34.10%	19.77%	27.78%	33.33%	38.89%	27.78%
Data or datasets	37.61%	24.22%	37.14%	30.00%	47.06%	29.41%
Images or scans of images	35.04%	30.77%	45.83%	22.22%	44.44%	27.78%
Textbooks or textbook chapters (not including E-book versions)	23.51%	67.71%	25.00%	61.11%	29.41%	58.82%
Journal articles or other academic articles	34.94%	44.03%	29.17%	62.50%	38.89%	61.11%
Collection(s) of historical documents or records	16.67%	10.17%	22.54%	12.68%	38.89%	11.11%
Video, audio or other multimedia materials	31.62%	39.03%	26.39%	40.28%	27.78%	27.78%
Unpublished works or reports	15.01%	8.50%	23.61%	6.94%	38.89%	0
Books, chapters, or novels that are not textbooks (not including E-book versions)	29.10%	40.96%	29.58%	36.62%	52.94%	35.29%
Electronic or E-book versions of textbooks or textbook chapters	24.01%	33.33%	23.61%	43.06%	38.89%	33.33%
E-books, E-book chapters (not textbooks)	22.73%	22.16%	25.00%	27.78%	55.56%	33.33%

### Information Literacy Instruction and Support

Please think about your most recently completed coursework or research projects. Indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Undergrad Agree	Undergrad Strongly Agree	Grad Agree	Grad Strongly Agree
My instructors help me develop the research skills to find and use academic sources of information for my coursework or research projects	27.92%	19.37%	35.21%	21.13%
Campus librarians / staff help me develop the research skills to find and use academic sources of information for my coursework or research projects	18.59%	13.24%	25.84%	20.22%
The library serves as a starting point for locating information, resources, or citations that I use for my coursework or research	24.50%	24.22%	29.21%	35.96%

Have you attended a library information session, class, or section that was:

	Undergrad Yes	Grad Yes
Taught by a librarian in a campus library building?	27%	43%
Taught by a librarian invited into a classroom or lecture hall by an instructor or professor?	32%	49%
Taught by a librarian online (such as in a webinar or pre-recorded video tutorial)?	6%	10%
Taught by a college or university staff or faculty member other than a librarian?	25%	37%
Taught during an orientation?	25%	33%
Focused on finding sources of information for your major, field, or program of study?	30%	54%

How often do you interact with librarians or library staff members at this college or university (either in person or via email or an online chat platform)?

	Undergrad	Graduate
More than twice a week	5.67%	7.87%
Once or twice a week	12.18%	14.61%
Once or twice a month	20.68%	19.10%
Once or twice a semester or quarter	22.66%	19.10%
Once or twice a year	15.30%	22.47%
N/A (Never interacted with a librarian/ staff)	23.51%	16.85%

### Virtual and Physical Use of the Library

Please think about your most recently completed research project. Which of the following starting points did you use to begin your research?

	Undergrad Percent	Grad Student Percent
A general search engine (such as Google, Yahoo!, or Bing)	46.35%	31.46%
The library's website	19.38%	37.08%
An academic search engine or database (such as Google Scholar or JSTOR)	25.56%	22.47%
N/A (I have never, or I have not yet, completed a research project)	7.02%	6.74%
Other (please fill in):	1.69%	2.25%

How often do you go inside a library building on campus at this college or university?

	Undergrad Percent	Graduate Percent
More than twice a week	34.84%	26.97%
Once or twice a week	33.14%	25.84%
Once or twice a month	19.26%	12.36%
Once or twice a semester or quarter	6.80%	23.60%
Once or twice a year	2.27%	5.62%
N/A (Never been inside a library building)	3.68%	5.62%

How often do you access information or resources for your coursework or research projects online from an off-campus location?

	Undergrad Percent	Graduate Percent
Regularly	41.14%	55.06%
Sometimes	32.57%	24.72%
Rarely	15.71%	13.48%
Never	10.57%	6.74%

## Role of the Library

How useful is it to you personally that your campus library provides each of the services listed below?

	<b>Undergrad Very Useful</b>	<b>Undergrad Extremely Useful</b>	<b>Grad Very Useful</b>	<b>Grad Extremely Useful</b>
The library stores, organizes, and keeps track of books, articles, data, images, or other resources	35.49%	41.69%	39.33%	47.19%
The library pays for resources that I need for my coursework or research projects, from academic journals to books to electronic databases	31.16%	55.52%	31.46%	64.04%
The library supports and facilitates my learning or studying activities	37.43%	44.86%	38.20%	47.19%
The library helps students develop research skills	40.68%	38.42%	37.08%	41.57%
Librarians or library staff provide assistance or guidance in finding sources for coursework or research projects	39.14%	37.14%	34.83%	43.82%
Librarians or library staff provide assistance or guidance on managing citations	37.54%	32.95%	33.33%	39.08%
Librarians or library staff provide assistance or guidance on using information ethically	34.57%	35.71%	33.71%	37.08%
Librarians or library staff provide assistance or guidance with managing data or datasets	36.18%	29.06%	37.50%	27.27%
Librarians or library staff provide help for learning about technological, digital, or online tools for coursework or research	30.66%	37.82%	34.48%	41.38%
Librarians or library staff provide support in learning and using online search engines or databases	36.39%	34.67%	38.20%	41.57%