

→ Fast Facts

→ Digital dark ages?

“We’re churning out vast quantities of digital data that we aren’t equipped to preserve.” Digital data eventually becomes unusable due to technology obsolescence, temperature changes, media deterioration, magnetic fluctuations, format obsolescence, and data corruption. No long-term solutions are on the horizon. The Electronic Records Archive initiative of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, which manages more than 400 terabytes of data, recopies archived tapes every ten years, and keeps at least three copies of everything, with at least one copy being off-site. Other agencies have much larger storage issues. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey adds about 50 terabytes per month to its archives, and now manages about 4.5 petabytes, including copies.

Lamont Wood, “Fending off the Digital Dark Ages: The Archival Storage Issue,” *Computerworld*, www.computerworld.com/s/article/9181658/Fending_off_the_digital_dark_ages_The_archival_storage_issue (retrieved September 6, 2010).

→ Public access computers

In a 2008 survey of Association of Research Libraries (ARL) libraries with approximately half responding, researchers determined that 52 percent of the responding ARL libraries required affiliated users to login to public computer workstations in the library. Seventy-two percent of those libraries requiring affiliated users to login to public computers provided the means for guest users to login to public computer workstations in the library.

Lynne Weber and Peg Lawrence, “Authentication and Access: Accommodating Public Users in an Academic World,” *Information Technology and Libraries* 29, no. 3 (September 2010): 128-40. Library Literature and Information Science, WilsonWeb (retrieved September 14, 2010).

→ Information-seeking behavior

While more than 85 percent of academic researchers in a recent study maintain print article collections, only about half of them maintain a personal bibliographic database. Of those who do maintain a bibliographic database, about 57 percent of their collections are imported into their personal bibliographic database. When it comes to reading the articles, a majority of researchers prefer to use both electronic and print formats depending on the situation. While both formats are used in reading, print is still preferred over electronic formats.

Xi Niu, Bradley M. Hemminger, Cory Lown, Stephanie Adams, Cecelia Brown, Allison Level, Merinda McLure, Audrey Powers, Michele R. Tennant, and Tara Cataldo, 2010, National study of information seeking behavior of academic researchers in the United States, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 61, (5) (May): 869-890, www.csa.com (retrieved September 13, 2010).

→ Serials Price Projections

EBSCO expects the overall effective publisher price increases for academic libraries for 2011 to be in the range of 4 to 6 percent. The global recession and currency fluctuations, however, make precise forecasting difficult.

“Serials Price Projections for 2011,” EBSCO Information Services, www2.ebsco.com/en-us/Documents/customer/SerialsPriceProjectionReport-2011.pdf (retrieved September 15, 2010).

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