



Reimagining the Academic Library for the Student of Tomorrow

Librarian Futures Part Two

IGELU September
11th 2023



Agenda

Housekeeping and introductions

1. Key findings from Librarian Futures Part Two – 5 minutes

2. The student perspective – 15 minutes

3. Our vision for the future of the library – 5 minutes

Questions - 5 minutes



Key findings from Librarian Futures Part Two



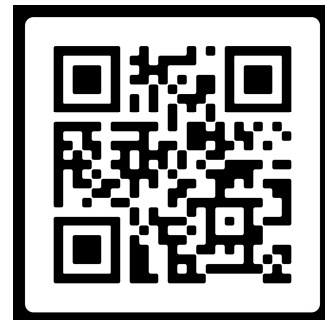
Background

Librarian Futures Report Part One

Charting the future of the librarian-patron relationship.



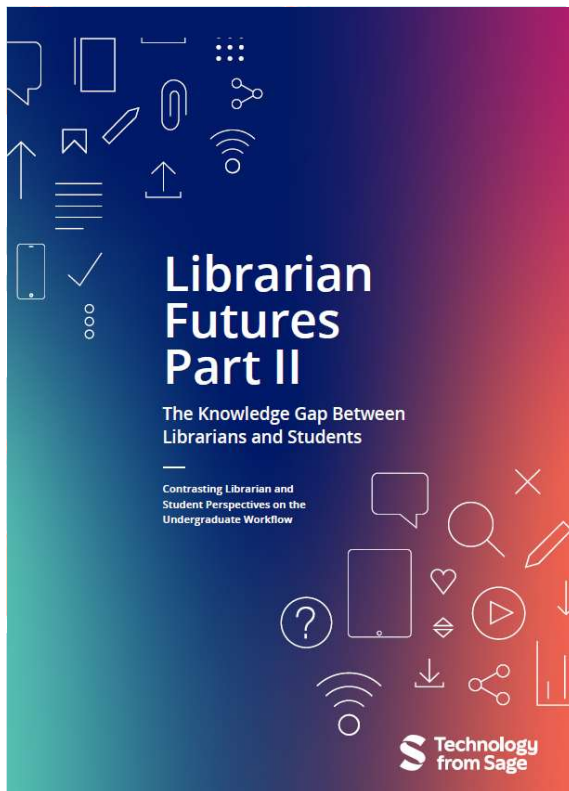
- The library 'in the life of the user'
- Key data points:
 - Survey of 4,000 librarians and patrons across 1,500 institutions
 - Interviews with librarians and other stakeholders
 - Contributions from Springshare, scite, OCLC and other Lean Library partners
 - Data from Lean Library on user workflows
 - Student studies conducted for Lean Library at Pearson College London



Background

Librarian Futures Report Part Two

Student Perspectives on the University Experience



- Contrasting librarian and student perspectives on the undergraduate workflow
- Key data points:
 - Survey of 599 students in the UK, USA, and Canada
 - Also draws on research from Samantha Sharman and Matt East
- Download the report at this link:
 - <https://www.technologyfromsage.com/librarian-futures-report-part-2/>



Discovery

- Google is the most popular search method
 - It is also the most popular starting point
- Around 1 in 3 students use the library website
 - Around 1 in 10 students start there
- Around 1 in 4 students use the library building
 - Around 1 in 20 students start there
- Very few students see no place for the library in supporting their studies...
 - ... but many think of it solely as a building and a collection

How do you find resources for your assignments and studies?

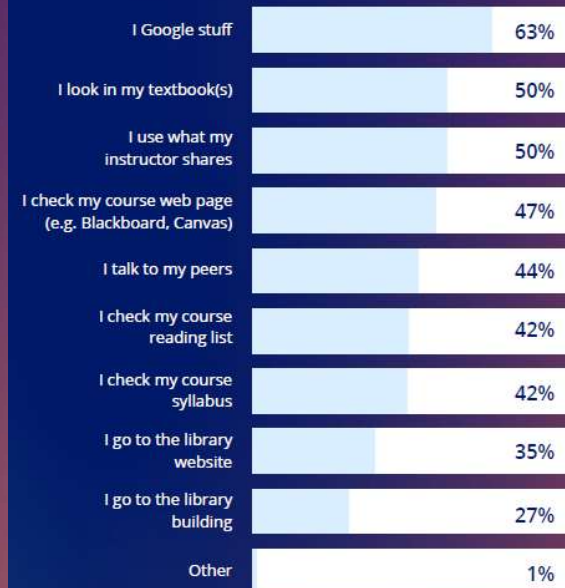


FIGURE 1. Student Responses to the Question "How do you find resources for your assignments and studies?"



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“The mission of the library is not about buildings
and collections, but who librarians serve”

- Evans & Schonfeld, 2020

Literacy

- 27% are very confident
- Results are broadly similar when asked about digital skills or course-related work
- But most students don't see librarians as providing help
- Just 25% of students reported that librarians help them get access to resources

How confident are you today in each of the following areas: reading academic literature?

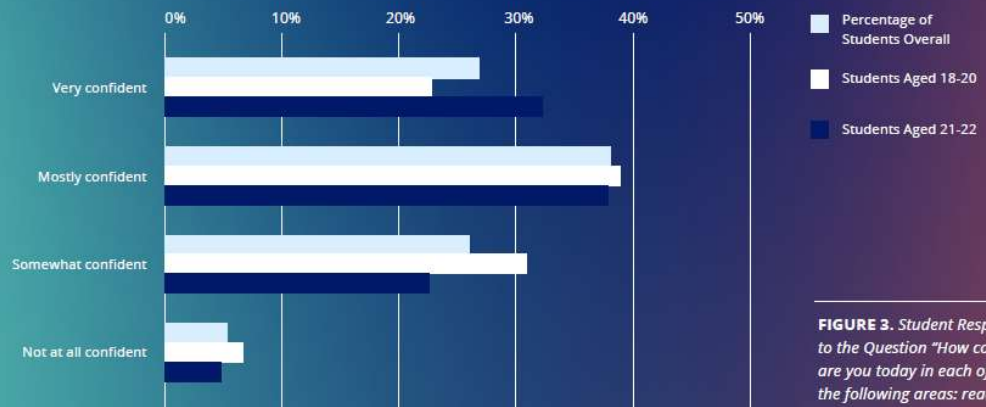


FIGURE 3. Student Responses to the Question "How confident are you today in each of the following areas: reading academic literature?" "N/A" answers, and null responses have been removed.

Scaffolding

- Relatively small number of students engaging with extracurricular training
- Quarter of students don't participate at all
- Significant differences between full-time and part-time students

What kinds of additional training, workshops, or other support have you participated in at your college or university that's offered outside of your courses?



Scaffolding

- Slim majority of students say “finding relevant resources” easy
- “Managing time” and “keeping focused on task” are areas where students had the most difficulty
- Students who identify as disabled reported greater levels of difficulty



How easy or difficult do you find the following aspects of preparing assignments?

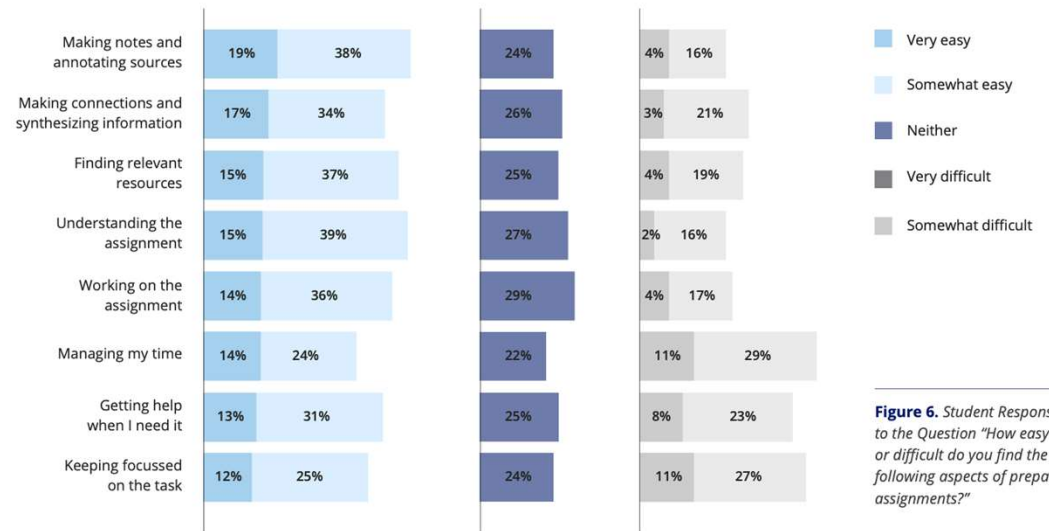
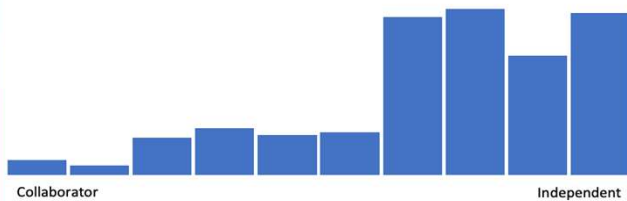


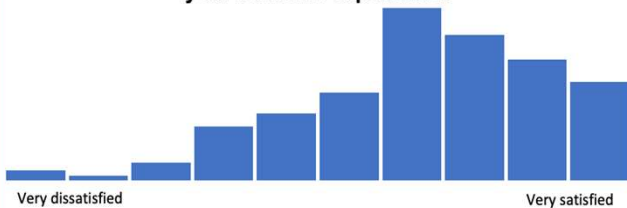
Figure 6. Student Responses to the Question “How easy or difficult do you find the following aspects of preparing assignments?”

Engagement

Which best describes your approach to learning?



Which best describes your level of satisfaction with your academic experience?

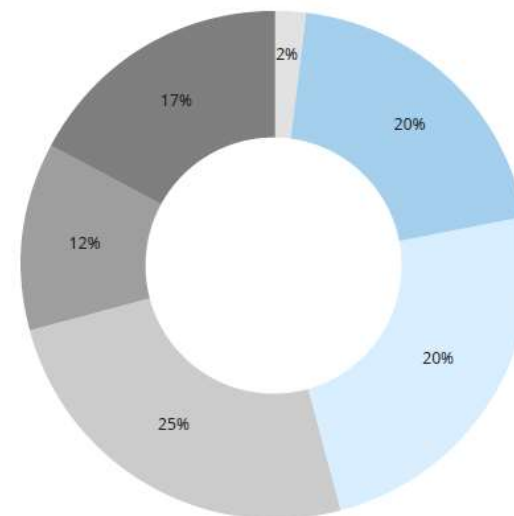


- Students overwhelmingly identified as independent learners, rather than collaborative learners
- Students are largely satisfied with their academic experience

Engagement

- Roughly even split between students who will spend less than 15 minutes looking for a resource, 15-30 minutes looking for a resource, and spend 30-60 minutes looking for a resource
- Only 25% of students reported receiving help from librarians for accessing resources, and just 16% said librarians had helped them find good information

How Long Do Students Spend Searching for Resources?



For a typical assignment, how long will you continue searching for a relevant resource until you move on to something else?

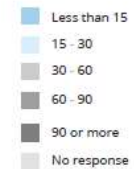


FIGURE 10. Student Responses to the Question "For a typical assignment, how long will you continue searching for a relevant resource until you move on to something else?"





“Post-Covid we’ve noticed that students are less comfortable using an academic library, and harder to reach and engage with. This is sobering news for academic librarians, as we all work immensely hard in organizing and promoting our support to help all students achieve their potential. So for me it means we need to redouble our efforts, and find novel ways to reach students and open their eyes to the difference we can make.”

- Ian Snowley, Dean of Learning Skills & University Librarian, University of Lincoln

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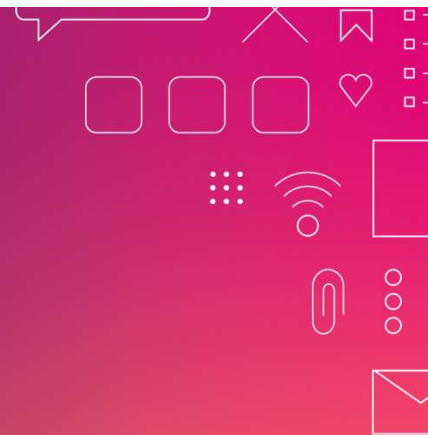
The student perspective

Samantha Sharman



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Our vision for the future of the library



Reimagining the Academic Library for the Student of Tomorrow



- The findings of this report serve as a call to action for academic libraries to reevaluate their role in the student experience and reimagine how they can best serve the needs of the student of tomorrow.
- It's critical that academic libraries continue to evolve and innovate, developing new strategies for engaging students and supporting their learning journey.

Our mission

To help libraries advance teaching,
learning and research



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Our strategy

We amplify the power of the academic library with technologies that support the shift from a collection-centric to patron-centric approach, taking library services and content to where patrons are online





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Any Questions?