



## Part 5: Perceptions of Potential College Students

**58%**  
of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds visit their school library at least monthly.

U.S. respondents in the 14- to 17-year-old age group provide a comparison with responses from worldwide college students. College students of the near future will potentially come from this group, and so it is interesting to note the differences and similarities in perceptions of libraries and their resources between this group and those already attending colleges.

The majority of young people who responded to the survey reside in the U.S. In the original report, data from all U.S. respondents were segmented by age to provide yet another perspective on the data. The sample sizes of respondents from the other geographic regions were not large enough to report by age segment.

Usage of libraries among U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds is higher than among other U.S. age segments:

- 83 percent are current library card holders
- 58 percent use their school library at least on a monthly basis
- 34 percent visit the public library at least monthly
- 35 percent reported an increase in library use in the past three to five years

The data suggest that the younger respondents use newer types of electronic resources more readily than older respondents. Usage of the following five electronic resources is higher among this younger U.S. segment than among college students worldwide: instant messaging/online chat, e-mail information subscriptions, blogs, ask an expert services and online librarian question services.

However, while U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds frequently use electronic resources, only 20 percent who have used a library Web site *completely agree* it provides worthwhile information compared to 45 percent of worldwide college students who *completely agree*.

Additional differences are evident related to valued and trusted sources. Seventy-five percent of worldwide college students *completely agree* or *agree* that librarians add value to the search process, compared to 51 percent of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds. This younger segment relies on friends and relatives as cross-referencing tools more so

*get newer books,  
better computers,  
more staff*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

than worldwide college students. U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds are also slightly more likely to trust information from a source where a fee is required compared to total U.S. respondents and worldwide college students.

U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds report a higher agreement level than worldwide college students on the following two of 14 roles a library contributes to a community:

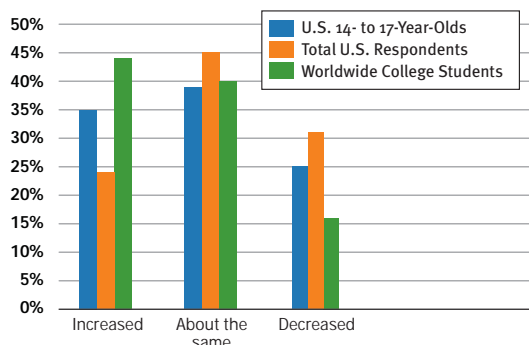
- Promotes childhood learning and development
- Is a place to meet and socialize with friends

**41%**  
of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds anticipate their library usage will increase, nearly double that of total U.S. respondents.

### Past Library Usage—

by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and Worldwide College Students

How much has your personal library use changed over the last three to five years?



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1220.

*Get more funding. Newer books are needed in some areas, and the outside of the building could use some new paint.*

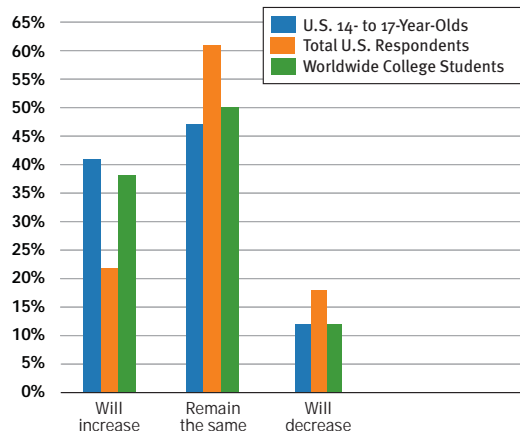
15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

### Anticipated Future Library Use—

by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and Worldwide College Students

How do you anticipate your personal usage of the library will change over the next three to five years?



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1225.

*To stop spending money on tables and chairs and to spend it on getting newer books and information to the students.*

14-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

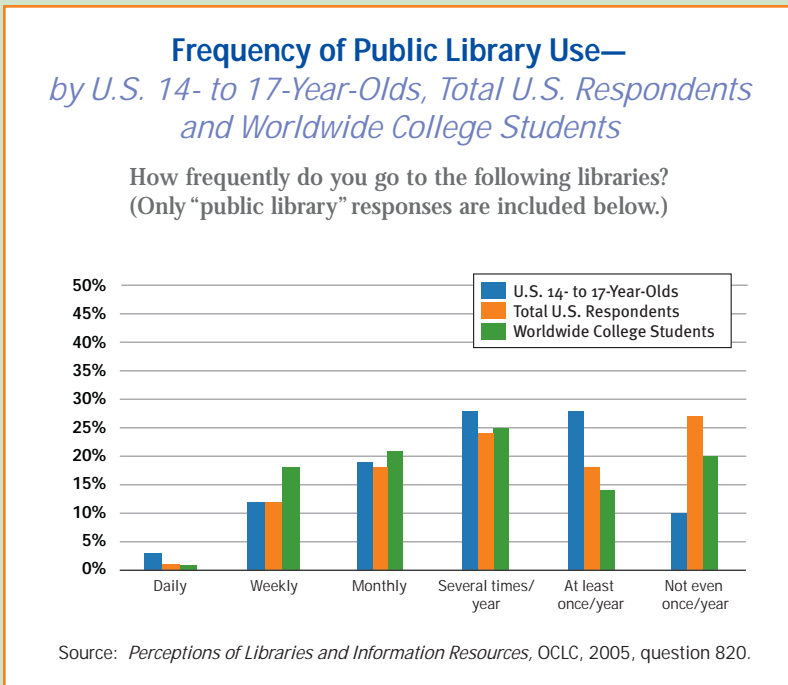
*Be more student friendly*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

It is possible that when the U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds enter college, their perceptions will more closely match those of the college student respondents. But it is also possible that the responses of the U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds represent a generational difference and that they will continue to place less value on librarians and to use library resources less.

The verbatim comments provided by people in this age group show many of them feel a lack of respect and acceptance from library staff, and this could impact their perceptions of libraries as well as influence their future use of libraries and their resources.



**34%**  
*of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds visit their public library at least monthly.*

*Keep books up to date and have more teen friendly environments*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Improve the web site more—I like the catalog, but if it could reference some sort of rating system it would be even better—I was looking at a new author today who has many books, and I had to go to an internet computer, check on amazon and see which books were most highly recommended, and go back to the catalog to see if they were available.*

15-year-old high school student  
from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

### *Be more friendlier*

14-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

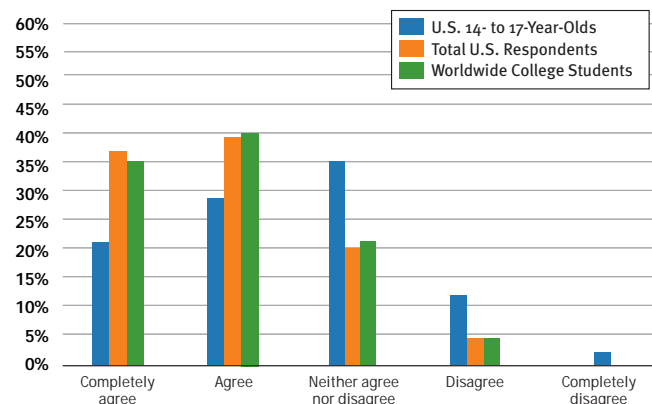
*Have the librarians seem more approachable, less stiff and imposing.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

### **Librarians Add Value to the Search Process—** *by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and Worldwide College Students*

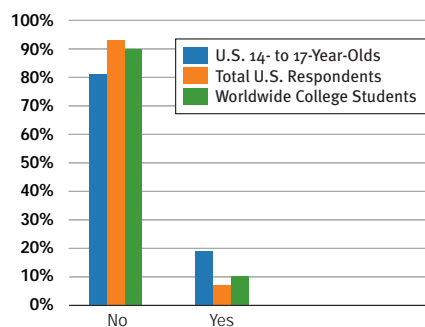
Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree that the librarian adds value to the information search process.



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1070.

### **Free vs. For-Fee Information—** *by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and Worldwide College Students*

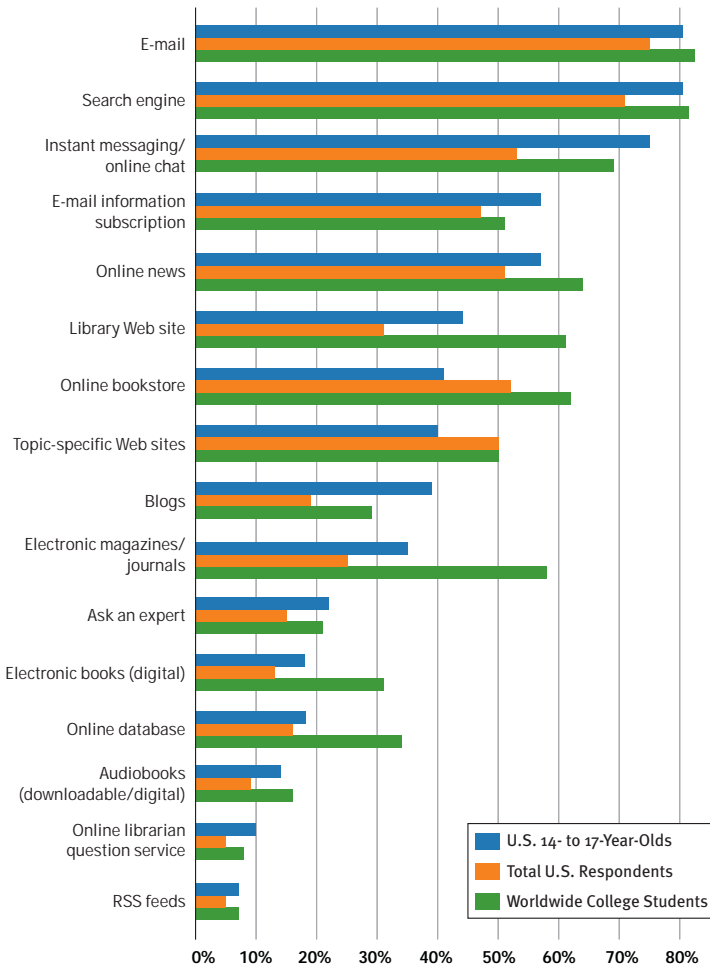
Would you trust an electronic information source more if you have to pay for the information compared to a free source?



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 755.

**Usage of Electronic Resources—**  
*by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents*  
*and Worldwide College Students*

Please indicate if you have used the following electronic information sources, even if you have used them only once.



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 505.

*Have a display for interesting books.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

**75%**  
*of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds have used instant messaging.*

*more computer stations, able to bring in your own computer and hook up to internet*

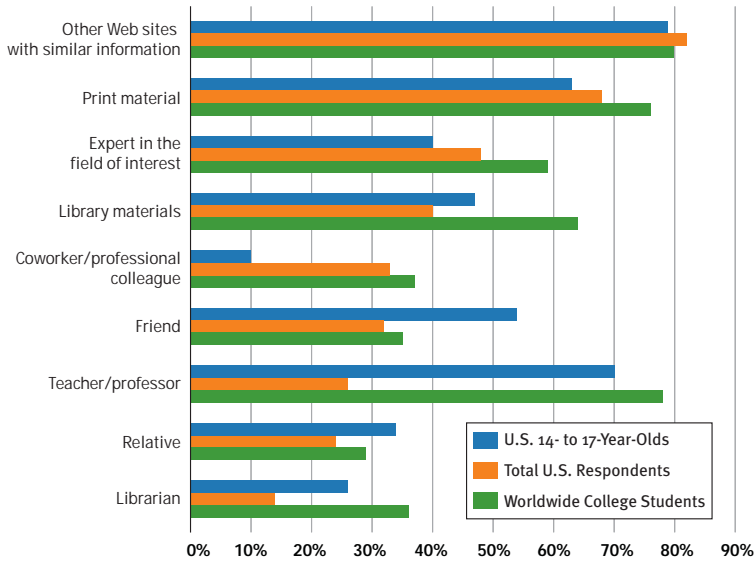
17-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

**Cross-referencing Sources to Validate Information—**  
*by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and*  
*Worldwide College Students*

What other source(s) do you use to validate the information?

Base: Respondents selecting “find the information on multiple sites/cross-referencing” in question 725.



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 735.

*encourage reading for FUN instead of just for school and stop placing traditional high school literature in such high regard over other books*

17-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, “If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?”

*provide snacks and drinks*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, “If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?”

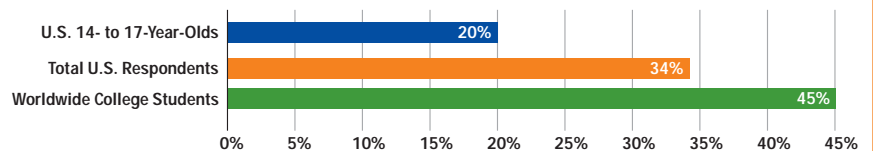
**69%** of U.S. 14- to 17-year-olds agree the library is a place to learn.

**Worthwhile Information from the Library Web site—**  
*by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and*  
*Worldwide College Students*

Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree that each electronic information source provides worthwhile information.

(Only *Completely Agree* responses are graphed below.)

Base: Respondents who indicated usage of the library Web site from a list of 21 information brands.



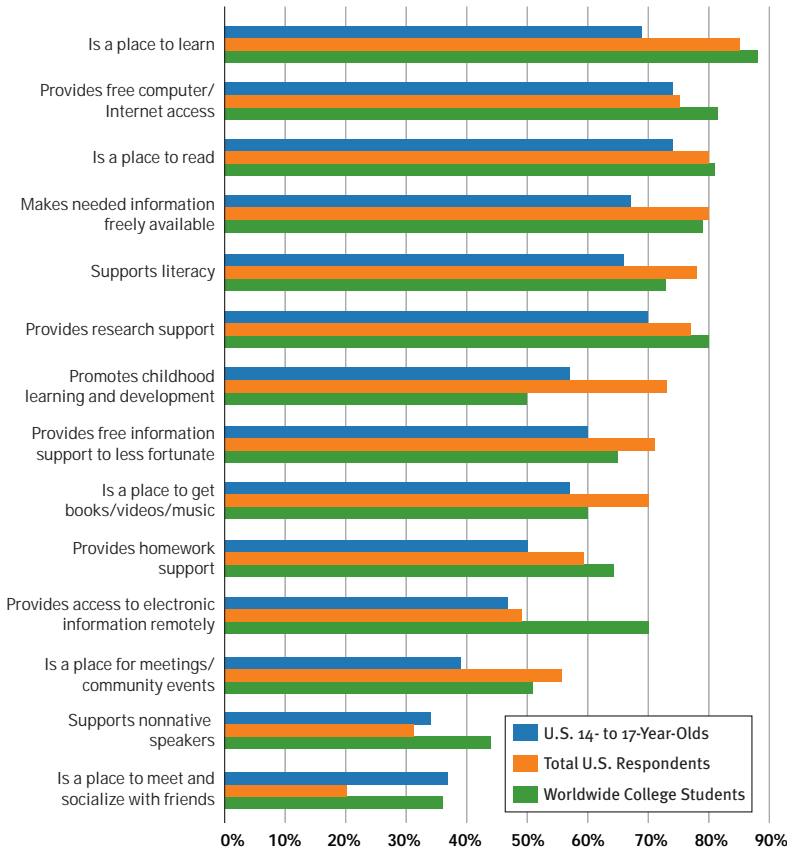
Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 670.

### Library's Role in the Community—

by U.S. 14- to 17-Year-Olds, Total U.S. Respondents and Worldwide College Students

Please rate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about your library's role in the community.

Note: This graph shows the *completely agree* and *agree* responses.



Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1210.

*Alert visitors when their book is close to overdue. And automatically renew a book if there is no one else with that book on reservation.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*More computers and better advertising for new books*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Don't require the library card if the person has an account.*

17-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Have more special events to bring people into the library and advertise them well.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005, question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*have a longer business hour on friday,  
saturday and Sunday*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Provide more activities directed towards teens.*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*To provide better access and better direction  
to online resources.*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*update-make it look newer and hipper. also some  
of the books are musty so that makes it smell bad*

15-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*To have a separate room for  
completely silent study.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Keep it up, I appreciate everything you do.*

16-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Make it more approachable to teenagers-Starbucks or  
something similar would help, as well as nice seating areas.*

17-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*Have more comfortable furniture for reading in the library.  
The bookstore has nice couches but the library just has  
tables and chairs.*

17-year-old high school student from the United States

Source: *Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources*, OCLC, 2005,  
question 1240, "If you could provide one piece of advice to your library, what would it be?"

*When cross-  
referencing,  
more U.S. 14-  
to 17-year-olds  
rely on  
library  
materials  
and  
librarians  
for  
validation  
than total U.S.  
respondents.*