

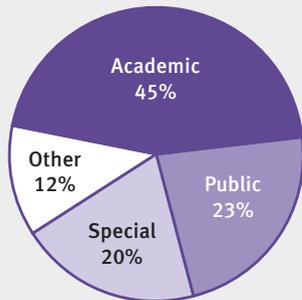


# A SNAPSHOT OF PRIORITIES & PERSPECTIVES Libraries in Germany



OCLC conducted a member survey to understand librarians' top priorities, current key initiatives, thoughts on service and top methods for keeping current on happenings in the library field.

## Respondents by library type



Total respondents (n=143)

## Most German library staff:

- Anticipate the top reason users, faculty and students are using their library will change in five years
- Consider licensed electronic collections/e-books (academic library staff) and addressing literacy (public library staff) to be their top priorities
- Rely on discussions with their colleagues to keep informed about library trends.

Delivering e-books and other e-resources is the most popular initiative for the current year.

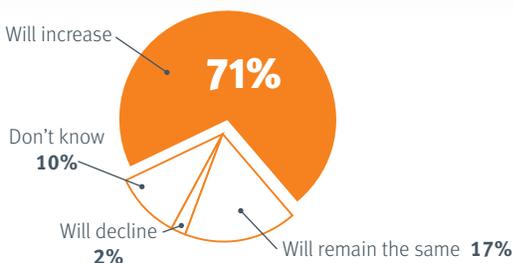
While borrowing books and materials is considered to be the top reason users, faculty and students use the library today, many German library staff expect accessing online databases/journals will be the top demand in 2017.

If you would like to read similar reports about libraries in the Netherlands, the UK or the U.S., see the reports at [www.oclc.org/reports](http://www.oclc.org/reports).

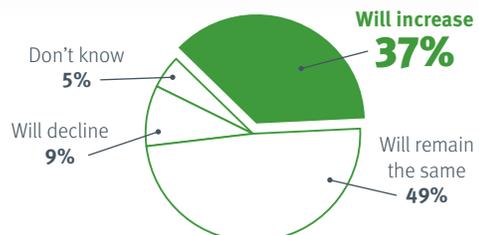
## Use of the online library will increase

Seven in ten German library staff expect use of the online library to increase in the next two years. Far fewer, however, expect an increase in foot traffic to their physical locations.

**71%** expect use of the **online library** will increase



**37%** expect use of the **physical library** will increase



## User demand expected to change

German library staff surveyed feel the primary reason users, faculty and students use the library is to borrow books and materials. Most expect that reason to change over the next five years.

The primary reason users, faculty and students use the library in **five years** will...



Change significantly **27%**

Change modestly **42%**

Remain the same **26%**

**5%** Don't know

**69%**

Anticipate a change in the top reason users, faculty and students use the library.

**Increased demand for accessing online resources in 2017.** Today, German library staff feel the primary reason users, faculty and students currently use the library is to access/borrow books/materials. The majority of German library staff surveyed anticipate the primary reason for use of the library will change in the next five years. Accessing online databases/journals is expected to be the top reason public library users, faculty and students use the library in 2017.

### Primary reason for using the library **today**...

#### FACULTY

1. Access/borrow books/materials
2. Access online databases/journals

#### STUDENTS

1. Access/borrow books/materials
2. Complete assignments/study

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS

1. Access/borrow books/materials
2. Read for leisure

### Primary reason for using the library in the **next five years**...

*Accessing online databases/journals is expected to be the top reason for all three groups.*

#### FACULTY

1. Access online databases/journals
2. Conduct research

#### STUDENTS

1. Access online databases/journals
2. Complete assignments

#### PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS

1. Access online databases/journals
2. Meetings/social gatherings

# Top priorities: e-content, addressing literacy

## Top initiative: e-content

German academic libraries are focused on licensed e-collections/e-books as their top priority. German public libraries are focused on addressing literacy as their first priority. Delivering e-books and other e-resources is the top current initiative among German libraries.

**Top priorities:** Licensed electronic collections/e-books is the top priority for many academic library staff, while addressing literacy is the top priority for many public library staff.

### Top priorities by library respondents in Germany

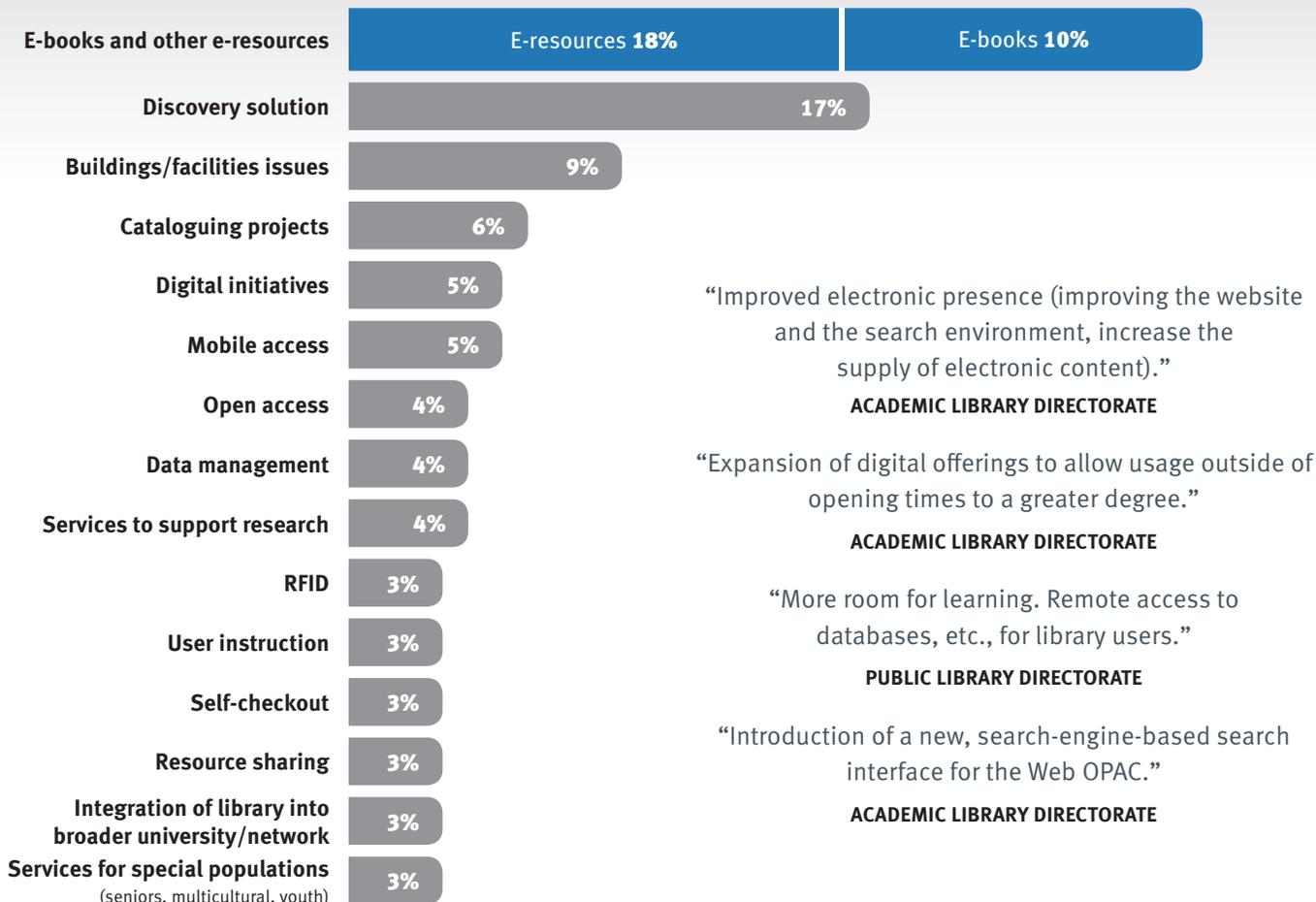
#### ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

1. Licensed electronic collections/e-books
2. Future of higher education and the library's role
3. Visibility of the library's collection

#### PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1. Addressing literacy
2. Access by mobile devices
3. Access to new technology for the library

**E-content and discovery tools top initiatives today:** E-content—e-books and other e-resources—and discovery solutions are the most popular new initiatives this year.

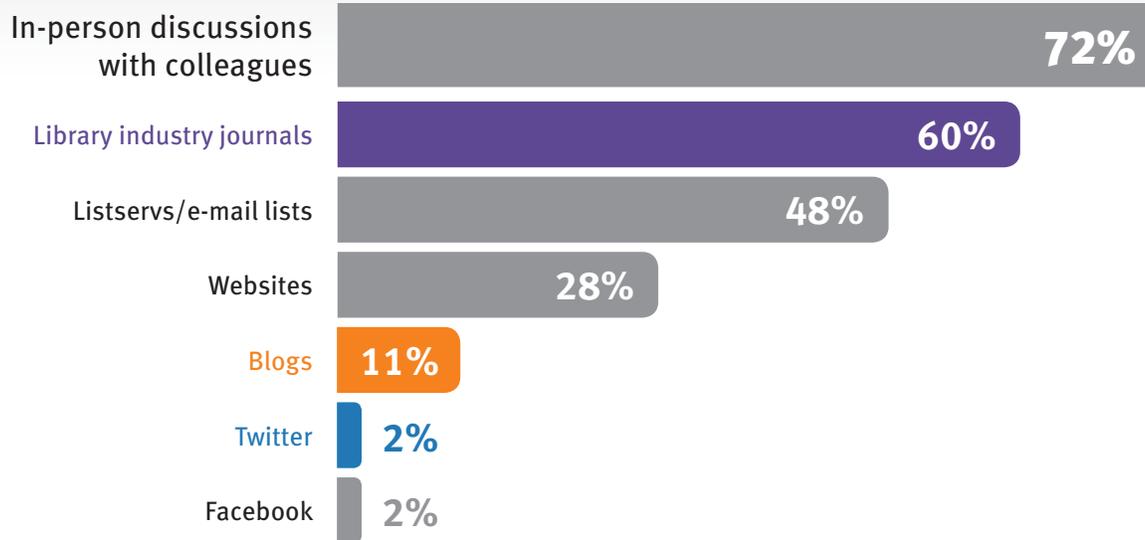


# Colleagues keep each other informed

German library staff rely primarily on their colleagues for library information.

**Discussions with colleagues are top sources of information:** In-person discussions with colleagues top the list of sources German library staff rely on for staying informed about the library industry. More than half of the staff also rely on library industry journals and conferences.

## Percentage of German library staff who selected the following sources as one of their top three



## Do German library staff read blogs and journals or follow Twitter to stay informed?

### The majority of German library staff read journals

**90%**  
read journals  
to keep current  
with library trends

#### Top 3 journals

- *Bub – Forum Bibliothek und Information*
- *B.I.T. online*
- *Bibliotheksdienst*

### Just over a quarter of German library staff read blogs

**28%**  
read blogs  
to keep current  
with library trends

#### Top 3 blogs

- *Netbib weblog*
- *Bib-Blog*  
(Universitätsbibliothek Wuppertal)
- *Inetbib*

### Twitter yet to take off

**93%**  
do not use Twitter  
as a way to keep up  
with library trends

*Note: There were no responses for specific Twitter handles among those who follow Twitter.*