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**

- **Academic** 42% (n=117)
- **Special** 9%
- **Public** 43%
- **Other** 6%

Total respondents (n=279)

**Most UK academic library staff:**

- Anticipate the top reason faculty and students are using their library will shift in five years
- Consider delivering e-books and other e-resources to be their top priority
- Rely on listservs to keep informed about library trends.

Addressing facilities issues is the most popular initiative for the current year.

Today, borrowing books and other materials is considered the primary reason both faculty and students use the library. Many staff expect that to change in five years, when the top priority for faculty will be accessing online databases and journals, and for students, completing assignments.

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

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**Use of the online library will increase**

Nine out of ten UK academic 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.

- **90%** expect use of the **online library** will increase
- **38%** expect use of the **physical library** will increase

- Will increase
- Will decline
- Will remain the same
- Don’t know
User demand expected to change

Academic library staff report that borrowing books and other materials is the main reason faculty and students use the library today. These staff anticipate a change in five years, when the main reason for faculty will be accessing online databases and journals, and for students it will be completing assignments.

Faculty demand expected to change. UK academic staff anticipate the primary reason faculty use the library will change from borrowing materials to accessing online databases and journals in the next five years.

The primary reason faculty use the library today...

- 31% Access online databases
- 33% Borrow materials

The primary reason faculty use the library in five years will........

- 13% Change significantly
- Change modestly 39%
- Don’t know 10%

Top reasons faculty will use the library in the next five years...

- Access online databases/journals 37%
- Conduct research 17%
- Access/borrow books/materials 13%
- Get assistance from a librarian 10%
- Access/borrow journals/articles 8%
- Prepare assignments 2%

Student demand expected to change. UK academic staff anticipate the primary reason students use the library will change in the next five years from borrowing materials to completing assignments.

The primary reason students use the library today...

- 40% Borrow materials
- 37% Complete assignments

The primary reason students use the library in five years will...

- 9% Change significantly
- Change modestly 57%
- Remain the same 30%
- Don’t know 4%

Top reasons students will use the library in the next five years...

- Complete assignments 32%
- Meetings/social gathering 18%
- Access online databases/journals 15%
- Access/borrow books/materials 10%
- Get assistance from a librarian 7%
- Conduct research 4%
Top priority: delivering e-resources
Top initiatives: buildings/facilities and discovery tools

UK academic libraries are focused on delivering e-books and other e-resources as their top priority. Current initiatives include addressing buildings/facilities issues and implementing discovery tools.

**Top priorities:** Delivering e-content—e-books and other e-resources—is the top priority for many academic library staff, while determining the library’s role in the future of higher education and addressing buildings/facilities issues round out the top three.

### Top priorities by academic library respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP 3 PRIORITIES</th>
<th>OTHER PRIORITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed e-collections/e-books 62%</td>
<td>Demonstrating library value to funders 36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of higher education and the library’s role 38%</td>
<td>Visibility of library’s collection 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities issues 37%</td>
<td>Access by mobile devices 25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Facilities issues and resource discovery are top initiatives today:

Building/facilities projects and discovery tools are the most popular new initiatives this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings/facilities issues</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discovery tools</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library management system</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-books/e-resources</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading list system</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access by mobile devices</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital initiatives</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFID</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data curation/management</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach/instruction</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special collections</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared services</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“We are in the middle of major building work so the major new service will be the new building, in particular new study space which will include a 24-hour access computer suite, flexible study areas, silent areas, group study rooms and study booths.”

**ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN**

“Implementing an already purchased Resource Discovery Tool and considering what else we can put in the cloud.”

**ACADEMIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

“Increased access to e-resources of all kinds.”

**ACADEMIC LIBRARY MANAGER**
Listservs still hot
UK academic library staff rely primarily on listservs and e-mail for library information.

Listservs are top sources of information: Listservs and e-mail lists top the list of sources UK academic library staff rely on for staying informed about the library industry. Around a quarter of staff also rely on journals, blogs and Twitter as top sources.

Percentage of UK academic library staff who selected the following sources as one of their top three

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listservs/e-mail lists</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-person discussions with colleagues</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library industry journals</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Google Reader for many, many blogs. I don’t always note the origin of the feed!”

ACADEMIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Do UK academic library staff read blogs and journals or follow Twitter to stay informed?

Nearly three-quarters of UK academic library staff read journals
71% read journals to keep current with library trends
Top 3 journals
- CLILP Update
- Information World Review
- The Bookseller

Half of UK academic library staff read blogs
50% read blogs to keep current with library trends
Top 3 blogs
- Lorcan Dempsey’s Weblog
- Phil Bradley’s weblog
- Planet Cataloging

Twitter slow to take off
67% do not use Twitter as a way to keep up with library trends
Top 3 Twitter handles
- Lorcan Dempsey (@lorcanD)
- JISC (@JISC)
- Marshall Breeding (@mbreeding)