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: 45%
- Public: 23%
- Special: 20%
- Other: 12%

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).

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**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

Don't know: 10%
Will decline: 2%
Will remain the same: 17%
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**...

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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E-books and other e-resources</th>
<th>E-resources 18%</th>
<th>E-books 10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery solution</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings/facilities issues</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloguing projects</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital initiatives</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile access</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open access</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data management</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to support research</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFID</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User instruction</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-checkout</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource sharing</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of library</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(broader university/network)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services for special populations (seniors, multicultural, youth)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Improved electronic presence (improving the website and the search environment, increase the supply of electronic content).”

ACADEMIC LIBRARY DIRECTORATE

“Expansion of digital offerings to allow usage outside of opening times to a greater degree.”

ACADEMIC LIBRARY DIRECTORATE

“More room for learning. Remote access to databases, etc., for library users.”

PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORATE

“Introduction of a new, search-engine-based search interface for the Web OPAC.”

ACADEMIC LIBRARY DIRECTORATE
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-person discussions with colleagues</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library industry journals</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listservs/e-mail lists</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.