

E-Books in Support of a New Learner Environment

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The Problem

“How e-books are actually being used, and how they might in future be developed for educational use, are areas which are not well understood.”

(Bennett, L. *Promoting the uptake of e-books in higher and further education*.
JISC report, in press)

Some Evidence

- CHIU libraries e-books project, 2001-2004
 - Local usage statistics
 - National user survey, 23-29 February 2004
 - Informal discussion

Outline

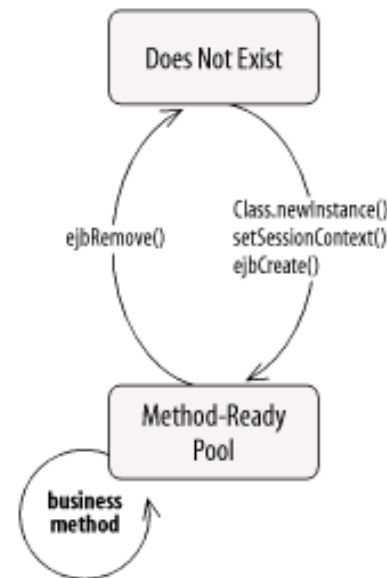
- CHIU E-Books Project
- Safari
- Usage findings
- Ongoing, wider issues

CHIU Libraries E-Books Project

- Discovery project
- 7 member libraries participating
- All subscribing to *Safari*, Sept 2003-
- IT, Business focus
- About 50 titles per site, selected by lecturers
- Only 1/4 have print equivalents in library
- Any title can be swapped after 30 days

Sample Safari Session

Figure 12-1. **Stateless session** bean life cycle



12.2.1 Does Not Exist

When a bean is in the Does Not Exist state, it is not an instance in the memory of the system. In other words, it has not been instantiated yet.

12.2.2 The Method-Ready Pool

Stateless bean instances enter the Method-Ready Pool as the container needs them. When

- Persistence
 - ⊕ EJB 2.0 CMP: Entity Relationships
 - ⊕ EJB 2.0 CMP: EJB QL
 - ⊕ EJB 1.1 CMP
 - ⊕ Bean-Managed Persistence
 - ⊕ The Entity-Container Contract
 - ⊕ Session Beans
 - ▢ The Stateless Session Bean
 - ▶ ▢ **The Life Cycle of a Stateless Session Bean**
 - ▢ The Stateful Session Bean
 - ▢ The Life Cycle of a Stateful Session Bean
 - ⊕ Message-Driven Beans
 - ⊕ Transactions
 - ⊕ Design Strategies
 - ⊕ XML Deployment Descriptors
 - ⊕ Java 2, Enterprise Edition
 - ⊕ The Enterprise JavaBeans API

Clustered Usage

Safari Usage at NUIG, 1 September – 8 February 2004

Title	Hits
Learning Python	<u>894</u>
Agile Software Development Ecosystems	<u>501</u>
Sams Teach Yourself Java™ 2 in 21 Days, Third Edition	<u>291</u>
Software Project Management in Practice	<u>181</u>
SQL in a Nutshell	<u>144</u>

Perl Cookbook, 2nd Edition	<u>1</u>
Practical Internet Groupware	<u>1</u>
Programming C#, 3rd Edition	<u>1</u>
Sams Teach Yourself E-Commerce Programming with ASP in 21 Days	<u>1</u>
Word 2000 in a Nutshell	<u>1</u>

Total of hits: 4,026

Seasonal Usage

Safari Usage at NUIG, 1 September 2003 – 8 February 2004

Title	Hits
Practical C Programming, 3rd Edition	<u>9</u>
Macromedia Flash MX <u>ActionScripting: Advanced Training from the Source</u>	<u>7</u>
Macromedia Flash MX for Windows and Macintosh: Visual <u>QuickPro Guide</u>	<u>7</u>
XML and SQL: Developing Web Applications	<u>35</u>
Inside Linux	<u>52</u>

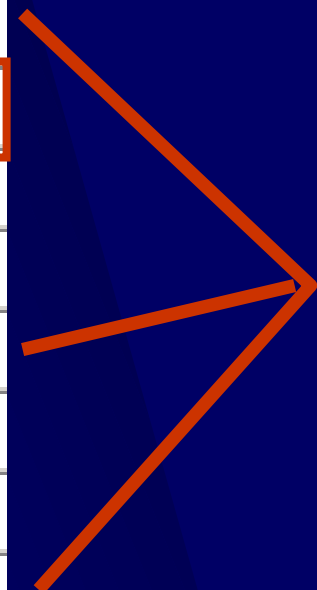
Safari Usage at NUIG, 16-19 February 2004

Title	Hits
Practical C Programming, 3rd Edition	562
Macromedia Flash MX <u>ActionScripting: Advanced Training from the Source</u>	360
Macromedia Flash MX Advanced For Windows and Macintosh: Visual <u>QuickPro Guide</u>	357
XML and SQL: Developing Web Applications	162
Inside Linux	132

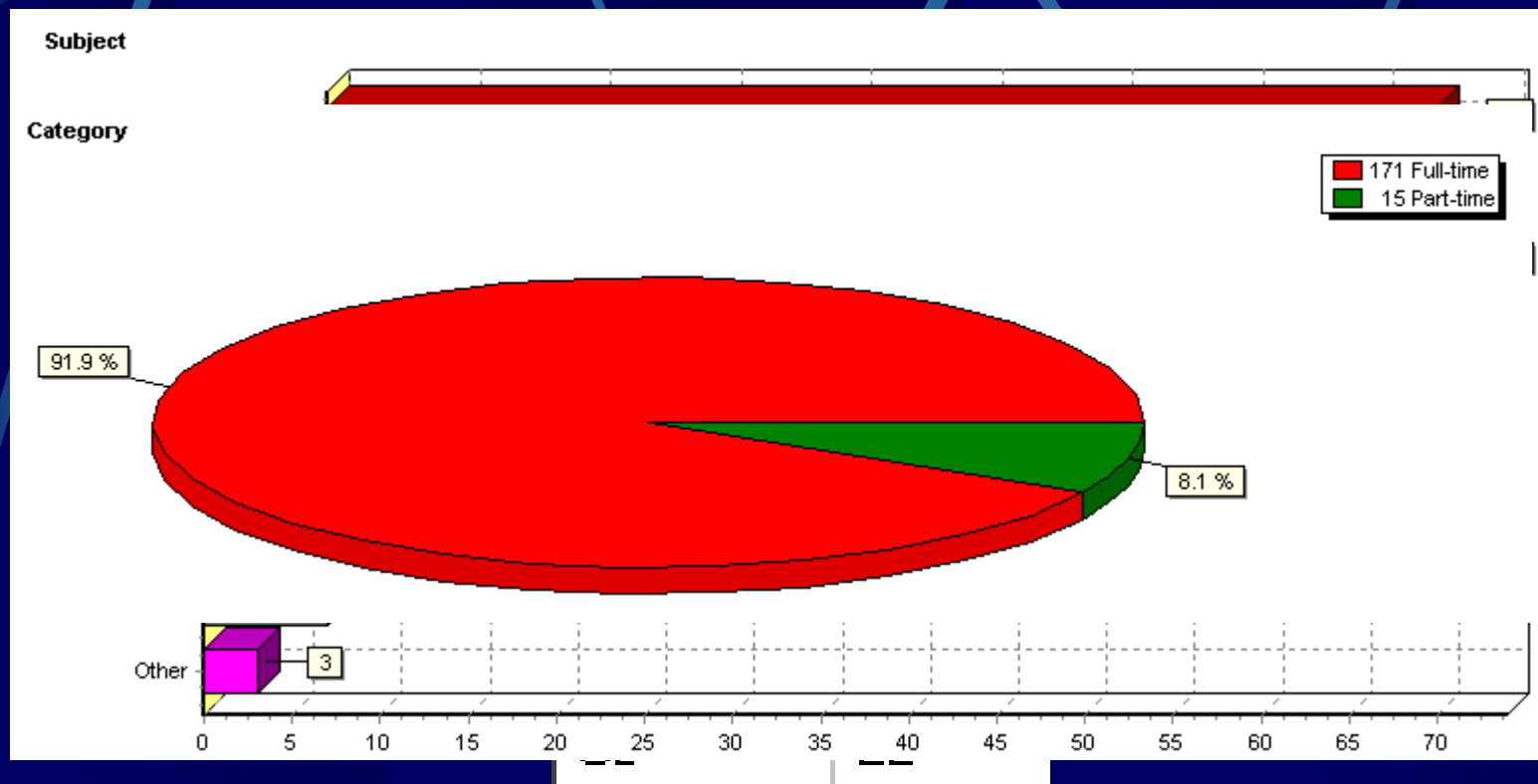
Total of hits for this account: **1,839**

Session Activity

Account Usage Summary : 81406-National University of Ireland, Galway	
From: 09/01/2003 to 02/25/2004	
Total Number of Sessions	1,045
Average Session Length (minutes)	04:57
Concurrent Session Limit	3
Number of Rejected Session Requests	244
Total Number of Keyword Queries	777
Successful Queries	<u>718</u>
Unsuccessful Queries	<u>59</u>
Total Number of Section Retrieval	<u>6,566</u>



CHIU Safari Survey, 23-29 February 2004



Satisfaction with Safari

Question: 7) Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the Safari

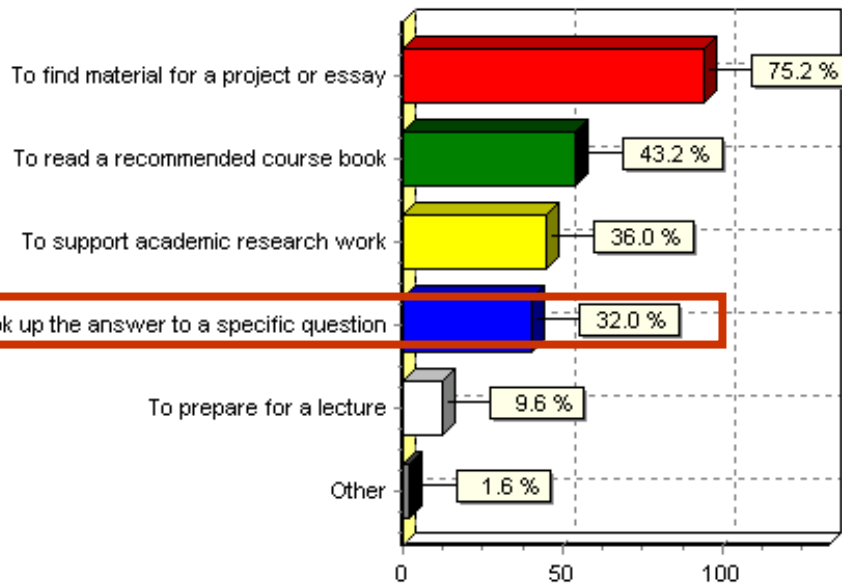
(Percentages)	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Subject coverage	1.1%	11.9%	16.8%	47.0%	22.2%	1.1%
Quality of books	1.1%	1.6%	8.6%	48.4%	38.2%	2.2%
Searching	0.5%	3.2%	20.5%	45.4%	28.1%	2.2%
On-screen presentation	1.1%	8.2%	15.8%	41.8%	32.6%	0.5%
Printing	1.6%	9.7%	20.0%	30.3%	17.8%	20.5%
Saving to disk	2.2%	10.9%	24.6%	25.1%	10.9%	26.2%
E-mailing	2.2%	3.8%	30.2%	22.5%	11.0%	30.2%
Bookmarking	2.2%	3.8%	23.9%	31.5%	16.3%	22.3%
General ease of use	1.1%	3.8%	6.5%	49.5%	38.7%	0.5%
Quality of on-screen help	1.1%	5.4%	24.3%	34.1%	12.4%	22.7%

Why Use Safari?

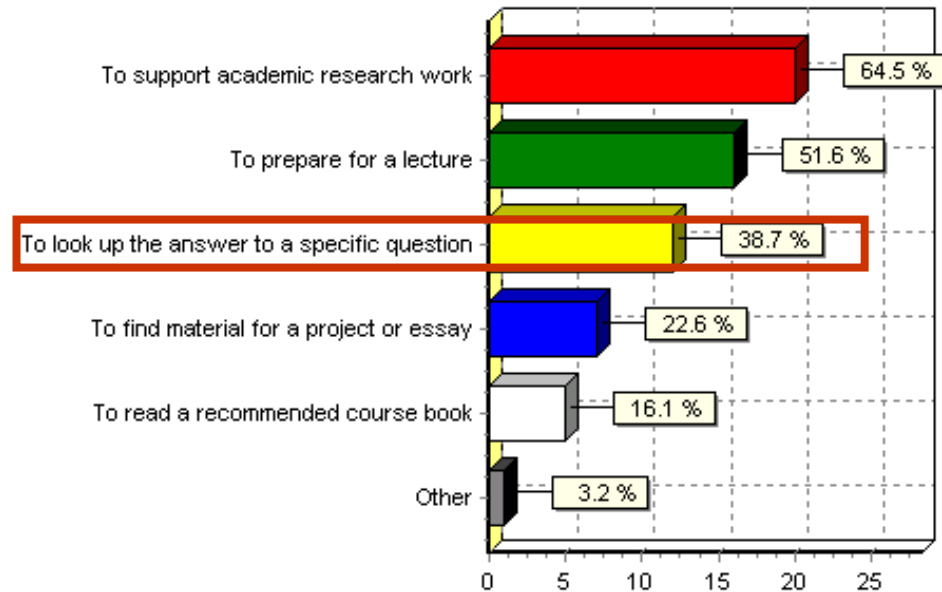
Undergrads/Postgrads

Academics/PhDs

For what purpose(s) do you use Safari? (please select all that apply)



For what purpose(s) do you use Safari? (please select all that apply)



Safari v Printed Books

	% Agree	% Disagree
Finding information is faster	71	14
It's easier to read online	13	63
I usually print it out	51	33
I prefer Safari	16	39

● But.....

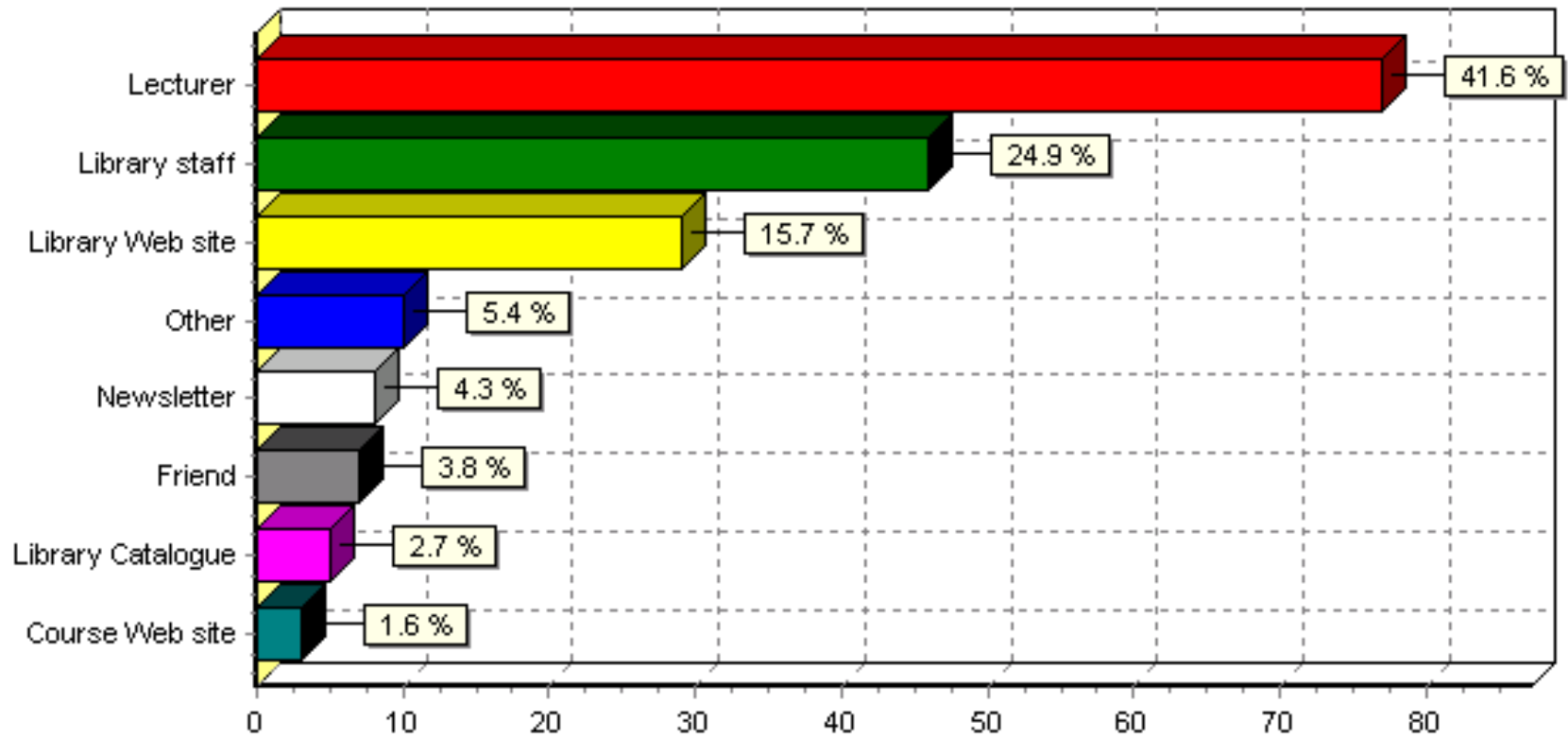
- 45% are neutral
- Academics: 56.5% are neutral
- Librarians: only 9.5% prefer

Safari for Learning

	% Agree	% Disagree
I need to use printed books in addition to Safari	86	6
	% Agree	% Disagree
Access to Safari has improved my work	67	5
Safari has saved me time	78	6
Safari has saved me buying a book	67	13
I would be interested in other e-books	87	3
The Library should keep Safari	99	1

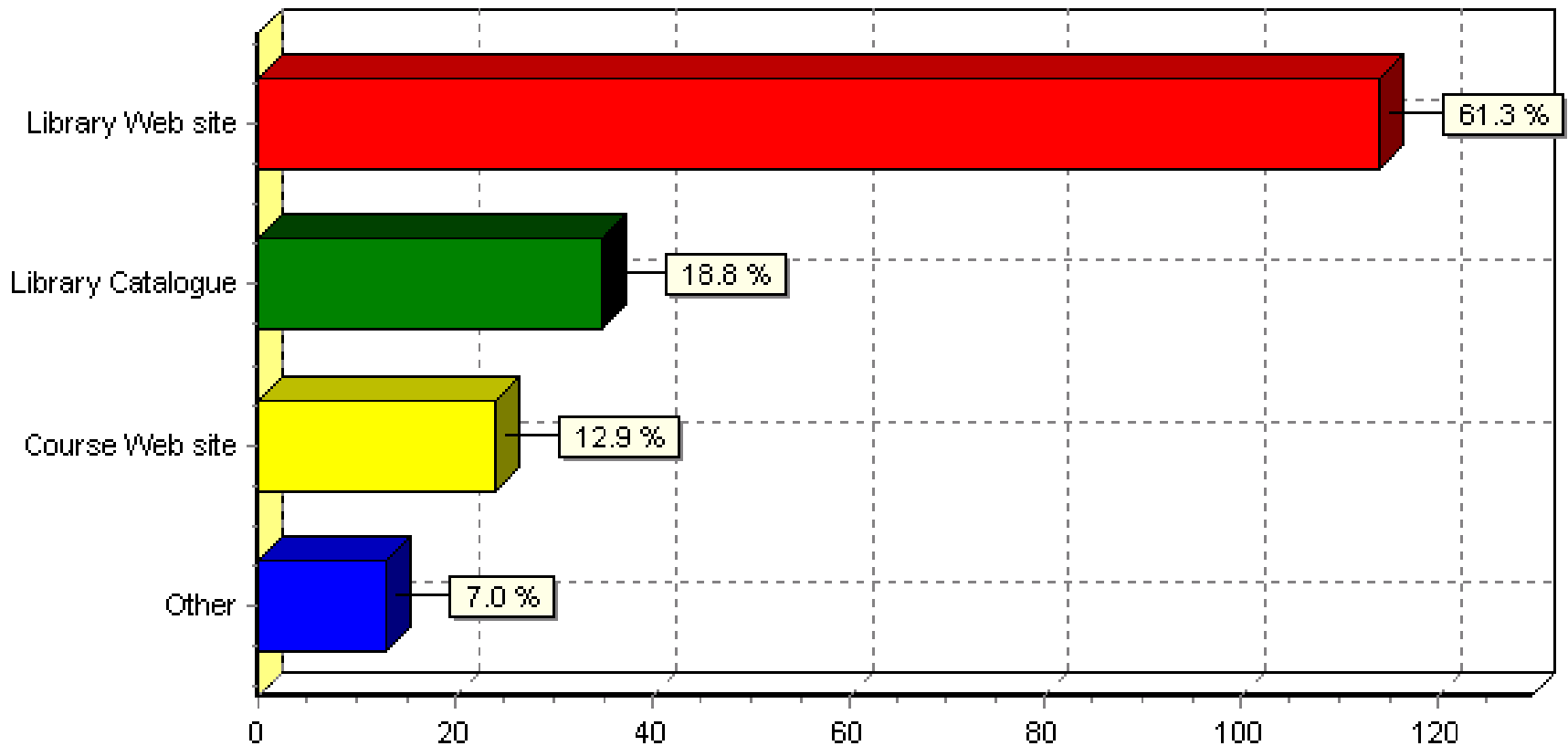
Discovering Safari

How did you first find out about Safari?



Accessing Safari

How do you usually access Safari?



Location of Access

Response	Count	Percent
Library	72	38.7%
Other on-campus	132	71.0%
Home	32	17.2%
Other off-campus	8	4.3%

Access Problems

Response	Count	Percent
All licences in use	66	35.5%
No computer on campus	30	16.1%
Network problems on campus	49	26.3%
Problems with dial-up access from home	18	9.7%
Other	4	2.2%

Some Comments: Academic Staff

- ✓ I can use it as an additional resource for students to access directly from my course page. I can link directly in to specific topics.
- ✓ The ability to browse through several books on the same topic for specific areas of interest

But...

- X I'm hesitant to recommend Safari books as core texts because I don't know whether the library is committed to them.
- X Max no of permitted users makes it difficult for facility to be used in a computer lab setting (where it would be especially useful)

Some Comments: Undergrads/Postgrads 1

- ✓ The search facility & the fact that all the books are in one place
- ✓ You don't have to leave the computer to look something up
- ✓ Good range of books, you can print and/or use what you need rather than carry a book around all day
- ✓ Access to books not held in the Library
- ✓ Saves you from buying a book, which is essential for a student
- ✓ You can download specific chapters, paragraphs or pages - i.e. copy & paste.
- ✓ Access to up-to-date books, unlike in the library where some books are 3 or 4 editions off the current version.

Some Comments: Undergrads/Postgrads 2

But...

- X Printing costs
- X Inability to gain access due to maximum amount of users.
- X It's kinda hard on the eye reading a book from a computer screen
- X Each sub section of a chapter is separated out and it makes viewing and printing extremely tedious.
- X Not fast on a 56k modem
- X Having to remain online while reading books at home

Key Project Findings

- Safari is extremely popular with all user types
- Targeted coverage, speed of searching and ease of use are particular strengths
- The emphasis is on supplementary rather than core reading
- Online usage somewhat traditional
- Users (still) prefer print but this could change
- Lecturer/librarian collaboration vital
- E-books meet needs and have a future

Some Ongoing Issues

- Better licencing models
- “Slice-and-dice”
- Dynamic book collections
- More adventurous services, usage
- Better onscreen experience
- More VLE integration
- How much do we know about e-resource use?

OCLC Project

Ohio State University and OCLC researchers to study how people use electronic information resources

DUBLIN, Ohio, USA, March 8, 2004—Researchers at Ohio State University and OCLC are conducting a new study to find out how and why students and faculty members use electronic information sources to do research and solve problems.

The \$1 million project is a collaboration between Ohio State and OCLC. The two-year study will run through Dec. 31, 2005. The project will be partially funded with a \$480,543 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The remainder of the funding will come from Ohio State and OCLC.

More information

OCLC Research project page

<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/imls/default.htm>

Thanks to.....

Members of CHIU E-Books Working Group

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