

1. Participation in the interviews - researchers

Researchers willing to participate can choose between participating with the interviews and participating with the logbook study. The interviews will be carried out in person by Maurits van der Graaf if travel arrangements can be made, or by telephone and Skype.

In total 15 researchers will be interviewed from the various universities. The interviews will lead to a report on the qualitative study, based on the interview reports, but without the names of the interviewees.

We plan however to publish a list of all participants (including the participants of the logbook study) in the final report of the study (after every participant has given his/her permission). However, no specific result or comment in the reports of the study will be identifiable.

With regard to the interviews, the following interview format will be used.

2.1 Interview format for researchers

Prior to the start of the interview, permission will be asked from the respondent to record the interview by a digital recorder. This recording only serves making a report of the interview, and will be deleted afterwards.

A. General: Defining the role of books and book chapters in your information search & retrieval process.

- What is your view on the role of e-books/books /book chapters in scientific literature search? How does the role of books compare to the role of journal articles? Do you have a preference for either format? If so, what are the reasons for the stated preference?
- Elsevier divides its science-related e-books in the following categories:
 - reference works
 - handbooks
 - monographs
 - serial works
 - Course textbooks are not included within the scope of this study.
- Do you recognise these categories? Do you use them the different book formats for different tasks? If so, can you describe how you use each format in more detail?

Many publishers, including Elsevier, make their books available electronically. Your University library has acquired a number of e-book collections, including the Elsevier E-books made available via the ScienceDirect platform.

- Do you prefer books in printed or electronic form? Please elaborate on the reasons for your stated preference?

B. Searching for e-books

Do you actively search for books/book chapters?

Protocol Elsevier E-books usage and value study

- o If yes:
 - Which tasks do they support within your workflow?
 - What is your starting point?
 - Is it the university library catalogue?
 - The university library website?
 - Web search engines such as Google?
 - Scientific search engines such as Scopus, PubMed or Web of Science?
 - The ScienceDirect Full Text platform?

Do you actively search for Elsevier E-books?

Do you recognise books or book chapters when searching and selecting scientific literature?

- o If your answer is yes, for which tasks do you prefer to use books or book chapters?
For which tasks would you not refer to books/book chapters?
- o If your answer is no, at what stage in your workflow do you normally discover that the selected item is actually a book or book chapter?

C. When you select a book or book chapter for usage:

Workflow options	• How do you read it? From the screen, from a printed copy; or a combination of both?
Supporting an ongoing research project	• What do you read?
Background research (starting a new project)	• What would you not read? [certain parts of a book chapter; 1 whole book chapter; several book chapters; or the entire book?]
Keeping up to date	• Do you store it? if yes, how? [PDF, print]
Writing a paper, book or report	• Do you note the name of the publisher of the book?
Writing research proposal	• What is your response if you know the book is published by Elsevier [or imprint by Elsevier]?
Conference preparation	• How frequently do you search and select scientific
Teaching material	

literature? Daily, weekly, monthly, or more sporadically?

- How frequently do you use?
 - o reference works
 - o handbooks
 - o serial works
 - o monographs
- Do you share selected scientific literature with your colleagues? If yes, how?

D. Purposes of books and book chapters in your workflow:

- In which parts of your workflow would be interested in information from reference works?
- In which parts of your workflow would you be interested in information from handbooks?
- In which parts of your workflow would you be interested in a book chapter of a monograph?
- In which part of your workflow would you be interested in an entire book or monograph?
- Are there parts of your workflow where you would definitely NOT use a book or book chapter?

- Do you cite books/book chapters in your publications? in what cases?

E. Value of reference works, books and book chapters to you:

- Could you rate the value of reference works, handbooks, books and book chapters for your work?
- Does the publisher of the book (imprint) have an effect on your perception of the value of the book title?
- Who, in your opinion, are the main publishers in your field?

2. Logbook study - researchers

3.1 Introduction

100 of the recruited researchers will be asked to participate in the logbook study. Participants in the logbook study will be asked to carry out their normal information searches and include in these searches a special search for Elsevier E-books (via the ScienceDirect platform). They will receive a short instruction on how to do this. Participants will then report on each information search on their experiences and their evaluation of the results. Participants will be asked to carry out in total four information searches and report on these via the logbook during a period of 4 to 6 weeks.

Participants in the logbook study will have to fill in:

- a start questionnaire (duration: approximately 10 minutes)
- 4 logbooks (duration: approximately 10 minutes each)
- a final questionnaire (duration: approximately 10 minutes)

Below, the start questionnaire, the logbook and the final questionnaire are presented. These are based on a literature study and on earlier user studies by Pleiade management and consultancy. However, if from the interviews new insights will be gained, the formats of the questionnaires may be changed slightly.

The results from the questionnaires and the logbooks will be processed anonymously and only reported at high aggregation levels (thus never at individual levels). The e-mail addresses and names of the participants are registered by the system used (Pleiadesurvey – see <http://www.pleiade.nl/ict.php>), but are only used to send the incentive to the participants.

3.2 Start questionnaire

Start questionnaire Elsevier E-book Usage and Value study

This is the start questionnaire starting up the logbook study. After filling in this questionnaire, you will receive automatically an e-mail with a link to your first logbook.

The questionnaire consists of the following parts:

- A - The position of books in your information search behaviour
 - B - Reading and using books
 - C - Questions to round off
-

A - The position of books in your information search behaviour

Please note that this study focuses on research monographs, handbooks and/or reference works. Course textbooks (books prepared for use in schools and colleges) are not included in this study.

A1. How often do you search for (electronic or printed) books for the benefit of your research?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

A2. What part do books play in relation to journal articles in your need for information?

- books take up the largest part by far
- books take up the largest part
- about equal parts
- journal articles take up the largest part
- journal articles take up the largest part by far
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

A3. Before you start searching, do you distinguish between searching for books and journal articles?

- (hardly) ever
- rarely
- sometimes
- (almost) always
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

A4. Do you use the Library Catalogue of your University in your search for books?

- no
- yes, sometimes
- yes, usually
- yes, always
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

Your eventual comments:

B. Using and reading books

Reference works (encyclopedias)

A reference work is a compendium of information, usually of a specific type, compiled in a book for ease of reference. That is, the information is intended to be quickly found when needed.

How frequently do you use printed reference works (encyclopedias)?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

How frequently do you use electronic/online reference works (encyclopedias)?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

What is your preferred form at this moment for a reference work?

- print
- electronic
- no preferred form
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

Handbooks

Handbooks are authoritative reference or review works. Individual chapters in handbooks are self-contained surveys and providing extensive reference lists.

How frequently do you use printed handbooks?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

How frequently do you use electronic/online handbooks?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

What is your preferred form at this moment for a handbook?

- print
- electronic
- no preferred form
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

Monographs

A monograph is a scholarly work of writing on a specific, often limited subject.

How frequently do you use printed monographs?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

How frequently do you use electronic/online monographs?

- (hardly) ever
- occasionally (less than once a month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

What is your preferred form at this moment for a monograph?

- print
- electronic
- no preferred form
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

Your eventual comments:

C - Questions about you

In which scientific area are you working?

- Agricultural and Biological Sciences
- Arts and Humanities
- Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Business, Management and Accounting
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Decision Sciences
- Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Economics, Econometrics and Finance
- Energy
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Immunology and Microbiology
- Materials Science
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Veterinary Science and Medicine
- Dentistry
- Allied Health Professions
- Interdisciplinary
- Not applicable

My position is best described as:

- PhD student
- Postdoc researcher
- Assistant Professor

-
- Associate Professor
 - Professor
 - Other

Your eventual comments:

Thank you very much for participating in this study. Click the SUBMIT button opposite to register your answers. After a couple of seconds, the system will respond with a confirmation message and an overview of your answers. Soon after, you will receive an email with the link to your personal logbook.

[SUBMIT](#)

3.3 Logbook

Logbook Elsevier E-Book Usage and Value study for researchers

This is your personal logbook to report on your usage of Elsevier E-Books.

You are asked to describe in this logbook your experiences with Elsevier E-books.

When you carry out an information search with the methods you use normally, you are asked to do an additional search on the same topic/with the same keywords on the ScienceDirect platform for E-books.

A. Describing this information search

1. Which descriptions characterise your information search?

Please click on the scale (see figure).

-2: strong preference item left hand side

-1: preference item left hand side

0: neutral / do not know / not applicable

1: preference item right hand side

2: strong preference item right hand side

The topic of this information search was for me

← Familiar

-2 -1 0 1 2

New →

The topic of this information search was

← Broad

-2 -1 0 1 2

Specific →

At the start of this information search I had a preference

← For books

-2 -1 0 1 2

For journal articles →

Please elaborate:

B. Purpose of this information search

2. Which description best characterises the purpose of this information search?

- Supporting an ongoing research project
- Background research (starting a new project)
- Keeping up to date
- Writing a paper, book or report
- Writing research proposal
- Conference preparation
- Teaching material
- Other

If other, please elaborate:

C. Usage and valuation of the retrieved Elsevier E-book(s) in this information search

3. When searching and browsing, I selected/used ... Elsevier E-book titles in this information search

- 1 Elsevier E-book
- 2 Elsevier E-books
- 3 Elsevier E-books
- more than 3 Elsevier E-books

If you used more than 3, please describe below the 3 most important E-books. If you used less, you can skip the questions on book 3 and/or book 2.

Elsevier E-book 1*This E-book is a:*

- Monograph
- Handbook
- Reference work
- Book from book series
- I don't know

I used this E-book as follows:

- Brief look
- Read from screen
- Copied and pasted part of text
- Downloaded PDF
- Made a print

I read/plan to read this E-book as follows:

- Extracted/checked a fact/some facts
- Read one paragraph
- Read several paragraphs
- Read whole chapter
- Dip in and out of several chapters
- Read several chapters
- Read entire book

I shared it with colleague(s) via

- Shared webpage/website
- By email
- I did not share it

How do you value the information from this Elsevier E-book? [scale 1 to 10: 1 = not valuable 10 = very valuable]

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Your comments please:

Elsevier E-book 2*This E-book is a:*

- Monograph
- Handbook
- Reference work
- Book from book series
- I don't know

I used this E-book as follows:

- Brief look
- Read from screen
- Copied and pasted part of text
- Downloaded PDF
- Made a print

I read/plan to read this E-book as follows:

- Read one paragraph
- Read several paragraphs
- Read whole chapter
- Dip in and out of several chapters
- Read several chapters
- Read entire book

I shared it with colleague(s) via

- Shared webpage/website
- By email
- I did not share it

How do you value the information from this Elsevier E-book? [scale 1 to 10: 1 = not valuable 10 = very valuable]

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Your comments please:

Elsevier E-book 3

This E-book is a:

- Monograph
- Handbook
- Reference work
- Book from book series
- I don't know

I used this E-book as follows:

- Brief look
- Read from screen
- Copied and pasted part of text
- Downloaded PDF
- Made a print

I read/plan to read this E-book as follows:

- Read one paragraph
- Read several paragraphs
- Read whole chapter
- Dip in and out of several chapters
- Read several chapters
- Read entire book

I shared it with colleague(s) via

- Shared webpage/website
- By email
- I did not share it

How do you value the information from this Elsevier E-book? [scale 1 to 10: 1 = not valuable 10 = very valuable]

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

-
- 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
-

Your comments please:

D. Comparing the Elsevier E-book(s) with the other results of this information search

Apart from using the ScienceDirect platform, which other methods did you use in this information search?
[CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY]

-
- Google
 - Google Scholar
 - Library Catalogue of my university
 - Scientific search engines such as Scopus, PubMed or Web of Science
 - other
-

If other, please elaborate:

When searching and browsing the other platforms, I selected

- Only books/book chapters
 - Mostly books/book chapters, some journal articles
 - A rather even mix of books/book chapters and journal articles
 - Mostly journal articles, some books/book chapters
 - Only journal articles
 - Not applicable
-

When comparing the above-mentioned results with the retrieved Elsevier E-book(s) in this information search, I rate the value of the information in the Elsevier E-book(s) as:

- Need to have
 - Nice to have
 - Could have done without it
 - Not applicable
-

Please elaborate:

Your eventual other comments with regard to this information search and logbook:

Thank you very much for registering this logbook. Click the SUBMIT button to register your answers. After a couple of seconds, the system will respond with a confirmation message and an overview of your answers. The data will be processed anonymously.

[SUBMIT](#)

3.4 Final questionnaire

Final questionnaire Elsevier E-book Usage and Value study

This is the final questionnaire meant to sum up and evaluate your experiences using Elsevier E-books during the logbook study. After filling in this questionnaire, you soon will receive an e-mail about your book voucher.

The questionnaire consists of the following parts:

A - The evaluation of your usage of Elsevier E-books

B - Advantages of E-books from your perspective

D - Concluding questions

A - The evaluation of your usage of Elsevier E-books

My usage of Elsevier E-books during his logbook study can be described as follows:

I used .. Elsevier electronic reference works

0
 1
 2 to 4
 5 or more

I used .. Elsevier electronic handbooks

0
 1
 2 to 4
 5 or more

I used .. Elsevier electronic monographs

0
 1
 2 to 4
 5 or more

Your eventual comments:

My 'usage' can best be described as follows [PLEASE CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY]:

- Read one paragraph*
 Read several paragraphs
 Read whole chapter
 Dip in and out of several chapters
 Read several chapters
 Read entire book

My online behaviour includes the following characteristics [CHECK ALL BOXES THAT APPLY]

- Brief look*
 Read from screen
 Copied and pasted part of text
 Downloaded PDF
 Made a print
 Shared it with colleague(s)

Overall, I found the information in the Elsevier E-books I used during this study

- Extremely valuable
- Valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- neutral/don't know/no opinion
- Not so valuable
- not valuable
- Not valuable at all

Your comments please:

B - E-books from your perspective

I find printed or electronic books particularly useful for the following purposes (PLEASE CHECK A MAXIMUM OF 2 BOXES)

- Supporting an ongoing research project
- Background research (starting a new project)
- Keeping up to date
- Writing a paper, book or report
- Writing research proposal
- Conference preparation
- Teaching material

Your comments please:

My usage of (printed or electronic books) for research purposes is characterised by:

I use bits of information from a book

- incidentally (less than once per month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis
- do not know / no opinion / does not apply

I read one or two chapters from a book

- incidentally (less than once per month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis

I read most or all chapters from a book

- incidentally (less than once per month)
- on a monthly basis
- on a weekly basis
- on an (almost) daily basis

In which case you prefer an E-book versus a printed book

Please click on the scale (see figure).

-2: strong preference item left hand side

-1: preference item left hand side

0: neutral / do not know / not applicable

1: preference item right hand side
2: strong preference item right hand side

<i>I use bits of information from a book</i>	← E-Book	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Printed books →
<i>I read one or two chapters from a book</i>	← E-Book	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Printed books →
<i>I read most or all chapters from a book</i>	← E-Book	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Printed books →

Your comments please:

What are the main advantages of E-books from your perspective? [PLEASE TICK A MAXIMUM OF 3 BOXES]

- anytime, anywhere access*
- copying and pasting*
- downloading to e-reader*
- downloading to laptop*
- easy storage*
- easy to search and navigate*
- easy to share with colleagues*
- easy to use multiple documents at once*
- use of multimedia in the E-book*

Your comments please:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please click on the scale (see figure).

-2: disagree
-1: somewhat disagree
0: neutral / do not know / not applicable
1: somewhat agree
2: agree

<i>I would like to have an option to search for book chapters instead of book titles</i>	← Disagree	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Agree →
<i>I would like to have an option to have a book or book chapter printed at my request for a small fee</i>	← Disagree	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Agree →
<i>I would like to have an option to download a book on an e-reader</i>	← Disagree	<input type="radio"/> -2 <input type="radio"/> -1 <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 2	Agree →

Other suggestions for improvements to E-books:

Your eventual comments:

Thank you very much for participating in this study. Click the SUBMIT button opposite to register your answers. After a couple of seconds, the system will respond with a confirmation message and an overview of your answers. Soon after, you will receive an email with your book voucher.

[SUBMIT](#)

