

## 1. Participation in the focus group

Students willing to participate can choose between participating with the focus group and participating with the logbook study. The focus group will be carried out in person by Maurits van der Graaf.

The interviews will lead to a report on the qualitative study, based on the interview reports, but without the names of the participants.

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 Focus group format

*Prior to the start of the focus group, permission will be asked from the respondents 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:

- How do you read it? From the screen, from a printed copy; or a combination of both?
- What do you read?
- What would you not read? [certain parts of a book chapter; 1 whole book chapter; several book chapters; or the entire book?]
- Do you store it? if yes, how? [PDF, print]
- Do you note the name of the publisher of the book?
- What is your response if you know the book is published by Elsevier [or imprint by Elsevier]?
- How frequently do you search and select scientific 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:

Workflow students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In which parts of your workflow would be interested in information from reference works?</li> <li>• In which parts of your workflow would you be interested in information from handbooks?</li> <li>• In which parts of your workflow would you be interested in a book chapter of a monograph?</li> </ul>
individual class assignment	
group class assignment	
bachelor thesis	
master thesis	
other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In which part of your workflow would you be interested in an entire book or monograph?</li> <li>• Are there parts of your workflow where you would definitely NOT use a book or book chapter?</li> </ul>

**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 - students

### 3.1 introduction

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

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#### **Start questionnaire Elsevier E-book Usage and Value study for students**

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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.

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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
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#### **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.

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A2. For which purposes do you use scientific literature in your study? [PLEASE TICK ALL ANSWERS THAT APPLY]

- 
- individual class assignment*
- 
- group class assignment*
- 
- bachelor thesis*
- 
- master thesis*
- 
- other*
- 

If other, please describe here:

A3. How often do you search for (electronic or printed) books for your study?

- (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 information need?

- 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 your start searching information, 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.

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*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

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*How frequently do you use Wikipedia?*

- (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

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*How frequently do you use electronic/online reference works other than Wikipedia?*

- (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

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*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

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#### Handbooks

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

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*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

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*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

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*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.

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*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:

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### C - Questions about you

*In which academic area are you studying?*

- 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

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*My position is best described as:*

- Bachelor student
- Master student
- other

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If other, please describe here:

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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.

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[SUBMIT](#)

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### 3.3 logbook

#### Logbook Elsevier E-Book Usage and Value study for students

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?

- individual class assignment
- group class assignment
- bachelor thesis
- master thesis
- 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 other students*

- 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

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*I shared it with other students*

- 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

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Your comments please:

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### **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 other students*

- 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:



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

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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](#)

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## 3.4 final questionnaire

### Final questionnaire Elsevier E-book Usage and Value study for students

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

#### 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

*I used .. Elsevier electronic books from book series*

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 [PLEASE 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)

- individual class assignment  
 group class assignment  
 bachelor thesis  
 master thesis  
 other

Your comments please:

My usage of (printed or electronic books) for teaching 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 use bits of information from a book

← E-Book

-2 -1 0 1 2

Printed books →

*I read one or two chapters from a book*

← E-Book

-2 -1 0 1 2

Printed books →

*I read most or all chapters from a book*

← E-Book

-2 -1 0 1 2

Printed books →

Your comments please:

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

24hours/7 days per week access

off campus access

online 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

easy to use in an electronic learning environment

Your comments please:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements on possible improvements of E-books?

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 would like to have an option to search for book chapters instead of book titles*

← Disagree

-2 -1 0 1 2

Agree →

*I would like to have an option to have a book or book chapter printed at my request for a small fee*

← Disagree

-2 -1 0 1 2

Agree →

*I would like to have an option to download a book on an e-reader*

← Disagree

-2 -1 0 1 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](#)

