Journal Reading In Universities: Comparing the U.S. and Australia (A Case Study)

Carol Tenopir
University of Tennessee
ctenopir@utk.edu

Tenopir & King Data From:

- 25,000+ scientists, engineers, physicians, and social scientists
- 1977 to the present
- University and non-university settings
- Mostly North America
- Recent surveys at 3 U.S. universities, pediatricians, astronomers
- UNSW staff and students in 2004, UQ 2005

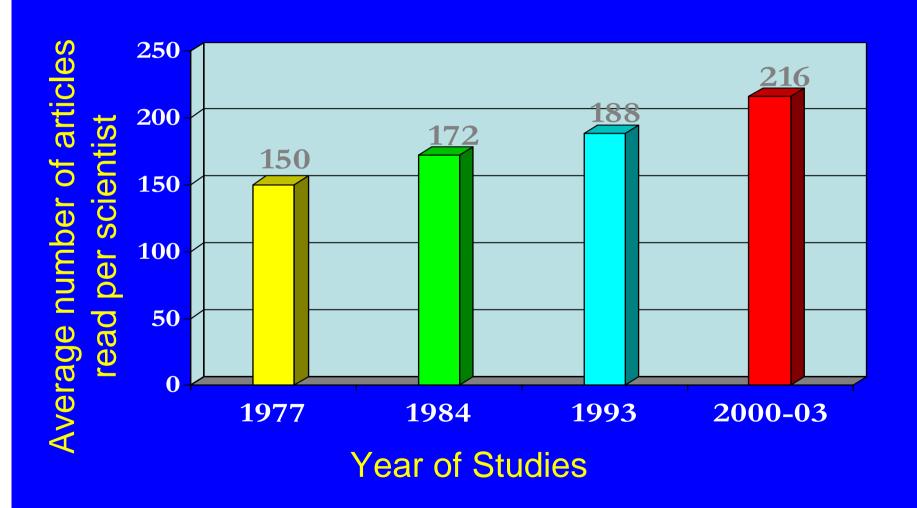




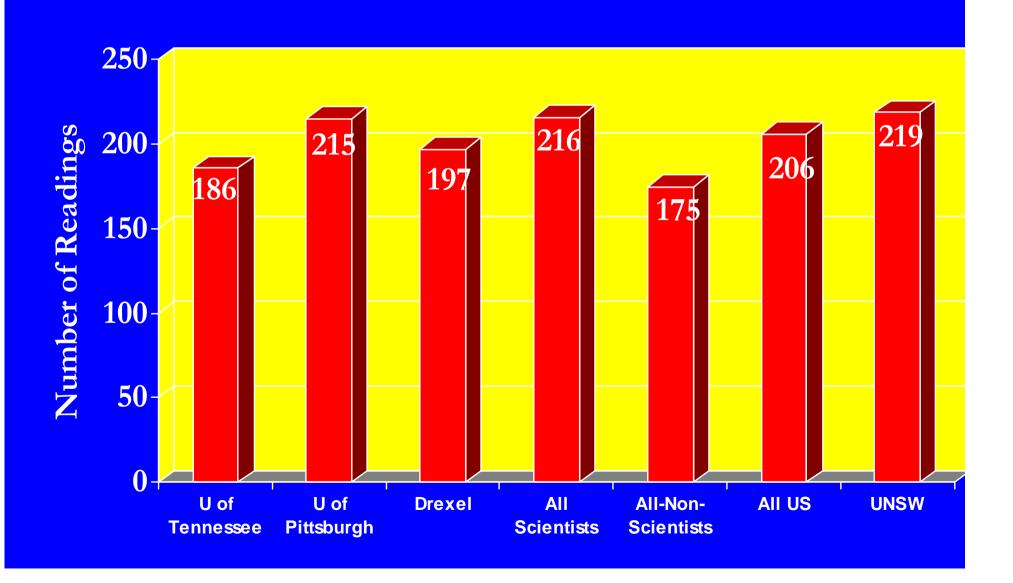




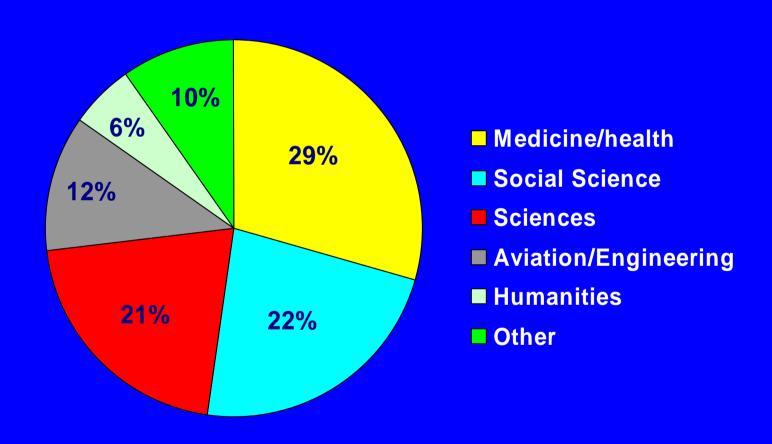
Ave. Articles Read per Univ. Scientist



Average Reading per Faculty member



UNSW Respondents



Reading Varies by Subject Discipline and workplace

- Univ. medical
- Pediatricians
- Univ Scientists
- All Scientists
- Soc Sci/Psych
- Engineers

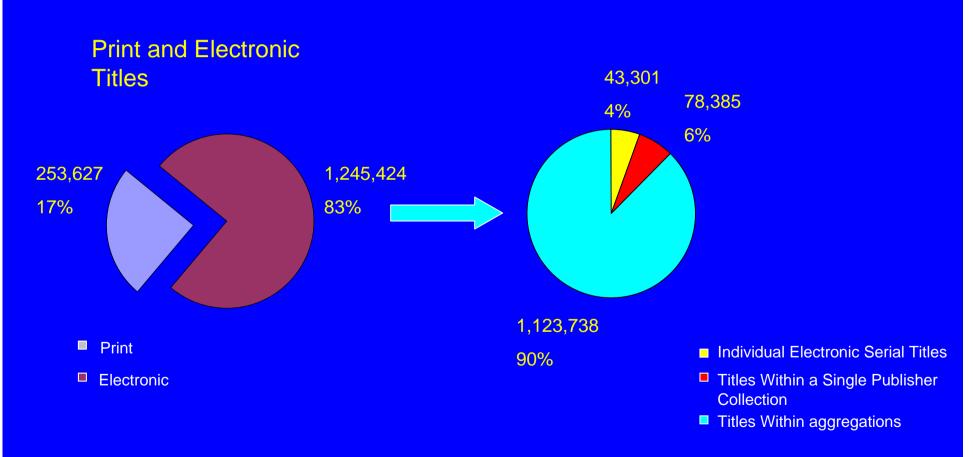
- ~322 articles/year
- ~180 articles/year
- ~216 articles/year
- ~130 articles/year
- ~191 articles/year
- ~111 articles/year

UNSW Reading by Subject

- Medical/Health
- Engineering/Aviation
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

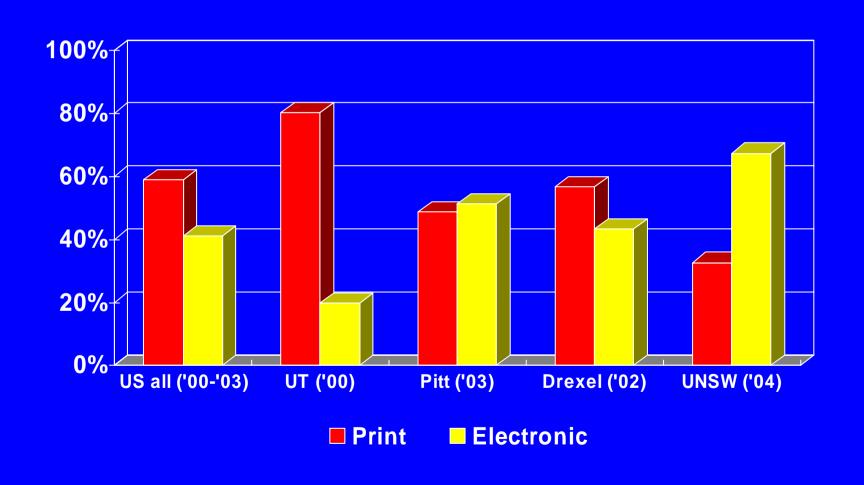
- ~265
- **~238**
- **~**248
- ~206
- ~128

Print & Electronic Serial Titles in Australian and New Zealand Academic Libraries



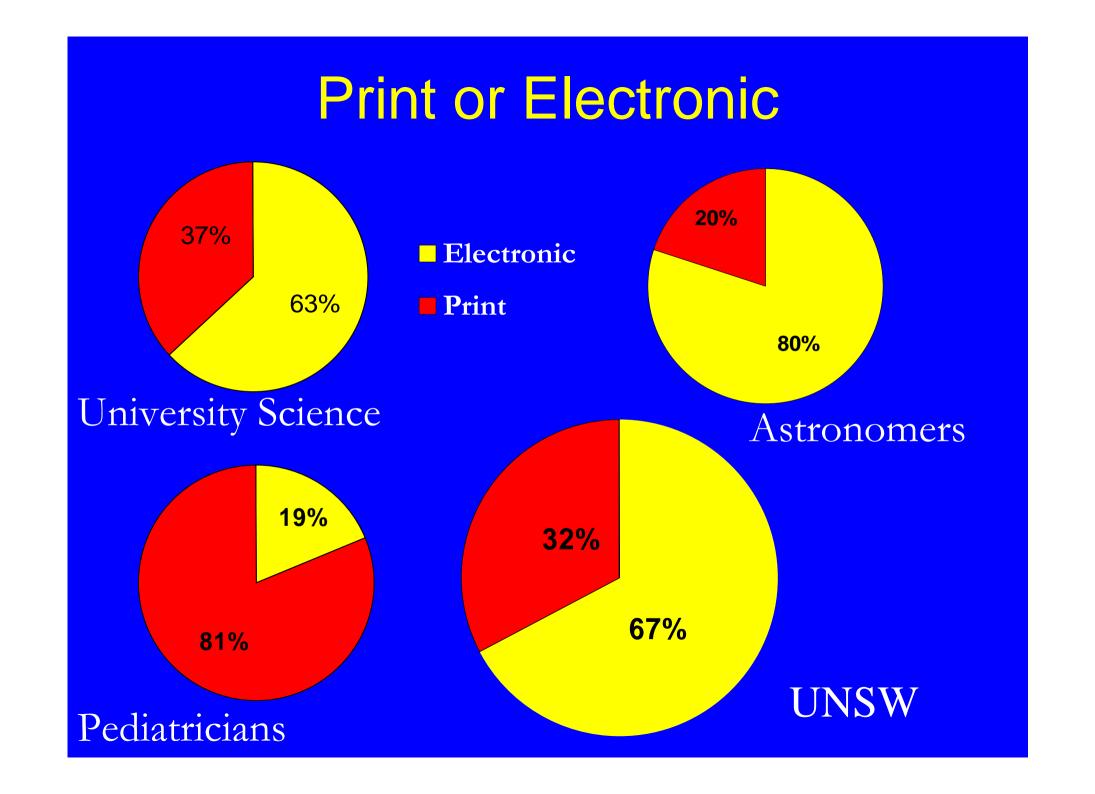
Source: CAUL Statistics http://www.caul.edu.au/stats/caul2002-pub.xls

Reading from Print or Electronic

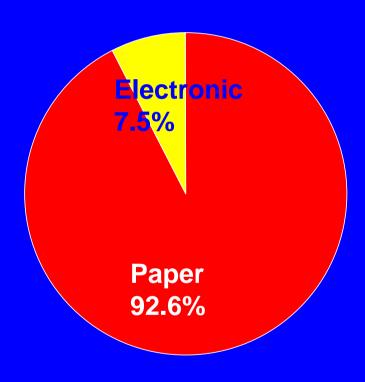


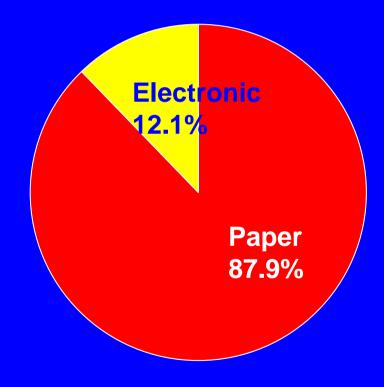
UNSW Readings: 67.3% Electronic

- 18% of these are read on the screen
- 82% are printed out on paper for reading



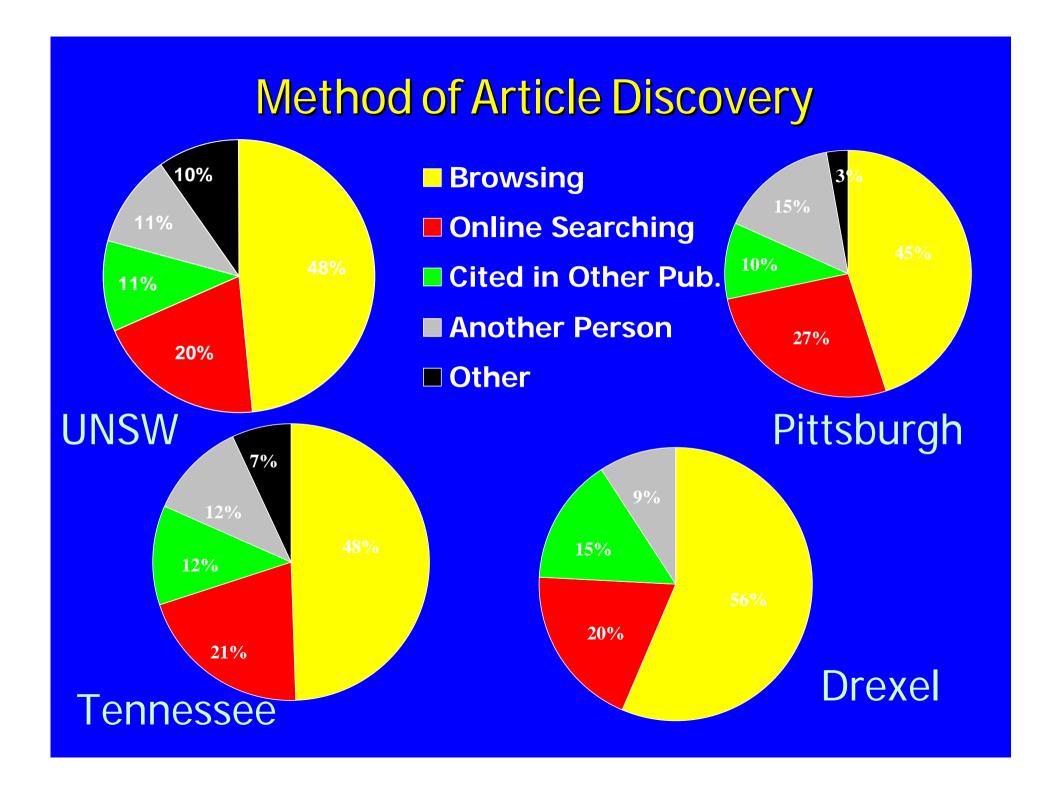
Form of Final Reading

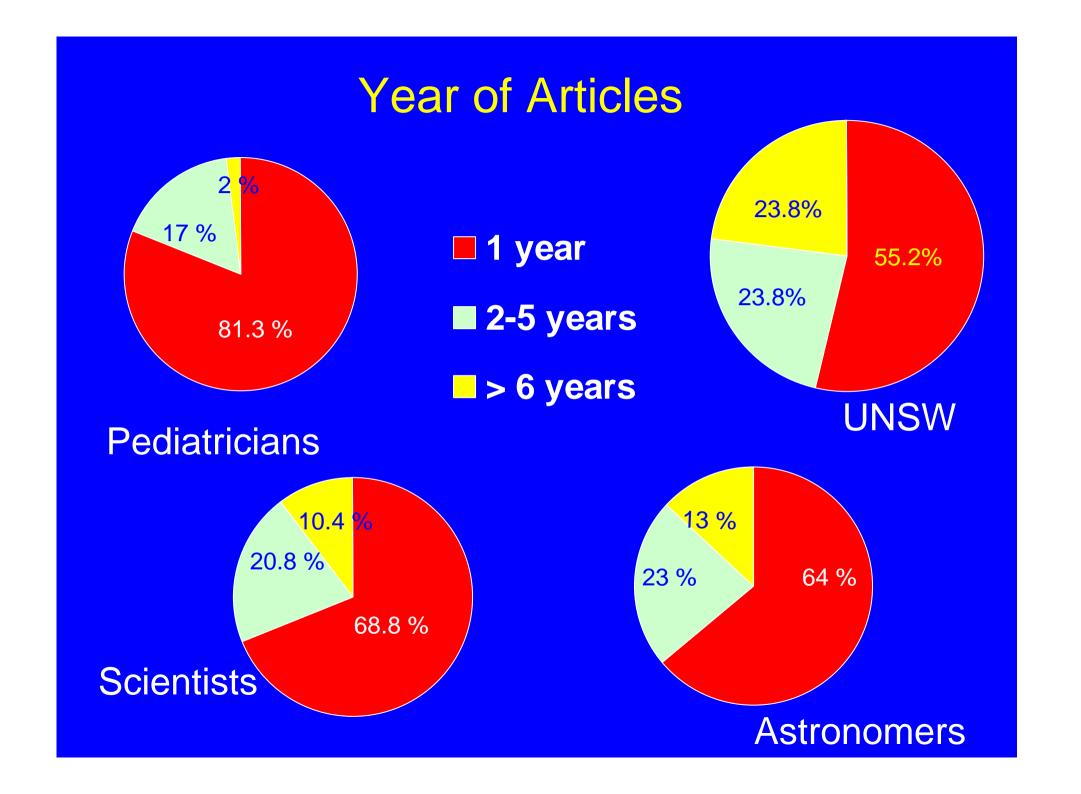




Pediatricians

UNSW





Principal Purpose of Reading: Pittsburgh

Research	50%
Current Awareness	22%
Teaching	18%
Writing	10%

Principal Purpose of Reading: UNSW

Research	55%
Teaching	16%
Writing Proposals	14%
Current Awareness	11%

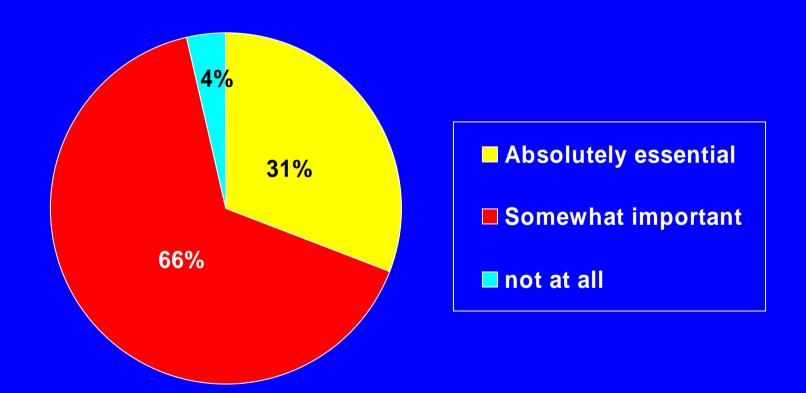
UNSW Value of Reading

• Inspired new thinking 41.7%

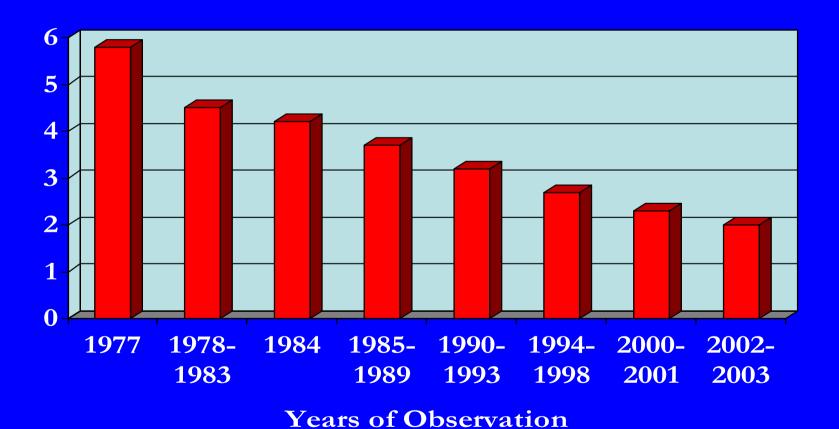
• Improved the result 32.2%

• Narrowed the focus 25.2%

UNSW Readings Judged To Be...



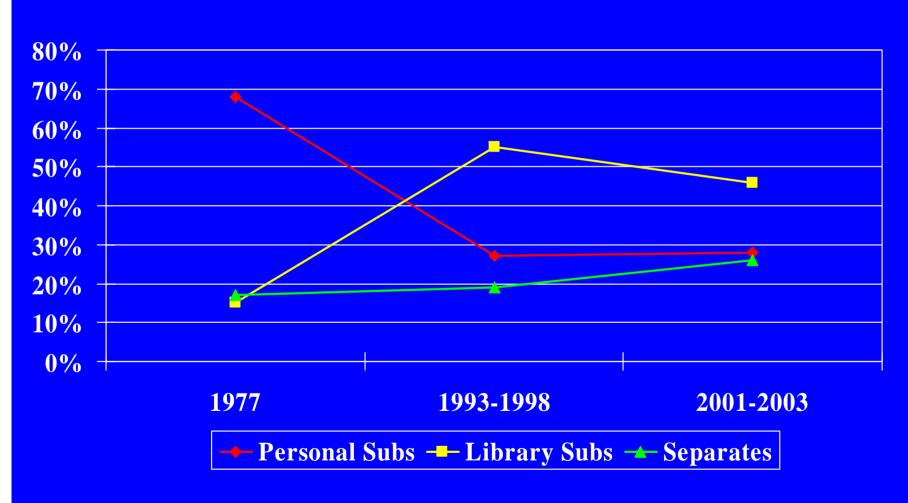
Average Number of Personal Subscriptions to Scholarly Journals



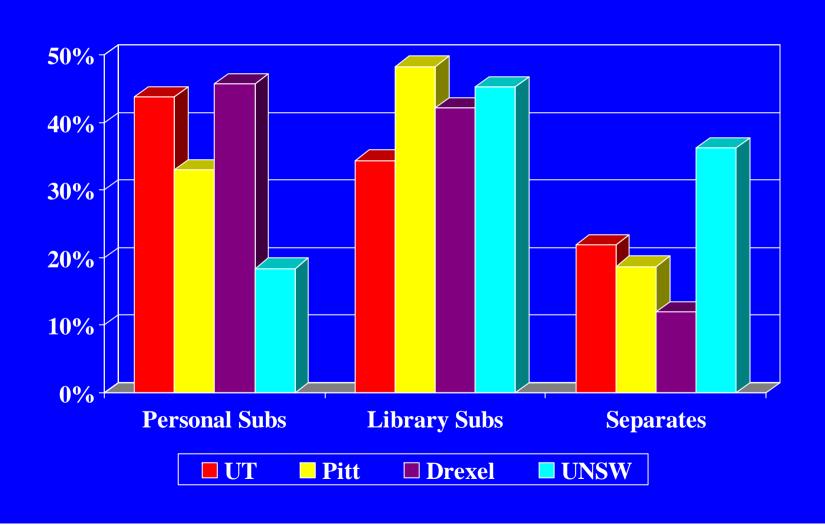
Personal Subscriptions

- All studies average under 2
- U.S. science faculty average 3.6
- Medical faculty and pediatricians average 5-6
- UNSW average 2

Sources of Readings of Scholarly Articles Overtime



Sources of Readings of Scholarly Articles in Universities



U.S. and Australian academics:

- Read for many reasons, research is #1
- Use many ways to find articles
- Use whatever is most convenient
- Prefer print for personal subscriptions, electronic for library subscriptions
- Patterns vary by subject discipline

But Australians...

- Rely more on electronic journals
- Read more older articles
- Browse more
- Use alerts more