2016

Survey Protocols to Investigate the Information Habits and Needs of Engineering and Engineering Technology Students and Practicing Engineers

Margaret Phillips  
*Purdue University*, phill201@purdue.edu

Michael Fosmire  
*Purdue University Libraries*

Kristin Petersheim  
*Caterpillar, Inc.*, Petersheim_Kristin@cat.com

Laura Turner  
*Caterpillar, Inc.*, turner_laura_b@cat.com

Follow this and additional works at: [https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fscm](https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fscm)  
Part of the *Information Literacy Commons*

Phillips, Margaret; Fosmire, Michael; Petersheim, Kristin; and Turner, Laura, "Survey Protocols to Investigate the Information Habits and Needs of Engineering and Engineering Technology Students and Practicing Engineers" (2016). *Libraries Faculty and Staff Creative Materials*. Paper 17.  
[https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fscm/17](https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/lib_fscm/17)

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
Engineering and Engineering Technology Students’ Research and Information Use Survey

Thank you for participating in the Engineering and Engineering Technology Students’ Research and Information Use survey. There are 14 questions that should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. For Q1-Q6: Think about a recent engineering project you have worked on.

Q1. Please briefly describe the project you are thinking about and the year it took place:

Q2. When you were working on the project, what did you need to learn to complete the project that you didn't already know? (This could be some skills you needed to learn, some information you had to find, etc.)

Q3. How did you go about acquiring the information, skills, or abilities you needed to complete the project?: Choose all that apply.

- Searched Google or similar search engine
- Talked to my instructor/TA
- Consulted a peer
- Utilized Purdue Libraries resources
- Watched online videos (YouTube, etc)
- Visited online forums
- Other: ____________________

Q4. List your top 3 frustrations with information gathering or use pertaining to this project:

Q5. Were there any information resources to which you did not have access to that you would have liked to have for this project?
Q6. With this project in mind, consider the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not True of Me - 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Very True of Me - 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know where to look for different kinds of information (e.g.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patents, standards, or industry norms).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I identified what information I most needed to successfully</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complete the project.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I talked to others to gain a variety of perspectives about the</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I used the information I found to make important decisions.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had a highly effective method for organizing my information</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sources.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I assessed the credibility of the sources I found.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I considered how I could better utilize information in future</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>projects.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q7. In your time at Purdue, which of the following resources have you used?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Annually</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Journals</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Databases (e.g. Engineering Village, SAE Mobilus, etc.)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebooks</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations with Librarians</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AskaLib Email reference</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library space (e.g. studying)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q8. How do you keep abreast of new developments in your field/major?

Q9. Please share here any additional comments you have about finding or using information for your engineering projects.

Q10: Semester standing (select from drop down menu):
- ☐ First-year
- ☐ Sophomore
- ☐ Junior
- ☐ Senior
- ☐ Graduate student
- ☐ Non-degree seeking student

Q11: Sex:
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).
Created by Margaret Phillips, Michael Fosmire, Kristin Petersheim & Laura Turner. Created October 20, 2016.
Q12: Are you an international student?
○ Yes
○ No

Q13: Major:
○ Mechanical Engineering
○ Mechanical Engineering Technology
○ Electrical Engineering Technology
○ Other: ____________________

Q14: Have you completed an internship, co-op, or work experience related to your major?
○ Yes
○ No
Caterpillar Engineers’ Research and Information Use Survey

The purpose of this survey is to learn more about strategies you use to gather and use information during engineering projects.

For Q1-Q4:
Think about a recent engineering project you have worked on. Answer the following questions with this one project in mind.

Q1. How did you go about acquiring the information, skills, or abilities you needed to complete the project? Check all that apply:

- Google or similar search engine
- Talked to my supervisor
- Consulted a peer or coworker
- Took a course
- Utilized Technical Information Center (TIC)
- Attended a conference
- Other: ____________________

Q2. List your top 3 frustrations with information gathering or use pertaining to this project:
1. _______________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________

Q3. Were there any information resources to which you did not have access to that you would have liked to have for this project?
Q4. With this project in mind, consider the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not True of Me - 1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Very True of Me - 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know where to look for different kinds of information (e.g.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patents, standards, or industry norms).</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I identified what information I most needed to successfully</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complete the project.</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I talked to others to gain a variety of perspectives about</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the project.</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I used the information I found to make important decisions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had a highly effective method for organizing my information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sources.</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I assessed the credibility of the sources I found.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I considered how I could better utilize information in future</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>projects.</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
<td>⊗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions about the Technical Information Center (TIC)

Q5. For any aspect of your work, which TIC Services or resources have you utilized? Check all that apply:

- Electronic Journals/Articles
- Standards
- Databases
- Ebooks
- Books
- REDI
- Training services
- Personal research assistance
- TICRef email reference
- Interlibrary loan/Document Delivery
- TIC Physical Space
- Knowledge Capture/Management
- I have not utilized any TIC Services

Q6. What other services or resources would you like information specialists (librarians) in the TIC to provide? Check all that apply:

- TIC overview upon hire
- Knowledge Management (knowledge capture, storage, organization and sharing strategy)
- Competitive analysis on technology
- Citation management tools (Mendeley, Endnote, etc)
- Information analysis
- Better search tools
- Copyright guidance
- File/Folder organization strategy (Share Drive, Box, etc)
- Other: _______________________

Q7. How do you keep abreast of new developments in your field?

Q8. Please provide any additional comments here:
Q9: Years with Caterpillar (select from drop down menu):
- 1-3
- 3-5
- 5-10
- 10-15
- 15-20
- 20-25
- 25+

Q11: Highest Education Level (select from drop down menu):
- High School
- Associate’s Degree
- Bachelor’s Degree
- Masters
- PhD

Q11: Job Title: ______________________

Q12: Undergraduate Major, if applicable: ________________

Q13: Region:
- Peoria Area
- Central & South America
- North America
- Asia Pacific
- Middle East
- Africa
- Europe