SURVEY ON INFORMATION NEEDS / INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR OF SEMINARY STUDENTS
ASA 2017
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Preliminaries

- Better library services require a deeper understanding of our patrons' needs and research behavior
- Data gathered at the University of the South, School of Theology (July 2016 – May 2017)
- December 2016 Survey - School of Theology (SoT) students
- Reference transaction collected between 2016/17 academic year
- SoT environmental scan: over 80 residential students; about 80 nonresidental students for a total of approx. 160 pursuing a professional graduate degree (MA, MDiv, MTS, DMin)

SoT Library Survey (December 2016)

Top 5 most sought after library services:
1. study space,
2. reserves,
3. e-resources,
4. research help,
5. preaching reference

Importance of Study / Research Spaces

Traditional versus e-resources?
READ Scale (readscale.org)

- Level 1 - general information about library services and service points
- Level 2 - specific information & troubleshooting equipment
- Level 3 - general literacy & instruction
- Level 4 - basic research help with a specific project
- Level 5 - intermediate research help with a graduate assignment
- Level 6 - advanced research help with a major project

READ Transactions by Month

READ Distribution by Research Depth

Reference Services by Patron Type

Conclusions & Further Research