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Dear Student,

Survey on Perception and Use of Electronic Books among IT students.

I am a postgraduate student at the Department of Information Science, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, University of Malaya, where I am currently conducting a study on the Perception and Use of Electronic Books among IT students.

The main aim of the study is to identify the possible factors that might be related to students' perception and use of electronic books (e-books) at the University of Malaya Library (UML). The study will try to look at the usage pattern of e-books among undergraduates; their reasons for usage or non-usage; and their preference of an e-book to print book.

For the purpose of this study, an "electronic book" or "e-book" is defined as 'a digital book that can be read on a computer screen'. This will include device-independent e-books, which need specific desktop reader (special software) to read the electronic text (e-text) on the computer screen. I believe the results of the study will be useful in helping the UML and university to gain insight on the current usage pattern of e-books especially among undergraduate students.

I, therefore, invite your participation and cooperation. Your participation is voluntary and your response will remain confidential. Please answer all the questions as best as you can and return the completed questionnaire to me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and rapid response.

Yours truly,

Roesnita bt. Ismail

(Ref. #: _ _ / _ _ _)

PART A: Demographic Section

(Please tick [3] where appropriate)

Q1. Gender:

- Male
- Female

Q2. Race: Malay Chinese
 Indian Other (please specify): _____

Q3. Mother's occupation:

- Housewife
- Retired
- Self Employed/Businesswoman
- Managerial/Professional
- Other (please specify):

Father's occupation:

- Unemployed
- Retired
- Self Employed/Businessman
- Managerial/Professional
- Other (please specify)

Q4. Your geographic background:

- Rural (farm or other place not in a town or city)
- Suburb
- Urban (a large city)
- Uncertain

Q5. Course you are currently pursuing:

- Bachelor of Computer Science
- Bachelor of Information Technology

Q6. Semester: _____

Year: _____

Q7. In general, how many years you have used **computers** before entering the university.

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3 - 4 years
- 5 – 6 years
- More than 7 years

Q8. On a **scale** of 1 to 10, Use **1-2 =Very Poor, 3-4=Poor, 5-6=Fair, 7-8=Good** and **9-10=Excellent**, how would **you rate your skill** in using the following computer-related functions;

	<u>Very Poor</u>	—————→	<u>Excellent</u>							
Word Processing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Spreadsheets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Desktop Publishing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Databases	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
E-mail	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Programming	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Web site construction	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Locating and retrieving relevant information via the Internet or World Wide Web	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q9. In general, how long you have been using the **Internet**.

- Less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3 - 4 years
- 5 – 6 years
- More than 7 years

Q10. How many hours a week do you spend online accessing Internet?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1-2 hours
- 3-4 hours
- 5-6 hours
- More than 7 hours

PART B: Student's perception towards electronic books (e-books).

(Please tick [3] where appropriate)

Q11. How did you find out that the University of Malaya Library (UML) subscribed to e-books?

- Lecturers
- Librarians
- Colleagues/Friends
- UM Library web site
- UM Library brochures or pamphlets
- Other: (Please specify) _____

Q12. Based on your understanding, what do you perceive an 'electronic book' (e-book) to be?

- Electronic text (e-text). (i.e. text that is available in an electronic/digital format).
- Electronic book readers/devices (e.g. PDA).
- Electronic book software (e.g. Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Reader).
- Electronic text + electronic book devices + electronic book software.
- Don't know what it is.

Q13. What is your reaction towards the e-book services available at the UM Library?

- Very negative
- Negative
- Neither negative nor positive
- Positive
- Very positive

Q14. Can you explain why you think you have such reaction to the e-book services?

PART C: Use of electronic books.

(Please tick [3] where appropriate)

Q15. Have you used an electronic book (e-book) before?

- Yes (If you checked **YES**, Please proceed to **Questions 16-26**, and **answer all Questions (Q29-Q32) in Part E**).
- No (If you checked **NO**, Please proceed to **Questions 27-28** in Part D, and **answer all Questions (Q29-Q32) in Part E**).

Q16. In general, how do you describe your impression of using an e-book?

- Not at all easy
- Not very easy
- Quite easy
- Easy
- Very easy

Q17. How do you access e-book services? (*You may choose more than one answer*):

- Via the UM Library web site
- Via other libraries' web site
(please specify from which library):_____
- Via other free Web/Homepages
- Other (please specify):_____

Q18. Where do you normally access the e-books?

- At home
- In the UM Library
- At the faculty
- Other (please specify): _____

Q19. How often do you use e-books?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally

Q20. How many hours a week do you spend online accessing e-books?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1-2 hours
- 3-4 hours
- 5-6 hours
- More than 7 hours

Q21. What is the subject of e-book used most often by you?

- General
- Health and Medicine
- Economics and Business
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Others (Please specify): _____

Q22. What is your primary purpose of using the e-books?

- For assignment/research project
- For reference
- For leisure reading
- For browsing (e.g. scan table of content)
- Other purposes (please specify): _____

Q23. What percentage of e-book data do you include in your research, or cite in your bibliographies, projects, or assignments?

- None
- Less than 10%
- 20-40%
- More than 50%

Q24. What is your reason for using the e-books? (*You may choose more than one answer*):

- Easy to search
- Available online
- Available around the clock
- Faster and easy access to new titles
- Convenient
- Not require physical visit to the library
- Have user-friendly features (e.g. bookmarking, annotations and links)
- Other reasons (please specify): _____

Q25. How did you read full chapter(s) or page(s) of e-books?

- On the computer screen
- Printed them out

Q26. Would you recommend using an e-book to your colleagues/friends?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please proceed to **Part E** and answer **Questions 29-32**

PART D: Reasons for non-use.

(Please tick [3] where appropriate)

Q27. What is your reason for NOT using the e-books? (*You may choose more than one answer*):

- No interest
- Prefer paper books
- Need special software
- Difficult to browse and read
- Inconvenient
- Little knowledge on how to use or access e-books
- My computer does not has Internet connection
- Others (please specify): _____

Q28. Would you be willing to use e-books in the future?

- No
- Not sure
- Probably not
- Probably
- Yes

PART E: Student's preference of e-book vs print book.

(Please tick [3] where appropriate)

Q29. Given a choice, what would be your preferred format for reading a textbook?

- Print format
- Electronic format

Q30. Given a choice, what would be your preferred format for reading a reference material (e.g. Dictionary)?

- Print format
- Electronic format

Q31. In your opinion, will e-books replace the traditional printed books?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

Q32. Please give your suggestions on how staff and librarians can improve the e-book services for you at the UM Library? (*You may state more than one answer*):

- Motivate library users to try e-books
- Include e-books' titles in library catalogs/OPAC
- Provide specific workshops on 'How to use e-book services'
- Provide online instruction on how to use/access e-books via the UM Library web site
- Advertise/promote new e-book titles on the UM Library web site
- Others (please specify):

End of questionnaire.

Thank you very much for your participation and cooperation.

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