Connecting with students
A library toolbar

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Introduction

In 2006 we introduced:

**The Student Library Toolbar**

Why?
To make it much easier for students to use library resources such as ebooks and PubMed.

So far, we noticed many downloads of the toolbar.
But... do our students actually use it?
And... how do they appreciate it?

Aims

To find out:
• Do students know our toolbar at all?
• If yes, how do they use it?
• What are their suggestions for improvement?

Methods

A questionnaire with 5 open and 6 closed questions.
Spread by announcements:
- in Blackboard
- on the library website
- in the physical library
- in the student-toolbar itself

Results

Based on 368 questionnaires:
• 70% : I know the toolbar.
• 58% : I have downloaded the toolbar.
• Tools most frequently used:

- Appreciation of the toolbar:

  - Excellent: 10%
  - Good: 69%
  - Moderate: 20%
  - Bad: 1%

- Suggestions for improvement:
  Among others:
  • 7x to add PubMed (that is already in it)
  • 6x to improve the looks
  • 7x the possibility to customize the toolbar (to a certain extent already possible)
  • 4x to add Livetri (meta / federated search-engine of the University of Groningen)

Conclusions

- Most students know about the toolbar (70%).
- Most users are happy with the toolbar (79%).
- Some students were not aware of many tools in the toolbar!

- With the help of some students we will further improve the toolbar.
- More PR is needed to show the students all tools!

websites:
cmbstudent.mylibrarytoolbar.com
www.rug.nl/umcg/bibliotheek