

Leisure Reading Collections in Academic Health Sciences Libraries: What Do Our Students Want from Us?

Erin Watson; Health Sciences Library, University of Saskatchewan

- Methodology: Online survey sent to 1800 students; 213 responded (11.8%)
- Key findings:
 - many respondents felt reading books had increased their ability to empathize (91/125; 73%)
 - non-fiction helps readers keep up with current events (64 respondents) and connect with other people (23 respondents)
 - fiction broadens readers' perspectives (55 respondents) and provides stress relief and relaxation (44 respondents)

Should there be a leisure reading collection at the University of Saskatchewan Health Sciences Library?

- 96/163 (59%) said **yes**. Why?
 - improved access to reading materials(40/163; 25%)
 - opportunity for students to take a break from their studies (20/163; 12%)

- 44/163 (27%) said **no**, and 23/163 (14%) were **unsure**. Why?
 - leisure reading materials are available elsewhere (29/163; 18%)
 - a collection would not be used enough (24/163; 15%)

Could a leisure reading collection counteract some of these forces?

Barriers to leisure reading

