Ithaka S+R Surveys FAQ

What is Ithaka S+R?
- Ithaka S+R is a nonprofit organization that helps academic and cultural institutions to research, evaluate, and provide strategic guidance related to research and teaching practices providing the academic community with pertinent local data as well as data for benchmarking between institutions.

What does Ithaka do?
- As a component of their organization, the three Ithaka S+R local surveys provide critical information on how faculty and students approach their work, discover resources, and perceive the library, specifically.

Why use Ithaka at USU?
- We chose Ithaka because the survey instruments touch on specific topics pertinent to answering the majority of our questions simultaneously and effectively and they have been nationally piloted and improved over the course of 20 years with diverse institutions across the globe.

- The USU libraries have chosen to field the Ithaka S+R local Faculty Survey in April 2019 and local Graduate and Professional Survey in spring 2020.

- From these surveys, we will gain information about Faculty and Graduate student research and teaching practices crucial to improving our resources, services, collections, and technology for USU Libraries.

How will the USU libraries use the data?
- The USU libraries will use the data from this survey, in conjunction with other quantitative usage data and qualitative ethnographic data (including conversations with department heads and faculty), to determine the best way(s) to maintain access to quality resources for research and teaching given the unsustainable nature of the current journal publishing environment.

When will the Library field the Faculty Survey and what does the process look like?
- We will field the survey for 6 weeks starting early April. Every faculty member at USU will receive a unique survey link from which to take the survey.

- The survey will take approximately 25-30 minutes, touching on a variety of research and teaching related topics pertinent to all faculty across campus.

- The USU libraries will receive the raw anonymized data, a 10-20 page analytical memo, and an approximately 185-page in depth analysis of the survey data, which we are happy to share with any interested parties on campus.

For questions or concerns about the survey, please contact the Principal Investigator and Assessment Coordinator, Lindsay Ozburn, at lindsay.ozburn@usu.edu or (435) 797-0202

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