











'I usually prefer e-books over print books' (mean: 2.66). Low mean scores of these two statements also indicate students' limited preference for e-books.

Table 8. Statements about reading behavior

Rank	Statement	Mean (1-5)	SD
1	I have used some e-books because these were included in the course reading lists	3.21	.867
2	I have used some e-books because these were only format available.	3.18	.865
3	It is a good trend that e-books are becoming more popular.	3.16	.865
4	It is easy to get e-books.	3.08	.907
5	I have used e-books because many classmates are using these.	2.99	.825
6	I am satisfied with the number of e-books available	2.93	.955
7	I like to use more e-books.	2.89	.912
8	I usually prefer e-books over print books	2.66	.931

On the whole, it appeared that although students were using e-books, it was not their preferred format. As many academic libraries are spending large amount of their budgets on e-books, they need to review and align their collection development strategies according to the preferences of their users.

## 5. Conclusion

This study explored students' perceptions of and preferences for print and e-books for different purposes. It was interesting to note that a majority of the students preferred using print books for studies related purposes. Several previous studies [9 - 13] had also reported a preference for print books by students. This finding is particularly important as many academic libraries are now spending a big proportion of their resource development budgets on acquiring or providing access to e-books. These libraries need to review their collection development approaches and determine if these are fully aligned with the information needs and seeking behaviors of their users. Although a majority of the students was aware of the advantages of e-books, probably they need more time for completely switching to this format. Previously, a study by Al-Saadi et al. [12] also reported that students need more time and motivation to switch to e-books. Similarly, Brown [8] claimed that although e-book use is gaining

momentum, readers are not yet fully ready to move to this format.

It is, therefore, desirable that instead of immediately completely switching to e-books, libraries should consider a hybrid approach and collect their books both in print and electronic formats. A hybrid approach would provide adequate time to library users to gradually adjust their reading behavior and start taking advantage of electronic revolution.

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