Ithaka faculty survey at UC Berkeley, October 2018
International and Area Studies (IAS) Faculty: Are They Different?

30% Total response rate (61 complete responses, out of 2,048 faculty)
15% Total International and Area Studies (IAS) responses (not total responses)

All material types are important for IAS faculty, with books and journal articles at the top. Sources, reference materials, conference papers, and media resources are also valued by IAS faculty.

Adding more databases focused on area studies to the collections, and promoting them, will greatly help IAS faculty discover new scholarly literature.

IAS librarians are highly valued by IAS faculty for the research support they provide, especially in developing undergraduate students’ research skills.

67% of IAS respondents prefer publishing journal articles

Research Dissemination and Publication Monographs and peer-reviewed journal articles are the most important sources of publication for IAS faculty. Nearly 90% of IAS faculty prefer publishing monographs, versus 81% UC Berkeley wide, while 67% of IAS respondents prefer publishing journal articles, versus 57% of UC Berkeley.

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60% of IAS respondents value the collections of other institutions

67% of IAS respondents prefer publishing journal articles

Pose online searching

Library collections

Collections of other institutions

Print books

Electronic books

Print journal articles

Electronic journal articles

Frequently Obtained and Accessed Resources

65% IAS faculty highly value e-books

85% IAS faculty print books are a very important role for most IAS faculty members’ research and teaching

Print books are essential to IAS faculty, but it is also important to obtain as many new online monographs in electronic format as possible.

Format Preferences Print resources play an important role for most IAS faculty members’ research and teaching. Also, close to 90% of IAS faculty highly value a residing print book, which is more than the IAS faculty respondents prefer print books for reading in depth. They also value e-books for searching and quick reference. It is worth mentioning that 85% of the faculty respondents universitywide agree that reading in depth is easier in print. Accordingly, most IAS faculty members disagree that print books will not be necessary in libraries in the near future.

Material Types What is the relative importance of various types of scholarly materials, peer-reviewed journals and scholarly monographs? The top choice for both IAS faculty and faculty universitywide. Similarly, primary sources are the second most important material type for both sides, and they are more valued by IAS faculty respondents, with 58% versus 48%. Other types of materials, such as reference works, films, media, and conference proceedings, were more valued by IAS faculty respondents, as compared with faculty respondents universitywide.

Teaching and Learning Most of the IAS faculty respondents in IAS and universitywide believe that their undergraduate students have poor research skills, particularly in locating and evaluating scholarly information. In response, about three quarters of the IAS faculty respondents, versus about half of faculty universitywide, indicated the libraries in the UC Berkeley Library contribute significantly to developing student research skills.

Librarians are very important to 82% of IAS respondents

Role of the Library Librarians are the second most important group for IAS faculty respondents, after others in teaching groups such as faculty themselves and teaching assistants. Librarians are very important to 88% of IAS respondents, versus 61% universitywide. Also, librarians are equally important to IAS faculty respondents as academic advisors.

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Mohamed Hamed
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Study limits Faculty who are in departments not directly related to area studies are not included.

1% is a small percentage but could be used to highlight the general trends for area studies.