From Click to Click. The Development of Use of Electronic Journals. Two Usage Surveys from 1999 and 2001 in the Max Planck Institutes (Von Klick zu Klick. Die Entwicklung der Nutzung von Elektronischen Zeitschriften. Zwei Nutzerbefragungen 1999 und 2001 in Max-Planck-Instituten)

DIANN RUSCH-FEJA & UTA SIEBEKY

Two surveys on the use and acceptance of electronic journals were conducted in 1999 in all the research Institutes of the Max Planck Society and in 2001 in the Institutes located in and near Berlin. From the individual surveys and especially from the comparison of the two surveys, it is evident that in a short time, electronic journals were fully accepted by the researchers. Certain properties of electronic journals, however, have not yet been fully integrated into the researchers' work and the corresponding potential is thus not fully realized. The data of these two surveys show that access to networked information, electronic journals and electronic publication have attained a high value for the researchers in the Max Planck Society and they can no longer do without electronic journals. There are exceptions and differing levels within the survey results, but the predominate majority confirm the usefulness and the significance of electronic publications for their work. The use of electronic journals from specific publishers and digitized journal collections (such as JSTOR) demonstrate increases in use which are also analysed according to the researchers' use in the various disciplinary sections of the Max Planck Society (bio-medical, physical-chemical-technological and humanities-social sciences). Survey answers regarding the particular advantages and disadvantages of using electronic journals, such as continuous availability, downloading possibilities, cross access availability, lack of permanent archiving, etc., show distinct changes over the two years which substantiate higher acceptance and use. The survey results also show that the use of electronic journals is influencing the way researchers use and process information, and the entire process of publication is moving in favor of electronic forms. The results of the two surveys have also contributed to realizing more electronic services within the library and information provision services for the Max Planck Society researchers.

Kontakt siebeky@fhi-berlin.mpg.de

6. März 2002