Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

1. The satisfaction with the collection in general is good. The report average rating for research is 7.8, for teaching 7.7.
2. The satisfaction with the journal collection in particular is big. Over 70% of the respondents judge the collection for research and teaching very good or good. Nevertheless, 57% of the respondents state that important journals in their discipline are lacking. A number of these journals, however, are available in de collection.
3. The collection of databases is also judged (very) positively by a large majority (over 80%). For research this is even more so. Only 3 respondents are dissatisfied with the collection of databases.
4. Respondents are less satisfied with the book collection, both the handbooks, reference books and the loan collection. In the outcome, there are significant differences between disciplines.
5. Of the respondents, 67% would like to be able to consult electronic handbooks and reference books. For the loan collection this is 38%.
6. Publishing in Open Access is not yet an automatism for most respondents. However, a number of the respondents say they plan to attend to this in the future.
7. The involvement of the scientific staff in the library services appears to be great. However, comments show that they are often not fully informed about the possibilities.

Recommendations

1. The satisfaction in general with the collection in relation to education and research at the Science faculty is (quite) good. Nevertheless, many lacunas are mentioned. The library commission has to consider these requests, keeping in mind the available financial means. These wishes can be added to the advice for the 2012 literature budget.
2. The switch from print to digital books happens considerably slower than for journals. Over 60% of the respondents prefer book in print.
3. Over 30% indicate they would like to use electronic books. The business models of publishing companies develop quickly. The library commission will have to keep up to date with these developments. We can buy digital books when possible to make users enthusiastic and stimulate the use of e-books. The consequences of this for the literature budget, for example a higher VAT rate, will have to be mapped out.
4. The switch to an even more digital library is unmistakable. Particularly for journals, this is a specific wish of the Science researchers and teachers. The purchase of digital journal archives\(^1\) is a frequent request. These extra costs could be balanced with the gain in space.
5. To quicken the switch from print to electronic books, it is essential that the university library creates improved traceability both for electronic books and for journals. Respondents mention over 10 journals they need for teaching and research, which are not in the library collection, even though access is available.

\(^1\) At the end of 2010, part of an important Wiley archive has become available. With this, a number of whishes has been fullfilled
6. There is room for improvement of information about scientific information as well as library services. A few respondents mention that they would like to have more direct personal contact with the library. The library should put more effort into this.

7. The possibility to make a suggestion for the purchase of a book or journal is not generally known. The library commission should give greater publicity to this.

8. Some publications are published in Open Access, but not enough. The information about the advantages of Open Access can be improved and intensified.