

# Trends in Undergraduates' Use of Library Databases

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## Background Information

*The Boyer Commission* (1987)

College: The Undergraduate Experience in America.

> Undergraduates be introduced to the full range of resources for learning.

> Librarians who:

> Understand and are interested in undergraduate education.

> Are involved in educational matters.

*American Library Association* (1989).

Presidential Committee on Information Literacy.

“Textbooks, workbooks, and lectures must yield to a learning process based on the information resources available for learning and problem solving.”

*General Education Guidelines*

Example: University of Michigan - Dearborn

> Skills and Competencies

> Critical thinking

“Finally, these courses provide a guided practice in strategies for accessing information effectively, and for analyzing, synthesizing, and applying it in new situations.”

## Methodology

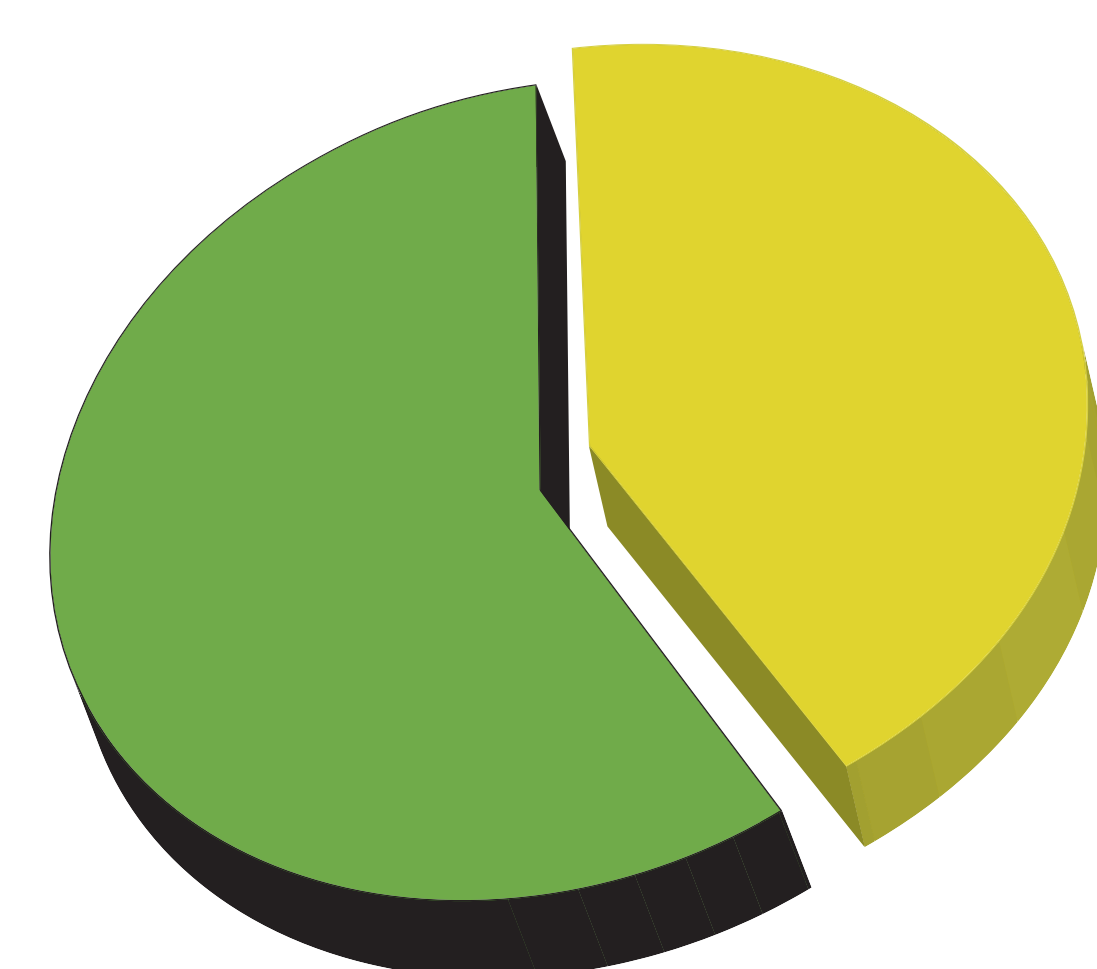
Data was collected from *Search Tools*: University of Michigan Library's gateway to all databases.

Unique authentication IDs were matched the:

> University of Michigan's online directory

> University of Michigan's Registrar's data\*

## Summary of Database Use



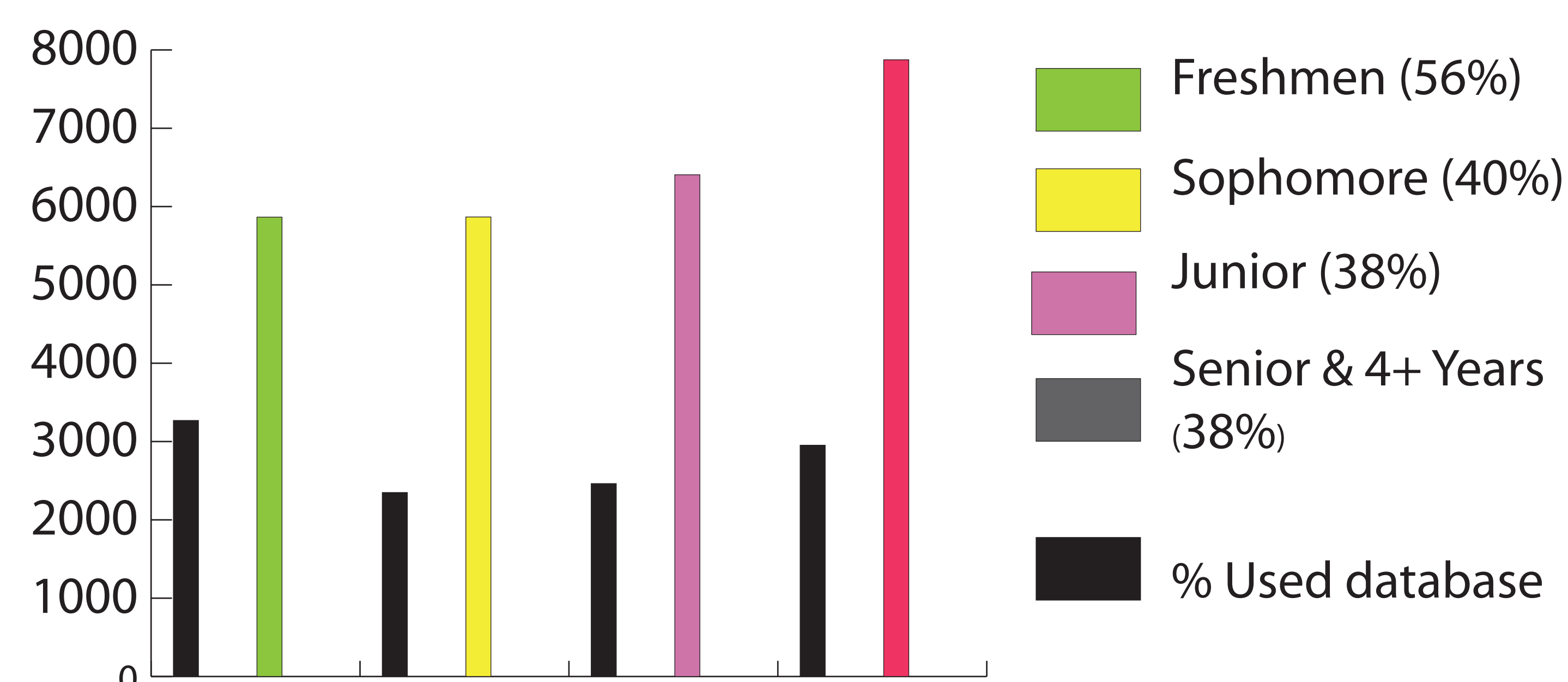
42% Used  
58% Not Use

11,034 Used a Database

15,174 Did Not Use

26,208 Enrolled\*

## Database Use by Academic Level



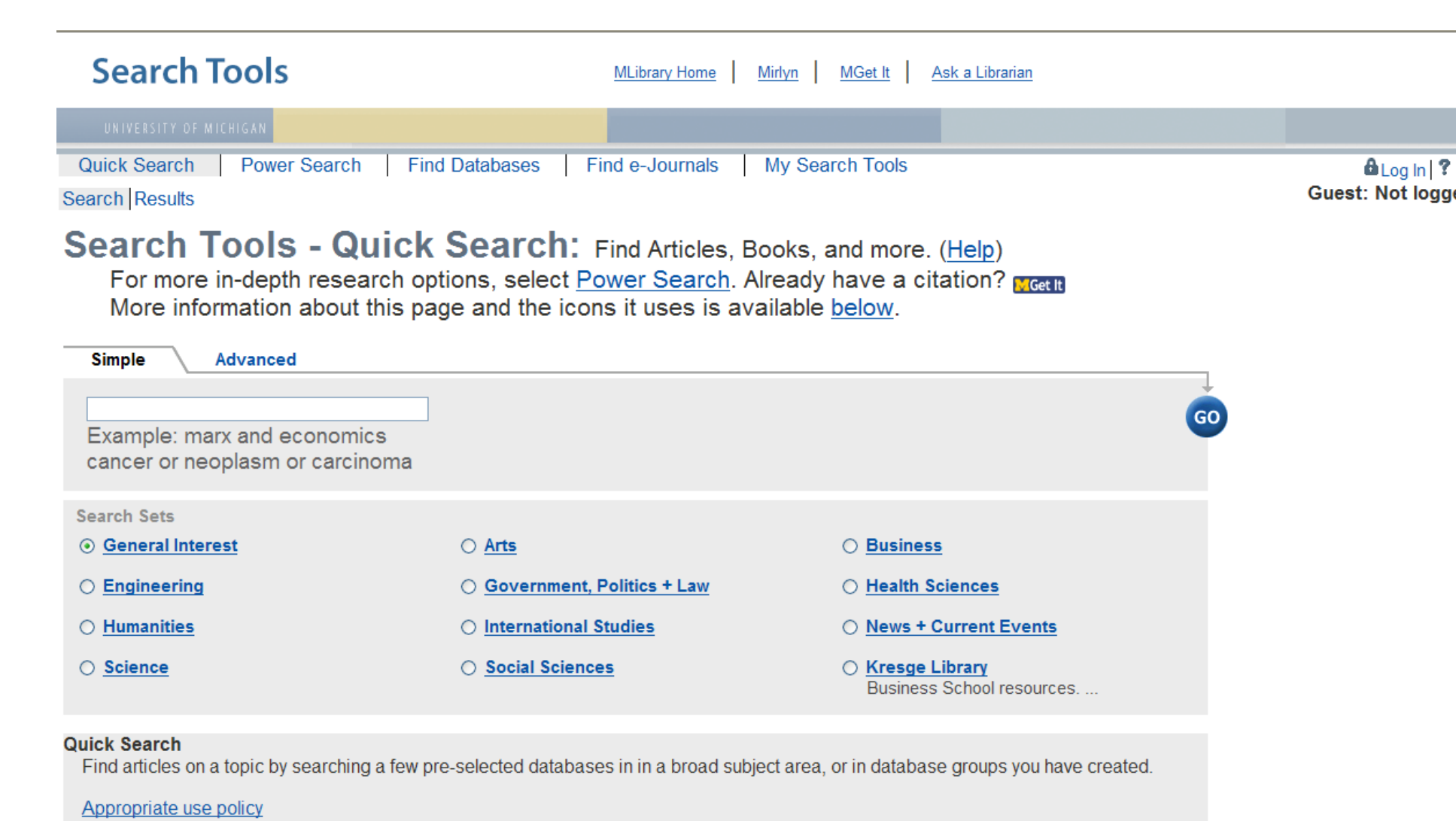
## School & College Activity

School or College	Unique ID	Enrollment	Database Use
Nursing	347	637	54%
Kinesiology	409	811	50%
Music, Theatre and Dance	393	781	50%
Literature, Science and the Arts	7523	16223	46%
Dentistry	41	112	37%
Art and Design	185	511	36%
Architecture and Urban Planning	78	219	36%
Business Administration	349	1082	32%
Engineering	1512	5459	28%
Education	55	214	26%
Pharmacy	2	44	5%
Public Policy	3	115	3%

## Top Twelve Databases

Database	Unique IDs
ISI Web of Science	4255
ProQuest	3888
OAIster	3518
PsycINFO	3250
GeneralOneFile	2777
Readers Guide Abstract	2739
Mirlyn (UM Library catalogue)	2653
ArticleFirst	2635
Wilson Select Plus	2619
Google Scholar (with UM links)	2173
JSTOR	2058
PubMed (with UM Library links)	1935

## Search Tools



## Federated Searches

Search Sets	Unique IDs
General Interest	2044
Social Sciences	486
Science	445
Health Sciences	333
Humanities	246
Arts	211
Engineering	198
Government, Politics and Law	186
Business	104
News and Current Events	94
International Studies	72
Kresge Library	12

## Implications to Libraries

Supporting and Collaborating in the Instructional, Research, and Service Activities

### Learning Process

Instructional learning goals, objectives, and skills.

General education offerings.

Curriculum: coherent learning that promotes synthesis.

### Product - Access

Self-services.

Orientation instruction.

Single-source instruction.

Strategy instruction.