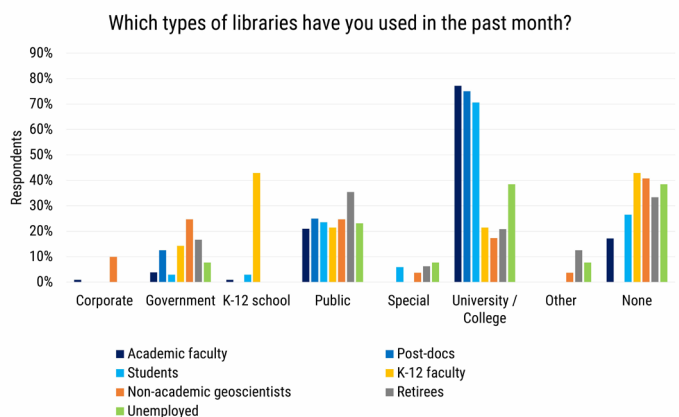


Usage of Library Resources During COVID-19

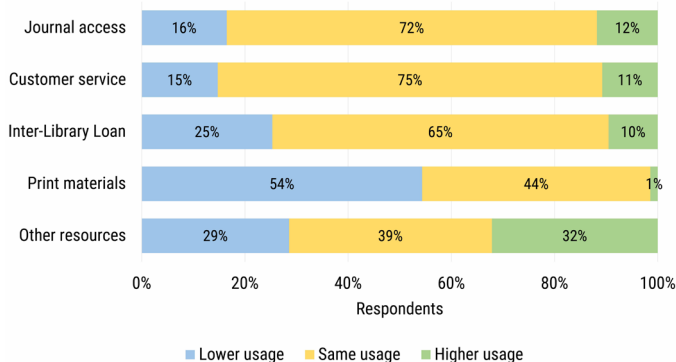
In our most recent Geoscience COVID-19 survey, we asked individuals about their usage of library resources. Given the restrictions on facility access and the increase in writing and literature review activities over the past few months, we wanted to see if individuals were experiencing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic in the usage of libraries and library resources.



Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

Most respondents reported no change relative to February 2020 in accessing journals, using library customer service resources, and inter-library loan borrowing. Compared to February 2020, over half of survey respondents reported less use of print materials, one quarter of respondents reported reductions in inter-library loan lending, and 29% reported a decline in the usage of other resources, such as 3D printing, using the library as a workspace, and digital resources. At the same time, nearly a third of respondents reported increased usage of other resources, such as a variety of digital resources, and the use of the library as a way to get materials to students.

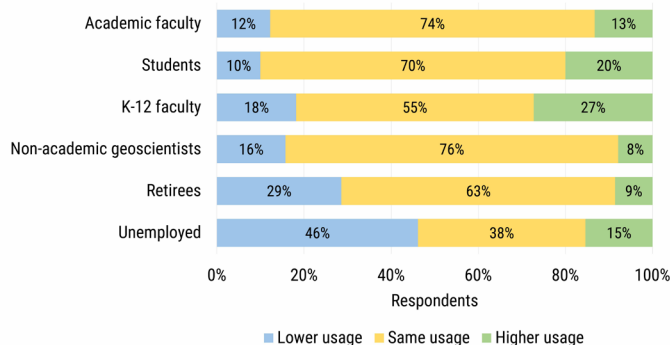
Usage of library resources relative to February 2020



Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

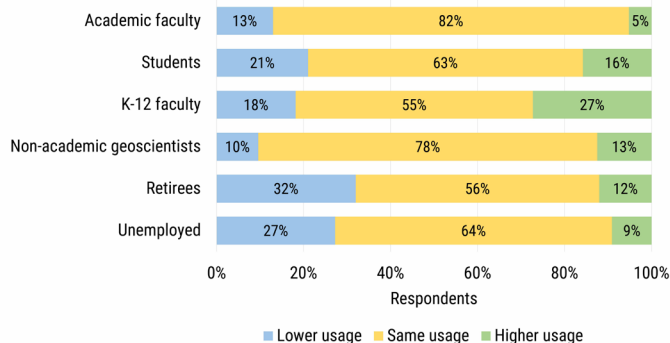
Except for unemployed geoscientists, most respondents across cohorts reported access to journals through library systems, usage of library customer service resources, and inter-library loan borrowing being similar to February 2020. Unemployed geoscientists reported decreased journal access (46% of respondents) and decreased inter-library loan borrowing (67% of respondents) since February 2020. In addition, between 44% and 67% of respondents across cohorts reported decreased usage of print materials relative to February 2020.

Usage of library resources relative to February 2020: Journal access



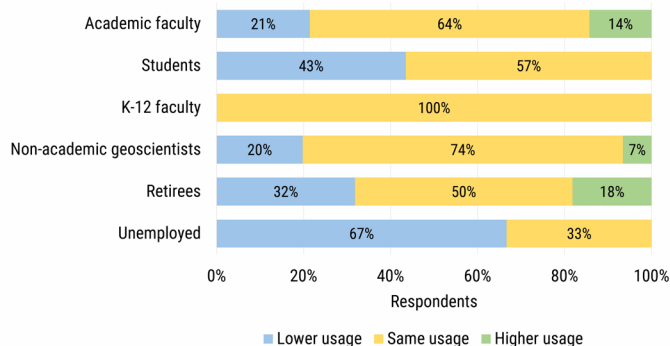
Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

Usage of library resources relative to February 2020:
Customer service (email, chat, support)



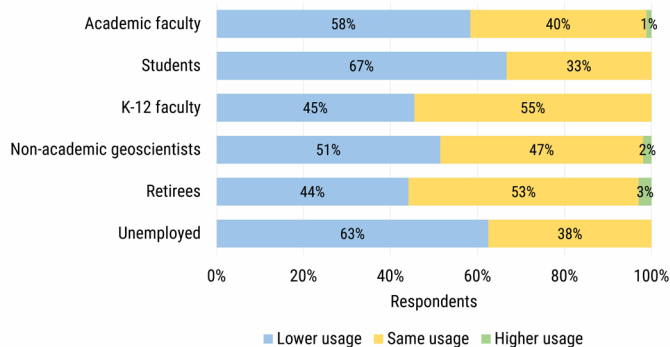
Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

Usage of library resources relative to February 2020:
Inter-Library Loan



Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

Usage of library resources relative to February 2020:
Print materials

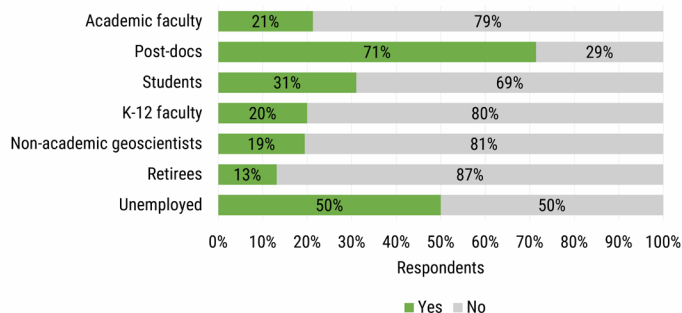


Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

Respondents across most cohorts reported no issues with accessing or obtaining items through their libraries, except for post-doctoral fellows and unemployed geoscientists (71% and 50% of respondents, respectively) who cited issues with lack of access to online journals and to print materials

such as dissertations, review volumes and other books. The most common items that were reported as being difficult to obtain included online journal articles, books and volumes, and other print materials. Additional types of items that were reported as being hard to obtain included theses and dissertations, geologic maps, and papers. Respondents mentioned issues with library access to online journals and resources, limitations to borrowing physical items that was either due to limitations with inter-library loan borrowing, restrictions on borrowing physical items from the library or the library building being closed.

Have there been items you have not been able to access or obtain through your library?



Credit: AGI; data from AGI's Geoscience COVID-19 Survey

We will continue to provide current snapshots on the impacts of COVID-19 on the geoscience enterprise throughout the year. For more information, and to participate in the study, please visit: www.americangeosciences.org/workforce/covid19

Funding for this project is provided by the National Science Foundation (Award #2029570). The results and interpretation of the survey are the views of the American Geosciences Institute and not those of the National Science Foundation.