**Appendix A**

Questionnaire Full Text (Begins on Next Page)

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Description automatically generated

**Title of Study: Doubly public: Opinions on public domain ebooks in the public library**

Contact Information

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You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you take part, a member of the study team is available to explain the project and you are free to ask any questions about anything you do not understand. You will be given a copy of this form for your records.

**Invitation to Participate**

# You are being asked to participate in this study if you work in public libraries in the United States of America or Canada, are over the age of 18, and can communicate in English. Because Canada and the United States of America have copyright agreements and lots of people who speak English, this study only deals with those countries. If this does not describe you, please do not complete the questionnaire.

# This study is trying to document some opinions that library workers have on e-books, especially certain types of free e-books.

# Purpose

# E-books, especially free e-books of works that are no longer covered by copyright, can be great resources for public libraries. This research is designed to collect public library workers’ opinions on e-books, especially e-books in the public domain, to understand how these resources are being used and how they can better be included. This research will help other people understand how public library staff think about e-books and copyright. Shay is also performing this study to help complete their coursework for their research course, LIS 597.

**Participation**

To participate in this study, please complete the attached online questionnaire. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. The questionnaire should take you about 25 minutes to complete. The questionnaire has a variety of different questions, including free-response questions and multiple-choice questions. The questionnaire deals with topics about public libraries, e-books, and potential situations that might happen in a public library, as well as what rules are in place at public libraries about some specific places on the internet. Once you have completed the questionnaire, please press the submit button to submit your answers. Please submit the questionnaire by [date].

Your email address will be collected as part of the questionnaire to make sure that you respond only one time. After the questionnaire answering phase is over, then your email address will be deleted. Between submitting your answer and the end of the questionnaire response window, you will be able to email Shay at [smerker@ualberta.ca](mailto:smerker@ualberta.ca) to have your answers removed or withdrawn from the study.

**Risks**

There are no known risks to completing this questionnaire, other than the risks that are part of everyday life. It is not possible to know all of the risks that may happen in a study, but we have taken all reasonable safeguards to minimize any known risks to you.

**Benefits**

Other than possibly teaching you about these e-book resources, there are no known benefits to this study.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity**

The information that you will share will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research. The only people who will have access to the research data are Shay Merker and their advisor Robyn Stobbs. Your answers to open-ended questions may be used verbatim in presentations and publications but neither you (nor your organization) will be identified.

In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality we recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the study. Results will be published in pooled (aggregate) format. Anonymity is guaranteed since you are not being asked to provide your name or any personal information, other than your email address, which will be deleted immediately after data collection ends on [date].

The questionnaire uses Google Forms, which has servers outside of Canada. Because your information is stored outside of Canada it may be subject to the privacy legislation of those territories which may include access by governmental agents.

**Data Storage**

While the data is being analyzed, it will be stored on Shay’s personal computer as an encrypted, password protected file.

After the study is done, we will store your data for a minimum of 5 years. The files will be stored on a secure UAlberta Google Drive and Shay’s personal computer, as an encrypted, password protected file. No physical copies will be made of this data.

Because these questionnaire data are meant to show the current opinions of public librarians, they might be useful for future researchers. The data will not be identifiable: all emails will be removed, the researcher will try to remove any identifiable information in the free response answers, and only your age and country of residence will stay in the dataset.

After the study is done, study data will be stored in a secure data repository, the University of Alberta Dataverse at Borealis*,* to facilitate re-use of the data by approved researchers. Any personal information (i.e., your email address) that could identify you will be removed or changed prior to sharing study data with other researchers.

**Compensation:**

There is no payment or other compensation for this research.

**Voluntary Participation:**

You are under no obligation to participate and if you choose to participate and you may refuse to answer questions that you do not want to answer. Should you choose to withdraw midway through the electronic questionnaire, simply close the link and no responses will be included.

Once you have submitted the questionnaire, you can still change your mind and stop being in the study until the questionnaire closes at midnight EST on [date]. After that point we cannot remove you from the study because the email addresses attached to the questionnaire responses will have been deleted. To withdraw from the study please contact Shay at [smerker@ualberta.ca](mailto:smerker@ualberta.ca).

**Information about the Study Results:**

After the study concludes, you may contact Shay Merker at [smerker@ualberta.ca](mailto:smerker@ualberta.ca) about the study results. Although the results will be used for a paper for LIS 597, they may also be published elsewhere.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions about the research now or later, please contact Shay Merker at [smerker@ualberta.ca](mailto:smerker@ualberta.ca)

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the University of Alberta Research Ethics Office at [reoffice@ualberta.ca](mailto:reoffice@ualberta.ca) and quote Ethics ID Pro00124414. This office is independent of the study investigators. The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta.

Please keep this form for your records. If possible, please print a physical copy of the form.

Completion and submission of the questionnaire mean your consent to participate.

# The questionnaire should take about 25 minutes to complete. By continuing this questionnaire, you confirm that you are 18 years old or older and you agree to the terms above.

* Agree
* Disagree [concludes survey]

Section 1: Demographics

The following questions are to collect demographic data, make sure participants are eligible, and confirm that each person only takes the questionnaire once.

1. Please input your email to ensure unique responses.
   * [Participant inputs character string]
2. How old are you?
   * [Participant inputs number]
3. In what country are you employed?
   * Canada
   * United States of America
   * Other [allows for participant input, ends survey]
4. What is your gender?
   * Female
   * Male
   * Other [allows for participant input]
   * Prefer not to say
5. Are you currently employed at a public library?
   * Yes
   * No [this option will conclude the survey]
6. Are you a librarian?
   * Yes
   * No
7. During a typical day of work, how likely are you to interact with public library patrons? This includes in-person interactions, email, phone calls, and other forms of messaging and social media.
   * Always
   * Often
   * Sometimes
   * Occasionally
   * Never
   * Not applicable.

Section 2: Personal opinions

The questions in this section are about your personal experiences with e-books. This does not include audiobooks, only books that use text. An e-book is a digital file, such as a .pdf, .epub, or html document, that contains the entire contents of a book.

1. Have you ever read an e-book for school or work? Choose the answer that best fits you experience.
   * I have read an entire e-book, or more than one ebook, for school or work
   * I have read portions of one or more ebooks, but not an entire ebook, for school or work.
   * I have referenced or searched one or more ebooks, but not read significant portions of it, for school or work.
   * I have not read an ebook for school or work.
2. If you have read an entire e-book for school or work, how did you feel about your experience?
   * Strongly Dislike
   * Somewhat Dislike
   * Neutral
   * Somewhat Liked
   * Strongly Liked
3. Would you recommend reading e-books for school or work?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Unsure
4. Have you ever read an e-book recreationally (not for school or work)? Choose the answer that best fits you experience.
   * I have recreationally read an entire e-book, or more than one ebook.
   * I have recreationally read portions of one or more ebooks, but not an entire ebook.
   * I have recreationally referenced or searched one or more ebooks, but not read significant portions of it.
   * I have not read an ebook recreationally.
5. If you have read an entire e-book recreationally, how did you feel about your experience?
   * Strongly Dislike
   * Somewhat Dislike
   * Neutral
   * Somewhat Liked
   * Strongly Liked
6. Would you recommend reading e-books recreationally ?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Unsure
7. Do you or does someone you live with own a specialized e-reader (Kindle, Kobo, Nook, etc)?
   * Yes
   * No
8. In general, do you prefer e-books or traditional printed paper books for work or school?
   * Strongly prefer printed books
   * Slightly prefer printed books
   * No preference
   * Slightly prefer e-books
   * Strongly prefer e-books
9. In general, do you prefer e-books or traditional printed paper books for recreational reading?
   * Strongly prefer printed books
   * Slightly prefer printed books
   * No preference
   * Slightly prefer e-books
   * Strongly prefer e-books
10. Has your opinion on e-books changed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, please explain how.
11. Please include any additional thoughts on e-books and the reading experience. Remember, all responses will be published.
    * [Free Response]

Section 3: E-book awareness

The following questions deal with copyright and different sources for public domain e-books. If you are unfamiliar with a given term, please do not search for it until after you have submitted your questionnaire.

1. Do you think you understand copyright?
   * Yes, I understand it well
   * Yes, I mostly understand it
   * No
   * Not sure
2. When it comes to copyright, do you feel confident in your understanding of what is in the public domain in your country?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
3. If given a specific title of a work and time to search for it online, do you think you could identify whether the work is in the public domain?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
4. Which of the following public domain e-book providers have you heard of? (Note that not all books on these websites are in the public domain).
   * Google Books (<https://books.google.com>)
   * Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)
   * HathiTrust Digital Library (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>)
   * LibriVox (specialized in audiobooks) (<https://librivox.org/>)
   * The Online Books Page (<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>)
   * The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)
   * Open Library by the Internet Archive (<https://openlibrary.org/>)
   * Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca>)
   * U.S. Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>)
   * Smithsonian Digital Library (<https://library.si.edu/digital-library>)
   * Europeana (<https://www.europeana.eu/en>)
   * Standard Ebooks (<https://standardebooks.org/>)
   * Manybooks (<https://manybooks.net/>)
   * Digital Public Library of America (<https://dp.la/>)
   * Other [Participant input]
5. Which of the following public domain e-book providers have you used? (Note that not all books on these websites are in the public domain).
   * Google Books (<https://books.google.com>)
   * Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)
   * HathiTrust Digital Library (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>)
   * LibriVox (specialized in audiobooks) (<https://librivox.org/>)
   * The Online Books Page (<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>)
   * The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)
   * Open Library by the Internet Archive (<https://openlibrary.org/>)
   * Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca>)
   * U.S. Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>)
   * Smithsonian Digital Library (<https://library.si.edu/digital-library>)
   * Europeana (<https://www.europeana.eu/en>)
   * Standard Ebooks (<https://standardebooks.org/>)
   * Manybooks (<https://manybooks.net/>)
   * Digital Public Library of America (<https://dp.la/>)
   * Other [Participant input]
6. During your public library work, which sites featuring public domain e-books have you recommended to public library patrons?
   * Google Books (<https://books.google.com>)
   * Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)
   * HathiTrust Digital Library (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>)
   * LibriVox (specialized in audiobooks) (<https://librivox.org/>)
   * The Online Books Page (<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>)
   * The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)
   * Open Library by the Internet Archive (<https://openlibrary.org/>)
   * Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca>)
   * U.S. Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>)
   * Smithsonian Digital Library (<https://library.si.edu/digital-library>)
   * Europeana (<https://www.europeana.eu/en>)
   * Standard Ebooks (<https://standardebooks.org/>)
   * Manybooks (<https://manybooks.net/>)
   * Digital Public Library of America (<https://dp.la/>)
   * Other [Participant input]
7. Which of the following sites have you recommended to people other than in your public library work?
   * Google Books (<https://books.google.com>)
   * Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>)
   * HathiTrust Digital Library (<https://www.hathitrust.org/>)
   * LibriVox (specialized in audiobooks) (<https://librivox.org/>)
   * The Online Books Page (<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/>)
   * The Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>)
   * Open Library by the Internet Archive (<https://openlibrary.org/>)
   * Library and Archives Canada (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca>)
   * U.S. Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>)
   * Smithsonian Digital Library (<https://library.si.edu/digital-library>)
   * Europeana (<https://www.europeana.eu/en>)
   * Standard Ebooks (<https://standardebooks.org/>)
   * Manybooks (<https://manybooks.net/>)
   * Digital Public Library of America (<https://dp.la/>)
   * Other [Participant input]
8. In general, how do you feel about availability of e-book versions of public domain works?
   * Strongly Dislike
   * Somewhat Dislike
   * Neutral
   * Somewhat Like
   * Strongly Like
9. Please use this space to share any opinions about ebooks and the public domain. Remember, all responses will be published.
   * [Free response]

Section 4: Hypothetical scenarios

The following section consists of hypothetical scenarios in which public domain e-books might be used. Please read each scenario carefully. Remember, all free response answers will be published alongside the data, so please do not include identifying information.

Scenario A:

A 16-year-old student enters the library to find a specific book published in the early 19th century. The student needs to reference a specific chapter of this book to complete an essay due in five days. The book is not available at this library location, but it is available through ILL. In addition, the book is not available at local bookstores, but can be found online. The student is proficient with technology and ebooks and owns a smartphone but does not have their own computer or e-reader.

1. Would you recommend that this student use an ebook?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
2. To find the ebook, where online would you start your search?
   * Library ebook catalog (such as OverDrive)
   * General search engine (such as Google)
   * Subject database or search engine (such as Gale Literature)
   * Archive or e-book repository (such as Archive.org)
   * Other [participant input]
   * Not sure
3. Please include any additional details or thoughts on this scenario.
   * [Free response]

Scenario B:

An 80-year-old retiree visits the library and wants to reread a classic book from the late 19th century. Although the library does have a copy of the book, it is currently on loan. The patron has access to a desktop computer and a smartphone at home, as well as internet access, but has expressed a lack of comfort with technology. The patron would prefer a large-print edition of the work, but there has not been a large-print publication, and they are able to use a magnifier to read standard-size books.

1. Would you recommend that this patron use an ebook?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
2. To find the ebook, where online would you start your search?
   * Library ebook catalog (such as OverDrive)
   * General search engine (such as Google)
   * Subject database or search engine (such as Gale Literature)
   * Archive or e-book repository (such as Archive.org)
   * Other [participant input]
   * Not sure
3. Please include any additional details or thoughts on this scenario.
   * [Free response]

Scenario C

A 25-year-old patron, who works remotely, emails the library asking for help finding 18th and early 19th century romance novels for recreational reading. The patron has access to internet at home and owns a work laptop, a personal laptop, a smartphone, and an e-reader, and is extremely confident when using them. The patron lives a moderate distance away from the library and has expressed that they have difficulty finding time to visit the library during the library’s working hours.

1. Would you recommend that this patron use an ebook?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
2. To find the ebook, where online would you start your search?
   * Library ebook catalog (such as OverDrive)
   * General search engine (such as Google)
   * Subject database or search engine (such as Gale Literature)
   * Archive or e-book repository (such as Archive.org)
   * Other [participant input]
   * Not sure
3. Please include any additional details or thoughts on this scenario.
   * [Free response]

Scenario D

A 12-year-old student visits the library. For the next two months, their class at school will be studying a specific work by Shakespeare. Although books will be provided during the school day, in order to complete the coursework, the student needs access to the work at home. The student has access to a laptop and the internet at home but is unsure if they would be able to purchase a copy of the book. Additionally, although the library has copies of the play, they are all currently checked out.

1. Would you recommend that this patron use an ebook?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
2. To find the ebook, where online would you start your search?
   * Library ebook catalog (such as OverDrive)
   * General search engine (such as Google)
   * Subject database or search engine (such as Gale Literature)
   * Archive or e-book repository (such as Archive.org)
   * Other [participant input]
   * Not sure
3. Please include any additional details or thoughts on this scenario.
   * [Free response]

Scenario E

A 40-year-old patron who is traveling wants to read some antique cookbooks for recreational reading. The patron will be bringing their smartphone with them and also has access to an e-reader. The patron has expressed worries about damaging or losing library books while they travel.

1. Would you recommend that this patron use an ebook?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not sure
2. To find the ebook, where online would you start your search?
   * Library ebook catalog (such as OverDrive)
   * General search engine (such as Google)
   * Subject database or search engine (such as Gale Literature)
   * Archive or e-book repository (such as Archive.org)
   * Other [participant input]
   * Not sure
3. Please include any additional details or thoughts on this scenario.
   * [Free response]

Section 5: Policy considerations

This section consists of questions about how public domain e-book repositories can be used by public libraries.

1. Does your library currently have a policy about recommending websites unaffiliated with the library?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not Sure
2. If your library does have a policy, does it allow you to refer people to public domain e-book repositories?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not Sure
3. Have you recommended public domain e-book repositories at your library in the past, either to colleagues or to patrons?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Can’t remember/Not sure
4. Do you foresee recommending public domain e-book repositories to patrons or colleagues in the future?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not Sure
5. Do you think libraries should promote or advertise public domain e-book repositories in general?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Not Sure
6. Please elaborate on whether you think libraries should promote or advertise public domain e-book repositories.
   * [Free Response]
7. In general, do you think that there is a place for public domain e-book repositories in the public library?
   * [Free Response]
8. Do you think the COVID-19 pandemic has effected use or awareness of ebook repositories at your library? Please explain.
   * [Free Response]
9. Please place any additional notes on the relationship between public libraries and online e-book repositories here.
   * [Free Response]

Section 6: Completion

# By submitting this questionnaire, you confirm that you are 18 years old or older and that you have been truthful in your responses. Your submission of the questionnaire is an agreement to have your data published. Please address any concerns to Shay Merker ([smerker@ualberta.ca](mailto:smerker@ualberta.ca)). Thank you for your participation.

# Submit

# Your response has been recorded. Thank you.