Subject Searching Support in Library Systems (ISKO survey) ⅋

Thank you for agreeing to complete this survey, which is being conducted by Edinburgh Napier University's Centre for Creative and Social Informatics on behalf of the International Society for Knowledge Organization (ISKO). The project team reports to ISKO's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

The purpose of the survey is to learn more about the use of subject headings, classification codes and other controlled vocabularies for library searches. The eventual outcome will be a set of guidelines for procurement of library search interfaces.

We want to gather evidence about the use of subject headings and classification codes to search for information resources in academic and research libraries. This survey builds on a pilot survey conducted by ISKO in 2023.

Your name and email address (if provided) will not be stored after completion of this research and will not appear in any published reports. Your institution's name will only be published with your permission. This survey will feed into further consultations with academic and research librarians as well as representatives of library system suppliers.

If you have any questions about this survey or concerns about its conduct, you can contact d.haynes@napier.ac.uk copying in stac@isko.org

* Required

Consent form

1. Do we have your consent to collect and store personal data (such as your name and email address) gathered during this survey? *

   This data will only be used for administration of the survey. If you have given us permission to contact you for the follow-up workshops, we will additionally use your email address for this purpose. Your institution's name will only be published with your permission

   ◯ Yes

   ◯ No (If you select this option, you will be taken to the exit page for this survey)

Your institution

We need a little background about your institution to set the context for your answers

2. Name of institution - please name your institution and department *

3. Which country is your institution based in? *

4. Can we refer to your institution when we publish the results of this research? *

○ Yes

○ No

Search interface for end-users

This section is about the search interface seen by end-users. This could be a library catalogue, an OPAC (online public access catalogue) or a discovery system. A search interface provides access to commercial bibliographic databases and other digital resources. A discovery system, is an interface that enables libraries to search seamlessly across a wide range of content (the library catalog, databases, and other collections). An example of a discovery system is Primo's OneSearch

5. What type of search interface is provided by your library for subject searches?

○ Library catalogue (via an OPAC, for instance)

○ Discovery system

○ Both the library catalogue and the discovery system

○

6. If you use a proprietary system, please name the manufacturer and/or product name *

[   ]

7. Please provide the URL of your search interface or OPAC, if it is open to the public

[   ]

Questions about subject access via your library's search interface

8. Does your library's search interface provide access to subject headings or classification codes (or similar controlled vocabularies) to find suitable documents and information resources? *

   Please select the option that applies to your library catalogue or discovery system

   ○ Direct search - the search interface allows users to search directly via subject headings or classification codes

   ○ Indirect search - the search interface automatically translates users' search terms into the preferred terms from the subject headings or classification codes

   ○ Both direct and indirect searches are supported by the search interface

   ○ No access - the search interface does not provide access to subject headings or classification codes

   ○

9. Please provide details about the controlled vocabularies or classification systems used in your collection. *

   These might be internal controlled term lists, the library's own classification, subject headings, external vocabularies and or classification systems (such as LCSH, MeSH, LCC, DDC, UDC etc). Enter NA, if there are none.

10. Please provide details of any part of your collection that is not assigned subject headings or classification codes (optional)

11. Does your library provide training and/or support for users who wish to search via subject headings or classification codes? *

    Please give details of the training/support provided

12. What do you think are the main barriers to use of subject headings or classification codes in the search interface used by your library? *

13. Do you have any general comments that you would like to share? *

14. Would you be willing to be interviewed about the use of subject headings or classification codes in your library's search interface? *You can withdraw from the consultation at any point, if you change your mind.* *

○ Yes

○ No

Contact details

Thank you for agreeing to participate in a further consultation. Please give us your email address and name so that we can contact you. This may take the form of an interview or participation in an online focus group with other librarians.

15. Please give your email address below.

16. Please add your name below so that we know who to contact.