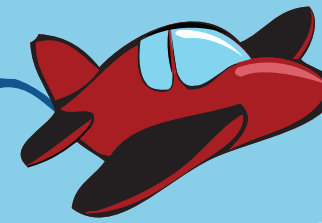


THE VIEW FROM 30,000 FEET:



Regional Needs Assessment for Eastern North Carolina Hospitals

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Objectives

To survey the 16 hospitals in Eastern North Carolina to ascertain the level of technology in their hospitals and libraries. A research project like this has not been done in the last 5 years.

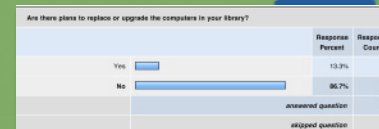
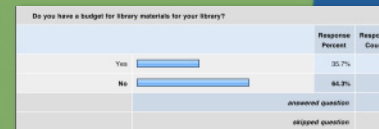
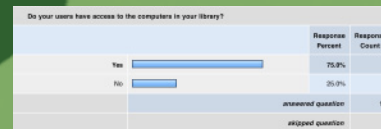
Setting

We are the only academic health sciences library in Eastern North Carolina and serve a rural 23 county region. A new Outreach Librarian was brought on board in July 2009 and his first task was to become familiar with the Eastern AHEC region.

Methods

- Survey Time Frame: 11/10/09 to 12/11/09
- 19 Question Survey Conducted via Survey Monkey
- 16 Regional Eastern AHEC Hospitals
- Response Rate: 100%

Results



Findings

- All hospitals have internet access; nearly all have Internet access via a broadband connection
- 66.7% have 0-1 computers for library-only use; 86.7% of these hospitals have no plans to replace aging computers
- 58.3% report that the computers in their libraries are 3 or more years old
- 75% report that users have access to computers in their library
- 64.3% report that they have no budget for library materials

Conclusion

More needs to be done to promote the AHEC Digital Library (AHEC ADL), especially as a tool for hospitals with no library budget. The AHEC ADL, along with the EAHEC Librarian's efforts to raise awareness about government and other high quality resources, will help address hospital information needs.

Some hospitals are well-funded and have access to resources. The Outreach/AHEC Librarian will work with hospital staff to ensure that information resources are optimally used to access health related information for education, research, and patient care.