

Ebooks and Cross Generational Perceived Privacy Issues

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Abstract

Privacy issues, as it pertains to e-book downloads, are not well understood by the general user. People are downloading library e-books at an increasing rate, and participants of different age groups could potentially have different frameworks when conceptualizing online privacy. A common perception is that the younger computer user is less informed or concerned with privacy issues than the older user. However, recent studies have been finding that this is not necessarily the case. The researchers in this study would like to examine these privacy cross-generation perceptions when it comes to e-Book reading histories, utilization of commercial bookstore websites as well as library websites. Of particular interest are library e-books, as libraries are held at a different standard than commercial entities when it comes to user privacy. A small pilot case study will interview e-book users of different age groups to determine how they view privacy when purchasing e-books or when checking them out from the library.

Keywords: ebooks, privacy, older adults, young adults, libraries
