

Abstract

This is a small-scale survey on English teachers' reading habits from May 2007 to May 2008 in the English Department at Assumption University of Thailand to check teachers read and what they read outside their teaching courses. The study also examines the type of materials, which the subjects prefer to read. Differences in reading preferences between native and non-native teachers and the subjects' age will be highlighted in the study.

A questionnaire was administrated for 83 teachers who vary in age, qualifications, nationalities and interests from the English Department at Assumption University.

The questionnaire analysis shows the percentages of reading materials read by the respondents and the most and least popular type of reading materials. Crime and detective novels are the most popular books among the non-native speakers over 50 years, while adventure novels are the least popular among the non-native speakers in the age group of 20 to 30 years and over 50 years. Magazines are the most popular among the native speakers in the age group of 30 to 40 years, while reading online materials are the least popular among the native speakers in the age group of 20 to 30 years in this survey.

Although the reading materials are limited in this survey, it shows the native and non-native speakers' reading preferences from May 2007 to May 2008. The findings

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will be useful to gain an insight into the reading habits and reading preferences of the teachers in the English Department at Assumption University. It provides some evidence for administrators and teacher recruiters/heads of departments to allocate courses for teachers based on their reading habits and learn the differences between non-native and native speakers or different ages teachers in the Department to set up professional development courses for teachers.

