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Analysis of ARL Statistics 2013-14: Summary of U of S versus U15 Peer Group

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Disclaimer

Prior to reviewing this report, it is important to quote directly from the ARL Statistics 2013-14¹ published report as the same principles apply for the tables and graphs presented in this report: *“The tables presented in this publication are not indicative of performance and outcomes and should not be used as measures of library quality. In comparing any individual library to ARL medians or to other ARL members, one must be careful to make such comparisons within the context of differing institutional and local goals and characteristics.”*

Overview

In 2015, at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), the [University Library Assessment Program](#) was released reflecting progress toward the achievement of the Library's mission, vision, and core strategies in the [University Library Strategic Plan](#) and demonstrating the library's commitment to evidence-based decision making. Aligned with the library's strategic planning process, the University Library's program of assessment is linked to the three broad purposes of the University's Framework for Assessment ([A Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review](#)), namely: *quality improvement, quality assurance, and accountability*. Four elements currently make up the assessment program: *library data and statistics, library surveys, key performance indicators and benchmarking, and other assessment related activities*.

On an annual basis, the University Library systematically reports library statistics for key external bodies both nationally and internationally. Typically, data submitted relating to collections and collections expenditures, salary expenditures, overall expenditures, and personnel and public services, is made available in the public domain through or by other agencies. The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) annually publishes statistics for several indicators, percentages and ratios, and the library investment index, providing a wealth of statistics for all ARL institutions.

The U of S is part of a select group of 15 research-intensive universities in Canada known as the [U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities](#). The annual publication of ARL statistics allows the University Library to track progress over time and benchmark with our U15 peer institutions². The current report represents the University Library's analysis of ARL Statistics 2013-14¹ summarizing the results for the U of S versus our U15 peers for all ARL indicators, percentages and ratios, and the library investment index.

This report corresponds to the broad purposes of *quality improvement* (as many of the statistics are measures which are tied to the core strategies in the University Library Strategic Plan) and *accountability* (as this report is a means of communicating results to the University community and general public demonstrating openness and transparency). This report also demonstrates the University Library's commitment to move beyond simply submitting annual library statistics to analyzing and using published results in order to determine trends and benchmark to our U15 peers.

¹ ARL Statistics 2013-2014, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2013-2014/>

² ARL data available for the following Canadian U15 research-intensive universities: Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Laval, Manitoba, McGill, McMaster, Montreal, Ottawa, Queen's, Saskatchewan, Toronto, Waterloo, and Western. Missing Dalhousie (not ARL member).

ARL Background³

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a non-profit organization consisting of 125 research libraries in the US and Canada consisting of the largest research libraries in North America. This includes 115 university libraries and 10 public, governmental, and non-profit research libraries. Although ARL libraries represent a small subset of libraries in North America, they account for a large portion of academic library resources (e.g. assets, budget, and number of users served).

ARL Member Libraries	University Libraries	Public, Governmental, and Non-profit Research Libraries	Total
US	99	9	108
Canada	16	1	17
Total	115	10	125

ARL Indicators⁴

ARL releases annual statistics as part of a series of publications describing the collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities of its 125 libraries. Statistics are available for the following indicators for Canadian ARL libraries including all U15 research intensive universities except for Dalhousie University (not an ARL member).

Collections and Collections Expenditures

Titles held; volumes in library; electronic books; one-time resource purchases; ongoing resource purchases; collection support; total expenditures for library materials

Salary Expenditures

Salaries and wages for professional staff, support staff, and student assistants; total salaries and wages; fringe benefits (\$ and designated %)

Overall Expenditures

Total expenditures for library materials; total salaries and wages; other operating expenditures; total library expenditures; expenditures from external sources (bibliographic utilities, consortia/networks, etc.)

Personnel and Public Services

Professional staff; support staff; student assistants; total professional, support, and student assistant staff; library presentations to groups; participants in group presentations; reference transactions; initial circulations; full-text article requests; regular searches; federated searches; total items loaned/borrowed

Faculty and Enrollment

Doctor's degrees awarded; doctor's degree fields; faculty; total students (full-time); total students (part-time); graduate students (full-time); graduate students (part-time)

³ ARL Statistics 2013-2014, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2013-2014/>

⁴ Results not shown for the following four ARL indicators due to lack of U of S and/or U15 peer data: fringe benefits (designated %); expenditures from external sources (bibliographic utilities, consortia/networks, etc.); regular searches; federated searches.

ARL Percentages and Ratios

Using the data from the indicators listed above, ARL calculates 16 percentages and ratios for selected variables that describe the condition of ARL university libraries. The following percentages and ratios are published for all ARL university libraries.

- Professional Staff as a percent of Total Staff
- Support Staff as a percent of Total Staff
- Student Assistant Staff as a percent of Total Staff
- Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)
- Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed
- Total Library Materials Expenditures as a percent of Total Library Expenditures
- Salary and Wages Expenditures as a percent of Total Library Expenditures
- Other Operating Expenditures as a percent of Total Library Expenditures
- Library Expenditures per Faculty
- Library Expenditures per Full-Time Student
- Library Expenditures per Full-Time Graduate Student
- Library Expenditures per Full-Time User
- Library Expenditures per User
- Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded
- Library Staff per PhD Awarded
- Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded

ARL Library Investment Index

ARL also releases a ranking based on the Library Investment Index which is calculated based on the following four variables:

- 1) Total Library Expenditures
- 2) Total Library Materials Expenditures
- 3) Salaries & Wages Professional Staff
- 4) Professional + Support Staff (FTE)

The 2013-14 annual ARL Library Investment Index rankings were published in the Almanac issue of the Chronicle in August.

Results: ARL Indicators

The following table summarizes the 2013-14 University of Saskatchewan (U of S) ARL results compared to 2012-13 (including % change) and to the U15 average (2013-14). The overall U of S ranking among U15 peers is also shown for each indicator. The graphs in Appendix A illustrate U of S results compared to the U15 average for each ARL indicator from 2009-10 to 2013-14. The graphs in Appendix B show U of S results/ranking among U15 peers for 2012-13 and 2013-14 for each ARL indicator.

ARL Indicators	U of S		Change		U15 Average	Ranking vs.
	2012-13	2013-14	↑↓	%	2013-14	U15*
Library Collections						
Titles Held	1,816,718	1,919,329	↑	5.6	3,435,317	14th (14)
Volumes in Library**	2,622,249	2,669,043	↑	1.8	4,861,566	11th (14)
Electronic Books	476,462	518,154	↑	8.8	981,328	12th (14)
Library Collection Expenditures						
One-time Resource Purchases	\$4,299,342	\$1,868,872	↓	-56.5	\$3,494,238	10th (14)
Ongoing Resource Purchases	\$9,501,096	\$9,426,502	↓	-0.8	\$9,867,587	7th (14)
Collection Support ¹	\$411,148	\$413,111	↑	0.5	\$549,150	8th (14)
Total Expenditures for Materials	\$14,211,586	\$11,708,485	↓	-17.6	\$13,910,974	10th (14)
Library Salary Expenditures						
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff	\$5,875,811	\$5,360,259	↓	-8.8	\$6,305,728	7th (14)
Salaries & Wages Support Staff	\$3,538,447	\$3,595,234	↑	1.6	\$6,319,737	12th (14)
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants ²	\$279,096	\$367,843	↑	31.8	\$774,612	7th (13)
Total Salaries and Wages	\$9,693,355	\$9,323,336	↓	-3.8	\$13,344,748	10th (14)
Fringe Benefits	\$1,556,869	\$1,441,389	↓	-7.4	\$3,067,321	14th (14)
Overall Library Expenditures						
Total Expenditures for Materials	\$14,211,586	\$11,708,485	↓	-17.6	\$13,910,974	10th (14)
Total Salaries and Wages	\$9,693,355	\$9,323,336	↓	-3.8	\$13,344,748	10th (14)
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,976,085	\$1,840,796	↓	-6.8	\$3,119,181	9th (14)
Total Expenditures	\$25,881,025	\$22,872,616	↓	-11.6	\$30,374,903	11th (14)
Library Personnel and Public Services						
Professional Staff (FTE)	62	58	↓	-6.5	80	10th (14)
Support Staff (FTE)	79	75	↓	-5.1	133	13th (14)
Student Assistants (FTE) ²	10	14	↑	40.0	27	Tied 8th
Total Staff (FTE)	151	147	↓	-2.6	238	12th (14)
Library Presentations to Groups	524	582	↑	11.1	816	9th (14)
Participants in Group Presentations	11,628	15,476	↑	33.1	18,450	6th (14)
Reference Transactions	13,505	14,238	↑	5.4	55,963	11th (14)
Initial Circulations	113,553	101,987	↓	-10.2	244,119	13th (14)
Total Items Loaned	7,742	5,537	↓	-28.5	16,513	14th (14)
Total Items Borrowed	7,262	4,980	↓	-31.4	11,768	13th (14)
Full-Text Article Requests ^{3,4,5,6}	1,907,173	1,929,409	↑	1.2	3,467,905	9th (10)
University Faculty and Enrollment						
Doctor's Degrees Awarded	392	416	↑	6.1	411	6th (14)
Doctor's Degree Fields ³	43	44	↑	2.3	63	11th (13)
Total Full-time Students	18,747	18,785	↑	0.2	34,166	14th (14)
Total Part-time Students	2,418	2,258	↓	-6.6	6,832	14th (14)
Graduate Full-time Students	2,681	2,707	↑	1.0	6,543	14th (14)
Graduate Part-Time Students	339	408	↑	20.4	1,557	14th (14)
Full-time Instructional Faculty	1,109	1,106	↓	-0.3	1,675	13th (14)

*Unless otherwise noted, ARL data available for fourteen U15 institutions. Missing Dalhousie (not an ARL member).

**Due to a calculation error, 2012-13 value differs from ARL published value (corrected value shown above).

¹Includes McGill in ranking with \$0 collection support

Missing from U15 average: ²Laval, ³Alberta, ⁴McGill, ⁵Toronto, ⁶Western

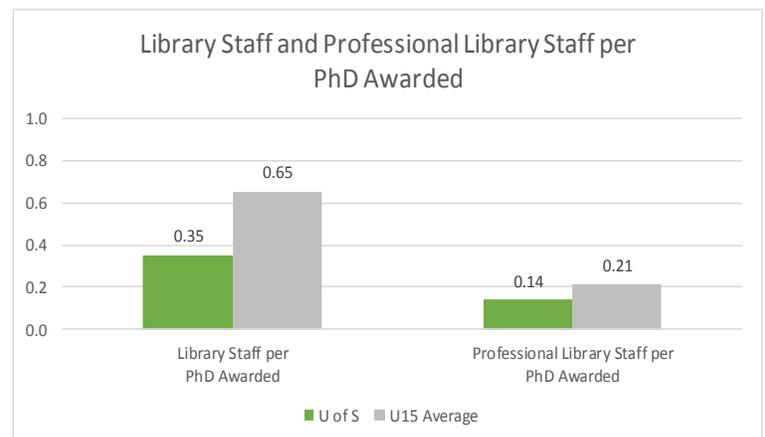
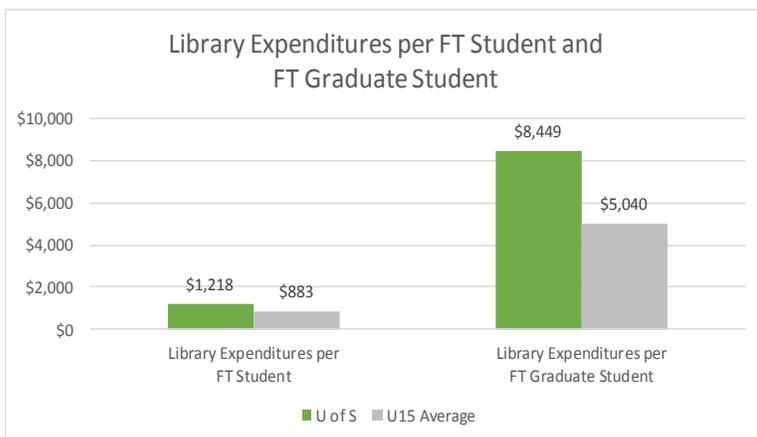
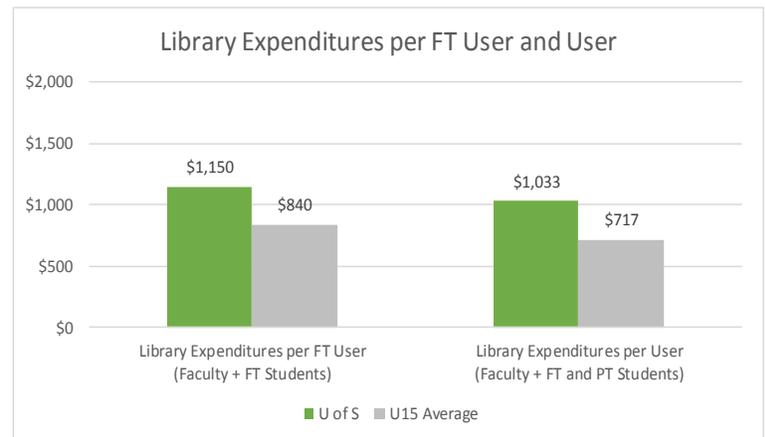
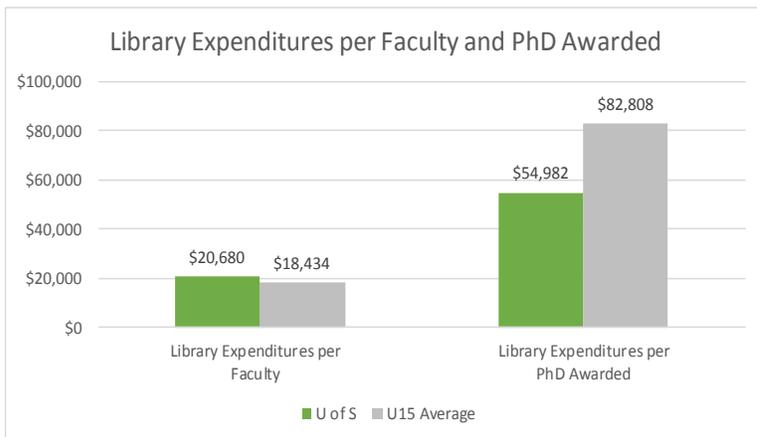
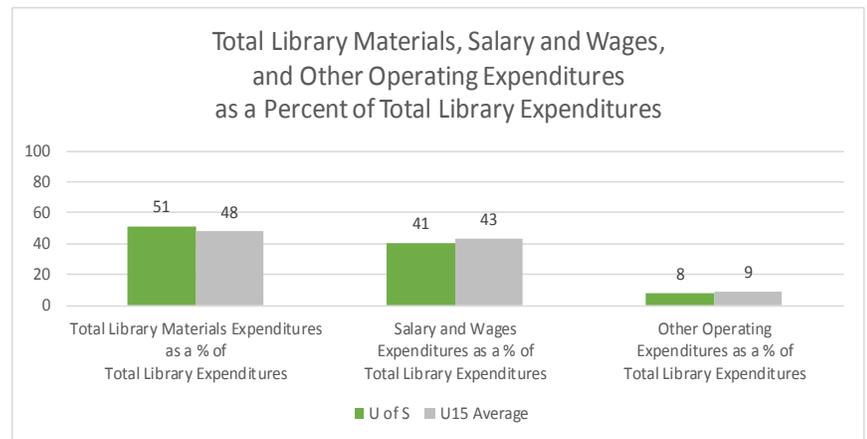
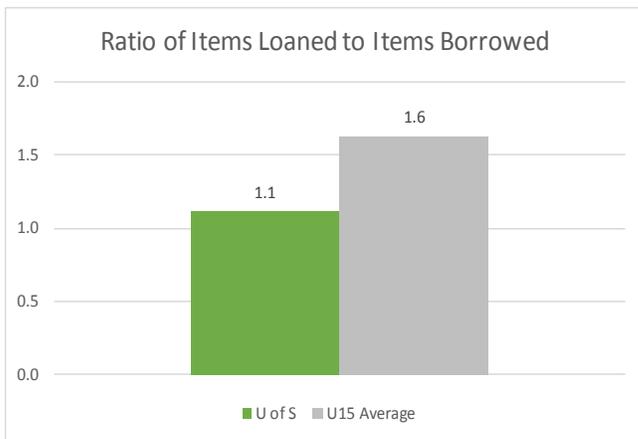
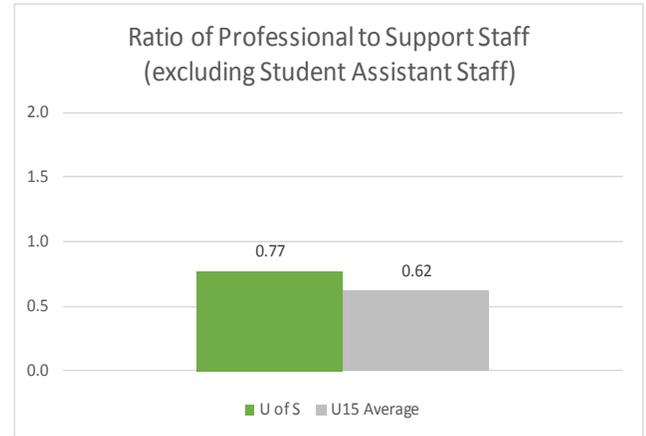
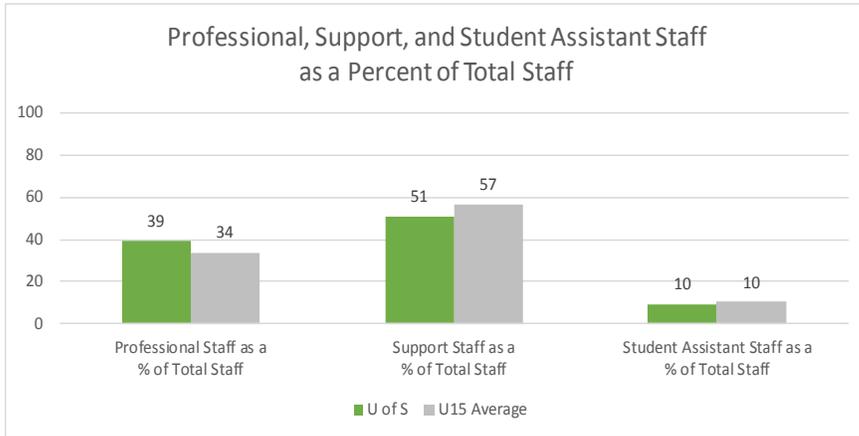
Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2013-14 table)

The following table summarizes the 2013-14 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.

ARL Percentages and Ratios (2013-14)	U of S	U15 Average	At the U of S...	Compared to the U15 average, at the U of S...
Professional Staff as a % of Total Staff	39.5	33.9	Professional staff make up 40% of total staff	Professional staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (27% less professional staff; 38% less total staff)
Support Staff as a % of Total Staff	51.0	56.6	Support staff make up 51% of total staff	Support staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (44% less support staff ; 38% less total staff)
Student Assistant Staff as a % of Total Staff	9.5	10.3	Student assistant staff make up 9.5% of total staff	Student assistant staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (49% less student assistant staff ; 38% less total staff)
Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)	0.77	0.62	There are .77 professional staff for every support staff	There are more professional staff for every support staff (27% less professional staff; 44% less support staff)
Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed	1.11	1.63	There are 1.11 items loaned for every item borrowed	There are less items loaned for every item borrowed (66% less items loaned ; 58% less items borrowed)
Total Library Materials Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	51.2	47.8	Library materials expenditures make up 51% of total	Library materials expenditures make up a greater proportion of total (16% less materials expenditures; 25% less total expenditures)
Salary and Wages Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	40.8	43.4	Salary and wages expenditures make up 41% of total	Salary and wages expenditures make up a smaller proportion of total (30% less salaries/wages expenditures ; 25% less total expenditures)
Other Operating Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	8.0	8.9	Other operating expenditures make up 8% of total	Other operating expenditures make up a smaller proportion of total (41% less other operating expenditures ; 25% less total expenditures)
Library Expenditures per Faculty	\$20,680	\$18,434	We spend \$20,680 for every faculty member	We spend more per faculty (25% less library expenditures; 34% less faculty)
Library Expenditures per FT Student	\$1,218	\$883	We spend \$1,218 for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (25% less library expenditures; 45% less FT students)
Library Expenditures per FT Graduate Student	\$8,449	\$5,040	We spend \$8,449 for every FT graduate student	We spend more per FT graduate student (25% less library expenditures, 59% less FT graduate students)
Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	\$1,150	\$840	We spend \$1,150 for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (25% less library expenditures; 45% less FT users)
Library Expenditures per User (Faculty + FT and PT Students)	\$1,033	\$717	We spend \$1,033 for every user	We spend more per user (25% less library expenditures; 48% less users)
Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded	\$54,982	\$82,808	We spend \$54,982 for every PhD awarded	We spend less per PhD awarded (25% less library expenditures ; 1.2% more PhDs awarded)
Library Staff per PhD Awarded	0.35	0.65	There are .35 library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less library staff for every PhD awarded (38% less library staff ; 1.2% more PhDs awarded)
Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	0.14	0.21	There are .14 professional library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less professional library staff for every PhD awarded (27% less professional library staff ; 1.2% more PhDs awarded)

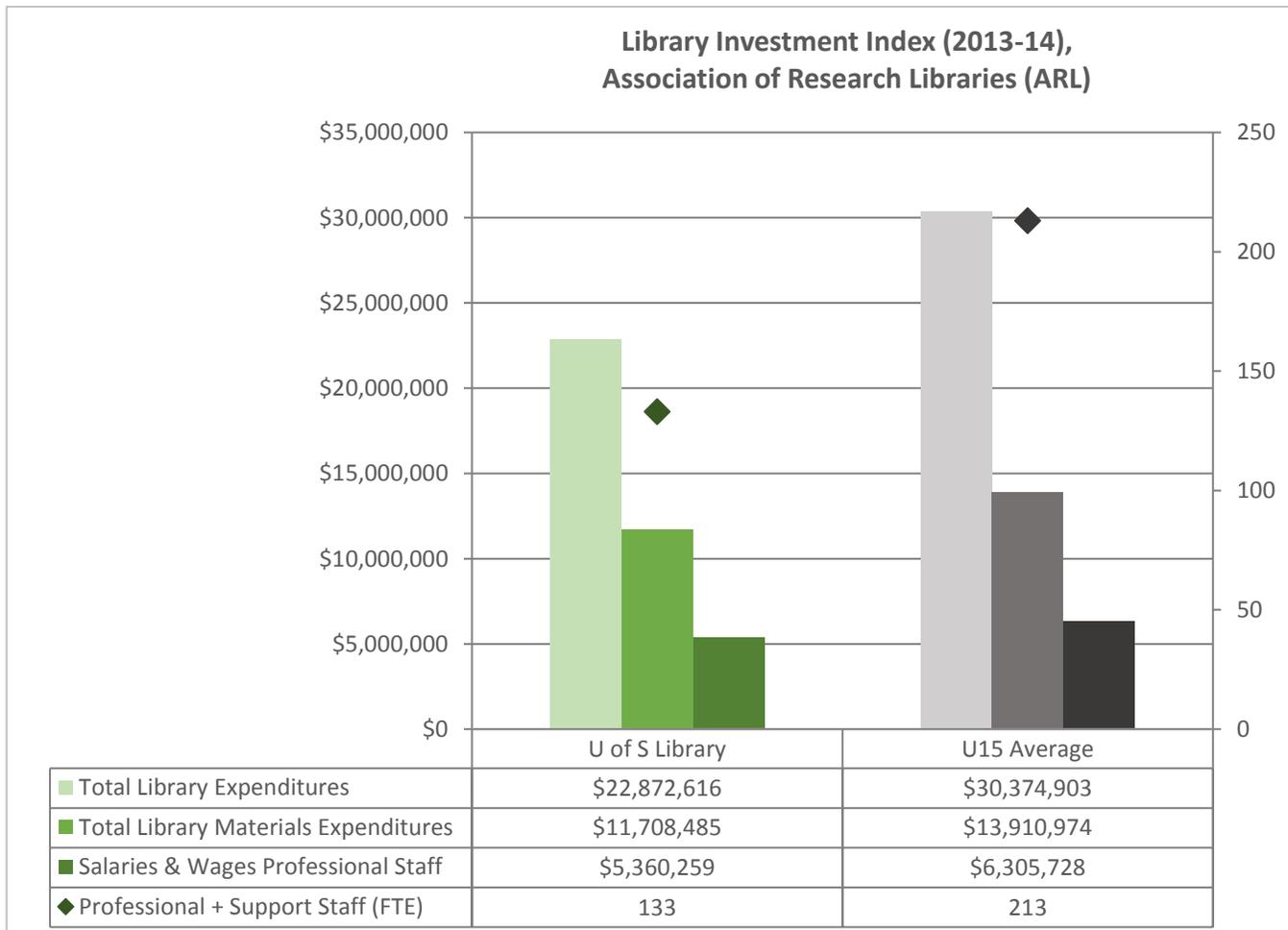
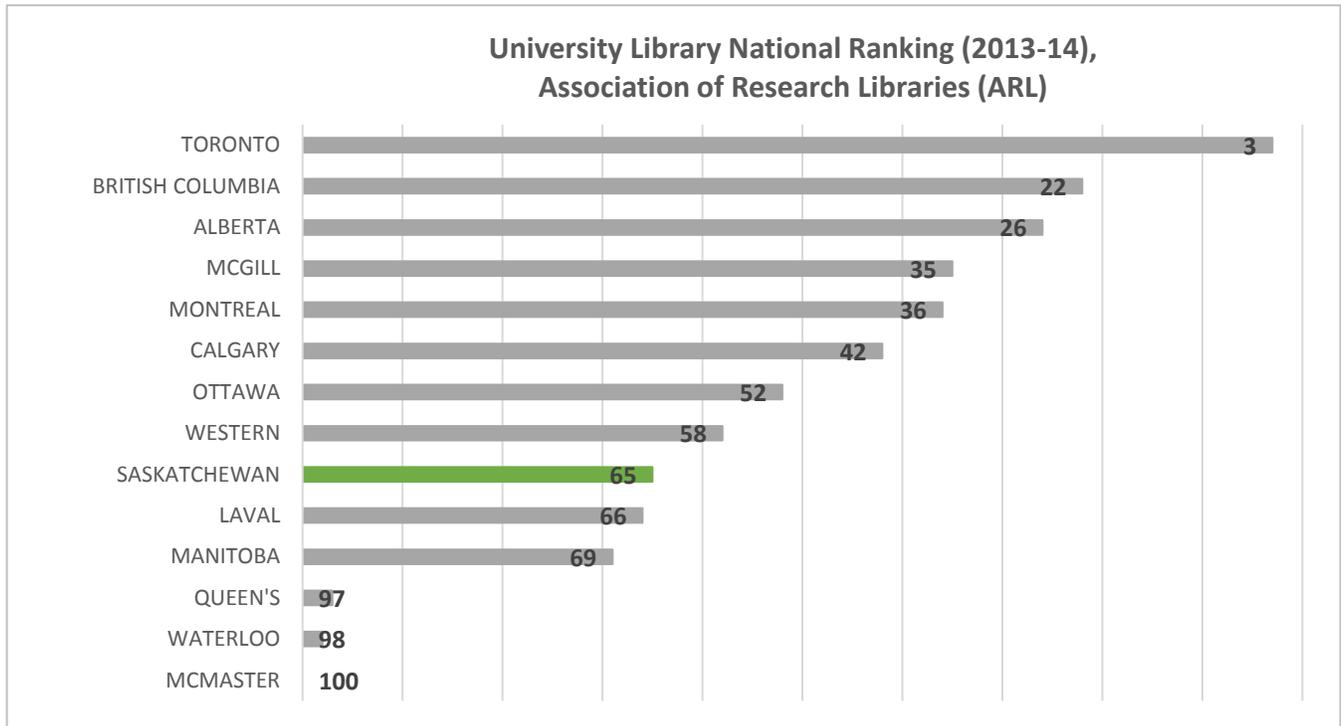
Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2013-14 graphs)

The following graphs illustrate the 2013-14 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.



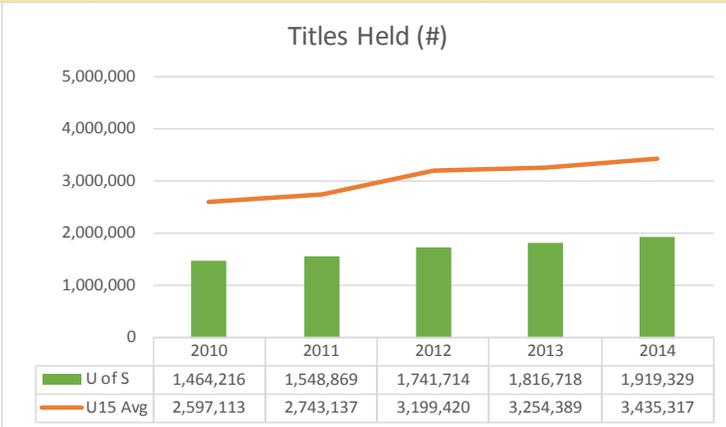
Results: ARL Library Investment Index

The first graph depicts the ARL Library Investment Index ranking for fourteen U15 institutions in 2013-14. The second graph shows the values for each of the four variables used to calculate the Library Investment Index at the U of S compared to the average of fourteen U15 peer institutions in 2013-14.

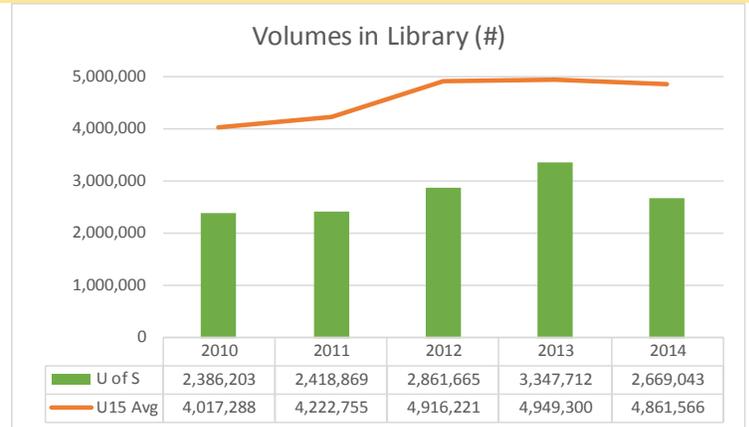


Appendix A: ARL Indicators – U of S versus U15 average (2009-10 to 2013-14)

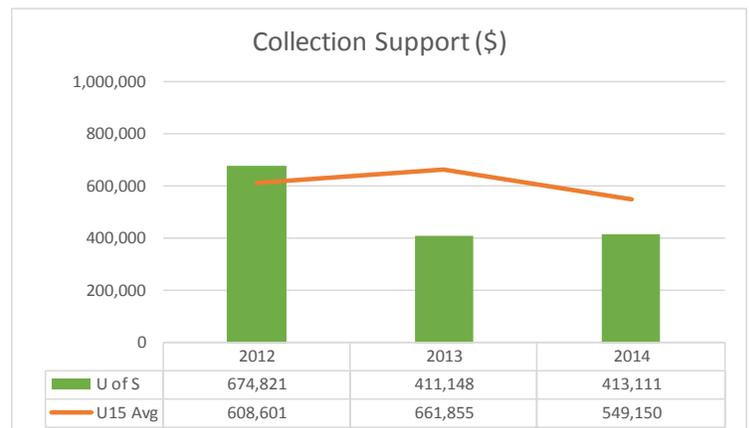
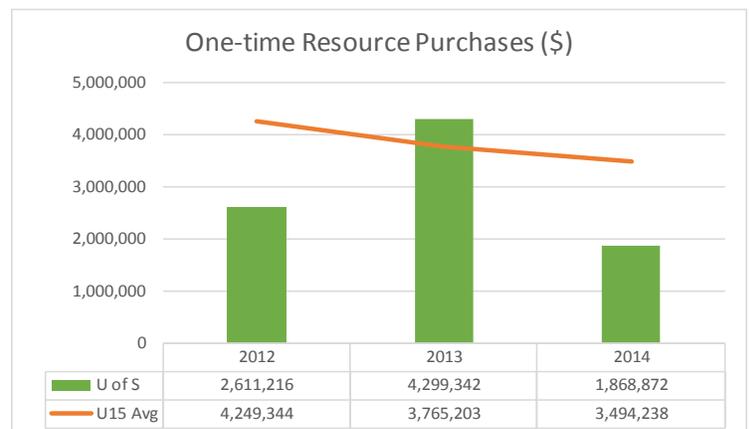
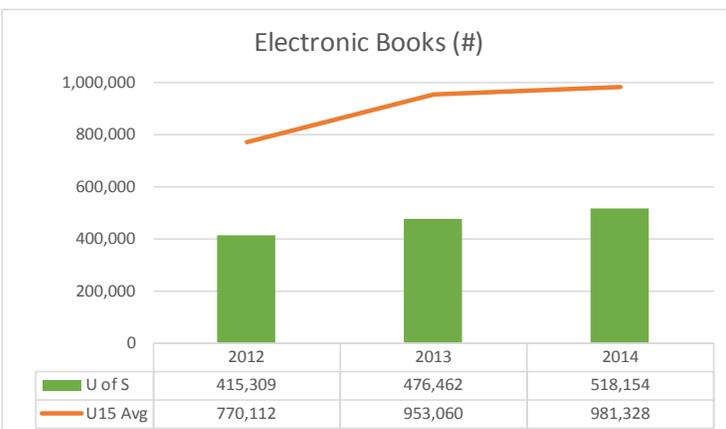
Library Collections and Collection Expenditures



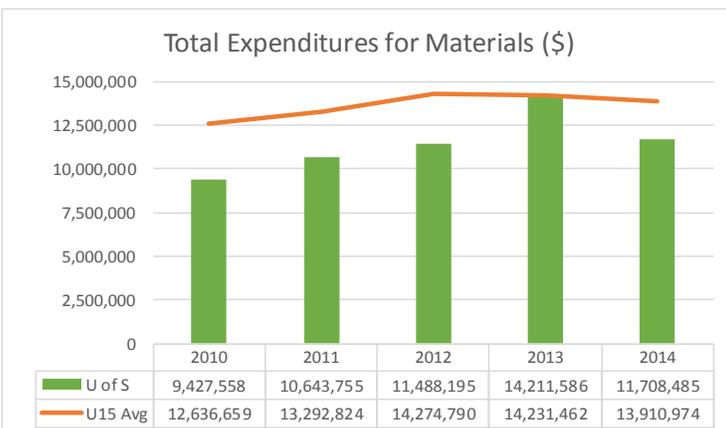
*2010 and 2011: Queen's Missing from U15 average



*Due to a calculation error, SK values should be: 2,547,718 (2012) and 2,622,249 (2013)

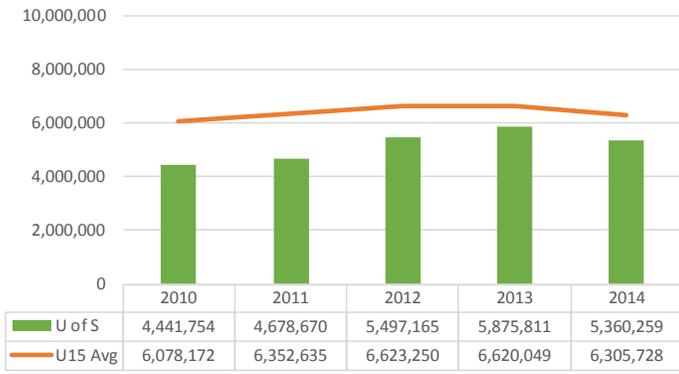


*2014: Includes \$0 collection support from McGill in U15 average

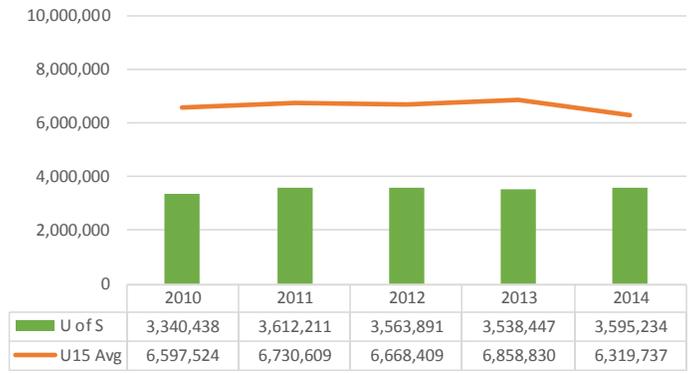


Library Salary Expenditures

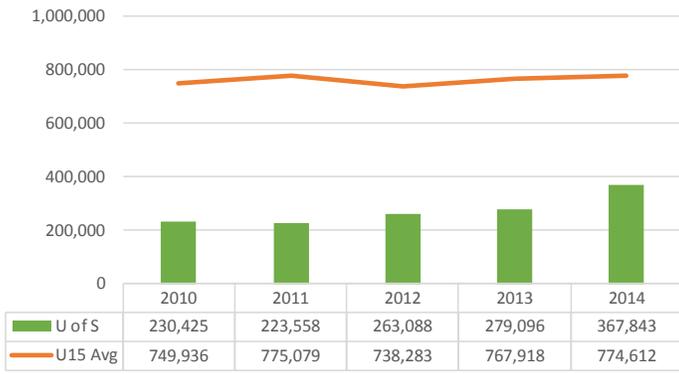
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



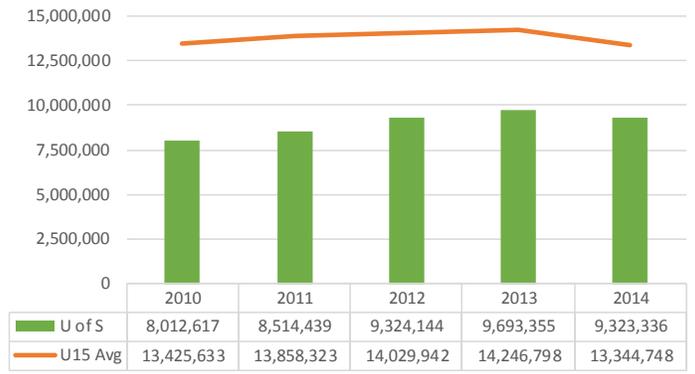
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)

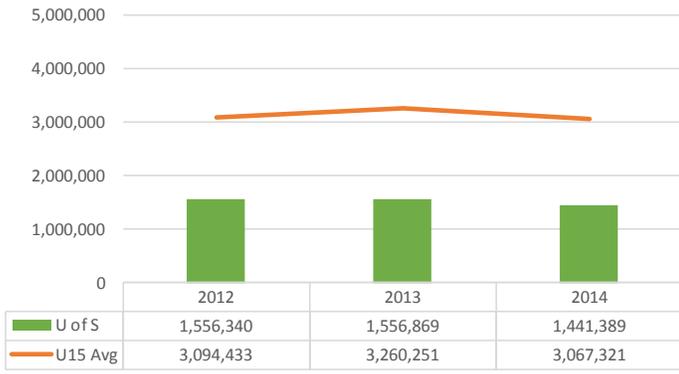


Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



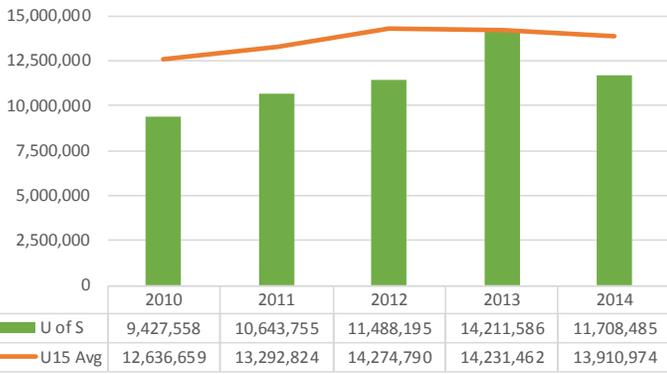
*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

Fringe Benefits (\$)

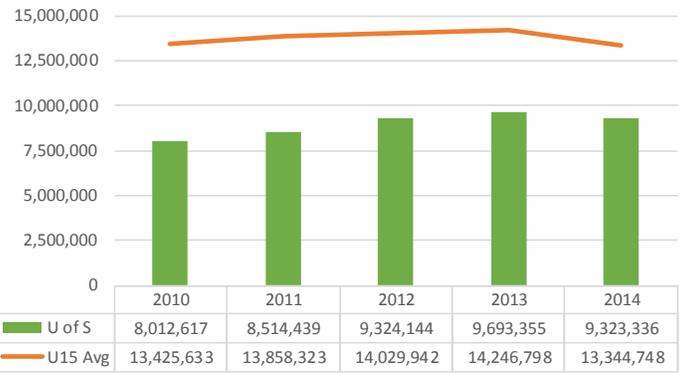


Overall Library Expenditures

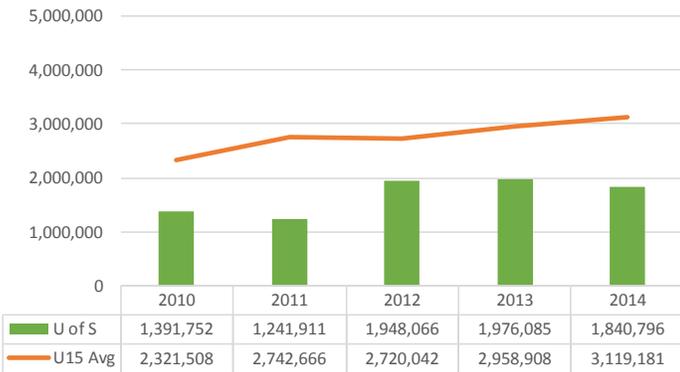
Total Materials (\$)



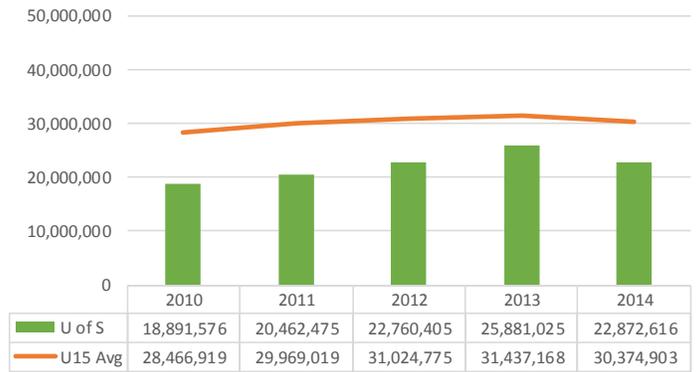
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)



Total Expenditures (\$)



Library Personnel and Public Services

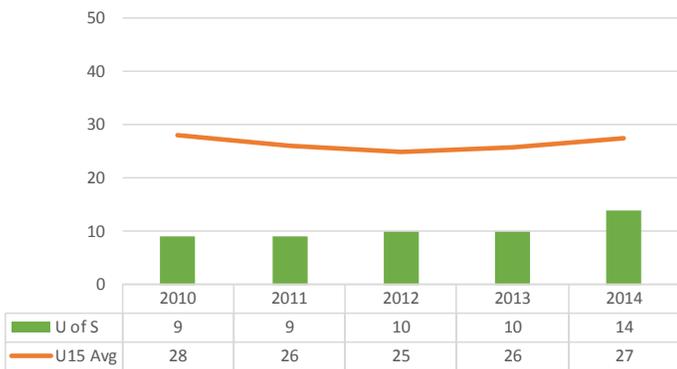
Professional Staff (FTE)



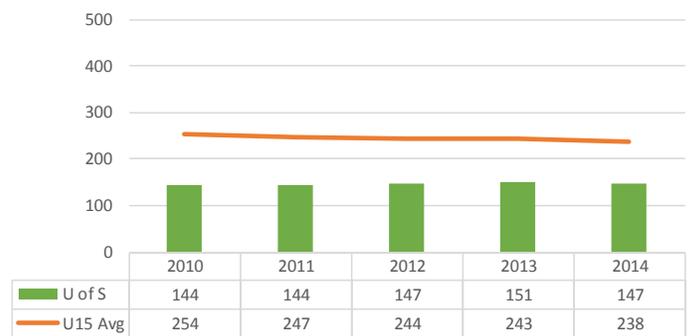
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)

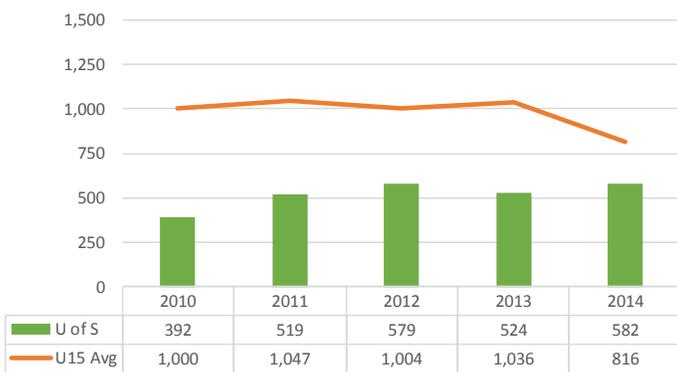


Total Professional, Support, and Student Assistant Staff (FTE)



*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

Library Presentations to Groups (#)



*2013: Laval and McGill missing from U15 average

*2010 and 2011: Ottawa missing from U15 average

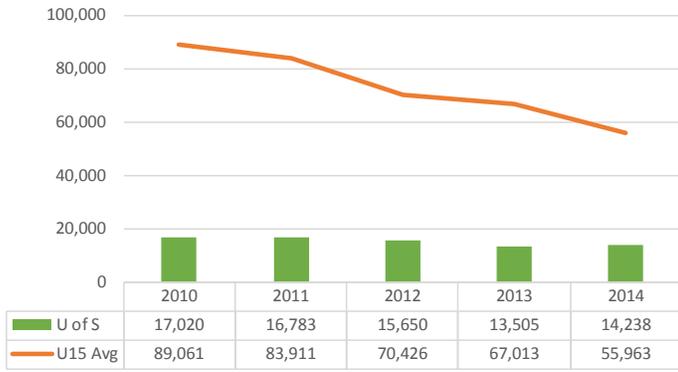
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

Library Personnel and Public Services (continued)

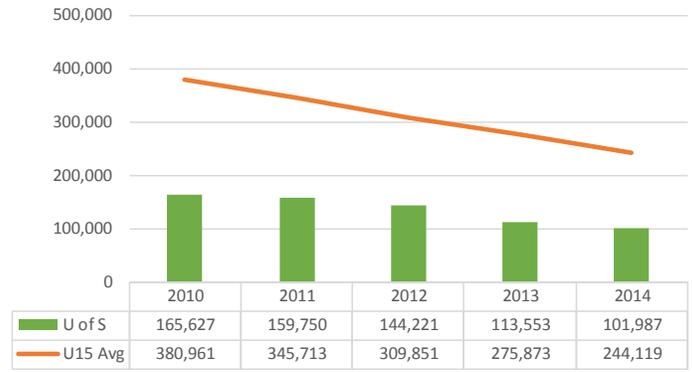
Reference Transactions (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

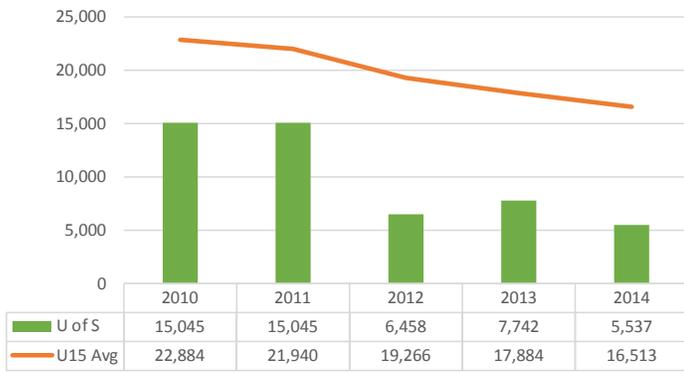
*2012: McMaster missing from U15 average

Initial Circulations (#)



*2013: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

Total Items Loaned (ILL) (#)



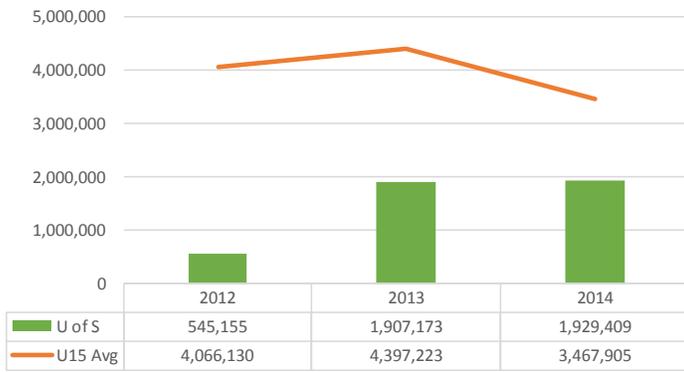
*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

Total Items Borrowed (ILL) (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

Full-text Article Requests (#)



*2014: Alberta, McGill, Toronto, Western missing from U15 average

*2013: Laval, McGill, Western missing from U15 average

*2012: McGill, Western missing from U15 average

University Faculty and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)



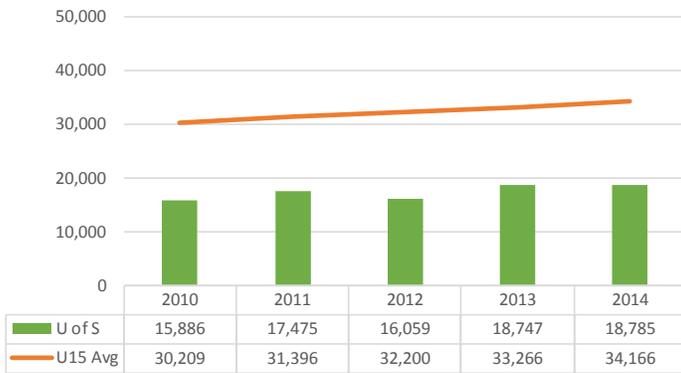
Doctor's Degree Fields (#)



*2013 and 2014: Alberta missing from U15 average

*2010 and 2011: Ottawa missing from U15 average

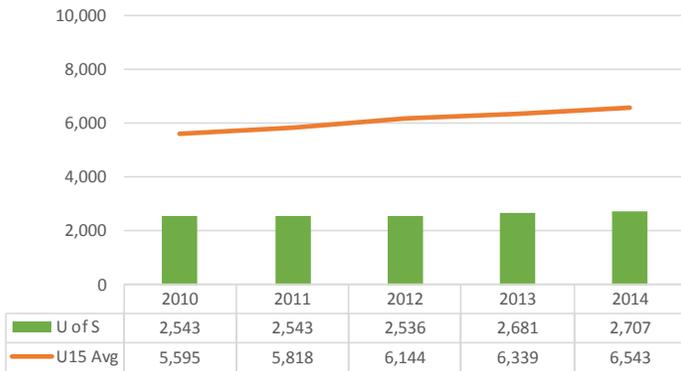
Total Full-time Students (#)



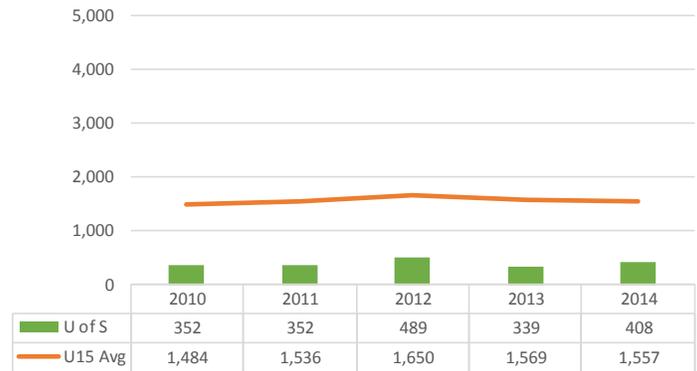
Total Part-time Students (#)



Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)

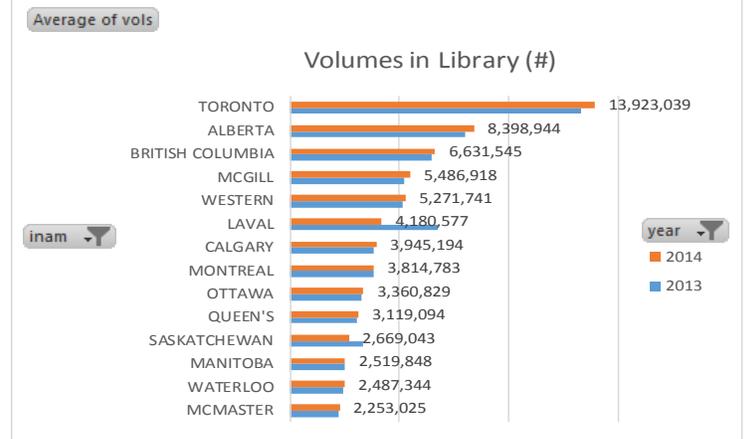
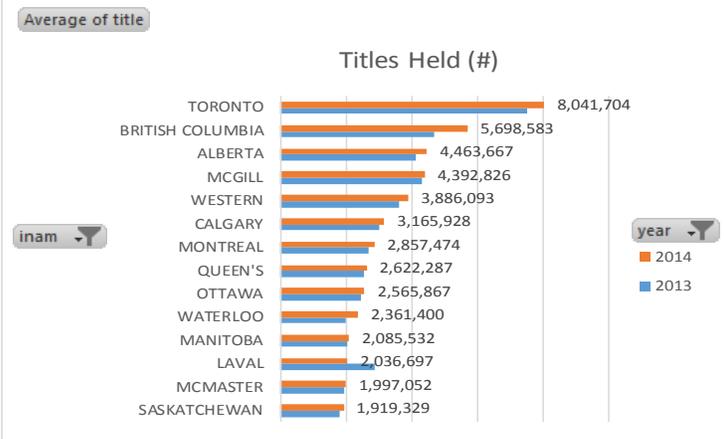


Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

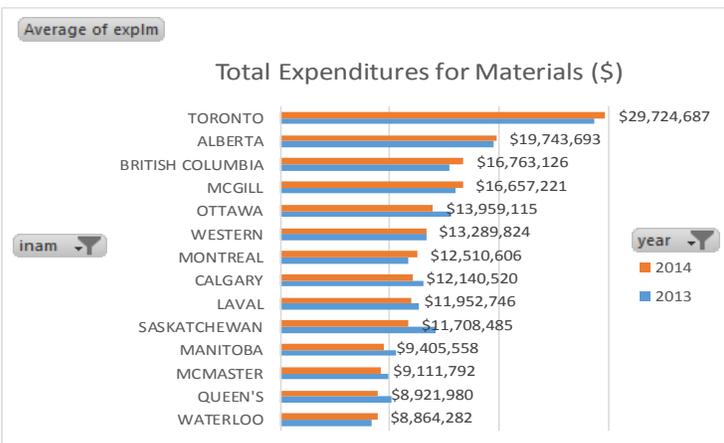
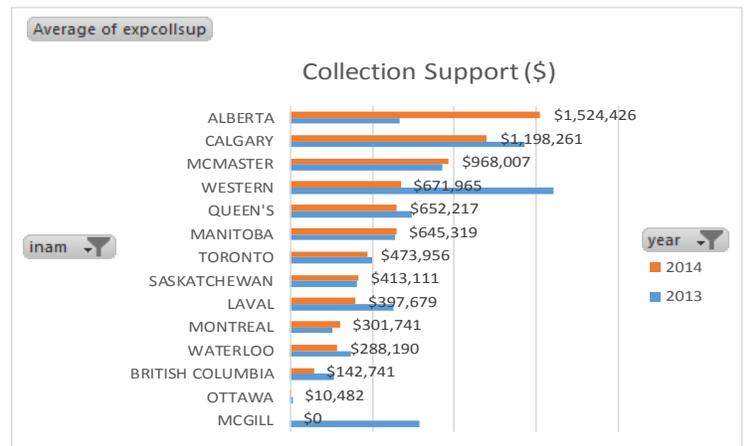
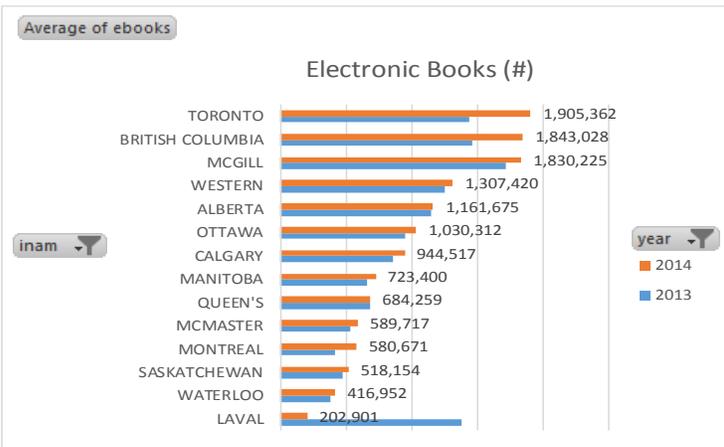


Appendix B: ARL Indicators – U of S results/ranking among U15 (2012-13 & 2013-14)

Library Collections and Collection Expenditures



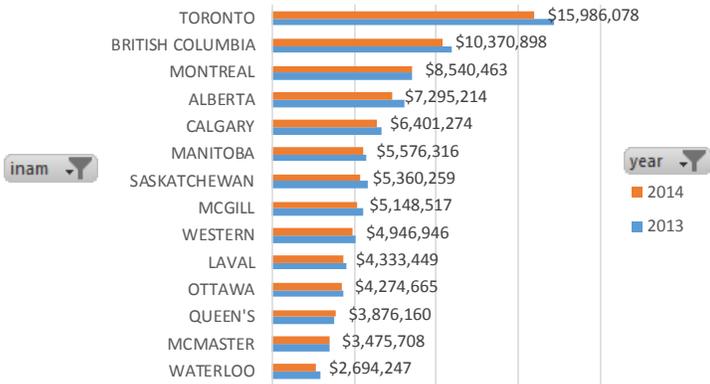
*Due to a calculation error, SK value should be: 2,622,249 (2013)



Library Salary Expenditures

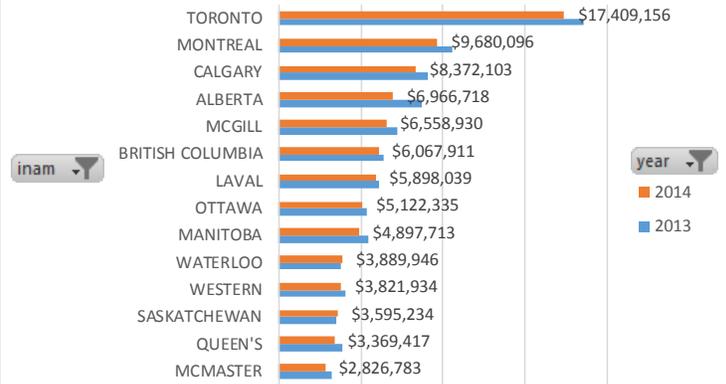
Average of salprf

Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



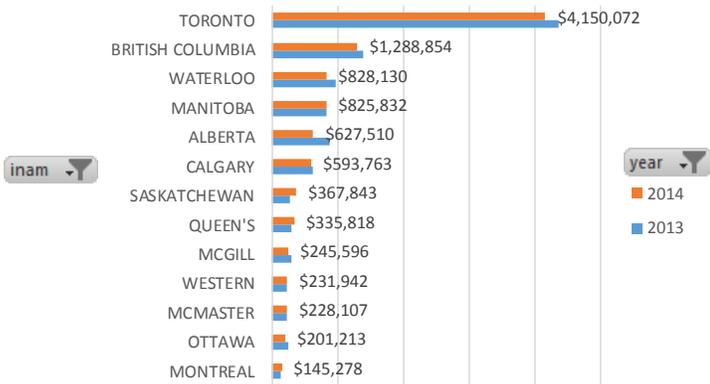
Average of salnprf

Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



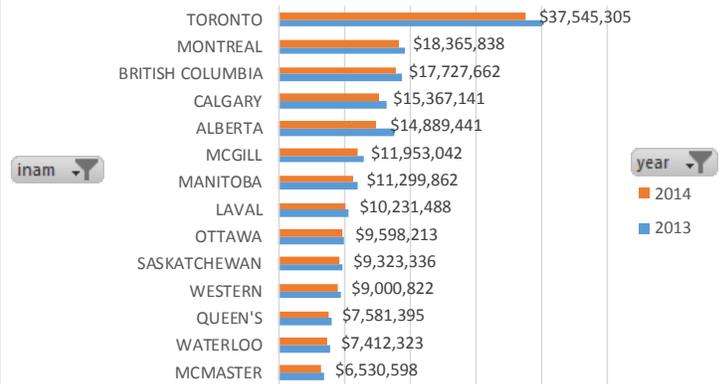
Average of salstud

Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



Average of totalsal

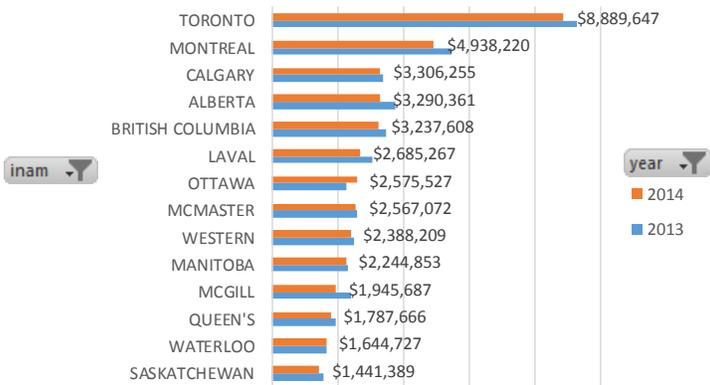
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



*Data missing for Laval

Average of fringedol

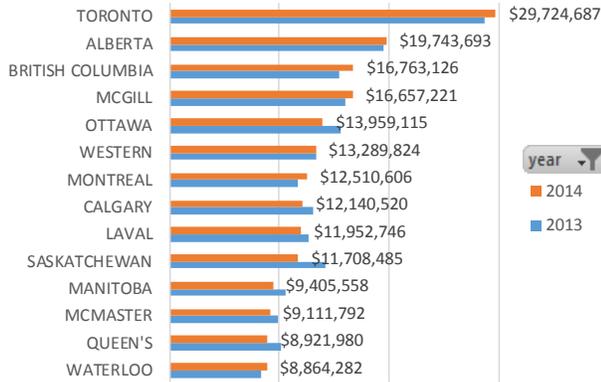
Fringe Benefits (\$)



Overall Library Expenditures

Average of explm

Total Materials (\$)



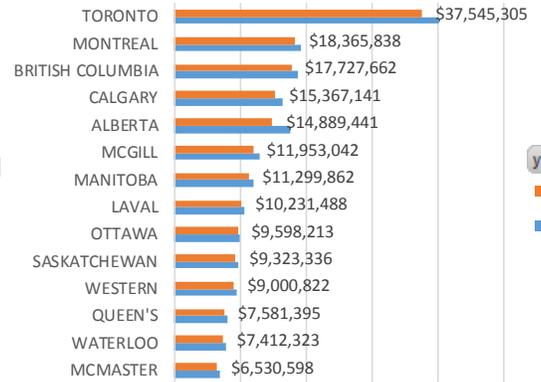
inam

year

2014
2013

Average of totals

Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



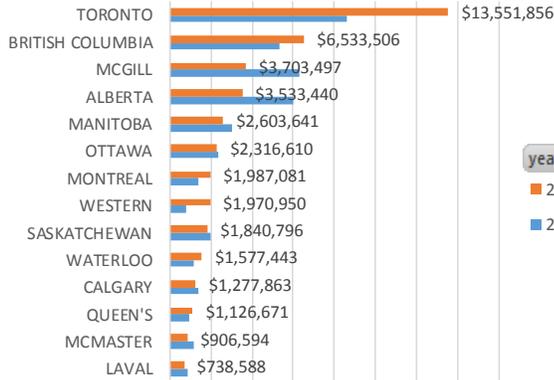
inam

year

2014
2013

Average of opexp

Other Operating Expenditures (\$)



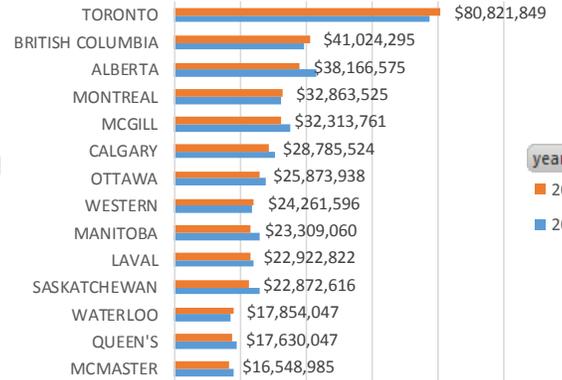
inam

year

2014
2013

Average of totexp

Total Expenditures (\$)



inam

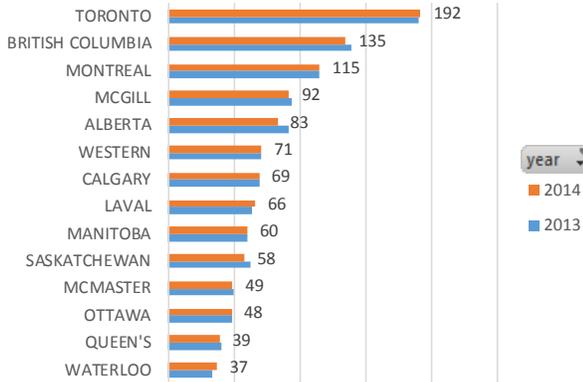
year

2014
2013

Library Personnel and Public Services

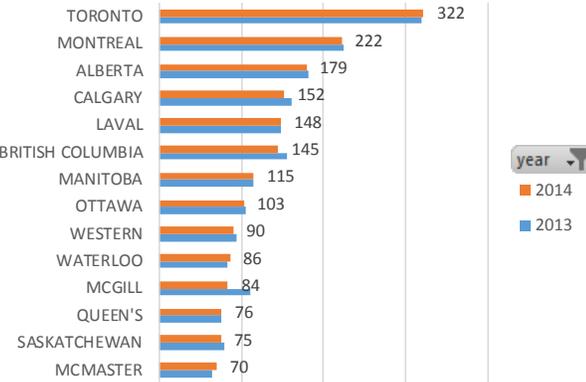
Average of prfstf

Professional Staff (FTE)



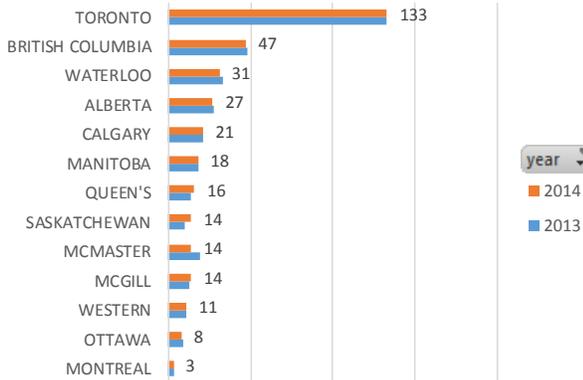
Average of nprfstf

Support Staff (FTE)



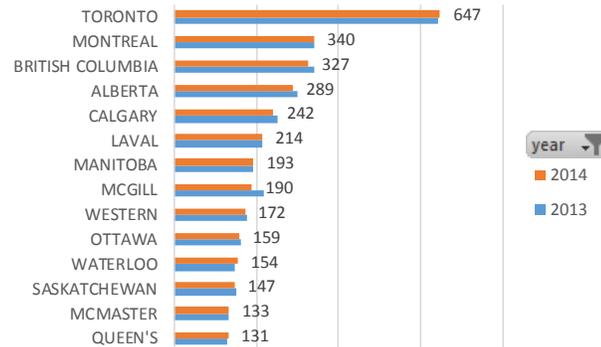
Average of studast

Student Assistants (FTE)



Average of totstfx

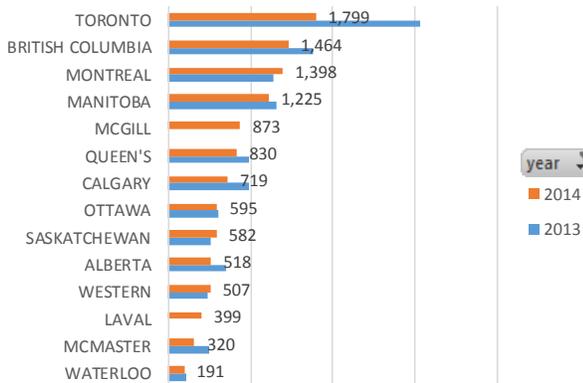
Total Professional, Support, and Student Assistant Staff (FTE)



*Data missing for Laval

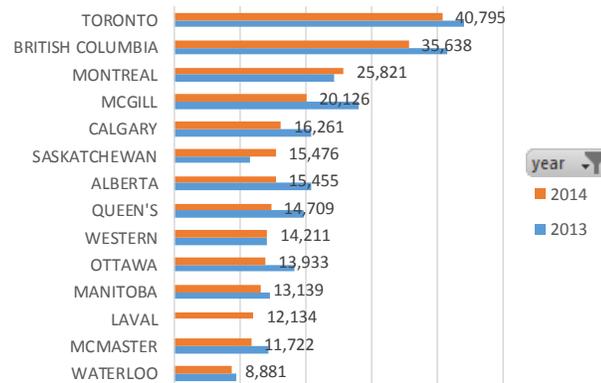
Average of grppres

Library Presentations to Groups (#)



Average of presptcp

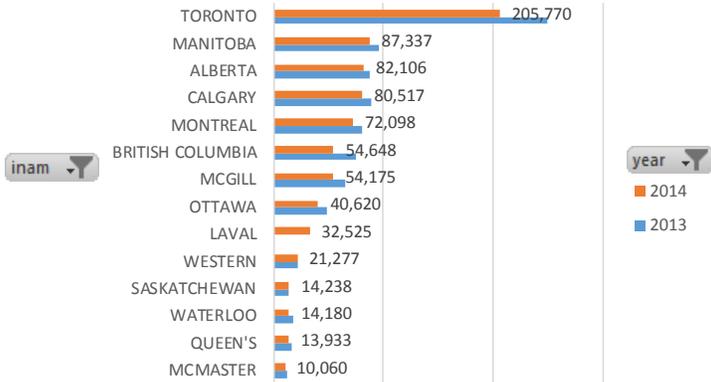
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



Library Personnel and Public Services (continued)

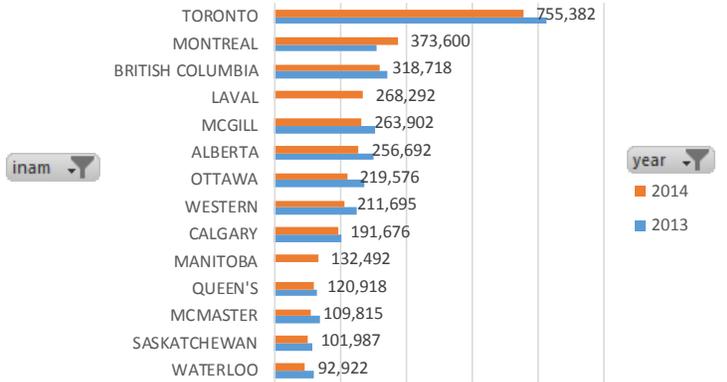
Average of refrans

Reference Transactions (#)



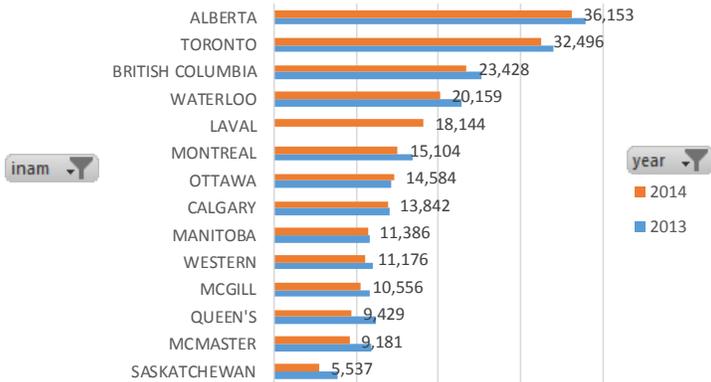
Average of initcirc

Initial Circulations (#)



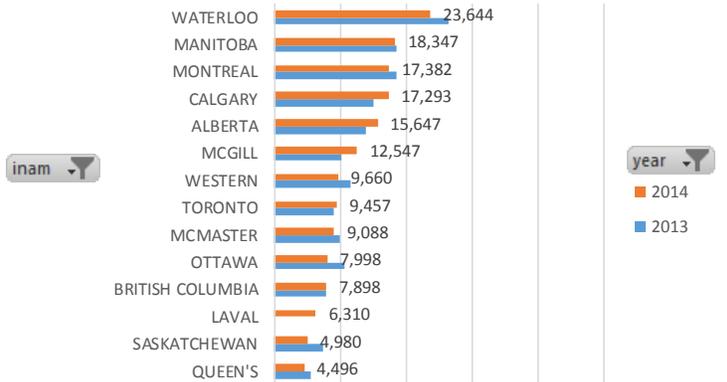
Average of illtot

Total Items Loaned (ILL) (#)



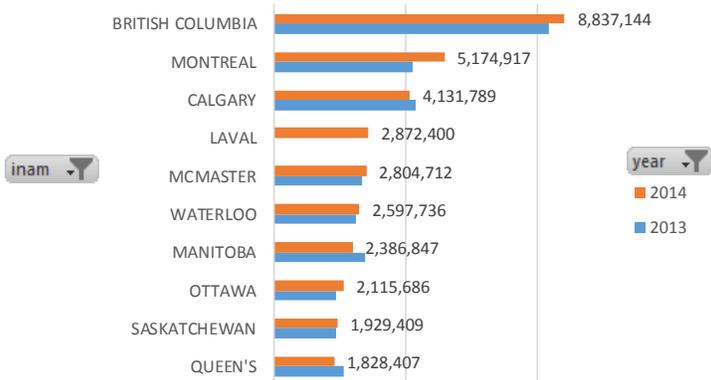
Average of ilbtot

Total Items Borrowed (ILL) (#)



Average of item

Full-text Article Requests (#)

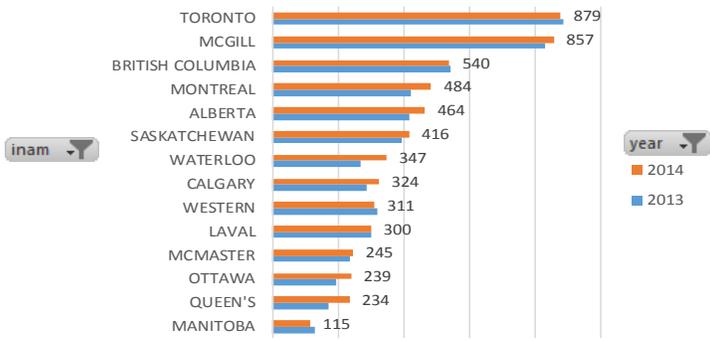


*Data missing for Alberta, McGill, Toronto, Western

University Faculty and Enrollment

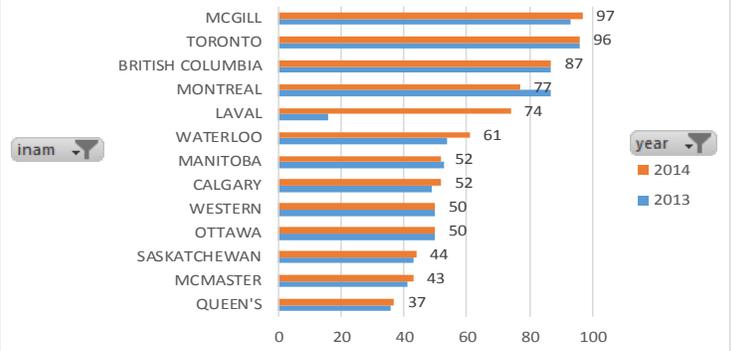
Average of phdawd

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)



Average of phdfd

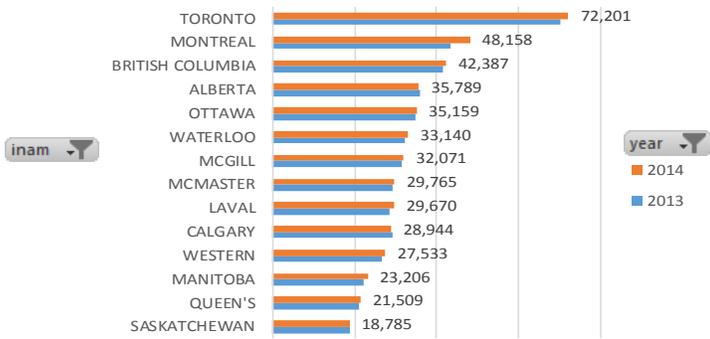
Doctor's Degree Fields (#)



*Data missing for Alberta

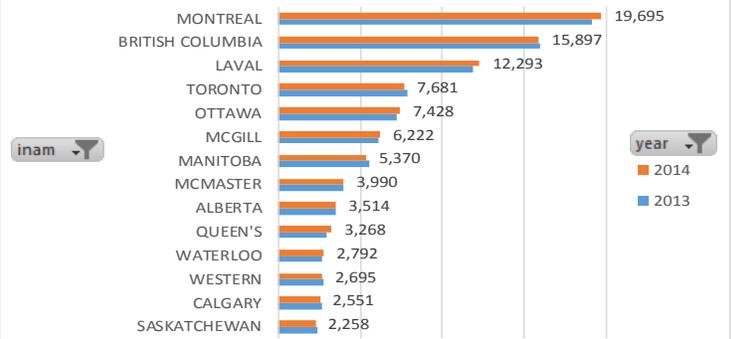
Average of totstu

Total Full-time Students (#)



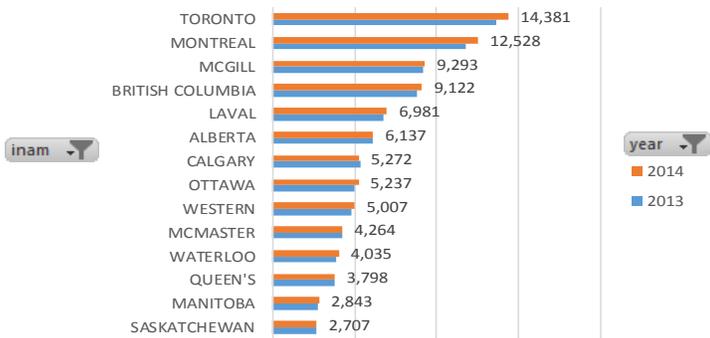
Average of totpt

Total Part-time Students (#)



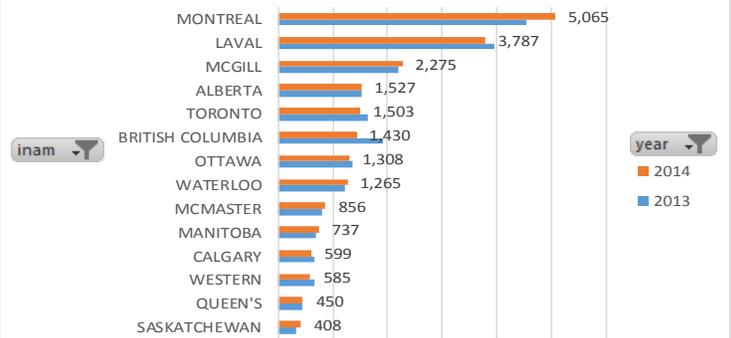
Average of gradstu

Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Average of gradpt

Graduate Part-time Students (#)



Average of fac

Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

