

LIBRARY RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Snapshots from librarian research activities

In this issue:

- Grants applied for and funding awarded, 2011-2020
- Research funding vs. research productivity
- Comparing new grant involvement with publishing activities

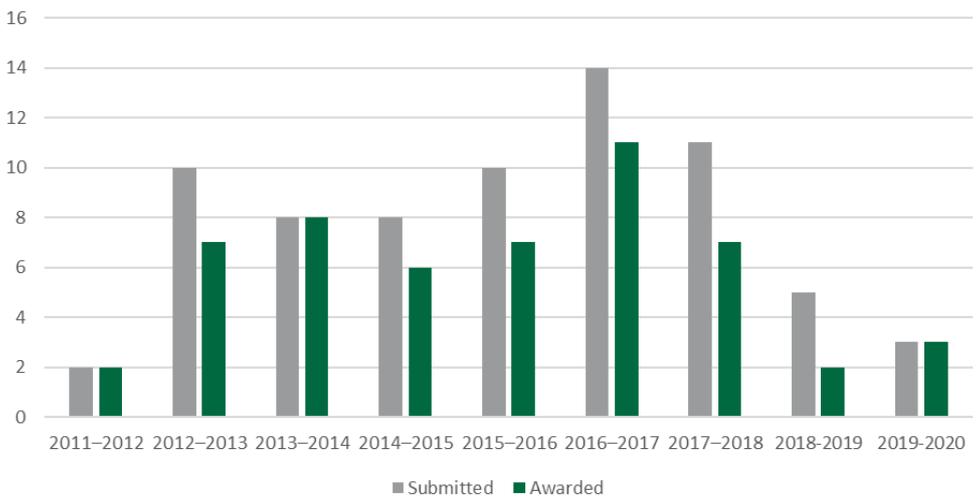
Grant and funding trends

Librarians' grant funding trends are a topic worth delving deeper into, because they reveal additional insights about research needs and activities beyond the dollars and grant applications themselves.

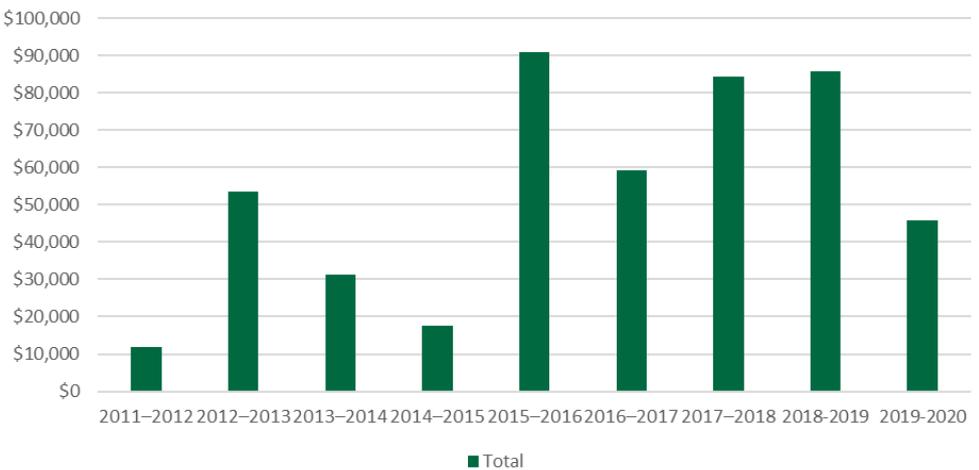
It's particularly interesting to note that overall numbers of grant applications do not necessarily directly affect librarians' dissemination activities; researchers remain engaged in the field regardless. Overall patterns also show how librarians routinely hold grants and publish regularly — but often not at the same time.

Librarians regularly apply for grant funding to support their research activities. While grant funding is by no means the only indicator of research intensity, tracking these numbers over time shows that librarians have collectively been awarded growing amounts of research funding, even in years when the number of grant applications is lower. This shows an ongoing interest in larger or longer-term grant projects alongside projects with shorter turnaround times.

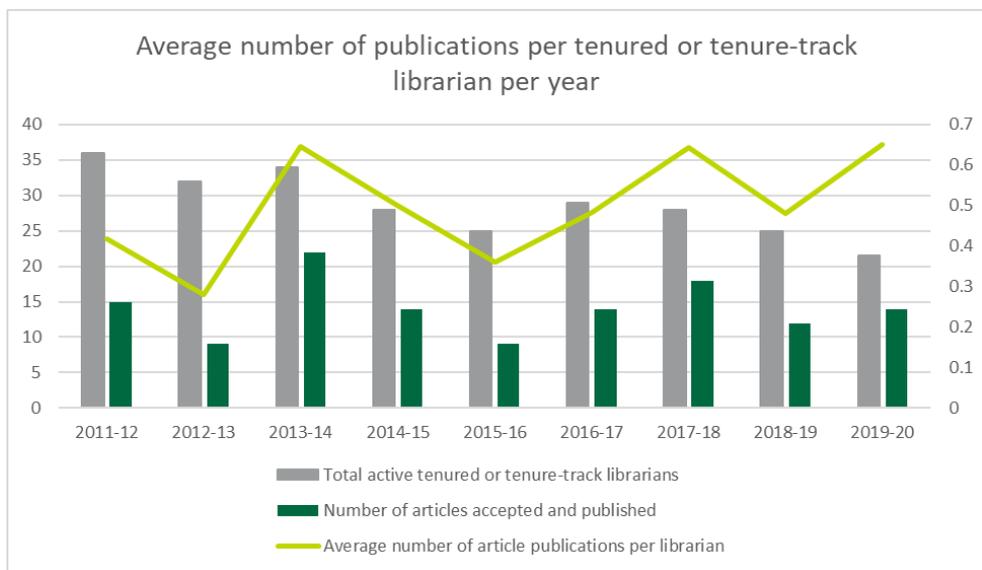
Grants submitted and awarded as PI, 2011-2020



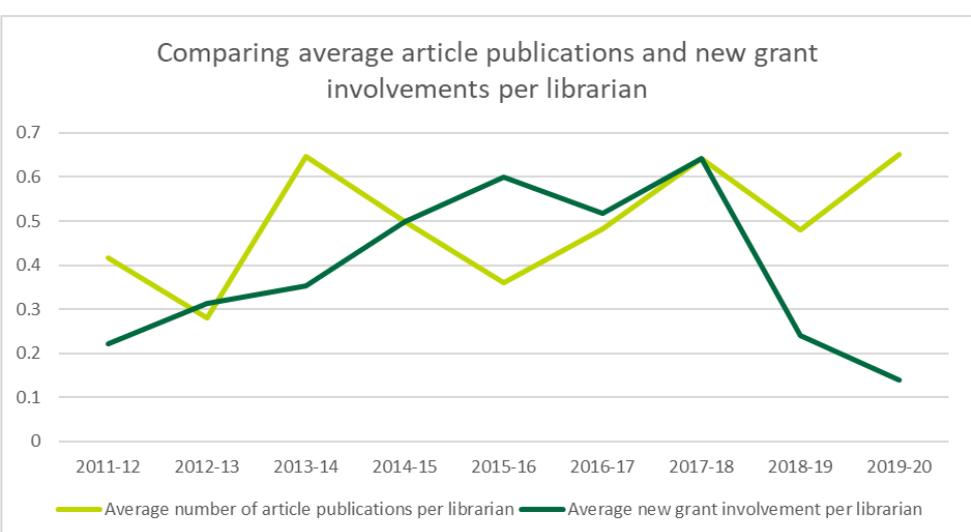
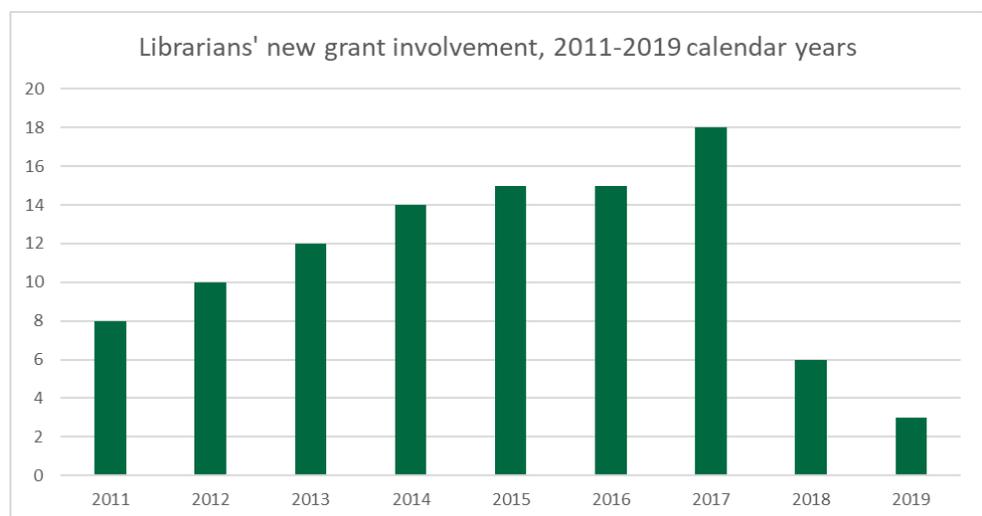
Total grant funding awarded to PIs, 2011-2020



When viewing these numbers in conjunction with librarians' dissemination activities (discussed in more detail in the February 2021 issue of this newsletter), it is clear that the number or size of grants has little bearing on the extent to which librarians engage with research.



It is also important to note that grants with librarians as PIs comprise only one part of the research funding landscape. Each year, librarians become collaborators on grants, demonstrating the value of librarians' research expertise in research across disciplines and institutions. In general, the grants that librarians are involved with as collaborators are grants that are two or more years long; in other words, the figure below shows the number of new grants each year, rather than the total involvement each year.



By comparing average article publications and new grant involvements per librarian, it is evident that in general, librarians publish more when they are not beginning new grant projects. New grant involvements lead to publications a year or two later.