



Analysis of ARL Statistics 2020: Summary of USask versus U15 Peers

Prepared by Carisa Polischuk,
Assessment Analyst, University Library,
University of Saskatchewan
library_assessment@usask.ca



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Disclaimer

Prior to reviewing this report, please see the following quote from an ARL published report¹ 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

The [University Library Assessment Program](#) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) provides a wealth of information to help understand client needs and the overall effectiveness of the library; determine trends and benchmark versus our peers; assess progress toward [strategic commitments](#); and demonstrate library value to the University community.

Aligned with the library’s strategic planning process, the University Library's assessment program has three broad purposes (*quality improvement, quality assurance, and accountability*) and consists of four major components (*library data and statistics, library surveys, key performance indicators and benchmarking, and other assessment related activities*).

On an annual basis, the University Library submits data to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) along with all other ARL member libraries. This includes data on library collections and expenditures; library salary expenditures; overall library expenditures; library personnel; library use, facilities, and services; and doctor’s degrees, faculty, and enrolment. ARL uses this data to publish annual statistics for a number of indicators, percentages and ratios, and the library investment index.

USask 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.

This report represents the University Library’s analysis of the 2020³ ARL Statistics summarizing the results for USask versus U15 peers and demonstrates our commitment to move beyond submitting annual library statistics to analyzing and using published results 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 U15 universities: Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, Laval, Manitoba, McGill, McMaster, Ottawa, Queen’s, Saskatchewan, Toronto, Waterloo, Western. Missing Dalhousie and Montreal (not ARL members).

³ ARL Statistics 2018-2019, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2020/>

ARL Background⁴

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) is a non-profit organization consisting of 124 research libraries in the US and Canada consisting of the largest research libraries in North America. This includes 116 university libraries and 8 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	100	8	108
Canada	16	0	16
Total	116	8	124

ARL Indicators⁵

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

Library Collections and Expenditures

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

Library Salary Expenditures

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

Overall Library 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.)

Library Personnel

Professional staff; support staff; student assistants; total staff

Library Use, Facilities, and Services

Library presentations to groups; participants in group presentations; reference transactions; initial circulations; full-text article requests; regular searches; federated searches; total items loaned/borrowed; annual gate count

Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

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

⁴ List of ARL Members, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://www.arl.org/list-of-arl-members/>

⁵ Results not shown for the following four ARL indicators due to lack of USask and/or U15 peer data and/or consistency issues with data collected: fringe benefits (designated %); expenditures from external sources (bibliographic utilities, consortia/networks, etc.); regular searches; federated searches

ARL Percentages and Ratios

Using data from the indicators listed on the previous page, ARL calculates and publishes the following percentages and ratios to help provide a picture of 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)

Results: ARL Indicators

The following table summarizes the 2020 University of Saskatchewan (USask) ARL results compared to 2019 (including % change) and to the U15 average (2020). The overall USask ranking among U15 peers is also shown for each indicator. The graphs in Appendix A illustrate USask results compared to the U15 average for each ARL indicator from 2016 to 2020. The graphs in Appendix B show USask results/ranking among U15 peers for 2019 and 2020 for each ARL indicator.

USask Results: Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 2020 Statistics						
ARL Indicators	USask		Change		U15 Average	Ranking vs.
	2019	2020	↑↓	%	2020	U15*
Library Collections and Expenditures (USD)						
Titles Held	2,609,356	2,761,043	↑	5.8	4,827,021	11th (13)
Volumes in Library	3,084,856	3,323,226	↑	7.7	5,914,933	10th (13)
Electronic Books	936,229	1,078,888	↑	15.2	1,935,021	11th (13)
One-time Resource Purchases	\$1,052,422	\$935,774	↓	-11.1	2,461,737	10th (13)
Ongoing Resource Purchases	\$9,442,887	\$8,673,494	↓	-8.1	10,181,082	10th (13)
Collection Support ¹	\$352,109	\$481,627	↑	36.8	380,913	5th (13)
Total Library Materials	\$10,847,418	\$10,090,895	↓	-6.97	13,023,732	10th (13)
Library Salary Expenditures (USD)						
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff	\$4,814,837	\$4,336,386	↓	-9.9	5,976,507	9th (13)
Salaries & Wages Support Staff	\$2,487,225	\$2,650,682	↑	6.6	4,288,703	10th (13)
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants ²	\$410,069	\$396,108	↓	-3.4	691,151	7th (12)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$7,712,131	\$7,383,176	↓	-4.3	10,903,195	8th (13)
Fringe Benefits ³	\$1,183,004	\$1,195,689	↑	1.1	2,476,689	12th (12)
Overall Library Expenditures (USD)						
Total Library Materials	\$10,847,418	\$10,090,895	↓	-6.97	13,023,732	10th (13)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$7,712,131	\$7,383,176	↓	-4.3	10,903,195	8th (13)
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,051,454	\$1,055,944	↑	0.4	2,319,468	11th (13)
Total Library Expenditures	\$19,611,003	\$18,530,015	↓	-5.5	26,246,395	10th (13)
Library Personnel						
Professional Staff (FTE)	62	48	↓	-22.6	87	11th (13)
Support Staff (FTE)	63	61	↓	-3.2	101	11th (13)
Student Assistants (FTE) ⁴	15	10	↓	-33.33	32	9th (11)
Total Staff (FTE)	140	119	↓	-15.0	215	12th (13)
Library Use, Facilities, and Services						
Library Presentations to Groups	1,143	1,070	↓	-6.4	830	4th (13)
Participants in Group Presentations	14,569	13,880	↓	-4.7	21,329	9th (13)
Reference Transactions	23,354	20,867	↓	-10.6	45,449	9th (13)
Initial Circulations	60,324	45,415	↓	-24.7	127,352	13th (13)
Full-Text Article Requests ⁵	2,557,835	1,854,258	↓	-27.5	4,488,881	10th (11)
Annual Gate Count	1,855,994	1,796,374	↓	-3.2	1,767,020	6th (13)
Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries	5,834	5,010	↓	-14.1	11,848	12th (13)
Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	4,677	4,865	↑	4.0	7,753	12th (13)
Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment						
Doctor's Degrees Awarded	493	469	↓	-4.9	433	7th (13)
Doctor's Degree Fields ⁶	48	49	↑	2.1	66	8th (12)
Total Full-time Students	20,156	20,267	↑	0.6	36,360	13th (13)
Total Part-time Students	2,244	2,205	↓	-1.7	5,762	12th (13)
Graduate Full-time Students	3,013	3,039	↑	0.9	7,122	13th (13)
Graduate Part-Time Students	396	418	↑	5.6	1,245	12th (13)
Full-time Instructional Faculty	987	1,014	↑	2.7	1,655	12th (13)

*Number in brackets = Total U15 institutions with ARL data available. Missing Dalhousie and Montreal (not ARL members).

¹Includes Ottawa in U15 average with \$0 collection support

²Missing Laval from U15 average; Includes Manitoba in U15 average with \$0 in salaries and wages

³Missing Ottawa from U15 average

⁴Missing Laval and Manitoba from U15 average

⁵Missing Alberta and Calgary from U15 average

⁶Missing Alberta from U15 average

Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2020 tables)

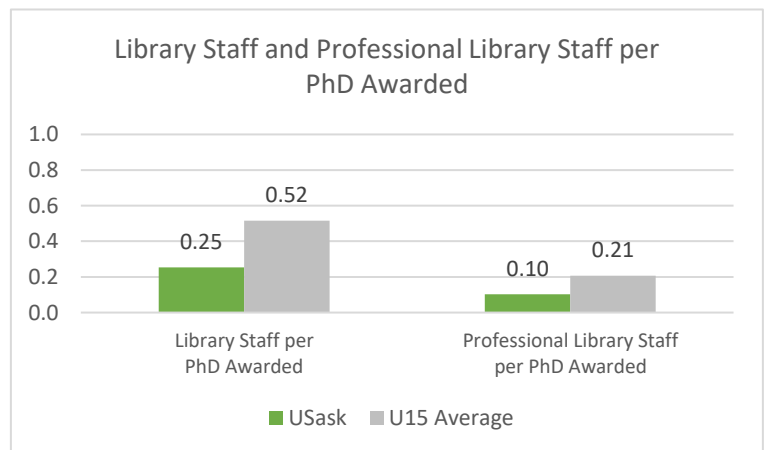
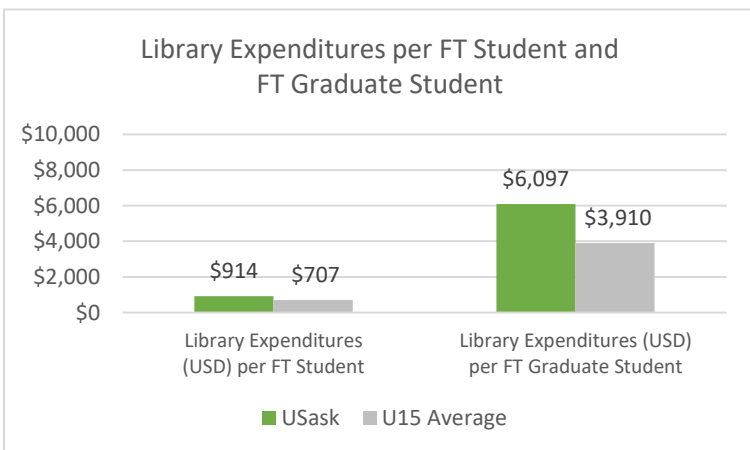
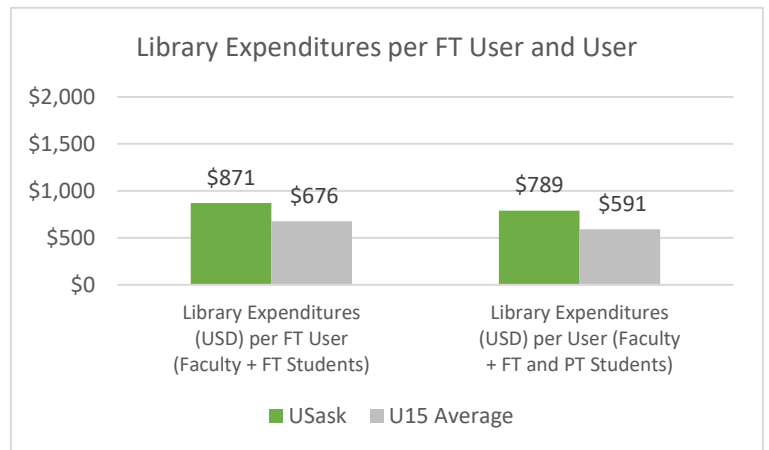
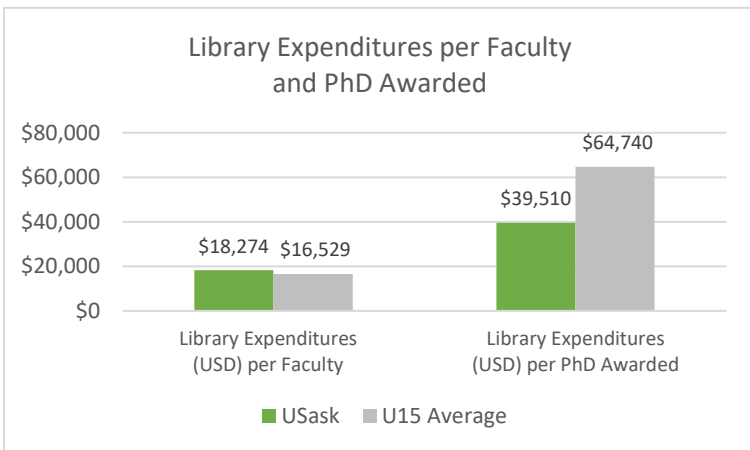
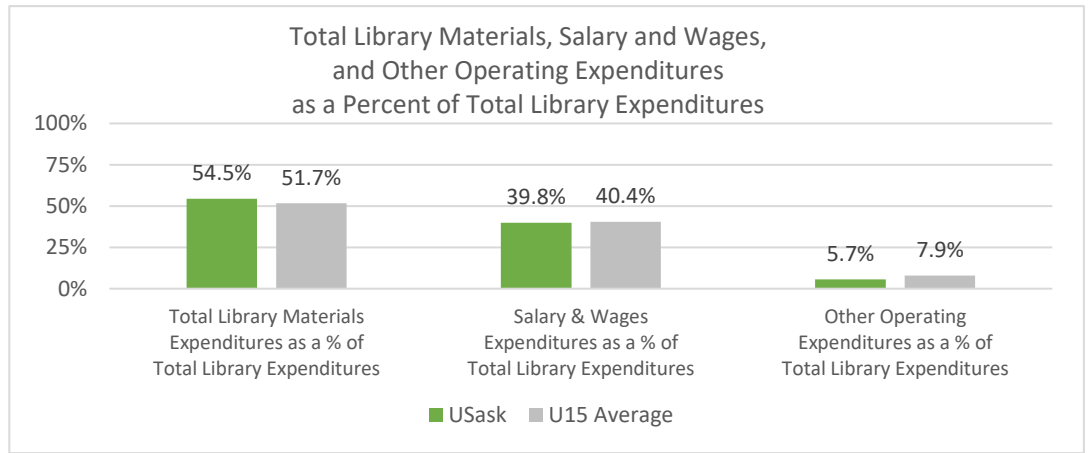
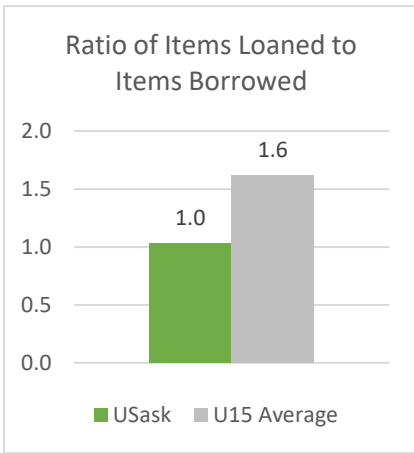
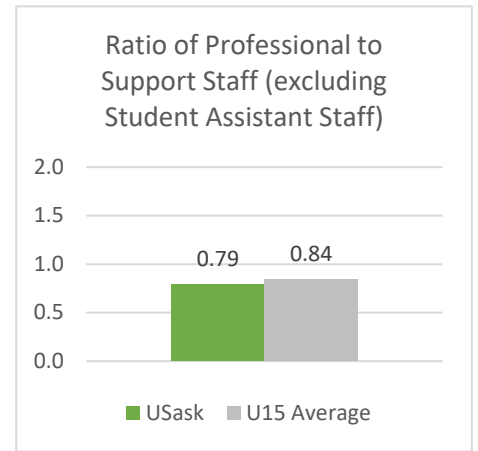
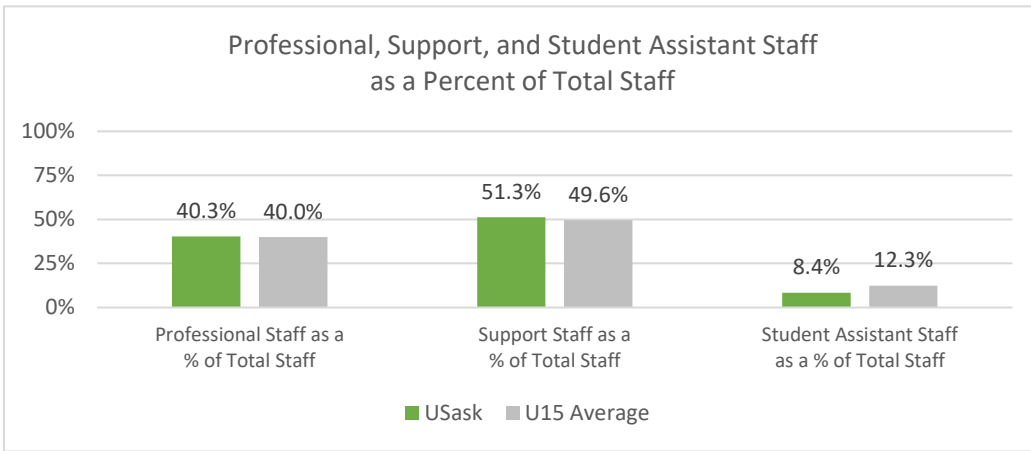
The following two tables summarize 2020 ARL percentages and ratios for USask compared to the U15 average.

ARL Percentages and Ratios (2020)	ARL Indicators	USask	U15 Average	USask Ratio	U15 Ratio	USask % Difference	At USask...	Compared to the U15 average, at USask...																																																																																						
Professional Staff as a % of Total Staff	Professional Staff	48	87	40.3%	40.0%	-44.8	Professional staff make up 40% of total staff	Professional staff make up an almost equal proportion of total staff (45% less professional staff; 45% less total staff)																																																																																						
	Total Staff	119	215			-44.6			Support Staff as a % of Total Staff	Support Staff	61	101	51.3%	49.6%	-39.7	Support staff make up 51% of total staff	Support staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (40% less support staff; 45% less total staff)	Total Staff	119	215	-44.6	Student Assistant Staff as a % of Total Staff	Student Assistants	10	32	8.4%	12.3%	-68.3	Student assistants make up 8% of total staff	Student assistant staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (68% less student assistant staff; 45% less total staff)	Total Staff	119	215	-44.6	Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)	Professional Staff	48	87	0.79	0.84	-44.8	There are 0.79 professional staff for every support staff	There are less professional staff for every support staff (45% less professional staff; 40% less support staff)	Support Staff	61	101	-39.7	Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed	Items Loaned to Other Libraries	5,010	11,848	1.03	1.62	-57.7	There are 1.03 items loaned for every item borrowed	There are less items loaned for every item borrowed (58% less items loaned; 37% less items borrowed)	Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	4,865	7,753	-37.2	Total Library Materials Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Total Library Materials (USD)	\$10,090,895	\$13,023,732	54.5%	51.7%	-22.5	Library materials expenditures make up 55% of total	Library materials expenditures make up a greater proportion of total (23% less materials expenditures; 29% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	-29.4	Salary and Wages Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Salary and Wages (USD)	\$7,383,176	\$10,903,195	39.8%	40.4%	-32.3	Salary and wages expenditures make up 40% of total	Salary and wages expenditures make up a slightly smaller proportion of total (32% less salaries and wages expenditures; 29% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	-29.4	Other Operating Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Other Operating Expenditures (USD)	\$1,055,944	\$2,319,468	5.7%	7.9%	-54.5	Other operating expenditures make up 5.7% of total
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ARL Percentages and Ratios (2020)	ARL Indicators	USask	U15 Average	USask Ratio	U15 Ratio	USask % Difference	At USask...	Compared to the U15 average, at USask...																																																																																						
Library Expenditures per Faculty	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$18,274	\$16,529	-29.4	\$18,274 is spent for every faculty member	We spend more per faculty (29% less library expenditures; 39% less faculty)																																																																																						
	Faculty	1,014	1,655			-38.7			Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$914	\$707	-29.4	\$914 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (29% less library expenditures; 44% less FT students)	FT Student	20,267	36,360	-44.3	Library Expenditures per FT Graduate Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$6,097	\$3,910	-29.4	\$6,097 is spent for every FT graduate student	We spend more per FT graduate student (29% less library expenditures, 57% less FT graduate students)	FT Graduate Student	3,039	7,122	-57.3	Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$871	\$676	-29.4	\$871 is spent for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (29% less library expenditures; 44% less FT users)	FT User	21,281	38,015	-44.0	Library Expenditures per User (Faculty + FT and PT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$789	\$591	-29.4	\$789 is spent for every user	We spend more per user (29% less library expenditures; 46% less users)	User	23,486	43,777	-46.4	Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$39,510	\$64,740	-29.4	\$39,510 is spent for every PhD awarded	We spend less per PhD awarded (29% less library expenditures; 8.2% more PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	469	433	8.2	Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Total Staff	119	215	0.25	0.52	-44.6	There are 0.25 library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less library staff for every PhD awarded (45% less library staff; 8.2% more PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	469	433	8.2	Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	48	87	0.10	0.21	-44.8	There are 0.10 professional library staff for every PhD awarded
Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,530,015	\$26,246,395	\$914	\$707	-29.4	\$914 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (29% less library expenditures; 44% less FT students)																																																																																						
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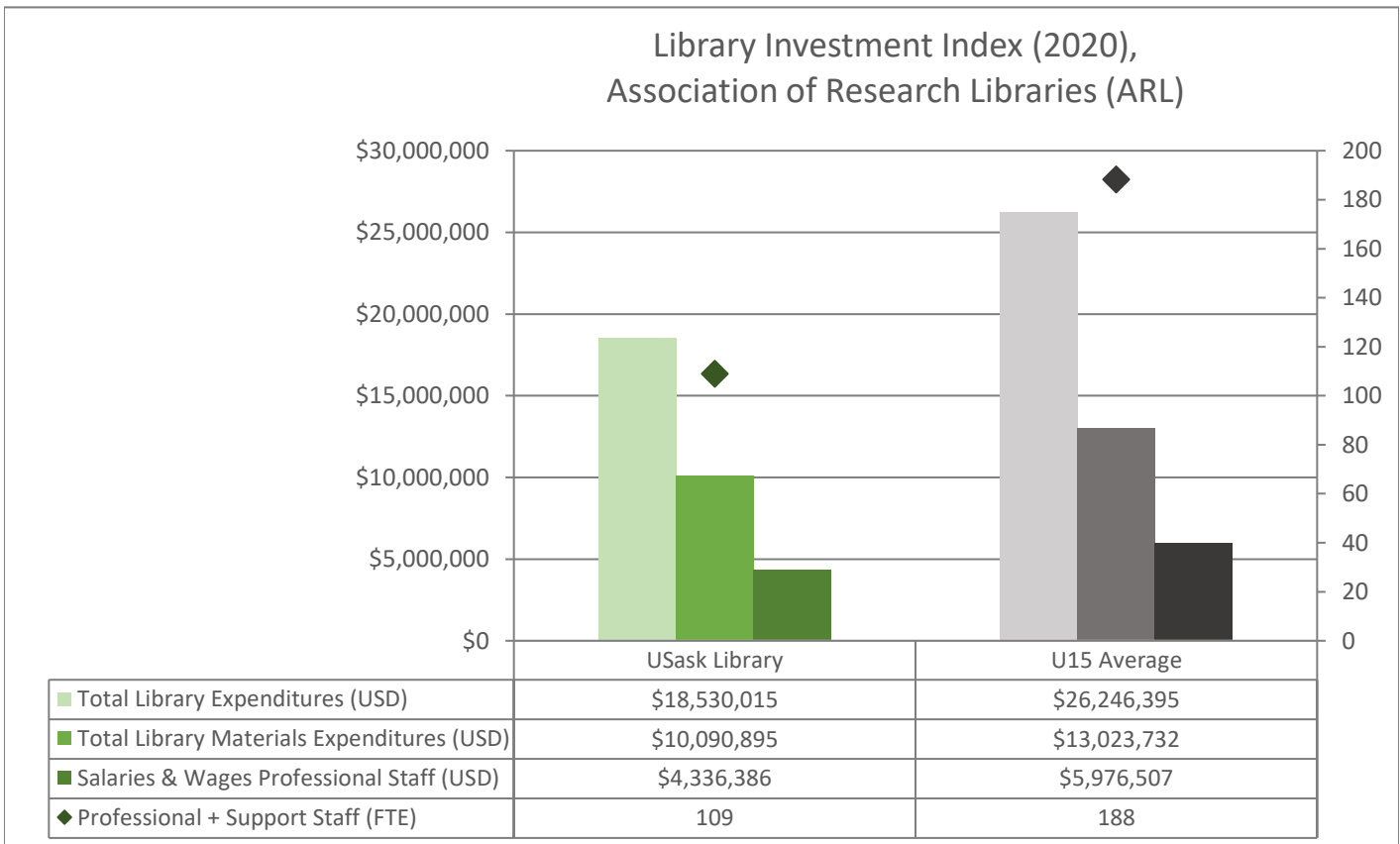
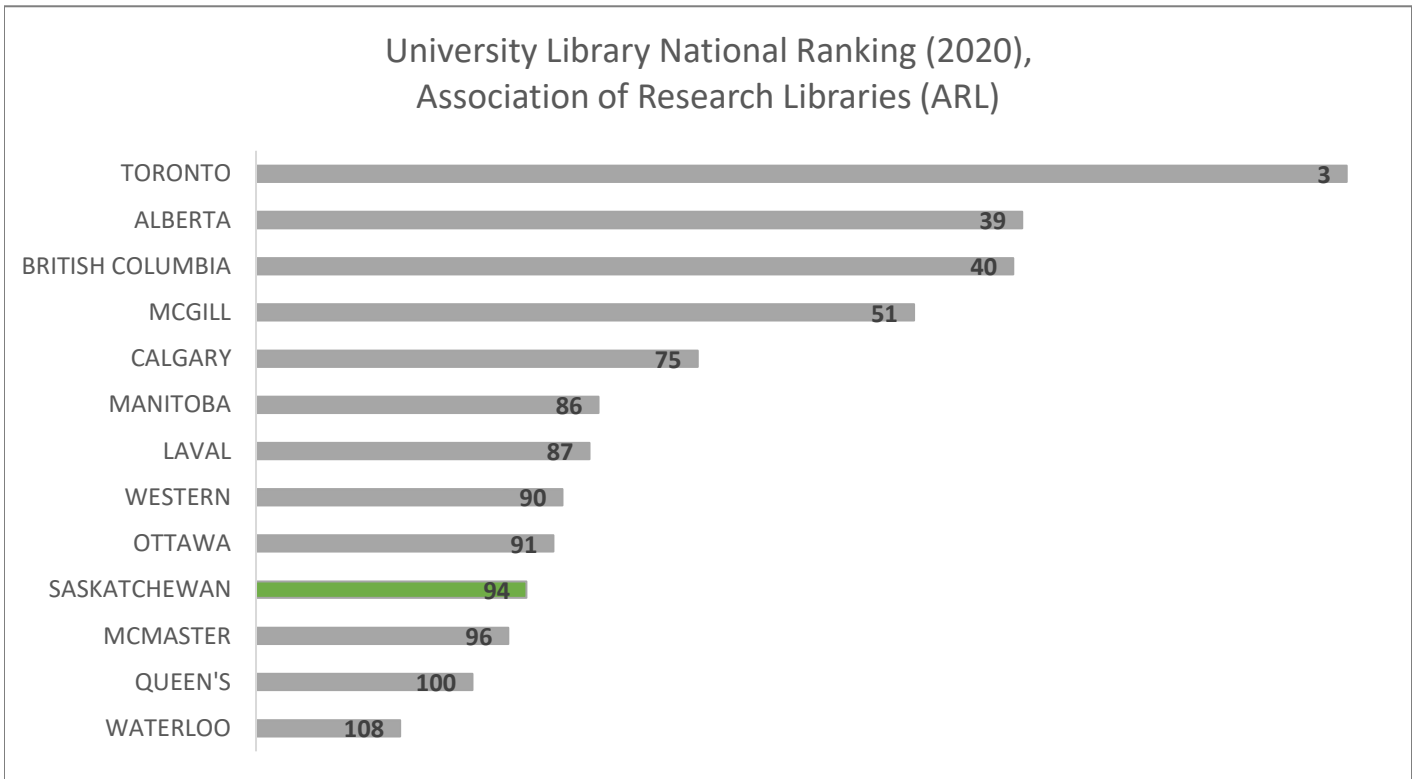
Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2020 graphs)

The following graphs illustrate 2020 ARL percentages and ratios for USask compared to the U15 average.



Results: ARL Library Investment Index

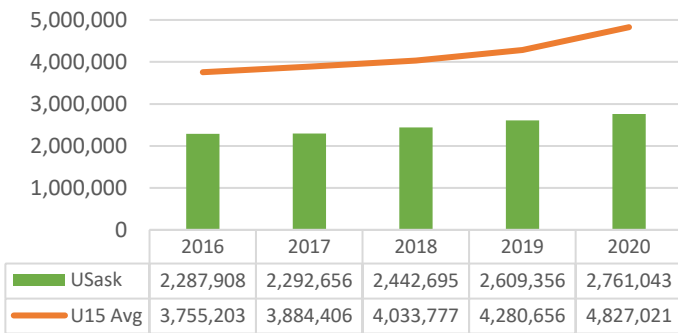
The first graph depicts the ARL Library Investment Index ranking for thirteen U15 institutions in 2020 (Dalhousie and Montreal not ARL members). The second graph shows the values for each of the four variables used to calculate the Library Investment Index at USask compared to the average of thirteen U15 peer institutions in 2020.



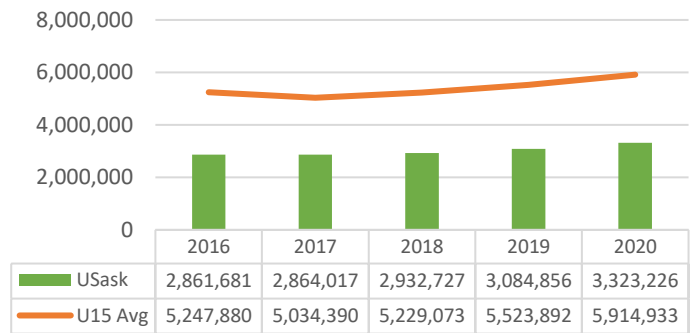
Appendix A: ARL Indicators – USask versus U15 average (2016 to 2020)

Library Collections and Expenditures

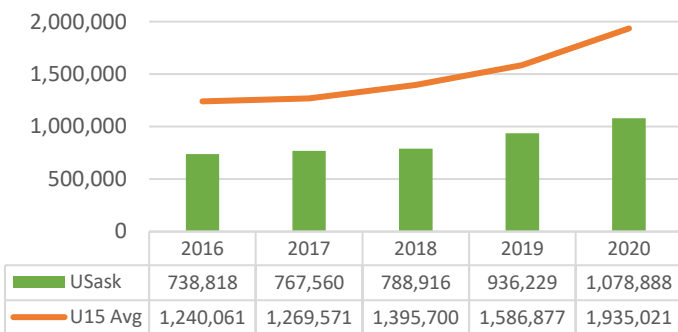
Titles Held (#)



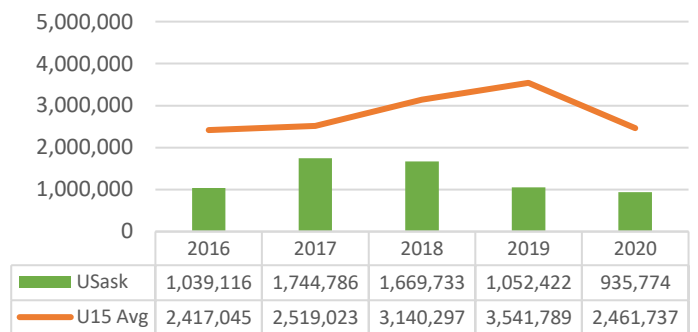
Volumes in Library (#)



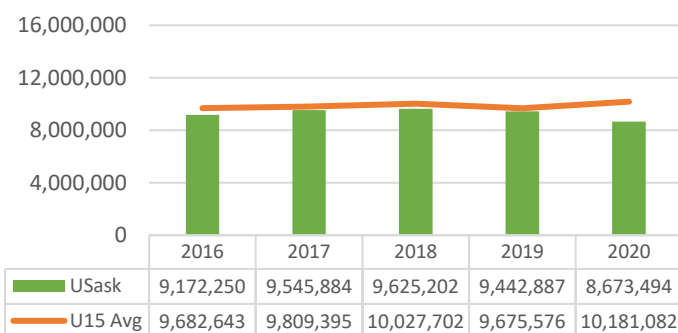
Electronic Books (#)



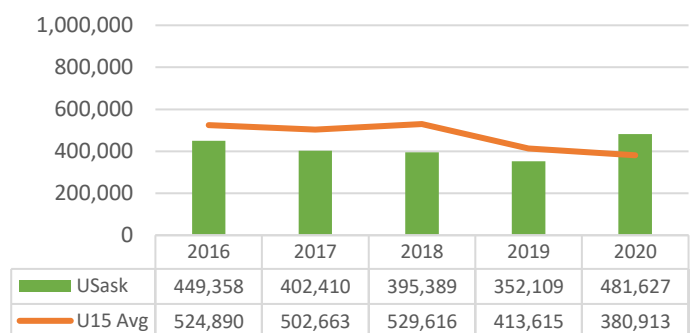
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)

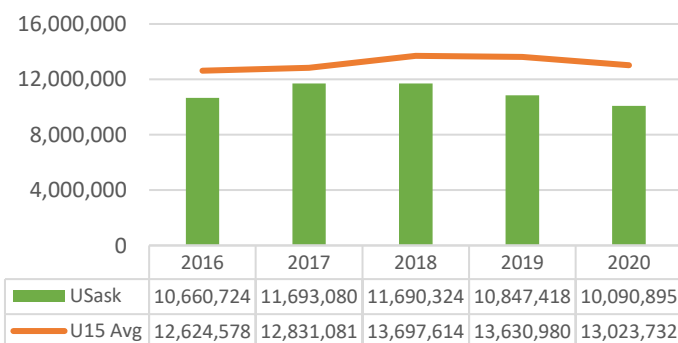


Collection Support (\$)



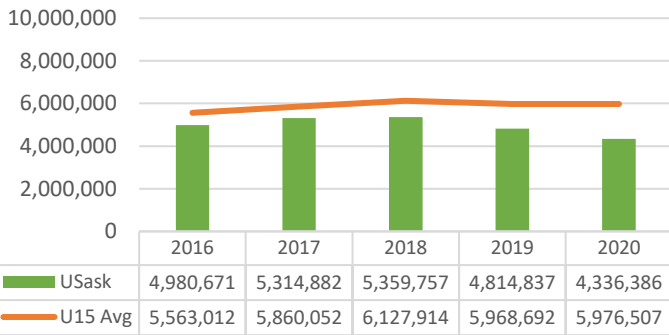
*2019 & 2020: Includes \$0 collection support from Ottawa in U15 average

Total Expenditures for Materials (\$)

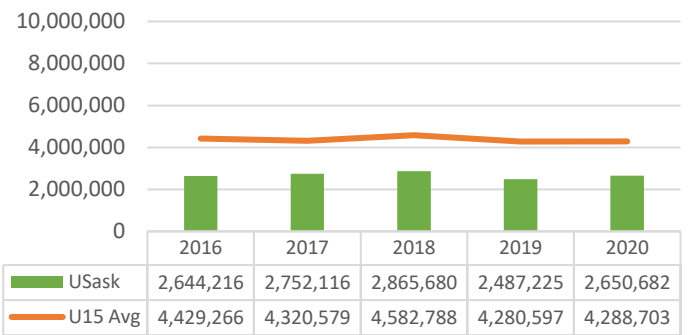


Library Salary Expenditures

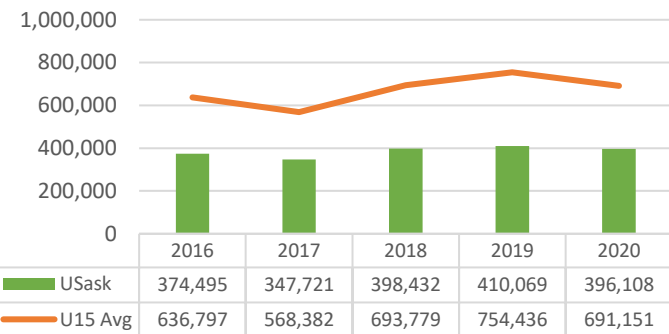
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



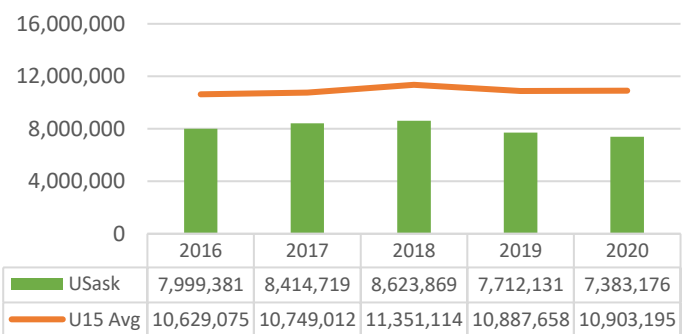
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



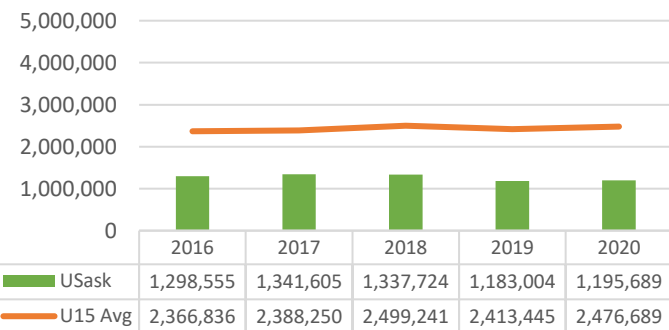
*2018 & 2020: Includes \$0 salaries & wages from Manitoba; Laval missing from U15 avg.

*2019: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

*2017: Includes \$0 salaries & wages from Laval and Manitoba in U15 average

*2016: Includes \$0 salaries & wages from Laval in U15 average

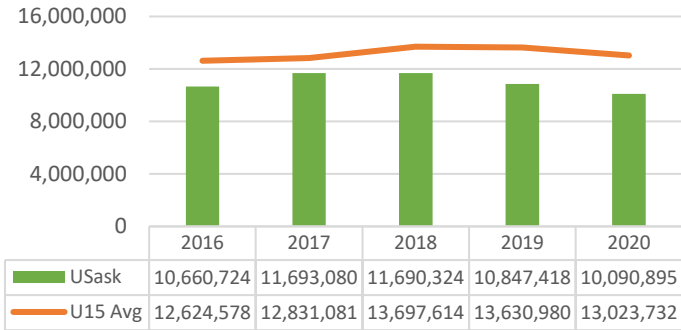
Fringe Benefits (\$)



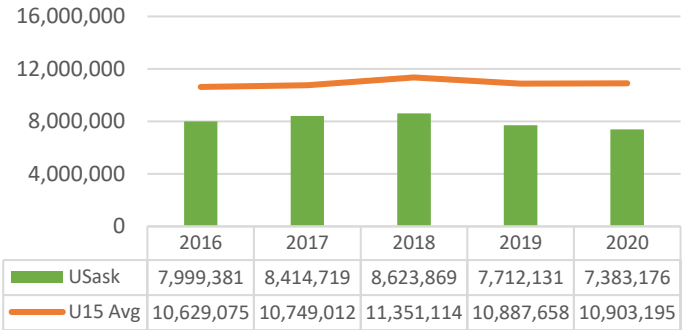
*2020: Ottawa missing from U15 average

Overall Library Expenditures

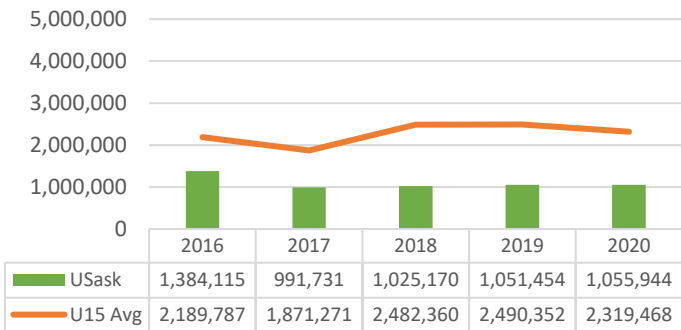
Total Materials (\$)



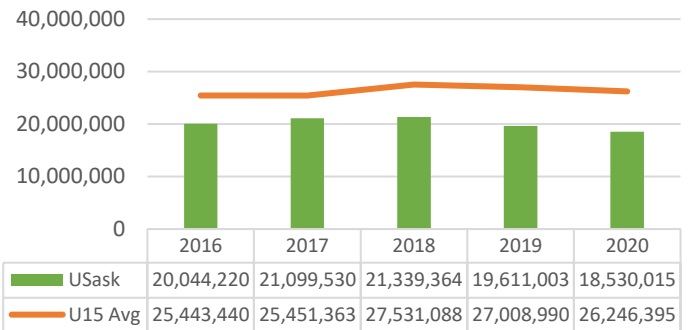
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

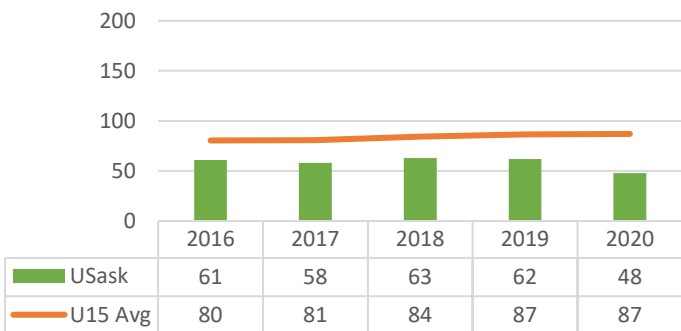


Total Expenditures (\$)

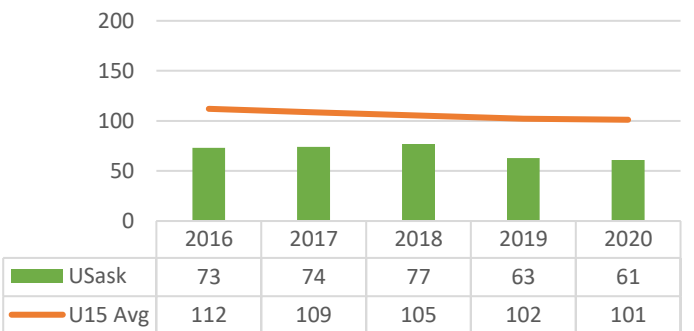


Library Personnel

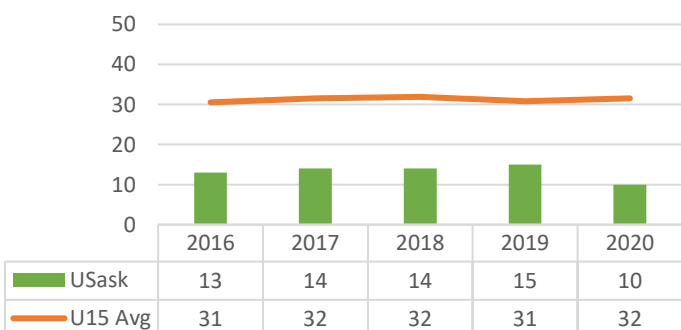
Professional Staff (FTE)



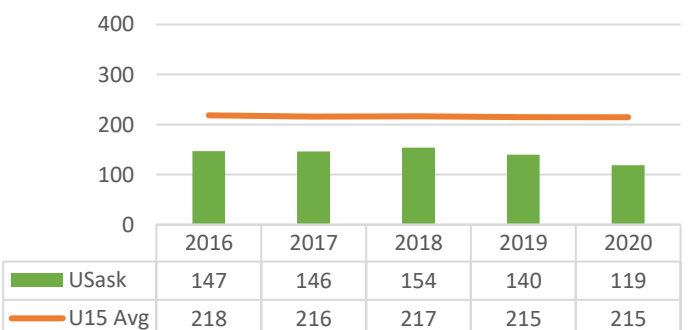
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)



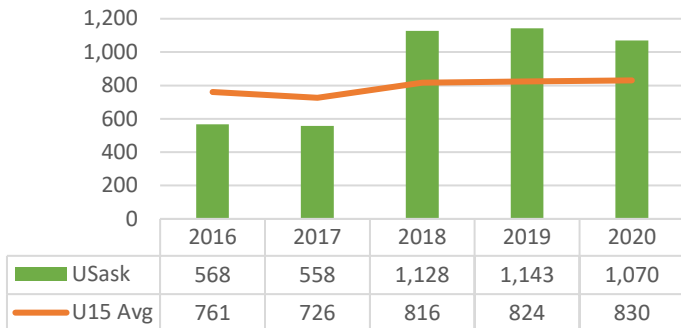
Total Staff (FTE)



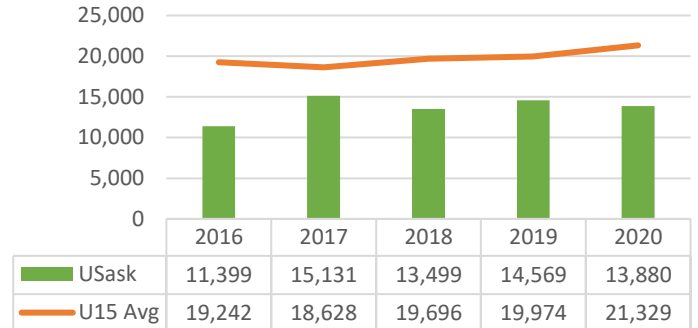
*2016-2020: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

Library Use, Facilities, and Services

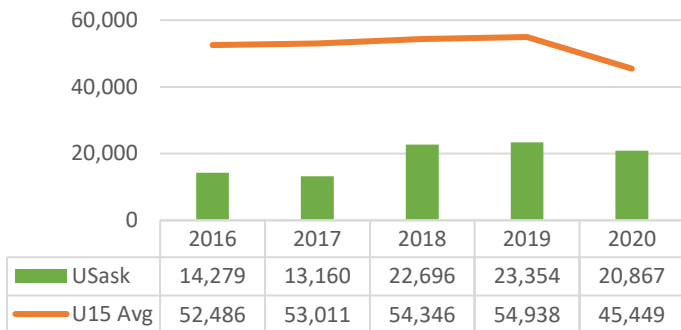
Library Presentations to Groups (#)



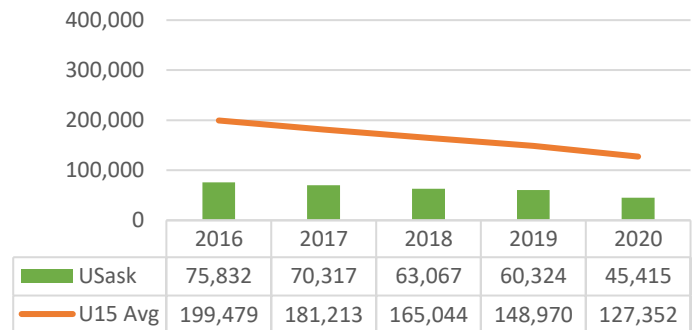
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



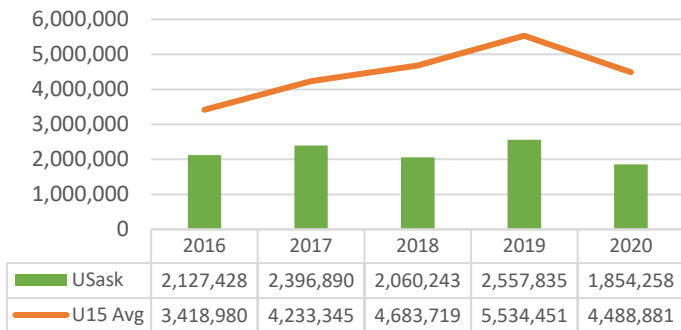
Reference Transactions (#)



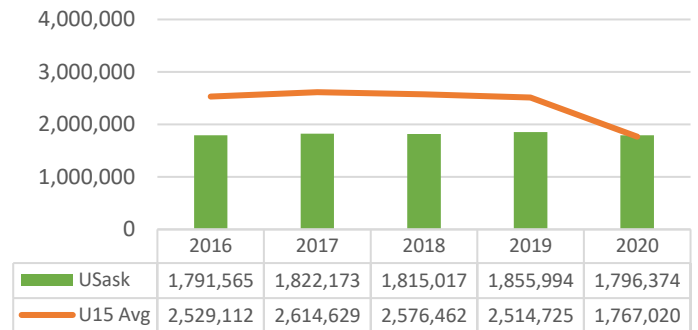
Initial Circulations (#)



Full-text Article Requests (#)



Annual Gate Count (#)



*2020: Alberta, Calgary missing from U15 average

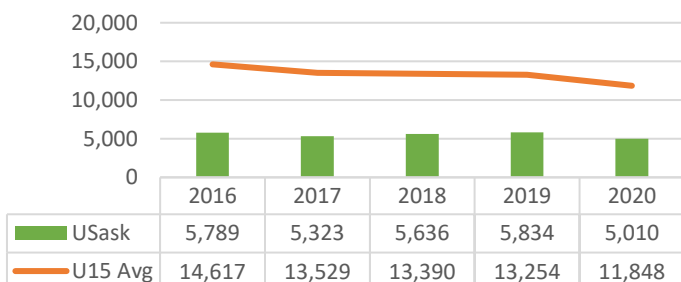
*2017 & 2019: Alberta, Western missing from U15 average

*2018: Alberta missing from U15 average

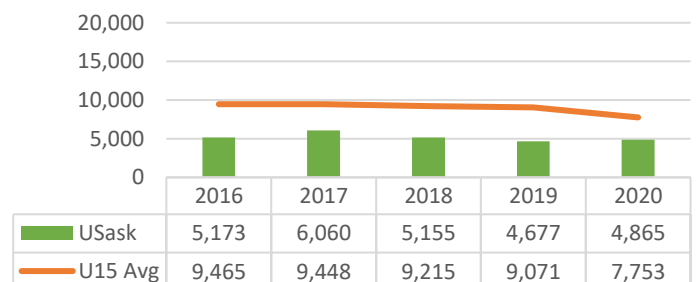
*2016: Alberta, McMaster, Toronto, Western missing from U15 average

*2016: Waterloo missing from U15 average

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)

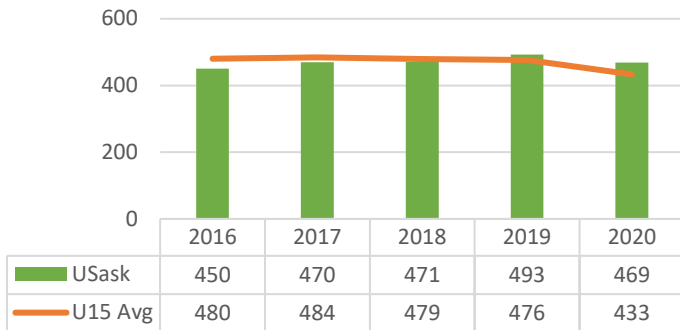


Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)

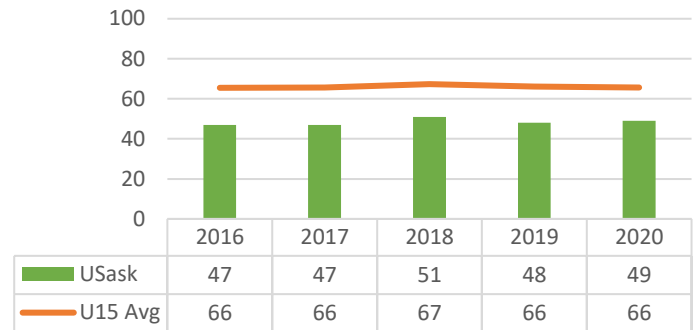


Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

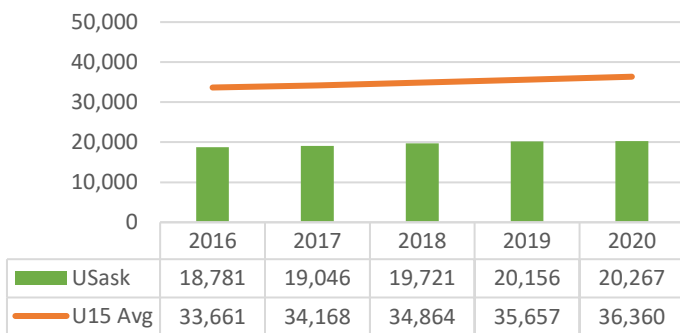


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

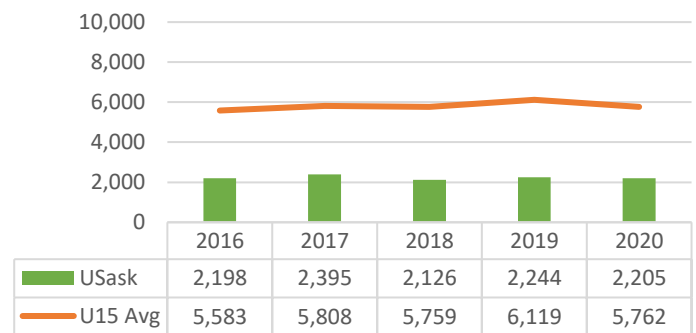


*All years: Alberta missing from U15 average

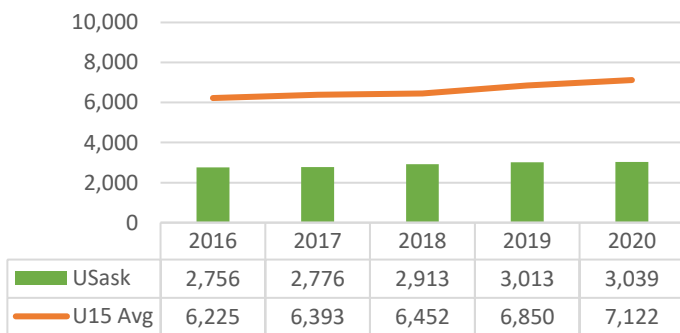
Total Full-time Students (#)



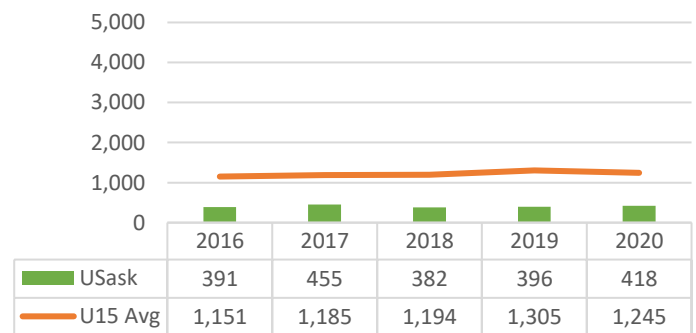
Total Part-time Students (#)



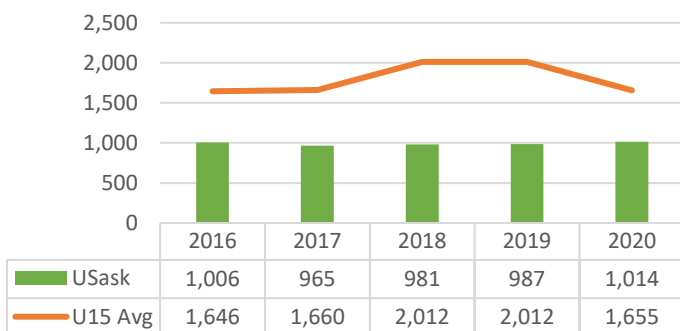
Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



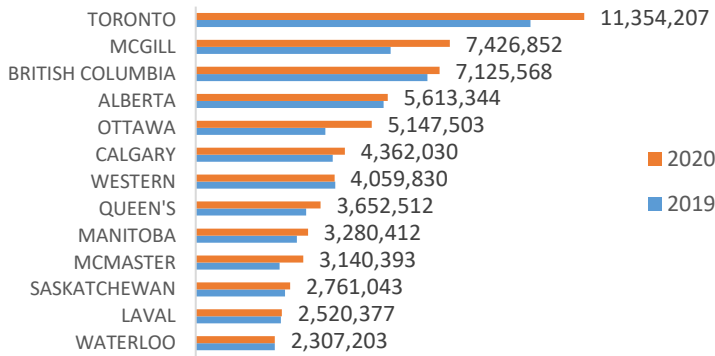
Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)



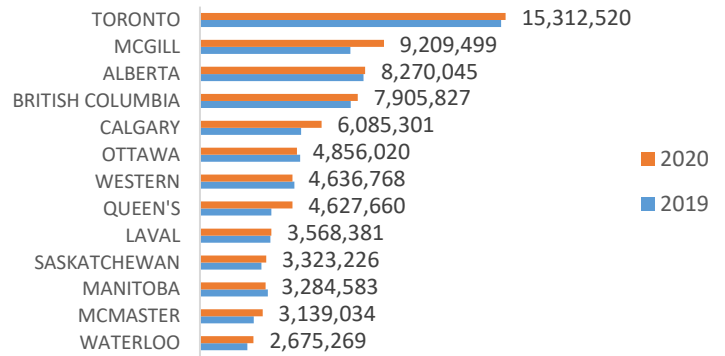
Appendix B: ARL Indicators – USask results/ranking among U15 (2020 & 2019)

Library Collections and Expenditures

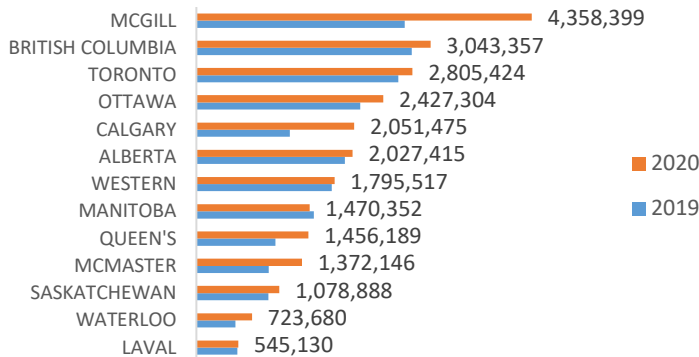
Titles Held (#)



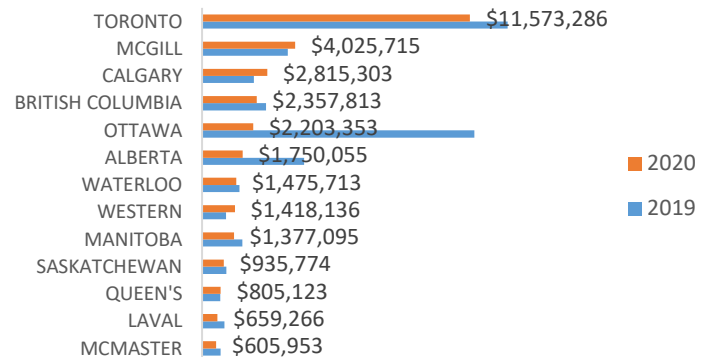
Volumes in Library (#)



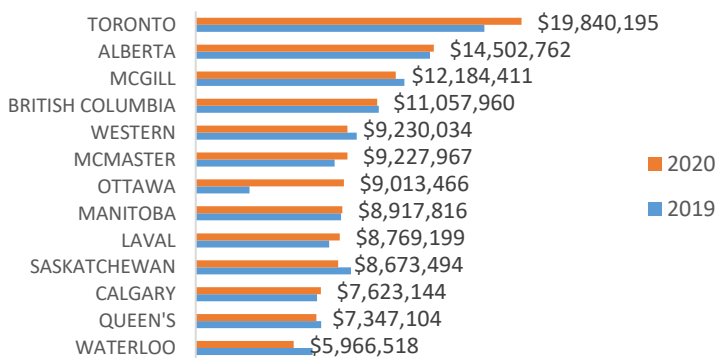
Electronic Books (#)



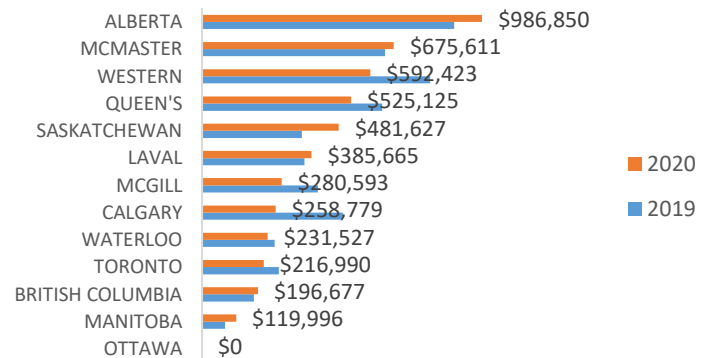
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



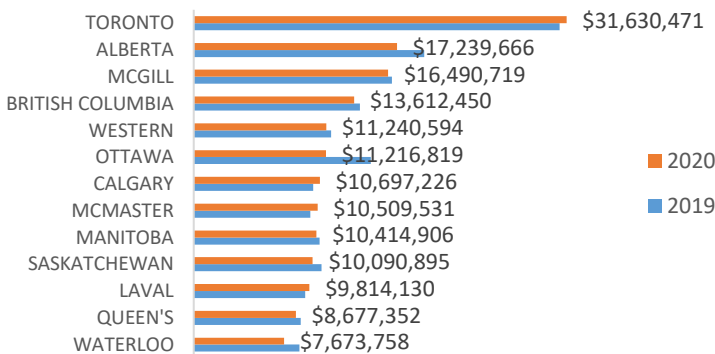
Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)



Collection Support (\$)

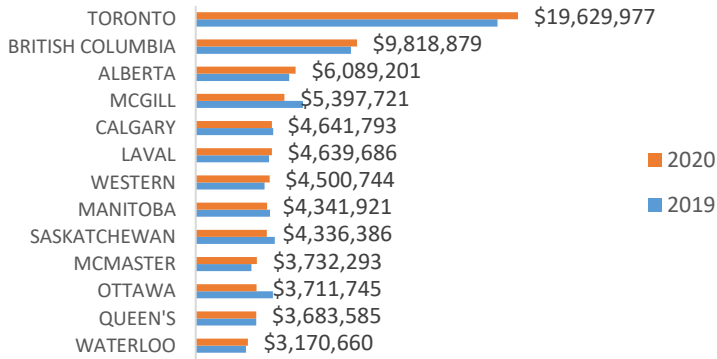


Total Library Materials (\$)

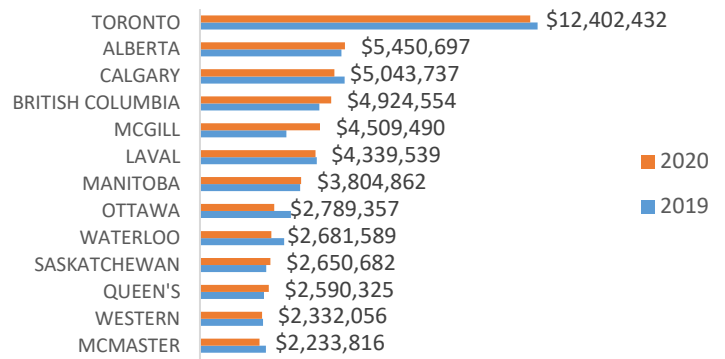


Library Salary Expenditures

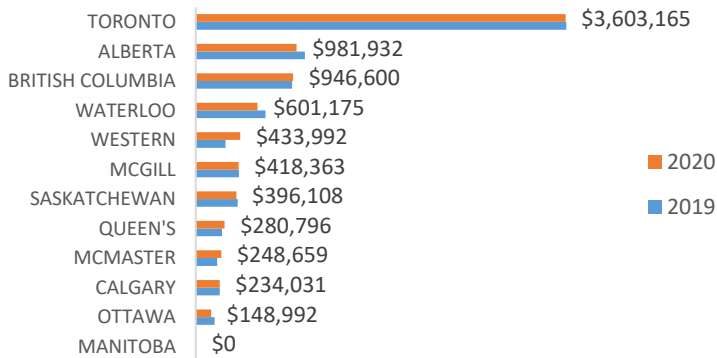
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



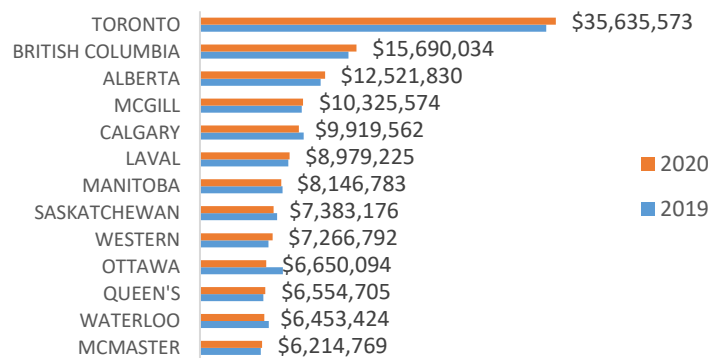
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



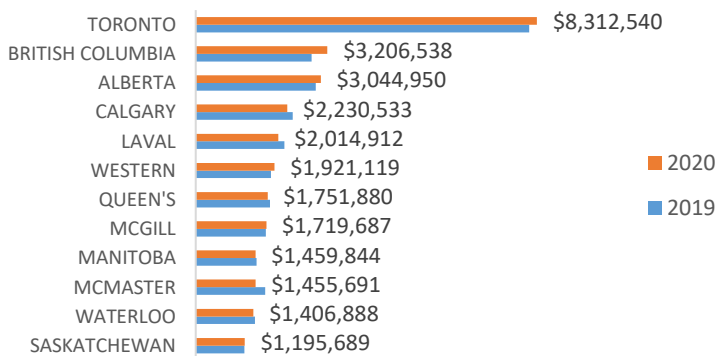
Total Salaries & Wages (\$)



*2020: Data missing for Laval

*2019: Data missing for Laval and Manitoba

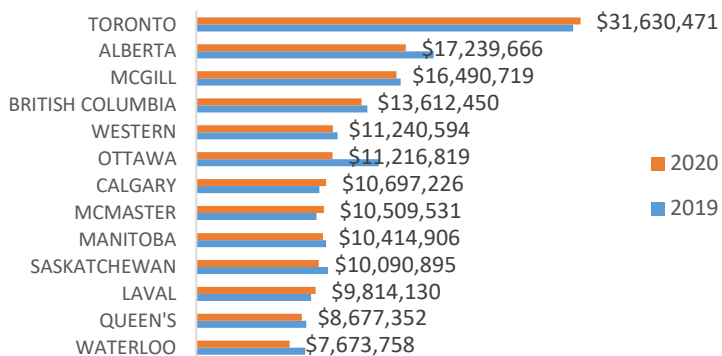
Fringe Benefits (\$)



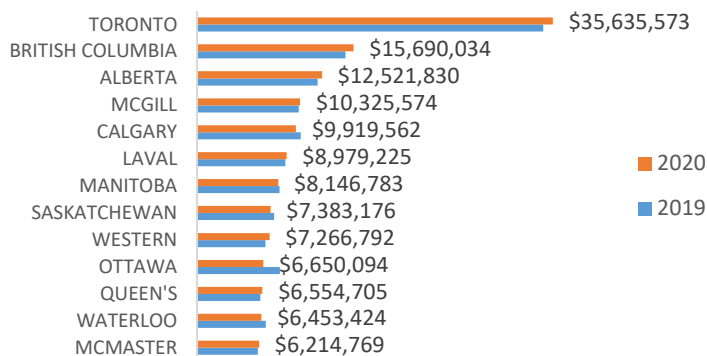
*Data missing for Ottawa

Overall Library Expenditures

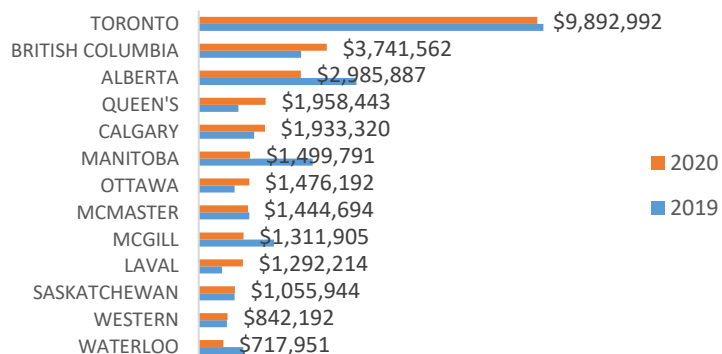
Total Library Materials (\$)



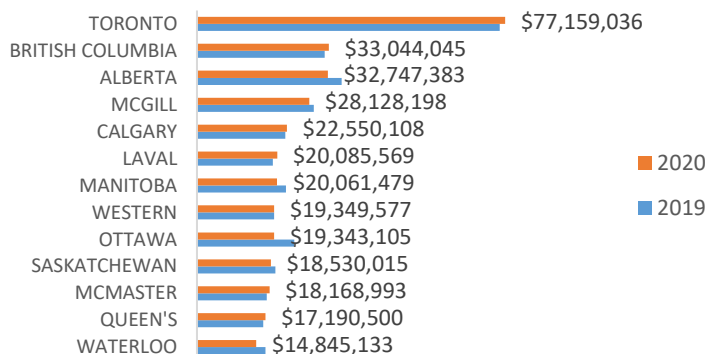
Total Salaries & Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

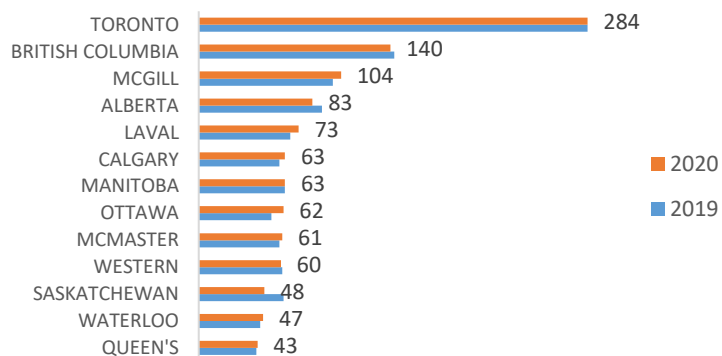


Total Library Expenditures (\$)

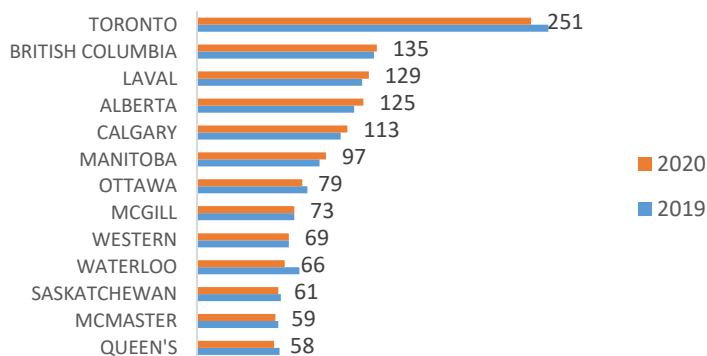


Library Personnel

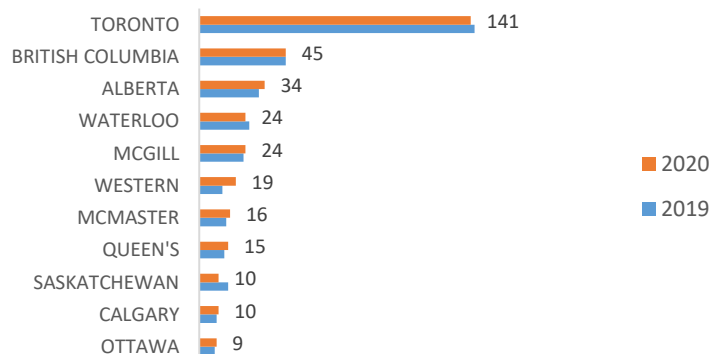
Professional Staff (FTE)



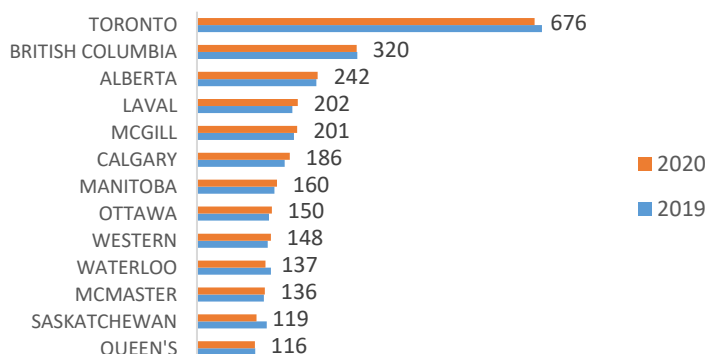
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)



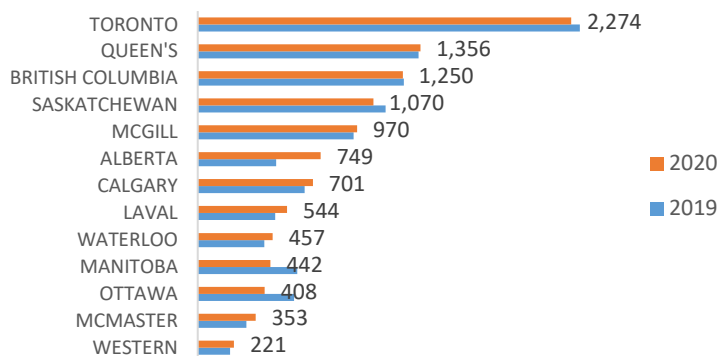
Total Staff (FTE)



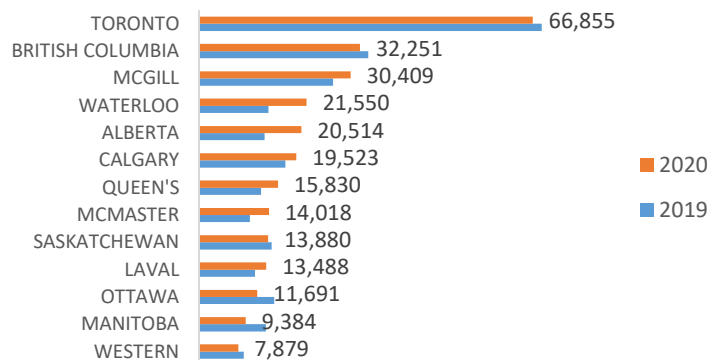
*Data missing for Laval and Manitoba

Library Use, Facilities, and Services

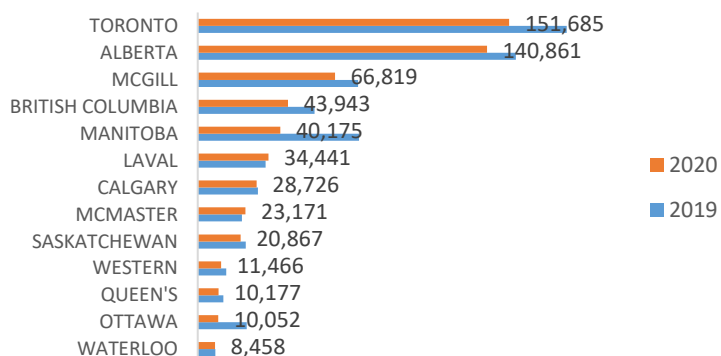
Library Presentations to Groups (#)



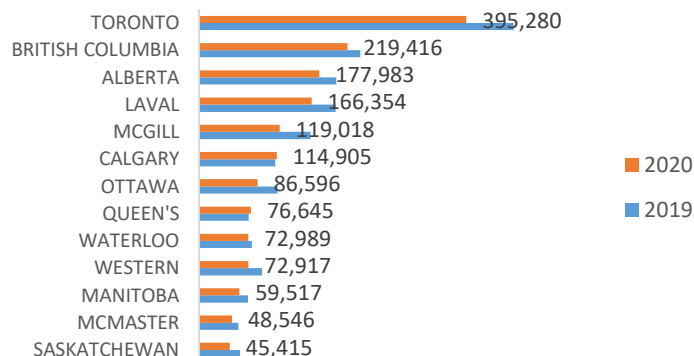
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



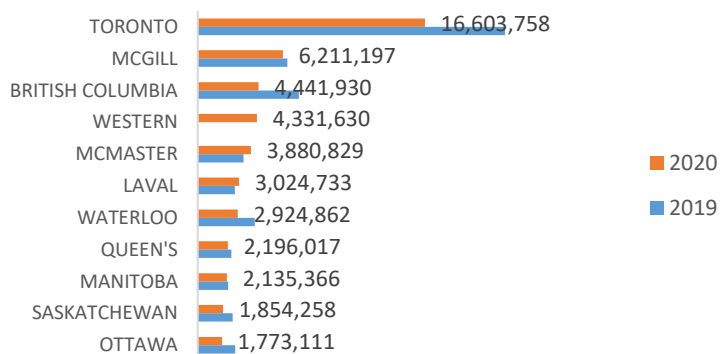
Reference Transactions (#)



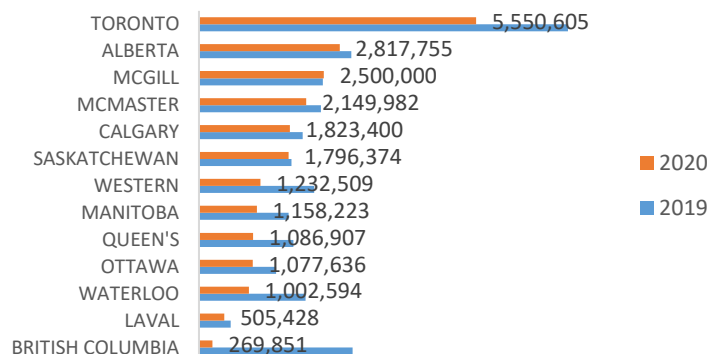
Initial Circulations (#)



Full-text Article Requests (#)

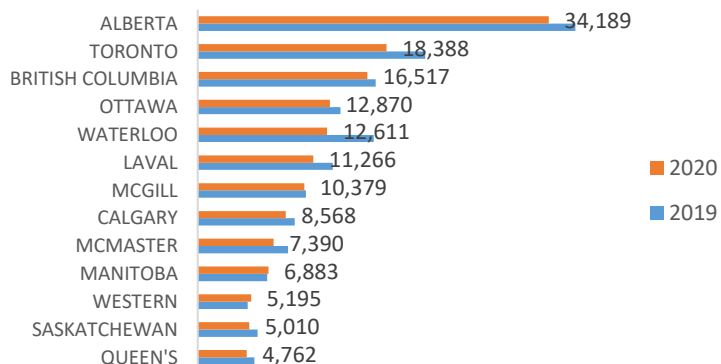


Annual Gate Count (#)

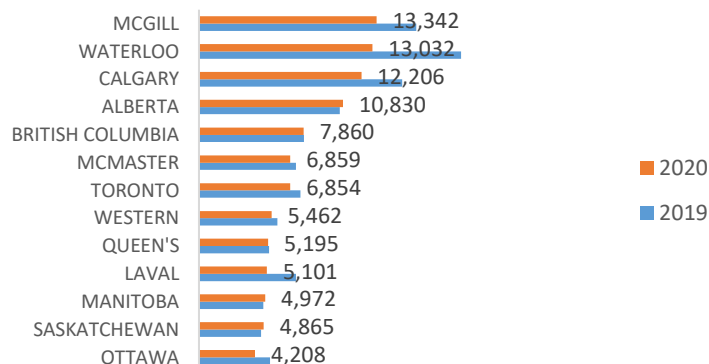


*Data missing for Alberta and Calgary

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)

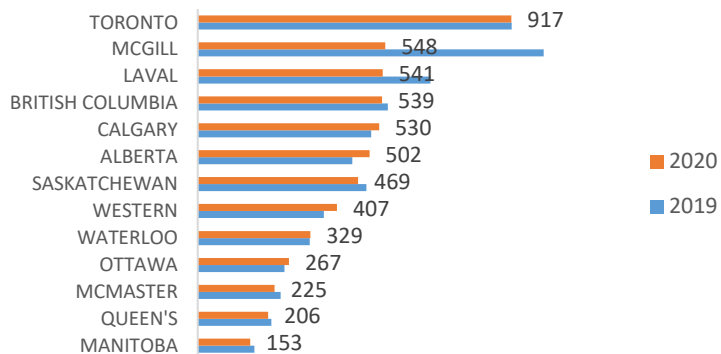


Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)

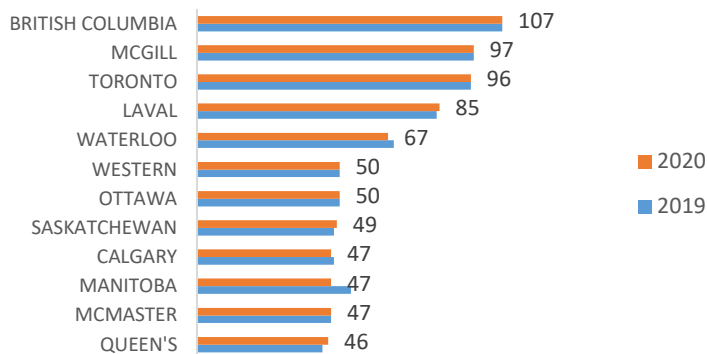


Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

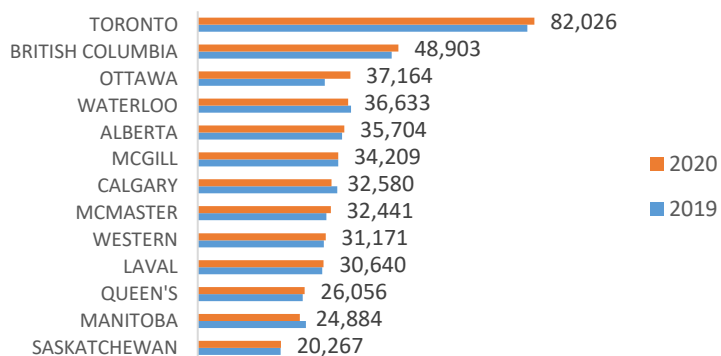


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

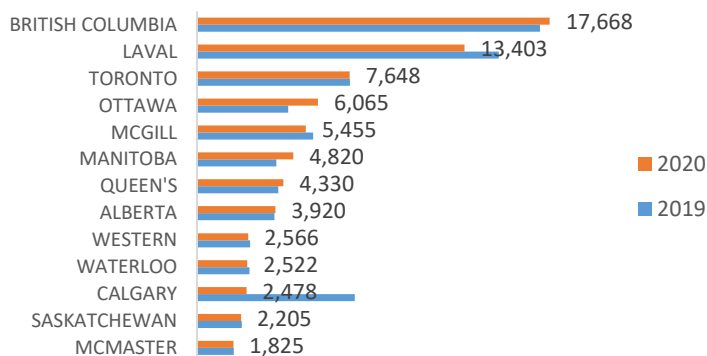


*Data missing for Alberta

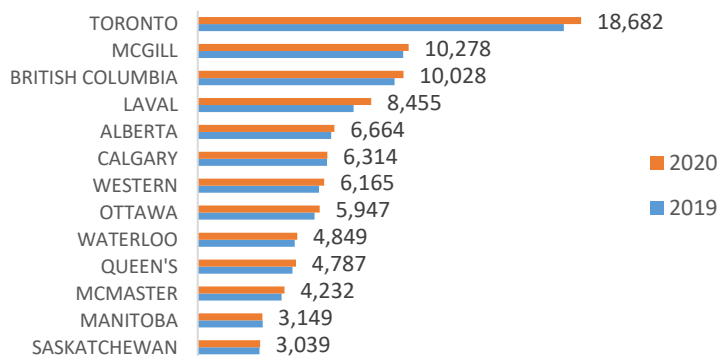
Total Full-time Students (#)



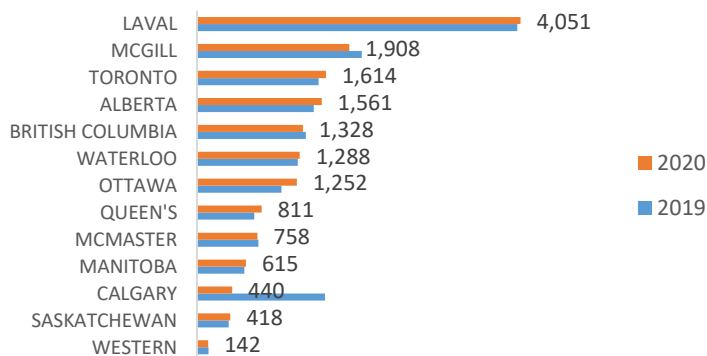
Total Part-time Students (#)



Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

