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Analysis of ARL Statistics 2015-16:

Summary of U of S versus U15 Peers

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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

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 vision, mission, 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 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, which provides a wealth of information for all member libraries.

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 2015-16³ summarizing the results for the U of S versus U15 peers.

This report corresponds to the broad purposes of *quality improvement* (as many of the statistics are measures 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 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 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 2015-2016, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2015-2016/>

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 114 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	15	1	16
Total	114	10	124

ARL Indicators⁵

ARL releases annual statistics as part of a series of publications describing the collections, staffing, expenditures, and service activities of its 124 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 ARL Statistics 2015-2016, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2015-2016/>

⁵ Results not shown for the following four ARL indicators due to lack of U of S 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 2015-16 University of Saskatchewan (U of S) ARL results compared to 2014-15 (including % change) and to the U15 average (2015-16). 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 2011-12 to 2015-16. The graphs in Appendix B show U of S results/ranking among U15 peers for 2014-15 and 2015-16 for each ARL indicator.

U of S Results: Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 2015-16 Statistics						
ARL Indicators	U of S		Change		U15 Average	Ranking vs. U15*
	2014-15	2015-16	↑↓	%	2015-16	
Library Collections and Expenditures (USD)						
Titles Held	2,115,019	2,287,908	↑	8.2	3,755,203	10th (13)
Volumes in Library	2,696,934	2,861,681	↑	6.1	5,247,880	11th (13)
Electronic Books	527,700	738,818	↑	40.0	1,240,061	10th (13)
One-time Resource Purchases	\$1,441,360	\$1,039,116	↓	-27.9	2,417,045	10th (13)
Ongoing Resource Purchases	\$9,702,348	\$9,172,250	↓	-5.5	9,682,643	6th (13)
Collection Support	\$366,038	\$449,358	↑	22.8	524,890	7th (13)
Total Library Materials	\$11,509,745	\$10,660,724	↓	-7.4	12,624,578	8th (13)
Library Salary Expenditures (USD)						
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff	\$5,047,168	\$4,980,671	↓	-1.3	5,563,012	6th (13)
Salaries & Wages Support Staff	\$2,977,869	\$2,644,216	↓	-11.2	4,429,266	11th (13)
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants ¹	\$271,851	\$374,495	↑	37.8	636,797	6th (13)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$8,296,887	\$7,999,381	↓	-3.6	10,629,075	9th (13)
Fringe Benefits	\$1,336,546	\$1,298,555	↓	-2.8	2,366,836	13th (13)
Overall Library Expenditures (USD)						
Total Library Materials	\$11,509,745	\$10,660,724	↓	-7.4	12,624,578	8th (13)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$8,296,887	\$7,999,381	↓	-3.6	10,629,075	9th (13)
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,393,684	\$1,384,115	↓	-0.7	2,189,787	6th (13)
Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$20,044,220	↓	-5.5	25,443,440	8th (13)
Library Personnel						
Professional Staff (FTE)	57	61	↑	7.0	80	Tie 8th (13)
Support Staff (FTE)	70	73	↑	4.3	112	11th (13)
Student Assistants (FTE) ²	11	13	↑	18.2	31	9th (11)
Total Staff (FTE)	138	147	↑	6.5	218	11th (13)
Library Use, Facilities, and Services						
Library Presentations to Groups	532	568	↑	6.8	761	9th (13)
Participants in Group Presentations	10,500	11,399	↑	8.6	19,242	10th (13)
Reference Transactions	13,965	14,279	↑	2.2	52,486	11th (13)
Initial Circulations	93,124	75,832	↓	-18.6	199,479	13th (13)
Full-Text Article Requests ³	2,239,424	2,127,428	↓	-5.0	3,418,980	9th (9)
Annual Gate Count ⁴	1,920,540	1,791,565	↓	-6.7	2,529,112	9th (12)
Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries	5,781	5,789	↑	0.1	14,617	13th (13)
Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	5,361	5,173	↓	-3.5	9,465	12th (13)
Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment						
Doctor's Degrees Awarded	448	450	↑	0.4	480	7th (13)
Doctor's Degree Fields ⁵	47	47		0.0	66	11th (12)
Total Full-time Students	18,708	18,781	↑	0.4	33,661	13th (13)
Total Part-time Students	2,244	2,198	↓	-2.0	5,583	12th (13)
Graduate Full-time Students	2,758	2,756	↓	-0.1	6,225	13th (13)
Graduate Part-Time Students	349	391	↑	12.0	1,151	12th (13)
Full-time Instructional Faculty	1,012	1,006	↓	-0.6	1,646	11th (13)

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

¹Includes Laval in U15 average with \$0 salaries and wages for student assistants

²Missing Laval and Manitoba from U15 average

³Missing Alberta, McMaster, Toronto, and Western from U15 average

⁴Missing Waterloo from U15 average

⁵Missing Alberta from U15 average

Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2015-16 tables)

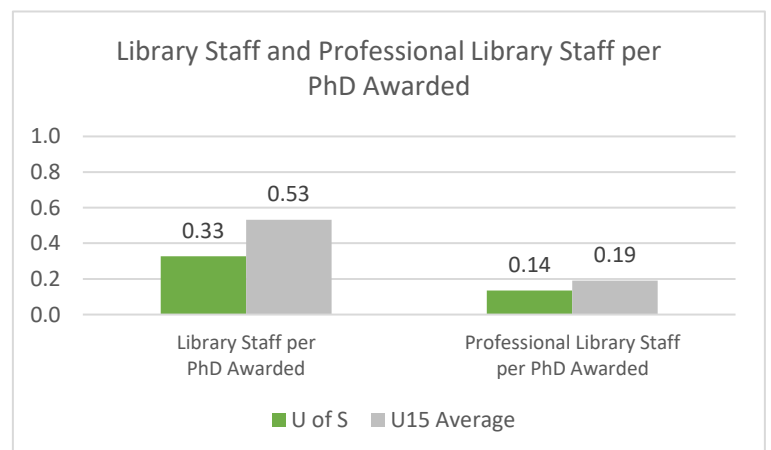
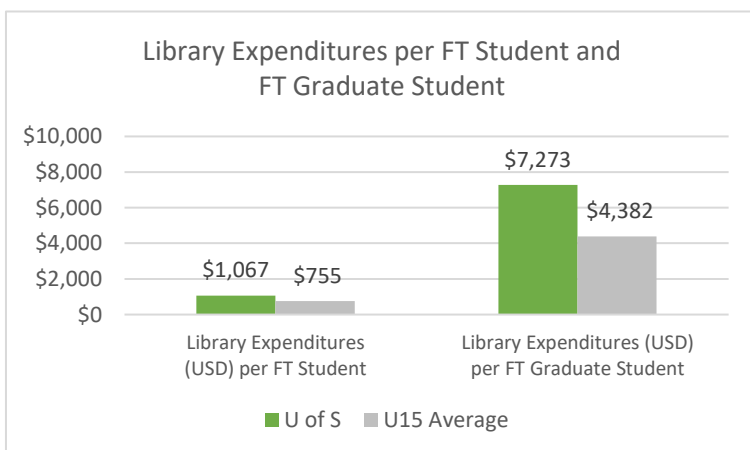
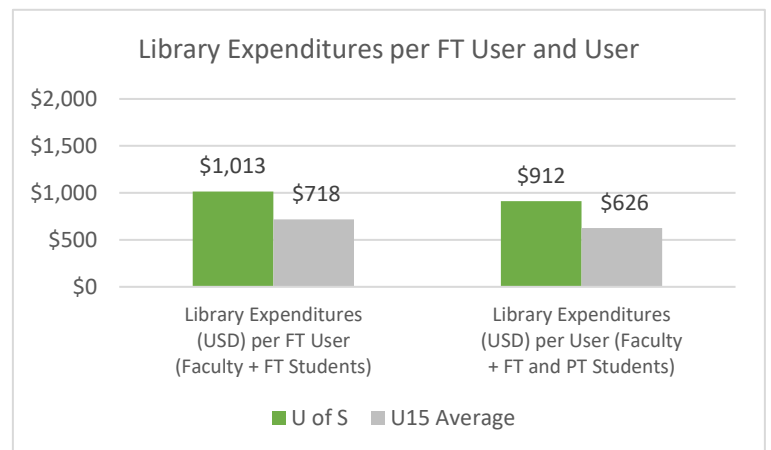
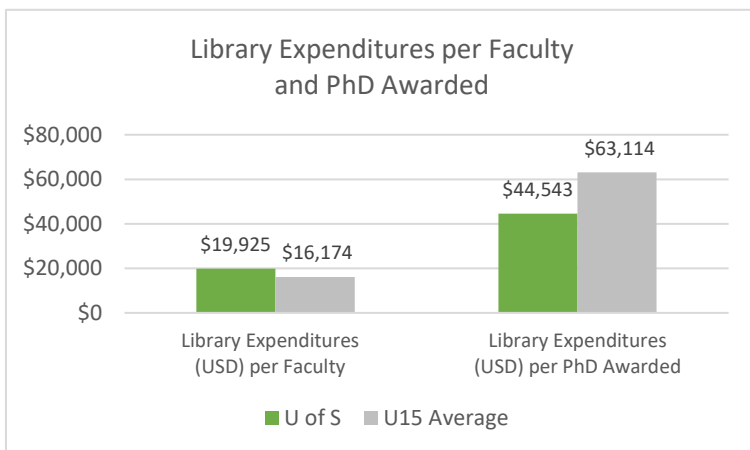
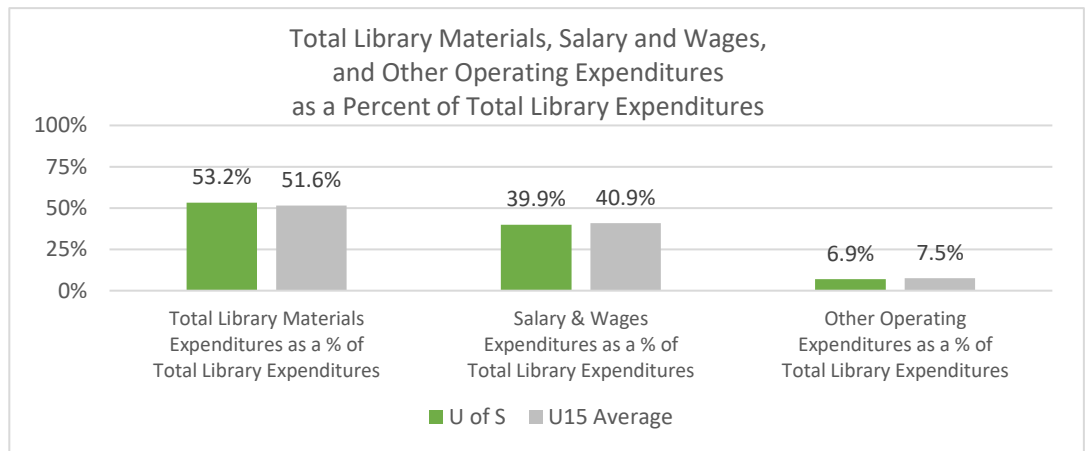
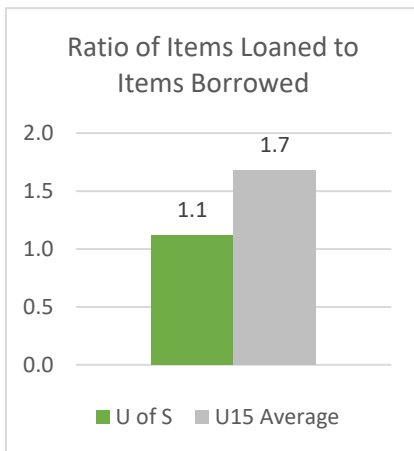
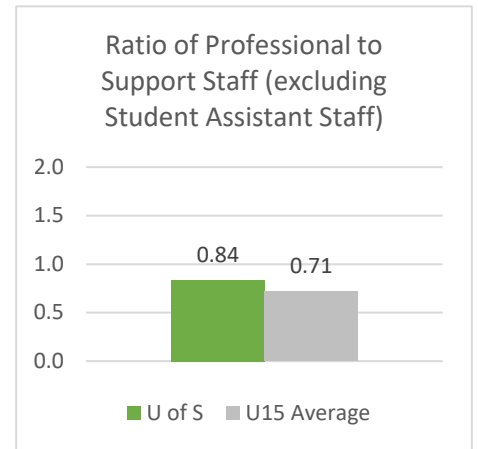
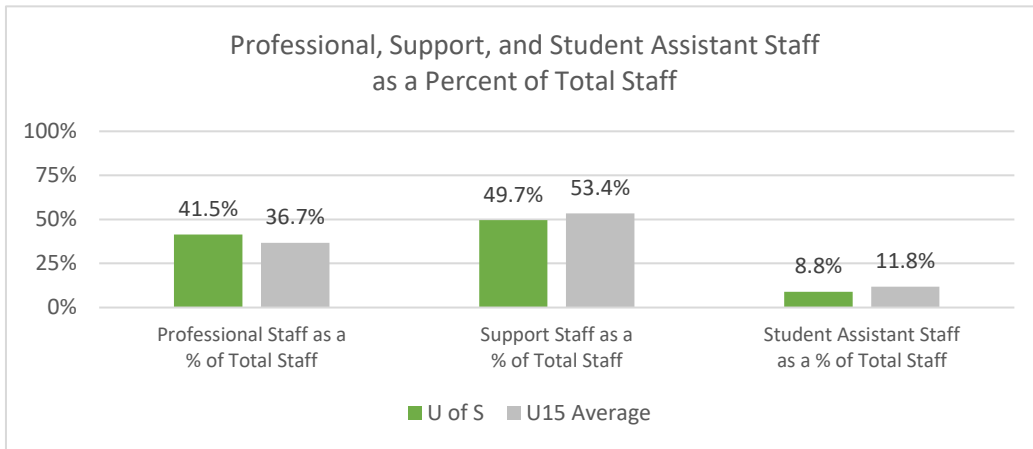
The following two tables summarize 2015-16 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.

ARL Percentages and Ratios (2015-16)	ARL Indicators	U of S	U15 Average	U of S Ratio	U15 Ratio	U of S % Difference	At the U of S...	Compared to the U15 average, at the U of S...																																																																																						
Professional Staff as a % of Total Staff	Professional Staff	61	80	41.5%	36.7%	-24.2	Professional staff make up 42% of total staff	Professional staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (24% less professional staff; 33% less total staff)																																																																																						
	Total Staff	147	218			-32.7			Support Staff as a % of Total Staff	Support Staff	73	112	49.7%	53.4%	-34.9	Support staff make up 50% of total staff	Support staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (35% less support staff ; 33% less total staff)	Total Staff	147	218	-32.7	Student Assistant Staff as a % of Total Staff	Student Assistants	13	31	8.8%	11.8%	-57.4	Student assistants make up 9% of total staff	Student assistant staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (57% less student assistant staff ; 33% less total staff)	Total Staff	147	218	-32.7	Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)	Professional Staff	61	80	0.84	0.71	-24.2	There are 0.84 professional staff for every support staff	There are more professional staff for every support staff (24% less professional staff; 35% less support staff)	Support Staff	73	112	-34.9	Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed	Items Loaned to Other Libraries	5,789	14,617	1.12	1.68	-60.4	There are 1.12 items loaned for every item borrowed	There are less items loaned for every item borrowed (60% less items loaned ; 45% less items borrowed)	Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	5,173	9,465	-45.3	Total Library Materials Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Total Library Materials (USD)	\$10,660,724	\$12,624,578	53.2%	51.6%	-15.6	Library materials expenditures make up 53% of total	Library materials expenditures make up a greater proportion of total (16% less materials expenditures; 21% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	-21.2	Salary and Wages Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Salary and Wages (USD)	\$7,999,381	\$10,629,075	39.9%	40.9%	-24.7	Salary and wages expenditures make up 40% of total	Salary and wages expenditures make up a smaller proportion of total (25% less salaries and wages expenditures ; 21% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	-21.2	Other Operating Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Other Operating Expenditures (USD)	\$1,384,115	\$2,189,787	6.9%	7.5%	-36.8	Other operating expenditures make up 7% of total
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ARL Percentages and Ratios (2015-16)	ARL Indicators	U of S	U15 Average	U of S Ratio	U15 Ratio	U of S % Difference	At the U of S...	Compared to the U15 average, at the U of S...																																																																																						
Library Expenditures per Faculty	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$19,925	\$16,174	-21.2	\$19,925 is spent for every faculty member	We spend more per faculty (21% less library expenditures; 39% less faculty)																																																																																						
	Faculty	1,006	1,646			-38.9			Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$1,067	\$755	-21.2	\$1,067 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (21% less library expenditures; 44% less FT students)	FT Student	18,781	33,661	-44.2	Library Expenditures per FT Graduate Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$7,273	\$4,382	-21.2	\$7,273 is spent for every FT graduate student	We spend more per FT graduate student (21% less library expenditures, 56% less FT graduate students)	FT Graduate Student	2,756	6,225	-55.7	Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$1,013	\$718	-21.2	\$1,013 is spent for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (21% less library expenditures; 44% less FT users)	FT User	19,787	35,307	-44.0	Library Expenditures per User (Faculty + FT and PT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$912	\$626	-21.2	\$912 is spent for every user	We spend more per user (21% less library expenditures; 46% less users)	User	21,985	40,890	-46.2	Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$44,543	\$63,114	-21.2	\$44,543 is spent for every PhD awarded	We spend less per PhD awarded (21% less library expenditures ; 6% less PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	450	480	-6.2	Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Total Staff	147	218	0.33	0.53	-32.7	There are 0.33 library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less library staff for every PhD awarded (33% less library staff ; 6% less PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	450	480	-6.2	Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	61	80	0.14	0.19	-24.2	There are 0.14 professional library staff for every PhD awarded
Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$20,044,220	\$25,443,440	\$1,067	\$755	-21.2	\$1,067 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (21% less library expenditures; 44% less FT students)																																																																																						
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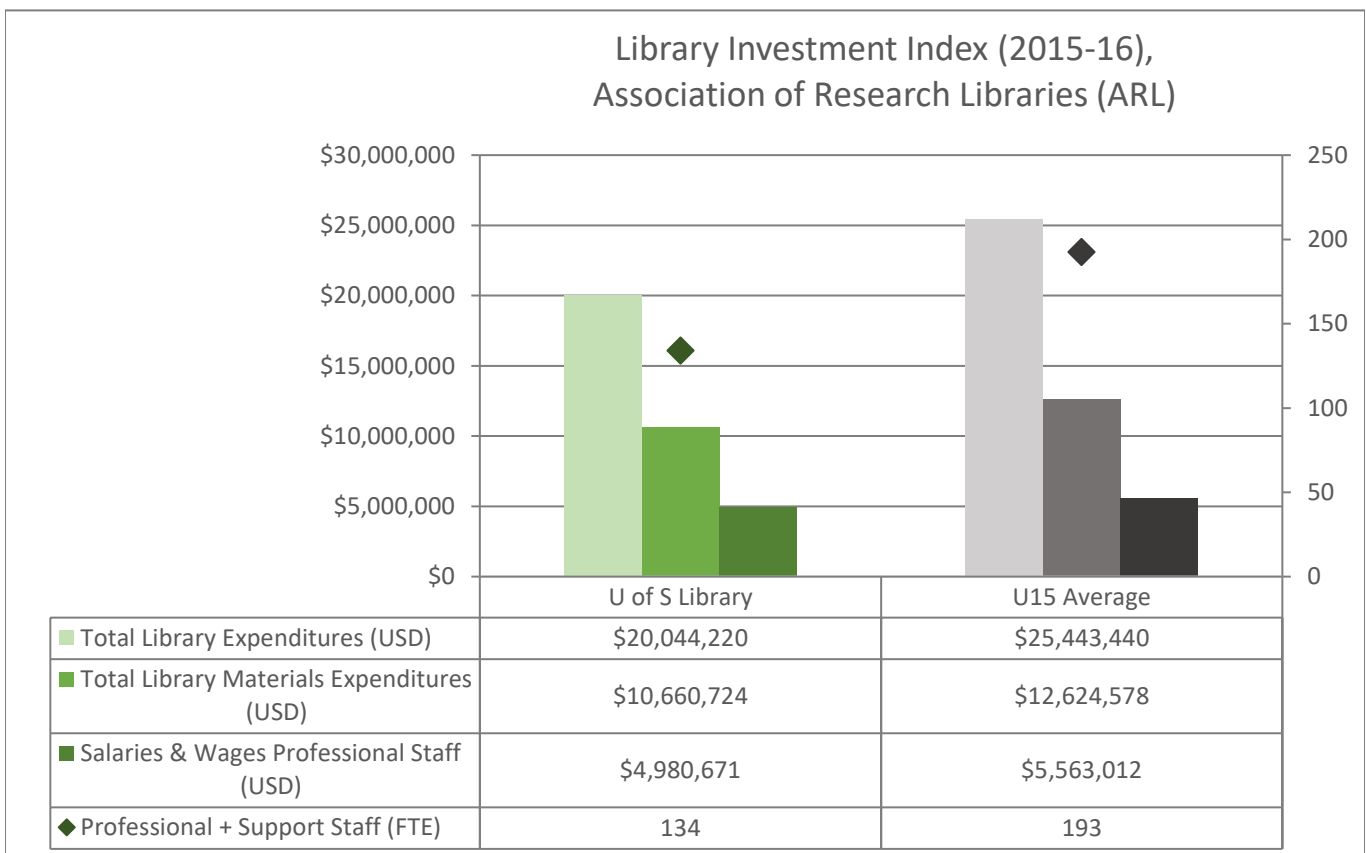
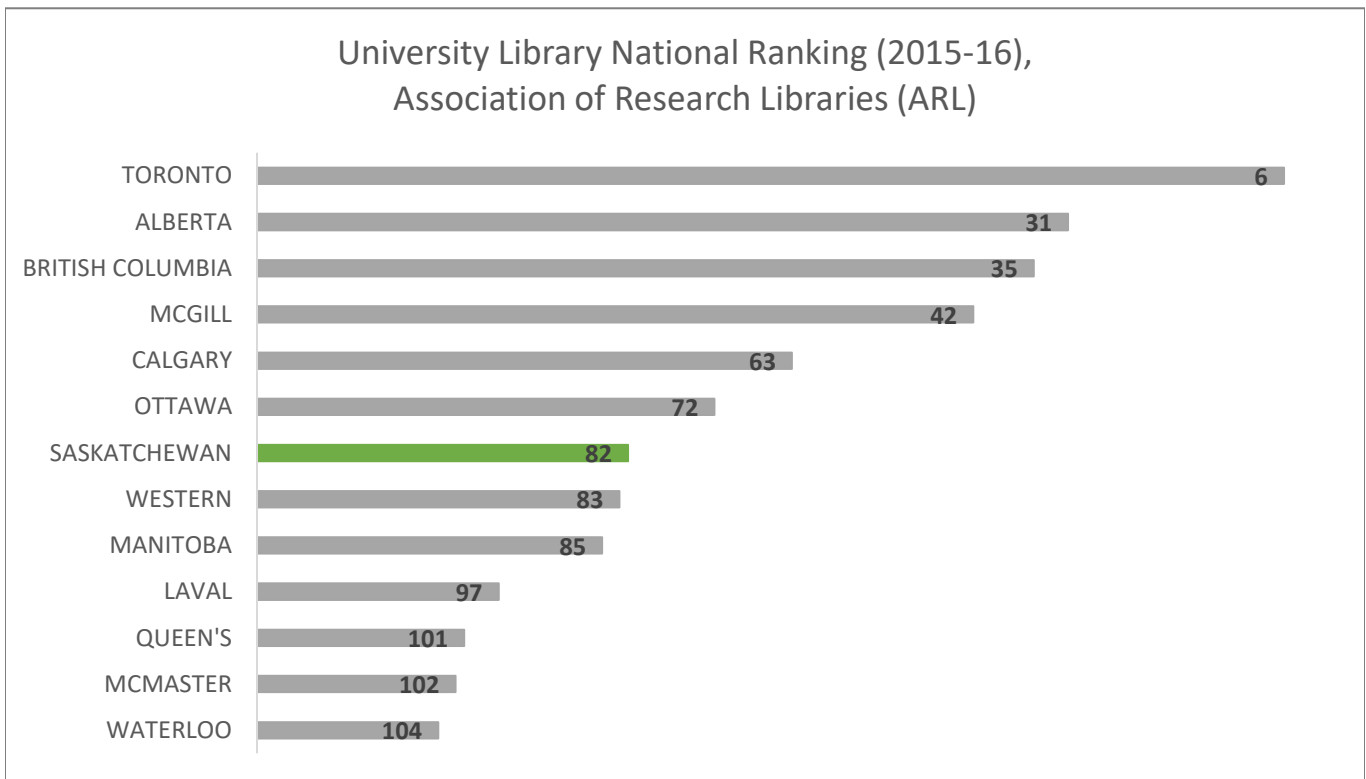
Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2015-16 graphs)

The following graphs illustrate 2015-16 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.



Results: ARL Library Investment Index

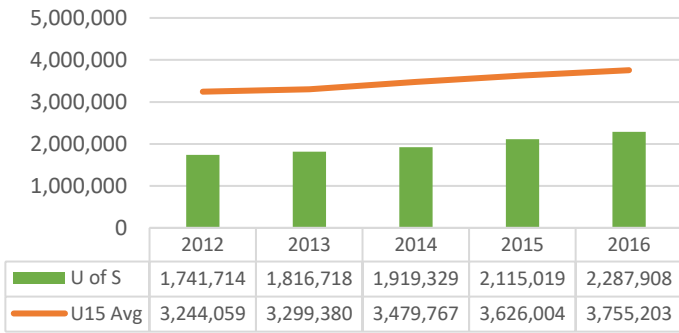
The first graph depicts the ARL Library Investment Index ranking for thirteen U15 institutions in 2015-16 (except Dalhousie and Montreal). The second graph shows the values for each of the four variables used to calculate the Library Investment Index at the U of S compared to the average of thirteen U15 peer institutions in 2015-16.



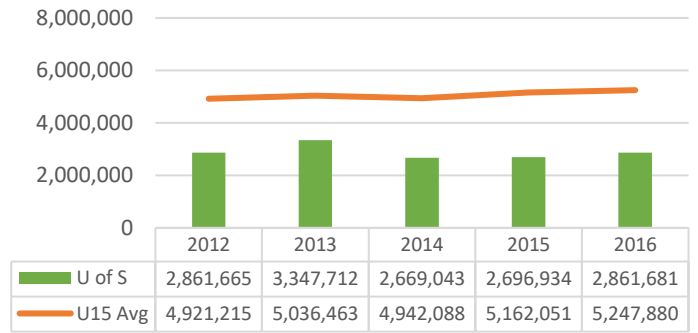
Appendix A: ARL Indicators – U of S versus U15 average (2011-12 to 2015-16)

Library Collections and Expenditures

Titles Held (#)

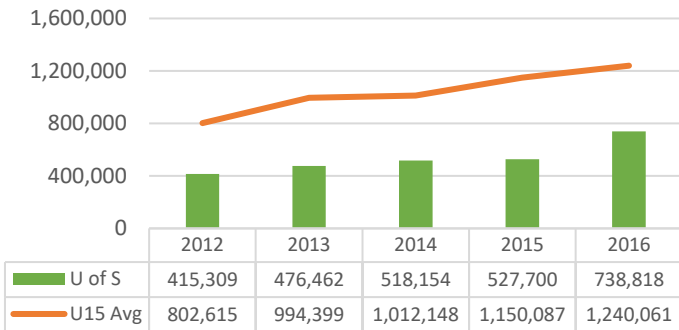


Volumes in Library (#)

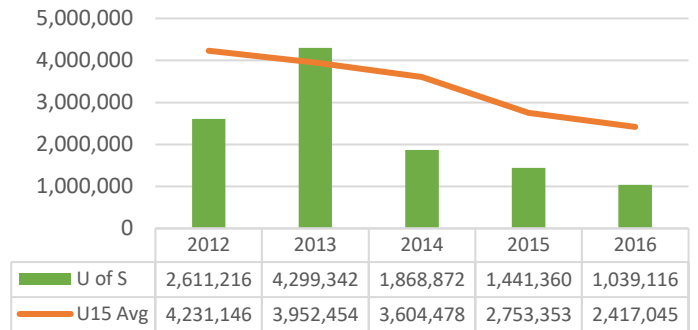


*Due to calculation error, SK values should be: 2,547,718 (2012); 2,622,249 (2013)

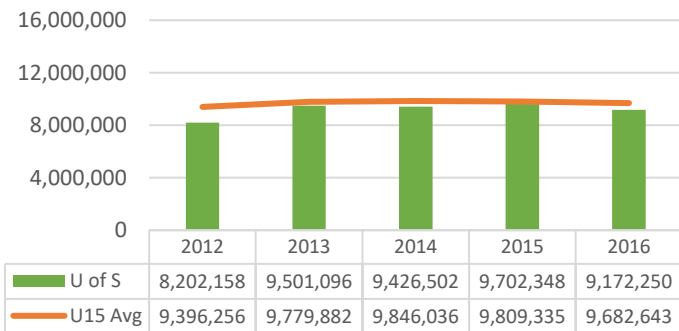
Electronic Books (#)



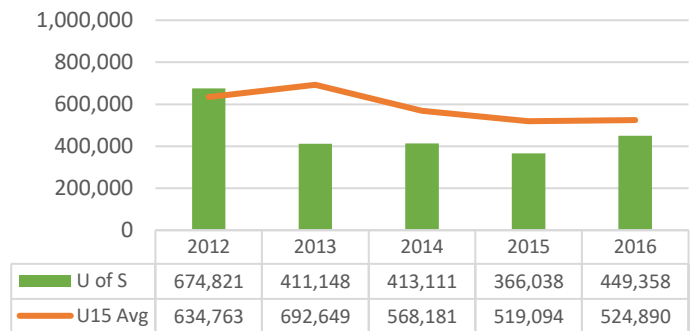
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)

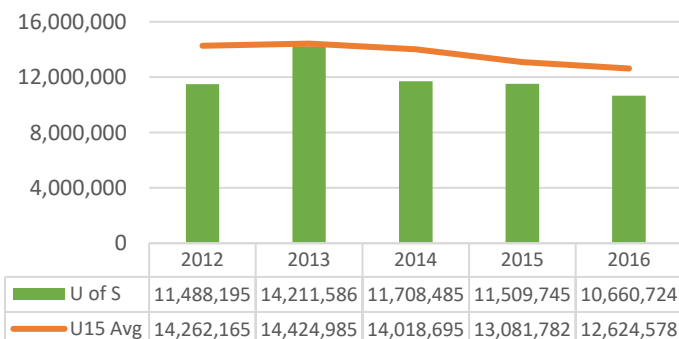


Collection Support (\$)



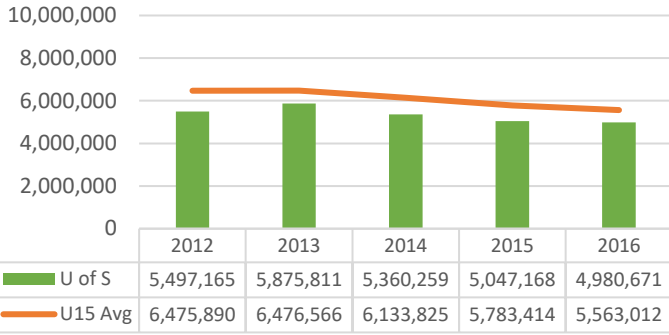
*2014 and 2015: Includes \$0 collection support from McGill in U15 average

Total Expenditures for Materials (\$)

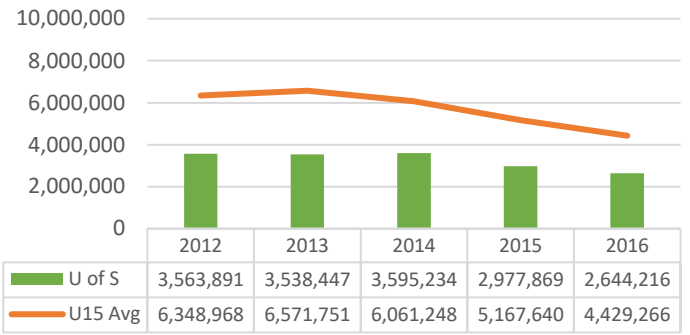


Library Salary Expenditures

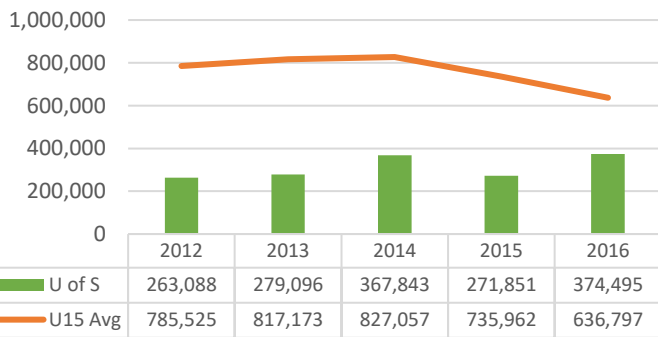
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



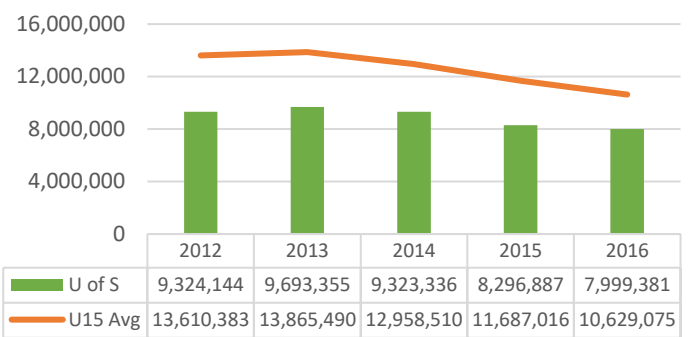
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



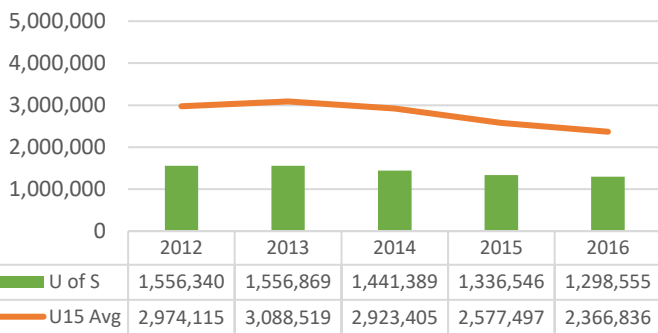
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



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

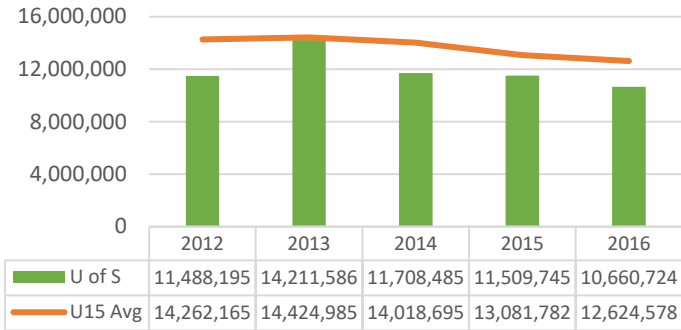
*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

Fringe Benefits (\$)

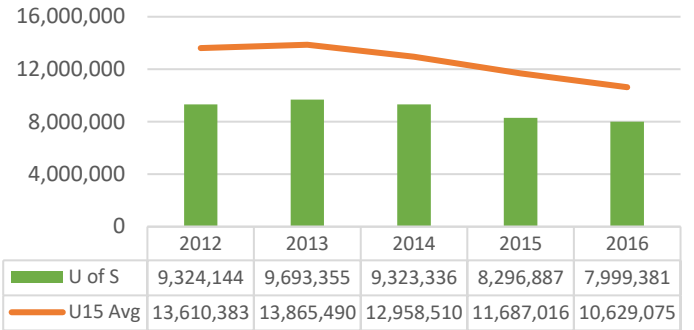


Overall Library Expenditures

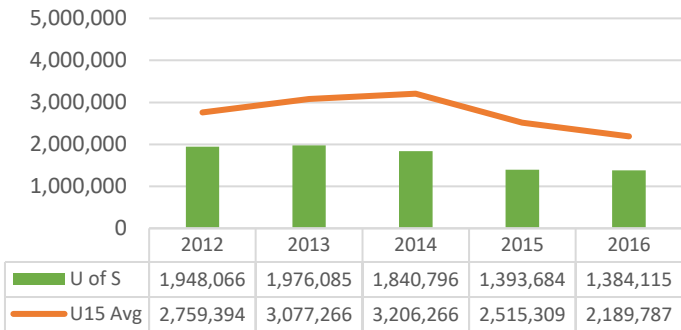
Total Materials (\$)



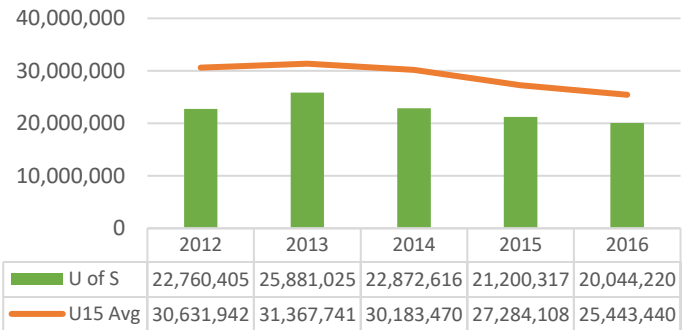
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

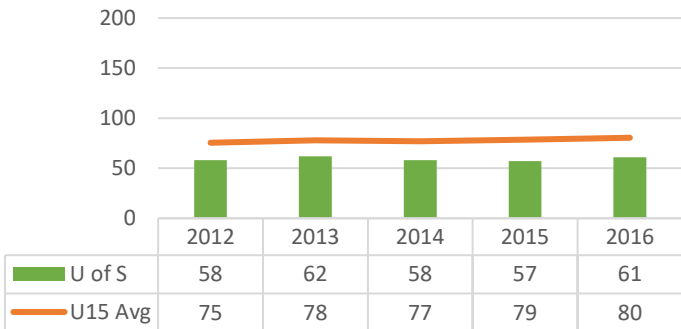


Total Expenditures (\$)

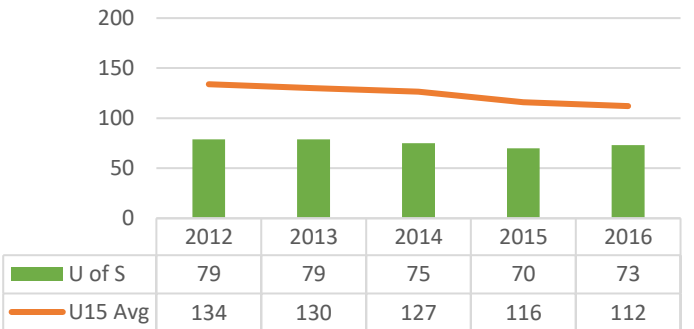


Library Personnel

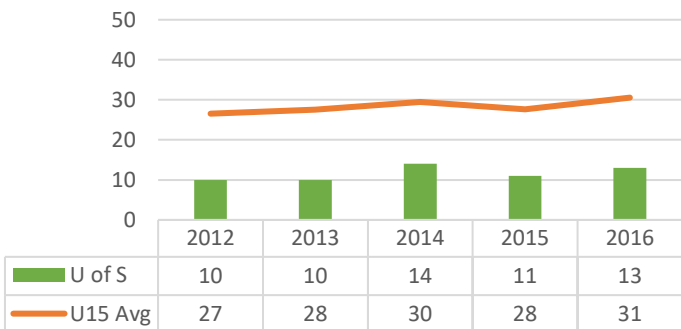
Professional Staff (FTE)



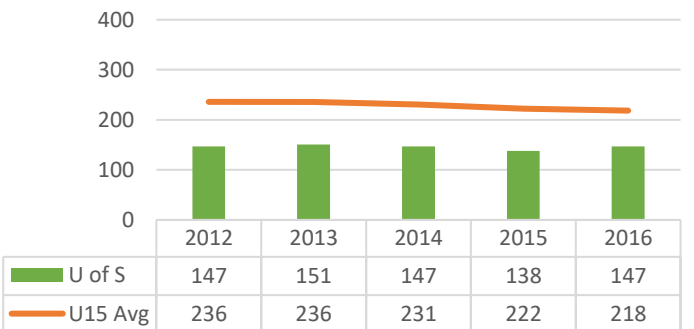
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)



Total Staff (FTE)

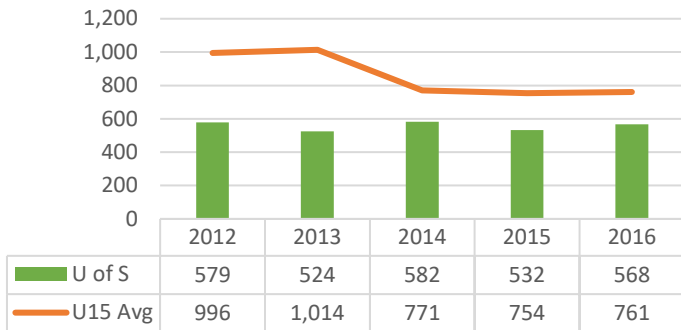


*2016: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

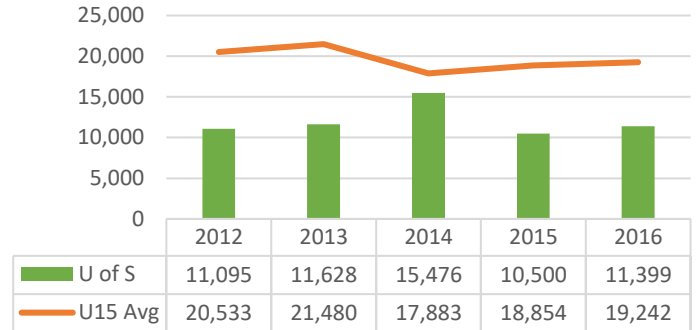
Library Use, Facilities, and Services

Library Presentations to Groups (#)



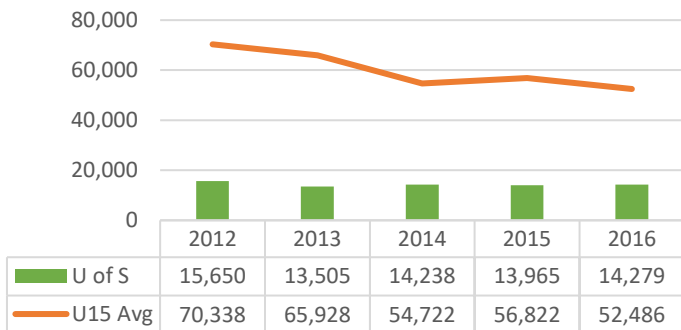
*2013: Laval and McGill missing from U15 average

Participants in Group Presentations (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

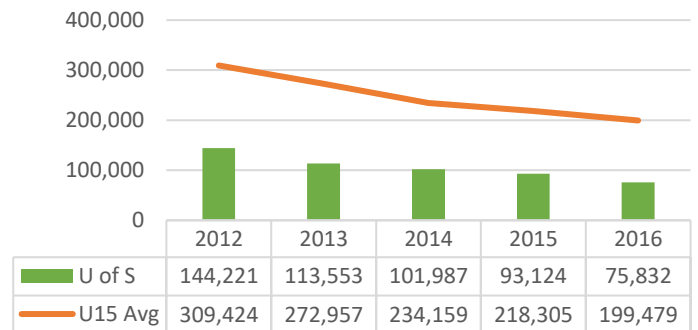
Reference Transactions (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

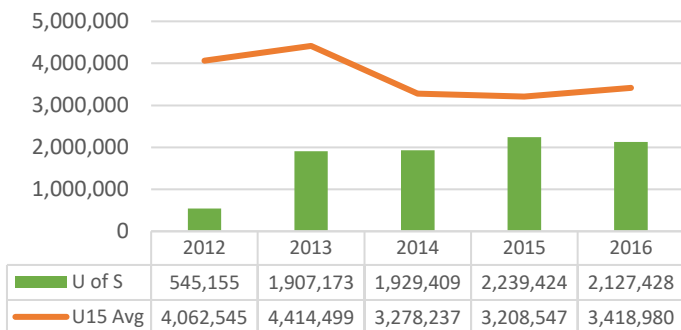
*2012: McMaster missing from U15 average

Initial Circulations (#)



*2013: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

Full-text Article Requests (#)



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

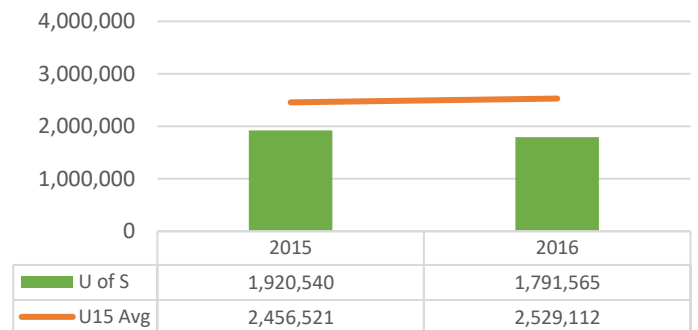
*2015: Alberta, Calgary, Toronto, Western missing from U15 average

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

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

*2012: McGill, Western missing from U15 average

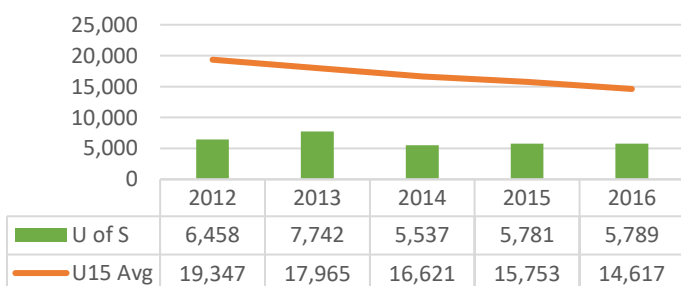
Annual Gate Count (#)



*2016: Waterloo missing from U15 average

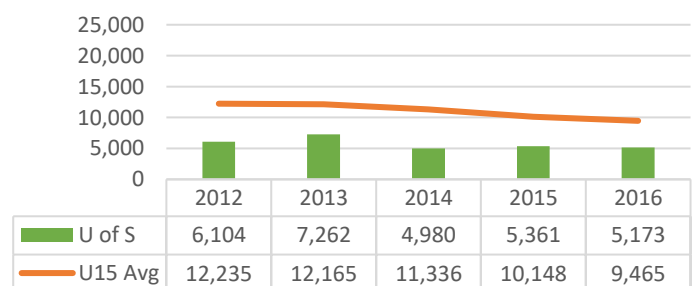
*2015: Queen's missing from U15 average

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)



*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

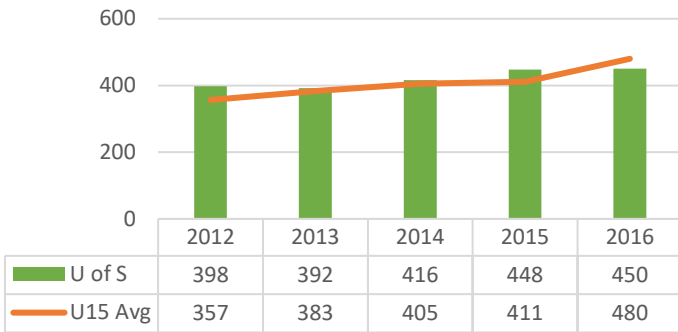
Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)



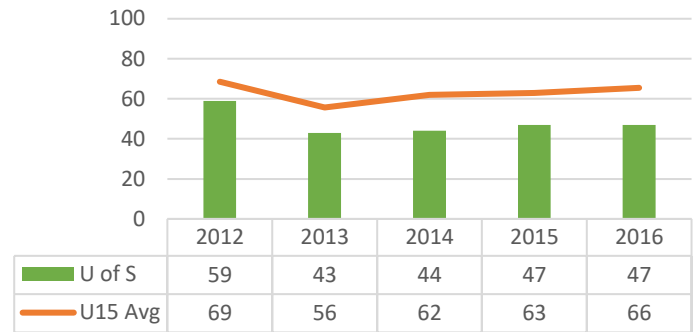
*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

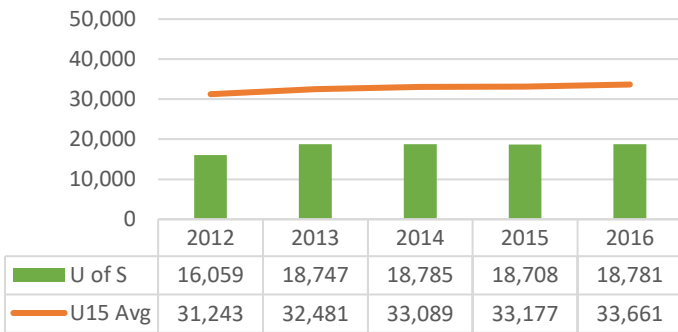


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

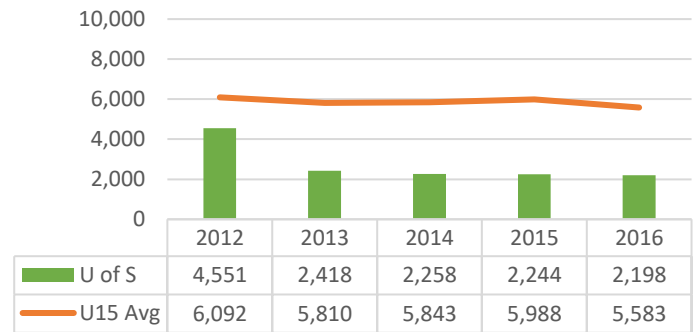


*2013-2016: Alberta missing from U15 average

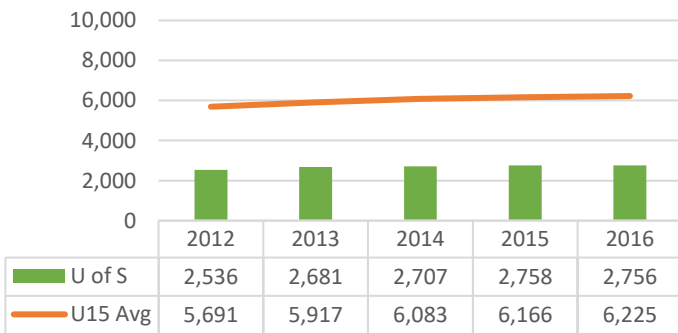
Total Full-time Students (#)



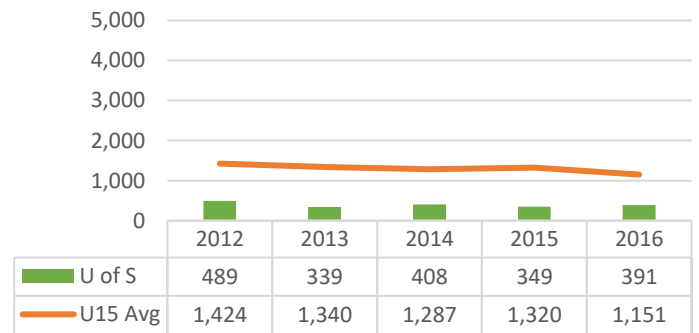
Total Part-time Students (#)



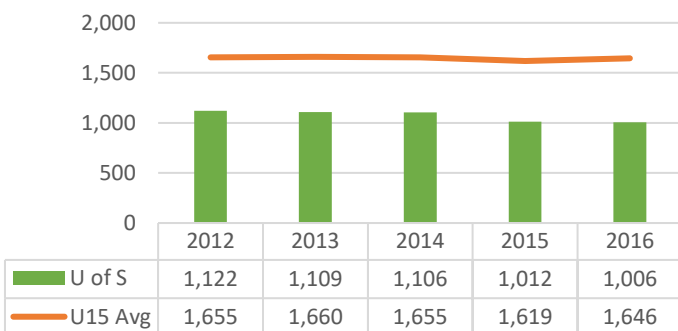
Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



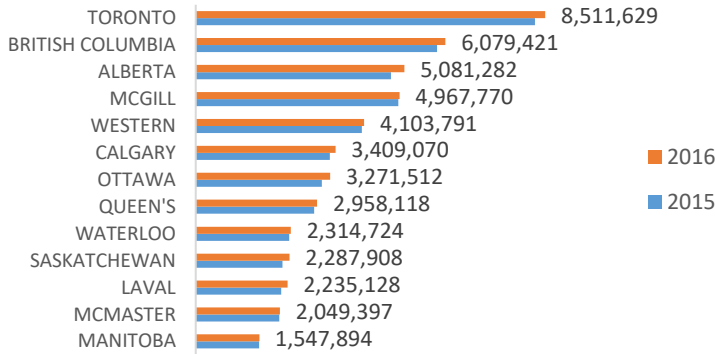
Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)



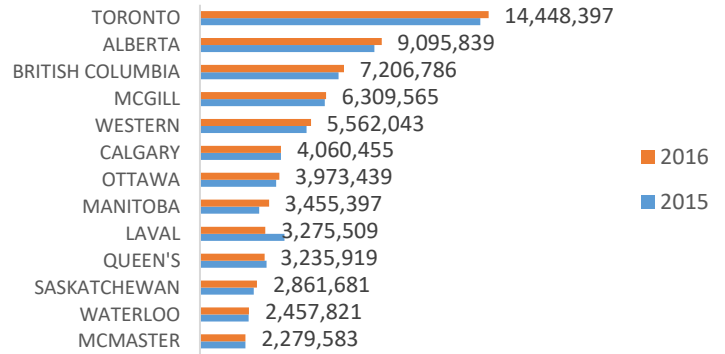
Appendix B: ARL Indicators – U of S results/ranking among U15 (2015-16 & 2014-15)

Library Collections and Expenditures

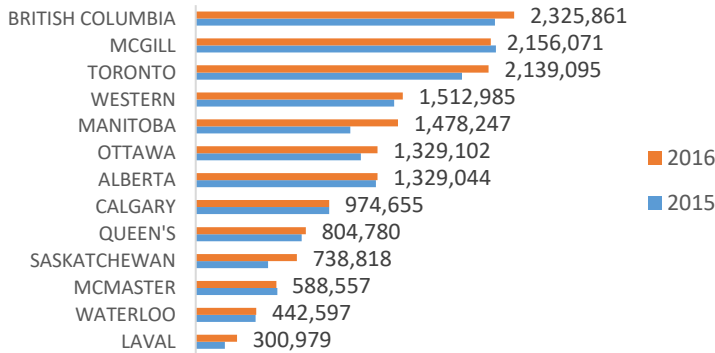
Titles Held (#)



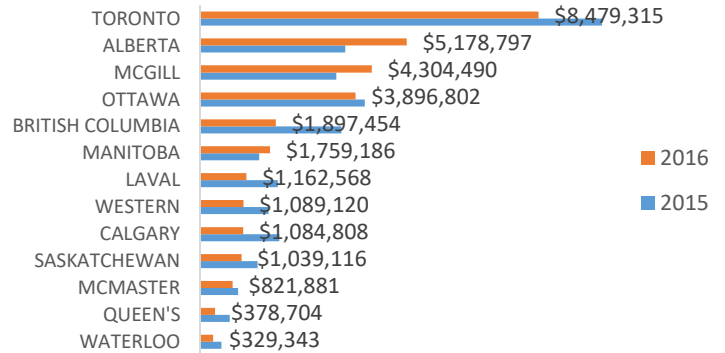
Volumes in Library (#)



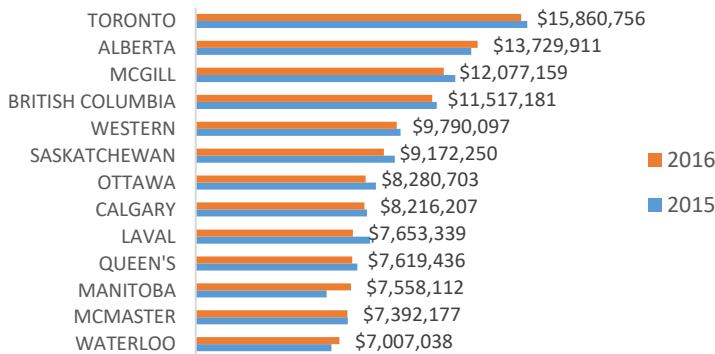
Electronic Books (#)



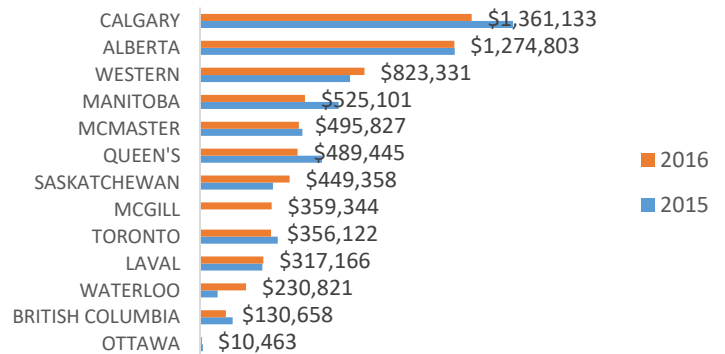
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



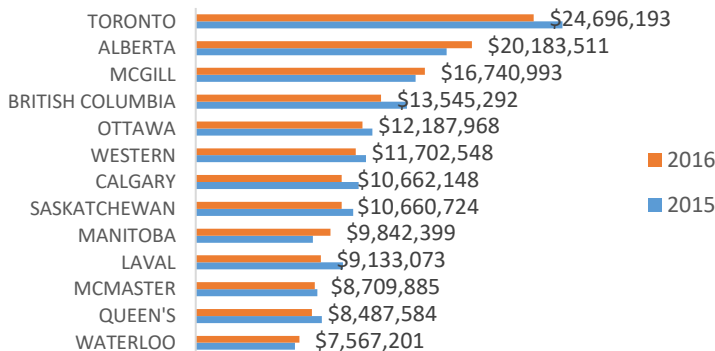
Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)



Collection Support (\$)

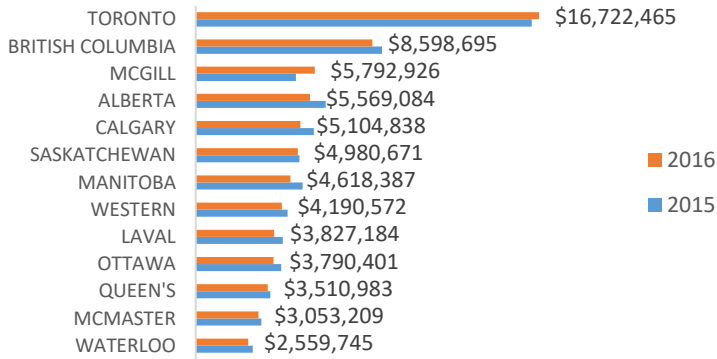


Total Library Materials (\$)

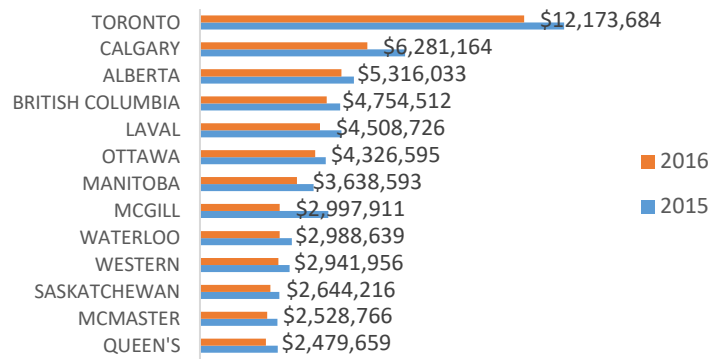


Library Salary Expenditures

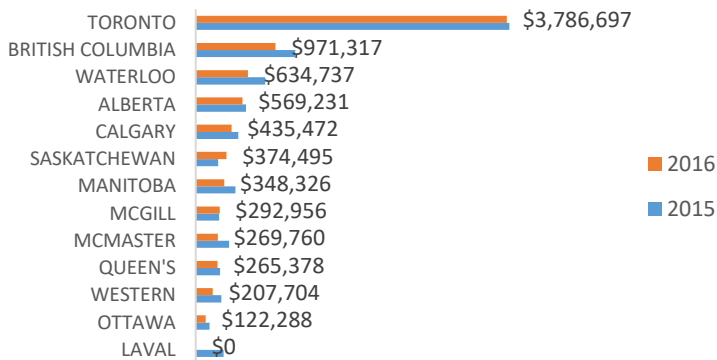
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



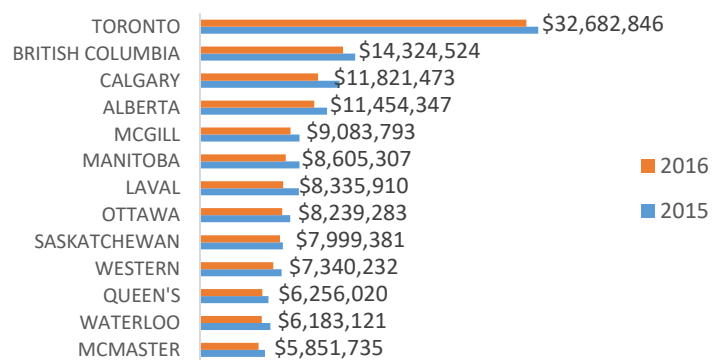
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



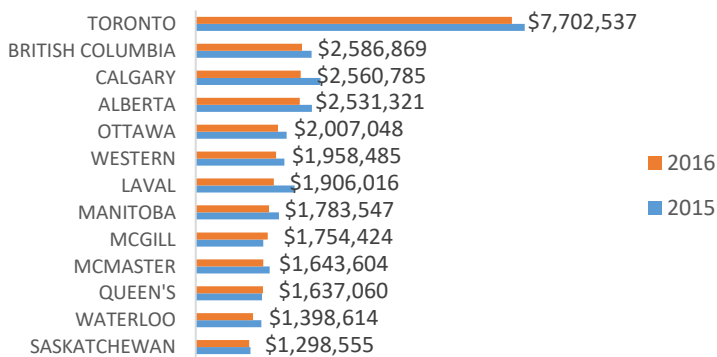
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



Total Salaries & Wages (\$)

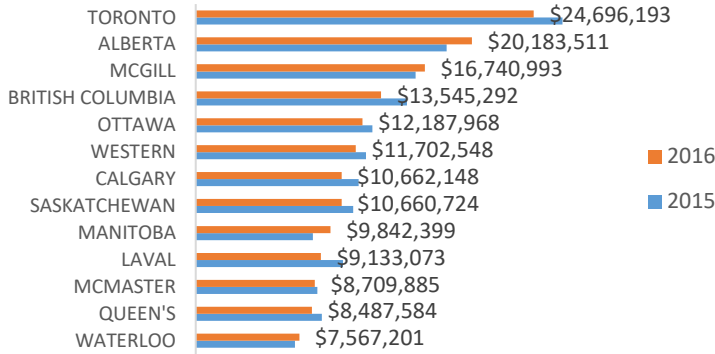


Fringe Benefits (\$)

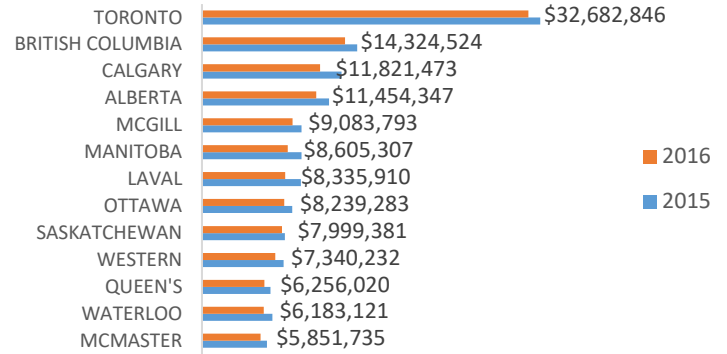


Overall Library Expenditures

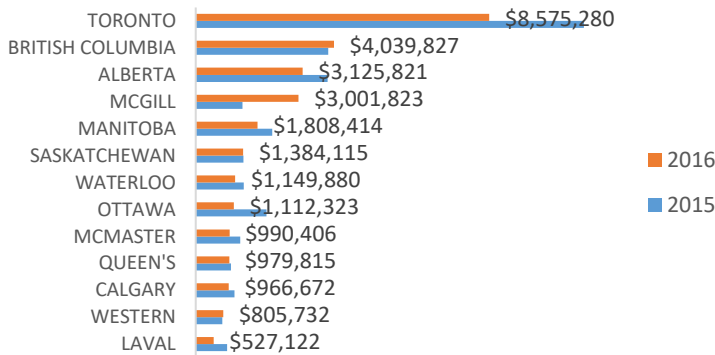
Total Library Materials (\$)



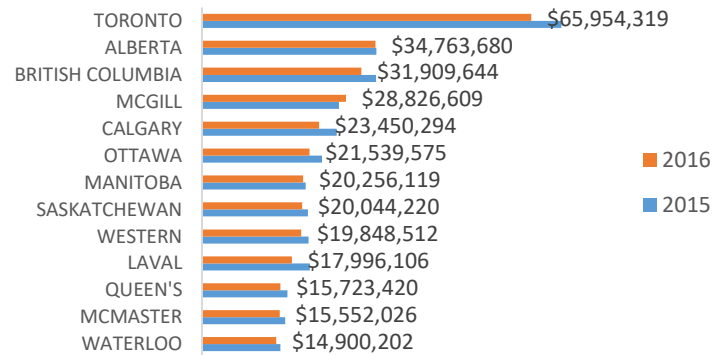
Total Salaries & Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

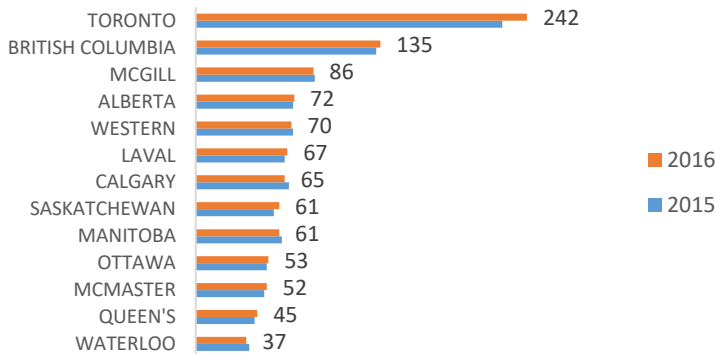


Total Library Expenditures (\$)

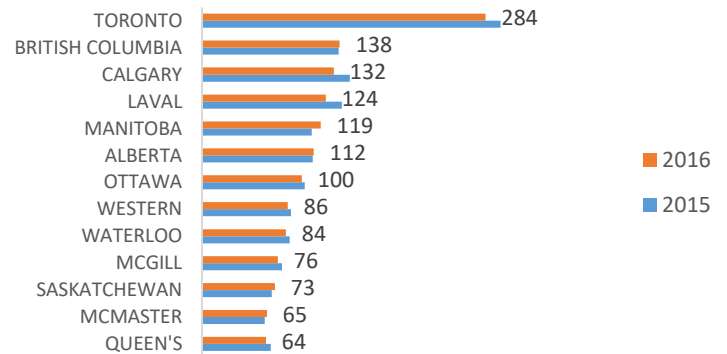


Library Personnel

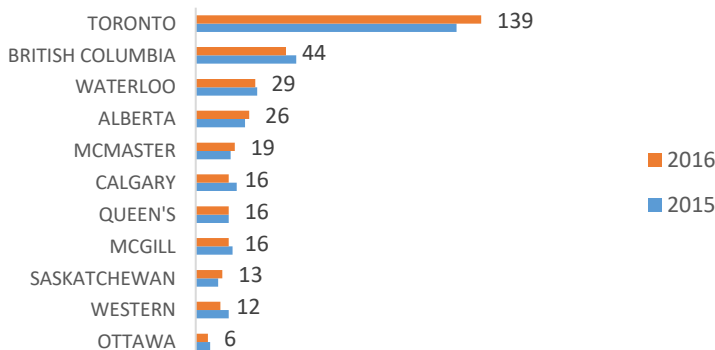
Professional Staff (FTE)



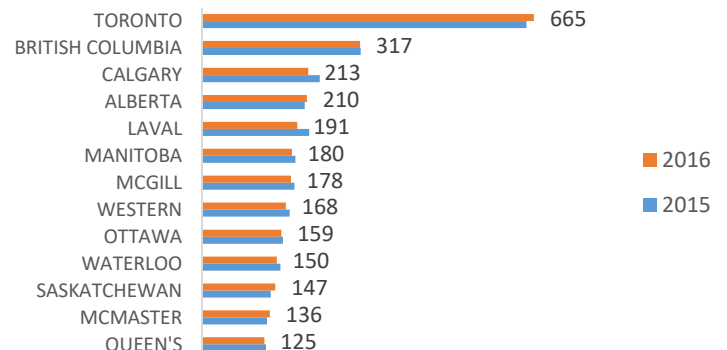
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)



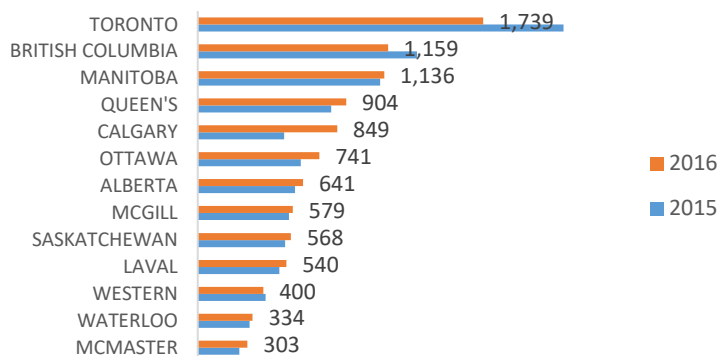
Total Staff (FTE)



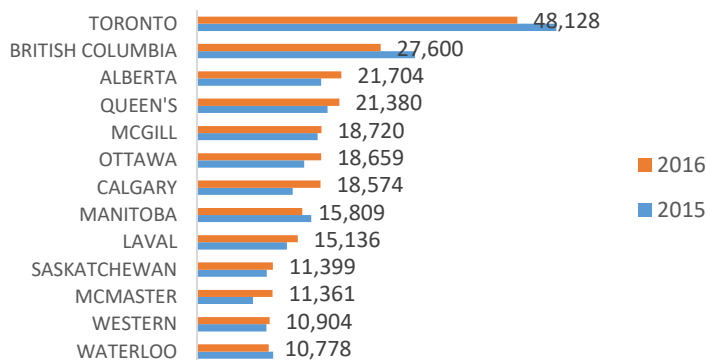
*Data missing for Laval, Manitoba

Library Use, Facilities, and Services

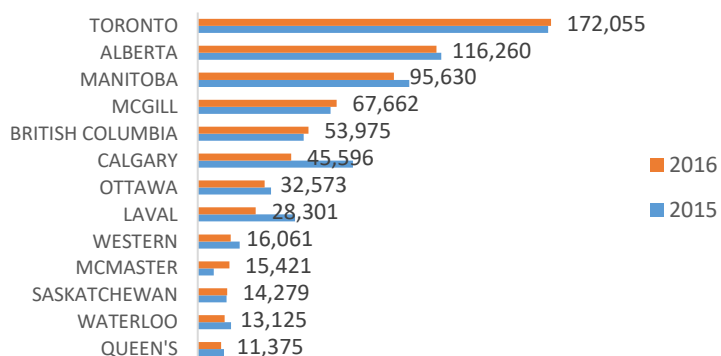
Library Presentations to Groups (#)



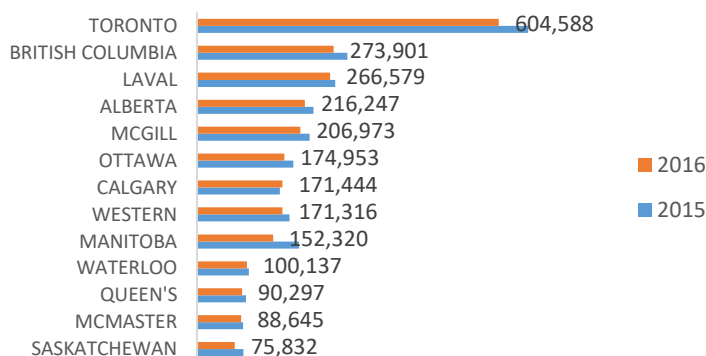
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



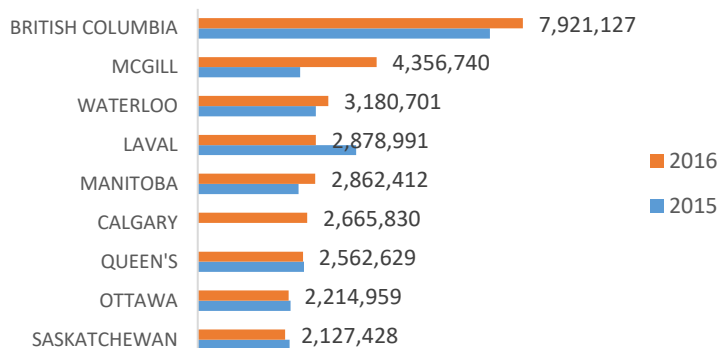
Reference Transactions (#)



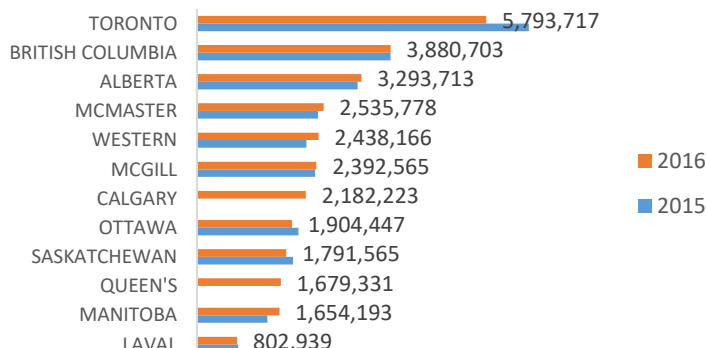
Initial Circulations (#)



Full-text Article Requests (#)



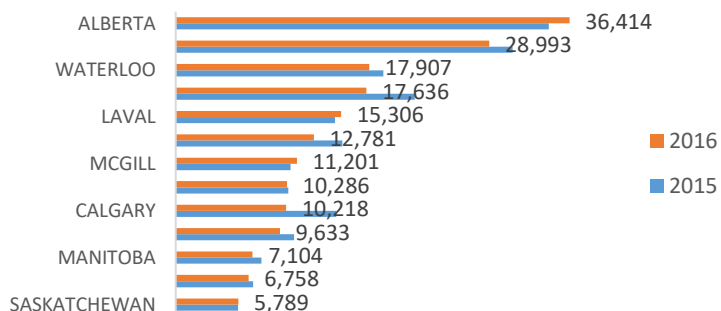
Annual Gate Count (#)



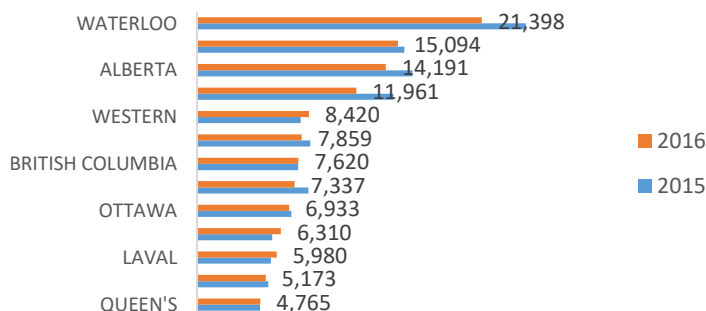
*Data missing for Alberta, McMaster, Toronto, Western

*Data missing for Waterloo

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)

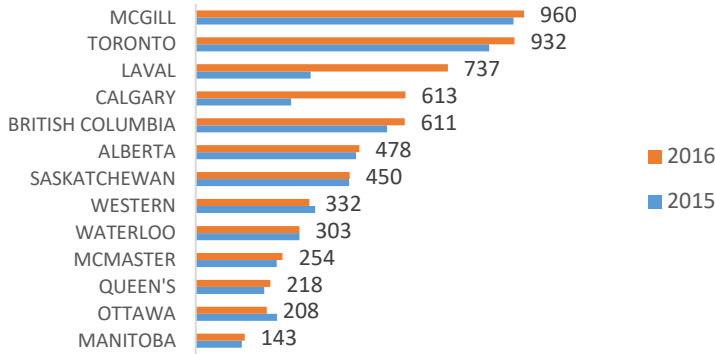


Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)

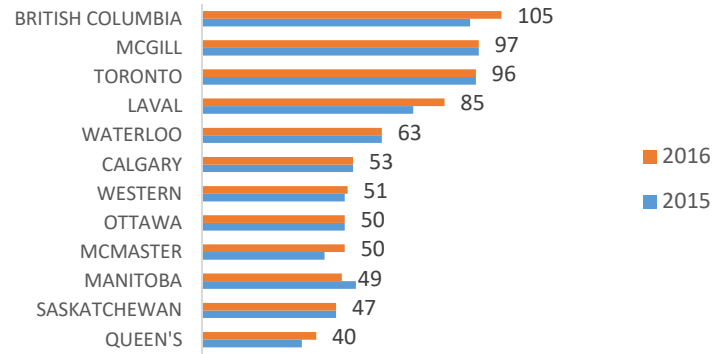


Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

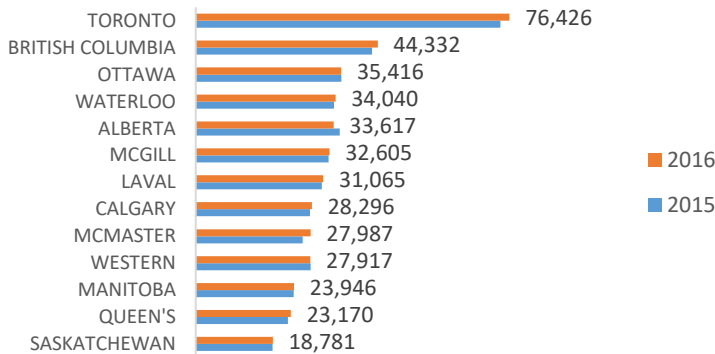


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

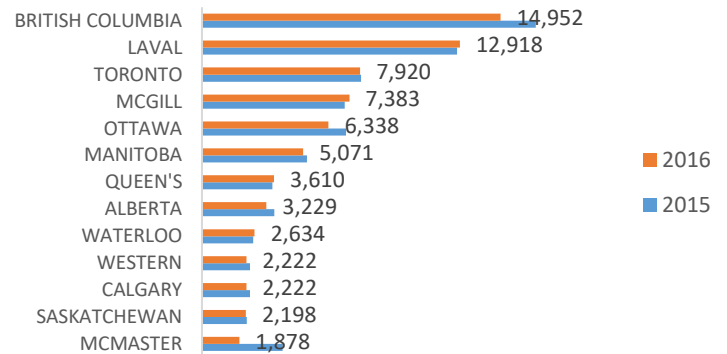


*Data missing for Alberta

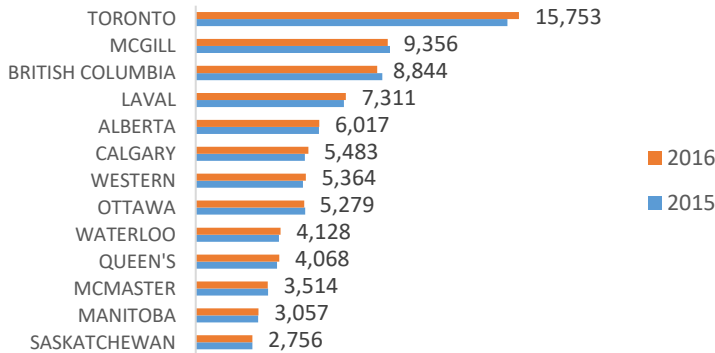
Total Full-time Students (#)



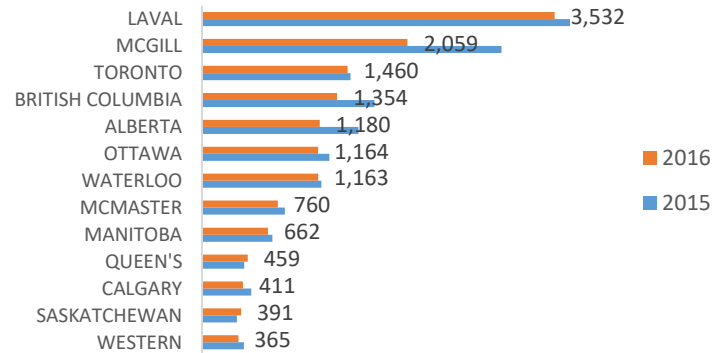
Total Part-time Students (#)



Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

