



Analysis of ARL Statistics 2021:

Summary of USask 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

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 2021³ 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 2021, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2021/>

ARL Background⁴

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 117 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	101	8	109
Canada	16	0	16
Total	117	8	125

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 2021 University of Saskatchewan (USask) ARL results compared to 2020 (including % change) and to the U15 average (2021). 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 2017 to 2021. The graphs in Appendix B show USask results/ranking among U15 peers for 2020 and 2021 for each ARL indicator.

USask Results: Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 2021 Statistics						
ARL Indicators	USask		Change		U15 Average	Ranking vs.
	2020	2021	↑↓	%	2021	U15*
Library Collections and Expenditures (USD)						
Titles Held	2,761,043	2,856,222	↑	3.4	5,365,284	10th (13)
Volumes in Library	3,323,226	3,394,247	↑	2.1	6,401,059	11th (13)
Electronic Books	1,078,888	1,149,857	↑	6.6	2,364,562	12th (13)
One-time Resource Purchases	\$935,774	\$1,116,438	↑	19.3	2,935,003	12th (13)
Ongoing Resource Purchases	\$8,673,494	\$8,725,847	↑	0.6	10,289,554	8th (13)
Collection Support ¹	\$481,627	\$369,047	↓	-23.4	341,220	6th (12)
Total Library Materials	\$10,090,895	\$10,211,332	↑	1.19	13,539,530	11th (13)
Library Salary Expenditures (USD)						
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff	\$4,336,386	\$4,775,098	↑	10.1	6,403,765	7th (13)
Salaries & Wages Support Staff	\$2,650,682	\$2,378,611	↓	-10.3	4,419,547	11th (13)
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants ²	\$396,108	\$161,639	↓	-59.2	338,267	8th (12)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$7,383,176	\$7,315,348	↓	-0.9	11,136,214	9th (13)
Fringe Benefits ³	\$1,195,689	\$1,249,728	↑	4.5	2,508,545	12th (12)
Overall Library Expenditures (USD)						
Total Library Materials	\$10,090,895	\$10,211,332	↑	1.19	13,539,530	11th (13)
Total Salaries & Wages	\$7,383,176	\$7,315,348	↓	-0.9	11,136,214	9th (13)
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,055,944	\$673,205	↓	-36.2	2,279,568	11th (13)
Total Library Expenditures	\$18,530,015	\$18,199,885	↓	-1.8	26,955,312	11th (13)
Library Personnel						
Professional Staff (FTE)	48	50	↑	4.2	87	11th (13)
Support Staff (FTE)	61	62	↑	1.6	97	11th (13)
Student Assistants (FTE) ⁴	10	3	↓	-70.00	19	10th (13)
Total Staff (FTE)	119	115	↓	-3.4	203	12th (13)
Library Use, Facilities, and Services						
Library Presentations to Groups	1,070	13	↓	-98.8	605	13th (13)
Participants in Group Presentations	13,880	24	↓	-99.8	19,548	13th (13)
Reference Transactions	20,867	10,741	↓	-48.5	18,564	9th (13)
Initial Circulations	45,415	6,662	↓	-85.3	29,585	11th (13)
Full-Text Article Requests ⁵	1,854,258	1,627,305	↓	-12.2	3,823,909	8th (9)
Annual Gate Count ⁶	1,796,374	8,121	↓	-99.5	38,292	7th (10)
Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries	5,010	3,173	↓	-36.7	6,945	11th (13)
Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	4,865	4,553	↓	-6.4	4,642	6th (13)
Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment						
Doctor's Degrees Awarded	469	460	↓	-1.9	410	5th (13)
Doctor's Degree Fields ⁷	49	48	↓	-2.0	67	8th (12)
Total Full-time Students	20,267	20,626	↑	1.8	37,160	13th (13)
Total Part-time Students	2,205	2,284	↑	3.6	6,513	11th (13)
Graduate Full-time Students	3,039	3,001	↓	-1.3	7,258	13th (13)
Graduate Part-Time Students	418	489	↑	17.0	1,394	12th (13)
Full-time Instructional Faculty	1,014	976	↓	-3.7	1,687	12th (13)

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

¹Missing Ottawa from U15 average

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

³Missing Ottawa from U15 average

⁴Includes Manitoba and Queen's in U15 average with 0 student assistants

⁵Missing Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, and McGill from U15 average

⁶Missing Ottawa, Queen's and Western from U15 average; Includes Waterloo in U15 average with 0 gate counts

⁷Missing Alberta from U15 average

Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2021 tables)

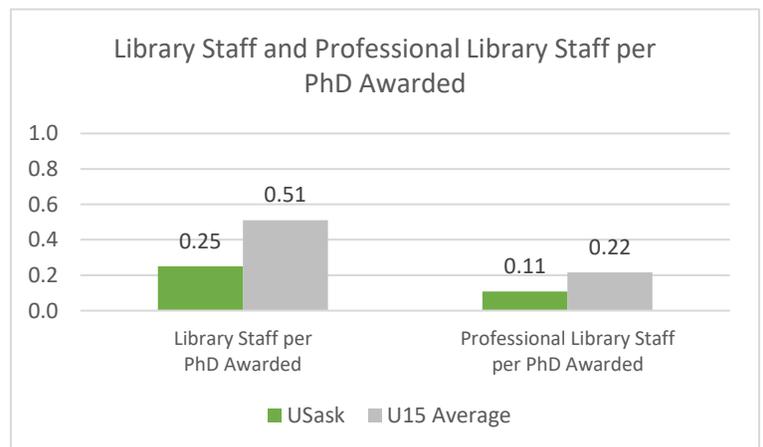
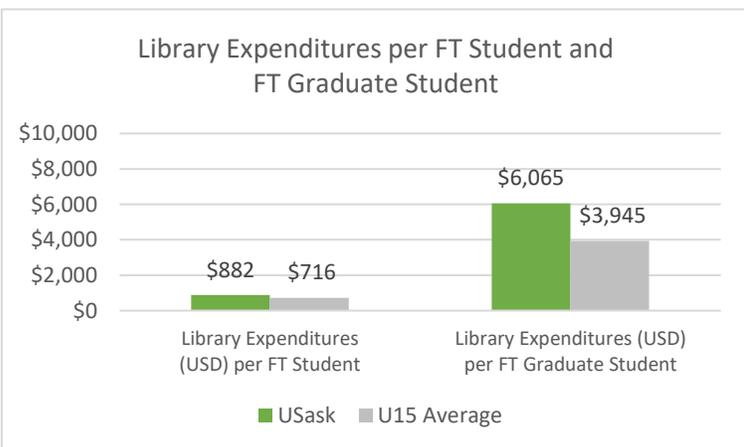
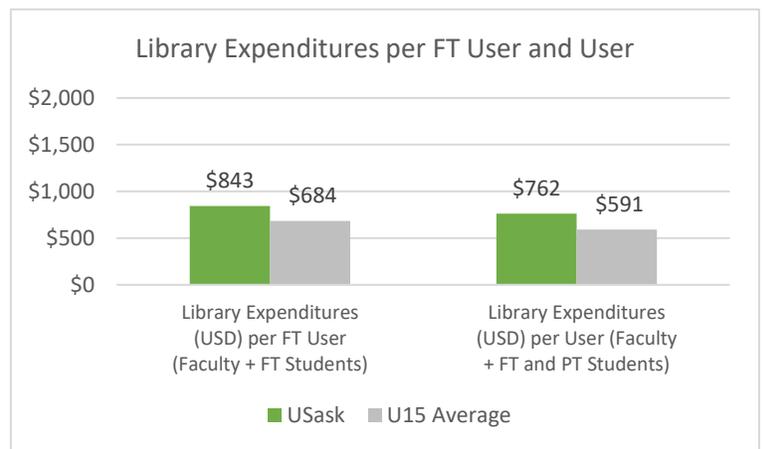
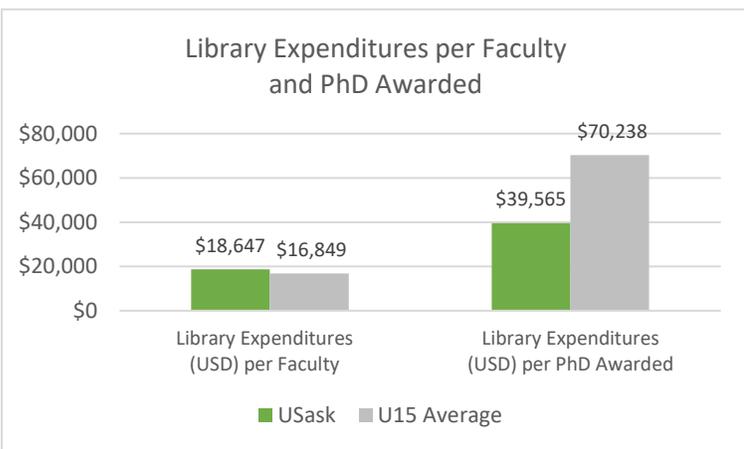
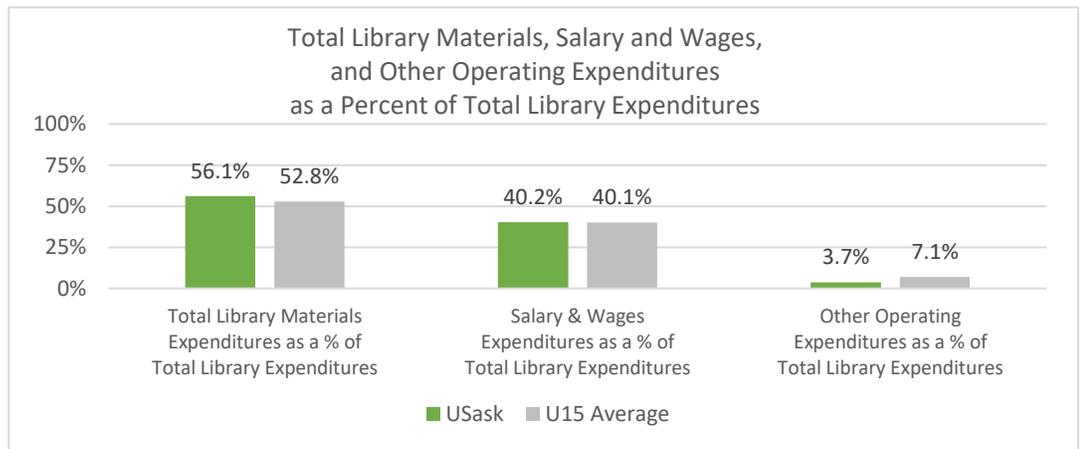
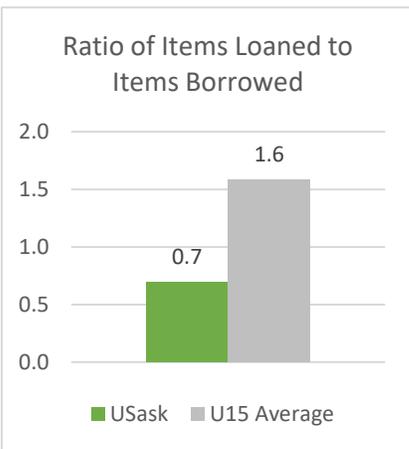
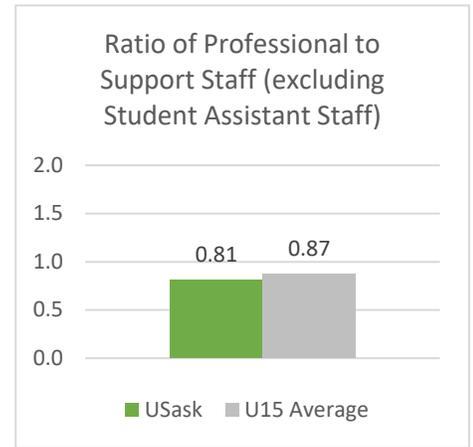
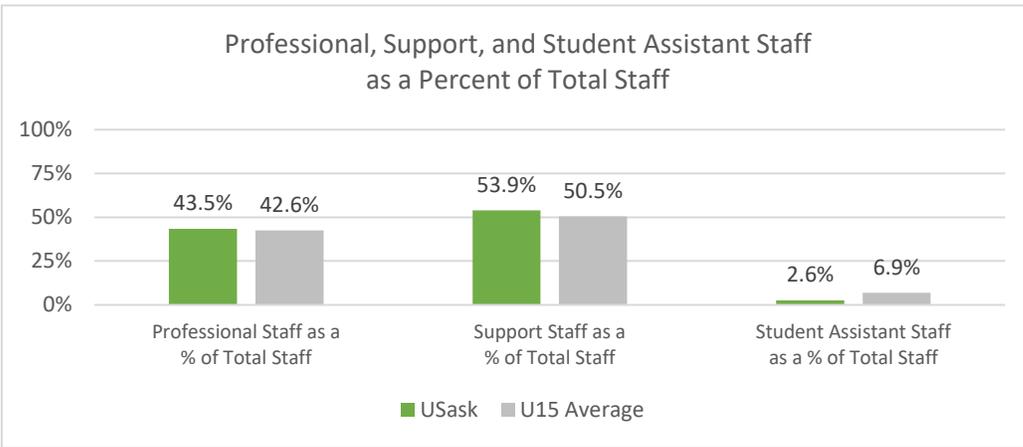
The following two tables summarize 2021 ARL percentages and ratios for USask compared to the U15 average.

ARL Percentages and Ratios (2021)	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	50	87	43.5%	42.6%	-42.8	Professional staff make up 43.5% of total staff	Professional staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (42.8% less professional staff; 43.4% less total staff)																																																																																						
	Total Staff	115	203			-43.4			Support Staff as a % of Total Staff	Support Staff	62	97	53.9%	50.5%	-35.8	Support staff make up 54% of total staff	Support staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (36% less support staff; 43% less total staff)	Total Staff	115	203	-43.4	Student Assistant Staff as a % of Total Staff	Student Assistants	3	19	2.6%	6.9%	-84.2	Student assistants make up 2.6% of total staff	Student assistant staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff (84% less student assistant staff; 43% less total staff)	Total Staff	115	203	-43.4	Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)	Professional Staff	50	87	0.81	0.87	-42.8	There are 0.81 professional staff for every support staff	There are less professional staff for every support staff (43% less professional staff; 36% less support staff)	Support Staff	62	97	-35.8	Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed	Items Loaned to Other Libraries	3,173	6,945	0.70	1.58	-54.3	There are 0.70 items loaned for every item borrowed	There are less items loaned for every item borrowed (54% less items loaned; 2% less items borrowed)	Items Borrowed from Other Libraries	4,553	4,642	-1.9	Total Library Materials Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Total Library Materials (USD)	\$10,211,332	\$13,539,530	56.1%	52.8%	-24.6	Library materials expenditures make up 56% of total	Library materials expenditures make up a greater proportion of total (25% less materials expenditures; 33% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	-32.5	Salary and Wages Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Salary and Wages (USD)	\$7,315,348	\$11,136,214	40.2%	40.1%	-34.3	Salary and wages expenditures make up 40% of total	Salary and wages expenditures make up an almost equal proportion of total (34% less salaries and wages expenditures; 33% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	-32.5	Other Operating Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Other Operating Expenditures (USD)	\$673,205	\$2,279,568	3.7%	7.1%	-70.5	Other operating expenditures make up 3.7% of total
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ARL Percentages and Ratios (2021)	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)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$18,647	\$16,849	-32.5	\$18,647 is spent for every faculty member	We spend more per faculty (33% less library expenditures; 42% less faculty)																																																																																						
	Faculty	976	1,687			-42.1			Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$882	\$716	-32.5	\$882 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (33% less library expenditures; 45% less FT students)	FT Student	20,626	37,160	-44.5	Library Expenditures per FT Graduate Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$6,065	\$3,945	-32.5	\$6,065 is spent for every FT graduate student	We spend more per FT graduate student (33% less library expenditures, 59% less FT graduate students)	FT Graduate Student	3,001	7,258	-58.7	Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$843	\$684	-32.5	\$843 is spent for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (33% less library expenditures; 44% less FT users)	FT User	21,602	38,847	-44.4	Library Expenditures per User (Faculty + FT and PT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$762	\$591	-32.5	\$762 is spent for every user	We spend more per user (33% less library expenditures; 47% less users)	User	23,886	45,361	-47.3	Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$39,565	\$70,238	-32.5	\$39,565 is spent for every PhD awarded	We spend less per PhD awarded (33% less library expenditures; 12% more PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	460	410	12.2	Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Total Staff	115	203	0.25	0.51	-43.4	There are 0.25 library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less library staff for every PhD awarded (43% less library staff; 12% more PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	460	410	12.2	Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	50	87	0.11	0.22	-42.8	There are 0.11 professional library staff for every PhD awarded
Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$882	\$716	-32.5	\$882 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (33% less library expenditures; 45% less FT students)																																																																																						
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Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	Total Library Expenditures (USD)	\$18,199,885	\$26,955,312	\$843	\$684	-32.5	\$843 is spent for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (33% less library expenditures; 44% less FT users)																																																																																						
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	PhD Awarded	460	410			12.2			Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	50	87	0.11	0.22	-42.8	There are 0.11 professional library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less professional library staff for every PhD awarded (43% less professional library staff; 12% more PhDs awarded)	PhD Awarded	460	410	12.2																																																																									
Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	50	87	0.11	0.22	-42.8	There are 0.11 professional library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less professional library staff for every PhD awarded (43% less professional library staff; 12% more PhDs awarded)																																																																																						
	PhD Awarded	460	410			12.2																																																																																								

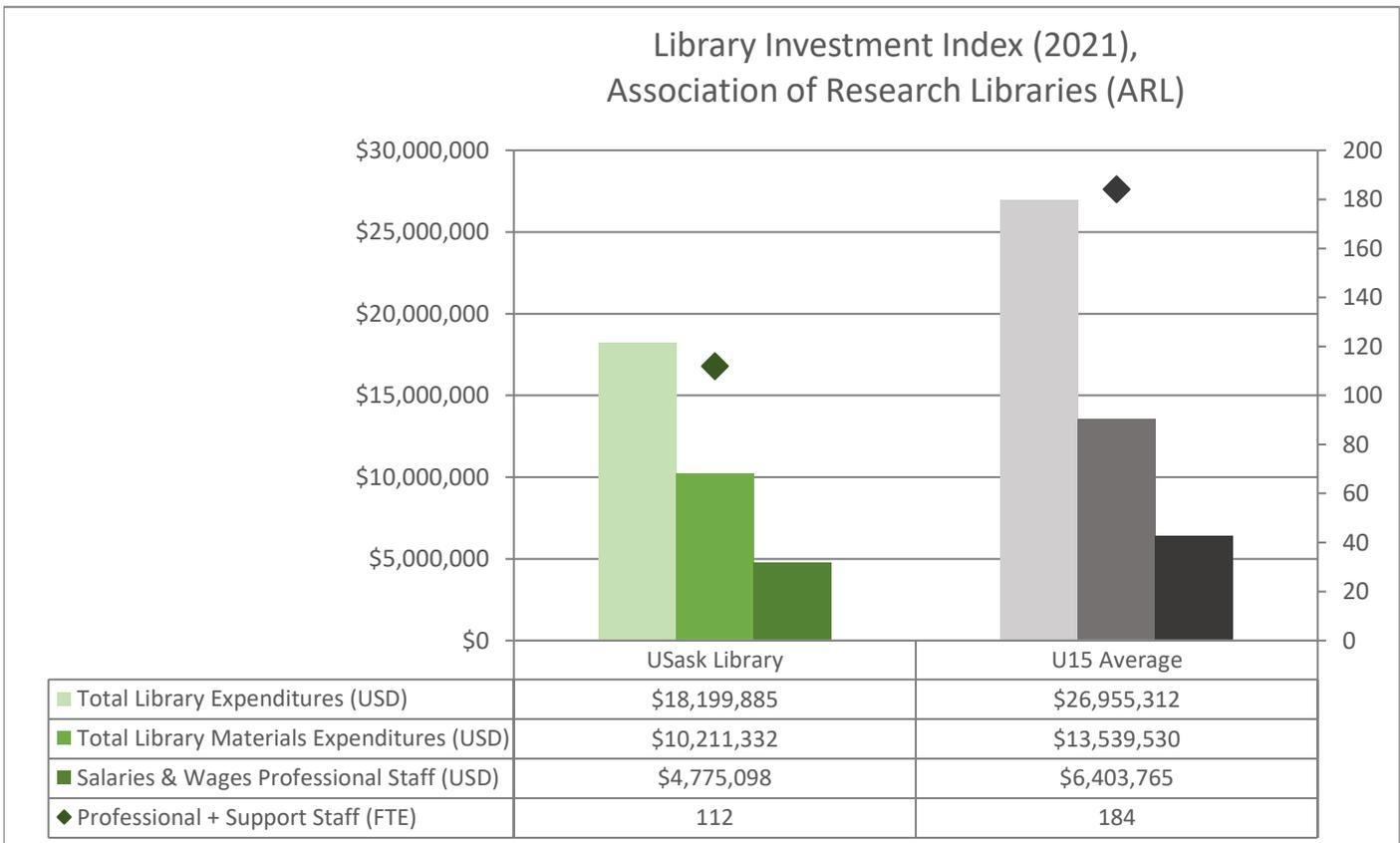
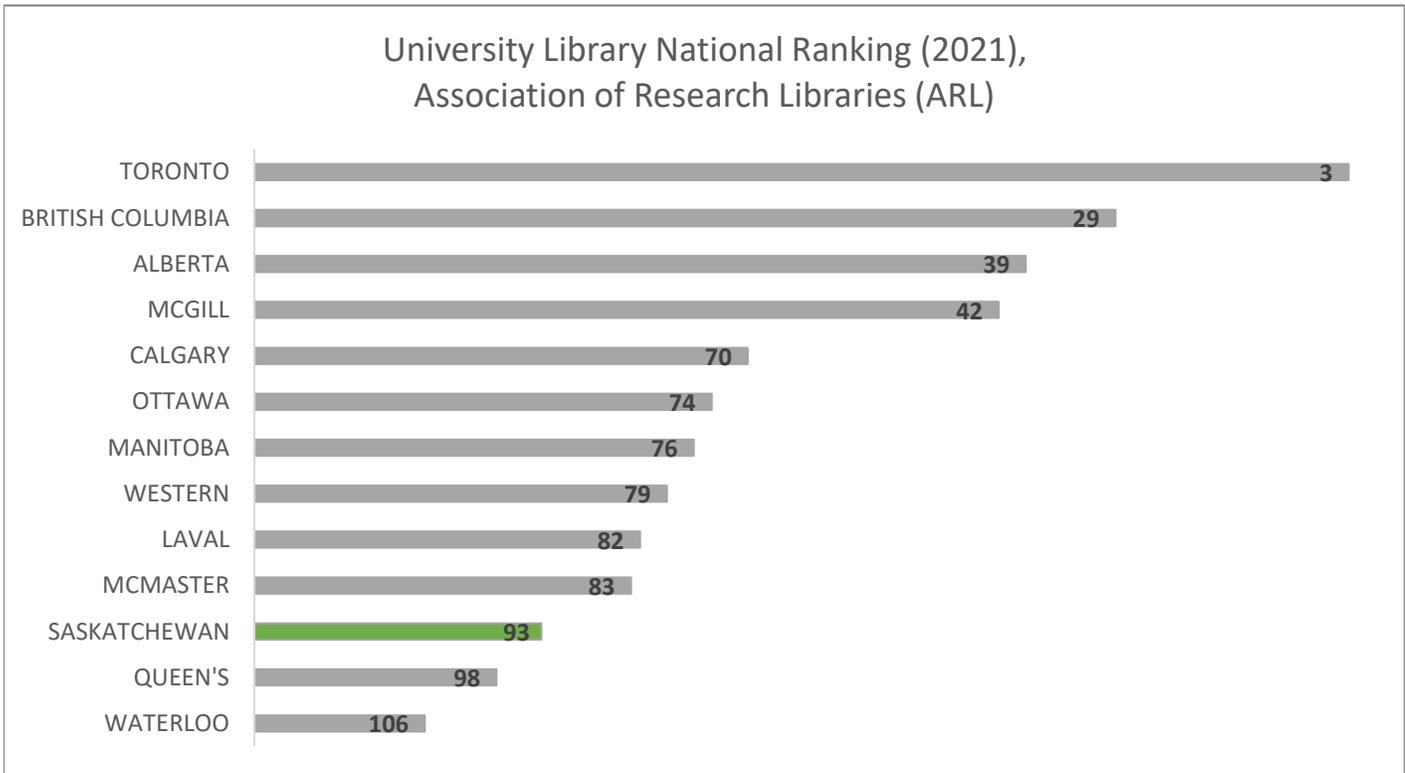
Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2021 graphs)

The following graphs illustrate 2021 ARL percentages and ratios for USask compared to the U15 average.



Results: ARL Library Investment Index

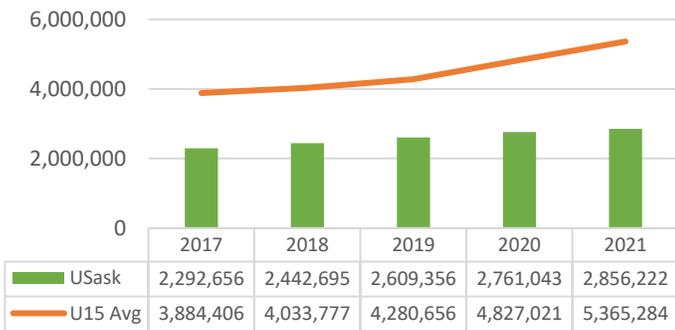
The first graph depicts the ARL Library Investment Index ranking for thirteen U15 institutions in 2021 (Dalhousie and Montreal not ARL members). The second graph shows the values for each of the four variables used to calculate the Library Investment Index at USask compared to the average of thirteen U15 peer institutions in 2021.



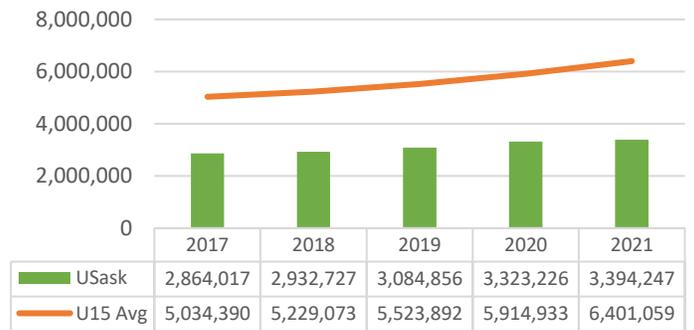
Appendix A: ARL Indicators – USask versus U15 average (2017 to 2021)

Library Collections and Expenditures

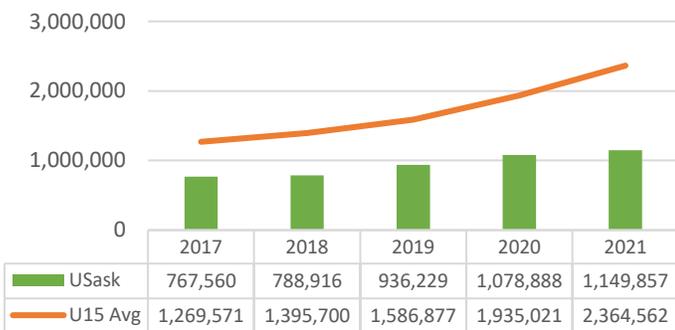
Titles Held (#)



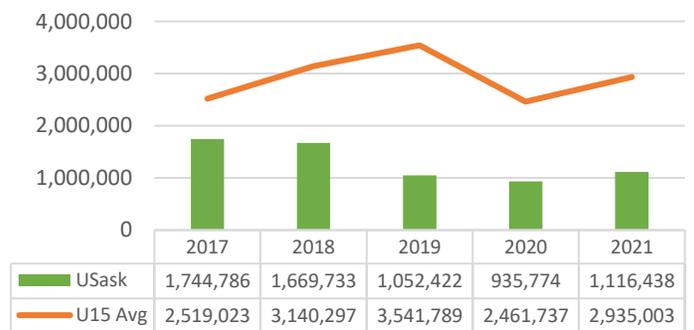
Volumes in Library (#)



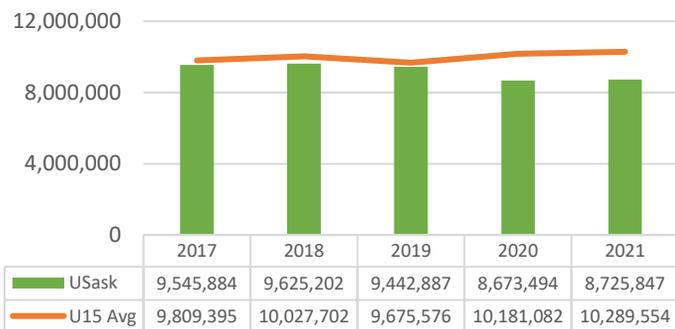
Electronic Books (#)



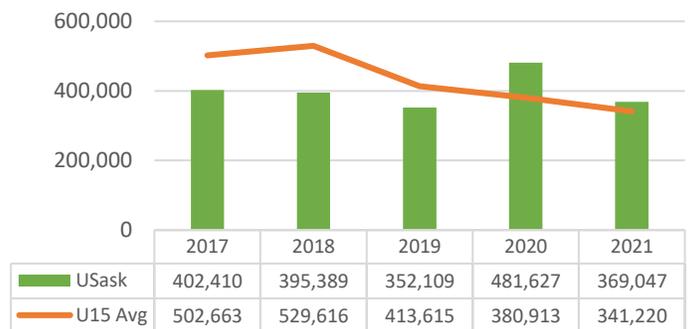
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)



Collection Support (\$)



*2021: Ottawa missing from U15 average

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

Total Expenditures for Materials (\$)

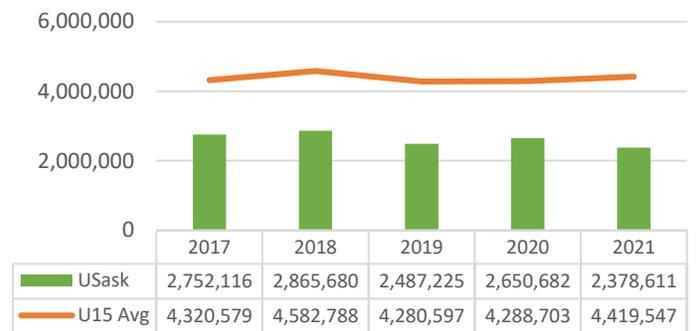


Library Salary Expenditures

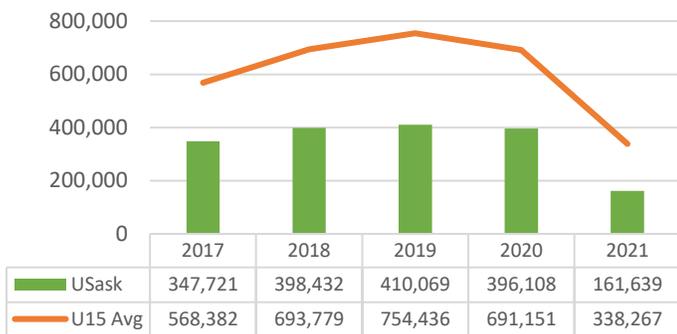
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



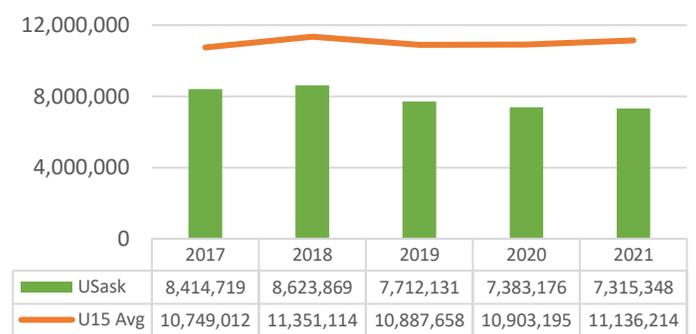
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



Total Salaries and Wages (\$)

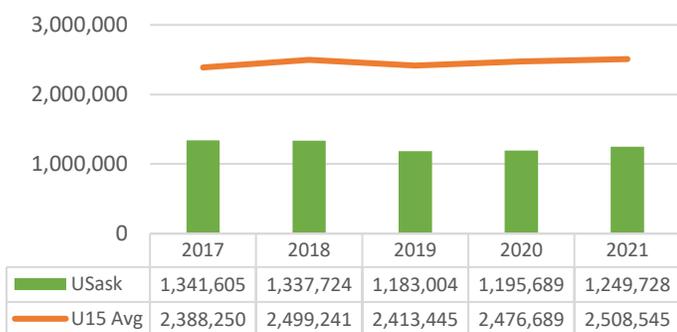


*2018, 2020, 2021: Includes \$0 salaries & wages from Manitoba; Laval missing from U15 avg.

*2019: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

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

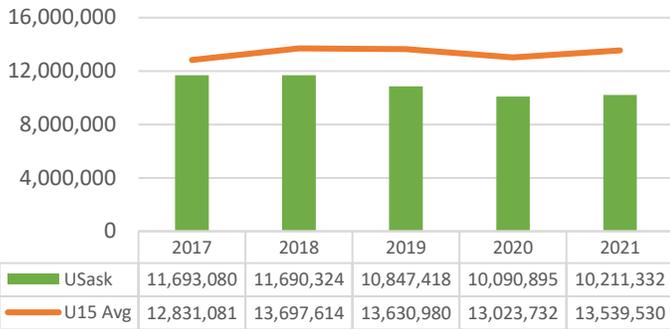
Fringe Benefits (\$)



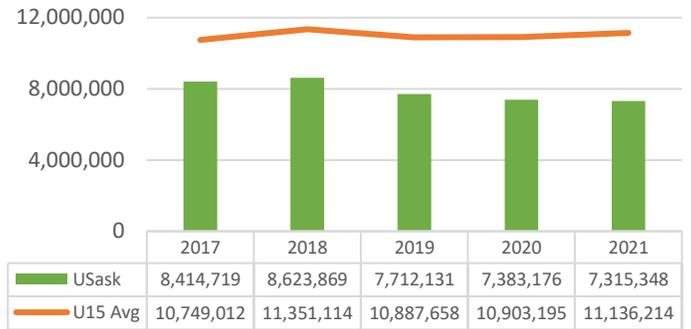
*2020, 2021: Ottawa missing from U15 average

Overall Library Expenditures

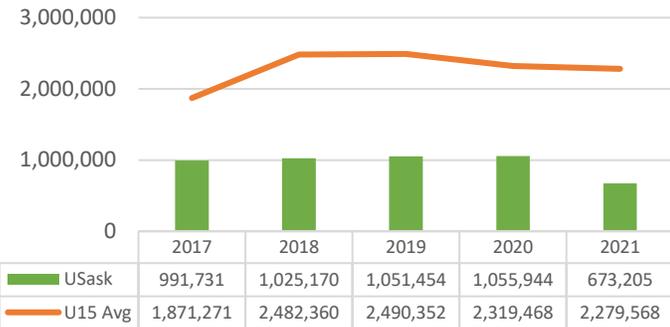
Total Materials (\$)



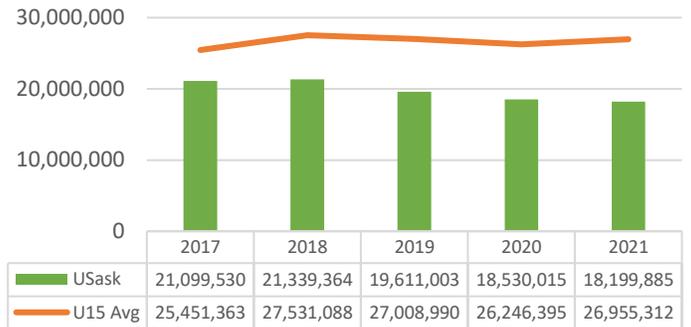
Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)



Total Expenditures (\$)



Library Personnel

Professional Staff (FTE)



Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)



Total Staff (FTE)



*2021: Includes 0 student assistants from Manitoba and Queen's in U15 average

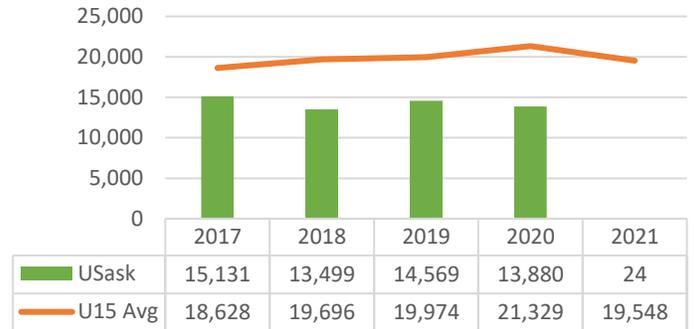
*2017-2020: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

Library Use, Facilities, and Services

Library Presentations to Groups (#)



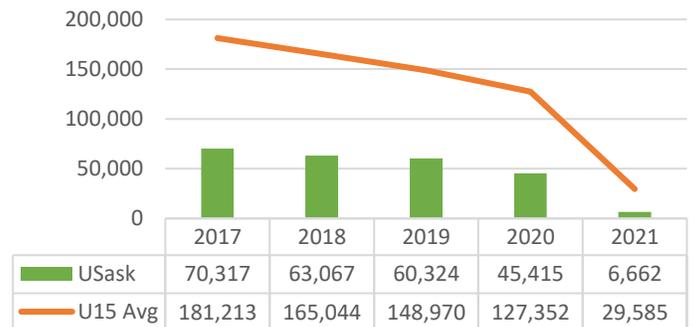
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



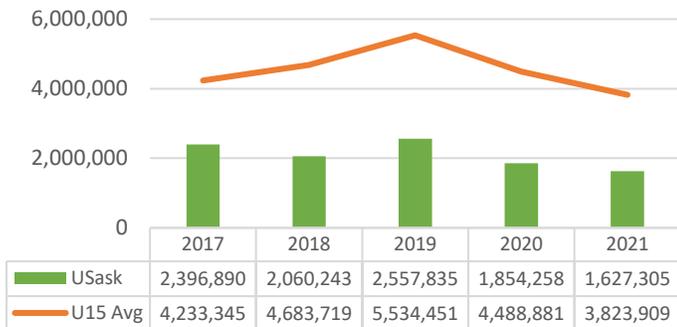
Reference Transactions (#)



Initial Circulations (#)



Full-text Article Requests (#)



Annual Gate Count (#)



*2021: Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, McGill missing from U15 average

*2020: Alberta, Calgary missing from U15 average

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

*2018: Alberta missing from U15 average

*2021: Includes 0 gate count from Waterloo; Ottawa, Queen's, Western missing from U15 average

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)

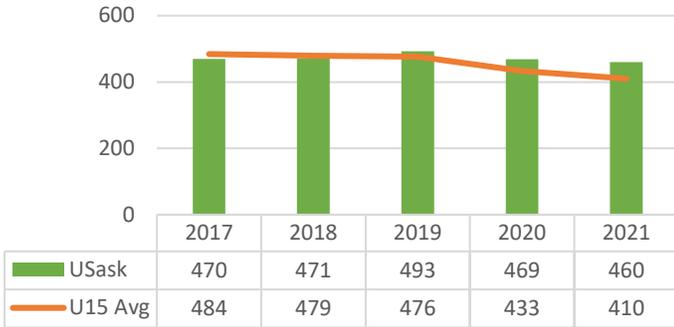


Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)



Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

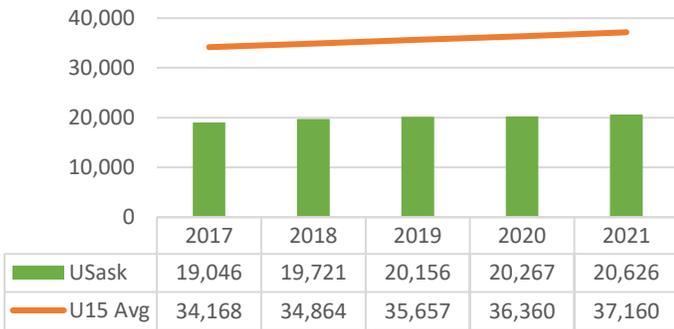


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

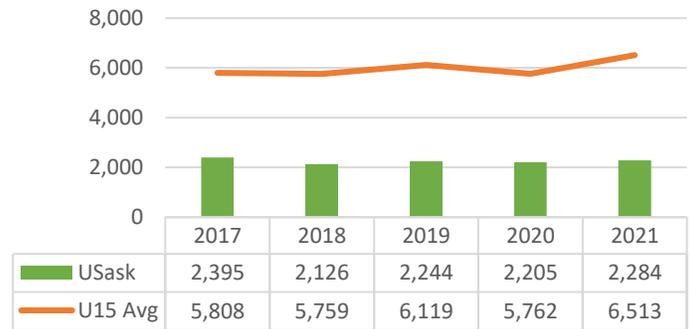


*All years: Alberta missing from U15 average

Total Full-time Students (#)



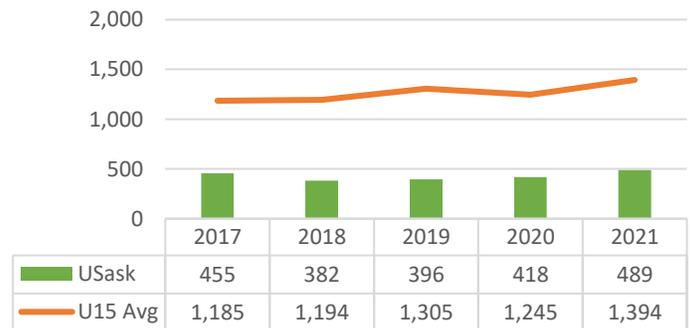
Total Part-time Students (#)



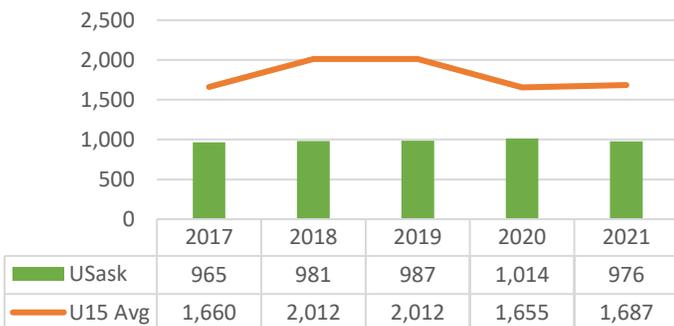
Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



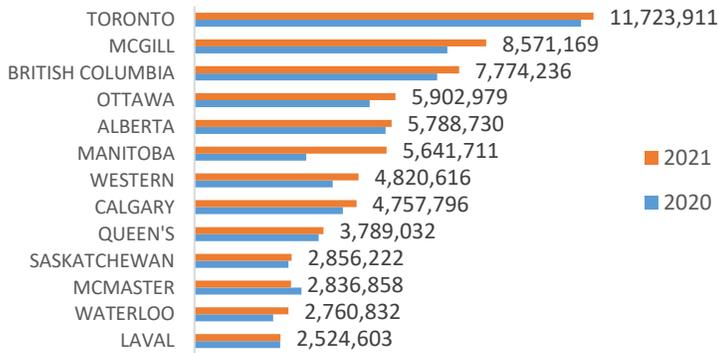
Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)



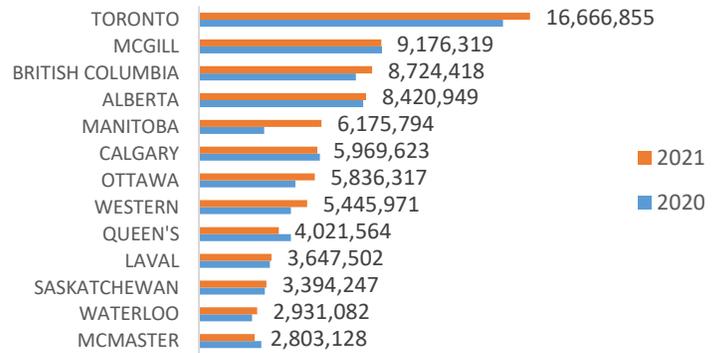
Appendix B: ARL Indicators – USask results/ranking among U15 (2021 & 2020)

Library Collections and Expenditures

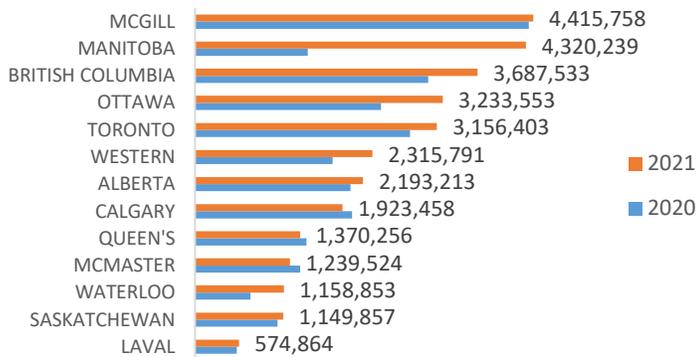
Titles Held (#)



Volumes in Library (#)



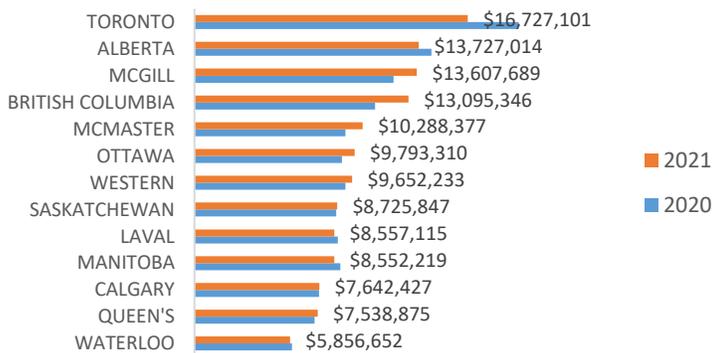
Electronic Books (#)



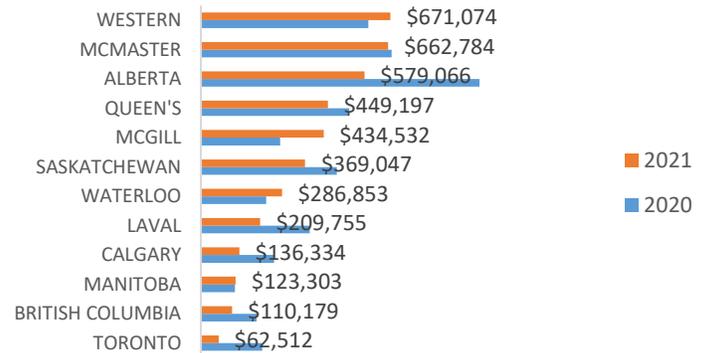
One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)

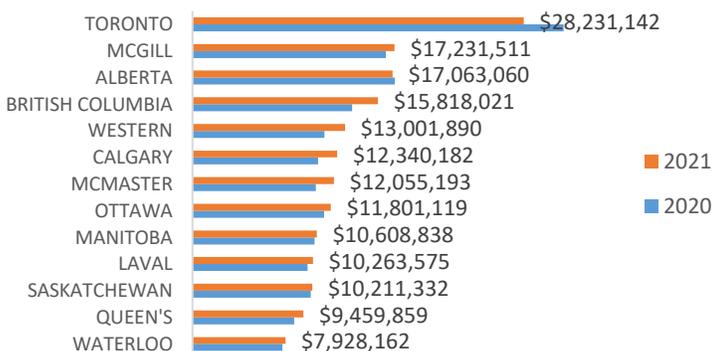


Collection Support (\$)



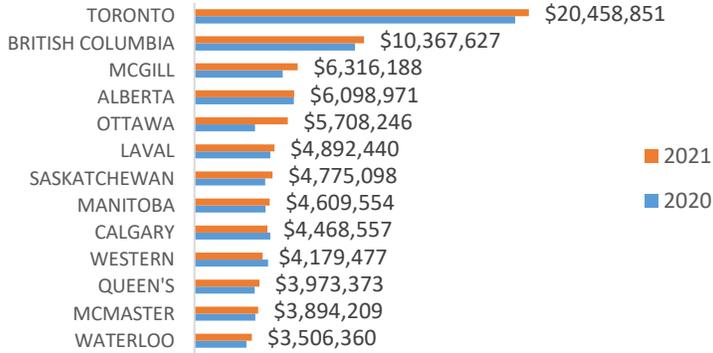
*Data missing for Ottawa

Total Library Materials (\$)

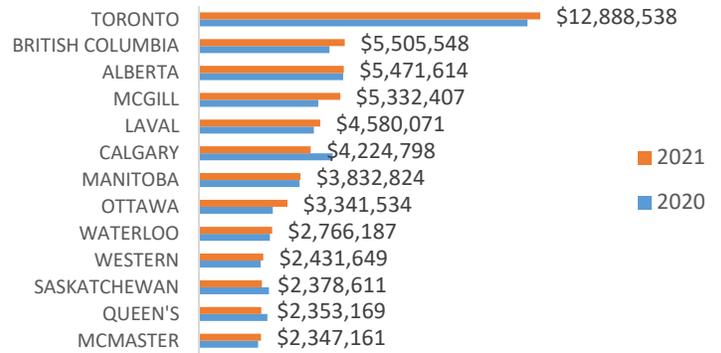


Library Salary Expenditures

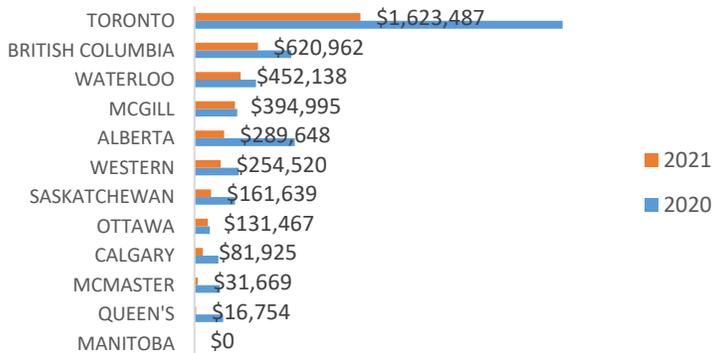
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



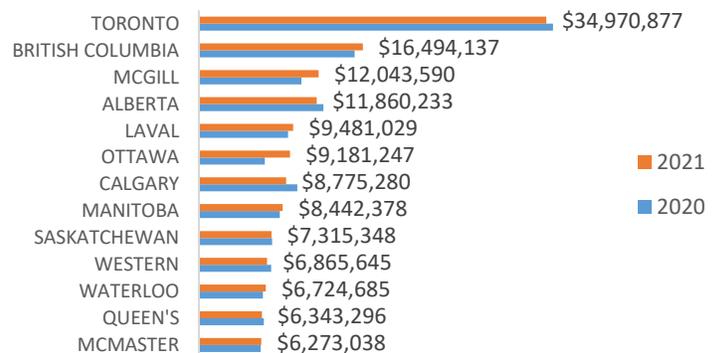
Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)

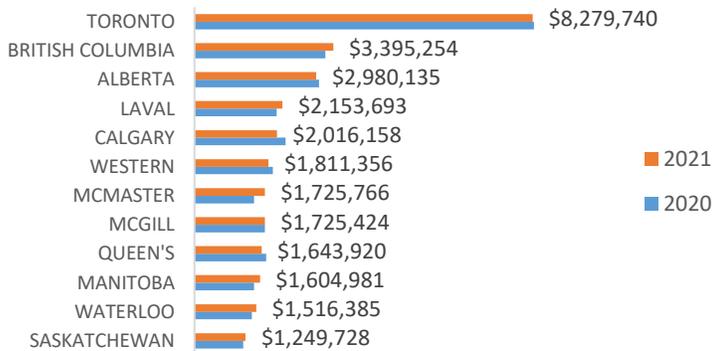


Total Salaries & Wages (\$)



*Data missing for Laval

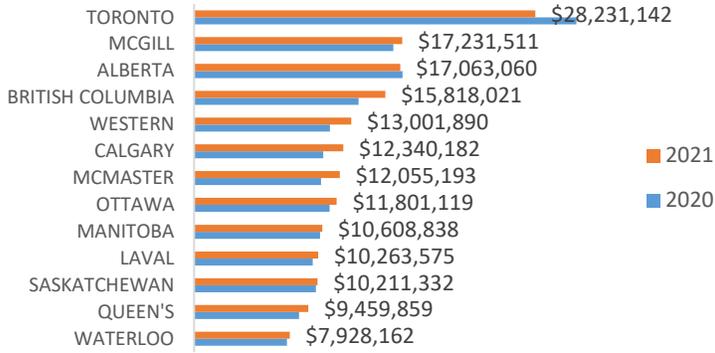
Fringe Benefits (\$)



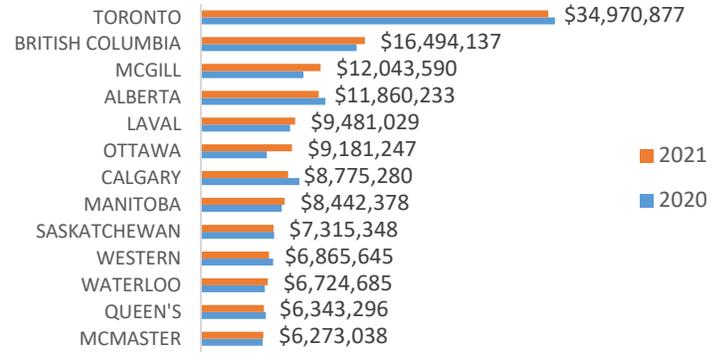
*Data missing for Ottawa

Overall Library Expenditures

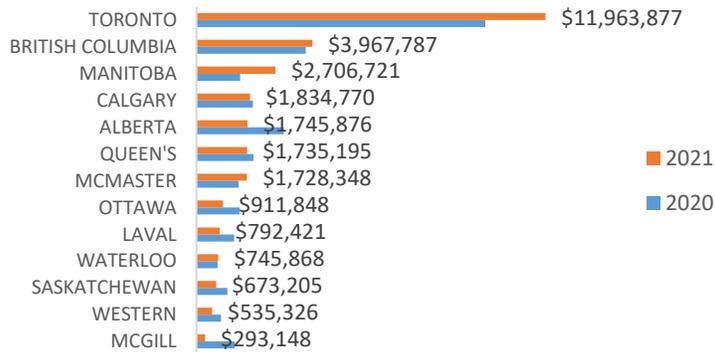
Total Library Materials (\$)



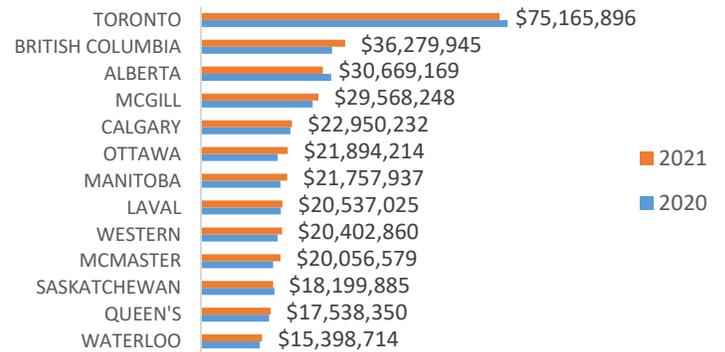
Total Salaries & Wages (\$)



Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

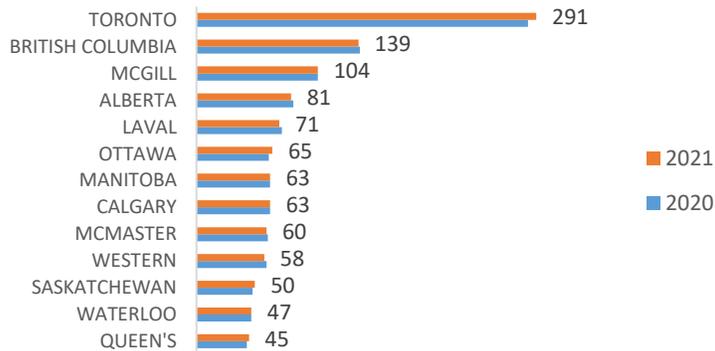


Total Library Expenditures (\$)

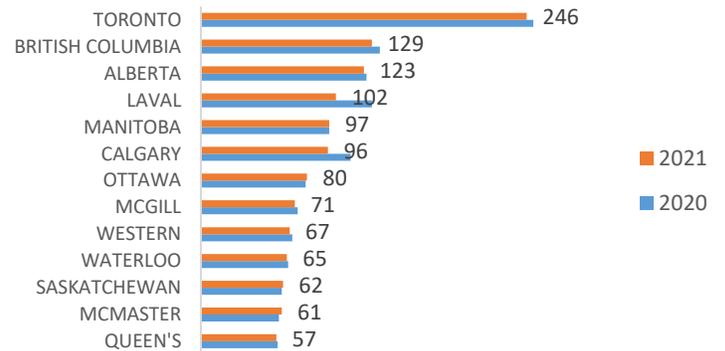


Library Personnel

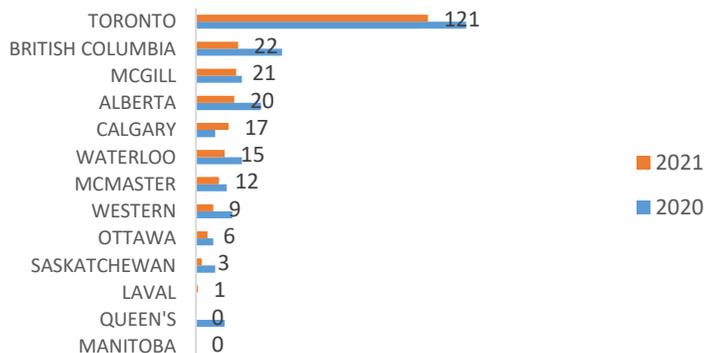
Professional Staff (FTE)



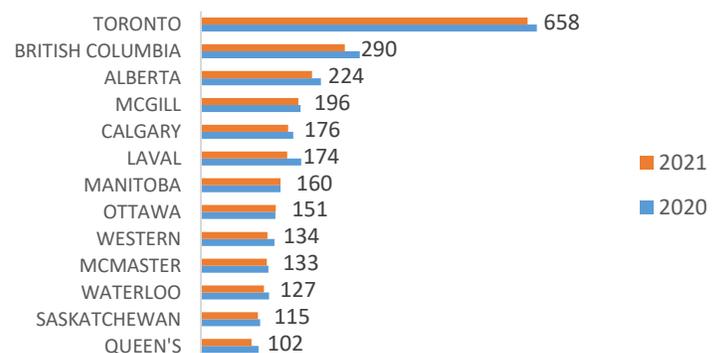
Support Staff (FTE)



Student Assistants (FTE)

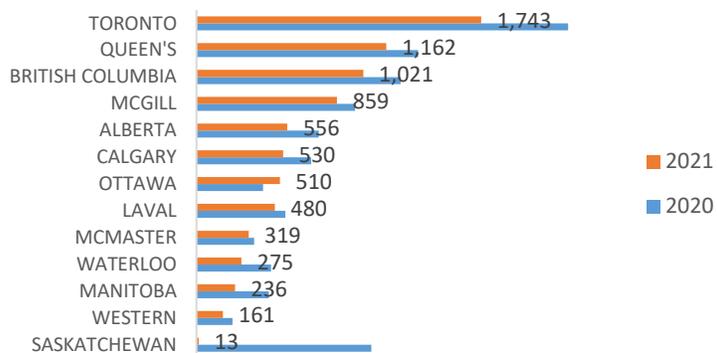


Total Staff (FTE)

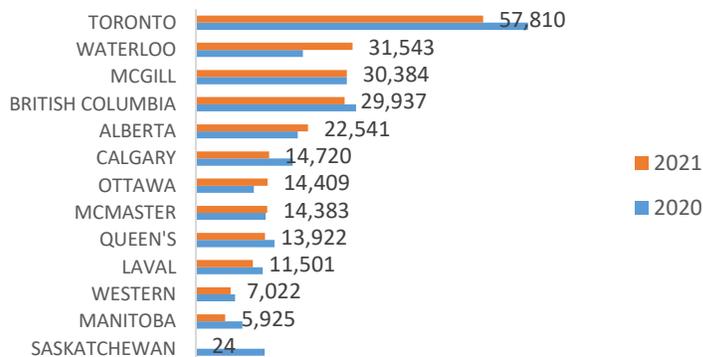


Library Use, Facilities, and Services

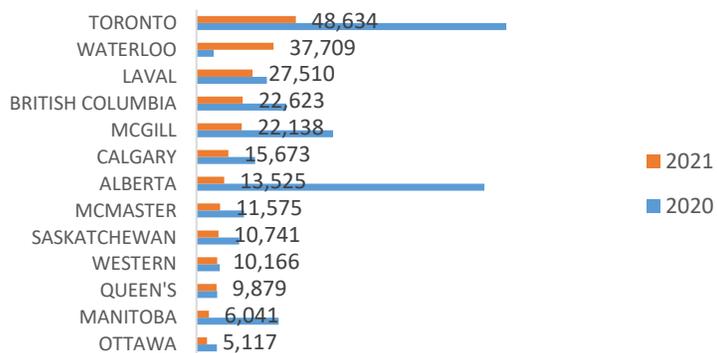
Library Presentations to Groups (#)



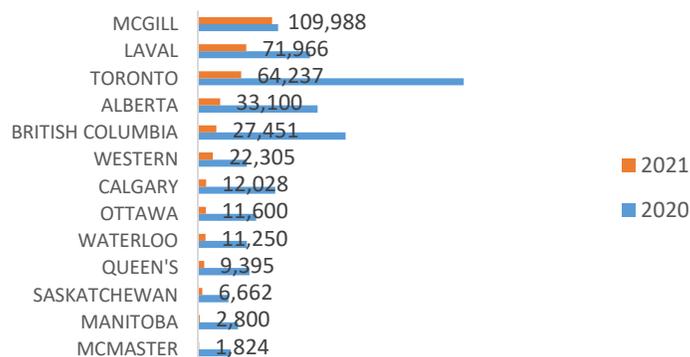
Participants in Group Presentations (#)



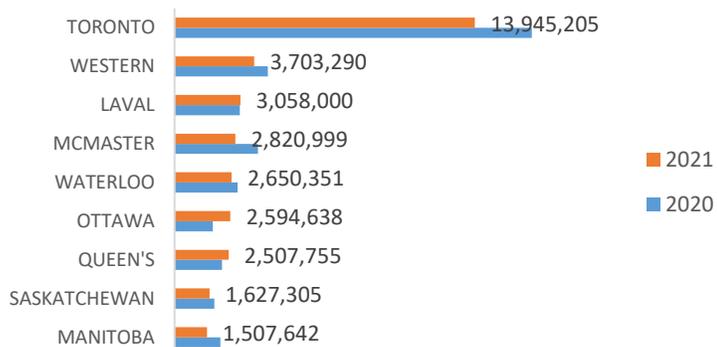
Reference Transactions (#)



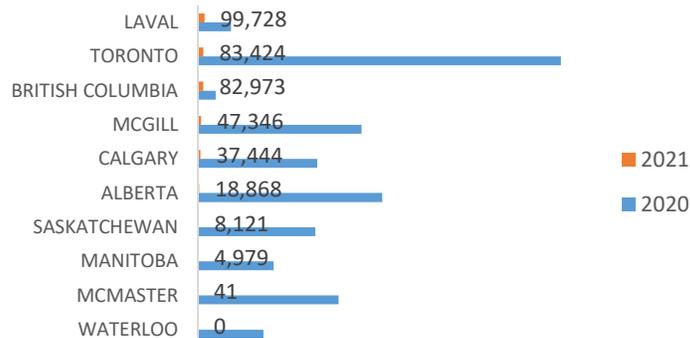
Initial Circulations (#)



Full-text Article Requests (#)



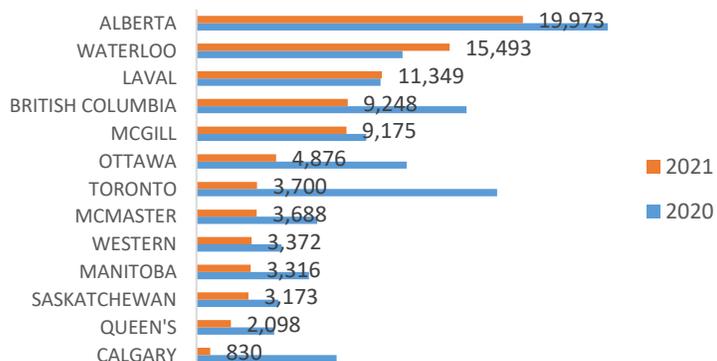
Annual Gate Count (#)



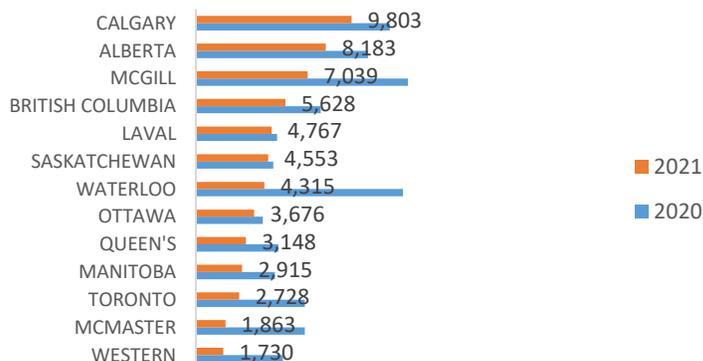
*Data missing for Alberta, British Columbia, Calgary, McGill

*Data missing for Ottawa, Queen's, Western

Total Items Loaned to Other Libraries (#)

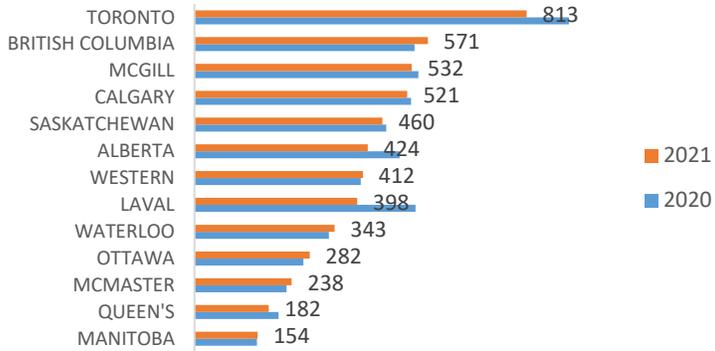


Total Items Borrowed from Other Libraries (#)

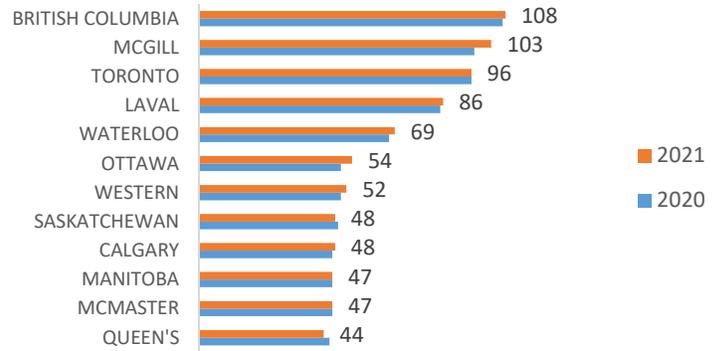


Doctor's Degrees, Faculty, and Enrollment

Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)

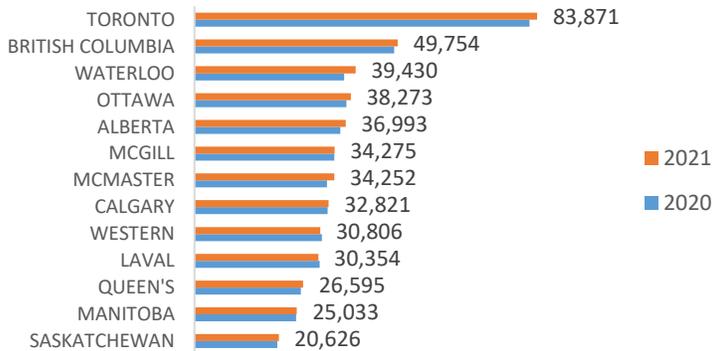


Doctor's Degree Fields (#)

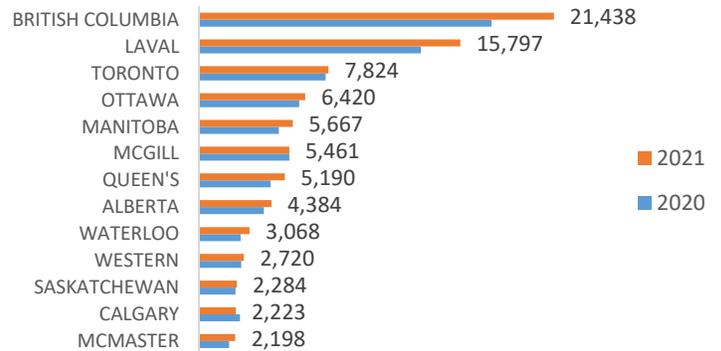


*Data missing for Alberta

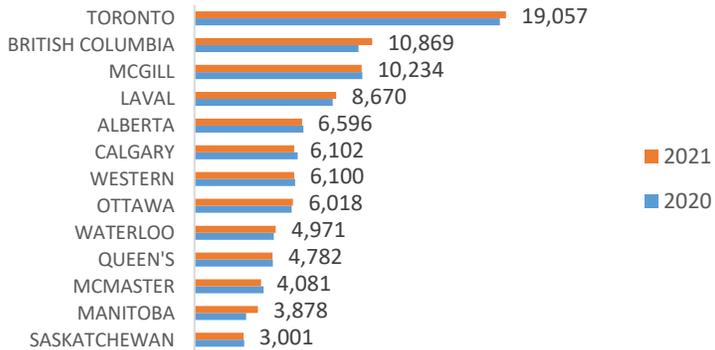
Total Full-time Students (#)



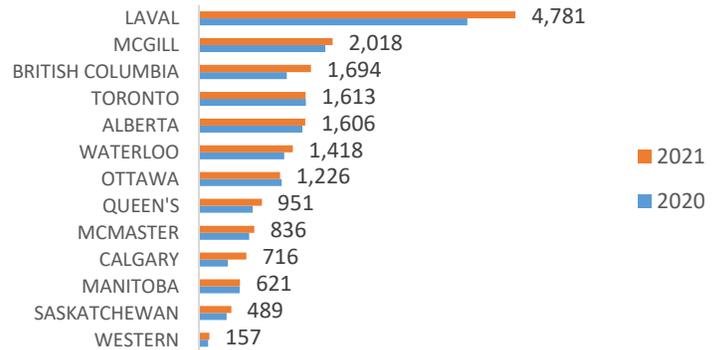
Total Part-time Students (#)



Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Graduate Part-time Students (#)



Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

