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# Analysis of ARL Statistics 2014-15: Summary of U of S versus U15 Peer Group

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## Disclaimer

Prior to reviewing this report, please see the following quote from an ARL published report<sup>1</sup> 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 systematically reports library statistics for key external bodies both nationally and internationally. Typically, data submitted relating to collections and collections expenditures, salary expenditures, overall expenditures, and personnel and public services, is made available in the public domain through or by other agencies. The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) annually publishes statistics for several indicators, percentages and ratios, and the library investment index, providing a wealth of statistics for all ARL institutions.

The U of S is part of a select group of 15 research-intensive universities in Canada known as the [U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities](#). The annual publication of ARL statistics allows the University Library to track progress over time and benchmark with our U15 peer institutions<sup>2</sup>. The current report represents the University Library's analysis of ARL Statistics 2014-15<sup>3</sup> summarizing the results for the U of S versus our U15 peers for all ARL indicators, percentages and ratios, and the library investment index.

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> ARL Statistics 2014-2015, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2014-2015/>

## ARL Background<sup>4</sup>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>124</b>

## ARL Indicators<sup>5</sup>

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).

### Collections and Collections Expenditures

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

### Salary Expenditures

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

### Overall Expenditures

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

### Personnel and Public Services

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

### Faculty and Enrollment

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

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<sup>4</sup> ARL Statistics 2014-2015, Association of Research Libraries, Washington, DC. Retrieved from <http://publications.arl.org/ARL-Statistics-2014-2015/>

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

## ARL Percentages and Ratios

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

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

## ARL Library Investment Index

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

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

## Results: ARL Indicators

The following table summarizes the 2014-15 University of Saskatchewan (U of S) ARL results compared to 2013-14 (including % change) and to the U15 average (2014-15). 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 2010-11 to 2014-15. The graphs in Appendix B show U of S results/ranking among U15 peers for 2013-14 and 2014-15 for each ARL indicator.

ARL Indicators	U of S		Change		U15 Average	Ranking vs.
	2013-14	2014-15	↑↓	%	2014-15	U15*
<b>Library Collections</b>						
Titles Held	1,919,329	2,115,019	↑	10.2	3,626,004	10th (13)
Volumes in Library	2,669,043	2,696,934	↑	1.0	5,162,051	11th (13)
Electronic Books	518,154	527,700	↑	1.8	1,150,087	11th (13)
<b>Library Collection Expenditures</b>						
One-time Resource Purchases	\$1,868,872	\$1,441,360	↓	-22.9	2,753,353	10th (13)
Ongoing Resource Purchases	\$9,426,502	\$9,702,348	↑	2.9	9,809,335	6th (13)
Collection Support <sup>1</sup>	\$413,111	\$366,038	↓	-11.4	519,094	8th (13)
Total Expenditures for Materials	\$11,708,485	\$11,509,745	↓	-1.7	13,081,782	8th (13)
<b>Library Salary Expenditures</b>						
Salaries & Wages Professional Staff	\$5,360,259	\$5,047,168	↓	-5.8	5,783,414	6th (13)
Salaries & Wages Support Staff	\$3,595,234	\$2,977,869	↓	-17.2	5,167,640	11th (13)
Salaries & Wages Student Assistants	\$367,843	\$271,851	↓	-26.1	735,962	12th (13)
Total Salaries and Wages	\$9,323,336	\$8,296,887	↓	-11.0	11,687,016	9th (13)
Fringe Benefits	\$1,441,389	\$1,336,546	↓	-7.3	2,577,497	13th (13)
<b>Overall Library Expenditures</b>						
Total Expenditures for Materials	\$11,708,485	\$11,509,745	↓	-1.7	13,081,782	8th (13)
Total Salaries and Wages	\$9,323,336	\$8,296,887	↓	-11.0	11,687,016	9th (13)
Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,840,796	\$1,393,684	↓	-24.3	2,515,309	7th (13)
Total Expenditures	\$22,872,616	\$21,200,317	↓	-7.3	27,284,108	9th (13)
<b>Library Personnel and Public Services</b>						
Professional Staff (FTE)	58	57	↓	-1.7	79	9th (13)
Support Staff (FTE)	75	70	↓	-6.7	116	11th (13)
Student Assistants (FTE)	14	11	↓	-21.4	28	11th (13)
Total Staff (FTE)	147	138	↓	-6.1	222	11th (13)
Library Presentations to Groups	582	532	↓	-8.6	754	8th (13)
Participants in Group Presentations	15,476	10,500	↓	-32.2	18,854	11th (13)
Reference Transactions	14,238	13,965	↓	-1.9	56,822	11th (13)
Initial Circulations	101,987	93,124	↓	-8.7	218,305	12th (13)
Total Items Loaned	5,537	5,781	↑	4.4	15,753	13th (13)
Total Items Borrowed	4,980	5,361	↑	7.7	10,148	12th (13)
Full-Text Article Requests <sup>2</sup>	1,929,409	2,239,424	↑	16.1	3,208,547	9th (9)
<b>University Faculty and Enrollment</b>						
Doctor's Degrees Awarded	416	448	↑	7.7	411	5th (13)
Doctor's Degree Fields <sup>3</sup>	44	47	↑	6.8	63	10th (12)
Total Full-time Students	18,785	18,708	↓	-0.4	33,177	13th (13)
Total Part-time Students	2,258	2,244	↓	-0.6	5,988	13th (13)
Graduate Full-time Students	2,707	2,758	↑	1.9	6,166	13th (13)
Graduate Part-Time Students	408	349	↓	-14.5	1,320	13th (13)
Full-time Instructional Faculty	1,106	1,012	↓	-8.5	1,619	11th (13)

\*Unless otherwise noted, ARL data available for thirteen U15 institutions. Missing Dalhousie and Montreal (not ARL members).

<sup>1</sup>Includes McGill in ranking with \$0 collection support

<sup>2</sup>Missing Alberta, Calgary, Toronto, and Western from U15 average

<sup>3</sup>Missing Alberta from U15 average

## Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2014-15 tables)

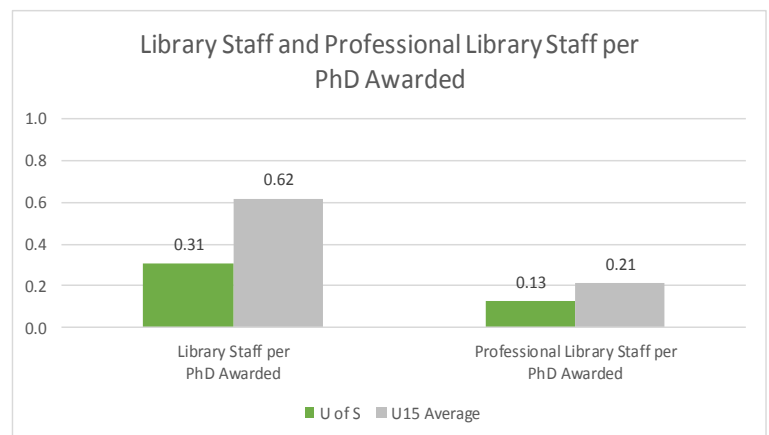
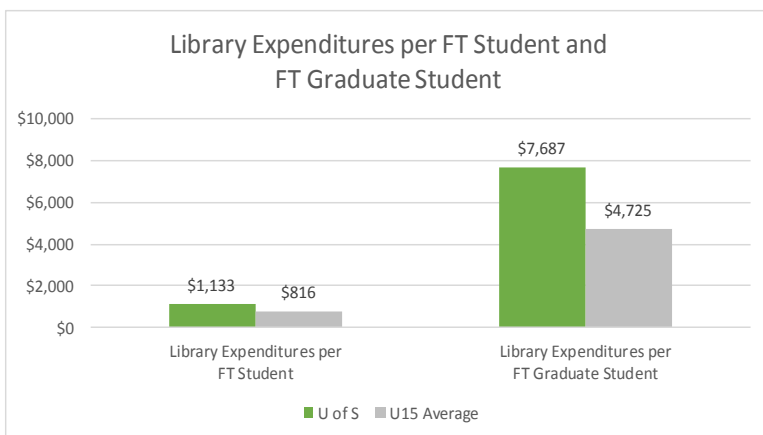
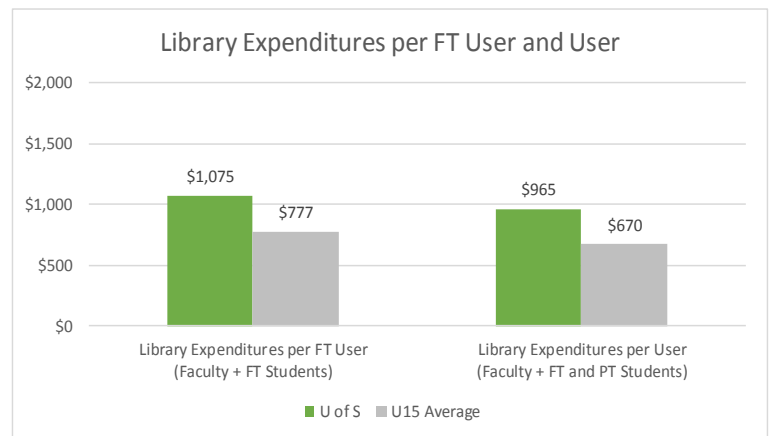
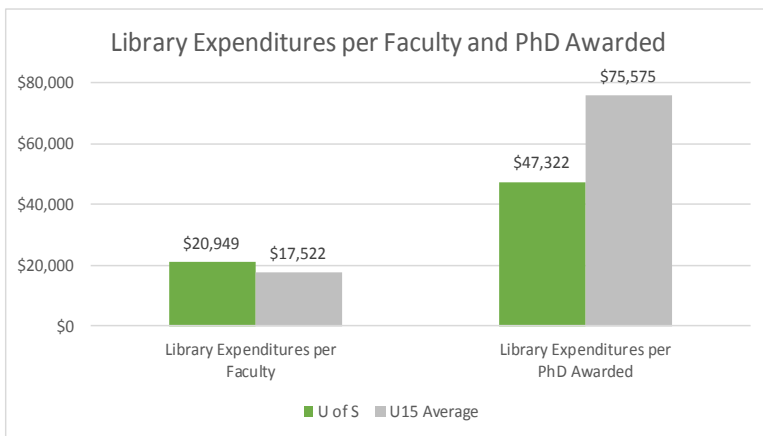
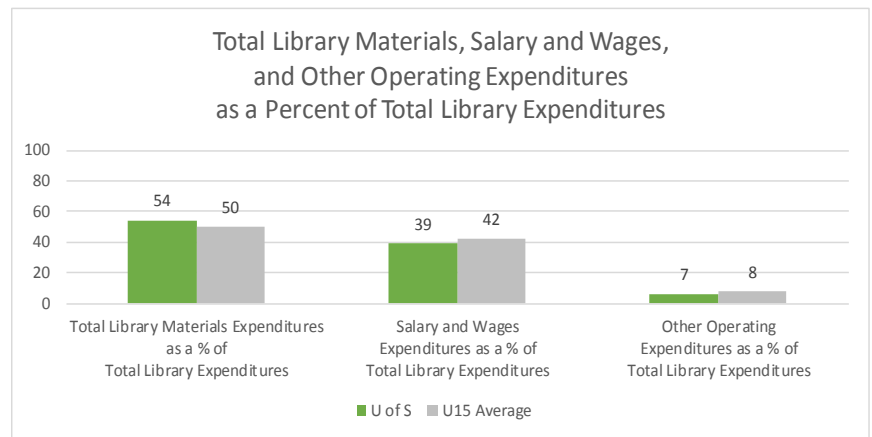
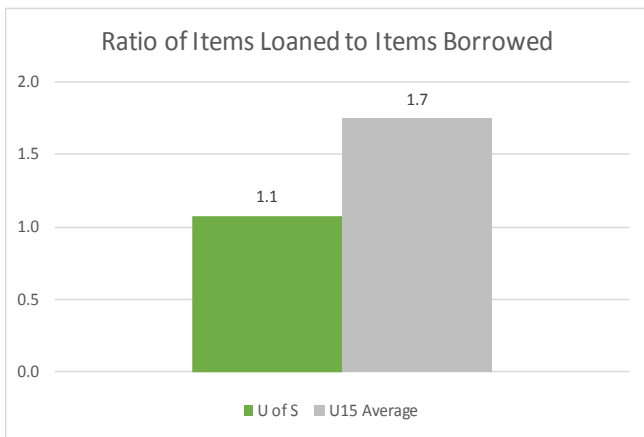
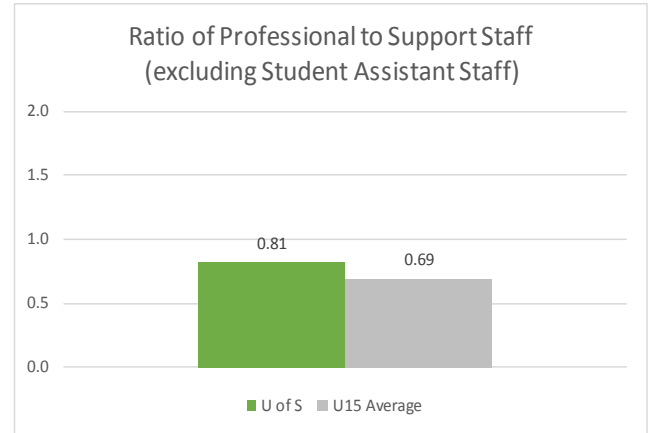
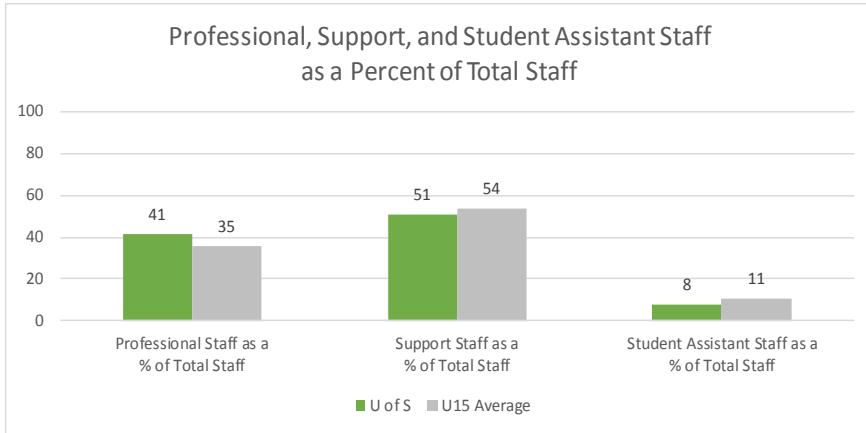
The following two tables summarize the 2014-15 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.

ARL Percentages and Ratios (2014-15)	ARL Indicators	U of S	U15 Average	U of S Ratio	U15 Ratio	At the U of S...	Compared to the U15 average, at the U of S...																																																																								
Professional Staff as a % of Total Staff	Professional Staff	57	79	41.3	35.4	Professional staff make up 41% of total staff	Professional staff make up a greater proportion of total staff (28% less professional staff; <b>38% less total staff</b> )																																																																								
	Total Staff	138	222					Support Staff as a % of Total Staff	Support Staff	70	116	50.7	53.6	Support staff make up 51% of total staff	Support staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff ( <b>40% less support staff</b> ; 38% less total staff)	Total Staff	138	222	Student Assistant Staff as a % of Total Staff	Student Assistants	11	28	8.0	11.0	Student assistants make up 8% of total staff	Student assistant staff make up a smaller proportion of total staff ( <b>60% less student assistant staff</b> ; 38% less total staff)	Total Staff	138	222	Ratio of Professional to Support Staff (excluding Student Assistant Staff)	Professional Staff	57	79	0.81	0.69	There are .81 professional staff for every support staff	There are more professional staff for every support staff (28% less professional staff; <b>40% less support staff</b> )	Support Staff	70	116	Ratio of Items Loaned to Items Borrowed	Items Loaned	5,781	15,753	1.08	1.74	There are 1.08 items loaned for every item borrowed	There are less items loaned for every item borrowed ( <b>63% less items loaned</b> ; 47% less items borrowed)	Items Borrowed	5,361	10,148	Total Library Materials Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Total Library Materials Expenditures	\$11,509,745	\$13,081,782	54.3	49.8	Library materials expenditures make up 54% of total	Library materials expenditures make up a greater proportion of total (12% less materials expenditures; <b>22% less total expenditures</b> )	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	Salary and Wages Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Salary and Wages	\$8,296,887	\$11,687,016	39.1	42.2	Salary and wages expenditures make up 39% of total	Salary and wages expenditures make up a smaller proportion of total ( <b>29% less salaries/wages expenditures</b> ; 22% less total expenditures)	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	Other Operating Expenditures as a % of Total Library Expenditures	Other Operating Expenditures	\$1,393,684	\$2,515,309	6.6	8.0
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ARL Percentages and Ratios (2014-15)	ARL Indicators	U of S	U15 Average	U of S Ratio	U15 Ratio	At the U of S...	Compared to the U15 average, at the U of S...																																																																								
Library Expenditures per Faculty	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$20,949	\$17,522	\$20,949 is spent for every faculty member	We spend more per faculty (22% less library expenditures; <b>37% less faculty</b> )																																																																								
	Faculty	1,012	1,619					Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$1,133	\$816	\$1,133 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (22% less library expenditures; <b>44% less FT students</b> )	FT Student	18,708	33,177	Library Expenditures per FT Graduate Student	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$7,687	\$4,725	\$7,687 is spent for every FT graduate student	We spend more per FT graduate student (22% less library expenditures, <b>55% less FT graduate students</b> )	FT Graduate Student	2,758	6,166	Library Expenditures per FT User (Faculty + FT Students)	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$1,075	\$777	\$1,075 is spent for every FT user	We spend more per FT user (22% less library expenditures; <b>43% less FT users</b> )	FT User	19,720	34,796	Library Expenditures per User (Faculty + FT and PT Students)	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$965	\$670	\$965 is spent for every user	We spend more per user (22% less library expenditures; <b>46% less users</b> )	User	21,964	40,784	Library Expenditures per PhD Awarded	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$47,322	\$75,575	\$47,322 is spent for every PhD awarded	We spend less per PhD awarded ( <b>22% less library expenditures; 9% more PhDs awarded</b> )	PhD Awarded	448	411	Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Total Staff	138	222	0.31	0.62	There are .31 library staff for every PhD awarded	There are less library staff for every PhD awarded ( <b>38% less library staff; 9% more PhDs awarded</b> )	PhD Awarded	448	411	Professional Library Staff per PhD Awarded	Professional Staff	57	79	0.13	0.21
Library Expenditures per FT Student	Total Library Expenditures	\$21,200,317	\$27,284,108	\$1,133	\$816	\$1,133 is spent for every FT student	We spend more per FT student (22% less library expenditures; <b>44% less FT students</b> )																																																																								
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## Results: ARL Percentages and Ratios (2014-15 graphs)

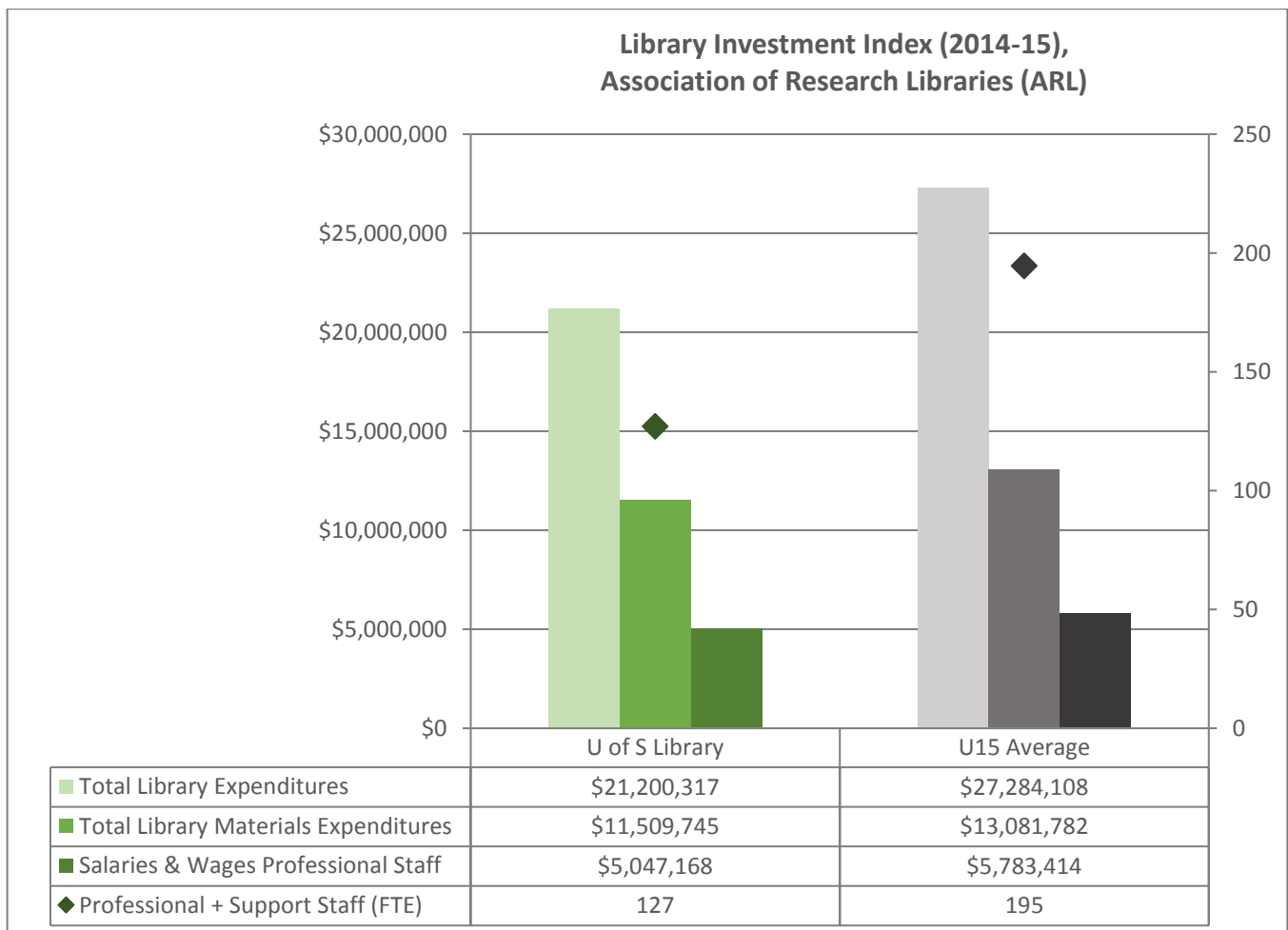
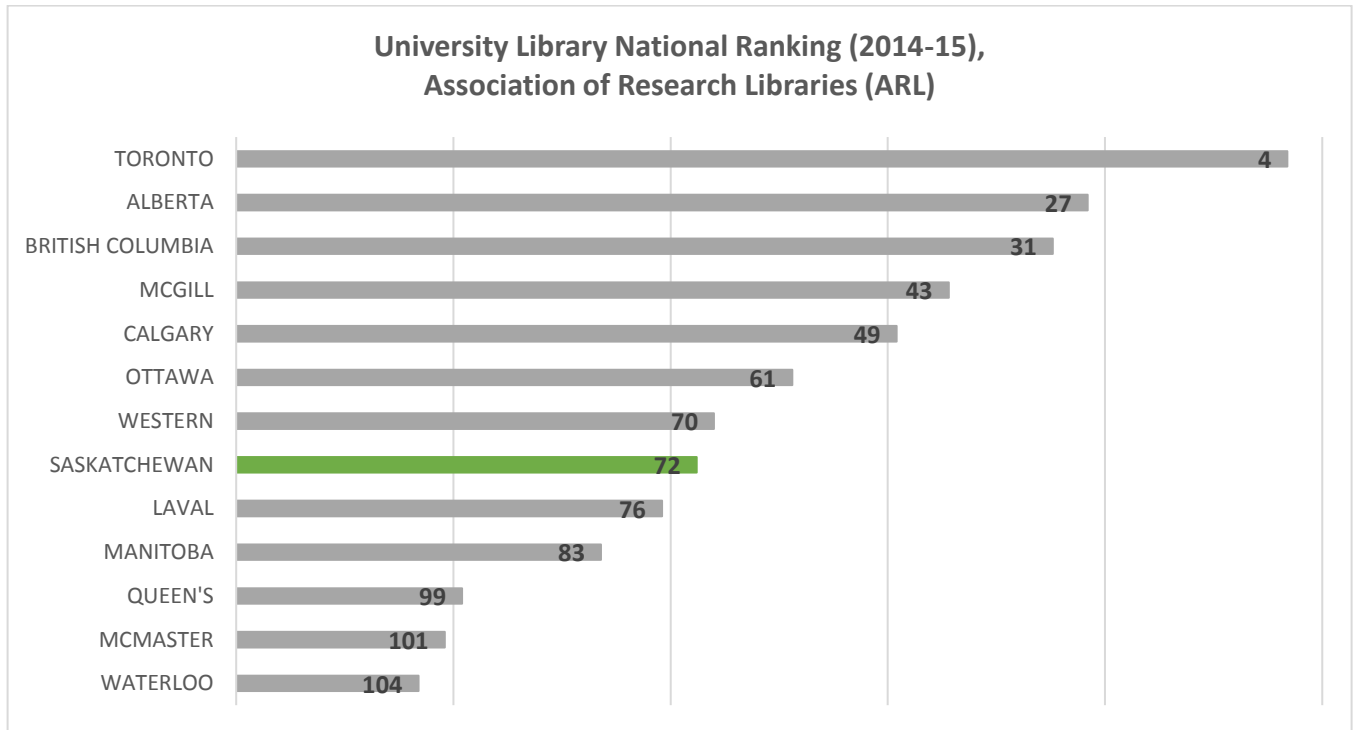
The following graphs illustrate the 2014-15 ARL percentages and ratios for the U of S compared to the U15 average.





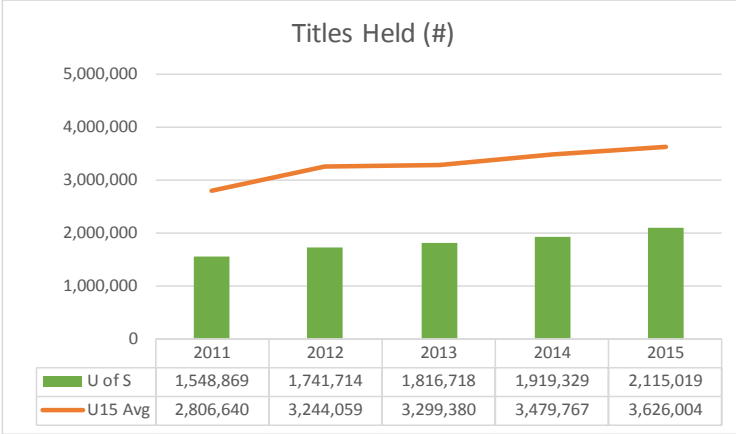
## Results: ARL Library Investment Index

The first graph depicts the ARL Library Investment Index ranking for thirteen U15 institutions in 2014-15 (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 2014-15.

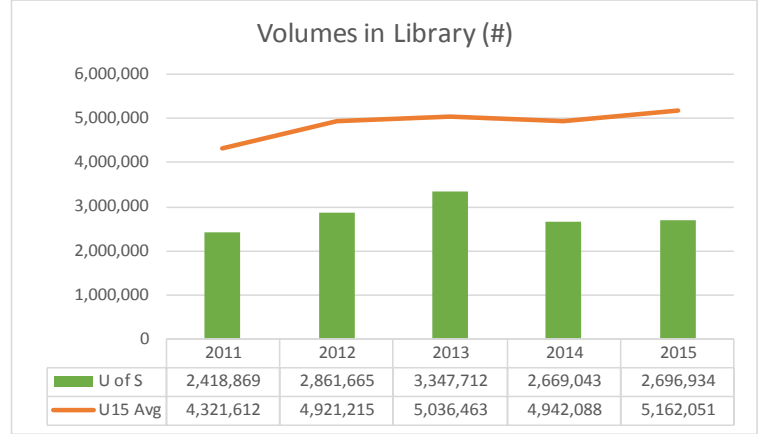


# Appendix A: ARL Indicators – U of S versus U15 average (2010-11 to 2014-15)

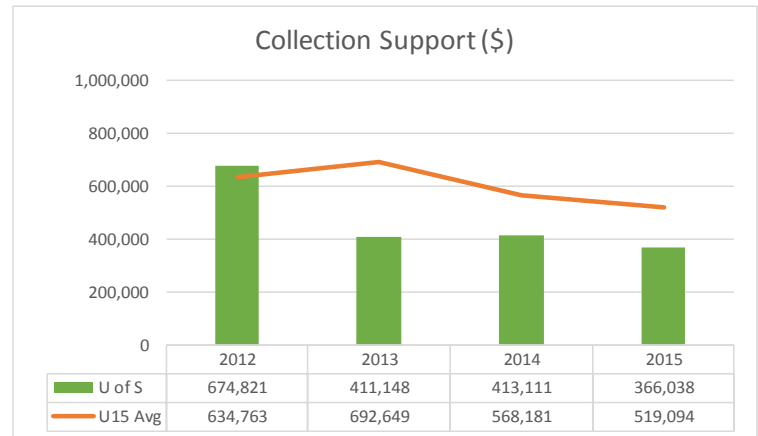
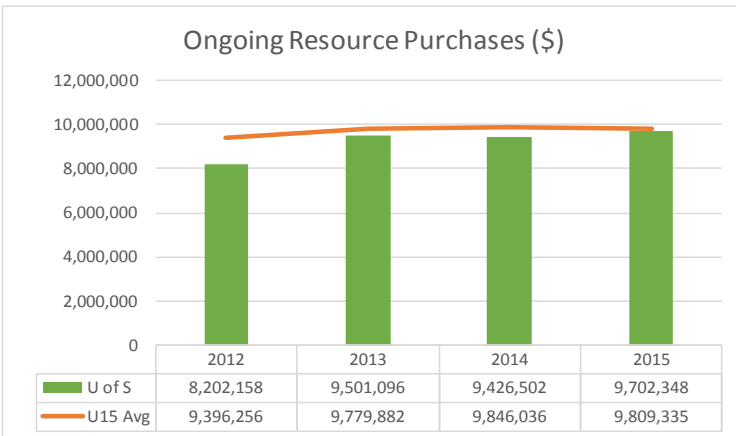
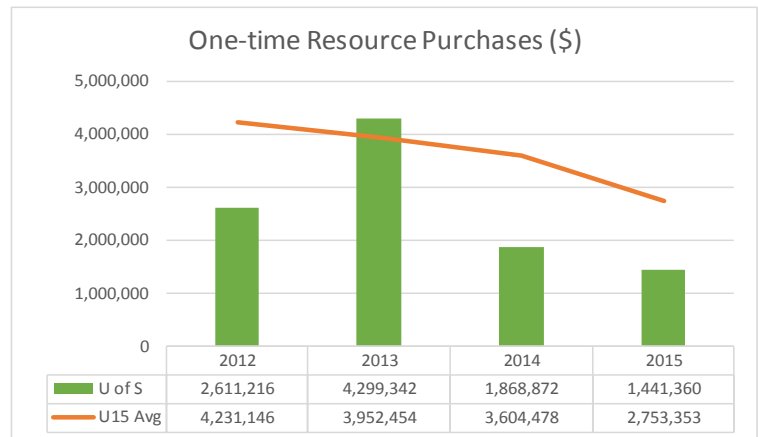
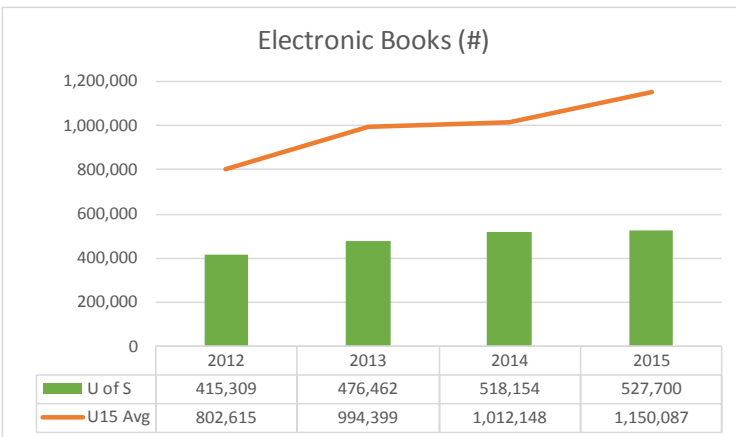
## Library Collections and Collection Expenditures



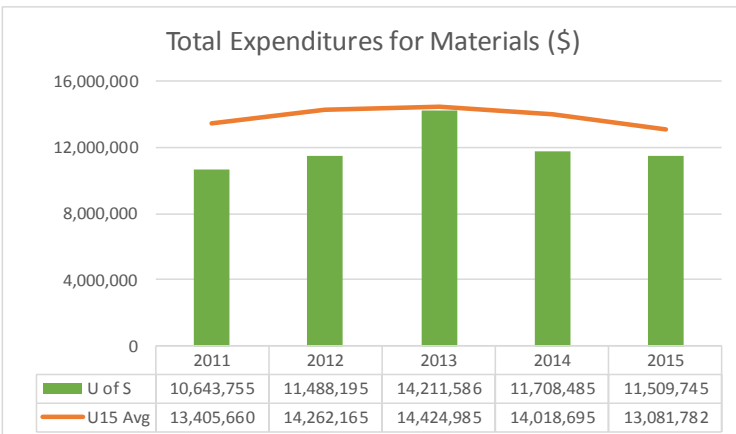
\*2011: Queen's Missing from U15 average



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

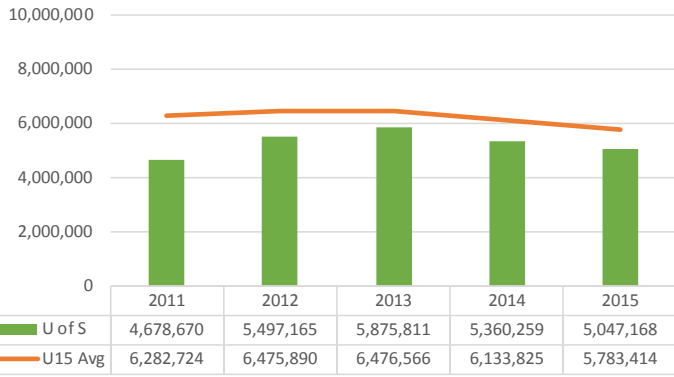


\*2014 and 2015: Includes \$0 collection support from McGill in U15 average

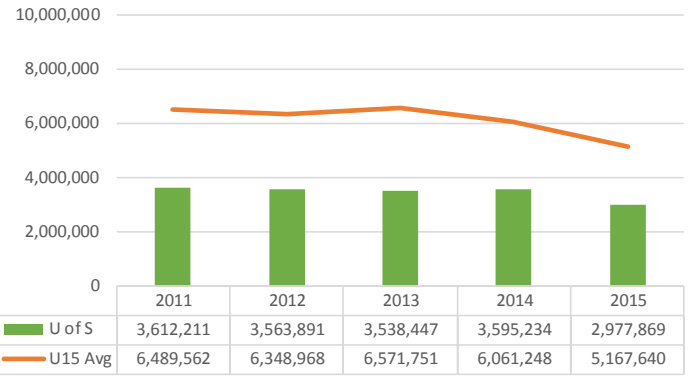


# Library Salary Expenditures

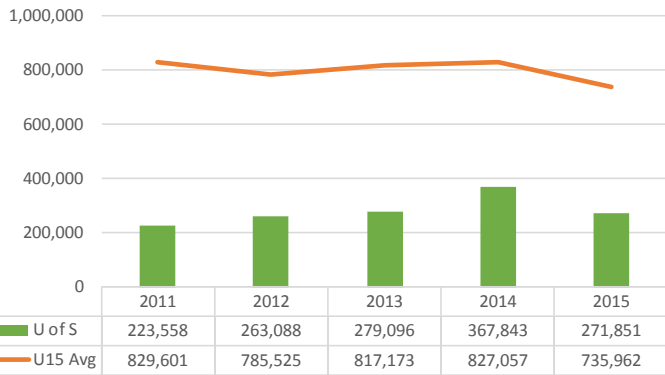
## Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



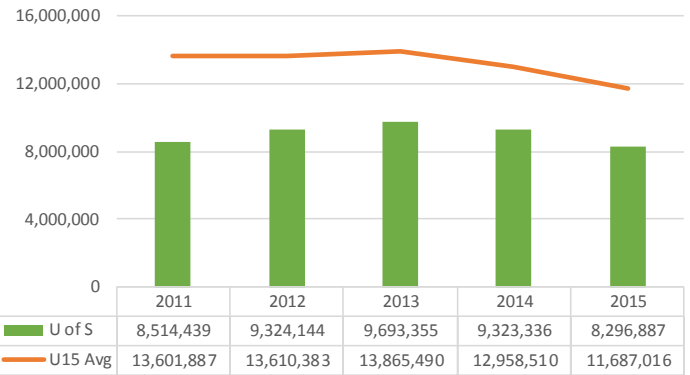
## Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



## Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)

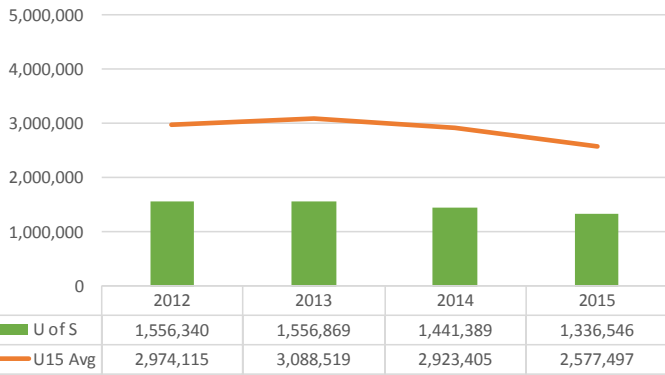


## Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



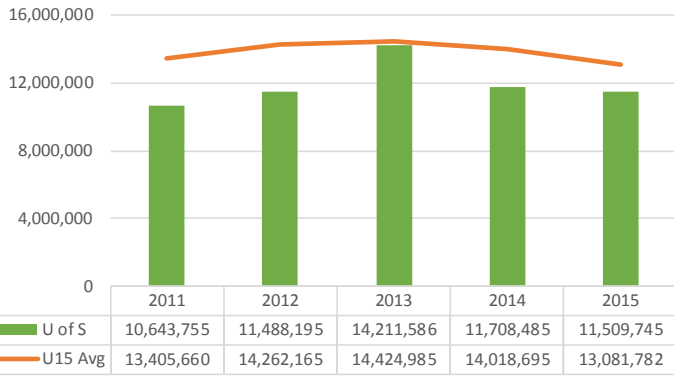
\*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

## Fringe Benefits (\$)

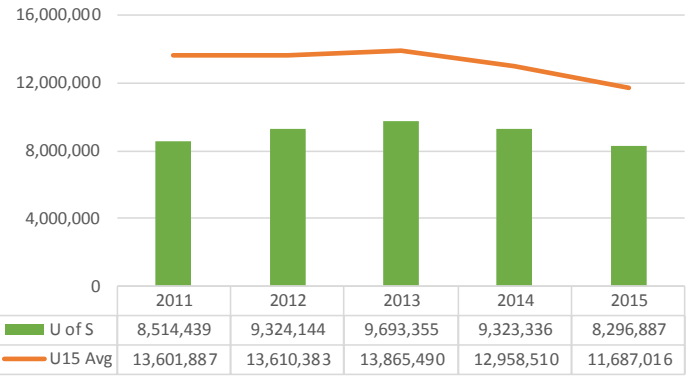


## Overall Library Expenditures

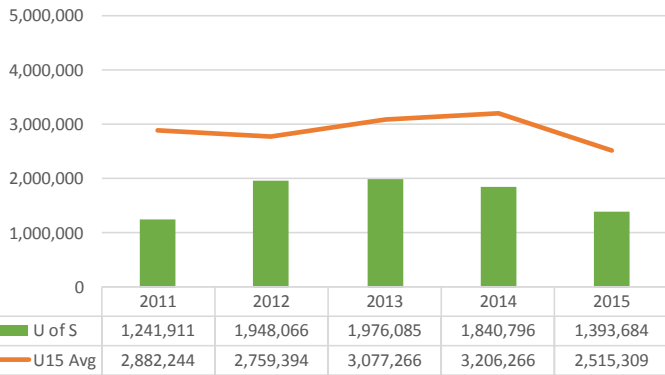
### Total Materials (\$)



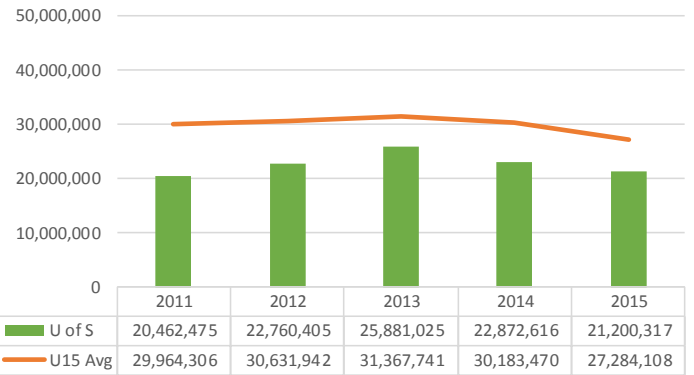
### Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



### Other Operating Expenditures (\$)

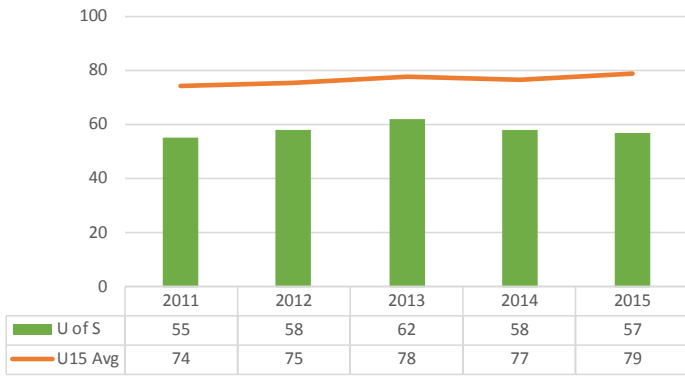


### Total Expenditures (\$)

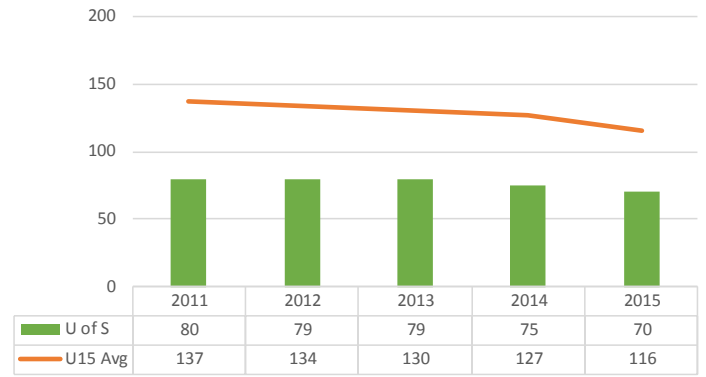


## Library Personnel and Public Services

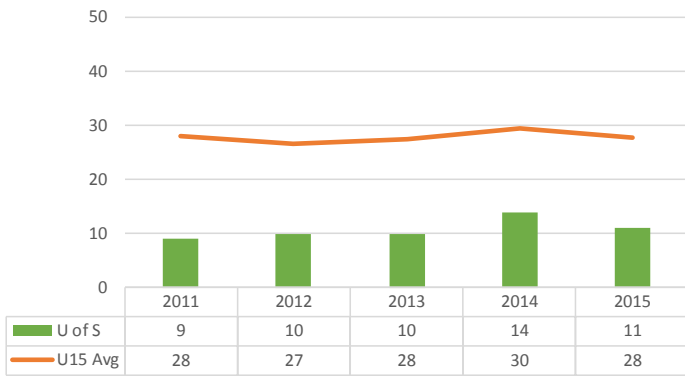
### Professional Staff (FTE)



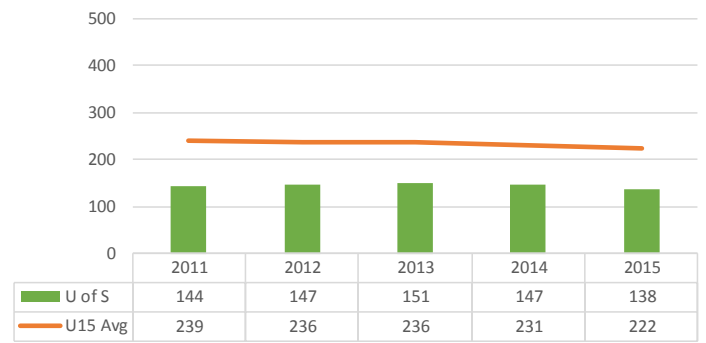
### Support Staff (FTE)



### Student Assistants (FTE)

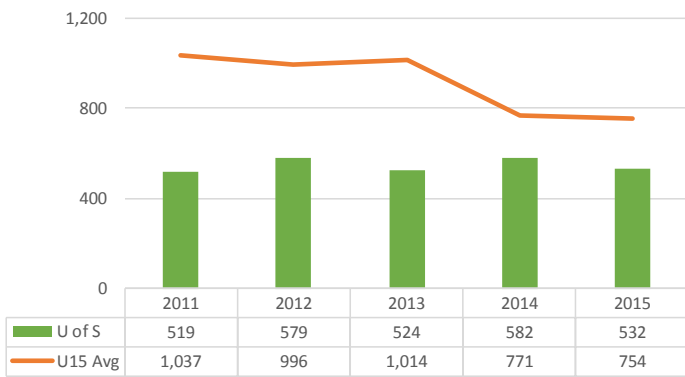


### Total Professional, Support, and Student Assistant Staff (FTE)



\*2014: Laval missing from U15 average

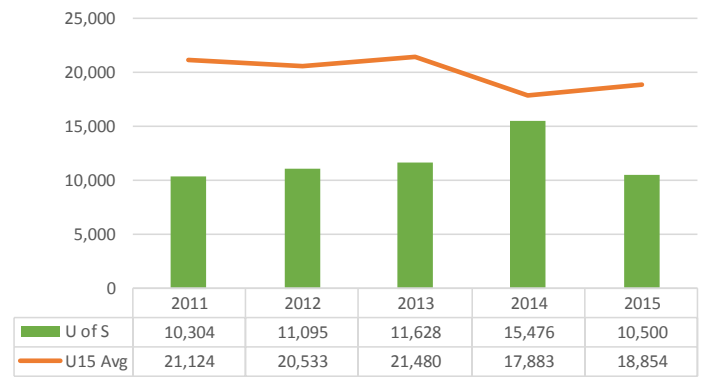
### Library Presentations to Groups (#)



\*2013: Laval and McGill missing from U15 average

\*2011: Ottawa missing from U15 average

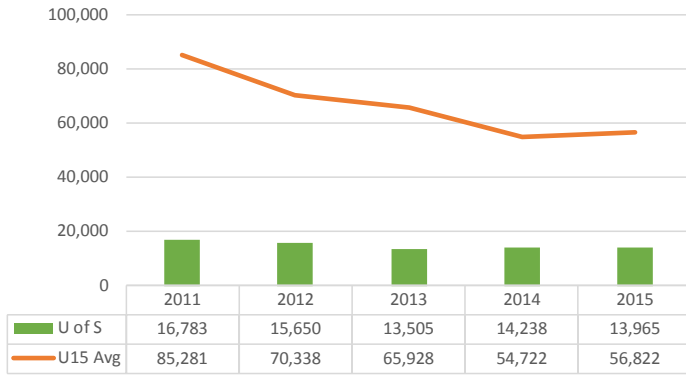
### Participants in Group Presentations (#)



\*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

## Library Personnel and Public Services (continued)

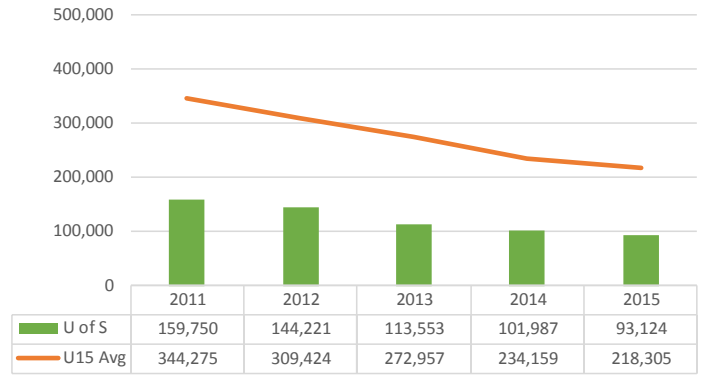
### Reference Transactions (#)



\*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

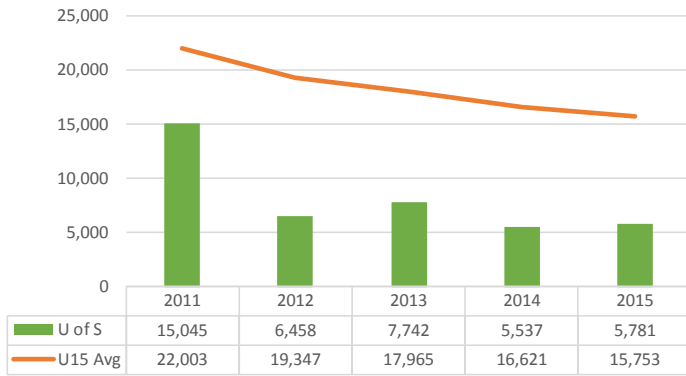
\*2012: McMaster missing from U15 average

### Initial Circulations (#)



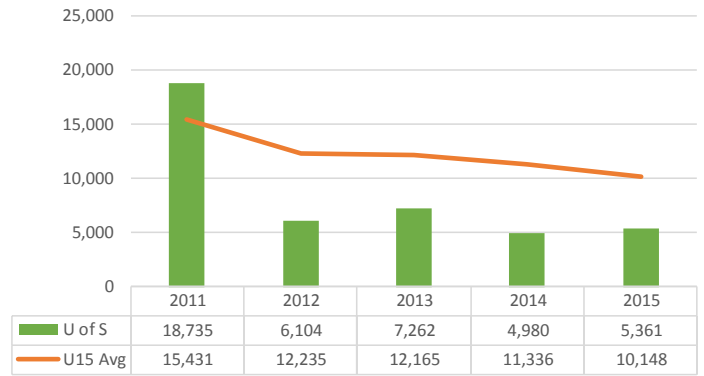
\*2013: Laval and Manitoba missing from U15 average

### Total Items Loaned (ILL) (#)



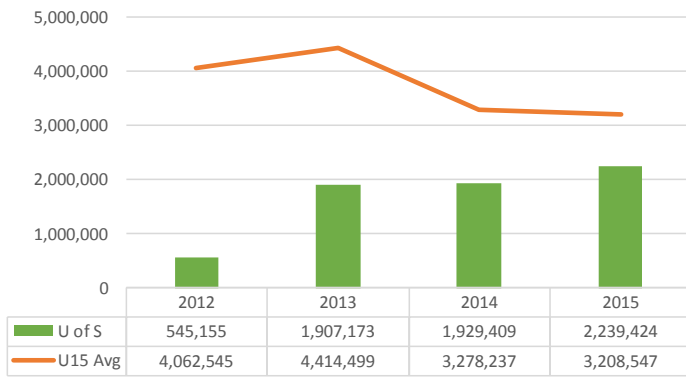
\*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

### Total Items Borrowed (ILL) (#)



\*2013: Laval missing from U15 average

### Full-text Article Requests (#)



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

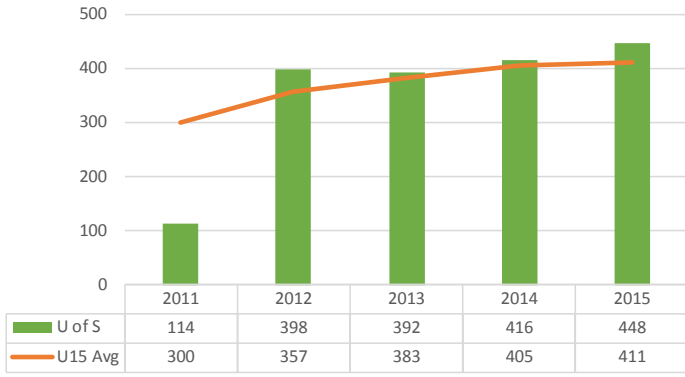
\*2014: Alberta, McGill, Toronto, Western missing from U15 average

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

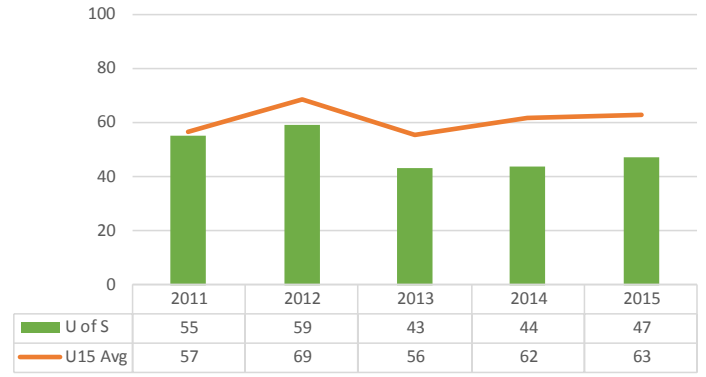
\*2012: McGill, Western missing from U15 average

# University Faculty and Enrollment

## Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)



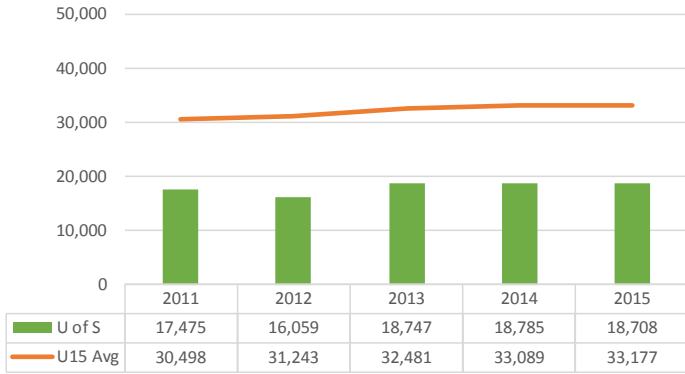
## Doctor's Degree Fields (#)



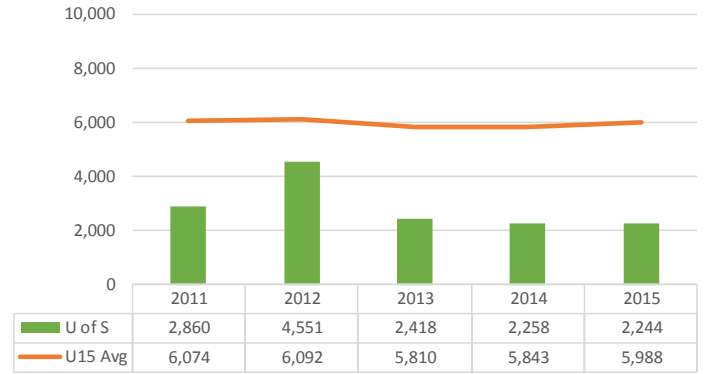
\*2013-2015: Alberta missing from U15 average

\*2011: Ottawa missing from U15 average

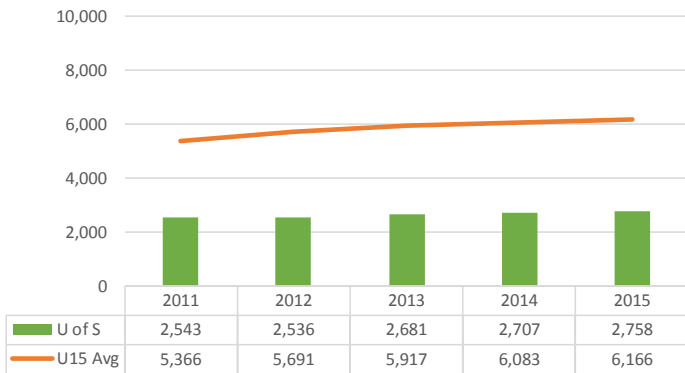
## Total Full-time Students (#)



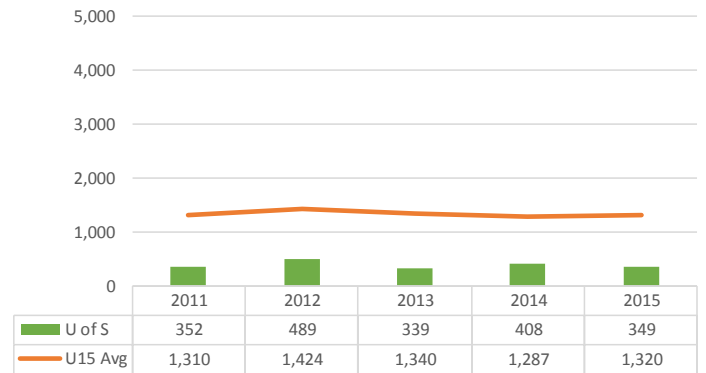
## Total Part-time Students (#)



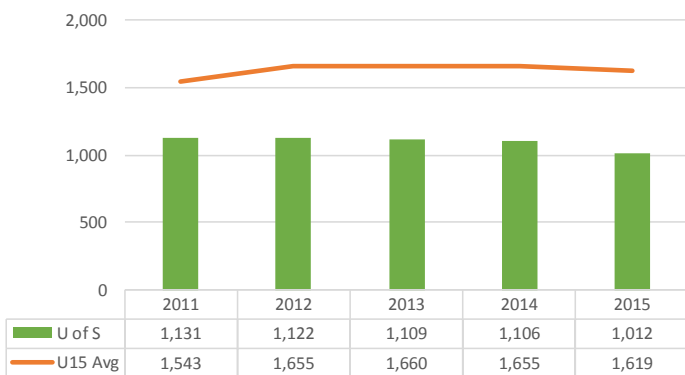
## Graduate Full-time Students (#)



## Graduate Part-time Students (#)



## Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

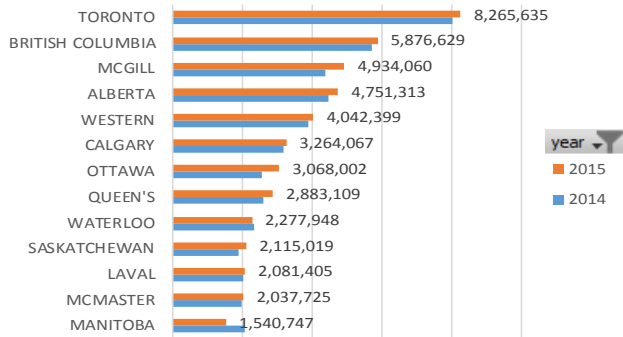


# Appendix B: ARL Indicators – U of S results/ranking among U15 (2013-14 & 2014-15)

## Library Collections and Collection Expenditures

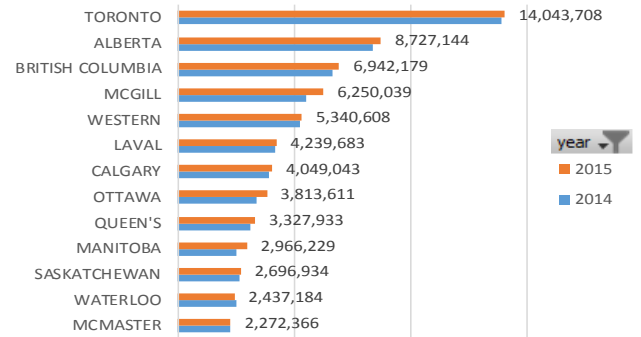
Average of title

Titles Held (#)



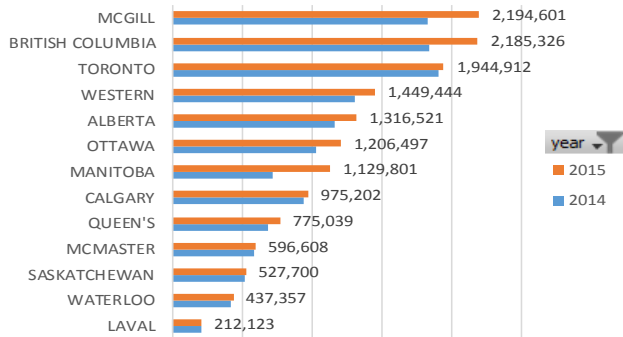
Average of vols

Volumes in Library (#)



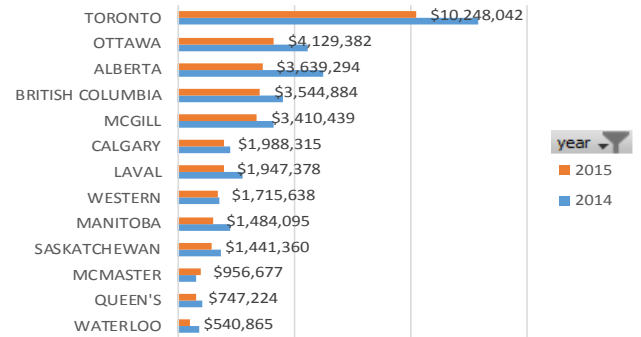
Average of ebooks

Electronic Books (#)



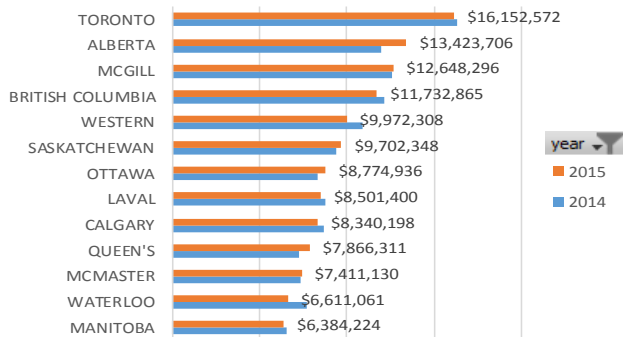
Average of expontime

One-time Resource Purchases (\$)



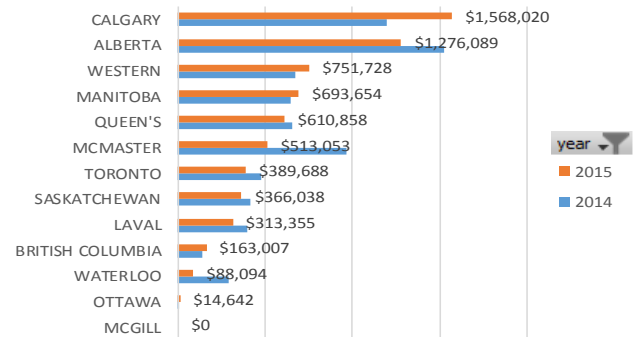
Average of expongoing

Ongoing Resource Purchases (\$)



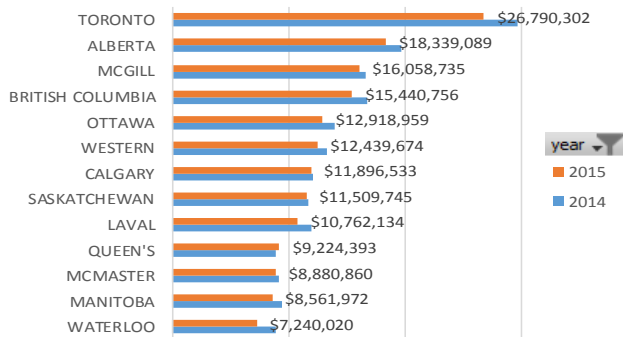
Average of expcollsup

Collection Support (\$)



Average of explm

Total Expenditures for Materials (\$)

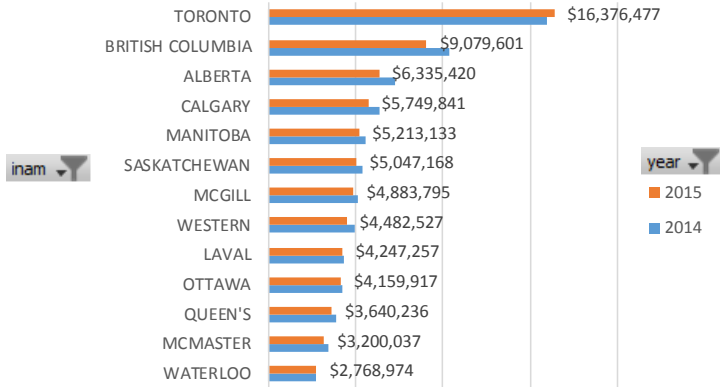




# Library Salary Expenditures

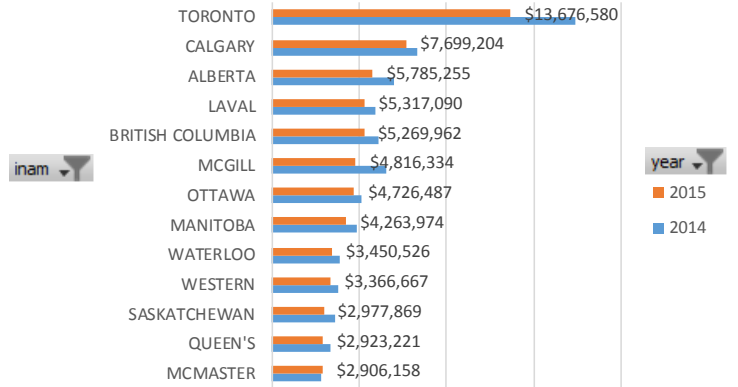
Average of salprf

## Salaries & Wages Professional Staff (\$)



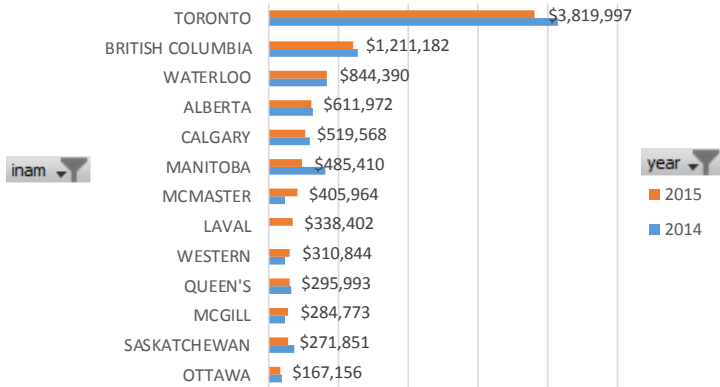
Average of salnprf

## Salaries & Wages Support Staff (\$)



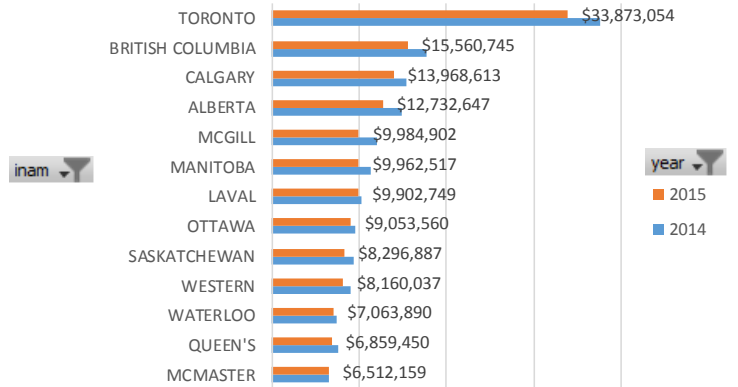
Average of salstud

## Salaries & Wages Student Assistants (\$)



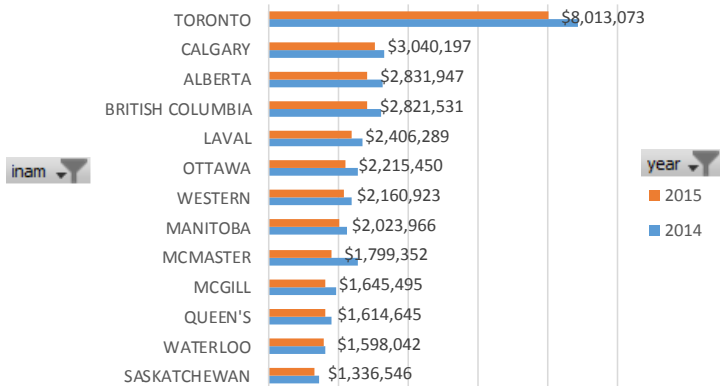
Average of totals

## Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



Average of fringedol

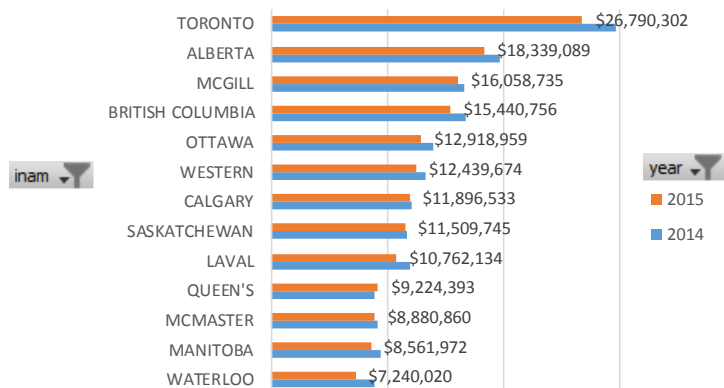
## Fringe Benefits (\$)



# Overall Library Expenditures

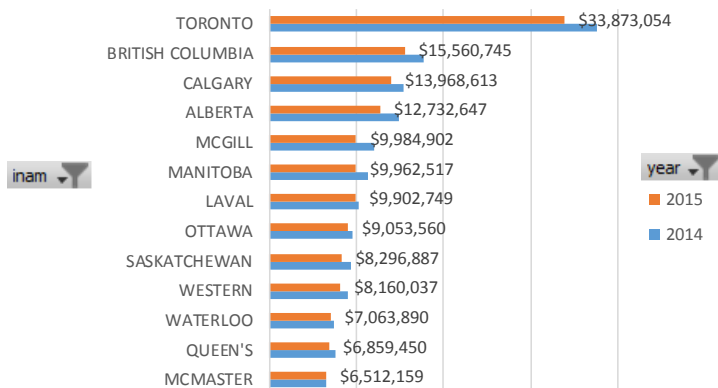
Average of explm

## Total Materials (\$)



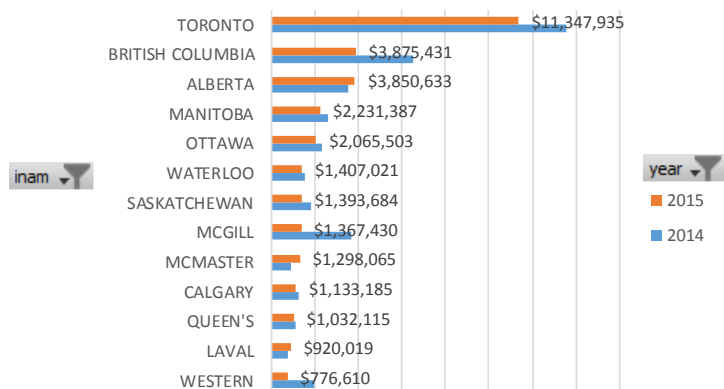
Average of totals

## Total Salaries and Wages (\$)



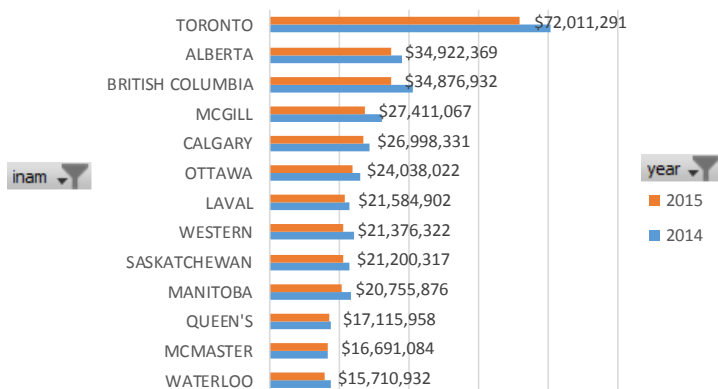
Average of opexp

## Other Operating Expenditures (\$)



Average of totexp

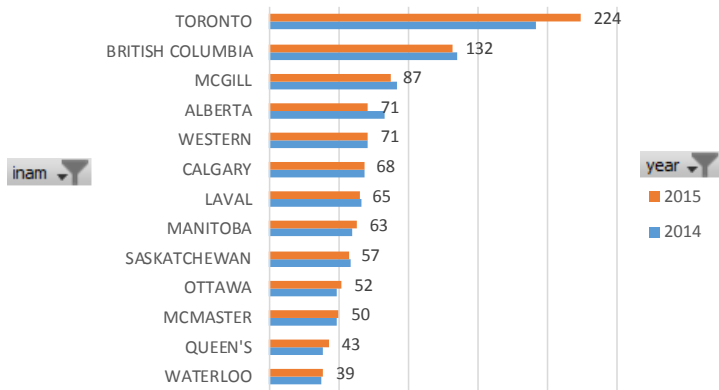
## Total Expenditures (\$)



# Library Personnel and Public Services

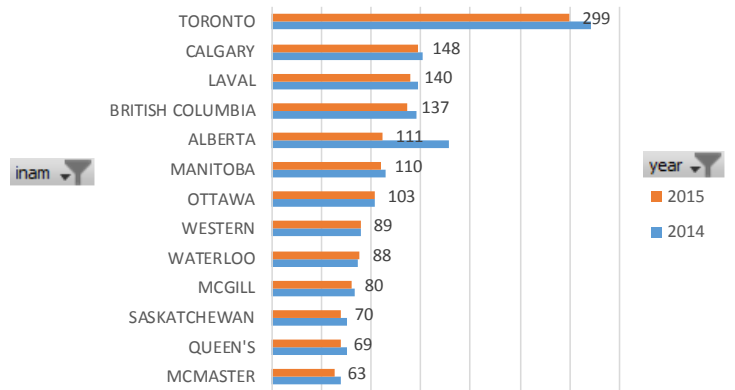
Average of prfstf

## Professional Staff (FTE)



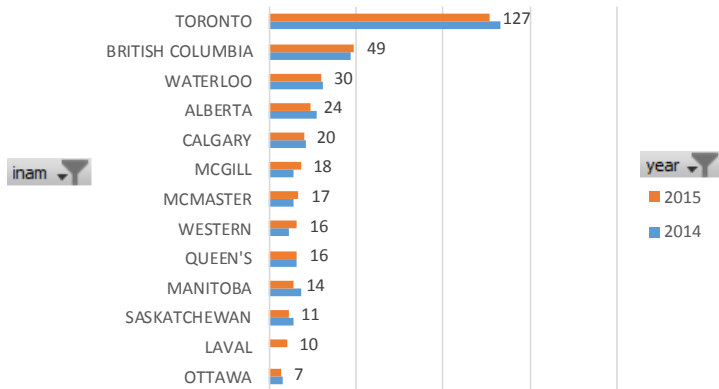
Average of nprfstf

## Support Staff (FTE)



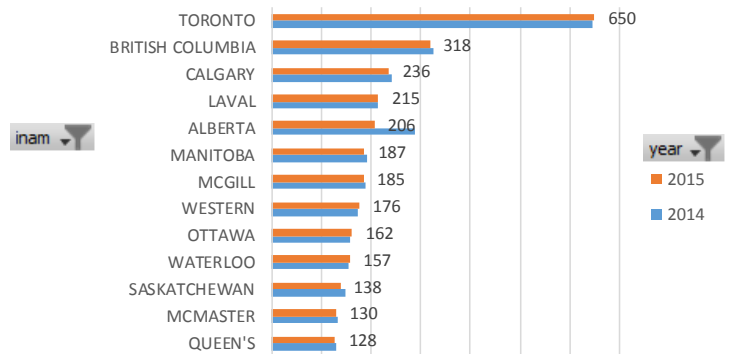
Average of studast

## Student Assistants (FTE)



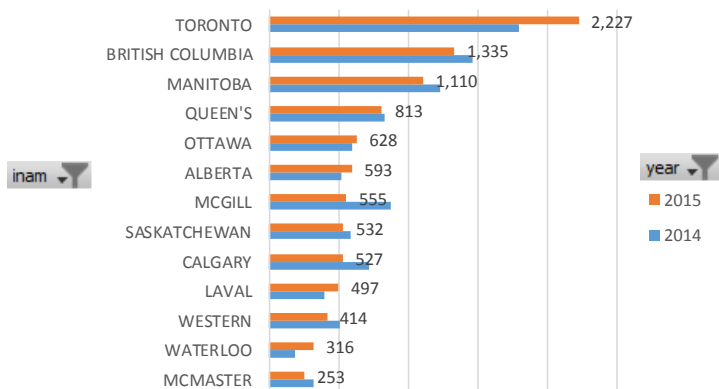
Average of totstfx

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



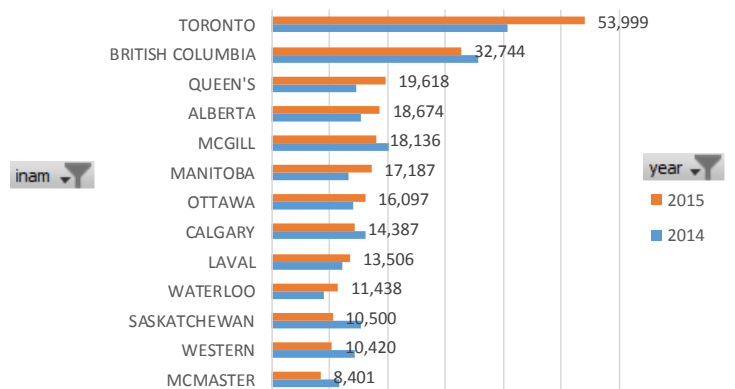
Average of grppres

## Library Presentations to Groups (#)



Average of presptcp

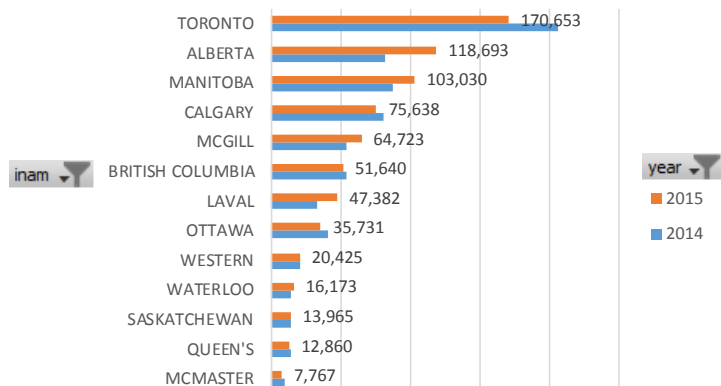
## Participants in Group Presentations (#)



## Library Personnel and Public Services (continued)

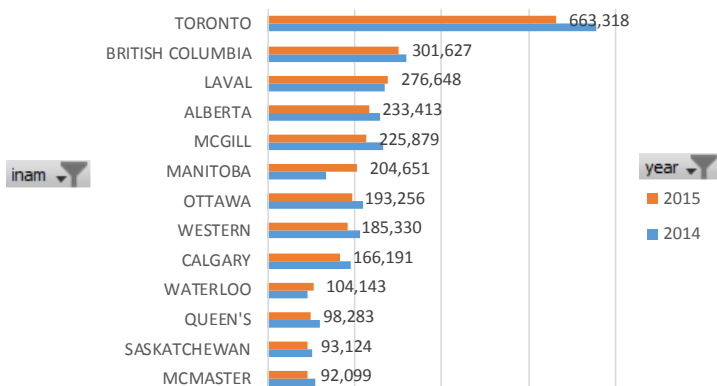
Average of refrtrans

### Reference Transactions (#)



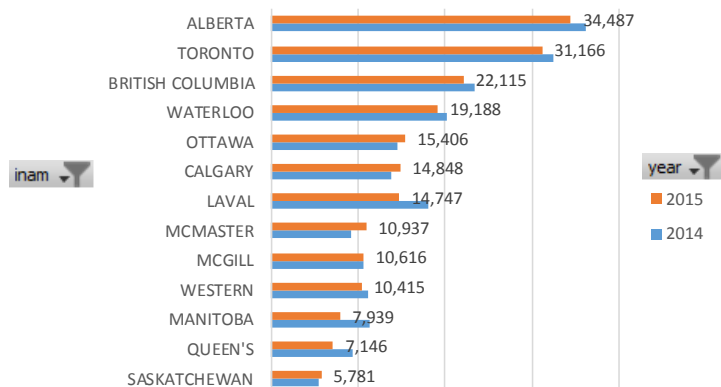
Average of initcirc

### Initial Circulations (#)



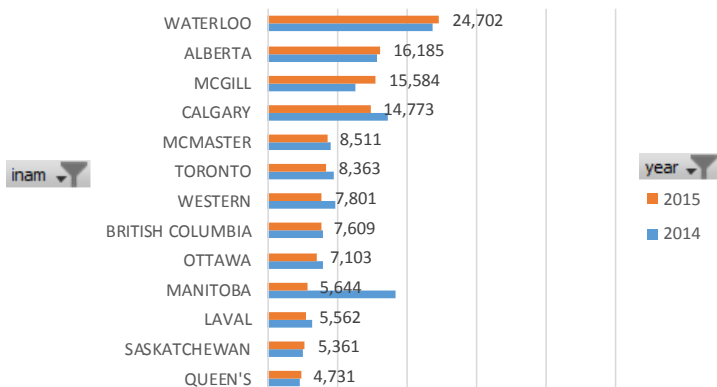
Average of illtot

### Total Items Loaned (ILL) (#)



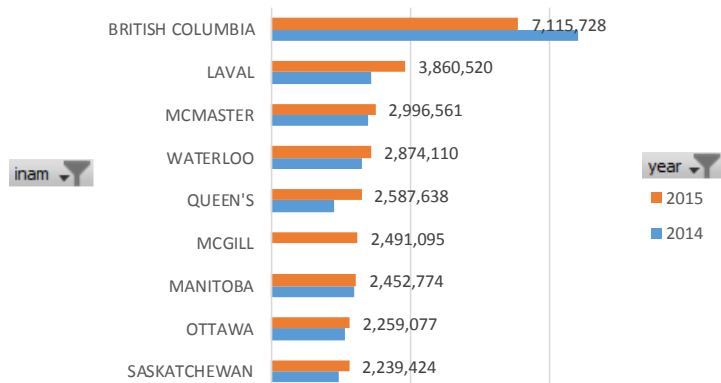
Average of ilbtot

### Total Items Borrowed (ILL) (#)



Average of item

### Full-text Article Requests (#)

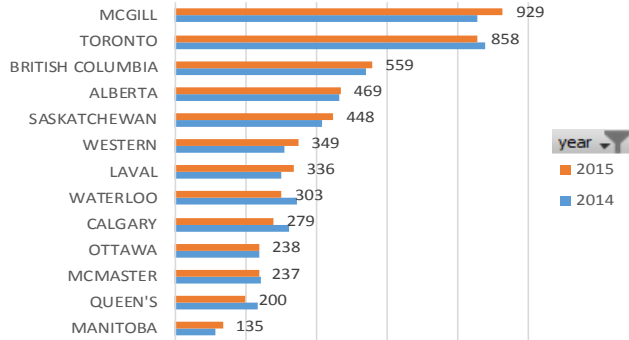


\*Data missing for Alberta, Calgary, Toronto, Western

# University Faculty and Enrollment

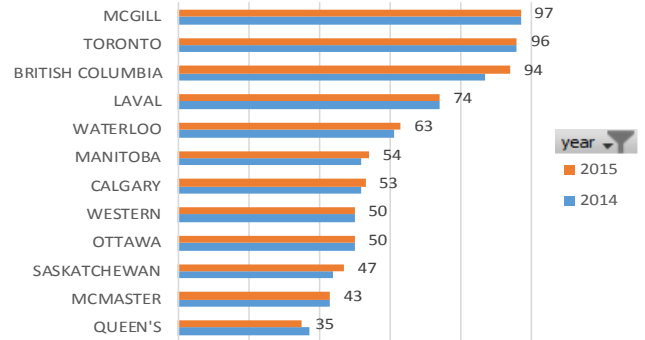
Average of phdawd

## Doctor's Degrees Awarded (#)



Average of phdfid

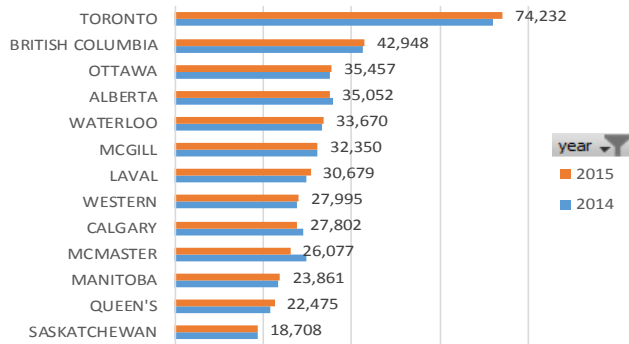
## Doctor's Degree Fields (#)



\*Data missing for Alberta

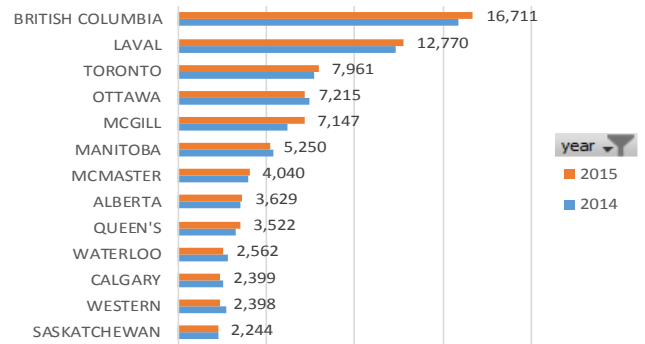
Average of totstu

## Total Full-time Students (#)



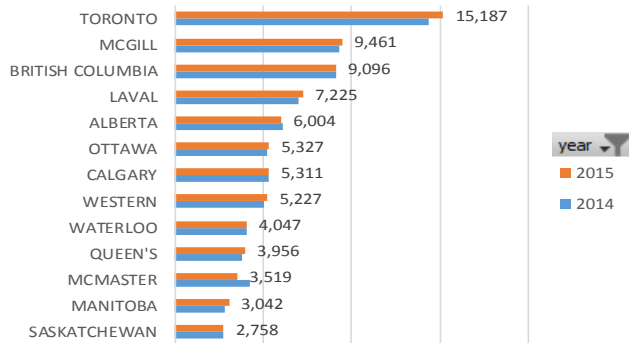
Average of totpt

## Total Part-time Students (#)



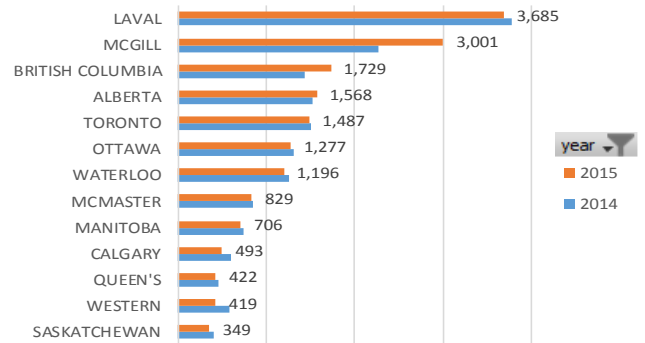
Average of gradstu

## Graduate Full-time Students (#)



Average of gradpt

## Graduate Part-time Students (#)



Average of fac

## Full-time Instructional Faculty (#)

