

## DTS LIBRARIES, FY2014-15: STATISTICS AND HIGHLIGHTS

By Marvin Hunn

### New Software

During May of 2015 we migrated from Sirsi Symphony software to OCLC WMS (for staff) and WorldCat (for the public). Some features of the new system are as follows.

- **The WorldCat database** has replaced Biblos, the old library catalog. WC includes metadata for millions of books and articles covering an enormous range of subjects.
- **A good technical foundation for the digital age.** Our old software was designed to support books, not online resources. Our new software supports both physical and online resources. It provides an integrated workflow for acquisition and cataloging of both print and online resources. It has a knowledge base which tracks detailed inventory of online resources with access links. It makes both print and online resources visible to the public.
- **Mobile friendly interface** to search, renew, etc.
- **Support for branch library functions.** For example, we can define circulation rules for branch libraries and we have SIP/NCIP functionality needed for self-checkout.
- **Support for non-English language resources, cataloging, and users.** This includes support for Unicode characters (e.g., Chinese script) and user interfaces in 15 languages.
- **Less time and tech expertise required.** The server, software, and data are hosted and fully maintained by our vendor.
- **Infrastructure to support single sign-on** so we can eventually use one password and authentication system for multiple (all?) DTS websites and online services. Eventually.
- **Lower annual cost.** Really!

Of course there are problems with the new software. It is immature and lacks some basic features needed by staff. From a student perspective, the WC search engine needs better relevance ranking. This will require better metadata or harvesting of all online e-resources in the central index so ranking can be based on full-text analysis. Such improvements will take time. Despite such problems, the new software is a strategically important move that has already improved our support of online resources and our service to external/online students.

### Collection

The collection grew at a good pace. During 2014-15 we acquired 4,597 print volumes, 950 e-books, and 2,156 new e-journal titles, including a large package of journals from Taylor and Francis and an additional JSTOR collection. But net collection size declined in comparison to last year. We discarded all our remaining audio cassettes (thousands). The new software counts fiche titles, not individual fiche sheets, so our microform count declined dramatically. As a result, on 7/1/15 the physical collection (books, microforms, AV) consisted of 292K items, and the virtual/online collection consisted of 54,995 e-books and 5,279 e-journals. We also had leases for temporary access to 148K e-books and 16K e-journals. Leased items are technically not part of the collection, but they are a vital resource available to students. For details, see below Table 1: "Collection Size."

Own or Lease?	Resource Type	7/1/2014	Added in FY	DFEC <sup>1</sup> in FY	7/1/2015
Owned	Print volumes (books and journals)	249,708	4,597	-808	253,497
Owned	Microforms	56,035	0	-21,244	34,791
Owned	Other physical pieces	11,918	0	-8,018	3,900
Owned	<b>Subtotal physical collection</b>	317,661	4,597	-30,070	292,188
Owned	E-books	50,045	≈950	≈4,000	54,995
Owned	E-journals (titles)	3,123	2,156	0	5,279
Owned	<b>Subtotal virtual/online collection</b>	53,168	3,106	≈4,000	60,274
Leased	Leased e-books	136,807	?	?	148,629
Leased	Leased e-journals (TexShare count <sup>2</sup> )	16,235	?	?	16,335
Leased	<b>Subtotal leased resources</b>	153,042	?	?	164,964
Both	<b>Grand total</b>	523,871			517,426

The main long term trend is growth of our online collection. We are eager to purchase online resources. However, theology is lagging behind STEM disciplines in conversion from print to online format. Many theological works, both old and new, are not for sale in an online format. So we will need to purchase and circulate print resources for many years to come. In the past three years we added many print volumes to our Houston collection, and we expect to grow the DC collection in the coming year. This helps distance students but there is a downside. For the most part, the titles we acquire for Houston and DC are already in the Dallas collection. So we are spending money on duplicate volumes rather than enriching the collection.

### Use of Collection

This year, for the first time, use of online resources (downloads) exceeded use of physical resources (circulation = initial loans plus renewals). See below Table 2: "Use of Physical and Virtual/Online Resources Compared."

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
circulation	85,802	78,136	72,119	68,029	58,280	48,072
downloads	29,540	29,666	40,859	48,731	51,658	53,627

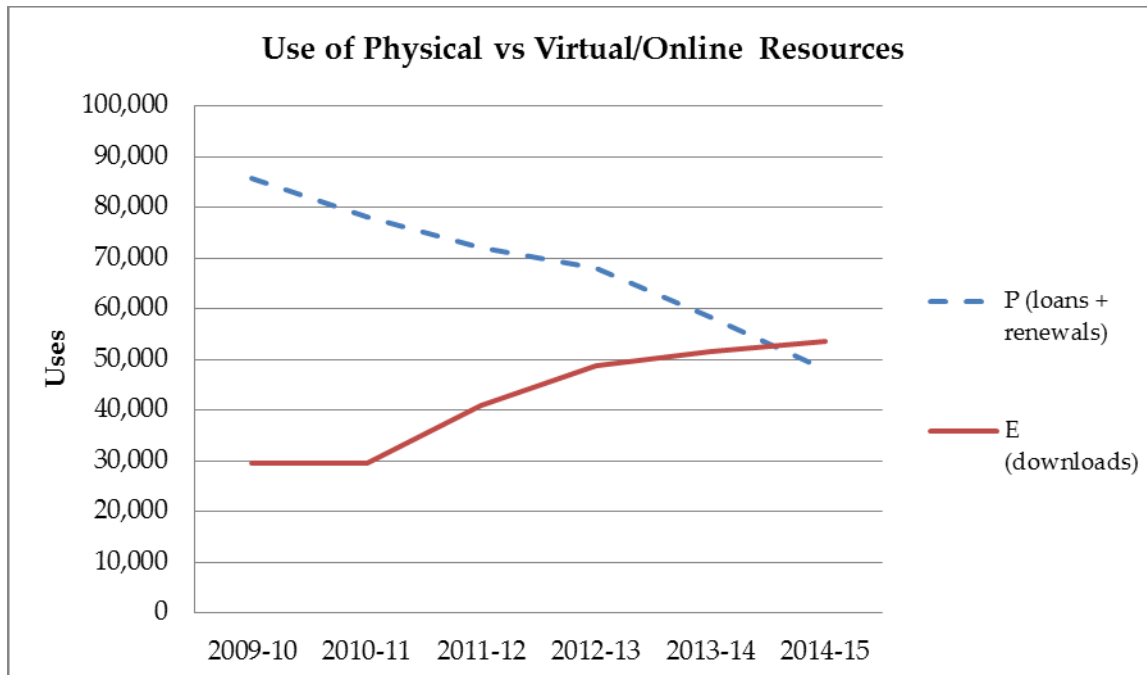
Some factors contributing to the long term decrease in use of physical resources and increase in use of online resources are as follows.

- increase in the size of our online collection
- increase in online enrollment

<sup>1</sup> DFEC = discarded(-) or found(+) or error corrected(+ or -). DFEC for leased items estimated.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/databasecountfy2015.html>

- decrease in Dallas campus enrollment
- convenience of using online resources
- student culture



Steady decline in use of the physical collection began in 2007-08 (one year before we began a major effort to expand the online collection). However, physical loans are still very significant. Periodic counts of books left on tables indicate significant in-house use of books (which is not reflected in circ stats). At this time, students are still dependent on the physical collection. We anticipate declining but still significant circulation for the next decade.

Total use of the collection (physical plus virtual/online) declined but is still quite substantial. In FY2014-15 circulation plus downloads equaled 101,699 total uses. Given a student FTE of 1148.9 that means 88.5 uses per FTE per year. See Table 3.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
downloads + circulation	115,342	107,802	112,978	116,760	109,938	101,699

### Use of Facilities

In FY2014-15, there were 87,442 round trip visits to the library building. That is equivalent to 305 visits per day open. Based on a Dallas campus Fall 2014 FTE of 764.6, it is also equivalent to every Dallas campus FTE student visiting the building 114 times per year! We tabulated 431,402 pages scanned, printed, or photocopied, and 9,774 media center sign-ins. Facility use has declined steadily during the past decade. But distance programs have not eliminated use of the library building and personal laptops

have not eliminated use of the computer lab. We still need a library building open long hours and stocked with a wide range of resources.

### **Extension Libraries**

The Houston library moved to a different building. Students have an attractive garden atrium study area and there is more space for books. Houston is now circulating books. Additional books were moved to the DC campus. The DC collection is still very small and non-circulating.