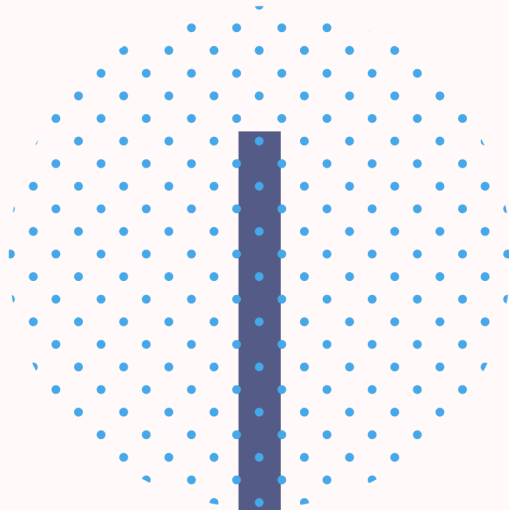# STEWART LIBRARY

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2023

VISION

We envision the Stewart Library as the intellectual commons of Weber State University, where we empower our diverse communities through equitable access to information and knowledge.

MISSION

The Stewart Library is central to Weber State University's educational mission. We provide flexible spaces, dedicated service, personalized instruction, and unfettered access to information. We recognize our membership in diverse communities. We listen to, collaborate with, and invest in those communities in order to promote lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and empower people.

Learning

Progress Update

Decline in total information literacy SCH but expanded ENGL 2015 course offerings:

- The total SCH for all information literacy courses declined, likely influenced by lower enrollment generally and the elimination of the waitlist backlog.
- Demand for ENGL 2015 has increased and declined for LIBS 1704.
- The library continued to support ENGL 2015 Concurrent Enrollment offerings through training, site visits, and monitoring assignments in Canvas.


SCH in Information Literacy Courses
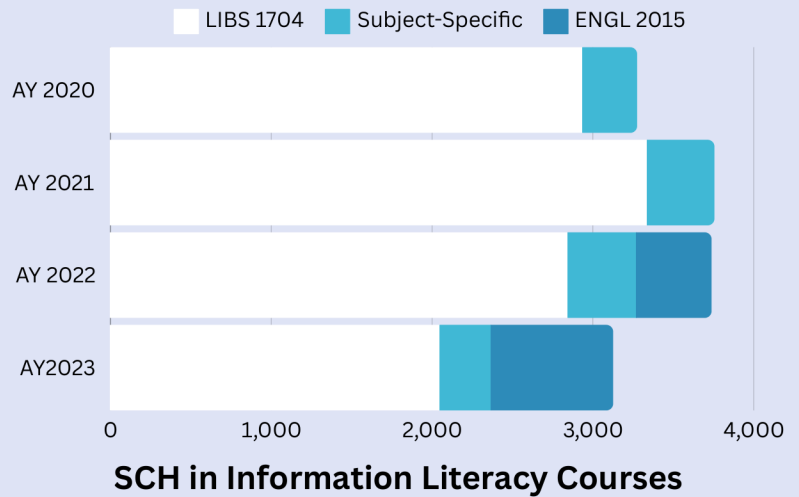
Deepening integration in ENGL 2015 and ongoing challenges:

- Partners working together over multiple semesters is leading to improved integration and less duplication of content.
- Last-minute course assignments don't allow for the time needed to collaboratively develop the course.
- Teaching librarians need to find ways to limit their face-to-face class participation to reflect the one credit hour of the curriculum dedicated to information literacy. Many librarians have attended every session during initial partnerships in order to learn the curriculum and get to know their teaching partners, but this is not sustainable.
- Many of the participating high schools are improving in their implementation of the ENGL 2015 CE curriculum. Some high schools have not been compliant and the library is partnering with Concurrent Enrollment and the English Department to remediate this situation.

Research Help interactions
- Virtual library help transactions increased slightly.
- Fewer in-person interactions were recorded due to a change in recordkeeping.
- There was a marked decline in in-depth research consultations. Subject librarians are addressing this in their planning process to improve information literacy instruction across the curriculum.

Strategy Assessment

Enrollment by class standing AY 2023
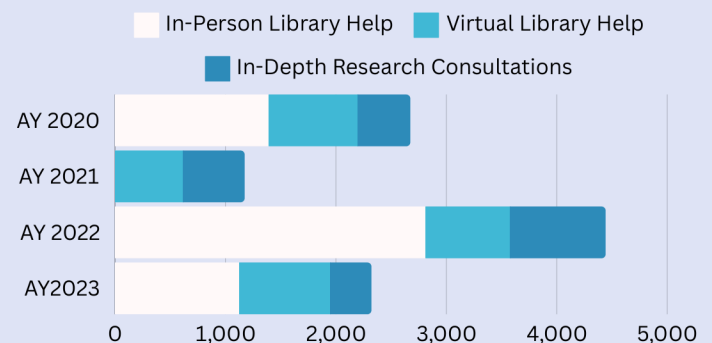
Contributions to student persistence:

- Between 2021 and 2023, freshmen represent a greater percentage of the ENGL 2015 enrollment (52%) than LIBS 1704 (28%). Taking information literacy in the first year is correlated with improved persistence (75.9% persistence versus 47.7% in 2022).

Contributions to student learning:

- Positive student feedback on course evaluations, especially about application of information literacy to authentic assignments.
- Positive feedback from English instructors on improvement in student writing because of research quality.


Enrollment by class standing AY 2023 (LIBS 1704, ENGL 2015) — Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior
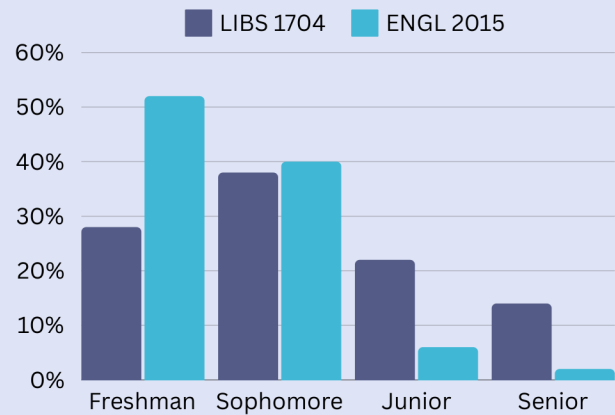
DFW Rates and Equity gaps:

- Overall DFW rates for ENGL 2015 and 2010 are comparable, with a slightly higher rate in ENGL 2015 that is likely a result of the newness of the course.
- There is **an equity gap for Hispanic and Latino students** in LIBS 1704, LIBS/HTHS 2904, and ENGL 2010/2015 courses.
- The equity gap is higher in ENGL 2015 than in the LIBS courses.
- This will be a major area of focus for curriculum revision in the coming year and a trend to watch carefully over time.

DFW Rates AY 2023 (White, Hispanic and Latino) — LIBS 1704, ENGL 2010, ENGL 2015
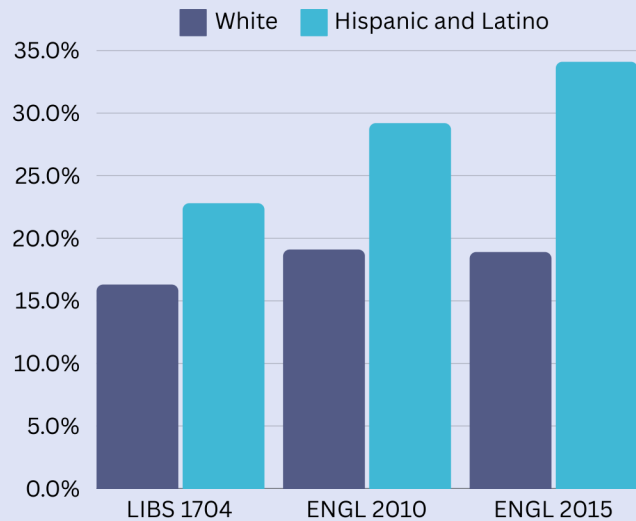
NEXT STEPS

- Develop a strategic plan for information literacy instruction, in response to changes in statewide general education requirements and to address equity gaps and align the learning goals and curriculum to address WSU's larger goals related to retention.
- Align faculty teaching loads and staffing to the information literacy strategic plan.
- Refine learning outcomes for ENGL 2015 and share teaching innovations and ideas to streamline course activities and assessments.
- Determine future model for concurrent enrollment, depending on the outcome of general education requirement changes at the state level.

Access

Strategic Goal:
Promote equitable access to higher education and community learning opportunities.

Strategies:
- Provide access to information resources that our communities need, at no cost to them.
- Reduce barriers to degree completion through inclusive services, technology, and other resources.
- Promote a more sustainable information landscape through our choices and leadership in open access and OER initiatives.

Laptop and hotspot lending remained popular
- 1,832 checkouts of 276 extended (semester-long) laptops.
- 66 checkouts of 10 short-term (7-day) laptops. times
- Decreased the number of WiFi hotspots in our inventory from 133 to 105, with the end of HEERF funding.
- Ten of the existing semester length hotspots were converted to 7 day checkouts to provide more options for short term need with our limited inventory.

WiFi Device Inventory

Legend: Extended loan hotspots, Short loan hotspots, LTE WiFi routers. Bar chart for FY2021, FY2022, FY2023.

Open Educational Resource grants expanded

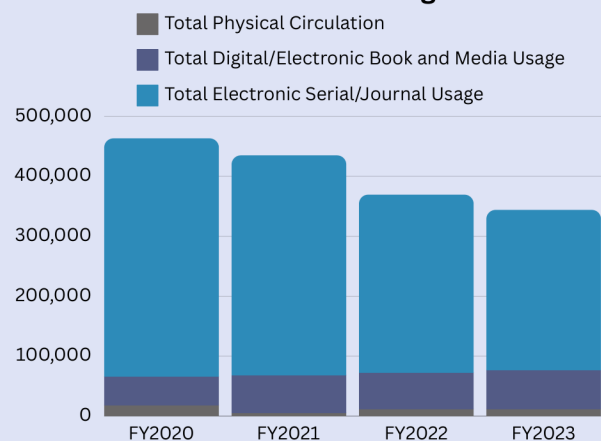| Projects Funded 19	Courses Impacted 22
$ Awarded $134,809.85	Estimated annual cost savings $790,527
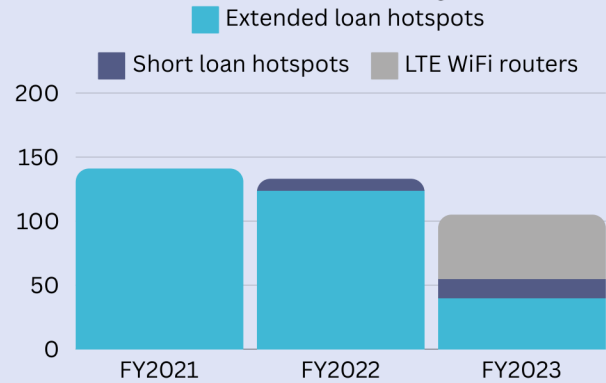
Textbook lending library expanded
- Added 174 print and 63 electronic books to our course reserves collection.
- This represents 73% of all books on the bookstore textbook adoption list.
- Purchased textbooks for graduate-level courses for the first time.
- For 99 courses, the purchased textbooks provided new access that had not been available through a prior purchase or faculty copy

Library building and collection use rebounded but remains lower than before the pandemic.

Annual Gate Count

Line chart showing gate count for FY2020, FY2021, FY2022, FY2023.

Collection Usage

Legend: Total Physical Circulation, Total Digital/Electronic Book and Media Usage, Total Electronic Serial/Journal Usage. Bar chart for FY2020, FY2021, FY2022, FY2023.

Strategy Assessment

Laptops and WiFi devices help keep students enrolled and progressing

Both laptops and hotspots remain popular with students who appreciate the length and flexibility of the loan period to bridge gaps in their access technology and connectivity.

More than 40 students check out laptops consistently every term.

Cost increases are challenging our ability to maintain the current hotspot inventory.

"I wouldn't have been able to complete my courses without the laptops the library has."

"My laptop is being repaired and this allowed me to do my courses."

"It helped me with being able to finish my classes from home. The hotspot was very useful because I did not have reliable Wi-Fi at home".

Open Educational Resources reduce costs to students and potentially contribute to retention and completion

The cumulative impact of all OER grant projects between 2021 and 2023 is substantial:
- Cost savings: $1,690,527 annually.
- Number of students impacted (based on historic enrollment): 7,402

OER also potentially contribute to student learning
- OER mean more students are ready to learn, with their course materials, on the first day of class.
- Since the grants are in early stages and many are not yet complete, we do not have data on the actual impact of OER on retention and completion at WSU, but national data suggest OER makes a positive contribution to student success.

Usage of the library building and collections are both below our USHE peers.
- Building usage might reflect the nature of our student body (commuters who leave campus for work and care responsibilities in the late afternoon).
- Changes in publisher methods for counting usage might be the reason for declines in electronic journal usage. Declining usage could also suggest a mismatch between what we subscribe to and what is needed for the curriculum and faculty research. It could also suggest barriers in discovery because of the current website design.

NEXT STEPS
- Assess the effectiveness of the technology lending program and explore how to prioritize use through circulation policies in ways that have the highest impact for students.
- Work with campus partners to identify ways to connect students with low cost home internet.
- Get feedback from campus stakeholders on the draft OER Strategic Plan and begin implementing the plan. Keep momentum on the OER grant program and find a sustainable level of grants depending on funding stream.
- Market the textbook lending library to faculty and students to increase the use of the collection and assess where the program is having the greatest impact. Focus future purchases on high impact areas.
- Examine potential barriers to collection usage, including lack of awareness among students and faculty and website usability. The library is undergoing a major website redesign and this could help improve access to electronic resources and the discovery of print materials.

Community

Strategic Goal:
Contribute to the well-being and strength of the campus and local communities in which we are embedded.

Strategies:
- Create physical and online community spaces and programs that bring people together.
- Place diversity, inclusion, and equity at the center of all of our work.

Expanded programming through small-scale events
Designed new programs to engage students and introduce them to the library as a vibrant community and learning space, including:
- Several letter writing events, co-sponsored with the Writing Center. We provided stationary and postage to students, some of whom wrote their first handwritten letters.
- Craft events, including a regular knit/crochet hour, origami, and a no-sew blanket making event for charity.
- A regular Midday Music recital featuring WSU piano students.
- Hosted several club and student organization meetings.

Created a new leisure reading collection
The library now leases popular reading titles. Leasing means that we can keep the collection fresh with rotating titles.

190 books   203 checkouts

Sponsored and hosted speakers, exhibits, and other events focused on local history and culture
Highlights include:
- Nate Schweber, book talk, *This America of Ours: Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the Forgotten Fight to Save the Wild*.
- Drag Queen Story Hour: Special Collections hosted a family-friendly story time.
- Dia de Muertos and Halloween Film Festival

Co-sponsored events:
- Visiting Writers: Steve Timm & Angelika Brewer
- Storytelling Festival Ph.D session
- Roar Open Mic
- LatinX Art Exhibit in the Shepherd Union Building
- Topaz Japanese-American internment camp program

Successful stress-relieving events and programming for students
- Inaugural Game Night
- Finals Stress Relief, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters
- Warm up at the library welcoming week Spring 2023

Queering the Archives:
- Created by Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA)
- Installed at Union Station and Stewart Library.
- Used an audience-created approach to give voice to the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ people in northern Utah.
- Part of an ongoing SCUA project to record oral histories and collect other records from the LGBTQ+ community.

Traveling Exhibits:
The library hosted two traveling exhibits from the Utah Division of Arts and Museums:
- Navajo Children: Weaving the Future
- Erratics
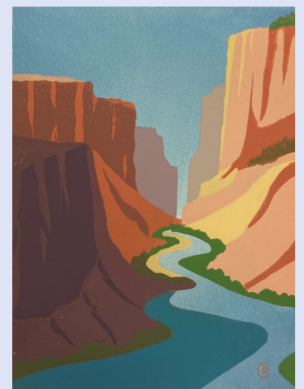
Chipman
"Red Rock and River"

Strategy Assessment

Attendance at library programs and events varied, from a few people at some of the crafting events to more than 100 at the Drag Queen Story Hour. All of the programming has been well received and met our goal of building momentum and bringing new patrons into the library

Positive feedback from participants:
- The letter writing events were especially popular with international students, as they were able to send letters, postage paid, to friends and family in their home countries.
- The Drag Queen Story Hour was especially well-received, with requests to hold this event on a regular basis.

Attendance:
- Nate Schweber lecture: 55
- Drag Queen Story Hour: 103
- Pop-up events: 188

NEXT STEPS
- Conduct assessment, including feedback surveys, to determine how library programming contributes to WSU's strategic goals of improving a sense of belonging on campus, promoting community engaged learning, and fulfilling its role as an anchor institution.
- Collaborate with the Native American Cultural Center and Native American Student Association for a series of exhibits, speakers, and other programming related to land acknowledgments and indigenous sovereignty.

Organizational Effectiveness

Strategic Goal:
Maintain an effective and sustainable organization as the foundation of all our work.

Strategies:
- Enrich the user experience by placing the user at the center of our work and decision-making.
- Invest in people by creating an environment of support, caring, and opportunity for all library workers.
- Transform work practices to better meet user needs.

Progress Update

The library continued its equity audit process to remedy policies and practices that create potential systemic inequities for historically marginalized populations.

Policy Review and Revision	Services / Practices Review and Revision	Relationship Building and Programming
Hiring Process: Revised position descriptions in alignment with draft Search Advocate Program recommendations.	**Collection Development:** Increased budget allocation to course materials and expanded global languages book and media collection	**Native American Student Association:** Began planning for year-long programming on land acknowledgements and tribal sovereignty. Subscribed to regional tribal newspapers.
EDI and Student Success Liasion: Revising a faculty position to center liaison work with EDI and Student Access and Success divisions.	**Lactation Room:** Converted under-utilized space to accommodate caregiving needs.	**Queering the Archives:** Interactive exhibit and oral history project to highlight LGBTQ+ histories.
LIBS 1504: Discontinued course as a result of evaluation of equity gaps in DFW rates.	**Expanded menstrual product availability:** Supplemented university-provided products in all library restrooms.	**Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution:** Book discussion and conversations with Yudi Lewis, Executive Director of WSU's HSI initiatives.
Adjunct pay for ENGL 2015: Addressed pay inequities for adjunct and overload rate for the integrated English and Information Literacy course.	**Temporary Meditation Rooms:** Converted under-utilized spaces for quiet meditation and spiritual practices until university can develop permanent space.	**Data Equity Fellowship:** Library faculty member serving as a member of the NWCCU fellowship program, focusing on WSU's eHSI initiative.

Strategy Assessment

Library staff and faculty continue to integrate equity-minded analysis when reviewing and revising existing policy and practice and when proposing new services. The emphasis on cultural change and equity as a practice is yielding some results. Staff and faculty more frequently ask if we have considered the impact on different student populations when designing and revising policies and services.

We also engaged in **more intentional relationship building** with key student groups, a recommendation from year one of the equity audit, in order to involve potentially marginalized groups in the audit process and to help improve a sense of belonging, particularly for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students.

NEXT STEPS

- Key library personnel will play a leadership and training role in the campus-wide equity audit process, building on their experience with the audit process in the library.
- The dean of the library will hold town hall meetings to improve communication and transparency related to pay equity, including supplemental pay.
- The library will conduct a survey of students related to safety and a sense of belonging in the library modeled on a survey conducted by Colorado State University Libraries.
- The library will support any personnel who want to participate in Search Advocate and other professional development programs to improve hiring and retention practices.
- The library will complete the final review of all formal policies and create a transparent and user-friendly Library PPM.

Additional Highlights

Open Information Literacy Textbook

Shaun Adamson, Jason Francis, Justin Kani, and Diana Meiser successfully **published the library's information literacy textbook, Information Navigator, in Pressbooks, an Open Educational Resources platform.** This will make the book more accessible to other universities who want to adopt and adapt it for their own purposes, as well as improving the accessibility and interactive learning features of the textbook.

Open Educational Resources Institute

WSU was accepted to the American Association of Colleges & Universities' Institute for Open Education Resources. The team includes WSU faculty, library staff, the library dean, the WSU Affordability Advocate, and a WSU Online staff member. Andrew Stapley, the library's Course Materials Specialist, served as the team lead. The year-long institute included monthly one-on-one sessions with an OER expert mentor, who helped the team develop a draft OER strategic plan for WSU, to be completed in July.

Acknowledgments

The achievements outlined above, as well as the ongoing, everyday work that supports the library's mission and strategic plan, are the result of the collaborative efforts of the entire library staff, faculty, and student employees. I am honored to highlight their accomplishments and commitment to improvement in this report.

Thank you also to the library leadership team for contributing data and departmental highlights to this report and to Erich Goeckeritz, Administrative Associate, for compiling and designing the report.

--Wendy Holliday
Dean of the Library

Facts and Figures

The Library Collection

Format	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Physical Book Titles	351,044	337,303	296,531
Electronic Book Titles	479,065	565,872	592,742
Print Serial Titles	12,808	4,990	4,699
Electronic Serials	196,446	195,245	128,779
Physical Media	37,898	38,093	37,656
Electronic Media	1,023,166	1,971,666	1,874,952
Databases	379	411	397

Interlibrary Loan

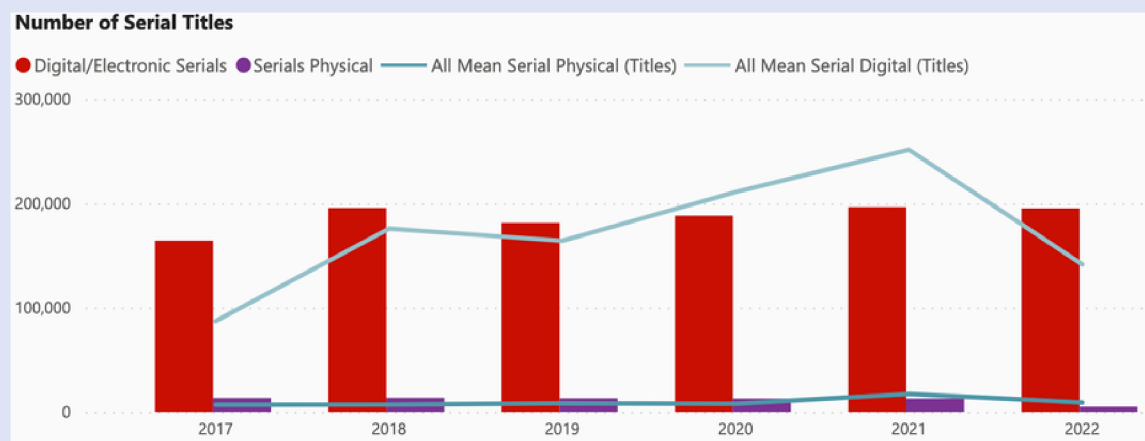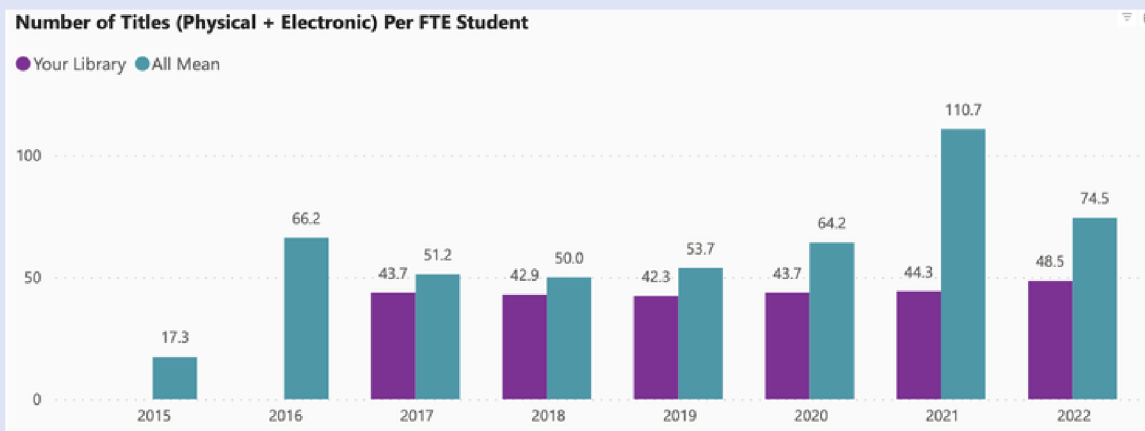| Category	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Total interlibrary loans and documents provided to other libraries.	1,902	1,450	2,541	3,222
Total Interlibrary Loans and documents received.	905	1,207	1,745	1,771

Peer Comparisons

IThe size of the library collection as a whole is near peer averages. The number of journal and book titles per student FTE is lower than our peers. Materials expenditures per student FTE is higher than the median of our peer institutions.

Number of Book Titles

● Books Physical (title count) ● Books Digital/Electronic (title count) —— All Mean Book Titles

ACRL Benchmark Survey 2022

Number of Serial Titles

● Digital/Electronic Serials ● Serials Physical —— All Mean Serial Physical (Titles) —— All Mean Serial Digital (Titles)

ACRL Benchmark Survey 2022

Number of Titles (Physical + Electronic) Per FTE Student

● Your Library ● All Mean
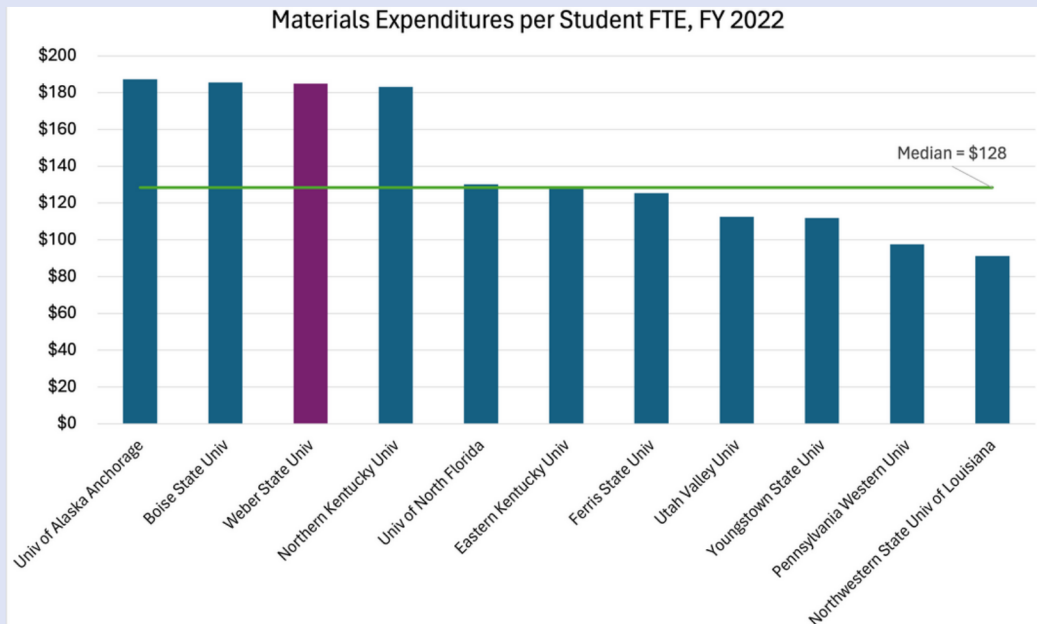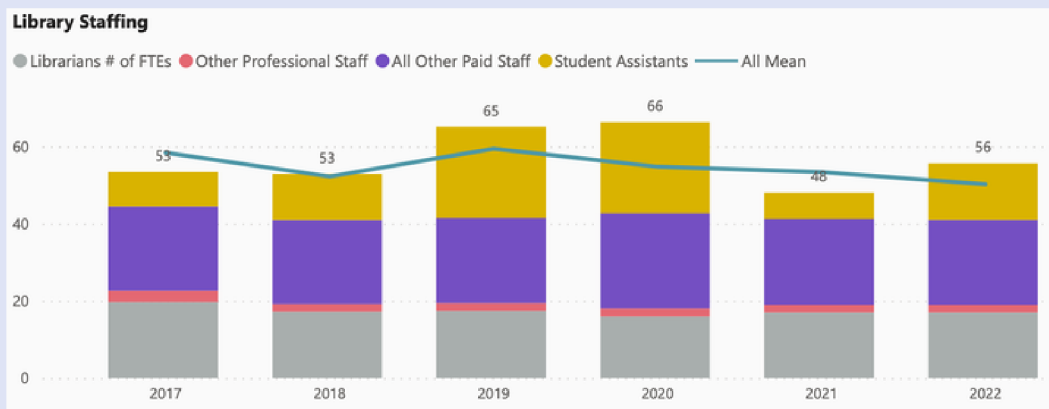

ACRL Benchmark Survey 2022

Data is from the Association of College and Research Libraries Survey (2022) and the 2021 IPEDS survey. There is a lag in reporting for IPEDS. USHE-designated peer institutions are used.

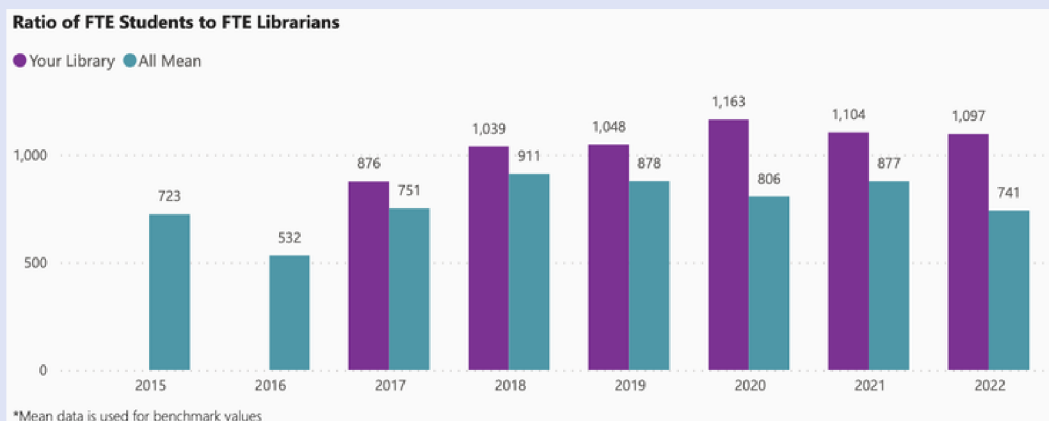Materials Expenditures per Student FTE, FY 2022

IPEDS FY 2022. Includes Utah Academic Library Consortium collective purchases in expenditure total.

Library staffing, in total numbers, is slightly higher than peer averages, but the ratio of employees per student FTE is higher than peer averages, for both total staffing and employees classified as librarians. This suggests that the library has leaner staffing than our peer institutions.

ACRL Benchmark Survey 2022

ACRL Benchmark Survey 2022