DTS LIBRARIES, FY2015-16:
STATISTICS AND HIGHLIGHTS

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Collection

During 2015-16 the libraries acquired 3,348 print volumes, 880 e-books, and 30 new e-journal titles. On 7/1/16 the physical collection (books, microforms, AV) consisted of 298K items, and the online collection consisted of 49K e-books and 7K e-journals. We also leased temporary access to approximately 154K e-books and 83K e-journals. This yields a grand total of 592K items.

Table 1: Combined Collections, Dallas, Houston, Washington DC					
Own or Lease?	Resource Type	7/1/2015	Added in FY	DFEC[1] in FY	**7/1/2016**
Owned	Print volumes (books and journals)	253,497	3,348	2,217	**259,062**
Owned	Microforms	34,791	0	507	**35,298**
Owned	Other physical pieces	3,900	62	50	**4,012**
Owned	**Subtotal physical resources**	292,188	3,410	2,774	**298,372**
Owned	E-books	54,995	880	-6,537	**49,338**
Owned	E-journals (titles)	5,279	30	1,996	**7,305**
Owned	**Subtotal owned online resources**	60,274	910	-4,541	**56,643**
Leased	Leased e-books (approximation)	148,629	?	?	**153,701**
Leased	Leased e-journals (approximation)[2]	16,335	?	?	**83,490**
Leased	**Subtotal leased online resources**	164,964	?	?	**237,191**
Both	**Grand total**	517,426			**592,206**

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[1] DFEC means discarded(-) or found(+) or error corrected(+ or -). During migration from Sirsi Symphony to OCLC WMS we set aside a few thousand items for later cataloging, so they were not counted in FY2014-15. They were processed in FY2015-16 and show in the DFEC column. The increase in owned e-journals was primarily due to some AAS e-journals we purchased a few years ago but cataloged this year. The reduction in owned e-books reflects an adjustment in the count of Netlibrary materials. **Possibly as many as 10K remain to be counted and will be tabulated next year.**

[2] In FY2015-16, leased e-journals increased from 16,335 to 83,490 because we changed which e-journals we count. Leased packages typically include resources that do not support the curriculum. For example, we have long had access to a package selected by TexShare to support K-12, colleges, and public libraries. It is mostly non-theological but provides some support for our curriculum. In the past we only counted some peer reviewed journals that support our curriculum and could be very easily tabulated. This year we counted a much bigger list of leased e-journals because that tabulation is now available in the Knowledge Base and because other libraries are regularly reporting complete packages, even items that do not match local curriculum. (This is still a conservative count. TexShare inflates its claim to **billions** by counting genealogy records! See https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/databasecountfy2016.html.)
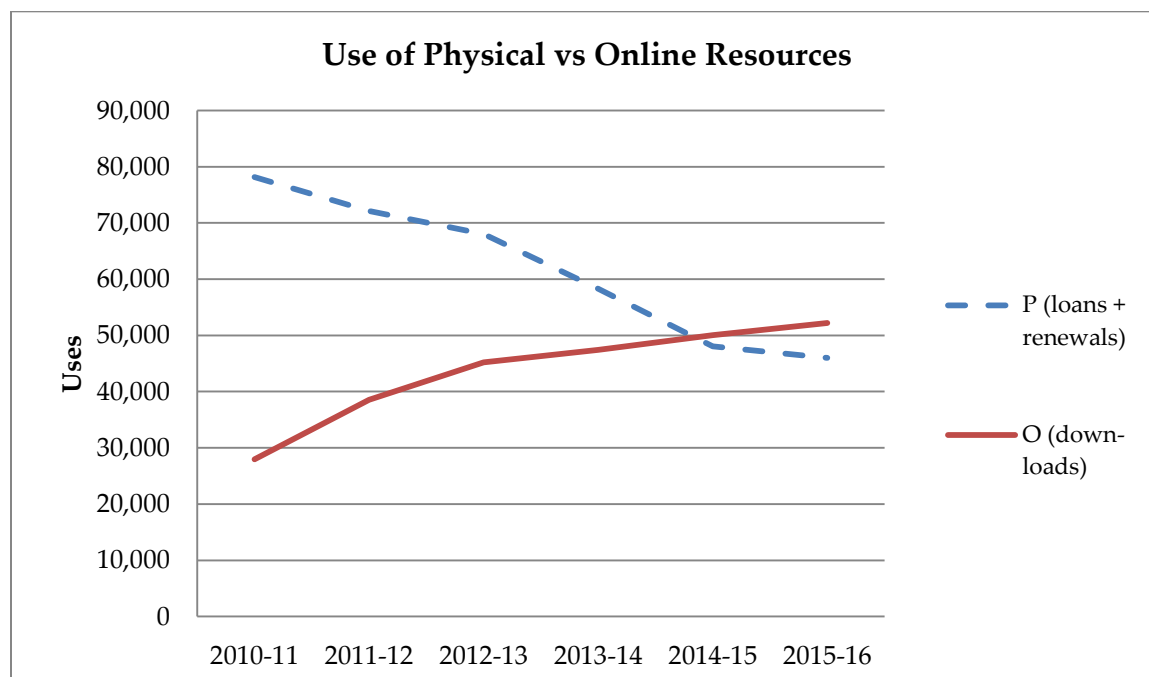
Use of Collection

Total use of the collection (circulation of physical collection plus downloads of online resources) was 98,177 in FY2015-16. Given a student Fall 2015 FTE of 1123.4, we calculate 87 uses per student. This suggests students frequently find library resources relevant and useful even though they have access to non-library alternatives like free sources on the open web and their personal Logos collections.

Table 2: Total Use of Collection							
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total use	106,114	110,652	113,222	105,705	98,112	98,177	
DTS Fall FTE	1,201.0	1,146.5	1,137.7	1,178.6	1,148.9	1,123.4	1,215.2
Use/FTE	88.4	96.5	99.5	89.7	85.4	87.4	

Use of physical resources is declining, and use of online resources is increasing. We are unable to tabulate use of a small portion of our online collection, but known use of online resources exceeds use of physical resources (circulation). See below Table 3.

Table 3: Use of Physical and Online Resources Compared							
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Circulation	78,136	72,119	68,029	58,280	48,072	45,997	
Downloads	27,978	38,533	45,293	47,425	50,040	52,180	

Steady decline in circulation of the physical collection began in 2007-08. However, physical loans are still very significant. Periodic counts of books left on tables at closing time indicate significant in-house use of books (which is not reflected in circulation stats). At this time, students are still dependent on the physical collection.

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

- increase in online enrollment
- increase in the size of our online collection
- growing convenience of using online resources
- decrease in Dallas campus enrollment (especially decrease in ThM students who use library resources twice as much as students in other master degree programs)

Use of Facilities

Only the Dallas campus collects statistics on facility use. Foot traffic is an important indicator of library use. In FY2015-16, the photocell recorded 91,646 round trip visits to the library. That is equivalent to 316 visits per day open. Based on a Dallas campus Fall 2015 FTE of 694.4, it is also equivalent to every Dallas campus student visiting the building 132 times! In addition, 410,165 pages were scanned, printed, or photocopied, and the media center recorded 6,784 sign-ins (an all-time low). Facility use has declined significantly during the past fifteen years. 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 furnished with a wide range of resources and services.

Changes and Challenges

This was a year of adjustment for both library staff and students. During May of 2015 we migrated to OCLC WMS software (for staff) and WorldCat Discovery (for the public). See last year's report for a discussion of what the new system offers. During FY2015-16 we completed our first year of using WMS and Discovery. During the year library staff developed new procedures for many tasks and dealt with remaining data migration issues. Jeff Webster completed his second year as Director of the Houston campus library. This was also the first complete year we circulated books in Houston. The RS101 research methods course was significantly revised, library documentation and assignments were updated, and the course was recorded so it can be offered online.

Enrollment in online programs has exploded and the Washington DC campus is growing. We need to provide additional resources and services for online and extension students. We are eager to purchase online resources. However, many theological works, both old and new, are not for sale in an online format. We will need to purchase print resources for many years to come. In recent years we added many print volumes to our Houston campus collection, and we now need to grow the Washington DC collection. There is a downside to growth in the branch collections. Titles we acquire for Houston and DC are usually also in the Dallas collection. So we are spending money on duplicate volumes rather than acquiring unique content.

Growing dependence on online resources means online skills like database searching are ever more important. Some degree programs require the RS101 course which familiarizes students with database searching and broader research methods issues. But students in other programs get little instruction in

the area. We need to find a way to instruct those students without adding a course like RS101 to their degree programs.

For nearly two decades the library has locally hosted, upgraded, configured, supported and administered our library software, website, and proxying software. This sometimes requires a fair amount of technical expertise. We plan to adopt vendor hosted and supported systems that require less technical expertise from library staff (who will still be administering the software to some degree). We believe this will allow library staff to focus on delivering content and services to our users. We took the first step in this plan in 2015 when we migrated to WMS. This immediately enabled our staff to use the Knowledge Base to improve student access to e-resources in WorldCat Discovery. In 2016 we plan to migrate to a hosted version of EZProxy. And we are considering moving library website content to WordPress so staff with little or even no knowledge of html/css will be able to add and edit content. There is a downside to this plan. We will have less control, less ability to develop customized solutions or to respond rapidly when needed. Ultimately we may discover we need a computer systems support position on the library staff. But we are going to test that proposition. We are in the midst of complex long-term change, and we hope to learn from trial and error because we are not wise enough to see the future.