Some Library Statistics for FY2013-14
Dallas Theological Seminary

As of 7/1/14 we own about 318K physical items (books, microforms, AV). Counting e-resources presents special problems. We rent some (where rent = temporary annual access) but we own others (where own = permanent perpetual access). We sometimes acquire them in predefined packages, with only a portion of a package being relevant to our curriculum. We have access to about 189K e-books, of which about 61K are highly relevant to the curriculum. We own about 24K of the 61K. We rent access to about 16K e-journals (titles), and we own about 3K e-journals.

Growth of Collection					
Own or Rent?	Resource Type	7/1/2013	Added in FY	DFEC[1] in FY	7/1/2014
Owned	Print volumes	235,328	14,405	-25	249,708
Owned	Microforms	56,035	2	-2	56,035
Owned	Other physical pieces	11,845	136	-63	11,918
Owned	**Subtotal physical collection**	303,208	14,543	-90	317,661
Owned	All owned e-books	48,737	1,308	0	50,045
Owned	Only relevant e-books	23,023	1,308	0	24,331
Owned	E-journals (titles)	2,341	765	17	3,123
Owned	**Subtotal electronic**	51,078	2,073	17	53,168
Owned	**Subtotal electronic, only relevant**	25,364	2,073	17	27,454
Rented	Rented e-books	112,000	?	?	136,807
Rented	Rented Texshare e-journals[2]	15,665	?	?	16,235
Rented	Rented Texshare scholarly e-journals	>10,237	?	?	>10,986

Students are hungry for additional electronic resources, and we are eager to purchase them. However, theology is lagging behind STEM disciplines in conversion from print to electronic format. We must wait for hundreds of publishers to supply e-resources. We will buy what we can when we can. But at this time we are not able to buy the core high-use titles that are so important for students. Too few key theological publishers are selling electronic resources.
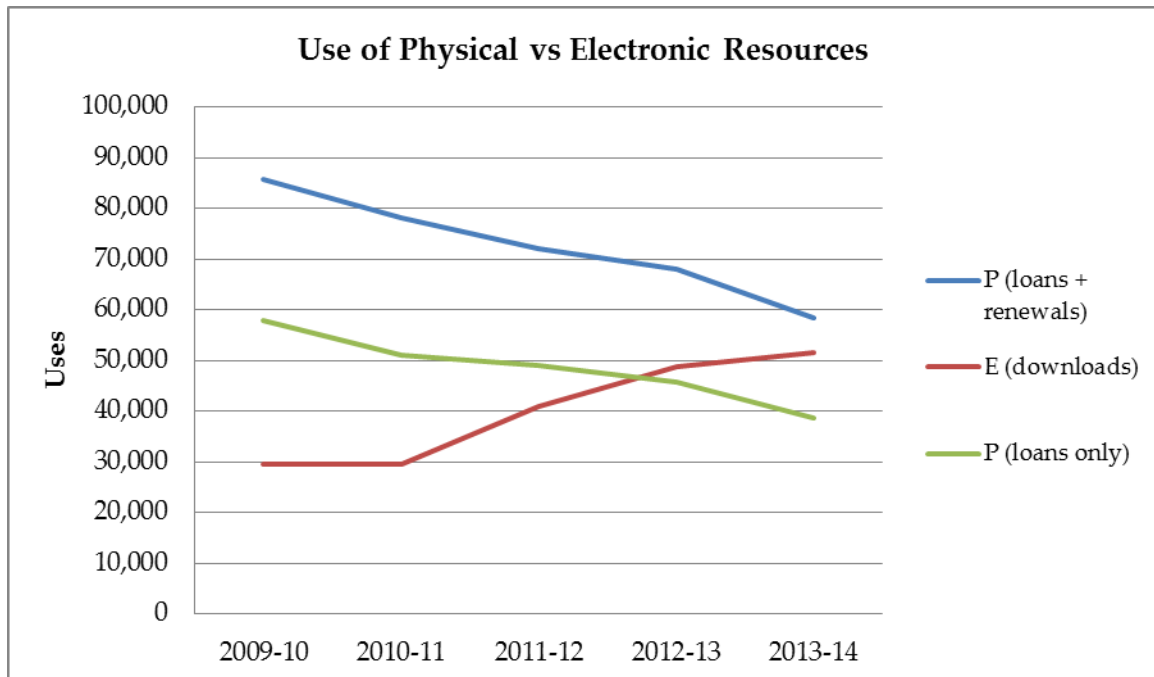
Use of electronic resources continues to increase. Downloads already exceed initial loans of items in the physical collection, and downloads may soon exceed total circulation (=initial loans plus renewals) of the physical collection. Some think the correct way to compare use of electronic resources with use of physical resources is to compare downloads to initial loans. Others compare downloads with total circulation. We track both definitions of use.

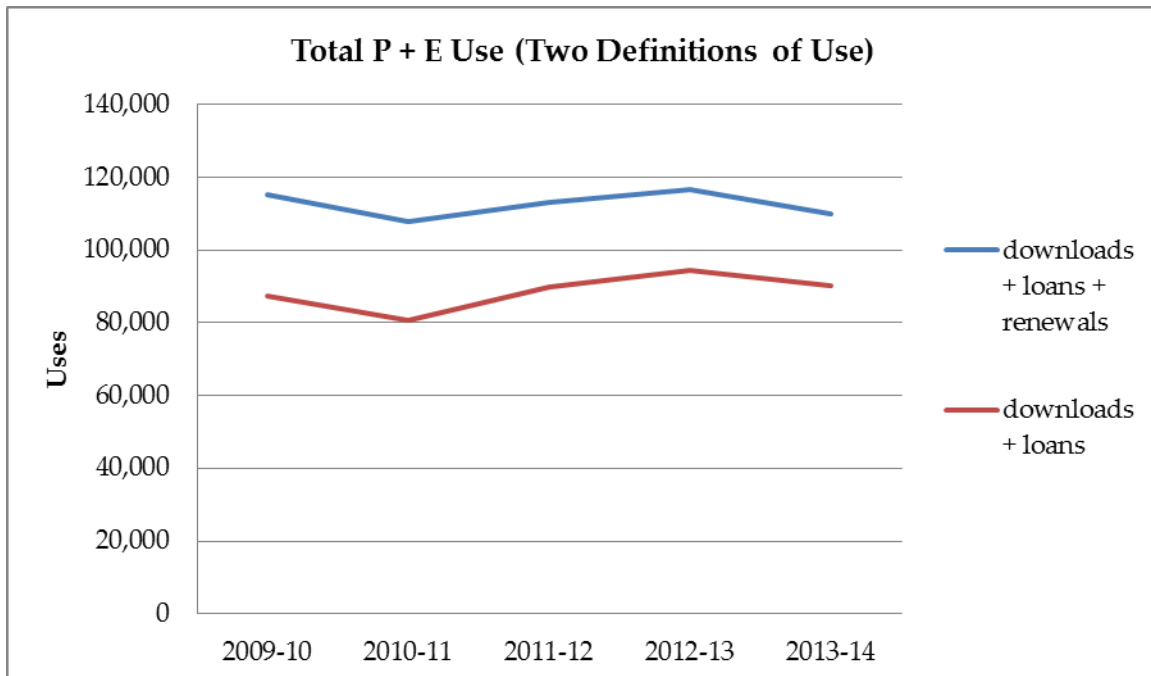[1] DFEC = discarded(-) or found(+) or error corrected(+ or -)

[2] https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/databasecountfy2014.html

Use of Physical and Electronic Resources Compared						
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
physical total circulation	85,802	78,136	72,119	68,029	58,280	
e-resource downloads	29,540	29,666	40,859	48,731	51,658	
physical initial loans	57,942	51,065	48,915	45,672	38,560	

Of course we have long expected a shift to online resources. Steady decline in circulation began in 2007-08. It is driven by increasing available e-resources, increasing distance education enrollment, and decreasing Dallas campus enrollment. However, physical loans are still very significant. Further, periodic counts of books left on tables indicate in-house use of books equals external circulation. At this time, students are still dependent on the physical collection. Many of the most important books and journals are not available for purchase in an online format.

Total use (physical plus electronic) per student is substantial. For FY2013-14 we were able to tabulate 51,658 downloads plus 38,560 initial loans = 90,218 uses. Given a total FTE of 1178.6, that means 76.5 uses per FTE per year. If we include renewals then we count 109,938 total uses, and 93.3 uses per FTE per year. Total combined use of physical and electronic resources has been stable for the past five years. See following chart.

Total P + E Use (Two Definitions of Use)

downloads + loans + renewals

downloads + loans

Support for distance education is our most pressing challenge. We are strengthening the Houston library. Special funding spurred significant growth of the Houston collection the past two years. We have tagged all books in Houston with RFID chips to support a modern, secured, circulation system. Oct 2014, Jeff Webster relocated to Houston to become Library Director there. Renovation of Houston library facilities is scheduled for 2015.

This year we made some aggressive moves in order to better support distance education.

- July 2013 we combined serials and acquisitions positions into one position. So we voluntarily eliminated one full time position. We asked DTS administration to divert some of the savings into funding for e-resources for distance programs, and we did receive significant additional funding beginning July 2014.

- June 2014 we signed a contract for OCLS WMS software and we will be migrating to it July 2015. This should provide improved management of electronic resources, a more consistent and integrated workflow for ordering and processing print and electronic resources, a somewhat better discovery/search for students, and a good technical foundation for the future. WMS is hosted by the vendor, so we will no longer have to support a library server and we will require less technical expertise on our staff. However, WMS is not yet mature, and we can anticipate some loss of functionality when we migrate. For example, WMS reports and course reserves are inadequate. Further, we are funding the transition costs by using our present software for a year without a support contract. Our plan involves risk.

Foot traffic through Turpin Library continues to decline but is still very substantial. In FY2013-14, there were 117,036 round trip visits to the building. That is equivalent to 406 visits per day open. It is also equivalent to every Dallas campus FTE student visiting the building 145 times per year! We tabulated 528,709 pages scanned, printed, or photocopied, and 10,988 media center sign-ins. Although visits to the building have declined steadily during the past decade, students are still using the facility very frequently. Distance programs and new student housing on campus have not eliminated the need for a library building. Personal laptops have not eliminated the need for a computer lab.