

Contribution to the sustainability of the library in terms of climate change using the example of the acquisition department of a medical library

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Introduction

Promoting sustainability in its multidimensional aspects has been a central focus in libraries and librarianship (Kaminska, 2023, p.2) since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Our study analyzes the SUM Library Acquisition Department's operations in terms of environmental sustainability.

Methods

We researched literature on eco-friendly libraries and interviewed our colleagues to identify current and potential environmentally friendly actions the acquisition department can undertake. We also analyzed statistical data regarding collection selection and lending. To complete the data we had already gathered, we conducted an online survey of library users' preferences in terms of collection use.

Aims/Purpose

1. Identifying environmentally sustainable actions libraries can take.
2. Assessing the eco-friendliness of SUM Library's Acquisition Department and identifying areas to improve.
3. Evaluating the correlation between the Library collection and patrons' preferences and behaviours.

Results

Work scheme based on interview with the Acquisition Department of the Library of the Medical University of Silesia employees



Books acquisition specialist



Manager of the Department
Databases acquisition specialist



Journals acquisition specialist

Purchase

- 66% of collection is electronic – acquired through a subscription model
- purchases based on demands and lending analyze
- e-books in perpetual access model only if price-to-usage ratio is reasonable
- supplier selection dictated by price and delivery time, not environment

Using

- discard based on the rate of wear and tear and lending analyze
- discarded materials are, in the first place, offered to other libraries, sold to antiquarian bookshops or donated to the students
- as a last resort weeded materials are reused (e.g. as a piece of art) or recycled

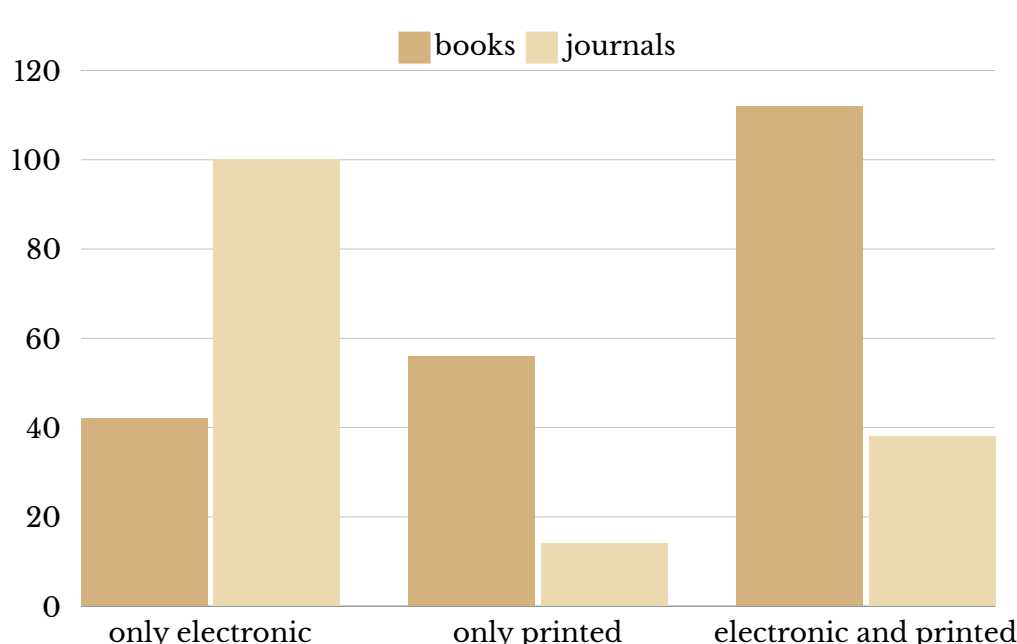
Discard



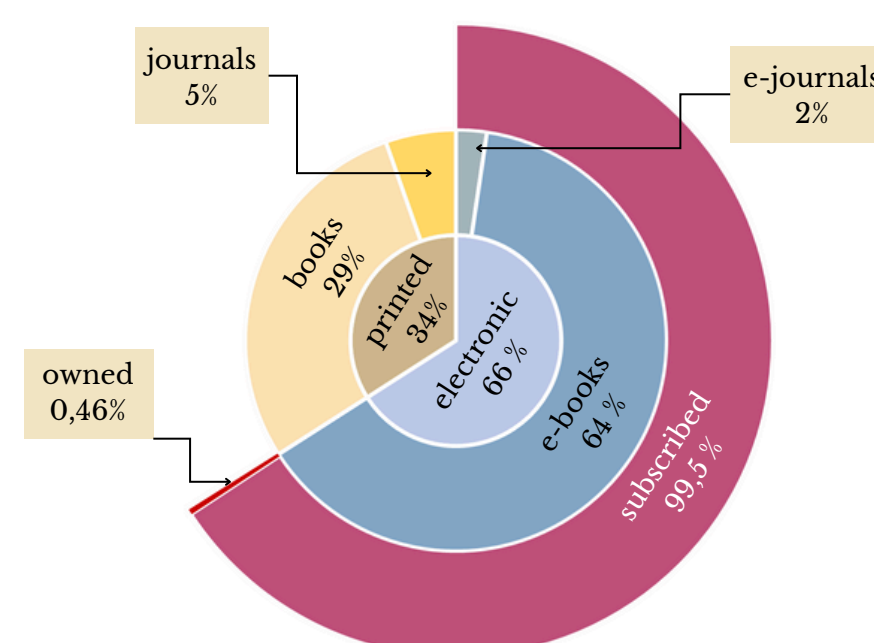
Main aim:
purchase and
keep only what
is necessary

Non-electronic
collection usage
activity (2023):
0,8
(lending per book)

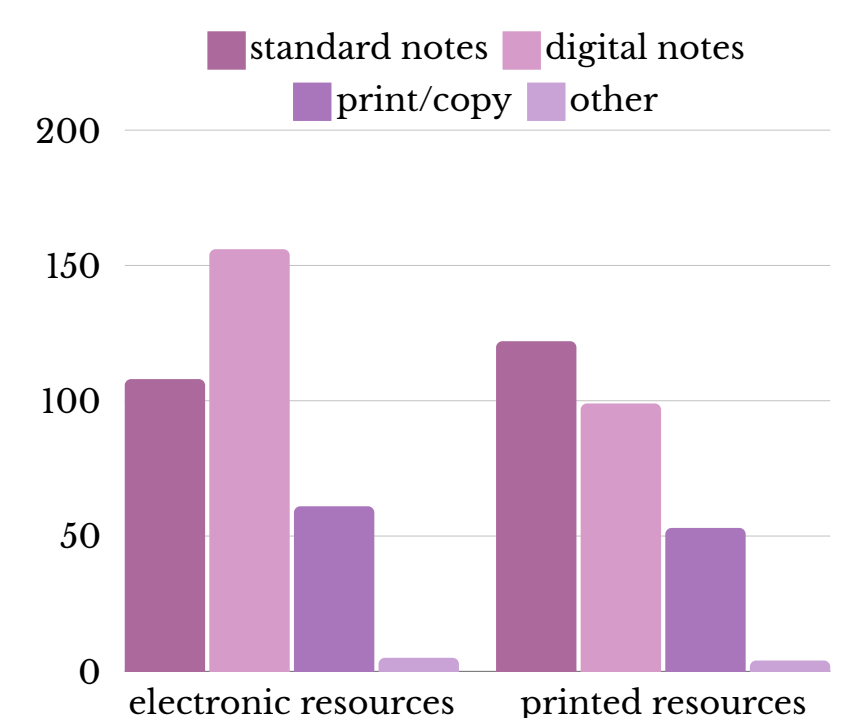
Patrons' usage statement of print and electronic for books and journals in SUM Library



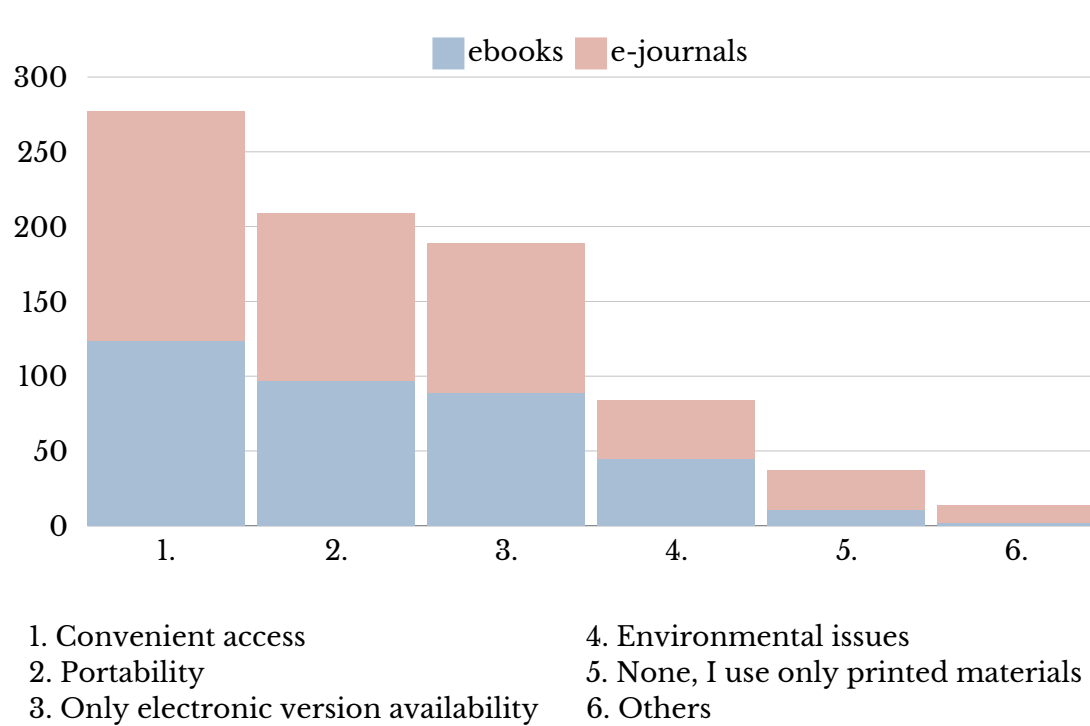
SUM Library collection: format, type and e-resource purchase model (2023)



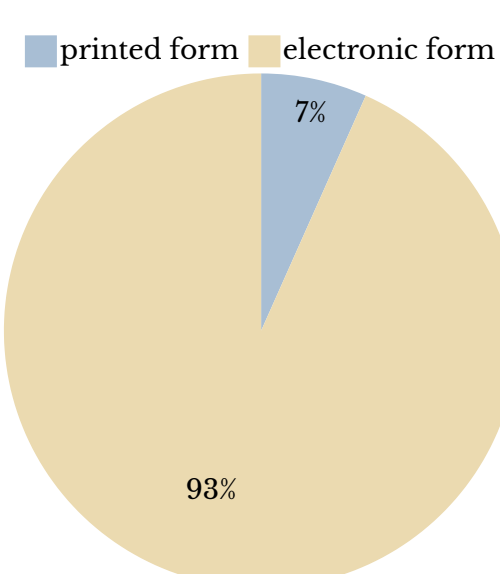
Taking notes: printed vs. e-resources in SUM Library



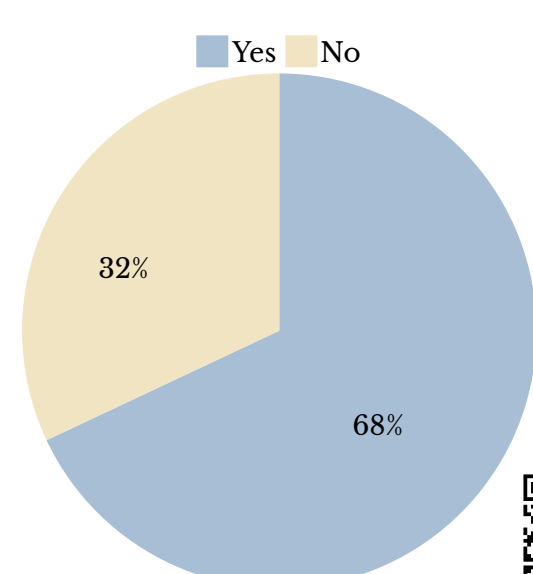
Influential factors for e-books and e-journals usage in SUM Library: a comparative analysis



E-book vs. print usage for top-rated book in SUM Library (2023)



Would you use e-resources if it helped reduce the library's carbon footprint?



Conclusions

In light of current literature, the Acquisition Department could contribute to library eco-friendliness mostly by focusing on building environmentally sustainable collections. When shaping the SUM Library collection, we consider various factors such as user preferences, financial implications, supplier policies, and environmental impact, although the latter is not prioritized due to the limited number of medical literature vendors in Poland. Our collection primarily consists of subscribed e-resources, allowing for a more eco-friendly approach, and we uphold responsible practices such as recycling and reusing unused materials. The survey among patrons showed us the importance of knowing and understanding their preferences for building environmentally sustainable collections. As a result of the survey, we decided to limit print magazine purchases and conduct regular surveys to stay responsive to evolving needs. We also recognized the need for education and technological solutions to reduce carbon footprint and paper consumption when using library material.

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