

UC Library – Ngā Puna Mātauraka

From Physical Collections to Learning Spaces Project

The UC Strategic Vision Tangata Tū, Tangata Ora, Engaged, Empowered, Making a Difference sets out a pathway for UC and the Library for the next decade as we support learning, teaching and research in innovative and effective ways.

This year has accelerated the University's ongoing transformation to online learning and research. The Library is fully engaged in this transformation, providing online services to students and academics wherever they are. Learners, teachers and researchers depended upon the strength of our online collection during the pandemic. The online teaching and research materials were backed up with Library staff providing access to printed information resources as required.

Another strength of our Library is the high demand from students for the PJH Library as the premium learning, study and resource space on campus. Our future Library will continue to be a premium innovation and creative space that brings together students from across the disciplines to try out new ideas in a safe and supportive environment that contributes to student learning and wellbeing.

One of the contributors to this ongoing transformation is a project to reduce the low use print collections. We know from international research that a smaller print collection, that focuses upon the materials and disciplines which are really valued, will get greater use. Additionally, we are excited about the possibilities for enhancing the spaces for students for quiet study and for interactive, technology enriched, creative learning.

We will continue to cherish and protect our unique New Zealand, Pacific, Macmillan Brown and special collections which are out of scope for this project.

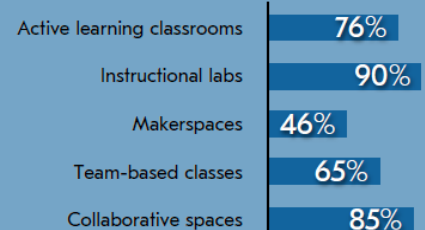
Global context

Research libraries everywhere are growing their online research collections as the amount of material available online rapidly increases. Open access to scholarly literature has increased the amount of material freely available. There are global and national agreements between libraries ensuring long term access to materials.

In terms of standard practice in academic libraries, we are aligned with other leading libraries in continuously reviewing our research collections.

Globally, there is a trend for academic library buildings to provide more space for shared learning now that so much of the collection is online, as the side table shows.

Technology-enhanced spaces that are provided by colleges and universities:



—CDS data as of March 8, 2019, for US institutions with Carnegie Classifications of AA, BA, MA, or DR.

EDUCAUSE Horizon Report | 2019 Higher Education Edition

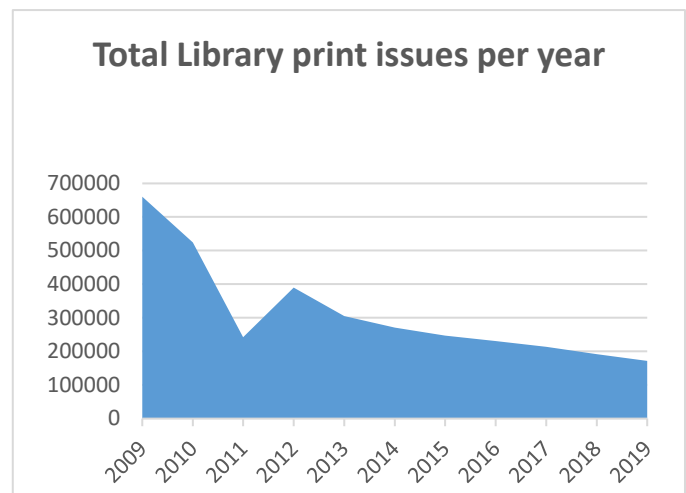
Our digital journey

For the last eight years the Library has had a just-in-time approach to information resources and purchased digital materials in preference to print. Our data shows that 95% of usage was digital materials, which reflected the percentage of expenditure.

From 2009 to 2019 the use of the print collection has declined so that issues of books and print journals in 2019 was 75% less than what they were in 2009. The decline from 2018 to 2019 was 12%.

Our systems for document delivery are fast and efficient. It is often more cost-effective to obtain materials digitally than to retrieve them from Store.

The extent of the shift to using online material for teaching and research over the past decade across most of the University has shaped the project goals. We are also taking a different approach to this project in recognition of this transformation. We see different patterns of usage in different disciplines so consultation with academics about the criteria will be discipline specific.



Project goals 2020-2024

1. The five year goal is to reduce print collections by a third. We will primarily focus on withdrawing material from Store and some low use material from Central Library/PJH and EPS Libraries.
2. Repurpose the space for creative adaptive learning and study spaces.

2020 project

3. The focus for 2020 will be clearing the equivalent of a floor in the PJH/Central Library. This will be accomplished by withdrawing material from Store and relegating some material from PJH to Store. We will also withdraw a small amount of low contention material from PJH/Central Library including duplicates no longer in current use and subject areas no longer taught.
4. The following materials are out of scope for 2020
 - a) Monographs issued or purchased in the last 15 years.
 - b) EPS Library.
 - c) Alternative formats.
 - d) Classics, History, Geological Sciences, Fine Arts and Ethnology as the physical collections are more heavily used.

References

"Tangata Tū, Tangata Ora – Engaged, Empowered, Making a Difference", the UC Strategic Vision 2020-2030
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¹ Tyrer, G., Ives, J., & Corke, C. (2013). Employability skills, the student path, and the role of the academic library and partners. *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, 19(2), 178–189.