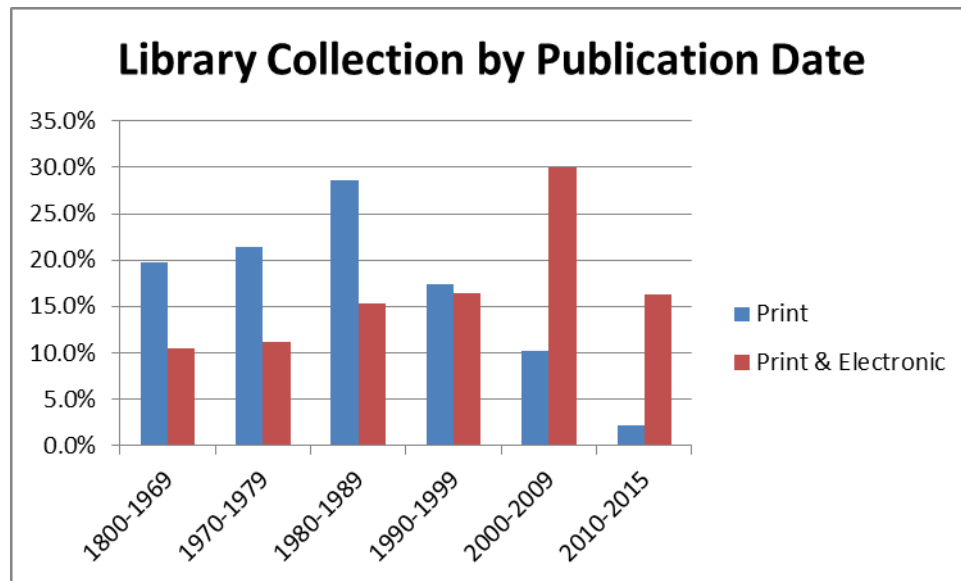


Age of the Egan Library Collection

The Egan Library physical collection is aging and unacceptably out of date in some areas. The bulk of the print collection dates from the 1980s, a period of strong collection growth which culminated in the move into the Egan Library building in 1990.



Since then, we have had steadily declining print collection growth, as our efforts and expenditures have been increasingly divided between print and electronic resources. Our electronic collections, principally ebooks provided through a subscription, are relatively equal in size to our print collections and are augmented with tens of thousands of new titles each year. **Ebooks comprise the bulk of the collection published in the last 15 years.**

On the one hand, the electronic collections ensure that an adequate quantity of newly published material is available to students, anywhere, anytime. On the other hand, unlike the print collection, the majority of the ebook collection is not individually selected by UAS librarians with the unique needs of our students in mind. Currently 139,000 titles in number, the ebook collection is a good, general academic collection oriented toward the needs of a typical undergraduate college. In contrast, the few hundred print and ebooks individually selected by UAS librarians each year are specifically targeted towards supporting our students and UAS curricula.

Egan librarians face a two-pronged challenge to improve our collections. First, we need to continue large-scale weeding (de-selection and withdrawal) of older materials to increase the overall currency of the collections. Second, we need to put consistent effort into selecting both new print and electronic resources **across all disciplines**. With only four librarians, each with a very full range of duties and responsibilities, it is difficult to find enough time for collection development, weeding in particular. This is especially true in some areas where there has been little additional involvement from faculty in the discipline.

Age of the physical collection by subject

The following table show subjects in the library arranged from those with the greatest percentage of current materials to those with the least. Subjects where over 15% of the print collection is published in the last 15 years include Medicine, Biological Sciences, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Physical Education & Recreation, Geography and Earth Sciences, Education, Political Science, and Performing Arts. These are almost all areas where some weeding has taken place in the last five years. In Medicine and Biology in particular, we have put extra effort into weeding and updating, which is evident by this category being our most current.

Subject	Published 2000-	Published before 2000	Total titles
Medicine	21.1%	78.9%	3782
Biological Sciences	21.1%	80.0%	6946
Sociology	19.5%	80.4%	6499
Anthropology	19.5%	80.4%	1460
Psychology	19.0%	81.0%	1739
Physical Education & Recreation	17.3%	81.9%	780
Geography & Earth Sciences	16.5%	83.1%	5009
Education	16.1%	83.5%	7889
Political Science	15.3%	84.4%	4289
Performing Arts	15.1%	87.4%	1368
Computer Science	14.9%	85.1%	1020
Chemistry	14.9%	85.1%	269
Philosophy & Religion	14.8%	85.2%	3525
Law	14.4%	85.4%	2212
History & Auxiliary Sciences	12.7%	87.2%	16806
Physical Sciences	12.7%	87.2%	2472
Business & Economics	12.5%	87.0%	9420
Music	12.3%	87.6%	1624
Mathematics	11.6%	88.3%	1735
Engineering & Technology	11.5%	87.7%	4282
Library Science, Generalities & Reference	11.2%	88.3%	2438
Art & Architecture	9.8%	90.1%	5011
Language, Linguistics & Literature	7.8%	92.1%	25934
Government Documents	7.3%	91.8%	16733
Agriculture	7.1%	91.6%	7813

Source: OCLC Collection Evaluation, 2015. Notes: Feature films on DVD and VHS are excluded from the Performing Arts subject. A small percentage of items in each subject have an unknown publication date and are not included.

At the bottom of the list, our most dated subject collections are Agriculture and Governments Documents. These two categories are primarily populated with materials in the Forestry Sciences Collection. Since the Forestry Sciences Collection is historical in nature and is comprised mostly of materials collected during the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, this is expected and the average age of materials in these areas will remain older.

The next two most dated subjects are Literature and Art. This is somewhat reasonable because works of literature and art books do not necessarily become less useful or less relevant with the passage of time. However, the library should continue to add new titles in these areas and weed selectively.

In the remaining areas where more than 15% of the collection is 15 years old or older, these collections are particularly dated and should be addressed as a priority. These subjects are Computer Science, Chemistry, Philosophy & Religion, Law, History, Physical Sciences, Business & Economics, Music, Mathematics, Engineering & Technology, and Library Science.

The library's goal is to set a reasonable target for the level of currency for each subject on the list and set a timeline for achieving the targets.