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Library Faculty Publications and Presentations | The Albertsons Library

2-6-2012

EBL (eBook Library) eBook Use at Albertsons Library July 1, 2011-January 31, 2012

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ALBERTSONS LIBRARY

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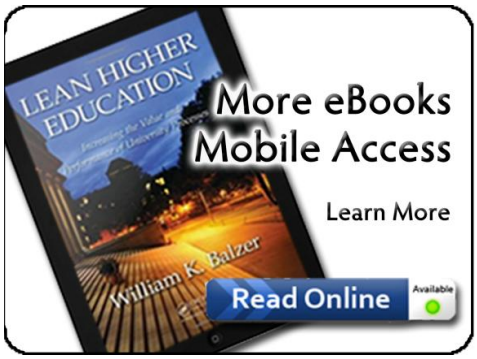
The eBook Environment

Academic libraries are searching for ways to adapt to new information needs, provide digital information, and manage the migration to digital services. The use of eBooks is now an accepted practice in academic institutions. As part of Albertsons Library's response to user needs, the Library has dramatically increased the number of eBooks that are available to Boise State University faculty, students, and staff through the adoption of the EBL (eBook Library) platform.

Albertsons Library's EBL eBook Implementation

In July 2011, 52,000 EBL (Ebook Library) eBooks were made available for immediate access by Boise State University faculty, students and staff. EBL eBooks can be browsed, read online and/or downloaded to a computer or mobile device for offline reading. These eBooks are available to unlimited simultaneous users, 24/7, on and off campus. They can be directly linked into course management software and e-reserve lists. EBL eBooks are published by respected university and scholarly presses and cover a broad range of academic disciplines.

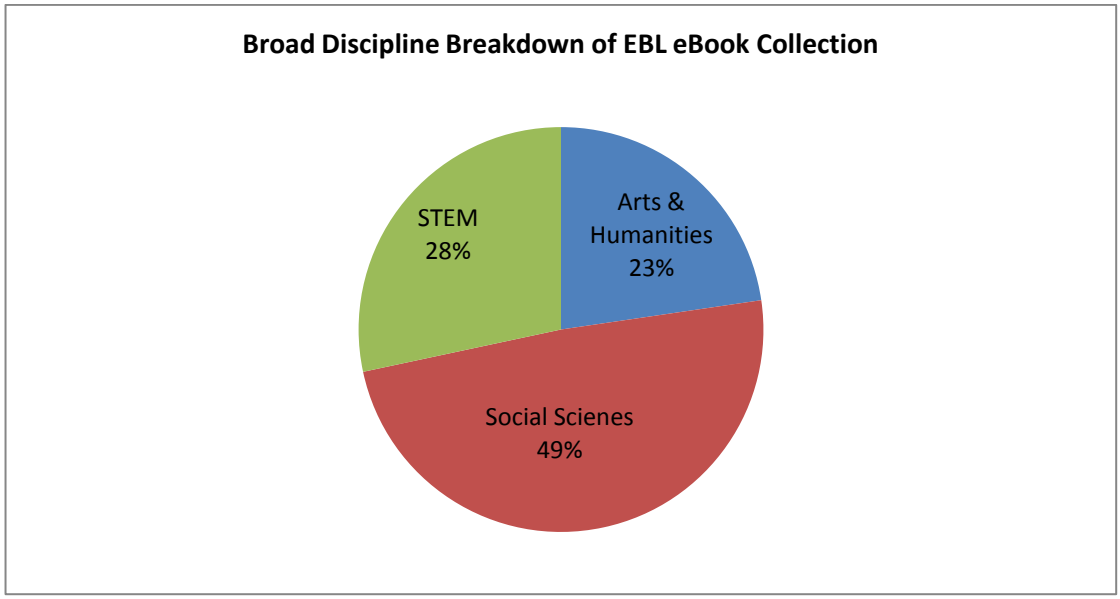


Access to EBL was made possible by funds provided to support eBook access, faculty/patron requests, and mobile learning. During the initial implementation, Boise State has expended around $42,000 to provide access to the EBL collection. If these titles now available to Boise State University users were purchased in a traditional manner, their list price would have cost us over $5.2 million dollars. The Library has continued to build the EBL eBook collection since July 2011 and currently provides access to over 62,000 titles.

Demand Driven Acquisition: A New Financial and Access Model

The EBL eBook collection was made available to the Boise State University community without an initial financial outlay by the Library or University through a Demand Driven/Patron Driven Acquisitions (DDA/PDA) model. Demand Driven/ Patron Driven Acquisitions allow the Library to significantly expand access to eBooks at a fraction of the traditional purchasing model. Rather than purchasing books "just in case" they might be used, DDA/PDA allows us to deliver a large selection of books to our patrons and only pay for the books that are actually used, a "just in time" purchase.

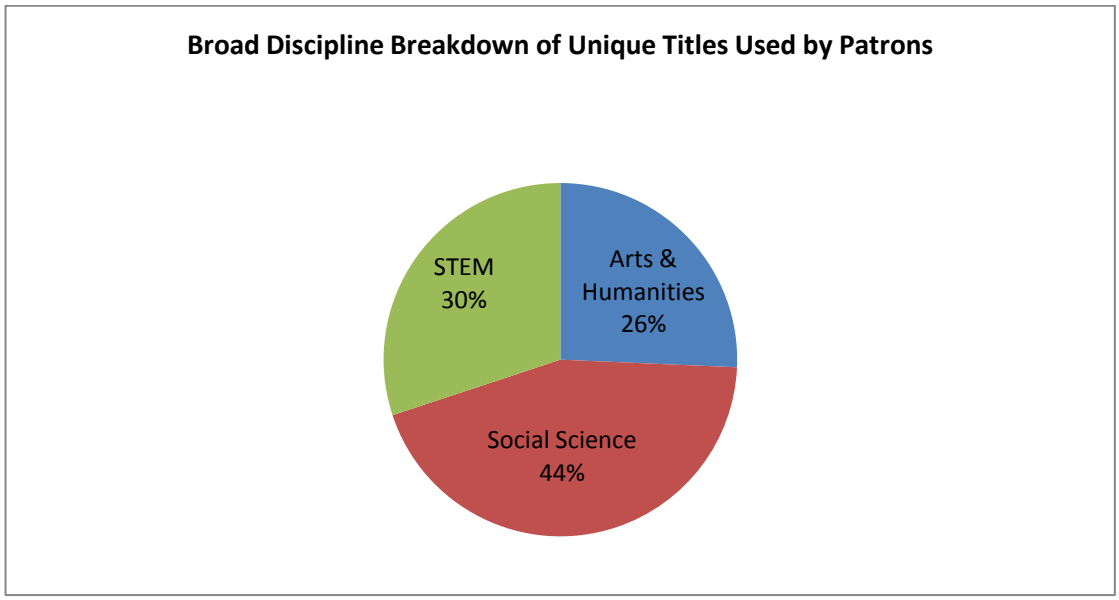
EBL records for books not owned by the Library are loaded into the Library's catalog, patrons locate these items when searching the catalog, and the Library incurs costs only when the user decides to read the eBook in an online environment or download it to a computer or mobile device. The typical cost for an eBook access, also known as short term loan (STL), is 5-10% of the eBook list price. After a pre-determined number of STLs, the eBook is purchased and no further costs are incurred.

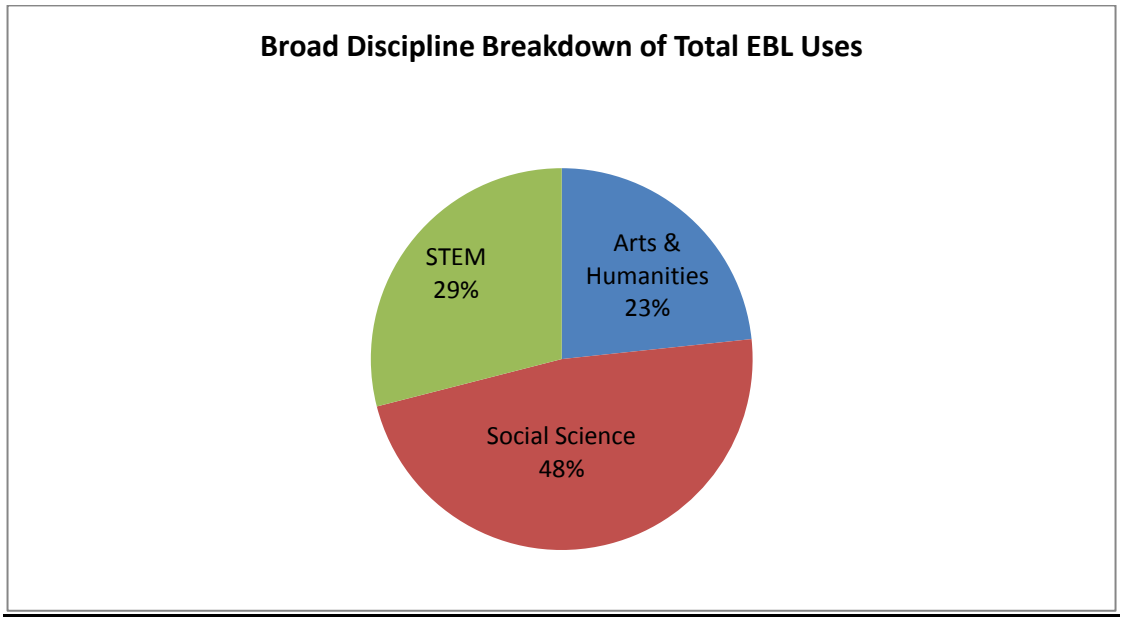


EBL eBook Use July 1, 2011-January 31, 2012

- 2,204 unique patrons accessed EBL eBooks, browsing, reading online, and/or downloading.
- 13,848 total transactions (browses, read online, and download of non-purchased and purchased titles).
- 6,881 browses (online uses for less than 5 minutes).
- 4,136 reading online.
- 2,831 downloads.

- $3.03 average cost per transactions (browses, reading online, and download of non-purchased and purchased titles).
- $41,962.89 expended for transactions and purchases of EBL eBooks.
- $5,264,159.90 list price for EBL collection for which our users have access (if all titles had been purchased at full price without any discounts).





Implications/Future Directions

As academic libraries, including Albertsons Library, continue to redefine themselves, electronic resources, including eBooks, are playing an increasing role in the library of the

future. eBooks are part of the solution to meeting users' needs, providing access to materials rather than ownership, and controlling unsustainable cost.

The Library plans to:

- Increase the number of eBooks.
- Expand eBook use for online and mobile learning, particularly downloadable titles.
- Monitor and analyze trends and patterns of use.
- Target purchases of eBooks to incorporate into specific courses and programs (e.g. Foundational Studies).
- Support demand driven acquisitions and continue to allow patron use patterns to help determine titles that will be permanently added to the collection.
- Continue to substitute eBook purchases for faculty and interlibrary loan requests in order to provide immediate access.

Relevant URLs:

Albertsons Library WorldCat Local Catalog: http://boisestate.worldcat.org
(EBL eBooks are included and searchable within our catalog)

Boise State University Albertsons Library EBL eBooks Library:
http://www.boisestate.eblib.com/

Albertsons Library EBL eBook Instructions:
http://library.boisestate.edu/eblinstruction.php

EBL Vendor Web Site: http://www.eblib.com/

Electronic Books (eBooks) in Albertsons Library: http://guides.boisestate.edu/ebooks

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