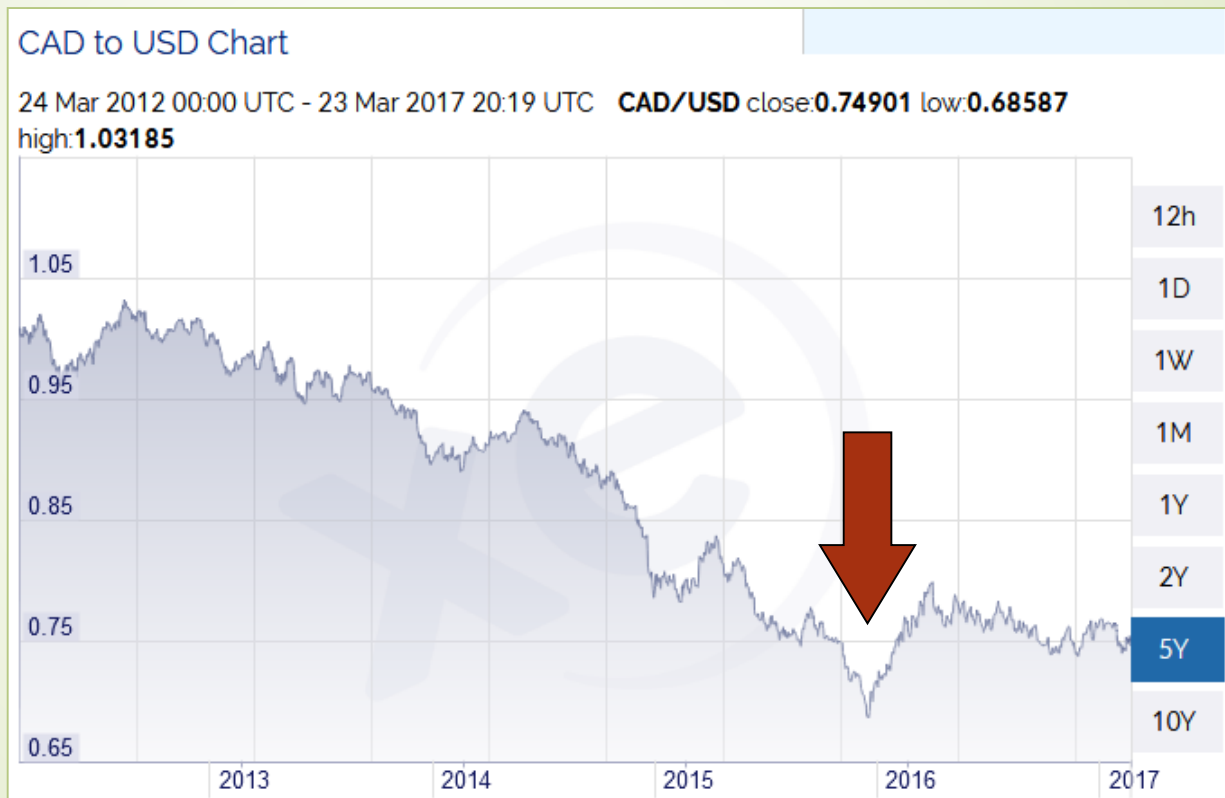


The Canadian Dollar versus the Collection: How University Libraries Are Coping

Nicole Eva (with David Scott)
Librarians, University of Lethbridge

CAD/USD Exchange Rate, 2012-2017



Source: www.xe.com/currencycharts
Retrieved March 23, 2017



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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Oligopoly o

Vincent Larivière | Stefanie F

Published: June 10, 2015 • 14

Article

Abstract

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion and Conclusion
- Acknowledgment:
- Author Contributi
- References
- Reader Comm
- Media Covera
- Figures



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS BUDGETS: FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK AND CRKN

February 2016

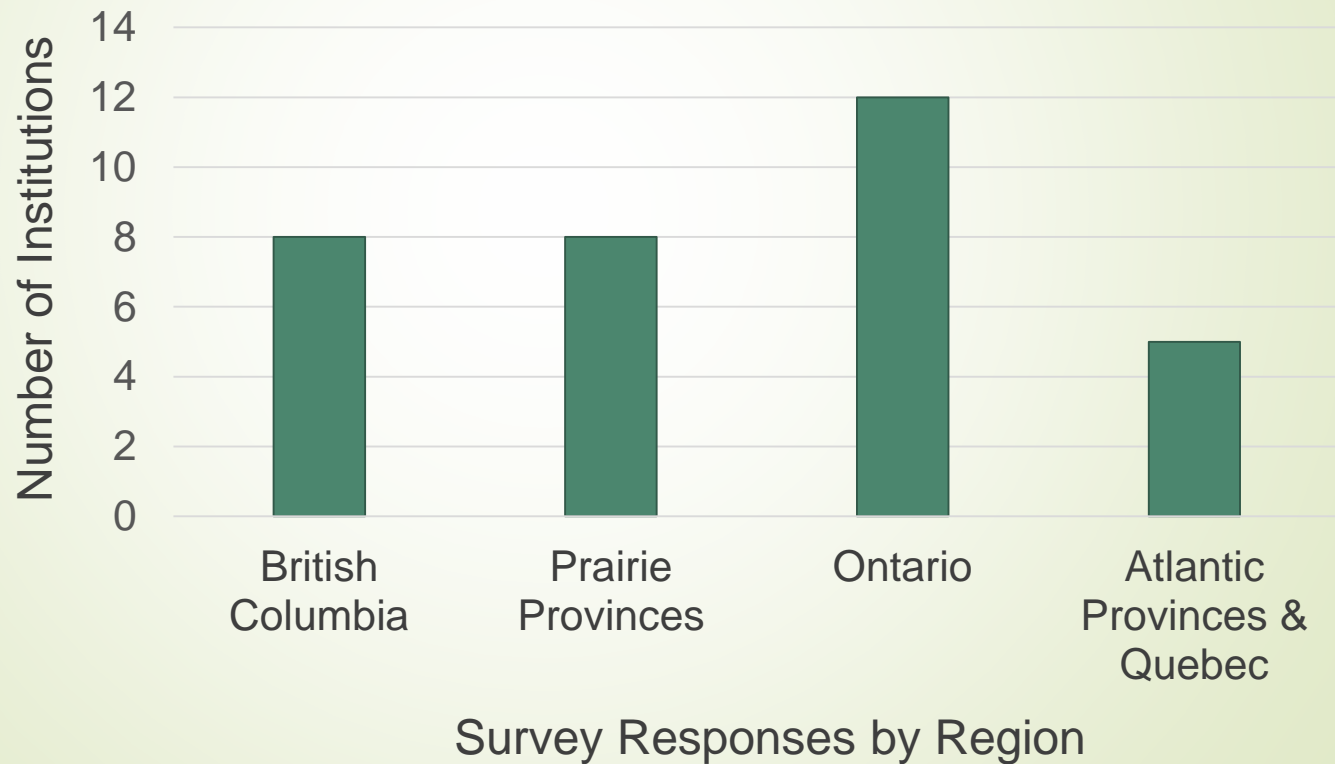
Research Questions

- ▶ How has the decrease in value of the CAD against the USD affected Canadian academic libraries?
- ▶ What other factors are putting strain on libraries' acquisitions budgets?
- ▶ How are libraries responding to these budgetary pressures?
- ▶ What potential solutions to alleviate these pressures exist?

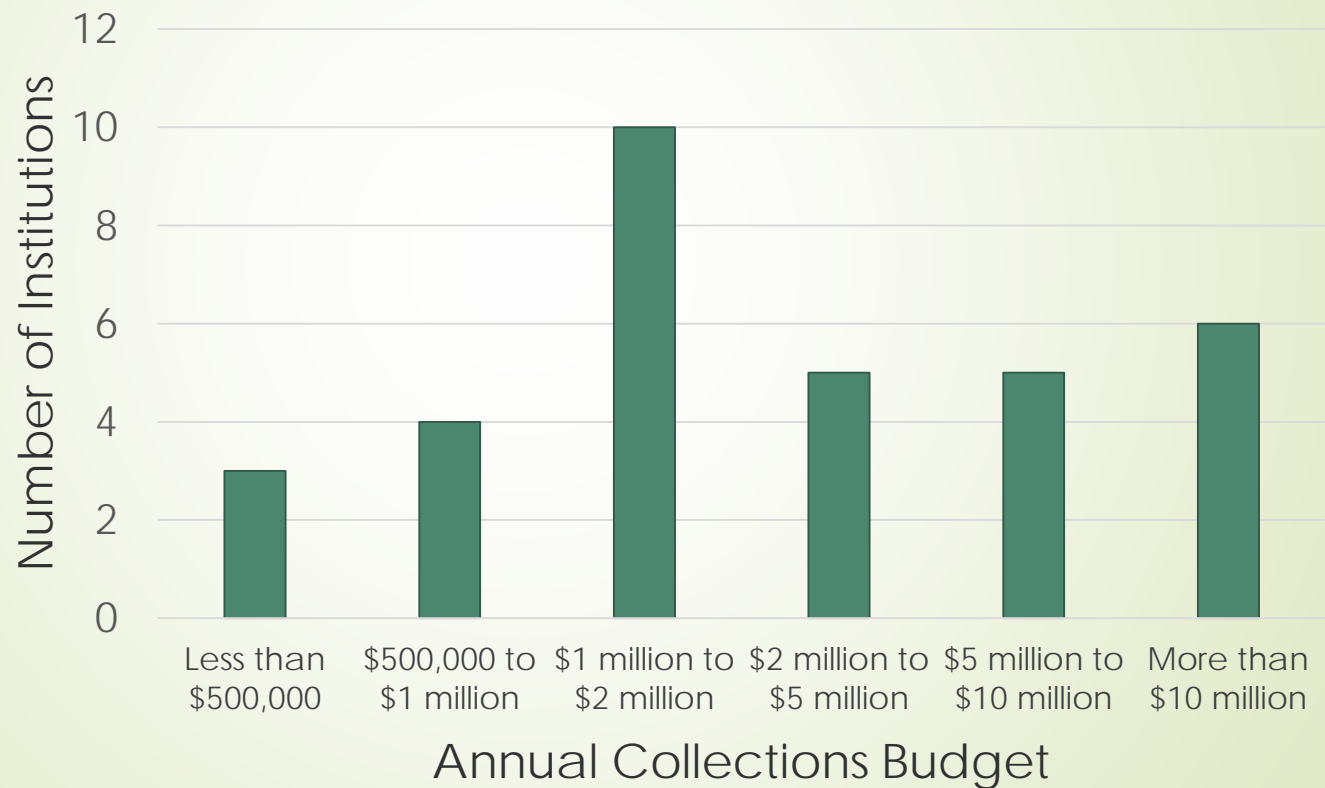
Research Timeline

- ▶ March 7, 2016
 - ▶ Ethics approval received
 - ▶ Survey invitations sent to all 58 English-speaking CRKN member institutions
- ▶ March 23, 2016
 - ▶ Survey closed; 33 responses received
- ▶ April 6 – May 2, 2016
 - ▶ Telephone interviews conducted with 22 survey respondents

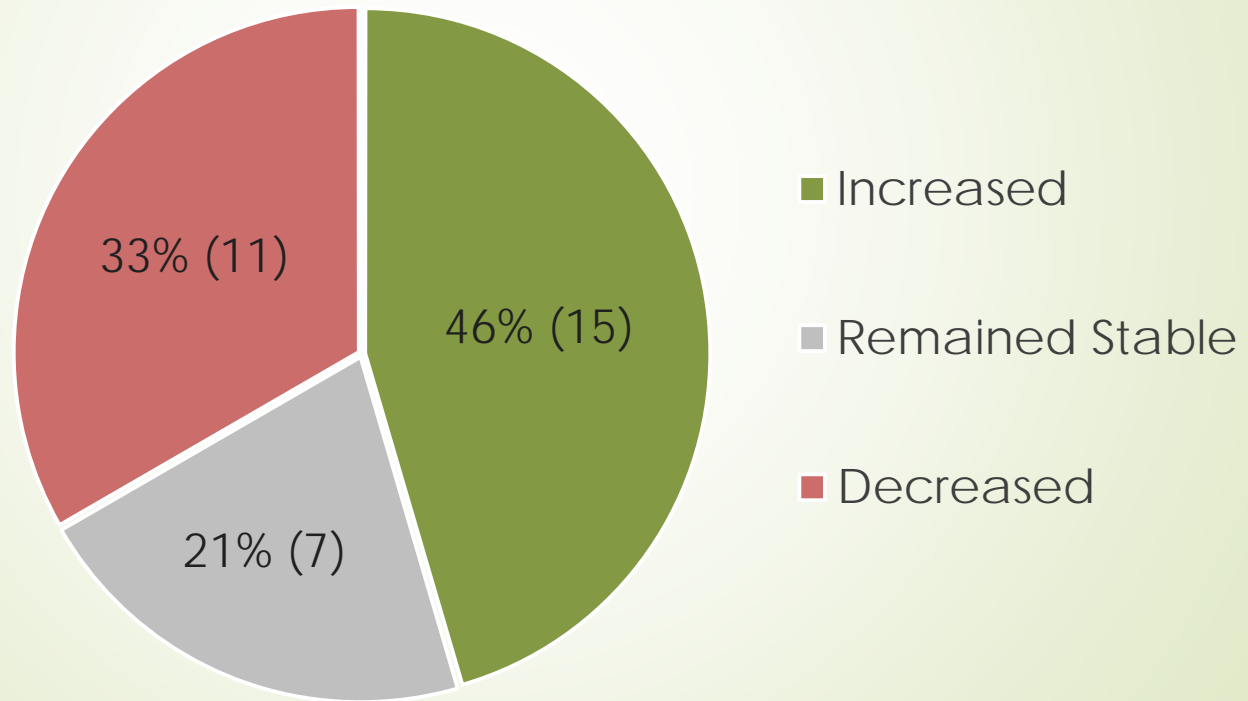
Survey Respondents (n=33)



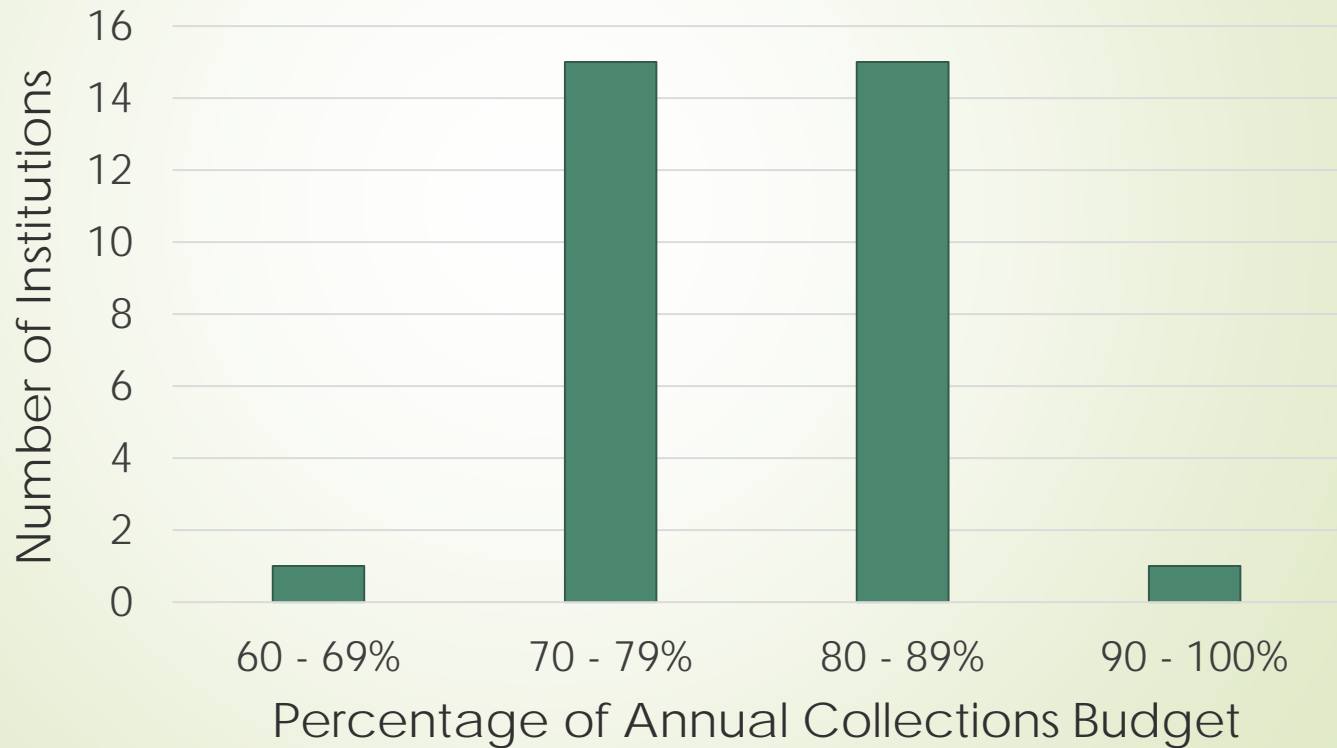
Annual Collections Budgets of Survey Respondents



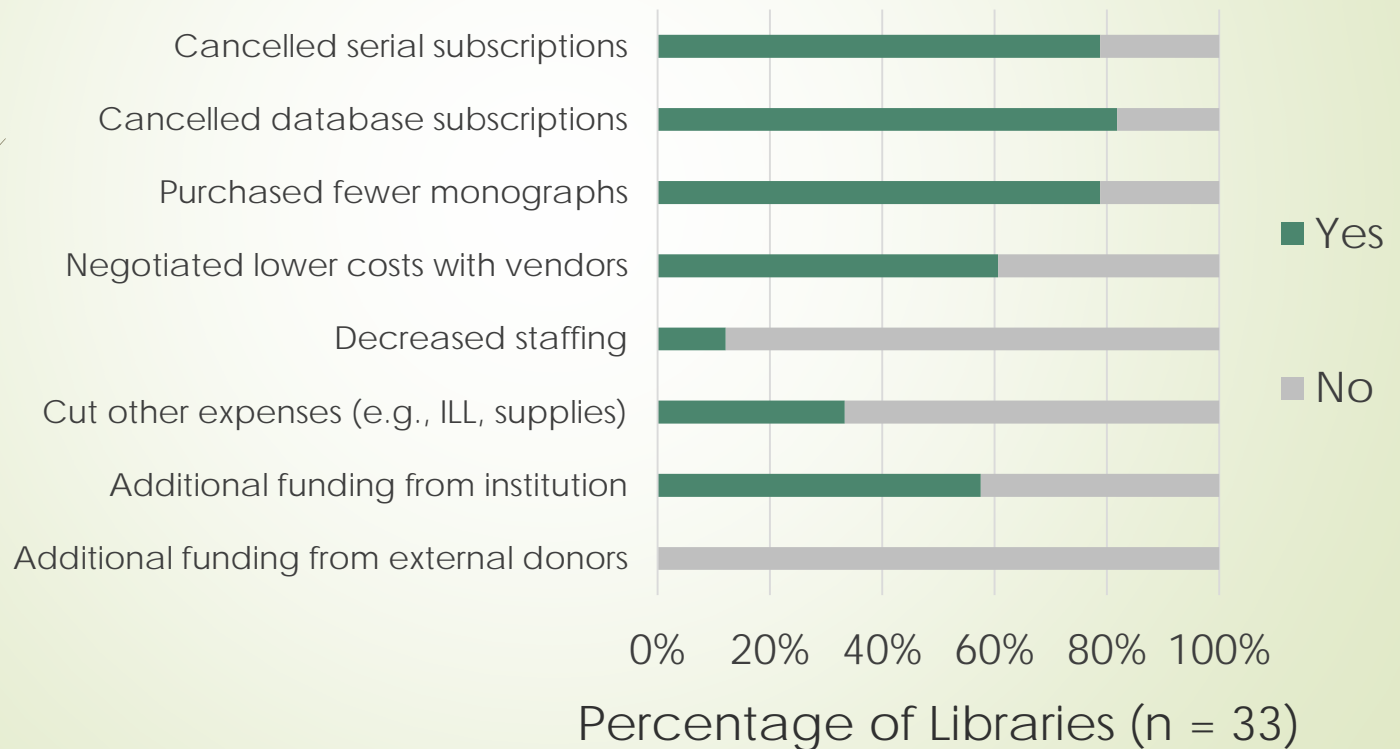
Five-Year Trends in Annual Collections Budgets of Survey Respondents



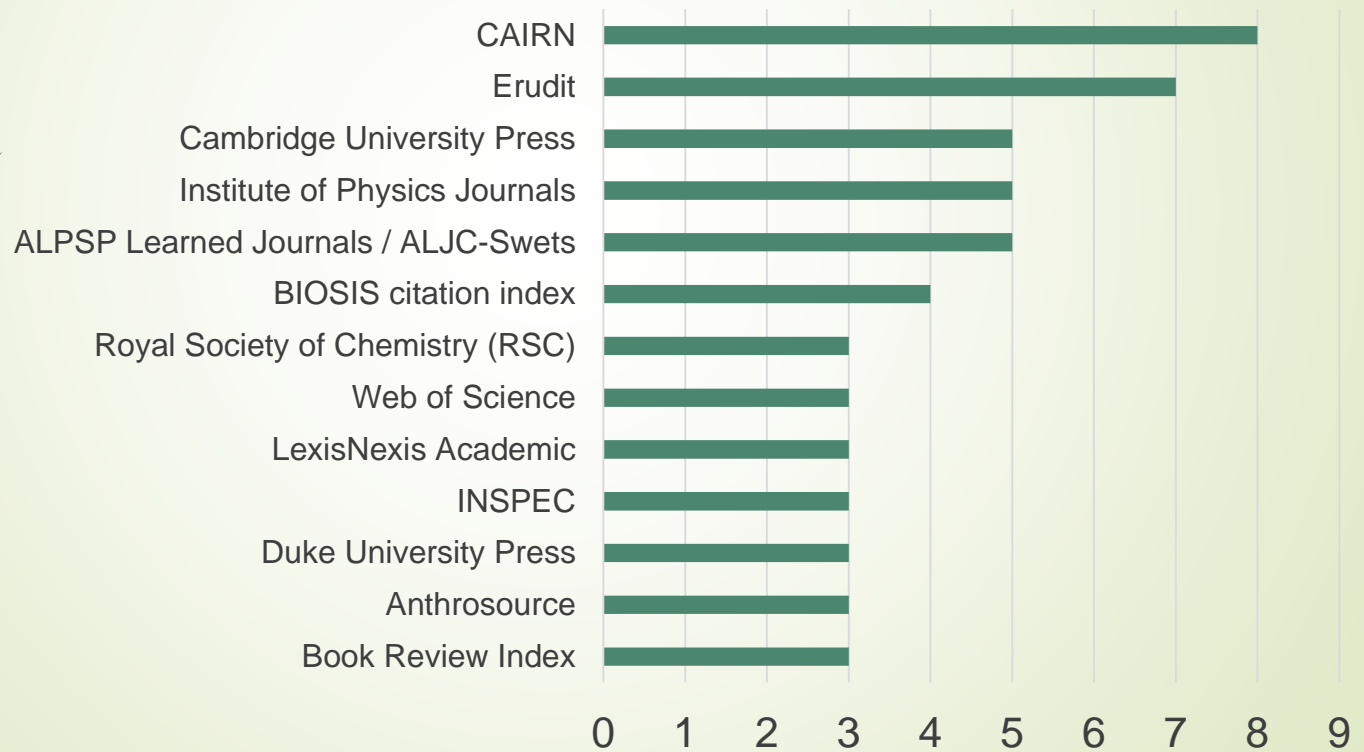
Percentage of Collections Budgets Allocated to E-Resource Subscriptions



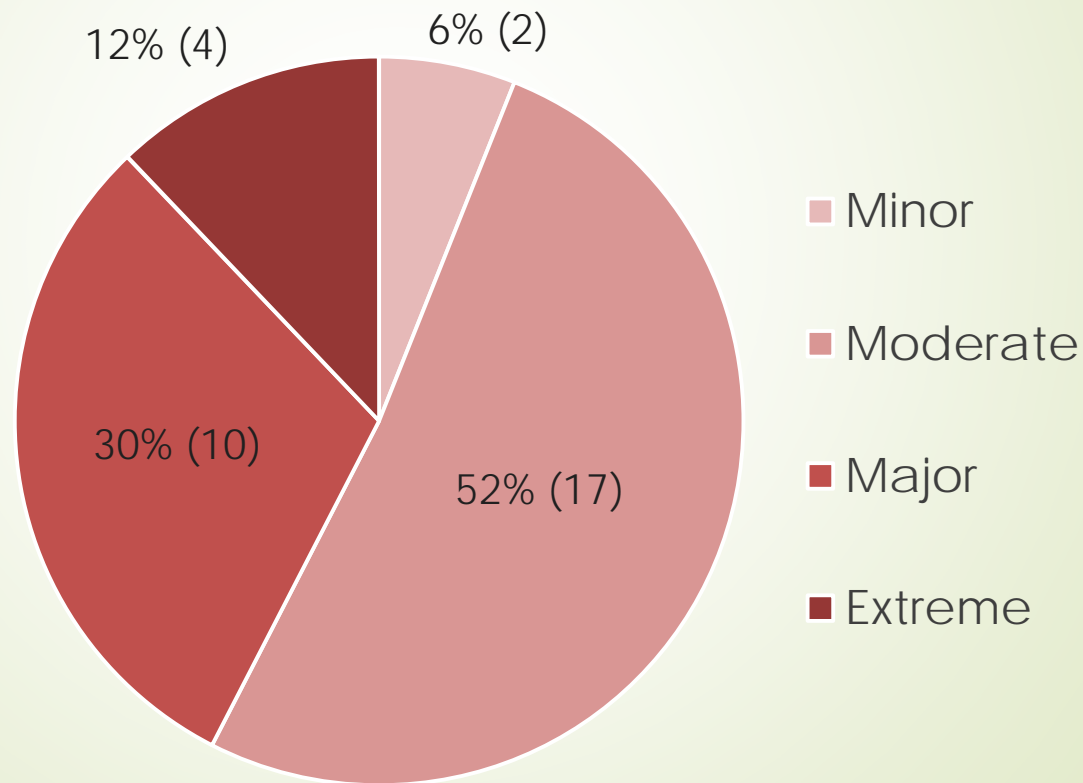
Surveyed Libraries' Responses to the Decreasing Value of the Dollar



E-Resource Cancellations Identified Most Frequently by Survey Respondents



Survey Respondents' Perceptions of their Library's Response to the Decrease in Value of the Dollar





Interviews

- ▶ 22 institutions of varying sizes
 - ▶ 67% of survey respondents
 - ▶ 28% of English-speaking CRKN members
 - ▶ Representing 7 provinces
 - ▶ Size distribution similar to survey total

Interview Highlights

- ▶ Predictability important for budgetary planning
- ▶ Monograph funding an area of concern
- ▶ Further e-resource cancellations very likely
- ▶ Other financial pressures
 - ▶ Budget cuts
 - ▶ Program expansion without increased funding
 - ▶ Inflation of e-resource subscriptions

Regular Price Increases

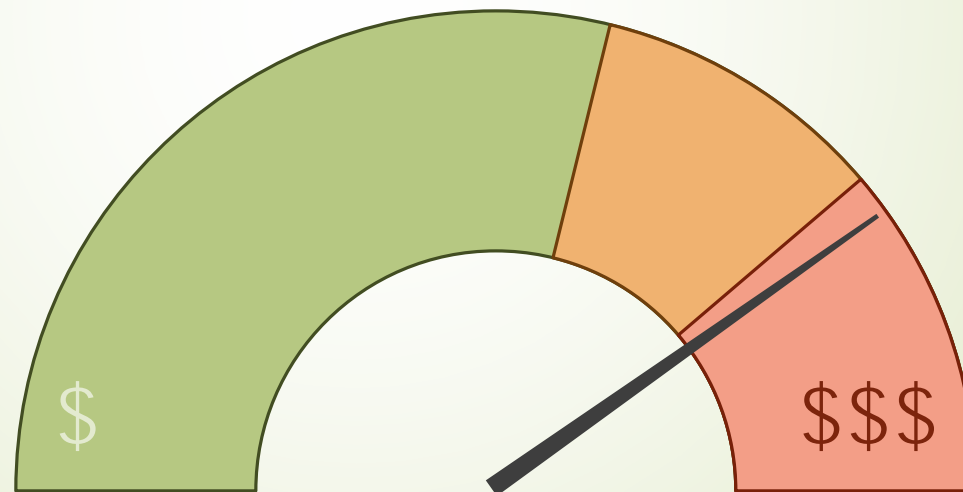
- ▶ “[i]t irritates me that big publishers feel entitled to big paycheques.”

Trends in Cutbacks and Cancellations

- ▶ Monographs are hardest hit
 - ▶ Impacts some subjects more than others
- ▶ Individual serial subscriptions rather than breaking “big deals”
 - ▶ “...we can sort of see that we’re perpetuating this cycle, but we haven’t found a good way to get out of it.”
- ▶ To date, mainly “low-hanging fruit”
- ▶ High-impact cancellations often restored

Extent of Cancellations

- Ranged from <5% e-resource budget to >20% of total acquisitions budget




The Cancellation Process

- Cost, usage, cost-per-use
 - CPU 'flags' ranged from \$5-\$25
- Relevance to programming
- Platform usability
- Publisher stability
- Unique content
- Discoverability
- Peer-reviewed content




Nothing is Sacred...

- “Nothing is off limits anymore”
- “Everything is on the table”



Solutions to the Exchange Rate Problem

- ▶ Predictability is key
 - ▶ Purchasing US funds
 - ▶ Carry forward unspent funds
 - ▶ Vendors bill in CDN\$ or agree on fixed exchange rate



A Groundswell for Change?

- ▶ “It’s definitely raised the profile of the library allocations to a much greater degree than it ever was before”
- ▶ “I think it has raised the issue to the point that people understand that it’s a systemic, structural problem”



...or maybe not.

- “I honestly don’t see a whole lot changing”
- “My fear is that it will be the status quo”
- “I don’t think they [faculty & administrators] are all that well informed at all”
- “They [faculty] haven’t thought about it at all; it has not hit their radar in any way”

The Myths of Open Access

- Predatory publishers / general lack of quality
- Article Processing Charges
- Unaware of Green OA options

The Deeper Issue

- ▶ “As libraries, we have a huge opportunity right now.... We can leverage the problematic exchange rate to our advantage to have a conversation about the unsustainability of the current scholarly communication model. My fear is that everything will be too caught up in the US exchange rate, and we as a community will spend too much time talking about that, and not enough time leveraging that opportunity to talk about what I think the real issue is, which is the scholarly communication crisis.”



The Deeper Issue

- ▶ "I think that the danger is that...we perhaps have put too much emphasis on the exchange rate."



The Deeper Issue

- ▶ “Even if the dollar rises a bit in the next year, the structural problem is still there, and therefore, we have to look at developing a sustainable approach in-house, as well as collaborating at the provincial and national level on strategies that we can work on collaboratively to make the environment more sustainable for all of us.”

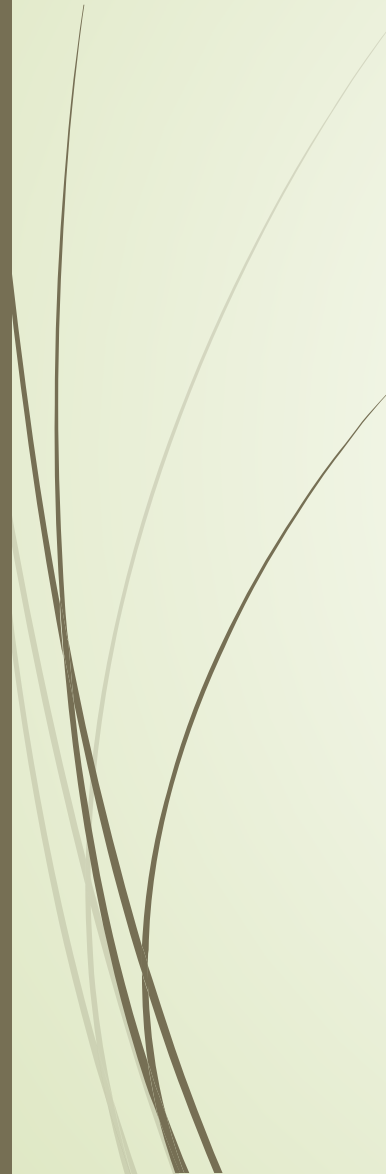

Solutions for Scholarly Publishing?

- Faculty engagement/education – copyright
- Administration – tenure & promotion
- Government lobbying – OA legislation
 - Tri-Council OA Policy
- International, interconsortial collaboration
 - “Quite frankly, we’re a drop in their [vendors’] bucket.”

The Future



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<http://nyphotographic.com/>



Scott, D. R. & Eva, N. (2016). The Canadian dollar versus the collection: How Canadian university libraries are coping. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 11(2).

<http://dx.doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v11i2.3771>;
<http://hdl.handle.net/10133/4785>



Thank you for
your time.

Are there any questions?