



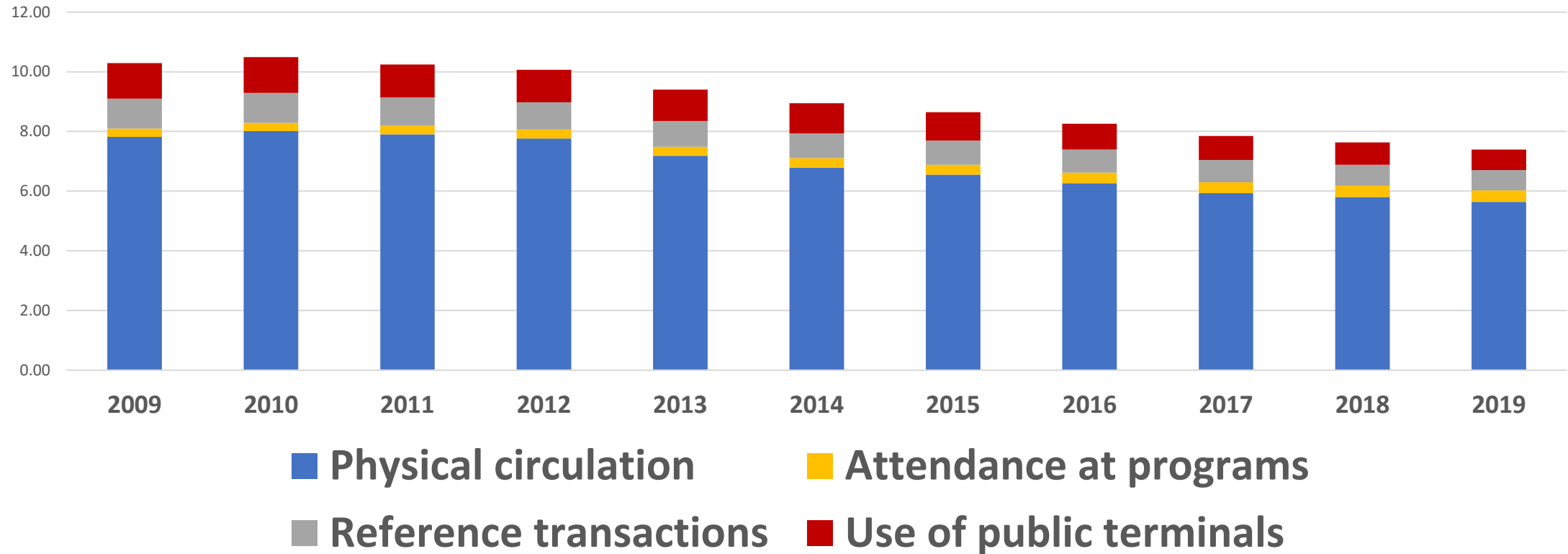
IMLS public library figures to 2019 (released May 2021)

(Pre- pandemic)

Tim Coates
Freckle Project
June 2021

Per capita use of library building services has fallen by 30% in 10 years

US: Public library building use per capita



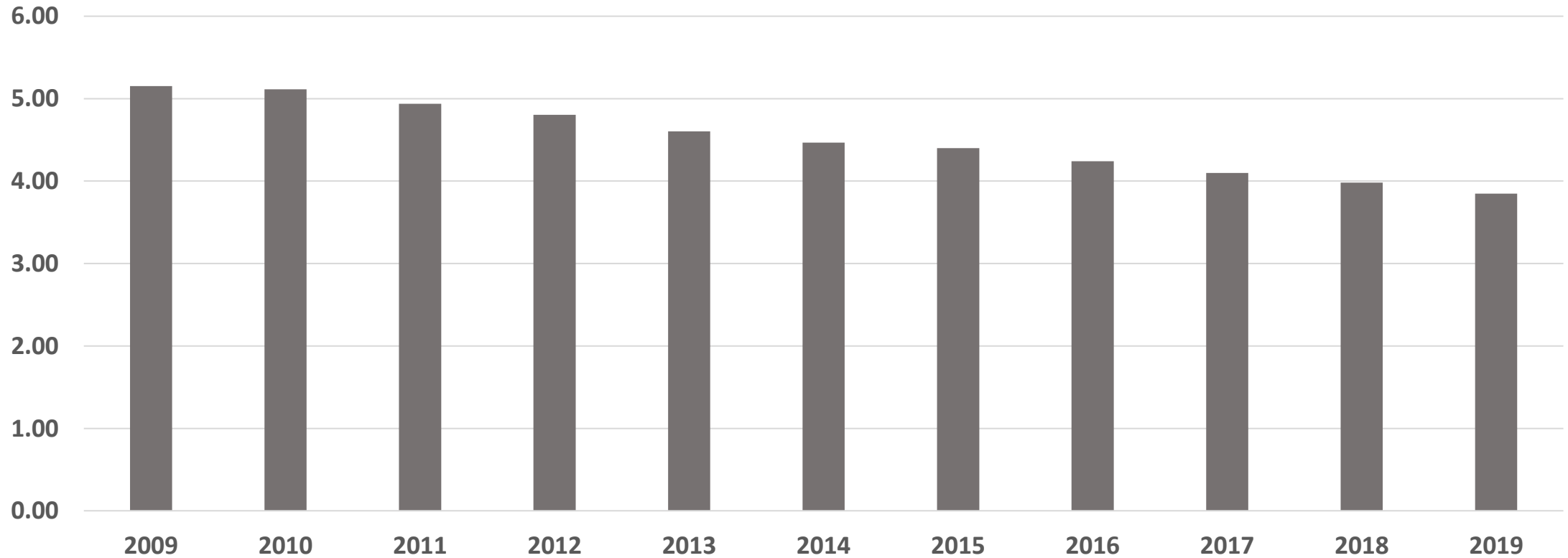
Per capita use of library building services has fallen by 30% in 10 years

Per Capita	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	10 yr
Physical circulation	7.82	8.01	7.90	7.76	7.18	6.79	6.55	6.27	5.93	5.80	5.64	-30%
Attendance at programs	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.37	0.38	0.39	+37%
Reference transactions	1.00	1.01	0.95	0.91	0.86	0.83	0.81	0.77	0.75	0.71	0.68	-32%
Use of public terminals	1.19	1.20	1.11	1.09	1.05	1.01	0.95	0.87	0.80	0.75	0.69	-42%
TOTAL	10.29	10.49	10.24	10.07	9.40	8.94	8.64	8.26	7.84	7.63	7.39	-30%

Millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Physical circulation	2,409	2,461	2,439	2,418	2,265	2,152	2,079	2,003	1,909	1,882	1,839
Attendance at programs	86	87	89	92	96	101	106	113	119	123	126
Reference transactions	309	309	293	284	272	262	256	246	240	229	221
Use of public terminals	365	368	342	340	332	321	301	277	258	242	224
TOTAL	3,170	3,224	3,163	3,134	2,965	2,836	2,742	2,640	2,526	2,476	2,410
Population	308	307	309	311	315	317	317	320	322	325	326

Per capita number of library visits has fallen by 25% in 11 years

US: Public library physical visits per capita



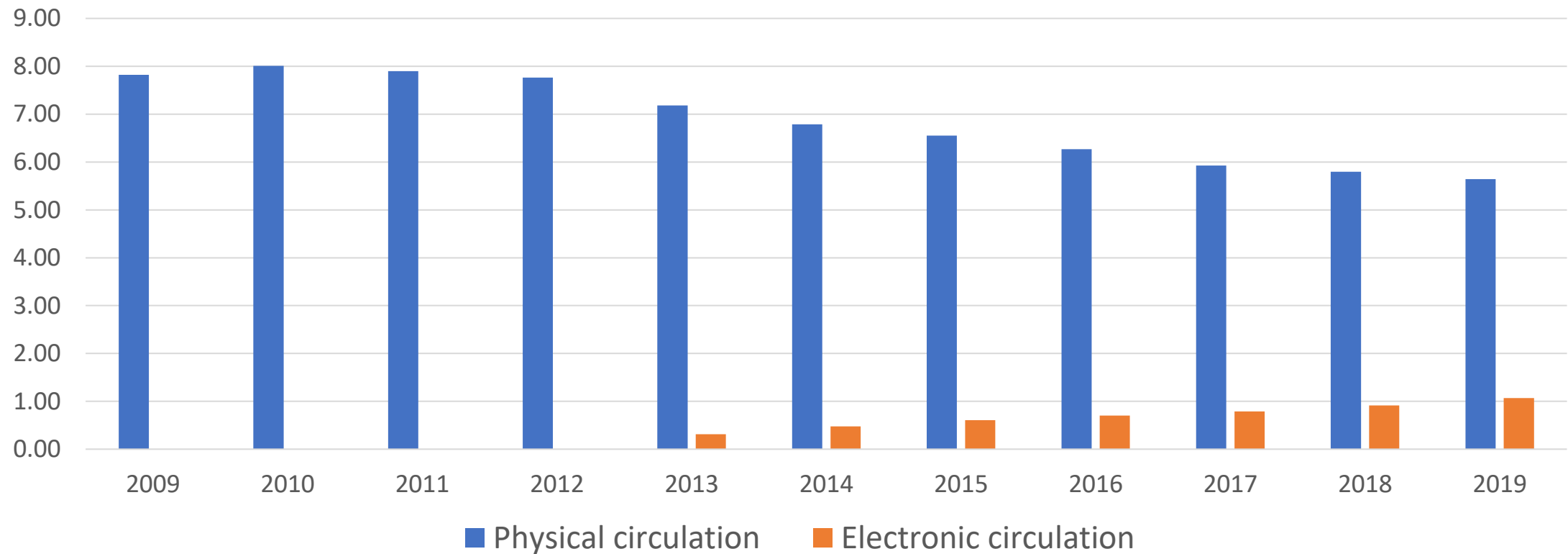
Per capita number of library visits has fallen by 25% in 11 years

Per Capita	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	11 yr
Library visits	5.15	5.11	4.94	4.80	4.60	4.47	4.40	4.24	4.10	3.98	3.85	-25%

Millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Population	308	307	309	311	315	317	317	320	322	325	326
Visitors	1,588	1,571	1,525	1,496	1,452	1,417	1,397	1,356	1,320	1,292	1,254

By 2019, electronic circulations were 13% of the number of print circulations in 2010

US public library circulations per capita

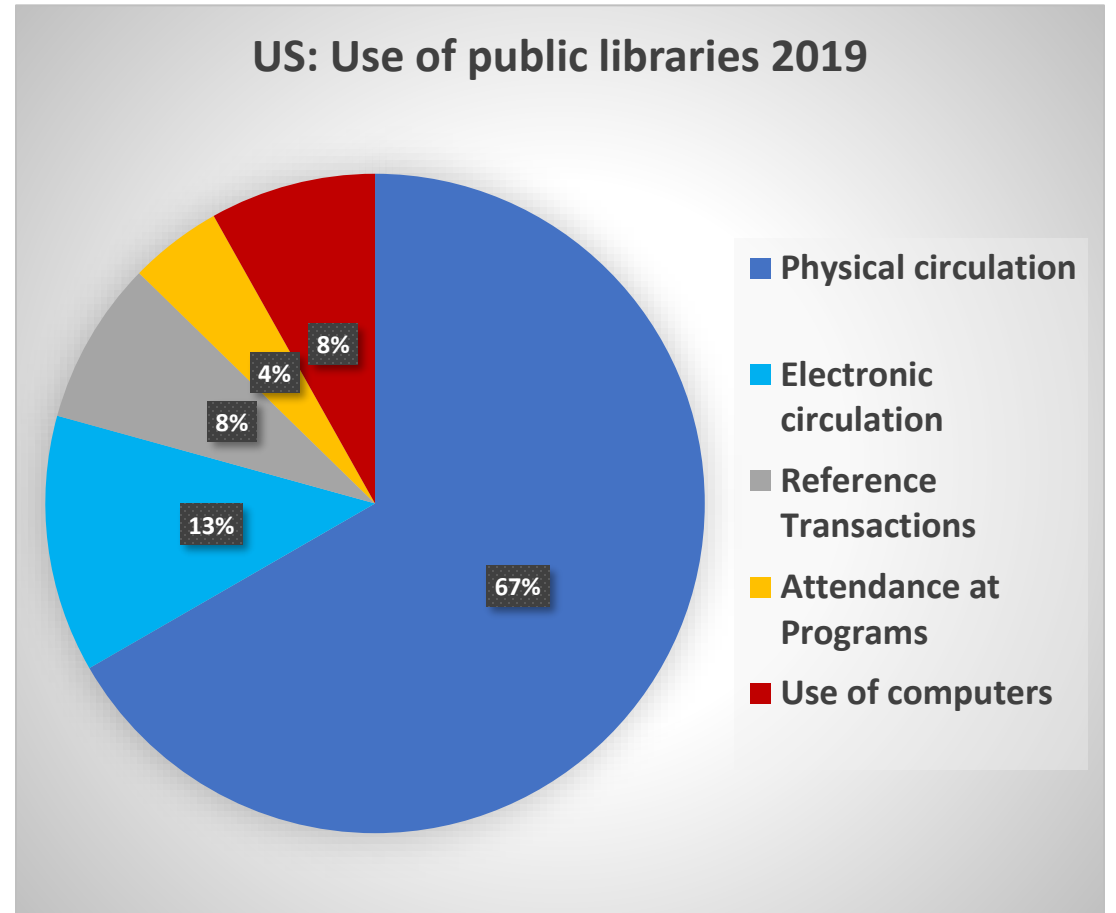
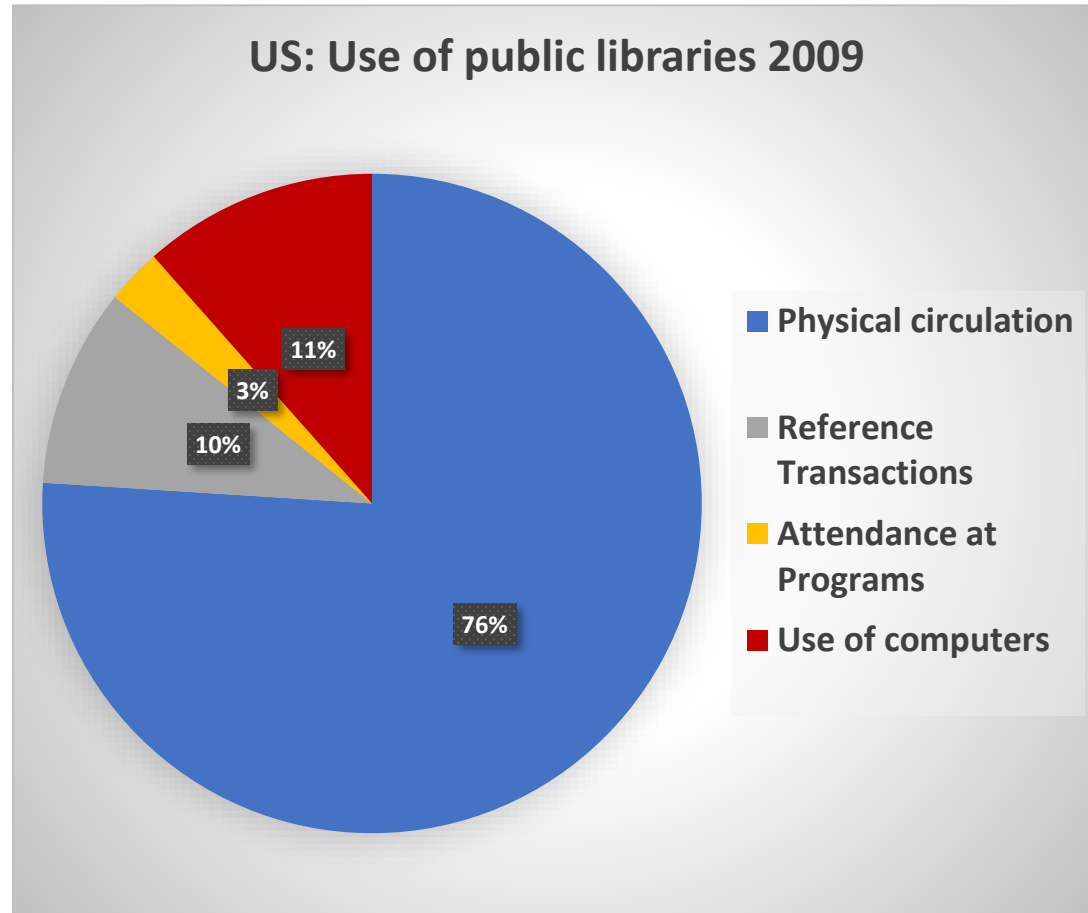


By 2019, electronic circulations were 13% of the number of print circulations in 2010

Per capita	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	10 yr
Physical circulation	7.82	8.01	7.90	7.76	7.18	6.79	6.55	6.27	5.93	5.80	5.64	
Electronic circulation	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.48	0.61	0.70	0.79	0.91	1.07	13%

Millions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Physical circulation	2,409	2,461	2,439	2,418	2,265	2,152	2,079	2,003	1,909	1,882	1,839
Electronic circulation	-	-	-	-	98	151	192	225	255	296	348

The increase in electronic use has mostly come at the expense of use of print

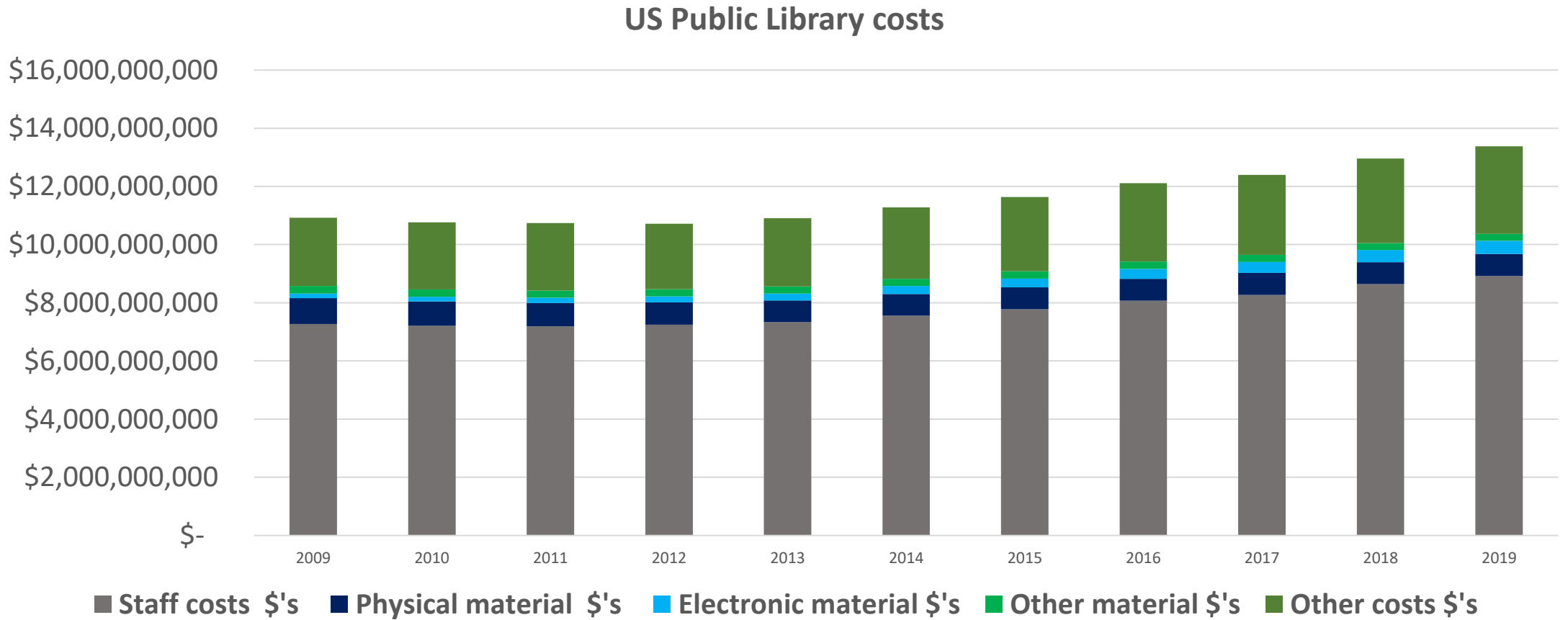


The increase in electronic use has come at the expense of use of print

	2009	
Physical circulation	2,409,421,849	76%
Electronic circulation	-	0%
Reference Transactions	309,342,502	10%
Attendance at Programs	86,108,300	3%
Use of computers	365,340,631	12%
TOTAL	3,170,213,282	100%

	2019	
Physical circulation	1,838,526,771	67%
Electronic circulation	347,699,310	13%
Reference Transactions	221,171,111	8%
Attendance at Programs	125,575,325	5%
Use of computers	224,377,308	8%
	2,757,349,825	100%

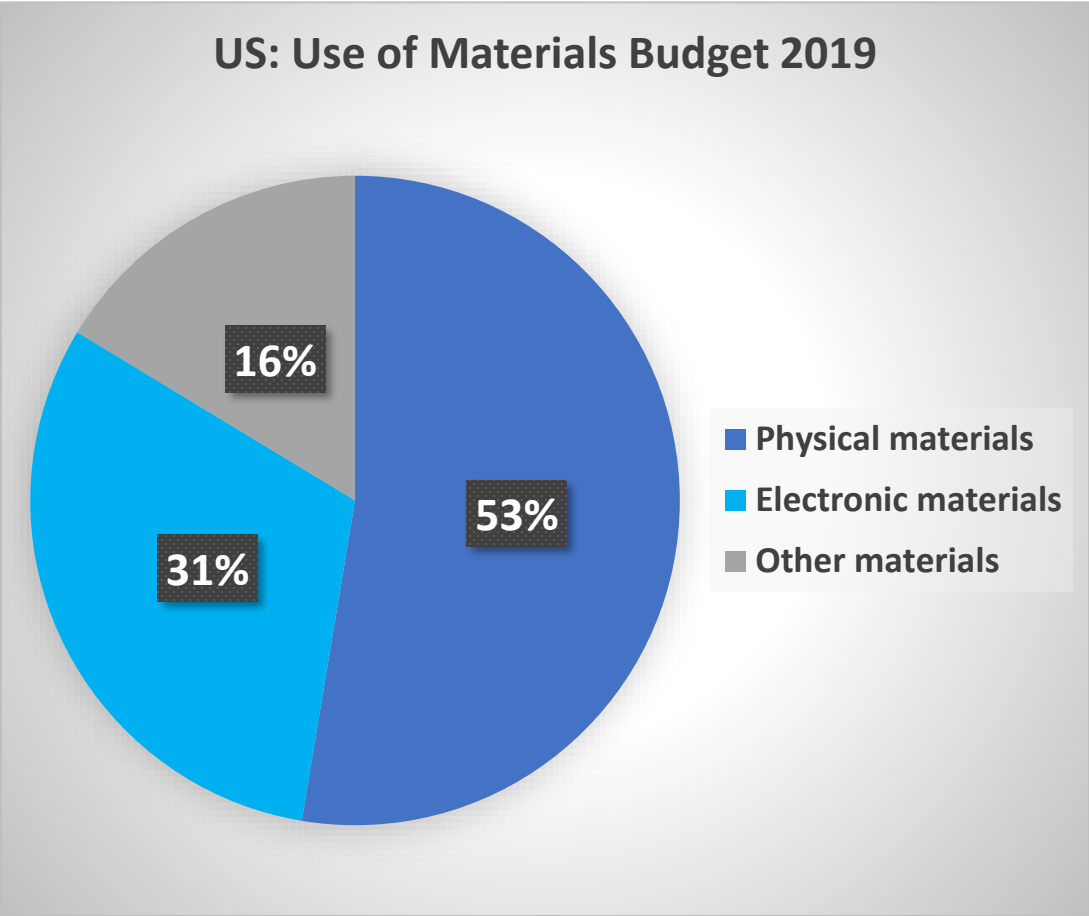
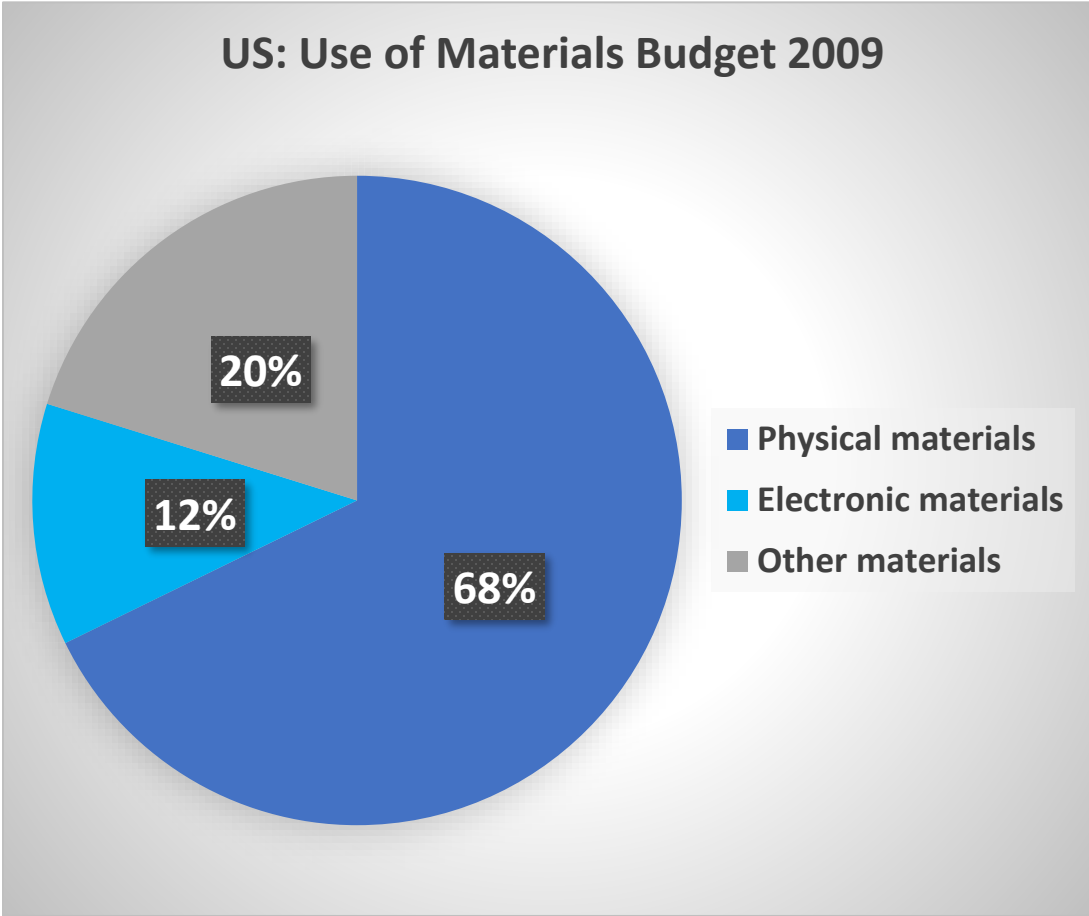
US: Funding of public libraries has risen every year since 2012



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Public library costs \$m	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Staff costs \$'s	\$ 7,271	\$ 7,205	\$ 7,192	\$ 7,247	\$ 7,331	\$ 7,556	\$ 7,776	\$ 8,069	\$ 8,272	\$ 8,637	\$ 8,919
Physical material \$'s	\$ 887	\$ 844	\$ 803	\$ 768	\$ 746	\$ 747	\$ 756	\$ 756	\$ 754	\$ 755	\$ 762
Electronic material \$'s	\$ 158	\$ 156	\$ 175	\$ 204	\$ 238	\$ 272	\$ 301	\$ 341	\$ 374	\$ 419	\$ 449
Other material \$'s	\$ 264	\$ 256	\$ 250	\$ 248	\$ 250	\$ 249	\$ 255	\$ 250	\$ 248	\$ 243	\$ 236
Other costs \$'s	\$ 2,342	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,323	\$ 2,252	\$ 2,343	\$ 2,456	\$ 2,548	\$ 2,693	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,907	\$ 3,013
TOTAL	\$ 10,922	\$10,762	\$ 10,743	\$ 10,719	\$ 10,908	\$ 11,280	\$ 11,636	\$ 12,111	\$ 12,398	\$ 12,961	\$ 13,379
Population m	\$ 308	\$ 307	\$ 309	\$ 311	\$ 315	\$ 317	\$ 317	\$ 320	\$ 322	\$ 325	\$ 326
per capita funding \$	\$ 35.4	\$ 35.0	\$ 34.8	\$ 34.4	\$ 34.6	\$ 35.6	\$ 36.7	\$ 37.9	\$ 38.5	\$ 39.9	\$ 41.0

There has been a significant change in the material expenditure

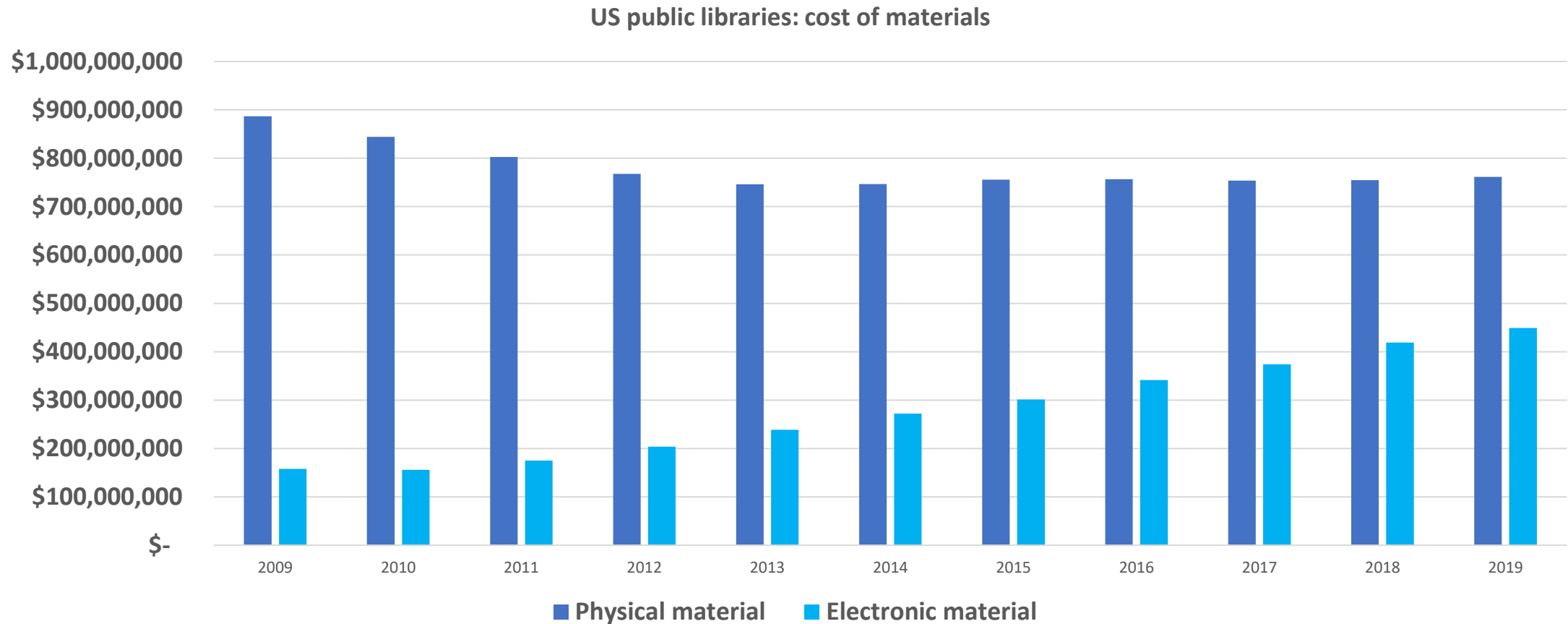


Expenditure on digital material has been mostly at the expense of print

	2009	
Physical materials	\$ 886,767,196	68%
Electronic materials	\$ 157,677,929	12%
Other materials	\$ 264,213,318	20%
TOTAL	\$ 1,308,658,443	100%

	2019		Change \$m
Physical materials	\$ 761,564,869	53%-	- \$125m
Electronic materials	\$ 449,240,581	31%	+\$292m
Other materials	\$ 236,457,792	16%-	-\$28m
TOTAL	\$ 1,447,263,242	100%	+\$139m

Expenditure on Digital material for public libraries in 2019 was \$449m or 59% of expenditure on print

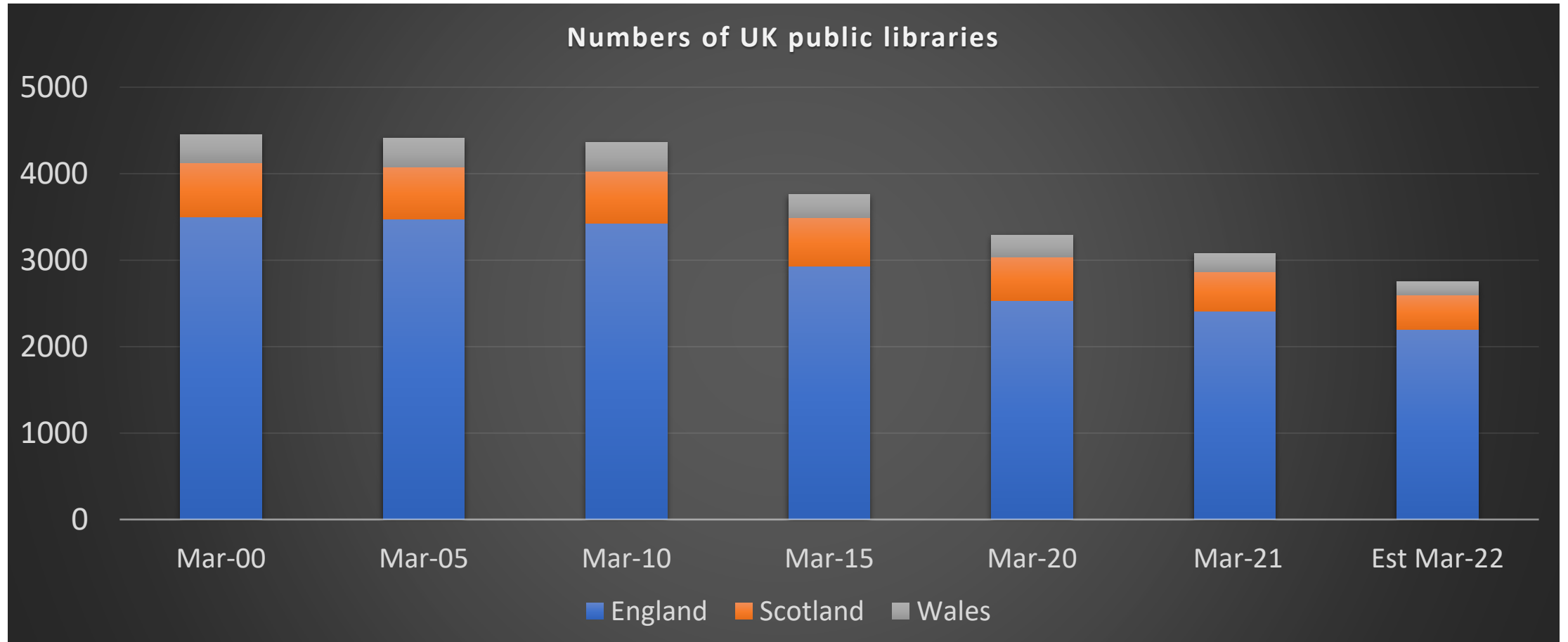


For electronic material, 59% of the expenditure of print, produced 19% of the circulations of print

Cost of materials \$m	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Physical material	\$ 887	\$ 844	\$ 803	\$ 768	\$ 746	\$ 747	\$ 756	\$ 756	\$ 754	\$ 755	\$ 762
Electronic material	\$ 158	\$ 156	\$ 175	\$ 204	\$ 238	\$ 272	\$ 301	\$ 341	\$ 374	\$ 419	\$ 449
Electronic % Physical	18%	18%	22%	27%	32%	36%	40%	45%	50%	56%	59%
Cost per use physical	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.41
Cost per use digital					\$ 0.82	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.71

Per capita	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 %
Physical circulation	7.82	8.01	7.90	7.76	7.18	6.79	6.55	6.27	5.93	5.80	5.64	81%
Electronic circulation	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.48	0.61	0.70	0.79	0.91	1.07	19%

In the UK a similar fall in library use persisted 15 years until library funders began to withdraw money and libraries closed.



Attempts to provide 'community' services have diluted quality and made the libraries less used. There are few 'professional librarians' left

