

# Panic in the Stacks!

## A Data-Based Approach to Prioritizing Rightsizing Projects

### Project Description



Photo by University of Minnesota Duluth

In Spring 2019, the Kathryn A. Martin Library responded to reports of overcrowding in the stacks by (a) launching a shelf measurement project to determine current usage of space by classification code, (b) evaluating print collection usage trends in our integrated library system (Ex Libris Alma) over a five-year period, and (c) evaluating the uniqueness of our holdings based on a data snapshot loaded into OCLC GreenGlass in 2017.

### Purpose

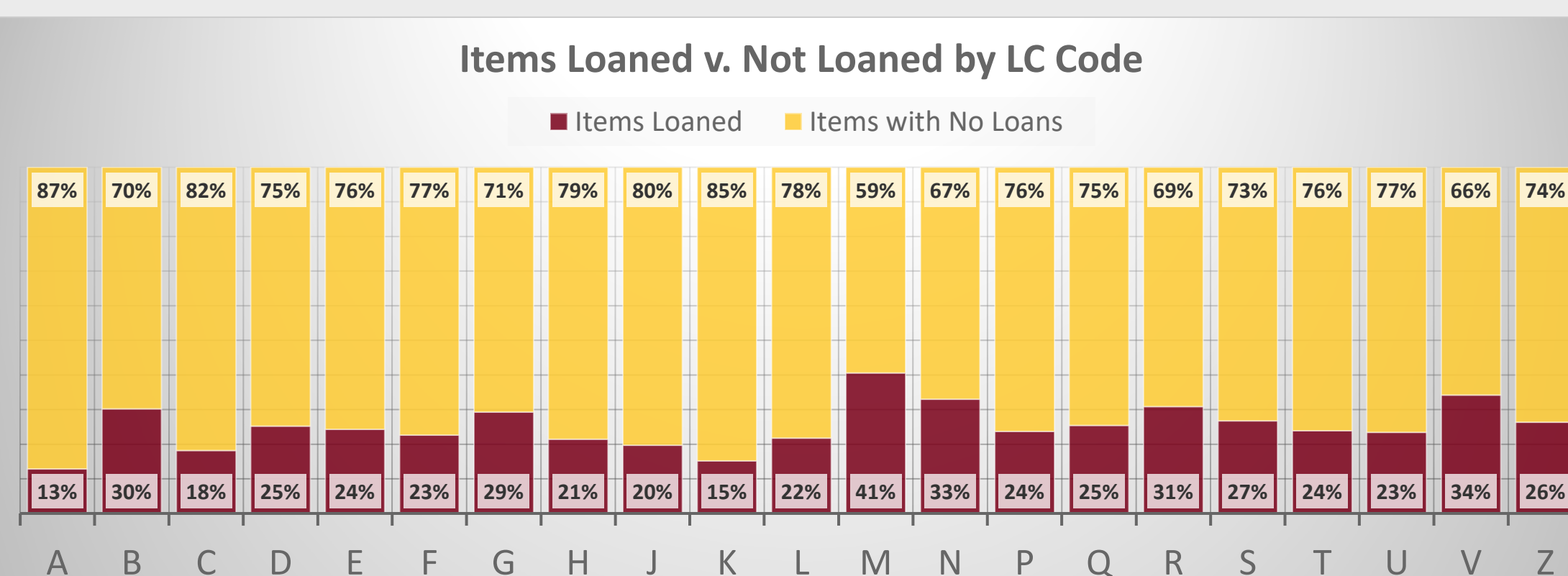
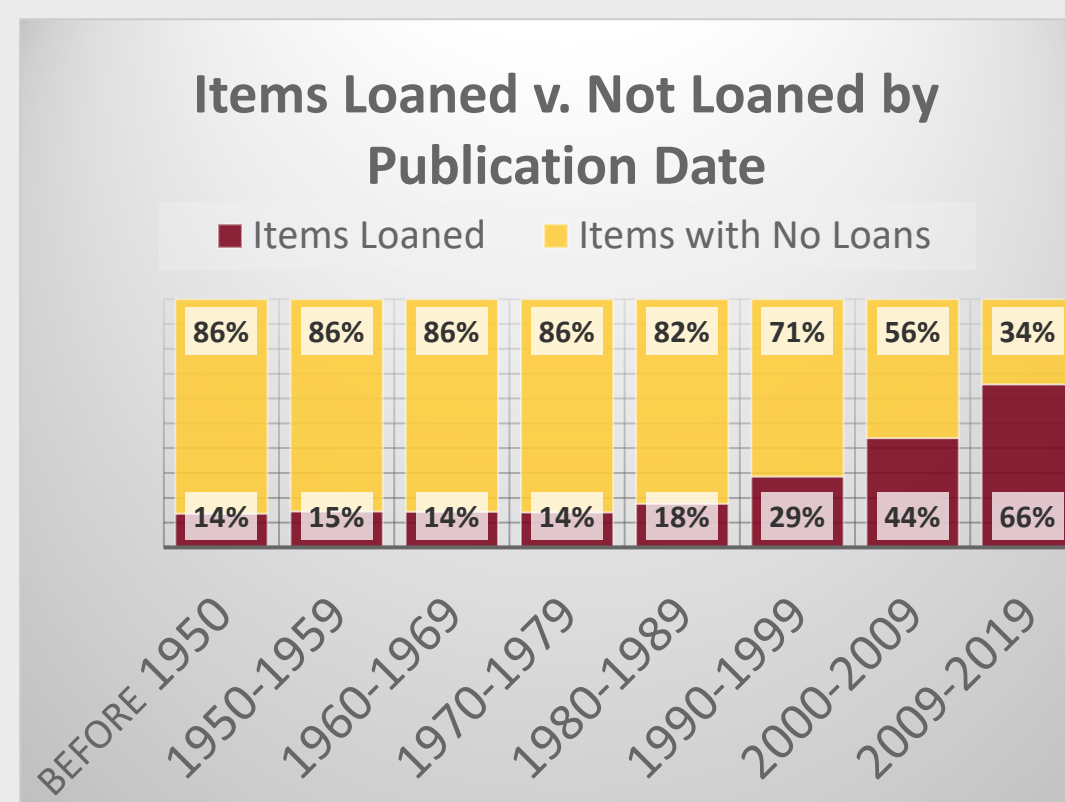
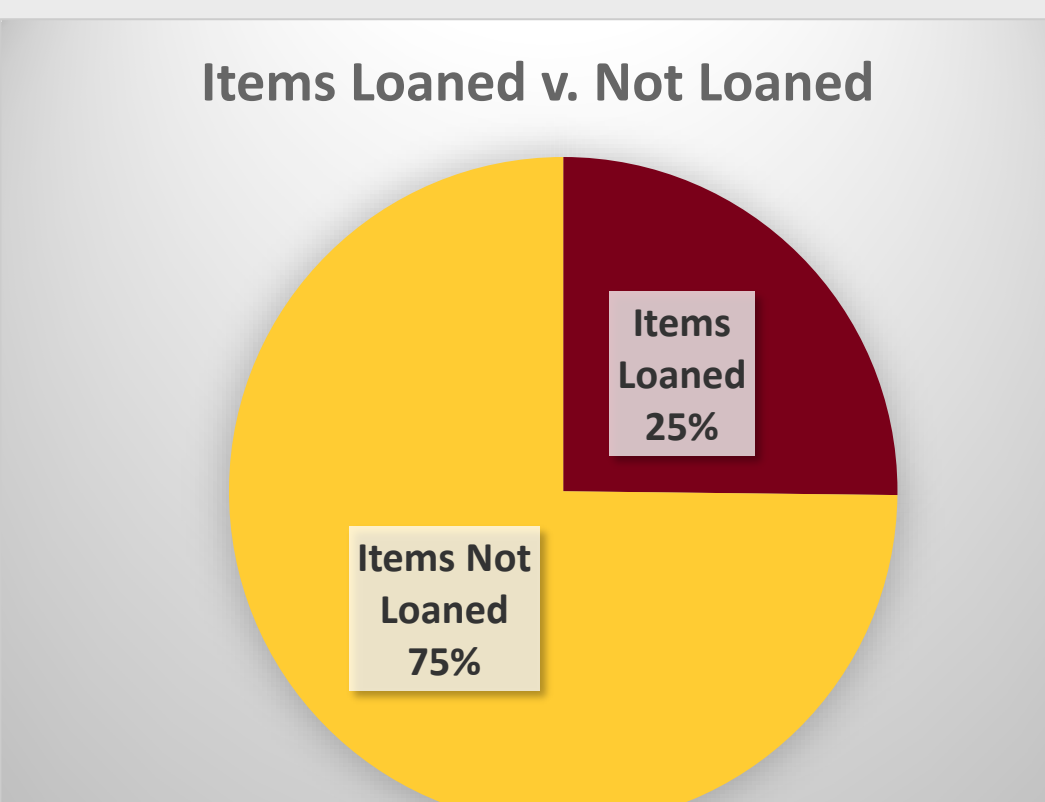
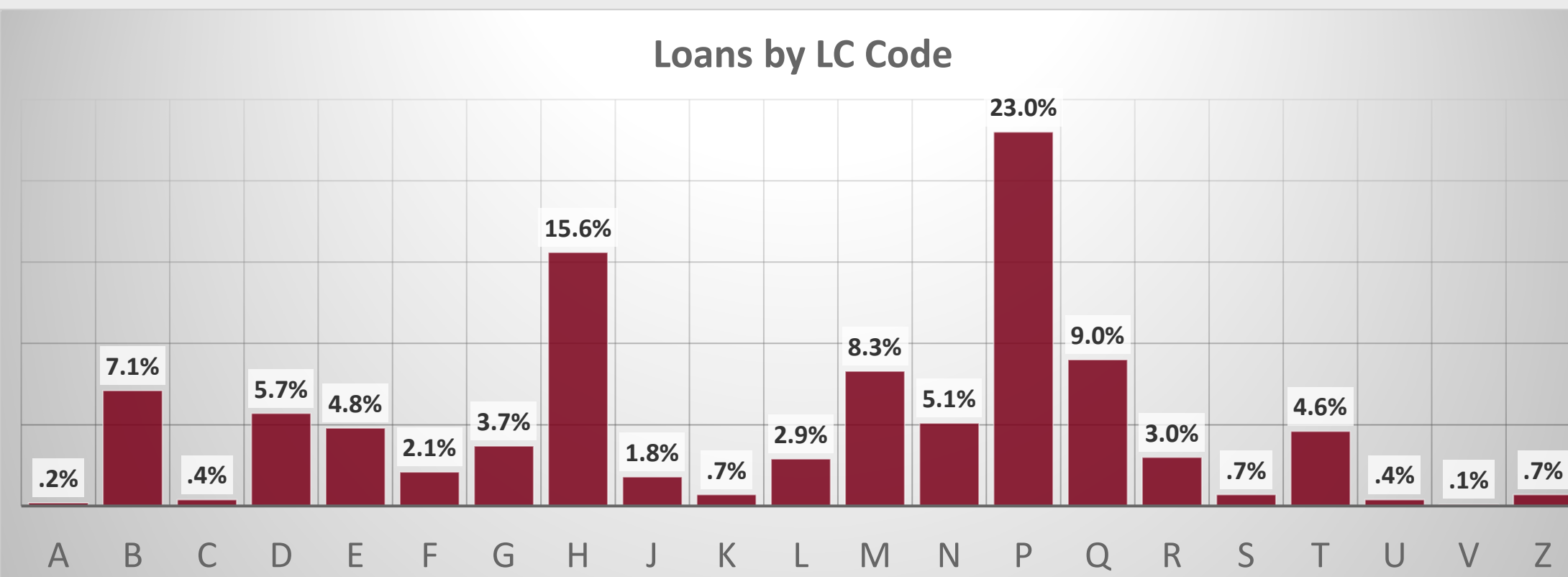
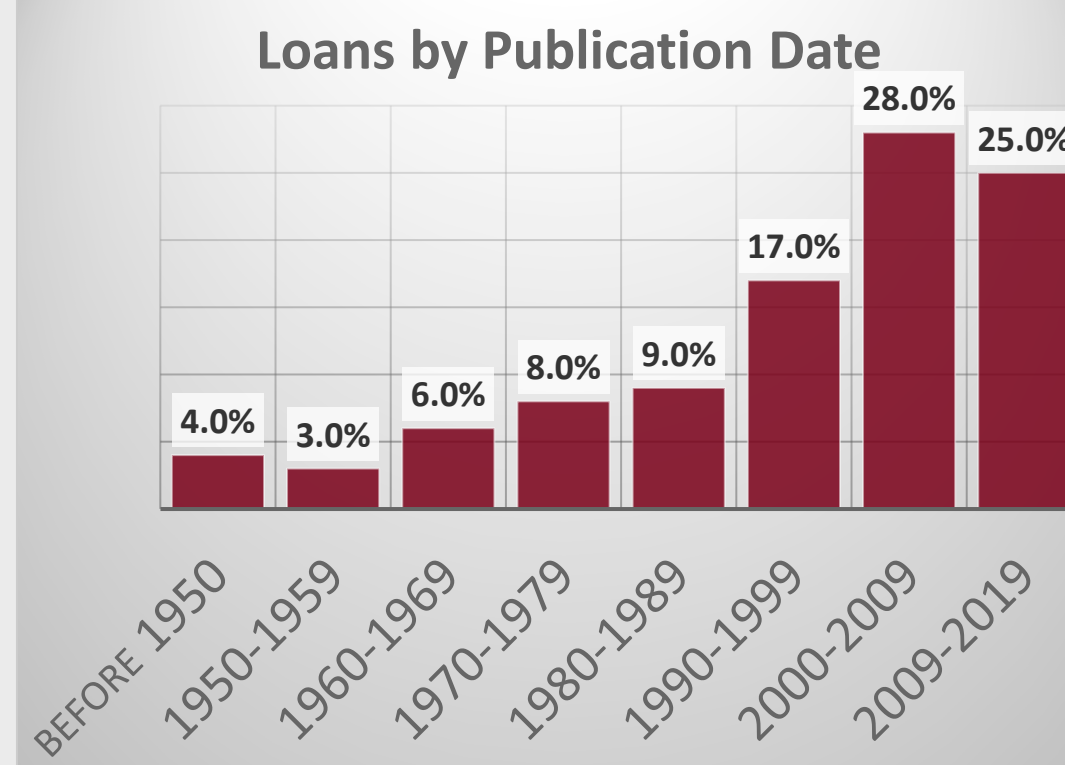
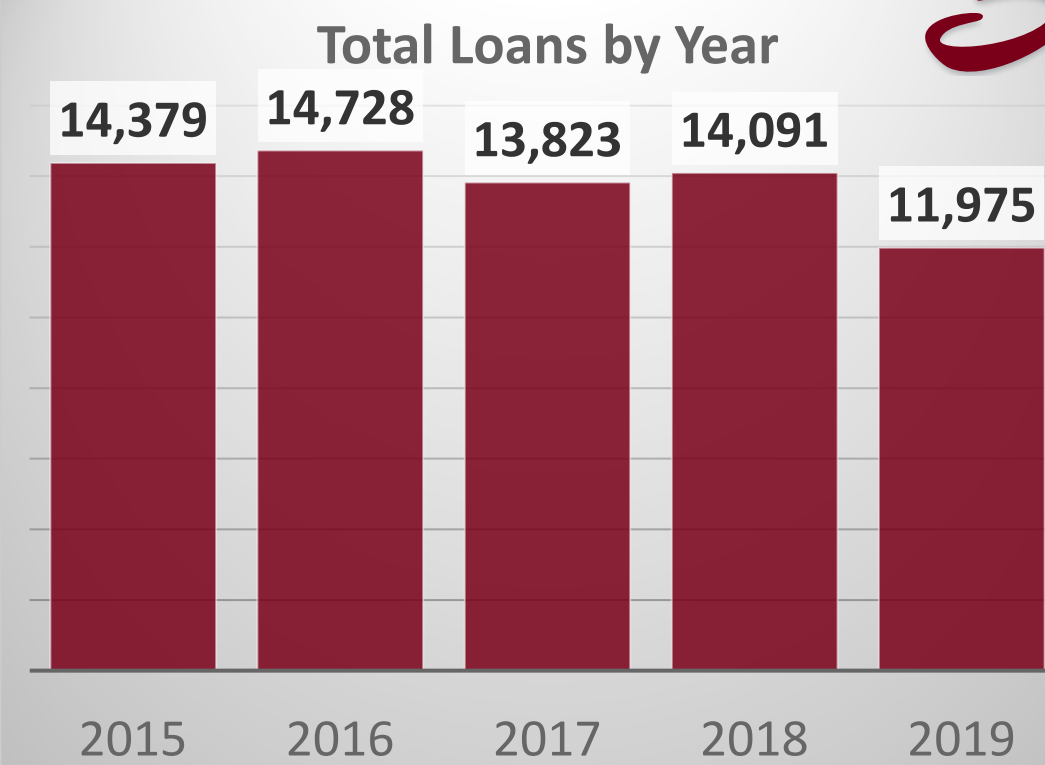
Inform revisions to deselection criteria and decisions about prioritizing rightsizing projects.

Provide clarity to our stakeholders regarding what we keep, what we deselect, and why we perform ongoing evaluation of our holdings.

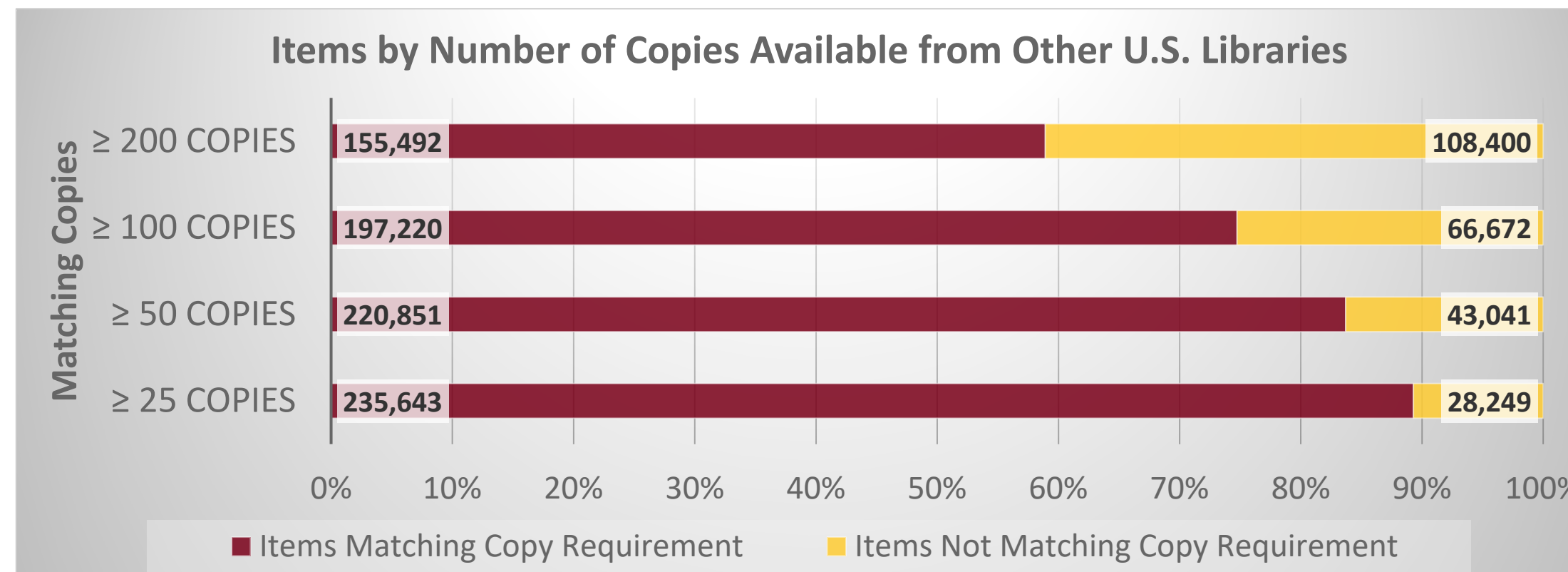
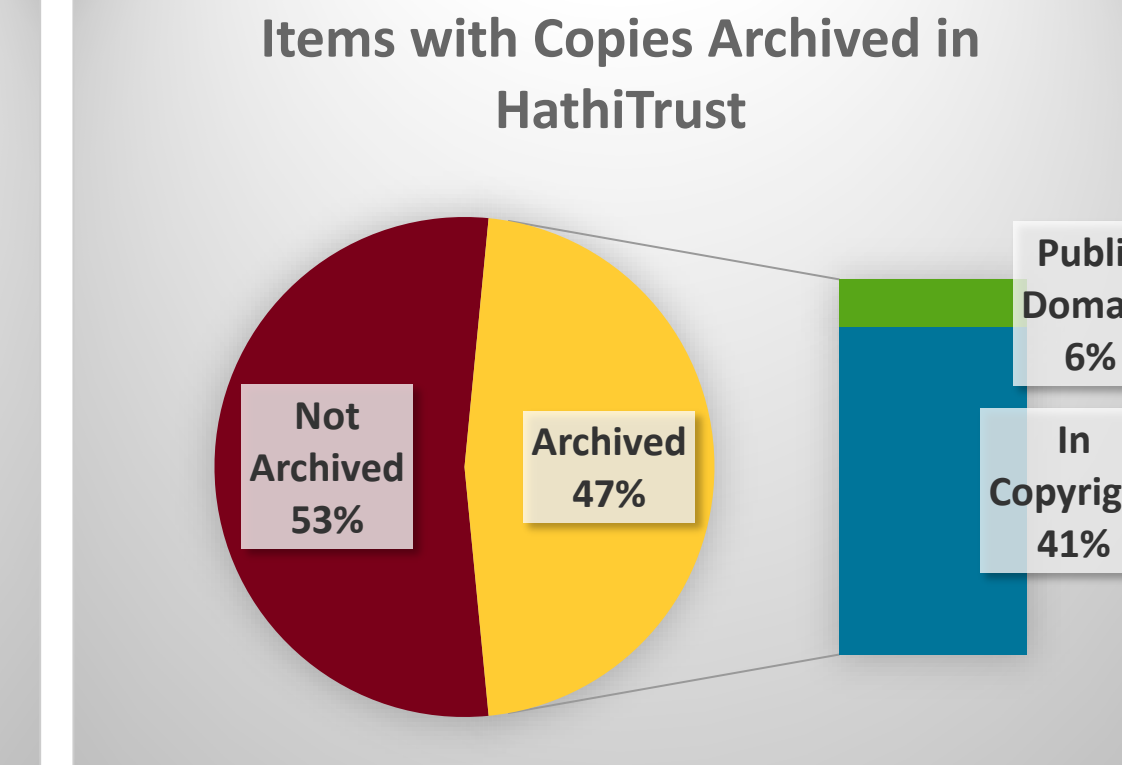
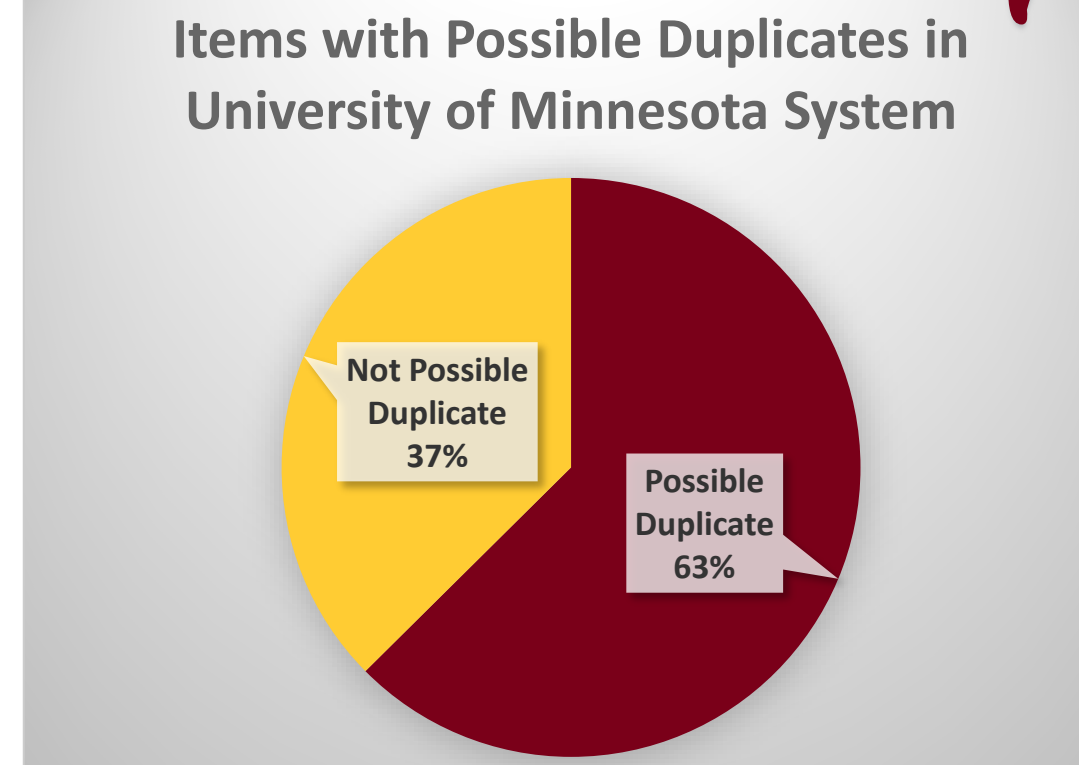
Provide selectors with insight into the collecting areas most pertinent to our users.

Ensure adequate space is available to accommodate collection growth.

### Collection Usage (2015-2019)

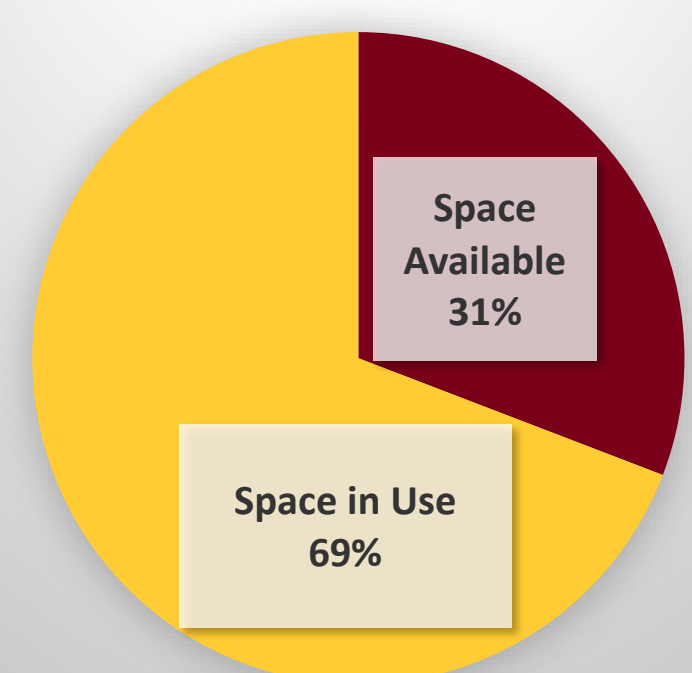


### Collection Uniqueness (2017)

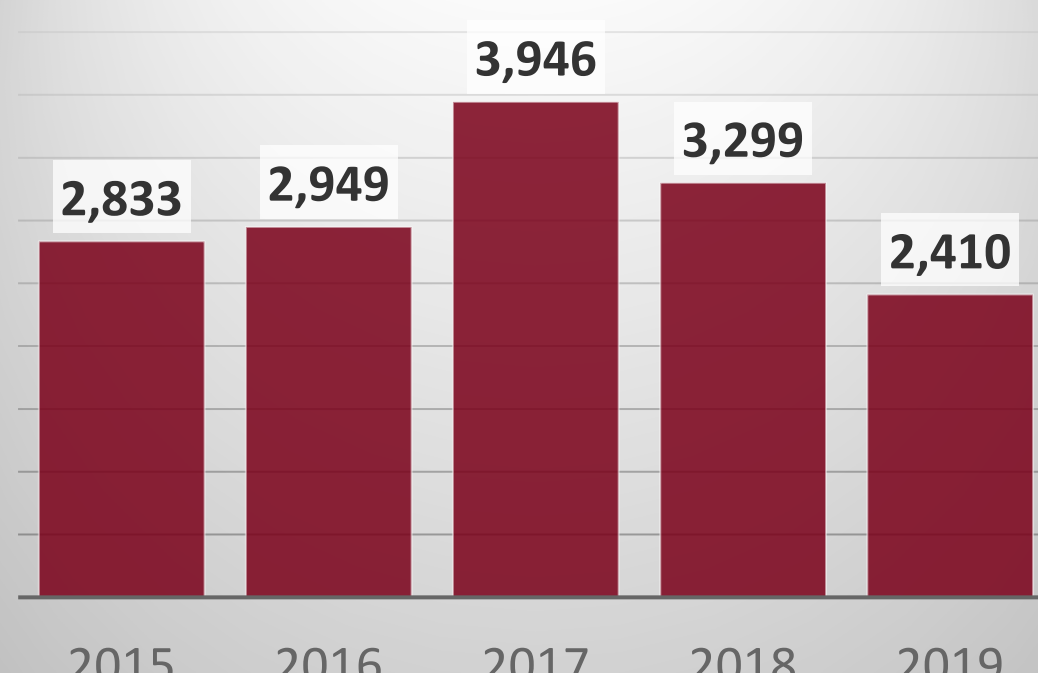


### Stacks Capacity (2019)

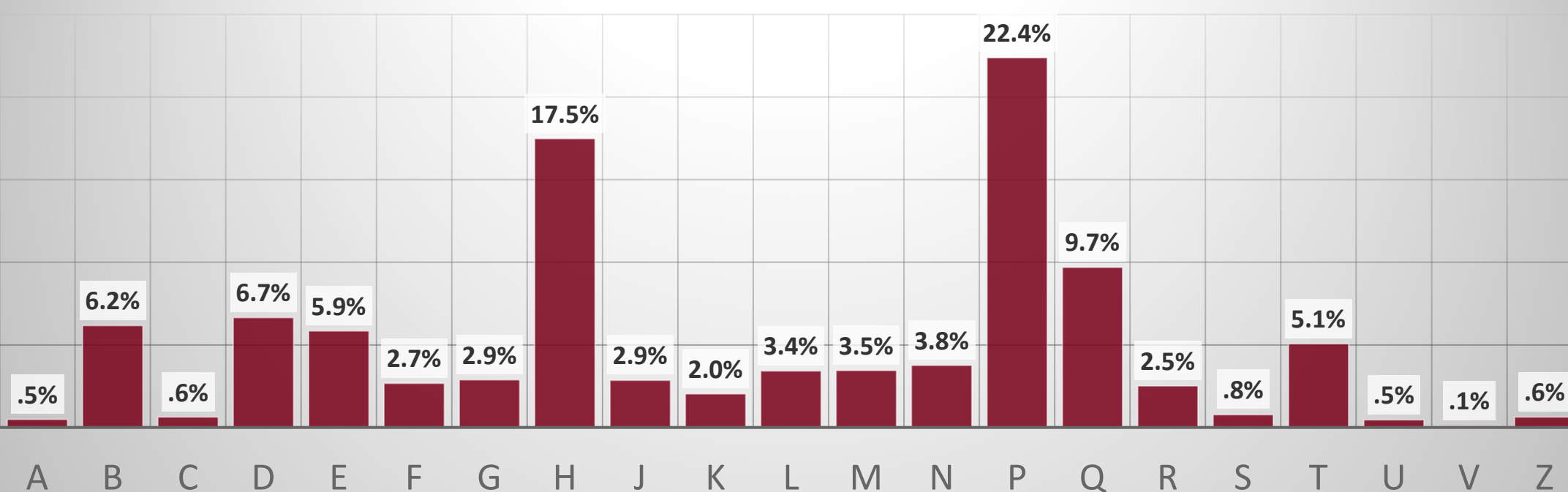
Shelf Measurements, Spring 2019



Items Added by Year, 2015-2019



Space in Use by LC Code, Spring 2019



### Discoveries

The overall ratio of space in use to space available is acceptable. Some of our space shortages may be resolved by shifting books. We do not need to deselect only to make space.

Our average annual collection growth rate is 1.3%. If it was possible to shift materials to make use of every last inch of space, we would run out of space in 2045.

Our users favor books written in the past 30 years. The older a book, the less likely it is to circulate.

Over a five year period, only 25% of our books were loaned out with some fluctuation between LC codes. Again, older titles were less likely to circulate.

When compared against the holdings of other University of Minnesota campuses, other regional libraries, and all U.S. libraries, our holdings are not significantly unique.

With 47% of our holdings preserved by HathiTrust, it may be unnecessary to keep many items that do not meet current selection criteria solely for the sake of preservation.

### Now What?

This data has been presented internally to library staff to inform discussions about policy revisions. Once we resume regular operations after COVID, we expect to develop a concise collection philosophy statement to present to stakeholders, likely accompanied by this data. We have used the analytics to dig down deeper into specific subject areas for a trial rightsizing project. The data will be queried to prioritize and schedule additional rightsizing projects.