

# Shall the shelves remain ever the same?

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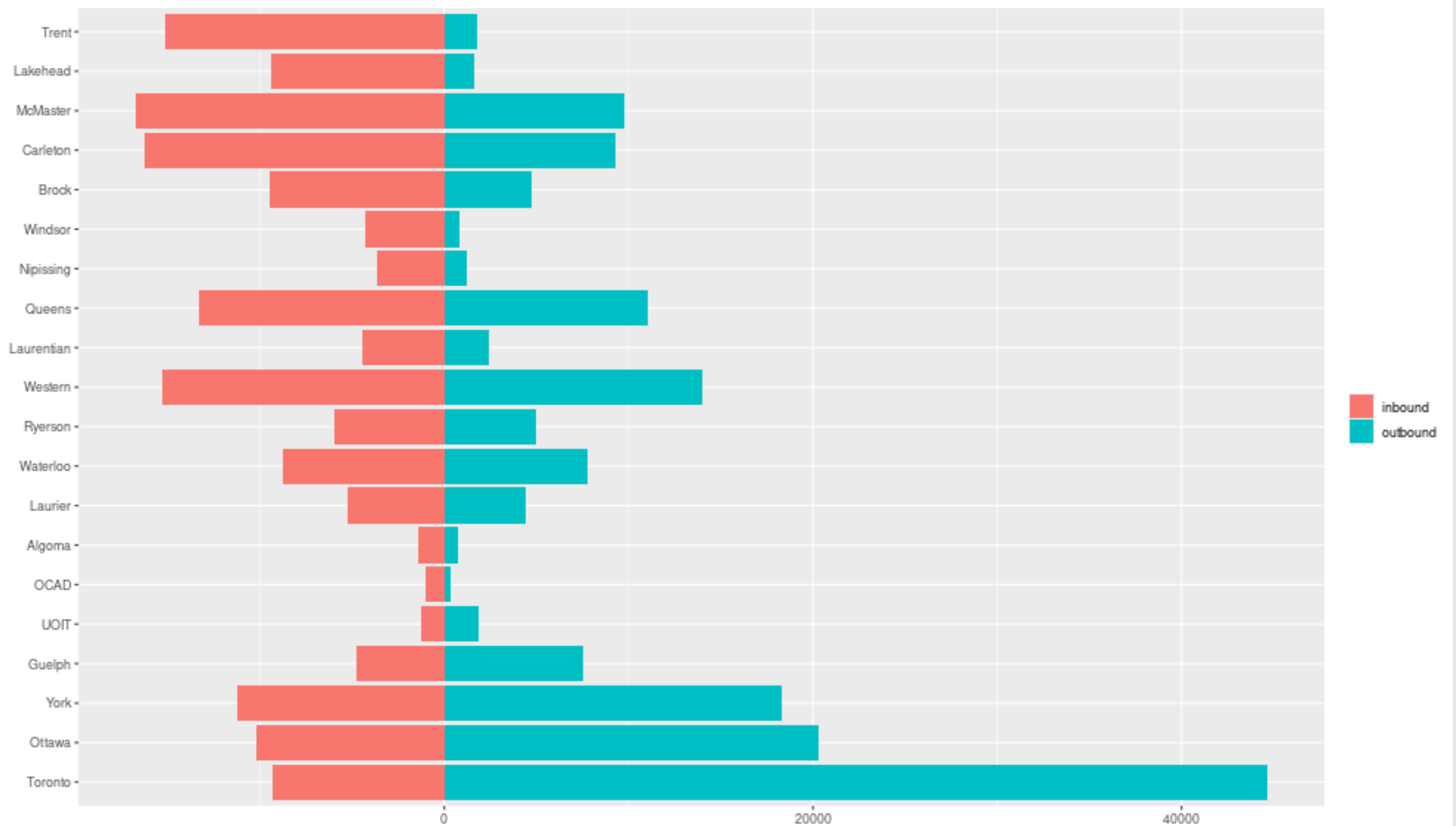
(York University Libraries)

5 June 2023

# Looking back

- Sustained heavy reliance on physical books for collection development
- Traditional Resource Sharing for physical and electronic content via RACER

Racer inbounds and outbounds (January 2015 – June 2020)



# Looking around

**Automated Fulfillment Network  
(for print)**

but ebooks!



BOOK

## Interlibrary loan procedure manual.

Thomson, Sarah Katharine, 1928-1970

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AFN >> RACER

Outbound from York:

RACER (2019, not including Toronto): 3027

AFN (2022): 7011

# Looking around

**Automated Fulfillment Network  
(for print)**

**but ebooks!**

# But ebooks!

Mass purchasing of front- and backlists!

E-preferred!

Gobi reports that in Ontario (for Gobi purchasing):  
in 2021, 70% of buying was ebooks, for 84% of spending;  
in 2022, 53% of buying was ebooks, for 75% of spending.  
(Global Gobi sales are about  $\frac{1}{3}$  print and  $\frac{2}{3}$  e.)



# Looking forward

Older print books can be shared  
Newer ebooks cannot

But we need to share new books too  
Who's buying to share?

Tragedy of the commons

# The case for a print union collection

- Print is still being used by our communities
- Digital lending landscape still evolving
- Infrastructure already in place: chance to fully realize our substantial investments
- Serving our users: both locally and in the broader Ontario university sector

*How do we do this in a sustainable way?*

# Possible future directions

- Build on the successes of consortial licensing (OCUL-IR, CRKN)
- A CF-wide print approval plan
- Shared commitments among CF partners to in-depth collection development in targeted subject areas
- A print collection strategy committee