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Books, iPads, and Umbrellas: A Survey of Circulating Items in Academic Library Collections

Bradley P. Tolppanen
Eastern Illinois University, bptolppanen@eiu.edu

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A Survey of Circulating Items in Academic Library Collections

To meet the needs of their patrons, academic libraries make available a variety of items for loan far beyond the traditional library materials of books and journals. These items can range from technological equipment such as laptops and digital cameras to other nontraditional items such as board games, DVDs, and kits. This poster session will present a summary of unique items in academic library collections and a set of best practices for loaning these items based on the results of a survey of academic libraries. Results of the survey will present standard approaches and new ideas that Access Services departments employ in loaning both traditional and nontraditional items in the library collection.

Survey Description
Used Survey Monkey program
Call for participants on Circplus mailing list
94 participants

Technology items that circulate at academic libraries

Total Respondents: 94

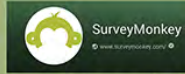|			
Laptops	55	Audio recorders	24
Digital Cameras	30	GPS devices	6
Video Cameras	29	Playaways	3
Tablets	29	Calculators	43
Video Game consoles	2	Cassette decks	12
Portable projectors	19	Power Meters	3
External hard drives	10	Typewriters	3
AV cables	29	Microphones	16
Digital Audio players	9	Charging stations	14
Headphones	75	Tripods	20
E-book readers	15	Card Readers	4
Flash drives	19	Adapters	29
Webcams	6		

Other technology items
- Portable DVD Players
- Computer power cords
- Remote controls
- Mouse for laptops
- Cell phone chargers
- emWave Personal Stress Reliever
- Lockdown cables for laptops
- Surge protectors
- Keyboards
- Ethernet cables
- CD-ROM Drives
- Portable white boards
- Dry erase board markers/erasers
- VCRs
- Voice Transcription Unit

Technology at academic libraries

Survey comments on circulating technology items
- Laptops only to library faculty
- Laptops only circulate to graduate students
- Place informational sticker on items such as calculators and markers
- Laptop agreement is part of login (student has to agree with policy before laptop will work)
- Gave up on the user agreements way back with laptops and have not added it with other items
- Takes an amount of time to do the agreement form (but we're committed to the agreement form, so we are willing to take the time to do it)
- Stopped requiring our patrons to sign a user agreement years ago (spent awful lot of time and energy to do this, and it was never an issue)
- Patrons sign an agreement every time they check out a tablet
- Use checklists for multiple pieces are checked out on a single barcode
- Variety of technology items can result in a dizzying area of loan periods (clarified into two categories: in library use and external library use)
- Employ modest overdue fines
- Students seem willing to accept the large fines to keep the iPads
- Patrons don't return all the pieces with the item
- Never enough to meet the demand (specifically referring to iPads & video cameras here)
- Laptops are the most heavily used and we sometimes have issues with them not being returned on time
- Equipment items are our highest circulating items of the entire collection
- Go through headphones like water as break or lost (would love to sell cheapie earbuds as an alternative)
- Physical upkeep of equipment/wear and tear

Media items that circulate at academic libraries

Respondents: 93

VHS videos	83
CD-ROMS	69
Cassettes	39
LPs	40
CDs	82
Computer Programs	24
DVDs	92

Other media items that circulate at academic libraries
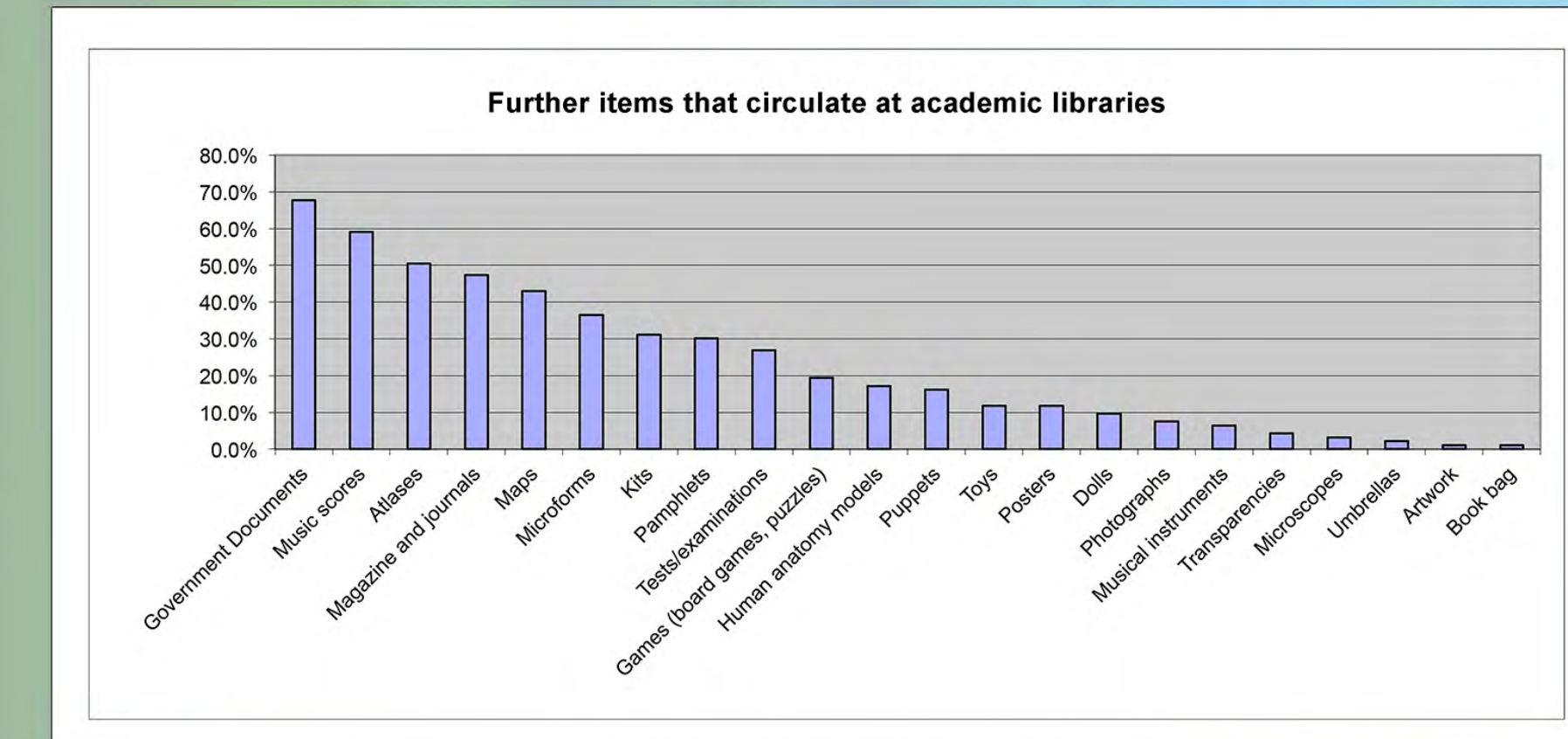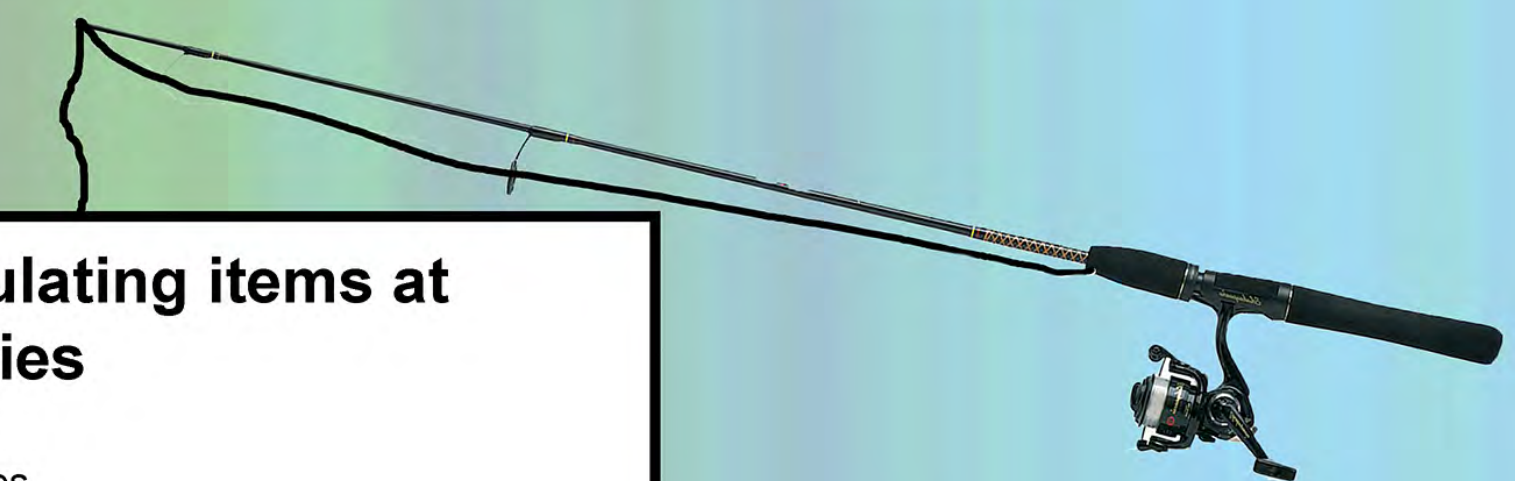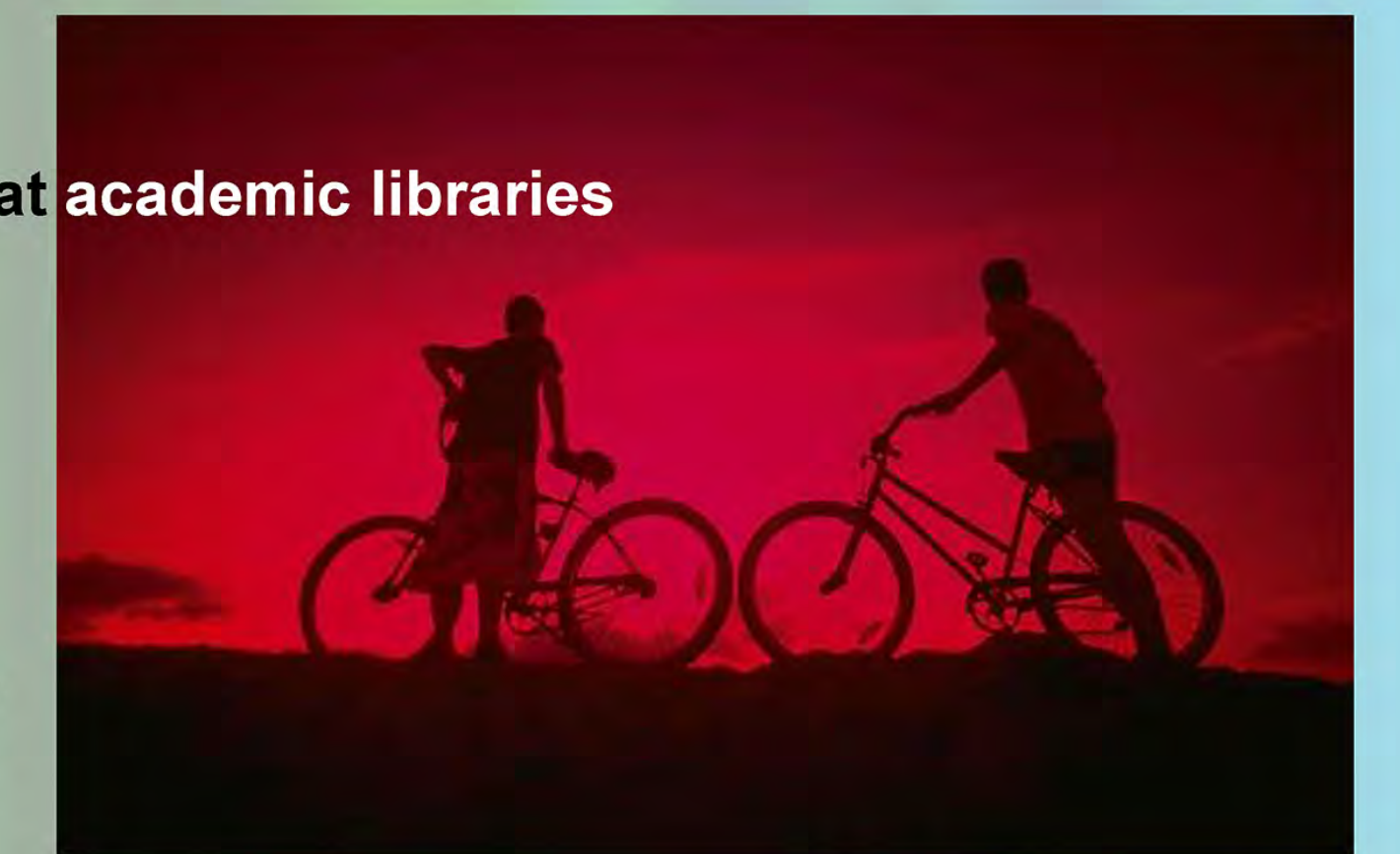- 16mm film
- Slides
- Laserdisks
- Video games

Survey comments on circulating mediai items
- Cleaning and maintenance of media items
- Theft of DVDs
- Loan period varies by patron type and format type
- DVDs are by far the most popular item to circulate.
- CD's wear and information disintegrates so need to be backed up or replaced
- Some DVDs are restricted use-library only -for students
- Recently weeded our VHS and LP, and cassette collection
- Deaccessioned most outdated technologies (VHS, cassettes, slides)
- Struggle with how long loan periods should be on these types of items
- Returning the case but not the dvd
- Users no longer have VCRs and want newer format

Further items that circulate at academic libraries

Total respondants   93

Magazine and journals	44
Microforms	34
Musical instruments	6
Artwork	1
Toys	11
Puppets	15
Games (board games, puzzles)	18
Dolls	9
Government Documents	63
Maps	40
Atlases	47
Music scores	55
Photographs	7
Pamphlets	28
Posters	11
Tests/examinations	25
Transparencies	4
Microscopes	3
Human anatomy models	16
Book bag	1
Umbrellas	2
Kits	29

Further items that circulate at academic libraries

Additional circulating items at academic libraries
- Bikes
- Bike helmets and bike pump
- Lamps
- Ping pong paddles and balls
- Crank flashlights
- Rock collections
- Gaming supplies for in-library gaming units: PS3, XBOX360, and Wii controllers
- Phones for conference calls in our group study rooms
- Sample briefs written by law students
- Manipulation tables.
- Teeth models
- Colored pencils
- Protractors
- Compasses
- T-squares
- Yardsticks
- Rulers
- Magnifiers

Unique circulating items at public libraries
- Fishing poles
- Museum passes
- Hand tools
- Telescopes
- Plant seed collections
- Hobby supplies
- Cooking equipment
- American Girl Dolls
- Streaming Video Devices (ex., ROKU, Apple TV)