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2014 VALE Libraries Technical Services Functions Survey Results

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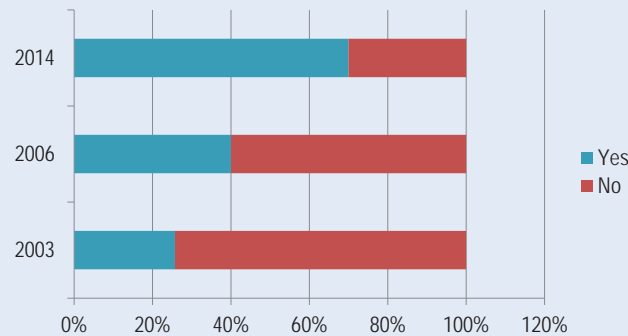
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2014 VALE LIBRARIES
TECHNICAL SERVICES FUNCTIONS SURVEY RESULTS

Mei Ling Chow • Montclair State University ▪ Melissa De Fino • Rutgers University ▪ Jian Wang • Richard Stockton College

INTRODUCTION

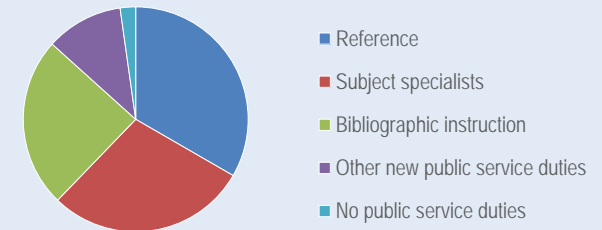In the past ten years, the technical services departments of VALE member institutions transformed from basic cataloging units to highly technical, cutting-edge collaborative organizations. The Bibliographic Control and Metadata Committee tracked these changes through three studies, conducted in 2003, 2006, and 2014. Every technological innovation brought new opportunities for technical services librarians to provide groundbreaking services for our library users.

Increasing Cost of Acquisitions

In 2003, only 5.7% of respondents had acquisitions budgets over $1 million. By 2014, 30% of us reached that number.

Digitization Rising Rapidly

As would be expected, our digital collections are growing.

Huge Expansion in E-Book Collections

In 2006, 76% held 5000 or fewer e-books. In 2014 45% have over 100,000.

Challenges

- Short of staff; broader job duties; higher skilled work with technical focus
- E-book purchasing models
- New cataloging rules; digitization and metadata standards; weeding; backlogs from large gift donations
- Keeping up with public-access technologies
- Collaborating on statewide projects
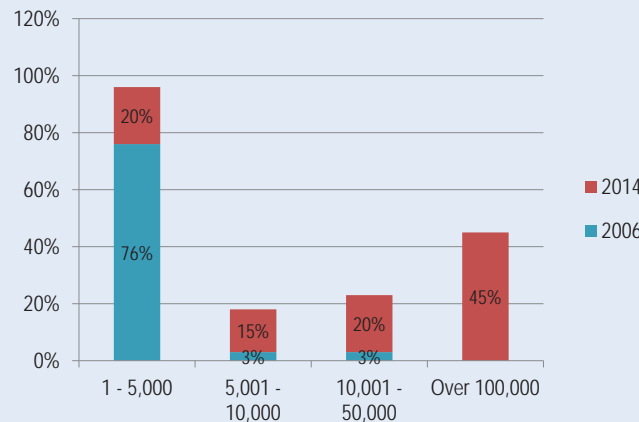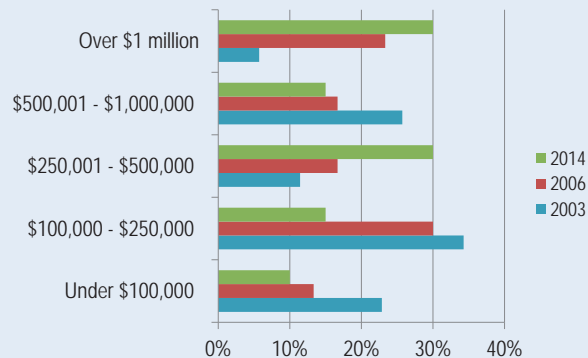
New Public Services Duties

- Reference
- Subject specialists
- Bibliographic instruction
- Other new public service duties
- No public service duties

Authority Control

Authority control is improving! In 2003 11% respondents still did not implement authority control. This year every institution has authority control!