

Predicting the function of library bookshelves in 2025

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LIBER
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Universiteit Utrecht

University Library



**Utrecht University
Library De Uithof**



**Utrecht University
Library City Centre**



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Universiteit Utrecht

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Librarians

Function of open shelves

Publishers

Users



Librarians perspective

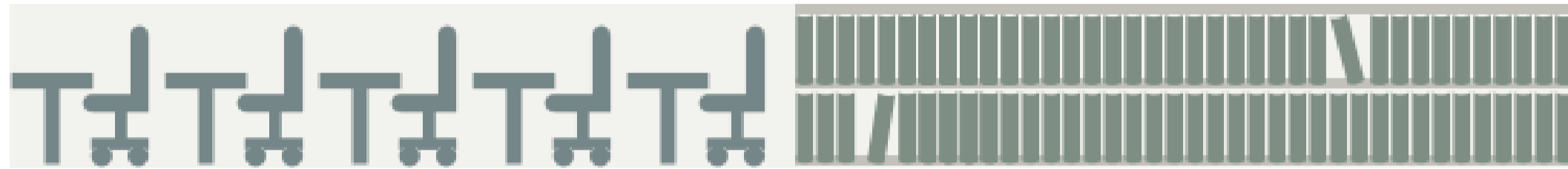
Study spots at the expense of open shelves

667

number of individual study places in University Library Uithof in 2013

2013

+56



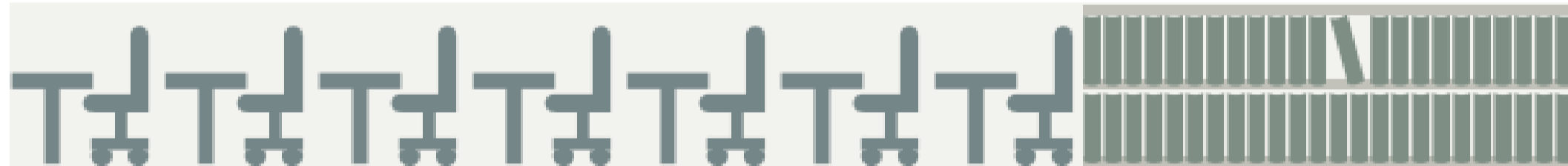
2014

+48



2015

+52



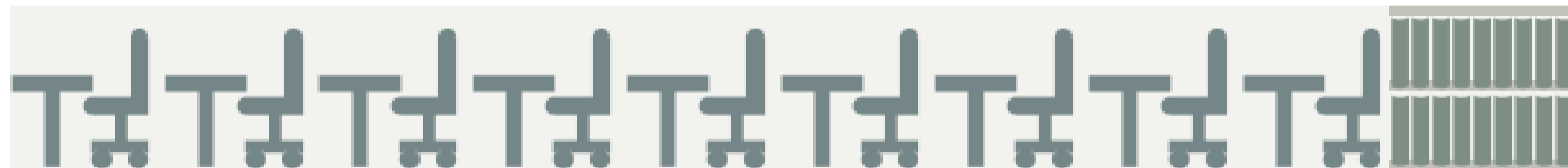
2016

+46



2017

+82



951

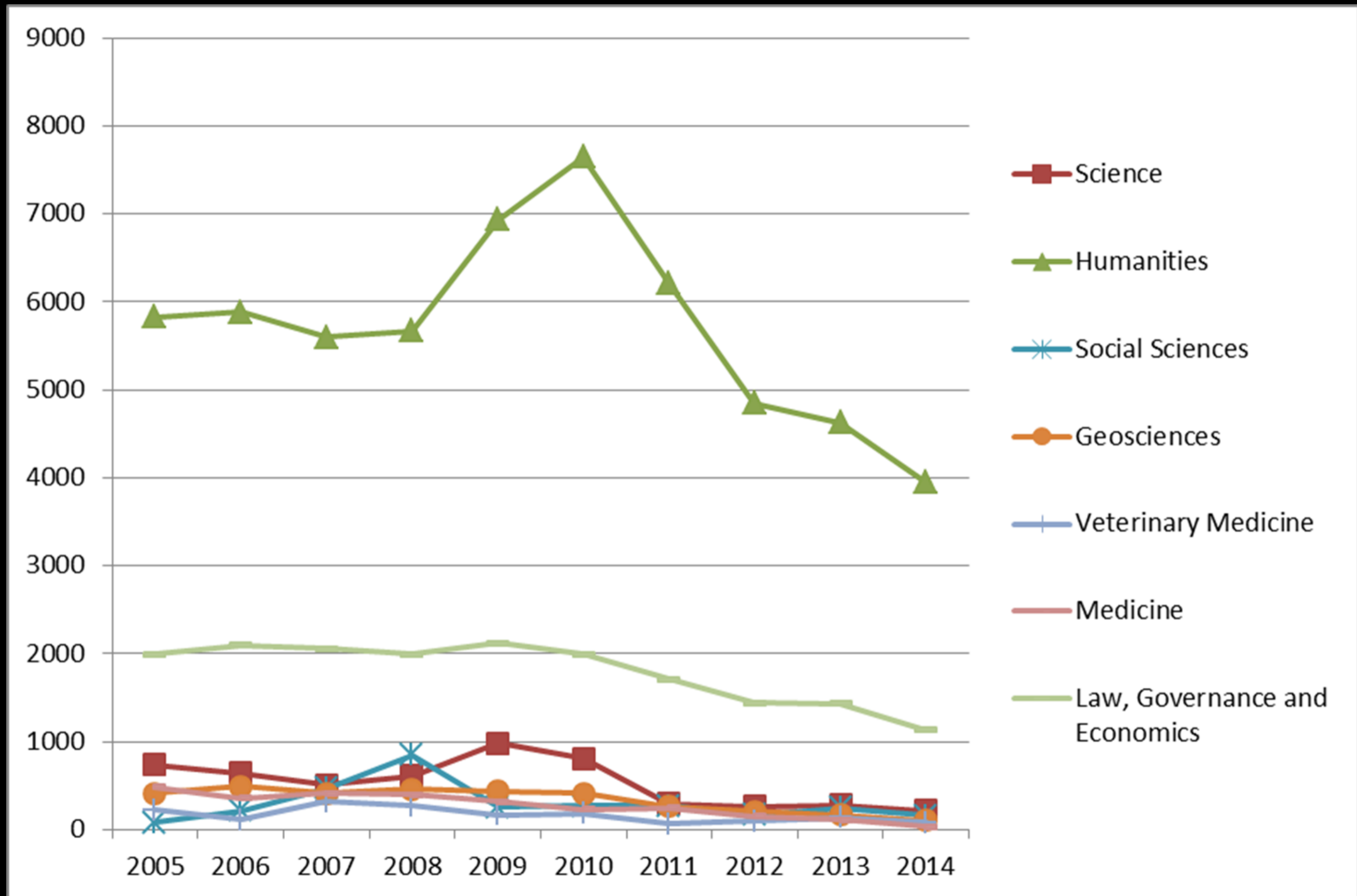
number of individual study places in University Library Uithof in 2017

(1346 - total number of individual study places in Utrecht University Library in 2014)



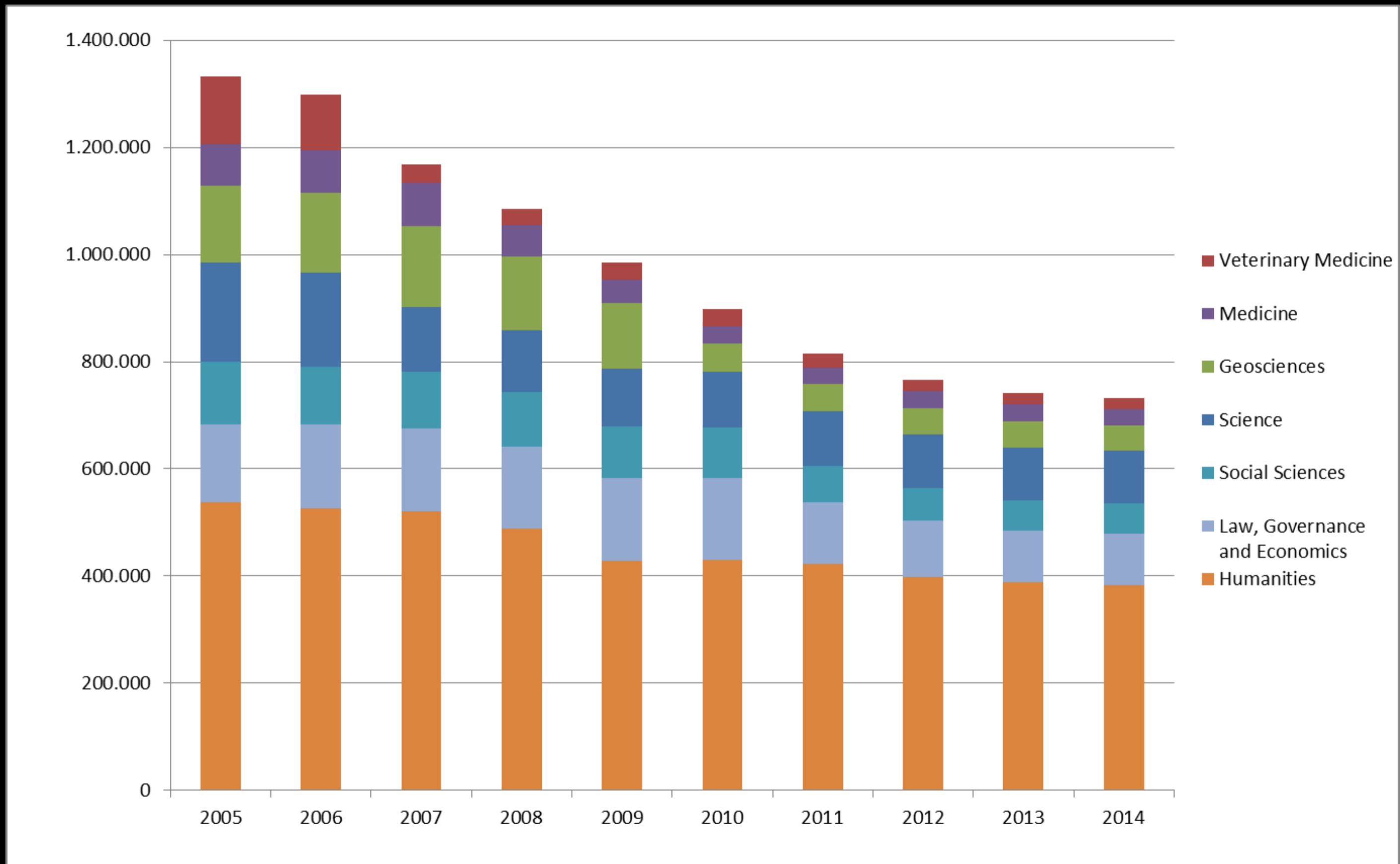
Librarians perspective

Number of paper books acquired by Utrecht University Library (2005-2014)



Librarians perspective

Number of items in the open shelves of Utrecht University Library, (2005-2014)



Publishers perspective

Publishers and suppliers interviewed

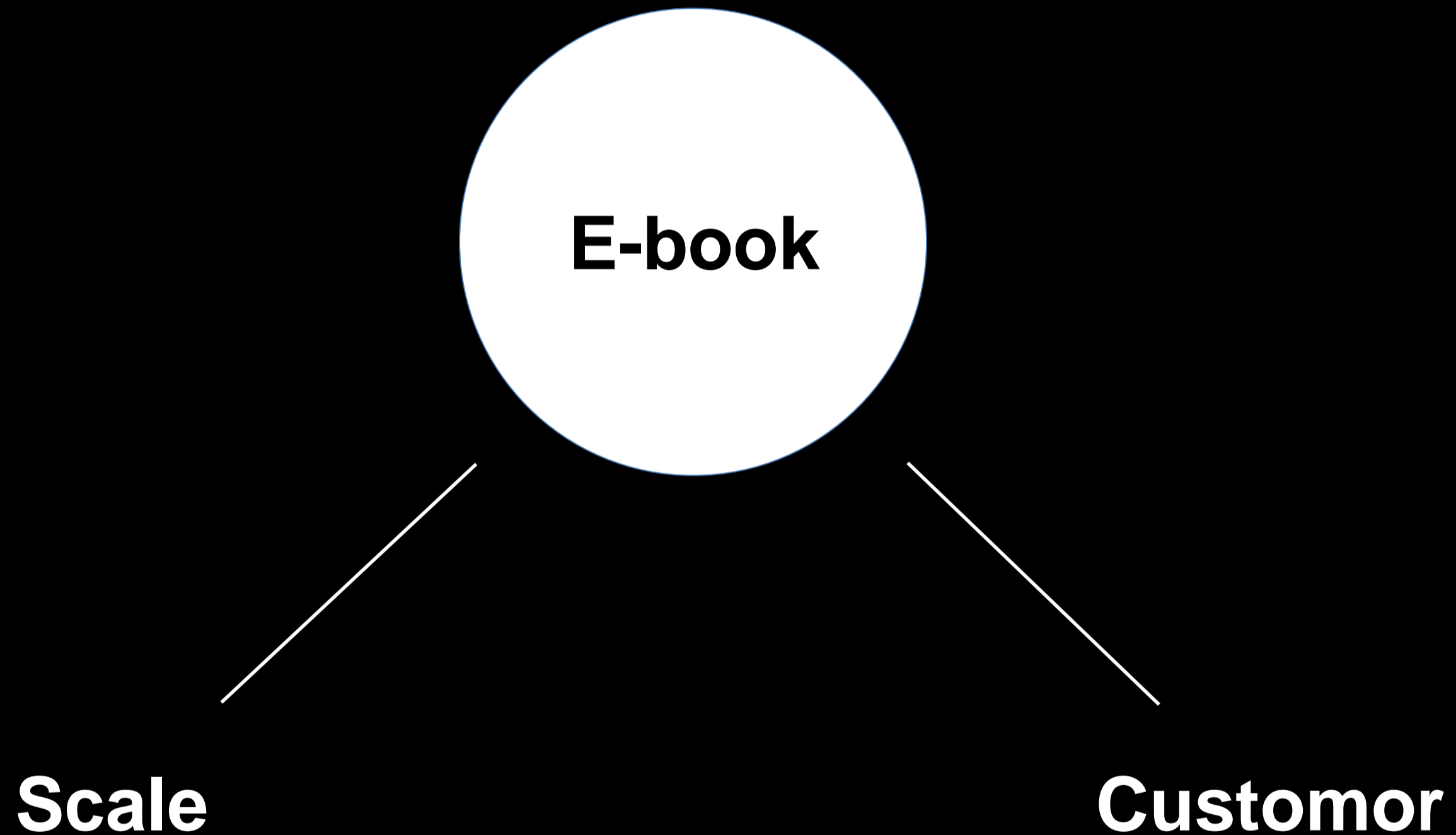


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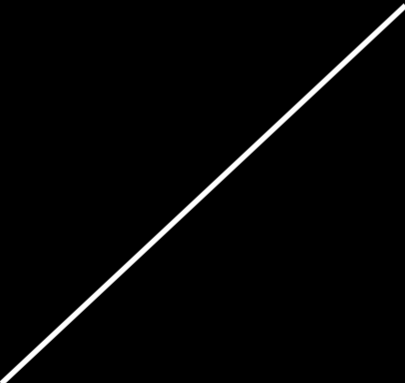
Publishers perspective

What determines whether a book title is available as an e-book?

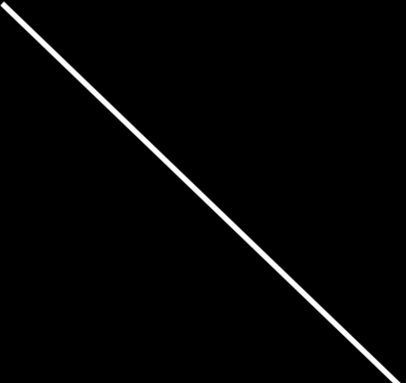


Publishers perspective

Book titles in 2025?



E-book



Paper book



Users perspective

If you are considering taking away books and making more space for study spots, that's a brilliant plan!

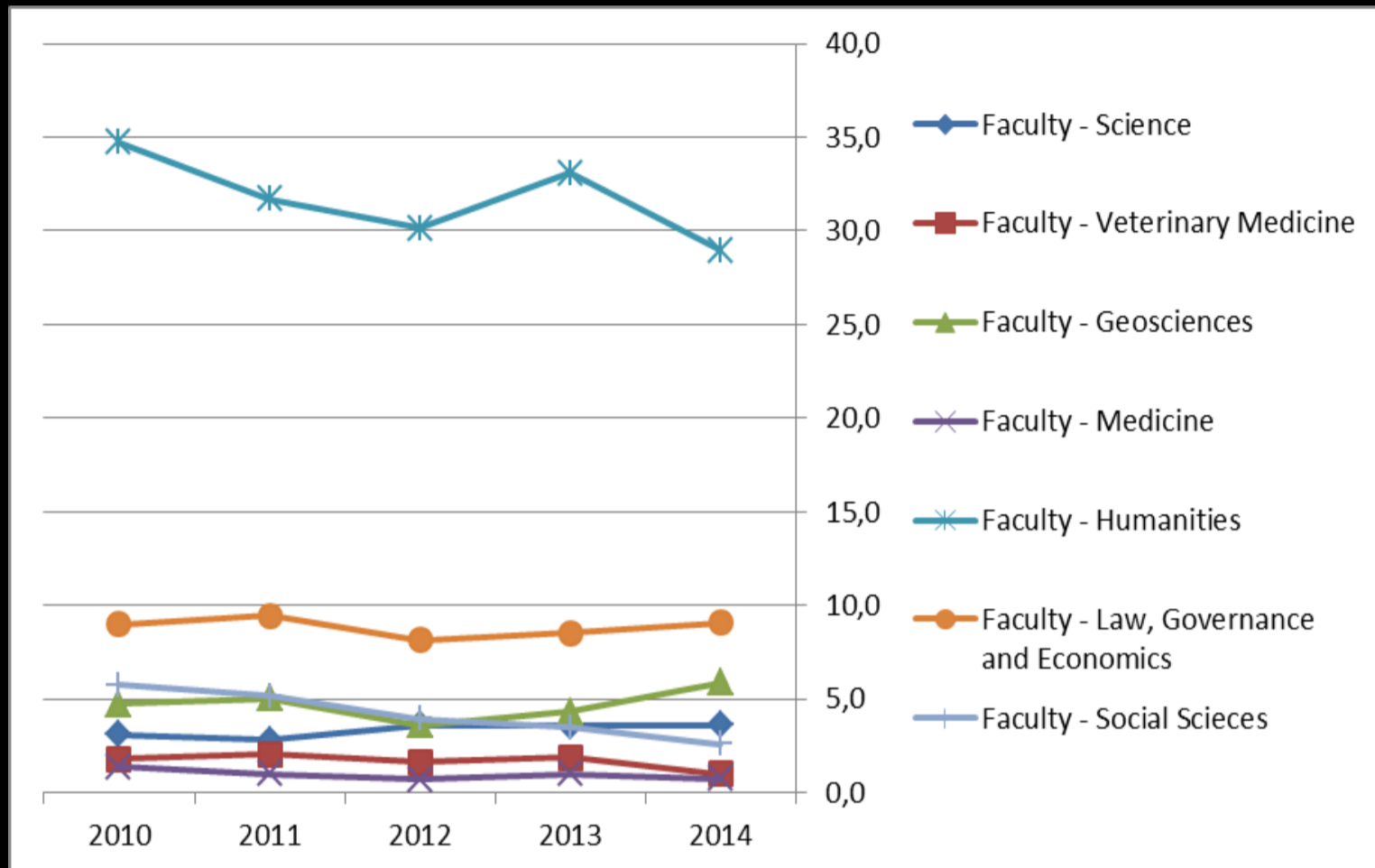
Don't even think about creating more study places by removing books. Instead, remind people that books are awesome!

Users

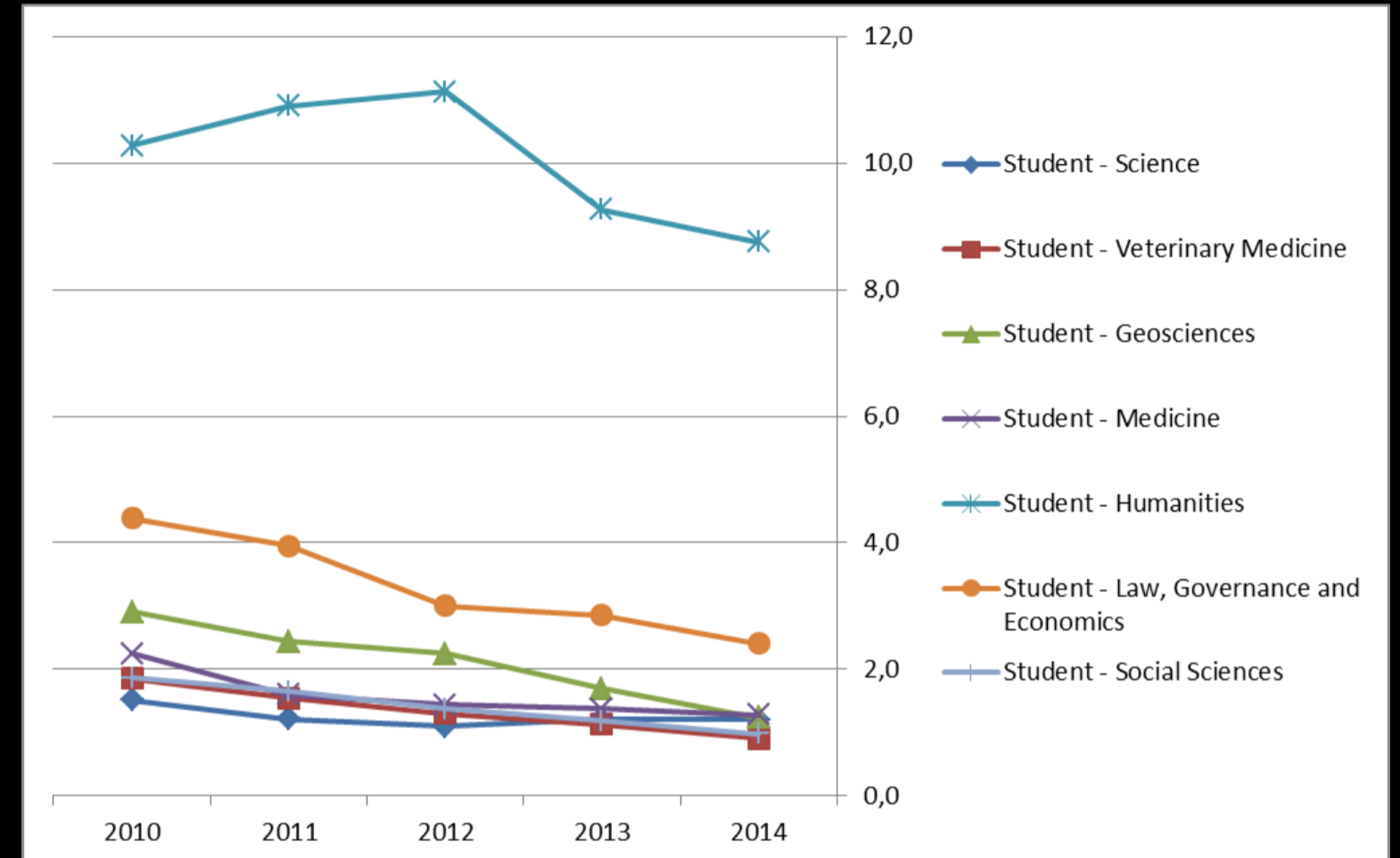


Users perspective

Average number of loans, faculty (2010-2014)



Average number of loans, students (2010-2014)



Users perspective

What makes Humanities so different?

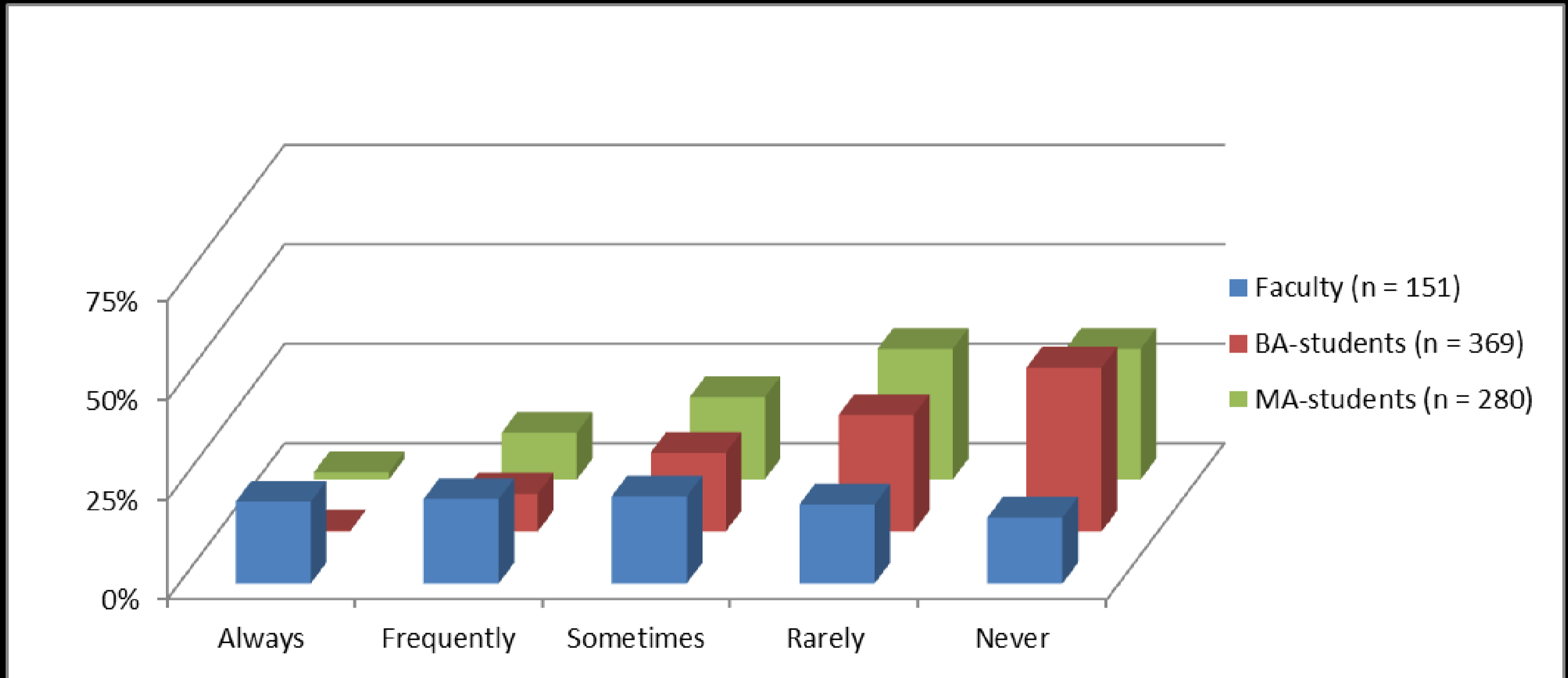
	Article readings	Book readings	Other publication readings	Total readings
Social sciences	21	9	11	41
Sciences	27	3	8	38
Humanities	28	21	9	58
Engineering/technology	28	5	9	42
Medical/health	31	4	10	45

Tenopir, C., Volentine, R. & King, D.W., (2012). Scholarly Reading and the Value of Academic Library Collections: results of a study in six UK universities. *Insights*. 25(2), pp.130–149. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/2048-7754.25.2.130>



Users perspective

What do you do when you visit the University Library? Answer: Search or read literature from the bookshelves.



n=800



Users perspective

Students and the open shelves



Users perspective

Faculty and the open shelves



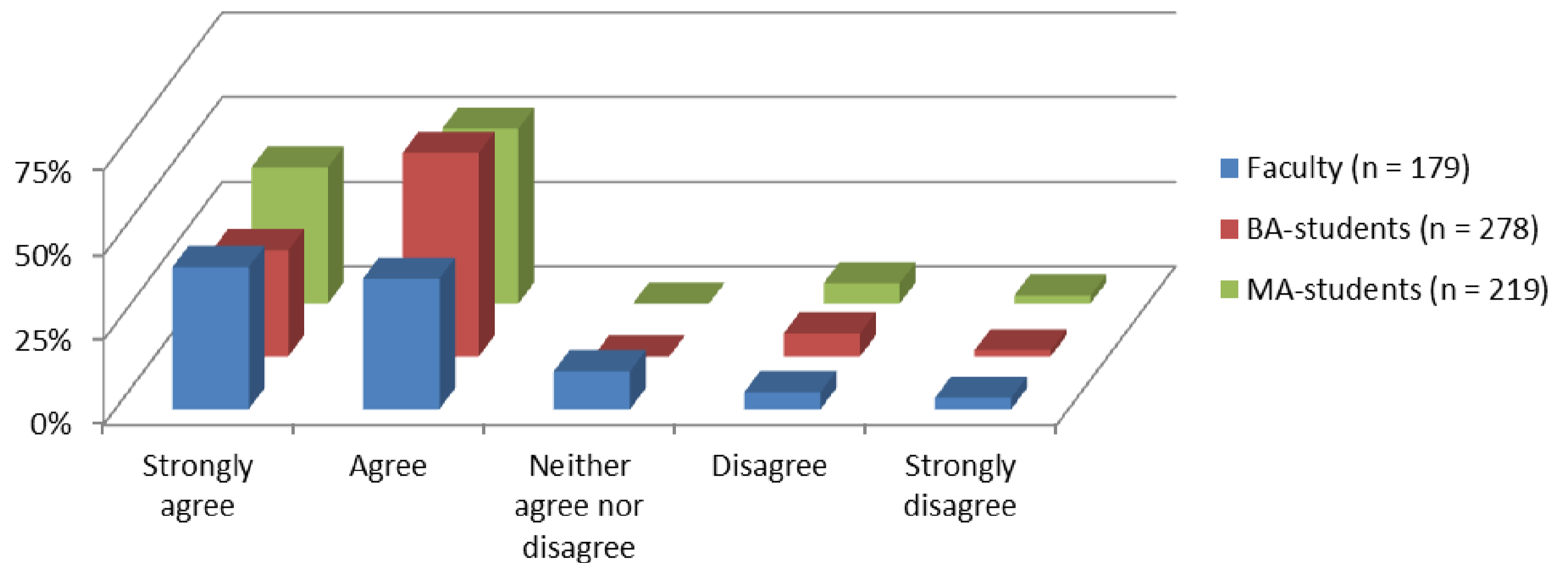
Users perspective

Paradox



Users perspective

What do the books in the library bookshelves mean to you? Answer: To me, books on the bookshelves create an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment.



n=676



Librarians perspective

**Provide access to
publications
preferred in paper
format**

**Create an inspiring
and stimulating
study environment,
for both students
and faculty**

**Function of open
shelves in 2025**

**Stimulate usage of
both paper and
electronic
publications**



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