

Going "All In": How to Start a Floating Collection

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Region of Waterloo Library

OLA Super Conference, January 27, 2016



Welcome!



Agenda

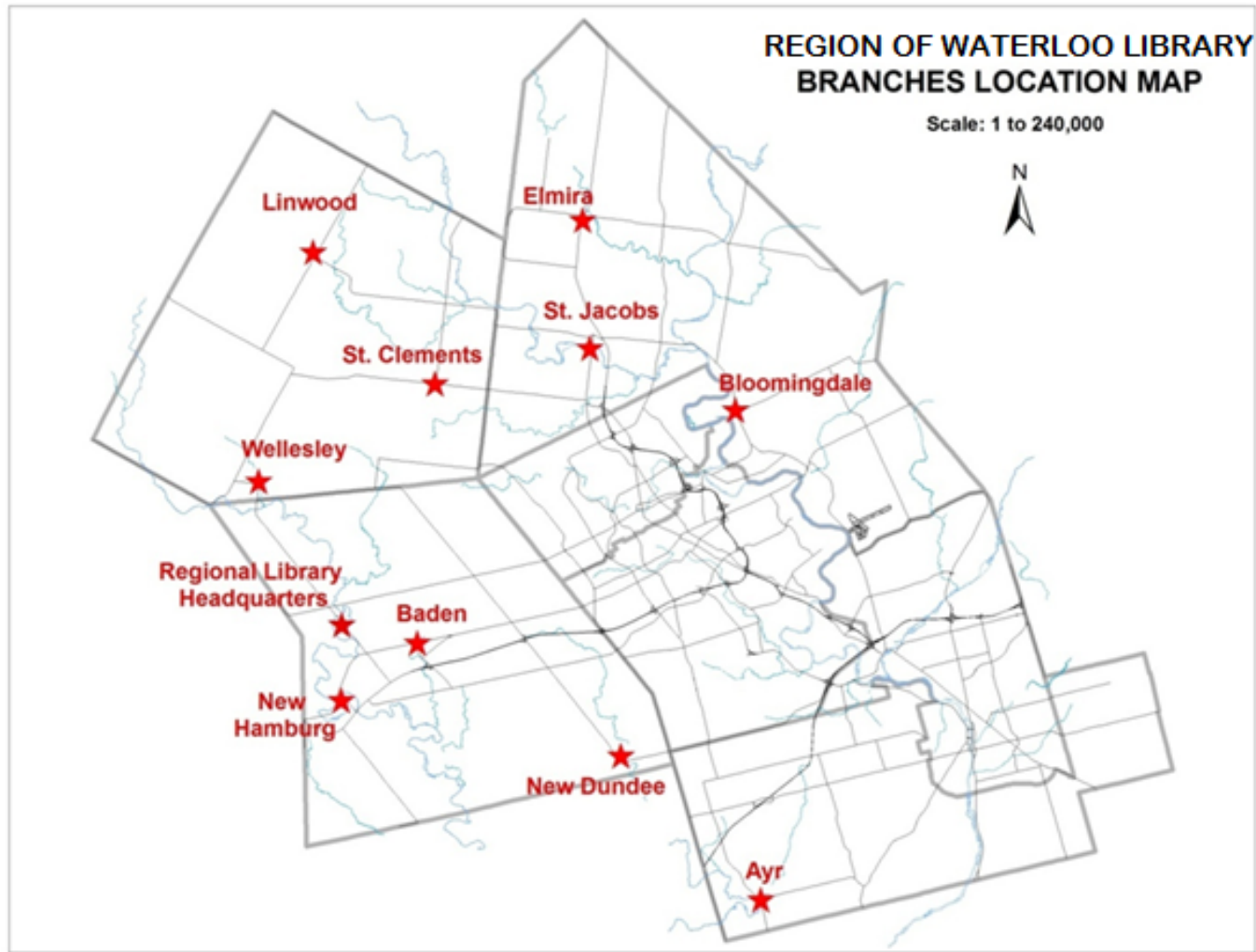
- Who we are
- Floating...why, where, what, who, how
- Growing Pains
- Results
- What We Learned
- Ongoing Challenges
- Questions



RWL – Who We Are

- 10 branches in 4 townships
 - 3 "large", 2 "medium" and 5 "small" branches
 - 5 single-staff locations
 - 5 multi-staff locations
- 1 administrative headquarters
- Rural Waterloo Region
- SirsiDynix Symphony ILS





RWL – Who We Are

- 16,530 active borrowers (25% of residents)
- 312,238 items
- 897,837 electronic uses (13.7 per capita) [4 x 2009]
- 415,370 circulations (29 per branch hour) [5% > 2009]



- 685,495 non-electronic uses
(10.5 per capita)

- 1,352 programs; 18,332 attendees



Source: 2014 Annual Survey of Public Libraries



Why Floating?

- Old system was no longer working
- Timing was right
- Increase access to materials
- Staff /patron empowerment





COMPANY

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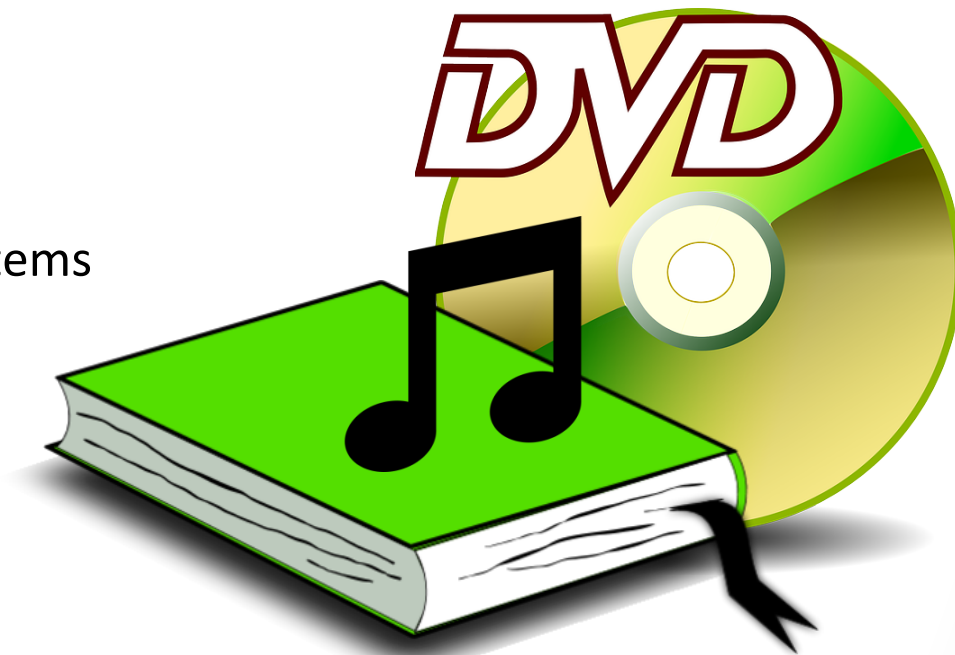
Where to Float?

- Everywhere!
 - Except Library Headquarters



What to Float?

- Everything!
- Except:
 - Local history
 - Magazines
 - Reference
 - “Core” collection items



Who to Involve?

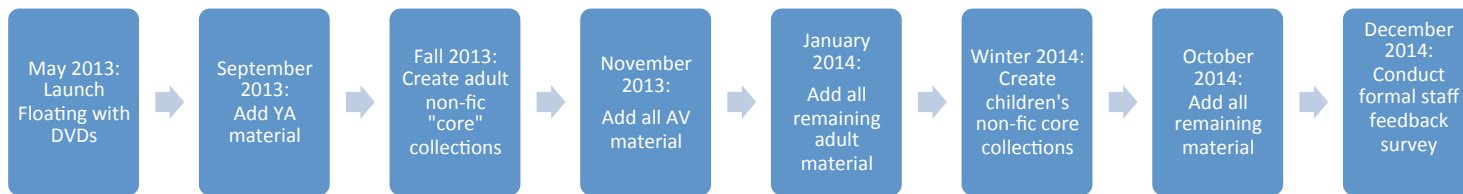
- Everyone!
 - Manager
 - Coordinator, Library Collections
 - Branch supervisors
 - Branch staff
 - Cataloguer
 - Driver
 - Library headquarters staff



How to Float: Step-By-Step

1. Set a specific goal
2. Make a plan with a timeline
3. Make required technical/cataloguing changes
4. Address practical issues



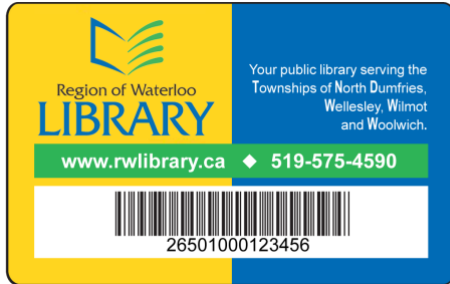


How to Float: Step-By-Step

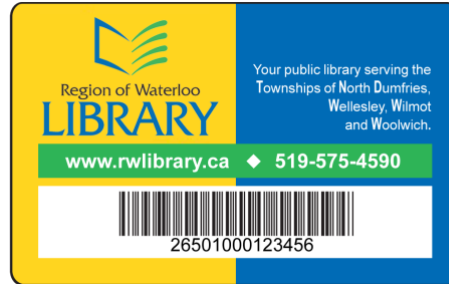
1. **Set a goal**
2. **Make a plan with a timeline**
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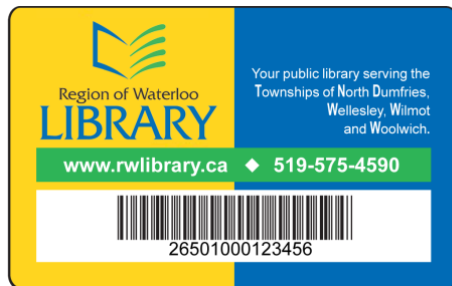
TRANSIT



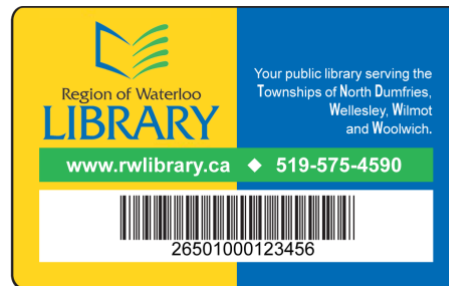
REPAIR



DISCARD



REVIEW



How to Float: Step-By-Step

1. **Set a goal**
2. **Make a plan with a timeline**
3. **Make required technical/cataloguing changes**
4. **Address practical issues**



How to Float: Step-By-Step, continued...

5. Create “core” collections
6. Manage overflow
7. Start small...then go ALL IN
8. Get excited!



Core Collection - Master List

	Large Branches			Small Branches		
	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Example</i>
000s	1	Microsoft general title	Windows 8	1	General computer book	How to use a common operating system
	1	Apple General title	Mac OS	1	Encyclopedia set	World Book
	1	General computer book for seniors				
	1	Microsoft Office Suite guide	Word, Excel, PPT			
	1	Encyclopedia set	World Book			
	1	Quotations book	Bartlett's Quotations			
	1	Writer's Guide				
200s	1	General title on world religions		1	General title on world religions	
	1	each of 2 of 7 topics (all to be covered across the 4 large branches)				
		- Buddhism				
		- Christianity				
		- Hinduism				
		- Islam				
		- Juddaism				
		- Taoism				
		- Mennonite				
300s	1	Almanac	Farmer's Almanac	1	Almanac	Farmer's Almanac
	1	Book on divorce in Ontario				
	1	Tax guide (current tax year)				
	1	Building code (in one branch)				
	1	Criminal code (in one branch)				
400s	1	English dictionary		1	English dictionary	
					English-foreign language dictionary (language to be	
	1	French-English dictionary		1	chosen by branch)	
	1	Spanish-English dictionary				
	1	German-English dictionary				

How to Float: Step-By-Step, continued...

5. Create “core” collections
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Staff said...

- *“I am really impressed with the spreadsheet for the floating collection. Is so useful!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”*
- *“The spreadsheet approach is great. You know immediately where to send books etc., if shelves [are] full. ”*
- *“[The] spreadsheet also allows some control for the branch. If shelves are overflowing...you can mark red.”*
- *“Spreadsheet is a life saver in terms of decision making.”*



How to Float: Step-By-Step, continued...

5. Create “core” collections
6. Manage overflow
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How to Float: Step-By-Step, continued...

9. Try different things
10. Don't be afraid to "mess up" or make changes
11. Communicate, communicate, communicate!
12. Be patient

Growing Pains

- The “Patterson Effect”
- Problems of perception
- “Power” users
- The “11th and 12th branches”
- A work in progress...

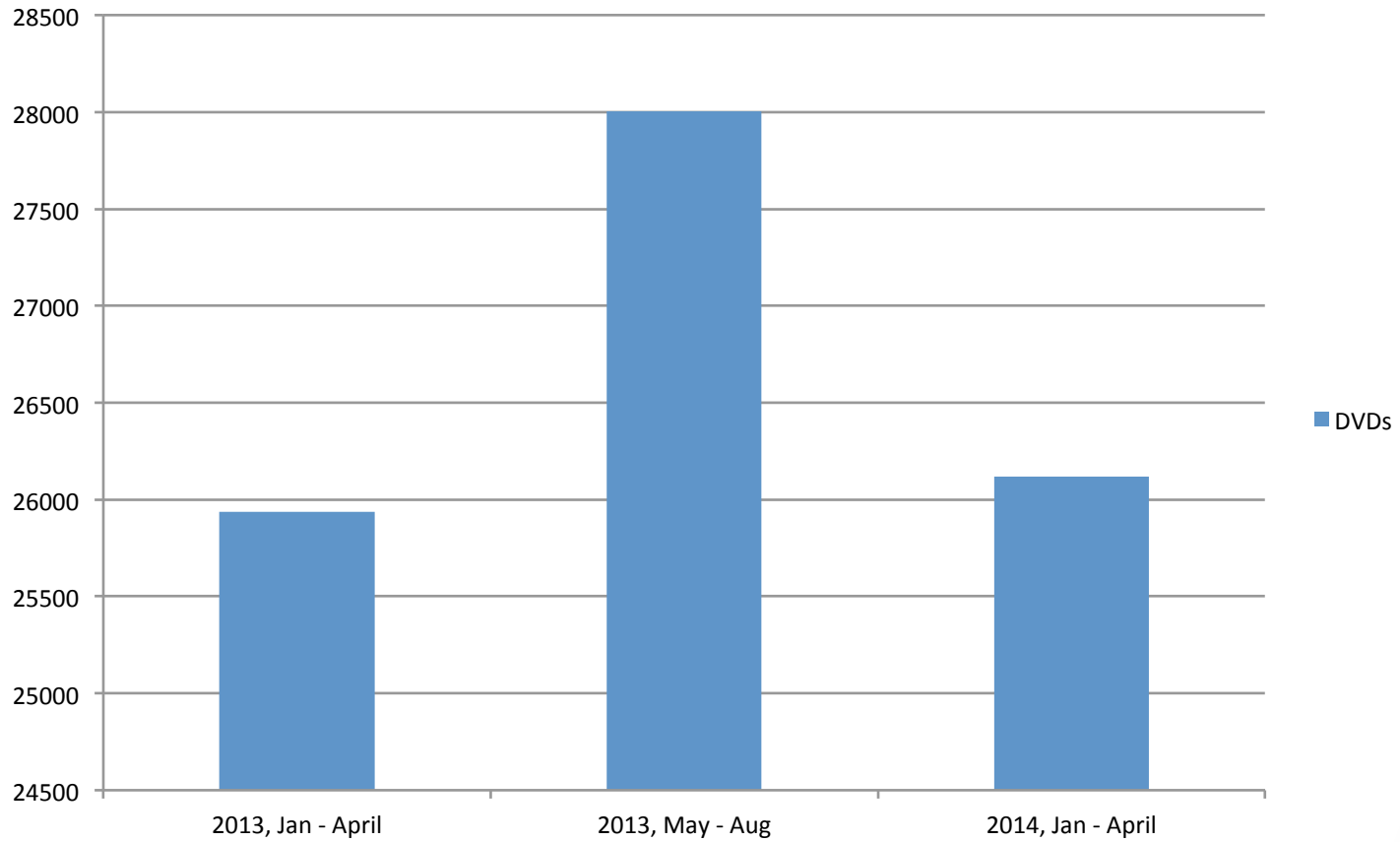


Results

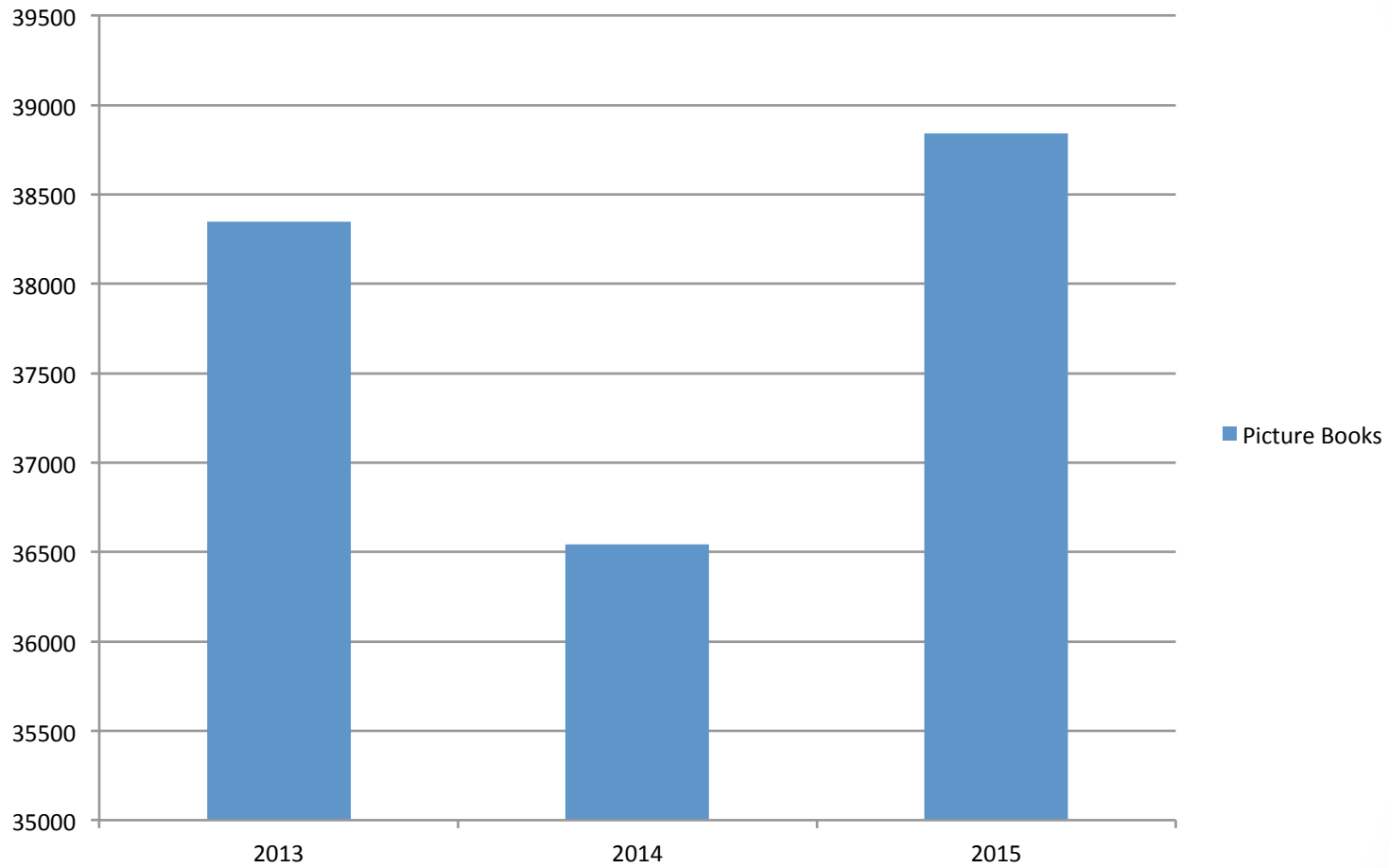
- Increased circulation for many collections



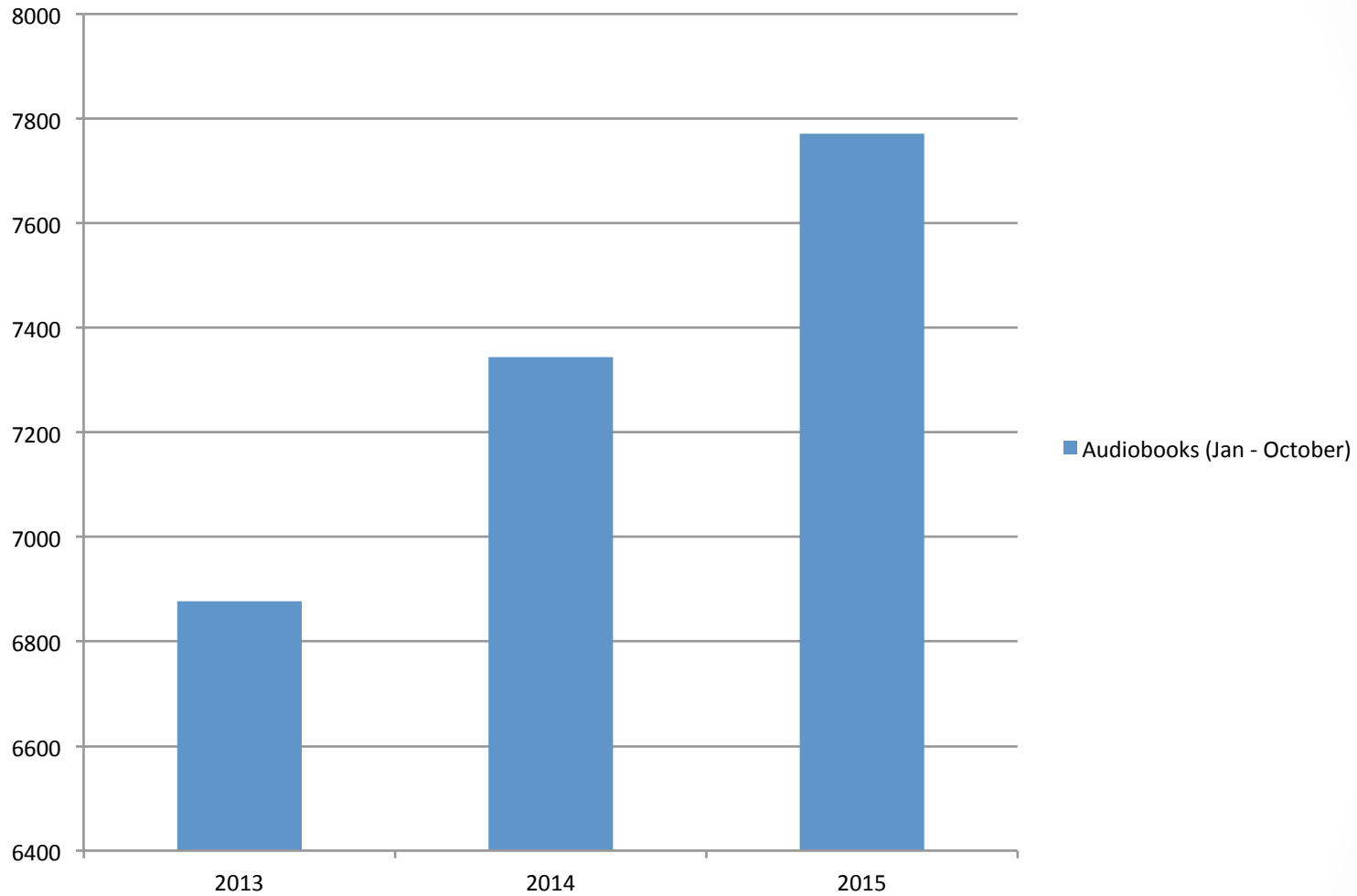
DVDs



Picture Books



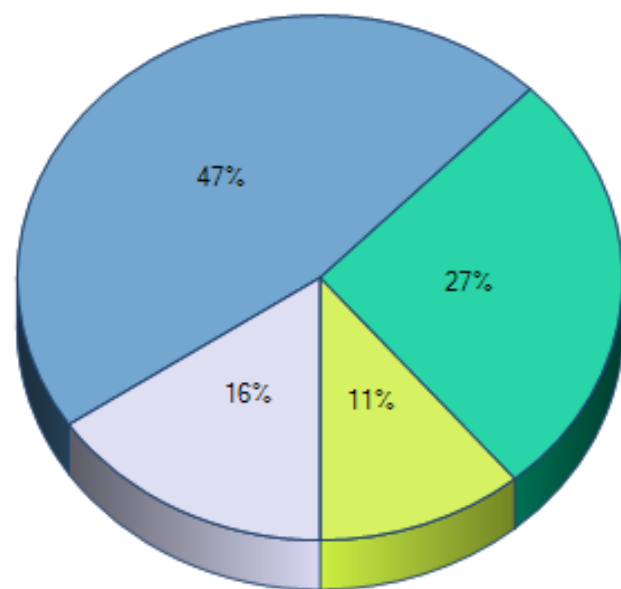
Audio Books (Jan - October)



Results

- Increased circulation for many collections
- Improved collection management practices and staff workflow
- Patrons have increased access to all material
 - *“Where did all the new books come from?!”*
- Holds lists completed more quickly
- Patrons and staff are building the collection THEY want
 - *“All the books belong to us”*

What is the best thing about floating? (Choose all that apply)



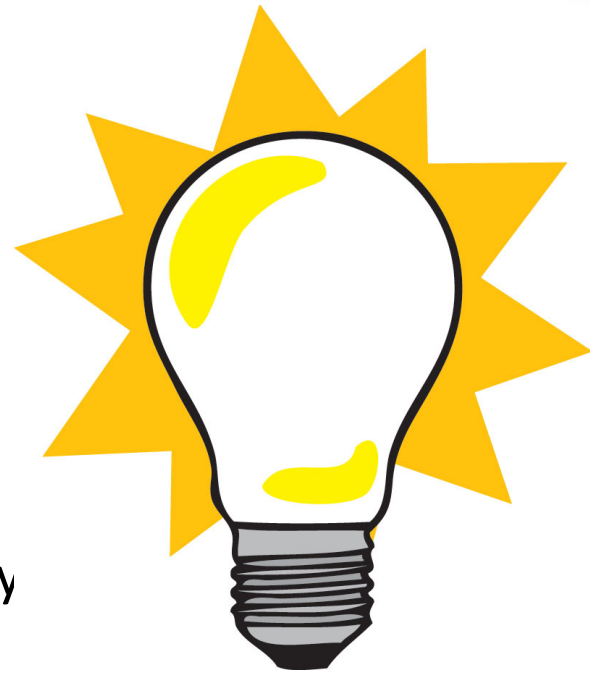
	Response Total	Response Percent
<input type="checkbox"/> It saves me time	7	30%
<input type="checkbox"/> It keeps the collection refreshed	21	91%
<input type="checkbox"/> I can manage the workload according to my own schedule	12	52%
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify	5	22%
Total Respondents (skipped this question)	23	21

Results

- ✓ • Increased circulation for many collections
- ✓ • Improved collection management practices and staff workflow
- ✓ • Patrons have increased access to all materials
 - *“Where did all the new books come from?!”*
- ✓ • Holds lists completed more quickly
- ✓ • Patrons and staff are building the collection **THEY** want
 - *All the books are “long to us”*

What We Learned

- Communication is key
- Make it a team effort
- It's okay to make mistakes
- Floating is good for readers' advisory
- Floating breaks down barriers



Ongoing Challenges

- Floating enough new books
- Recognizing poor condition
- System-wide vs. branch collections
- Maintaining balanced collections



In Summary...

1. Just do it!
2. Get everyone involved
3. Put in the time



Questions?



Thank you!

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