

Analyzing a Physical Science and Engineering Collection for Collaborative Collection Planning

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Abstract

Based on a practicum project at McGill University Library, this poster presents the results of an analysis of the print and electronic collections in the physical sciences and engineering (PSE). Several data sources were brought together to analyze both the collection and its major user base.

The primary source of collection information used is WorldShare Collection Evaluation. Using this tool, the age, subject content, and format of the holdings in WorldCat Local can be analyzed, allowing for the identification of unique holdings, gaps and duplicate works, and the comparison of the collection against that of peer institutions.

To improve allocations of collection funds by discipline, the WorldShare Collection Evaluation and other data sources were compared to enrollment statistics, number of courses, and faculty members in each department in PSE served by McGill University Schulich Library of Science and Engineering.

Ultimately this statistical analysis will assist in identifying collection strengths and weaknesses, allowing librarians collaboratively overseeing the development of the PSE collection to make strategic planning choices.

This poster also explores the functionality and utility of WorldShare Collection Evaluation and how it may be used by library staff (for purposes such as comparison with peers, looking at resources supporting a new program, etc.).

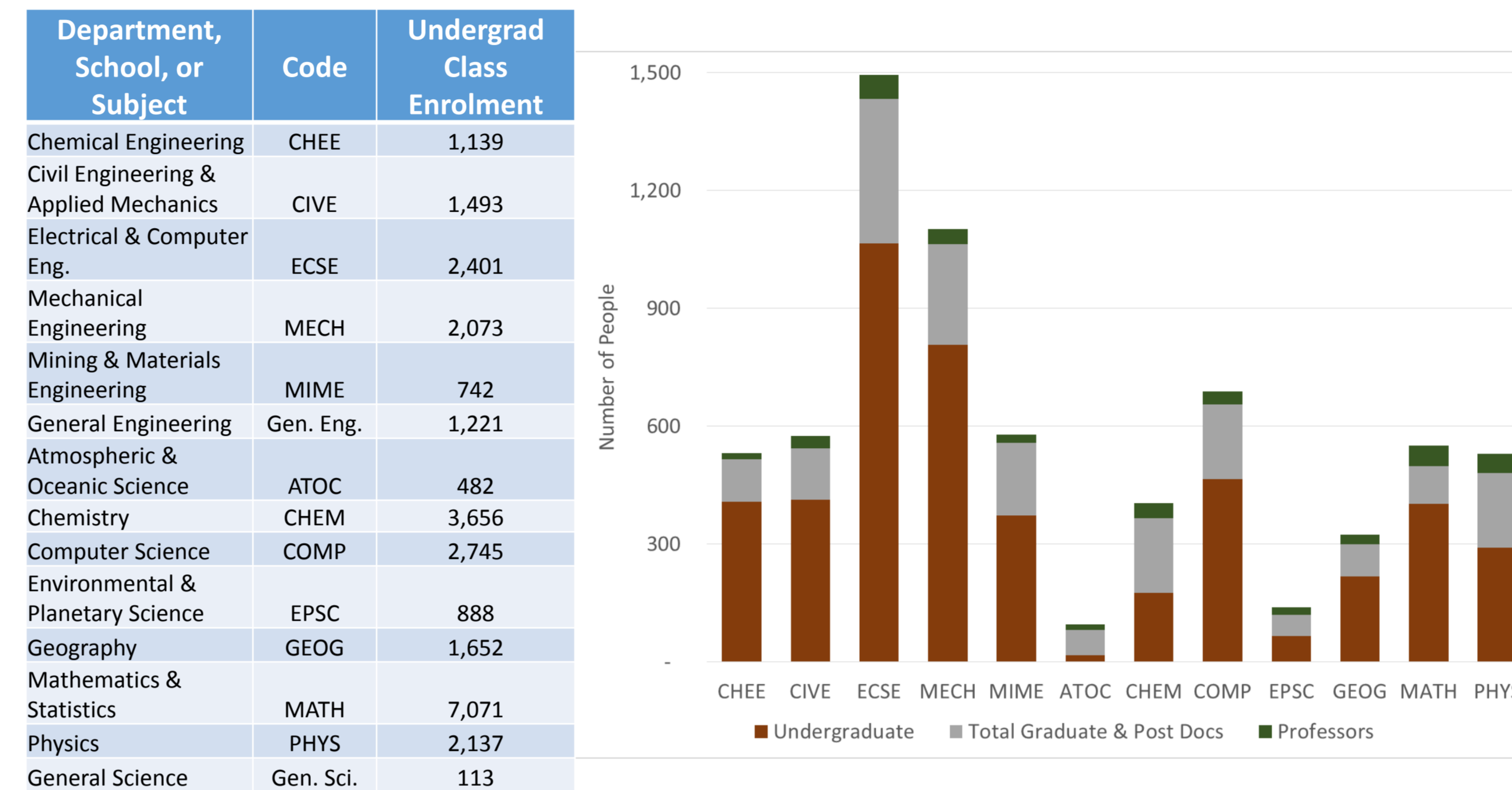
McGill Library Overall

Holdings By Format

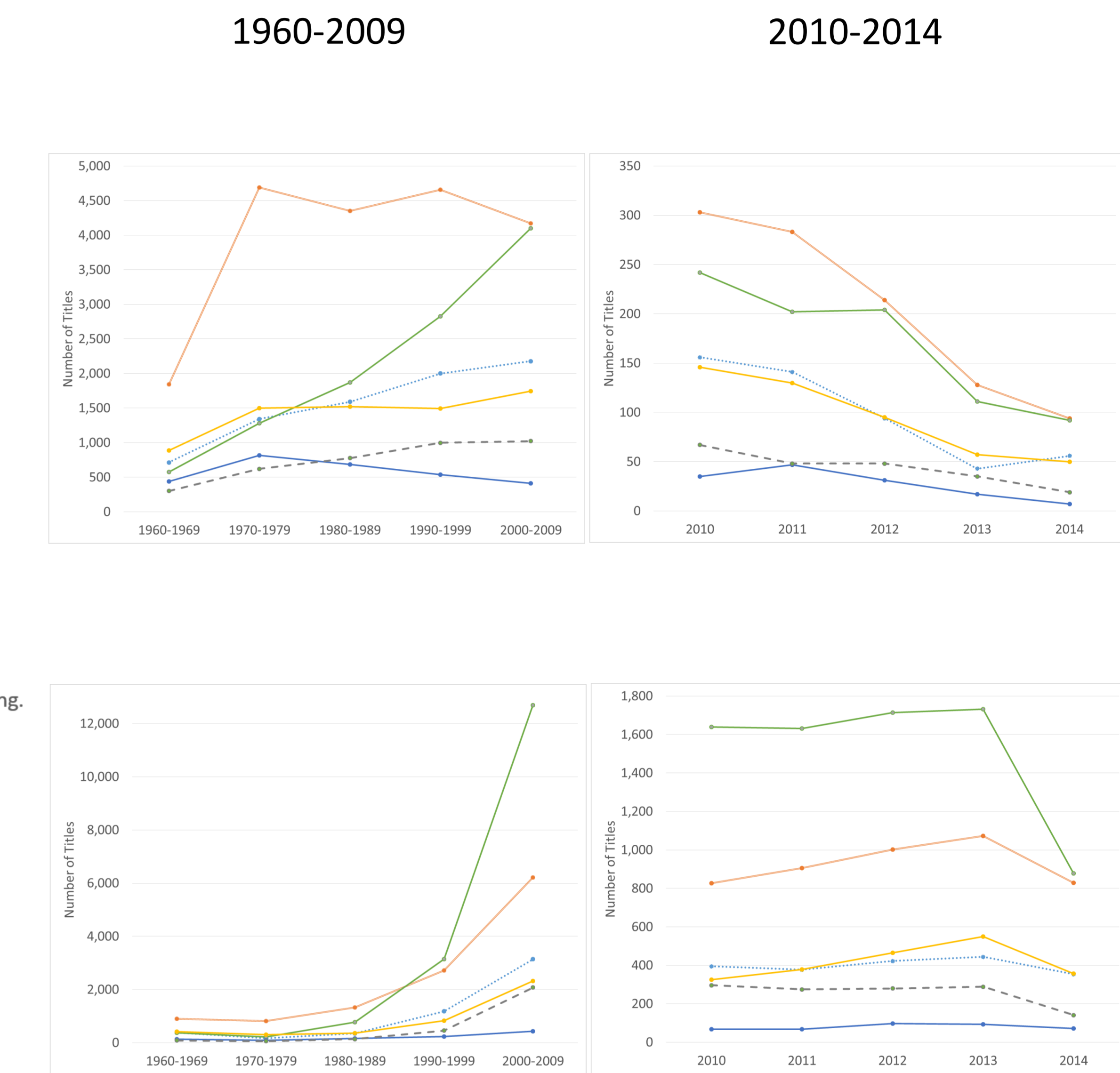
Format	Number of Titles	% of Collection
Books, Print	2,083,261	42.9%
Books, Electronic	2,031,207	41.8%
Journals and Magazines	222,996	4.6%
Music and Musical Scores	181,233	3.7%
Theses and Dissertations	120,725	2.5%
Books, special formats	110,765	2.3%
All other formats	104,607	2.2%
Total	4,854,794	-

Physical Sciences and Engineering

Physical Sciences and Engineering Departments



Physical Sciences and Engineering By Publication Date



Background

- Platform that is designed by OCLC to help librarians with [1-4]:
- Identifying collection strengths and weaknesses
- Identifying low use (circulation) titles for possible deselection
- Identifying unique titles to ensure preservation through comparison with peer institutions
- Identifying titles held by many institutions for possible deselection

WorldShare Issues

- Tends to give false results for "unique" titles – they aren't actually unique [3]
- Conspectus is rigid – trouble with interdisciplinary works [3]
- Issues with comparing to institutions where the language of cataloging is not English
- "Unknown" classification (e-books especially)
- E-book circulation data is not in the system

Methods

- Collection and circulation statistics generated using WorldShare Collection Evaluation
- Department-by-department breakdown of subjects determined by mapping WorldShare Conspectus call number ranges to those found in McGill's PSE collection development plans
- Statistics from McGill enrolment and department websites

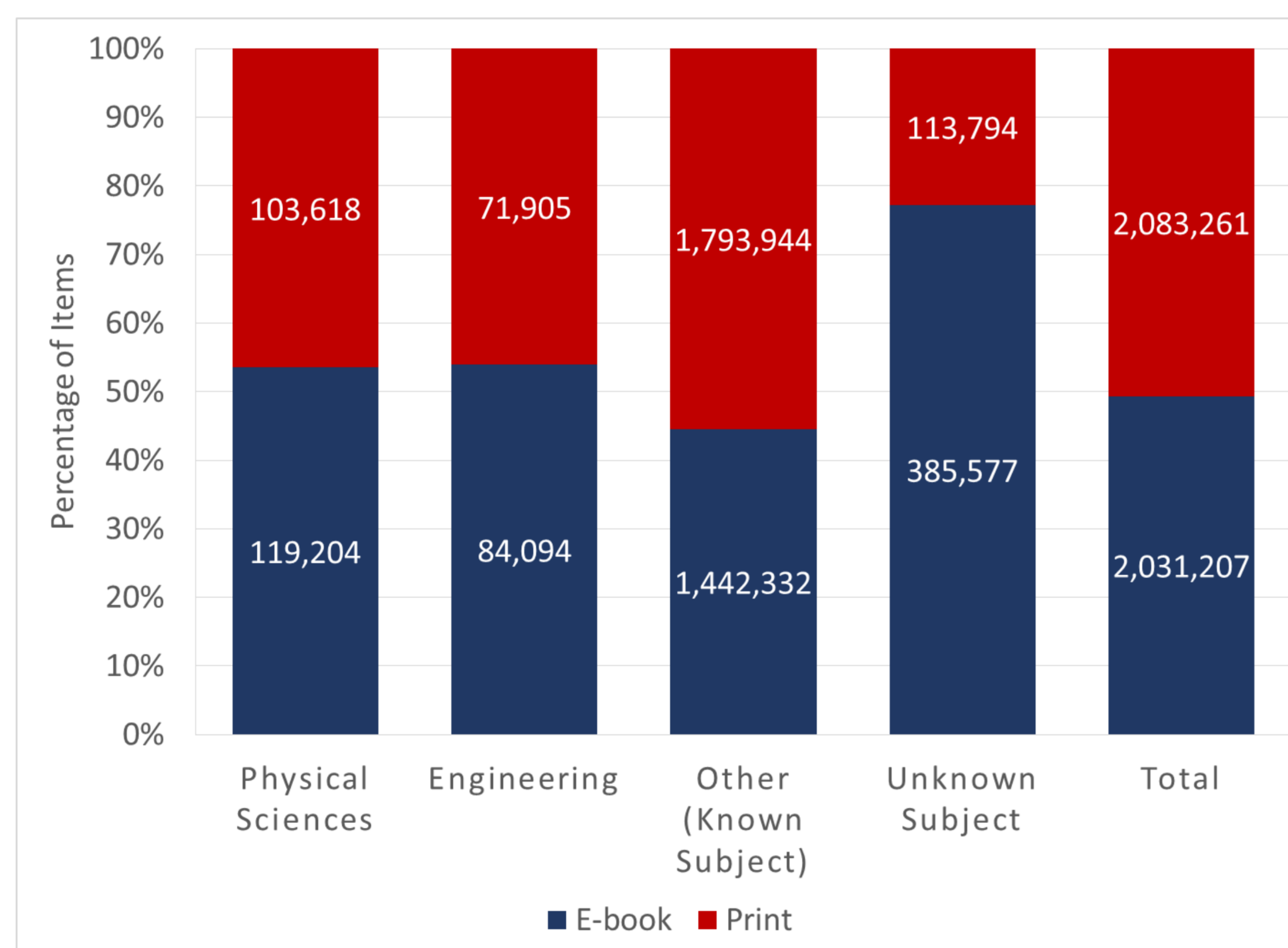
Acknowledgements

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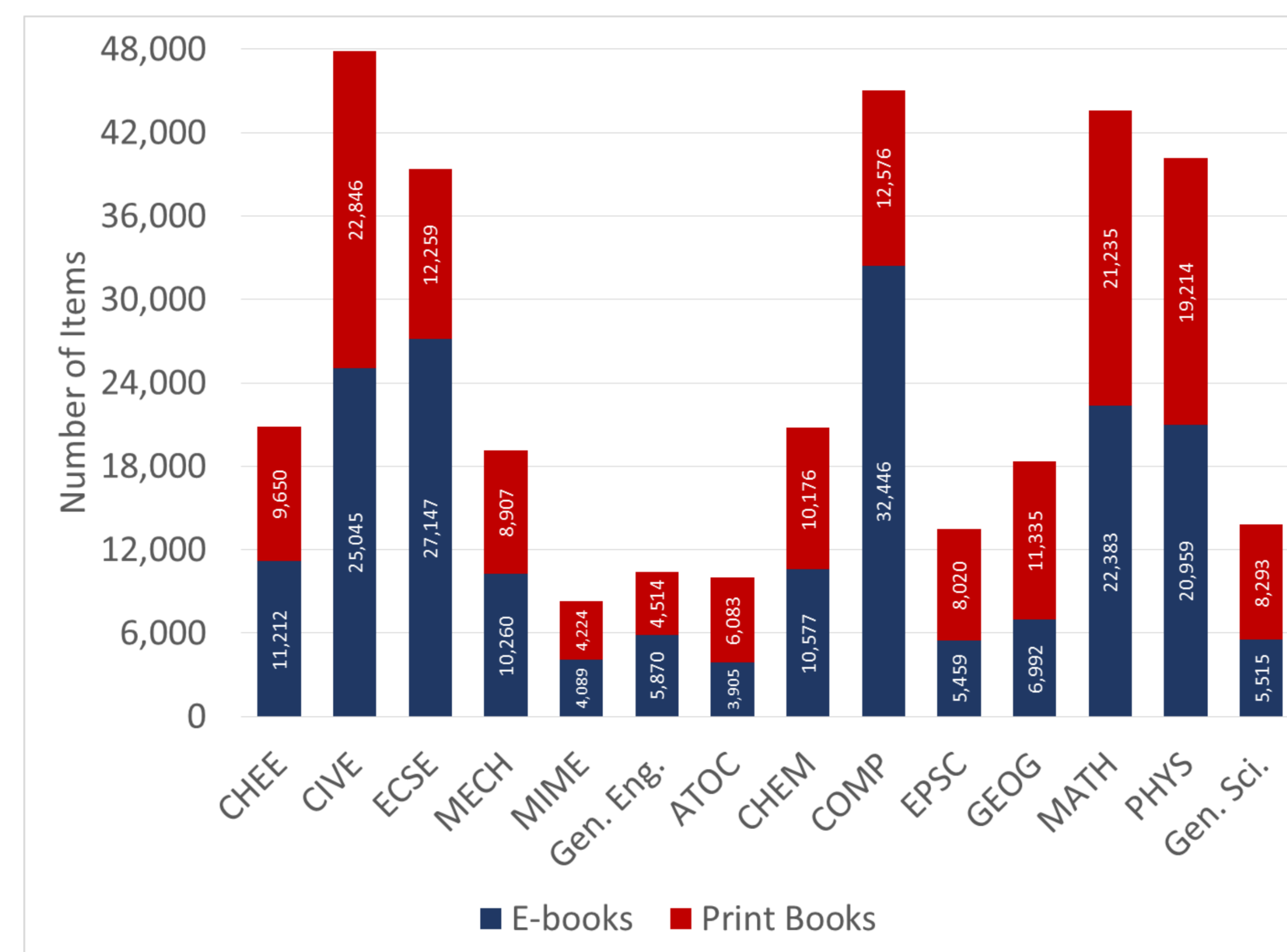
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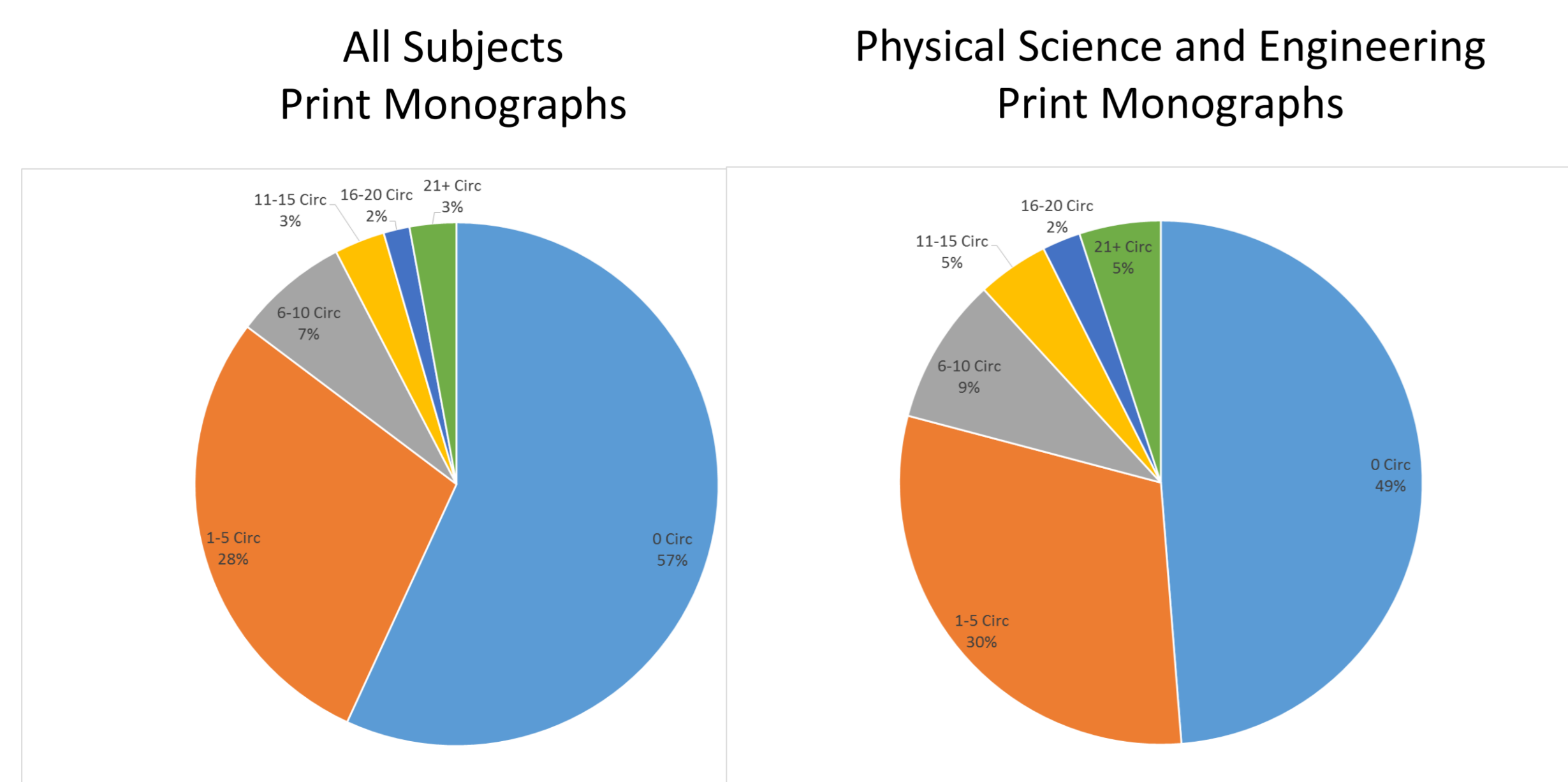
McGill's Monographs By Subject: Electronic vs. Print



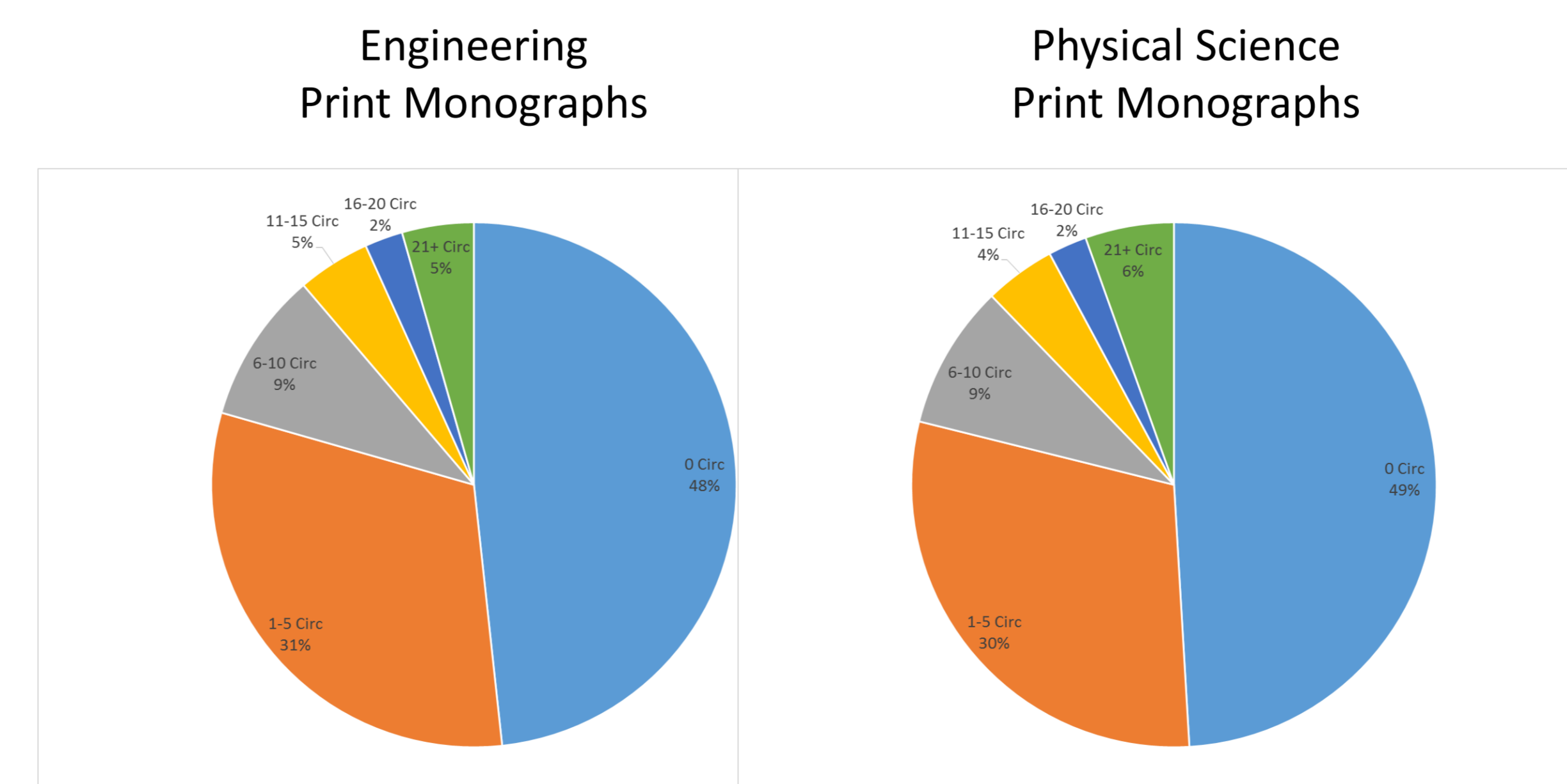
Physical Sciences and Engineering Collection: Electronic vs. Print



Circulation January 1, 2000 – November 18, 2014



Circulation January 1, 2000 – November 18, 2014



Engineering

Physical Sciences