
Book Trade Research and Statistics

Prices of U.S. and Foreign Published Materials

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The Library Materials Price Index (LMPI) Editorial Board of Core, a division of the American Library Association, continues to monitor prices for a range of library materials from sources within North America and other key publishing centers around the world.

The U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.4 percent in 2020. CPI figures are obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/>.

In 2017 all tables that utilized a base index price increase had their base year reset to 2010. All indexes continue to utilize the 2010 base year. Percent changes in average prices from 2016–2020 are conveniently noted in Chart 1.

Index	Average Price Percent Change				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
U.S. Consumer Price Index	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.4
U.S. Periodicals (Table 1)	7.1	5.6	5.7	6.7	6.8
Legal Serials Services (Table 2)	9.5	11.7	21.8*	10.9*	21.4
Hardcover Books (Table 3)	0.4	4.9	-11.8	0.9	-2.5
Academic Books (Table 4)	-11.6	16.6	0.0	-0.9	8.3
Academic E-Books (Table 4A)	-5.2	0.6	5.3	0.3	4.9
Academic TextBooks (Table 4B)	-3.1	0.3	-3.2	2.0	2.8
U.S. College Books (Table 5)	3.4	-2.8	-0.6	1.3	13.5
U.S. Mass market paperbacks (Table 6)	2.3	0.8	0.5	2.5	3.5
U.S. Paperbacks (Table 7)	20.3	-23.8	14.9	-15.6	-4.1
U.S. Audiobooks (Table 7A)	-16.7	29.3	14.1	1.6	0.2
U.S. E-Books (Table 7B)	-36.3	-20.3	0.7	0.4	6.5
+Serials (Table 8)	6.0	6.5	6.1*	6.1*	6.0
+Online Serials (Table 8A)	6.2	5.6	6.0*	6.4*	6.3
British academic books (Table 9)	9.9	-0.5	7.0	-1.8	-1.4

* = figures revised from previous editions based on new data

U.S. Published Materials

Tables 1 through 7B indicate average prices and price indexes for library materials published primarily in the United States. These indexes are U.S. Periodicals

(Table 1), Legal Serials Services (Table 2), U.S. Hardcover Books (Table 3), North American Academic Books (Table 4), North American Academic E-Books (Table 4A), North American Academic Textbooks (Table 4B), U.S. College Books (Table 5), U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books (Table 6), U.S. Paperbacks (Excluding Mass Market) (Table 7), U.S. Audiobooks (Table 7A), and U.S. E-Books (Table 7B).

Periodical and Serials Prices

The U.S. Periodical Price Index (USPPI) (Table 1) was reestablished in 2014 by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, and is here updated for 2021 using data supplied by EBSCO Information Services. This report includes 2017–2021 data indexed to the base year of 2010. Table 1 is derived from a selected set of titles that, as much as possible, will remain as the sample base for the index for future comparisons. The data in Table 1 are from a print preferred data pull, but over 52 percent of the titles in the index are based on online pricing, and only 26 percent are print only so that the data provide a strong mix of both print and online pricing, characteristic of a current academic library's serials collection. The subscription prices used are publishers' list prices, excluding publisher discount or vendor service charges. The pricing data for 2010–2014, the base years for the new USPPI, published in 2014, was created from one single report that pulled pricing information for a static set of titles for the five-year period. The pricing data for 2017–2021 is based on that same sampling of titles but is not an exact match due to changes that occur with serial titles. Some titles fell off the list due to pricing not being available, while other titles on the list for which pricing had not been available in 2014 now have pricing available.

The new USPPI treats a little more than 6,000 titles in comparison with the original title list, which covered only about 3,700 titles. The previous versions of the USPPI treated Russian translations as a separate category. Russian translations are no longer a focus of this index and are not tracked as a category. These were once seen as a major cost factor, but this is no longer the case, and therefore their inclusion in or exclusion from the index no longer makes sense. There are Russian translation titles in the index, but they are not reported separately.

The main barrier to creating this index is the difficulty of maintaining the title list and obtaining standard retail pricing for titles on the list. Changes in serials titles due to ceased publication, movement to open access, mergers, combining titles in packages, moving to direct orders, and publication delays are a few of the situations that can affect compilers' ability to obtain current pricing information. The new index retained that part of the title list from the previous index that remained viable and added new titles to that list based on data from EBSCO on the most frequently ordered serials in their system. From that list of serials, titles were selected for the new index to ensure that the distribution by subject was similar to the distribution in the original index. There are more titles in the selected title set than the number of titles that produced prices over the past six years. This should allow the current index to be sustainable into the future as titles fall off the list and pricing becomes available for titles that may have been delayed or are no longer in memberships.

The first five years of data, published in 2014, showed consistent price changes across subject areas due to the fact that the pricing data represented a historical look at the prices of the same set of journals. The data for 2017–2021 is based on the same sample list but is not the exact same list of titles as the data for 2010–2014 due to the issues mentioned above that can impact pricing availability. Across subject areas, the changes in price were significantly lower this year, reflecting the impact of the pandemic, showing an overall 2.3 percent increase. This is slightly lower than price changes seen in other pricing studies (see Table 8), which nearly all show a 3–4 percent increase. The 2.3 percent increase for 2021 is a marked decrease from the 6.7 percent increase seen in 2020. At the subject level, the sample sizes are smaller, so a few changes can cause a large swing in the overall price for that area. In 2021 price increases were consistent across subjects. There was only a variation from -3.6 to 4.3 percent as compared to the 2020 variance from 9.0 to 3.1 percent.

Direct comparisons between Table 1 and Table 8 should be avoided, especially at the subject level. Both tables show the overall rate of increase in serial prices to be around 3 percent; however, beyond that point, there is little that makes a statistically valid comparison. Table 8 has slightly higher overall average prices and higher prices in most subject areas. This is due to Table 8's larger set of data coming from a broad mix of sources including a much larger set of journals from foreign sources and a higher mix of STM titles. Table 1 is a mix of journals that attempts to reflect the journal collections in an average U.S. library, so the mix of journals contains more trade and popular titles than Table 8. Table 8 has more foreign titles and prices, which can be impacted by the strength of the U.S. dollar. Differences in the two datasets yield different results.

The most important trend seen in this data (Table 1) is that the consistent increases in prices that have averaged around 6 percent since 2010 have collapsed due to the impact of the pandemic on library budgets. Price increases for 2021 were half of what has been the norm for the past ten years. This year, titles in social science subjects (except for technology) dominate the list of areas with larger price increases but even those top out in the 3–4 percent range well below increases seen in the last decade. Average prices for journals in the science and technology area are still far higher than in other areas, and that trend continues, with the average cost of chemistry journals being \$5,883.69 and of physics journals being \$4,983.40.

In this price index, as with similar indexes, the accuracy of the average price percent change is closely tied to the number of titles in the sample size. Average price changes are far more volatile when utilizing small datasets. For that reason, conclusions drawn regarding price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles will be less accurate than for large areas or the broader price index. For example, technology journal prices went up 4.1 percent this year but to conclude that all journals in the technology area will increase a similar amount in the coming year is likely incorrect. If a specific inflation figure for a small subject area were needed, it would be better to look at an average over a longer period or the overall number for the price study (2.3 percent) than to use the actual numbers year-by-year. The variation in pricing is too volatile in smaller sample sizes to be

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Table 1 / U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2021

Index Base 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2010 Average Price	2017 Average Price	2018 Average Price	2019 Average Price	2020 Average Price	2021 Average Price	Percent Change 2020–2021	Index
Agriculture	S	241	\$579.48	\$986.13	\$1,036.38	\$1,108.28	\$1,173.76	\$1,216.54	3.6%	209.9
Anthropology	GN	54	373.64	534.23	567.65	604.61	632.59	652.36	3.1	174.6
Arts and Architecture	N	102	112.39	235.43	253.95	266.12	280.99	287.49	2.3	255.8
Astronomy	QB	29	1,793.08	2,600.94	2,747.68	2,873.15	3,068.11	2,956.53	-3.6	164.9
Biology	QH	420	2,053.06	3,014.94	3,181.34	3,380.48	3,554.67	3,619.48	1.8	176.3
Botany	QK	67	1,361.09	1,959.81	2,044.45	2,137.72	2,236.78	2,279.02	1.9	167.4
Business and Economics	HA-HJ	471	351.29	607.77	642.71	686.89	732.33	747.00	2.0	212.6
Chemistry	QD	156	3,396.26	4,769.18	5,052.35	5,407.17	5,789.22	5,883.69	1.6	173.2
Education	L	235	354.92	627.92	669.85	721.79	771.29	804.69	4.3	226.7
Engineering	T	567	1,244.39	2,050.37	2,178.10	2,339.61	2,517.49	2,583.59	2.6	207.6
Food Science	TX	46	356.17	785.80	874.78	918.54	995.71	1,032.36	3.7	289.9
General Science	Q	98	998.51	1,713.00	1,816.93	1,941.06	2,061.19	2,114.44	2.6	211.8
General Works	A	116	85.84	120.56	123.69	131.92	138.98	144.10	3.7	167.9
Geography	G-GF	88	670.60	1,132.40	1,200.02	1,289.83	1,383.22	1,438.81	4.0	214.6
Geology	QE	77	1,368.79	1,868.25	1,921.99	2,084.05	2,220.27	2,284.57	2.9	166.9
Health Sciences	R	911	1,009.55	1,633.56	1,728.81	1,850.41	1,996.87	2,060.95	3.2	204.1

History	C,D,E,F	316	202.39	320.56	339.02	362.17	383.63	396.76	3.4	196.0
Language and Literature	P	297	168.12	254.73	267.67	283.85	302.67	304.15	0.5	180.9
Law	K	211	214.01	376.27	399.79	416.75	437.04	448.90	2.7	209.8
Library Science	Z	94	290.02	421.38	442.78	474.26	508.05	518.03	2.0	178.6
Math and Computer Science	QA	357	1,242.13	1,802.85	1,923.22	2,041.23	2,206.99	2,259.08	2.4	181.9
Military and Naval Science	U,V	27	239.90	424.95	446.69	470.03	491.04	495.94	1.0	206.7
Music	M	52	82.18	163.65	171.27	179.95	190.23	195.16	2.6	237.5
Philosophy and Religion	B-BD, BH-BX	222	232.37	360.28	371.79	391.27	414.06	419.66	1.4	180.6
Physics	QC	163	2,845.54	4,080.84	4,308.80	4,584.79	4,892.19	4,983.40	1.9	175.1
Political Science	J	97	312.76	757.80	811.92	870.38	942.64	977.55	3.7	312.6
Psychology	BF	127	648.21	1,122.35	1,198.41	1,280.58	1,379.49	1,419.77	2.9	219.0
Recreation	GV	58	69.79	189.07	202.42	215.26	226.25	233.77	3.3	335.0
Social Sciences	H	46	351.40	792.27	829.16	878.52	925.56	927.29	0.2	263.9
Sociology	HM-HX	248	482.59	851.58	906.33	972.34	1,041.51	1,073.22	3.0	222.4
Technology	TA-TT	124	535.73	964.92	1,019.73	1,095.16	1,190.00	1,238.38	4.1	231.2
Zoology	QL	134	1,454.26	2,174.22	2,287.90	2,434.67	2,512.73	2,483.11	-1.2	170.7
Total		6,251	\$843.46	\$1,382.81	\$1,463.33	\$1,561.88	\$1,667.95	\$1,706.92	2.3%	202.4

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, based on subscription information supplied by Ebsco Information Services.

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comparable on a year-to-year basis. In a small sample size, the change in just one or two titles could easily have a large impact on the overall price for an area.

More extensive reports from the periodical price index have been published annually in the mid-April issue of *Library Journal* through 1992, in the May issue of *American Libraries* from 1993 to 2002, and in the October 2003 issue of *Library Resources and Technical Services*.

The Legal Serials Services Index (Table 2) is compiled by Ajaye Bloomstone, Louisiana State University Law Center Library, using data collected from various legal serials vendors. The base year for this index is 2010. This index presents price data covering the years 2010 through 2021.

As in past years, vendors were asked to provide cost data on particular titles with the assumption that the title or set has been held as an active subscription over a period of time by a large academic research law library. The cost recorded in the index is intended to be based on the upkeep of titles, not necessarily the cost incurred in purchasing a new set, though sometimes the cost is the same, and sometimes the cost of updates can be more expensive than purchasing a new set.

A nuance of legal publishing is that for some of the larger legal publishers, hard prices for a calendar year are not set at the beginning of the calendar year but halfway through, so only gross price estimates may be available in time for publication of this article. In addition to titles issued regularly (e.g., journals and law reviews), legal serials may also be updated throughout the year with both regular and irregular updates or releases, new editions, and new or revised volumes. If a title is updated irregularly, the price for its renewal may increase or decrease from one year to the next, depending on the publisher's plans for keeping the title current. It is noteworthy that although legal serials in print format are still produced, titles seem to be migrating, albeit slowly, to an electronic-only format.

Some prices were provided to the compiler with the caveat "no longer available for new sales." There is also a trend for titles purchased in print to come with

**Table 2 / Legal Serials Services:
Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2010–2021**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Year	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Index
2010	217	\$1,714.96	3.5	100.0
2011	217	1,904.69	11.1	111.1
2012	219	2,058.66	8.1	120.0
2013	218	2,241.42	8.9	130.7
2014	219	2,473.44	10.4	144.2
2015	218	2,818.02	13.9	164.3
2016	217	3,085.34	9.5	179.9
2017	218	3,446.12	11.7	200.9
2018	185	4,195.99	21.8	244.7
2019	191	4,653.97	10.9	271.4
2020	187	5,648.39	21.4	329.4
2021	187	\$6,775.64	20.0%	395.1

Compiled by Ajaye Bloomstone, Louisiana State University Law Center Library.

an electronic component. For such titles, the purchasing library may have no choice but to accept both formats even if the print is preferred. If one were able to purchase the print format without the electronic component, the cost might conceivably change. This leads one to believe that some titles may cease publication entirely.

For instance, if the publication is not to be phased out immediately, then the title might, at some point soon, no longer be available in print. In fact, more than 20 titles used to compile Table 2 ceased publication in 2019. To compensate for the loss of titles, new titles were added. The new titles were added with the intent to match the previous year's cost of the ceased publications plus the average percentage of an increase for the remainder of the titles from 2018 to 2019. Further decreases have occurred between 2019 and 2020 due to titles discontinuing print, ceasing altogether, or migrating to electronic format, though in terms of the titles tracked in this list over time, the number of titles which have ceased seems to have been curtailed, at least temporarily, for 2021.

Book Prices

U.S. Hardcover Books (Table 3), U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books (Table 6), U.S. Paperbacks (Excluding Mass Market) (Table 7), U.S. Audiobooks (Table 7A), and U.S. E-Books (Table 7B), prepared by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, are derived from data provided by book wholesaler Baker & Taylor. Figures for 2018 have been revised again in order to reflect additional late updates to the Baker & Taylor database. The Data for 2018 should not be considered finalized. The 2019 figures given here may be similarly revised in next year's tables and should be considered preliminary as are the 2020 figures. The figures for this edition of *Library and Book Trade Almanac* were provided by Baker & Taylor and are based on the Book Industry Study Group's BISAC categories. The BISAC juvenile category (fiction and nonfiction) is divided into children's and young adult. For more information on the BISAC categories, visit <http://www.bisg.org>.

List prices for hardcover books (Table 3) and U.S. paperback books (Table 7) showed declines of -2.5 percent and -4.1 percent, respectively. Mass market paperbacks (Table 6) exhibited an insignificant increase of 3.5 percent as did audiobooks (Table 7A) at 0.2 percent. E-Book prices (Table 7B) showed the largest increase in practice at 6.5 percent.

North American Academic Books (Table 4), North American Academic E-Books (Table 4A), and North American Academic Textbooks (Table 4B) are prepared by Stephen Bosch. The current version of North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2018–2020 (Table 4) has been stable for the past several years, so it is a good summary of change in the academic book market since 2010. Direct comparisons with earlier versions published before 2014 show variations since the number of titles treated and their average prices have changed. This is especially true for those versions published before 2009. Data for the current indexes are supplied by ProQuest Books (formerly Ingrams Content Group–Coutts Information Services) and by GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). Prior to ProQuest/Coutts supplying data, the book pricing data were obtained from Blackwell Book Services and YBP.

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Table 3 / Hardcover Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2017 Final			2018 Final			2019 Preliminary			2020 Preliminary			
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	
Antiques and collectibles	\$51.44	133	\$72.28	140.5	103	\$72.96	141.8	100	\$65.84	128.0	94	\$74.28	144.4
Architecture	85.52	1,045	114.32	133.7	908	95.80	112.0	917	94.73	110.8	881	94.38	110.4
Art	71.53	2,171	83.05	116.1	2,041	75.20	105.1	2,229	73.79	103.2	2,034	81.21	113.5
Bibles	37.50	254	40.99	109.3	251	44.42	118.5	186	54.85	146.3	199	50.09	133.6
Biography and autobiography	53.41	1,830	50.20	94.0	1,727	46.09	86.3	1,555	41.22	77.2	1,537	42.32	79.2
Body, mind, and spirit	36.91	196	27.36	74.1	214	25.60	69.4	279	26.23	71.1	313	22.09	59.8
Business and economics	134.61	5,912	173.56	128.9	4,612	162.44	120.7	4,346	142.47	105.8	4,155	134.20	99.7
Children	24.63	15,062	24.36	98.9	16,782	26.30	106.8	16,223	25.00	101.5	15,364	23.77	96.5
Comics and graphic novels	31.51	669	42.17	133.8	668	43.57	138.3	683	48.51	154.0	669	46.42	147.3
Computers	138.53	1,282	176.40	127.3	1,155	179.43	129.5	1,146	163.88	118.3	1,054	156.62	113.1
Cooking	30.91	1,221	29.77	96.3	1,158	29.85	96.6	1,109	30.12	97.5	926	31.84	103.0
Crafts and hobbies	33.28	172	32.07	96.4	188	31.04	93.3	158	32.17	96.7	144	32.55	97.8
Design	76.59	369	70.43	92.0	359	66.91	87.4	367	66.65	87.0	314	68.77	89.8
Drama	42.91	80	111.54	259.9	67	85.39	199.0	84	109.33	254.8	75	102.44	238.7
Education	117.59	3,672	155.59	132.3	2,822	271.54	230.9	2,591	170.41	144.9	2,436	178.78	152.0
Family and relationships	32.24	193	48.24	149.6	223	47.90	148.6	220	46.27	143.5	214	48.33	149.9
Fiction	5,329	5,329	29.55	91.8	4,964	29.46	91.5	5,021	29.67	92.2	4,103	29.91	92.9
Foreign language study	132.47	242	130.05	98.2	277	125.96	95.1	215	124.55	94.0	224	119.30	90.1
Games and activities	52.07	138	49.25	94.6	183	44.44	85.4	143	38.18	73.3	137	40.64	78.1
Gardening	36.42	133	45.85	125.9	124	37.87	104.0	120	39.60	108.7	110	35.67	98.0
Health and fitness	48.51	418	85.49	176.2	343	69.30	142.9	389	80.60	166.1	351	80.83	166.6
History	82.65	6,260	102.13	123.6	5,866	94.37	114.2	6,207	102.49	124.0	5,606	106.55	128.9
House and home	44.61	122	42.32	94.9	123	39.01	87.4	131	41.77	93.6	115	37.75	84.6
Humor	21.94	303	22.53	102.7	349	22.89	104.4	297	19.42	88.5	247	19.86	90.5

Language arts and disciplines	117.67	1,566	156.55	133.0	1,385	143.93	122.3	1,476	137.17	116.6	1,332	129.20	109.8
Law	174.48	2,565	186.22	106.7	2,384	182.75	104.7	2,275	173.44	99.4	2,292	179.29	102.8
Literary collections	83.49	296	102.43	122.7	253	86.96	104.2	268	134.18	160.7	247	117.76	141.0
Literary criticism	117.63	2,594	131.89	112.1	2,403	127.02	108.0	2,645	121.70	103.5	2,503	124.79	106.1
Mathematics	133.23	1,400	177.63	133.3	1,037	155.50	116.7	1,012	141.48	106.2	875	134.49	100.9
Medical	171.13	3,848	199.26	116.4	3,050	185.97	108.7	3,566	174.60	102.0	2,917	183.13	107.0
Music	87.84	695	102.10	116.2	603	90.93	103.5	672	94.86	108.0	650	92.66	105.5
Nature	74.89	538	103.88	138.7	424	85.60	114.3	464	93.75	125.2	448	83.19	111.1
Performing arts	76.27	946	124.11	162.7	822	102.14	133.9	779	117.51	154.1	808	98.95	129.7
Pets	24.66	103	27.74	112.5	70	21.65	87.8	56	27.31	110.7	61	22.35	90.6
Philosophy	108.93	1,687	122.75	112.7	1,668	109.55	100.6	1,899	112.23	103.0	1,775	117.80	108.1
Photography	107.99	930	75.58	70.0	851	71.38	66.1	819	69.96	64.8	803	57.94	53.7
Poetry	40.76	320	39.58	97.1	295	37.01	90.8	306	36.60	89.8	255	35.40	86.9
Political science	110.32	3,928	124.68	113.0	3,482	114.34	103.6	5,511	126.57	114.7	3,622	110.59	100.2
Psychology	109.85	1,842	163.93	149.2	1,449	149.40	136.0	2,744	143.01	130.2	1,191	143.53	130.7
Reference	302.69	357	382.04	126.2	340	382.33	126.3	313	278.60	92.0	199	395.09	130.5
Religion	80.88	3,020	83.86	103.7	3,126	79.06	97.7	2,713	86.60	107.1	2,744	85.32	105.5
Science	192.20	4,623	206.46	107.4	3,902	177.18	92.2	4,132	186.88	97.2	3,538	181.87	94.6
Self-help	27.11	361	29.37	108.3	425	25.98	95.8	431	24.01	88.6	402	22.87	84.4
Social science	100.47	5,765	141.00	140.3	4,709	127.86	127.3	5,357	126.65	126.1	4,144	122.93	122.4
Sports and recreation	41.23	646	66.08	160.3	603	56.24	136.4	537	51.71	125.4	490	54.99	133.4
Study aids	101.54	21	112.76	111.0	14	103.31	101.7	9	174.43	171.8	29	126.25	124.3
Technology and engineering	164.66	4,061	205.86	125.0	3,155	204.94	124.5	3,000	184.80	112.2	3,225	180.33	109.5
Transportation	84.28	278	74.42	88.3	289	62.23	73.8	285	74.60	88.5	222	82.49	97.9
Travel	41.32	283	39.83	96.4	482	40.52	98.1	233	42.01	101.7	230	36.23	87.7
True crime	34.83	66	29.63	85.1	84	33.53	96.3	109	37.92	108.9	85	59.94	172.1
Young adult	35.99	2,404	40.14	111.5	2,122	35.79	99.4	2,000	37.20	103.4	1,506	29.94	83.2
Totals and Averages	\$89.54	92,349	\$110.77	123.7	84,934	\$101.47	113.3	88,327	\$98.98	110.5	77,895	\$96.47	107.7

Compiled by Narda Tatari, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

Table 4 / North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2018–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2010			2018			2019			2020		
		Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change
Agriculture	S	1,139	\$107.44		1,586	\$114.09		1,915	\$115.92		1,969	\$127.89	10.3%
Anthropology	GN	609	91.96		790	98.31		857	94.56		918	103.45	9.4
Botany	QK	260	125.84		337	149.82		456	136.82		525	156.64	14.5
Business and economics	H	10,916	97.31		13,354	107.07		14,431	107.54		15,110	113.58	5.6
Chemistry	QD	667	223.03		791	200.68		918	191.15		926	215.75	12.9
Education	L	4,688	86.47		6,256	92.00		7,122	93.01		7,488	102.26	9.9
Engineering and technology	T	6,913	133.45		9,392	148.15		11,202	153.75		12,737	155.18	0.9
Fine and applied arts	M-N	5,535	57.17		6,869	77.19		7,694	74.66		7,456	82.74	10.8
General works	A	80	75.60		251	109.68		290	98.42		295	103.92	5.6
Geography	G	1,144	104.98		1,612	113.22		1,900	123.05		2,005	123.77	0.6
Geology	QE	276	114.34		351	123.12		429	133.49		404	119.64	-10.4
History	C-D-E-F	10,079	65.29		13,470	78.64		15,105	73.36		14,357	85.45	16.5
Home economics	TX	812	44.35		859	60.45		1,170	63.04		901	72.68	15.3
Industrial arts	TT	265	52.60		229	62.68		297	57.59		207	77.94	35.3
Language and literature	P	19,364	57.31		27,174	62.36		30,452	58.25		30,316	66.40	14.0
													119.0

Law	K	4,596	125.35	6,812	127.59	6,728	128.39	7,039	134.26	4.6	107.1
Library and information science	Z	636	90.18	926	110.28	921	99.72	912	101.49	1.8	112.5
Mathematics and computer science	QA	3,965	103.85	5,010	113.69	5,318	116.20	6,724	120.42	3.6	115.9
Medicine	R	8,679	112.66	11,147	126.05	12,452	137.62	12,982	135.98	-1.2	120.7
Military and naval science	U-V	773	79.99	1,162	79.21	1,391	78.80	1,429	78.83	0.0	98.5
Philosophy and religion	B	7,386	81.75	11,369	83.89	12,153	80.10	12,020	85.98	7.3	105.2
Physical education and recreation	GV	1,788	56.03	2,559	69.03	2,983	71.12	3,028	76.19	7.1	136.0
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,627	128.36	2,107	143.00	2,342	127.36	2,297	131.51	3.3	102.5
Political science	J	3,549	99.70	5,310	102.70	5,991	96.67	5,919	103.36	6.9	103.7
Psychology	BF	1,730	76.65	2,717	83.32	2,944	82.11	2,965	94.77	15.4	123.6
Science (general)	Q	631	108.40	954	107.42	1,175	112.86	1,696	134.16	18.9	123.8
Sociology	HM	6,666	88.75	10,276	93.29	11,518	89.35	11,870	100.38	12.3	113.1
Zoology	QH,QL-QR	3,029	140.26	3,438	133.32	3,916	133.28	3,843	137.87	3.4	98.3
Totals and Averages		107,802	\$89.15	147,108	\$96.73	164,070	\$95.87	168,338	\$103.87	8.3%	116.5

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest (formerly Ingrams Content Group-Coutts Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represent all titles (includes e-books, hardcover, trade, and paperback books, as well as annuals) treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed. This index does include paperback editions and electronic books. The inclusion of these items does impact pricing in the index.

Table 4A / North American Academic E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2018–2020
 Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2010		2018		2019		2020		Percent Change 2019–2020	Index
		Titles	Average Price	Titles	Average Price	Titles	Average Price	Titles	Average Price		
Agriculture	S	697	\$168.73	706	\$133.99	874	\$132.96	961	\$146.83	10.4%	87.0
Anthropology	GN	385	109.96	364	104.30	393	103.92	435	114.52	10.2	104.1
Botany	QK	190	175.23	146	174.31	193	159.51	257	168.72	5.8	96.3
Business and economics	H	8,481	102.87	6,519	117.21	6,797	118.09	7,625	123.43	4.5	120.0
Chemistry	QD	521	232.57	388	209.77	446	186.38	499	228.23	22.5	98.1
Education	L	2,852	99.96	2,839	104.20	3,231	101.52	3,660	114.12	12.4	114.2
Engineering and technology	T	4,976	152.33	4,424	163.46	5,281	165.33	6,404	165.47	0.1	108.6
Fine and applied arts	M-N	1,493	83.35	2,213	101.64	2,338	96.52	2,822	106.81	10.7	128.1
General works	A	53	89.13	98	101.13	132	97.67	148	108.32	10.9	121.5
Geography	G	829	117.83	755	125.77	828	141.23	993	135.83	-3.8	115.3
Geology	QE	178	146.85	148	141.93	186	152.31	171	133.30	-12.5	90.8
History	C-D-EF	5,189	89.42	5,936	92.25	6,233	87.41	6,582	94.95	8.6	106.2
Home economics	TX	211	78.08	293	86.37	435	81.29	407	92.92	14.3	119.0
Industrial arts	TT	23	46.11	53	93.52	77	66.08	77	109.80	66.2	238.2
Language and literature	P	7,664	103.12	9,657	90.07	10,276	81.88	11,922	92.77	13.3	90.0

Law	K	2,433	147.66	2,786	139.62	2,650	147.22	3,256	146.01	-0.8	98.9
Library and information science	Z	387	89.43	376	119.59	378	111.23	383	113.09	1.7	126.5
Mathematics and computer science	QA	3,000	112.65	2,092	127.44	2,231	128.80	3,376	131.14	1.8	116.4
Medicine	R	6,404	134.60	5,190	142.45	5,741	164.83	6,297	153.95	-6.6	114.4
Military and naval science	U-V	487	105.07	518	89.70	598	93.88	663	89.29	-4.9	85.0
Philosophy and religion	B	4,262	110.31	5,163	96.99	5,189	94.03	5,983	96.13	2.2	87.1
Physical education and recreation	GV	791	76.57	1,161	84.05	1,257	89.00	1,437	91.84	3.2	119.9
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,288	147.50	985	166.71	1,078	145.53	1,154	148.24	1.9	100.5
Political science	J	2,638	110.10	2,690	112.97	2,738	110.76	2,944	114.09	3.0	103.6
Psychology	BF	1,062	91.35	1,343	96.84	1,342	95.97	1,460	110.12	14.7	120.6
Science (general)	Q	462	122.51	403	119.28	495	125.52	874	140.77	12.2	114.9
Sociology	HM	4,520	103.73	4,910	105.57	5,140	103.29	5,803	113.97	10.3	109.9
Zoology	QH, QL-R	2,336	164.82	1,514	149.98	1,655	152.48	1,803	160.50	5.3	97.4
Totals and Averages		63,812	\$116.25	63,670	\$114.61	68,212	\$114.95	78,396	\$120.64	4.9%	103.8

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest (formerly Ingrams Content Group-Coutts Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represent all e-book titles treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed. It is important to note that e-books that were released in a given year may have been published in print much earlier.

Table 4B / North American Academic Textbooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2018–2020
(Index Base: 2010 = 100)

Subject Area	LC Class	2010			2018			2019			2020			
		Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	
Agriculture	S	49	\$115.80		64	\$136.09		65	\$133.22		98	\$138.63	4.1%	119.7
Anthropology	GN	35	90.65		56	91.22		54	103.15		47	99.66	-3.4	109.9
Botany	QK	11	109.52		7	77.83		8	119.10		21	143.66	20.6	131.2
Business and economics	H	694	121.36		1,070	117.33		1,058	121.32		1,073	117.37	-3.3	96.7
Chemistry	QD	94	134.59		115	151.54		109	130.15		131	157.96	21.4	117.4
Education	L	271	87.75		418	86.98		525	83.92		419	95.97	14.4	109.4
Engineering and technology	T	744	116.38		1,039	132.04		1,142	141.11		1,229	146.31	3.7	125.7
Fine and applied arts	M-N	73	93.33		119	95.92		171	104.39		142	96.90	-7.2	103.8
General works	A	0	0.00		9	77.86		6	114.52		7	109.84	-4.1	n.a.
Geography	G	78	105.21		106	108.43		127	121.51		101	128.18	5.5	121.8
Geology	QE	36	117.97		28	141.86		46	165.25		36	152.19	-7.9	129.0
History	C-D-E-F	81	81.49		219	95.69		158	91.78		133	96.79	5.5	118.8
Home economics	TX	39	89.52		38	116.56		39	145.85		35	146.18	0.2	163.3
Industrial arts	TT	14	84.72		14	116.57		6	99.87		8	87.86	-12.0	103.7
Language and literature	P	309	77.71		563	81.68		559	89.22		561	103.08	15.5	132.6

Law	K	242	102.09	484	107.95	464	120.14	393	123.34	2.7	120.8
Library and information science	Z	19	70.30	45	84.37	33	70.01	26	85.31	21.9	121.3
Mathematics and computer science	QA	683	96.11	1,072	114.87	997	117.72	1,073	119.49	1.5	124.3
Medicine	R	1512	126.75	1,840	141.32	2,153	138.65	1,832	138.27	-0.3	109.1
Military and naval science	U-V	3	122.65	29	106.12	27	138.42	25	154.76	11.8	126.2
Philosophy and religion	B	101	72.13	158	70.07	179	70.29	141	69.93	-0.5	97.0
Physical education and recreation	GV	51	79.39	106	106.38	129	96.87	98	110.60	14.2	139.3
Physics and astronomy	QB	243	107.38	397	140.64	402	131.64	390	130.44	-0.9	121.5
Political science	J	110	80.09	232	96.94	267	92.27	216	93.41	1.2	116.6
Psychology	BF	138	95.95	170	119.55	210	120.23	167	109.64	-8.8	114.3
Science (general)	Q	33	97.14	66	101.15	79	95.33	100	111.17	16.6	114.4
Sociology	HM	353	86.97	596	102.94	674	102.18	507	104.30	2.1	119.9
Zoology	QH, QL-QR	227	109.82	313	131.79	354	139.56	335	138.44	-0.8	126.1
Totals and Averages		6,243	\$107.94	9,373	\$117.79	10,041	\$120.16	9,344	\$123.49	2.8%	114.4

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest (formerly Ingrams Content Group-Coutts Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represent all textbook titles treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed.

n.a. = not available

(continued from page 337)

Over time, the data and the data suppliers have changed due to changes in the industry. When compared with earlier versions, the North American Academic Books Price Index (NAABPI) now contains many more titles in the source data, which has affected the index considerably. ProQuest Books treats far more titles in their approval programs than the former Blackwell Book Services. For indexes published before 2009, Blackwell was a supplier of data for the index. Blackwell was purchased in 2009 by YBP, and the vendor data used to create the index changed at that time. After 2009 the data came from Ingram (Coutts) and YBP; prior to 2009 the data came from Blackwell and YBP. With recent changes at both ProQuest and GOBI, there have been changes to how the annual price data are pulled for books. Starting in 2016, each vendor supplied data in separate files for print, e-books, and textbooks. Prior to 2016, this was not the case, and this change caused large variations in the numbers of titles in the tables as well the average prices. The data for 2014 was normalized in 2016 to conform to the current sets of data, so the numbers of titles and prices have changed from those published in 2015 and previous years. In the future, this approach to gathering the data, separate data files for print, electronic, and texts, will improve the consistency of the data, especially for e-books. Another major change was made in 2017, when the base index year was moved to 2010 to provide consistency across the various indexes published by the Library Materials Price Index Committee.

The overall average price for books in the North American Academic Books Price Index (Table 4) rose by a significant 8.3 percent in 2020. This marked increase following years of relatively stable pricing was due mainly to growth in the number of e-books in the index. E-books in 2020 increased by about 10,000 titles while print titles decreased by about 4,000. A possible driver is the impact of the pandemic, as print was far less useful due to library closures and to the library market wanting online access. The overall number of titles has been volatile, going from 161,020 in 2017 to 147,108 in 2018, then jumping to 164,070 in 2019 and to 168,338 in 2020. The overall growth in available titles, as well as increasing prices, are pressure points for library budgets. The increase in price in 2020 was primarily due to a large increase in the number of titles available in the higher price ranges, as e-books are about 20 percent more expensive than print books. There were approximately 6,000 fewer titles treated in the lowest price ranges. Many of these books were print books. Since print books tend to be less expensive than e-books, the higher cost of e-books was a driver in the overall price increase. Overall, the ratio of print to electronic has been growing, with e-books comprising 43 percent of the titles in 2018, dropping slightly to 42 percent in 2019 and increasing to 47 percent in 2020.

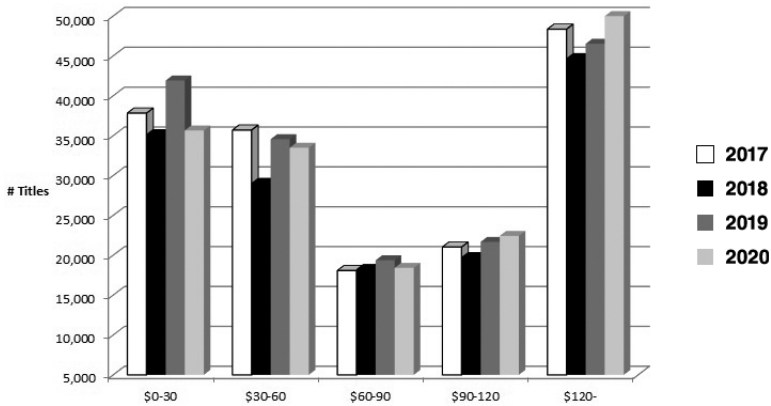
Since 2008, two additional indexes have been available, one for e-books only (Table 4A) and another for textbooks (Table 4B). Based on users' high interest, the indexes continue to be published. In 2017 the base index was set to 2010. In the academic market, it has always been assumed that e-books are more expensive than their print counterparts. The cheaper versions of e-books available to consumers through such channels as Amazon and Google Books are not available to libraries at similar prices, if they are available at all in the library market. At best, the academic pricing will match the print price for single-user license

models, with multiuser models being far more expensive than print. The e-book index points out this difference in price: the average price of an e-book in 2020 was \$120.64 while the average price for all books was \$103.87. The average price of a print book drops to \$81.07 if the e-books are removed from the overall index. The high price for e-books is not that surprising, as most pricing models for academic e-books generally charge a higher price than the list print price for access to the e-books. Another factor is that STEM publishing has migrated more quickly to electronic formats for books, with social science and humanities slower to adopt digital publishing. STEM books have always been more expensive than other subjects, so this contributes to the higher cost for e-books. Over the past two years, it is becoming common practice for single-user licenses to be priced at the same price as print. Multiuser licenses are still significantly more expensive than print. Responding to customer demands, publishers and vendors offer e-books on multiple platforms with multiple pricing models; consequently, there can be multiple prices for the same title. For these indexes, only the first license level (normally single-user) is included in the data. Where multiple prices are available for different use models, the lowest price is included in the index. Because electronic access is a major market trend, it is appropriate to have e-books as a separate index. It is also important to note that the e-book market is rapidly changing. The approach of using the lowest price available for e-books may be artificially keeping the average price of e-books low for libraries that generally buy multiuser licenses. Taking advantage of the pandemic market, e-book prices increased just under 5 percent for 2020.

The cost of textbooks has been a hot topic on many college campuses. The index for textbooks (Table 4B) documents price changes in this area. The data show that textbooks tend to be more expensive than other types of books, with an average price of \$123.49 in 2020. This represents a 4.8 percent increase. Over the past two years, the price had held flat at around \$121. That was good news for students, but textbooks remain more expensive than regular print or e-books. Note that this index does not measure the impact of new programs like inclusive access for textbooks. Only changes in the publisher's retail price is measured. The flat increases in previous years seemed to be a positive trend as it seemed textbook publishers were responding to market pressure and resisting large price increases. That ended in 2020 as the pandemic market showed a close to 5 percent increase. Textbooks are expensive, and the prices are not yet dropping significantly. Pressure on the textbook market from alternative sources, like rental services for either print or electronic versions or resales of used copies, may have slowed price increases but has not resulted in an overall significant price drop. "E" versions are included in the textbook index, so migration to "e" format does not seem to be lowering costs. This is not much consolation for cash-strapped students.

The average price of North American academic books in 2020 (Table 4) increased by 8.3 percent as compared with the 2019 average price. This is mainly due to changes in the number of titles treated in the lower part of the price bands (below \$30) and an increase in the most expensive books (see Figure 1). There was only modest growth in the number of titles published between 2018 and 2019 with the exception of the price bands below \$60. This led to the slight decrease in pricing in 2019, but the drop in titles costing less than \$30 also helped drive prices up in 2020.

Figure 1 / Number of Titles in Sample Grouped by Price



One thing that stands out when looking at the data is that the price bands at the highest end (\$120 and up) continue to have a huge impact on the costs for books. The impact on pricing from the titles in the \$120 and up price band is confirmed if you look at the actual dollar values in groups (sum of all prices for titles in the group). The increase at the top end of the index was the main component in the overall changes in the index for 2017–2020 as well as the minimal growth leading to no increase in 2019. In 2019 the growth in the highest range could not offset the greater growth in the lower ranges, but in 2020 the drop in the low-priced books and the increase in the most expensive books resulted in the 8.3 percent increase. Again, changes in the number of titles available is a significant driver in the increase or decrease in costs, as within the price bands the average price remains constant except for the area with prices over \$120. Unlike serials, where inflation in price drives higher costs, these data show that changes in the number of titles were the primary driver in escalating costs, rather than inflationary increases in price. (See Figures 2 and 3.)

The data used for this index are derived from all titles treated by ProQuest Books (formerly Ingrams Content Group Coutts Information Services) and GOBI Library Solutions in their approval plans during the calendar years listed. The index includes e-books as well as paperback editions as supplied by these vendors, and this inclusion of paperbacks and e-books as distributed as part of the approval plans has influenced the prices reflected in the index figures. The index is inclusive of the broadest categories of materials, as that is the marketplace in which academic libraries operate, and the index attempts to chart price changes impacting that market.

Price changes vary, as always, among subject areas. This year there were several double-digit increases in subject areas, and two areas showed price decreases. The 2020 data indicate that those areas with the largest increases were not concentrated in one area but included all broad subject areas. Overall prices for books in the STM (science, technology, medicine) subjects are still higher than for

Figure 2 / Comparison of Total Costs in Sample Grouped by Price

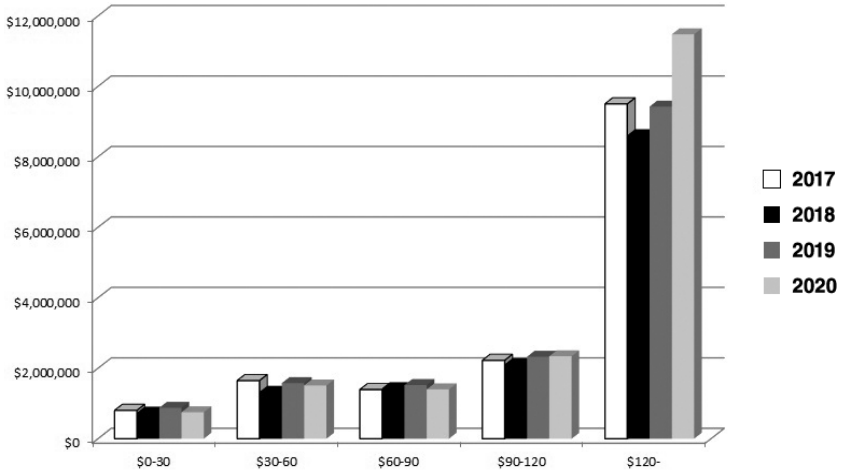
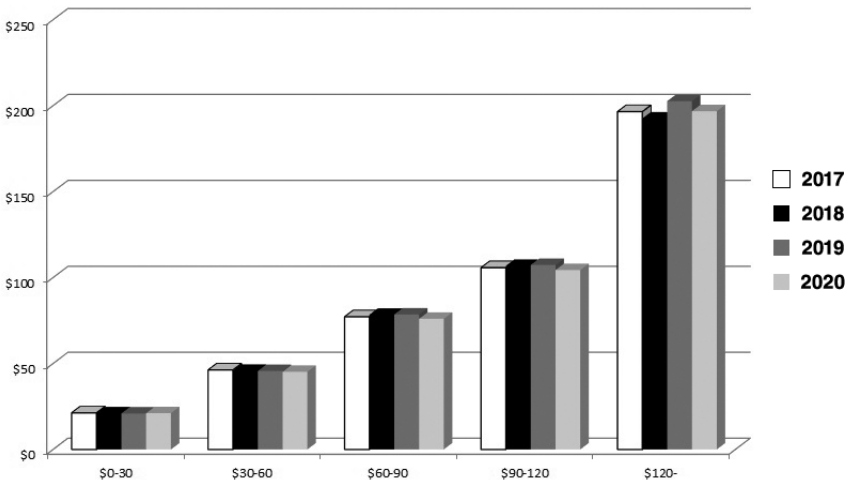


Figure 3 / Comparison of Average Price Grouped by Price Band



the humanities. STM publishers have tended to be early adopters of e-books and have been publishing e-books for a while. The high average prices in the sciences reflect the availability and higher pricing of e-books as well as the overall high cost of STM books.

It is worth reiterating here that price indexes become less accurate at describing price changes the smaller the sample becomes. Industrial arts is a small sample (207 titles) for which a large price change of 35.3 percent occurred in 2020, but it would be a mistake to conclude that all books in that subject area increased or decreased commensurately. In small samples, inclusion/exclusion of just a few expensive or low-priced items can have a major impact on prices for the category. The increases in industrial arts, for example, were due to increases in expensive titles coupled with a large drop in the number of low-priced titles that showed up in this year's data. This caused a spike in the average price over last year. Because the sample is very small, these changes caused the overall price to jump dramatically.

The U.S. College Books Price Index (Table 5), prepared by Narda Tafuri, contains average price and index number data for the years 2018 through 2020, and the percentage change in price between 2019 and 2020. In 2017 the index base year was reset to 2010. Previous instances of this table have an index base year of 1989.

Data for the index was compiled from 3,502 reviews of books published in *Choice* during 2020. An additional six print titles reviewed in *Choice* were omitted from the analysis due to price (\$500 or more). These books were removed from the analysis so that the average prices were not skewed. The total number of books reviewed for this analysis has declined by -23.08 percent from the previous year's total of 4,553 titles due to the pandemic. This index includes some paperback prices; as a result, the average price of books is less than if only hardcover books were included.

For 2020 the overall average price for books in the humanities, sciences, and social and behavioral sciences (including reference books) was \$82.98, an increase of 13.5 percent from the average 2019 price of \$73.11. The average price of reference books was \$119.54, a slight decrease of -7.18 percent from the previous year's average price of \$128.78. When excluding reference books, the average 2020 book price was \$81.70, a 16.12 percent increase from the average 2019 price of \$70.36.

The average 2020 price for humanities titles increased by 2.48 percent over the previous year. The average price for science and technology titles increased by 40.19 percent, while the price for social and behavioral sciences titles increased by 17.73 percent. Since 2010, there has been an overall book price increase of 25.22 percent when reference books are included.

When calculated separately, the average 2020 price of reference books decreased slightly by -7.18 percent from the previous year. This continues a trend seen last year of steadily declining costs of reference books. The overall price of reference books has seen large fluctuations over the past several years.

Questions regarding this index may be addressed to the author at narda.tafuri@scranton.edu.

(text continues on page 362)

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2018–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	2010			2018			2019			2020			Percent Change 2019–2020		
	Average Price	Titles	Indexed	Average Price	Titles	Indexed	Average Price	Titles	Indexed	Average Price	Titles	Indexed			
			to 2017			to 2018			to 2019			to 2019			
HUMANITIES	91	\$58.99	121.29	49	\$71.55	103.83	47	\$81.60	138.33	114.05	43	\$72.40	122.73	88.73	-11.27%
Art and architecture	149	61.69	107.00	118	66.01	99.04	117	70.57	114.39	106.91	90	67.44	109.32	95.56	-4.44
Fine Arts	92	67.13	90.50	54	60.75	104.44	54	61.24	91.23	100.81	51	59.71	88.95	97.50	-2.50
Architecture	48	61.53	106.45	37	65.50	84.28	39	75.49	122.69	115.25	20	76.47	124.28	101.29	1.29
Photography	28	53.02	116.73	10	61.89	106.63	6	73.33	138.31	118.48	15	58.98	111.24	80.43	-19.57
Communication	112	59.97	115.92	83	69.52	106.30	52	72.94	121.63	104.92	48	78.05	130.15	107.01	7.01
Language and literature	94	68.66	128.14	61	87.98	114.11	82	82.60	120.30	93.88	58	84.00	122.34	101.69	1.69
African and Middle Eastern	24	62.28	124.17	12	77.33	149.60	6	64.17	103.03	82.98	8	80.49	129.24	125.43	25.43
Asian and Oceanian	24	71.99	106.74	13	76.84	86.05	17	78.53	109.08	102.20	12	70.08	97.35	89.24	-10.76
Classical	24	78.76	118.96	23	93.69	134.44	28	89.41	113.52	95.43	19	72.96	92.64	81.60	-18.40
English and American	394	61.96	127.44	201	78.96	114.34	227	80.68	130.21	102.18	167	80.17	129.39	99.37	-0.63
Germanic	22	70.36	115.31	21	81.13	108.17	21	87.55	124.43	107.91	13	84.28	119.78	96.26	-3.74
Romance	70	59.00	137.08	35	80.88	111.87	32	79.94	135.49	98.84	25	74.03	125.47	92.61	-7.39
Slavic	32	35.95	222.53	11	80.00	131.82	17	81.40	226.98	102.00	14	62.91	174.99	77.10	-22.90
Performing arts	30	61.97	124.06	9	76.88	101.25	14	84.45	136.28	109.85	8	83.74	147.14	99.16	-0.84
Film	130	64.13	127.91	85	82.03	91.82	114	89.53	139.61	109.14	73	91.18	123.34	101.84	1.84
Music	123	61.01	111.82	85	68.22	95.68	93	76.14	124.80	111.61	61	79.10	153.01	103.89	3.89
Theater and dance	45	62.38	121.40	23	75.73	85.54	44	80.01	128.26	105.65	21	93.35	146.55	116.67	16.67
Philosophy	198	63.45	119.48	186	75.81	97.72	232	74.13	116.83	97.78	119	91.42	122.47	123.32	23.32
Religion	272	57.18	116.16	196	66.42	101.19	196	69.99	122.40	105.37	150	77.71	137.83	111.03	11.03
TOTAL HUMANITIES	2,002	\$61.60	119.33	1,312	\$73.51	103.24	1,438	\$76.90	124.84	104.61	1,015	\$78.81	127.94	102.48	2.48
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	110	\$58.09	101.24	82	\$58.81	99.97	95	\$60.44	104.05	102.77	35	\$65.26	112.34	107.97	7.97
History of science and technology	78	54.10	107.97	51	58.41	85.11	59	57.41	106.12	98.29	42	74.00	136.78	128.90	28.90
Astronautics and astronomy	63	55.58	93.41	50	51.92	89.67	41	54.00	97.16	104.01	21	69.65	125.31	128.98	28.98

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2018–2020 (cont.)
 Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	2010			2018			2019			2020			Percent Change 2019–2020		
	Average Price	Titles	Indexed/Indexed to 2010	Average Price	Titles	Indexed/Indexed to 2010	Average Price	Titles	Indexed/Indexed to 2010	Average Price	Titles	Indexed/Indexed to 2010			
Biology	151	\$72.74	76	\$59.55	81.87	94.30	95	\$72.01	99.00	120.92	60	\$98.09	134.85	136.22	36.22
Botany	85	85.09	63	59.98	70.49	85.77	70	56.79	66.74	94.68	20	94.43	110.98	166.28	66.28
Zoology	121	64.33	74	60.81	94.53	96.45	96	62.41	97.02	102.63	43	84.71	131.68	135.73	35.73
Chemistry	42	115.42	21	101.78	88.18	83.76	13	102.74	89.01	100.94	12	141.21	122.34	137.44	37.44
Earth science	102	63.33	79	66.39	104.83	93.04	68	74.46	117.57	112.16	36	78.65	124.19	105.63	5.63
Engineering	103	88.38	47	93.51	105.80	87.89	43	80.28	90.84	85.85	56	136.71	154.68	170.29	70.29
Health sciences	146	56.14	102	66.77	118.93	100.24	195	69.78	124.30	104.51	129	98.85	176.08	141.66	41.66
Information and computer science	83	73.50	59	59.41	80.83	93.08	66	77.36	105.25	130.21	45	92.86	126.34	120.04	20.04
Mathematics	108	61.97	81	77.71	125.40	100.90	74	81.00	130.71	104.23	51	94.45	152.41	116.60	16.60
Physics	50	54.74	39	69.52	127.00	85.21	39	63.49	115.98	91.33	34	127.39	232.72	200.65	100.65
Sports and physical education	67	54.06	63	55.41	102.50	79.80	87	62.40	115.43	112.62	43	71.78	132.78	115.03	15.03
TOTAL SCIENCE	1,309	\$67.13	887	\$65.15	97.05	91.30	1,041	\$67.83	101.04	104.11	627	\$95.09	141.65	140.19	40.19
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	129	\$66.32	64	\$77.53	116.90	96.35	43	\$70.20	105.85	90.55	118	\$83.26	125.54	118.60	18.60
Anthropology	139	63.60	85	79.38	124.81	93.44	95	89.67	140.99	112.96	117	93.06	146.32	103.78	3.78
Business management and labor	150	58.00	95	51.53	88.84	98.04	69	53.52	92.28	103.86	68	68.31	117.78	127.63	27.63
Economics	270	61.16	114	56.48	92.35	88.54	105	60.99	99.72	107.99	70	69.38	113.44	113.76	13.76
Education	158	62.56	26	74.18	118.57	102.60	43	72.74	116.27	98.06	123	82.02	131.11	112.76	12.76
History, geography and area studies	154	58.16	95	66.02	113.51	91.28	63	58.55	100.67	88.69	89	84.21	144.79	143.83	43.83
Africa	38	69.05	31	68.20	98.77	96.96	17	72.77	105.39	106.70	37	91.73	132.85	126.05	26.05
Ancient history	49	57.90	51	86.00	148.53	115.08	39	86.19	148.86	100.22	37	79.90	138.00	92.70	-7.30
Asia and Oceania	72	60.88	65	73.55	120.81	104.05	71	64.47	105.90	87.65	75	84.90	139.45	131.69	31.69

<i>Central and Eastern Europe</i>	56	66.53	65	76.17	114.49	107.21	31	67.21	101.02	88.24	38	80.53	121.04	119.82	19.82
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	54	59.31	59	75.24	126.86	97.07	49	76.56	129.08	101.75	44	80.26	135.32	104.83	4.83
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	43	65.57	36	69.60	106.15	115.27	28	66.12	100.84	95.00	69	81.47	124.25	123.22	23.22
<i>North America</i>	444	45.50	343	54.62	120.04	108.52	245	48.96	107.60	89.64	184	58.60	128.79	119.69	19.69
<i>United Kingdom</i>	80	69.56	78	70.68	101.61	95.05	39	56.44	81.14	79.85	46	75.65	108.76	134.04	34.04
<i>Western Europe</i>	138	59.14	110	85.13	143.95	113.49	74	61.88	104.63	72.69	65	78.91	133.43	127.52	27.52
Political science	4	84.36	60	62.46	74.04	106.68	58	74.12	87.86	118.67	26	81.20	96.25	109.55	9.55
<i>Comparative politics</i>	183	66.34	201	67.63	101.94	104.90	115	71.06	107.11	105.07	38	89.07	134.26	125.34	25.34
<i>International relations</i>	213	65.64	141	61.58	93.81	99.53	91	57.20	87.14	92.89	67	98.19	149.59	171.66	71.66
<i>Political theory</i>	73	56.74	127	73.98	130.38	104.02	104	72.32	127.46	97.76	45	79.02	139.27	109.26	9.26
<i>U.S. politics</i>	253	53.03	178	63.46	119.67	103.98	125	60.62	114.31	95.52	122	61.61	116.18	101.63	1.63
Psychology	126	60.55	137	71.95	118.83	99.47	189	81.34	134.34	113.05	82	77.96	128.75	95.84	-4.16
Sociology	226	60.71	145	72.71	119.77	91.46	167	71.12	117.15	97.81	181	83.50	137.54	117.41	17.41
TOTAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	3,052	\$59.09	2,306	\$67.28	113.86	101.05	1,860	\$66.73	112.93	99.18	1,741	\$78.56	132.95	117.73	17.73
TOTAL GENERAL HUMANITIES, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (without Reference)	6,363	\$61.53	4,505	\$68.68	111.62	99.42	4,339	\$70.36	114.35	102.45	3,383	\$81.70	132.78	116.12	16.12
REFERENCE															
General	29	\$61.17	19	\$154.73	252.95	151.84	17	\$118.52	193.76	76.60	13	\$131.30	214.65	110.78	10.78
Humanities	128	117.12	70	132.66	113.27	96.97	45	104.93	89.59	79.10	32	107.96	92.18	102.89	2.89
Library and information sciences	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	32	80.48	n.a.	n.a.	21	75.32	n.a.	n.a.	-6.41
Science and technology	76	133.19	34	164.90	123.81	149.16	34	140.05	105.15	84.93	7	186.00	139.65	132.81	32.81
Social and behavioral sciences	216	152.91	90	149.17	97.55	104.40	86	156.80	102.54	105.11	46	134.35	87.86	85.68	-14.32
TOTAL REFERENCE	449	\$133.44	213	\$146.75	109.97	109.79	214	\$128.78	96.51	87.75	119	\$119.54	89.58	92.82	-7.18
GRAND TOTAL	6,812	\$66.27	4,718	\$72.20	108.95	99.35	4,553	\$73.11	110.32	101.26	3,502	\$82.98	125.22	113.50	13.5%

Compiled by Narda Tafari, University of Scranton.

n.a. = not available

Table 6 / U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020
 Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2017 Final			2018 Final			2019 Preliminary			2020 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$8.77	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Architecture	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Art	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Bibles	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Biography and autobiography	7.51	5	\$9.28	123.6	8	\$9.87	131.4	3	\$9.99	133.0	6	\$8.99
Body, mind, and spirit	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business and economics	9.32	1	8.99	96.5	3	8.99	96.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Children	6.22	177	6.97	112.1	230	8.05	129.4	184	8.34	134.1	223	8.63
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Computers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cooking	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Crafts and hobbies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Design	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Drama	6.30	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Family and relationships	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Fiction	6.80	2,753	7.31	107.5	2,737	7.27	106.9	2,472	7.43	109.3	2,297	7.64
Foreign language study	7.08	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Games and activities	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Gardening	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Health and fitness	7.92	1	9.99	126.1	3	8.66	109.3	2	10.99	138.8	n.a.	n.a.
History	9.95	5	9.99	100.4	3	9.99	100.4	4	8.99	90.4	4	9.99
House and home	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Humor	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	2	12.49	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Language arts and disciplines	13.25	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	60.3	n.a.	n.a.
Law	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Literary collections	5.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Literary criticism	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mathematics	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Medical	8.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Music	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Nature	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Performing arts	9.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99	90.0	n.a.	n.a.
Pets	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Philosophy	6.47	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poetry	7.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Political science	7.97	1	8.99	112.8	1	9.99	125.3	1	9.99	125.3	n.a.
Psychology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	13.99	n.a.	1	4.99	n.a.	n.a.
Reference	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	112.5
Religion	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Self-help	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6	13.99	175.1	4	12.74	159.4	100.0
Social science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sports and recreation	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Study aids	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Technology and engineering	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Travel	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
True crime	7.64	12	8.41	110.1	7	8.42	110.2	6	8.82	115.4	112.8
Young adult	8.13	5	8.39	103.2	26	11.80	145.1	35	9.65	118.7	138.6
Totals and Averages	\$6.83	2,961	\$7.31	107.0	3,028	\$7.40	108.3	2,714	\$7.54	110.4	\$7.80

Compiled by Narda Taturi, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

n.a. = not available

Table 7 / U.S. Paperback Books (Excluding Mass Market): Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2017 Final			2018 Final			2019 Preliminary			2020 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price Index	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price Index	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price Index	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price Index	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$25.53	114	\$40.67	159.3	89	\$42.24	165.5	86	\$40.46	158.5	77	\$43.11	168.9		
Architecture	45.31	762	49.39	109.0	742	49.36	108.9	899	50.41	111.3	879	46.97	103.7		
Art	38.25	1,720	41.04	107.3	1,734	40.36	105.5	1,735	39.29	102.7	1,585	39.42	103.1		
Bibles	38.66	714	40.54	104.9	709	45.42	117.5	630	47.69	123.4	479	56.05	145.0		
Biography and autobiography	20.35	2,393	20.56	101.0	2,581	20.67	101.6	2,356	20.67	101.6	2,282	20.92	102.8		
Body, mind, and spirit	18.03	689	18.24	101.2	761	18.22	101.1	805	18.94	105.0	821	18.77	104.1		
Business and economics	69.30	5,956	88.76	128.1	7,064	84.06	121.3	6,624	73.45	106.0	5,993	67.95	98.1		
Children	10.42	11,825	16.10	154.6	11,651	12.82	123.1	11,870	12.39	118.9	10,113	11.39	109.4		
Comics and graphic novels	16.11	2,057	18.49	114.8	2,331	19.13	118.8	2,211	20.56	127.6	1,978	18.92	117.4		
Computers	70.42	2,602	96.95	137.7	3,408	104.73	148.7	3,390	102.21	145.1	2,919	80.66	114.5		
Cooking	19.95	934	21.35	107.0	932	21.17	106.1	828	21.85	109.5	803	21.10	105.8		
Crafts and hobbies	19.34	816	20.46	105.8	693	21.54	111.4	575	22.36	115.6	580	21.73	112.3		
Design	63.98	242	40.56	63.4	234	41.19	64.4	255	44.93	70.2	222	37.61	58.8		
Drama	18.95	652	22.54	118.9	555	20.72	109.3	468	23.55	124.3	412	21.44	113.2		
Education	42.98	4,479	58.30	135.6	4,511	63.10	146.8	4,037	60.00	139.6	3,576	80.61	187.5		
Family and relationships	18.72	523	21.44	114.5	590	22.15	118.3	626	21.75	116.2	604	21.02	112.3		
Fiction	17.99	10,455	16.77	93.2	10,427	17.59	97.8	9,864	17.52	97.4	8,880	17.36	96.5		
Foreign language study	31.33	1,013	41.69	133.1	836	45.05	143.8	917	42.88	136.9	842	42.40	135.3		
Games and activities	16.57	1,258	15.57	94.0	699	17.41	105.1	626	18.04	108.9	665	18.08	109.1		
Gardening	23.45	129	23.12	98.6	120	21.39	91.2	124	22.26	94.9	101	23.37	99.6		
Health and fitness	26.95	1,039	30.93	114.8	1,057	31.05	115.2	971	32.69	121.3	956	31.54	117.0		
History	35.79	6,348	38.73	108.2	6,347	40.05	111.9	6,583	40.30	112.6	6,462	38.74	108.2		
House and home	21.19	104	26.21	123.7	87	22.50	106.2	109	24.13	113.9	63	21.29	100.5		
Humor	14.37	302	15.80	110.0	263	15.50	107.9	263	15.73	109.4	211	16.81	117.0		

Language arts and disciplines	64.46	1,696	72.90	113.1	1,627	61.43	95.3	1,708	56.62	87.8	1,438	54.71	849.0
Law	72.07	3,120	83.10	115.3	3,423	90.56	125.7	3,051	84.80	117.7	3,023	81.87	113.6
Literary collections	36.42	406	27.41	75.3	440	29.88	82.1	459	24.96	68.5	415	27.23	74.8
Literary criticism	36.57	1,935	43.30	118.4	2,149	50.56	138.2	2,351	44.09	120.6	2,033	41.06	112.3
Mathematics	86.13	953	78.54	91.2	1,540	105.18	122.0	1,372	76.03	88.3	1,108	64.93	75.4
Medical	90.22	3,696	86.85	96.3	5,282	115.14	127.6	4,469	86.54	95.9	3,489	80.29	89.0
Music	22.83	1,975	29.32	128.4	1,816	27.87	122.1	1,993	30.07	131.7	2,969	24.46	107.0
Nature	37.28	565	34.67	93.0	590	45.59	122.3	665	42.08	112.9	700	35.16	94.3
Performing arts	33.53	858	38.23	114.0	948	42.79	127.6	960	37.84	112.9	843	36.01	107.4
Pets	17.34	110	18.29	105.5	113	18.71	107.9	122	20.37	117.5	100	18.60	107.3
Philosophy	52.66	1,532	42.46	80.6	1,902	52.75	100.2	1,949	41.89	79.5	1,783	41.39	78.6
Photography	31.30	416	35.12	112.2	292	34.06	108.8	318	39.93	127.6	303	36.26	115.8
Poetry	16.73	2,033	17.24	103.1	2,161	17.22	102.9	2,031	17.31	103.5	1,868	17.46	104.4
Political science	41.00	3,881	47.27	115.3	4,395	58.93	143.7	4,371	50.55	123.3	4,788	46.22	112.7
Psychology	47.98	1,949	53.42	111.3	2,058	61.04	127.2	2,130	51.14	106.6	1,795	49.51	103.2
Reference	84.85	488	189.53	223.4	425	184.68	217.7	398	129.25	152.3	247	202.40	238.5
Religion	22.08	6,776	25.74	116.6	6,753	27.36	123.9	6,684	27.92	126.5	5,554	27.06	122.5
Science	116.37	2,443	89.79	77.2	4,873	127.83	109.8	4,163	95.62	82.2	3,364	87.46	75.2
Self-help	17.84	948	17.72	99.3	1,136	17.18	96.3	1,280	17.88	100.2	1,214	17.78	99.7
Social science	45.05	4,554	48.54	107.8	5,592	60.10	133.4	5,625	49.30	109.4	6,049	46.47	103.2
Sports and recreation	22.30	1,013	26.04	116.8	913	26.52	118.9	981	27.38	122.8	854	27.12	121.6
Study aids	49.24	748	34.23	69.5	690	43.12	87.6	2,594	43.53	88.4	2,433	43.31	88.0
Technology and engineering	111.20	2,279	98.34	88.4	3,995	143.34	128.9	3,075	118.58	106.6	2,929	125.17	112.6
Transportation	36.26	523	38.89	107.3	498	34.76	95.9	398	43.91	121.1	335	34.93	96.3
Travel	20.93	1,499	21.14	103.9	1,615	21.17	101.1	1,537	21.45	102.5	932	20.82	99.5
True crime	20.94	168	20.16	96.3	221	19.96	95.3	246	19.96	95.3	203	19.55	93.4
Young adult	14.86	2,724	18.40	123.8	2,949	18.09	121.7	2,885	18.45	124.1	2,307	16.15	108.7
Totals and Averages	\$42.06	106,414	\$42.92	102.0	116,817	\$52.81	125.6	114,667	\$45.11	107.3	104,579	\$43.26	102.9

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

Table 7A / U.S. Audiobooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020
 Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2017 Final			2018 Final			2019 Preliminary			2020 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$36.66	3	90.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3	\$40.99	111.8
Architecture	41.24	10	31.49	2	\$22.99	55.7	8	\$33.12	80.3	5	41.99	101.8
Art	58.21	24	28.36	16	31.54	54.2	8	31.05	53.3	11	34.90	60.0
Bibles	43.28	6	49.98	2	49.99	115.5	3	76.31	176.3	12	32.17	74.3
Biography and autobiography	50.79	1,445	37.46	73.7	1,242	42.79	84.2	43.60	85.8	1,215	42.75	84.2
Body, mind, and spirit	32.98	158	29.41	89.2	147	35.88	108.8	35.17	106.6	163	35.81	108.6
Business and economics	49.70	883	32.32	65.0	799	35.66	71.7	36.87	74.2	656	40.56	81.6
Children	37.80	1,701	31.14	82.4	1,333	36.52	96.6	37.16	98.3	1,853	33.21	87.9
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	3	8.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	37.57	n.a.	37	36.34	n.a.
Computers	45.00	42	29.30	65.1	27	42.32	94.0	38.05	84.6	12	34.73	77.2
Cooking	44.97	63	35.24	78.4	58	39.69	88.3	37.30	82.9	32	35.61	79.2
Crafts and hobbies	24.98	2	12.99	52.0	3	22.32	89.4	39.79	159.3	3	39.99	160.1
Design	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6	51.31	n.a.	39.99	n.a.	4	41.24	n.a.
Drama	33.21	60	20.23	60.9	163	18.48	55.6	22.32	67.2	36	25.35	76.3
Education	45.71	39	33.89	74.1	41	33.58	73.5	38.20	83.6	27	39.99	87.5
Family and relationships	41.17	204	32.02	77.8	183	34.16	83.0	37.01	89.9	150	36.29	88.1
Fiction	50.38	11,019	34.04	67.6	9,918	39.33	78.1	40.15	79.7	12,102	40.80	81.0
Foreign language study	45.11	96	79.65	176.6	100	207.23	459.4	85.90	190.4	40	59.98	133.0
Games and activities	n.a.	10	40.79	n.a.	5	39.99	n.a.	22.49	n.a.	4	42.49	n.a.
Gardening	47.82	5	26.98	56.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14.99	31.3	9	37.55	78.5
Health and fitness	43.09	289	39.77	92.3	264	38.61	89.6	40.17	93.2	220	42.94	99.6
History	58.07	904	44.42	76.5	809	47.41	81.6	46.40	79.9	722	47.03	81.0
House and home	n.a.	39	41.41	n.a.	20	35.48	n.a.	34.45	n.a.	17	39.52	n.a.
Humor	36.62	62	29.53	80.6	93	41.75	114.0	35.78	97.7	75	40.51	110.6

Language arts and disciplines	38.34	39	37.71	98.3	29	34.50	90.0	47	38.01	99.1	26	42.33	110.4
Law	64.49	31	42.50	65.9	34	34.16	53.0	25	31.15	48.3	30	38.82	60.2
Literary collections	52.07	45	33.45	64.2	69	42.97	82.5	67	41.97	80.6	34	38.98	74.9
Literary criticism	42.53	32	31.68	74.5	34	41.10	96.6	27	32.61	76.7	36	34.54	81.2
Mathematics	n.a.	10	21.49	n.a.	4	26.99	n.a.	7	46.70	n.a.	2	32.49	n.a.
Medical	40.13	49	36.06	89.9	36	41.82	104.2	31	32.70	81.5	36	40.37	100.6
Music	35.67	142	28.20	79.1	61	30.91	86.6	64	41.50	116.4	49	37.84	106.1
Nature	41.20	63	31.88	77.4	53	35.10	85.2	91	41.96	101.9	107	42.63	103.5
Performing arts	40.60	72	35.41	87.2	99	40.52	99.8	116	40.91	100.8	176	42.96	105.8
Pets	38.33	46	37.77	98.5	29	38.02	99.2	18	42.38	110.6	18	37.44	97.7
Philosophy	53.05	103	23.53	44.4	54	37.87	71.4	74	34.24	64.5	53	40.57	76.5
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	29.99	n.a.
Poetry	33.59	46	22.24	66.2	56	27.17	80.9	106	28.89	86.0	138	30.46	90.7
Political science	48.04	324	37.68	78.4	377	39.29	81.8	369	43.08	89.7	395	45.19	94.1
Psychology	45.42	157	37.66	82.9	162	37.25	82.0	99	35.16	77.4	119	46.15	101.6
Reference	59.99	15	35.79	59.7	8	46.62	77.7	7	30.70	51.2	8	36.24	60.4
Religion	33.94	1,249	26.94	79.4	1,152	30.52	89.9	929	35.13	103.6	812	37.71	111.1
Science	51.89	158	33.96	65.4	212	38.97	75.1	168	41.25	79.5	220	40.55	78.2
Self-help	39.43	382	33.75	85.6	427	36.21	91.8	516	35.42	89.8	501	37.44	95.0
Social science	48.07	298	35.10	73.0	322	35.98	74.9	265	41.89	87.1	274	39.58	82.3
Sports and recreation	48.48	145	36.42	75.1	111	38.35	79.1	144	41.96	86.6	146	38.33	79.1
Study aids	19.41	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3	41.63	214.5	2	63.00	324.5	3	38.66	199.2
Technology and engineering	53.33	103	101.94	191.2	31	45.18	84.7	13	39.29	73.7	16	38.74	72.6
Transportation	46.28	9	30.21	65.3	10	46.49	100.5	2	49.99	108.0	3	46.66	100.8
Travel	50.96	39	30.91	60.7	32	43.67	85.7	49	42.32	83.0	37	40.66	79.9
True crime	52.58	182	38.99	74.2	189	36.65	69.7	193	43.11	82.0	145	45.75	87.0
Young adult	44.81	1,463	39.21	87.5	1,118	44.63	99.6	1,221	43.81	97.8	1,159	43.33	96.7
Totals and Averages	\$48.00	22,269	\$34.87	72.6	19,943	\$39.69	82.7	21,629	\$40.31	84.0	21,952	\$40.38	84.1

Compiled by Narda Taturi, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

n.a. = not available

Table 7B / U.S. E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2017 Final			2018 Final			2019 Preliminary			2020 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$30.24	118	\$16.64	55.0	174	\$10.85	35.9	157	\$10.93	36.2	111	\$24.61	81.4		
Architecture	66.57	818	21.98	33.0	467	48.45	72.8	494	42.44	63.8	224	40.97	61.6		
Art	41.56	2,356	18.16	43.7	1,456	36.47	87.8	1,713	27.38	65.9	757	29.70	71.5		
Bibles	6.11	2,148	11.88	194.4	444	10.00	163.6	304	12.00	196.5	321	16.14	264.2		
Biography and autobiography	15.47	7,908	17.24	111.5	7,380	19.74	127.6	7,382	21.88	141.4	5,500	34.08	220.3		
Body, mind, and spirit	13.95	2,580	11.26	80.7	3,047	11.41	81.8	3,715	12.57	90.1	3,067	17.73	127.1		
Business and economics	44.82	9,248	41.29	92.1	28,520	51.31	114.5	24,760	65.94	147.1	14,690	51.22	114.3		
Children	13.82	26,145	17.92	129.7	28,927	15.72	113.8	27,963	19.06	137.9	19,752	21.87	158.2		
Comics and graphic novels	11.39	876	8.97	78.7	1,371	8.11	71.2	1,039	9.55	83.8	2,000	8.71	76.4		
Computers	62.09	3,177	82.11	132.2	4,026	75.10	121.0	2,514	59.52	95.9	1,490	42.03	67.7		
Cooking	16.79	2,691	12.13	72.2	3,228	13.35	79.5	3,232	13.38	79.7	2,377	18.99	113.1		
Crafts and hobbies	17.63	1,176	11.34	64.3	652	15.07	85.5	612	15.45	87.6	556	18.77	106.5		
Design	37.03	170	20.84	56.3	131	24.03	64.9	146	26.67	72.0	119	30.66	82.8		
Drama	4.86	1,546	12.03	247.4	1,137	10.97	225.8	1,349	9.62	197.9	589	19.58	402.9		
Education	45.95	7,660	40.50	88.1	4,578	43.77	96.3	4,372	41.11	89.5	2,407	34.58	75.3		
Family and relationships	14.79	1,762	13.05	88.2	2,393	12.65	85.5	2,420	14.49	98.0	1,988	20.86	141.0		
Fiction	7.06	75,766	9.84	139.3	83,090	11.26	159.5	85,595	13.65	193.3	65,371	27.94	395.8		
Foreign language study	46.68	1,678	23.12	49.5	2,321	22.16	47.5	1,594	25.96	55.6	4,519	16.47	35.3		
Games and activities	12.85	930	8.67	67.5	1,518	6.85	53.3	383	15.33	119.3	315	20.40	158.7		
Gardening	17.41	555	12.43	71.4	339	15.12	86.8	316	15.89	91.3	313	17.83	102.4		
Health and fitness	18.78	3,002	13.58	72.3	3,229	13.73	73.1	3,179	16.06	85.5	3,147	20.09	107.0		
History	48.20	13,019	29.92	62.1	9,693	42.23	87.6	8,878	46.02	95.5	11,371	33.94	70.4		
House and home	21.57	392	14.00	64.9	279	16.19	75.1	261	17.48	81.0	230	23.30	108.0		
Humor	11.15	848	10.58	94.9	1,101	14.44	129.5	928	15.31	137.3	774	18.91	170.0		

Language arts and disciplines	75.61	2,844	82.27	108.8	2,987	67.54	89.3	3,097	94.11	124.5	1,399	78.21	103.4
Law	112.19	2,657	86.63	77.2	3,121	112.45	100.2	2,825	117.69	104.9	1,507	131.28	117.0
Literary collections	20.27	2,159	15.68	77.4	1,633	14.86	73.3	6,296	4.85	23.9	1,027	17.44	86.1
Literary criticism	87.17	3,136	70.67	81.1	3,895	79.64	91.4	3,197	79.12	90.8	1,708	82.70	94.8
Mathematics	112.32	1,506	56.58	50.4	1,150	81.08	72.2	915	90.43	80.5	381	91.83	81.8
Medical	135.71	3,574	96.30	71.0	3,631	104.48	77.0	2,716	97.00	71.5	1,303	81.69	60.2
Music	32.65	2,538	20.88	64.0	3,014	16.79	51.4	1,848	23.60	72.3	1,318	29.42	90.1
Nature	59.48	806	39.73	66.8	891	27.58	46.4	793	27.61	46.4	646	30.47	51.2
Performing arts	32.17	1,879	24.11	75.0	2,125	25.84	80.3	2,008	24.52	76.2	1,022	31.53	98.0
Pets	14.50	805	10.50	72.4	451	10.52	72.5	459	13.26	91.4	322	19.12	131.9
Philosophy	71.43	3,608	34.82	48.7	2,938	48.73	68.2	2,799	43.03	60.2	2,676	31.45	44.0
Photography	27.23	514	17.08	62.7	342	18.80	69.1	285	21.96	80.6	260	20.12	73.9
Poetry	9.54	5,189	8.77	91.9	5,015	8.11	85.0	4,806	9.04	94.8	2,436	11.27	118.2
Political science	59.74	5,231	42.57	71.3	4,982	51.98	87.0	4,015	43.45	72.7	2,718	41.43	69.3
Psychology	56.42	2,720	43.12	76.4	2,157	44.82	79.4	1,955	40.00	70.9	1,958	33.63	59.6
Reference	22.92	2,999	18.62	81.2	1,083	44.46	194.0	948	65.42	285.4	623	45.94	200.4
Religion	27.81	13,497	20.67	74.3	12,123	25.91	93.2	11,062	27.40	98.5	8,501	31.64	113.8
Science	155.80	5,749	65.79	42.2	4,197	98.62	63.3	3,643	94.70	60.8	1,958	85.56	54.9
Self-help	14.06	5,351	12.17	86.5	5,229	12.69	90.2	6,871	12.41	88.3	5,717	20.12	143.1
Social science	56.83	6,985	40.93	72.0	5,095	48.42	85.2	4,342	49.07	86.3	2,802	42.69	75.1
Sports and recreation	19.22	1,920	17.26	89.8	1,669	20.77	108.1	1,501	20.84	108.4	1,136	27.21	141.6
Study aids	13.94	2,388	32.76	235.0	2,660	19.57	140.4	3,802	27.74	199.0	783	15.49	111.2
Technology and engineering	158.44	3,996	86.25	54.4	3,191	121.41	76.6	2,271	115.05	72.6	919	97.80	61.7
Transportation	33.12	271	24.87	75.1	333	27.66	83.5	278	28.47	86.0	516	25.71	77.6
Travel	15.84	2,521	14.67	92.6	2,223	16.62	104.9	3,230	12.03	76.0	1,354	21.63	136.6
True crime	10.37	411	20.53	197.9	534	21.54	207.7	612	24.57	236.9	696	28.48	274.6
Young adult	11.96	5,501	20.04	167.6	6,601	17.82	149.0	6,640	19.65	164.3	5,444	26.05	217.8
Totals and Averages	\$41.61	257,324	\$25.29	60.8	272,771	\$29.51	70.9	266,520	\$29.96	72.0	193,118	\$31.90	76.7

Compiled by Narda Tatfuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

(continued from page 350)

Foreign Prices

As shown in the chart below, in 2020 the U.S. dollar decreased in strength against the Canadian dollar (-1.5 percent), the British pound sterling (-7.9 percent), the Japanese Yen (-3.9 percent), and the Euro (-5.0 percent).

	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	12/31/2020
Canada	1.35	1.26	1.36	1.30	1.28
Euro	0.95	0.83	0.87	0.89	0.82
U.K.	0.81	0.74	0.78	0.76	0.73
Japan	117.03	112.55	109.85	108.53	103.08

Data from Bureau of Fiscal Services. U.S. Treasury Department (http://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/treasRptRateExch/treasRptRateExch_home.htm).

Serials Prices

Average Price of Serials (Table 8) and Average Price of Online Serials (Table 8A), compiled by Stephen Bosch, provide the average prices and percent increases for serials based on titles in select serials abstracting and indexing products. The serials in this price survey are published in the United States as well as overseas and are indexed in the Clarivate Analytics' (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Science Citation Index, and Social Sciences Citation Index, as well as EBSCO's Academic Search Ultimate and Masterfile Premier and Elsevier's Scopus. This is the third year where titles indexed in Scopus are included in the data. Adding Scopus expands this price survey from about 11,000 priced titles in 2015 to the current 18,239. The increase in the sample size makes the results more likely to accurately reflect pricing trends.

Tables 8 and 8A cover prices for periodicals and serials for a five-year period, 2017 through 2021. The 2021 pricing is the actual renewal pricing for serial titles indexed in the selected products. These tables were derived from pricing data supplied by EBSCO Information Services and reflect broad pricing changes aggregated from serials that are indexed in the six major products mentioned above. The U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes (USPPI) (Table 1) is based on price changes seen in a static set of approximately 6,000 serial titles. The Average Price of Serials (Table 8) is based on a much broader set of titles, approximately 18,239; however, the indexed titles are not static year to year, so this pricing study does not rise to the level of a price index. The study is still useful in showing price changes for periodicals. The indexes selected for this price survey were deemed to be representative of serials that are frequently purchased in academic and public libraries. There are some foreign titles in the indexes, so the scope is broader, and this may give a better picture of the overall price pressures experienced in libraries. Table 8 contains both print and online serials pricing. Table 8A is a subset of the titles treated in Table 8 and contains only online serials pricing.

The most important trend seen in the data in Table 8 is that increases in serial prices have slowed considerably in 2021 due to the impact of the pandemic. In previous years, the price increases had remained constant since the economic recovery began in 2010. Since that time, price increases have hovered around 6 percent

annually. The increase for 2021 was 3.4 percent. For titles with online availability (Table 8A), the increase for 2021 was 3.5 percent. For online serials, rates of increase in previous years had also averaged about 6 percent over the past five years. There is a difference between the average prices for print serials and online serials, so, at least for this set of data, print formats do cost less than their online counterparts. Several large publishers have made online pricing available only through custom quotes, so there is not a standard retail price, and the pricing data are not available for this survey. Consequently, the number of titles covered in the online survey (Table 8A) is less than the number of titles in Table 8, but titles with print-only pricing are now 43 percent of the overall dataset.

Another interesting trend is that the science areas do not dominate the list of subjects with the largest price increases. The subject areas that displayed large increases were quite varied. Zoology, general science, social sciences, health sciences, geology, astronomy, geography, arts and architecture, psychology, library science, recreation, physics, and sociology saw higher increases than most other areas. Some of these same areas showed the highest increases in the online table (Table 8A), as well. Average prices of journals in the science and technology areas are by far higher than average prices in other areas, and that trend continues with the average cost of chemistry and physics journals (Table 8) being \$4,831.06 and \$3,808.11, respectively. Online journals (Table 8A) showed similar average prices for chemistry (\$5,220.25) and physics (\$4,332.08).

It should again be noted that in this study, as in similar price surveys, the data become less accurate at describing price changes as the sample size becomes smaller. For that reason, analyses of price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles will be less accurate than those for large areas or the broader price survey. Price changes are far more volatile where smaller datasets are used, as is the case with recreation, which, with just 125 titles, showed a price change of 5.3 percent in 2021—higher than most other areas. Librarians are encouraged to look at an average price change over the period or the overall number for the price study (6.0 percent) to calculate inflation. Year-to-year price changes in small subject areas are too unstable to be reliable indicators of future prices for budgeting purposes.

Foreign Book Prices

British Academic Books (Table 9), compiled by George Aulisio, University of Scranton, indicates the average prices and price indexes from 2017 through 2020. The percent of change in titles and average price are calculated for 2019 to 2020, and the index price shows the percent of change between 2020 and the base year of 2010. This index is compiled using data from GOBI Library Solutions and utilizes prices from cloth editions when available. The data also draw from select titles from continental Europe and Africa. The index does not separate more expensive reference titles. Small numbers of titles that include higher-priced reference sets may not be reliable indicators of price changes. This table does not include e-book prices.

Data in the “Totals and Averages” row include the total of the LC Classes profiled in this table, not the total of all books profiled by GOBI Library Solutions.

(text continues on page 370)

Table 8 / Average Price of Serials, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes, 2017–2021

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
			Average Price	Percent Change 2017–2018	Average Price	Percent Change 2018–2019	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	Average Price	Percent Change 2020–2021		
Agriculture	S	529	\$990.09	5.9%	\$1,048.85	5.9%	\$1,116.61	6.5%	\$1,182.25	5.9%	\$1,228.04	3.9%
Anthropology	GN	150	466.85	10.8	517.49	10.8	541.98	4.7	575.43	6.2	599.43	4.2
Arts and architecture	N	240	327.52	6.5	348.73	6.5	368.98	5.8	392.93	6.5	409.60	4.2
Astronomy	QB	72	1,906.80	4.6	1,993.89	4.6	2,093.28	5.0	2,221.71	6.1	2,164.69	-2.6
Biology	QH	1,120	2,327.70	5.9	2,464.77	5.9	2,615.57	6.1	2,746.44	5.0	2,824.66	2.8
Botany	QK	176	1,516.58	4.0	1,577.77	4.0	1,669.03	5.8	1,742.64	4.4	1,792.15	2.8
Business and economics	HA-HJ	1,344	1,223.05	4.7	1,280.73	4.7	1,347.47	5.2	1,416.76	5.1	1,469.10	3.7
Chemistry	QD	379	4,062.04	4.6	4,247.65	4.6	4,504.30	6.0	4,725.90	4.9	4,831.06	2.2
Education	L	486	683.06	6.6	728.14	6.6	782.15	7.4	832.91	6.5	872.43	4.7
Engineering	T	1,622	1,773.23	7.0	1,897.35	7.0	2,028.17	6.9	2,164.86	6.7	2,242.71	3.6
Food Science	TX	96	1,208.54	6.5	1,286.88	6.5	1,350.19	4.9	1,427.23	5.7	1,488.22	4.3
General Science	Q	222	1,270.31	4.4	1,326.02	4.4	1,406.97	6.1	1,486.83	5.7	1,527.24	2.7
General Works	A	205	235.58	4.1	245.33	4.1	263.50	7.4	278.20	5.6	289.87	4.2
Geography	G-GF	295	957.56	7.9	1,033.64	7.9	1,103.05	6.7	1,176.61	6.7	1,219.40	3.6
Geology	QE	231	1,662.51	6.0	1,761.49	6.0	1,893.41	7.5	2,011.43	6.2	2,095.30	4.2
Health Sciences	R	3,750	1,226.24	6.9	1,310.77	6.9	1,386.15	5.8	1,484.61	7.1	1,549.50	4.4
History	C,D,E,F	981	332.58	6.4	353.82	6.4	376.92	6.5	398.66	5.8	416.18	4.4
Language and literature	P	1,093	336.67	6.7	359.30	6.7	379.80	5.7	401.30	5.7	414.99	3.4

Law		501	412.84	436.20	5.7	459.15	5.3	482.57	5.1	502.66	4.2
Library Science	K	179	941.63	972.52	3.3	1,019.45	4.8	1,062.22	4.2	1,110.03	4.5
Math and computer science	Z	883	1,374.66	1,463.58	6.5	1,544.14	5.5	1,645.03	6.5	1,693.79	3.0
Military and naval science	QA	99	541.83	566.06	4.5	617.47	9.1	656.02	6.2	686.84	4.7
Music	U,V	171	225.00	239.51	6.5	251.85	5.2	266.71	5.9	274.58	3.0
Philosophy and religion	M	671	329.39	347.91	5.6	363.93	4.6	379.80	4.4	393.32	3.6
Physics	B-BD, BH-BX	444	3,149.06	3,307.89	5.0	3,512.64	6.2	3,716.79	5.8	3,808.11	2.5
Political Science	QC	291	577.40	620.86	7.5	664.01	6.9	707.37	6.5	736.61	4.1
Psychology	J	333	790.78	845.72	6.9	918.75	8.6	985.32	7.2	1,014.51	3.0
Recreation	BF	125	477.90	513.47	7.4	549.50	7.0	583.52	6.2	614.46	5.3
Social sciences	GV	139	728.37	769.87	5.7	812.90	5.6	860.25	5.8	870.04	1.1
Sociology	H	763	761.50	812.05	6.6	868.04	6.9	923.12	6.3	957.32	3.7
Technology	HM-HX	340	1,307.59	1,379.58	5.5	1,473.69	6.8	1,558.49	5.8	1,616.02	3.7
Zoology	TA-TT	309	1,323.72	1,396.20	5.5	1,465.22	4.9	1,540.27	5.1	1,544.76	0.3
Totals and Averages	QL	18,239	\$1,195.68	\$1,268.35	6.1%	\$1,345.75	6.1%	\$1,427.15	6.0%	\$1,475.98	3.4%

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by EBSCO and are based on titles indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Ultimate, EBSCO Masterfile Complete, Clarivate Analytics (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Citation Index, and Elsevier's Scopus.

Table 8A / Changes in the Average Price of Online Serials 2017–2021, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
			Average Price	Percent Change 2017–2018	Average Price	Percent Change 2018–2019	Average Price	Percent Change 2019–2020	Average Price	Percent Change 2020–2021		
Agriculture	S	227	\$1,272.93	5.2%	\$1,338.71	5.2%	\$1,438.07	7.4%	\$1,521.77	5.8%	\$1,590.09	4.5%
Anthropology	GN	97	606.57	7.4	651.25	7.4	691.80	6.2	739.11	6.8	770.50	4.2
Arts and Architecture	N	110	496.10	6.4	527.62	6.4	567.42	7.5	600.87	5.9	624.71	4.0
Astronomy	QB	44	2,530.63	4.6	2,646.60	4.6	2,781.66	5.1	2,968.54	6.7	2,856.43	-3.8
Biology	QH	625	2,313.03	5.8	2,448.09	5.8	2,613.85	6.8	2,734.79	4.6	2,807.95	2.7
Botany	QK	108	1,762.19	3.1	1,816.17	3.1	1,912.69	5.3	1,984.37	3.7	2,040.40	2.8
Business and Economics	HA-HJ	753	1,654.16	4.0	1,720.68	4.0	1,807.99	5.1	1,900.07	5.1	1,976.03	4.0
Chemistry	QD	209	4,280.85	5.5	4,515.18	5.5	4,838.15	7.2	5,096.33	5.3	5,220.25	2.4
Education	L	346	833.10	6.4	886.12	6.4	955.04	7.8	1,017.12	6.5	1,068.21	5.0
Engineering	T	783	1,966.86	7.6	2,116.18	7.6	2,273.36	7.4	2,432.46	7.0	2,525.15	3.8
Food Science	TX	51	1,647.49	6.2	1,750.11	6.2	1,825.95	4.3	1,929.29	5.7	2,013.91	4.4
General Science	Q	130	1,589.24	3.4	1,642.81	3.4	1,743.49	6.1	1,833.04	5.1	1,869.37	2.0
General Works	A	59	549.48	3.7	569.61	3.7	619.87	8.8	662.59	6.9	693.57	4.7
Geography	G-GF	183	909.00	7.9	980.91	7.9	1,056.86	7.7	1,133.15	7.2	1,180.41	4.2
Geology	QE	124	1,601.59	4.6	1,675.32	4.6	1,802.33	7.6	1,920.32	6.5	2,002.72	4.3
Health Sciences	R	1,657	1,415.83	6.7	1,511.20	6.7	1,588.90	5.1	1,710.90	7.7	1,779.95	4.0
History	C,D,E,F	512	449.93	6.2	478.02	6.2	514.34	7.6	547.69	6.5	574.80	4.9
Language and Literature	P	578	449.40	7.2	481.55	7.2	513.72	6.7	545.03	6.1	566.19	3.9

Law	K	174	642.73	680.59	5.9	715.33	5.1	747.20	4.5	778.92	4.2
Library Science	Z	113	1,206.15	1,236.31	2.5	1,294.68	4.7	1,354.42	4.6	1,413.82	4.4
Math and Computer Science	QA	565	1,414.76	1,522.09	7.6	1,619.56	6.4	1,745.44	7.8	1,809.15	3.7
Military and Naval Science	U,V	61	667.55	697.88	4.5	765.23	9.7	815.83	6.6	859.43	5.3
Music	M	77	352.50	375.96	6.7	396.11	5.4	416.46	5.1	428.57	2.9
Philosophy and Religion	B-BD, BH-BX	308	494.66	523.76	5.9	551.29	5.3	578.89	5.0	598.38	3.4
Physics	QC	277	3,498.19	3,696.83	5.7	3,952.05	6.9	4,208.41	6.5	4,332.08	2.9
Political Science	J	193	712.89	768.36	7.8	825.35	7.4	878.11	6.4	915.32	4.2
Psychology	BF	187	932.51	994.94	6.7	1,078.97	8.4	1,169.41	8.4	1,209.20	3.4
Recreation	GV	64	706.24	758.09	7.3	814.28	7.4	863.59	6.1	906.39	5.0
Social Sciences	H	78	926.32	980.17	5.8	1,035.76	5.7	1,100.68	6.3	1,113.41	1.2
Sociology	HM-HX	511	901.54	959.52	6.4	1,028.17	7.2	1,095.89	6.6	1,137.69	3.8
Technology	TA-TT	150	1,948.04	2,054.63	5.5	2,207.29	7.4	2,345.53	6.3	2,446.73	4.3
Zoology	QL	163	1,618.67	1,695.58	4.8	1,796.97	6.0	1,904.60	6.0	1,903.34	-0.1
Totals and Averages		9,517	\$1,400.15	\$1,484.78	6.0%	\$1,580.21	6.4%	\$1,679.96	6.3%	\$1,738.63	3.5%

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by EBSCO and are based on titles indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Ultimate, EBSCO Masterfile Complete, Clarivate Analytics (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Citation Index, and Elsevier's Scopus.

Table 9 / British Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2017–2020

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	2010		2017		2018		2019		2020		Percent Change 2019–2020
		Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	
Agriculture	S	154	£63.97	125	£79.66	142	£85.45	154	£84.11	613	£87.95	4.6%
Anthropology	GN	154	50.85	121	60.79	150	65.47	173	74.65	294	70.16	-6.0
Botany	QK	45	66.08	27	80.32	30	77.10	36	89.13	162	115.45	29.5
Business and economics	H-HJ	1,913	60.54	1,767	77.80	2,185	84.35	2,185	80.42	4,409	78.68	-2.2
Chemistry	QD	96	105.68	47	104.58	58	127.93	61	121.99	309	130.53	7.0
Education	L	558	52.21	575	78.43	723	77.96	731	78.83	2,315	69.15	-12.3
Engineering and technology	T-TS	742	61.84	692	82.39	654	86.12	693	90.24	3,845	109.15	21.0
Fine and applied arts	M, N	1,037	35.95	917	53.71	974	59.66	989	60.88	3,601	50.02	-17.8
General works	A	30	60.03	33	92.37	33	108.43	37	85.11	90	91.85	7.9
Geography	G-GF, GR-GT	276	65.69	315	87.06	317	86.29	342	81.01	798	82.65	2.0
Geology	QE	33	52.28	30	57.36	30	74.38	51	58.66	123	106.49	81.5
History	C, D, E, F	1,822	42.55	1,790	54.96	2,051	60.70	2,215	57.95	4,813	62.73	8.2
Home economics	TX	46	30.48	48	83.35	36	78.58	37	91.70	333	46.16	-49.7
Industrial arts	TT	41	28.47	25	61.26	36	53.10	23	51.59	105	55.50	7.6
Language and literature	P	3,987	31.58	2,902	50.52	3,112	55.95	3,219	55.93	7,444	47.93	-14.3

Law	K	1,153	83.10	1,207	100.34	1,276	101.89	1,313	99.48	2,050	89.98	-9.5	108.3
Library and information science	Z	100	53.58	98	62.98	93	68.03	85	79.97	269	73.66	-7.9	137.5
Mathematics and computer science	QA	207	48.29	186	71.56	195	71.84	222	78.73	2,189	77.88	-1.1	161.3
Medicine	R	1,182	55.12	859	70.12	931	73.90	1,081	76.98	3,880	94.36	22.6	171.2
Military and naval sciences	U, V	184	40.95	127	59.93	181	65.54	165	57.91	520	55.82	-3.6	136.3
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	1,336	48.17	1,075	68.74	1,364	73.64	1,505	69.70	3,998	53.46	-23.3	111.0
Physics and astronomy	QB, QC	214	64.83	167	69.30	206	73.19	200	75.70	751	93.42	23.4	144.1
Political Science	J	737	71.88	802	77.93	787	87.59	1,107	77.96	1,670	73.37	-5.9	102.1
Psychology	BF	265	39.69	337	72.28	378	76.47	414	80.74	854	63.66	-21.2	160.4
Science (general)	Q	60	40.70	71	75.80	82	67.59	99	71.83	521	85.30	18.8	209.6
Sociology	HM-HX	1,169	58.24	1,358	73.25	1,649	78.65	1,685	73.91	3,367	66.26	-10.4	113.8
Sports and Recreation	GV	192	36.76	204	81.24	207	84.02	216	80.04	645	51.38	-35.8	139.8
Zoology	QH, QL-QR	382	65.79	271	73.11	262	80.40	321	85.51	1,203	101.95	19.2	155.0
Totals and Averages		18,115	£50.50	16,176	£69.11	18,142	£73.94	19,350	£72.61	51,171	£71.56	-1.4%	141.7

Compiled by George Aullisto, University of Scranton, based on information provided by GOBI Library Solutions.

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In 2020 total British academic books profiled by GOBI increased substantially to 51,171 titles. This is the fourth year the table has recorded an increase in titles. Notably, this is more than double the number of titles usually profiled.

In 2020 British academic books experienced an overall price decrease of -1.4 percent, bringing the average price for all books profiled to £71.56. The 2020 price decrease comes at a time when the United Kingdom's Consumer Price Index saw a moderate 1.0 percent inflation as of December 2020 (<http://www.ons.gov.uk>).

Table 9 shows how average prices have increased or decreased in comparison with the 2010 base year. For 2020 the overall index price for all LC subjects profiled in this table is at 141.7 percent. All LC classes listed are currently above their 2010 base prices. The highest increases in comparison with the 2010 base prices are science (general) (209.6 percent), geology (203.7 percent), and industrial arts (194.9 percent). There are currently no known reliable indicators for a 2020 industry forecast.

Using the Price Indexes

Librarians are encouraged to monitor publishing industry trends and changes in economic conditions when preparing budget forecasts and projections. The Library Materials Price Index (LMPI) Editorial Board endeavors to make information on publishing trends readily available by sponsoring the annual compilation and publication of price data contained in our published tables. The indexes cover newly published library materials and document prices and rates of percent changes at the national and international level. They are useful benchmarks to compare against local costs, but because they reflect retail prices in the aggregate they are not a substitute for cost data that reflect the collecting patterns of individual libraries, and they are not a substitute for specific cost studies.

Differences between local prices and those found in national indexes arise partially because the indexes exclude discounts, service charges, shipping and handling fees, and other discounts or costs that a library might see. Discrepancies may also relate to a library's subject coverage, its mix of titles purchased—including both current and backfiles—and the proportion of the library's budget expended on domestic or foreign materials. These variables can affect the average price paid by an individual library, although the individual library's rate of increase may not differ greatly from the national indexes.

Closing Note

The LMPI Editorial Board is interested in pursuing studies that would correlate a particular library's costs with the national prices. The group welcomes interested parties to its meeting at ALA Annual. The Library Materials Price Index Editorial Board consists of compilers George Aulisio, Ajaye Bloomstone, Stephen Bosch, and Narda Tafuri. George Aulisio currently serves as editor, and Rachel Fleming, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, serves as assistant editor.