

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 the American Library Association's Association for Library Collections and Technical Services' Publications Committee continues to monitor prices for a range of library materials from sources within North America and from other key publishing centers around the world.

The U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by only 0.7 percent in 2015, continuing the downward trend seen in 2014. CPI data are obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/>.

The U.S. Periodical Price Index (USPPI) (Table 1), reestablished by Stephen Bosch in 2014, continues in this year's article using data provided by EBSCO Information Services. Readers are reminded that the new USPPI is based on a mix of both print and online pricing, which is a more accurate representation of an average library's journal collection. The base year for this table is set to 2010. Percent changes in average prices from previous years are noted in the chart below under the category "Periodicals."

Index	Percent Change				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
CPI	3.0	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.7
Periodicals	4.6	5.9	6.1	6.1	7.1
Legal serials services	11.0	6.1	10.5	11.3	13.9
*Hardcover books	0.87	5.18	-2.57	6.45	0.44
+Academic books	4.6	8.0	6.3	-5.6	n.a.
+Academic e-books	-0.3	23.0	6.5	-13.7	n.a.
+Textbooks	3.5	10.6	-1.2	-7.2	n.a.
College books	4.6	2.15	4.21	-1.41	-0.59
*Mass market paperbacks	2.34	1.00	-0.28	0.57	-0.14
*Trade paperbacks	-9.99	31.96	-12.31	5.04	-2.72
*Audiobooks	-4.39	-10.96	-4.76	0.18	-15.21
*E-books	-41.17	-6.37	22.03	-9.12	-17.19
++Serials	n.a.	n.a.	7.2	6.1	6.7
++Online Serials	n.a.	n.a.	6.0	6.4	5.7
British academic books	2.77	10.81	1.67	1.0	7.1

n.a. = not available

* = figures revised based on BISAC categories

+Beginning with 2009, new data source

++Data set changes each year

The 2014 figures for Tables 3 (hardcover books), 6 (U.S. mass market paperback books), 7 (U.S. paperback books), 7A (U.S. audiobooks), and 7B (U.S. e-books), have been restated for this year's article due to late updates to the 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 by Stephen Bosch in 2014 and is updated for 2016 using data supplied by EBSCO Information Services. This report includes 2011–2016 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 future comparisons. The data in Table 1 are created from a print preferred data pull but about half the data in the index ends up being online pricing so that the data provides 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 was based on a single report that pulled pricing information for a static set of titles for the five-year period. The pricing data for 2015 is based on the 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 did have pricing available that did not have pricing available in 2014. The situation continues for 2016 as this data is again based on the same sample title list as the basis for the data pull, but there are small variations in the titles that had pricing.

The USPPI in 2016 treats a little more than 5,900 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 reestablishing this index was the difficulty of maintaining the title list and obtaining standard retail pricing for titles on the list. Changes in serial 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 of the list and pricing becomes available for titles that may have been delayed, or are no longer in memberships, etc.

The first five years of data showed fairly consistent price changes across subject areas due to the fact that the pricing data took a historical look at the prices of the same set of journals. The data for 2015 and 2016 are based on the same sample list but are not the exact same list of titles as the data for 2010–2014 due to the issues mentioned above that impact pricing availability. Across subject areas, the changes in price were more volatile this year but the overall 7 percent rise mirrors increases seen in other pricing studies that nearly all show a 6 percent increase. Also 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.

Direct comparisons between Table 1 and Table 8 should still be avoided, especially at the subject level. Both tables show the overall rate of increase in serial prices to be between 6 percent and 7 percent; however, beyond that point there is little that can reasonably be compared. Table 8 has higher overall average prices in most areas, and this is due to the survey's largest sets of data coming from the ISI Citation Indexes and Scopus, which include higher impact—and consequently more expensive—journals. Table 1 is a broader mix of journals that attempts to reflect the journal collections in an average library and therefore contains more trade and popular titles. These journals tend to be cheaper, with lower average prices. Differences in data sets will yield different results.

The most important trend seen in Table 1 is that increases in prices have remained fairly constant since the economic recovery began in 2010, hovering around 6 percent annually. Science does not dominate the list of subjects with the largest price increases. The subject areas that displayed the largest increases were quite varied: military science, general works, recreation, music, and arts and architecture. Average prices for journals in the science and technology areas are still far higher than in other areas, and that trend continues, with the average cost of chemistry journals being \$4,465 and of physics journals being \$3,537.

In this price index, as in similar price indexes, the data are less accurate at describing price changes the smaller the sample becomes. For that reason, drawing conclusions about price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles will be less accurate than for large areas or the broader price index. Price changes are far more volatile where smaller data sets are used. For example, military and naval science (about 28 titles) showed average prices of \$285 (2012), \$301 (2013), \$289 (2014), \$276 (2015), and \$459 (2016). If a specific inflation figure only for military and naval science is needed, it would be better to look at an average over the period or the overall number for the price study (7.1 percent) than to use the actual numbers year-by-year, i.e.: 66 percent for 2016. The variation in pricing is too volatile in smaller sample sizes to be comparable on a year-to-year basis. In

(text continues on page 350)

Table 1 / U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012-2016

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2010 Average Price	2012 Average Price	2013 Average Price	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	2016 Average Price	Price Increase 2015-2016	Price Index (Base = 2010)
Agriculture	S	246	\$579.48	\$641.43	\$687.22	\$726.67	\$780.01	\$978.61	25.5%	168.9
Anthropology	GN	50	373.64	411.00	430.83	453.36	428.52	426.99	-0.4	114.3
Arts and architecture	N	115	112.39	120.62	125.24	130.70	180.35	234.50	30.0	208.6
Astronomy	QB	28	1,793.08	1,753.73	2,049.88	2,186.19	2,083.50	2,602.51	24.9	145.1
Biology	QH	330	2,053.06	2,288.26	2,405.68	2,535.65	2,727.29	2,655.14	-2.6	129.3
Botany	QK	55	1,361.09	1,491.68	1,583.36	1,667.34	1,646.31	1,926.69	17.0	141.6
Business and economics	HA-HJ	492	351.29	389.34	410.55	434.12	480.98	546.45	13.6	155.6
Chemistry	QD	124	3,396.26	3,808.31	4,024.45	4,244.38	4,335.51	4,465.42	3.0	131.5
Education	L	229	354.92	389.92	409.63	433.05	499.55	585.29	17.2	164.9
Engineering	T	542	1,244.39	1,405.36	1,486.54	1,584.81	1,692.44	1,716.47	1.4	137.9
Food science	TX	51	356.17	394.64	416.09	439.51	617.45	520.09	-15.8	146.0
General science	Q	97	998.51	1,109.61	1,153.60	1,218.88	1,401.48	1,322.20	-5.7	132.4
General works	A	131	85.84	90.73	95.41	99.14	106.87	165.98	55.3	193.4
Geography	G-GF	84	670.60	684.72	783.49	836.61	872.34	806.55	-7.5	120.3
Geology	QE	74	1,368.79	1,514.90	1,603.07	1,699.34	1,648.20	1,707.46	3.6	124.7
Health Sciences	R	803	1,009.55	1,147.17	1,224.65	1,309.43	1,402.65	1,557.18	11.0	154.2
History	C,D,E,F	312	202.39	221.80	231.75	245.88	277.95	330.37	18.9	163.2
Language and literature	P	277	168.12	185.63	194.56	205.49	232.29	258.50	11.3	153.8
Law	K	251	214.01	231.72	239.11	251.93	297.45	355.43	19.5	166.1

(continued from page 347)

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 April 15 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) has been compiled by Ajaye Bloomstone using data collected from a number of different legal serials vendors. The base year for this index is 2009. This index presents price data covering the years 2009 through 2016.

Vendors were again asked to provide cost data on particular titles with the assumption that the title/set has been held by a large academic research law library, and the cost recorded in the index is that for the upkeep of the title in question, not the cost incurred in 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 that year but rather halfway through, so in some cases only price estimates may be available for this article. Legal serials services can be updated as new editions, regular/irregular updates (“releases”) throughout the year, or added/revised volumes. The price for a title may increase or decrease from one year to the next, depending on plans for keeping a title current. It should be noted that although legal serials in print format continue to be produced, titles seem to be migrating, albeit slowly, to an electronic-only format. Some prices were provided for several titles with the caveat “no longer available for new sales.” This statement would lead one to believe that the publication is being phased out. Either the title might soon no longer be available as a print product, or it may cease publication entirely, in any format.

**Table 2 / Legal Serials Services:
Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2009–2016**

Index Base: 2009 = 100

Year	Number of Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Index
2009	217	\$1,658.20	n.a.	100.0
2010	217	1,716.30	3.5%	103.5
2011	217	1,905.20	11.0	114.9
2012	217	2,020.83	6.1	124.1
2013	217	2,233.00	10.5	134.7
2014	217	2,486.04	11.3	149.9
2015	217	2,831.00	13.9	170.7
2016	217	3,085.34	9.0	186.1

Book Prices

Tables 3 (hardcover books), 6 (mass market paperbacks), 7 (other—trade—paperbacks), 7A (audiobooks), and table 7B (e-books), prepared by Narda Tafuri, are derived from data provided by book wholesaler Baker & Taylor. Figures for

2014 are revised to reflect late updates to the Baker & Taylor database (publishers were still adding 2014 titles in early 2015); the 2015 figures given here may be similarly revised in next year's tables and should be considered preliminary. These five tables use the Book Industry Study Group's BISAC categories; for more information on the BISAC categories, visit <http://www.bisg.org>. The BISAC juvenile category (fiction and nonfiction) has been divided into children's and young adult.

Average book prices declined sharply in 2015. List prices for hardcovers overall (Table 3) fell by 0.44 percent. Mass market paperback prices (Table 6) showed a decrease of 0.14 percent and trade paperbacks (Table 7) declined 2.72 percent. Audiobook prices (Table 7A) have been falling since 2009, but saw an even steeper decline of 15.71 percent in 2015. E-book prices registered the greatest decrease of all—17.19 percent.

The North American Academic Books Price Indexes (Tables 4, 4A, and 4B) are prepared by Stephen Bosch. The current version of North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012–2014 (Table 4) should not be compared with the versions published in 2009 or previous years. The North American Academic Books Price Index (NAABPI) now contains many more titles in the source data, which has affected the index considerably. This is due to the fact that Coutts, now part of ProQuest, treats far more titles in their approval programs than the former Blackwell Book Services. For indexes published prior to 2009, Blackwell was a supplier of data for the index. Blackwell was purchased in 2011 by YBP and the vendor data used to create the index changed at that time. After 2009 the data comes from Coutts and YBP, prior to 2009 the data came from Blackwell and YBP. The year-to-year comparisons from 2007 on (indexes published since 2009) are now based on this new data model, and the changes in price and number of titles are not as dramatic as when looking at comparable data in the indexes that were published prior to 2009.

The overall average price for books in the NAABPI for 2014 decreased 5.6 percent, a large swing from the 6.3 percent increase seen the previous year. The average price decreased to \$101.08 from \$107.02. The number of titles increased dramatically from 120,822 in 2013 to 153,289 in 2014, a 27 percent increase. The decrease in price for the most recent year was primarily due to a drop in costs for the most expensive books. In 2013 there were 475 titles that cost more than \$1,000 with an average price of \$3,378, while in 2014 there were only 387 titles costing more than \$1,000 with an average price of \$1,901. Many of the books in the "greater than \$1,000" category were e-books. The drop in the average price of e-book titles costing more than \$1,000 was the driver in price decreases for both print and e-books in 2014.

In both 2013 and 2014 changes in the most expensive books' costs caused both the large increase in 2013 and the large decrease in 2014. When doing budget planning, it would not be wise to assume that your book costs are going to be lower since the bulk of purchasing will occur in the middle ranges and these areas are far less volatile. Book prices in the mid-range (\$50–\$200) have remained relatively flat, but costs have gone up due to larger numbers of titles being published.

Since 2008 two additional indexes have been available, one for e-books only (Table 4A) and another for textbooks (Table 4B). Both of these indexes are of high

(text continues on page 360)

Table 3 / Hardcover Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2012–2015

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2012 Final			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Preliminary		
	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$71.07	124	\$69.56	97.9	137	\$70.41	99.1	146	\$67.04	94.3	\$95.68	134.6	134	\$95.68	134.6
Architecture	66.99	762	80.66	120.4	879	88.92	132.7	799	89.48	133.6	99.47	148.5	895	99.47	148.5
Art	62.33	1,821	73.02	117.2	2,042	71.34	114.5	1,896	81.03	130.0	73.53	118.0	1,949	73.53	118.0
Bibles	48.05	199	37.46	78.0	197	37.43	77.9	137	33.71	70.2	35.74	74.4	178	35.74	74.4
Biography and autobiography	46.20	1,713	49.42	107.0	1,939	44.12	95.5	1,779	48.33	104.6	47.33	102.4	1,711	47.33	102.4
Body, mind and spirit	26.76	132	37.32	139.5	237	31.99	119.5	158	46.64	174.3	29.37	109.7	150	29.37	109.7
Business and economics	120.56	4,126	139.77	115.9	4,386	150.18	124.6	4,370	145.78	120.9	146.90	121.9	4,659	146.90	121.9
Children	23.14	11,920	22.97	99.3	12,179	23.78	102.8	12,763	23.99	103.7	24.03	103.8	12,988	24.03	103.8
Comics and graphic novels	32.75	735	37.86	115.6	639	37.53	114.6	664	40.31	123.1	37.75	115.3	698	37.75	115.3
Computers	113.07	981	167.06	147.7	880	139.41	123.3	901	159.86	141.4	150.03	132.7	965	150.03	132.7
Cooking	28.68	1,135	29.05	101.3	1,215	29.54	103.0	1,244	28.93	100.9	28.20	98.3	1,225	28.20	98.3
Crafts and hobbies	28.82	210	31.13	108.0	195	29.10	101.0	204	28.76	99.8	28.78	99.9	172	28.78	99.9
Design	59.41	504	64.87	109.2	399	62.97	106.0	394	67.56	113.7	67.62	113.8	457	67.62	113.8
Drama	60.81	72	76.98	126.6	76	74.53	122.6	81	81.21	133.5	79.99	131.5	59	79.99	131.5
Education	95.10	1,616	132.56	139.4	1,747	118.72	124.8	1,930	122.49	128.8	120.43	126.6	2,155	120.43	126.6
Family and relationships	25.37	213	43.07	169.8	265	36.53	144.0	209	45.46	179.2	57.43	226.4	208	57.43	226.4
Fiction	28.37	4,421	30.23	106.6	5,155	30.29	106.8	4,625	30.05	105.9	29.84	105.2	4,345	29.84	105.2
Foreign language study	116.89	221	115.16	98.5	270	115.33	98.7	220	115.88	99.1	140.76	120.4	260	140.76	120.4
Games	32.07	122	36.01	112.3	111	40.05	124.9	95	39.54	123.3	40.26	125.5	111	40.26	125.5
Gardening	38.20	134	39.94	104.6	115	37.42	98.0	97	30.64	80.2	38.10	99.7	121	38.10	99.7
Health and fitness	54.05	321	73.38	135.8	378	64.67	119.6	353	58.45	108.1	68.16	126.1	359	68.16	126.1
History	88.17	4,950	86.46	98.1	5,030	86.61	98.2	5,489	94.66	107.4	93.46	106.0	5,784	93.46	106.0
House and home	31.51	88	44.73	142.0	108	35.83	113.7	91	33.66	106.8	35.60	113.0	109	35.60	113.0
Humor	19.00	245	19.77	104.1	246	19.94	104.9	288	23.74	125.0	24.72	130.1	292	24.72	130.1

Language arts and disciplines	120.71	1,147	131.89	109.3	1,253	141.23	117.0	1,302	147.81	122.4	1,543	143.58	118.9
Law	155.28	1,900	178.81	115.2	1,966	178.70	115.1	2,105	178.45	114.9	2,169	175.45	113.0
Literary collections	74.92	258	96.92	129.4	282	90.16	120.3	271	100.18	133.7	218	113.01	150.8
Literary criticism	123.84	2,027	123.34	99.6	1,990	121.24	97.9	2,284	126.91	102.5	2,257	121.22	97.9
Mathematics	144.88	963	151.30	104.4	910	133.13	91.9	963	141.42	97.6	979	148.93	102.8
Medical	156.54	3,546	180.38	115.2	3,443	185.17	118.3	3,488	204.11	130.4	4,116	181.47	115.9
Music	77.63	524	90.51	116.6	534	89.37	115.1	540	91.28	117.6	576	95.78	123.4
Nature	67.75	371	89.94	132.8	470	84.27	124.4	420	90.35	133.4	471	89.08	131.5
Performing arts	71.74	574	90.23	125.8	583	94.64	131.9	684	94.85	132.2	773	94.70	132.0
Pets	25.45	93	23.98	94.2	107	25.64	100.7	107	24.44	96.0	89	24.78	97.4
Philosophy	127.22	1,169	105.35	82.8	1,291	105.67	83.1	1,406	109.89	86.4	1,495	106.34	83.6
Photography	56.77	865	85.88	151.3	801	93.22	164.2	841	66.87	117.8	892	68.88	121.3
Poetry	36.58	287	41.58	113.7	420	33.92	92.7	352	34.64	94.7	282	43.38	118.6
Political science	103.39	2,654	112.81	109.1	2,608	113.25	109.5	3,036	116.68	112.9	3,145	120.65	116.7
Psychology	93.85	1,100	140.31	149.5	1,171	131.91	140.6	1,193	152.10	162.1	1,363	148.46	158.2
Reference	202.23	499	396.56	196.1	409	356.07	176.1	400	320.62	158.5	359	378.60	187.2
Religion	62.29	2,730	81.93	131.5	2,804	77.10	123.8	2,538	80.02	128.5	2,474	85.91	137.9
Science	203.44	3,331	195.83	96.3	3,325	194.94	95.8	3,536	199.58	98.1	4,143	186.49	91.7
Self-help	22.43	265	24.74	110.3	377	28.15	125.5	282	25.13	112.0	284	27.78	123.9
Social science	96.17	3,139	115.79	120.4	3,335	115.72	120.3	3,328	141.10	146.7	3,825	132.77	138.1
Sports and recreation	38.77	658	51.66	133.2	690	47.29	122.0	621	60.84	156.9	606	52.77	136.1
Study aids	105.28	14	110.60	105.1	14	116.17	110.3	19	92.75	88.1	14	101.39	96.3
Technology and engineering	187.80	2,653	175.47	93.4	2,540	172.73	92.0	2,567	189.95	101.1	3,439	167.47	89.2
Transportation	68.68	225	66.85	97.3	316	71.76	104.5	248	85.61	124.6	279	83.00	120.9
Travel	37.11	205	49.73	134.0	205	41.30	111.3	181	38.16	102.8	209	34.34	92.5
True crime	29.28	70	32.37	110.6	87	28.20	96.3	78	28.83	98.5	65	42.62	145.6
Young adult	50.17	2,256	36.87	73.5	1,965	30.98	61.8	2,169	33.93	67.6	2,044	32.23	64.2
Totals	\$80.36	70,288	\$95.00	118.2	72,721	\$92.56	115.2	73,892	\$98.53	122.6	78,093	\$98.96	123.1

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

Table 4 / North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012-2014

Subject Area	LC Class	1989			2012			2013			2014		
		No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2013-2014	Index
Agriculture	S	897	\$45.13	1,402	\$106.66	1,361	\$99.44	1,634	\$119.50	20.2%	264.8		
Anthropology	GN	406	32.81	563	105.27	581	101.62	691	95.12	-6.4	289.9		
Botany	QK	251	69.02	356	161.26	307	156.65	449	155.71	-0.6	225.6		
Business and economics	H	5,979	41.67	11,058	115.17	11,242	117.50	14,618	108.43	-7.7	260.2		
Chemistry	QD	577	110.61	787	259.27	754	238.81	988	236.90	-0.8	214.2		
Education	L	1,685	29.61	4,768	95.15	4,573	96.65	6,492	88.52	-8.4	299.0		
Engineering and technology	T	4,569	64.94	8,769	147.53	8,470	157.88	10,699	155.63	-1.4	239.6		
Fine and applied arts	M-N	3,040	40.72	7,098	65.76	7,174	69.08	7,916	70.39	1.9	172.9		
General works	A	333	134.65	162	97.19	148	110.81	232	81.99	-26.0	60.9		
Geography	G	396	47.34	1,241	131.13	1,171	120.75	1,617	119.36	-1.2	252.1		
Geology	QE	303	63.49	321	138.07	320	217.42	394	144.45	-33.6	227.5		
History	C-D-E-F	5,549	31.34	9,857	73.31	10,301	83.35	13,944	76.50	-8.2	244.1		
Home economics	TX	535	27.10	1,043	51.81	1,059	67.40	835	65.84	-2.3	242.9		
Industrial arts	TT	175	23.89	430	45.58	363	43.71	306	67.78	55.1	283.7		
Law	K	1,252	51.10	6,139	136.38	5,758	161.29	6,408	136.98	-15.1	268.1		

Index Base: 1989 = 100

	Y	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Library and information science	Z	857	44.51	812	106.91	878	108.53	1,097	96.89	-10.7	217.7																													
Literature and language	P	10,812	24.99	21,813	61.12	23,203	69.50	28,986	61.52	-11.5	246.2																													
Mathematics and computer science	QA	2,707	44.68	4,820	122.99	4,495	133.96	5,415	111.47	-16.8	249.5																													
Medicine	R	5,028	58.38	9,249	130.09	8,711	128.67	11,795	153.96	19.7	263.7																													
Military and naval science	U-V	715	33.57	891	83.37	928	81.76	1,225	77.13	-5.7	229.8																													
Philosophy and religion	B	3,518	29.06	8,314	84.73	8,392	97.28	10,565	87.22	-10.3	300.1																													
Physical education and recreation	GV	814	20.38	2,102	64.92	2,170	85.89	2,595	69.03	-19.6	338.7																													
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,219	64.59	1,811	145.95	1,761	149.09	2,235	139.86	-6.2	216.5																													
Political science	J	1,650	36.76	3,905	110.71	3,721	106.53	5,141	104.23	-2.2	283.5																													
Psychology	BF	890	31.97	1,990	99.96	1,983	115.22	2,321	104.46	-9.3	326.7																													
Science (general)	Q	433	56.10	717	139.25	593	128.18	920	123.54	-3.6	220.2																													
Sociology	HM	2,742	29.36	7,044	98.63	7,260	114.34	10,021	98.58	-13.8	335.8																													
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	1,967	71.28	3,375	157.49	3,147	161.11	3,750	149.68	-7.1	210.0																													
Average for all subjects		59,299	\$41.69	120,837	\$100.69	120,822	\$107.02	153,289	\$101.08	-5.6%	242.4																													

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by Ingrams Content Group (Coutis Information Services), and YBP Library Services. The data represent all titles (includes 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.

Table 4A / North American Academic E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012-2014

Index Base: 2007 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2007			2012			2013			2014		
		No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2013-2014	Index
Agriculture	S	894	\$128.59	748	\$150.01	730	\$137.60	844	\$160.32	16.5%	124.7		
Anthropology	GN	382	105.28	367	130.70	317	125.90	340	115.38	-8.4	109.6		
Botany	QK	287	168.18	224	176.14	197	170.44	254	198.35	16.4	117.9		
Business and economics	H	9,807	97.25	7,369	136.31	6,684	138.84	8,170	122.43	-11.8	125.9		
Chemistry	QD	934	213.76	595	280.25	526	268.27	596	271.52	1.2	127.0		
Education	L	2,565	107.62	2,848	126.02	2,422	125.68	3,342	105.93	-15.7	98.4		
Engineering and technology	T	7,176	133.60	5,365	193.12	5,069	204.78	6,127	195.67	-4.4	146.5		
Fine and applied arts	M-N	1,141	84.30	1,898	114.59	1,749	116.21	2,212	100.80	-13.3	119.6		
General works	A	60	107.85	83	121.94	67	109.96	108	103.65	-5.7	96.1		
Geography	G	888	132.67	752	147.60	623	164.58	875	144.33	-12.3	108.8		
Geology	QE	201	136.49	209	181.01	189	314.30	203	173.25	-44.9	126.9		
History	C-D-E-F	4,452	93.55	5,352	111.36	4,800	116.44	6,740	95.69	-17.8	102.3		
Home economics	TX	255	104.31	384	125.74	449	112.76	367	93.97	-16.7	90.1		
Industrial arts	TT	20	52.73	72	70.54	86	72.30	90	100.82	39.5	191.2		
Law	K	1,743	99.61	3,034	174.94	2,461	200.43	2,699	158.25	-21.0	158.9		

Table 4B / North American Academic Text Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012-2014

Index Base: 2007 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2007			2012			2013			2014		
		No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2007-2012	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2012-2013	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2013-2014	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2014-2015
Agriculture	S	68	\$134.75	100	\$140.37	62	\$131.30	71	\$123.05	-6.3%	91.3		
Anthropology	GN	40	89.15	75	108.16	35	114.63	35	112.17	-2.1	125.8		
Botany	QK	4	98.00	14	185.04	9	207.69	13	121.02	-41.7	123.5		
Business and economics	H	666	110.18	1,378	140.60	849	139.79	1,037	126.85	-9.3	115.1		
Chemistry	QD	80	138.70	155	186.00	99	154.16	119	149.17	-3.2	107.5		
Education	L	235	79.58	589	103.20	322	99.91	444	89.06	-10.9	111.9		
Engineering and technology	T	668	106.13	1,128	133.28	835	136.07	925	124.31	-8.6	117.1		
Fine and applied arts	M-N	82	73.69	179	111.44	104	107.49	112	108.03	0.5	146.6		
General works	A	1	48.00	8	116.81	3	120.33	4	65.08	-45.9	135.6		
Geography	G	59	100.42	150	127.39	91	134.77	115	126.88	-5.9	126.4		
Geology	QE	26	118.28	46	137.67	30	138.20	43	132.58	-4.1	112.1		
History	C-D-E-F	72	78.41	207	97.25	106	90.00	155	94.48	5.0	120.5		
Home economics	TX	54	68.23	71	106.75	50	105.95	18	116.70	10.1	171.0		
Industrial arts	TT	13	73.90	27	88.60	14	87.95	9	104.47	18.8	141.4		
Law	K	163	87.67	543	116.61	316	113.67	442	103.35	-9.1	117.9		

Library and information science	Z	24	65.54	42	75.03	24	75.73	56	81.40	7.5	124.2
Literature and language	P	269	71.35	787	93.32	382	91.06	522	85.79	-5.8	120.2
Mathematics and computer science	QA	732	91.42	1,072	124.39	783	108.08	895	101.64	-6.0	111.2
Medicine	R	1,210	126.37	2,046	138.27	1,596	135.40	1,824	131.76	-2.7	104.3
Military and naval science	U-V	10	104.58	29	129.40	12	75.62	20	108.76	43.8	104.0
Philosophy and religion	B	85	55.51	232	73.94	122	73.20	162	69.26	-5.4	124.8
Physical education and recreation	GV	47	72.14	110	108.93	62	121.16	60	106.17	-12.4	147.2
Physics and astronomy	QB	237	107.05	323	130.77	258	119.37	278	102.04	-14.5	95.3
Political science	J	104	74.21	265	105.94	148	102.16	173	93.56	-8.4	126.1
Psychology	BF	120	100.17	287	128.83	174	132.07	183	123.97	-6.1	123.8
Science (general)	Q	24	111.30	65	102.40	35	99.37	50	86.29	-13.2	77.5
Sociology	HM	330	84.88	815	103.14	489	104.24	575	95.75	-8.1	112.8
Zoology	QH,L,PR	250	116.73	431	136.35	256	137.69	258	126.66	-8.0	108.5
Average for all subjects		5,673	\$102.52	11,174	\$123.56	7,266	\$122.07	8,598	\$113.25	-7.2%	110.5

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona from electronic data provided by YBP Library Services and Ingram's Content Group. 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.

This index does include paperback editions. The inclusion of these items does impact pricing in the index.

(continued from page 351)

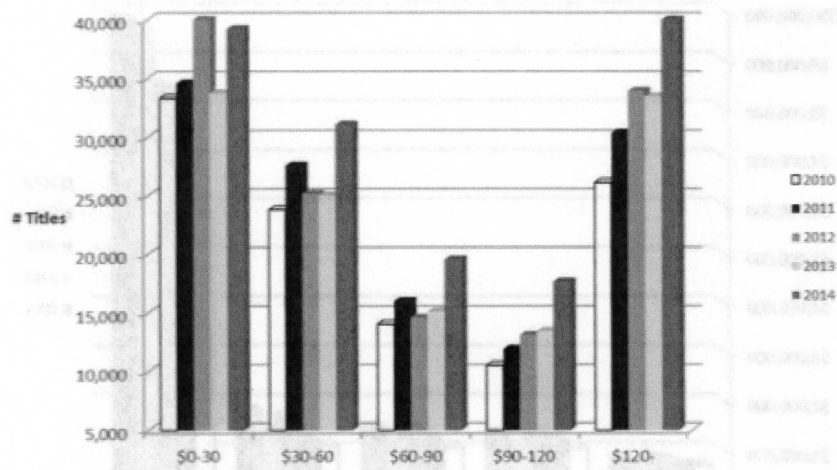
interest to users. Based on that input, the indexes continue to be published with the base index year set to 2007. In the academic market, it has always been assumed that e-books are more expensive than their print counterparts. Users might be surprised to find that the cheaper versions of e-books, available to consumers through such channels as Amazon and the Apple Store, are not available to libraries at similar prices, if they are available at all. The e-book index clearly points out the difference in price: the average price of an e-book in 2014 was \$130.95 while the average price for all books was \$101.08. The average price of a print book drops to \$72.69 if the e-books are removed from the overall index. In 2013 there were close to 300 titles in the index costing more than \$1,000 and their average price was \$4,167. In 2014, there were around 260 titles and their average price was \$2,156. The e-book index (Table 4A) showed a 13.7 percent price decrease and this decrease in the prices for e-books was the driver in the overall price decrease for 2014. E-books make up about 50 percent of the base table.

The high price for e-books is not that surprising as most pricing models for academic e-books generally add a large percentage to the list print price for the purchase of the e-books. Multi-user licenses are an even larger percentage. In most situations, even single-user academic e-book titles are more expensive than their print counterparts. Responding to customer demands, vendors offer e-books on multiple platforms with multiple pricing models; consequently, there can be multiple prices for the same title. Only the first instance of a unique ISBN is included in the data, so if the same book was treated by a vendor from one e-book aggregator and then treated again from another aggregator, only the first instance of the e-book is in the index. Also, if different pricing models are available the single user price is supplied. Where multiple prices are available for different use models, the lowest price is provided. Because electronic access is where the market is going 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 availability of additional pricing models could be a factor in the upward shift in e-book prices.

The cost of textbooks has been a hot topic on many college campuses. The index for textbooks documents price changes in this area. The data show that textbooks tend to be much more expensive than other types of books, with an average price of \$113.25 in 2014. There was a 7.2 percent decrease in the average price in 2014 after a 1.2 percent decrease in 2013. This is still not good news for students, who are essentially hostages of the textbook market. Textbooks are still expensive and the prices are not dropping significantly despite pressure on the textbook market from alternative sources like rental services for either print or electronic versions. This is not much consolation for cash-strapped students.

The average price of North American academic books in 2014 (Table 4) decreased by 5.6 percent as compared with the 2013 average price. This is mainly due to a large decrease in the average cost of titles treated in the highest part of the price bands (\$120 and up). Nearly all price bands showed only modest growth, or no growth, in the number of titles between 2010 and 2013 and then the number of titles spiked in 2014. The price band above \$120 exhibited very large increases over that period. The increase in the upper price bands was primarily due to increases in e-books; their prices average well above the \$120 threshold.

Figure 1 / Comparison of Titles in Sample Grouped by Price



Take e-books out of the sample and the upper price bands shrink considerably. See Figure 1.

One thing that really stands out when looking at the data by price band is that the highest end of the price bands (\$120 and up) has seen huge growth in the past five years, close to doubling in overall costs from \$5.8 million (2010) to \$9.8 million (2014). 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). It is clear that the increase in the top end of the index was the main component in the overall increase as well as the decrease in the index for 2014. Until 2014 the \$0-\$30 price area had the largest number of titles; dollar-wise it remained the smallest portion as far as total cost (sum of all prices) goes in the index. The increase in the prices in the upper end of the index was what added to the overall level of increases. Since 2007 the cost (titles X prices) for books pricing above \$120 has increased by 259 percent, while the overall costs for all books increased 120 percent. The increases in the costs of books in the upper price band represents 91 percent of the entire increase over the period covered. Again, e-books are a significant driver in that increase as within the price bands the average price remains fairly constant except for the area with prices over \$120, which showed a 62 percent increase over the years 2010–2013 before a drop in 2014. See Figures 2 and 3.

The data used for this index are derived from all titles treated by the Coutts Information Services (formerly Ingram Content Group, but now Coutts is part of ProQuest) and YBP Library Services (formerly part of Baker and Taylor now part of EBSCO) 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 clearly influenced the prices reflected in the index figures. The index is inclusive of the broadest categories of materials as that is the marketplace in

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

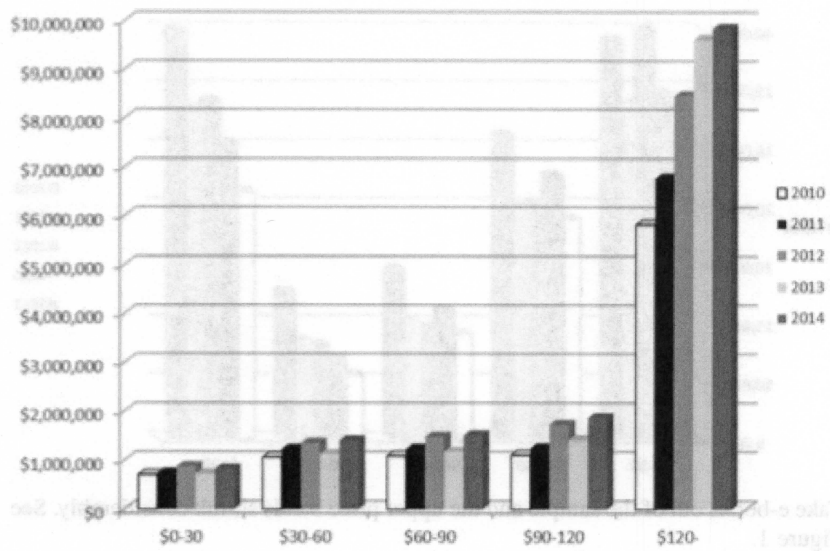
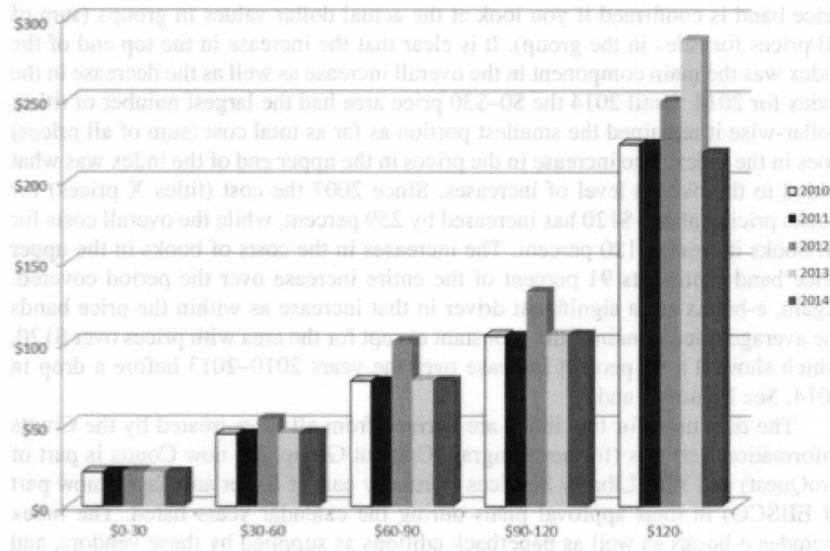


Figure 3 / Comparison of Average Price Grouped by Price Band



which academic libraries operate, and the index attempts to chart price changes that impact that market.

E-books are also now being treated in a separate index (Table 4A), so the differences in the indexes will be interesting to observe. Currently a large number of titles are not published in both print and “e” version, so the number of titles in the e-book index should remain smaller than the broader index. It is safe to say that, in the future, the number of titles in the broader index could decline and at the same time the number of e-books should rise, especially as we see more publishers move to publishing electronic versions of their books. Many e-book pricing models add extra charges of as much as 50 percent to 100 percent to the retail price. This pricing model is reflected in the higher prices for e-books. The overall price for e-books did show a decline from 2007 to 2009, but in 2011 to 2013 the prices shot up again. The year 2014 showed a decrease in average price for e-books but the overall trend is going up. The index clearly shows that, for the library market, e-books are much more expensive than print. Many publishers and e-book aggregators are still adding “e” versions of print books from backlists, and these are showing up in the index; this is also the basis for the wide swings in numbers of titles in the index from year to year.

The price index for textbooks (Table 4B) shows a 7.2 percent decrease for overall prices between 2013 and 2014. Despite the decrease, overall textbook prices are higher than regular books. These are indicators that the angst experienced by students as they purchase their texts is well justified as prices appear to be much higher than for regular academic books.

Price changes vary, as always, among subject areas. This year there were many double-digit decreases in subject areas, and a few areas showed price increases. This is a normal occurrence. What is not normal is the fact that a third of the subject areas showed double-digit price decreases. The 2014 data show that those areas with the largest decreases were very mixed, indicating that changes in publishing patterns at the subject level were not causes of the overall changes in the index. Decreases in e-book publishing in large expensive online reference works and encyclopedias caused the overall decrease.

It is good to remember that price indexes become less accurate at describing price changes the smaller the sample becomes. Geology and physical education are small samples and showed very large price changes, but to conclude that all books in those areas increased or decreased at like amounts is not correct. These areas have a small sample size (fewer than 1,000 titles) and the inclusion/exclusion of just a few large expensive items can have a major impact on prices for the category. The decreases in geology, for example, were due to a drop in the number of expensive titles. Because the sample is very small, these titles caused the overall price to drop dramatically.

The U.S. College Books Price Index (Table 5), prepared by Frederick C. Lynden, contains average price and index number data for the years 2013 through 2015 (index base year of 1989), and also the percentage change in price between 2014 and 2015.

Data for the index were compiled from 6,424 reviews of books published in *Choice* during 2015. Expensive titles (\$500 or more) were omitted from the

(text continues on page 367)

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 1989, 2013–2015

Index Base for all years: 1989 = 100

Subject	1989			2013			2014			2015			Percent Change 2014–2015
	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 2014	
GENERAL *	19	\$40.19	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
HUMANITIES	21	32.33	\$69.95	216.4	110	\$74.73	231.1	106.8	69	\$70.45	217.9	94.3	-0.1
Art and architecture	276	55.56	64.93	116.9	186	62.00	111.6	95.5	134	66.00	118.8	106.5	0.1
Fine Arts **	n.a.	n.a.	65.66	n.a.	87	60.99	n.a.	92.9	105	69.49	n.a.	113.9	0.1
Architecture **	n.a.	n.a.	72.09	n.a.	63	88.46	n.a.	122.7	44	90.81	n.a.	102.7	0.0
Photography	24	44.11	56.60	128.3	37	60.00	136.0	106.0	21	56.32	127.7	93.9	-0.1
Communication	42	\$32.70	71.68	219.2	114	65.00	198.8	90.7	84	91.52	279.9	140.8	0.4
Language and literature	110	35.17	70.83	201.4	115	89.67	255.0	126.6	90	76.81	218.4	85.7	-0.1
African and Middle Eastern **	n.a.	n.a.	52.80	n.a.	18	59.32	n.a.	112.3	16	75.27	n.a.	126.9	0.3
Asian and Oceanian **	n.a.	n.a.	65.30	n.a.	21	59.37	n.a.	90.9	23	55.78	n.a.	94.0	-0.1
Classical	75	43.07	87.87	204.0	39	85.24	197.9	97.0	34	67.83	157.5	79.6	-0.2
English and American	547	30.27	72.45	239.3	365	69.18	228.5	95.5	326	67.34	222.5	97.3	-0.0
Germanic	38	32.18	73.44	228.2	30	66.44	206.5	90.5	35	72.87	226.4	109.7	0.1
Romance	97	\$30.30	77.37	255.3	66	76.29	251.8	98.6	62	69.34	228.8	90.9	-0.1
Slavic	41	27.92	56.07	200.8	10	85.40	305.9	152.3	13	63.37	227.0	74.2	-0.3
Other	63	25.09	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Performing arts	20	29.41	59.85	203.5	37	70.72	240.5	118.2	28	57.72	196.3	81.6	-0.2
Film	82	\$33.00	77.23	234.0	146	74.68	226.3	96.7	130	71.02	215.2	95.1	-0.0
Music	156	35.34	70.44	199.3	141	68.10	192.7	96.7	129	65.32	184.8	95.9	-0.0
Theater and dance	58	34.18	67.24	196.7	49	70.75	207.0	105.2	26	79.14	231.5	111.9	0.1
Philosophy	185	37.25	75.30	202.1	241	76.70	205.9	101.9	244	74.60	200.3	97.3	-0.0
Religion	174	33.49	66.32	198.0	271	68.68	205.1	103.6	290	57.51	171.7	83.7	-0.2
TOTAL HUMANITIES	2,009	\$36.09	70.53	195.4	2,146	\$71.35	197.7	101.2	1,903	\$69.05	191.3	96.8	-0.0

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY													
History of science and technology	99	\$46.90	68.77	146.6	102	\$59.53	126.9	86.6	67	\$58.57	124.9	98.4	-0.0
Astronautics and astronomy	74	40.56	47.47	117.0	85	54.60	134.6	115.0	77	58.08	143.2	106.4	0.1
Biology	22	50.56	65.56	129.7	57	57.52	113.8	87.7	66	48.00	94.9	83.4	-0.2
<i>Botany</i>	97	51.01	72.46	142.1	154	72.79	142.7	100.5	152	77.01	151.0	105.8	0.1
<i>Zoology</i>	29	63.91	82.34	128.8	62	91.94	143.9	111.7	79	95.71	149.8	104.1	0.0
Chemistry	53	49.21	73.03	148.4	139	58.54	119.0	80.2	115	69.55	141.3	118.8	0.2
<i>Earth science</i>	21	70.76	107.12	151.4	36	86.65	122.5	80.9	30	73.21	103.5	84.5	-0.2
<i>Engineering</i>	34	79.44	81.36	102.4	115	84.08	105.8	103.3	119	75.86	95.5	90.2	-0.1
<i>Health sciences</i>	87	66.74	98.47	147.5	58	91.42	137.0	92.8	57	93.02	139.4	101.8	0.0
<i>Information and computer science</i>	94	34.91	59.12	169.3	162	66.98	191.9	113.3	151	70.27	201.3	104.9	0.0
<i>Mathematics</i>	70	40.35	59.15	146.6	62	72.94	180.8	123.3	51	53.35	132.2	73.1	-0.3
<i>Physics</i>	60	48.53	65.88	135.8	85	62.64	129.1	95.1	102	67.01	138.1	107.0	0.1
Sports and physical education	22	43.94	66.47	151.3	51	58.96	134.2	88.7	44	56.54	128.7	95.9	-0.0
TOTAL SCIENCE	18	27.46	59.12	215.3	54	69.08	251.6	116.8	52	66.43	241.9	96.2	-0.0
	780	\$49.54	70.27	141.8	1,222	\$69.20	139.7	98.5	1,162	\$70.11	141.5	101.3	0.0
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES													
Anthropology	92	\$37.09	69.48	187.3	126	\$81.26	219.1	117.0	144	\$81.06	218.5	99.8	-0.0
Business management and labor	96	39.94	82.06	205.5	123	84.95	212.7	103.5	113	82.79	207.3	97.5	-0.0
Economics	145	35.72	62.04	173.7	160	65.21	182.6	105.1	127	54.39	152.3	83.4	-0.2
Education	332	40.75	60.24	147.8	247	60.59	148.7	100.6	238	67.44	165.5	111.3	0.1
History, geography and area studies	71	\$34.50	65.31	189.3	138	73.24	212.3	112.1	161	77.82	225.6	106.3	0.1
<i>Africa</i>	59	\$42.10	76.21	181.0	117	68.10	161.8	89.4	139	70.59	167.7	103.7	0.0
<i>Ancient History **</i>	44	34.85	71.76	205.9	34	71.62	205.5	99.8	34	72.54	208.1	101.3	0.0
<i>Asia and Oceania</i>	n.a.	n.a.	88.88	n.a.	41	102.96	n.a.	115.8	45	95.74	n.a.	93.0	-0.1
<i>Central and Eastern Europe **</i>	76	34.75	69.43	199.8	92	71.77	206.5	103.4	86	78.82	226.8	109.8	0.1
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	n.a.	n.a.	63.73	n.a.	59	72.77	n.a.	114.2	63	68.25	n.a.	93.8	-0.1
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	42	37.23	60.74	163.1	67	65.86	176.9	108.4	60	68.61	184.3	104.2	0.0
<i>North America</i>	30	36.32	60.23	165.8	35	74.43	204.9	123.6	49	77.79	214.2	104.5	0.0
<i>United Kingdom **</i>	349	30.56	63.47	207.7	441	49.60	162.3	78.1	397	50.10	163.9	101.0	0.0
<i>Western Europe</i>	n.a.	n.a.	78.40	n.a.	86	72.12	n.a.	92.0	68	74.65	n.a.	103.5	0.0
	287	42.08	74.59	177.3	122	75.99	180.6	101.9	122	69.43	165.0	91.4	-0.1

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 1989, 2013-2015 (cont.)

Subject	1989			2013			2014			2015			Percent Change 2014-2015
	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	
Political science	28	33.56	119.1	4	124.99	372.4	312.6	3	48.98	145.9	39.2	-0.6	
Comparative politics	236	37.82	185.7	202	69.93	184.9	99.6	190	79.17	209.3	113.2	0.1	
International relations	207	35.74	197.3	177	73.64	206.0	104.4	187	77.80	217.7	105.6	0.1	
Political theory	59	37.76	158.5	85	62.83	166.4	105.0	80	62.88	166.5	100.1	0.0	
U.S. Politics	212	29.37	185.0	241	63.49	216.2	116.9	216	63.43	216.0	99.9	-0.0	
Psychology	179	36.36	224.4	96	75.08	206.5	92.0	67	85.53	235.2	113.9	0.1	
Sociology	178	36.36	195.9	193	78.79	216.7	110.6	169	79.70	219.2	101.2	0.0	
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	2,722	\$36.43	186.7	2,886	\$68.19	187.2	100.2	2,758	\$70.05	192.3	102.7	0.0	
TOTAL GENERAL, HUMANITIES, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE	5,511	\$38.16	181.6	6,254	\$69.47	182.0	100.2	5,823	\$69.73	182.7	100.4	0.0	
REFERENCE	636	\$61.02	192.5	40	\$98.18	160.9	83.6	59	\$80.62	132.1	82.1	-0.2	
Humanities **	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	136	114.67	n.a.	110.8	90	106.96	n.a.	93.3	-0.1	
Science and technology **	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	43	149.99	n.a.	77.5	39	119.96	n.a.	80.0	-0.2	
Social and behavioral sciences **	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	178	134.98	n.a.	87.9	130	145.39	n.a.	107.7	0.1	
TOTAL REFERENCE	636	\$61.02	235.2	397	\$124.29	203.7	86.6	318	\$119.38	195.6	96.0	-0.0	
GRAND TOTAL	6,147	\$40.52	182.1	6,651	\$72.74	179.5	98.6	6,141	72.31	178.5	99.4	-0.0	

Compiled by Frederick Lynden, Brown University.

* General category no longer appears after 1999.

** Began appearing as separate sections after 1989.

n.a. = not available

analysis; thus the total number of titles reported is smaller than the actual number of books reviewed in 2015. This index includes some paperback prices; as a result, the average book price is less than if only hardcover books were included.

The average price for humanities titles in 2015 decreased by 3.22 percent from the previous year, and the average price for science and technology titles increased slightly at a rate of 1.32 percent. Finally, the average price for social and behavioral sciences increased at a rate of 2.73 percent. Nevertheless, combined, the overall subject area increase was 0.37 percent. This overall small increase is in line with the CPI increase for 2015, which has been around 0.7 percent. For all titles, which include reference, there was a small dip of 0.59 percent, caused primarily by the large decrease in reference title average prices. More and more reference titles are being published online these days.

For 2015 the overall price average for books in the four major sections of Choice—humanities, science and technology, social and behavioral sciences, and reference—was \$72.31, a 0.59 percent decrease compared with the average 2014 book price of \$72.74 (the overall average was corrected due to an error last year). Reference books calculated separately had an average price decrease of 3.95 percent over the previous year, with a 2015 average price of \$119.38 (after items \$500 or over were removed) compared with last year's average price of \$124.29. However, excluding reference books, the 2015 average price was \$69.73, a 0.37 percent increase over the average 2014 price of \$69.47.

Questions regarding this index should be addressed to the author at his e-mail address: Flynden@stanfordalumni.org.

Foreign Prices

During 2015 the dollar continued to make significant gains against the Canadian dollar, euro, British pound sterling, and Japanese yen. The steep decline in oil prices has been a factor in the dollar's strength throughout this time period.

Dates	12/31/11*	12/31/12*	12/31/13*	12/31/14*	12/31/15*
Canada	1.0180	0.9950	1.0640	1.1580	1.3860
Euro	0.7650	0.7590	0.7260	0.8220	0.9190
U.K.	0.6370	0.6180	0.6050	0.6420	0.6750
Japan	78.0000	86.1600	105.0100	119.4500	120.4200

* 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 ISI Arts and Humanities Citation Index, ISI Science Citation Index, ISI Social Sciences Citation Index, EBSCO Academic Search Premier,

(text continues on page 382)

Table 6 / U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2012–2015

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2012 Final			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015		
	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$7.69	5	116.9	\$8.99	5	116.9	\$8.99	4	116.9	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.	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.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Biography and autobiography	7.83	4	86.0	6.73	3	9.66	123.4	6	8.98	114.7	2	\$8.49	108.4	n.a.	n.a.
Body, mind and spirit	7.11	14	114.3	8.13	14	114.3	114.3	2	9.99	140.5	n.a.	n.a.	8.99	72.1	116.0
Business and economics	12.47	1	64.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6.14	200	n.a.
Children	5.29	240	122.7	6.70	217	126.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Comics and graphic novels	8.47	n.a.	n.a.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cooking	7.50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99
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.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Drama	6.32	2	78.3	4.95	2	78.3	n.a.	1	9.99	158.1	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Family and relationships	6.98	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99
Fiction	6.34	3,894	111.2	7.05	3,524	110.4	n.a.	3,603	7.09	111.9	3,235	7.10	112.0	n.a.	n.a.
Foreign language study	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	6.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Games	7.14	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	139.9	n.a.	2	9.25	129.5	1	7.99	111.9	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Health and fitness	7.43	16	110.9	8.24	8	110.9	n.a.	3	9.33	125.5	3	8.99	121.0	n.a.	n.a.
History	7.90	3	109.6	8.66	3	126.5	n.a.	2	9.99	126.5	2	9.99	126.5	n.a.	n.a.
House and home	5.99	n.a.	n.a.	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	6.99	n.a.	114.4	8.00	2	114.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Language arts and disciplines	6.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	114.3	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Literary collections	n.a.	2	5.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	4.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Literary criticism	7.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Medical	7.83	1	8.99	114.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	102.0	n.a.	n.a.
Music	7.95	n.a.	n.a.	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.	1	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Performing arts	8.23	1	9.99	121.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	10.99	133.5	n.a.	n.a.
Pets	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Philosophy	7.49	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poetry	5.75	2	7.45	129.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Political science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Psychology	7.97	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Reference	6.85	3	8.31	121.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	12.89	188.2	n.a.	n.a.
Religion	9.96	2	7.49	75.2	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Self-help	12.45	1	7.99	64.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Social science	7.08	1	9.99	141.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sports and recreation	7.62	1	7.99	104.9	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.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation	12.95	n.a.	n.a.	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
True crime	7.19	38	8.31	115.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20	8.69	120.9	n.a.	n.a.
Young adult	6.46	44	8.94	138.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	44	9.42	145.9	n.a.	n.a.
Totals	\$6.34	4,276	\$7.06	111.4	3,855	\$7.04	111.0	3,970	\$7.08	111.7	3,497	\$7.07	111.6	

Compiled by Narda Tafari, 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, 2012-2015

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2012 Final			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Preliminary		
	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$24.80	160	126.4	\$31.34	134	137.4	\$34.08	139	145.2	\$36.02	118	143.2	\$35.51	118	143.2
Architecture	38.90	639	109.8	42.72	780	112.4	43.74	689	118.2	45.98	784	112.7	43.83	784	112.7
Art	31.28	1,718	121.3	37.93	1,697	133.3	41.70	1,679	126.5	39.58	1,800	117.4	36.73	1,800	117.4
Bibles	36.87	641	121.1	44.66	808	113.2	41.74	770	123.2	45.41	937	112.5	41.46	937	112.5
Biography and autobiography	19.19	2,648	104.7	20.10	3,092	103.2	19.80	2,920	106.4	20.41	2,604	106.1	20.36	2,604	106.1
Body, mind and spirit	17.48	1,061	105.0	18.35	1,013	104.7	18.31	861	103.6	18.11	664	104.2	18.21	664	104.2
Business and economics	71.12	9,050	121.3	86.29	7,243	124.3	88.39	7,334	129.6	92.17	8,386	144.5	102.77	8,386	144.5
Children	11.11	10,137	124.5	13.83	10,360	110.8	12.31	11,493	116.7	12.97	11,260	139.2	15.46	11,260	139.2
Comics and graphic novels	12.75	2,206	128.5	16.39	1,834	131.2	16.73	2,077	137.7	17.56	1,998	138.1	17.61	1,998	138.1
Computers	57.01	4,289	164.5	93.80	3,636	150.6	85.88	3,506	146.9	83.75	2,784	135.0	76.96	2,784	135.0
Cooking	18.30	1,297	111.9	20.48	1,190	109.6	20.06	1,279	107.4	19.65	1,103	111.7	20.44	1,103	111.7
Crafts and hobbies	18.49	1,079	105.6	19.52	1,201	99.5	18.40	1,203	101.5	18.77	1,116	104.0	19.23	1,116	104.0
Design	32.87	386	126.2	41.48	327	117.6	38.64	308	128.2	42.13	254	136.9	44.98	254	136.9
Drama	16.40	504	119.5	19.60	611	122.5	20.09	584	126.5	20.75	531	136.5	22.38	531	136.5
Education	35.10	4,189	130.9	45.94	4,195	139.3	48.89	4,380	159.3	55.91	3,698	130.1	45.65	3,698	130.1
Family and relationships	17.10	763	112.2	19.18	767	113.6	19.42	756	133.9	22.89	650	118.1	20.19	650	118.1
Fiction	15.74	11,063	108.4	17.07	13,231	108.0	17.00	13,114	109.8	17.28	10,341	109.0	17.15	10,341	109.0
Foreign language study	41.90	1,224	101.8	42.66	1,006	125.3	52.51	1,370	106.9	44.78	822	117.3	49.16	822	117.3
Games	16.53	665	95.3	15.75	619	94.6	15.64	548	106.2	17.56	450	107.1	17.70	450	107.1
Gardening	20.59	236	114.6	23.60	194	110.9	22.83	163	106.6	21.94	157	121.3	24.97	157	121.3
Health and fitness	22.81	1,181	122.3	27.90	1,095	115.3	26.30	1,108	117.4	26.78	1,034	112.9	25.76	1,034	112.9
History	33.53	6,978	126.5	42.43	6,513	130.0	37.88	7,750	121.4	40.70	6,732	115.3	38.64	6,732	115.3
House and home	19.33	148	121.5	23.49	145	103.9	20.08	949	494.6	95.61	113	104.2	20.14	113	104.2
Humor	12.96	395	109.4	14.18	353	111.0	14.39	344	115.5	14.97	324	115.5	14.97	324	115.5

Table 7A / U.S. Audiobooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2012–2015

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2012 Final			2013			2014			2015		
	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Architecture	\$68.95	2	47.1	\$32.45	7	62.1	\$42.82	1	62.1	\$59.95	1	86.9	\$14.97	2	21.7
Art	57.51	12	65.0	37.40	3	52.1	29.95	9	68.4	39.32	9	68.4	31.65	9	55.0
Bibles	47.08	23	106.1	49.94	20	173.1	81.48	11	150.6	70.88	16	150.6	37.35	16	79.3
Biography and autobiography	37.68	1,018	124.9	47.08	1,199	109.1	41.12	982	110.4	41.60	1,231	110.4	36.65	1,231	97.3
Body, mind and spirit	26.74	126	134.6	35.99	244	100.7	26.93	181	106.6	28.51	163	106.6	23.70	163	88.6
Business and economics	42.11	475	90.8	38.25	452	82.0	34.51	607	71.2	29.96	703	71.2	29.48	703	70.0
Children	26.57	1,283	120.6	32.05	1,713	154.0	40.92	1,032	134.0	35.62	2,335	134.0	39.98	2,335	150.5
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	4	n.a.	37.48	2	n.a.	14.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Computers	41.39	4	103.2	42.73	2	126.8	52.47	18	99.7	41.26	8	99.7	30.36	8	73.4
Cooking	14.45	14	310.8	44.91	20	326.6	47.19	14	339.5	49.06	22	339.5	30.31	22	209.7
Crafts and hobbies	n.a.	1	n.a.	24.95	3	n.a.	24.95	5	n.a.	24.78	2	n.a.	30.47	2	n.a.
Design	n.a.	3	n.a.	57.30	1	n.a.	29.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	22.49	2	n.a.
Drama	23.45	111	102.7	24.09	100	138.7	32.53	59	110.5	25.91	49	110.5	29.53	49	125.9
Education	27.46	37	127.2	34.92	33	142.9	39.25	32	134.1	36.84	25	134.1	36.35	25	132.4
Family and relationships	24.58	143	175.2	43.07	119	143.0	35.16	119	130.2	32.01	162	130.2	30.86	162	125.6
Fiction	41.47	11,408	100.9	41.85	11,434	92.5	38.34	11,447	93.8	38.92	12,979	93.8	31.90	12,979	76.9
Foreign language study	70.04	178	94.0	65.81	114	99.0	69.35	273	91.8	64.32	118	91.8	40.66	118	58.1
Games	32.68	5	137.6	44.98	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	144.4	47.18	1	144.4	11.99	1	36.7
Gardening	n.a.	5	n.a.	31.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14.99	1	n.a.
Health and fitness	26.61	99	161.9	43.08	131	161.3	42.91	111	154.7	41.17	163	154.7	40.34	163	151.6
History	41.61	610	121.0	50.35	480	114.2	47.52	476	124.8	51.94	547	124.8	43.27	547	104.0
House and home	25.00	3	221.3	55.32	4	119.9	29.98	1	40.0	9.99	5	40.0	35.79	5	143.2
Humor	29.60	77	111.7	33.05	70	127.7	37.80	98	111.3	32.93	83	111.3	31.26	83	105.6

Language arts and disciplines	60.84	26	55.28	90.9	14	40.79	67.0	11	38.17	62.7	21	37.32	61.3
Law	55.32	18	51.04	92.3	16	64.24	116.1	12	62.41	112.8	10	47.59	86.0
Literary collections	24.71	35	39.87	161.3	18	37.09	150.1	41	54.10	218.9	56	40.41	163.5
Literary criticism	26.41	95	33.38	126.4	11	48.62	184.1	12	29.98	113.5	23	42.71	161.7
Mathematics	n.a.	3	51.32	n.a.	5	38.97	n.a.	5	20.59	n.a.	6	36.81	n.a.
Medical	153.72	24	49.26	32.0	24	40.98	26.7	12	37.74	24.6	27	32.31	21.0
Music	29.83	51	45.86	153.7	34	41.10	137.8	25	51.25	171.8	15	34.42	115.4
Nature	28.92	13	51.60	178.4	25	42.26	146.1	23	46.63	161.2	34	31.57	109.2
Performing arts	25.78	16	34.42	133.5	45	39.34	152.6	65	39.62	153.7	65	37.56	145.7
Pets	33.05	20	42.93	129.9	30	39.28	118.9	13	37.05	112.1	17	39.33	119.0
Philosophy	35.30	42	39.76	112.6	38	29.62	83.9	25	32.02	90.7	17	29.04	82.3
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poetry	22.87	16	27.28	119.3	19	26.39	115.4	38	39.07	170.8	25	37.22	162.7
Political science	42.66	236	46.61	109.3	166	45.06	105.6	130	45.11	105.7	173	36.98	86.7
Psychology	35.70	85	39.45	110.5	73	43.95	123.1	96	32.57	91.2	102	35.64	99.8
Reference	21.20	11	35.44	167.2	5	49.77	234.8	8	25.99	122.6	4	15.49	73.1
Religion	26.52	577	33.05	124.6	675	29.06	109.6	698	28.74	108.4	941	26.19	98.8
Science	39.86	117	42.30	106.1	95	41.15	103.2	98	41.78	104.8	116	35.32	88.6
Self-help	23.58	386	36.91	156.5	212	31.10	131.9	231	30.43	129.0	285	30.15	127.9
Social science	35.73	116	43.50	121.7	111	38.11	106.7	103	35.46	99.2	120	31.06	86.9
Sports and recreation	28.46	37	44.06	154.8	48	39.93	140.3	52	38.52	135.4	64	34.30	120.5
Study aids	41.85	5	147.63	352.8	1	24.99	59.7	5	131.00	313.0	3	24.97	59.7
Technology and engineering	61.47	11	40.07	65.2	8	36.61	59.6	11	52.44	85.3	20	43.13	70.2
Transportation	28.00	7	46.27	165.2	10	48.68	173.9	5	52.39	187.1	9	35.98	128.5
Travel	41.91	49	35.88	85.6	37	35.89	85.6	9	47.76	114.0	26	26.37	62.9
True crime	35.97	80	45.29	125.9	136	39.89	110.9	94	34.20	95.1	105	29.05	80.8
Young adult	35.68	1,461	34.55	96.8	1,271	42.20	118.3	1,285	43.27	121.3	1,696	31.30	87.7
Totals	\$40.49	19,178	\$40.86	100.9	19,278	\$38.92	96.1	18,588	\$38.99	96.3	22,606	\$33.06	81.7

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.
n.a. = not available

Table 7B / U.S. E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2012–2015

Index Base: 2008 = 100

BISAC Category	2008			2012 Final			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Preliminary		
	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index	Average Prices	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$55.97	168	40.4	\$22.62	177	37.4	\$20.96	132	30.5	\$17.05	136	30.5	\$9.19	136	16.4
Architecture	70.50	830	67.9	47.86	823	90.5	63.80	1083	205.1	144.57	501	60.77	60.77	501	86.2
Art	45.41	1,339	47.1	21.41	1,812	39.8	18.09	1,884	49.0	22.27	4,914	9.47	9.47	4,914	20.9
Bibles	25.79	165	51.8	13.37	495	34.0	8.76	247	35.5	9.16	191	8.69	8.69	191	33.7
Biography and autobiography	14.58	8,544	123.9	18.07	8,156	103.6	15.10	9,542	122.7	17.89	7,295	17.17	17.17	7,295	117.7
Body, mind and spirit	12.41	2,744	103.9	12.90	1,984	96.2	11.94	1,815	84.7	10.52	1,361	11.36	11.36	1,361	91.5
Business and economics	57.52	12,688	71.6	41.17	11,760	98.1	56.43	10,599	84.8	48.79	21,266	21.41	21.41	21,266	37.2
Children	12.01	23,942	88.5	10.63	20,257	96.0	11.53	21,565	121.8	14.62	17,454	11.84	11.84	17,454	98.6
Comics and graphic novels	25.04	628	26.7	6.68	551	29.2	7.31	1,535	24.5	6.13	3,605	8.53	8.53	3,605	34.1
Computers	66.87	4,881	105.6	70.64	4,170	81.3	54.38	4,358	99.6	66.63	4,027	62.32	62.32	4,027	93.2
Cooking	20.20	2,680	57.2	11.55	3,437	61.6	12.45	2,870	59.5	12.01	3,023	11.97	11.97	3,023	59.3
Crafts and hobbies	14.35	1,270	72.8	10.45	1,388	71.2	10.22	960	83.2	11.94	1,202	9.23	9.23	1,202	64.3
Design	36.04	221	70.1	25.27	193	72.1	26.00	144	77.8	28.03	137	26.22	26.22	137	72.7
Drama	29.49	2,256	24.4	7.19	1,629	26.8	7.91	1,799	33.6	9.90	1,730	7.44	7.44	1,730	25.2
Education	51.98	3,878	91.7	47.65	5,038	98.7	51.32	4,642	74.6	38.80	4,178	27.91	27.91	4,178	53.7
Family and relationships	19.88	2,208	69.5	13.81	1,927	142.5	28.32	2,200	71.0	14.11	1,756	11.39	11.39	1,756	57.3
Fiction	8.71	108,916	111.1	9.68	94,876	75.2	6.55	104,416	73.7	6.42	90,988	7.54	7.54	90,988	86.5
Foreign language study	43.01	903	53.6	23.06	1,589	37.4	16.08	1,657	37.6	16.19	1,611	19.69	19.69	1,611	45.8
Games	17.73	492	47.5	8.42	506	53.2	9.43	682	46.2	8.20	652	7.30	7.30	652	41.2
Gardening	20.40	408	70.6	14.41	360	67.5	13.77	311	56.8	11.59	303	11.15	11.15	303	54.6
Health and fitness	18.54	3,179	72.8	13.49	3,562	95.0	17.61	3,170	63.2	11.71	2,991	13.06	13.06	2,991	70.4
History	57.53	9,697	56.4	32.46	9,775	69.0	39.71	12,548	59.5	34.26	9,738	36.51	36.51	9,738	63.5
House and home	22.89	309	56.3	12.89	425	45.4	10.39	310	42.2	9.67	302	10.73	10.73	302	46.9
Humor	11.27	1,297	109.9	12.39	1,085	78.2	8.81	1,080	83.1	9.37	893	11.96	11.96	893	106.2

Language arts and disciplines	93.27	2,009	45.28	48.5	2,413	52.09	55.8	2,274	76.99	82.5	1,738	87.95	94.3
Law	81.23	2,132	72.99	89.9	1,745	94.15	115.9	1,840	99.07	122.0	1,584	101.17	124.5
Literary collections	24.50	1,823	9.95	40.6	1,468	13.90	56.7	1,615	23.78	97.1	6,311	4.97	20.3
Literary criticism	86.62	2,444	36.90	42.6	2,336	61.37	70.8	2,354	76.03	87.8	2,423	64.61	74.6
Mathematics	106.16	1,973	74.53	70.2	1,434	84.14	79.3	1,425	94.42	88.9	1,136	84.52	79.6
Medical	135.21	5,638	95.97	71.0	4,242	98.63	72.9	3,737	104.04	77.0	2,625	103.22	76.3
Music	33.83	18,723	4.85	14.3	1,942	30.36	89.7	1,431	47.07	139.1	1,602	21.06	62.3
Nature	59.76	934	38.90	65.1	1,017	33.08	55.4	952	35.52	59.4	700	41.07	68.7
Performing arts	38.06	1,231	28.74	75.5	1,599	39.69	104.3	1,421	32.68	85.9	1,262	27.99	73.5
Pets	15.91	716	14.76	92.8	750	8.41	52.9	424	10.75	67.6	298	11.29	71.0
Philosophy	79.19	2,304	37.51	47.4	2,676	56.26	71.0	2,362	61.24	77.3	1,943	55.89	70.6
Photography	30.30	471	18.89	62.3	535	22.02	72.7	556	19.79	65.3	462	17.86	59.0
Poetry	13.66	2,398	7.18	52.6	3,047	6.93	50.7	3,813	7.06	51.7	3,575	6.19	45.3
Political science	59.03	4,959	41.13	69.7	5,129	50.02	84.7	3,913	55.78	94.5	3,589	51.61	87.4
Psychology	65.30	3,023	44.76	68.5	4,119	139.89	214.2	3,273	57.59	88.2	2,091	49.56	75.9
Reference	48.33	1,392	24.74	51.2	1,543	82.84	171.4	4,062	25.72	53.2	3,407	23.87	49.4
Religion	27.29	9,644	17.76	65.1	9,800	20.59	75.4	11,208	19.21	70.4	9,217	19.66	72.1
Science	210.57	5,935	102.09	48.5	4,491	105.83	50.3	4,710	118.56	56.3	3,680	96.64	45.9
Self-help	14.15	4,978	13.50	95.4	4,299	29.36	207.5	4,825	8.57	60.6	4,005	9.83	69.5
Social science	69.42	4,446	54.35	78.3	6,941	79.66	114.8	4,888	67.16	96.7	3,865	53.11	76.5
Sports and recreation	22.44	2,607	17.82	79.4	2,727	19.47	86.8	2,344	17.87	79.6	1,815	17.48	77.9
Study aids	21.95	13,402	22.96	104.6	6,142	18.79	85.6	4,721	18.59	84.7	813	12.67	57.7
Technology and engineering	153.73	4,044	118.05	76.8	3,886	114.23	74.3	3,859	145.82	94.9	2,914	123.06	80.1
Transportation	35.47	323	24.34	68.6	327	26.12	73.6	336	19.36	54.6	331	26.62	75.0
Travel	15.61	3,686	9.74	62.4	2,546	10.96	70.2	2,320	11.28	72.3	3,163	9.19	58.9
True crime	11.60	621	15.87	136.8	616	12.03	103.7	545	12.37	106.7	458	14.78	127.4
Young adult	8.83	5,980	17.11	193.8	6,502	13.60	154.0	6,613	13.50	152.9	5,424	13.37	151.4
Totals	\$57.38	301,479	\$22.92	39.9	260,247	\$27.97	48.7	271,370	\$25.42	44.3	250,685	\$21.05	36.7

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

Table 8 / Average Price of Serials, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes, 2012-2016

Subject	LC Class	Avg. No. of Titles	2012 Avg. Price	2013 Avg. Price	2012-13 % of Price Increase	2014 Avg. Price	2013-14 % of Price Increase	2015 Avg. Price	2014-15 % of Price Increase	2016 Avg. Price	2015-16 % of Price Increase
Agriculture	S	540	\$820	\$876	6.9%	\$940	7.3%	\$987	5.0%	\$1,045	5.8%
Anthropology	GN	129	426	451	5.9	493	9.4	518	5.2	545	5.0
Arts and architecture	N	207	297	345	16.2	369	6.9	392	6.3	434	10.8
Astronomy	QB	79	1,782	1,947	9.3	2,047	5.1	2,202	7.6	2,267	2.9
Biology	QH	1,259	1,846	1,951	5.7	2,076	6.4	2,199	6.0	2,320	5.5
Botany	QK	169	1,193	1,277	7.0	1,374	7.6	1,439	4.7	1,503	4.4
Business and economics	HA-HJ	1,401	982	1,040	5.9	1,115	7.2	1,189	6.6	1,268	6.6
Chemistry	QD	438	3,430	3,612	5.3	3,858	6.8	4,044	4.8	4,221	4.4
Education	L	488	582	633	8.8	686	8.3	739	7.8	791	7.0
Engineering	T	1,863	1,483	1,604	8.2	1,717	7.0	1,835	6.9	1,959	6.8
Food science	TX	95	1,076	1,150	6.8	1,239	7.8	1,327	7.1	1,384	4.3
General science	Q	262	1,054	1,109	5.2	1,173	5.8	1,256	7.1	1,321	5.2
General works	A	181	229	241	5.5	267	10.6	272	2.0	303	11.5
Geography	G-GF	296	792	876	10.5	940	7.4	992	5.4	1,054	6.3
Geology	QE	227	1,391	1,494	7.4	1,586	6.2	1,689	6.5	1,801	6.6
Health sciences	R	4,200	899	983	9.3	1,056	7.4	1,120	6.1	1,193	6.5
History	C,D,E,F	751	281	299	6.7	320	6.9	383	19.7	401	4.6
Mathematics	QA	388	800	771	-3.6	824	3.0	825	0.1	835	1.2
Music	M	18,352	492	545	10.8	592	17.8	633	6.7	685	8.2
Natural sciences	Q	9,023	823	875	6.2	928	6.3	979	5.5	1,030	5.2
Nursing	RT	1,953	312	334	7.1	352	6.0	375	6.5	395	5.3
Physical sciences	QA	5,994	690	730	5.7	768	5.2	807	5.1	846	4.8
Public administration	HA	1,053	471	493	4.7	513	4.5	535	4.3	557	4.1
Religion	B	5,125	359	380	5.8	400	2.9	421	5.3	442	5.0
Science	Q	5,905	423	442	4.5	461	4.2	480	4.1	499	4.0
Social sciences	HA	18,352	492	545	10.8	592	17.8	633	6.7	685	8.2
Statistics	QA	1,053	471	493	4.7	513	4.5	535	4.3	557	4.1
Technology	QA	5,994	690	730	5.7	768	5.2	807	5.1	846	4.8
Transportation	TA	1,053	471	493	4.7	513	4.5	535	4.3	557	4.1
Visual arts	NA	5,125	359	380	5.8	400	2.9	421	5.3	442	5.0
World	DT	18,352	492	545	10.8	592	17.8	633	6.7	685	8.2

Region	CD/EL	SAP	438	468	3.0	468	23	PJJ	29	29
Language and literature	P	805	300	326	8.7	330	1.0	347	5.1	366
Law	K	433	354	377	6.5	396	5.0	423	6.9	435
Library science	Z	158	697	737	5.7	783	6.3	827	5.6	866
Math and computer science	QA	1,015	1,182	1,231	4.2	1,309	6.3	1,375	5.0	1,435
Military and naval science	U,V	91	385	424	10.0	449	5.9	493	9.8	519
Music	M	124	189	207	9.4	220	6.3	230	4.8	240
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	521	297	318	7.0	338	6.5	360	6.4	381
Physics	QC	493	2,868	3,072	7.1	3,234	5.3	3,349	3.6	3,468
Political science	J	252	532	571	7.2	606	6.1	636	5.0	692
Psychology	BF	319	607	652	7.5	707	8.5	757	7.0	809
Recreation	GV	113	389	423	8.9	471	11.4	500	6.2	544
Social sciences	H	129	585	630	7.7	709	12.6	744	5.0	841
Sociology	HM-HX	739	625	668	6.9	715	7.0	765	7.0	815
Technology	TA-TT	389	1,214	1,300	7.1	1,386	6.5	1,461	5.5	1,549
Zoology	QL	310	1,125	1,186	5.5	1,271	7.1	1,345	5.8	1,457
Totals		18,473	\$1,035	\$1,109	7.2%	\$1,177	6.1%	\$1,256	6.7%	\$1,330

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by EBSCO and is based on titles indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Premier, EBSCO Masterfile Premier, ISI Arts and Humanities Citation Index, ISI Science Citation Index, ISI Social Sciences Citation Index, and Scopus.

Table 8A / Average Price of Online Serials, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes, 2012-2016

Subject	LC Class	Average No. of Titles 2012-16	2012	2013	2012-13	2014	2013-14	2015	2014-15	2015-16	
			Avg. Price	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase
Agriculture	S	193	\$867	\$916	5.8%	\$962	5.0%	\$999	3.8%	\$1,045	4.7%
Anthropology	GN	66	569	608	6.9	647	6.4	688	6.4	725	5.3
Arts and architecture	N	72	482	515	6.9	559	8.6	592	5.9	626	5.7
Astronomy	QB	36	1,764	1,788	1.4	1,862	4.1	2,024	8.7	2,084	3.0
Biology	QH	490	1,698	1,777	4.7	1,873	5.4	1,979	5.7	2,088	5.5
Botany	QK	68	1,188	1,256	5.7	1,302	3.7	1,361	4.5	1,431	5.2
Business and economics	HA-HJ	603	1,523	1,603	5.3	1,700	6.1	1,803	6.1	1,906	5.7
Chemistry	QD	175	3,413	3,592	5.2	3,803	5.9	4,015	5.6	4,175	4.0
Education	L	289	765	811	6.0	867	6.9	926	6.8	990	7.0
Engineering	T	699	1,568	1,654	5.5	1,760	6.4	1,835	4.2	1,966	7.2
Food Science	TX	45	1,491	1,592	6.7	1,665	4.6	1,773	6.5	1,856	4.7
General science	Q	106	1,322	1,397	5.7	1,490	6.6	1,591	6.8	1,662	4.5
General works	A	26	576	637	10.4	672	5.5	700	4.2	746	6.6
Geography	G-GF	143	793	841	6.1	910	8.1	973	7.0	1,037	6.6
Geology	QE	90	1,354	1,395	3.0	1,487	6.6	1,593	7.2	1,690	6.1
Health sciences	R	1,366	1,003	1,084	8.1	1,162	7.1	1,234	6.2	1,304	5.7
History	C,D,E,F	276	428	458	7.0	482	5.3	511	5.8	541	5.9

Category	Language and literature	Law	Library science	Math and computer science	Military and naval science	Music	Philosophy and religion	Physics	Political science	Psychology	Recreation	Social sciences	Sociology	Technology	Zoology	Totals
	P	K	Z	QA	U,V	M	B-BD, BH-BX	QC	J	BF	QV	H	HM-HX	TA-TT	QL	
	304	102	87	498	42	46	153	229	138	147	52	57	415	137	106	7,255
	452	577	3,950	1,145	492	282	475	3,018	645	687	611	727	738	1,939	1,085	\$1,181
	495	615	1,023	1,196	541	304	504	3,198	688	710	648	782	785	2,022	1,140	\$1,252
	9.6	6.4	7.7	4.5	9.9	8.1	6.1	6.0	6.7	3.4	6.2	7.6	6.4	4.2	5.1	6.0%
	524	657	1,078	1,264	573	322	535	3,378	733	766	727	847	835	2,152	1,218	\$1,332
	5.7	6.9	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.9	6.2	5.6	6.6	7.9	12.1	8.2	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.4%
	546	732	1,126	1,334	633	347	564	3,502	775	816	775	874	891	2,278	1,298	\$1,408
	4.4	11.4	4.4	5.5	10.3	7.6	5.4	3.7	5.8	6.5	6.5	3.3	6.7	5.9	6.6	5.7%
	586	710	1,171	1,394	676	366	604	3,655	834	874	844	944	945	2,413	1,480	\$1,488
	7.2	-3.0	4.0	4.5	6.8	5.5	7.1	4.4	7.6	7.1	9.0	7.9	6.2	5.9	14.0	5.7%

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by Ebsco and is based on online titles indexed in Ebsco Academic Search Premier, Ebsco Masterfile Premier, ISI Arts and Humanities Citation Index, ISI Science Citation Index, ISI Social Sciences Citation Index, and Scopus.

Table 9 / British Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2012–2015

Index Base: 2009 = 100

Subject	LC Class	2009		2012		2013		2014		2015		% Average Change 2014– 2015	Index
		No. of Titles	Average Price (£)	No. of Titles	Average Price (£)	No. of Titles	Average Price (£)	No. of Titles	Average Price (£)	No. of Titles	Average Price (£)		
Agriculture	S	140	53.96	183	69.29	163	68.55	134	73.28	131	73.63	0.5%	136.5
Anthropology	GN	109	53.60	145	45.73	124	55.11	109	57.63	92	59.65	3.5	111.3
Botany	QK	22	145.94	45	97.50	33	81.54	35	74.78	21	95.19	27.3	65.2
Business and economics	H-HJ	1,634	59.08	2,022	71.12	1,877	71.29	1,911	71.19	1,866	75.13	5.5	127.2
Chemistry	QD	88	101.14	144	155.82	96	149.82	91	125.67	72	127.89	1.8	126.4
Education	L	386	49.70	547	64.36	440	64.49	517	64.50	583	68.39	6.0	137.6
Engineering and technology	T-TS	796	60.97	741	76.09	758	78.35	788	76.69	732	85.51	11.5	140.2
Fine and applied arts	M, N	762	38.43	1,092	42.40	1,005	43.35	1,009	44.54	991	50.40	13.2	131.2
General works	A	15	76.73	26	78.67	17	91.58	32	72.25	21	83.47	15.5	108.8
Geography	G-GF, GR-GT	233	54.43	276	63.59	268	64.44	245	67.55	457	72.62	7.5	133.4
Geology	QE	41	53.80	51	79.33	34	77.70	33	59.80	34	60.87	1.8	113.1
History	C, D, E, F	1,572	43.41	1,880	44.74	1,690	44.63	1,725	48.11	1,835	51.22	6.5	118.0
Home economics	TX	59	39.02	47	61.06	58	67.22	38	63.79	29	85.98	34.8	220.3
Industrial arts	TT	21	24.32	42	25.47	37	35.50	27	45.43	33	46.11	1.5	189.6

The increase in the sample size is the first year where this indexed scope expands the price survey from 2012 to 2015. The increase in the sample size reflects pricing trends.

These tables are derived from actual renewal pricing for 2015 for EBSCO Information Services and reflect broad pricing in the six major product categories. Prices and Prices Indexes (PPI) are based on a much broader set of titles. These are not annual, so this pricing study is still useful in showing price trends.

The study is still useful in showing price trends for this price survey was deemed appropriate for the scope in academic libraries in the index. For the overall price pressure report and other pricing, Table 8A contains only online pricing.

Table 8 is that increase in price. For titles with online availability for this survey, since data is not available for this survey, this may affect the overall price index. Several large publishers have a different between the year-over-year. There is a difference between the year-over-year. There is a difference between the year-over-year. There is a difference between the year-over-year.

The subject areas that displayed large increases in the index are: Law, Library and information science, Literature and language, Mathematics and computer science, Medicine, Military and naval sciences, Philosophy and religion, Physics and astronomy, Political Science, Psychology, Science (general), Sociology, Sports & Recreation, Zoology. The subject areas that do not dominate the list of subject areas are: K, Z, P, QA, R, U, V, B-BD, BH-BX, QB, QC, J, BF, Q, HM-HX, GV, QH, QL-QR.

Law	1,117	76.13	1,312	87.74	1,264	88.46	1,253	88.30	1,184	85.16	-3.6	111.9
Library and information science	98	60.32	105	65.96	100	59.99	106	69.71	114	71.04	1.9	117.8
Literature and language	2,928	34.77	3,966	37.34	3,448	37.25	3,553	38.95	3,008	42.33	8.7	121.7
Mathematics and computer science	216	49.30	266	54.93	212	61.40	180	54.91	172	57.46	4.7	116.6
Medicine	1,110	48.50	1,280	55.88	1,126	60.74	1,113	63.10	946	67.52	7.0	139.2
Military and naval sciences	112	48.42	163	57.71	173	48.95	201	50.67	165	53.43	5.4	110.3
Philosophy and religion	1,091	45.65	1,293	54.67	1,074	53.96	1,187	52.78	1,184	56.72	7.5	124.2
Physics and astronomy	196	54.73	240	68.87	221	72.08	161	72.29	185	65.07	-10.0	118.9
Political Science	621	59.74	797	69.98	732	66.67	794	65.82	819	73.18	11.2	122.5
Psychology	195	44.46	297	50.93	266	54.88	295	63.42	278	69.09	8.9	155.4
Science (general)	45	41.65	72	72.50	47	54.85	54	57.89	53	62.95	8.7	151.1
Sociology	958	59.36	1,195	57.01	1,111	63.65	1,221	64.89	1,281	70.21	8.2	118.3
Sports & Recreation	181	30.90	202	56.70	165	54.18	170	61.49	179	68.49	11.4	221.6
Zoology	336	62.59	434	84.57	396	81.41	285	79.00	263	79.76	1.0	127.4
Total, All Books	15,082	50.42	18,863	57.51	16,935	58.47	17,267	59.05	16,728	63.22	7.1%	125.4

Compiled by George Aulliso, University of Scranton, based on information provided by YBP U.K./EBSCO.

(continued from page 367)

EBSCO Masterfile Premier, and Scopus. This is the first year where titles indexed in Scopus are included in the data. Adding Scopus expands this price survey from about 11,000 titles in 2015 to the current 18,473. 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, 2012 through 2016. The 2016 pricing is the actual renewal pricing for 2016 for serials that were indexed in the selected products. These tables are derived from pricing data supplied by EBSCO Information Services and reflect broad pricing changes aggregated from titles 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 5,900 serial titles. The Average Price of Serials (Table 8) is based on a much broader set of titles, approximately 18,400; however, the titles are not static, so this pricing study does not rise to the level of a price index. This study is still useful in showing price changes for periodicals. The indexes selected for this price survey were deemed to be fairly 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 prices have remained fairly constant since the economic recovery began. Price increases have hovered around 6 percent annually since 2012. For titles with online availability (Table 8A), the rates of increase for those titles are very similar, averaging around 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 only available through custom quotes, so there is not a standard retail price and the pricing data is not available for this survey. Since these titles tend to be more expensive than titles from other publishers, this may affect the overall prices, making them lower.

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. Social sciences, general works, arts and architecture, political science, recreation, and zoology saw higher increases than most 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 in other areas and that trend continues with the average cost of chemistry and physics journals being \$4,221 and \$3,468 respectively. Although these STM titles are not inflating at high rates, the impact of a 4 percent increase in a \$4,000 title is much higher than a 9 percent increase on a \$300 title. Online journals (Table 8A) showed similar average prices for chemistry (\$4,175) and physics (\$3,655).

In this price study, as in similar price surveys, the data become less accurate at describing price changes as the sample becomes smaller. For that reason, drawing conclusions about price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles

will be less accurate than for large areas or the broader price survey. Price changes are far more volatile where smaller data sets are used. For example, military and naval science (about 91 titles) showed price changes of 10.0 percent, 5.9 percent, and 9.8 and 5.5 percent between 2012 and 2016. Librarians are encouraged to look at an average price change over the period (military and naval science averaged 7.8 percent) or the overall number for the price study (5.9 percent) to calculate inflation. Year-to-year price changes in small subject areas are too unstable to be used for this purpose.

Book Prices

British Academic Books (Table 9), compiled by George Aulisio, indicates the average prices and price indexes from 2012 through 2015. The percent of change in titles and average price is calculated for 2014 to 2015, and the index price shows the percent of change between 2015 and the base year of 2009. This index is compiled using data from YBP and utilizes prices from cloth editions except when not available. YBP U.K. also profiles select titles from continental Europe and Africa. The index does not separate out 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 on "Total, All Books" production illustrates the sum total of the LC Classes profiled in this table, not the sum total of all books profiled by YBP. In 2015 British academic books saw a 3.1 percent decrease from 17,267 titles to 16,728 titles. Historical data shows that the slight decrease in titles profiled in 2015 is not unusual.

In 2015 there was a significant overall price increase of 7.1 percent, bringing the average price for all books profiled to £63.22. The 2015 overall average price increase of 7.1 percent is well above the 3 percent to 4 percent price increase YBP U.K. predicted for 2015. Also, the 2015 increase is significantly higher than the United Kingdom's Consumer Price Index, which, according to the Office of National Statistics, was at a very modest 0.2 percent inflation in December 2015 (<http://www.ons.gov.uk>).

Table 9 shows how average prices have increased or decreased in comparison with the 2009 base year. For 2015 the overall index price for all LC subjects profiled in this table is at 125.4 percent. All LC Classes profiled saw a price increase with the exception of decreases in physics and astronomy (10.0 percent) and law (3.6 percent). All LC classes are currently above their 2009 base prices, except for botany, which is now at 65.2 percent of the 2009 base price. The highest increases in comparison with the 2009 base prices are sports and recreation (221.6 percent), home economics (220.3 percent), industrial arts (189.6 percent), psychology (155.4 percent), and science (general) (151.1 percent). High individual price increases from 2014 to 2015 in home economics (34.8 percent), botany (27.3 percent), and general works (15.5 percent) may be due to small samples sizes of less than 30 titles.

According to the Publishers Association, the U.K. publishing industry is in excellent financial health and saw an 8.4 percent increase in the print book market. This increase marks the first increase in five years (<http://www.publishers.org.uk/policy-and-news/pa-blog/uk-publishing-2016-and-beyond/>). The rise in the print

book market may be attributable to Amazon.com reintroducing agency pricing and giving greater pricing control to book publishers. According to Publishing Technology, the industry introduced pricing at near-parity between e-books and print books, which seemed to encourage most consumers to purchase print editions over e-books (<http://www.publishingtechnology.com/blog-article/5-predictions-for-trade-publishing-in-2016/>).

The 7.1 percent price increase of 2015 is the second-highest average price increase recorded in this table, with the 10.8 percent price increase of 2012 being the highest recorded. In 2013 and 2014, the years immediately following the largest recorded price increase, there were modest average price increases of 1.7 percent and 1.0 percent, respectively. There are no reliable indicators for a 2016 industry forecast. However, given the health of the industry, the improvement in print book sales, and historical data, cautious optimism suggests the U.K. book publishing industry may return to its recent practice of modest price increases.

Using the Price Indexes

Librarians are encouraged to monitor trends in the publishing industry and changes in economic conditions when preparing budget forecasts and projections. The ALA ALCTS Library Materials Price Index Editorial Board endeavors to make information on publishing trends readily available by sponsoring the annual compilation and publication of price data contained in Tables 1 to 9. 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 against which local costs can be compared, 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 these indexes exclude discounts, service charges, shipping and handling fees, and other costs that the library might incur. Discrepancies may also relate to a library's subject coverage; 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.

LMPI is interested in pursuing studies that would correlate a particular library's costs with the national prices. The group welcomes interested parties to its meetings at ALA Annual and Midwinter conferences.

The Library Materials Price Index Editorial Board consists of compilers George Aulisio, Catherine Barr, Ajaye Bloomstone, Stephen Bosch, Kittie Henderson, Frederick C. Lynden, and editor Narda Tafuri.