

Prices of U.S. and Foreign Published Materials

Compiled by the
Library Materials Price Index Editorial Board
of ALA's
Association for Library Collections and Technical Services'
Publications Committee

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Book Trade Research and Statistics

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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 2.1 percent in 2016, the largest increase since 2011. CPI figures are obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site 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 North American Academic Books Price Indexes (Tables 4, 4A, and 4B) have changed from previous versions due to changes in how the raw data are supplied. Data for these indexes is supplied by ProQuest Books (formerly Coutts) and GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YBP Library Services).

All other indexes continue unchanged in source and format from last year's article.

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 2017 using data supplied by EBSCO Information

Index	Percent Change				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CPI	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.7	2.1
Periodicals	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.0	7.1
Legal serials services	6.1	10.5	11.3	13.9	9.0
*Hardcover books	5.18	-2.57	6.45	0.44	-1.41
+Academic books	n.a.	n.a.	-2.2	1.3	n.a.
+Academic e-books	n.a.	n.a.	-8.3	-4.3	n.a.
+Textbooks	n.a.	n.a.	-7.2	10.5	n.a.
College books	2.15	4.21	-1.41	-0.59	3.39
*Mass market paperbacks	1.00	-0.28	0.57	-0.14	2.12
*Trade paperbacks	31.96	-12.31	5.04	-2.72	8.73
*Audiobooks	-10.96	-4.76	0.18	-15.21	-20.50
*U.S. e-books	-6.37	22.03	-9.12	-17.19	7.21
++Serials	n.a.	7.2	6.7	5.8	6.0
++Online Serials	n.a.	6.0	7.2	6.4	6.2
British academic books	10.81	1.67	1.0	7.1	9.9

n.a. = not available

* = figures revised based on BISAC categories

+Beginning with 2009, new data source

++Data set changes each year.

Services. This report includes 2013–2017 data indexed to the base year of 2010. The title list used in the new Table 1 differs from previous versions, so a new base year is appropriate. 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 ended up being online pricing 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 are based on a single report that pulled pricing information for a static set of titles for the five-year period. The pricing data for 2015–2017 are 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 did have pricing available that did not have pricing available in 2014. The situation continues for 2017 as the exact same sample title list was used as the basis for the data pull, but there are small variations in the titles that had pricing available.

The USPPPI in 2017 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 USPPPI 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

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, etc.

The first five years of data showed consistent price changes across subject areas because the pricing data took a historical look at the prices of the exact same set of journals. The data for 2015, 2016, and 2017 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 can impact pricing availability. Across subject areas, the changes in price were more volatile this year but the overall 6 percent increase mirrors increases seen in other pricing studies, which 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. A good example of this is food science. Looking at the raw data, 80 percent of the overall costs in food science are from only eight journals and those titles all showed very high increases in prices for 2017. So a small number of titles had a large impact due to the overall small sample size.

Direct comparisons between Table 1 and Table 8 at the subject level should be avoided. While both tables show the overall rate of increase in serial prices to be around 6 percent; there is little else that makes them statistically comparable. Table 8 has slightly higher overall average prices in most areas, and this is due to the survey's largest sets of data coming from the Clarivate Analytics (formerly 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 so the mix of journals contains more trade and popular titles than would be found in the Clarivate Analytics indexes or Scopus. Trade and popular journals tend to be cheaper, with lower average prices. Differences in data sets will yield different results.

The most important trend seen in this data (Table 1) is that increases in prices have remained fairly constant since the economic recovery began in 2010. Price increases have hovered around 6 percent annually during that time. Science does not dominate the list of subjects with the largest price increases. The subject areas that displayed the largest increases were quite varied: food science, geography, anthropology, general science, zoology, political science, and library science. 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 \$4,685 and of physics journals being \$3,906.

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Table 1 / U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2013–2017

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2010 Average Price	2013 Average Price	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	2016 Average Price	2017 Average Price	Price Increase 2016– 2017	Price Index (Base = 2010)
Agriculture	S	246	\$579.48	\$687.22	\$726.67	\$780.01	\$978.61	\$956.80	-2.2 %	165.1
Anthropology	GN	50	373.64	430.83	453.36	428.52	426.99	525.98	23.2	140.8
Arts and architecture	N	115	112.39	125.24	130.70	180.35	234.50	195.47	-16.6	173.9
Astronomy	QB	28	1,793.08	2,049.88	2,186.19	2,083.50	2,602.51	2,393.22	-8.0	133.5
Biology	QH	330	2,053.06	2,405.68	2,535.65	2,727.29	2,655.14	3,016.39	13.6	146.9
Botany	QK	55	1,361.09	1,583.36	1,667.34	1,646.31	1,926.69	1,852.98	-3.8	136.1
Business and economics	HA-HJ	492	351.29	410.55	434.12	480.98	546.45	553.47	1.3	157.6
Chemistry	QD	124	3,396.26	4,024.45	4,244.38	4,335.51	4,465.42	4,685.46	4.9	138.0
Education	L	229	354.92	409.63	433.05	499.55	585.29	609.83	4.2	171.8
Engineering	T	542	1,244.39	1,486.54	1,584.81	1,692.44	1,716.47	1,897.32	10.5	152.5
Food science	TX	51	356.17	416.09	439.51	617.45	520.09	767.91	47.6	215.6
General science	Q	97	998.51	1,153.60	1,218.88	1,401.48	1,322.20	1,617.12	22.3	162.0
General works	A	131	85.84	95.41	99.14	106.87	165.98	125.62	-24.3	146.3
Geography	G-GF	84	670.60	783.49	836.61	872.34	806.55	1,000.77	24.1	149.2

Geology	QE	74	1,368.79	1,603.07	1,699.34	1,648.20	1,707.46	1,954.00	14.4	142.8
Health sciences	R	803	1,009.55	1,224.65	1,309.43	1,402.65	1,557.18	1,596.42	2.5	158.1
History	C,D,E,F	312	202.39	231.75	245.88	277.95	330.37	334.47	1.2	165.3
Language and literature	P	277	168.12	194.56	205.49	232.29	258.50	256.95	-0.6	152.8
Law	K	251	214.01	239.11	251.93	297.45	355.43	326.59	-8.1	152.6
Library science	Z	107	290.02	336.34	355.38	376.47	379.89	441.07	16.1	152.1
Math and computer science	QA	329	1,242.13	1,406.66	1,480.16	1,623.12	1,559.12	1,785.80	14.5	143.8
Military and naval science	U,V	28	239.90	301.03	288.80	276.33	458.94	343.57	-25.1	143.2
Music	M	49	82.18	92.24	95.74	151.67	212.73	164.13	-22.8	199.7
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	212	232.37	266.63	281.45	316.77	362.03	359.03	-0.8	154.5
Physics	QC	148	2,845.54	3,282.05	3,499.54	3,538.93	3,537.87	3,905.91	10.4	137.3
Political science	J	103	312.76	362.82	382.91	562.63	563.12	659.97	17.2	211.0
Psychology	BF	111	648.21	767.19	828.57	970.19	1,049.83	1,114.23	6.1	171.9
Recreation	GV	86	69.79	84.44	90.20	122.06	176.76	147.49	-16.6	211.3
Social sciences	H	41	351.40	410.60	435.17	645.60	753.59	709.57	-5.8	201.9
Sociology	HM-HX	240	482.59	567.96	608.13	717.56	760.32	836.08	10.0	173.2
Technology	TA-TT	136	535.73	624.46	679.00	723.65	775.03	843.36	8.8	157.4
Zoology	QL	117	1,454.26	1,675.90	1,762.83	1,816.13	1,655.65	1,947.87	17.7	133.9
Total		5,998	\$843.46	\$991.39	\$1,051.73	\$1,114.32	\$1,193.10	\$1,265.92	6.1 %	150.1

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

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In this price index, like similar price indexes, the data is 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 is 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, all of the subjects listed above as having higher than average price increases have a small sample base. To conclude that all journals in the food science area will increase 47 percent this year is incorrect. If a specific inflation figure for food science is needed, it would be better to look at an average over the period or the overall number for the price study (6.1 percent) than to use the actual numbers year-by-year. The variation in pricing is too volatile in smaller sample sizes to be 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 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 2017.

**Table 2 / Legal Serials Services:
Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2009–2017**

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
2017	217	3,506.20	13.6	210.5

Vendors were asked again 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. In addition to titles issued on a regular basis (journals, law reviews, etc.), legal serial services can be updated as regular/irregular updates (“releases”) throughout the year, new “editions” made available on an annual or so basis, or as added/revised volumes. If a title is updated ir-

regularly, the price for a title may increase or decrease from one year to the next, depending on the publisher's 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. There seems to be a trend for titles purchased in print format to come with an electronic component for which the purchasing library has no choice but to accept both formats although the print format is the one of primary interest to the purchasing library.

Some prices were provided for several titles with the caveat "no longer available for new sales." This statement would lead one to believe that although the publication may not totally be phased out, either the title might soon no longer be available as a print product, or it may cease publication entirely, in any format.

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 2015 are revised to reflect late updates to the Baker & Taylor database (publishers were still adding 2015 titles in early 2016); the 2016 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. The BISAC juvenile category (fiction and nonfiction) has been divided into children's and young adult. For more information on the BISAC categories, visit <http://www.bisg.org>.

Average book prices overall declined slightly in 2016. List prices for hardcovers overall (Table 3) fell by 1.41 percent. Mass market paperback prices (Table 6) showed an increase of 2.12 percent and trade paperbacks (Table 7) showed a healthy increase of 8.73 percent. Audiobook prices (Table 7A) have been falling since 2009, but saw the steepest decline in five years at 20.50 percent. E-book prices showed a modest increase of 7.21 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 2013–2015 (Table 4) again has evolved from previous versions due to changes in how the delivery of the raw data. Direct comparisons with earlier published versions will be difficult since the numbers of titles and average prices have changed, especially those versions published prior to 2009. Data for the current indexes is supplied by ProQuest Books (formerly Coutts) and by GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YBP Library Services). Over the course of time, data suppliers and the data they can supply have changed. 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. The reason for this is ProQuest Books (Coutts) 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. YBP purchased Blackwell in 2009 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. Recent staffing

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Table 3 / Hardcover Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2013–2016
 Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 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	137	\$70.41	99.1	146	\$67.04	94.3	136	\$96.65	136.0	138	\$80.29	113.0		
Architecture	66.99	879	88.92	132.7	799	89.48	133.6	967	99.89	149.1	947	103.84	155.0		
Art	62.33	2,042	71.34	114.5	1,896	81.03	130.0	1,971	74.12	118.9	2,088	75.70	121.5		
Bibles	48.05	197	37.43	77.9	137	33.71	70.2	168	36.10	75.1	206	41.05	85.4		
Biography and autobiography	46.20	1,939	44.12	95.5	1,779	48.33	104.6	1,747	47.39	102.6	1,802	49.68	107.5		
Body, mind and spirit	26.76	237	31.99	119.5	158	46.64	174.3	156	30.29	113.2	159	28.26	105.6		
Business and economics	120.56	4,386	150.18	124.6	4,370	145.78	120.9	4,775	152.81	126.7	4,948	159.32	132.1		
Children	23.14	12,179	23.78	102.8	12,763	23.99	103.7	13,136	24.74	106.9	14,765	25.32	109.4		
Comics and graphic novels	32.75	639	37.53	114.6	664	40.31	123.1	685	37.81	115.5	648	39.52	120.7		
Computers	113.07	880	139.41	123.3	901	159.86	141.4	990	150.02	132.7	1,084	146.63	129.7		
Cooking	28.68	1,215	29.54	103.0	1,244	28.93	100.9	1,256	28.63	99.8	1,200	29.33	102.3		
Crafts and hobbies	28.82	195	29.10	101.0	204	28.76	99.8	170	28.90	100.3	154	31.80	110.3		
Design	59.41	399	62.97	106.0	394	67.56	113.7	459	66.07	111.2	438	71.74	120.8		
Drama	60.81	76	74.53	122.6	81	81.21	133.5	56	84.48	138.9	105	91.90	151.1		
Education	95.10	1,747	118.72	124.8	1,930	122.49	128.8	2,235	125.09	131.5	2,624	134.45	141.4		
Family and relationships	25.37	265	36.53	144.0	209	45.46	179.2	210	59.13	233.1	189	54.86	216.2		
Fiction	28.37	5,155	30.29	106.8	4,625	30.05	105.9	4,455	29.80	105.0	4,642	29.80	105.0		
Foreign language study	116.89	270	115.33	98.7	220	115.88	99.1	289	152.19	130.2	225	116.60	99.8		
Games	32.07	111	40.05	124.9	95	39.54	123.3	117	38.21	119.2	166	34.94	108.9		
Gardening	38.20	115	37.42	98.0	97	30.64	80.2	123	37.83	99.0	102	32.97	86.3		
Health and fitness	54.05	378	64.67	119.6	353	58.45	108.1	408	92.58	171.3	350	72.94	134.9		
History	88.17	5,030	86.61	98.2	5,489	94.66	107.4	5,792	93.24	105.7	6,279	102.06	115.8		
House and home	31.51	108	35.83	113.7	91	33.66	106.8	109	35.71	113.3	90	36.27	115.1		
Humor	19.00	246	19.94	104.9	288	23.74	125.0	295	24.26	127.7	286	21.59	113.6		

Language arts and disciplines	120.71	1,253	141.23	117.0	1,302	147.81	122.4	1,585	146.32	121.2	1,566	144.44	119.7
Law	155.28	1,966	178.70	115.1	2,105	178.45	114.9	2,248	178.28	114.8	2,453	184.68	118.9
Literary collections	74.92	282	90.16	120.3	271	100.18	133.7	213	113.14	151.0	240	93.22	124.4
Literary criticism	123.84	1,990	121.24	97.9	2,284	126.91	102.5	2,328	123.15	99.4	2,943	123.47	99.7
Mathematics	144.88	910	133.13	91.9	963	141.42	97.6	1,031	158.84	109.6	1,097	137.31	94.8
Medical	156.54	3,443	185.17	118.3	3,488	204.11	130.4	4,119	185.02	118.2	3,247	174.98	111.8
Music	77.63	534	89.37	115.1	540	91.28	117.6	569	95.23	122.7	658	96.93	124.9
Nature	67.75	470	84.27	124.4	420	90.35	133.4	467	90.78	134.0	475	98.65	145.6
Performing arts	71.74	583	94.64	131.9	684	94.85	132.2	813	98.38	137.1	854	99.39	138.5
Pets	25.45	107	25.64	100.7	107	24.44	96.0	88	24.97	98.1	110	22.64	89.0
Philosophy	127.22	1,291	105.67	83.1	1,406	109.89	86.4	1,532	110.15	86.6	1,657	119.98	94.3
Photography	56.77	801	93.22	164.2	841	66.87	117.8	913	68.32	120.3	856	69.87	123.1
Poetry	36.58	420	33.92	92.7	352	34.64	94.7	280	46.85	128.1	432	55.21	150.9
Political science	103.39	2,608	113.25	109.5	3,036	116.68	112.9	3,139	119.01	115.1	3,477	115.17	111.4
Psychology	93.85	1,171	131.91	140.6	1,193	152.10	162.1	1,420	151.62	161.6	1,418	148.16	157.9
Reference	202.23	409	356.07	176.1	400	320.62	158.5	359	393.07	194.4	349	330.24	163.3
Religion	62.29	2,804	77.10	123.8	2,538	80.02	128.5	2,517	87.31	140.2	2,825	81.57	130.9
Science	203.44	3,325	194.94	95.8	3,536	199.58	98.1	4,251	203.05	99.8	4,024	203.51	100.0
Self-help	22.43	377	28.15	125.5	282	25.13	112.0	304	27.73	123.6	280	24.44	109.0
Social science	96.17	3,335	115.72	120.3	3,328	141.10	146.7	3,829	135.13	140.5	4,161	130.29	135.5
Sports and recreation	38.77	690	47.29	122.0	621	60.84	156.9	616	52.99	136.7	605	55.43	143.0
Study aids	105.28	14	116.17	110.3	19	92.75	88.1	15	138.63	131.7	17	98.07	93.2
Technology and engineering	187.80	2,540	172.73	92.0	2,567	189.95	101.1	3,416	168.57	89.8	3,753	177.66	94.6
Transportation	68.68	316	71.76	104.5	248	85.61	124.6	293	86.15	125.4	282	61.48	89.5
Travel	37.11	205	41.30	111.3	181	38.16	102.8	208	34.31	92.4	212	40.36	108.8
True crime	29.28	87	28.20	96.3	78	28.83	98.5	67	42.26	144.3	89	35.51	121.3
Young adult	50.17	1,965	30.98	61.8	2,169	33.93	67.6	2,056	33.47	66.7	2,290	37.83	75.4
Totals	\$80.36	72,721	\$92.56	115.2	73,892	\$98.53	122.6	79,381	\$101.62	126.5	84,005	\$100.19	124.7

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

Table 4 / North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2013–2015

Index Base: 1989 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	1989		2013		2014		2015		% Change 2014–2015	Index
		No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price		
Agriculture	S	897	\$45.13	1,359	\$96.55	1,429	\$105.24	1,883	\$112.73	7.1	249.8
Anthropology	GN	406	32.81	580	97.64	626	88.37	855	90.60	2.5	276.1
Botany	QK	251	69.02	308	154.52	384	133.44	475	134.96	1.1	195.5
Business and economics	H	5,979	41.67	11,227	106.47	13,167	103.40	15,128	106.94	3.4	256.6
Chemistry	QD	577	110.61	747	223.64	796	197.77	1,037	228.56	15.6	206.6
Education	L	1,685	29.61	4,568	90.91	5,887	87.12	6,443	94.47	8.5	319.1
Engineering and technology	T	4,569	64.94	8,451	138.39	9,445	144.17	11,503	137.85	-4.4	212.3
Fine and applied arts	M-N	3,040	40.72	7,159	68.24	7,561	66.92	8,592	67.71	1.2	166.3
General works	A	333	134.65	151	109.21	209	82.83	227	90.60	9.4	67.3
Geography	G	396	47.34	1,169	112.45	1,421	112.30	1,772	116.18	3.5	245.4
Geology	QE	303	63.49	320	161.92	337	130.35	426	120.64	-7.4	190.0
History	C-D-E-F	5,549	31.34	10,293	75.82	12,375	70.61	15,412	70.43	-0.3	224.7
Home economics	TX	535	27.10	1,057	54.97	780	61.55	909	62.05	0.8	229.0

Industrial arts	TT	175	23.89	361	42.97	314	66.17	332	65.67	-0.7	274.9
Law	K	1,252	51.10	5,749	129.66	5,844	129.03	6,956	125.55	-2.5	246.1
Library and information science	Z	857	44.51	877	100.59	1,030	101.99	1,131	106.76	4.7	239.8
Literature and language	P	10,812	24.99	23,176	59.32	27,054	57.70	32,304	55.87	-3.2	223.6
Mathematics and computer science	QA	2,707	44.68	4,480	109.37	4,788	104.21	6,195	100.60	-3.5	225.2
Medicine	R	5,028	58.38	8,704	120.76	10,009	124.46	13,079	132.72	6.6	227.3
Military and naval science	U-V	715	33.57	925	80.13	1,108	73.18	1,349	73.34	0.2	218.5
Philosophy and religion	B	3,518	29.06	8,376	88.88	9,390	80.69	12,035	81.53	1.0	280.6
Physical education and recreation	GV	814	20.38	2,170	64.85	2,355	64.96	2,926	64.51	-0.7	316.5
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,219	64.59	1,764	126.46	1,886	130.83	2,413	136.27	4.2	211.0
Political science	J	1,650	36.76	3,712	103.06	4,551	98.76	5,348	105.17	6.5	286.1
Psychology	BF	890	31.97	1,980	89.42	2,098	96.20	2,770	94.97	-1.3	297.1
Science (general)	Q	433	56.10	594	122.19	823	115.18	994	122.46	6.3	218.3
Sociology	HM	2,742	29.36	7,247	94.95	9,009	93.72	10,704	94.13	0.4	320.6
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	1,967	71.28	3,148	142.10	3,219	141.85	4,219	135.38	-4.6	189.9
Average for all subjects		59,299	\$41.69	120,652	\$94.69	137,895	\$92.61	167,417	\$93.83	1.3 %	225.0

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona from electronic data provided by ProQuest Books (formerly Courtis), and GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YBP). The data represents all titles (includes hardcover, trade & paperback books, as well as annals) treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors, years listed. 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 2013–2015

Index Base: 2007 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2007			2013			2014			2015		
		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 2014–2015	Index
Agriculture	S	894	\$128.59	730	\$133.30	779	\$139.89	752	\$141.61	1.2%	110.1		
Anthropology	GN	382	105.28	317	117.22	329	106.44	344	104.38	-1.9	99.1		
Botany	QK	287	168.18	197	167.96	232	173.90	193	153.67	-11.6	91.4		
Business and economics	H	9,807	97.25	6,684	122.64	7,839	115.62	6,771	115.18	-0.4	118.4		
Chemistry	QD	934	213.76	526	238.79	486	198.34	480	201.45	1.6	94.2		
Education	L	2,565	107.62	2,423	115.02	3,202	103.97	2,797	108.98	4.8	101.3		
Engineering and technology	T	7,176	133.60	5,069	171.42	5,671	177.18	4,725	154.50	-12.8	115.6		
Fine and applied arts	M-N	1,141	84.30	1,749	111.24	2,119	96.12	1,973	98.31	2.3	116.6		
General works	A	60	107.85	67	107.59	101	104.42	80	105.01	0.6	97.4		
Geography	G	888	132.67	623	151.05	814	131.23	745	134.16	2.2	101.1		
Geology	QE	201	136.49	189	218.25	178	149.33	166	133.69	-10.5	97.9		
History	C-D-E-F	4,452	93.55	4,804	105.73	6,375	87.98	6,055	84.17	-4.3	90.0		

Home economics	TX	255	104.31	449	82.81	360	88.37	296	83.63	-5.4	80.2
Industrial arts	TT	20	52.73	86	72.30	88	96.18	68	84.57	-12.1	160.4
Law	K	1,743	99.61	2,465	158.66	2,511	151.57	2,363	141.20	-6.8	141.8
Library and information science	Z	308	74.70	439	105.38	524	115.57	438	110.22	-4.6	147.5
Literature and language	P	5,517	90.59	8,953	100.92	10,877	86.18	10,137	82.15	-4.7	90.7
Mathematics and computer science	QA	4,285	102.93	2,376	132.14	2,574	119.58	2,271	107.84	-9.8	104.8
Medicine	R	7,420	123.59	5,466	158.45	6,227	166.07	5,561	159.90	-3.7	129.4
Military and naval science	U-V	684	82.89	509	102.68	615	92.14	556	81.74	-11.3	98.6
Philosophy and religion	B	3,612	93.77	4,147	127.62	5,030	98.35	4,974	99.83	1.5	106.5
Physical education and recreation	GV	610	96.00	923	96.45	1,161	83.85	1,145	77.28	-7.8	80.5
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,965	142.11	1,158	152.64	1,187	144.96	1,005	151.96	4.8	106.9
Political science	J	2,447	102.72	2,177	128.46	2,709	111.84	2,356	118.58	6.0	115.4
Psychology	BF	1,113	83.51	1,033	113.93	1,167	115.32	1,115	113.86	-1.3	136.3
Science (general)	Q	468	117.19	346	145.77	453	136.01	373	143.16	5.3	122.2
Sociology	HM	4,139	98.02	3,966	119.32	5,088	113.47	4,539	109.49	-3.5	111.7
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	3,394	154.01	1,967	175.72	1,904	173.50	1,709	155.12	-10.6	100.7
Average for all subjects		66,767	\$110.82	59,838	\$130.08	70,604	\$119.29	63,987	\$114.12	-4.3 %	103.0

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona from electronic data provided by ProQuest Books (formerly Courts) and GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YBP). The data represents 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 Text Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2013–2015

Index Base: 2007 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2007			2013			2014			2015		
		No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	No. of Titles	Average Price	% Change 2014–2015	Average Price	% Change 2014–2015	Index
Agriculture	S	68	\$134.75	62	\$131.30	71	\$123.05	119	\$127.79		\$127.79	3.9%	94.8
Anthropology	GN	40	89.15	35	114.63	35	112.17	61	105.68		105.68	-5.8	118.5
Botany	QK	4	98.00	9	207.69	13	121.02	31	125.78		125.78	3.9	128.3
Business and economics	H	666	110.18	849	139.79	1,037	126.85	1,248	134.91		134.91	6.4	122.4
Chemistry	QD	80	138.70	99	154.16	119	149.17	127	195.03		195.03	30.7	140.6
Education	L	235	79.58	322	99.91	444	89.06	559	96.90		96.90	8.8	121.8
Engineering and technology	T	668	106.13	835	136.07	925	124.31	1,120	138.56		138.56	11.5	130.6
Fine and applied arts	M-N	82	73.69	104	107.49	112	108.03	163	101.01		101.01	-6.5	137.1
General works	A	1	48.00	3	120.33	4	65.08	2	50.01		50.01	-23.2	104.2
Geography	G	59	100.42	91	134.77	115	126.88	148	125.22		125.22	-1.3	124.7
Geology	QE	26	118.28	30	138.20	43	132.58	38	138.50		138.50	4.5	117.1
History	C-D-E-F	72	78.41	106	90.00	155	94.48	220	94.67		94.67	0.2	120.7
Home economics	TX	54	68.23	50	105.95	18	116.70	35	126.90		126.90	8.7	186.0
Industrial arts	TT	13	73.90	14	87.95	9	104.47	28	91.49		91.49	-12.4	123.8

Law	K	163	87.67	316	113.67	442	103.35	529	126.02	21.9	143.7
Library and information science	Z	24	65.54	24	75.73	56	81.40	45	109.29	34.3	166.7
Literature and language	P	269	71.35	382	91.06	522	85.79	687	97.98	14.2	137.3
Mathematics and computer science	QA	732	91.42	783	108.08	895	101.64	1,105	105.41	3.7	115.3
Medicine	R	1210	126.37	1,596	135.40	1,824	131.76	2,310	150.38	14.1	119.0
Military and naval science	U-V	10	104.58	12	75.62	20	108.76	19	87.58	-19.5	83.7
Philosophy and religion	B	85	55.51	122	73.20	162	69.26	229	67.54	-2.5	121.7
Physical education and recreation	GV	47	72.14	62	121.16	60	106.17	147	100.01	-5.8	138.6
Physics and astronomy	QB	237	107.05	258	119.37	278	102.04	360	121.54	19.1	113.5
Political science	J	104	74.21	148	102.16	173	93.56	261	109.06	16.6	147.0
Psychology	BF	120	100.17	174	132.07	183	123.97	199	124.84	0.7	124.6
Science (general)	Q	24	111.30	35	99.37	50	86.29	55	114.08	32.2	102.5
Sociology	HM	330	84.88	489	104.24	575	95.75	645	105.31	10.0	124.1
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	250	116.73	256	137.69	258	126.66	391	153.45	21.1	131.5
Average for all subjects		5,673	\$102.52	7,266	\$122.07	8,598	\$113.25	10,881	\$125.18	10.5 %	122.1

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona from electronic data provided by ProQuest Books (formerly Courts) and GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YPB). The data represents 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.

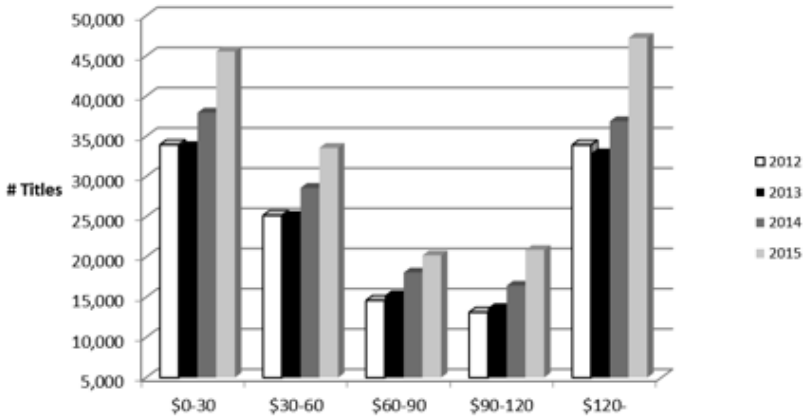
This index does include paperback editions. The inclusion of these items does impact pricing in the index.

(continued from page 353)

changes at both Coutts and YBP have affected how the annual price data is pulled for books. Starting this year, the data is supplied by each vendor in separate files for print, e-books and textbooks. Prior to this year, this was not the case and this resulted in some changes in numbers of titles in the tables as well as in the average prices. The data for 2014 and 2013 were redone this year to conform to the current sets of data so the numbers of titles and prices have changed from those published last year and previous years. In the future, this will improve the consistency of the data especially for e-books.

The overall average price for books in the North American Academic Books Price Index (NAABPI) for 2015 increased 1.3 percent, a slight hike from the previous year. The average price increased to \$93.83 from \$92.61. The number of titles increased significantly from 137,895 to 167,417, so the growth in available titles as opposed to increasing prices will be the pressure point for library budgets. The increase this year was primarily due to rising costs for books that cost more than \$120. This was due to the growth in the number of expensive titles available and not because of increases in the prices. Many of these expensive titles are e-books. As e-books are more expensive than print books, the cost of e-books was a driver in the overall price increase for 2015. E-books now make up about 40 percent of the base table.

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 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 2015 was \$114.12 while the average price for all books was \$93.83. The average price of a print book drops to \$81.00 if the e-books are removed from the overall index. The high price for e-books is not that surprising as pricing models for academic e-books generally charge a large percentage of the list print price for access to 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 an e-book 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. 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 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

Figure 1 / Comparison of Number of Titles in Sample Grouped by Price

in e-book prices and by using the lowest price available for e-books this approach may be artificially keeping the average price of e-books low.

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 shows that textbooks tend to be much more expensive than other types of books, with an average price of \$125.18 in 2015. There was a large increase in the average price of 10.5 percent after a 7 percent drop the year before. This is not good news for students, who are essentially hostages of the textbook market. Textbooks are 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. “E” versions are included in the textbook index, so a 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 2015 (Table 4) increased by 1.3 percent as compared with the 2014 average price. This is mainly due to a large increase in the number of titles treated in the higher part of the price bands (\$120 and up) as well as a large increase in the top price band. Nearly all price bands showed only modest growth, in the number of titles between 2013 and 2015 except for the price band above \$120 and the lowest price band \$0–30, and both showed very large increases. This led to a leveling in the average price for all books as increases at both ends of the spectrum evened out the overall increase in prices. The increase in the upper price bands was primarily due to increases in e-books; their prices average well above the \$110 threshold. 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 (\$120.00 and up) has continued to have a huge impact on the costs for books. The impact on pricing from the titles in the

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

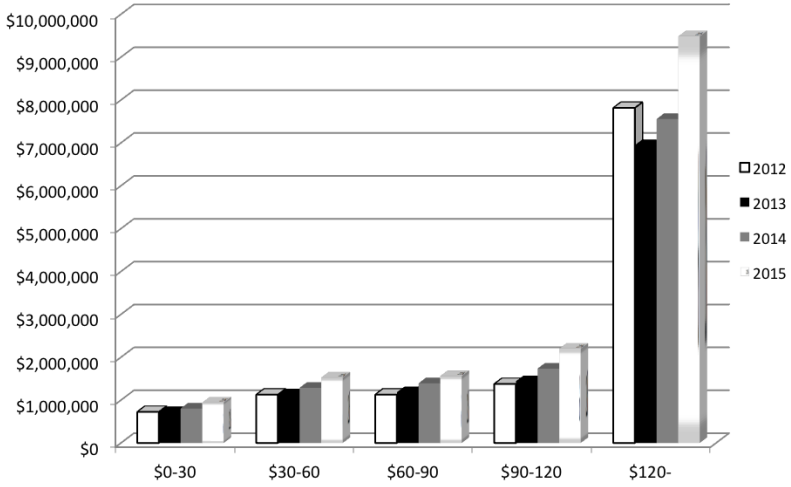
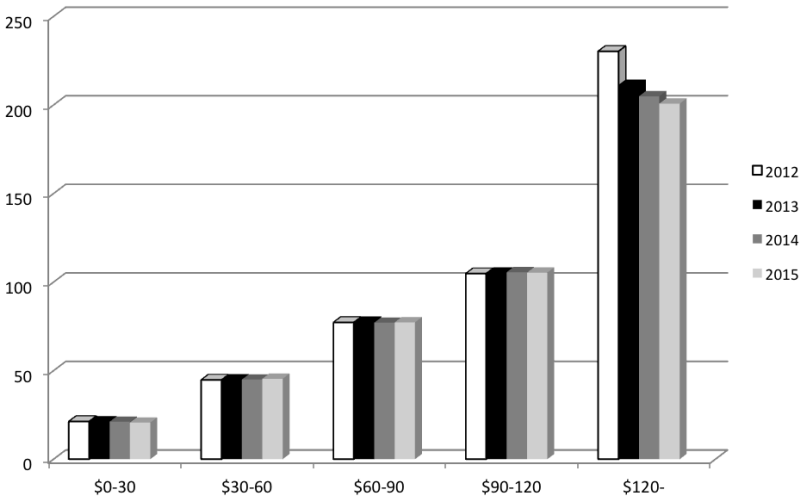


Figure 3 / Comparison of Average Price Grouped by Price Band



\$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 in the index for 2015. Although the \$0–\$30 price area has the second-largest number of titles, dollar-wise it remains the smallest portion as far as total cost (sum of all prices) goes in the index. The increase in the number of titles available in the upper end of the index was what added to the overall level of increase. Again, growth in the number of titles available was 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 actually showed a decrease in the overall average price over the past four years. This clearly shows that the growth in the number of titles was the primary driver in escalating costs not increases in price. See Figures 2 and 3.

The data used for this index is derived from all titles treated by ProQuest Books (formerly Coutts Information Services) and GOBI Library Solutions (formerly YBP Library Services) 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 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 the vast majority 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 2014 to 2015. This is due to decreases in the number of titles available in the upper ends of the price bands. As more e-books are released with multiple pricing models, it may be that using the lowest price is a factor in the declining number of titles in the most expensive price bands. Publishers distributing their e-books directly to customers may also be a factor in lower prices. The index does clearly show 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 10.5 percent increase for overall prices between 2014 and 2015. Textbook prices remain much higher than those of 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.

(text continues on page 369)

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 1989, 2014–2016

Index Base for all years: 1989 = 100

Subject	1989				2014				2015				2016				Percent Change 2015–2016	
	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	No. of Titles	Indexed to 1989	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Indexed to 1989	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Indexed to 1989	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	No. of Titles	Indexed to 1989		
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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
HUMANITIES	21	\$32.33	110	\$74.73	231.1	106.8	69	\$70.45	217.9	94.3	53	\$72.55	224.4	103.0	53	\$72.55	224.4	103.0
Art and architecture	276	55.56	186	62.00	111.6	95.5	134	66.00	118.8	106.5	143	68.61	123.5	104.0	143	68.61	123.5	104.0
<i>Fine Arts**</i>	n.a.	n.a.	87	60.99	n.a.	92.9	105	69.49	n.a.	113.9	83	74.43	n.a.	107.1	83	74.43	n.a.	107.1
<i>Architecture**</i>	n.a.	n.a.	63	88.46	n.a.	122.7	44	90.81	n.a.	102.7	44	84.94	n.a.	93.5	44	84.94	n.a.	93.5
<i>Photography</i>	24	44.11	37	60.00	136.0	106.0	21	56.32	127.7	93.9	18	56.50	128.1	100.3	18	56.50	128.1	100.3
Communication	42	32.70	114	65.00	198.8	90.7	84	91.52	279.9	140.8	119	77.65	237.5	84.8	119	77.65	237.5	84.8
Language and literature	110	35.17	115	89.67	255.0	126.6	90	76.81	218.4	85.7	86	80.92	230.1	105.4	86	80.92	230.1	105.4
<i>African and Middle Eastern**</i>	n.a.	n.a.	18	59.32	n.a.	112.3	16	75.27	n.a.	126.9	6	49.81	n.a.	66.2	6	49.81	n.a.	66.2
<i>Asian and Oceanian**</i>	n.a.	n.a.	21	59.37	n.a.	90.9	23	55.78	n.a.	94.0	18	69.93	n.a.	125.4	18	69.93	n.a.	125.4
<i>Classical</i>	75	43.07	39	85.24	197.9	97.0	34	67.83	157.5	79.6	26	86.84	201.6	128.0	26	86.84	201.6	128.0
<i>English and American</i>	547	30.27	365	69.18	228.5	95.5	326	67.34	222.5	97.3	283	73.29	242.1	108.8	283	73.29	242.1	108.8
<i>Germanic</i>	38	32.18	30	66.44	206.5	90.5	35	72.87	226.4	109.7	20	78.94	245.3	108.3	20	78.94	245.3	108.3
<i>Romance</i>	97	30.30	66	76.29	251.8	98.6	62	69.34	228.8	90.9	39	64.67	213.4	93.3	39	64.67	213.4	93.3
<i>Slavic</i>	41	27.92	10	85.40	305.9	152.3	13	63.37	227.0	74.2	14	75.25	269.5	118.7	14	75.25	269.5	118.7
<i>Other</i>	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.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Performing arts	20	29.41	37	70.72	240.5	118.2	28	57.72	196.3	81.6	12	63.10	214.6	109.3	12	63.10	214.6	109.3
<i>Film</i>	82	33.00	146	74.68	226.3	96.7	130	71.02	215.2	95.1	96	81.62	247.3	114.9	96	81.62	247.3	114.9
<i>Music</i>	156	35.34	141	68.10	192.7	96.7	129	65.32	184.8	95.9	106	74.51	210.8	114.1	106	74.51	210.8	114.1
<i>Theater and dance</i>	58	34.18	49	70.75	207.0	105.2	26	79.14	231.5	111.9	38	83.52	244.4	105.5	38	83.52	244.4	105.5
Philosophy	185	37.25	241	76.70	205.9	101.9	244	74.60	200.3	97.3	150	70.50	189.3	94.5	150	70.50	189.3	94.5
Religion	174	33.49	271	68.68	205.1	103.6	290	57.51	171.7	83.7	240	61.94	185.0	107.7	240	61.94	185.0	107.7
TOTAL HUMANITIES	2,009	\$36.09	2,146	\$71.35	197.7	101.2	1,903	\$69.05	191.3	96.8	1,594	\$72.53	201.0	105.0	1,594	\$72.53	201.0	105.0
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	99	\$46.90	102	\$59.53	126.9	86.6	67	\$58.57	124.9	98.4	59	\$69.30	147.8	118.3	59	\$69.30	147.8	118.3
History of science and technology	74	40.56	85	54.60	134.6	115.0	77	58.08	143.2	106.4	60	53.16	131.1	91.5	60	53.16	131.1	91.5

Astronautics and astronomy	22	50.56	57	57.52	113.8	87.7	66	48.00	94.9	83.4	42	48.65	96.2	101.4	1.4
Biology	97	51.01	154	72.79	142.7	100.5	152	77.01	151.0	105.8	95	81.12	159.0	105.3	5.3
<i>Botany</i>	29	63.91	62	91.94	143.9	111.7	79	95.71	149.8	104.1	47	98.08	153.5	102.5	2.5
<i>Zoology</i>	53	49.21	139	58.54	119.0	80.2	115	69.55	141.3	118.8	88	67.89	138.0	97.6	-2.4
Chemistry	21	70.76	36	86.65	122.5	80.9	30	73.21	103.5	84.5	27	105.31	148.8	143.8	43.8
Earth science	34	79.44	115	84.08	105.8	103.3	119	75.86	95.5	90.2	103	79.97	100.7	105.4	5.4
Engineering	87	66.74	58	91.42	137.0	92.8	57	93.02	139.4	101.8	56	113.67	170.3	122.2	22.2
Health sciences	94	34.91	162	66.98	191.9	113.3	151	70.27	201.3	104.9	121	72.17	206.7	102.7	2.7
Information and computer science	70	40.35	62	72.94	180.8	123.3	51	53.35	132.2	73.1	41	62.78	155.6	117.7	17.7
Mathematics	60	48.53	85	62.64	129.1	95.1	102	67.01	138.1	107.0	93	67.60	139.3	100.9	0.9
Physics	22	43.94	51	58.96	134.2	88.7	44	56.54	128.7	95.9	36	79.75	181.5	141.1	41.1
Sports and physical education	18	27.46	54	69.08	251.6	116.8	52	66.43	241.9	96.2	45	83.86	305.4	126.2	26.2
TOTAL SCIENCE	780	\$49.54	1,222	\$69.20	139.7	98.5	1,162	\$70.11	141.5	101.3	913	\$75.90	153.2	108.3	8.3
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES															
Anthropology	92	\$37.09	126	\$81.26	219.1	117.0	144	\$81.06	218.5	99.8	134	\$79.19	213.5	97.7	-2.3
Business management and labor	96	39.94	123	84.95	212.7	103.5	113	82.79	207.3	97.5	102	81.45	203.9	98.4	-1.6
Economics	145	35.72	160	65.21	182.6	105.1	127	54.39	152.3	83.4	120	54.75	153.3	100.7	0.7
Education	332	40.75	247	60.59	148.7	100.6	238	67.44	165.5	111.3	170	56.26	138.1	83.4	-16.6
History, geography and area studies	71	34.50	138	73.24	212.3	112.1	161	77.82	225.6	106.3	109	74.80	216.8	96.1	-3.9
Africa	59	42.10	117	68.10	161.8	89.4	139	70.59	167.7	103.7	95	76.90	182.7	108.9	8.9
Ancient history**	44	34.85	34	71.62	205.5	99.8	34	72.54	208.1	101.3	30	67.02	192.3	92.4	-7.6
Asia and Oceania	n.a.	n.a.	41	102.96	n.a.	115.8	45	95.74	n.a.	93.0	45	88.15	n.a.	92.1	-7.9
Central and Eastern Europe**	76	34.75	92	71.77	206.5	103.4	86	78.82	226.8	109.8	63	64.10	184.5	81.3	-18.7
Latin America and Caribbean	n.a.	n.a.	59	72.77	n.a.	114.2	63	68.25	n.a.	93.8	48	69.47	n.a.	101.8	1.8
Middle East and North Africa	42	37.23	67	65.86	176.9	108.4	60	68.61	184.3	104.2	54	68.08	182.9	99.2	-0.8
North America	30	36.32	35	74.43	204.9	123.6	49	77.79	214.2	104.5	31	75.41	207.6	96.9	-3.1
United Kingdom**	349	30.56	441	49.60	162.3	78.1	397	50.10	163.9	101.0	386	51.15	167.4	102.1	2.1
Western Europe	n.a.	n.a.	86	72.12	n.a.	92.0	68	74.65	n.a.	103.5	48	83.05	n.a.	111.3	11.3
Political science	287	42.08	122	75.99	180.6	101.9	122	69.43	165.0	91.4	108	67.92	161.4	97.8	-2.2
Comparative politics	28	33.56	4	124.99	372.4	312.6	3	48.98	145.9	39.2	67	66.96	199.5	136.7	36.7
International relations	236	37.82	202	69.93	184.9	99.6	190	79.17	209.3	113.2	215	73.22	193.6	92.5	-7.5
	207	35.74	177	73.64	206.0	104.4	187	77.60	217.7	105.6	151	69.69	195.0	89.8	-10.2

Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 1989, 2014–2016 (cont.)

Index Base for all years: 1989 = 100

Subject	1989				2014				2015				2016						
	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	Indexed to 2013	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	Indexed to 2014	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	Indexed to 2015	No. of Titles	Avg. Price per Title	Indexed to 1989	Indexed to 2016	Percent Change 2015–2016
<i>Political theory</i>	59	37.76	85	62.83	166.4	105.0	80	62.88	166.5	100.1	128	72.56	192.2	115.4	15.4				15.4
<i>U.S. politics</i>	212	29.37	241	63.49	216.2	116.9	216	63.43	216.0	99.9	201	65.21	222.0	102.8	2.8				2.8
Psychology	179	36.36	96	75.08	206.5	92.0	67	85.63	235.2	113.9	61	87.45	240.5	102.1	2.1				2.1
Sociology	178	36.36	193	78.79	216.7	110.6	169	79.70	219.2	101.2	162	78.90	217.0	99.0	-1.0				-1.0
TOTAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	2,722	\$36.43	2,886	\$68.19	187.2	100.2	2,758	\$70.05	192.3	102.7	2,528	\$68.12	187.0	97.2	-2.8				-2.8
TOTAL GENERAL HUMANITIES, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (without Reference)	5,511	\$38.16	6,254	\$69.47	182.0	100.2	5,823	\$69.73	182.7	100.4	5,035	\$70.92	185.8	101.7	1.7				1.7
REFERENCE																			
General	636	\$61.02	40	\$98.18	160.9	83.6	59	\$80.62	132.1	82.1	37	\$102.52	168.0	127.2	27.2				27.2
Humanities**	n.a.	n.a.	136	114.67	n.a.	110.8	90	106.96	n.a.	93.3	72	119.53	n.a.	111.8	11.8				11.8
Science and technology**	n.a.	n.a.	43	149.99	n.a.	77.5	39	119.96	n.a.	80.0	35	147.98	n.a.	123.4	23.4				23.4
Social and behavioral sciences**	n.a.	n.a.	178	134.98	n.a.	87.9	130	145.39	n.a.	107.7	164	150.84	n.a.	103.7	3.7				3.7
TOTAL REFERENCE	636	\$61.02	397	\$124.29	203.7	86.6	318	\$119.38	195.6	96.0	308	\$137.39	225.2	115.1	15.1				15.1
GRAND TOTAL	6,147	\$40.52	6,651	\$72.74	179.5	98.6	6,141	\$72.31	178.5	99.4	5,343	\$74.76	184.5	103.4	3.4 %				3.4 %

Compiled by Frederick Lynden, Brown University and Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton

* General category no longer appears after 1999.

** Began appearing as separate sections after 1989.

Price changes vary, as always, among subject areas. This year there were few double-digit increases in subject areas, and many areas showed price decreases. This is a normal occurrence. The 2015 data indicate that those areas with the largest increases were nearly exclusively in the social sciences and sciences. This increase is most likely due to e-book publishing in these subject areas especially in large expensive online reference works and encyclopedias. STM and social science publishers have tended to be early adopters of e-books and have been publishing e-books for a while. The large price increases in science and the social sciences reflect the availability and higher pricing of e-books in these areas.

It is good to remember that price indexes become less accurate at describing price changes the smaller the sample becomes. Chemistry and general works 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 1,500 titles) and the inclusion/exclusion of just a few large expensive items can have a major impact on prices for the category. The increases in chemistry, for example, were due to a few very expensive titles that showed up in the data. Because the sample is very small, these titles caused the overall price to jump dramatically.

The U.S. College Books Price Index (Table 5), prepared by Frederick C. Lynden and Narda Tafuri, contains average price and index number data for the years 2014 through 2016 (index base year of 1989), and also the percentage change in price between 2015 and 2016.

Data for the index was compiled from 5,343 reviews of books published in *Choice* during 2016. Expensive titles (\$500 or more) were omitted from the analysis, thus the total number of titles reported is smaller than the actual number of books reviewed in 2016. 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 2016 increased by 5.04 percent from the previous year, and the average price for science and technology titles increased at a rate of 8.26 percent. Finally, the average price for social and behavioral sciences decreased slightly at a rate of 2.76 percent. Nevertheless, combined the overall subject area increase was 1.71 percent. This increase is in line with the CPI rise for 2016, which has been around 2.1 percent. For all titles, which include reference, there was an increase of 3.39 percent.

For 2016, the overall price average for books in the four major sections of *Choice*—humanities, science and technology, social and behavioral sciences, and reference—was \$74.76, a 3.39 percent increase compared with the average 2015 book price of \$72.31. Reference books calculated separately had an average price increase of 15.09 percent over the previous year, with a 2016 average price of \$137.39 (after items \$500 or over were removed) compared to last year's average price of \$119.38. However, excluding reference books, the 2016 average price was \$70.92, a 1.71 percent increase over the average 2015 price of \$69.73.

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Table 6 / U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2013–2016

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Preliminary		
	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	3	123.4	9.66	3	123.4	8.98	6	114.7	\$8.49	2	108.4	\$10.66	6	136.1
Body, mind and spirit	7.11	14	114.3	8.13	14	114.3	9.99	2	140.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8.99	2	126.4
Business and economics	12.47	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.
Children	5.29	217	126.7	6.70	217	126.7	6.10	272	115.4	6.32	204	119.5	6.89	224	130.2
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.	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.	8.99	1	119.9	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	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9.99	1	158.1	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.	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.	8.99	1	128.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Fiction	6.34	3,524	110.4	7.00	3,603	111.9	7.09	3,603	111.9	7.11	3,234	112.2	7.22	3,016	113.9
Foreign language study	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6.99	1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Games	7.14	1	139.9	9.99	1	139.9	9.25	2	129.5	7.99	1	111.9	8.66	3	121.2
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	8	110.9	8.24	8	110.9	9.33	3	125.5	8.99	3	121.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
History	7.90	3	126.5	9.99	3	126.5	9.99	2	126.5	9.99	2	126.5	9.32	3	118.0
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	2	114.4	8.00	2	114.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.99	1	114.3

Language arts and disciplines	6.99	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	114.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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.
Literary collections	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	4.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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.
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.
Medical	7.83	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	102.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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.
Nature	n.a.	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	10.99	1	10.99	133.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Pets	n.a.	1	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Philosophy	7.49	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	6.95	92.8	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.
Poetry	5.75	3	6.62	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	6.45	112.2	1	3.99	69.4
Political science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	2	8.47	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.
Reference	6.85	3	6.49	5	12.89	188.2	1	7.99	116.6	5	15.70	229.2
Religion	9.96	n.a.	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.	1	13.99	n.a.
Self-help	12.45	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	64.2
Social science	7.08	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	7.62	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	131.1
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.
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.
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.
Travel	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
True crime	7.19	26	8.49	20	8.69	120.9	13	8.30	115.4	13	8.45	117.5
Young adult	6.46	44	9.22	44	9.42	145.9	22	9.40	145.5	12	9.49	146.9
Totals	\$6.34	3,855	\$7.04	3,970	\$7.08	111.7	3,492	\$7.09	111.9	3,289	\$7.24	114.2

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, 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, 2013–2016

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 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	134	\$34.08	137.4	139	\$36.02	145.2	126	\$33.55	135.3	146	\$34.36	138.5		
Architecture	38.90	780	43.74	112.4	689	45.98	118.2	814	44.20	113.6	720	49.34	126.8		
Art	31.28	1,697	41.70	133.3	1,679	39.58	126.5	1,680	41.96	134.2	1,659	47.43	151.6		
Bibles	36.87	808	41.74	113.2	770	45.41	123.2	966	40.51	109.9	643	44.06	119.5		
Biography and autobiography	19.19	3,092	19.80	103.2	2,920	20.41	106.4	2,692	20.40	106.3	2,595	19.73	102.8		
Body, mind and spirit	17.48	1,013	18.31	104.7	861	18.11	103.6	677	18.20	104.1	688	17.76	101.6		
Business and economics	71.12	7,243	88.39	124.3	7,334	92.17	129.6	8,946	103.95	146.2	6,550	92.73	130.4		
Children	11.11	10,360	12.31	110.8	11,493	12.97	116.7	12,215	15.20	136.8	12,287	14.68	132.1		
Comics and graphic novels	12.75	1,834	16.73	131.2	2,077	17.56	137.7	2,043	18.03	141.4	2,235	18.42	144.5		
Computers	57.01	3,636	85.88	150.6	3,506	83.75	146.9	2,903	84.97	149.0	3,689	120.08	210.6		
Cooking	18.30	1,190	20.06	109.6	1,279	19.65	107.4	1,110	20.41	111.5	986	20.74	113.3		
Crafts and hobbies	18.49	1,201	18.40	99.5	1,203	18.77	101.5	1,103	19.63	106.2	843	20.27	109.6		
Design	32.87	327	38.64	117.6	308	42.13	128.2	258	44.92	136.6	244	37.93	115.4		
Drama	16.40	611	20.09	122.5	584	20.75	126.5	542	22.79	139.0	515	21.37	130.3		
Education	35.10	4,195	48.89	139.3	4,380	55.91	159.3	3,989	52.38	149.2	4,211	62.64	178.5		
Family and relationships	17.10	767	19.42	113.6	756	22.89	133.9	674	20.08	117.4	636	21.09	123.3		
Fiction	15.74	13,231	17.00	108.0	13,114	17.28	109.8	11,041	17.18	109.2	10,537	16.89	107.3		
Foreign language study	41.90	1,006	52.51	125.3	1,370	44.78	106.9	1,005	49.25	117.5	735	49.49	118.1		
Games	16.53	619	15.64	94.6	548	17.56	106.2	766	15.17	91.7	1,843	14.23	86.1		
Gardening	20.59	194	22.83	110.9	163	21.94	106.6	158	24.97	121.3	121	22.66	110.0		
Health and fitness	22.81	1,095	26.30	115.3	1,108	26.78	117.4	1,080	32.70	143.4	1,023	35.85	157.2		
History	33.53	6,513	37.88	113.0	7,750	40.70	121.4	7,044	40.69	121.4	6,144	38.31	114.3		
House and home	19.33	145	20.08	103.9	949	95.61	494.6	117	20.35	105.3	87	19.83	102.6		
Humor	12.96	353	14.39	111.0	344	14.97	115.5	324	15.15	116.9	285	15.40	118.8		
Language arts and disciplines	49.14	1,875	73.94	150.5	2,151	76.56	155.8	1,762	75.20	153.0	2,057	76.36	155.4		

Law	60.92	3,154	76.13	125.0	3,690	80.11	131.5	3,793	86.00	141.2	3,549	86.99	142.8
Literary collections	28.07	474	34.38	122.5	673	21.41	76.3	343	36.55	130.2	397	34.72	123.7
Literary criticism	31.99	1,587	40.32	126.0	2,554	50.49	157.8	1,972	43.85	137.1	1,752	40.89	127.8
Mathematics	75.77	1,479	86.74	114.5	1,518	90.43	119.3	1,033	83.11	109.7	1,286	90.77	119.8
Medical	64.27	5,120	96.56	150.2	4,605	96.33	149.9	3,743	106.16	165.2	5,002	112.16	174.5
Music	22.66	2,653	24.31	107.3	2,188	28.87	127.4	2,722	25.61	113.0	2,282	27.80	122.7
Nature	26.90	564	31.58	117.4	593	31.73	118.0	516	31.27	116.3	568	46.79	173.9
Performing arts	27.85	867	35.48	127.4	924	36.71	131.8	955	39.24	140.9	808	38.60	138.6
Pets	18.86	154	18.87	100.1	146	18.67	99.0	150	17.91	95.0	158	20.13	106.7
Philosophy	31.40	1,522	44.41	141.4	1,776	47.91	152.6	1,654	44.03	140.2	1,637	53.94	171.8
Photography	27.74	445	34.43	124.1	420	35.74	128.9	472	38.18	137.6	399	32.61	117.6
Poetry	16.09	2,399	16.62	103.3	2,279	17.64	109.6	1,993	17.82	110.8	2,002	16.92	105.2
Political science	45.65	3,555	47.80	104.7	4,114	55.48	121.5	3,865	55.26	121.1	3,685	48.26	105.7
Psychology	45.74	1,944	67.22	147.0	2,121	58.16	127.2	2,292	52.10	113.9	2,345	56.33	123.2
Reference	52.54	823	100.88	192.0	891	99.54	189.5	720	156.99	298.8	559	153.96	293.0
Religion	20.54	7,968	22.24	108.3	7,585	23.72	115.5	7,410	24.55	119.5	6,845	25.15	122.4
Science	71.05	4,523	90.07	126.8	4,417	88.76	124.9	2,654	100.65	141.7	4,041	123.08	173.2
Self-help	16.36	1,291	17.72	108.3	1,153	18.81	114.9	1,038	17.26	105.5	1,020	17.41	106.4
Social science	36.83	4,502	50.07	135.9	4,673	54.55	148.1	4,779	51.57	140.0	5,265	54.53	148.0
Sports and recreation	21.82	1,111	23.88	109.4	1,185	24.36	111.7	1,091	25.09	115.0	1,050	24.81	113.7
Study aids	30.90	535	47.44	153.5	1,888	44.88	145.2	939	43.64	141.2	698	35.75	115.7
Technology and engineering	85.80	2,805	101.16	117.9	3,688	104.67	122.0	1,914	113.98	132.8	3,225	135.99	158.5
Transportation	40.19	427	39.45	98.2	465	42.34	105.4	385	39.52	98.3	483	36.26	90.2
Travel	19.18	1,736	20.64	107.6	1,716	20.60	107.4	1,617	21.28	110.9	1,594	20.93	109.1
True crime	17.71	169	19.84	112.0	175	19.01	107.3	176	18.97	107.1	144	19.42	109.7
Young adult	14.06	2,169	16.83	119.7	2,929	18.67	132.8	2,336	20.70	147.2	2,580	26.26	186.7
Totals	\$33.90	117,895	\$43.81	129.2	125,841	\$46.02	135.7	114,597	\$46.52	137.2	114,853	\$50.58	149.2

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

Table 7A / U.S. Audiobooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2013–2016

Index Base: 2005 = 100

BISAC Category	2005			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Preliminary		
	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	7	\$42.82	62.1	1	\$59.95	86.9	2	\$14.97	21.7	3	\$26.66	7	25.42	36.9
Art	57.51	3	29.95	52.1	9	39.32	68.4	8	30.61	53.2	22	16.95	22	16.95	29.5
Bibles	47.08	20	81.48	173.1	11	70.88	150.6	16	37.35	79.3	7	122.85	7	122.85	260.9
Biography and autobiography	37.68	1,199	41.12	109.1	982	41.60	110.4	1,226	36.61	97.2	1,671	31.52	1,671	31.52	83.7
Body, mind and spirit	26.74	244	26.93	100.7	181	28.51	106.6	163	23.60	88.3	145	29.38	145	29.38	109.9
Business and economics	42.11	452	34.51	82.0	607	29.96	71.2	701	29.51	70.1	1,300	27.51	1,300	27.51	65.3
Children	26.57	1,713	40.92	154.0	1,032	35.62	134.0	2,361	39.89	150.1	1,201	33.30	1,201	33.30	125.3
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	2	14.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	1	9.99	n.a.
Computers	41.39	2	52.47	126.8	18	41.26	99.7	9	29.77	71.9	30	29.05	30	29.05	70.2
Cooking	14.45	20	47.19	326.6	14	49.06	339.5	21	30.56	211.5	40	31.69	40	31.69	219.3
Crafts and hobbies	n.a.	3	24.95	n.a.	5	24.78	n.a.	3	28.63	n.a.	2	27.47	2	27.47	n.a.
Design	n.a.	1	29.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	29.99	n.a.	1	9.99	1	9.99	n.a.
Drama	23.45	100	32.53	138.7	59	25.91	110.5	52	29.76	126.9	152	14.35	152	14.35	61.2
Education	27.46	33	39.25	142.9	32	36.84	134.1	26	36.09	131.4	52	39.75	52	39.75	144.7
Family and relationships	24.58	119	35.16	143.0	119	32.01	130.2	157	30.76	125.2	247	29.17	247	29.17	118.7
Fiction	41.47	11,434	38.34	92.5	11,447	38.92	93.8	13,094	31.95	77.0	19,068	23.90	19,068	23.90	57.6
Foreign language study	70.04	114	69.35	99.0	273	64.32	91.8	137	69.30	98.9	46	107.83	46	107.83	154.0
Games	32.68	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5	47.18	144.4	1	11.99	36.7	4	32.49	4	32.49	99.4
Gardening	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	14.99	n.a.	2	31.49	2	31.49	n.a.
Health and fitness	26.61	131	42.91	161.3	111	41.17	154.7	162	40.47	152.1	288	32.08	288	32.08	120.6
History	41.61	480	47.52	114.2	476	51.94	124.8	550	43.41	104.3	1,195	32.80	1,195	32.80	78.8
House and home	25.00	4	29.98	119.9	1	9.99	40.0	5	35.79	143.2	27	36.98	27	36.98	147.9
Humor	29.60	70	37.80	127.7	98	32.93	111.3	108	32.83	110.9	101	27.03	101	27.03	91.3
Language arts and disciplines	60.84	14	40.79	67.0	11	38.17	62.7	20	33.29	54.7	40	29.21	40	29.21	48.0

Law	55.32	16	64.24	116.1	12	62.41	112.8	9	55.11	99.6	41	27.94	50.5
Literary collections	24.71	18	37.09	150.1	41	54.10	218.9	58	40.13	162.4	72	34.98	141.6
Literary criticism	26.41	11	48.62	184.1	12	29.98	113.5	20	43.63	165.2	52	27.83	105.4
Mathematics	n.a.	5	38.97	n.a.	5	20.59	n.a.	6	36.81	n.a.	6	24.99	n.a.
Medical	153.72	24	40.98	26.7	12	37.74	24.6	27	32.39	21.1	22	19.13	12.4
Music	29.83	34	41.10	137.8	25	51.25	171.8	21	30.66	102.8	82	28.74	96.3
Nature	28.92	25	42.26	146.1	23	46.63	161.2	35	31.38	108.5	85	21.97	76.0
Performing arts	25.78	45	39.34	152.6	65	39.62	153.7	79	36.53	141.7	180	37.83	146.7
Pets	33.05	30	39.28	118.9	13	37.05	112.1	17	39.33	119.0	50	37.32	112.9
Philosophy	35.30	38	29.62	83.9	25	32.02	90.7	17	29.04	82.3	124	24.75	70.1
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	34.99	n.a.
Poetry	22.87	19	26.39	115.4	38	39.07	170.8	25	37.22	162.7	25	14.98	65.5
Political science	42.66	166	45.06	105.6	130	45.11	105.7	173	36.92	86.6	397	28.91	67.8
Psychology	35.70	73	43.95	123.1	96	32.57	91.2	106	35.49	99.4	188	27.92	78.2
Reference	21.20	5	49.77	234.8	8	25.99	122.6	4	15.49	73.1	13	24.22	114.2
Religion	26.52	675	29.06	109.6	698	28.74	108.4	950	25.86	97.5	1,216	26.04	98.2
Science	39.86	95	41.15	103.2	98	41.78	104.8	122	35.31	88.6	199	27.35	68.6
Self-help	23.58	212	31.10	131.9	231	30.43	129.0	286	30.12	127.7	528	32.85	139.3
Social science	35.73	111	38.11	106.7	103	35.46	99.2	122	31.13	87.1	317	25.49	71.3
Sports and recreation	28.46	48	39.93	140.3	52	38.52	135.4	64	34.30	120.5	221	25.88	91.0
Study aids	41.85	1	24.99	59.7	5	131.00	313.0	3	24.97	59.7	2	52.98	126.6
Technology and engineering	61.47	8	36.61	59.6	11	52.44	85.3	20	43.13	70.2	80	93.97	152.9
Transportation	28.00	10	48.68	173.9	5	52.39	187.1	9	35.98	128.5	17	32.10	114.6
Travel	41.91	37	35.89	85.6	9	47.76	114.0	26	26.37	62.9	145	17.10	40.8
True crime	35.97	136	39.89	110.9	94	34.20	95.1	111	29.19	81.2	172	33.86	94.1
Young adult	35.68	1,271	42.20	118.3	1,285	43.27	121.3	1,714	31.71	88.9	1,711	29.18	81.8
Totals	\$40.49	19,278	\$38.92	96.1	18,588	\$38.99	96.3	22,848	\$33.27	82.2	31,599	\$26.45	65.3

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, 2013–2016

Index Base: 2008 = 100

BISAC Category	2008			2013 Final			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 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	177	\$20.96	37.4	132	\$17.05	30.5	154	\$12.50	22.3	93	\$13.83	24.7	93	\$13.83	24.7
Architecture	70.50	823	63.80	90.5	1,083	144.57	205.1	542	60.93	86.4	338	45.55	64.6	338	45.55	64.6
Art	45.41	1,812	18.09	39.8	1,884	22.27	49.0	4,913	10.59	23.3	2,020	15.05	33.2	2,020	15.05	33.2
Bibles	25.79	495	8.76	34	247	9.16	35.5	194	8.92	34.6	125	9.65	37.4	125	9.65	37.4
Biography and autobiography	14.58	8,156	15.10	103.6	9,542	17.89	122.7	6,770	15.67	107.5	5,543	15.97	109.5	5,543	15.97	109.5
Body, mind and spirit	12.41	1,984	11.94	96.2	1,815	10.52	84.7	1,344	11.14	89.7	1,531	11.20	90.3	1,531	11.20	90.3
Business and economics	57.52	11,760	56.43	98.1	10,599	48.79	84.8	21,656	23.30	40.5	7,332	41.55	72.2	7,332	41.55	72.2
Children	12.01	20,257	11.53	96	21,565	14.62	121.8	19,174	12.37	103.0	19,425	14.15	117.8	19,425	14.15	117.8
Comics and graphic novels	25.04	551	7.31	29.2	1,535	6.13	24.5	3,344	8.13	32.5	3,682	8.77	35.0	3,682	8.77	35.0
Computers	66.87	4,170	54.38	81.3	4,358	66.63	99.6	4,420	64.30	96.2	4,066	70.12	104.9	4,066	70.12	104.9
Cooking	20.20	3,437	12.45	61.6	2,870	12.01	59.5	3,086	12.11	59.9	2,228	13.94	69.0	2,228	13.94	69.0
Crafts and hobbies	14.35	1,388	10.22	71.2	960	11.94	83.2	1,269	9.73	67.8	1,042	11.02	76.8	1,042	11.02	76.8
Design	36.04	193	26.00	72.1	144	28.03	77.8	145	26.25	72.8	112	23.70	65.8	112	23.70	65.8
Drama	29.49	1,629	7.91	26.8	1,799	9.90	33.6	1,724	7.58	25.7	861	10.75	36.4	861	10.75	36.4
Education	51.98	5,038	51.32	98.7	4,642	38.80	74.6	3,574	38.27	73.6	6,788	38.38	73.8	6,788	38.38	73.8
Family and relationships	19.88	1,927	28.32	142.5	2,200	14.11	71.0	1,767	11.22	56.4	1,931	11.12	55.9	1,931	11.12	55.9
Fiction	8.71	94,876	6.55	75.2	104,416	6.42	73.7	88,146	6.22	71.4	78,523	7.08	81.3	78,523	7.08	81.3
Foreign language study	43.01	1,589	16.08	37.4	1,657	16.19	37.6	1,645	20.18	46.9	1,035	12.64	29.4	1,035	12.64	29.4
Games	17.73	506	9.43	53.2	682	8.20	46.2	1,246	22.64	127.7	782	8.28	46.7	782	8.28	46.7
Gardening	20.40	360	13.77	67.5	311	11.59	56.8	307	10.89	53.4	272	12.33	60.4	272	12.33	60.4
Health and fitness	18.54	3,562	17.61	95	3,170	11.71	63.2	2,934	13.79	74.4	2,916	12.60	68.0	2,916	12.60	68.0
History	57.53	9,775	39.71	69	12,548	34.26	59.5	10,472	40.49	70.4	7,731	31.49	54.7	7,731	31.49	54.7
House and home	22.89	425	10.39	45.4	310	9.67	42.2	312	10.26	44.8	238	10.96	47.9	238	10.96	47.9
Humor	11.27	1,085	8.81	78.2	1,080	9.37	83.1	858	10.64	94.4	893	9.94	88.2	893	9.94	88.2

Language arts and disciplines	93.27	2,413	52.09	55.8	2,274	76.99	82.5	1,861	90.30	96.8	1,255	80.33	86.1
Law	81.23	1,745	94.15	115.9	1,840	99.07	122.0	1,747	105.84	130.3	1,207	87.45	107.7
Literary collections	24.50	1,468	13.90	56.7	1,615	23.78	97.1	6,373	5.16	21.1	1,140	10.75	43.9
Literary criticism	86.62	2,336	61.37	70.8	2,354	76.03	87.8	2,926	66.15	76.4	1,630	63.74	73.6
Mathematics	106.16	1,434	84.14	79.3	1,425	94.42	88.9	1,239	84.84	79.9	1,314	89.40	84.2
Medical	135.21	4,242	98.63	72.9	3,737	104.04	77.0	2,992	103.42	76.5	3,018	114.07	84.4
Music	33.83	1,942	30.36	89.7	1,431	47.07	139.1	1,661	21.53	63.6	1,195	18.32	54.2
Nature	59.76	1,017	33.08	55.4	952	35.52	59.4	731	42.19	70.6	685	46.25	77.4
Performing arts	38.06	1,599	39.69	104.3	1,421	32.68	85.9	1,329	31.22	82.0	1,448	36.23	95.2
Pets	15.91	750	8.41	52.9	424	10.75	67.6	292	10.48	65.9	422	9.88	62.1
Philosophy	79.19	2,676	56.26	71	2,362	61.24	77.3	2,188	57.86	73.1	1,635	48.07	60.7
Photography	30.30	535	22.02	72.7	556	19.79	65.3	497	17.76	58.6	400	19.05	62.9
Poetry	13.66	3,047	6.93	50.7	3,813	7.06	51.7	3,783	6.34	46.4	2,770	5.99	43.9
Political science	59.03	5,129	50.02	84.7	3,913	55.78	94.5	4,026	56.26	95.3	3,007	48.24	81.7
Psychology	65.30	4,119	139.89	214.2	3,273	57.59	88.2	2,169	50.16	76.8	1,480	41.89	64.2
Reference	48.33	1,543	82.84	171.4	4,062	25.72	53.2	3,502	24.66	51.0	4,200	12.37	25.6
Religion	27.29	9,800	20.59	75.4	11,208	19.21	70.4	9,383	20.83	76.3	8,715	16.94	62.1
Science	210.57	4,491	105.83	50.3	4,710	118.56	56.3	3,833	98.18	46.6	4,030	101.72	48.3
Self-help	14.15	4,299	29.36	207.5	4,825	8.57	60.6	4,032	9.69	68.5	4,192	9.84	69.5
Social science	69.42	6,941	79.66	114.8	4,888	67.16	96.7	4,269	55.12	79.4	2,855	53.60	77.2
Sports and recreation	22.44	2,727	19.47	86.8	2,344	17.87	79.6	1,844	17.28	77.0	1,796	16.43	73.2
Study aids	21.95	6,142	18.79	85.6	4,721	18.59	84.7	1,155	11.04	50.3	20,200	30.51	139.0
Technology and engineering	153.73	3,886	114.23	74.3	3,859	145.82	94.9	3,175	119.72	77.9	3,417	124.01	80.7
Transportation	35.47	327	26.12	73.6	336	19.36	54.6	324	25.62	72.2	296	21.35	60.2
Travel	15.61	2,546	10.96	70.2	2,320	11.28	72.3	3,291	9.50	60.9	2,271	11.10	71.1
True crime	11.60	616	12.03	103.7	545	12.37	106.7	447	13.57	117.0	457	16.03	138.2
Young adult	8.83	6,502	13.60	154	6,613	13.50	152.9	5,476	12.30	139.3	5,182	16.92	191.6
Totals	\$57.38	260,247	\$27.97	48.7	271,370	\$25.42	44.3	254,541	\$22.18	38.7	229,724	\$23.78	41.4

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 Indices, 2013–2017

Subject	LC Class	Avg. No. of Titles	2013		2014		2014–13		2015		2015–14		2016		2016–15		2017		2017–16	
			Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase	Avg. Price	% of Price Increase
Agriculture	S	505	\$788	6.0%	\$835	6.0%	\$883	5.7%	\$938	6.2%	\$1,001	6.8%								
Anthropology	GN	130	429	9.3	469	9.3	494	5.2	521	5.5	552	6.0								
Arts and architecture	N	207	331	7.5	356	7.5	377	6.0	421	11.6	446	5.9								
Astronomy	QB	67	1,529	5.8	1,617	5.8	1,731	7.1	1,788	3.3	1,880	5.2								
Biology	QH	1,150	1,814	5.7	1,918	5.7	2,029	5.8	2,143	5.6	2,267	5.8								
Botany	QK	151	1,069	8.3	1,158	8.3	1,218	5.1	1,276	4.8	1,353	6.0								
Business and economics	HA-HJ	1,275	1,072	7.1	1,148	7.1	1,224	6.6	1,305	6.6	1,353	3.7								
Chemistry	QD	390	3,439	6.2	3,652	6.2	3,808	4.3	3,965	4.1	4,136	4.3								
Education	L	473	604	8.9	657	8.9	708	7.7	759	7.1	800	5.5								
Engineering	T	1,799	1,411	7.1	1,510	7.1	1,616	7.0	1,725	6.8	1,818	5.4								
Food science	TX	80	1,265	8.7	1,376	8.7	1,472	7.0	1,547	5.1	1,623	5.0								
General science	Q	245	991	6.0	1,051	6.0	1,121	6.7	1,176	5.0	1,241	5.5								
General works	A	166	236	11.7	264	11.7	268	1.4	300	12.0	310	3.4								
Geography	G-GF	292	819	7.4	879	7.4	927	5.4	984	6.2	1,056	7.3								
Geology	QE	219	1,288	6.4	1,371	6.4	1,466	6.9	1,565	6.7	1,664	6.4								
Health sciences	R	4,079	895	7.2	959	7.2	1,018	6.1	1,088	6.9	1,159	6.5								

Table 8A / Changes in the Average Price of Online Serials 2013–2017, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indices

Subject	LC Class	Avg. No. of Titles	2013			2014–13			2014–14			2015–15			2016–16			2017		
			Avg. Price	Price Increase	% of Price Increase	2014 Avg. Price	2013 Price Increase	% of Price Increase	2014 Avg. Price	2013 Price Increase	% of Price Increase	2015 Avg. Price	2014 Price Increase	% of Price Increase	2016 Avg. Price	2015 Price Increase	% of Price Increase	2017 Avg. Price	2016 Price Increase	% of Price Increase
Agriculture	S	258	\$767	\$804	4.8%	\$846	5.2%	\$893	5.6%	\$949	6.3%									
Anthropology	GN	70	573	619	8.0	656	6.0	689	5.1	728	5.7									
Arts and architecture	N	92	460	497	7.9	532	7.1	571	7.3	611	7.0									
Astronomy	QB	41	1,702	1,786	4.9	1,928	7.9	1,980	2.7	2,094	5.7									
Biology	QH	585	1,602	1,707	6.5	1,808	5.9	1,914	5.9	2,026	5.9									
Botany	QK	84	1,087	1,187	9.2	1,240	4.5	1,287	3.8	1,360	5.7									
Business and economics	HA-HJ	736	1,383	1,472	6.4	1,575	7.0	1,675	6.4	1,717	2.5									
Chemistry	QD	211	3,277	3,553	8.4	3,756	5.7	3,947	5.1	4,158	5.3									
Education	L	319	751	815	8.4	885	8.6	946	6.9	997	5.4									
Engineering	T	943	1,349	1,446	7.2	1,559	7.8	1,671	7.2	1,750	4.7									
Food science	TX	55	1,308	1,417	8.3	1,512	6.7	1,573	4.0	1,624	3.3									
General science	Q	132	1,229	1,319	7.3	1,396	5.9	1,463	4.8	1,538	5.2									
General works	A	36	475	553	16.6	574	3.8	690	20.1	723	4.8									
Geography	G-GF	174	782	851	8.9	890	4.5	946	6.4	1,019	7.7									
Geology	QE	109	1,215	1,302	7.1	1,378	5.9	1,461	6.0	1,555	6.4									
Health sciences	R	1,902	896	961	7.3	1,021	6.2	1,087	6.5	1,158	6.5									

Table 9 / British Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2009–2016

Index Base: 2009 = 100

Subject	LC Class	2009		2013		2014		2015		2016		% Average Change 2015– 2016
		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	163	68.55	134	73.28	131	73.63	142	77.66	5.5%
Anthropology	GN	109	53.60	124	55.11	109	57.63	92	59.65	148	53.08	-11.0
Botany	QK	22	145.94	33	81.54	35	74.78	21	95.19	19	84.68	-11.0
Business and economics	H-HJ	1,634	59.08	1,877	71.29	1,911	71.19	1,866	75.13	1,897	73.35	-2.4
Chemistry	QD	88	101.14	96	149.82	91	125.67	72	127.89	57	113.66	-11.1
Education	L	386	49.70	440	64.49	517	64.50	583	68.39	577	179.48	162.4
Engineering and technology	T-TS	796	60.97	758	78.35	788	76.69	732	85.51	681	78.93	-7.7
Fine and applied arts	M, N	762	38.43	1,005	43.35	1,009	44.54	991	50.40	908	51.19	1.6
General works	A	15	76.73	17	91.58	32	72.25	21	83.47	27	106.91	28.1
Geography	G-GF, GR-GT	233	54.43	268	64.44	245	67.55	457	72.62	447	75.21	3.6
Geology	QE	41	53.80	34	77.70	33	59.80	34	60.87	28	69.53	14.2
History	C,D,E,F	1,572	43.41	1,690	44.63	1,725	48.11	1,835	51.22	1,914	55.21	7.8

Home economics	TX	59	39.02	58	67.22	38	63.79	29	85.98	32	67.49	-21.5	172.9
Industrial arts	TT	21	24.32	37	35.50	27	45.43	33	46.11	27	51.62	12.0	212.3
Law	K	1,117	76.13	1,264	88.46	1,253	88.30	1,184	85.16	1,117	101.35	19.0	133.1
Library and information science	Z	98	60.32	100	59.99	106	69.71	114	71.04	106	69.09	-2.7	114.5
Literature and language	P	2,928	34.77	3,448	37.25	3,553	38.95	3,008	42.33	3,070	46.86	10.7	134.8
Mathematics and computer science	QA	216	49.30	212	61.40	180	54.91	172	57.46	188	61.90	7.7	125.6
Medicine	R	1,110	48.50	1,126	60.74	1,113	63.10	946	67.52	905	69.56	3.0	143.4
Military and naval sciences	U, V	112	48.42	173	48.95	201	50.67	165	53.43	171	59.75	11.8	123.4
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	1,091	45.65	1,074	53.96	1,187	52.78	1,184	56.72	1,098	61.29	8.1	134.2
Physics and astronomy	QB, QC	196	54.73	221	72.08	161	72.29	185	65.07	179	66.85	2.7	122.2
Political Science	J	621	59.74	732	66.67	794	65.82	819	73.18	827	73.83	0.9	123.6
Psychology	BF	195	44.46	266	54.88	295	63.42	278	69.09	304	73.32	6.1	164.9
Science (general)	Q	45	41.65	47	54.85	54	57.89	53	62.95	62	80.73	28.3	193.8
Sociology	HM-HX	958	59.36	1,111	63.65	1,221	64.89	1,281	70.21	1,361	71.40	1.7	120.3
Sports & Recreation	GV	181	30.90	165	54.18	170	61.49	179	68.49	180	71.38	4.2	231.0
Zoology	QH, QL-QR	336	62.59	396	81.41	285	79.00	263	79.76	254	67.99	-14.8	108.6
Total, All Books		15,082	50.42	16,935	58.47	17,267	59.05	16,728	63.22	16,726	69.46	9.9%	137.7

Compiled by George Aullisto, University of Scranton, based on information provided by YBP U.K./Baker & Taylor.

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Foreign Prices

During 2016, the dollar slipped slightly against the Canadian dollar and Japanese yen. However, it has continued to gain against the euro and British pound sterling.

Dates	12/31/12*	12/31/13*	12/31/14*	12/31/15*	12/31/16*
Canada	0.9950	1.0640	1.1580	1.3860	1.3460
Euro	0.7590	0.7260	0.8220	0.9190	0.9490
U.K.	0.6180	0.6050	0.6420	0.6750	0.8120
Japan	86.1600	105.0100	119.4500	120.4200	117.0300

* 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 Premier and Masterfile Premier and Elsevier's Scopus. This is the second 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 17,637. 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, 2013 through 2017. The 2017 pricing is the actual renewal pricing for 2017 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 17,600; 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 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 constant since the economic recovery began. Price increases have hovered around 6 percent annually since 2013. For titles with online availability (Table 8A), the rates of increase for those titles are very similar, averaging around six 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 \$4,136 and \$3,357 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 (\$4,158) and physics (\$3,717).

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 80 titles) showed price changes of 6.4 percent, 10.8 percent, and 5.7 and 3.8 percent between 2013 and 2017. Librarians are encouraged to look at an average price change over the period (military and naval science averaged 6.7 percent) or the overall number for the price study (5.6 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 2013 through 2016. The percent of change in titles and average price is calculated for 2015 to 2016, and the index price shows the percent of change between 2016 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 2016, total British academic books were comparable with last year's numbers with 16,726 titles as against 16,728 titles in 2015.

In 2016 there was a significant overall price increase of 9.9 percent, bringing the average price for all books profiled to £69.46. The 2016 increase is significantly higher than the United Kingdom's Consumer Price Index, which, according to

the Office of National Statistics, was at a modest 1.6 percent inflation in December 2016 (<http://www.ons.gov.uk>).

Table 9 shows how average prices have increased or decreased in comparison with the 2009 base year. For 2016, the overall index price for all LC subjects profiled in this table is at 137.7 percent. All LC classes are currently above their 2009 base prices, except for anthropology, which is now at 99.0 percent of the 2009 base price, and botany, which is now at 58.0 percent of the 2009 base price. The highest increases in comparison with the 2009 base prices are education (361.1 percent), sports and recreation (231.0 percent), industrial arts (212.3 percent), science (general) (193.8 percent), home economics (172.9 percent), and psychology (164.9 percent). The high individual price increase from 2015 to 2016 in general works (28.1 percent), geology (14.2 percent), and industrial arts (12.0 percent) may be due to small sample sizes of less than 30 titles.

The 9.9 percent price increase of 2016 is the second-highest average price increase recorded in this table, with the 10.7 percent price increase of 2012 being the highest recorded. This is the second year in a row with a high price increase. 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.