

Increasing eBook usage: The importance of investing time and money into access points



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OBJECTIVE

In January 2020, the Library migrated to a new Library Management System (LMS), Ex Libris Alma and Primo, that combines the functionality of a discovery service and the features of a traditional catalog. The Library's eBooks, which were previously only accessible via a discovery service, are now discoverable along with other library resources via one access point. The objective of this study is to measure eBook usage over the 2017-2020 period as one means of determining the effect of user access points on eBook usage.

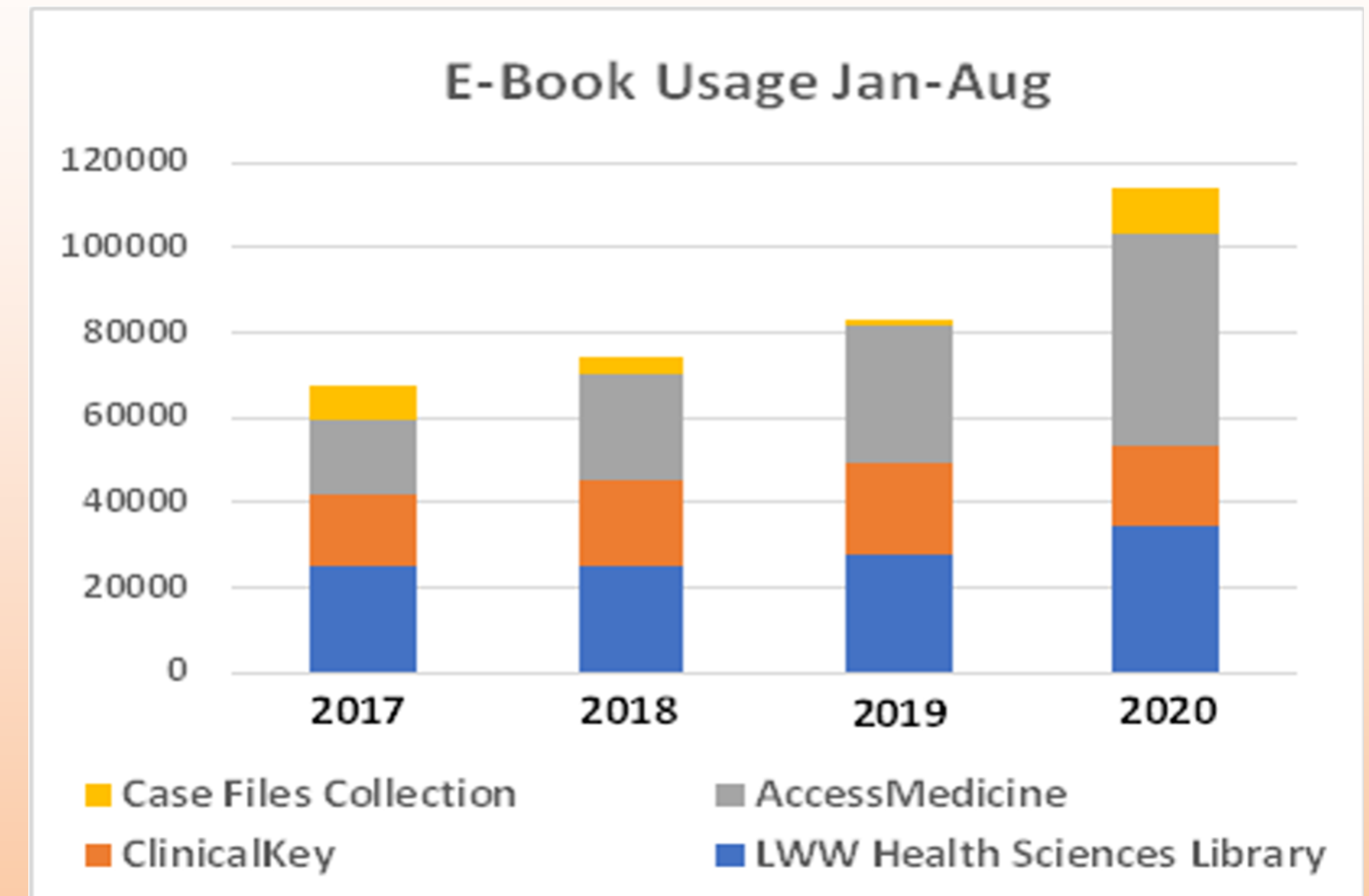
METHODS

At the time of this submission, statistics for 2020 were available from January to August. To maintain consistency, eBook usage statistics from January to August for the years 2017 to 2020 were obtained from the Library's four major packages that contain eBooks— LWW Health Sciences Library, ClinicalKey, AccessMedicine, Case Files Collection. The years 2017 to 2020 were chosen as 2017 was the first year when all four major packages had been acquired by the Library. "Counter Book Report 2 (R4): Number of Successful Section Requests by Month and Title" statistics were collected for each package. One sample t-tests were performed to examine whether or not there was a statistically significant increase in eBook usage.

Package	2017	2018	2019	2020
LWW Health Sciences Library	25,201	24,732	27,791	34,509
ClinicalKey	16,519	20,268	21,702	18,482
AccessMedicine	17,737	24,957	31,989	49,950
Case Files Collection	8,117	4,358	1,748	11,159
Total	67,574	74,315	83,230	114,100

RESULTS

The Library serves approximately 530 medical and master's students, 100 full-time faculty, and 500 part-time faculty. The percent increase in eBook usage from January to August 2017 and January to August 2018 was 9.98%. The percent increase from January to August 2018 and January to August 2019 was 12%. Using a one sample t-test between percentages, at the .05 critical alpha level, the difference is not significant. $t(1129)=1.45$, $p=.147$. The percent increase from January to August 2019 and January to August 2020 was 37.09%. Using a one sample t-test between percentages, at the .05 critical alpha level, the difference is significant. $t(1129)=12.893$, $p<.001$.



CONCLUSIONS

After the migration to the new LMS there was an overall significant increase in eBook usage. Investing time, such as merging eBooks into one access point, and money, i.e. the purchase of a robust LMS, may lead to increased eBook usage.