

Liaisons Connecting Users to the Collection

Comparing Curriculum-Based Textbooks with Library Holdings

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Background

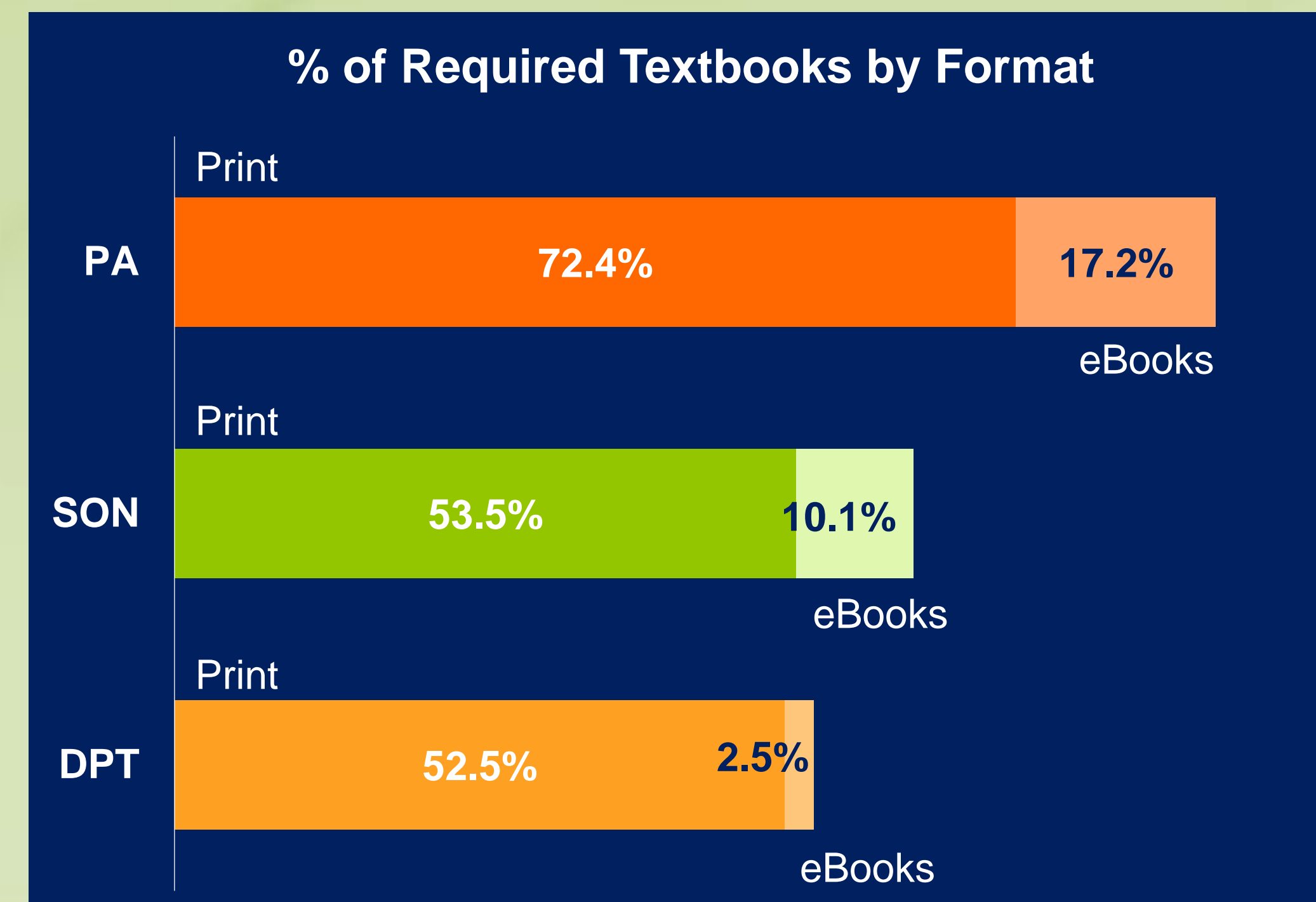
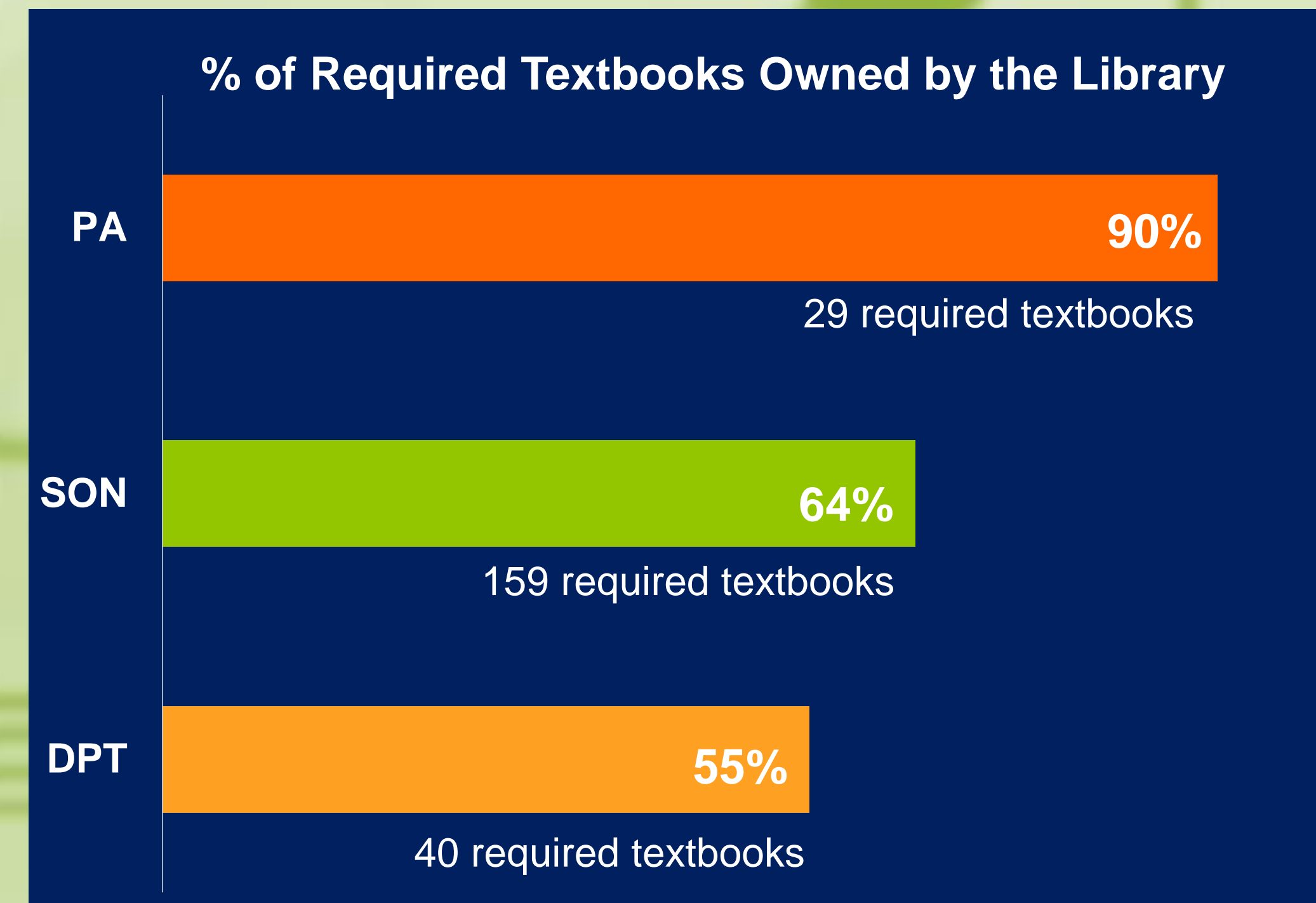
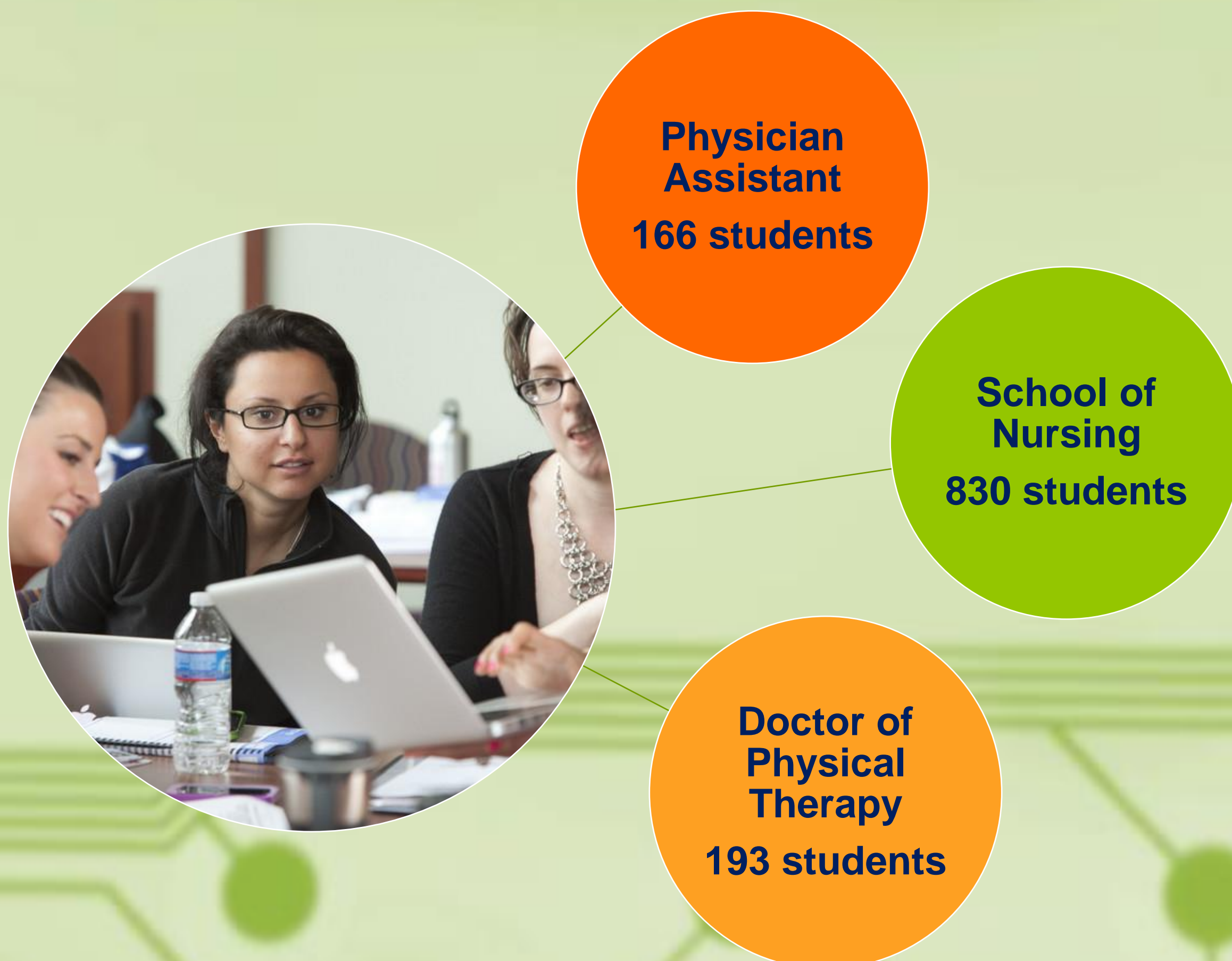
Duke University School of Nursing (SON), and Physician Assistant (PA) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs require (or recommend) that their students purchase textbooks.

The Library makes collection development decisions independent of curricular requirements. However, many textbooks required by faculty are core titles and may be included in the Library's collections.

This project stemmed from the SON, PA and DPT liaisons' desire to share information about the collection with their constituents.

Methods

SON, PA and DPT textbook lists were compared to Library print and eBook holdings. Circulation or usage statistics were collected for available titles. For titles not in the collection, liaisons attempted to identify equivalent eBooks.



Benefits

- Promotes eBook collections
- Creates goodwill between liaisons, students & faculty
- Provides data to support collection development recommendations
- Saves students time & money
- Informs faculty of alternative textbook options
- Supports distance education

Challenges

- Limited number of seats for some eBook titles
- Some users dislike eBooks
- Faculty reluctant to modify courses based on recommended equivalent titles
- Variety of eBook preferences (Kindle, ePub, online, off-line, mobile, etc.) not easily fulfilled

Future Directions

Liaisons hope to annually provide faculty with a list of eBook titles matching their course textbooks or recommended equivalents. Collected data will be used to identify gaps in the collection and justify purchase recommendations.