

# Adlai College Library Evaluation by Aron Ryan

## Goal of Evaluation

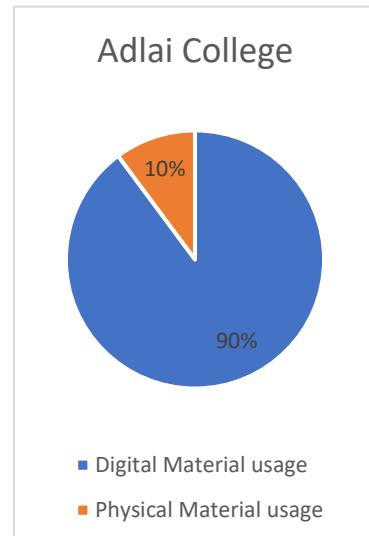
This report analyzes Adlai's print and digital collection usage. Adlai College librarians conducted 3 focus groups and 17 individual interviews of students and alumni. Additionally, Adlai College's circulation data was benchmarked against peer libraries. By integrating key findings from qualitative and quantitative data, this evaluation aims to highlight Adlai's strengths and opportunities for growth. By implementing next steps, Adlai College can meet the information needs of students and alumni, setting up students for academic and professional success.

## Stakeholders

Adlai College students are key stakeholders, since students utilize Adlai College's library to not only acquire research materials, but also learn *how* to research. Students' growing information literacy skills impacts Adlai faculty seeking to teach students, as well as external organizations seeking to employ information-literate graduates.

## Summary of Key Findings

- **Reference Impacts:** Students who utilized librarian assistance generally reported high customer satisfaction and increased research literacy.
- **Navigability:** Some students reported ease in finding books and articles. Other students reported difficulty finding this information on their own.
- **Accessibility:** Many students expressed a clear preference for digital materials that can be accessed remotely.
- **Print vs. Digital Usage:** Digital material usage is high (90%) compared to print usage (10%) per 2022 circulation data.
- **Digital Collection:** Although digital collection usage is high, digital collection growth has stagnated.

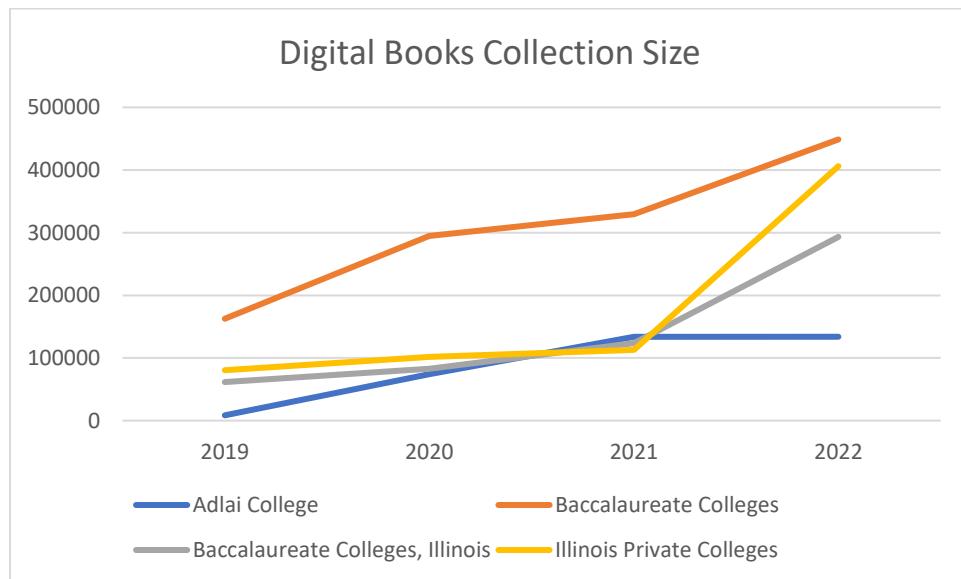


## Successes

- Many students reported a positive experience utilizing the library's digital materials, emphasizing the accessibility and convenience of digital materials.
- The library generally provides a quiet place to facilitate research. As one student said, "In addition to the wealth of information available at the library, it is also a great place to study and focus on my work."
- Many students reported learning how to conduct research. One student learned how to conduct "more precise and targeted searches." Another student reported, "By learning how to evaluate sources, I have been able to conduct more thorough and reliable research, and I have gained confidence in the accuracy and validity of my findings." In summary, research literacy bolsters students' academic success, self-efficacy, and self-confidence.

## Opportunities for Growth

- Adlai College can improve the visibility and accessibility of virtual reference assistance, particularly for remote students. Considering that some students express frustration navigating library resources on their own, librarians can implement strategies to meet students where they're at (remotely) with research literacy instruction.
- While some students report successfully finding digital materials, other students report difficulty finding relevant digital materials. Adlai falls significantly behind peer libraries regarding the size of their digital books collection. In 2022, Adlai had approximately 133,000 books, compared to the median of 406,000 books for Illinois Private Colleges.
- In addition to expanding the size of their digital books collection, Adlai can improve the relevancy of this collection. Considering that the digital collection's growth stagnated in 2021, students may benefit by gaining access to a broader and more relevant collection, better reflecting students' information needs for accessible digital books.



## Next Steps

- Continue providing and promoting quiet study spaces at the library.
- Increase the size and relevancy of the digital books collection with up-to-date materials.
- Research underdeveloped areas in the digital books collection, determining potential information gaps for fields of study that may disproportionately affect students in underserved majors.
- Create research instruction videos available anytime on the library website, helping remote students develop research literacy.
- Promote in-person assistance, virtual chat assistance, and virtual appointment assistance for reference inquiries, providing multiple avenues for students to acquire research materials and develop invaluable research literacy skills.