



Melting Away: Sifting through the Special Snowflakes

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OBJECTIVE

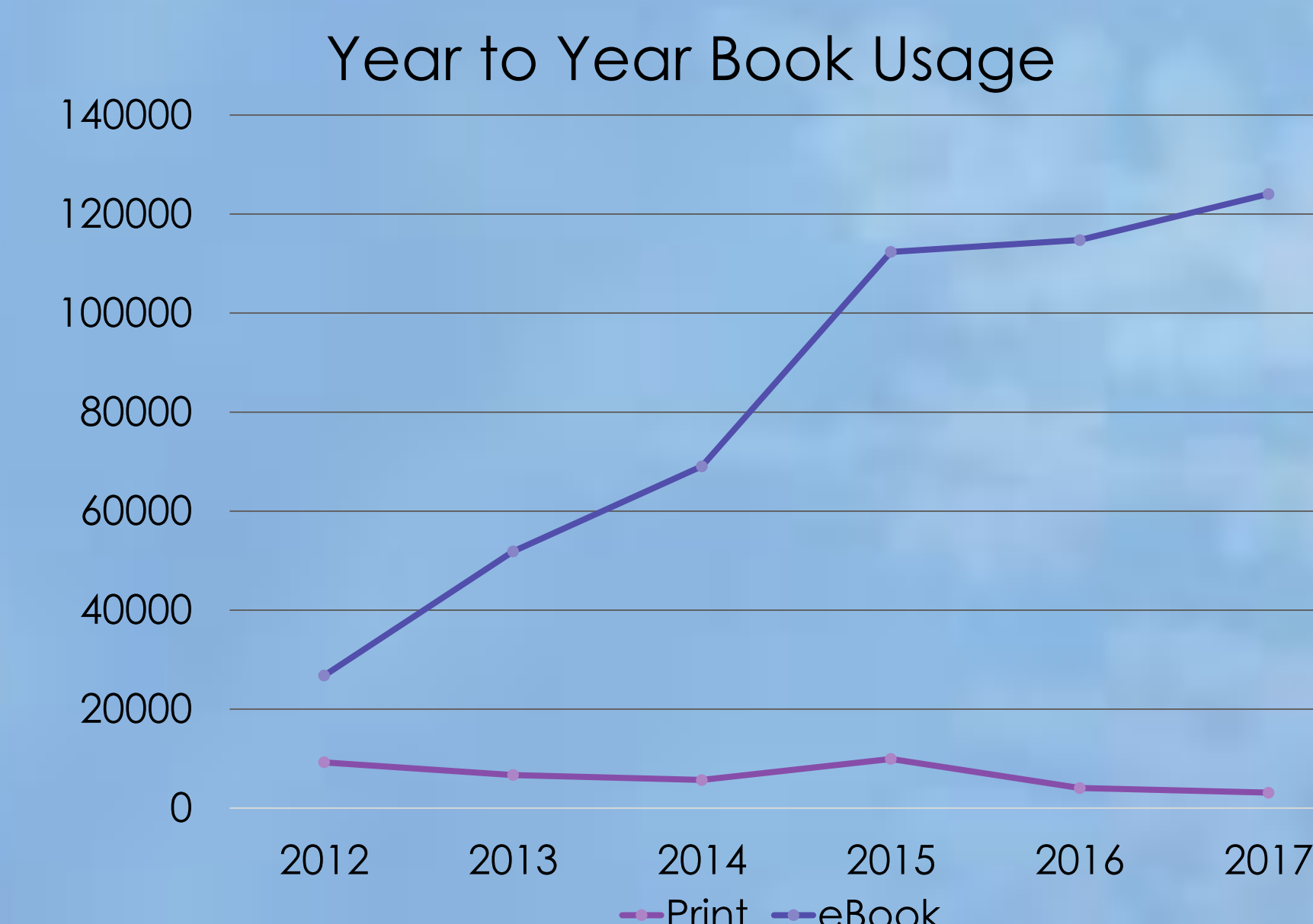
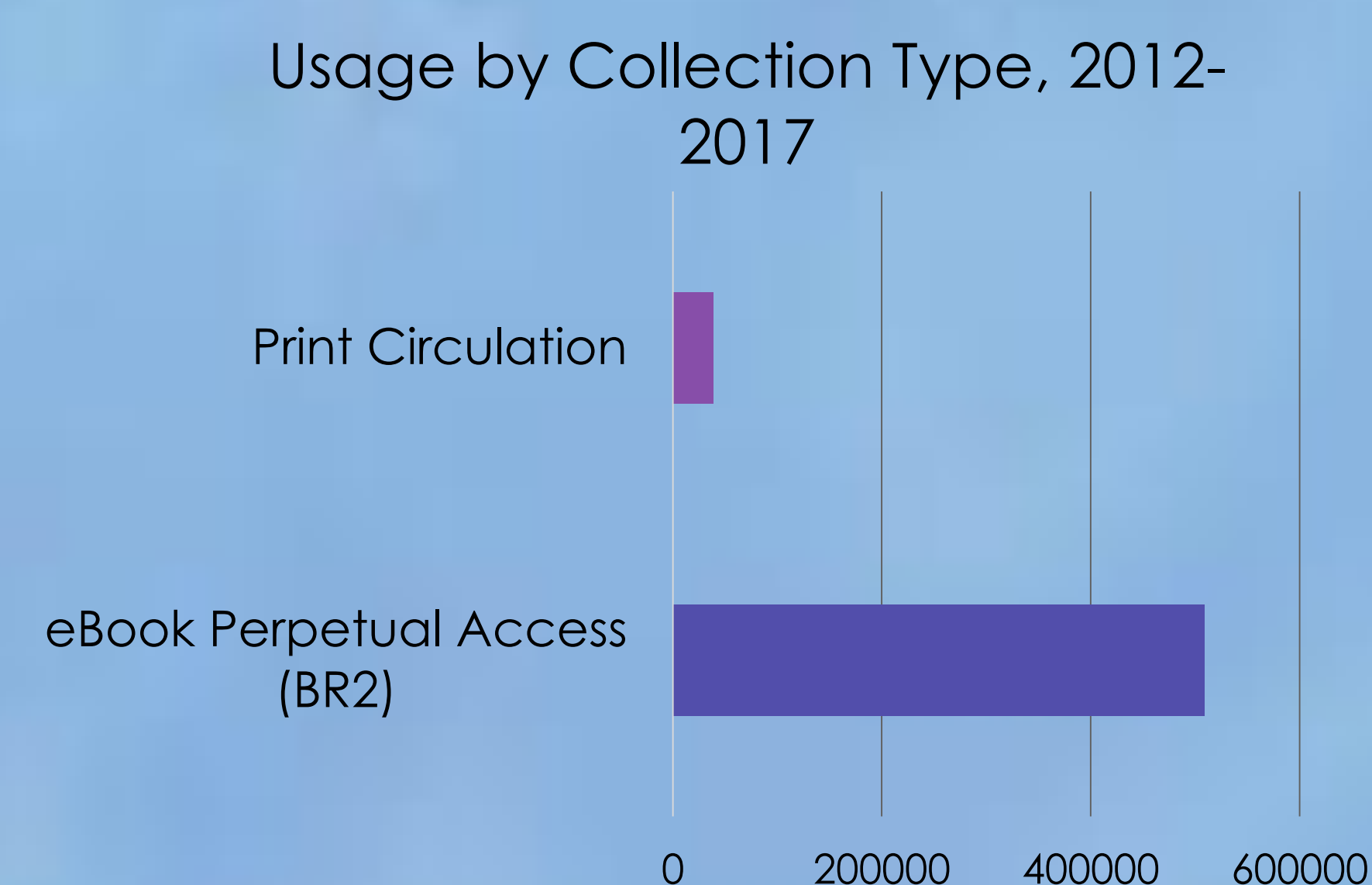
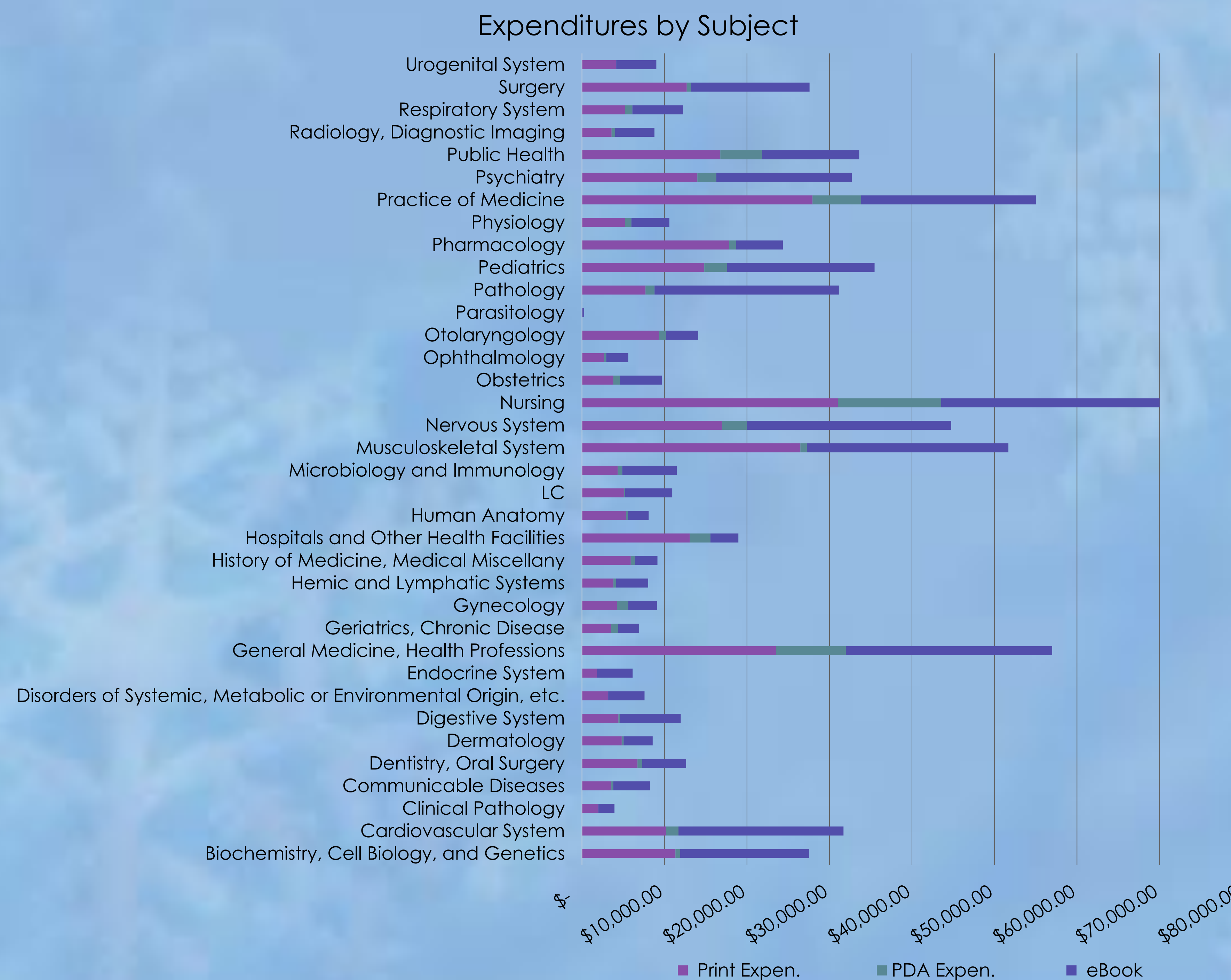
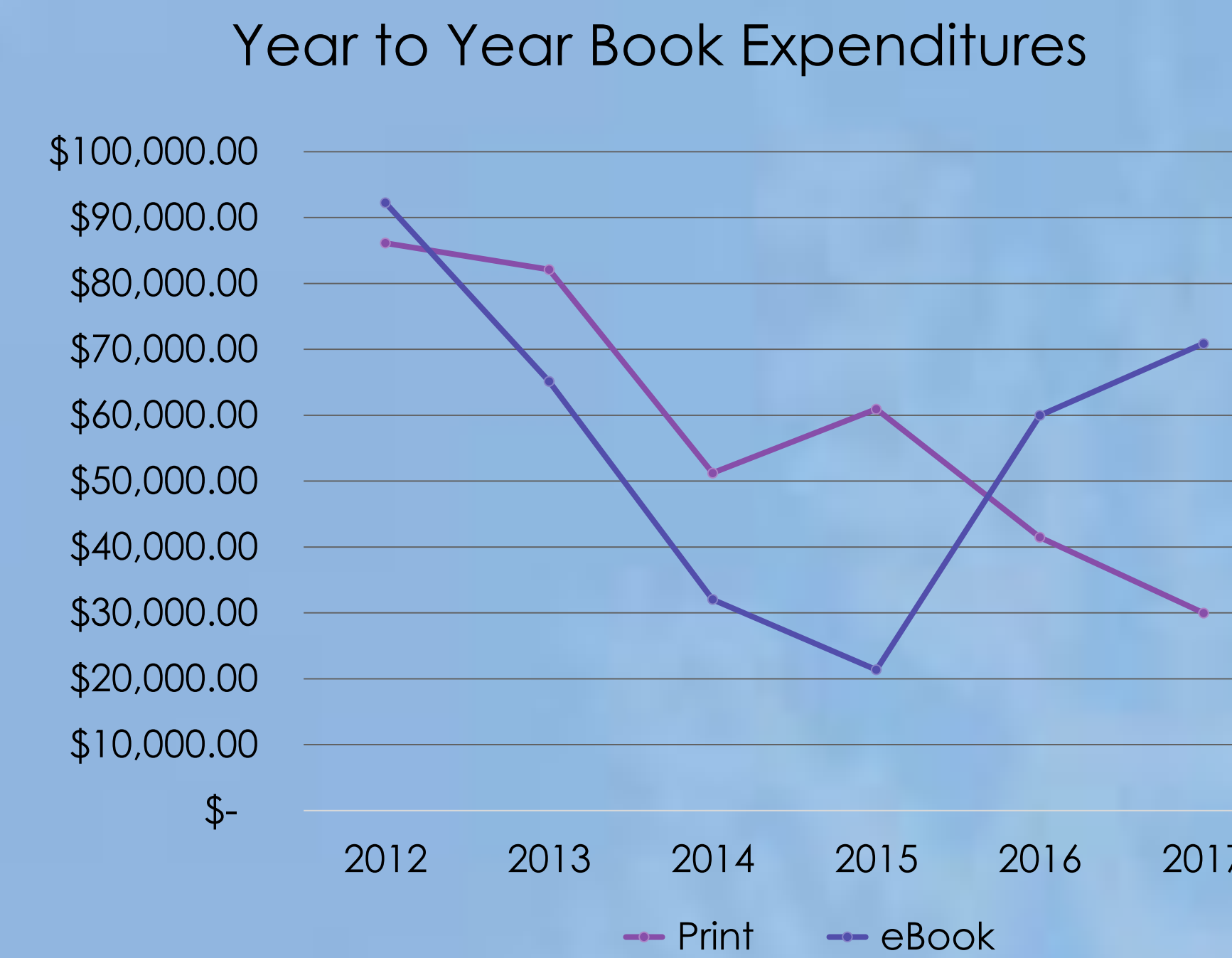
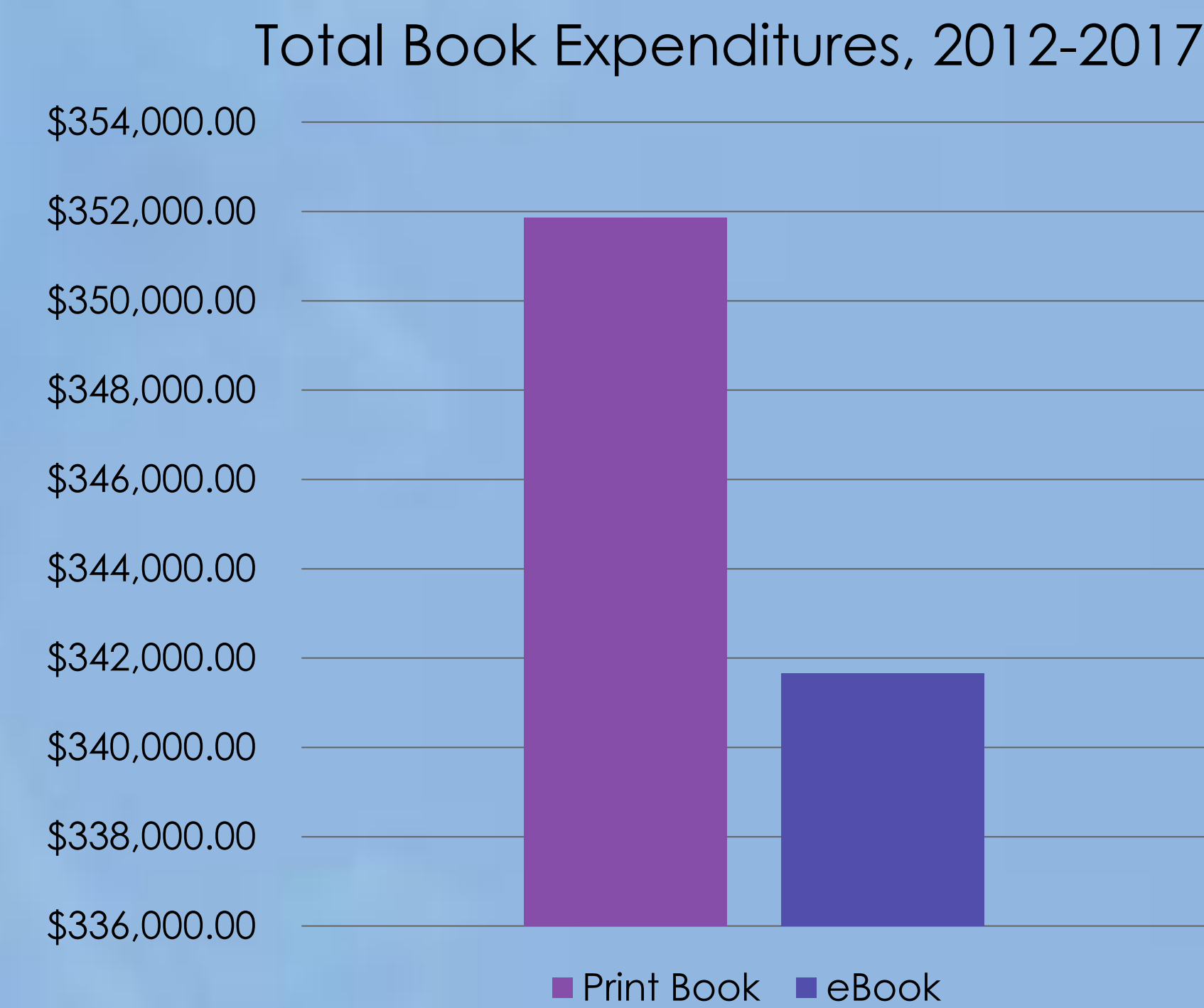
Medical practice books tend to become quickly outdated as clinical practice changes with ever-evolving research. For the past few years, Laupus Health Sciences Library has been ordering eBooks in addition to ordering books in print.

This presentation examines monograph expenditures by subject and usage for the past six years at our library and implications for the future of our collection development practices.

METHODS

- This study examines expenditure data by NLM subject classification in combination with eBook and print book usage for the past six years.
- Expenditure data consists of monographic purchase expenses from 2012-2017 including approval plan purchases, standing orders, firm orders, and Patron Driven Acquisition (PDA) purchases.
- Usage statistics of the monographs were compiled from both perpetual access titles and print titles.
- Subject areas were identified by utilizing NLM call numbers from MARC records that were generated by ILS reports and then exported to Excel. Data did not include history collection purchases.
- The data was then analyzed in Excel through the creation of PivotTables.
- Following this, trends have been identified and reported accordingly.

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

- For the designated overall time period, print book expenditures totaled \$351,857.32 and eBook purchases totaled \$341,664.94.
- Year to year book expenditures indicated that there was an increase in spending on eBooks in years 2016 and 2017; however, there was more emphasis placed on print material in years 2013-2015.
- Nursing had the greatest expenditure of the subjects, followed by General Medicine. The largest full-time enrollment in any department or school in ECU's Division of Health Sciences is in the College of Nursing.
- Expenditure data includes additional money provided by end of year funding. As a result, spending in many years was greater than what was initially allocated in the library's annual monographic budget.
- East Carolina University has a considerable distance education population, with 42% of students enrolled in at least one online course in the Fall of 2016 (ECU, Fact Book, Student Highlights). Collection trends are in line with the large enrollment in distance education programs at ECU.

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