

# So Many Books, So Little Time: Performing Monographic Selection with a Smaller Team

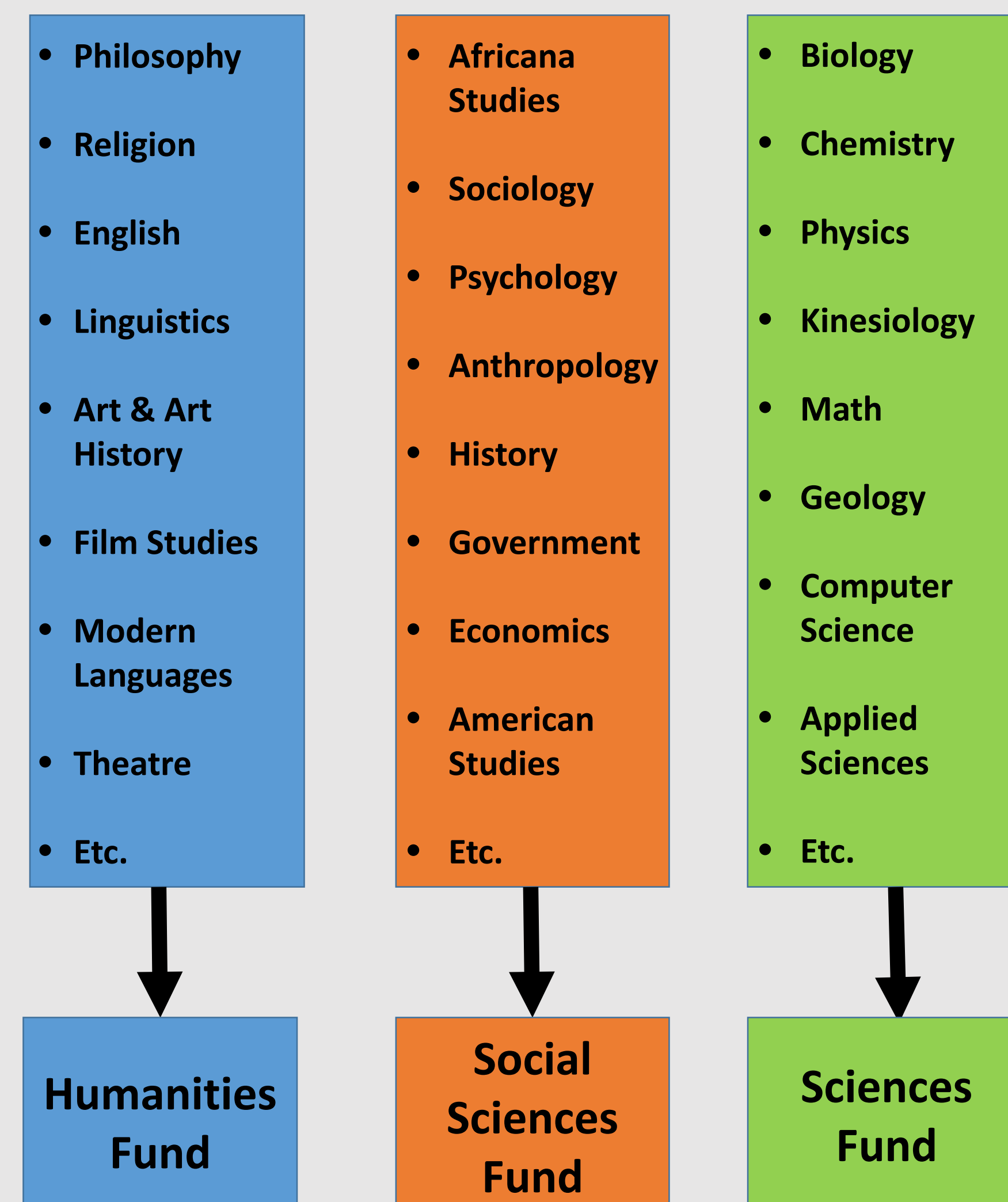
By James Glosson & Katherine McKenzie, William & Mary Libraries  
VLA Conference 2019

## I. Introduction

In the Summer of 2018, William & Mary Libraries restructured their Research Department to focus more on Instruction and Outreach and less upon Collection Development. The task of performing monographic selection was relegated to a much smaller team of librarians. This poster outlines some of the methodologies this smaller team used to ease and simplify their workload while still acquiring quality titles for the Collection.

## II. Fund Code Consolidation

In order to simplify the process of tracking budgets and assigning fund codes to increasingly cross-disciplinary titles, we consolidated many of our departmental fund codes into broader funds that were more interdisciplinary in nature.



## III. Approval Plans

- **Definition:** An approval plan is essentially a profile you set up with a vendor that outlines the kinds of materials a library is interested in purchasing. Based on these criteria, the vendor can provide suggestions for purchase or auto-ship titles that meet the library's needs.
- **Quick tips for creating approval plans:**
  - Start with smaller plans focusing on easily identifiable criteria, such as award-winning titles.
  - Identify publishers from whom you already buy significant amounts as possible candidates for automatic shipments.
  - Plan to review and revise your plans regularly.

## IV. ILL Request Expansion

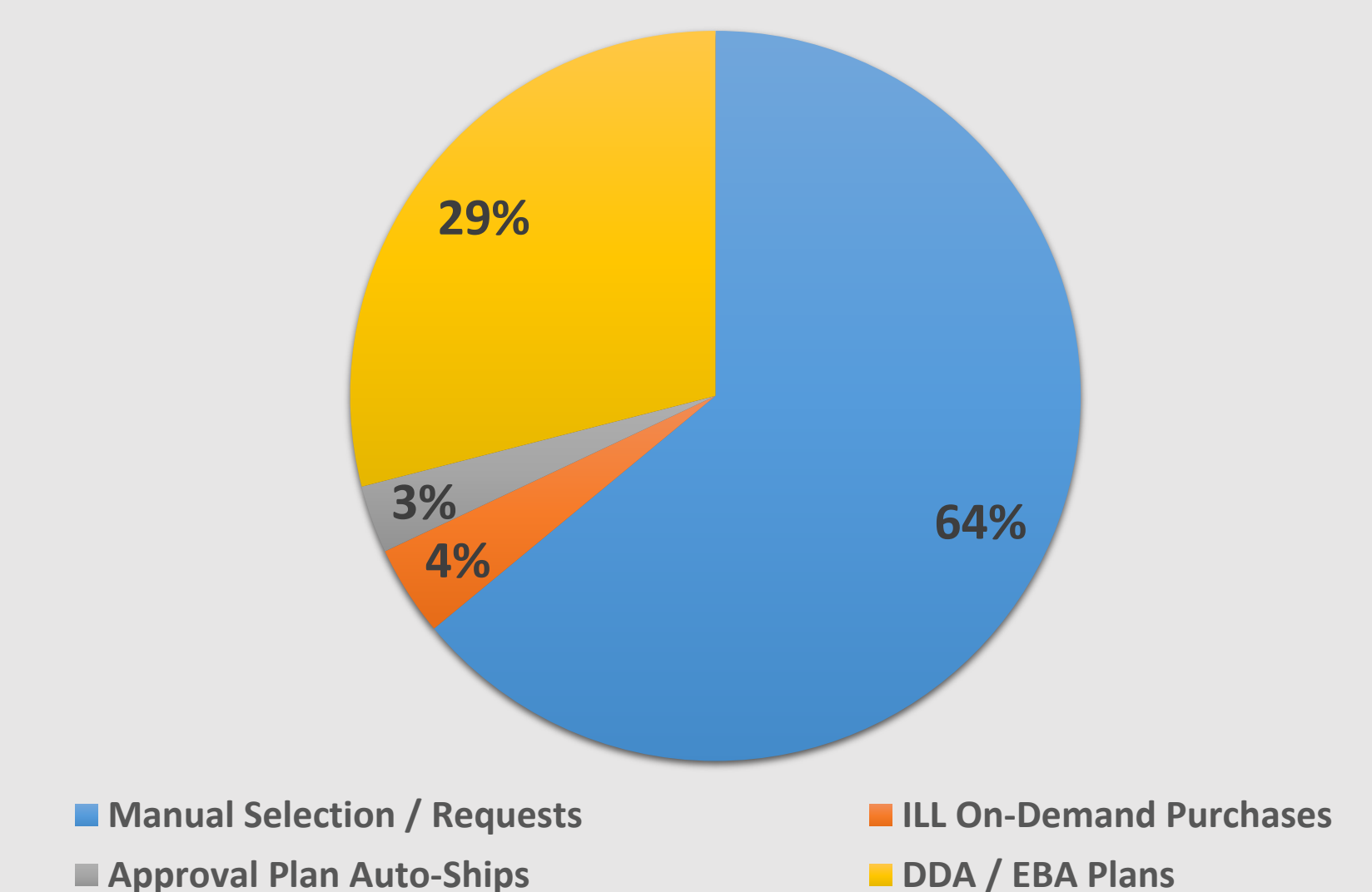
By rush-ordering instead of borrowing requested materials published in the latest two years (instead of one), we can efficiently meet our users' needs while building our collection



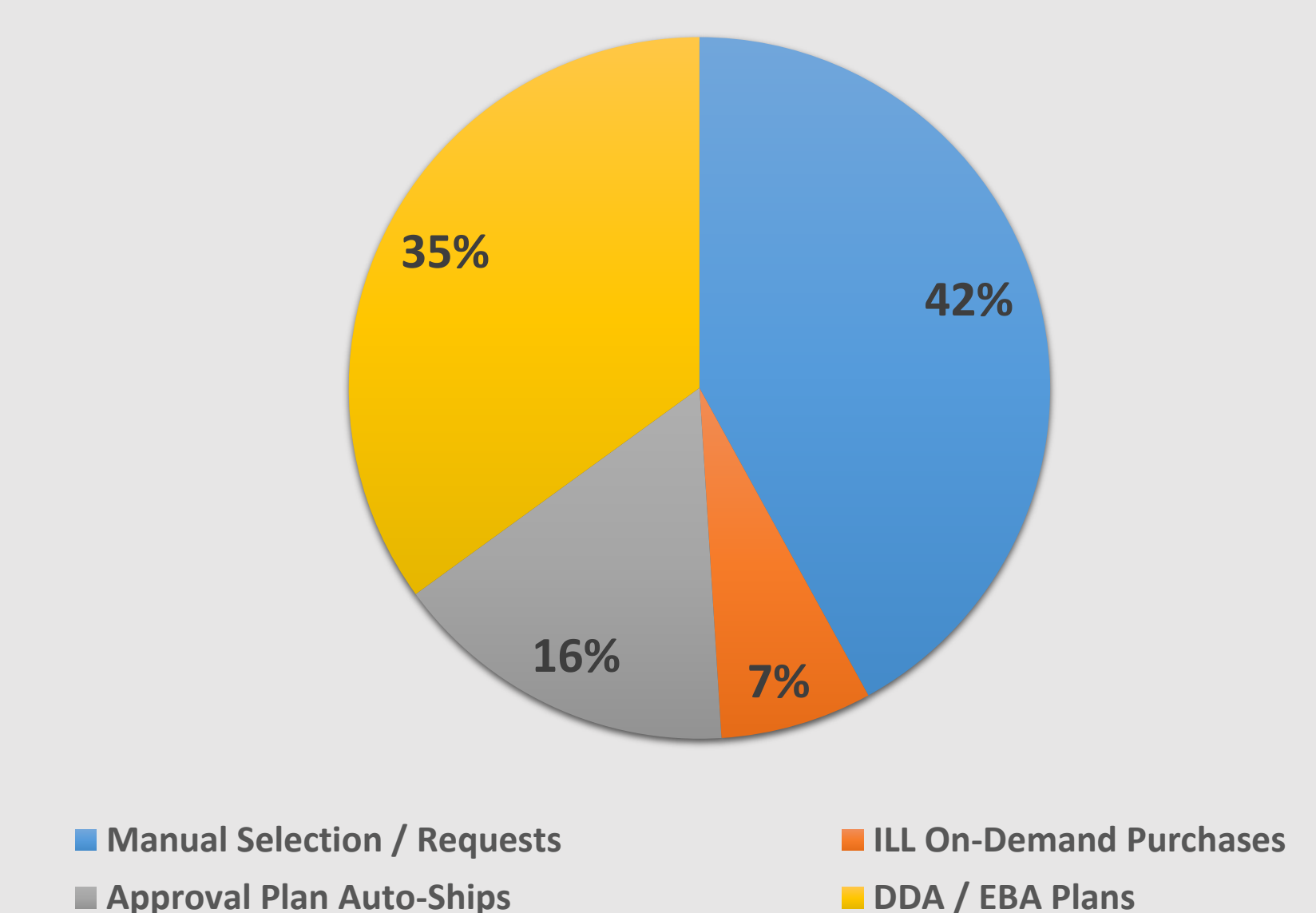
## V. DDA / EBA Plans

- Demand Driven Acquisition (DDA) plans and Evidence-Based Acquisition (EBA) plans both open up large selections of ebooks to your users while only requiring you to pay for titles that get used.
- **In DDA plans**, a purchase of a license is automatically triggered once usage of a title hits a certain threshold.
- **In EBA plans**, the library pays the vendor a deposit up front and then selects titles to keep perpetually at the end of the EBA term (usually 1 year) based on usage stats.
- EBA plans are often easier to budget for; the cost is known up-front and doesn't vary based on usage.

% of Budget Spent by Selection Method (FY18)



% of Budget Spent by Selection Method (FY20 Projected)



## VI. Conclusions

- It's difficult to completely replace manual selection.
- Focus on "low-hanging fruit", like auto-shipping award winning titles, to pick away at your workload.
- Be open-minded about requests from your community. A book that's requested is likely to be used.
- Recognize that mistakes will be made and that you can always revisit and refine your strategies over time.

Visit our LibGuide for more information and ideas!



<https://guides.libraries.wm.edu/so-many-books>