

The background of the slide is a close-up, vertical view of the spines of several books. The books are arranged in a row, and their spines are slightly curved. The text on the spines is mostly illegible due to the angle and lighting, but some words like 'first', 'legal', 'said', and 'me' are visible. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

Who still checks stuff out?:

**A look at physical
circulation during the
COVID-19 pandemic**

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UNT Libraries COVID-19 Timeline

Nearly all classes move to online format. All UNT Libraries branches except for the main branch close.



Vaccines became available to the general population.



Most classes resumed the in-person format.

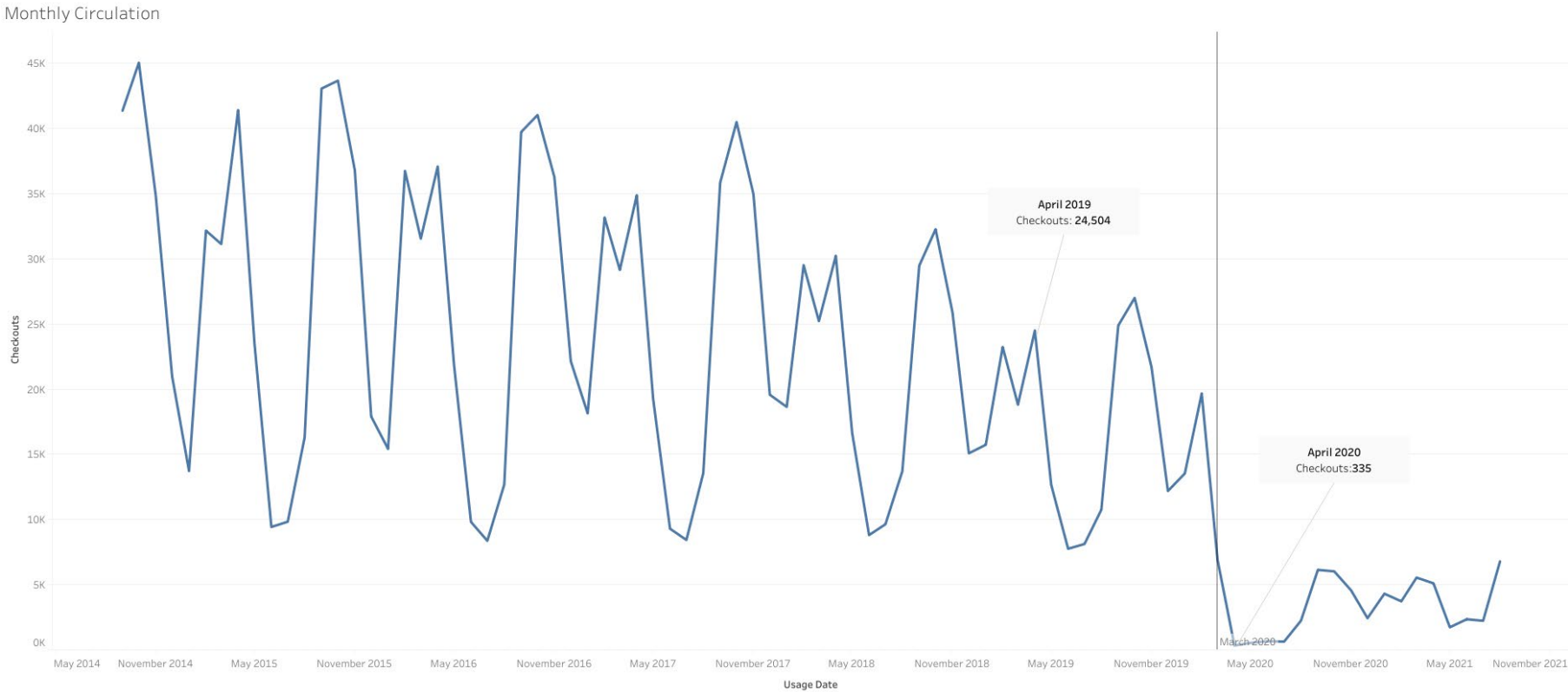


One branch re-opens. The main library branch continued to remain open with limited hours.

All library branches re-opened.



Monthly Circulation over Time



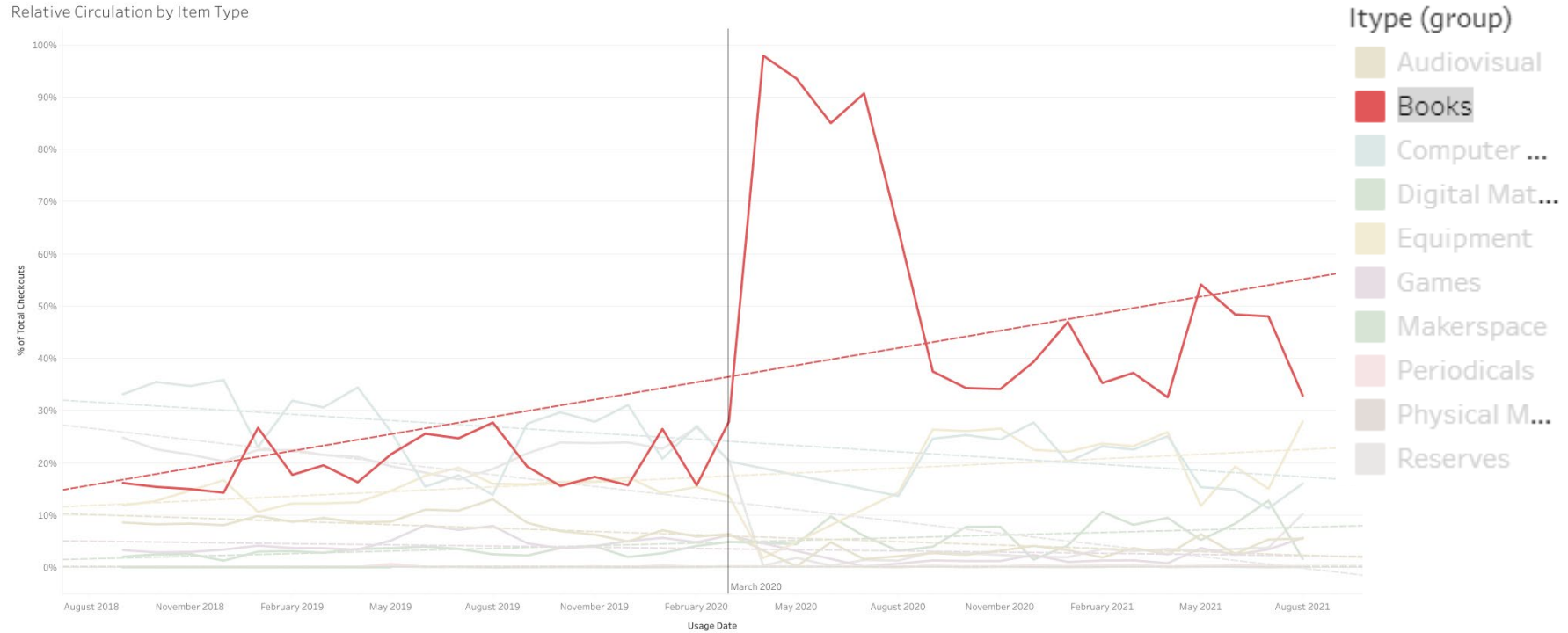


Methodology/Analysis

- Circulation data is collected monthly
 - Time Range: September 2018 to August 2021 (FY 2019 – FY 2021)
- Analysis Categories
 - Item Type
 - Patron Classification
 - Patron Major
 - Item Subject
- eBook usage data is from COUNTER reports
 - Time range: September 2018 to June 2021
- Relative circulation for each category within a month was used
- Analyzed each category based on:
 - Rate of reversion
 - Short-term trend for Q2 2020
 - Long-term trend for FY 2019 to FY 2021



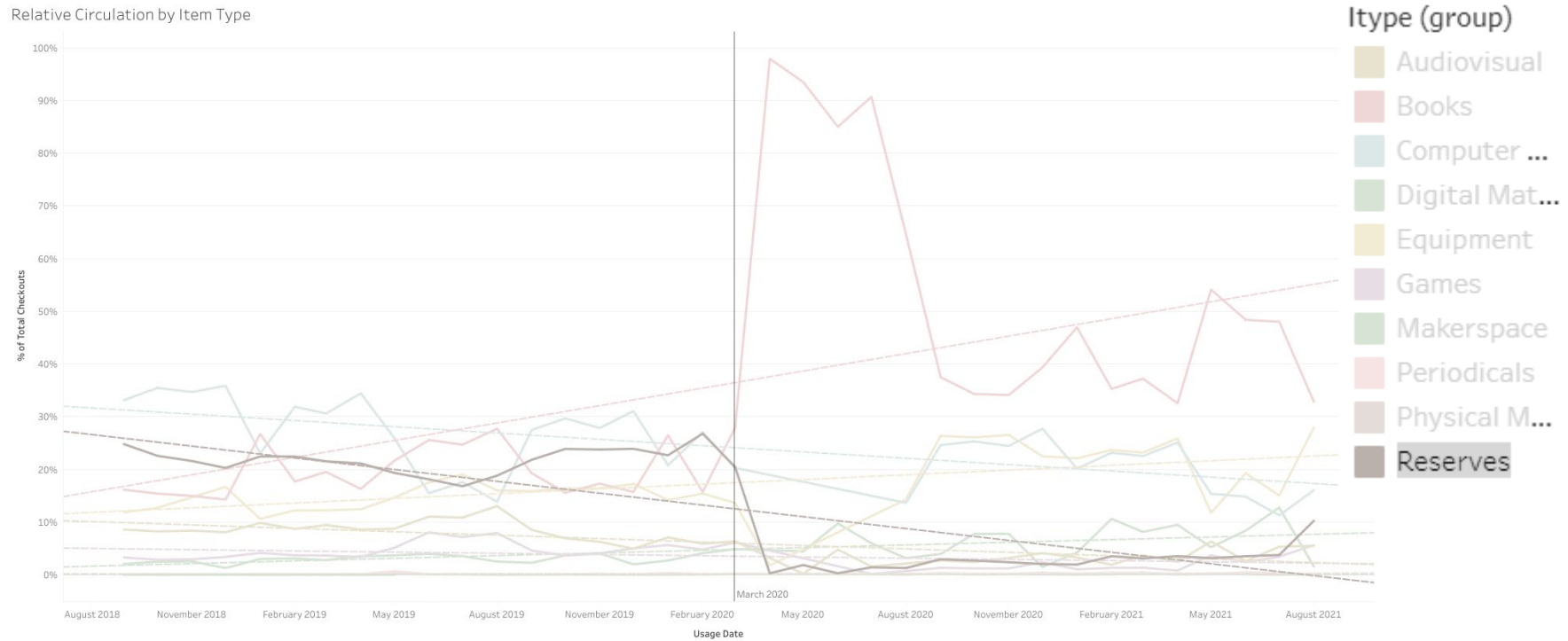
Checkouts by Item Type - Books



- Book usage (red) increased and has not reverted to its pre-pandemic mean
 - 18% of all circulation in FY 2019
 - 38% of all circulation in FY 2021



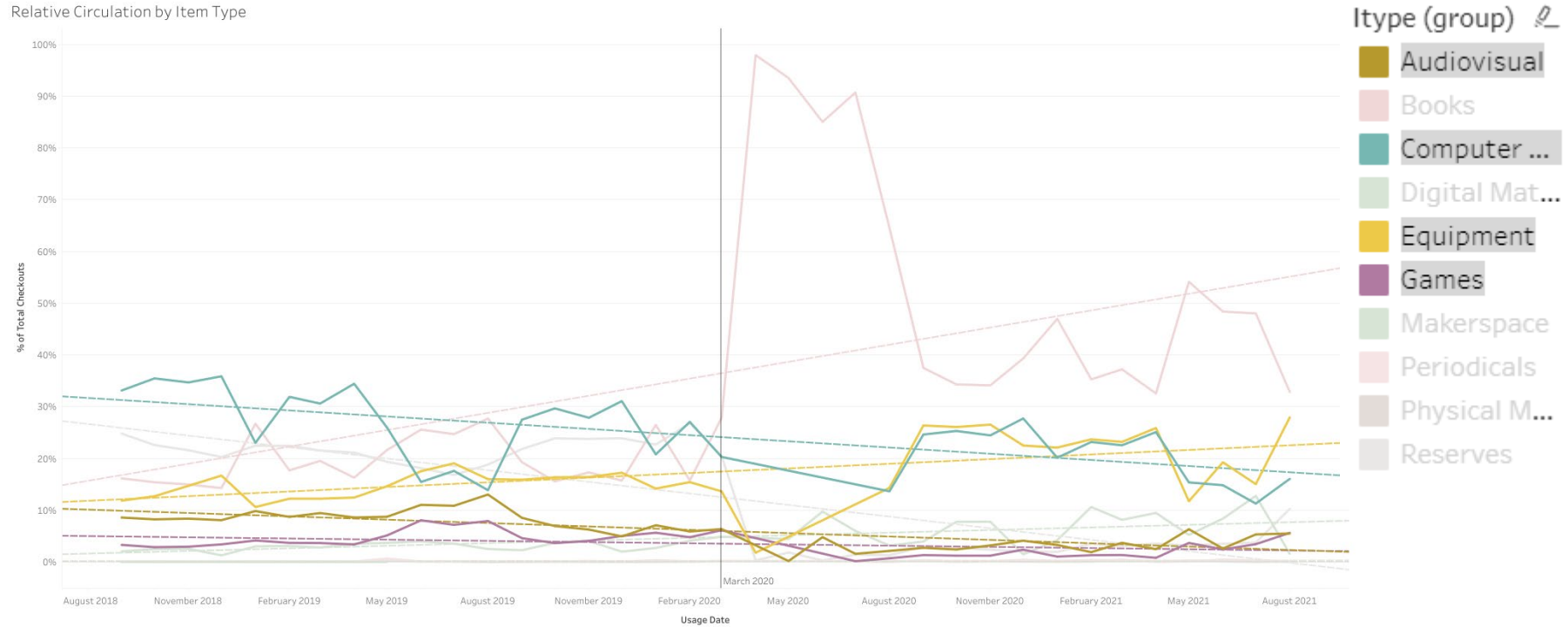
Checkouts by Item Type - Reserves



- Relative circulation of reserves (gray) decreased and has not reverted to its pre-pandemic average
 - 22% of all circulation in FY 2019
 - 4% of all circulation in FY 2021



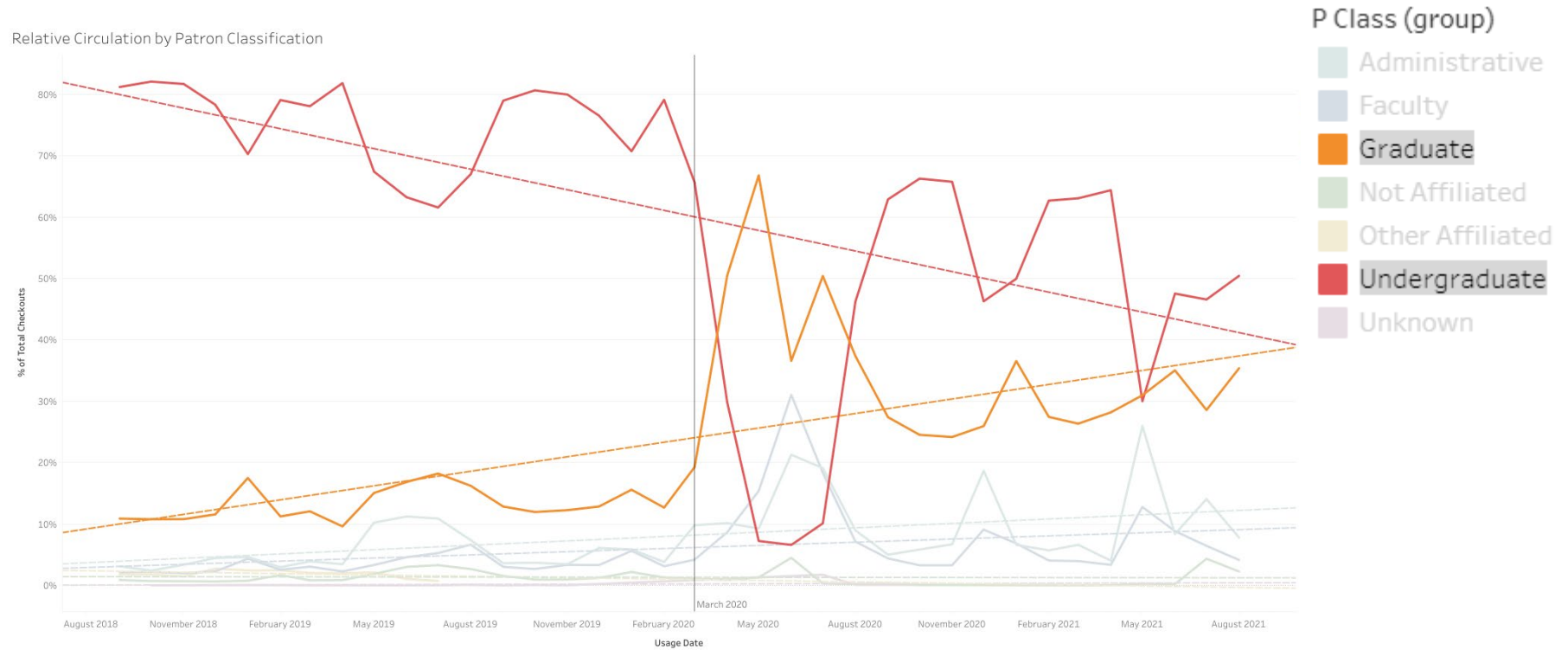
Checkouts by Item Type - Other



- Most other categories such as audiovisual materials, equipment, games, and computer hardware declined in Q2 2020, but have reverted



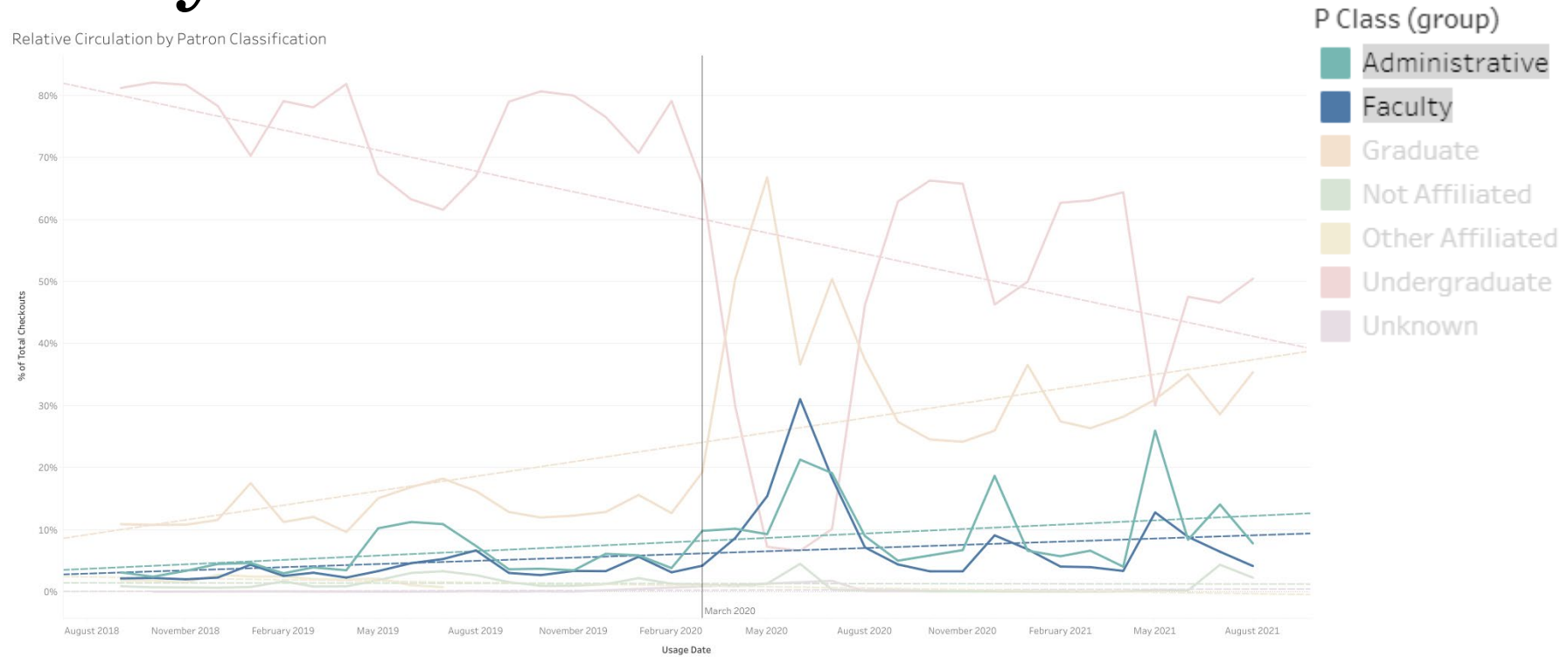
Checkouts by Patron Classification - Students



- Graduate student checkouts surged, and have remained high
- Relative checkouts for undergraduate students has decreased, potentially permanently



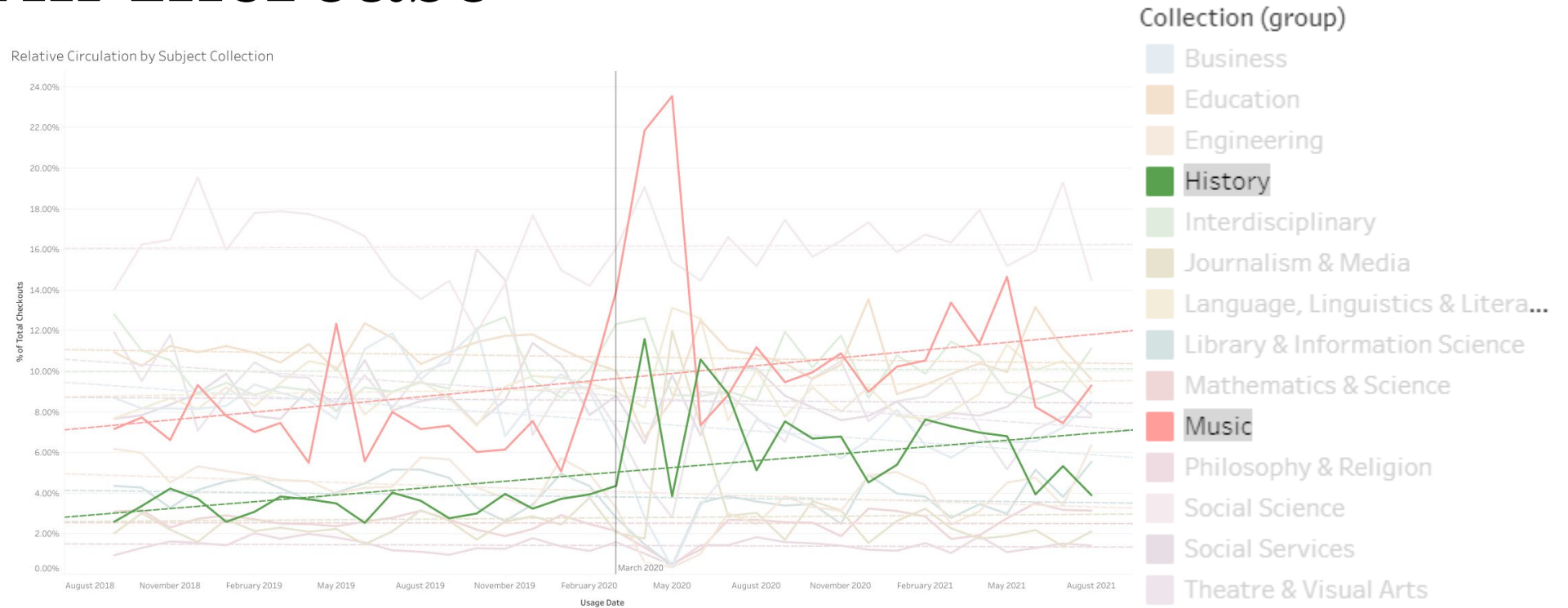
Checkouts by Patron Classification – Faculty and Admin



- Faculty and checkouts by university staff and administrators increased but have largely returned to their pre-pandemic rates



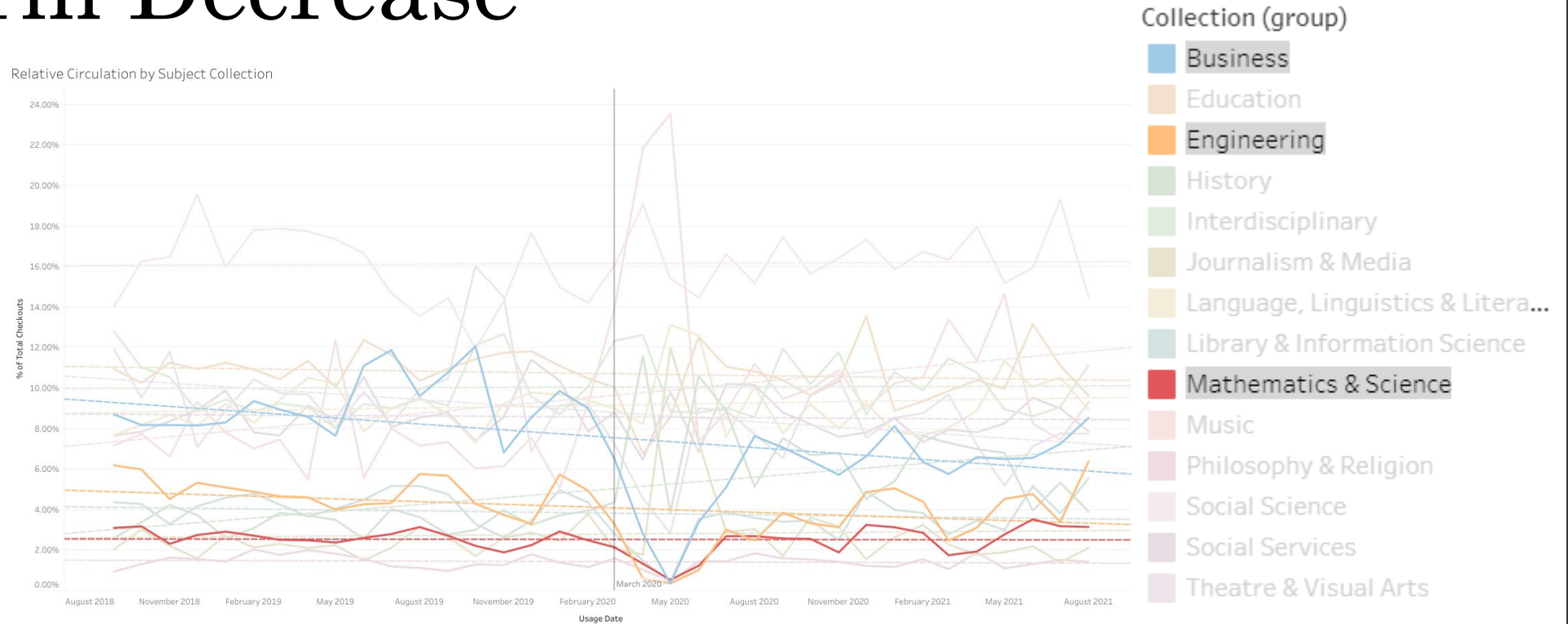
Checkouts by Item Subject – Long-Term Increase



- Subjects that increased during Q2 2020 and have not fully reverted to their pre-pandemic mean
 - Music
 - History



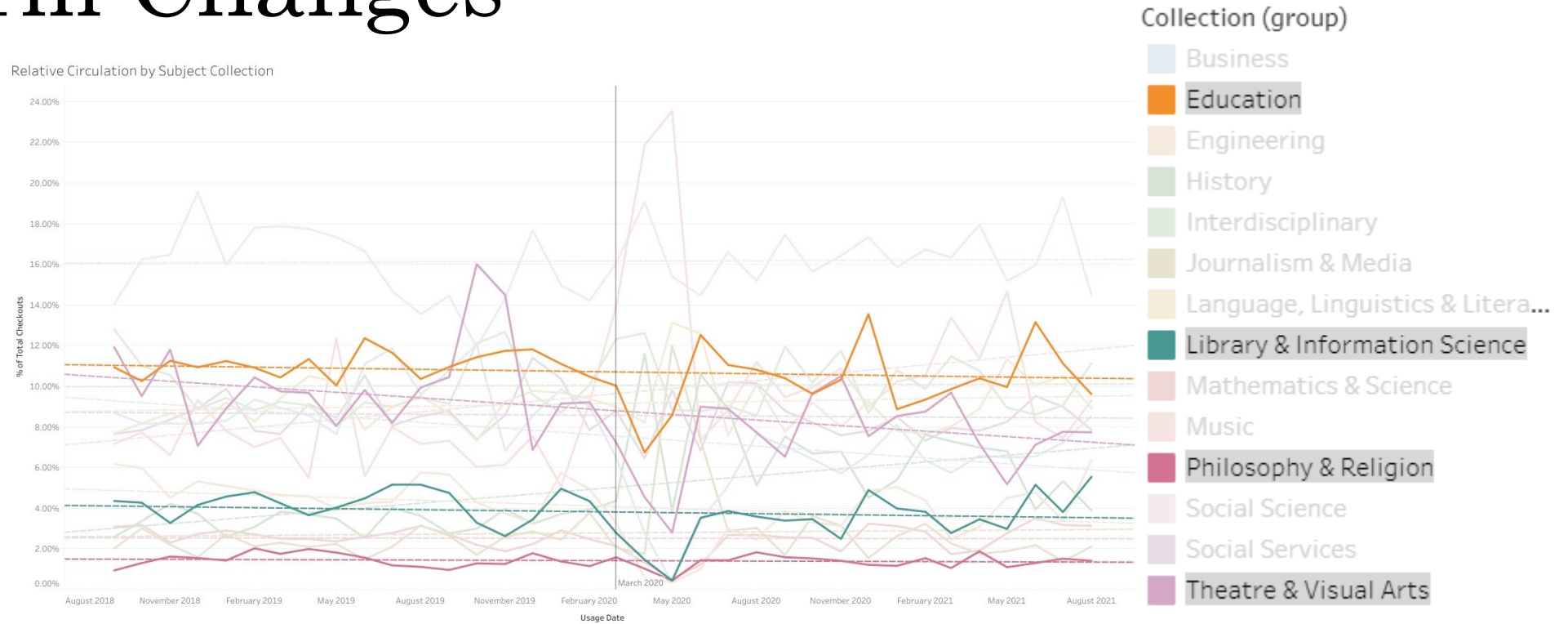
Checkouts by Item Subject – Long-Term Decrease



- Categories that decreased in Q2 2020 and have not recovered
 - Business
 - Mathematics and science
 - Engineering



Checkouts by Item Subject – Short-Term Changes



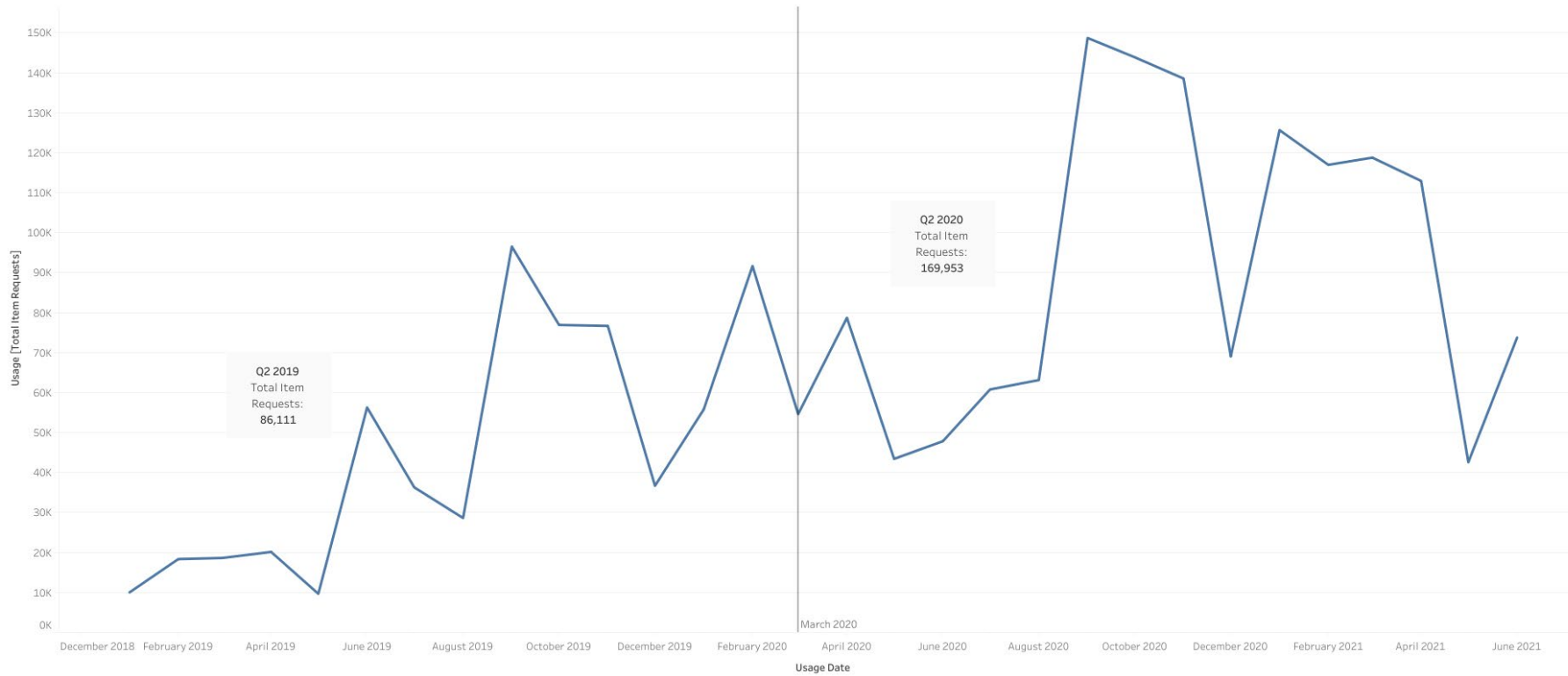
- Subjects that **decreased** during Q2 2020, but have reverted to their pre-pandemic mean:
 - Education
 - Theatre and visual arts
 - Library and information science
 - Philosophy and religion

- Subjects that **increased** during Q2 2020, but have reverted to their pre-pandemic mean:
 - Journalism and media
 - Language, linguistics, and literature



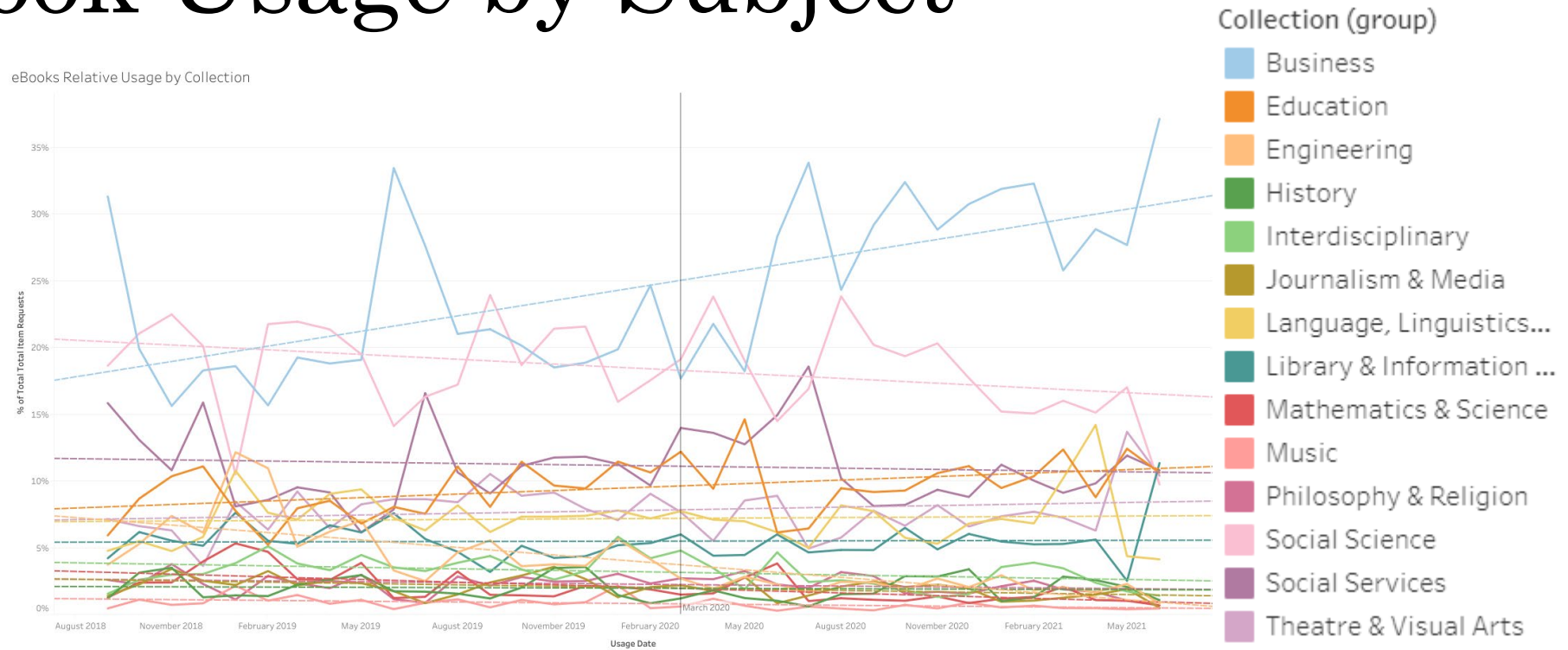
eBook Usage over Time

Monthly eBook Usage





eBook Usage by Subject



- eBook usage by subject remained relatively unaffected by the pandemic



Conclusions

Results

- Prioritize physical formats for
 - Graduate students
 - History
 - Music
- Prioritize electronic formats for
 - Undergraduate students
 - Business

Limitations

- Individual reactions to the pandemic have varied widely
- More detailed data unavailable due to privacy concerns and UNT's Sierra ILS limitations



Questions?

References

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