

The E-Lending Chasm

A two-speed Europe vs US

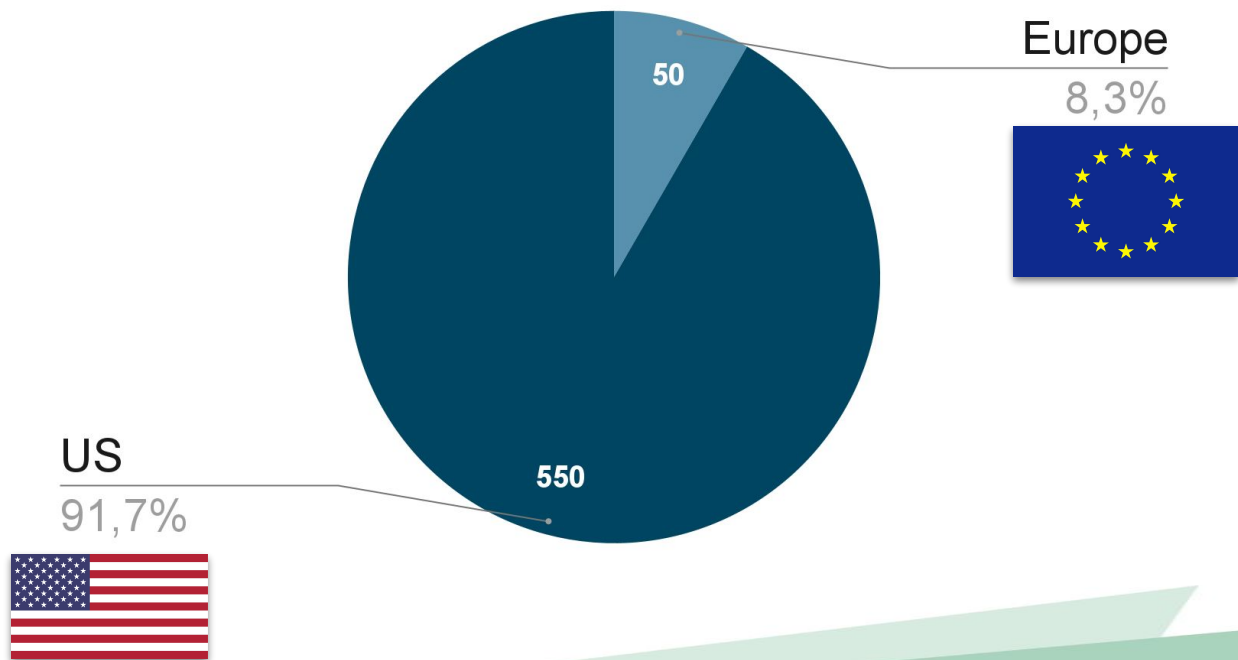
Call for action

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Ebook in Libraries: the US vs Europe Chasm

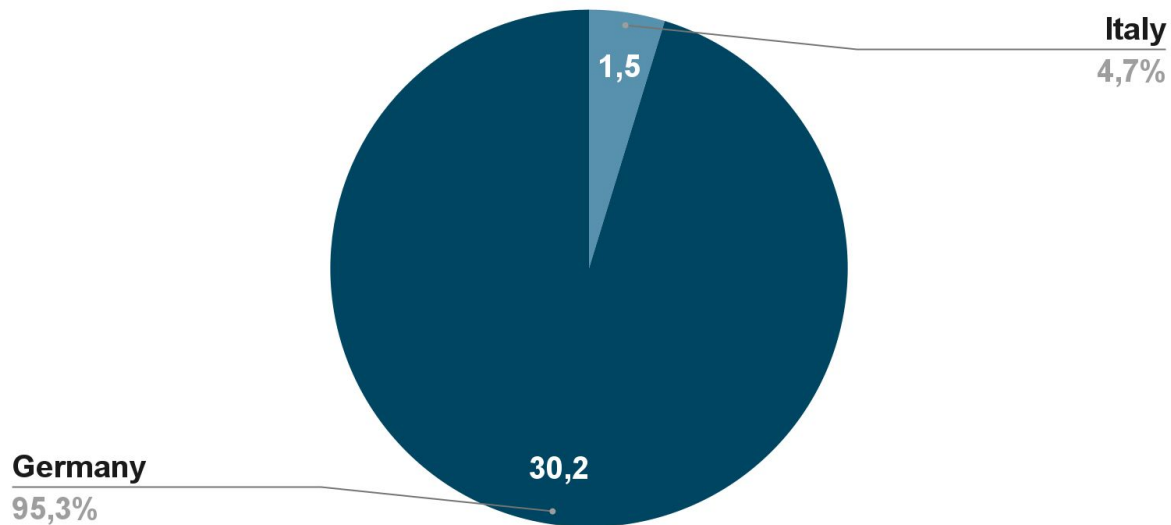
E-Lending in Europe vs US (millions of digital loans)





A two-speed library map in Europe

E-Lending in Italy vs Germany





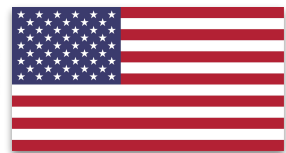
... Berlin vs Italy

- in the *Berlin area alone*, libraries make almost **two times the ebook loans (3,1 mln) that are made in Italy (1,5 mln)** and more physical loans (23,4 mln) than the entire Italy (21,6 mln)
- despite the clear patrons' demand for more digital media, in Italy acquisition resources are almost completely dedicated to physical books with no specific funding for e-lending
- Italian patrons, are usually allowed 2-4 ebook loans per month, in contrast with 10-20 physical book loans per month...

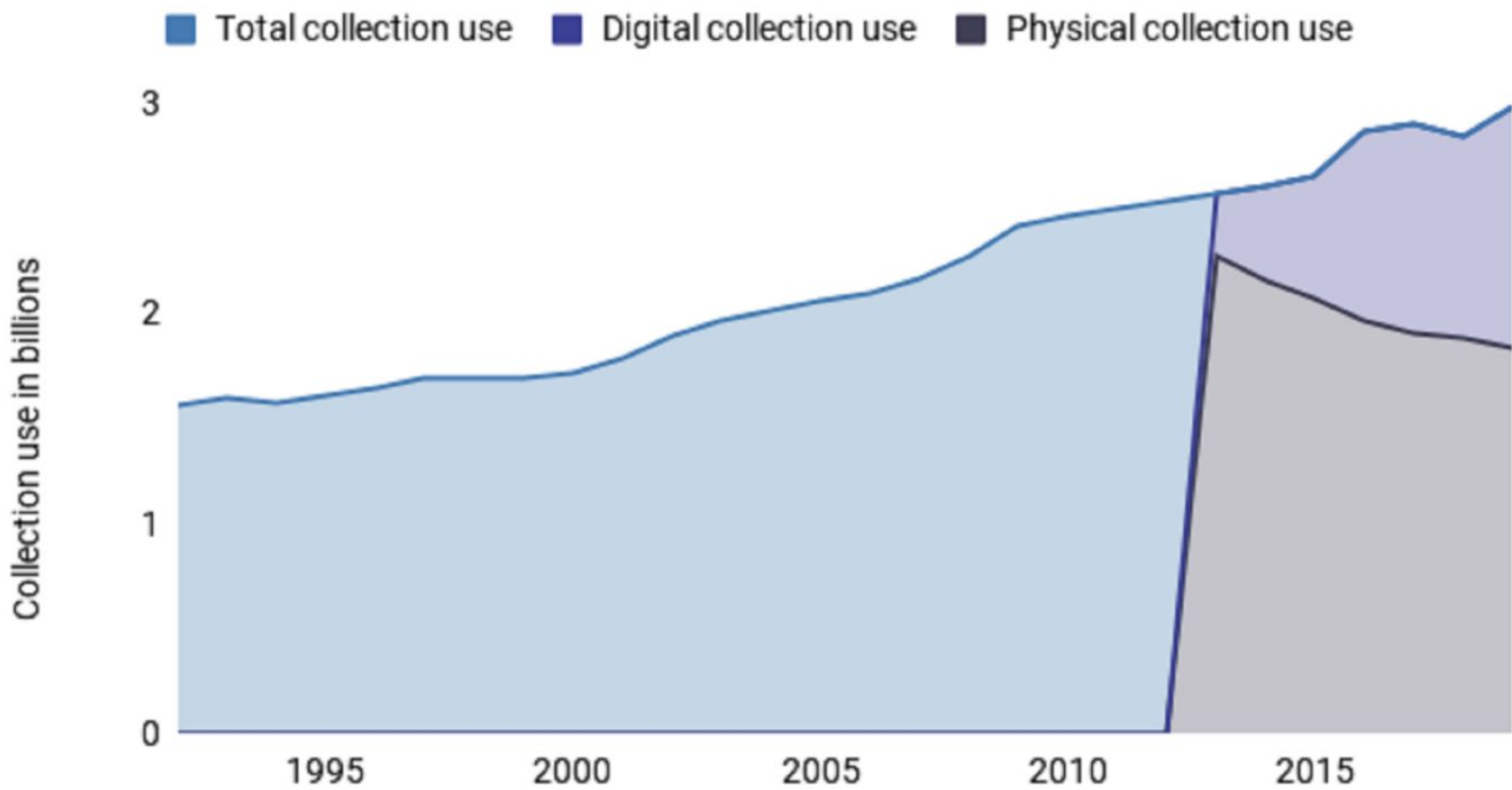


Why is that detrimental to European libraries?

- If US libraries are an “anticipatory scenario” of the European library trends (and they have always been on digital matters!), we see that:
 - library usage is growing but...
 - library visits and physical collections’ usage are constantly decreasing
 - while digital collections’ usage is instead constantly growing (not to say about pandemic and post-pandemic statistics)

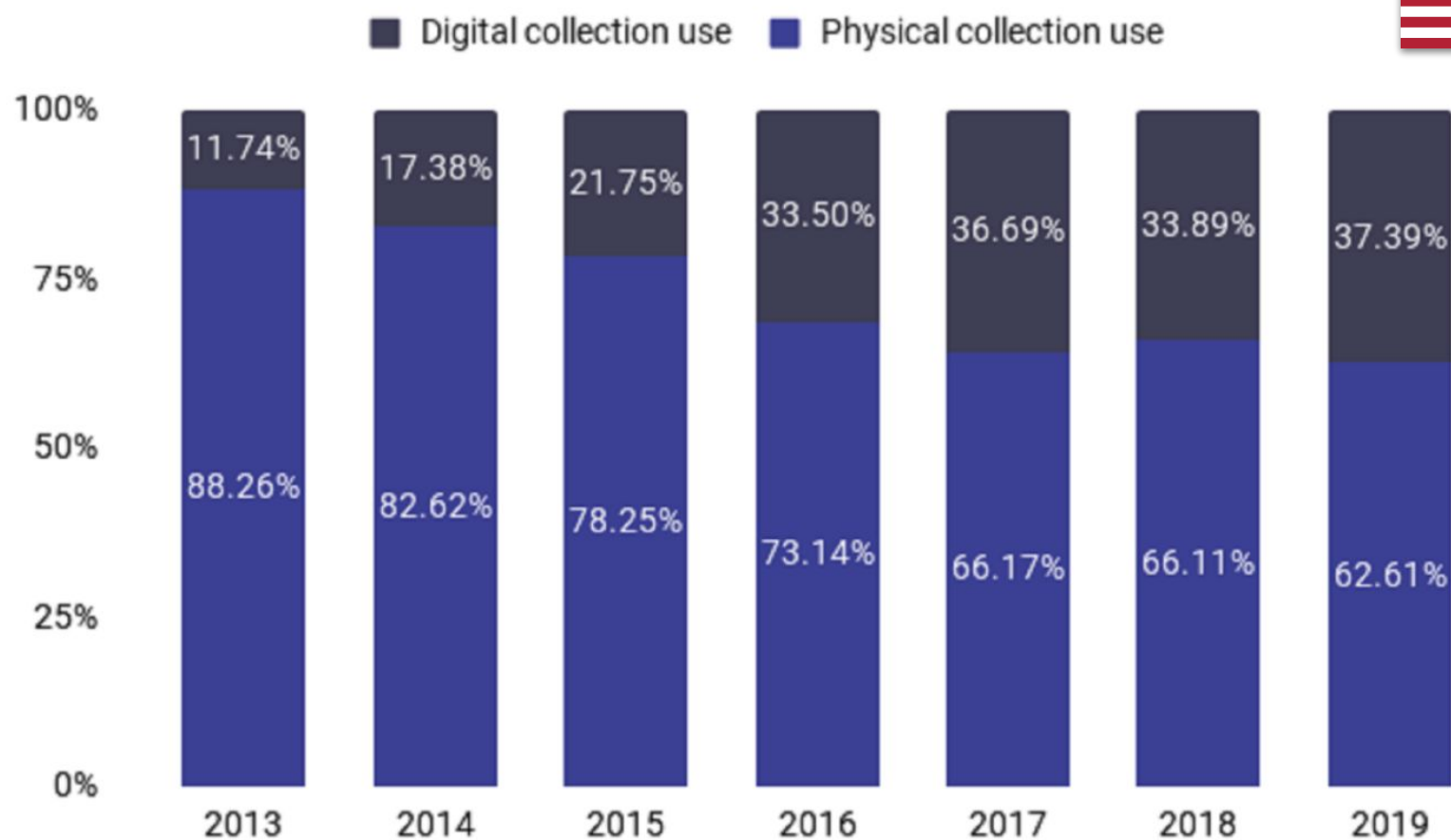


Total library collection use: Physical vs Digital from 2013



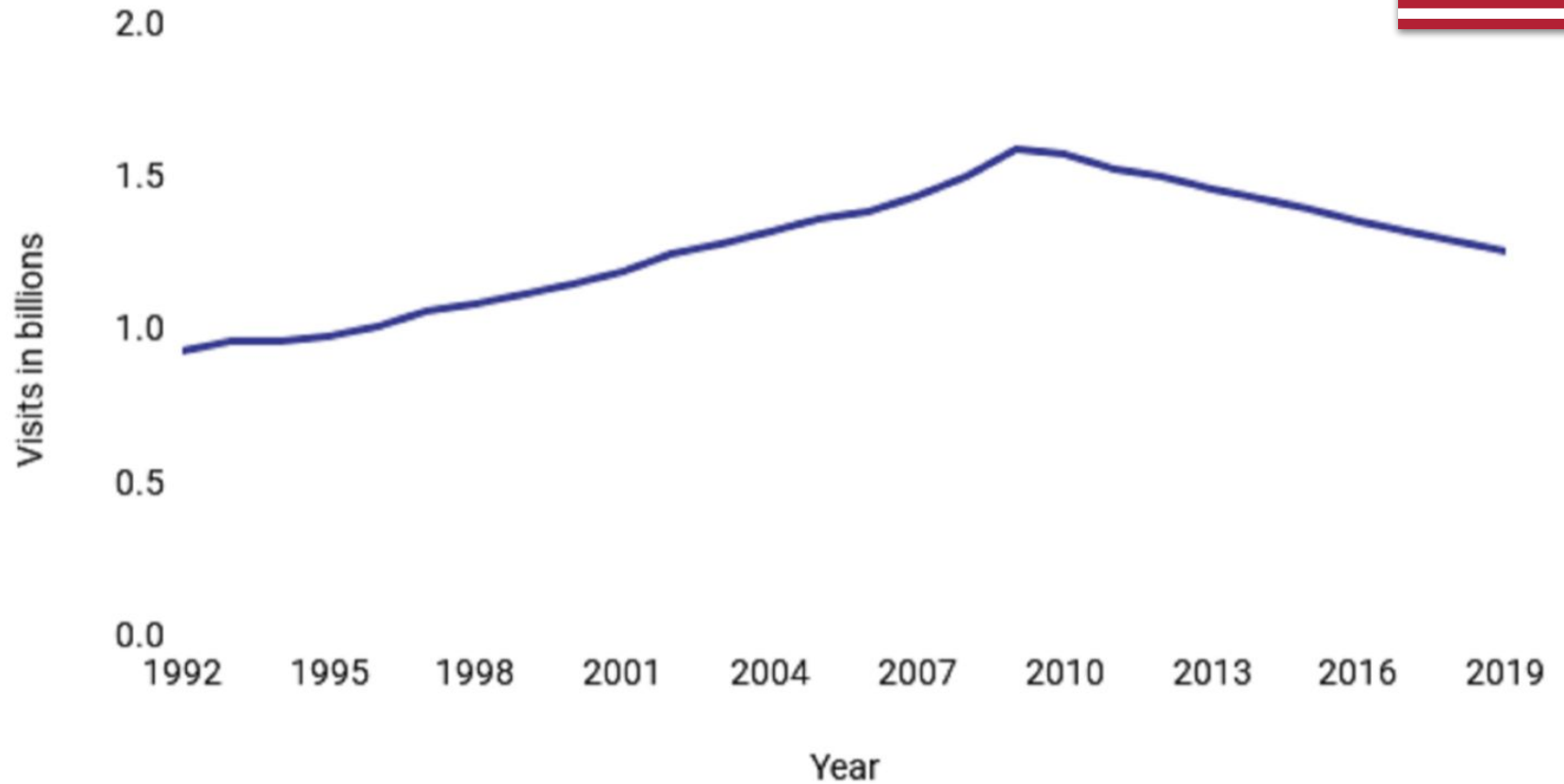
(Source: Report by Nicholas Rizzo, Feb 17 2022)

Distribution of digital vs physical collection use



(Source: Report by Nicholas Rizzo, Feb 17 2022)

Visits to public libraries per year (in billions)



(Source: Report by Nicholas Rizzo, Feb 17 2022)



E-Lending Weakness and Library Trends

- the European weakness in e-lending is a bad symptom about the capacity of our libraries to keep pace with the changing ecosystem of media consumption and its relationship with the major trends and transformations in service innovation and in patrons' needs
- in many European countries, libraries are not responding to the patrons' demand for digital content which alone can reverse the degrowth trend of their library ecosystems as a whole

Thank you!

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