Legislative Library of Ontario's Digital Repository Overview, challenges, future initiatives

Government Information Day

November 28, 2019

Presented by Sandra Craig

Digital Library Repository

- Started to formally build it in the summer of 2000 so represents almost 20 years of collection development

- Created to ensure persistent access to electronic documents

- Most of the files are PDF but also includes HTML and MP4 files

- Approximately 290 GB / 163,900 files

- Discoverable through our online catalogue, Scholars Portal, OurDigitalWorld, and GALLOP (Government and Legislative Libraries Online Publications Portal)

What we collect

- Majority of files are Ontario government documents. Collection is extensive but not comprehensive reflecting the needs of our primary clientele

- Resources collected include policy and program documents, financial reports, consultation documents, annual reports, management plans, reports of commissions and task forces, press releases

- Resources not collected include consumer focused reports and highly technical reports (e.g. Ontario Geological Survey publications)

- Repository also includes resources from commercial organizations, election campaign websites for registered parties and individual candidates, party platforms, party news releases
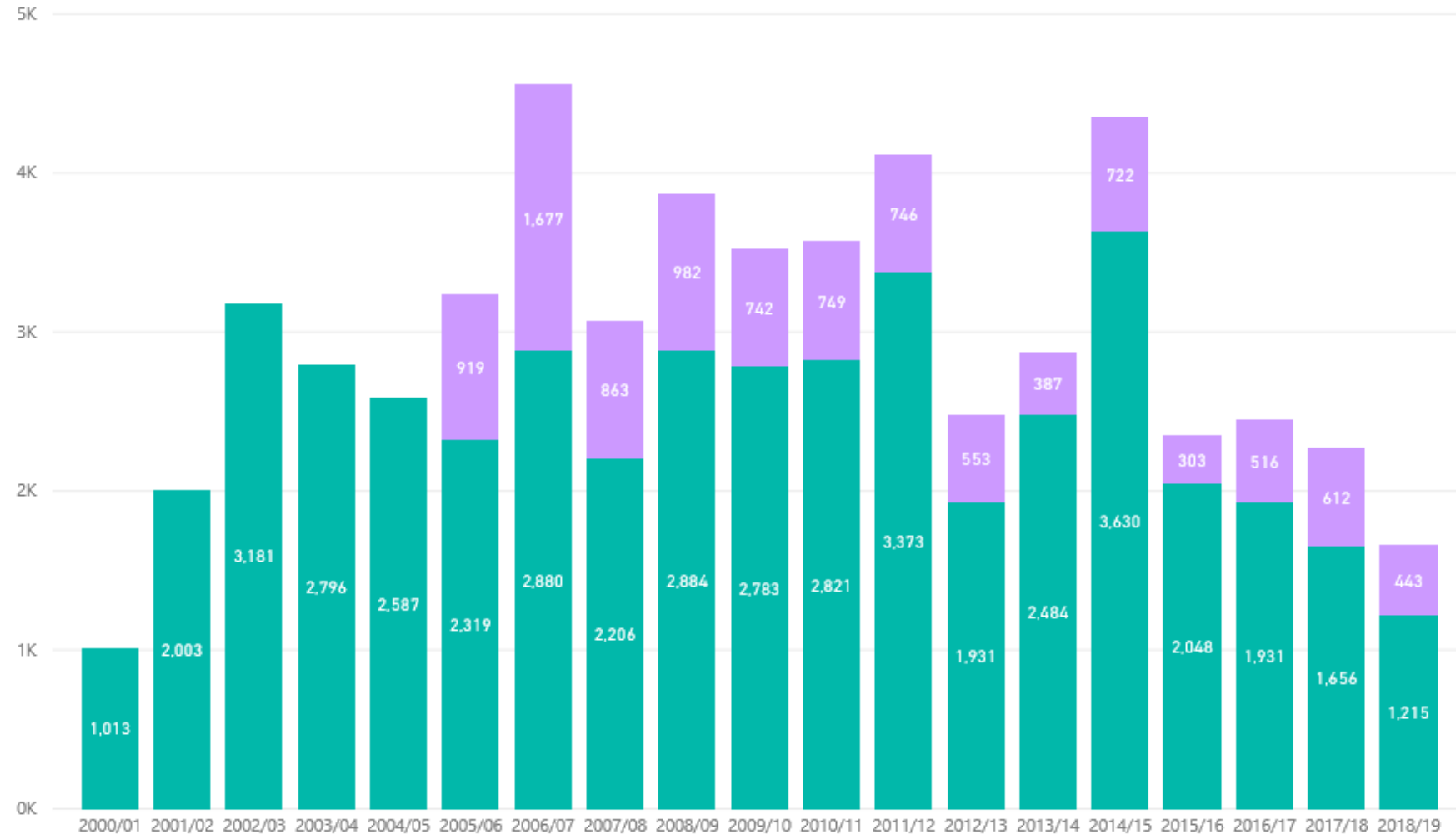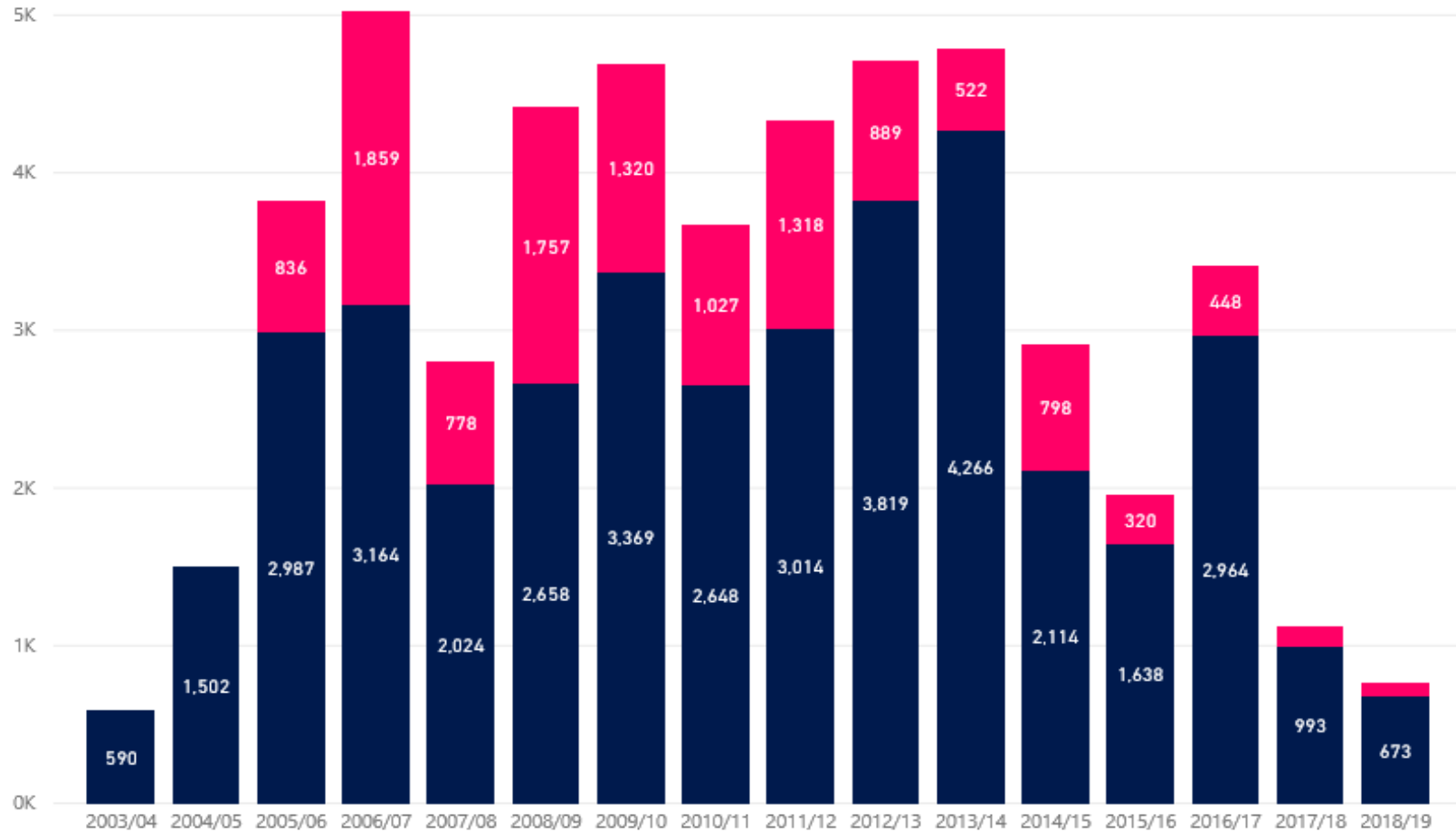
Monographs

Serial Issues

Ontario Total
38,548

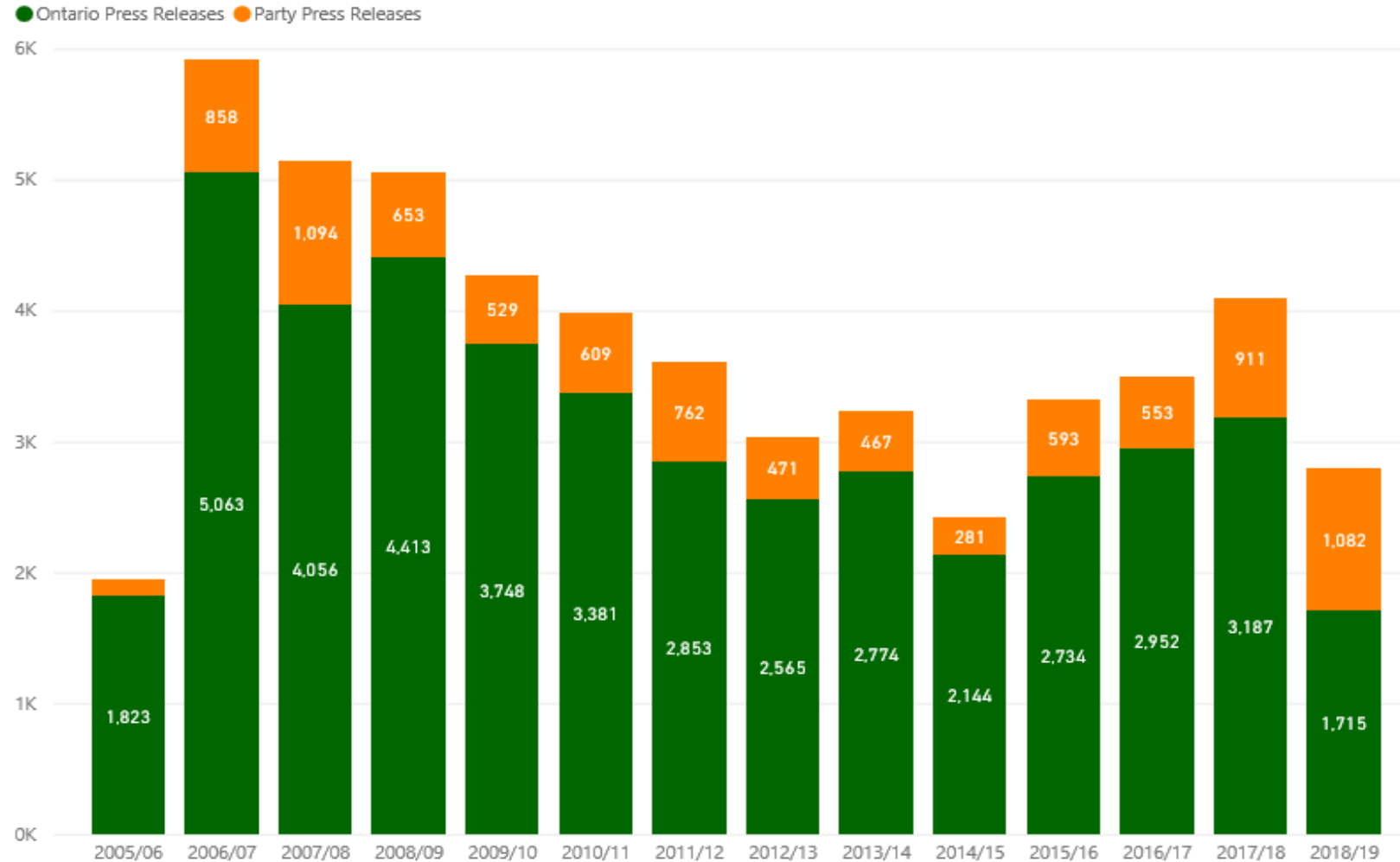Non-Ontario Total
12,096

Years
- Select all
- 2000/01
- 2001/02
- 2002/03
- 2003/04
- 2004/05
- 2005/06
- 2006/07
- 2007/08
- 2008/09
- 2009/10
- 2010/11
- 2011/12
- 2012/13
- 2013/14
- 2014/15
- 2015/16
- 2016/17
- 2017/18
- 2018/19

Press Releases

Challenges building the collection

- Monitoring Ontario.ca for new content

- More dynamic content

- Not all Ministries / ABC requesting ISBNs & ISSNs

Future Digital Library Repository

We are currently working on three key initiatives:

1. Developing a long term preservation strategy for the Ontario governments portion of the repository

2. Moving repository to a modern hosting platform (Microsoft's Azure)

3. Creating a new script for transferring files and creating index pages

Future Digital Library Repository

1. Long term preservation strategy

   - Continue to load files into Scholars Portal ebook platform
   - Investigate safe storage options for master copies
     - For example: Ontario Library Research Cloud (managed by Scholars Portal)
     - Offers a good set of baseline preservation practices (e.g. checksums to ensure file integrity and redundancy for access)
   - Evaluate Bagger software tool
     - Open source software developed by the Library of Congress
     - Packages files into a specific directory structure, called a bag, for storing and transferring digital content
     - Ensures content in the bag is verified and complete

Future Digital Library Repository

2. Move repository to a modern hosting platform (Microsoft's Azure)

- Currently on an old on-premise server which is a security risk

- Domain will change from **ontla.on.ca** ⟶ to **ola.org**

- Target date for new URL: April 2020

- Redirects will be in place for a limited time (6 months to 1 year)

- URLs in the online catalogue will be updated

Future Digital Library Repository

3. Create new script for transferring files and creating index pages

- Script moves files automatically to production, creates and updates index pages
- Script is old (2005) and needs to be updated
- Unsure how serial index pages will look in Azure but discussing with IT
- We want to ensure we can link to specific serial folders and display individual issues
- Example of a current index page

Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund … technical guide

2005.pdf
2006.pdf
2007.pdf
2008.pdf
2009.pdf
2010.pdf
2011.pdf
2012.pdf
2013.pdf
2014.pdf
2015.pdf
2016.pdf
2017.pdf
2018.pdf
2019.pdf
2020.pdf

Progress Updates

We will keep the library community informed of our progress via listservs and notices on our library catalogue

Thank you!

Sandra Craig

scraig@ola.org