



Expanding Access: An Evaluation of Readcube as an ILL Alternative

Adelia Grabowsky
abg0011@auburn.edu



What is Readcube?

- A patron-driven acquisition system for journal articles from the Nature Publishing Group
- Nature Publishing offers over 100 journals including Nature Chemistry, Nature Communications, and Nature Protocols

How does Readcube work?

1.

Patron finds article on journal site (on-campus) OR searches for journal in library catalog (on or off-campus)

2.

Patron clicks on Readcube icon

3.

Patron chooses Rental (48 hour access, no download or printing) OR Cloud (permanent access, printing, no download)

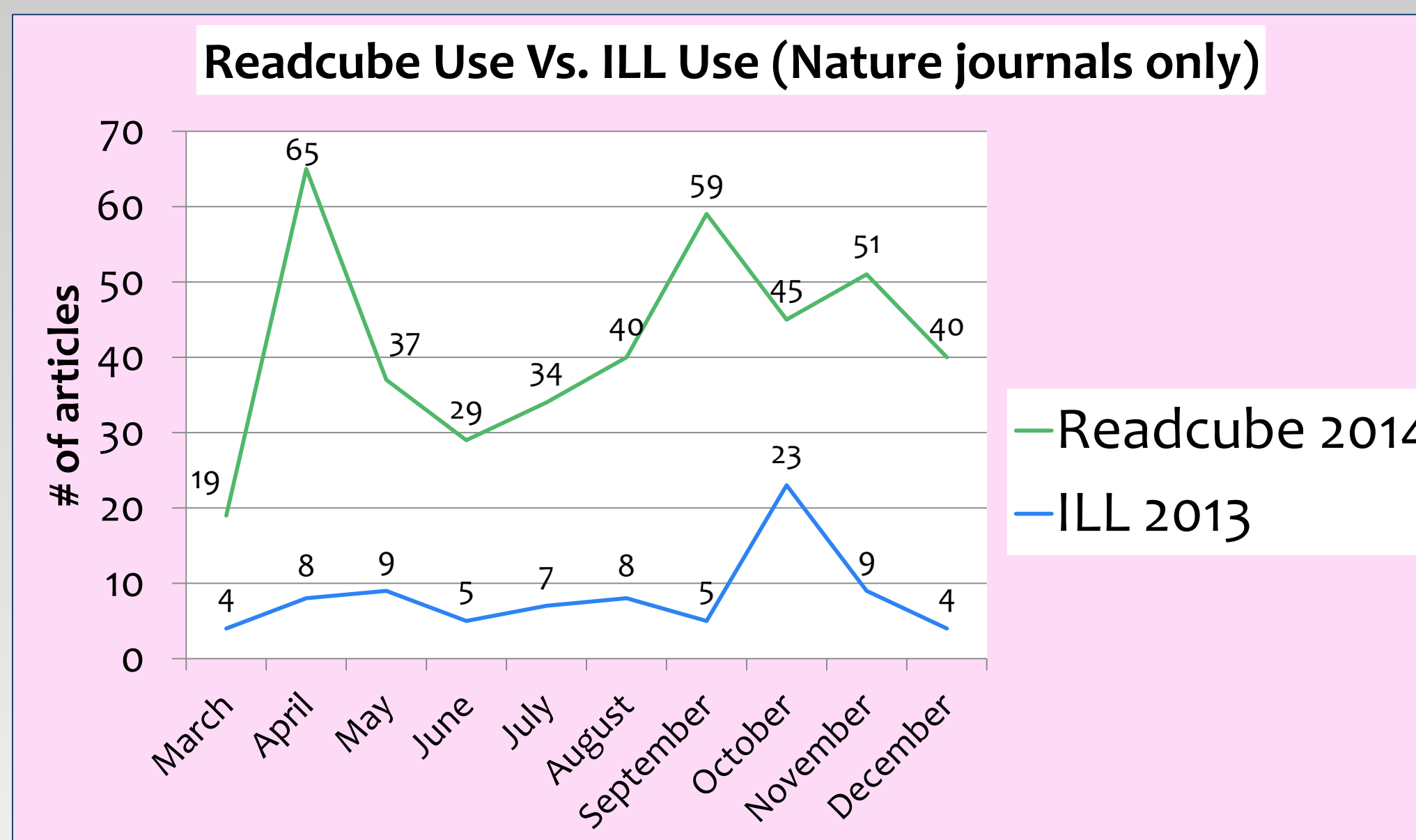
4.

Articles are read in the Readcube reader which allows annotating, social media sharing, direct links to references, graphs, etc.

Readcube Usage (March – December 2014)

- 169 unique users
- 420 total articles
 - 1 to 30 articles per user
 - Average 2.5 articles per user
 - More than 75% of users downloaded < 5 articles

User Groups	Number	%
Graduate Students	71	42
Faculty	32	19
Not Reported	32	19
Undergrad	12	7
Post Doc	9	5
PI/Researcher	6	4
Other (included librarians, visiting scholars, & staff)	7	4



Most Requested Journals	# of articles
Nature Communications	81
Nature Protocols	65
Nature Climate Change	39
Nature Methods	37
Nature Nanotechnology	28
Nature Chemistry	25
The American Journal of Gastroenterology	14
Nature Geoscience	10
Nature Chemical Biology	10

- 30 journals used
- 19 journals – 5 or fewer articles
 - 12 journals – between 6 to 9 articles
 - 9 journals – 10 or more articles

Cost Comparison

	# of Articles	Cost
Readcube (Mar-Dec 2014)	420	\$3,217.80
ILL (Mar – Dec 2013)	82	\$2,911.00

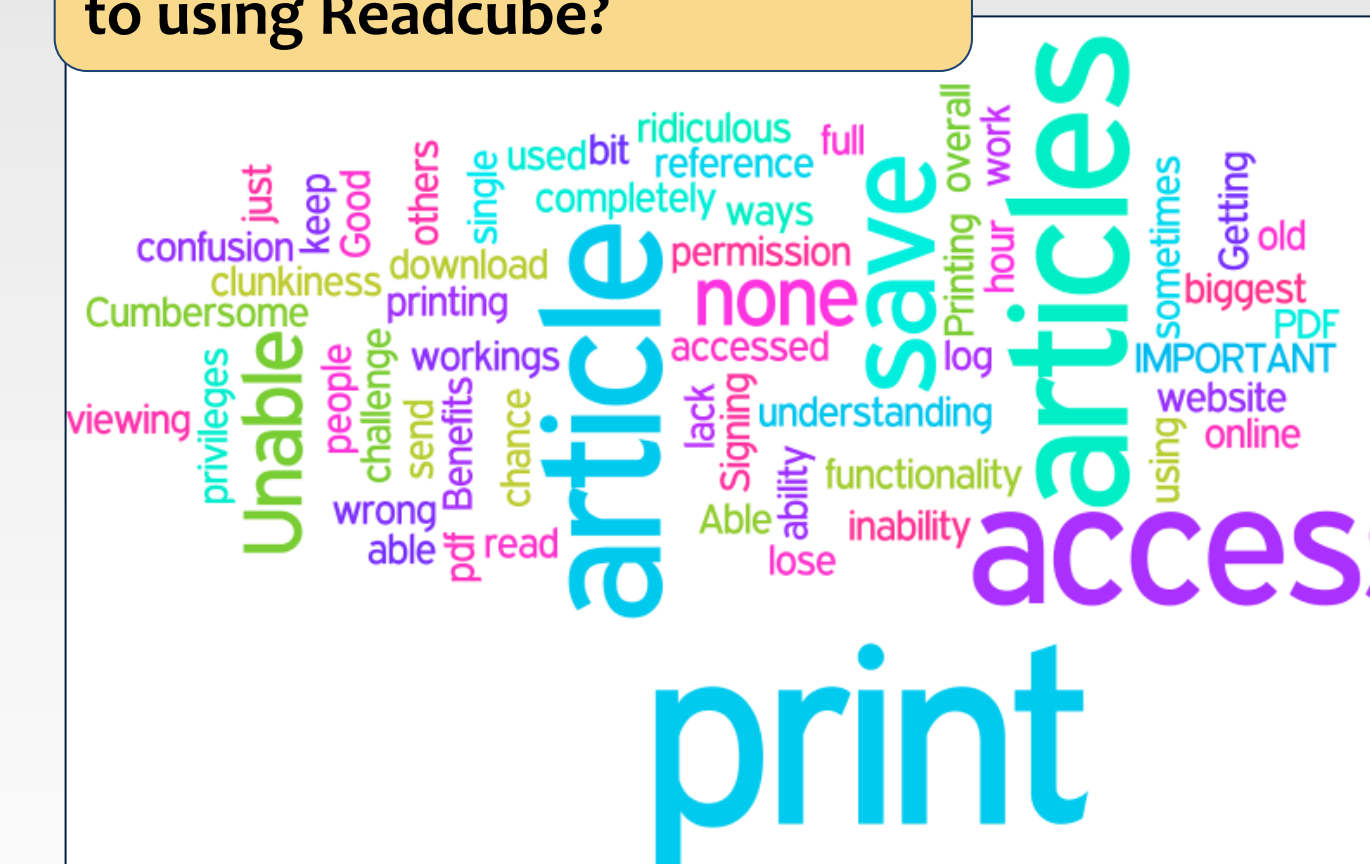
5 times as many articles for 11% more money

Survey Sent out in September 2014 to 144 registered users, 18 responses; 62% grad students, 23% faculty

What do you see as the greatest benefit to Readcube?



What is the biggest challenge to using Readcube?



Conclusion

Some user frustrations have been addressed by Readcube, others continue to be addressed by librarians on an individual basis. At the current level of cost and usage the libraries consider Readcube to be:

- financially sustainable
- an acceptable substitute for ILL

