Building an Alma Analytics Dashboard for E-Book Usage Data

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Background

Prior to migrating to Ex Libris' Alma, the University of Mary Washington (UMW) Libraries did not have an electronic resource management (ERM) system to harvest COUNTER usage data.

Reports were pulled on an ad hoc basis and it was difficult to know how e-resources were used over time and across platforms.

Prior to Alma, UMW Libraries downloaded spreadsheets from vendor admin portals, which was time consuming and difficult to make use of the data.
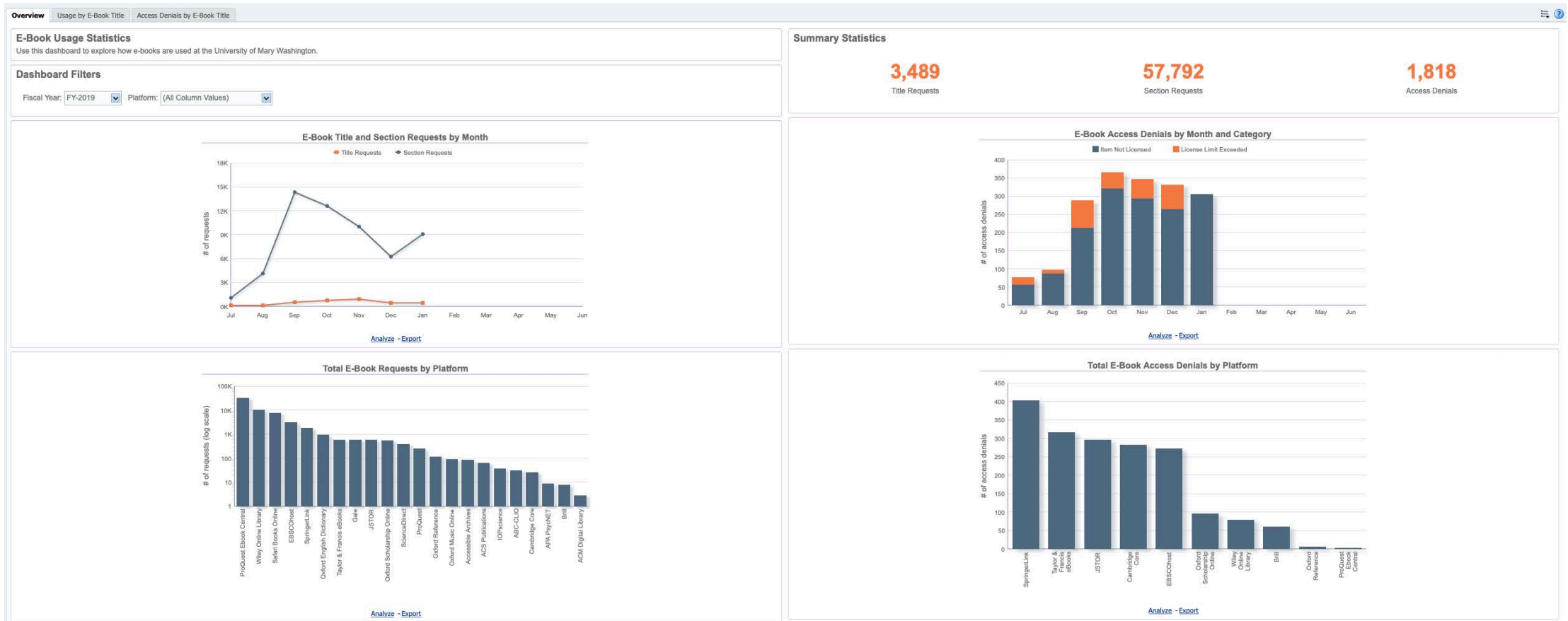
Dashboard Goals

Provide a quick overview of how e-books are used over time and across platforms

Make it easier (and faster) to answer basic questions: how many times have e-books been used this fiscal year, which platforms are used the most, are users experiencing a high number of turnaways?
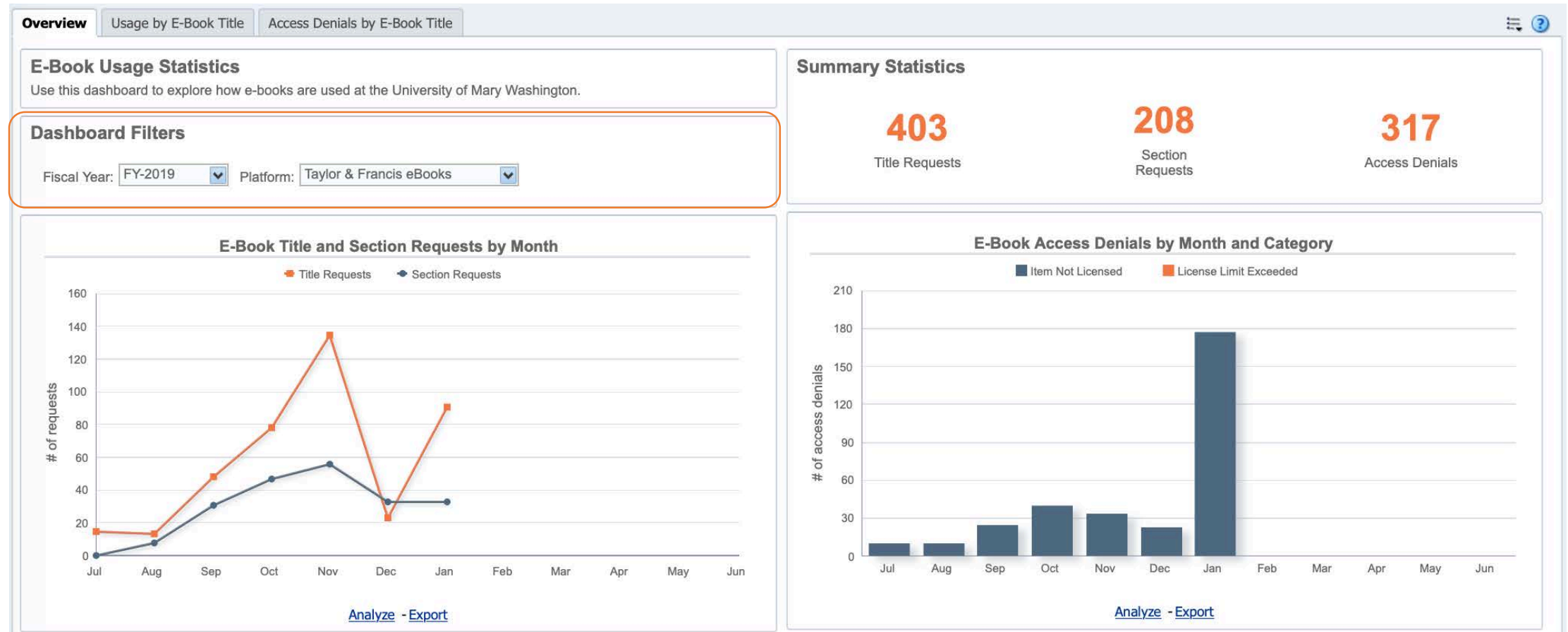
Create effective visualizations that reveal patterns and relationships that might be missed when viewing spreadsheets

Be easy to use and relevant for library staff

Dashboard Overview

Dashboard Filters

Customizations

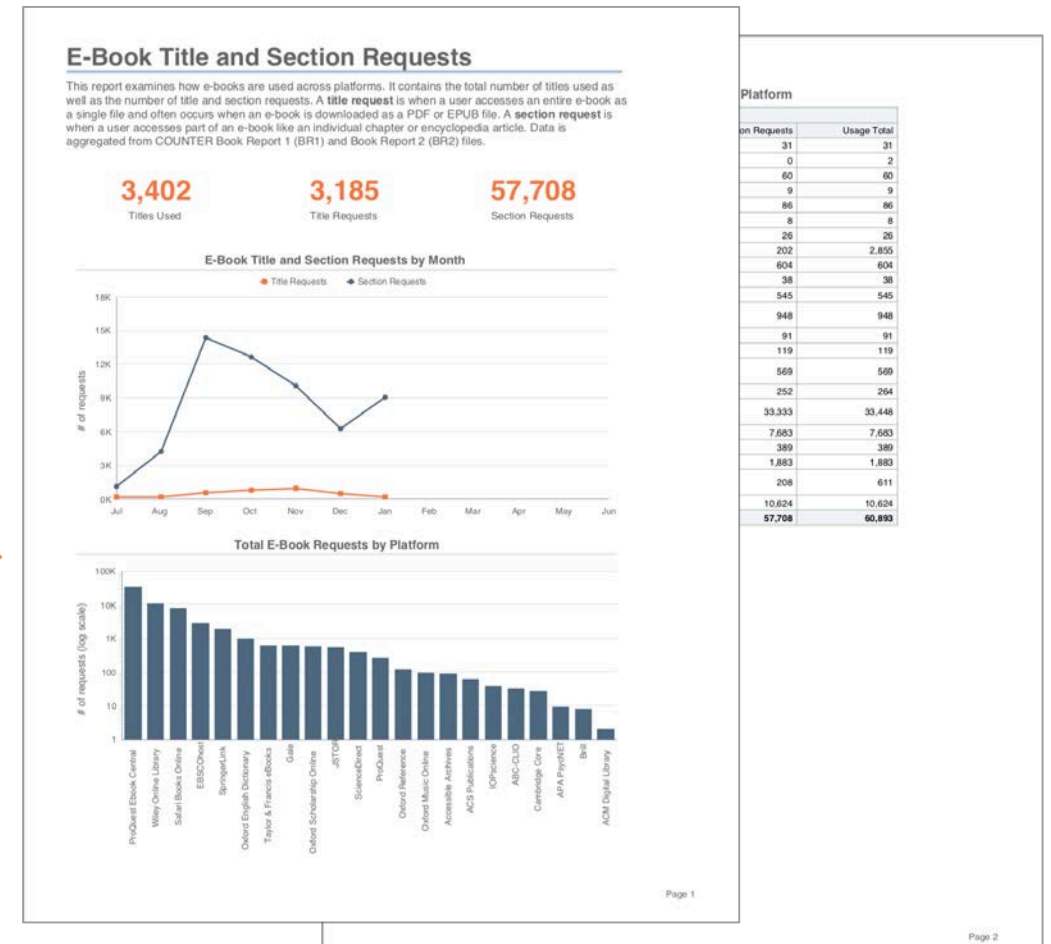The main customization was modifying the appearance of some platform names:

- GOLD -> Gale
- Ithaka -> JSTOR
- ScienceDirect licensed content -> ScienceDirect

This was accomplished by editing the formula for the platform dimension with SQL CASE statements

Reports

Users can access more in-depth reports directly from the dashboard by clicking on the Analyze button under a graph of interest

Next Steps

Build in more contextual information, such as:

- number of e-books on each collection
- cost and cost-per-use statistics
- e-books use by publisher

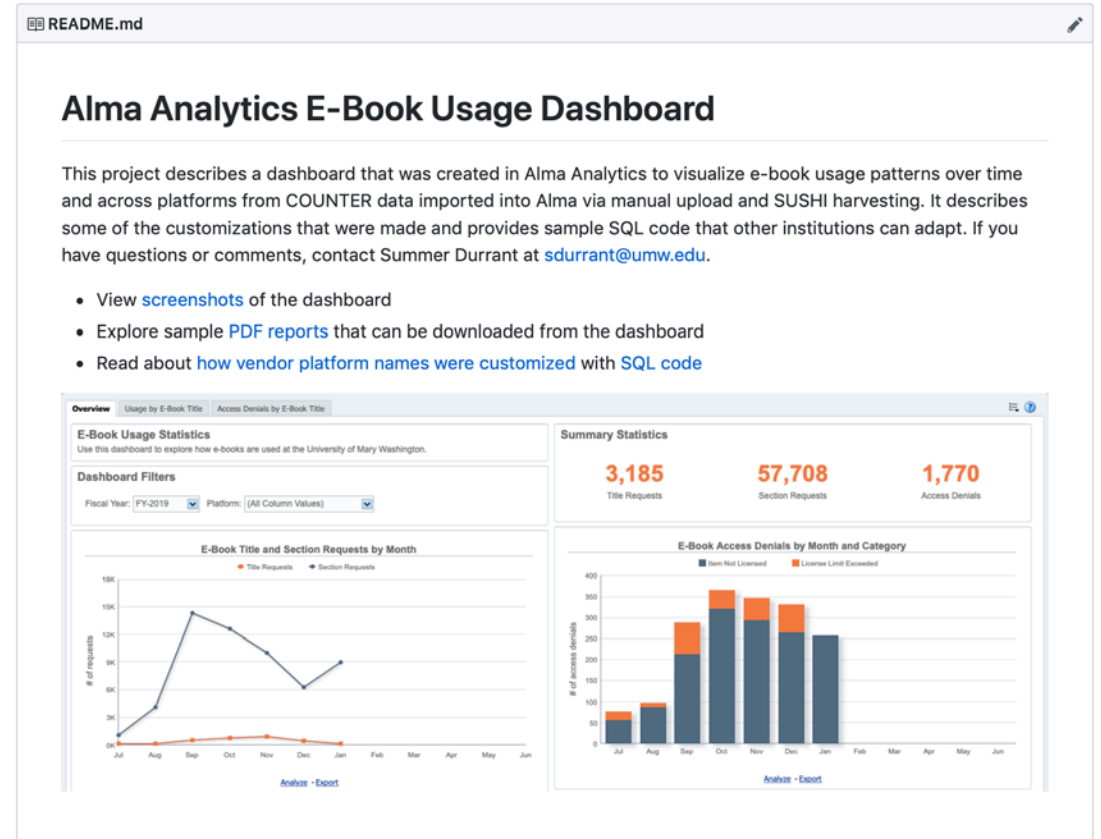Monitor transition to COUNTER Release 5

More Information

More information about the dashboard is available on GitHub, including:

- screenshots
- sample PDF reports
- SQL code

https://github.com/summerdurrant/ebook-dashboard

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