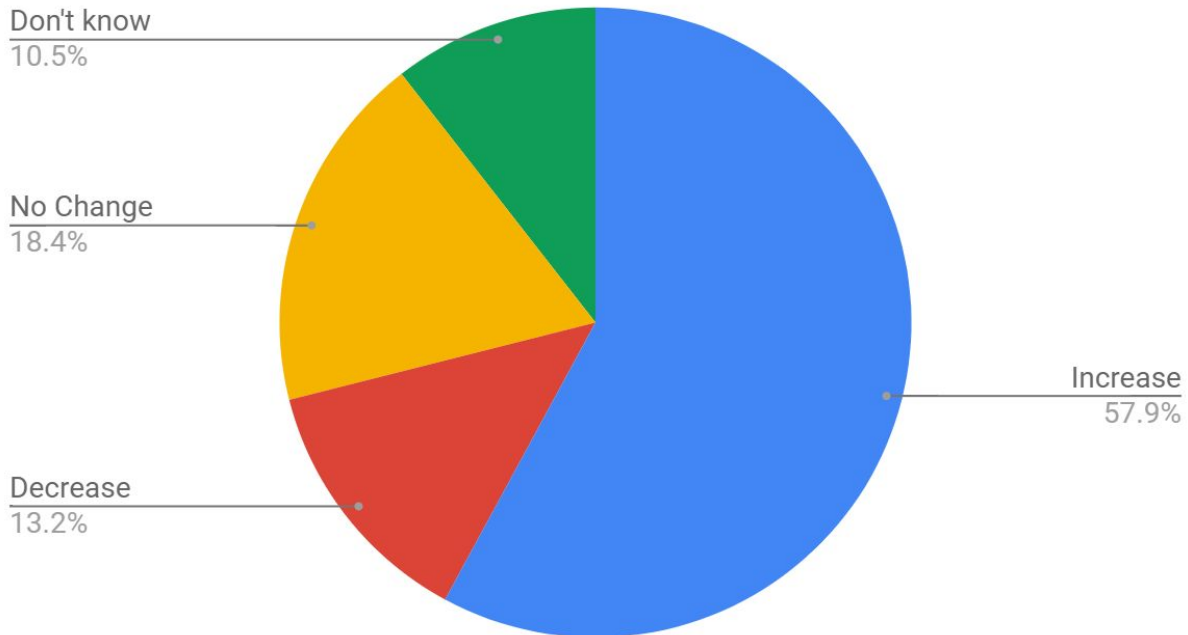


Have you seen any change in circulation totals after going fine free?



- Those that reported a decrease attribute the change to other factors such as recent renovations, changes in collection size, or the general nationwide downward trend in circulation.

2. To generate revenue for the library.

Practical argument. Fines provide a source of revenue for the library.

Library fines are also a very common source of funding for libraries across the country. Three questions we can ask about using late fines in this manner are:

1. How much of our revenue comes from late fees?
2. Is it appropriate to raise money for the library in this manner?
3. Do library fees have their own costs?

LPL does plan for a certain amount of fine revenue in its yearly budget.

- The “Overdues” line in the 2018 Budget was \$148,400. This accounted for about 3.2% of expected total revenues.

- The “Overdues” line actually includes *all* fees taken from patrons, including late fees, lost and damage fees, associated processing fees, and collection fees.
- Revenue from actual late fines ends up being around \$120,000, or **2.6%** of total revenues. That’s approximately 0.8% for fines from the youth collection, and about 1.7% for the adult collection.

Overdue vs. All other fees 2017-Sept 2019				
Bill Payment Year	2017	2018	2019	Total
Bill Reason	Payment Amount	Payment Amount	Payment Amount	Payment Amount
OVERDUE	\$129,879.82	\$119,746.71	\$78,698.15	\$328,324.68
NON-OVERDUES	\$35,990.74	\$34,718.48	\$24,506.25	\$95,215.47
Total	\$165,870.56	\$154,465.19	\$103,204.40	\$423,540.15

Overdue, Lost, Damage, Processing, Collection, Misc 2017-Sept 2019				
Bill Payment Year	2017	2018	2019	Total
Bill Reason	Payment Amount	Payment Amount	Payment Amount	Payment Amount
OVERDUE	\$129,879.82	\$119,746.71	\$78,698.15	\$328,324.68
LOST	\$18,809.15	\$17,367.62	\$12,224.45	\$48,401.22
DAMAGE	\$5,217.28	\$5,799.74	\$4,583.35	\$15,600.37
PROCESSING	\$6,414.86	\$6,948.26	\$4,785.04	\$18,148.16
COLLECTION	\$5,538.45	\$4,552.55	\$2,905.41	\$12,996.41
MISC (RETURNED CHECK, LIBRARY CARD REPLACEMENT, ETC)	\$11.00	\$50.31	\$8.00	\$69.31
Total	\$165,870.56	\$154,465.19	\$103,204.40	\$423,540.15

- Current unpaid late fees in the system total \$297,876.59 (mid September 2019). Ideally these will be waived with the elimination of late fees.

Total Unpaid Fees in the System	Total
Total unpaid fees	\$1,103,166.68
	40,087 Patrons
Non-overdue fees	\$805,290.09
	12,127 Patrons
Overdues	\$297,876.59
	35,472 Patrons

Should we generate revenue with late fines?

- The **American Library Association** has recently come out against charging late fees whenever possible.¹⁶
 - From the “Resolution on Monetary Library Fines as a Form of Social Inequity (2019)”
 - “The American Library Association asserts that imposition of monetary **library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services.**”
 - “urges libraries to scrutinize their practices of imposing fines on library patrons and ***actively move towards eliminating them***; and”
 - “***urges governing bodies of libraries to strengthen funding support for libraries so they are not dependent on monetary fines as a necessary source of revenue.***”
- LPL’s **Mission Statement** has something to say about fees.¹⁷
 - Core services without charge. We provide basic library services free of charge.
 - Although late fees are certainly voluntary, \$120,000 a year is a lot of money for services provided “free of charge.”