

# The Effect of Required iPads on Library Use



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## OBJECTIVES

Measure the impact on library use of a new requirement by an accelerated, one-year nursing program that all students have iPads loaded with the required texts and determine whether the library should continue offering these books in print.

## METHODS

Identify textbooks assigned to students in the program in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and generate usage reports from the Sirsi integrated library system.

## RESULTS

From 2009-2011, the program required five textbooks (Fig. 1) that were available in print editions at the library and iPad editions beginning in 2011. Two titles showed significant circulation (Fig. 2), *Physical Examination & Health Assessment* by Jarvis (29 in 2009, 16 in 2010, 115 in 2011) and *Medical-Surgical Nursing* by Lewis (98, 135, 127).

## CONCLUSIONS

Neither of the books showed a large decrease, and one showed a marked increase in usage in 2011 when the students all got access to the iPad versions. We recommend that these titles continue to be offered in print editions and their use monitored. Anecdotal evidence from students, faculty, and circulation desk staff suggest differences in the formatting accounted for some of the continued print use (Figs. 3 & 4). Further research could survey students about their preferences.

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Fig. 1  
Required iPad Textbooks



Fig. 3  
Lewis in print

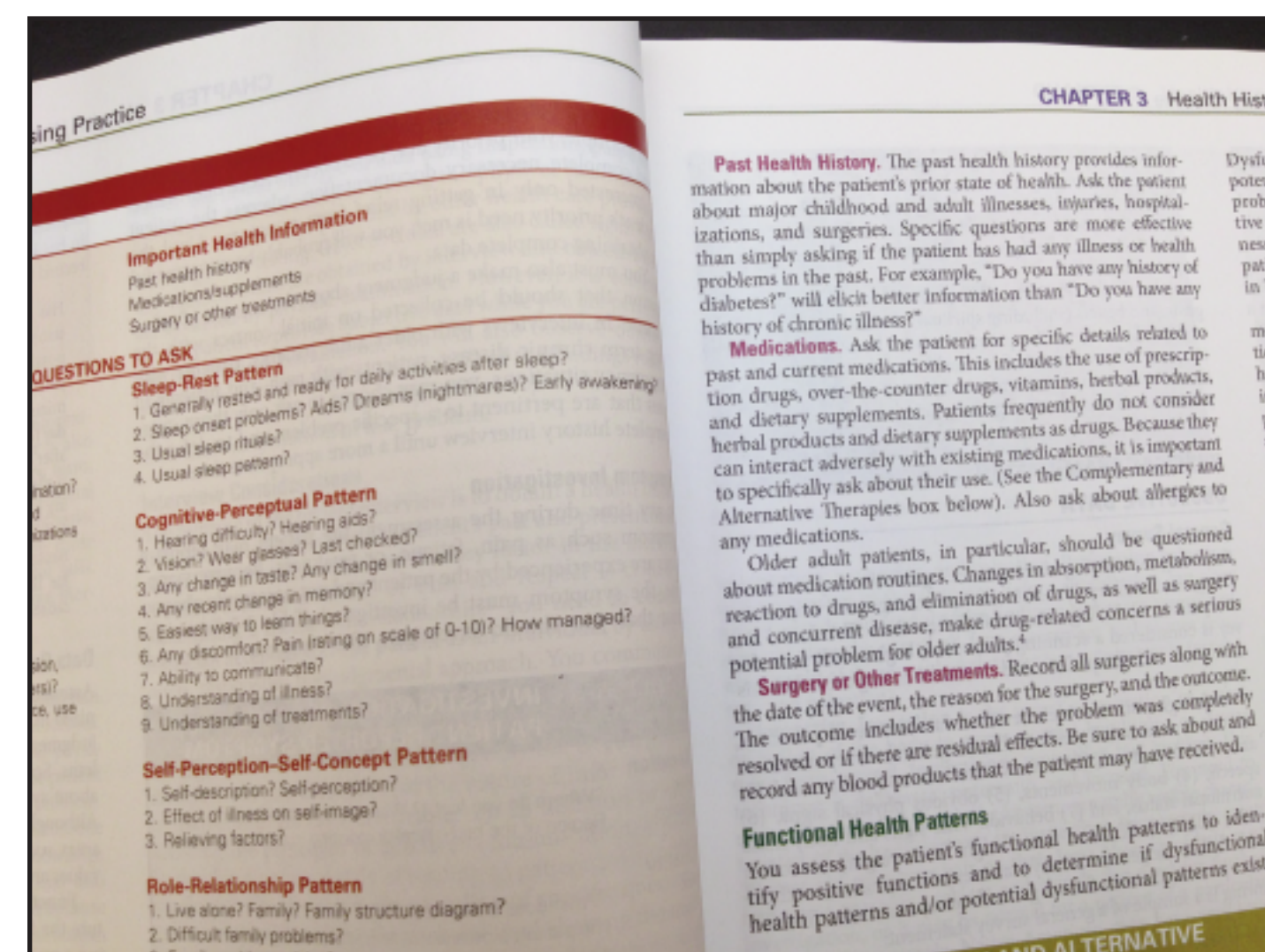
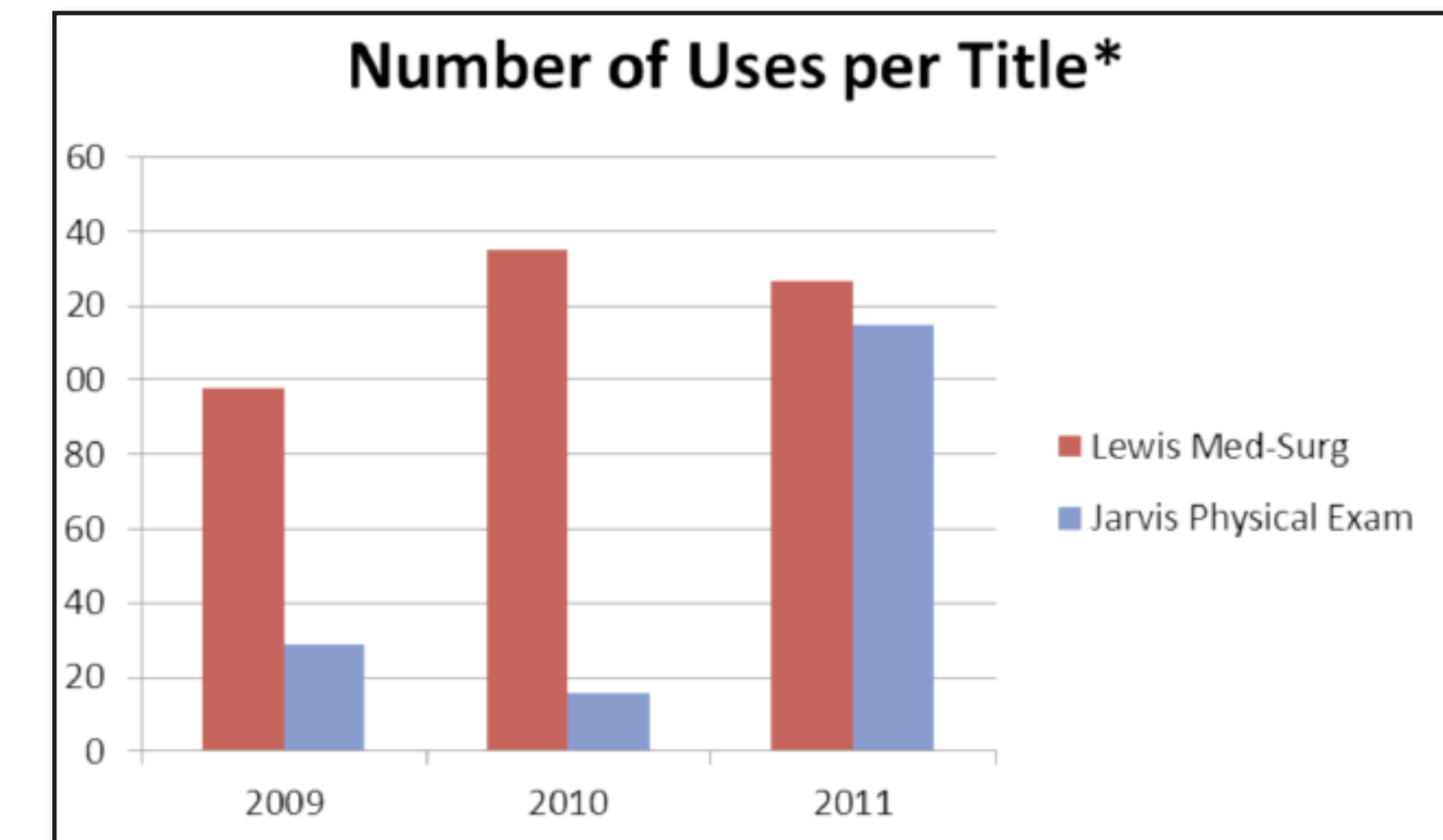
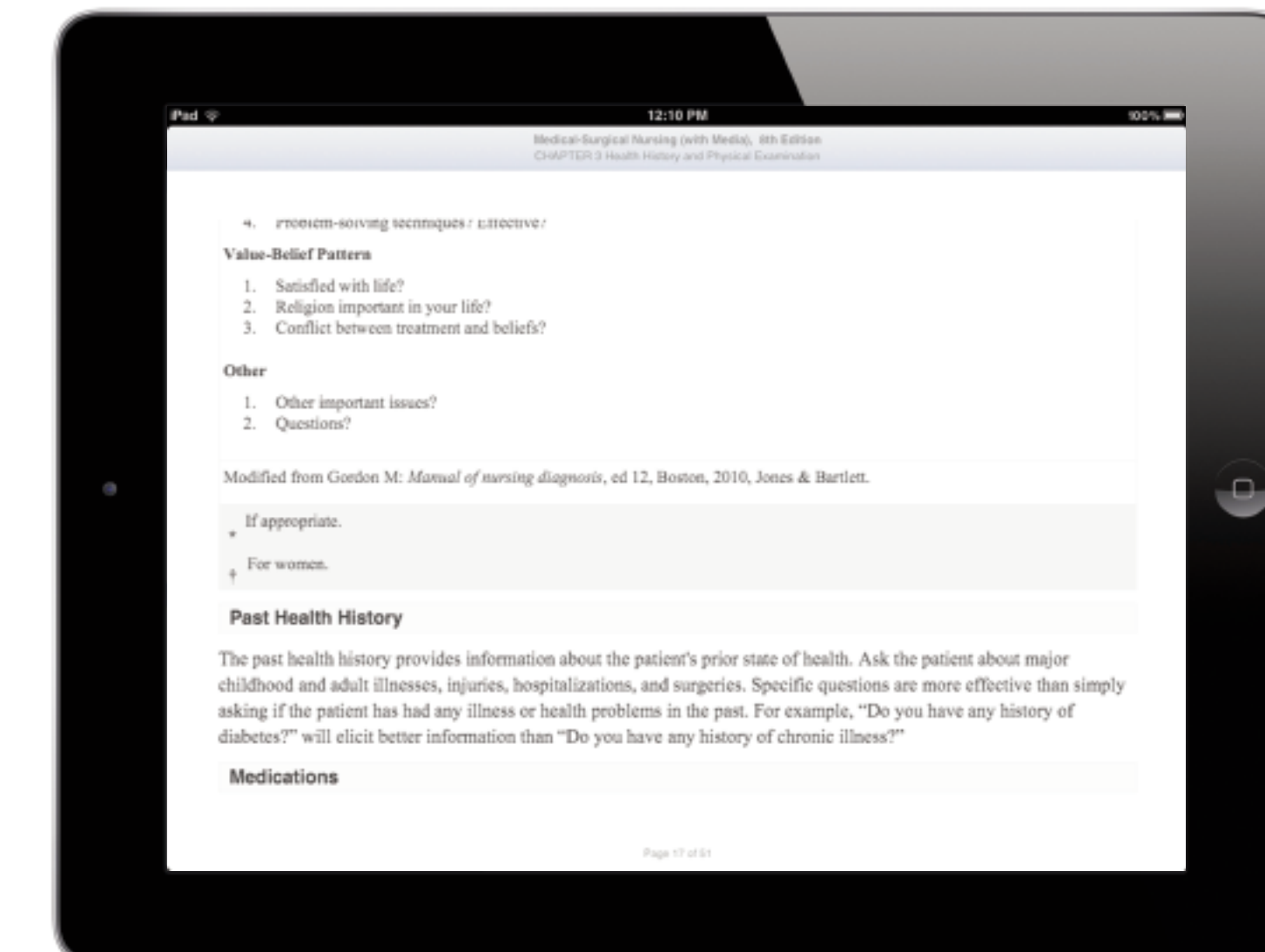


Fig. 2  
Number of Uses per Title of Library's Print Copies



\* For the 2 out of 5 titles that received any significant usage. Includes both charges and in-house uses.

Fig. 4  
Lewis on iPad2



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