

# A Million Words (and counting)

AKA:

How I Managed To Underuse *Xreading*

Yet Direct a Million Word Reader

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# A history of *underuse!*

I Uni 1: R ss Graded (2015-17) ER = *standardized &*

II Uni 2: C/W ss Graded/self-study (2016-19) ER = *unstandardized*

**Enforced & compulsory** (Uni 1) – part of Faculty Curriculum

**Encouraged & graded** (Uni 2) – used in class in week 1 only

**Result? Majority read a little above min; Self-Motivated excelled...**

however...

(1) XR preferred to paper ER  
(2 studies of 74 & 80 ss)

1. Twice as many ss prefer Screen ER to Paper ER
2. Majority prefer screen; Paper preferred by higher level ss
3. Majority *concentrate* better when reading on screen
4. Preference of online to offline ER libraries

**(Walker 2017;2018)**

## (2) XR preferred to Mreader (20 low-level 2<sup>nd</sup> years)

MR (Year 1 Sem 2 2017); XR (*Year 2 Sem 1 2018*).

### Five points

1. Concentrate better doing ER on screen
2. More interesting books on XR than in university library
3. Prefer taking books out of an online library
4. 70% preferred Xreading; 75% read more on XReading
5. Ss liked quizzes on MR & XR equally **(Walker, 10/2018)**

**SIMILAR RESULTS OCURRED WITH THE SAME LEVEL GROUP IN JULY 2019**

# **(3) Successful Users (2020)**

(\*Triangulated case study of 10 users)

## **THE SUCCESSFUL:**

- 1. Commuters. Like 'one-off reading'**
- 2. Intrinsic need for success**
- 3. Introverted. Not members of club/circle**
- 4. Low level & willing to use Smartphone for study**
- 5. More aspirational than av. (at their age/level)**
- 6. Set routines and keep to schedule**

**\*Triangulation (performance / interview / questionnaire.)**

“★” the  
Million-Word  
Reader

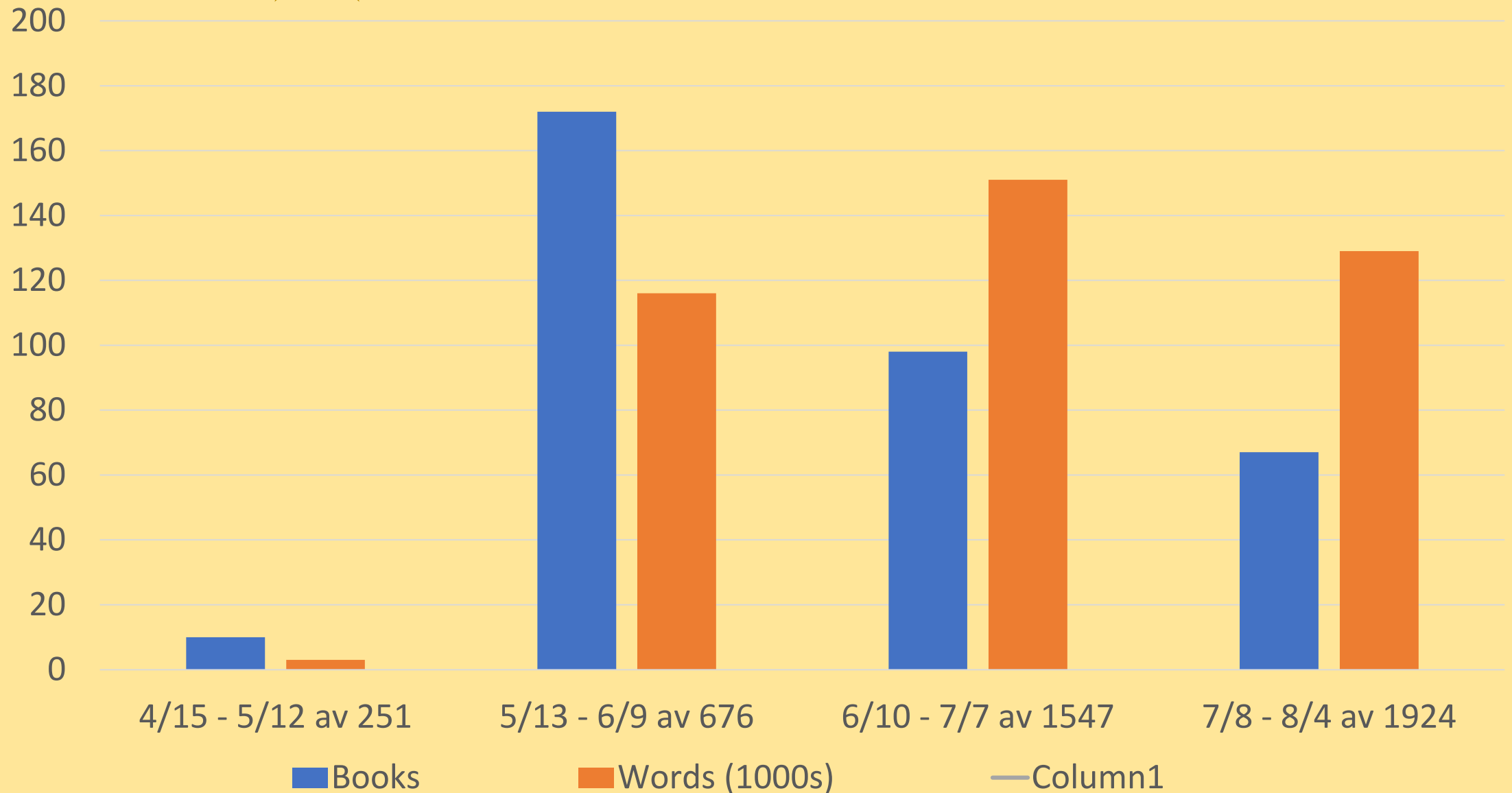
*(1,000,000 words between  
April 15 to December 15 2019)*

# ★ Raw data (18/01/20)

- **Course** \*\*\*/\*\* (\*\*\*\*\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Class)
- **Books added** 701 (691 passed)
- **Av. Xreading level** 4.9
- **Words read** 1,220,996 (av 1760 per book)
- **Reading time** 143 hours, 17 min (av 12m 30s per book)
- **Reading speed** 136.7 wpm
- **Listening time** 12 hr 10 min (av 29m 10s per book)
- **Quiz grade** 82.2%
- **TOEIC score** Year 1 280; latest: 530



★: 04/15/19 – 08/04/19





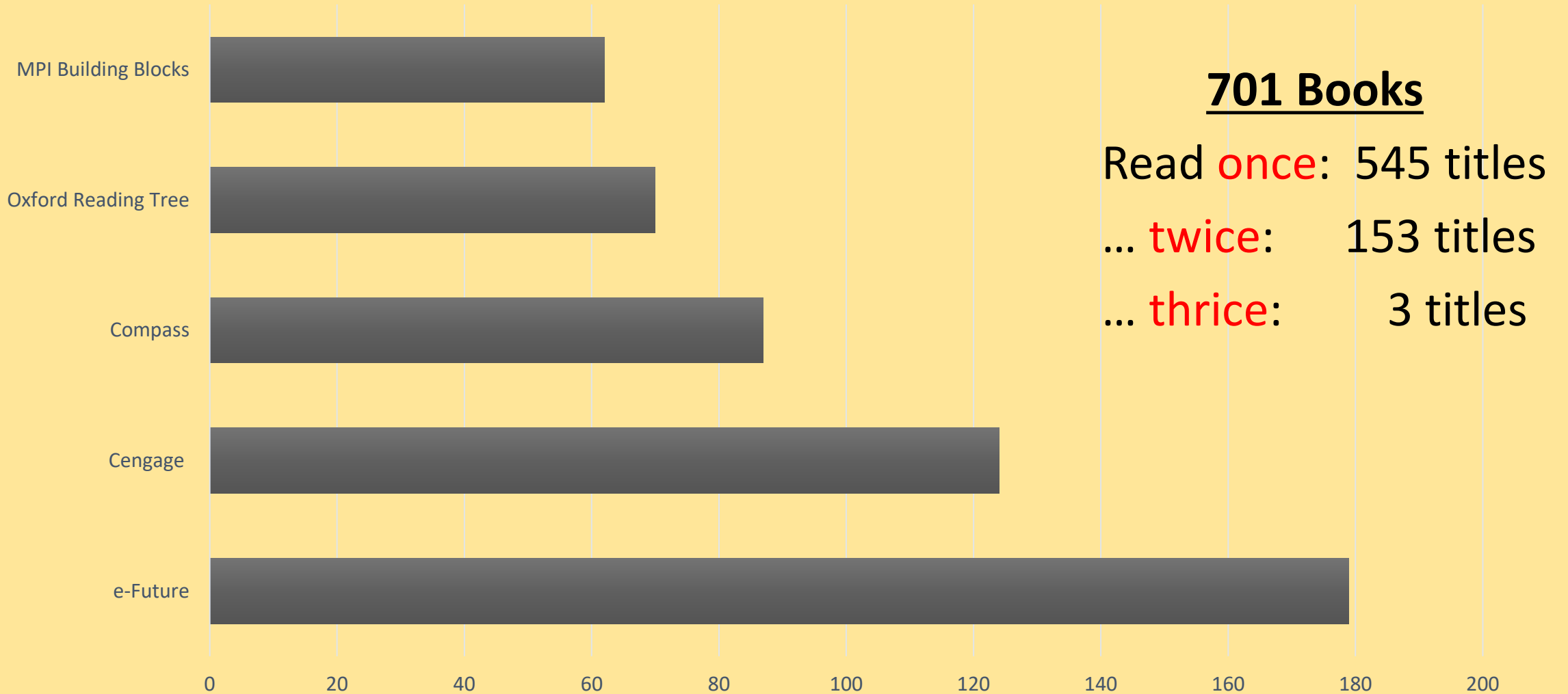
# Average scores in almost 9 months

	Av Books	Av XR level	Av wpm	Av comp score
May	144	2.4	110.5	84.3%
June	117	4.5	127.8	81.5%
July	60	5.4	137.8	75.7%
August	115	5.4	146.6	80.2%
September	67	5.8	152.4	85.1%
October	66	5.2	156.4	84.8%
November	57	6.3	144.3	81.4%
December	47	6.9	148.1	81.3%
January (*11 days remain)	27*	7.2	154.9	85.8%

# : Average words per book

	Words read	Per book	wpm	Av. Lvl
May	78 250	543.6	110.5	2.4
June	154 042	1316.0	127.8	4.5
July	138 125	2302.0	137.8	5.4
August	<b>199 535</b>	1745.5	146.6	5.4
September	147 912	2356.0	152.4	5.8
October	100 763	1526.0	156.4	5.2
November	118 847	2085.0	144.3	6.3
December	<b>168 183</b>	<b>3578.4</b>	148.1	6.9
January* (*11 days remain)	124 905	<b>4626.0</b>	154.9	7.2

# ★'s choice: Publishers



# : Summary

- 1 Started slowly
- 2 Inspired by reading '*Tadoku*' *extensive reading: Aim for a million words* (Mainichi Weekly: 04/02/16)
- 3 Read every day in the summer vacation
- 4 Routinely read in evening
- 5 All skills improved, incl. Toeic.
- 6 May 2019 – XR Level 1; Jan 2020 – XR Level 11

Xreading suits  in my working context:

# References

- Mainichi Weekly (4/2016). 'Tadoku' extensive reading: Aim for a million words! *Mainichi Weekly*. Accessed from <https://www.seg.co.jp/tadoku/images/20160402-mainichi.PDF>
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