The Leaning Tower of Library Books

I don’t know how this happened, but somehow I managed to take out twelve different library books at once. Maybe it’s just me, but twelve different library books seems kind of excessive. When did I think I was going to read all these books? Why couldn’t I have taken them out one at a time?
I really don’t know. Maybe it was a sense of rising panic that if I waited, someone would take out the books I needed and never bring them back (you know, like I’m doing right now). Maybe it was a feeling that my tiny room needed more clutter (stacks of library books as decoration, discuss). Maybe it’s just that I’m really proud of myself for being able to successfully navigate the W.E.B. DuBois stacks and the interlibrary loan network. I heard myself saying to someone yesterday, when they suggested that I book I was interested in might be out of print and therefore hard to find, “oh no, the library can get it. They can get ANYTHING. They got me a book from GERMANY once” (they did, that really did happen). Maybe I’m trying to see how many books they let me take out before they say no, Michelle, you really need to bring some of those back first.

Maybe it’s just that finals are looming, and that’s just what I do during finals. I wonder if anyone has ever done any research about the average number of books missing from the library during the last two weeks of the semester. I bet it’s pretty high compared to normal. How many books would each UMass student have to take out of the library to completely empty it? Wikipedia informs me that there are over 3.6 million books in the W.E.B. DuBois, and if we estimate 27,000 students, each person would only have to take out around 133 books. That’s a lot of books, but I think we could do it. I wonder how many people would have to take out 133 books each before the library realized something was going on. Can you just imagine going into the library and it being completely empty? How creepy would that be?
Anyway, I’m going to go cuddle up with my twelve books and start getting ready for finals. Don’t actually take all the books out of the Dubois – I might need a few more. Thanks!

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