Book Flix on Mel.org might be kind of similar, and it's free-
<http://bkflix.grolier.com/>
It's under the Kids page on mel.org, under story time.

~Laura
Front Desk Staff
Buchanan District Library

I have noticed our Tumblebooks usage has declined in the last year and am not sure why this is the case.

Crystal Jolly
Children's Librarian
Lincoln Township Public Library

not that they are identical products, but BookFlix as well as Early World of Learning in MeL, may fill your needs should you decide not to renew Tumblebooks.  Please let me know if you need any additional information on either.  Both can be easily found and accessed in the MeL Kids gateway: <http://kids.mel.org/Storytime>

D. B. Thomas, MA AMLS
MeL & Library Outreach Coordinator
Library of Michigan

I think Tumblebooks is about our cheapest product we subscribe to that gets the most usage.  I am not sure why - maybe the schools have driven up our usage- but it gets heavy usage here.  We have actually opted for the full
suite they offer of products, math included. But your question about anything else being similar or a cheaper alternative to that product - I really do think it is the least expensive of its kind.

Julie Schaefer
Deputy Library Director
Dearborn Public Library

We have not had a recent decline in Tumblebooks, but we did a couple of years ago.  We got a new website address and our usage plummeted.  I think people must have had it bookmarked and then for some reason, they didn't know how to find it anymore or something.  Since then, we have been trying to get the numbers back up.  We have had success promoting Tumblebooks to the local elementary schools and preschools and talking it up to patrons.  We are currently doing a winter reading program and have a Bingo sheet type log and we put Tumblebooks as one of the squares.  If people don't know what it is, we can show them on the website and get them going on it.

The only other similar product I know about it Bookflix which we get free as part of the Mel Databases.  That doesn't have nearly the amount of content that Tumblebooks does, though.

I wonder if some of your schools were using it and then maybe got their administration to buy it themselves, therefore not needing yours anymore.  That is the only other thing I can think that might account for your numbers drop.  I know a large portion of our numbers come from the schools using the product (which we are fine with and encourage).

Kim Burean
Head of Youth Services
Oxford Public Library

 I have not had one cancelation of this product-only one downgrade from the teen product and many are upgrading this year

Dana Vargo Szanti

Financial and Subscription Specialist
The Library Network

Our stats seem to fluctuate.  One thing we know helps is that we always show a Tumble when we have any group visit the library.  The teachers in our service area use it a lot and I think that has always helped with our circ.

Liz Voorheis

Children's Services

Willard Library

I was looking at Capital Area District Library and under their Tumblebook description was a note that the majority of the books are not compatible with iPads (anything Apple). It's known that Apple products can't use Flash, and Flash is the platform that TB uses-at least originally.   So I Googled it and came across a couple of libraries that note TB is now offering a few books compatible with iPads.  But from everything I can see it's only about 40 of the 500+ books, but can't say for sure until ask the company. With the majority of the collection not being compatible with the iPad is a big issue.

Note from a library regarding this:

<http://kids.cmclibrary.org/fun-a-games/childrens-blog/303-tumblebooks-now-available-on-the-ipad-a-iphone4.html>

Also, TB has a page dedicated for iPad users with the books they can use, at least it seems different from their regular page but it's really not that clear.

<http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/ipad/home_tumblebooks.asp>

Jami

Our usage continues to climb. We promote Tumblebooks with a flyer. We send these flyers to ESL classes and I promote Tumblebooks to English Language Learners of all ages. I have heard a few parents mention they prefer downloadable picture books from Overdrive so that they do not have to have Wi-Fi/cell connectivity in order to read, and they can read in the car better.  That may have an impact on use.

Laurie - Laura E. Scott
Head of Children's Services, Main Library
Farmington Community Library

Our Tumblebook stats went up.
Barb
Barbara King
Reference Librarian
St. Clair County Library

We recently canceled our Tumblebooks subscription because of low use and high cost/benefit. We did contact ABCmouse and were able to get our library set up with a free subscription. I know it's not the exact same type of service, but it does cater to young ones and is educational.

Contact Glenn Swenson at glenn.swenson@aofl.com if you need any help getting started. He is extremely helpful and setup could not be any easier. Hope that helps a little.

Here at Houghton Lake Public our usage is down 56% through November.  Statistics are kept July - June same as our fiscal year.

Darcy