The Changing Roles of Repositories

Where We Are and Where We Are Headed

Or the Ghosts of Repositories Past, Present and Future

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Session Outline

1. Introduction
2. Ghosts of IRs past: Brief history of IRs
3. Ghosts of IRs present: 2013 survey findings
4. Ghosts of IRs future: Our predictions
5. Discussion: Regional communication
6. Questions & Answers

Part One: Introduction

Introduction

A few demographics

- Who we are
- The survey we conducted
- Repository managers/staff in the audience?
- Who you are (or at least what kind of libraries you represent)

Poll time!

Part 2: Ghosts of IRs Past

A Brief History of IRs

Timeline

- 1998 - SPARC - Scholarly Publications and Academic Resources Coalition
- 2000 - Repositories established based on open source software
- 2002 - DSpace and Digital Commons
- 2005 - About 500 repositories available
- 2013 - Repository66.org lists 2840 repositories registered between January 1990 and April 2013; Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) lists a total of 3389 repositories at this time

IR surveys in 2006 & 2013

2006:

- Survey of ARL (Association of Research Libraries) members.
- Results available as SPEC Kit 292[1]

2013:

- Shorter survey with similar questions.
- Survey was advertised on mailing lists.
- Full survey results will be available online.

Aims of the 2013 Survey

- Understand how institutions, especially in Oregon and Washington, are responding to the changing roles of IRs
- Compare how repositories have changed in the last six years.
- Determine if trends are emerging in terms of IR roles.

Our survey IR definition

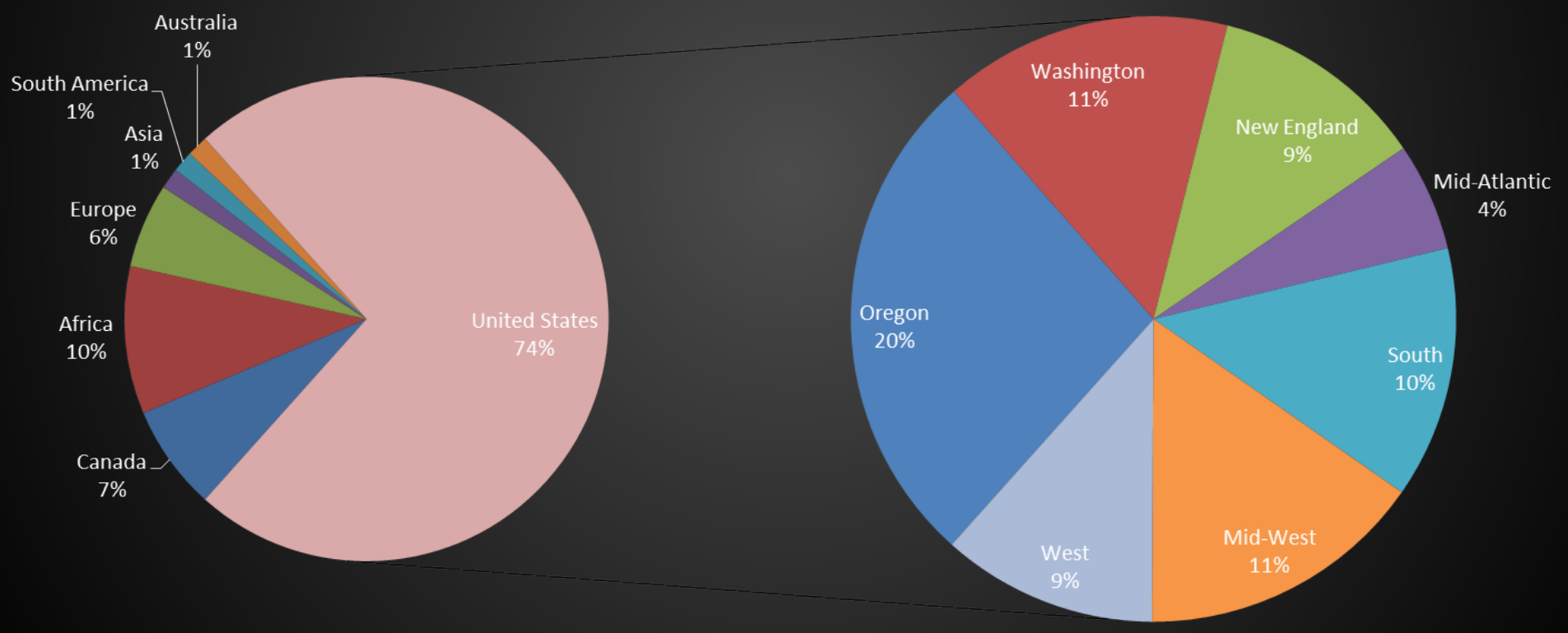
"permanent, institution-wide database of diverse, locally produced digital works (e.g., article preprints and post-prints, data sets, electronic theses and dissertations, learning objects, and technical reports) that is available for public or institutional use."

(Slightly revised version of the definition used in the 2006 ARL survey.)

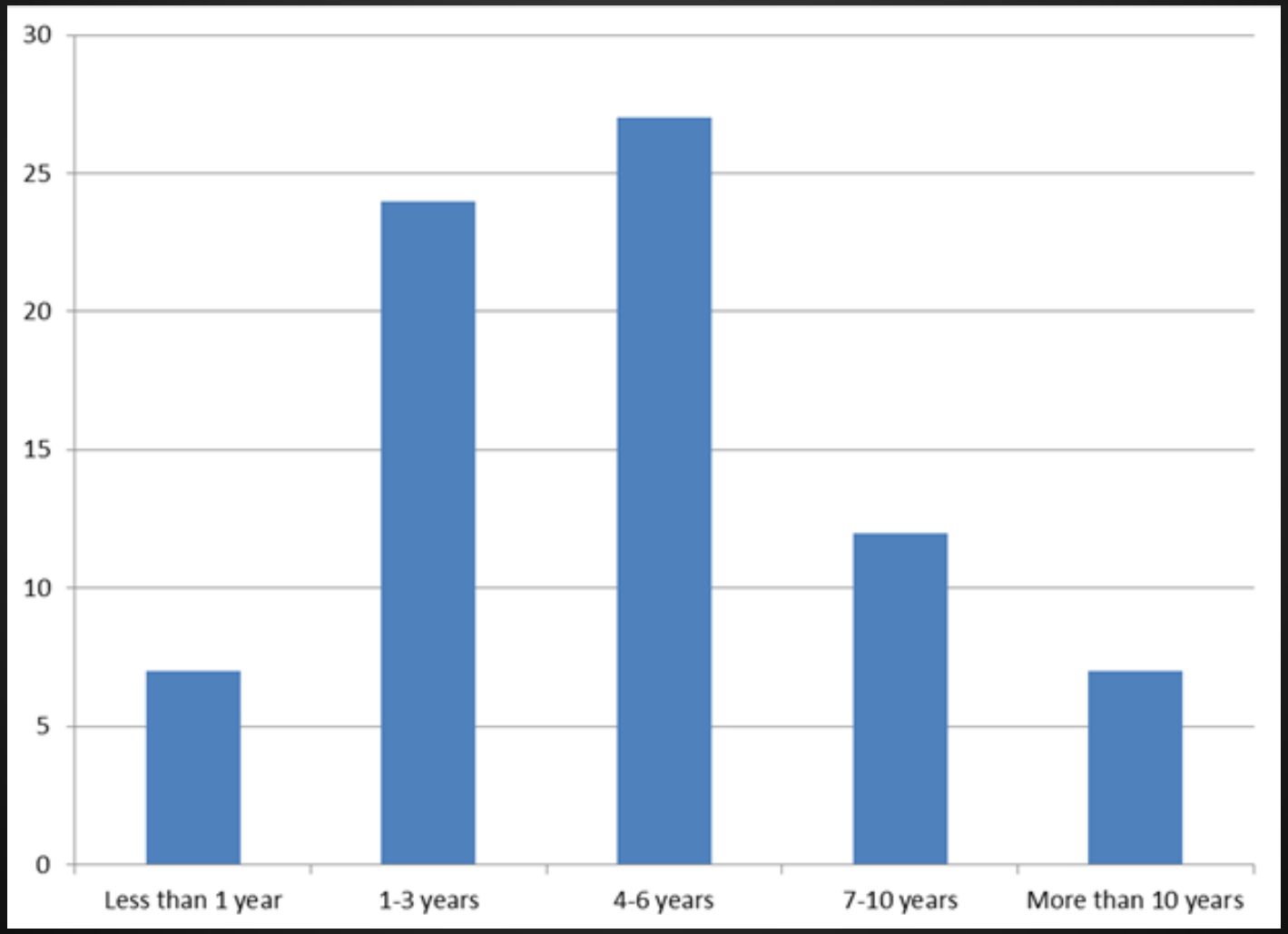
Part 3: Ghosts of IRs Present

2013 Survey Findings

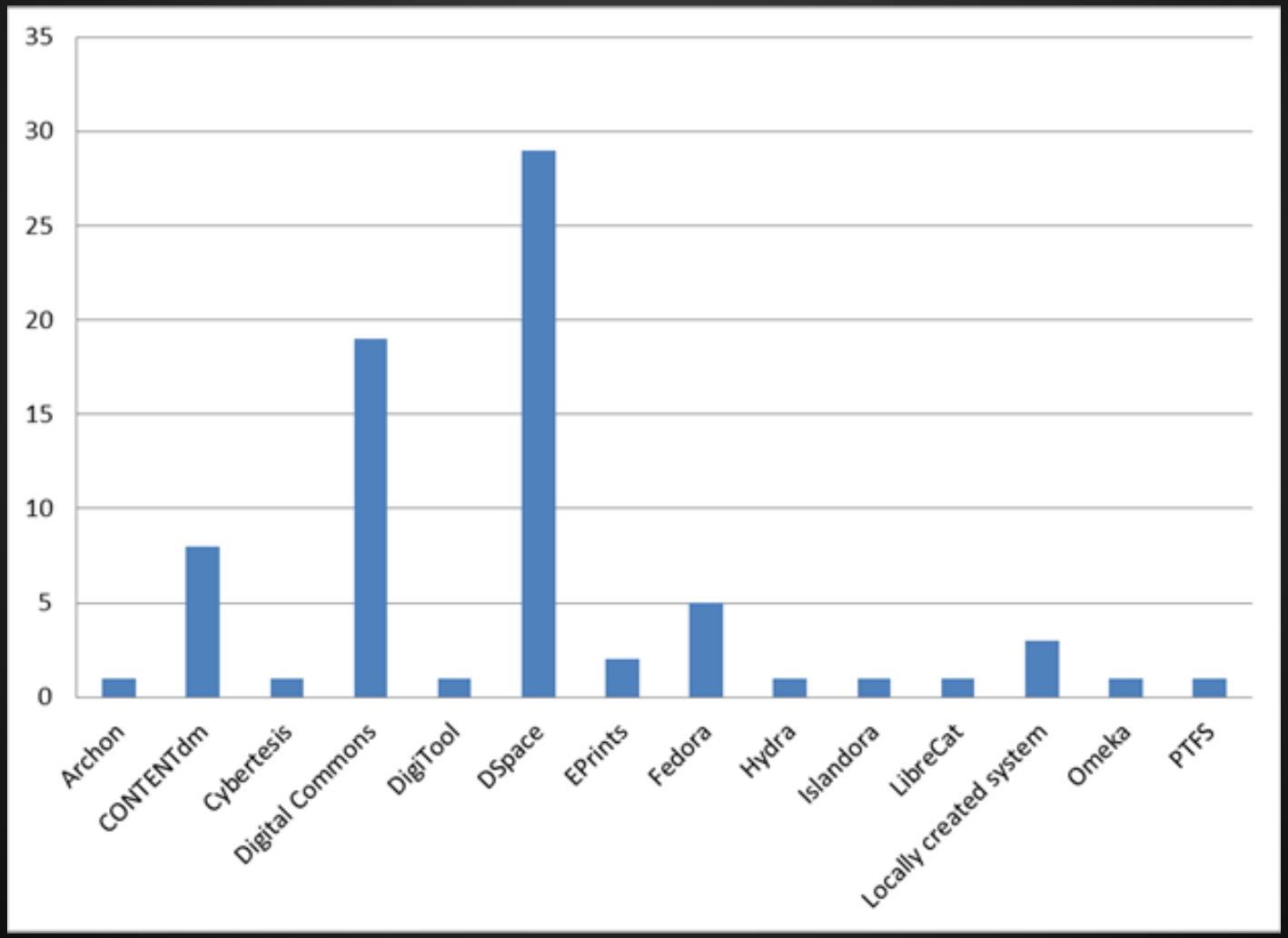
Survey Context: Location



Survey Context: Age

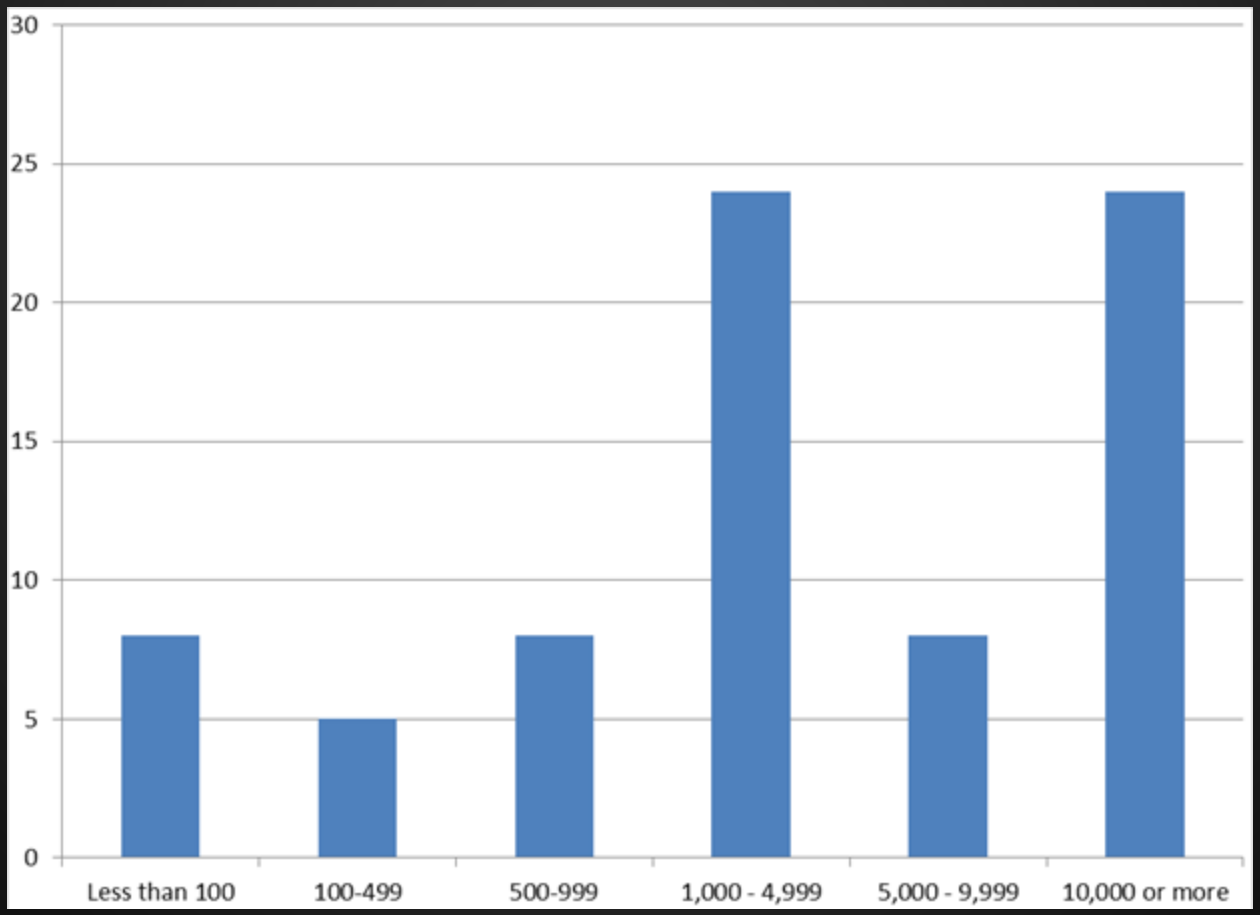


Survey Findings: Software



Survey Findings: Content

Number of records (including metadata-only)



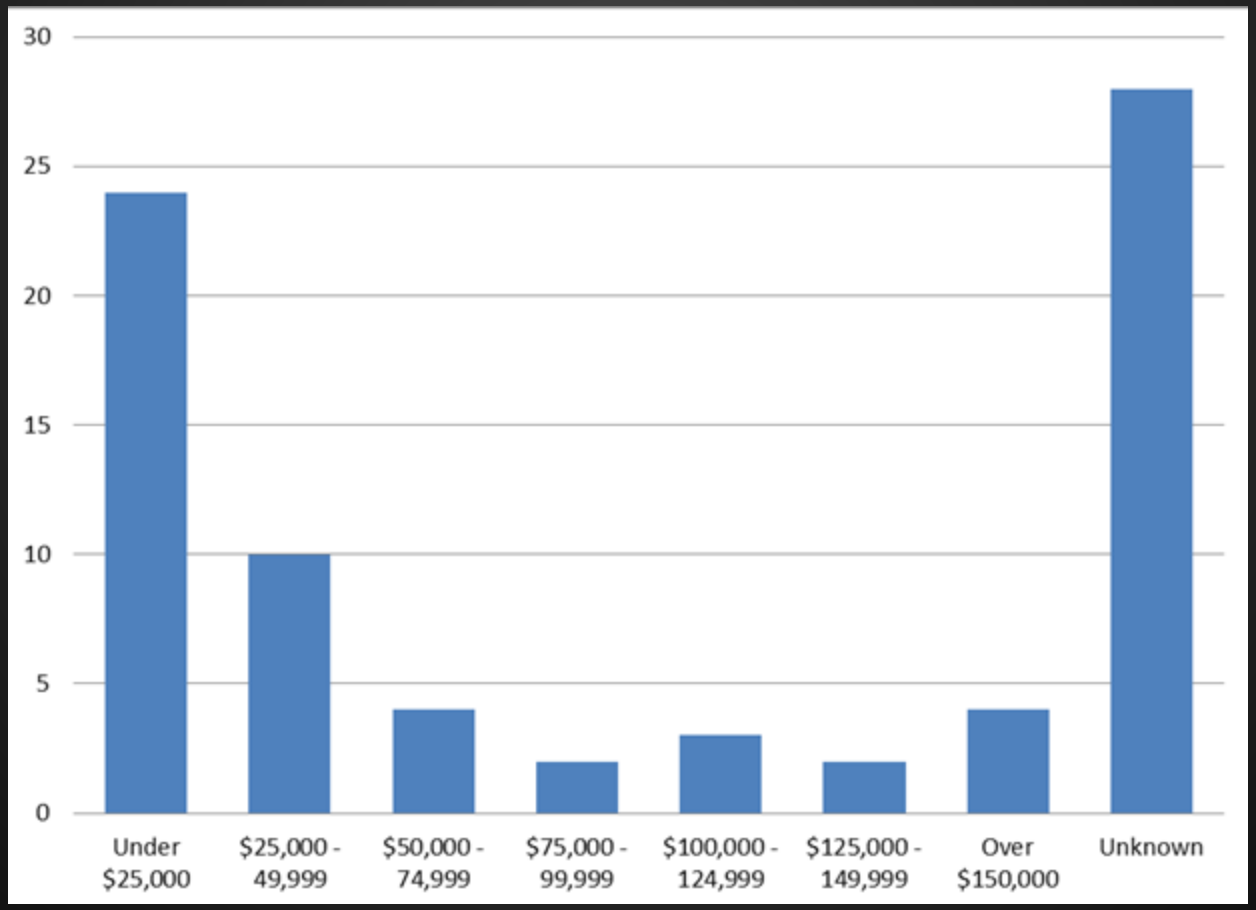
Survey Findings: Content

- ETDs are a significant component of IRs
- Post-Prints were ranked the most difficult type of content to acquire.

"Academics and researchers rather put their articles, and in many cases the full text of articles, on sites like: Academia.edu, Research Gate, ResearcherID, etc. They don't necessarily have copyright clearance from the publishers to do this. The biggest challenge is to get postprint copies of academic research for the IR."

Survey Findings: Funding

Annual cost for ongoing operations



Survey Findings: Funding

"Institutional repositories should be active, not passive, collectors of content. This is a bitter pill, raising serious questions about funding, staffing, and better workflow automation." -- Dorothea Salo *Innkeeper at the Roach Motel,* 2008

"Absorbed into normal staffing operations costs."

"Stable funding for the staff lines, but no line item in the budget."

"No funding - it's scraped out of general operating expenses."

Survey Findings: Staffing

- Position titles and work distribution were not standardized and often spread across multiple departments.

"One of the things that makes our IR work is the small efforts of many people."

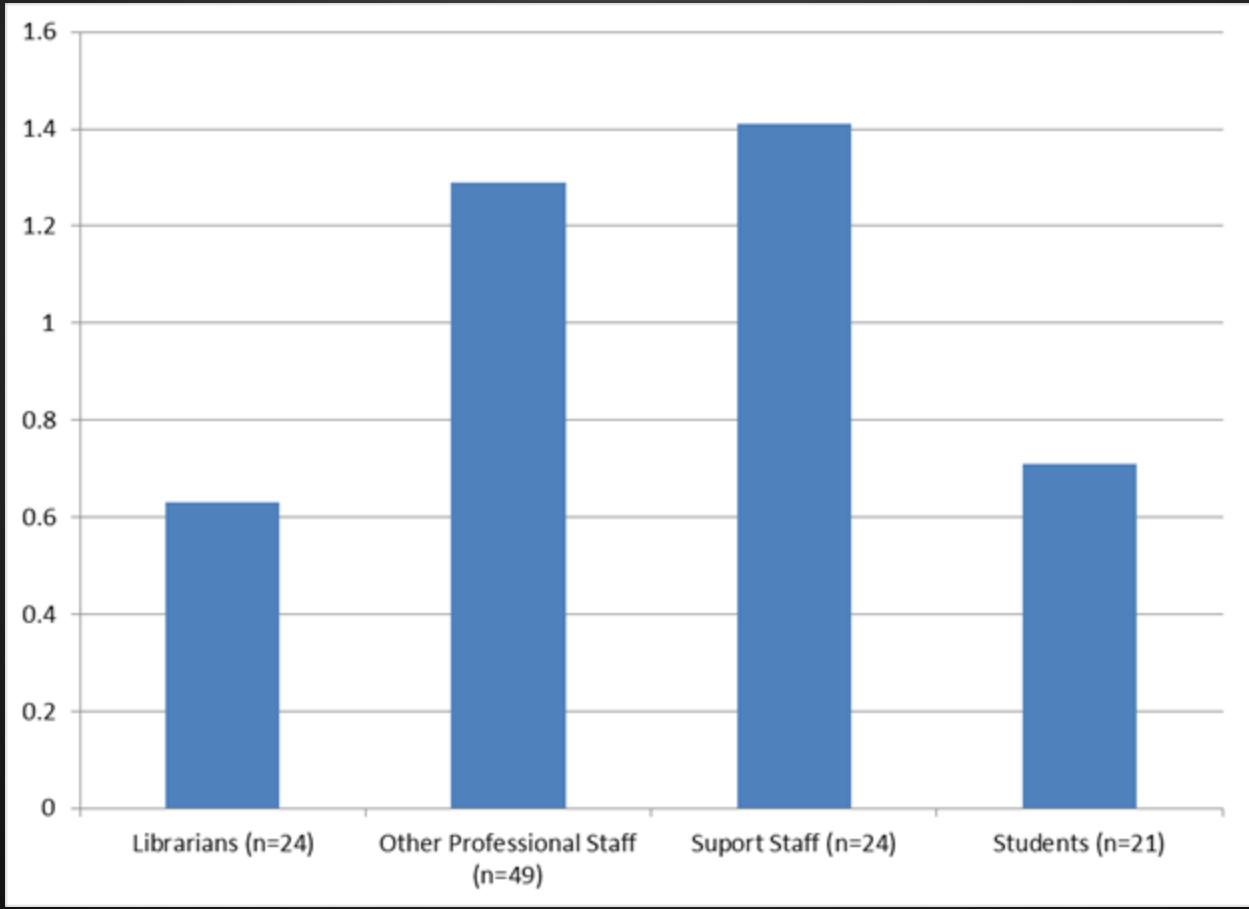
"System administrators, repository manager, reference librarians, support staff in different units"

"Collection development librarian, cataloging librarian and staff member, and systems admin"

"Digital Scholarship Services Librarian and Digital Repository Coordinator"

Survey Findings: Staffing

Average FTE



Survey Findings: Recruitment

Recruitment strategies used by IR staff

- Faculty/Student/Staff directly deposit:
  89% in 2006 → 48% in 2013

- IR staff make deposit:
  78% in 2006 → 88% in 2013

Survey Findings: Faculty Engagement

"Most of the time we can’t upload the final version of the article due to copyright and faculty do not want the preprints or postprints posted because they are not the final ‘word’ - a serious dilemma."

"Several have been outright dismissive of the IR, characterizing it as tangential to the Library's mission and siphoning valuable resources away from more important Library services."

Part 4: Ghosts of IRs Future

Our Predictions

Prediction: Increased use of Data Repositories

- Data collection often in IR literature
- But data was the least collected type of material in the 2013 survey
- Is data better handled at a macro level (i.e. Dryad[2], DataOne[3], Chronopolis[4], ICPSR[5], etc.) rather than at an institutional level?

Prediction: IR as Services Hub

- Assisting researchers throughout the research lifecycle: from data management plans (DMPTool[6]) to federally mandated deposit (PubMed Central[7]).

- Feeding information about publications, datasets, etc. to:
  - Scholarly profiles (VIVO[8])
  - Author disambiguation services (ORCID[9])
  - Scholarly social media networks (ResearchGate[10])

Prediction: IRs as publishers

- Not just for open access journals, but
- Ebooks
- Print-on-demand (e.g. eScholarship PLUS[11] from the California Digital Library)

Part 5: Discussion

Regional communication & collaboration

Group Discussion

Can we improve our methods of communication and collaboration to drive IR innovation?

Questions?

Thank you!

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