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Academic Librarians' Experiences with Research Data Management Programs

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This presentation is based on the following publication: Faniel, I.M., & Connaway, L.S. (forthcoming). Librarians' perspectives on the factors influencing research data management programs. *College & Research Libraries*. Advance online publication. <http://crl.acrl.org/content/early/2017/01/30/crl17-1029.full.pdf+html>

Research data management (RDM) programs

“activities and processes...involving the design and creation of data, storage, security, preservation, retrieval, sharing, and reuse, all taking into account technical capabilities, ethical considerations, legal issues and governance frameworks.”

(Cox and Pinfield, 2014, p. 300)

THE STUDY

Research methodology

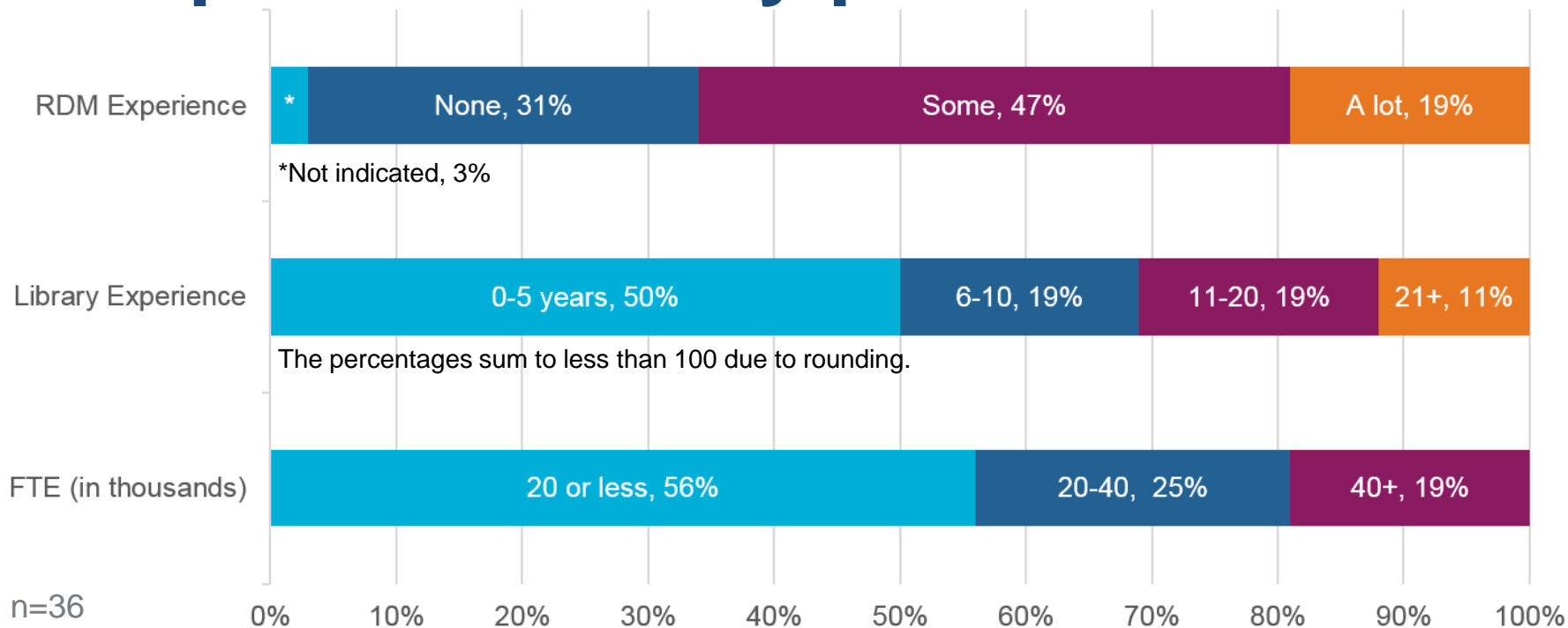
Data Collection

- Individual interviews (n=10)
- Focus group interviews (n=26)

Data Analysis

- 1st cycle coding
 - based on interview protocols
 - more codes added as necessary
- 2nd cycle of thematic and numerical analysis of influencing factors

Snapshot of library professionals



Top 3 RDM services

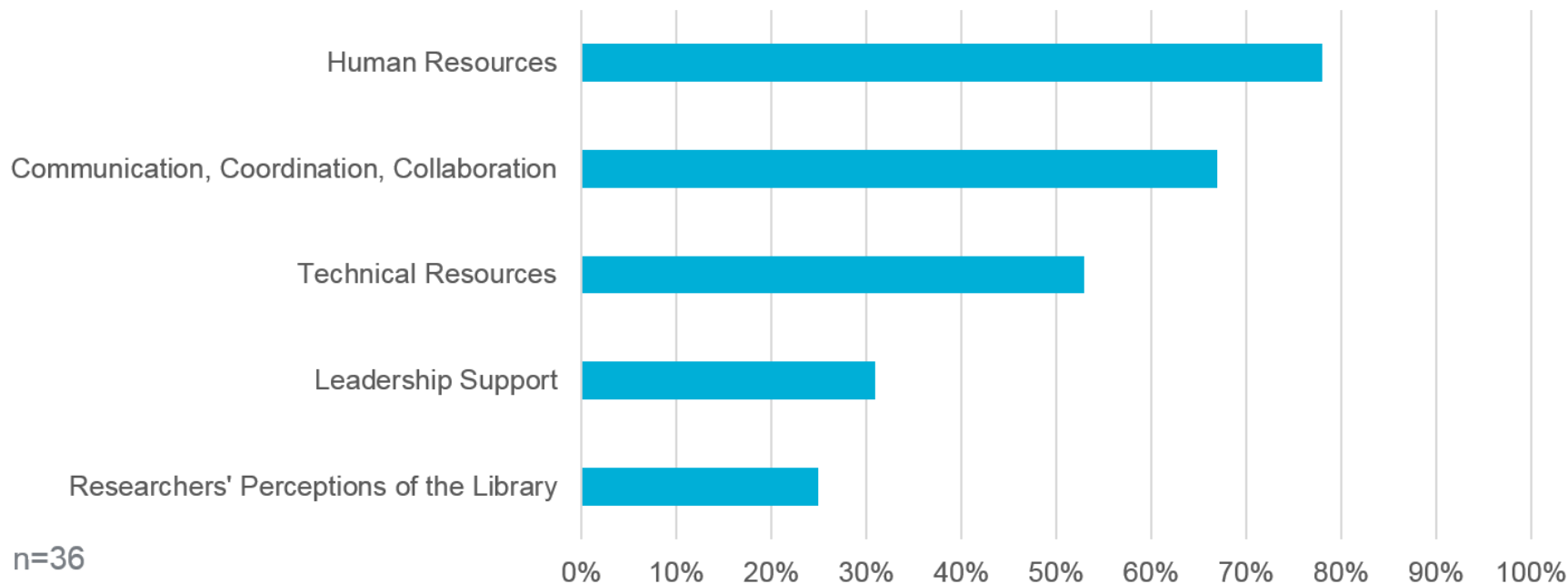
67% data deposit

61% data management planning

41% data management

FINDINGS

Factors that influence librarians' RDM support



CONSTRAINTS

Data storage and preservation

TECHNICAL RESOURCES

“Are we going to look for researchers to write to their grants, data storage costs now? Because as a library, we can't afford to take on these costs...our IT folks say, ‘We can't store that in perpetuity’....”

– Librarian 16

Photo credit: By User:RTC from U.S. Army Red River Arsenal [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Limited time, limited experts

HUMAN RESOURCES

“...it’s just not scalable. So if we’re successful, we’re in big trouble, because we just don’t have the time, it could be a real time sink. I think it would be really fun, but I wouldn’t be able to do anything else I’m supposed to do.”

Photo credit: CC0 Public Domain
(<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>),
via pixabay.com

– Librarian 01



RESEARCHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

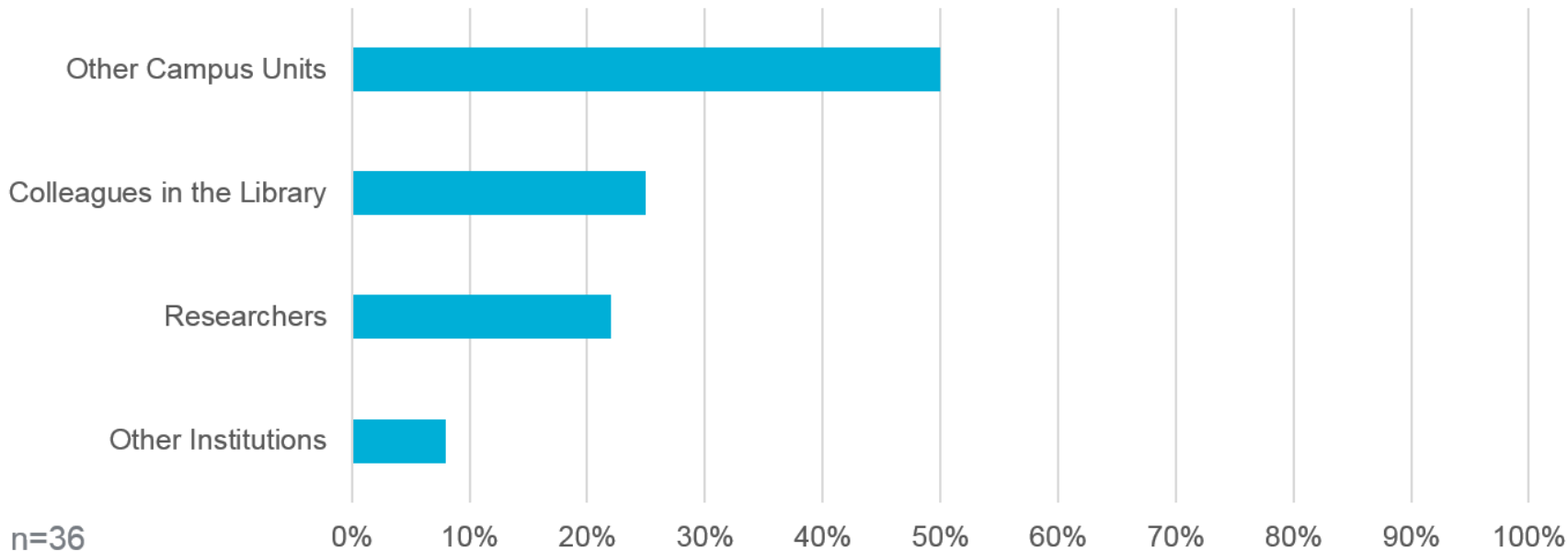
“But it is a challenge to get them to move from thinking of us as a big place with books. And going to this much more abstract concept of data management and preservation, and access to their materials.”

– Librarian 06

Photo credit: Dr. Marcus Gossler (Own work) [CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>], via Wikimedia Commons

FACILITATORS

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION



Librarians and researchers

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION

“I've been working in collaboration with our new STEM librarian to figure out what path the library can embark upon to assist faculty.”

- Librarian 18

Image: Volta Laboratory, 1884, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Other units, other institutions

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND COLLABORATION

“It’s not a one or the other. It’s gonna be a group effort, Research Office, IT, libraries...Who knows? Maybe, I’m missing somebody.”

- Librarian 08

Image: Cogs Illustration, Public domain, via publicdomainpictures.net

Experts and education HUMAN RESOURCES



“...the plan is that, our social sciences librarians will team up with the [research center]...to get experience, to be in the room, to see exactly what kind of questions you need to ask and what kind of information you need to gather...”

- Librarian 13

Photo credit:

<http://www.fivesgroup.com/FivesStein/EN/Profile/Pages/ResearchAndDevelopment.aspx>

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

“our Dean of Libraries has said, if I’m in my office, I’m not doing my job. So, she is helping to change that culture...I also meet with our Associate Dean...she is very aware of faculty on campus and those political partnerships. She is also there to help me navigate the waters.”

– Librarian 09

Digital repositories

TECHNICAL RESOURCES

“I think that the library with an institutional repository could really lower that threshold and make participation much simpler and hopefully, easier and more robust.”
- Librarian 17

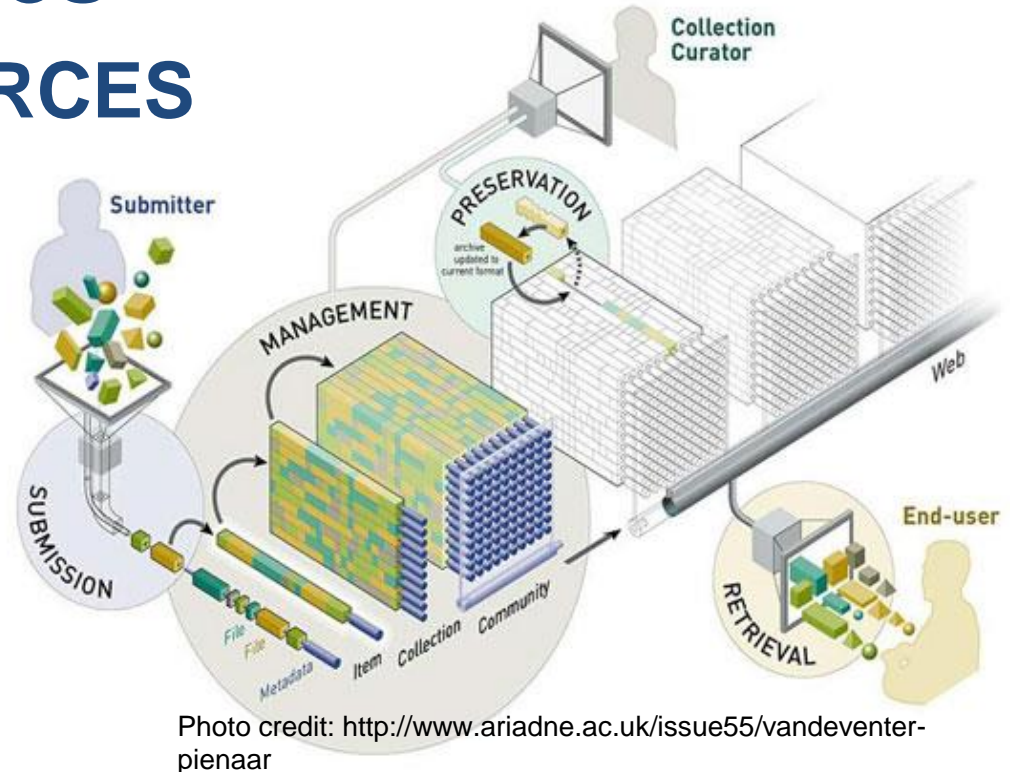


Photo credit: <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue55/vandeventer-pienaar>

TAKEAWAYS

Implications

- **Have institution-wide conversations about researchers' needs versus institutional resources**
- **Pool expertise more broadly to include stakeholders on and off campus**
- **Library administrator-led approach to outreach and education**



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Thank you!

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