

EMEARC18

OCLC EMEA
REGIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING

Hello.

I'm the **Smarter** Library.



Opportunities for Innovation: Findings of the EMEARC survey

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“Build a regional European focus to promote the research roles of OCLC”

What is the EMEARC survey?

- A survey of libraries at 238 research universities in the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, France, and Italy
- Spearheaded by EMEA Regional Council
- Gain intelligence regarding innovation trends, capacities and priorities within the European research library community.
- Scope the opportunity space for OCLC Research, and the OCLC Research Library Partnership.

OCLC Research

Scaling and accelerating library learning and innovation.



EMEARC18 #OCLCEMAR18



OCLC Research Library Partnership

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Research · Partnership



The OCLC Research Library Partnership

Connecting you to a shared future.

Cooperative innovation that makes your library more valuable, operating processes more efficient, and shapes new distinctive services.

[About](#)[Our work](#)[Partners](#)[Join us!](#)[Working groups](#)

A venue for the research library community

The OCLC Research Library Partnership is a venue for research libraries to undertake significant, innovative, collective action to benefit scholars and researchers everywhere. The Partnership magnifies the leadership and direction provided by innovative libraries. OCLC recognizes the valuable contribution that research libraries play in the cooperative and supports the Partnership with the full capacities of [OCLC Research](#). For institutions, the ORLP represents a significant extension of their own, internal R&D capacities.



Join the OCLC Research Library Partnership!

Through partnership, you can advance your institution's goals, tap into an international pool of experts and benefit from a range of collaborative efforts focused on maximizing the impact cultural institutions have on the communities they serve.

- [Becoming an OCLC Research](#)

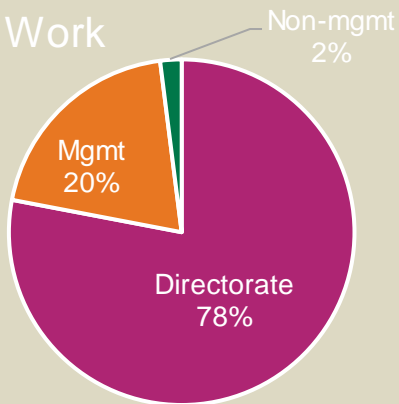
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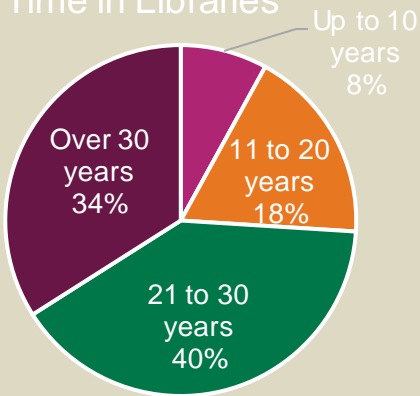
EMEARC survey results

50 survey respondents from 10 countries

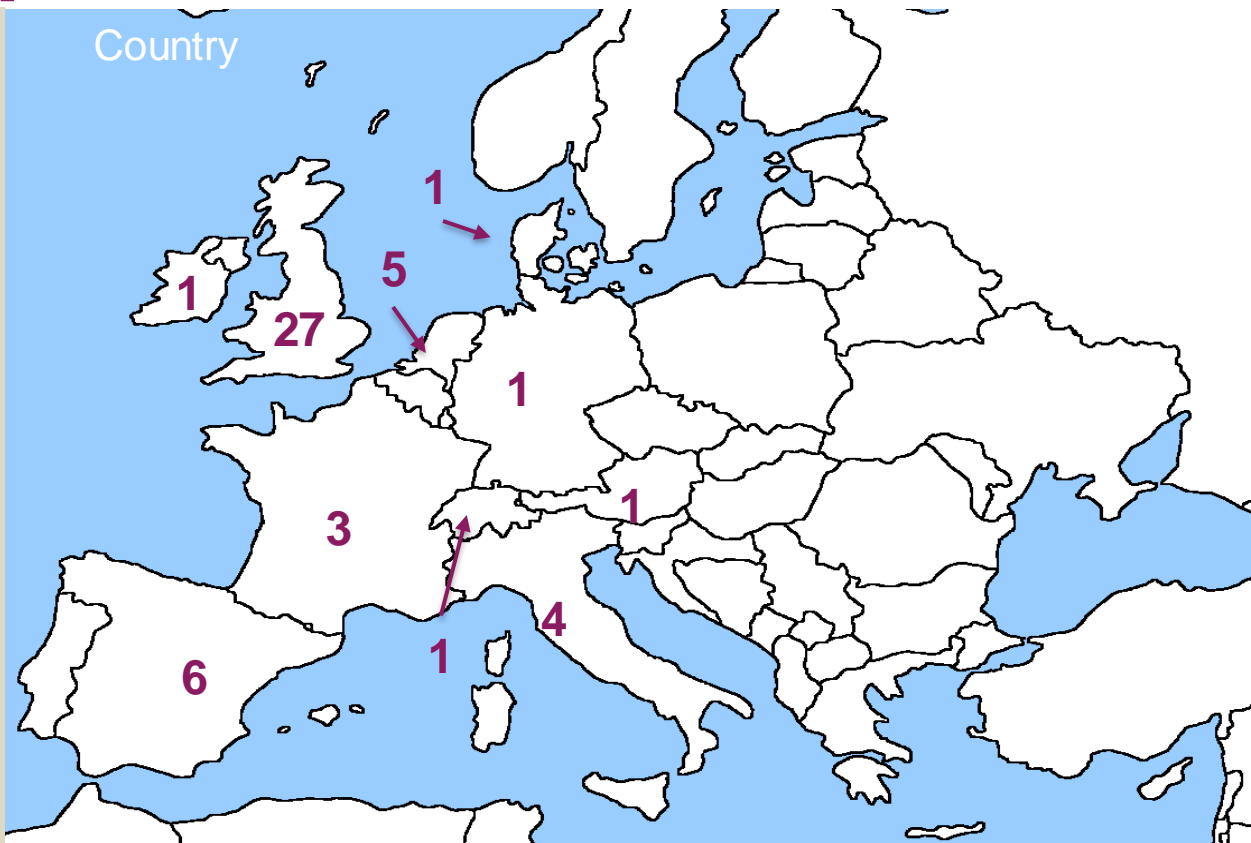
Level of Work



Length of Time in Libraries



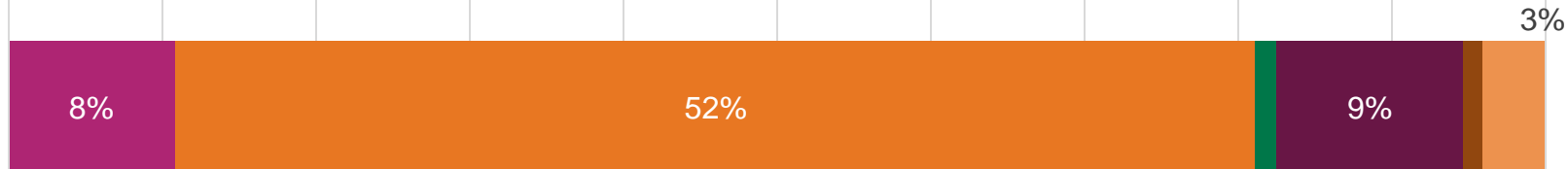
Country



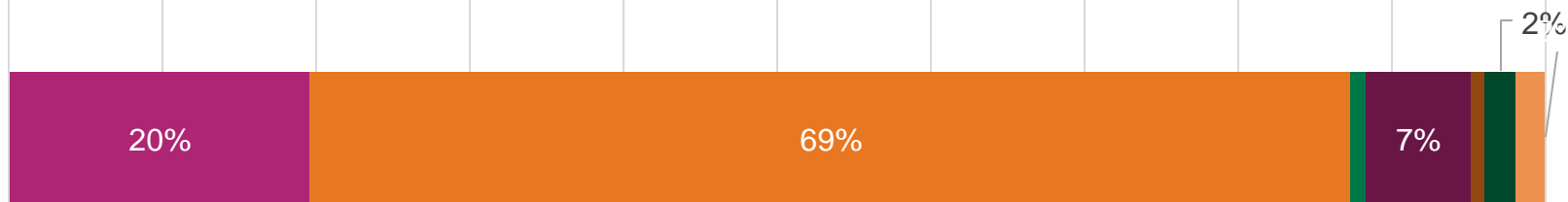
Expected change in unique visitors to Library 2017-2018

(n=48)

Physical visitors



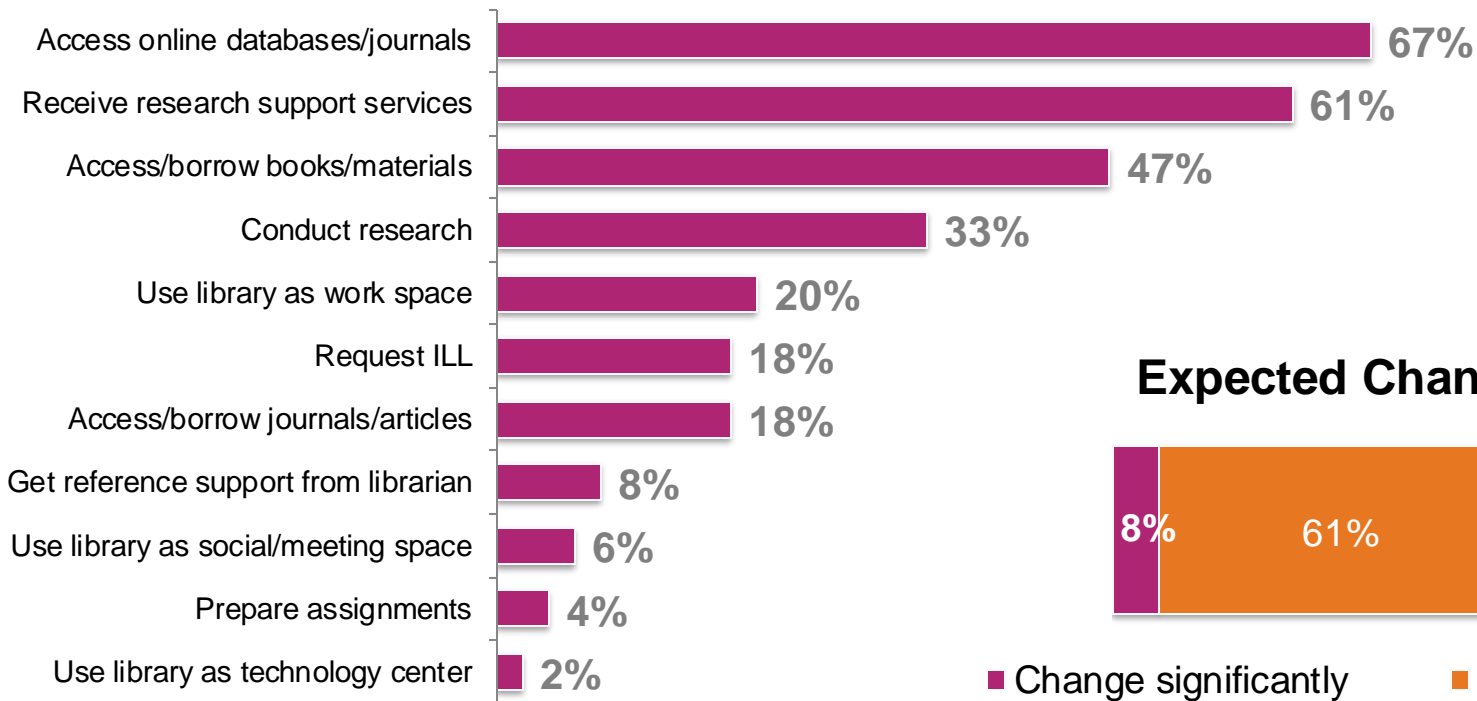
Online visitors



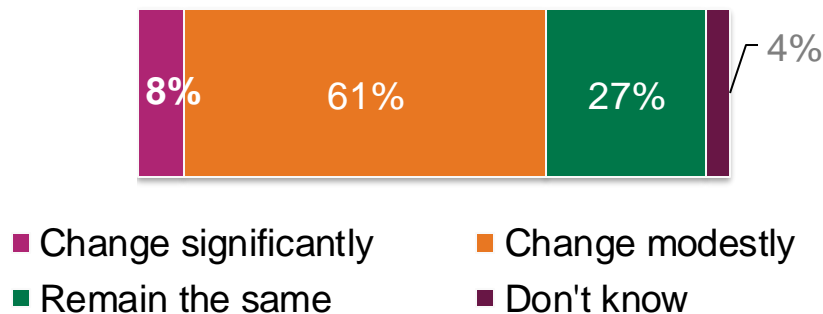
■ Increase by more than 20% ■ Increase by less than 20% ■ Remain the same ■ Decline by less than 20% ■ Don't know

Reasons Faculty/Staff Use the Library Today

(n=49)

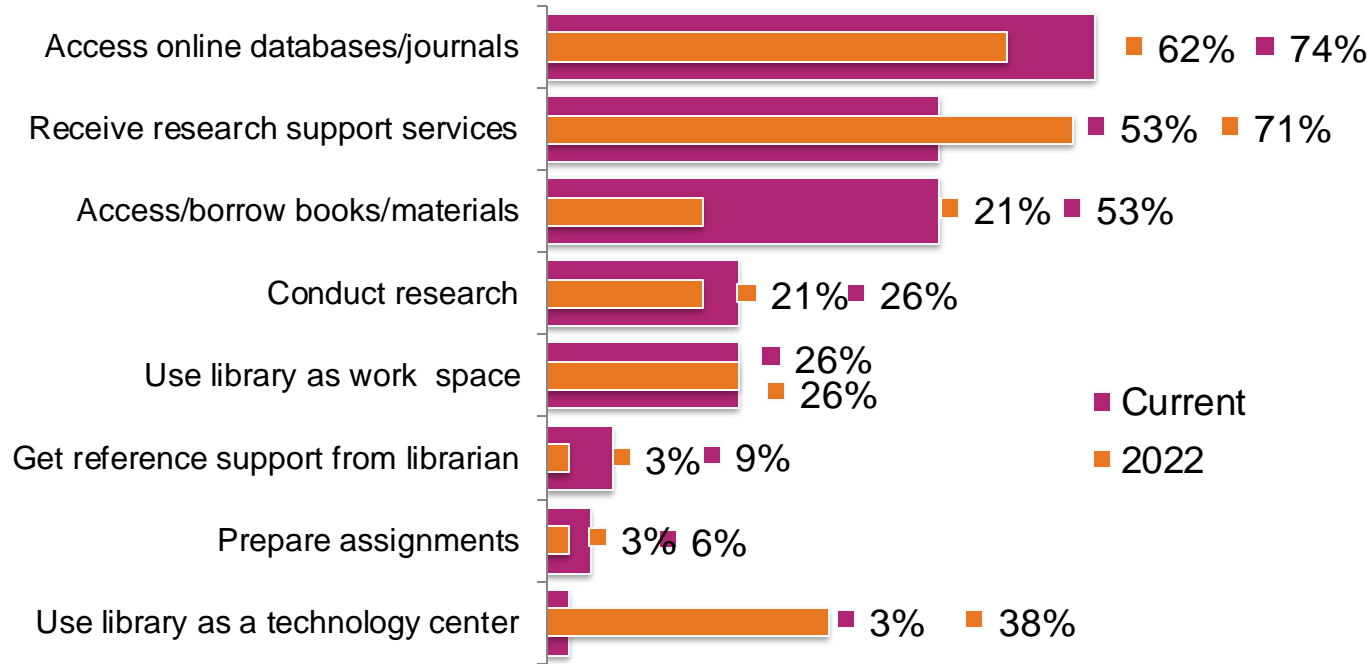


Expected Change in 5 years



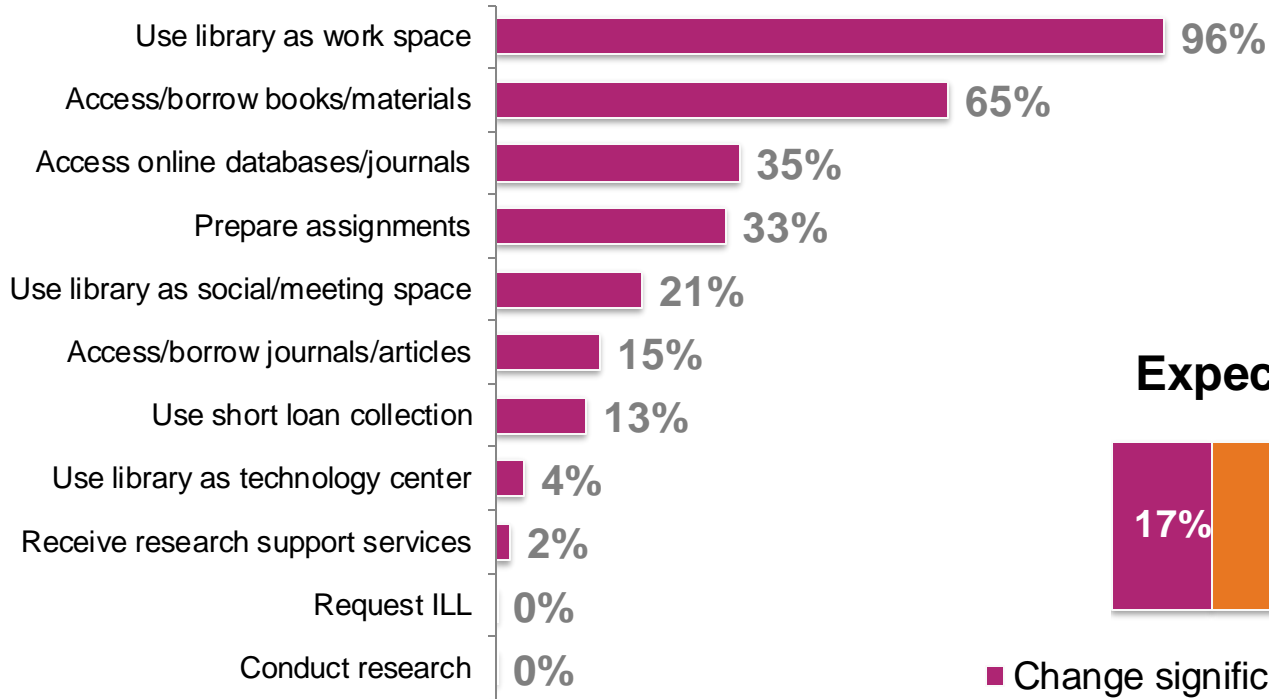
Reasons Faculty/Staff Use the Library Current vs. 2022

Base: Respondents who expect change (n=34)



Reasons Students Use the Library Today

(n=49)



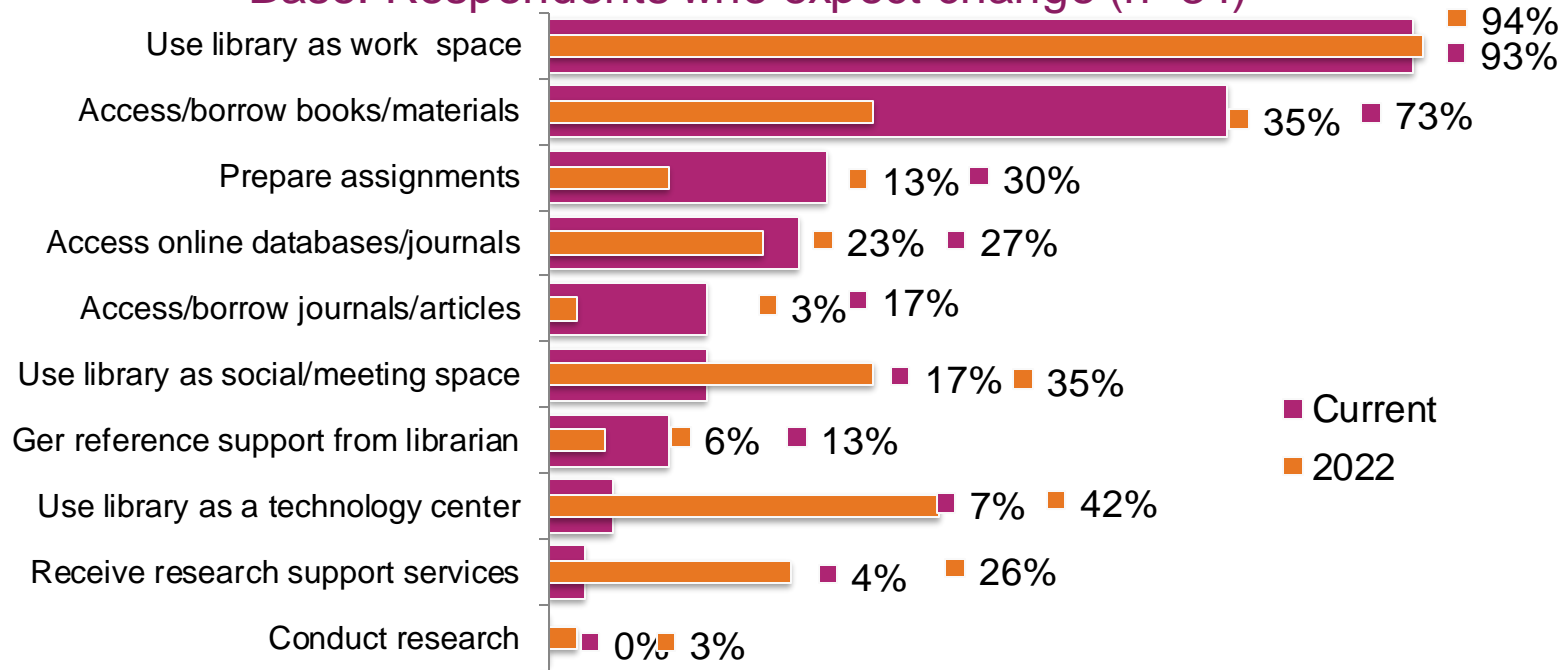
Expected Change in 5 years



- Change significantly
- Change modestly
- Remain the same
- Don't know

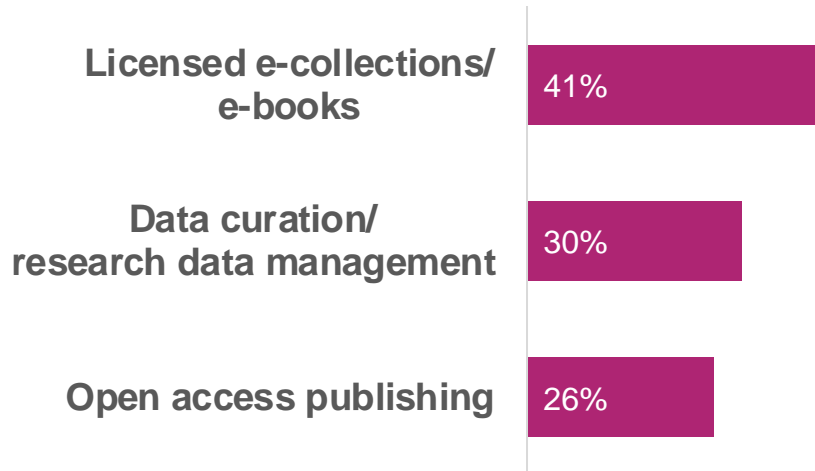
Reasons Students Use the Library Current vs. 2022

Base: Respondents who expect change (n=34)

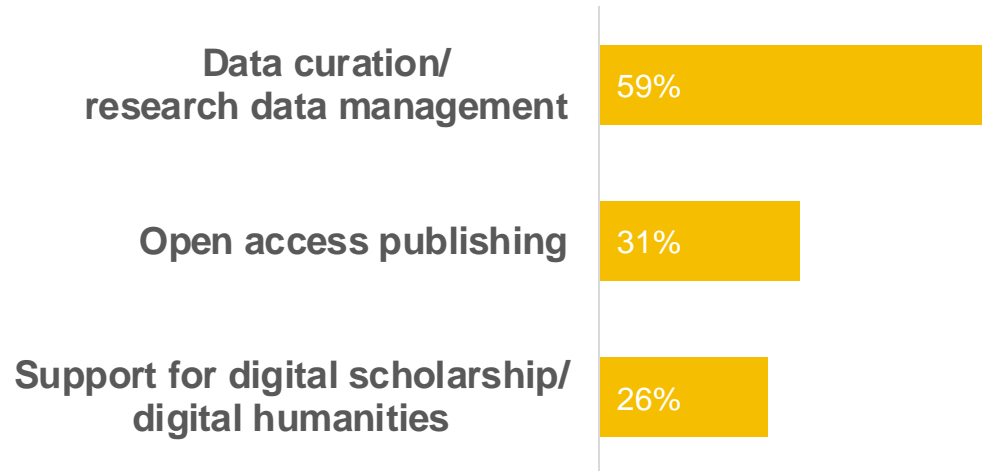


Priorities and Challenges

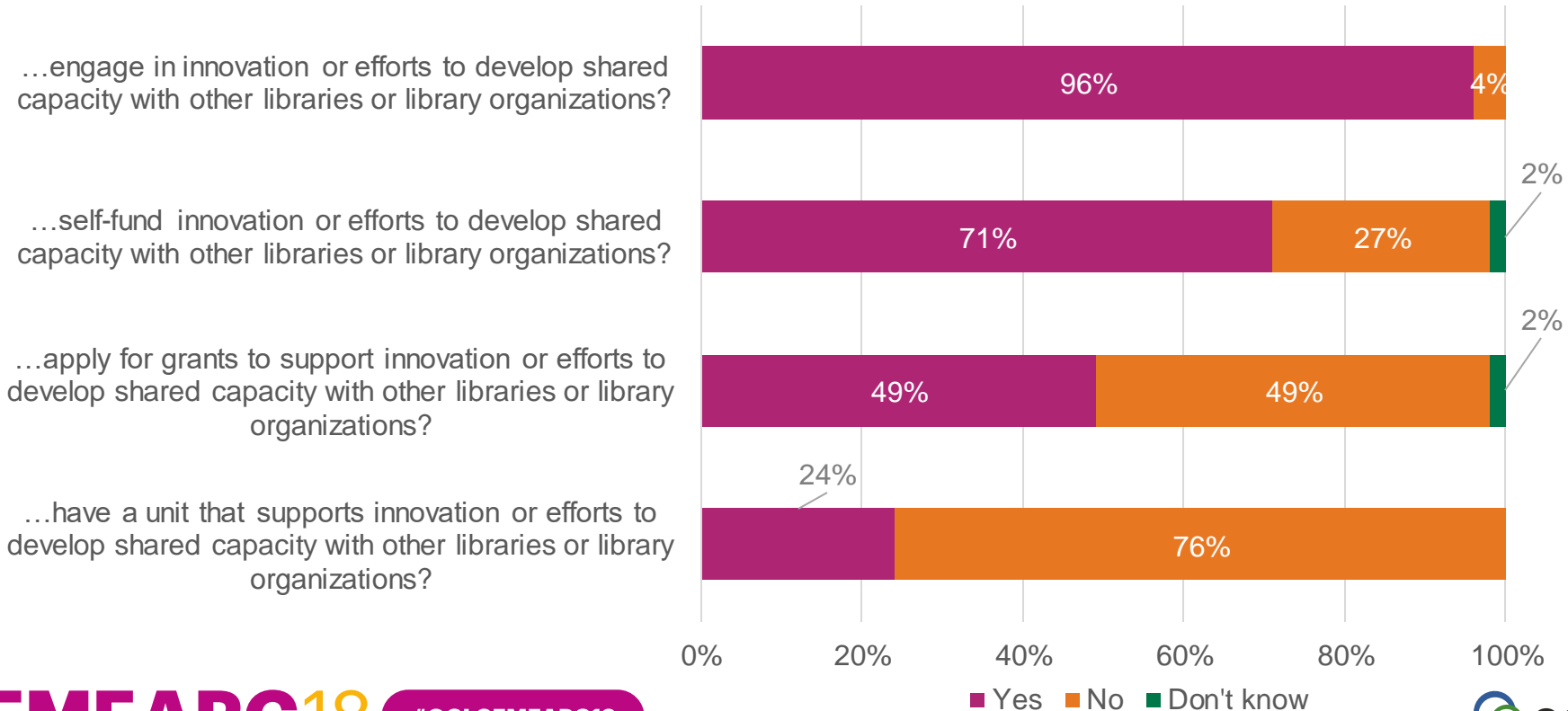
Top 3 Priorities currently



Top 3 Most Challenging/Ripe for Innovation in next 5 years



Does your library ... (n=45)



Interviews with UK library directors

Interview questions

1. To what do you attribute the expected increase in use of the library?
2. What is a technology centre?
3. Increased use of the library as a social/meeting space: trend?
4. Increased support for research: how do you shift resources?
5. Servicing print collections: role of shared print?
6. Special collections: not a priority area?
7. Linked data: not a priority area?
8. Open Access: what is the current challenge?
9. Partnering in innovation: how important is international collaboration?

To what do you attribute the expected increase in use of the library?

The physical library:

“In the UK there is a strong on-campus student community”

- increased enrollment

“Strategic decision-making in my institution is to grow student population”

- rebirth of the library as a place

“We would not have predicted this. Libraries have reinvented themselves as study centre (...) Stacks and staff are moved to free up space”

“The university library as an attraction: a public space for local community”

To what do you attribute the expected increase in use of the library?

The digital library:

“In the UK, the use of the digital library is in a state of transition; it is not appealing to students. We need to promote use.”

- Significant investments in digital resources

“We did aggressive investments in e-books; e-book downloads are growing faster than e-journal downloads”

“We invested heavily in digitization (...) Use of digitized collection platform: promotion and marketing lead to significant peaks in use”

What is a technology centre?

- Converged services (IT-Library)? *“That happened some time ago”*
- Spaces for learning/teaching digital skills (GIS, RDM, data tools, robotics, VR, 3D-printers, etc.)?
“We do have sites with integrated services provision, with IT and multi-media support.”
“Not a makerspace, but playing and using technology is important in a university setting”
- Synonymous to Digital Humanities Centre?
“We bring expertise and skills together and collaborate with the e-Research centre, Computer Sciences, Geo-spatial data services ...”



Increased use of the library as a social / meeting space: trend?

Increased use of the library as a social/meeting space: trend?

- No perceived difference between social/work space

“The way students work is social. To facilitate that, we are providing lots of different kinds of space to allow students to find the way that suits them best. The split social/work is too coarse.”

- Balancing between spaces for collaborative work vs reflexion

- The many advantages of the library as a space:

“The library is a managed space with responsible adults”

“a home during Christmas for international students”

“a neutral and open space for cross-disciplinary events”

Increased support for research: how do you shift resources?

- The structure of the Research Support Service is nimble, ideally
“We have core teams and distributed subject teams”
- Internal training of staff is essential
“There is a lot of external reskilling available nationally (DPC, DCC, etc.) but the problem is funding and travelling; releasing staff to follow those courses.”
- Identify key expertise outside the library
“We work extremely close with the university research office.”
- Research Support is gravitating into the library, it seems
“Research policy staff and Research computing staff moved into the library.”

Servicing print collections: role of shared print?

- Need for more nuance when speaking about print collections

“I see a decline in lending of our general print collection and rise in borrowing from our high-demand collections and e-materials (reading lists) and use of special collections by researchers is increasing.”

- Differences between types of institutions (deposit libraries, post-92 institutions, Humanities libraries, etc.) lead to different print collection strategies.
- Nevertheless, shared print is clearly important to all of them:
 - UKRR: for monographs still a lot needs to be done;
 - Interested in national shared print and/or regional.

Special collections: not a priority area?

- Unanimous disagreement
 - “special collections are more on the table than ever” (e.g. RLUK)
 - “still a huge priority”
- Commitment to make special collections more easily available digitally
 - “We put a lot of emphasis on it and usage grows as part of Digital Humanities, Digital Science and Born-Digital. We are sharing special collections digitally and support how scholars use digitized collections.”

Linked data: not a priority area?

- Unanimous agreement
 - “we are interested, but” ... “it is not a high priority area” ... “not at a strategic level”*
- Unconvinced
 - “Do we really want to invest in this? COPAC was converted in a LOD-resource and RLUK evaluated the use of it and discovered that nobody used it”*
- Opportunity?
 - “the National Bibliographic Knowledge Base: there is opportunity for scale and to think more in this space.”*

Open Access: what is the current challenge?

- Complex and costly in the UK
“OA is a major issue, in the near future also, expensive to engage with. We need solutions to make it more cost-effective to deal with. It is highly complex.”
- Discovery as part of the conversation of “WHY OA?”
“OA as a stick works, but what is the carrot?”
“Moving from compliance to benefit”
- The cancelling subscriptions argument
“We are also interested in discoverability and to be able to cancel subscriptions.”

Partnering in innovation: how important is international collaboration?

- UK-centric
 - UK research libraries see themselves as inward looking and will collaborate with the usual suspects.
 - It is difficult for them to collaborate outside the library sector, unless they are partnering on something that is lead by the parent institution.

- Brexit-talks

“What is our global positioning in the future? Which issues can benefit from global scale? These are changing times.”

DISCUSSION TIME



What are top priorities?

- Open access
- Research data management
- Library as technology centre
- Assessment (example: learning analytics)
- Cultivating partnerships and innovation



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Where does network / collective action help?

Next steps

- Present findings at OCLC EMEA Regional Council Meeting (20-21 February 2018, Edinburgh)
- Host a discussion at the RLP meeting in London (14 March 2018, in conjunction with RLUK Conference)
- Explore repeating survey in US, in Canada and in Australia

Thank you

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