

Demand for and Practice of Developing Information Competences among Researchers

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Lithuanian Research Library Consortium



- **Founded in 2001**
- **48 members**
- **Partnership with EIFL, EBLIDA, LIBER, ICOLC**
- **The main objectives of the Consortium are:**
 - **promoting the development of virtual libraries,**
 - **preparation and implementation of advanced, technology and innovative projects in the libraries**
 - **subscription to electronic databases for the Consortium members and other libraries,**
 - **promoting Open Access initiatives.**



Project *eMoDB.LT*: Opening of Research Databases for Lithuania

- Co-financed by the European Union structural funds and the Government of Lithuania
- Implementation period: July 2009 - July 2012
- Main goals:
 - Subscription to research databases,
 - Improvement of the researchers' information competences in using online resources.
- Activities:
 - The research was carried out on the competencies of researchers in using the online resources of scientific information. Output - provided recommendations on the training content, scope, intensity and methods;
 - The training courses for researchers and students were organized.

Research methodology

- **The aim of the research:**
 - **To assess the researchers' information competence,**
 - **To determine the researchers' needs for developing information competence.**

- **The scope of the research:**
 - **Basic and advanced information searching skills,**
 - **Information searching strategy, tools and experience,**
 - **Knowledge about science evaluation and open access,**
 - **Copyright, citation, reference management tools,**
 - **Demand for information competence development.**

Survey of the training demands and content in using online information resources

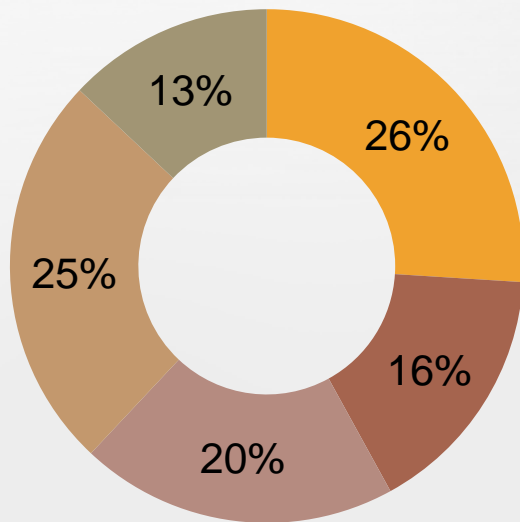
Research was carried out in 2009

Questionnaire-based survey

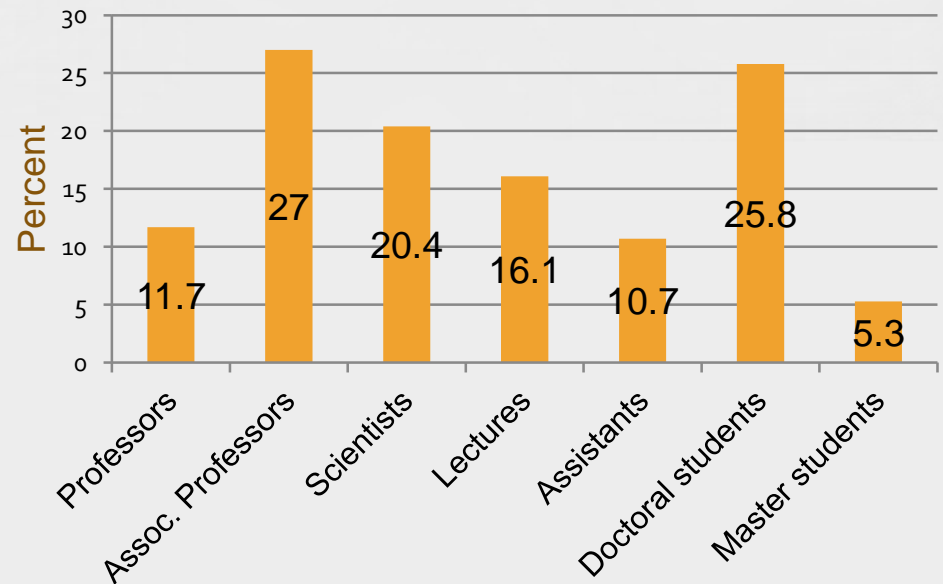
Total respondents: 647

Respondents	Number	Percent
Researchers from universities	544	83.7%
Researchers from research institutes	103	16.3%
Among them doctoral and master students	158	24.4%

Research sample

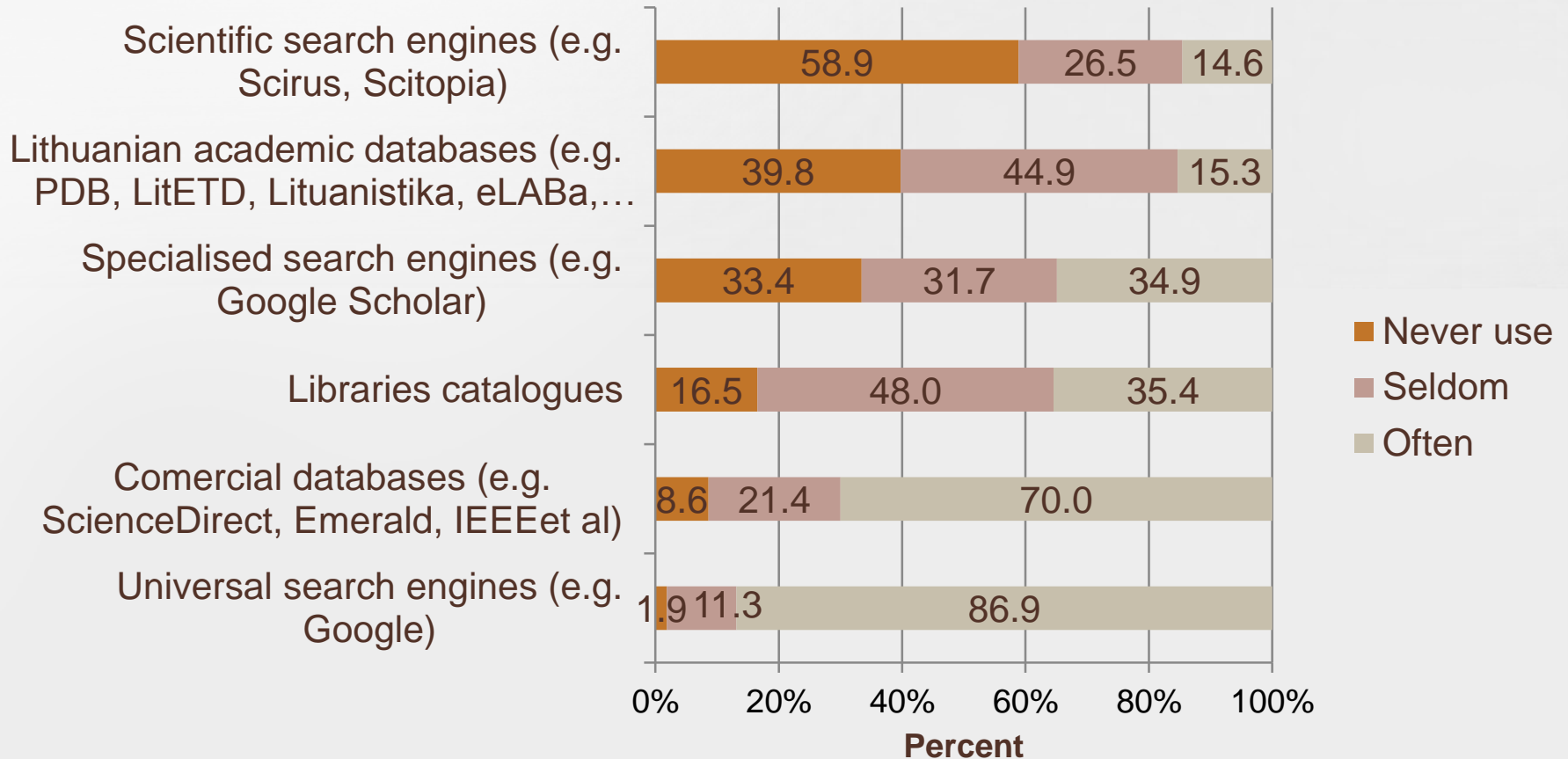


- Technological sciences
- Physical sciences
- Biomedical sciences
- Social sciences
- Humanities sciences

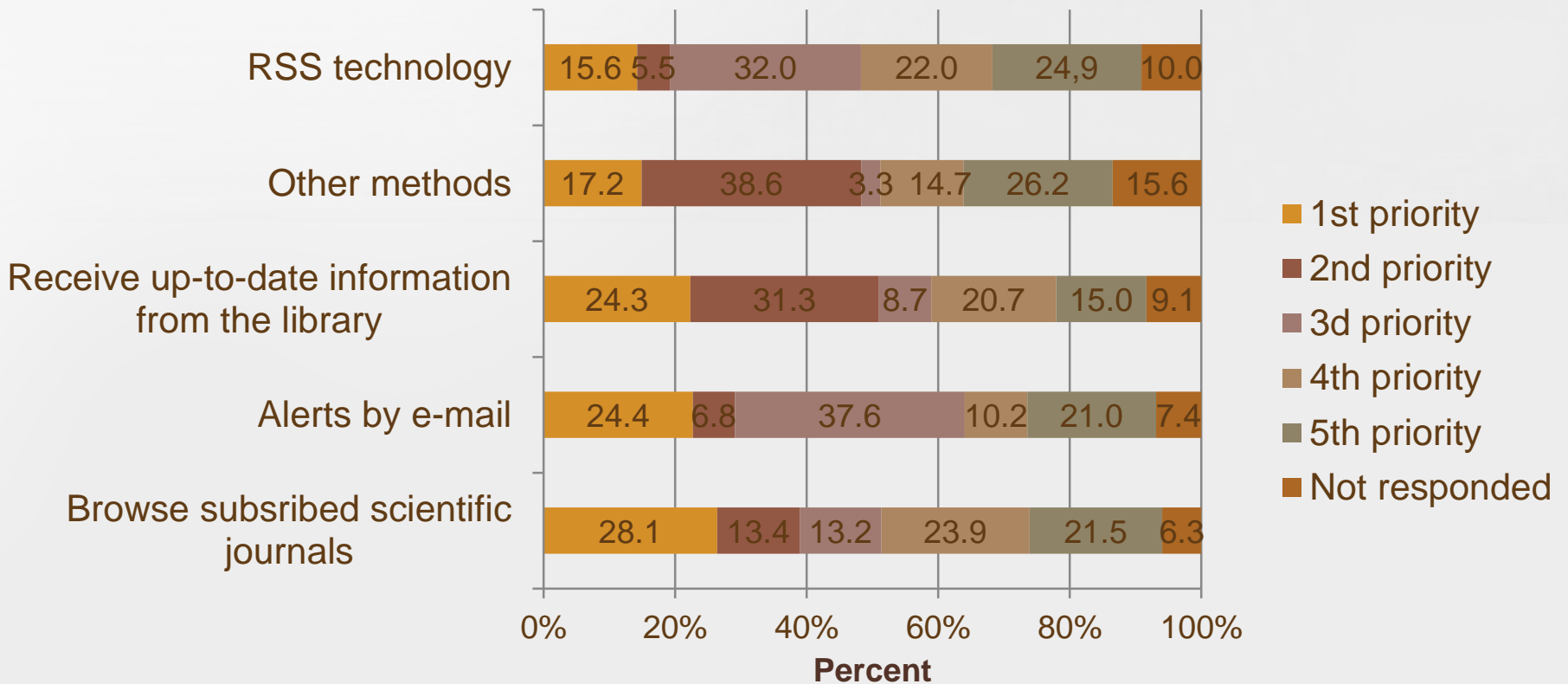


Note: researchers are allocated to more than one group

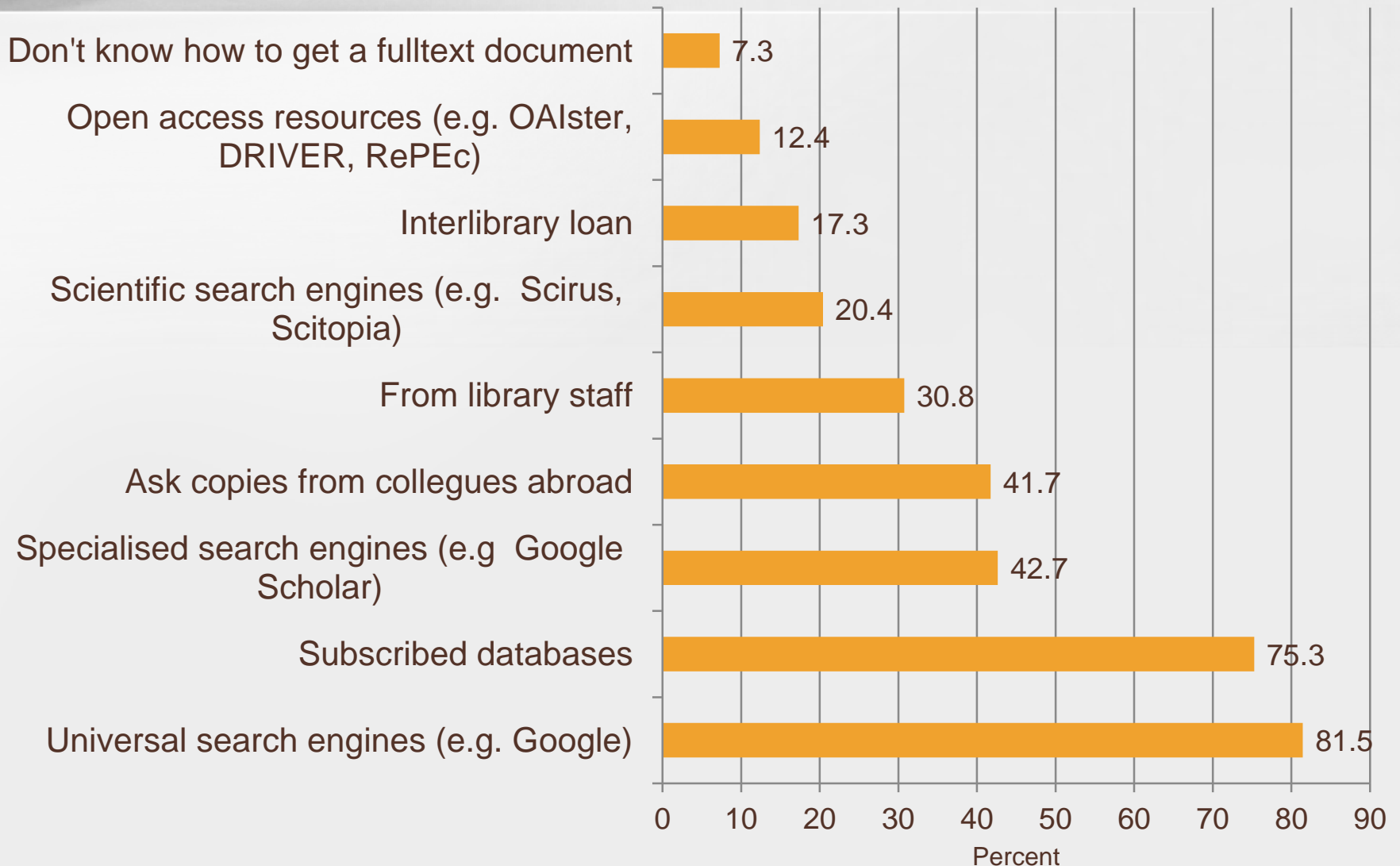
Information search tools



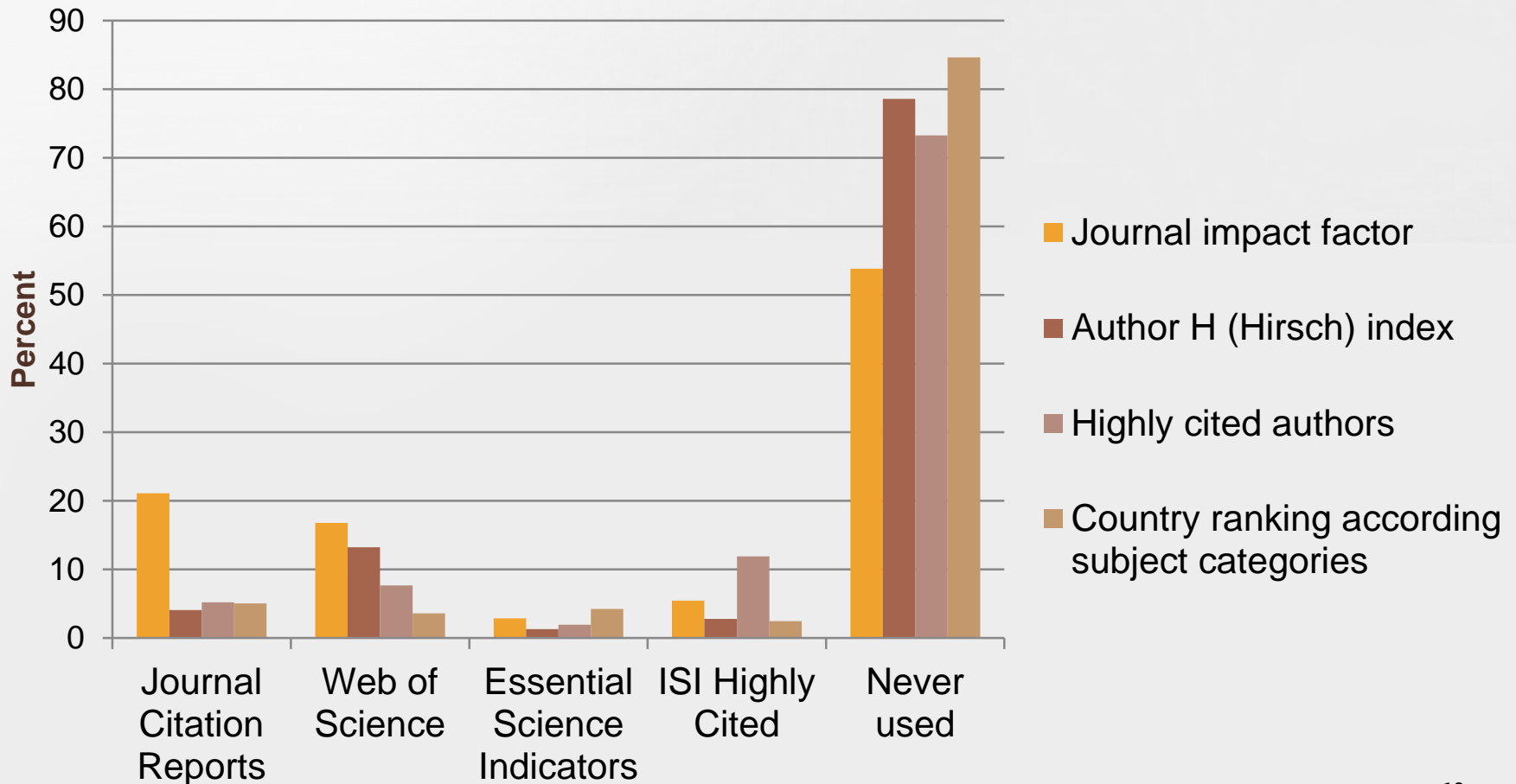
Current awareness tools



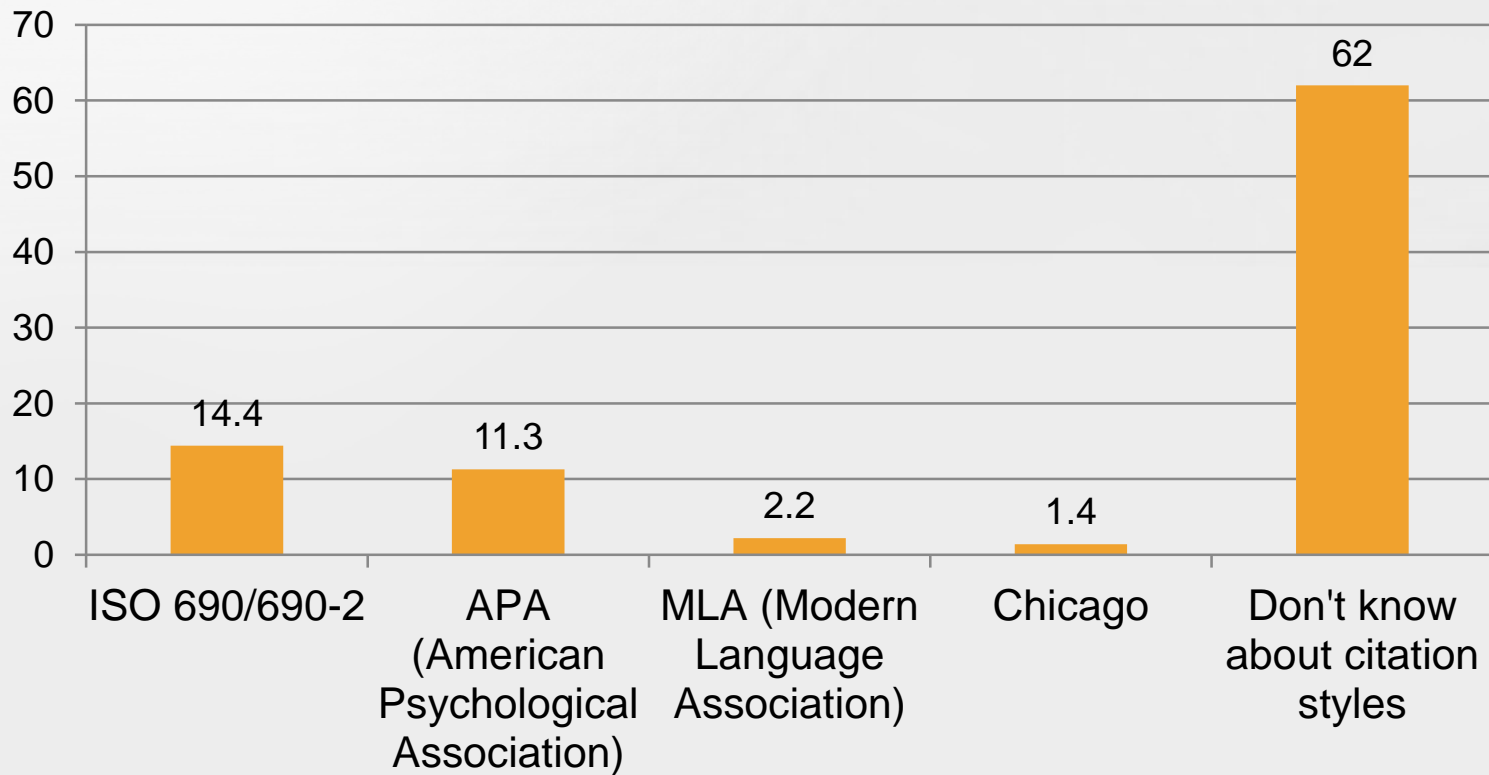
Full-text documents retrieval tools



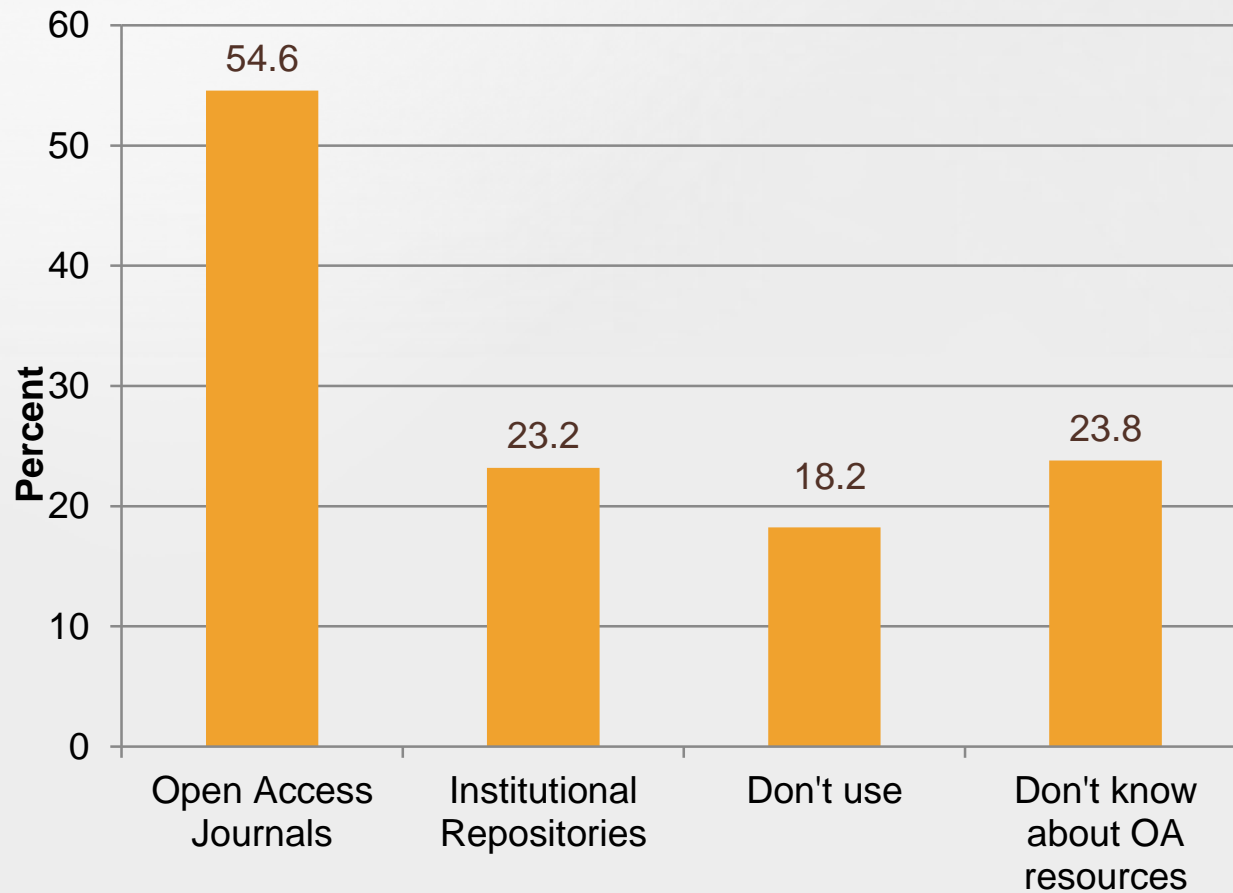
Researchers' knowledge about science evaluation indicators



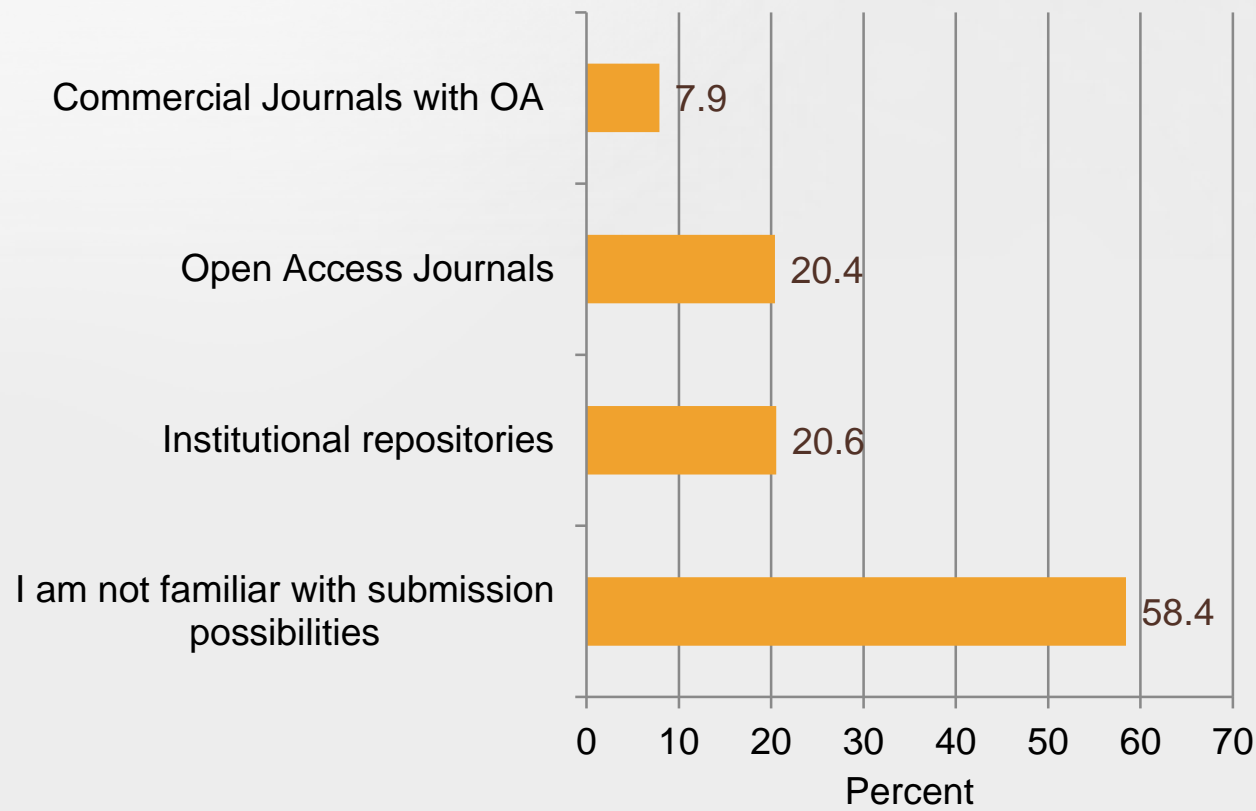
Information use and management competence: citation styles



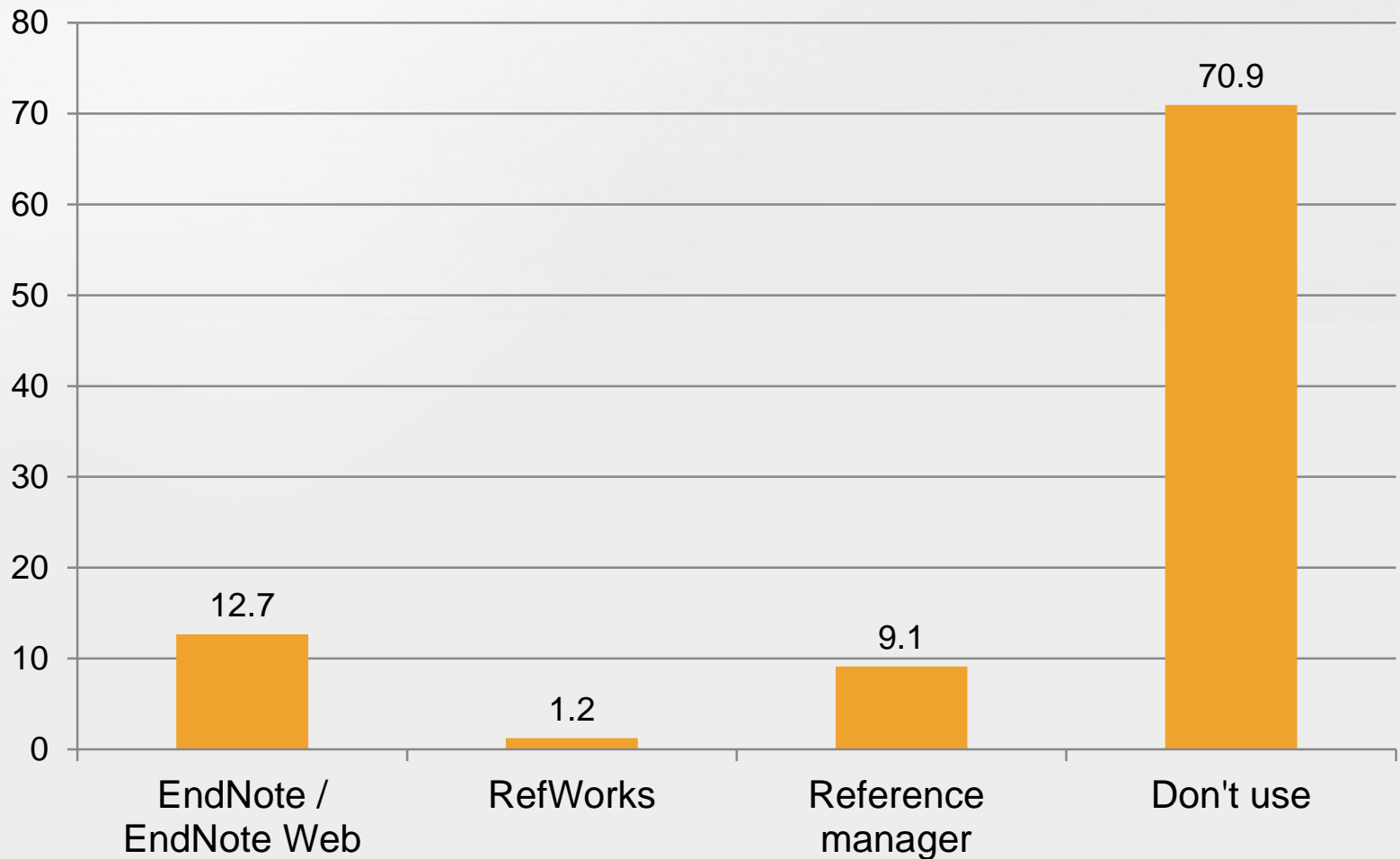
Competence in using OA resources



Submission of publications to OA journals and repositories



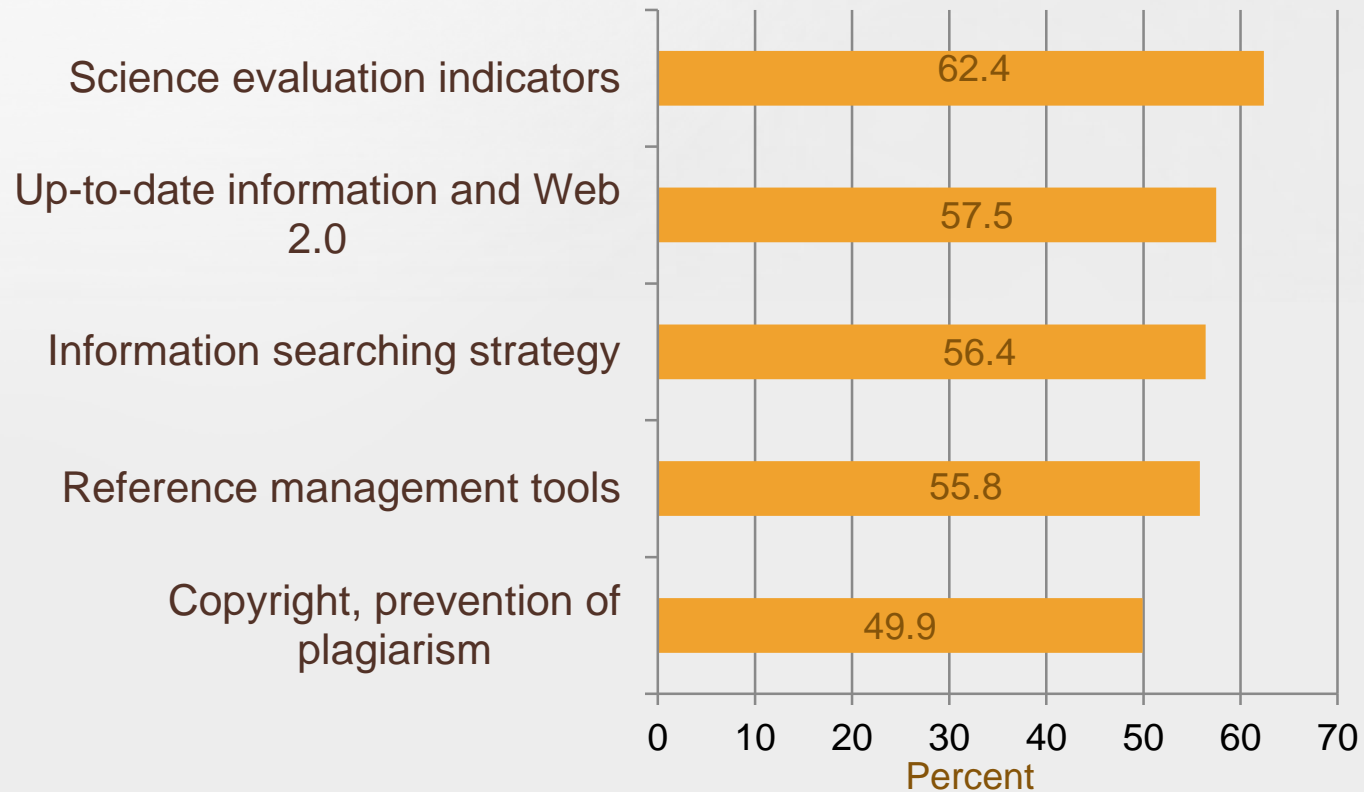
Reference management tools



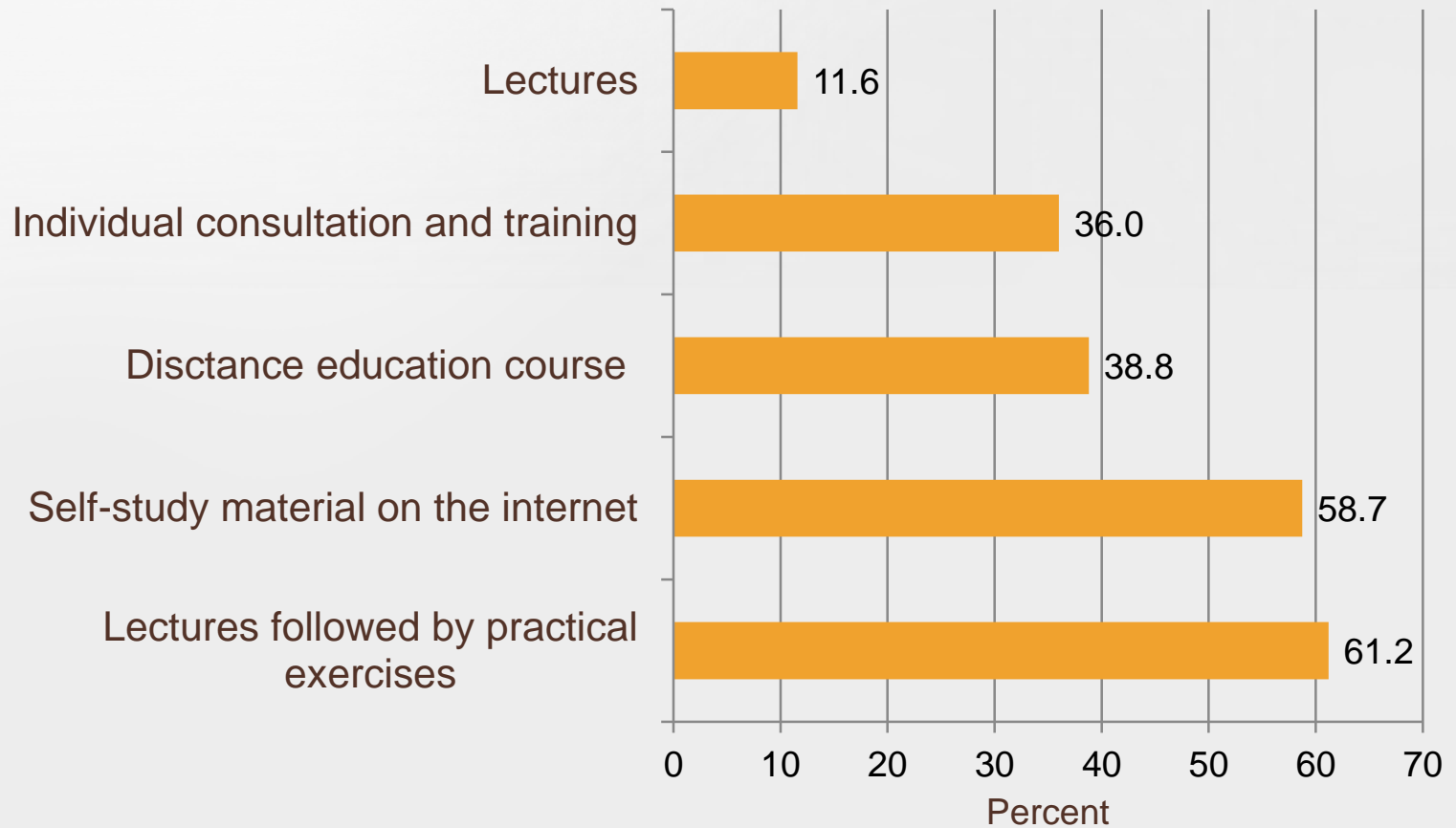
Information competence gaps

- Researchers lack knowledge about more effective and reliable scientific information search strategies which ensure qualitative and valid scientific information retrieval.
- The effective current awareness search for information – ordering alerts using RSS technology or e-mail – are seldom used.
- Researchers are not familiar with scientific communication changes, open access initiatives and sources. A problematic area is lack of knowledge about copyright.
- There is lack of competence in using reference management programs, most of researchers perform reference management manually.
- More information on the research results is available at: <http://www.lmba.lt/doc/tyrimas.pdf>

Demand for training



Type of the training



Information competence training modules

<http://www.lmba.lt/eMoDB/moduliai.htm>

General skills for information search:

1. Strategy for information search and its efficient use;
2. Online research information resources and interactive technologies;
3. Information search in Lithuanian academic (scientific) information databases.

Information resources for specific science area:

4. Search for information resources in the field of Humanities;
5. Search for information resources in the field of Arts;
6. Search for information resources in the field of Social Sciences;
7. Search for information resources in the field of Physical Sciences;
8. Search for information resources in the field of Technological Sciences;
9. Search for information resources in the field of Biomedical Sciences.

For librarians :

10. Licensing, administration of databases and their presentation to users.

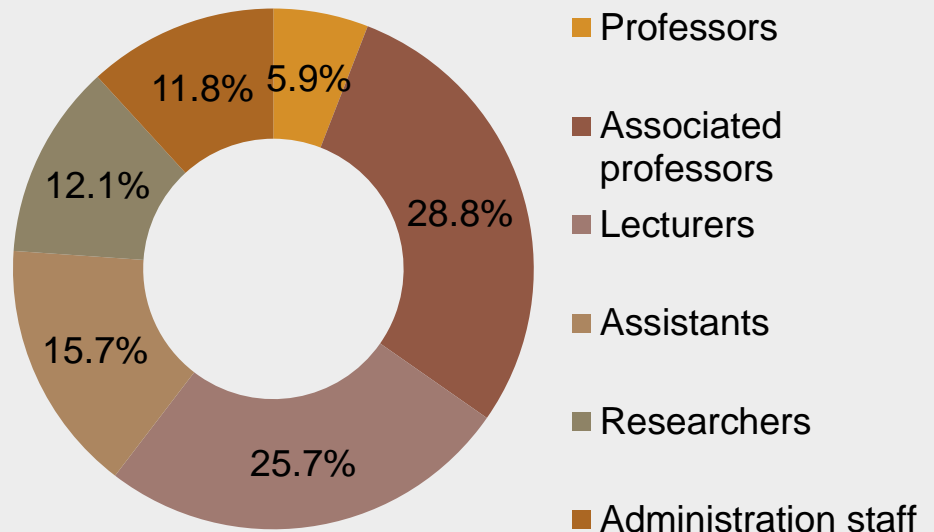
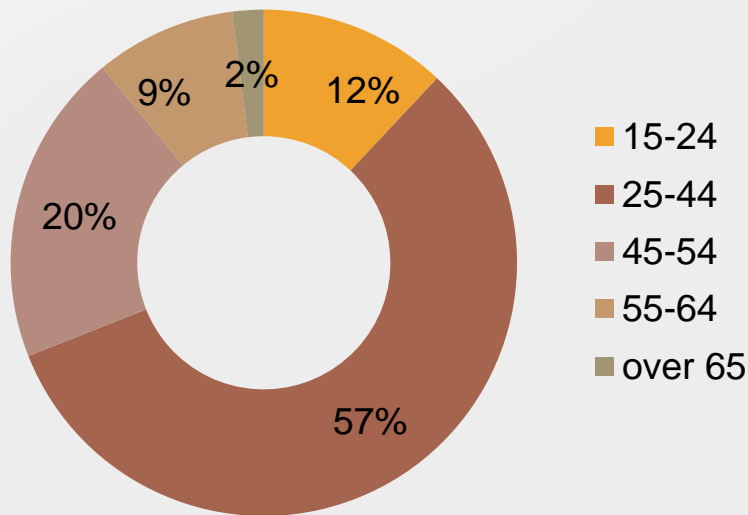
Full text e-book: <http://www.lmba.lt/eMoDB/knyga.htm>

Development of competence of researchers and students

- Training courses were scheduled in September 2010 – January 2011;
- Duration of training courses – 8 academic hours;
- Training courses were arranged in 4 cities: Vilnius (25 groups), Kaunas (16 groups), Klaipėda (7 groups) and Šiauliai (5 groups);
- Each group consisted of 20-25 researchers and/or students.

Participants of the training courses

- 1046 participants from 33 institutions:
 - 760 lecturers and researchers
 - 286 students
- The courses participants by age and position:



The researchers' feedback on the training courses

- Possibility to choose different courses introducing technological novelties and new information resources, updating knowledge about the information search possibilities.
- Needs for compulsory training for all students of master and doctoral studies; therefore they have to be delivered at all higher education institutions.
- The participants should be distributed by the field of science and by the level of information competence.
- A part of the researchers requested for longer duration and more specialized, more profoundly delivered courses.
- The beginners should be trained in information search only by presenting the key information searching tools and databases.
- A part of the trainees wished to spend more time on practical tasks by performing them with the assistance and consultations of the trainers.
- The training arranged in smaller groups.

Conclusions

- The gaps in information competences can be filled in by organizing different types of courses for developing the researchers' competence.
- Bigger attention should be given to information about new scientific information resources, interactive technologies, information search planning and strategy, changes of scientific communication processes, information sources evaluation, management and its legal and ethical use.
- Researchers should be given a possibility to select courses of various complexity, topics and scope according to their individual needs: short courses, workshops, presentations, individual instructions and consultations are recommended.
- The form of competence development must be tailored to the needs of a particular researcher and related to the research area.

Thank you for attention

More information is available at
<http://www.lmba.lt/eMoDB/index.htm>

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