Digital Humanities in European research libraries – a survey
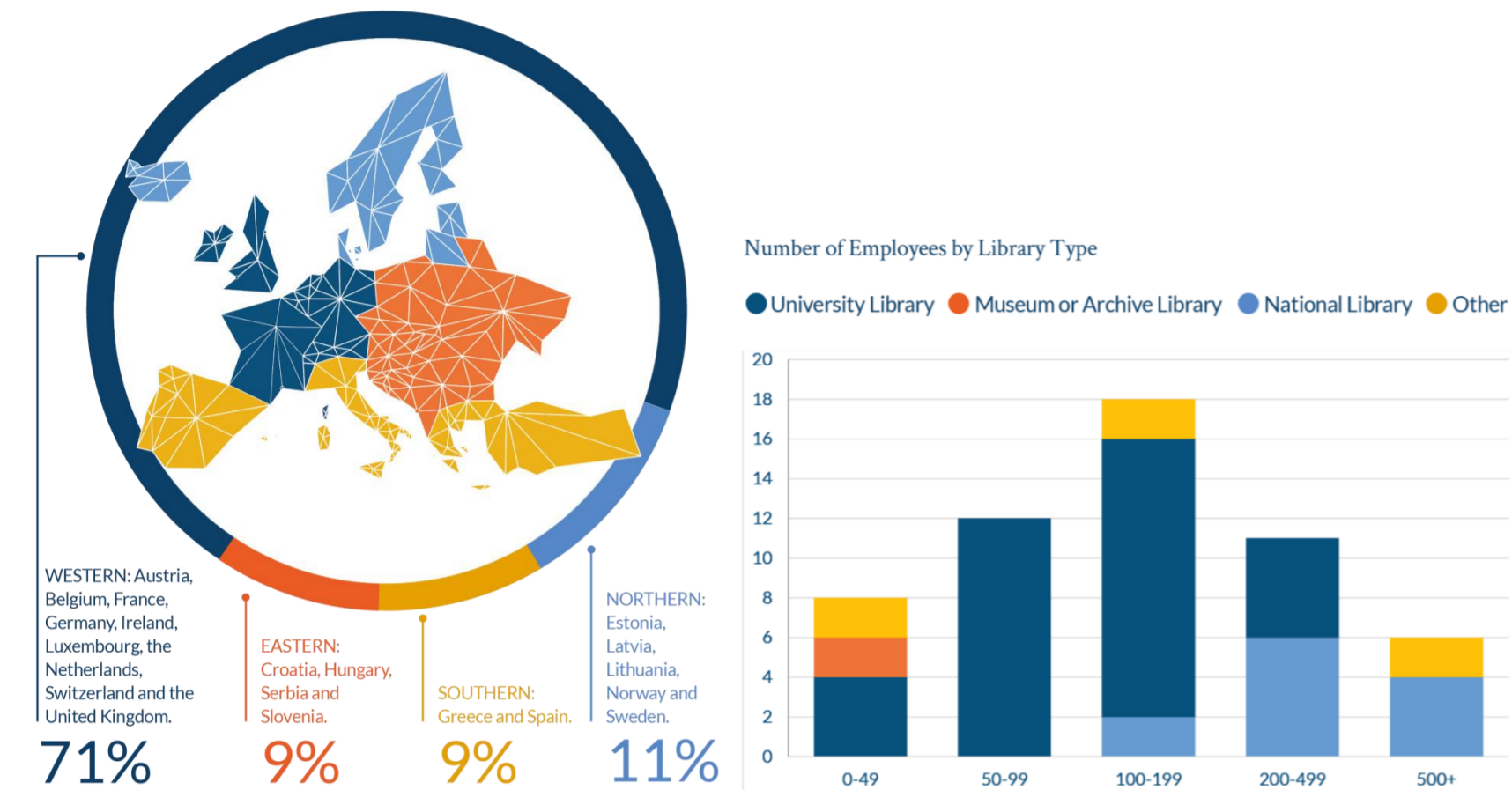
Lotte Wilms, Andreas Degkwitz, Caleb Derven, Marian Lefferts, Kirsty Lingstadt, Liam O'Dwyer, Demmy Verbeke & Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage WG
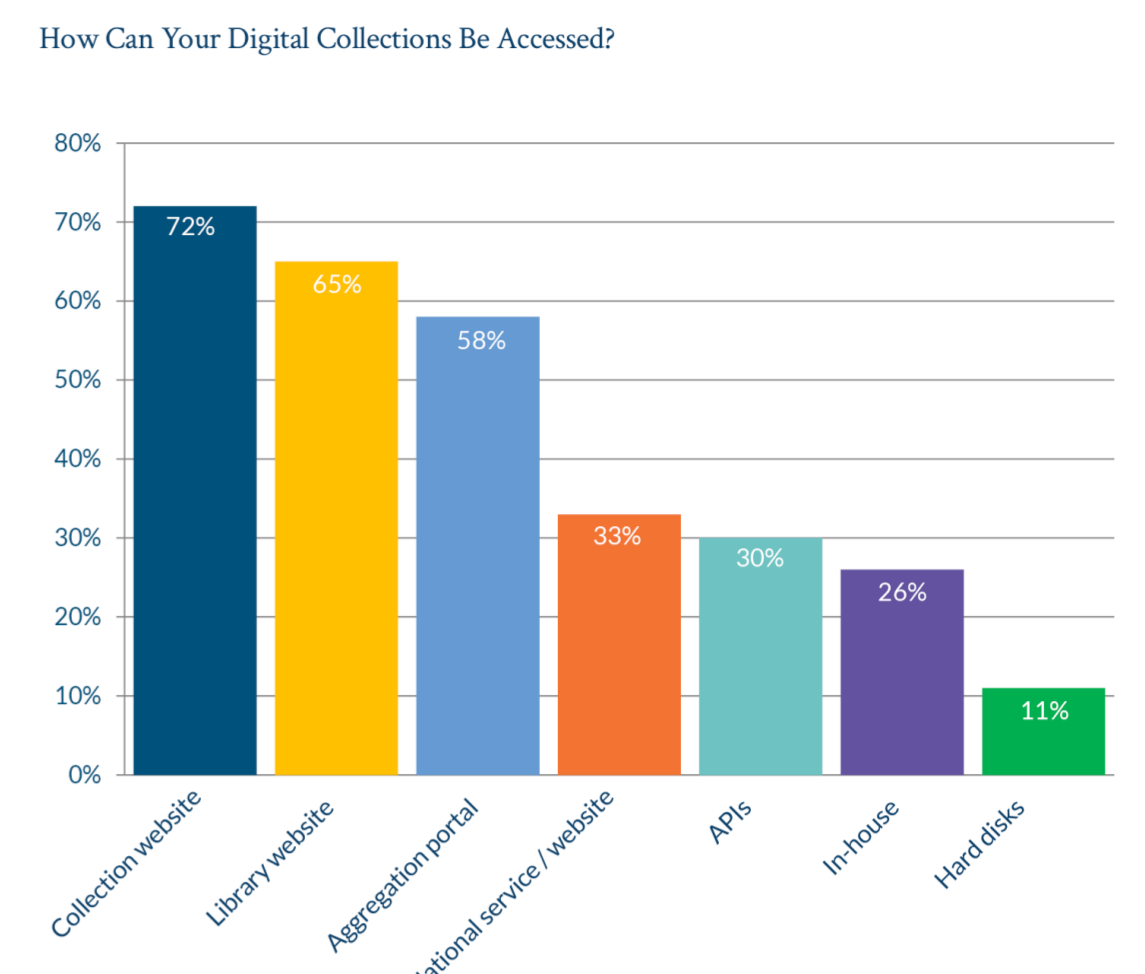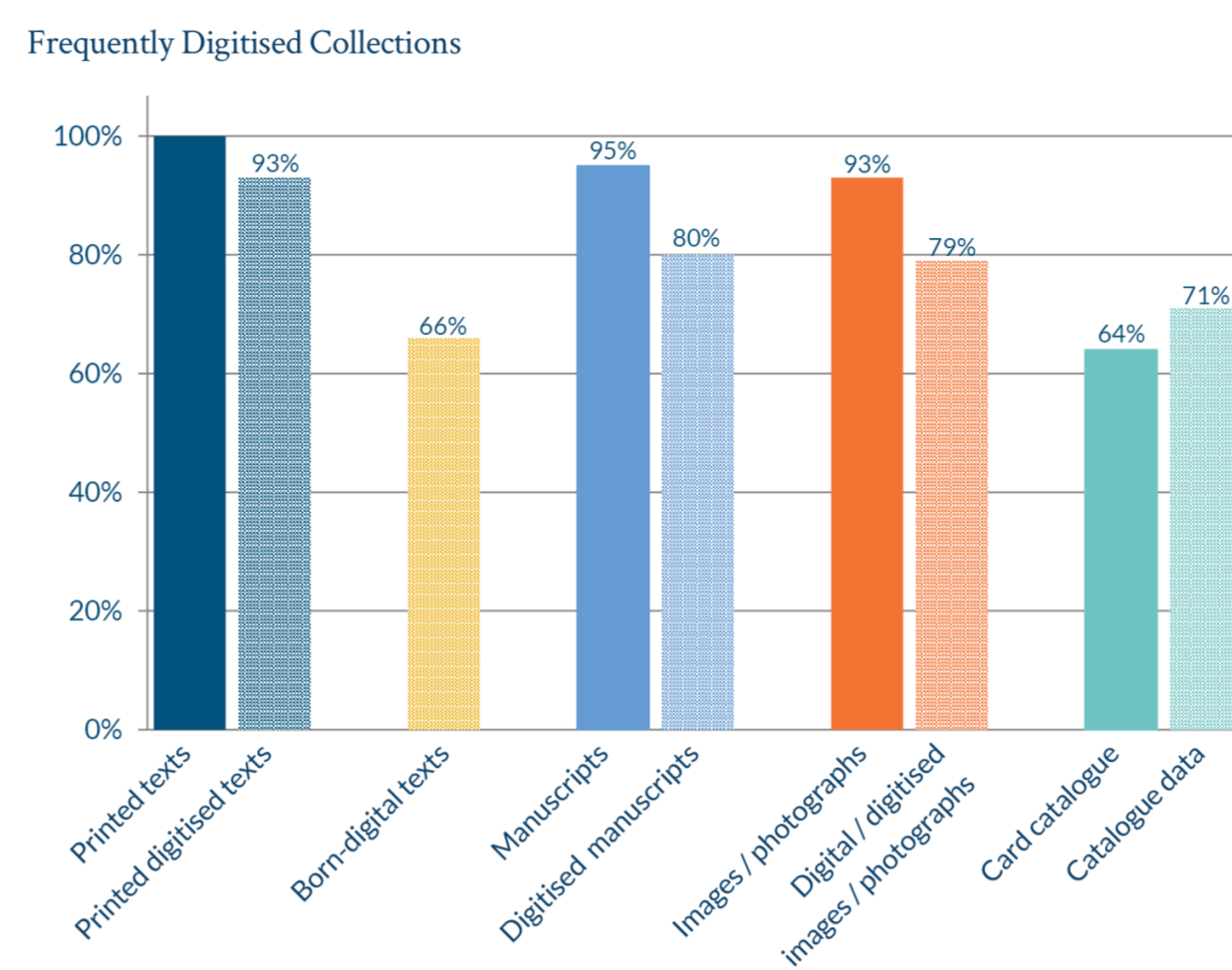
Participants

56 participants - 54 instititions - 20 countries

WESTERN: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. **71%**

EASTERN: Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia. **9%**

SOUTHERN: Greece and Spain. **9%**

NORTHERN: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. **11%**

Number of Employees by Library Type
- University Library
- Museum or Archive Library
- National Library
- Other

(0-49, 50-99, 100-199, 200-499, 500+)

4. Reflect the full breadth of your collections

Frequently Digitised Collections

	%
Printed texts	100%
Printed digitised texts	93%
Born-digital texts	66%
Manuscripts	95%
Digitised manuscripts	80%
Images / photographs	93%
Digital / digitised images / photographs	79%
Card catalogue	64%
Catalogue data	71%

How Can Your Digital Collections Be Accessed?

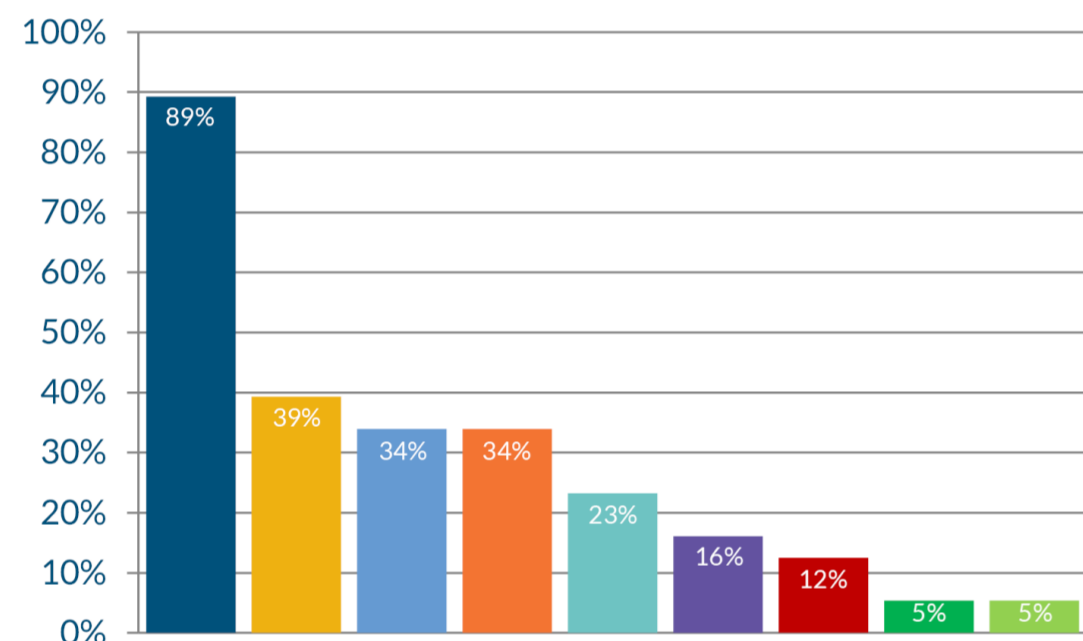|	%
Collection website	72%
Library website	65%
Aggregation portal	58%
National service / website	33%
APIs	30%
In-house	26%
Hard disks	11%

By broadening your scope to the full width of your collection your DH offering can be strengthened. Work from your strenghts and make access as easy as possible.

1. Create a goal or vision for your library

A defined framework clarifies your goal and manages expectations of partners. Set up your organisation with enough resources to make sure you can also reach this goal.

How Are DH Activities Funded?
- Library general budget
- Grant funds from researchers
- Grants to the library
- European funding
- National funding
- Funds from the parent institution
- Dedicated DH budget in library
- User fees
- Other

(89%, 39%, 34%, 34%, 23%, 16%, 12%, 5%, 5%)

40% Said DH was part of a digital scholarship umbrella.

12% Said DH was a separate activity in their library.

11% Said their investment was aimed at making DH a sustainable activity.

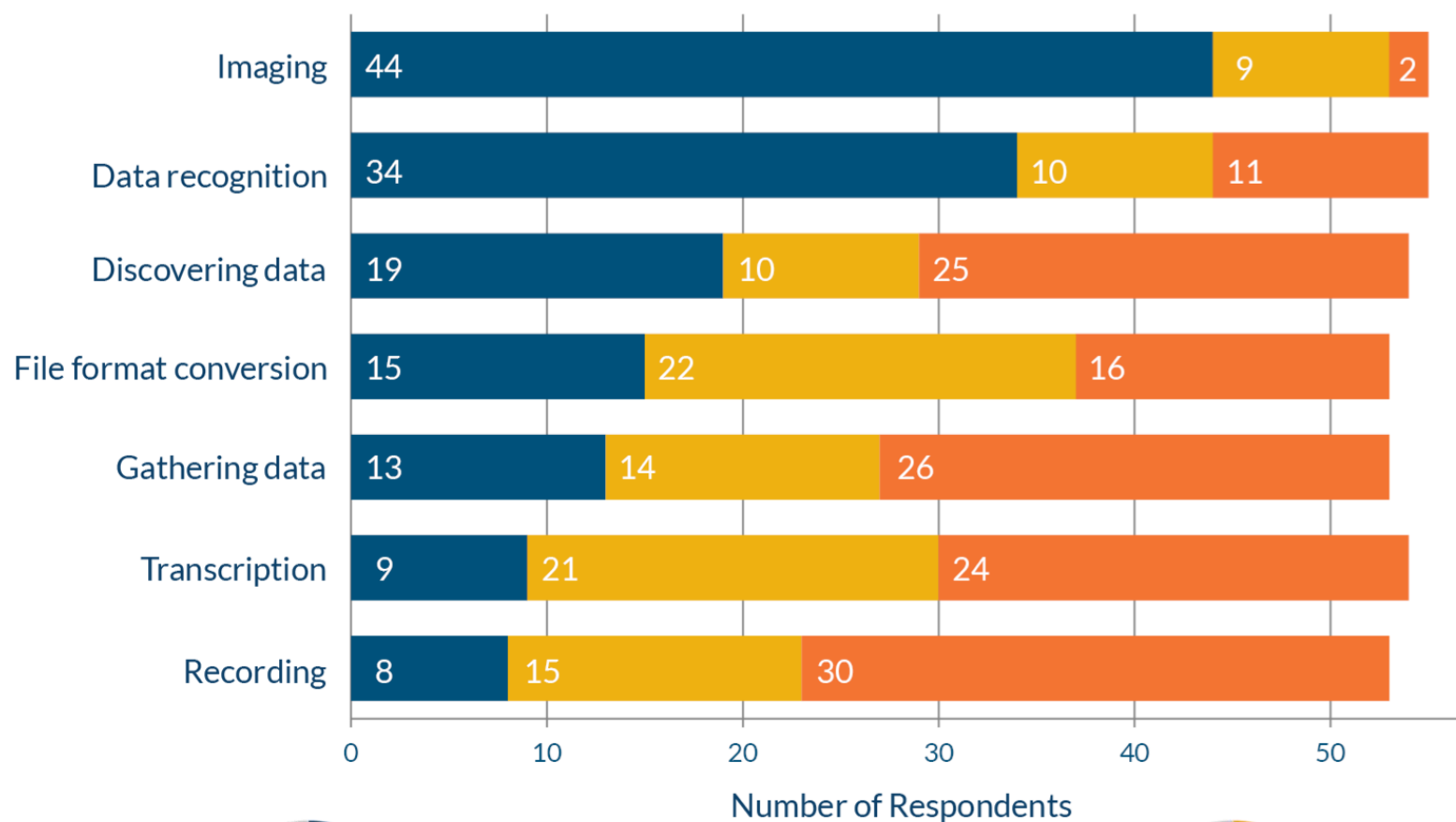**21%** Said DH activities were funded on a shoestring, ad-hoc budget.

2. Measure your impact

Identify early on how you will measure your achievements and impact. This will help you define what works well and what needs to be re-evaluated.

3. Select your activities wisely

Which Data Capture Activities Does the Library Undertake Under the DH Flag?
- We do this regularly
- We do this on an ad-hoc basis
- We don't do this

Activity	Regularly	Ad-hoc	Don't
Imaging	44	9	2
Data recognition	34	10	11
Discovering data	19	10	25
File format conversion	15	22	16
Gathering data	13	14	26
Transcription	9	21	24
Recording	8	15	30

Number of Respondents

80% Say the library is involved in the publishing of research data, tools or papers related to DH, either on a regular (48%) or ad-hoc (31%) basis.

60% Are not involved with crowdsourcing projects at all. Will this change in the context of LIBER's recently established Citizen Science Working Group?

Libraries are most active in data capture, creation and storage. Build on your (collection) strengths to decide what works best for you.

5. Have confidence in your expertise

As the creator of your digital collections, you are the expert. Your are therefore the ideal partner, as you know what has been digitised, how it's been digitised, what licenses apply, what works well and what probably wouldn't.

Strengthening the position of libraries as partner in DH will be a a core theme for the WG for the next two years.

6. Involve all your colleagues, not just the obvious ones

DH activities are most succesful if they are supported by a large number of library staff. Work together to build your skills and ideas.

Library Staff in DH Roles

Number of DH Staff	Number of Respondents
0	7
1-2	15
3-5	16
6-10	12
11+	7
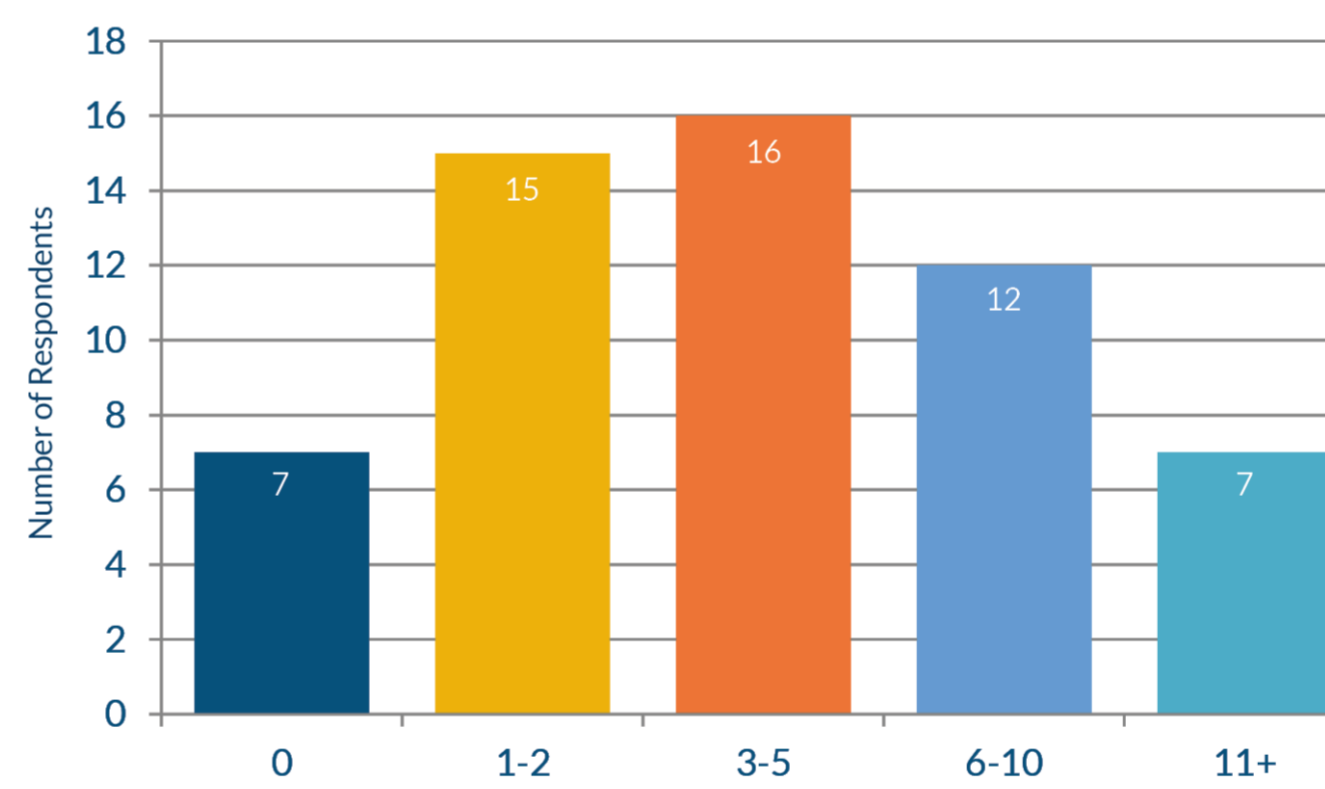
7. Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate!

DOMAIN	LIBRARIES WHICH IDENTIFIED RESEARCHERS FROM THIS DOMAIN AMONG THEIR USERS	
	Percentage	*Number*
History	76%	41
Literature	59%	32
Media Studies	44%	24
Linguistics	41%	22
Modern Languages	32%	17
History of Science	32%	17
Classical Languages	30%	16
Theology	24%	13
Computer Science	24%	13
Philosophy	19%	10
Other STEM Sciences	9%	5
Other	22%	12

93% Use personal contacts to stay in touch with target audiences for DH research.

65% Actively participate in conferences and a further 50% use library-organised events to reach target audiences.

Building your network in DH is crucial, as collaboration is key. Once you have defined your goals and activities go out and disseminate your data, your team and you ideas.

Join the WG!