

Defining the Libraries' Role in Research: A Needs Assessment Case Study

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University Libraries

Why survey?

- Assess faculty needs re: storing and sharing data
- Determine priorities and resources
- Respond to federal and university policies for data sharing

What is research?

- Information recorded in any form, and includes any materials needed to validate research findings, such as laboratory notebooks, biological specimens, video, photographs, and environmental samples

Collaborators

- University Libraries
- Information Technology Services
- Office of Research and Economic Development

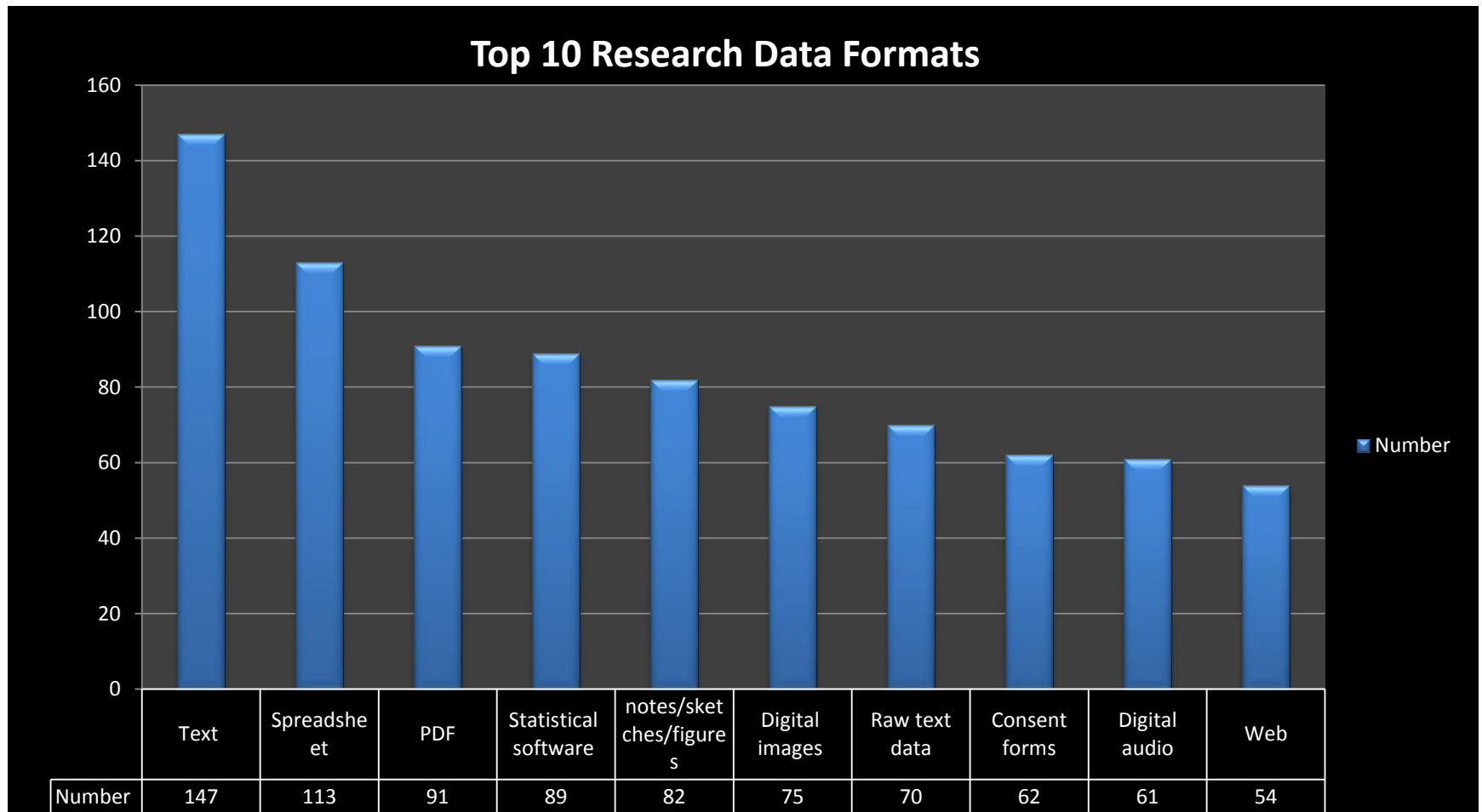
Methodology

- Developed survey fall 2012
- Tested late 2012 and early 2013
- Distributed to all faculty, research and post-doctoral staff (1,193)
- 160 completed (13% response rate)

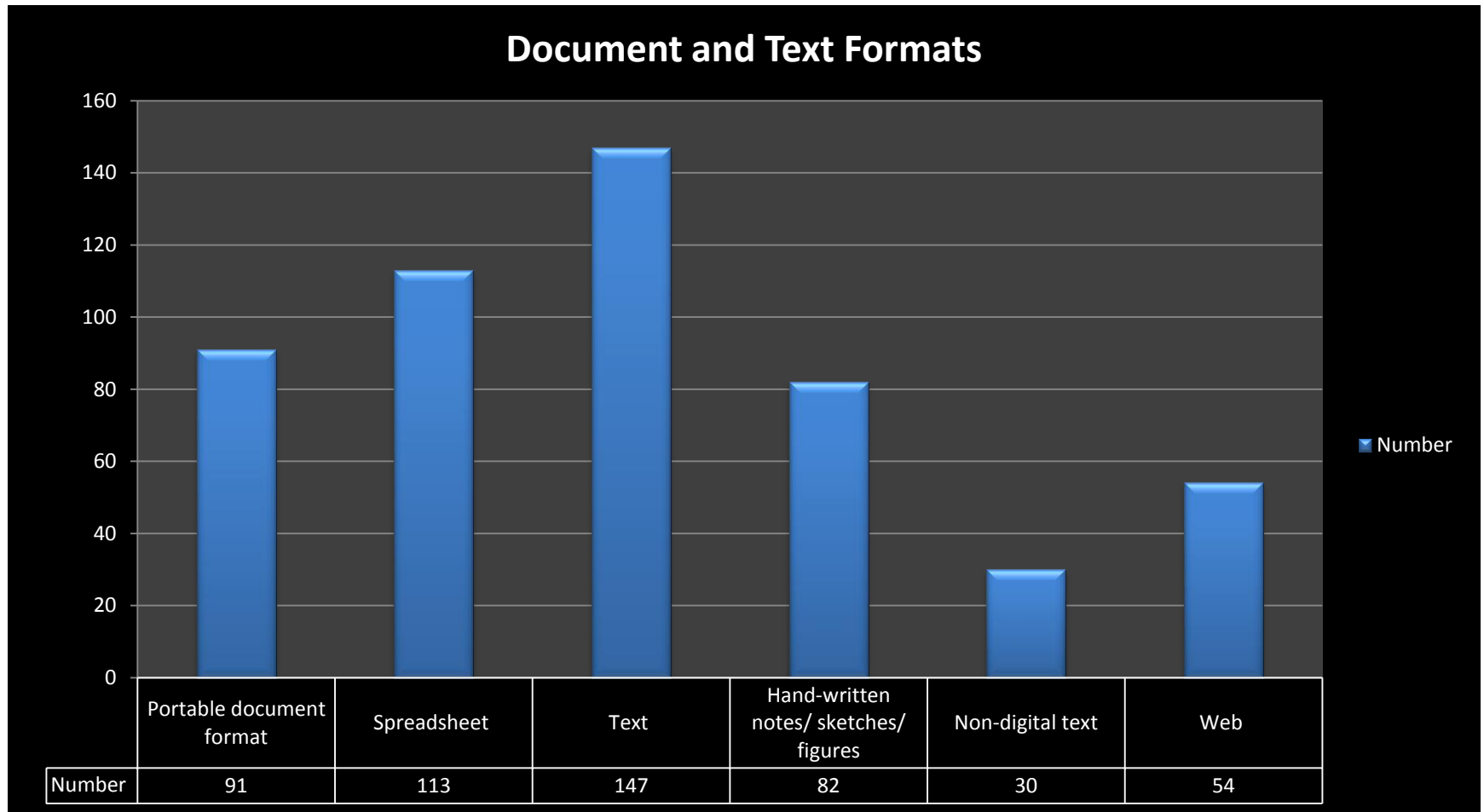
Who responded

- 73% tenure track faculty
- 38% had external funding

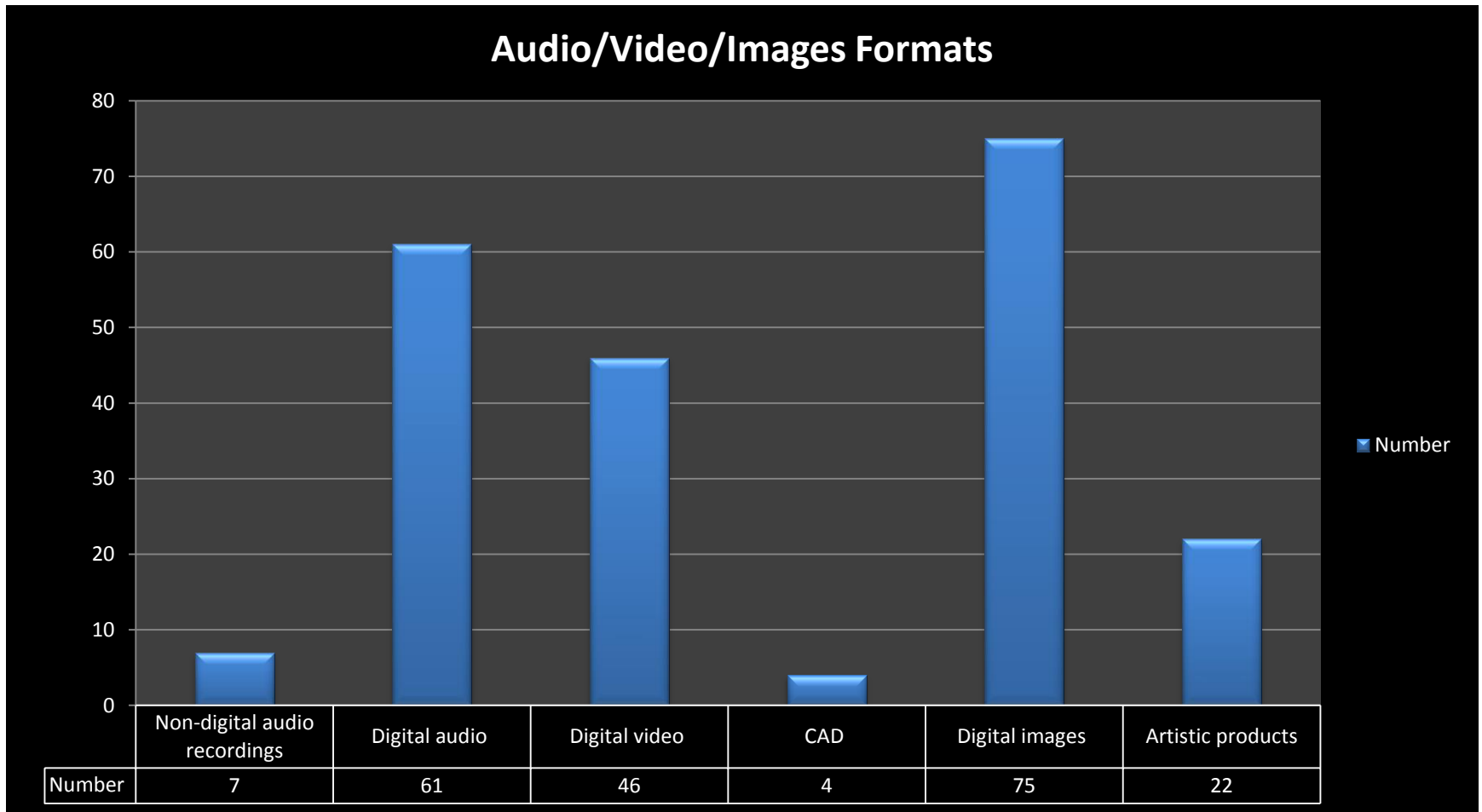
Research Data Formats



Document and Text Formats

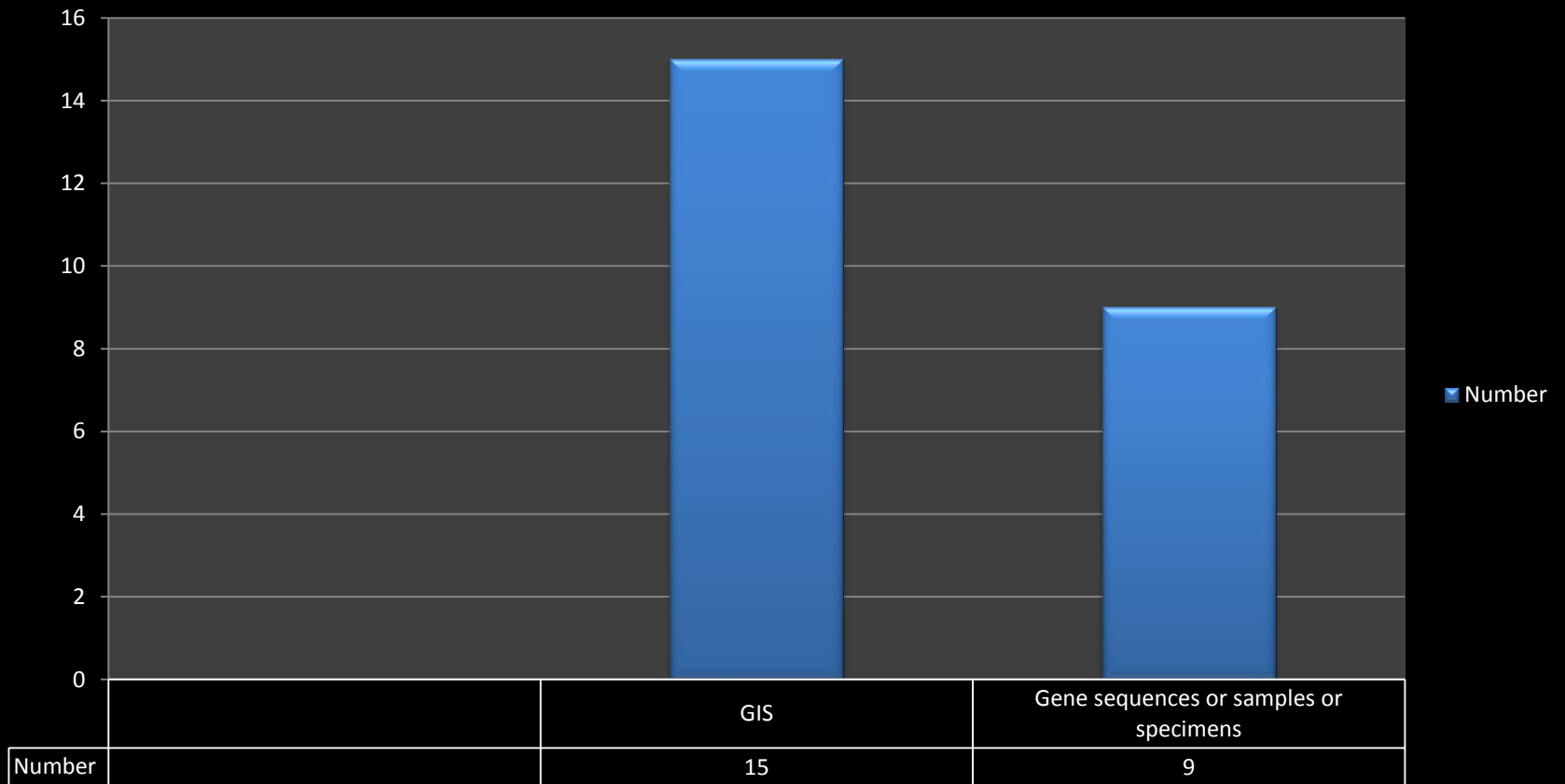


Visual Formats



Science Specific

Science Formats



Storing data

- 68% use CD/DVD,USB, external hard drive
- 58% use computer hard drive
- 27% network file space
- 28% cloud
- Only 16% automatically generate backup files

Sharing data

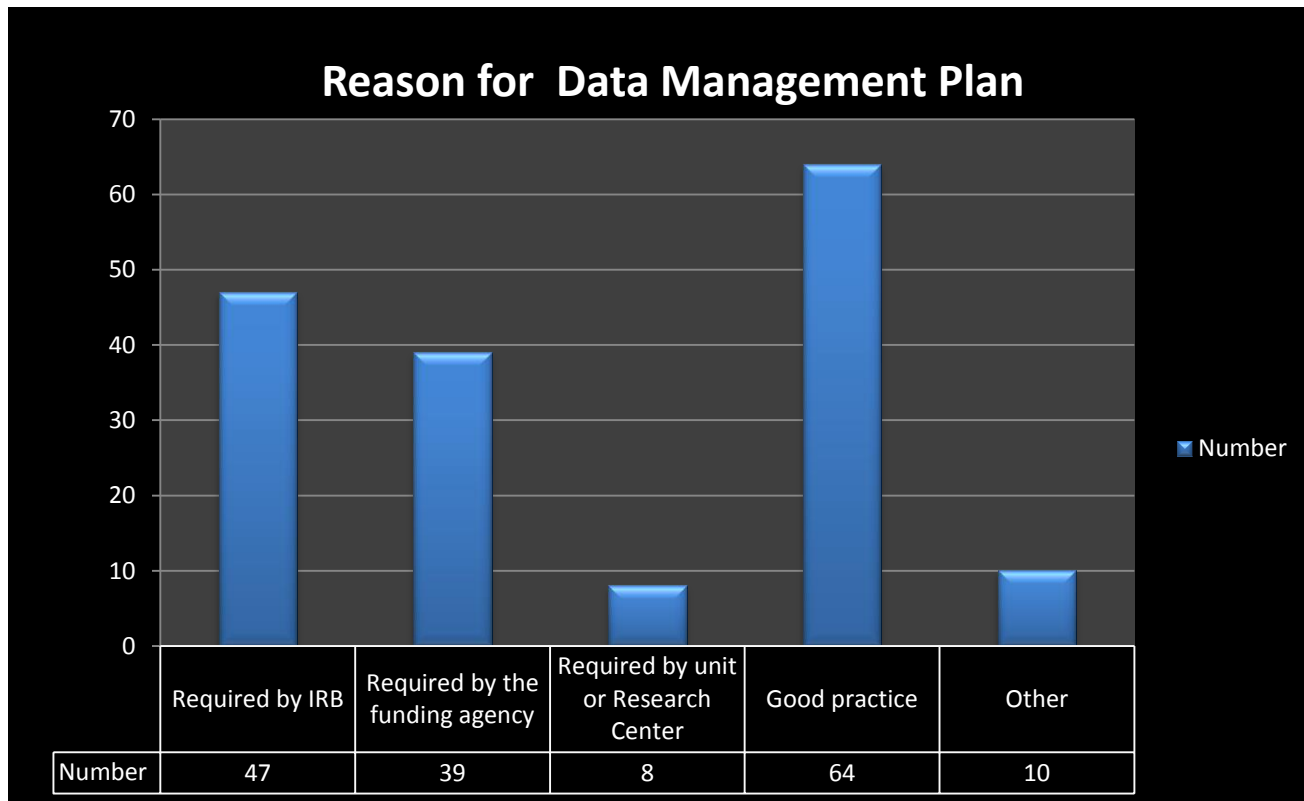
- 75% did not anticipate sharing data!
- Use cloud services (e.g. Dropbox, Google Docs)
- CDs, file transfer

Barriers to sharing

- Size of datasets
- Confidentiality and copyright
- Limited access to central storage on campus
- Lack of knowledge about sharing - what can be shared and how to do it
- Compatibility across systems

Data Management Plans

- 40% (of 97 respondents that currently have plans)



Priorities for Support Query

- Best practices for developing a data management plans
- Cost estimates for data storage and retrieval
- Meeting data sharing or storage requirements
- Storing data with third-party archives
- Routine data storage & backup services
- Tools for sharing research data
- Digitizing data from older formats
- Applying metadata to research data
- Preparing data sets for public access
- Data disposal/destruction
- Other (please specify)

Priorities for support (summary)

- Storage and backup
- Meeting data storage and sharing requirements
- Data management plans

Conclusions

- Storage and automatic backup greatest need
- Assistance w/ sharing data 2nd greatest need
- Most faculty back up data but are not following best practices
- Many faculty not aware of data sharing requirements or assume final publication suffices

Follow up

- Team wrote report and shared on campus
- IT Services launched a hosting service and Box Cloud storage
- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) provides DMP assistance
- Libraries and OSP collaborating on DMPTool

Follow up, cont.

- Libraries provide social science data archiving through Odum Institute
- Liaisons visit key faculty and research staff
- Liaisons provide advice on archiving and preserving data
- LibGuide will serve as a portal for campus services
- Training for liaisons and faculty

Discussion: Libraries' role with research?

- DMP consultation
- Data management
- Data curation/preservation
- Data literacy
- Institutional repositories
- Research consultation
- Knowledge banks
- Database and web design
- Digitization
- Grant writing support
- Open access support
- Scholarly Communication

Questions?



More information

- Report

<http://tinyurl.com/pzab27y>

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