

**Methods to weigh the outcome of the use of
electronic resources**

**Highlights of two studies among
Doctoral Candidates and PhDs worldwide**

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Agenda

- Study 1: Challenges facing doctoral students
 - Background
 - Key information sources
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 - Coursework issues
- Study 2: Use of electronic resources among research community
 - Background
 - Keeping informed about field of interest
 - Scholarly communication
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 - Preparing for publication
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Study 1: Challenges facing doctoral students

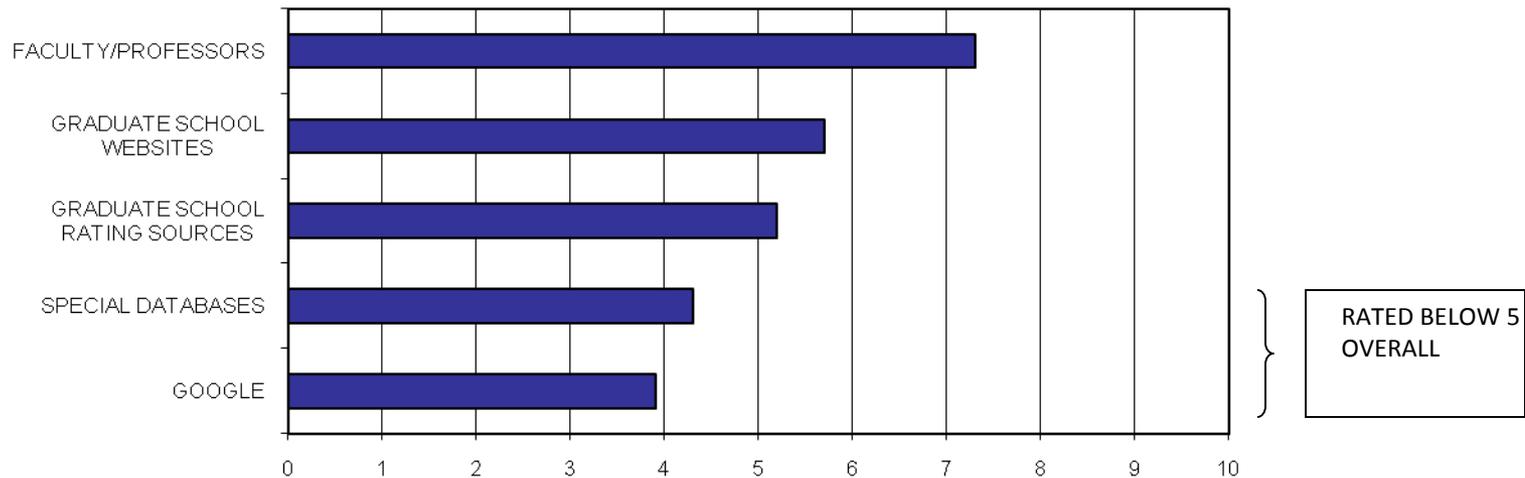
Background

- Investigation into the role of library resources in influencing graduate student selection of university and course of study/research
- Summary of key findings of an online survey among doctoral students about their ongoing challenges
- 600+ doctoral students participants
- Highlights doctoral students information challenges and the role of library resources in meeting their needs

Key information sources: some distinctions

graduate school rating sources and general search engines such as Google in selecting doctoral programs.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION SOURCES



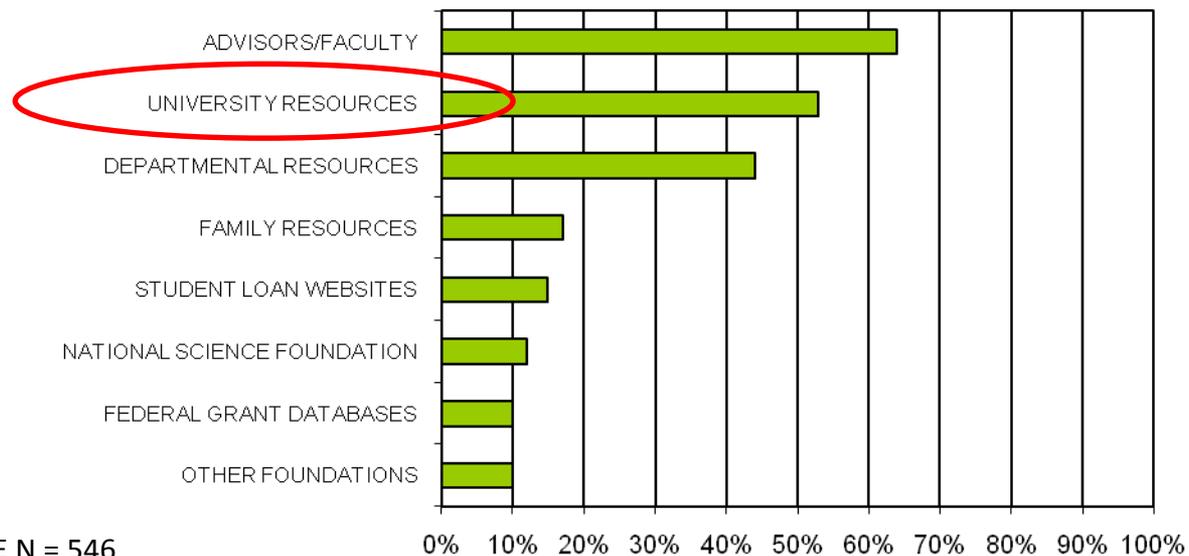
BASE VARIES

Q: How important to you was each of the following sources in your decision-making on which doctoral program to apply to?

Funding Sources

Internal sources – advisors and faculty, departmental and university resources – are the dominant sources of information for finding out about possible funding.

FUNDING: INCIDENCE OF INFORMATION SOURCES USED

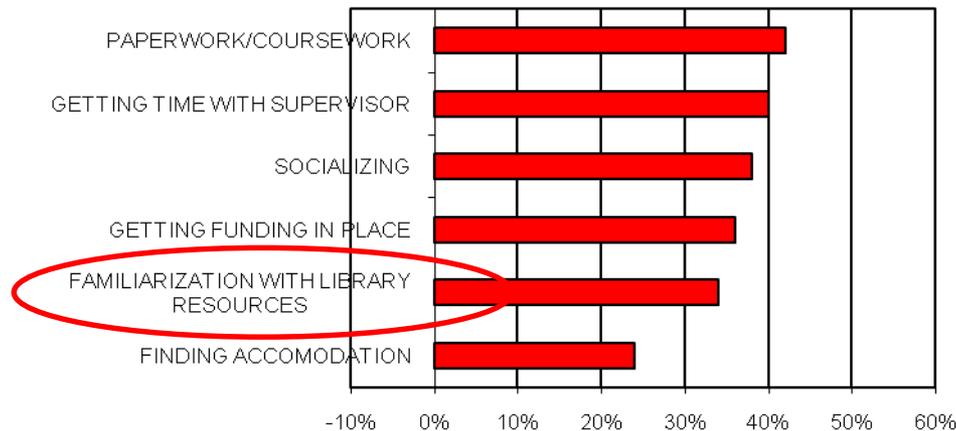


Q: What were the main sources of information that you used to find out how to fund your doctorate?

Initial research obstacles

Acclimatization seems not too overwhelming, generally, for doctoral candidates, although nearly half of them find or found paperwork irksome and getting time with supervisors difficult.

ASPECTS OF ACCLIMATIZATION: “ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT/TIME CONSUMING” INCIDENCE



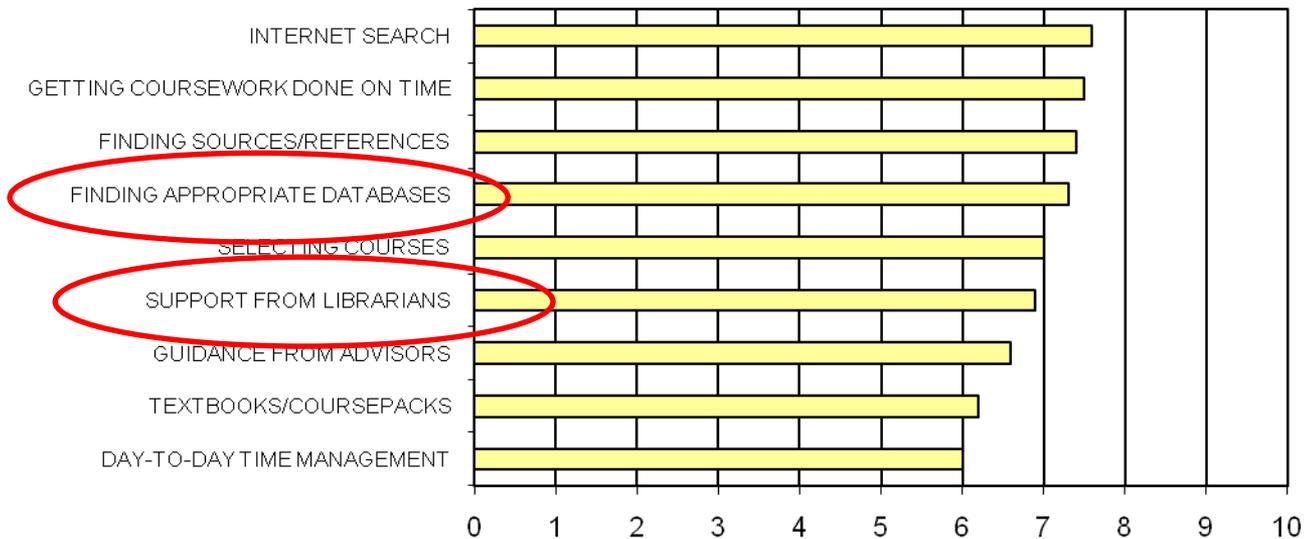
BASE N = 539

Q: Were any of the following aspects of your first few days and weeks on your doctoral program especially difficult, time-consuming or challenging – more so than you expected?

Coursework Issues

Doctoral candidates express a generally high level of satisfaction with all key aspects of getting coursework done. Similar profiles of satisfaction apply “across the board” of disciplines.

EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF COURSEWORK



BASE N = 529

Q: How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of getting your coursework done?

Study 2: Use of electronic resources among research community

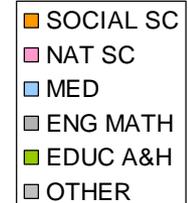
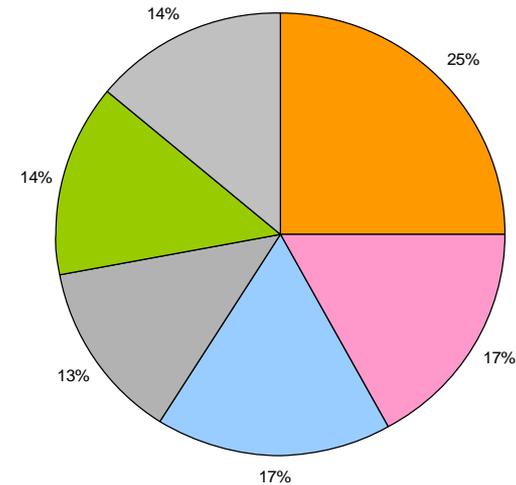
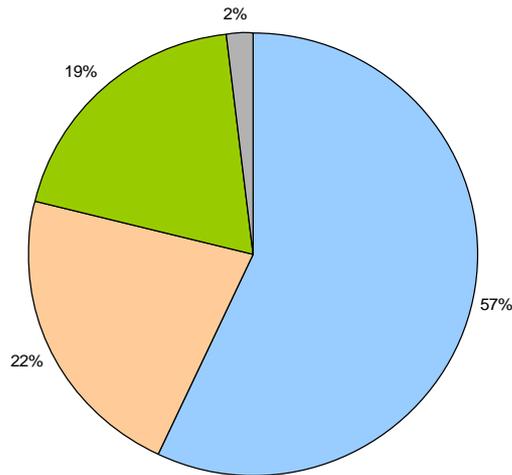
Background

- How graduate students, post-doctorates and faculty are using library and other electronic databases, and challenges associated with this for them in integrating into their workflow.

Study 2: Background - Respondent status and field of study

Over 900 graduate students and faculty members participated in this research project. Major areas of study included social sciences, natural science, the medical field, engineering, computer sciences, education and the arts and humanities.

STUDY PARTICIPANT'S STATUS & FIELD OF STUDY



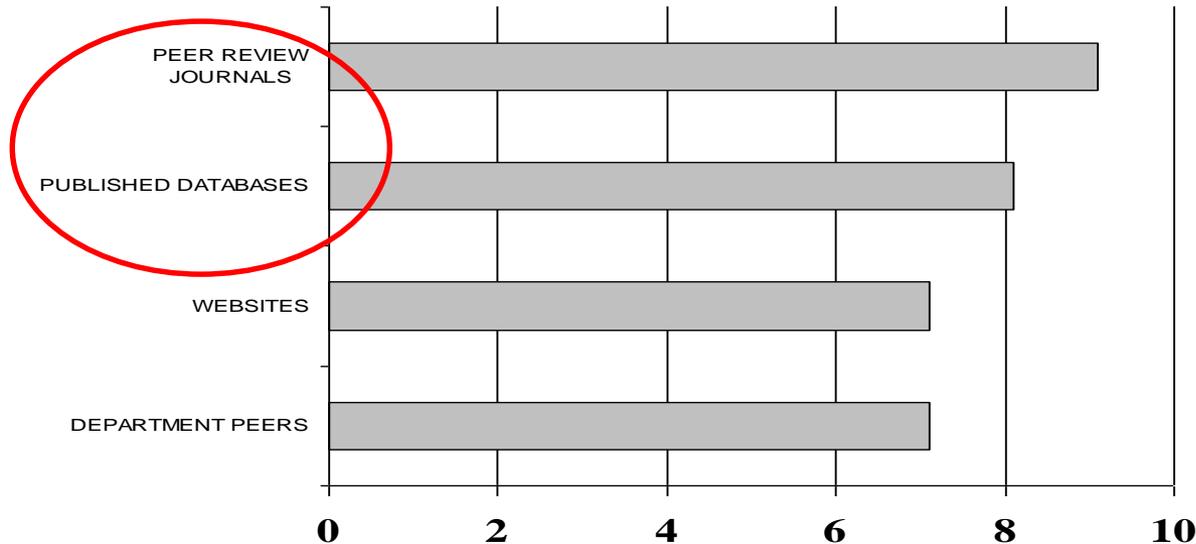
BASE N = 923

Q: Please indicate [your position/status] Your discipline/field of study.

Keeping informed about field of interest

Published databases are a leading source of information for keeping informed about developments in fields of interest.

LEADING WAYS OF KEEPING INFORMED



WEBSITES, PUBLICATIONS IDENTIFIED AS "IMPORTANT" WERE MANY AND VARIOUS REFLECTING THE PARTICIPANTS' DISCIPLINES. PUBMED AND PSYCHINFO WERE MENTIONED OFTEN

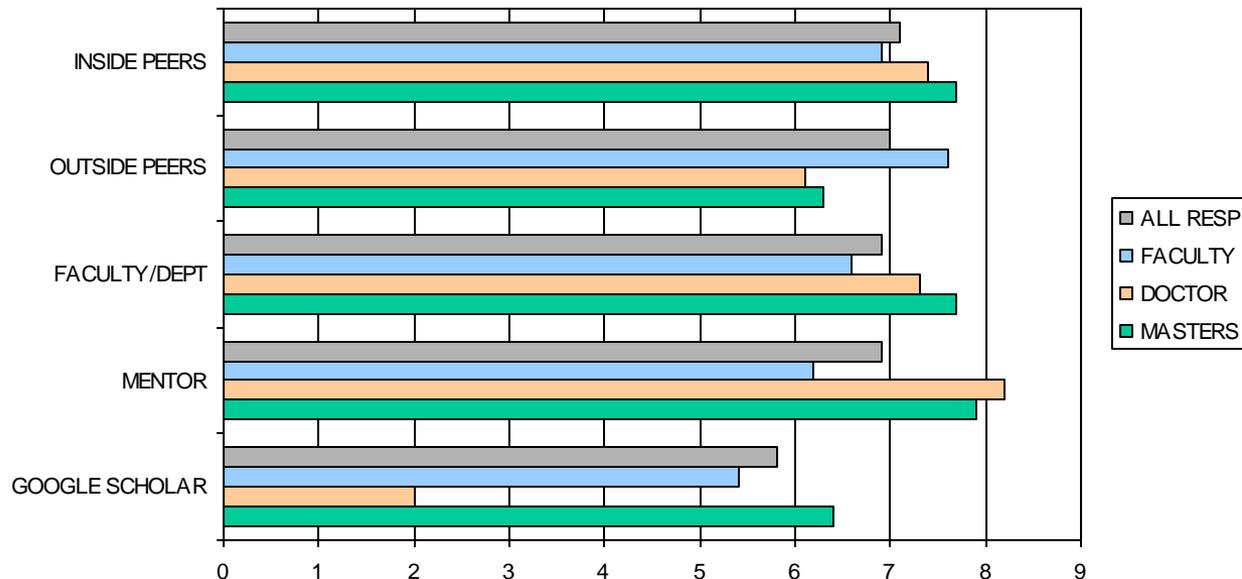
BASE N = 876 CHART INDICATES RATING 1 – 10: ONLY LEADING FOUR ASPECTS SHOWN

Q: How important is each of the following ways of keeping informed about your field of interest?

Keeping informed about field of interest: Some minor differences

Generally, the relative importance of ways of keeping informed is similar among students and faculty. Mentors and advisors are critically important in this respect for both doctoral and master's candidates.

KEEPING INFORMED ABOUT FIELD OF INTEREST

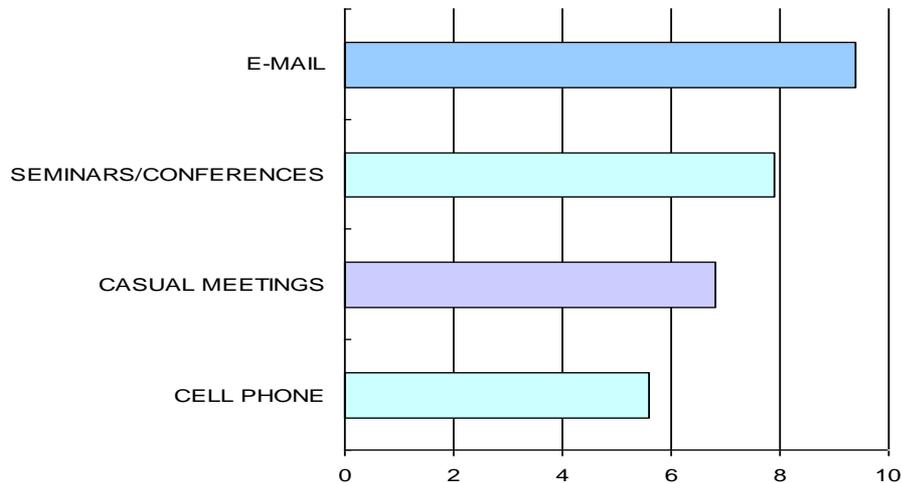


Q: How important are each of the following ways of keeping informed about your field of interest?

Scholarly communication

Person-to-person, E-mail is the dominant overall method of keeping in touch (other than social networking), more important than cell phones. Conferences and casual meetings also serve this purpose very well.

MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF KEEPING IN TOUCH



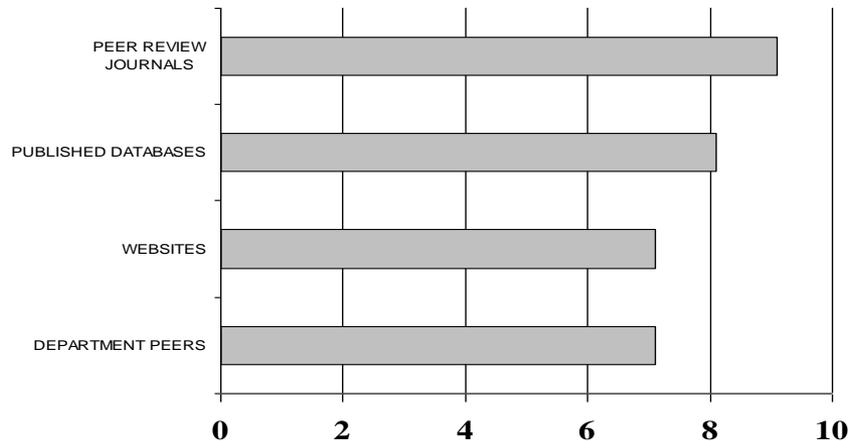
BASE N = 871 CHART INDICATES RATING 1 – 10: FOUR LEADING METHODS SHOWN

Q: How important is each of these means of keeping in touch ...?

Awareness of research developments

Peer review journals are, by a considerable margin still , the first “port of call” for learning about new developments in fields of interest.

LEADING SOURCES



SOURCE USED FIRST

PEER REVIEW JOURNALS	72%
PUBLISHED DATABASES	46%
WEBSITES	38%
PEERS	20%

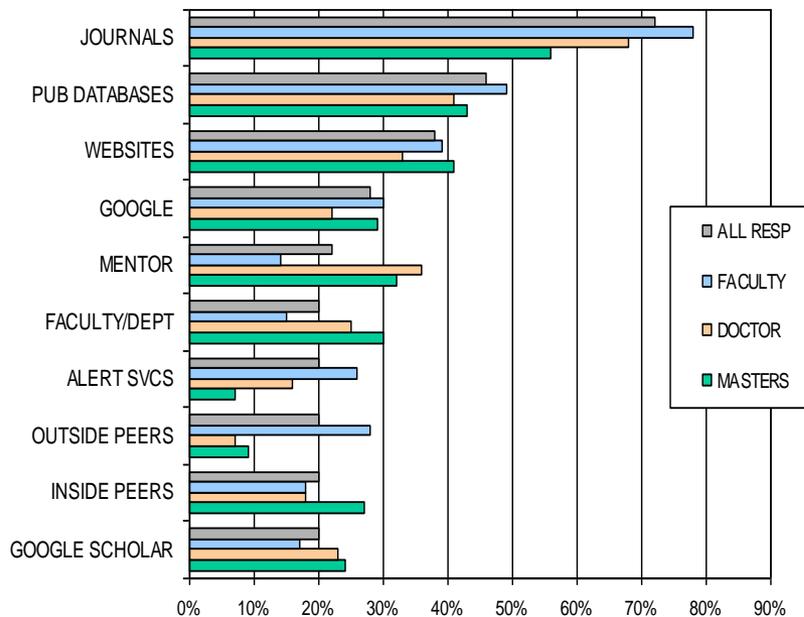
BASE N = 860. LEADING FOUR SOURCES SHOWN: BOX INDICATES % USING SOURCE FIRST

Q: Which sources do you use first to learn of new developments in your field? Which do you go to first?

Awareness of research developments: some differences

Google, although not as important as journals, published databases or websites specific to a discipline as a first source for learning of new developments, retains a strong position among those in the natural sciences.

FIRST LEARNING OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELD OF INTEREST



RESOURCE	NAT SCI	SOC SCI
GOOGLE	33%	20%
FACULTY	15%	25%
ALERT SVCS	25%	15%
PEERS	14%	22%

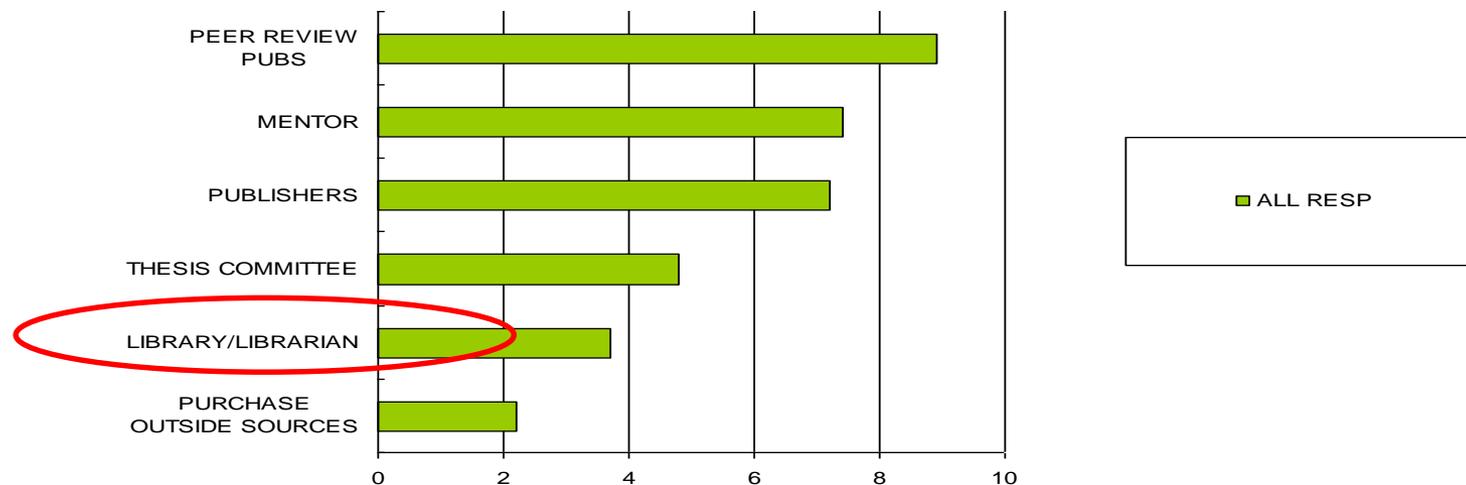
BASE VARIES : BOX INDICATES SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BY KEY SOURCE AND SUBJECT AREA

Q: ... Which sources do you go to first, to learn of new developments in your field of interest...?

Preparing for publication

Traditional sources influence preparation of material for publication. Perhaps counter-intuitively, thesis committees play only a modest role (maybe because their contribution precedes this phase), and outside purchased sources have yet to make a mark.

INFLUENCES ON MATERIAL PREPARATION



BASE N = 823 CHART INDICATES RATING 1 - 10

Q: When you are preparing material for eventual publication or peer review, how important to you is each of the following influences

Workflow challenges

Nearly a quarter of faculty members taking part in this study claim that getting funding on time proves “extremely difficult”. Other real challenges are finding time for writing articles etc. and the challenge of juggling teaching and research.

CHALLENGES OF EVERYDAY WORK LIVES

TOPIC	% SAYING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT		
	FACULTY	DOCTORAL	MASTERS
GETTING FUNDING ON TIME	24%	15%	14%
SETTING ASIDE TIME FOR WRITING ETC	23%	16%	15%
BALANCING PERSONAL/WORK LIVES	19%	17%	17%
JUGGLING TEACHING/RESEARCH	21%	9%	12%
TIME MANAGEMENT GENERALLY	13%	17%	10%

BASE N = 806 NOTE: ONLY FACTORS EVALUATED AS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT BY AT LEAST 10% INDICATED

Q: How problematical have you found each of the following aspects of your everyday work experience ..?

Implications for Libraries

- Library resources play an important role across the entire academic research community
- Peer review databases and journals are of prime importance – but grey literature is also important
- Libraries can help achieve success of research programmes through integrating available resources
- Providing as many access and integration methods as possible can help alleviate researchers' pain points
- Work to meet users, and meet users' needs
- It's not just research – databases play a role in selection, research and communication of research.