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Global Connections: The Health Sciences Library's Role in Medical Campus Collaborations

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BACKGROUND

OBJECTIVE

Examination of the role of the library in the advancement of global initiatives on an academic medical campus. What is the role of the library in medical education and research at an institution which is increasingly looking beyond its physical boundaries?

In 2009, the Taubman Health Sciences Library (THL) began to intensively develop, promote and assess research connections, educational programs in global health and consider how the library contributes to the mission of a "global university".

SCHOOL OF NURSING

- Instruction and information literacy sessions for rotations of visiting faculty from Kumasi Nursing and Midwifery Training School
- Future student and faculty instruction
- Future grant-funded collaboration

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (CGH)

- Winter 2010 implementation of a hands-on "Foundations in Information Skills" instruction series:
 1. Global Health Information Resources: An Introductory Tour
 2. Great Global Grantsmanship: Finding Funding Sources for Research and Academic Projects
 3. Global Health in Context: African Studies Information Resources
 4. Global Health in Context: Latin American Information Resources
- Fall 2010 "Global Equity" Discussion Series" : librarian lecture on "Information Inequity and the Digital Divide"

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

MEDICAL SCHOOL

- Spring 2010: online survey to assess information needs of faculty and students
- Systematic review search design and expert searching services in international global health collaborations and medical education
- Student and faculty consultations in global health information resources and strategies
- Building information skills foundations for global health curricula in UGE and GME
- Ghana Night for Global Health – an opportunity to connect with researchers from across campus focusing on projects in Ghana
- Monthly hands-on instruction of University of Ghana medical students on monthly rotation in UMHS Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Excerpt from Ghanaian student report :

"I learned better and faster ways of looking up more accurate and current medical information". I believe this is going to greatly influence my learning for the better".



FUTURE STEPS

- Developing faculty development opportunities
- Further investigation of grant-funded international collaborations
- Promoting course-integration instruction
- Expanding international connections

ASSESSMENT

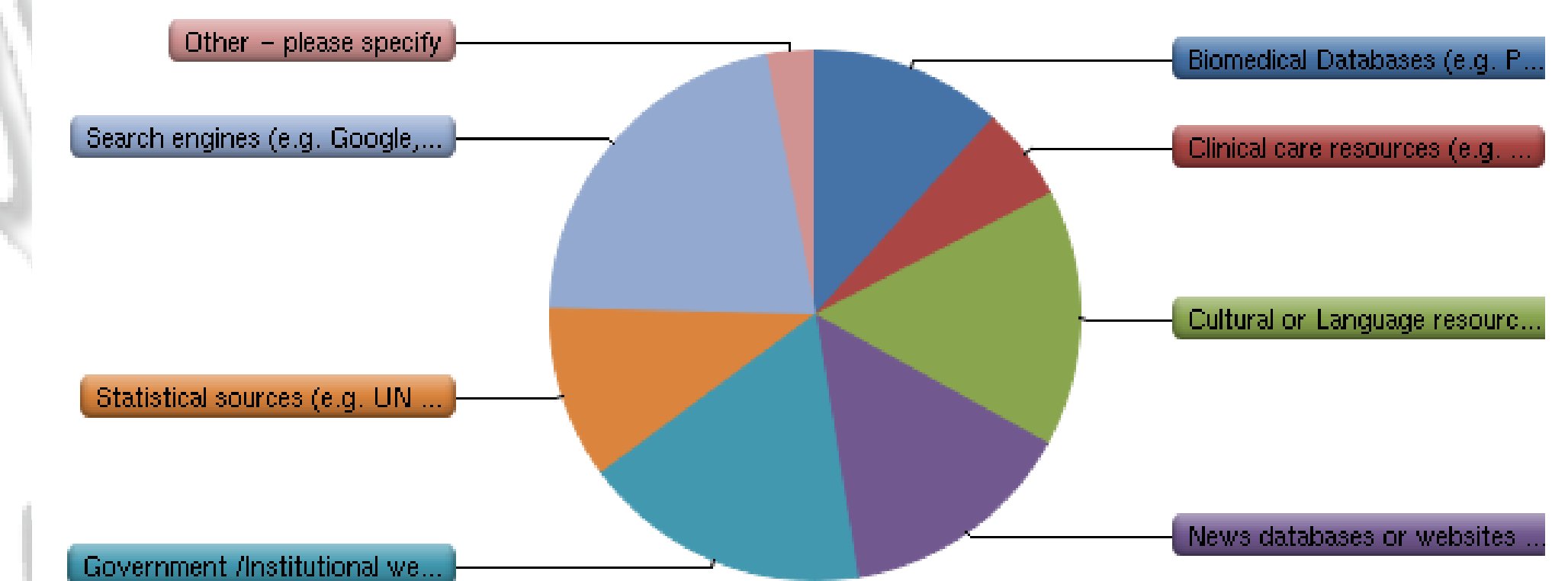
MEDICAL SCHOOL

ONLINE SURVEY: GLOBAL HEALTH INFORMATION NEEDS, BEHAVIORS and ATTITUDES

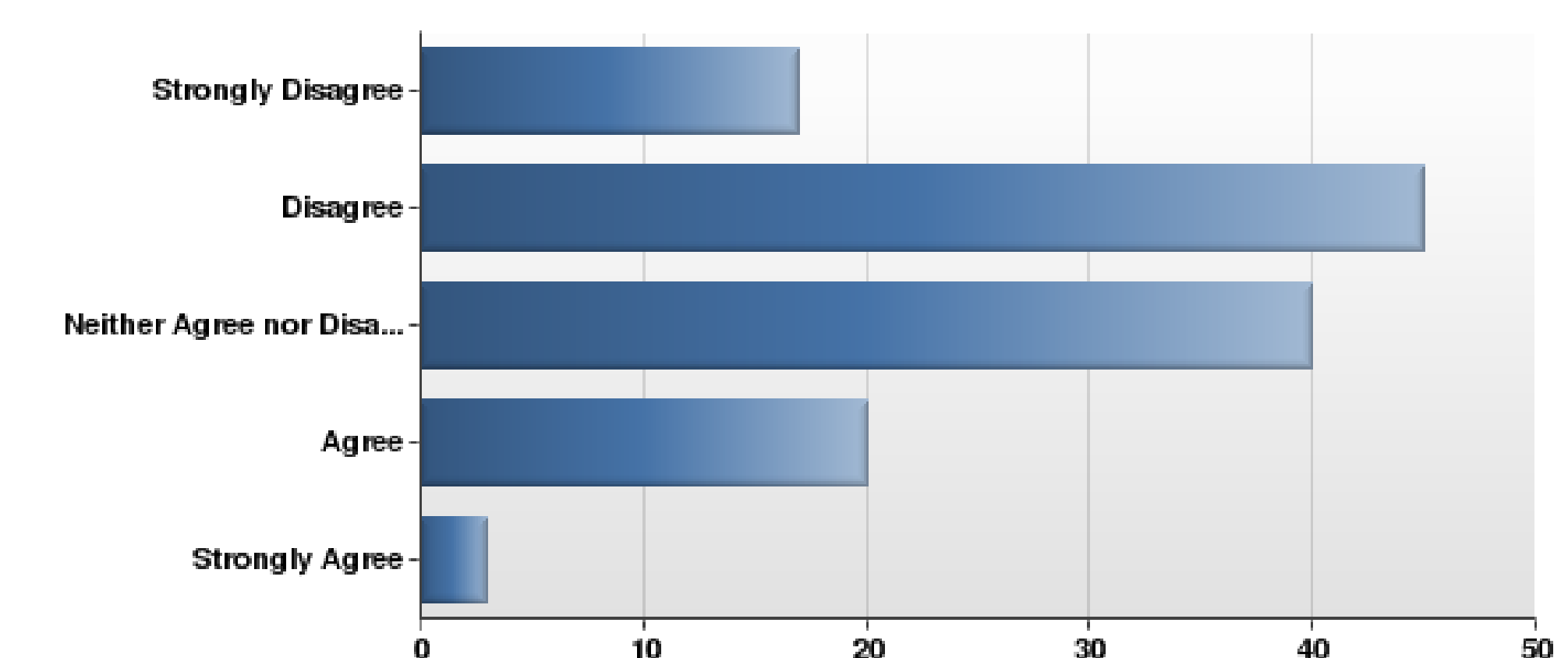
Demographics

Faculty		10	8%
M1		35	28%
M2		5	4%
M3		43	34%
M4		32	26%
Total		125	100%

What TYPES of information resources have you used to prepare for your global health or international experience? (all that apply) N=88



I am confident in conducting global health research and in my knowledge of relevant sources of information. N=125



Do you expect to take part in global health projects in the future? N=123

