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Engineering Graduate Student Information Literacy: Are We Meeting the Need?

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ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION LITERACY: Are we meeting the need?

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BACKGROUND



Engineering librarians at the University of Michigan have historically instructed engineering graduate students on topics such as conducting literature reviews, data management, and finding research funding. These sessions were in response to specific requests from students or faculty.

In fall 2017, the engineering librarians conducted a survey and focus group of engineering graduate students to gain information on whether a broader program of library instruction would better meet graduate students' needs regarding information literacy and general research topics.

METHODOLOGIES

INITIAL SURVEY



Open Period: Nov. 6 - 28, 2017

Method: Email sent to departmental graduate student groups.

Responses: 392 students out of 3,637 CoE grad student enrollment (10.7% response rate)

CoE graduate population is 27% of total UM grad population (CoE = 3,637 and UM = 13,415)

FOCUS GROUP

Attendees: 18 grad students (2 masters, 16 PhD)

When: Early December, 2017

What: 8 formal questions, with time for discussion

SURVEY RESULTS NOT PICTURED

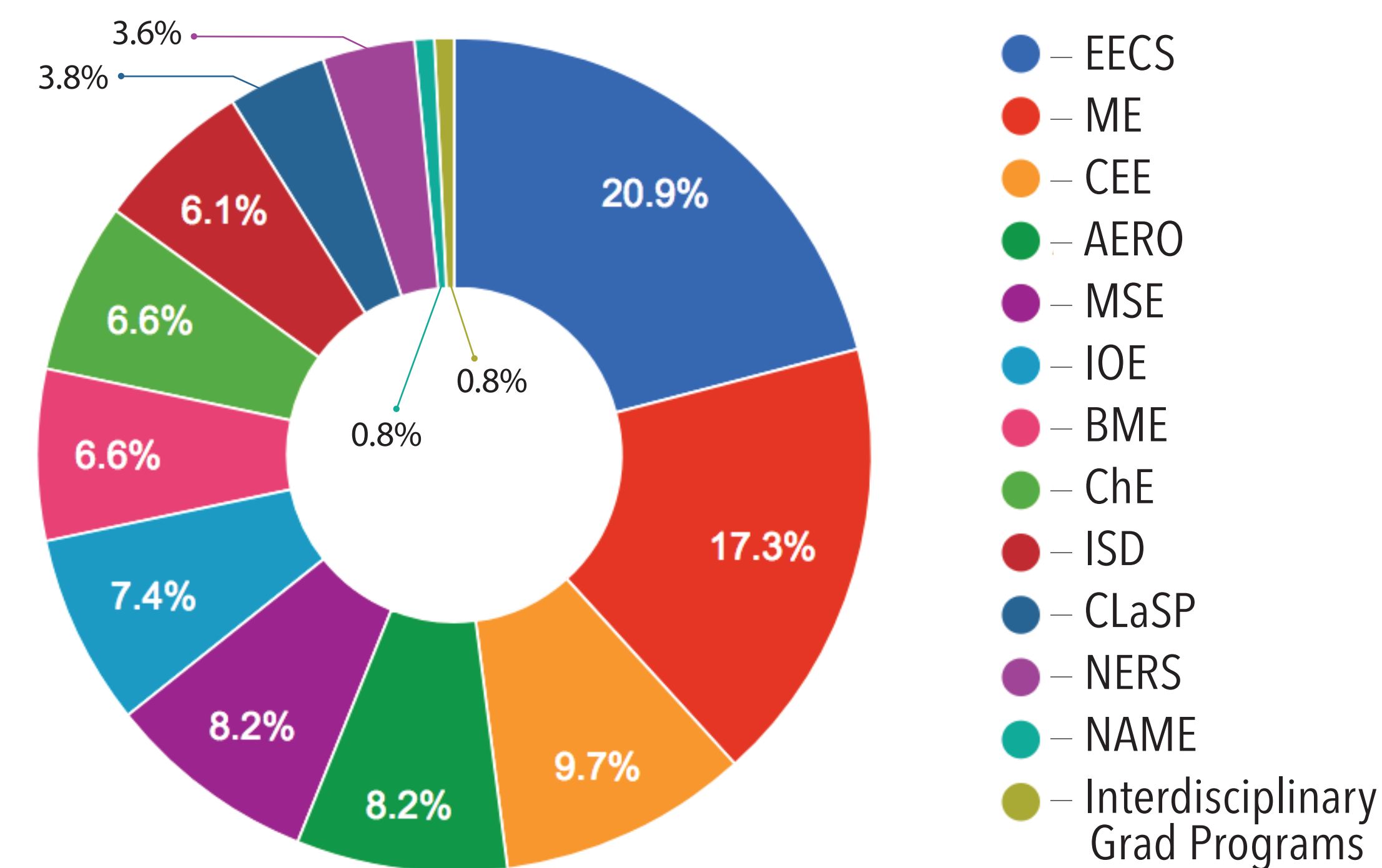
Opinions on literature reviews, knowledge of copyright, and finding the best journals for publications.

RESULTS

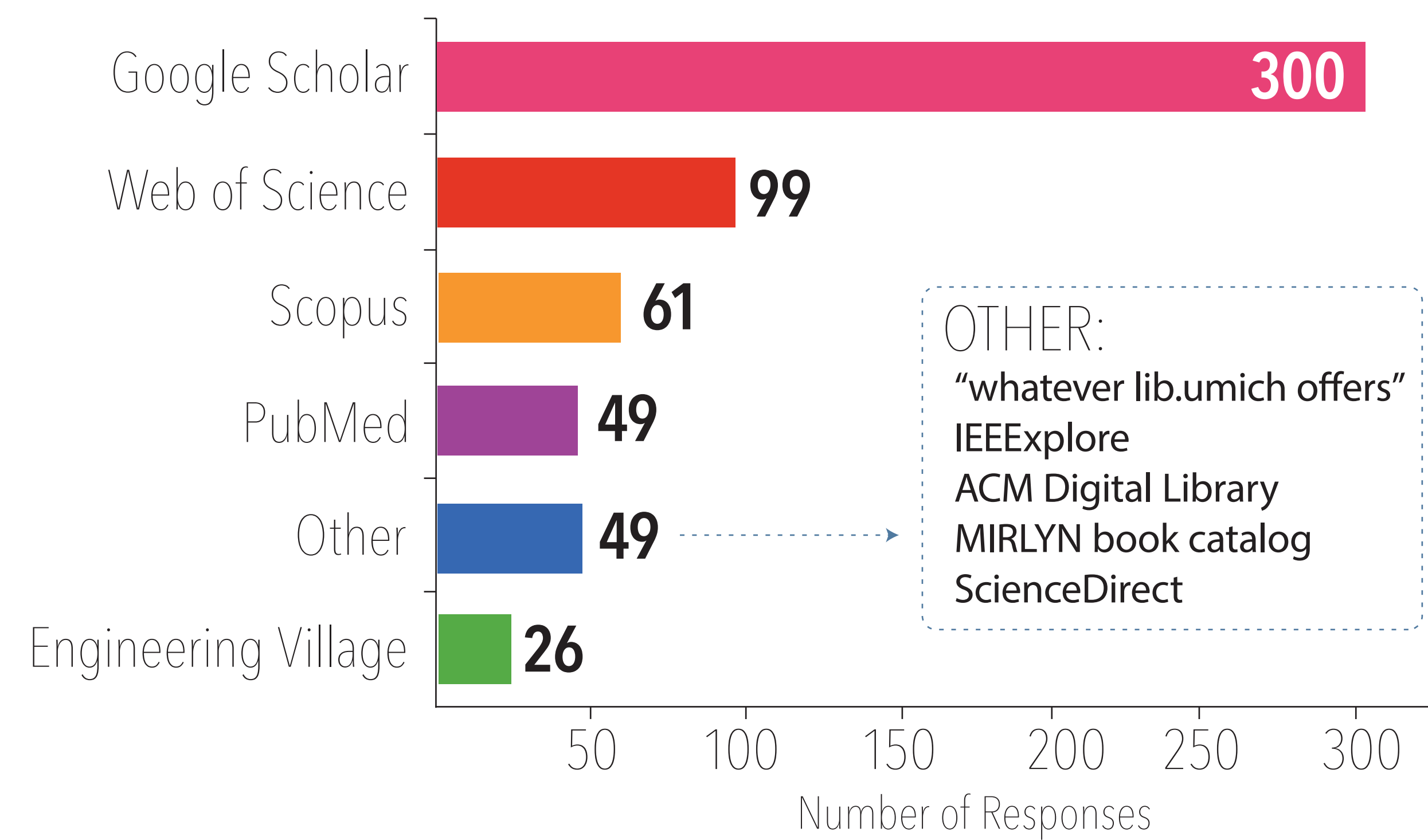


Highlighted survey results.

DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

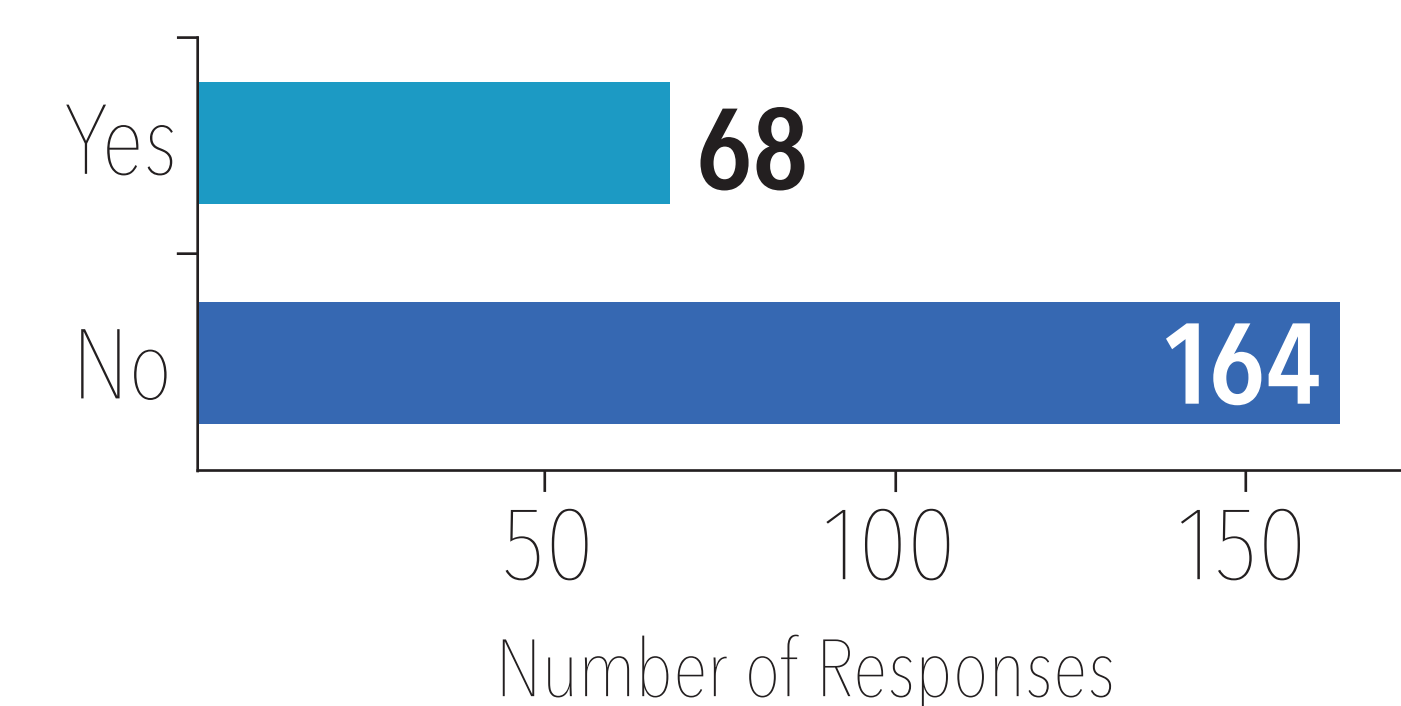


DATABASES SEARCHED

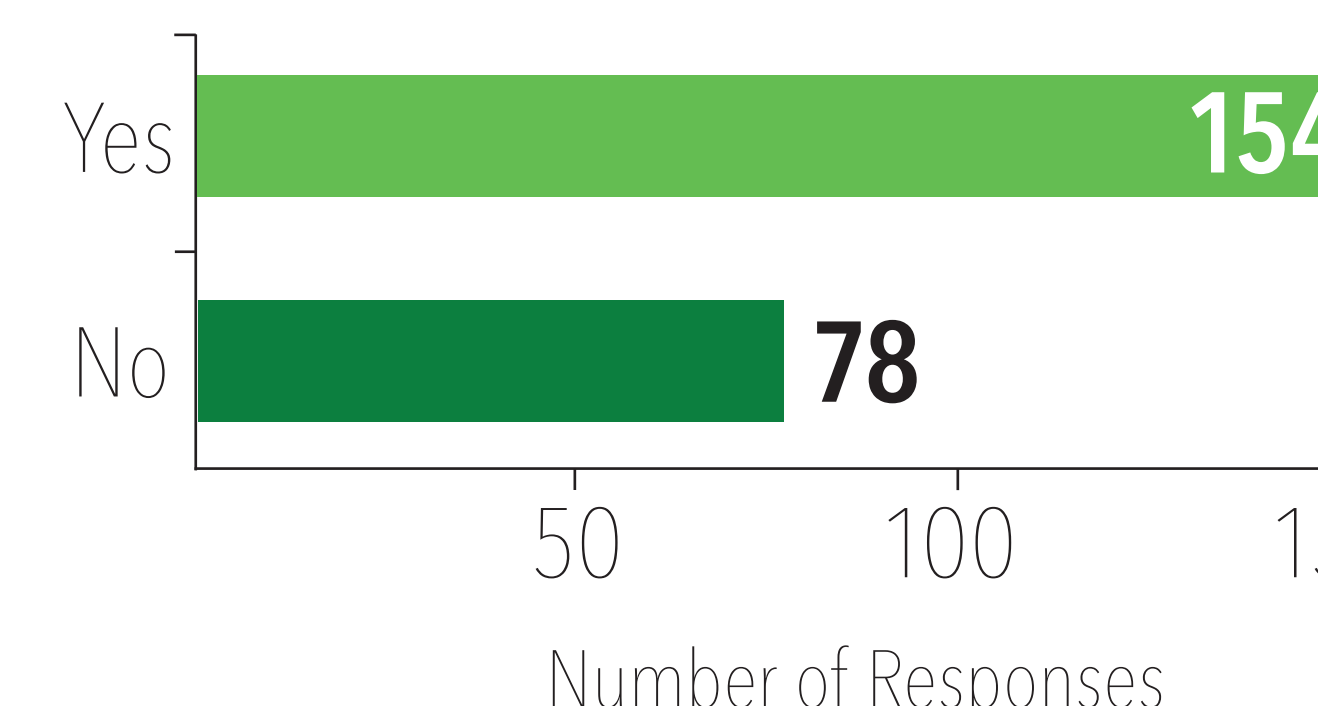


FUNDING

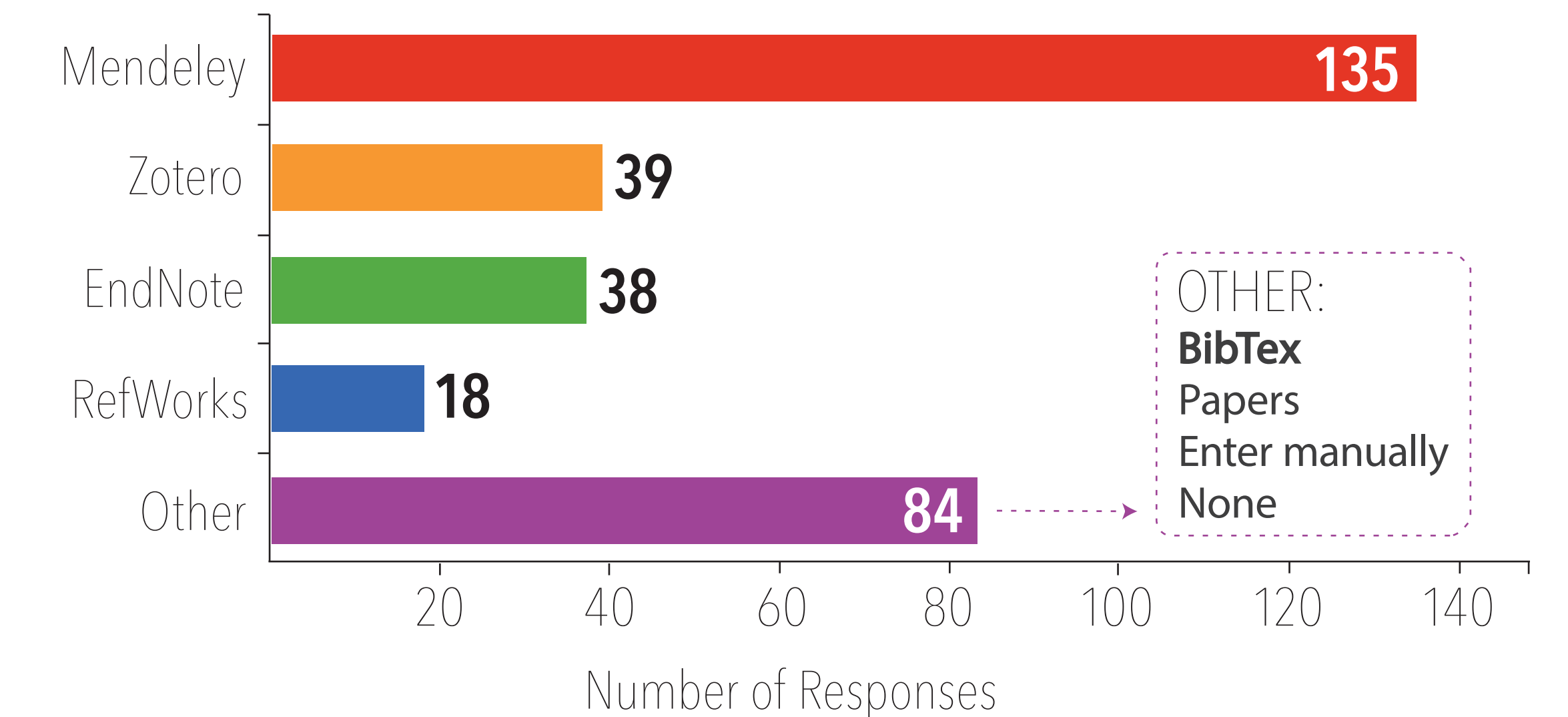
Need to find funding for your research?



Want to learn how to find funding for your research?



CITATION MANAGER USE



RESEARCH DATA

- Most are confident their research data is saved appropriately
- Almost all are confident they can analyze their data effectively
- Most want training on how to comply with grant regulations

WHAT RESEARCH NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET?

- Access to Articles
- Finding Funding
- Data Management Education
- Return the Engineering Books to the Library

LOOKING FORWARD



Results indicate graduate students will benefit from additional library instruction. Based on collaboration with administrators and departments, the engineering librarians plan to put in place a new instruction program starting in fall 2018. This will be assessed annually by a survey of graduate students, convening a graduate student advisory group, and adding library-related questions to graduate student exit interviews.