

Virtual Verse in the Library: Surveying the E-Poetry Landscape

Harriett Green, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | green19@illinois.edu

Rachel Fleming-May, University of Tennessee, Knoxville | rf-m@utk.edu

The Issues:

- The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses Directory lists nearly 200 online literary journals today
- Poetry is among the most heavily represented genre, but there is little record or digital preservation of e-poetry works

Project:

Awarded an IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant to investigate methods of indexing individual works of online-only poetry

Activities:

- Complete environmental scan of online poetry publishing
- Assess information behaviors and experiences with online-only poetry of poets, literary scholars, publishers, and librarians
- Surveyed 200 faculty, librarians, and literary publishers in 3 separate surveys
- Interviewed 19 poets, literary scholars, publishers, and librarians
- TO COME: Identify potential partners for development and maintenance of online poetry index

Responses from Publisher, Faculty, and Librarian Surveys

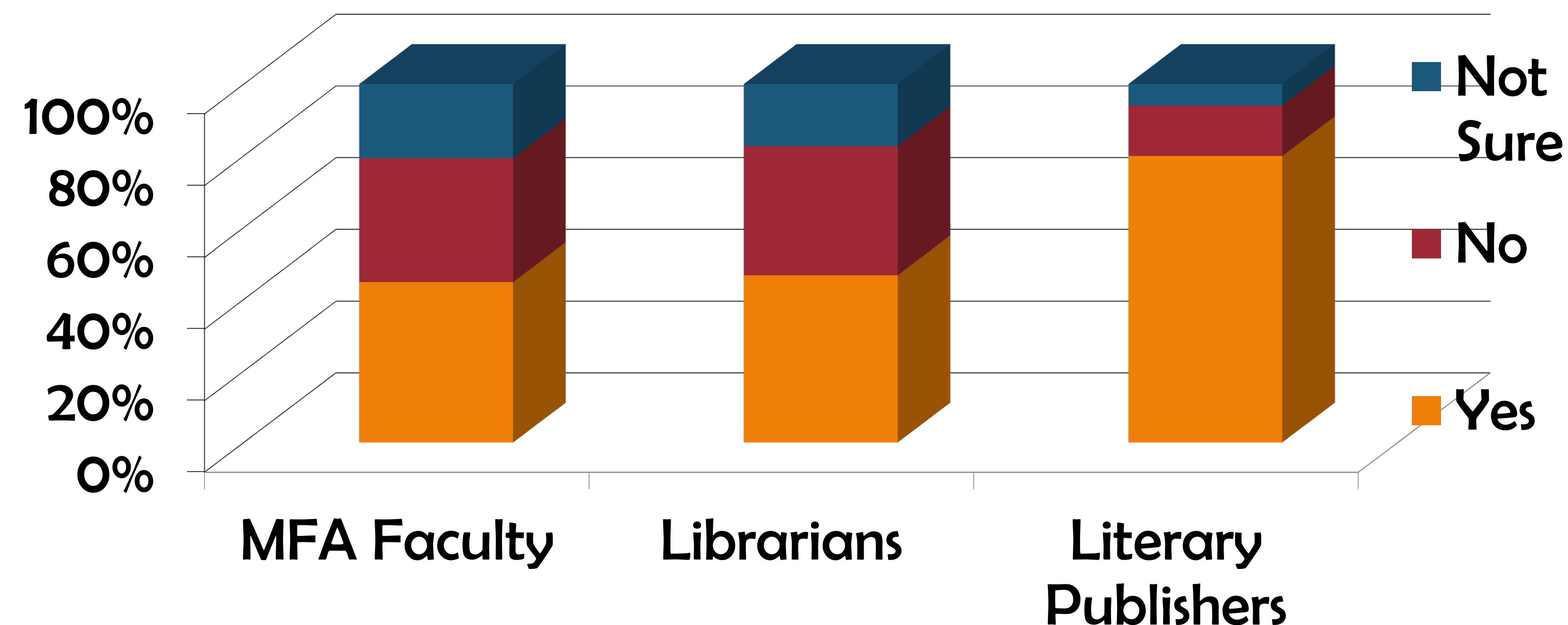
Issues in creating an online-only poetry index

"I would like to think there's a general repository of some sort out there in cyberland so that online poems would be accessible & not simply consigned to oblivion after their initial appearance."
.—Faculty Member

"When e-journals fold and their journal goes offline when the domain and hosting bill lapses, it'd be a way to index and preserve the work published online. There have been a few very good e-journals that have folded recently, and I hope they remain online."
.—Publisher

I think that we'll continue to have print only literary publications, but I see online-only poetry ... as continuing to develop. My chief concern is actually long term preservation."
.—Librarian

Has the availability of poetry online changed the way you find and read poetry?



Challenges and considerations in online publishing:

"Formatting the work, maintaining accurate archives, the sense of an "eternal present" for an archived work."
.—Publisher

ANADP II Action Assembly
November 18-20, 2013

