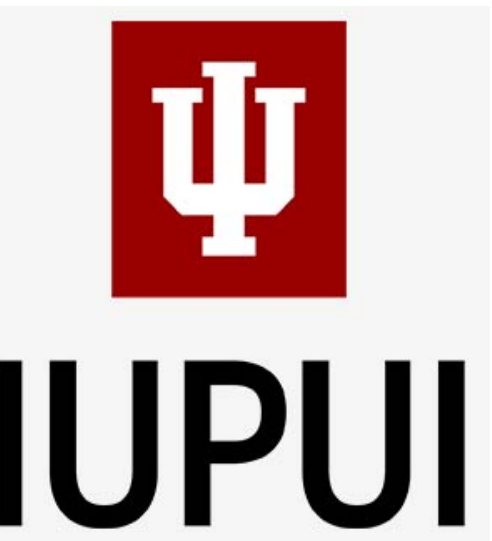# Pedagogical v. Pathfinder:
Which is the Better LibGuide Design for Student Learning?

Yoo Young Lee, Digital User Experience Librarian, yooylee@iupui.edu; Sara Lowe, Educational Development Librarian, mlowe@iupui.edu
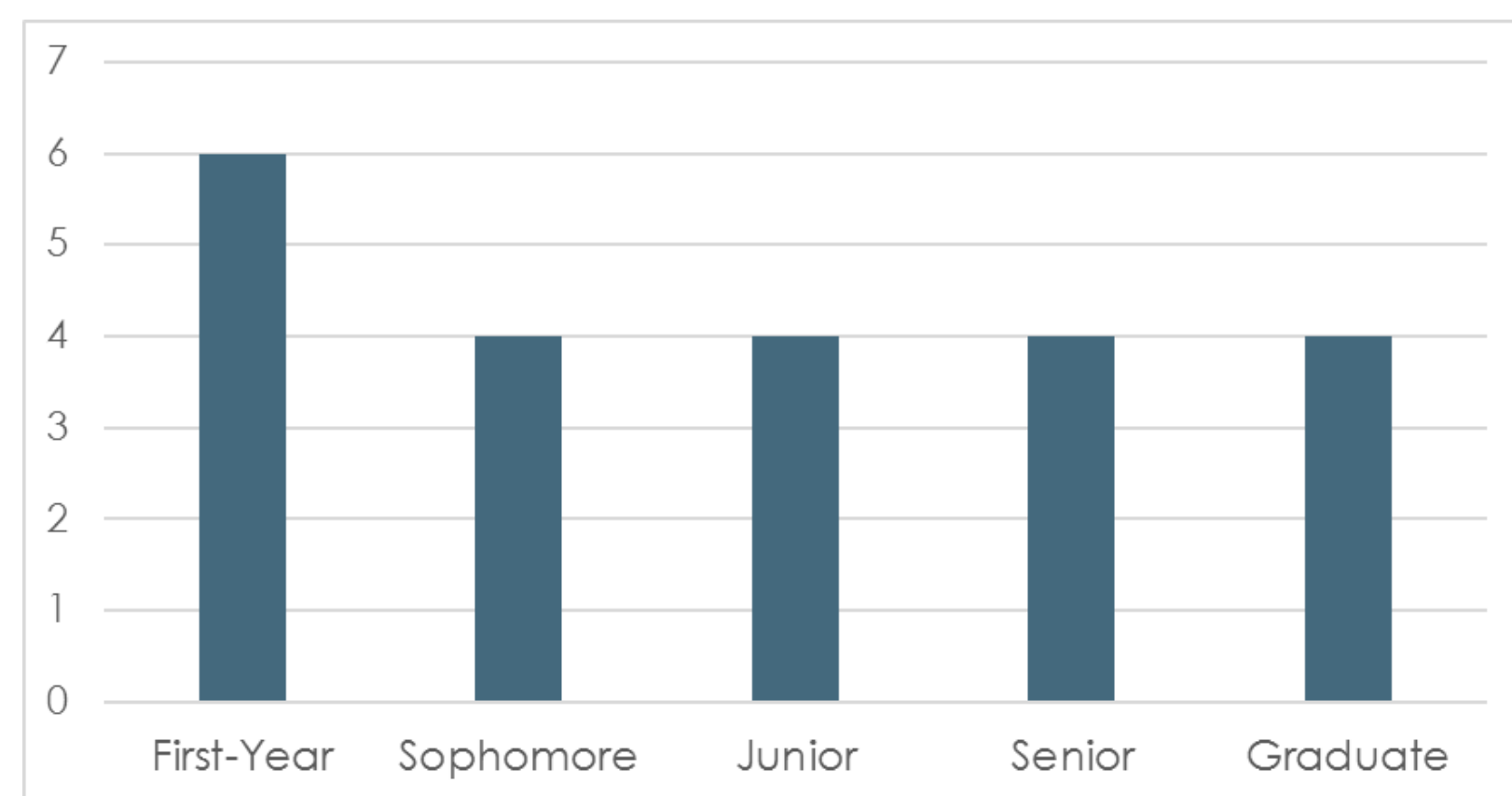University Library, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
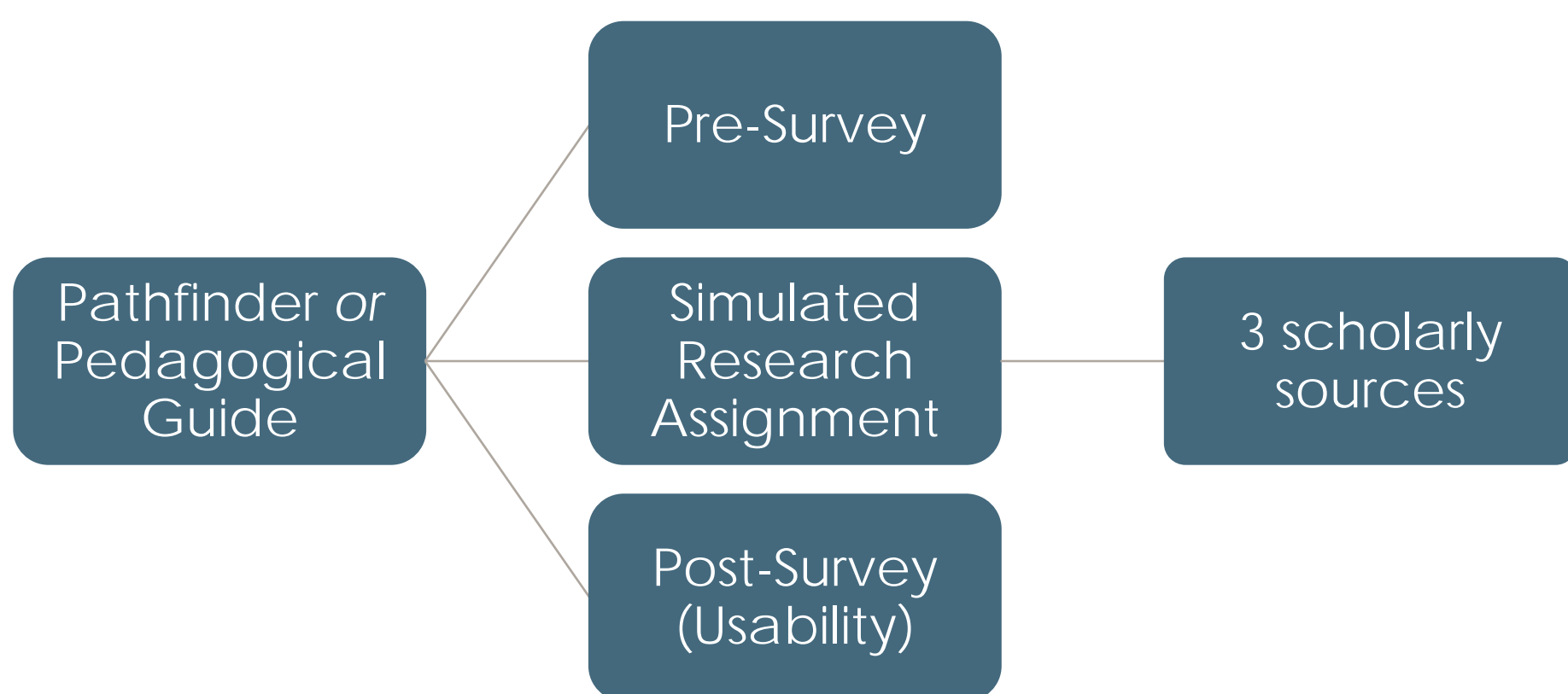
Question

Which guide design (pathfinder or pedagogical) best supports student learning and self-efficacy outside of a classroom, instruction environment?

Methodology

Participants (n=22)

Workflow

Rubric

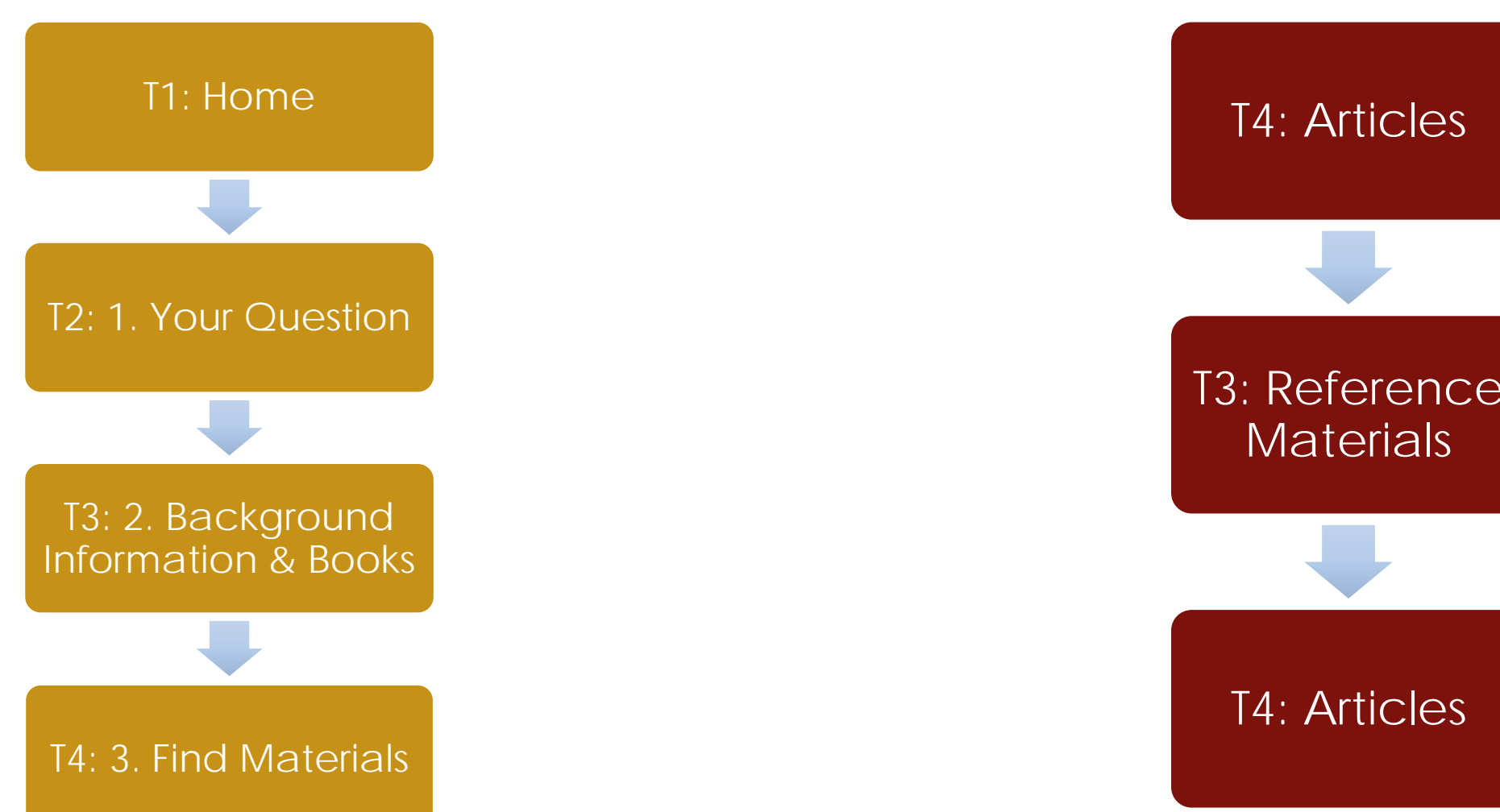| Learning Outcome	Level of Achievement		
	Developed 3	Emerging 2	Initial 1
Keywords & Synonyms	Sufficient keywords and synonyms • Multiple keywords identified • Multiple, appropriate synonyms identified for each keyword	Insufficient keywords or synonyms • Limited identification of keywords • Few or improper synonyms	Minimal keywords and no synonyms • No keywords beyond those used in the original question/topic • No viable synonyms found for the keywords
Research Question	Question is relevant to the topic	Question is kind-of relevant to the topic – containing elements of the topic but not everything (e.g., Islam in America)	Question is not relevant to the topic, very vague, OR only repeats the topic in question form
Article (Relevance)	Article content seems appropriate for the proposed question/topic	Article is only tangentially related to the proposed question/topic	Article is not related to the proposed question/topic
Article (Scholarly)	Article is from an appropriate scholarly journal	Article is from an authoritative source (e.g., NY Times) but not a scholarly journal	Article is not from an authoritative source nor a scholarly journal
Evaluation	Well thought out explanation of how the article was relevant to the topic or research question	Explanation is not completely thought out or clearly copied from article abstract	No explanation or no effort to explain (e.g., it's scholarly, I found it in a database, etc.)

Pedagogical   Pathfinder
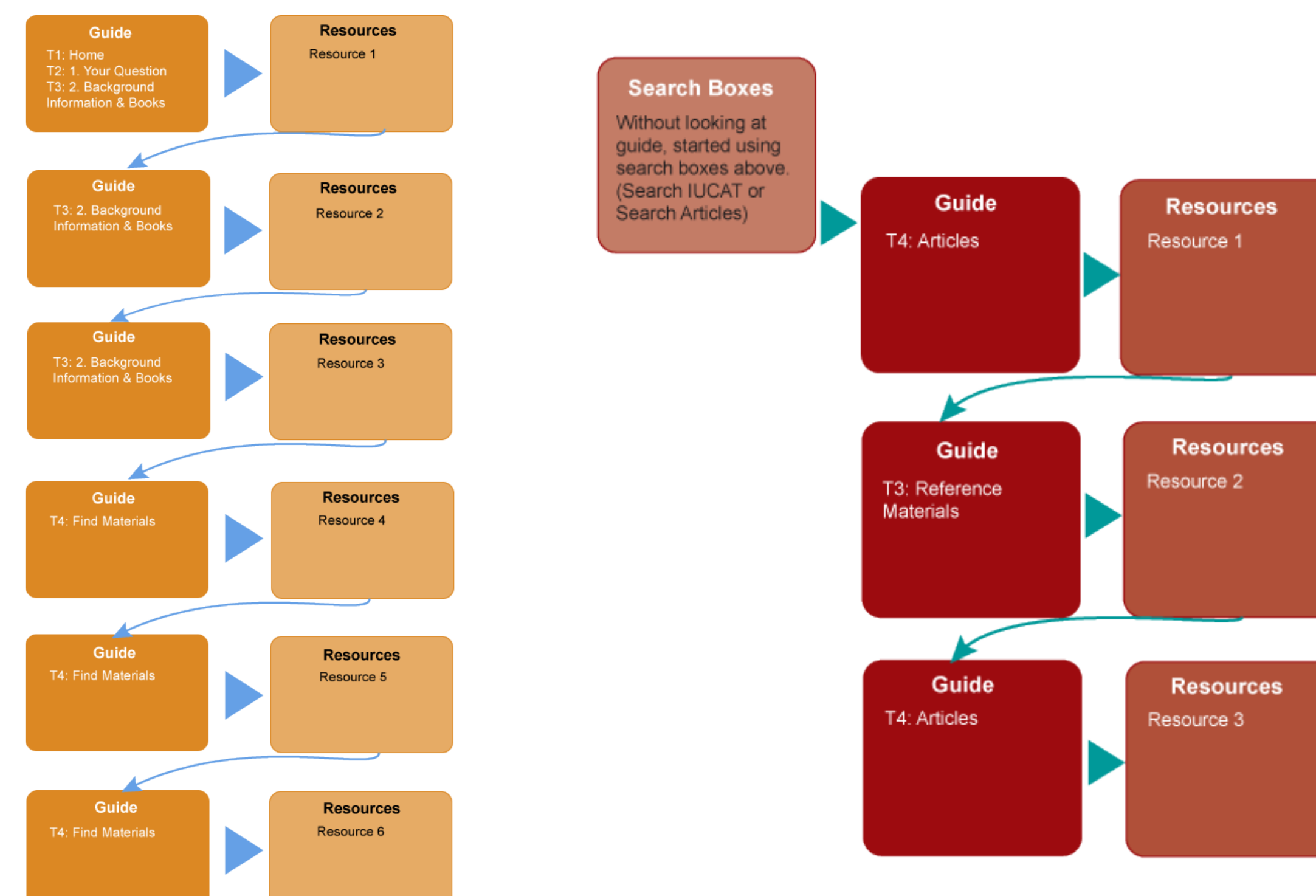
Guide Design

Guide Interaction

On average, Pedagogical clicked 4 pages; Pathfinder 3.
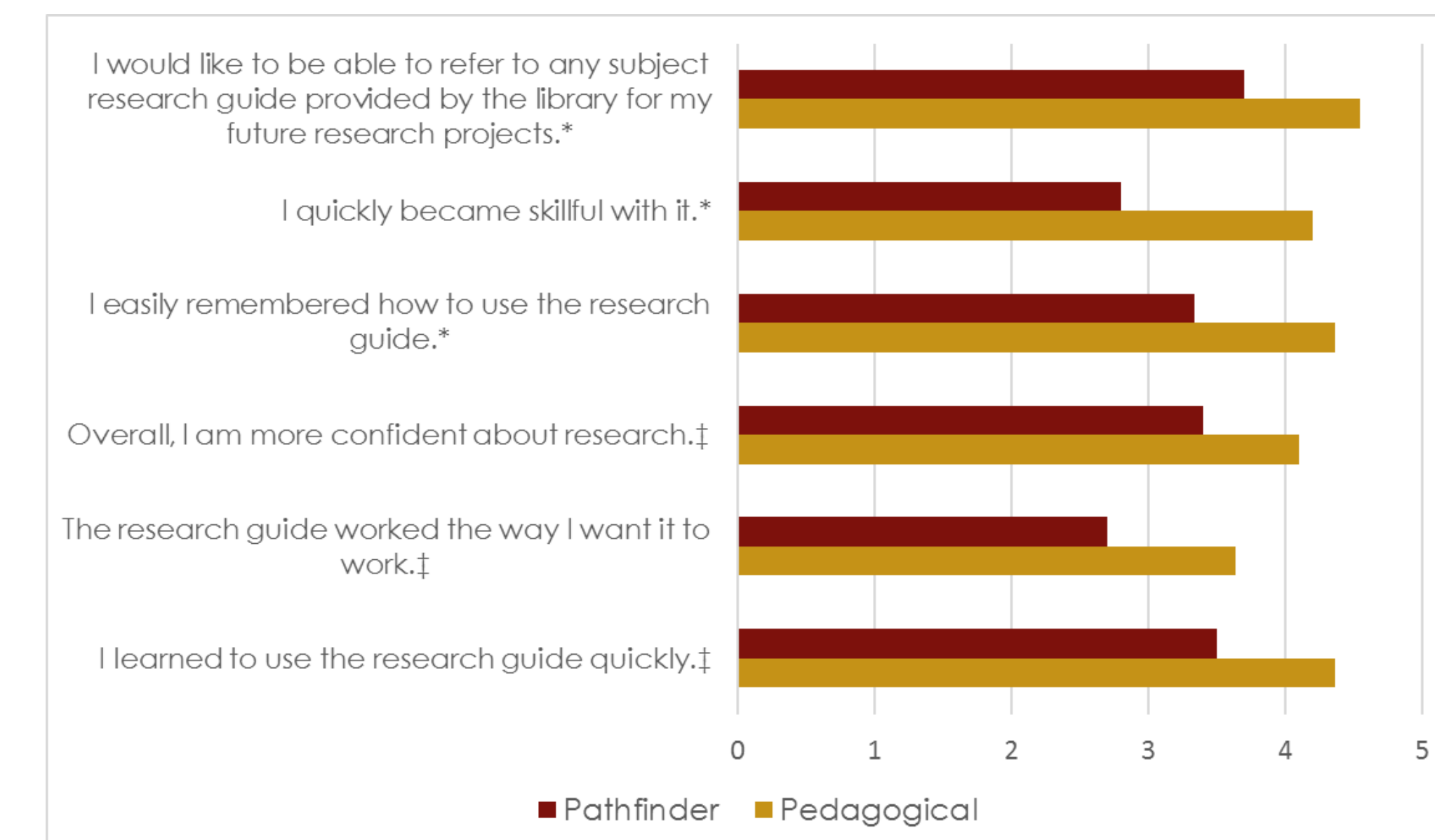

Guide-Database Interaction

On average, Pedagogical used 6 resources; Pathfinder 3.
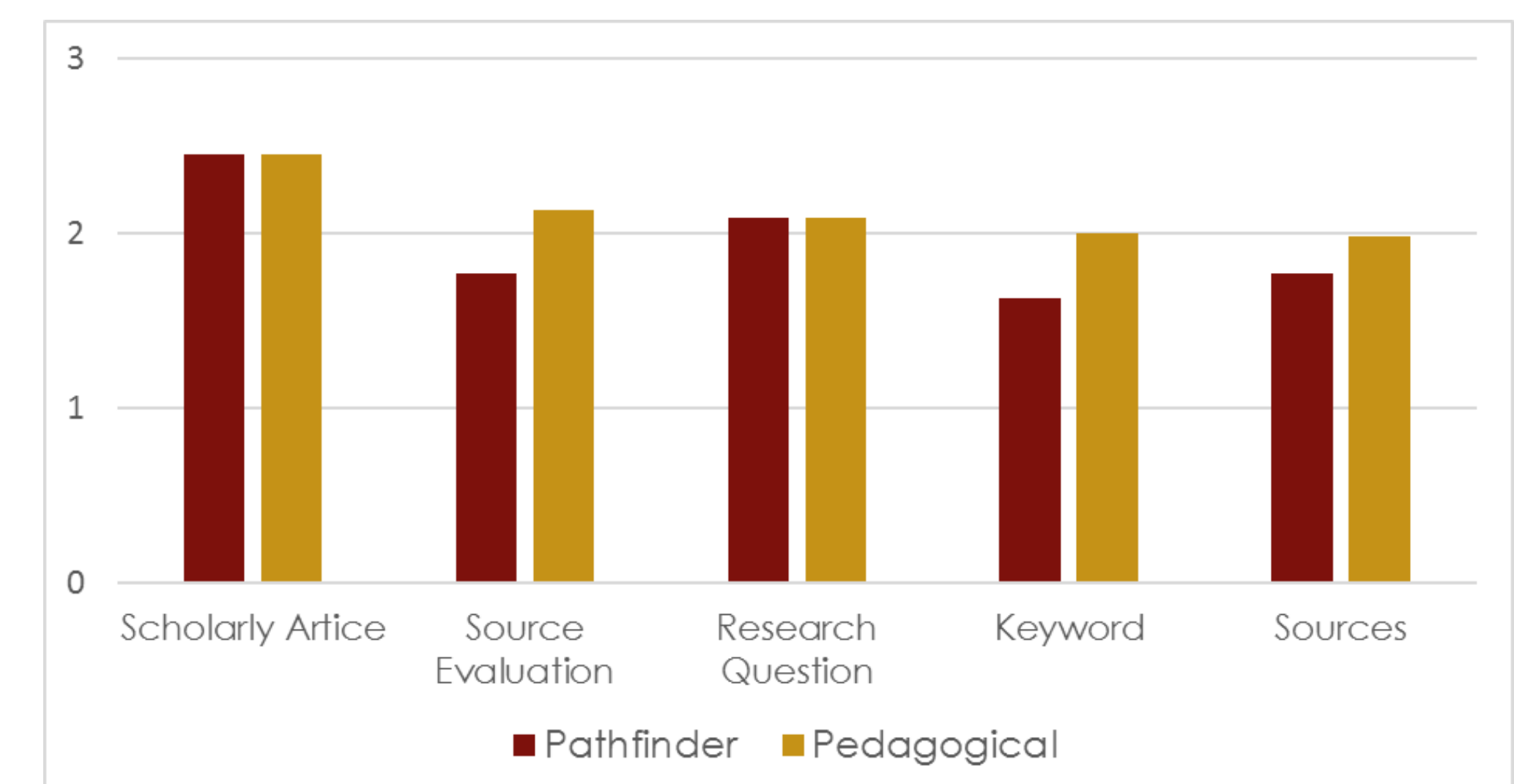

Results

Post-Survey

18 post-survey questions. All had a pedagogical advantage. Questions with the most significant differences:

* p-value less than 0.05
‡ p-value very close to or slightly bigger than 0.05, although we can't reject the null hypothesis

Rubric

Conclusion

Although there is no (statistically significant) performance difference, between the students who used Pedagogical versus Pathfinder-type guides, **students using the Pedagogical guides** reported a **more positive experience** and gained **self-efficacy** not seen in students using the Pathfinder-style guides.