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# Assessment of Biomedical and Science e-Science Learner and User Needs to Develop an e-Science Web Portal and Support Library and Institutional e-Science Initiatives and Collaborations

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## INTRODUCTION

The Lamar Soutter Library of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the New England Regional Medical Library have been awarded funding for the development of an interactive e-Science web portal that will integrate e-Science resources, content development and instructional tools, and a social networking and discussion forum for librarians.

As part of the development of this portal initiative, we sent out 168 surveys to biomedical and science librarians in New England for input that will help us focus and align the portal with e-Science user needs and web 2.0 preferences, and get an idea of how many biomedical and science libraries and librarians are currently participating in e-Science endeavors.

### E-Science Portal Needs Assessment Survey Recipients

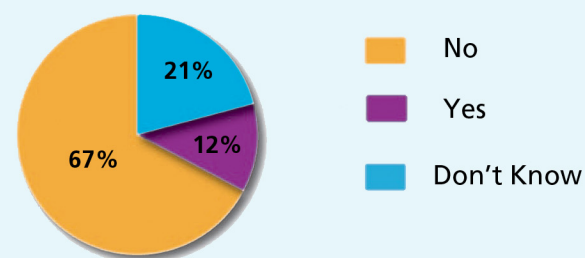
Group	Number
General e-science distribution list	66
BLC Directors	19
Directors of New England Regional Resources Libraries	16
Selected members of BLC biology listserv	11
Selected members of BLC chemistry listserv	13
Selected NER members	63
Surveys returned	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>

## METHODS

- The investigating team received feedback from an e-Science Symposium and bootcamp.
- The small investigating team researched and developed questions.
- The small investigating team then created a survey using SurveyMonkey.
- A small group of medical librarians then tested the survey.
- Based on the feedback from the testing, the survey was revised.
- The survey was then administered to science and medical librarians. After three weeks, the responses were collected and analyzed.

## RESULTS

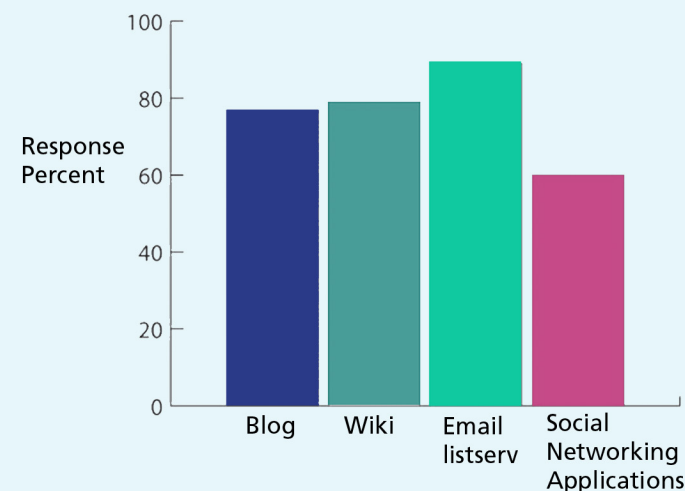
Do you provide E-Science related library services?



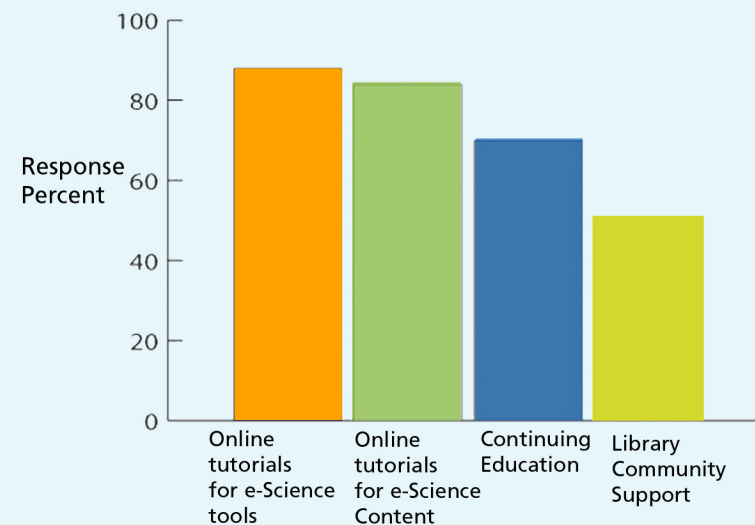
E-science definition provided to survey recipients:  
 "E-science describes the collaboration among computationally intensive science disciplines that create immense data sets" that are "captured, transported, stored, organized, accessed, mined, visualized, and interpreted in order to extract knowledge"...  
 The e-Science role for librarians is characterized by interdisciplinary research collaboration and the collection, organization, and management of data.

Research Question: What are the biomedical and science librarian e-Science web portal user needs and web 2.0 preferences in order to support the development and strengthening of libraries' e-Science initiatives and collaborations?

What kind of online collaborative tools are you most comfortable using?



To support e-Science initiatives in your institution, what educational materials or opportunities are needed?



## DISCUSSION

Preliminary results reveal a small yet significant number of diverse biomedical and science libraries actively engaged or actively pursuing e-Science collaborations within and outside of their institutions and a large number interested in such collaborations and endeavors. These results indicate librarians have urgent needs for online scientific content, especially informatics related, data tools' tutorials and support, web 2.0 tools to facilitate the exchange of e-Science knowledge and experience among colleagues, and e-Science-related continuing education and professional development. In addition and important to note, the results indicate a significant need for and lack of awareness of online e-Science resources.

## CONCLUSION

Biomedical and science librarians need an interactive e-Science web portal that integrates e-Science web resources and web 2.0 instructional tools and a forum for librarians.

Additional areas for future research include identifying and examining the specific types of e-Science collaborations and endeavors among biomedical and scientific institutions and their libraries and librarians, and studying the future effectiveness and/or impact of the web portal and its resources and web 2.0 tools on these collaborations and endeavors.

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