

Understanding Science Faculty Information-Seeking Behavior To Determine Collection Development Priorities

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Background

- CSUEB University Libraries stepped up its ongoing weeding project starting in summer 2008
- Journals and databases were reduced to cope with the state budget crisis
- Many of the cancellations fall into science area

Project Purpose

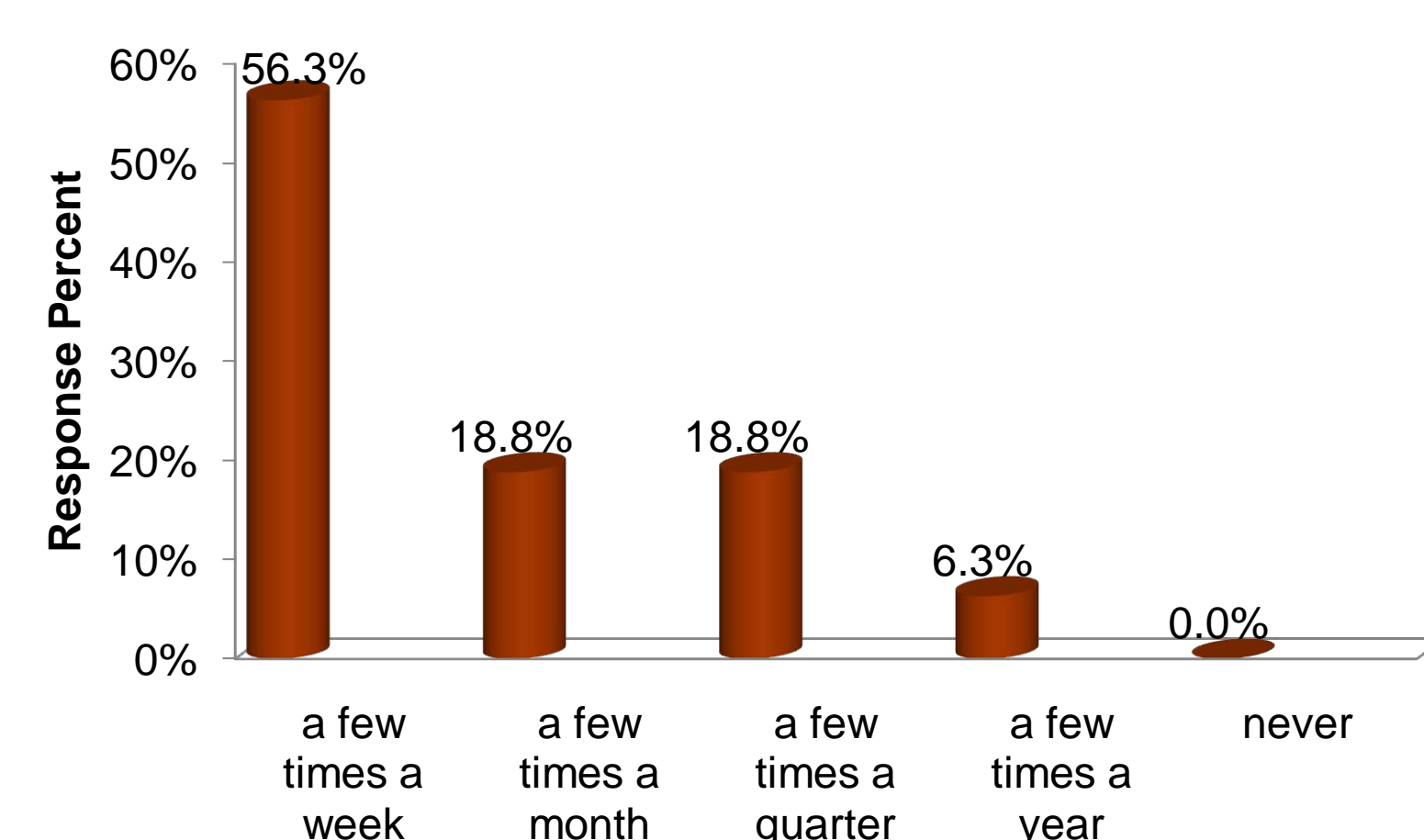
- To determine the effect of library weeding project on science faculty's information-seeking behavior, especially their choices of journals and databases in the online environment
- To guide the development of a priority list of science journals and databases, both for retention purposes and for reinstatement if deep cancellation has to be enforced

Methodology

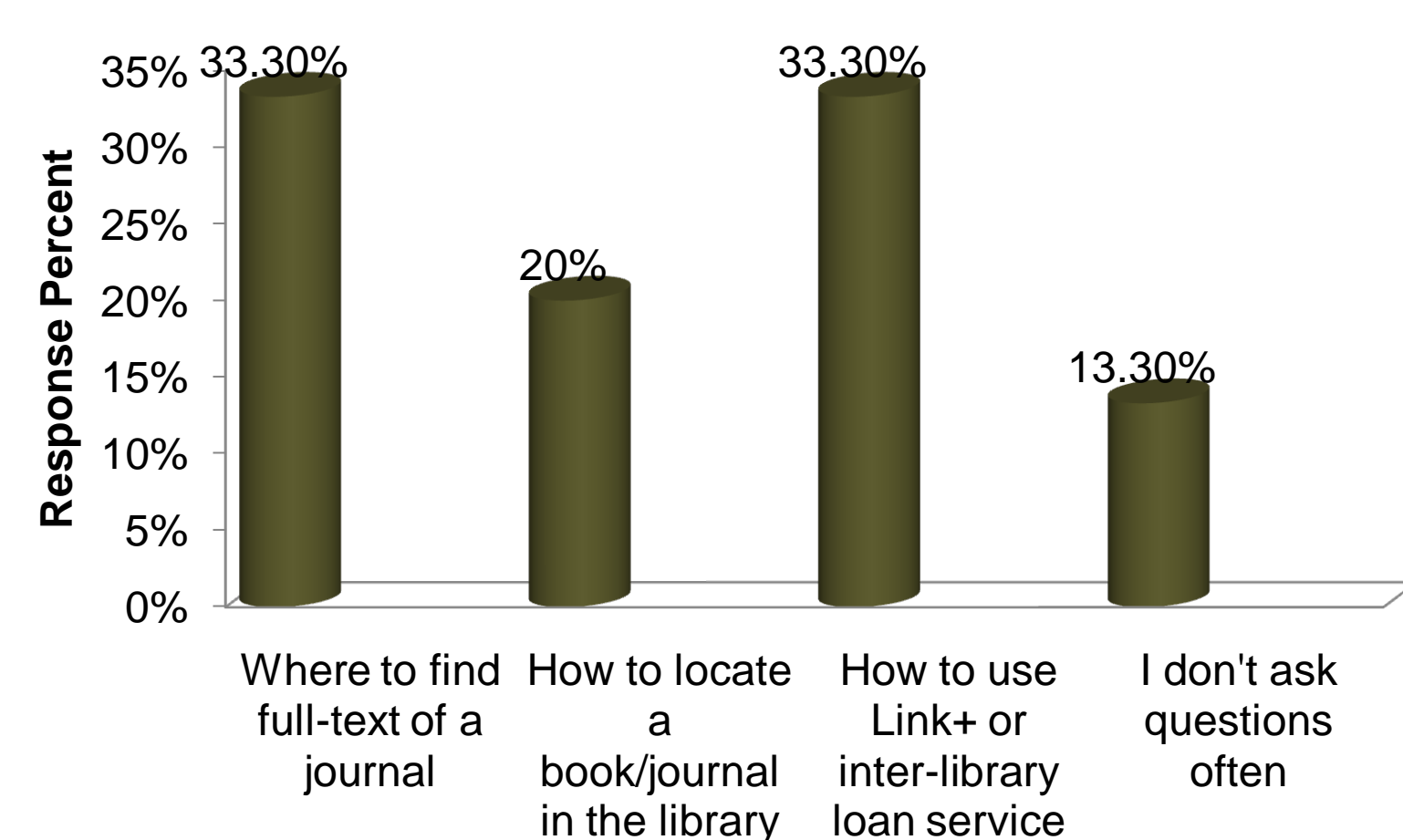
- Questionnaire sent out for IRB Review
- Survey mounted on SurveyMonkey
- Email with link to survey sent out to faculty in College of Science in July 2009
- Total responses: 18
- Subject Range: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science & mathematics, Statistics & Biostatistics, Psychology, Physics.

Survey Results

How often do you use the library / library's website to find information for your teaching or research?

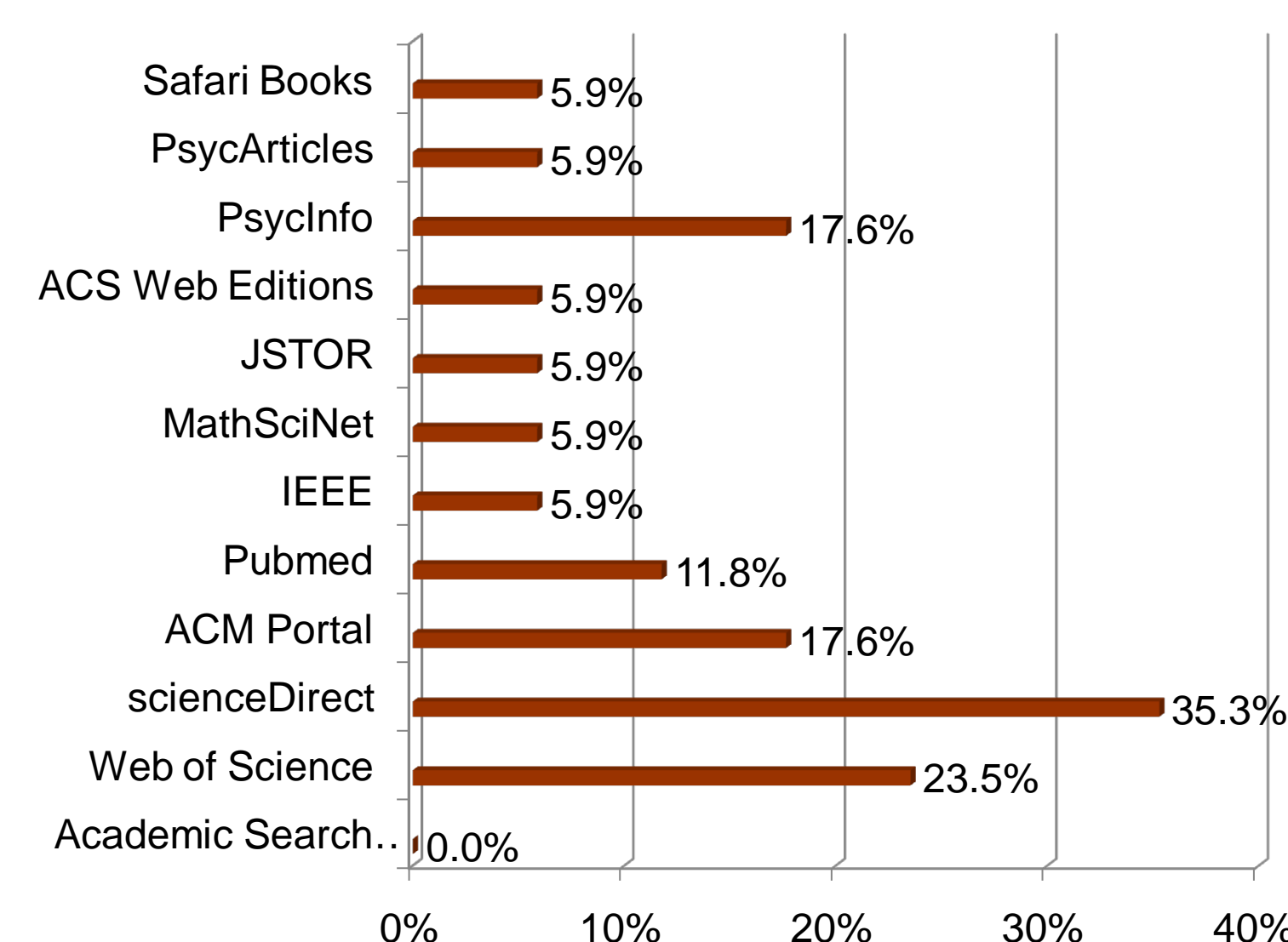


What type of question do you ask in the library most often?

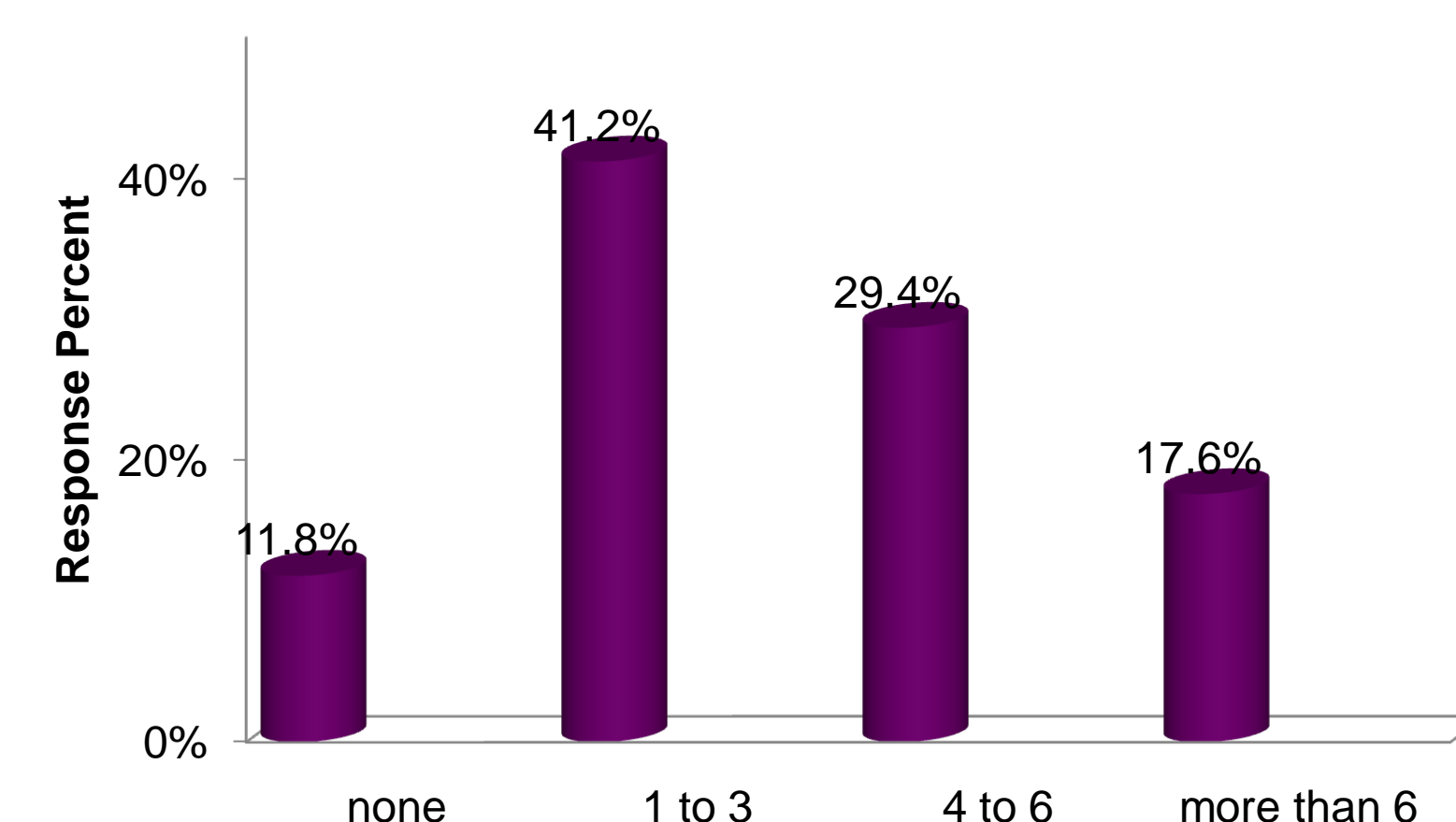


Survey Results (Cont'd)

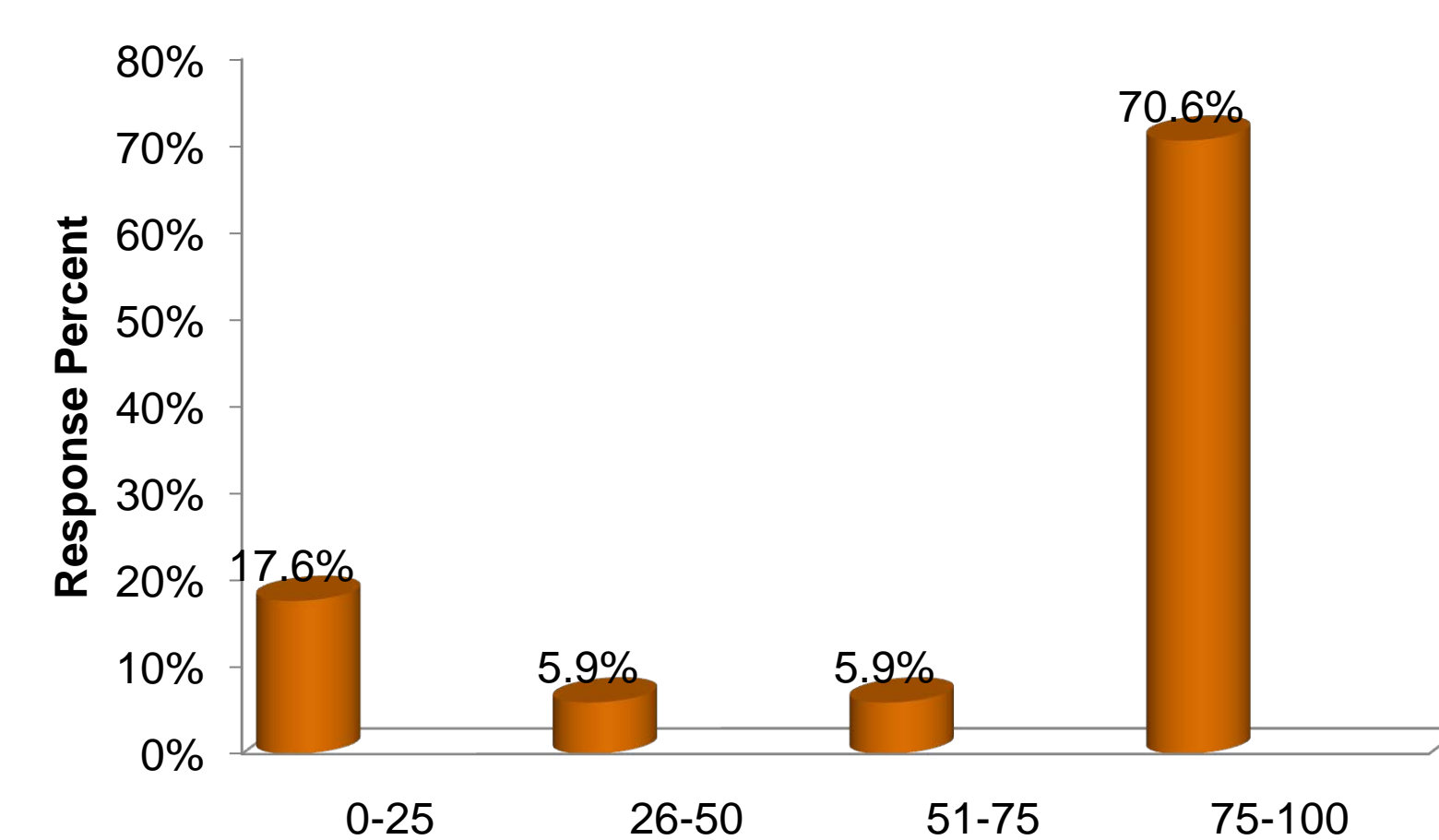
Which online database or index do you use most often?



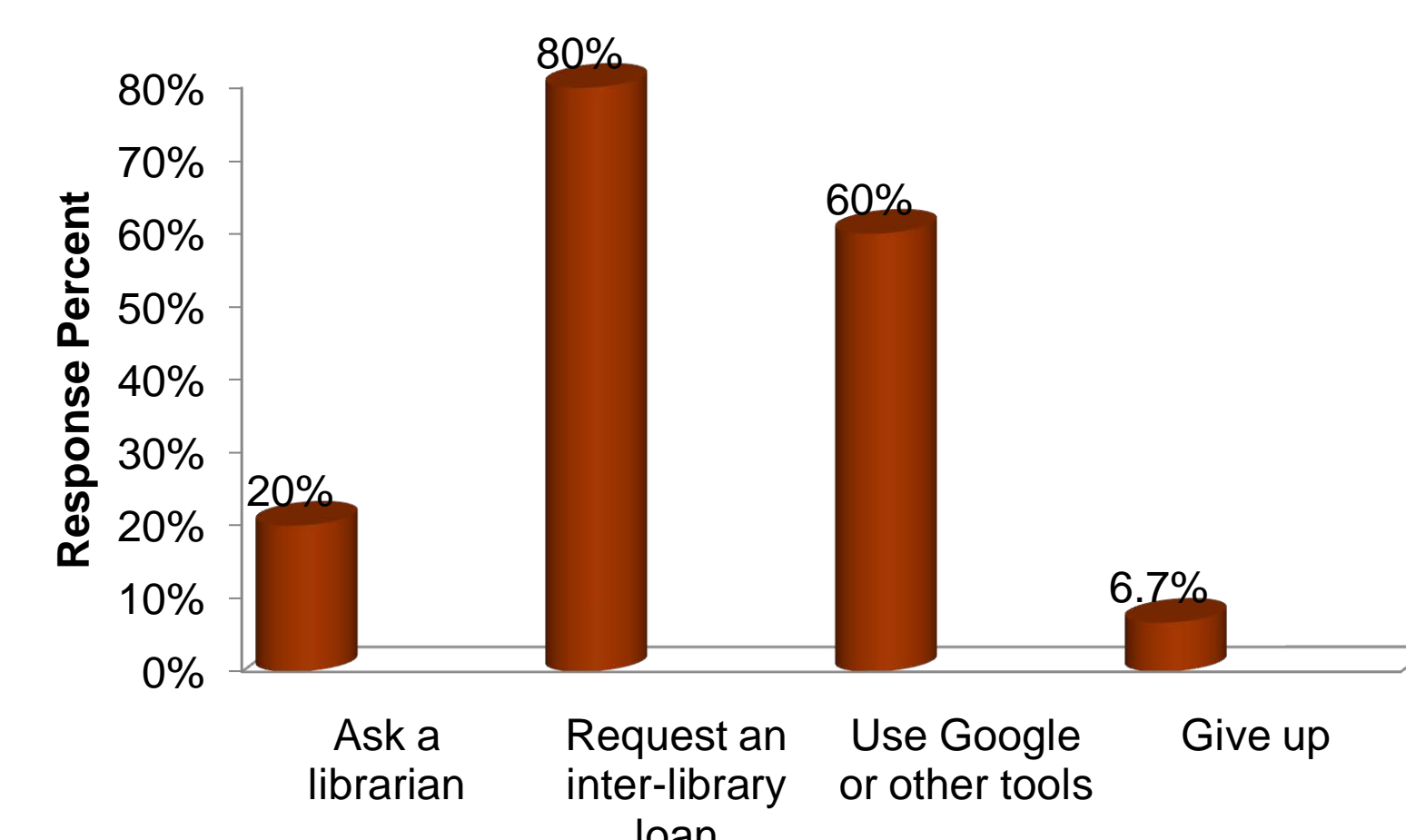
How many journals do you monitor on a monthly basis?



What percent of your journal use is in electronic form?

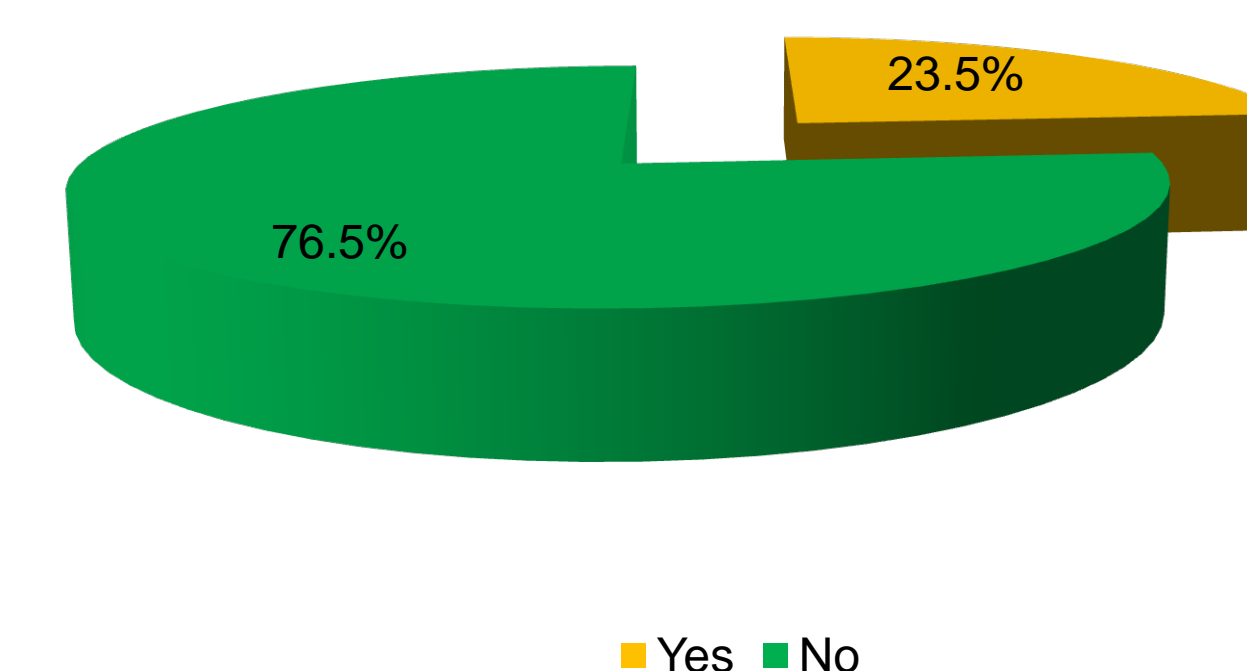


If you do not find the information you are seeking in the library, what do you usually do?

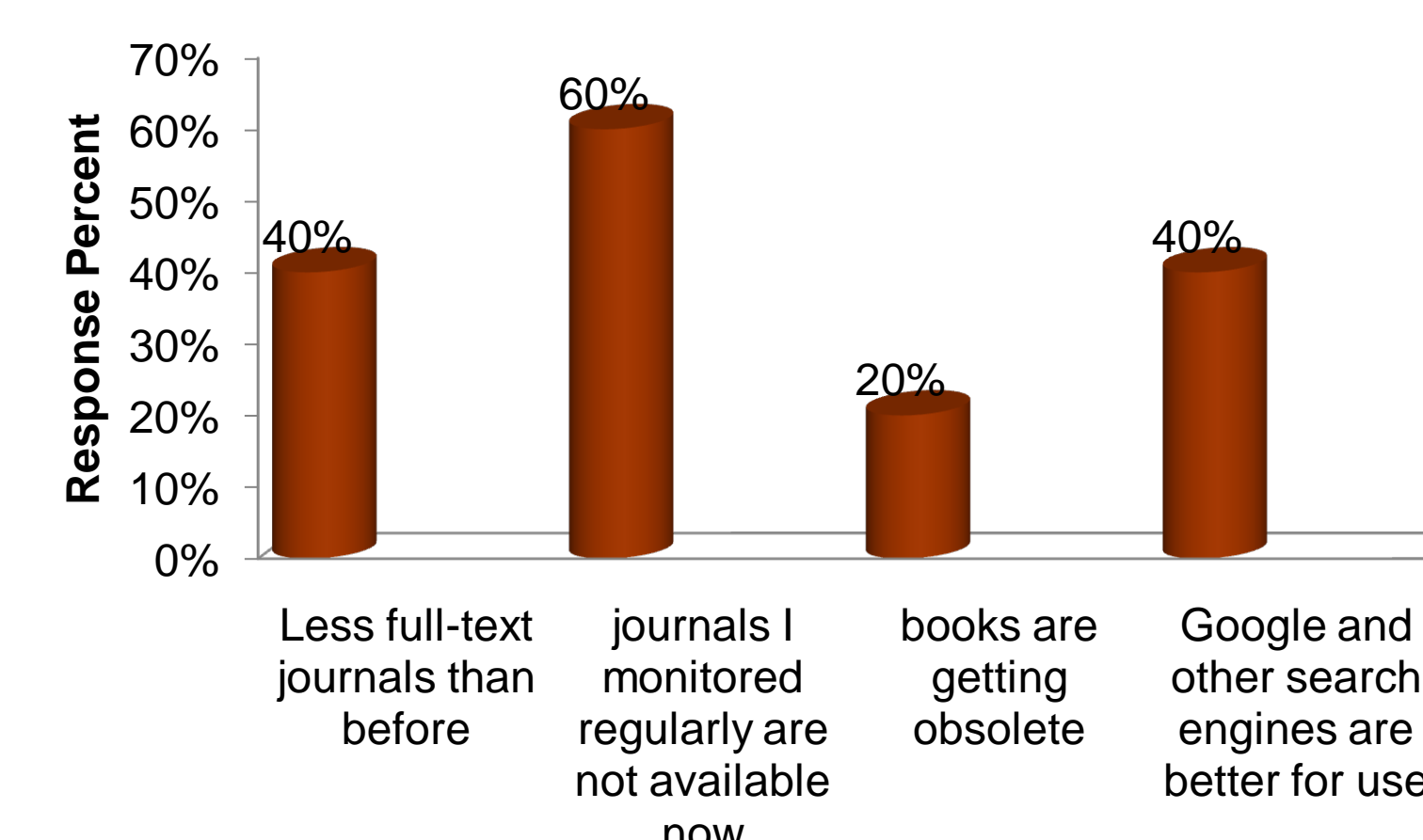


Survey Results (Cont'd)

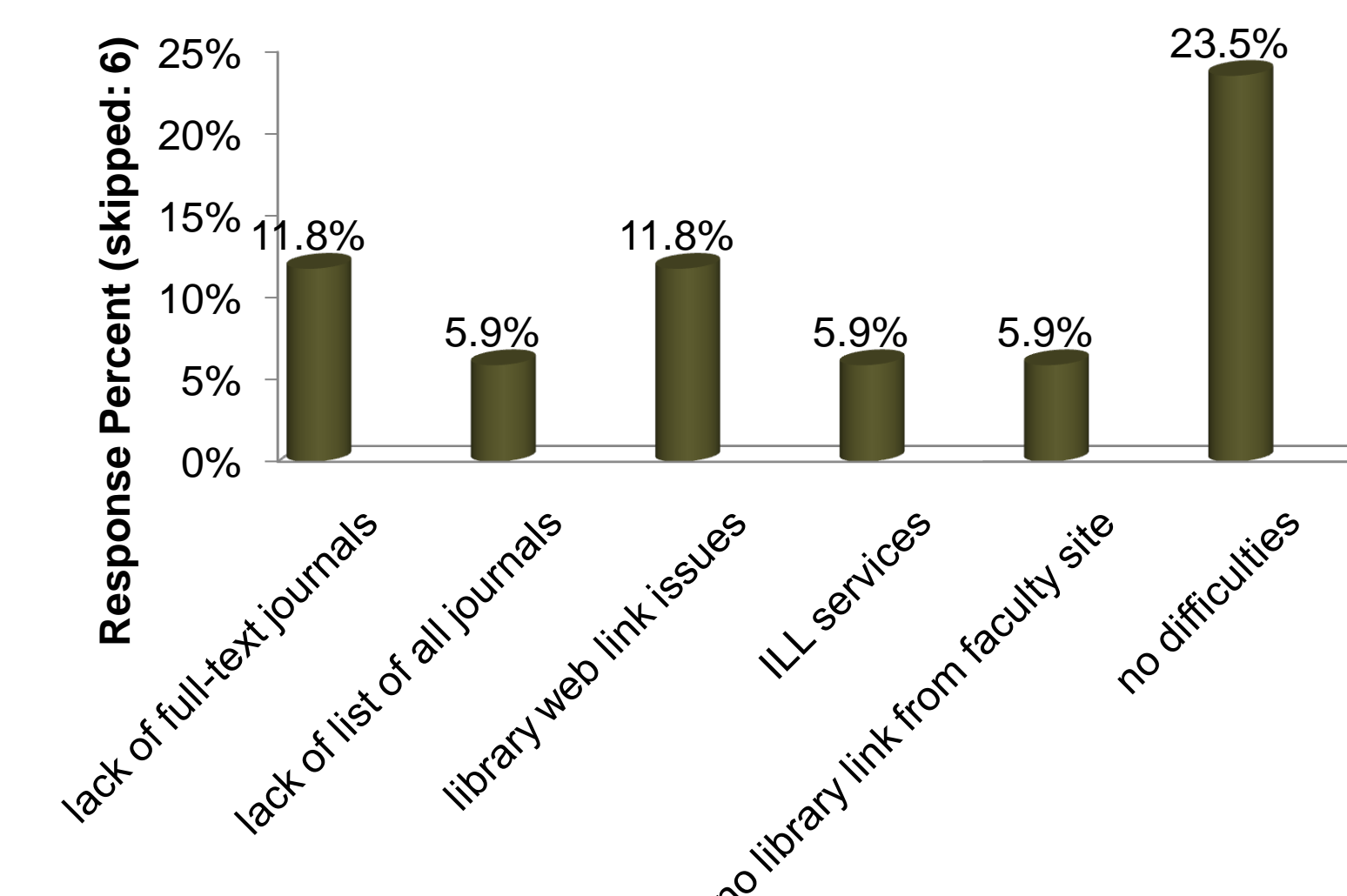
Recently, have you used the library / library's website less often than before?



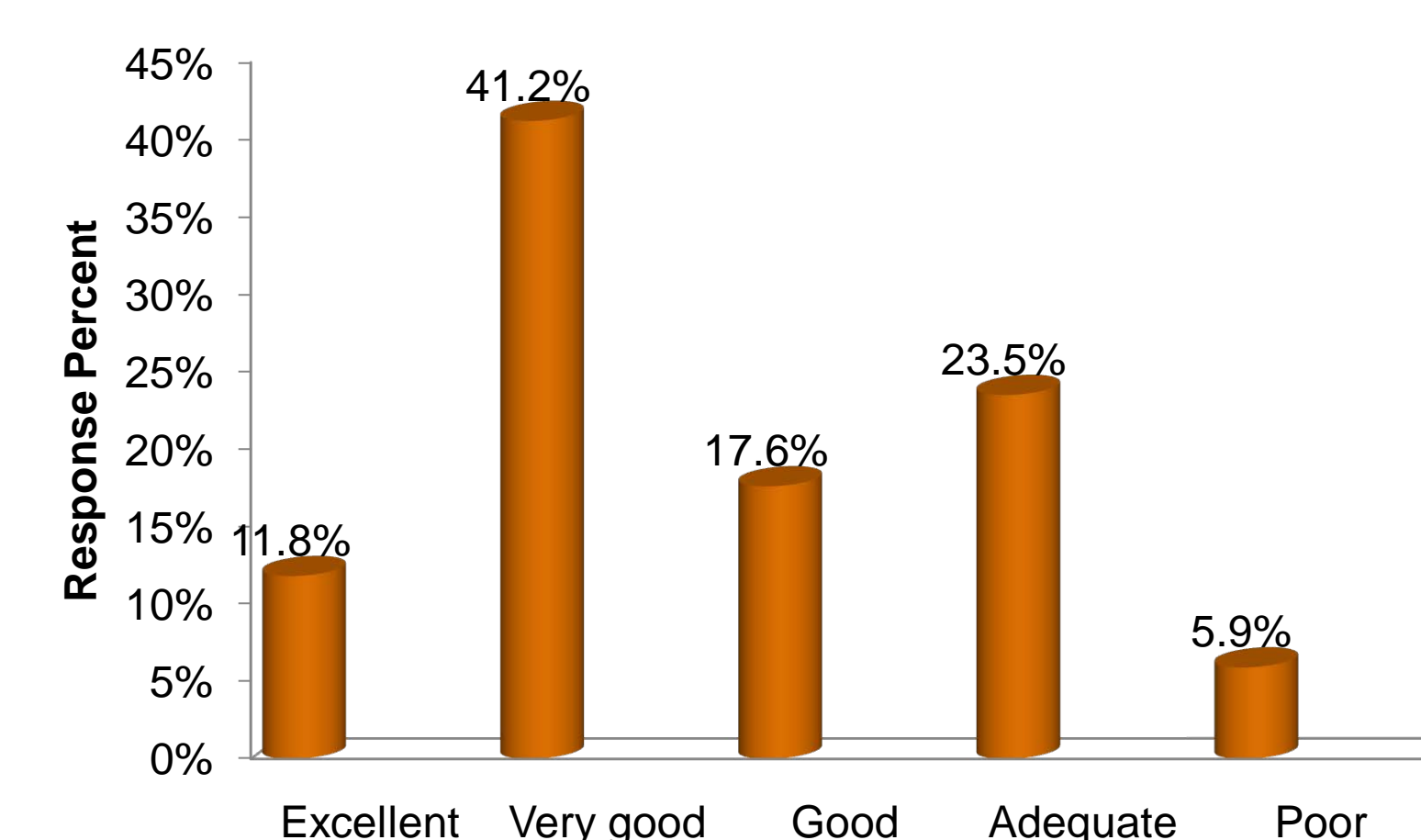
Which factors may have caused you to use the library less often than before?



Summary of difficulties in using the library/ library's website



How do you rate the library's collection in your research / teaching area?



Comments / Suggestions

❖ ... four top journals: Science, Nature, Cell and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. All these journals are multi-disciplinary and would help faculty and students departments such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental, Geology, Math and computer science. Thanks.

❖ A SciFinder license would be a good addition.

❖ The library is very, very good for my field...

❖ Even during hard economic times, the library should be given the financial resources needed ...

❖ ... Please keep the Web-of-Science databank!

❖ I find the library to be very useful in my work and the staff is really great and helpful.

❖ ... we need access to the ACM/IEEE digital libraries ...

❖ It might be helpful to feature one or two resources (one new one, one heavily used one, perhaps) on the menu or library homepage ...

Findings & Analysis

Science faculty do not use Academic Search Premier as much as CSUEB librarians do

Analysis:

- librarians use it more often than using any other database because it covers a lot of subject fields, and because it is listed in a prominent position in the database list, which is convenient to use

ScienceDirect is the most popularly used database among science faculty

Analysis:

- This database covers a lot of scientific topic, and is a full-text database

Web of Science are used more than expected

Fact:

- An early statistical results conducted to all majors showed that Web of Science was not a highly used database

More online full-text are needed

- Online full-text is always a major need from science faculty

Considerations / Future Studies

- Research marketing was needed to make the results more representative
- Methods other than questionnaire in understanding science faculty's information seeking behavior should be considered in this study
- Further study can be extended to decision making

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