

Factors influencing subject librarians' promotion of open access (OA) scholarly resources

The Why

- Rising subscription costs
- Tightening library budgets
- Complicated issues of involving ownership and licensing
- Ethics around access

The When
2018

The Who

Subject/ liaison librarians from New Zealand university libraries

The How

- Via a quantitative online survey
- Results were coded on Qualtrics software
- Data analysis using Excel and SPSS software

Why subject librarians?

Reference librarians on the frontline can influence library behaviour, potentially providing the impetus to the OA movement

Bowering Mullen, 2010

The results (well some of them)

58% had given open publishing advice to prospective authors

74% were somewhat or moderately familiar with the types of open access

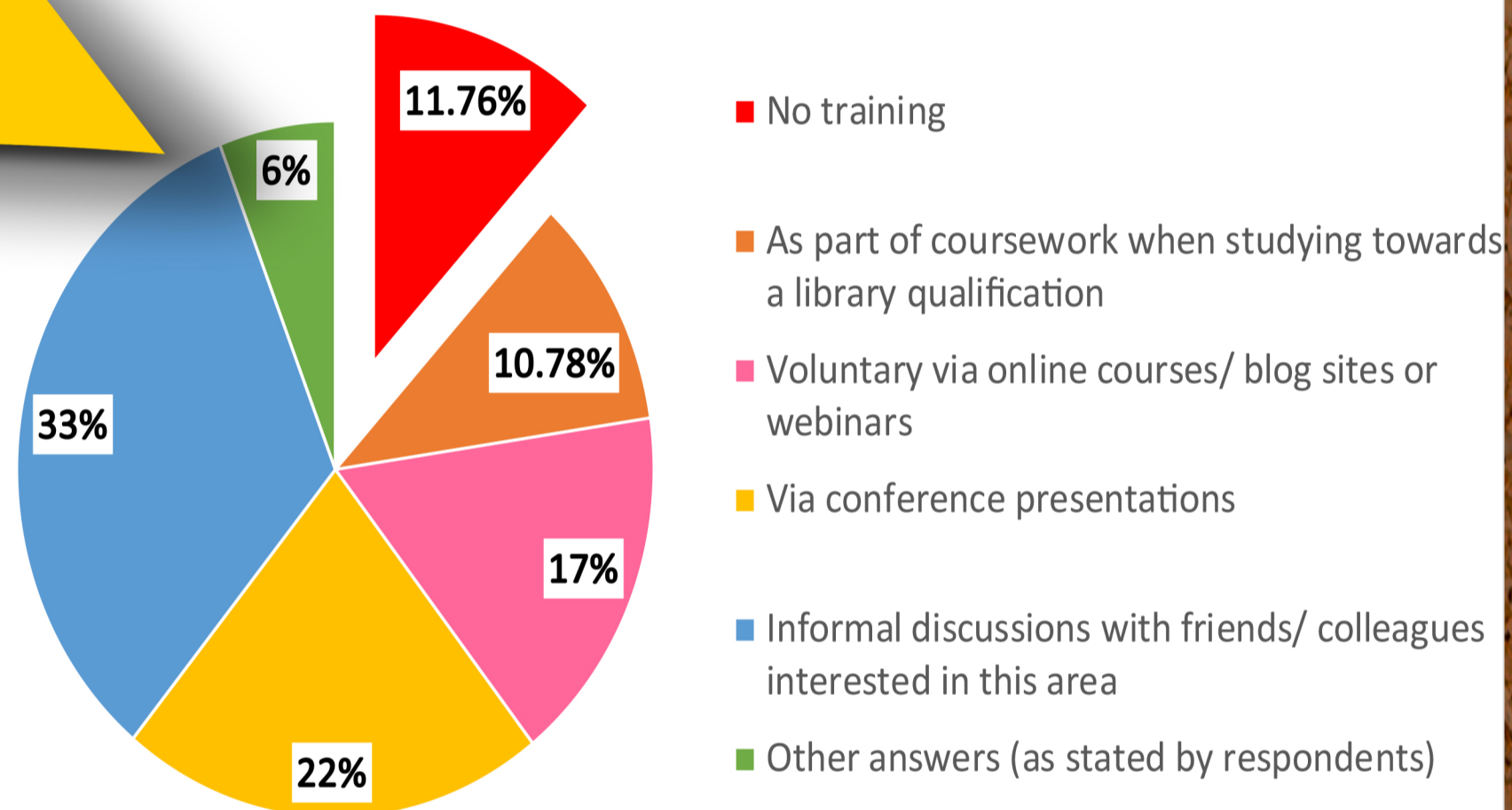
49/50 were aware of their institutional repository but not all (78%) were aware of its content

75.5% viewed the average quality of OA scholarly resources as about the same as toll access materials

66% agreed that the promotion of open access resources was within the scope of their role


90% believed that PBRF funding requirements had some influence on the choice to publish openly

OA Training opportunities had by respondents



The Conclusions

- While every respondent was aware of the term open access, the awareness of types of open access (gold, green, platinum, diamond) was not strong.
- Few respondents had had formal open access training. Correlation results show that the better the understanding and the more training had, the more frequent the promotion of open access resources.
- Most respondents agreed that promoting open access is within the scope of their role. However, most found other demands of the role presented a challenge to promoting open access.
- Most identified the requirements for impact and prestige as barriers for academic staff to publish open access. Respondents who support it will generally still promote it, even with this challenge.
- Most respondents supported open access, however it was evident that there was still a lot of caution around it, influencing the extent to which librarians advised on publishing openly.

Every respondent was familiar with the term open access and all had promoted it 

Reference
Mullen, L. B. (2010). Open access and its practical impact on the work of academic librarians: Collection development, public services, and the library and information science literature. Oxford, England: Chandos Publishing.

Full paper here

