# Developing Digital Scholarship in Spanish libraries

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# Summary

1. Spanish academic libraries in context
    1. Evolution
    2. Research support services in REBIUN strategic plans

2. Services for researchers, today

- ✓ 84 universities in 343 campus
  - Spanish public universities tend to be disperse. An average of 4-5 campus per university is normal, with large universities having more than 15 campus.
  - 34 universities are private (private universities are in expansion)
- ✓ Students
  - (global) 1.500.000
  - (average) 19.000 students / university
  - 31,5% of people between 18-24 are attending to universities.
- ✓ What do Spanish universities have in common?
  - All universities do teach and research
  - However, the majority of the private universities are only teaching oriented
- ✓ Professors are evaluated, but universities are not
- ✓ Research is basically developed in:
  - University departments or institutes
  - CSIC institutes and some Spanish large research centers
  - Autonomous research institutes (more common in Catalonia)

## The situation in 1984

- ✓ Universities centrally controlled by the government
- ✓ Library system
  - Main library = library with old and rare books
  - Some faculty libraries and a lot of department libraries
  - No coordination at all
- ✓ Resources
  - Very poor budgets (and very decentralized)
  - No professional staff
  - Services were at the library level (not at the university level)

## The big change: 1985-1995

- ✓ 1983 new law for universities (LRU) gave autonomy to universities
- ✓ Library system
  - All the university libraries = The Library of the University
  - New (and young) library directors
  - Creation of technical services and organization chart
- ✓ Resources
  - Central budgets
  - Library automation
  - First new buildings
  - Services modernization

- CRAI = Resource centers for learning and research
  - Influenced by the UK's movement (Follet report, and convergence of services)
  - Tthe library as a service point (for books, computers, information...)
  - New libraries are built under this conception
  - Libraries focused on users

- Library buildings
  - New (almost all) or renovated (the rest)
  - Modern
  - Big (6-8.000 m2)
  - Campus libraries

Evolution of square meters in Spanish academic library buildings

- 1988 - 229.093
- 1995 - 456.031
- 2000 - 736.572
- 2004 - 974.319
- 2007 - 1.009.978

Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC). Rector G. Ferraté Library

Pompeu Fabra University
- Ciutadella campus
- Poblenou campus
- Mar campus

# University of Girona. Barri vell library

# Girona University. Montilibi library

# Lleida University, Biblioteca de Cappont

- 2003-2006
  - Research is present in 1/13 actions = 8%
  - Actions research related: OA
- 2007-2011
  - Research is present in 3/26 actions = 12%
  - Actions research related: IR & OA
- 2012-2020
  - Research is present in 6/28 actions = 21%
  - Actions research related: **IR** & OA

## IR & OA in Spanish academic libraries

- ✓ Spanish Science and Technology law
  - Art. 35. (“Open-Access Publication”) mandate the creation and development of repositories and open-access dissemination of publicly-funded research outcomes

- ✓ Repositories
  - Almost all universities have their own IR (53 IR)
  - 340 FTE staff
  - 1.228.345 documents, but (only) 282.385 (23%) are journal articles and 79.665 (6,49%) are OA
  - DSpace (89%) is clearly the most predominant technology platform

- ✓ Recolecta, created together by REBIUN and FECYT in 2008, is an aggregator of the IR for the Spanish scientific publications.
  - http://www.recolecta.net
- ✓ Spanish OA journals aggregators
  - REDIB https://www.redib.org/
  - Dialnet https://dialnet.unirioja.es/
  - RACO http://www.raco.cat/index.php/raco

## The key issue:

- ✓ The relations between Spanish academic libraries and researchers have always been weak
  - Spanish libraries are rich in heritage collections and academic libraries have been heritage oriented during a long period
  - Traditionally, professors have done the selection of new acquisitions
    - Libraries had a passive role building collections
  - We don't have the figures of the reference or the subject librarian
    - Recently, some libraries introduced the figure of the liaison librarian, a link between university departments (research) and libraries.
    - The students advisor function is not rooted in the library
  - University teaching methods are mostly based on exams (and not in essays)
    - The ratio between borrowed documents and student is lower than in other university systems
  - Licensing has been done by consortia at regional level
    - In the last years, consortia act together to negotiate licenses with big publishers

# Evolution of Catalan university libraries activities and organization supporting research

- Traditional activities supporting research:
  - Collection buildings
    - Acquisitions, Journals collections, Special collections…
  - The big change of the networked digital information
    - The content is on your PC, tablet, mobile…
    - New tools and rules are completely strange to the majority of researchers
      - Identifiers, OA, mandates, altmetrics…
    - Open Science as the new landscape

- Our evolution supporting research
  - Since 2005 (approx.), Catalan university libraries made changes in their services and organization to adapt to the new situation
    - subject librarians, reference management tools, open access…
  - In 2013, CBUC had also changed and created a new strategic line for supporting research
    - repositories, Mendeley, portal for Catalan research, OA…
  - but Internet is disruptive, and in 2017 (Feb) we decided to be more radical and create a new (small) area devoted to 'Open Science'
    - open metadata (portal for Catalan research), open access, open data…

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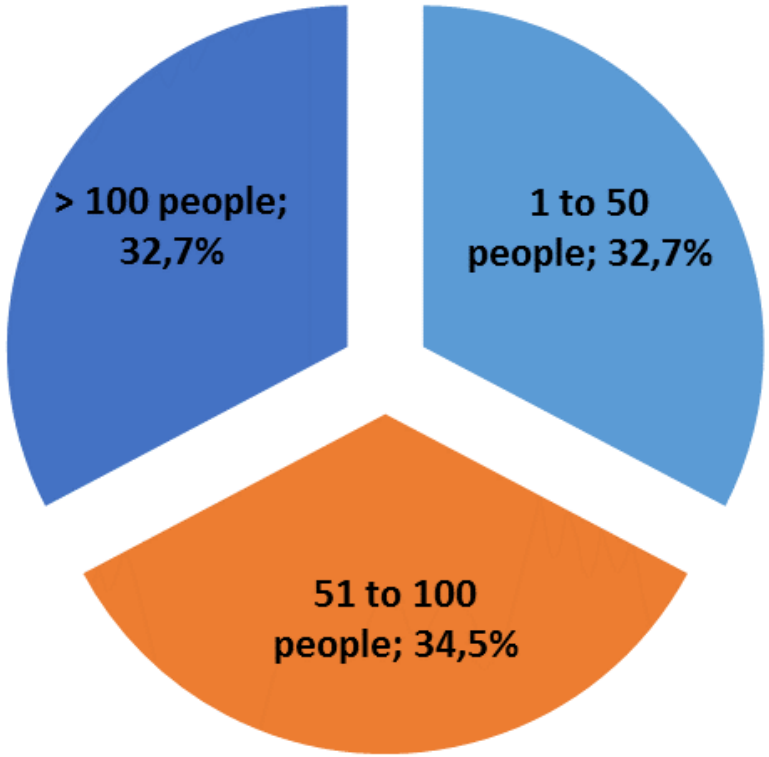
# Methodology

- Online survey to the 76 directors of the Spanish association of academic libraries (January – February 2018).

- 57 replies (75%).

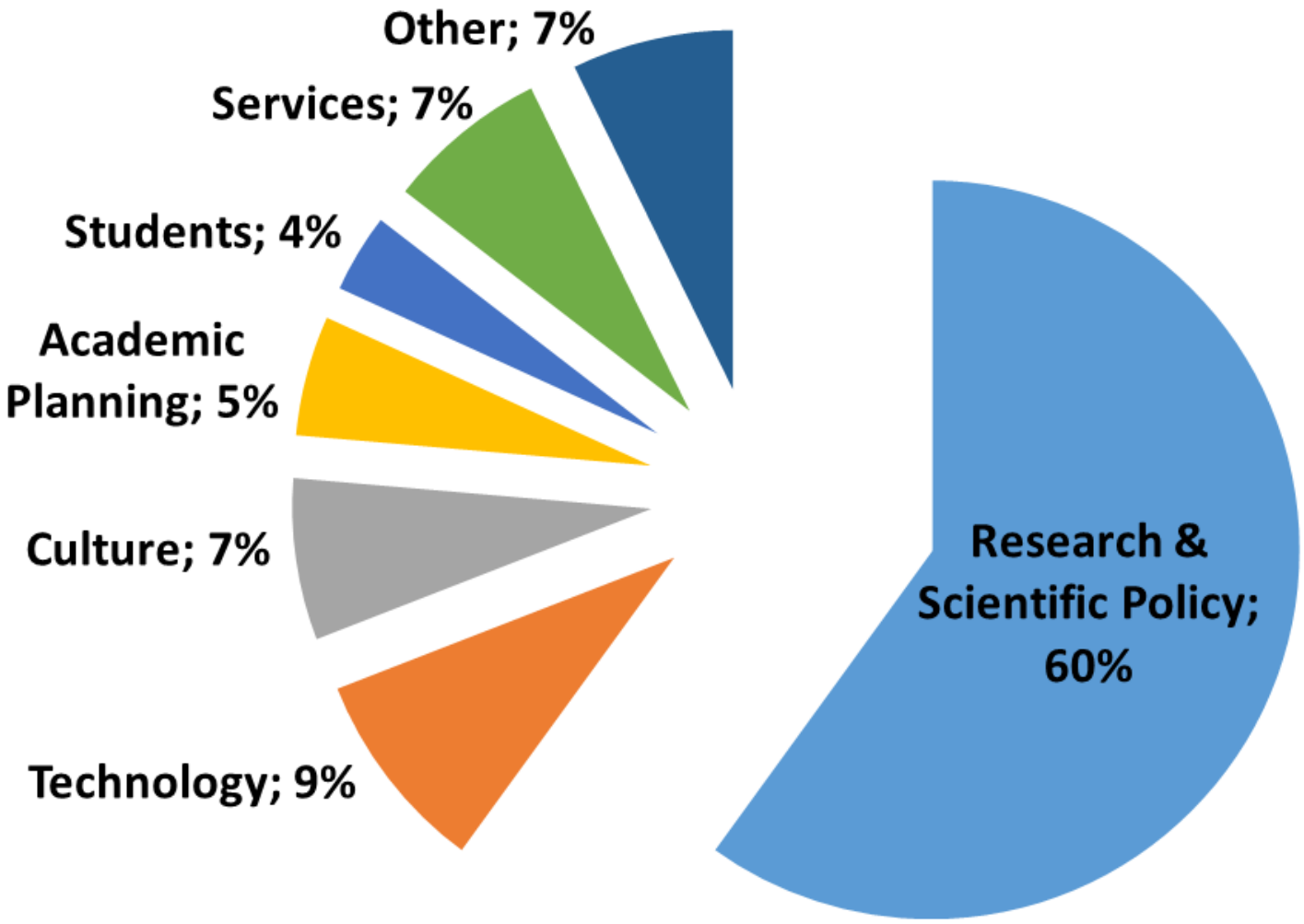
# Size of Spanish academic libraries (staff FTE)



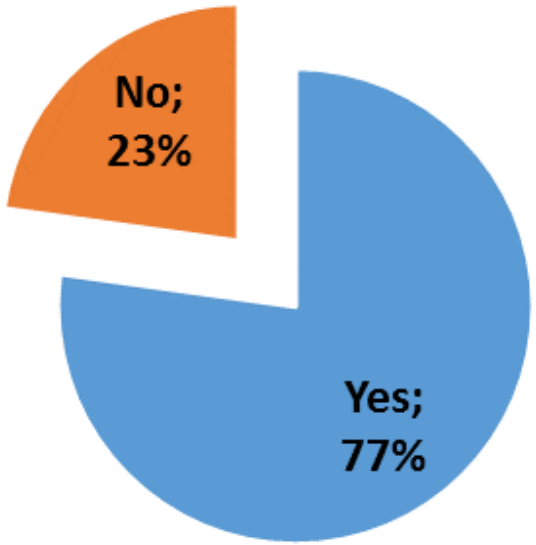

**Average: 87 people**

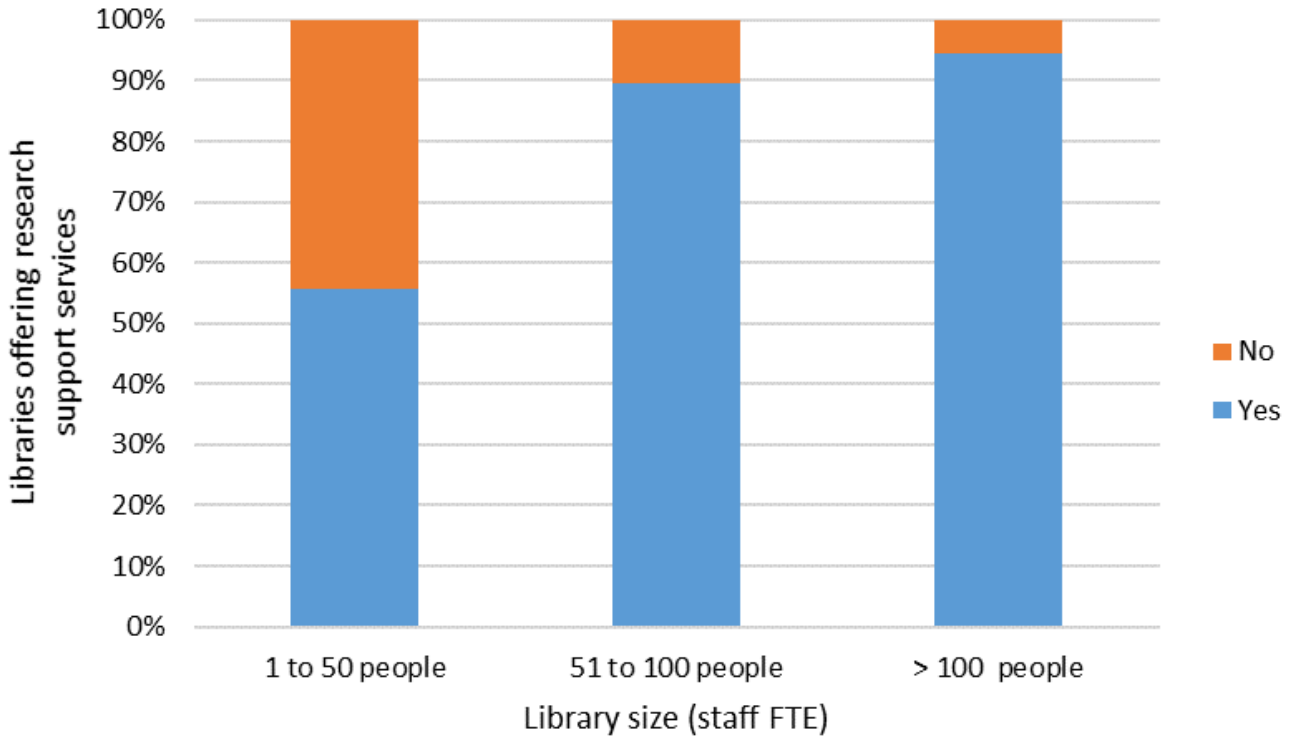
**Median: 78 people**

# The library in the structure of the University



# Research support services



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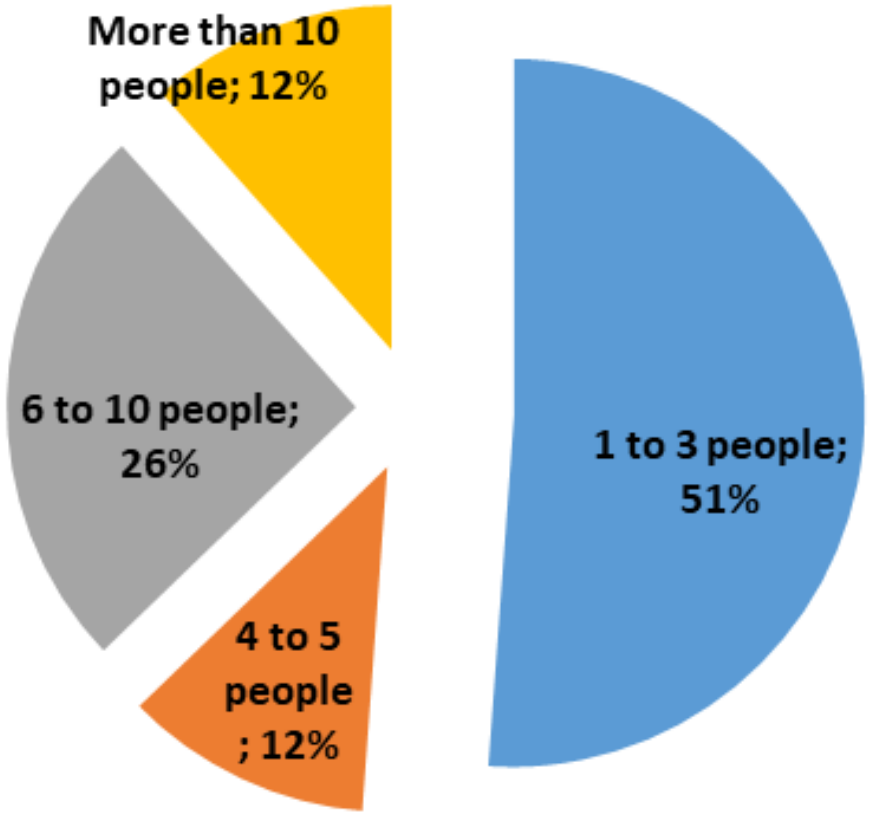
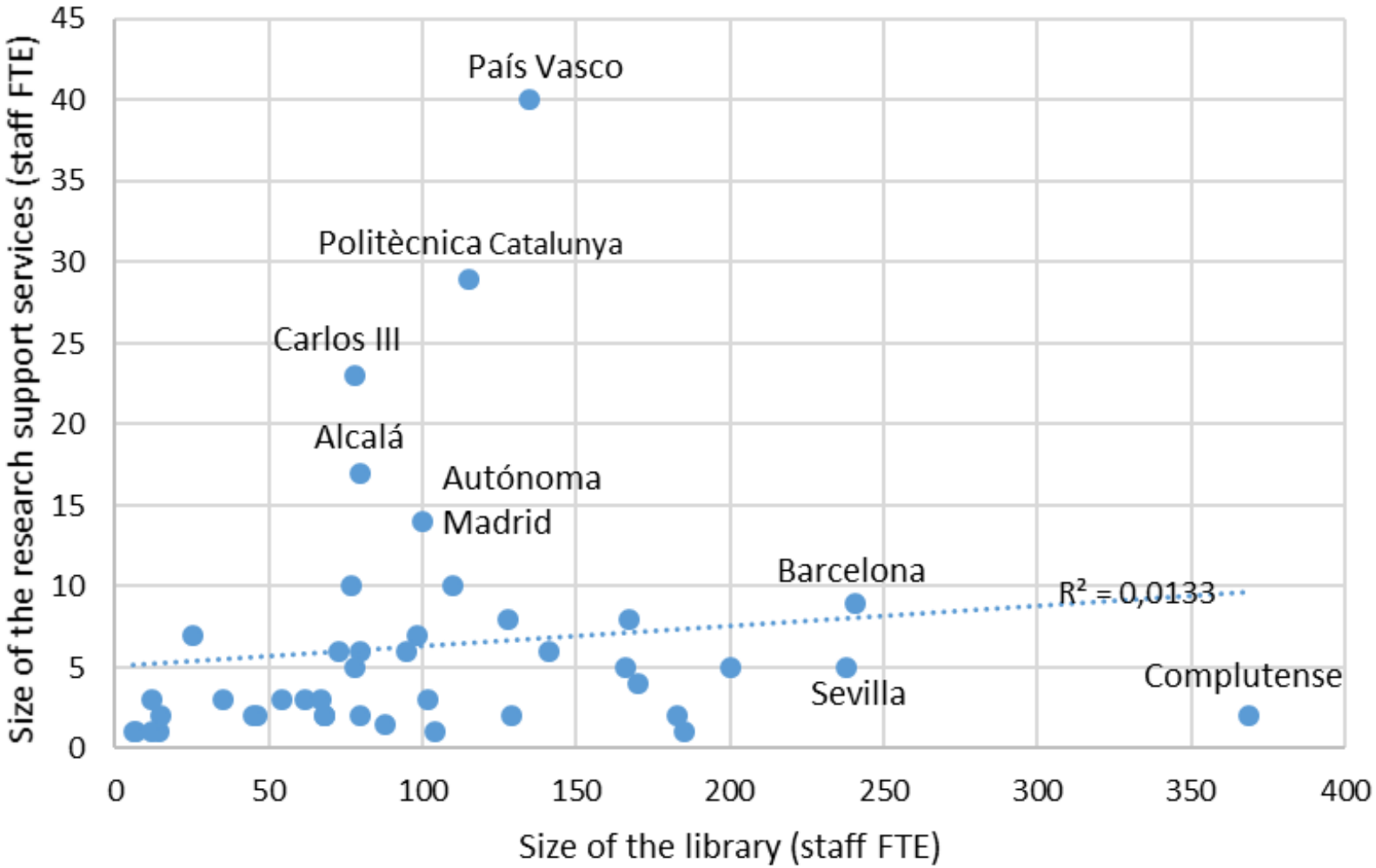


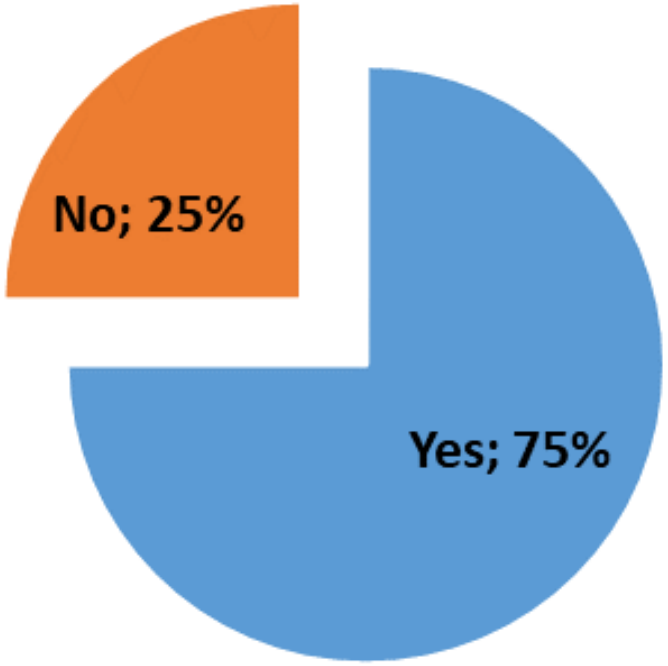

**Average: 6.4 people**

**Median: 3.0 people**

# Library size *vs* research support services size



# Relationships with other services




**Technology Transfer Offices (OTRI)**

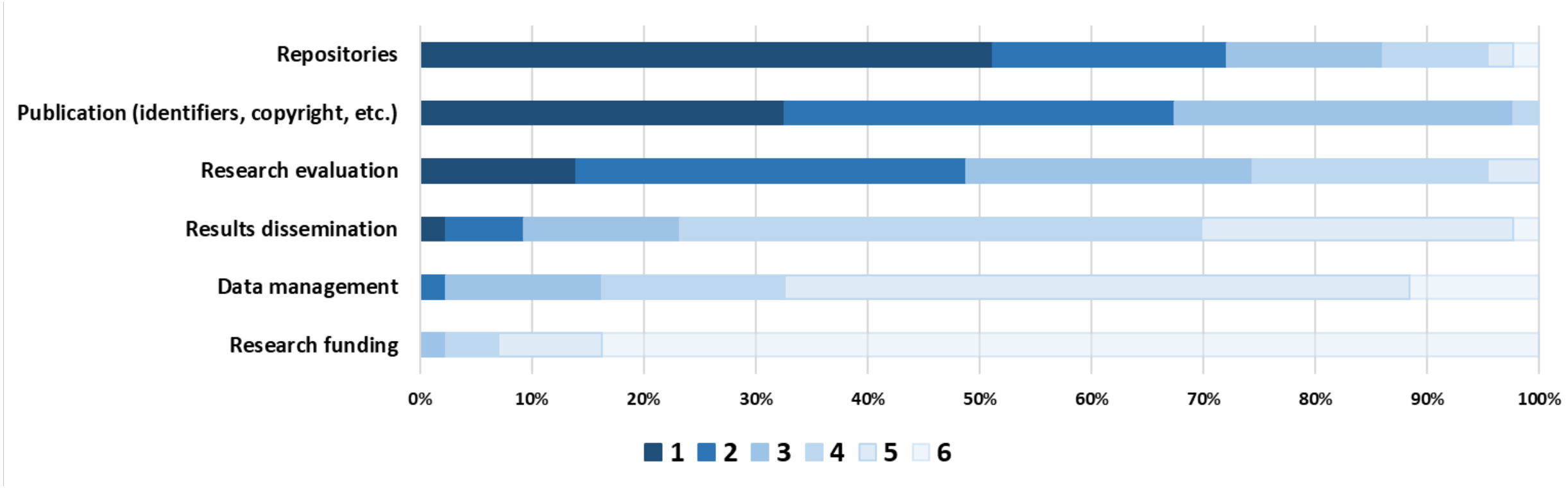
**[European] research projects management**

**Graduate / Doctoral schools**

**Publications**

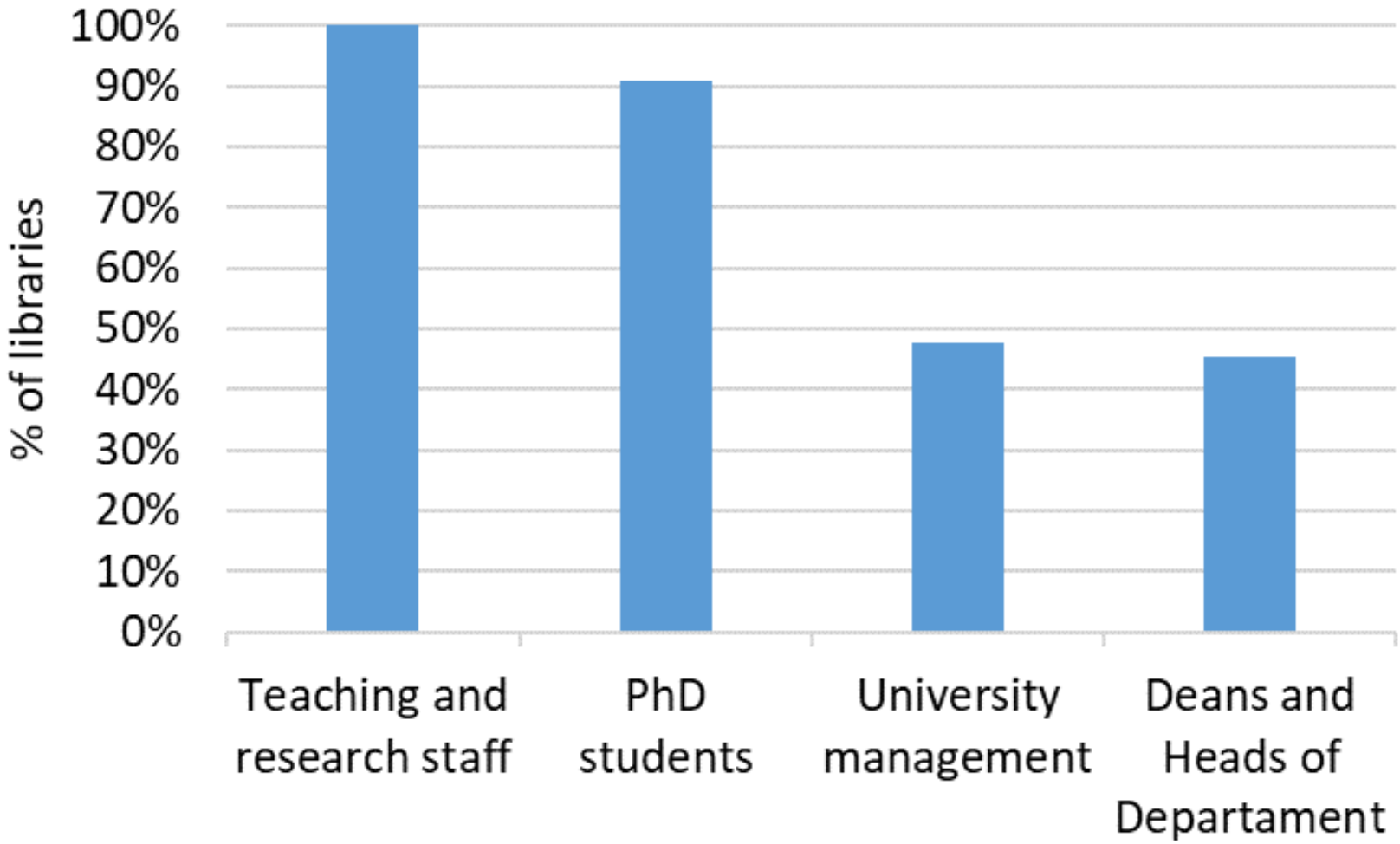
**Bibliometric units**

# Ranking of research support services




**Respondents ranked 6 services in order of preference from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important)**

# Users of research support services



# Many thanks

# Questions?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