

ENGINEERING INFORMATION LITERACY: Are we meeting the need?

Survey and focus group results provide data on research literacy needs of graduate engineering students. Librarians will utilize results to improve information literacy.

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BACKGROUND



Engineering librarians have historically instructed engineering graduate students on topics such as conducting literature reviews, data management, and finding research funding. These sessions were in response to specific requests from students or faculty. In fall 2017, the engineering librarians conducted a survey and focus group of engineering graduate students to gain information on whether a broader program of library instruction would better meet graduate students' needs regarding information literacy and general research topics.

METHODOLOGIES



INITIAL SURVEY

Open Period: Nov. 6 - 28, 2017
Method: Email sent to departmental graduate student groups.

Responses: 392 students out of 3,637 CoE grad student enrollment (10.7% response rate)
CoE graduate population is 27% of total UM grad population (CoE = 3,637 and UM = 13,415)

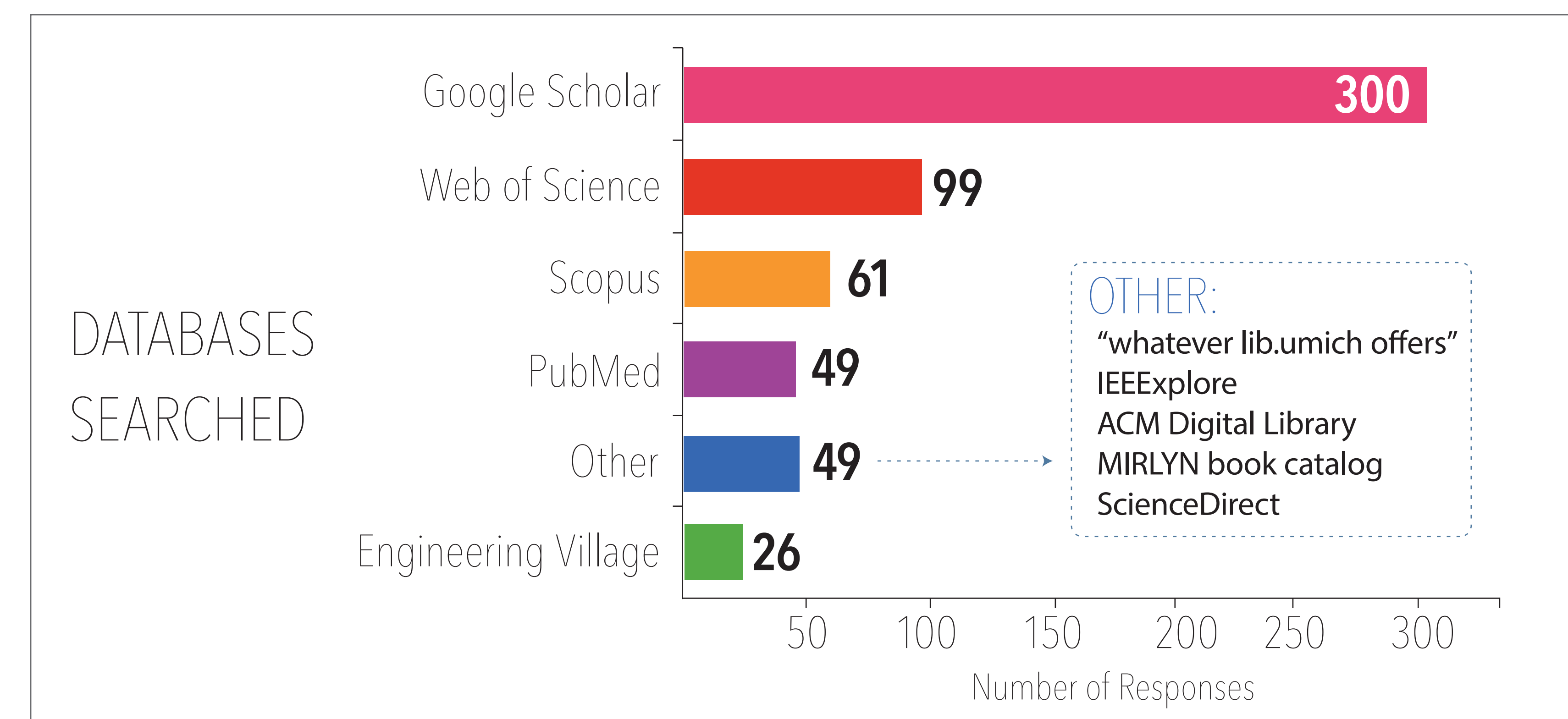
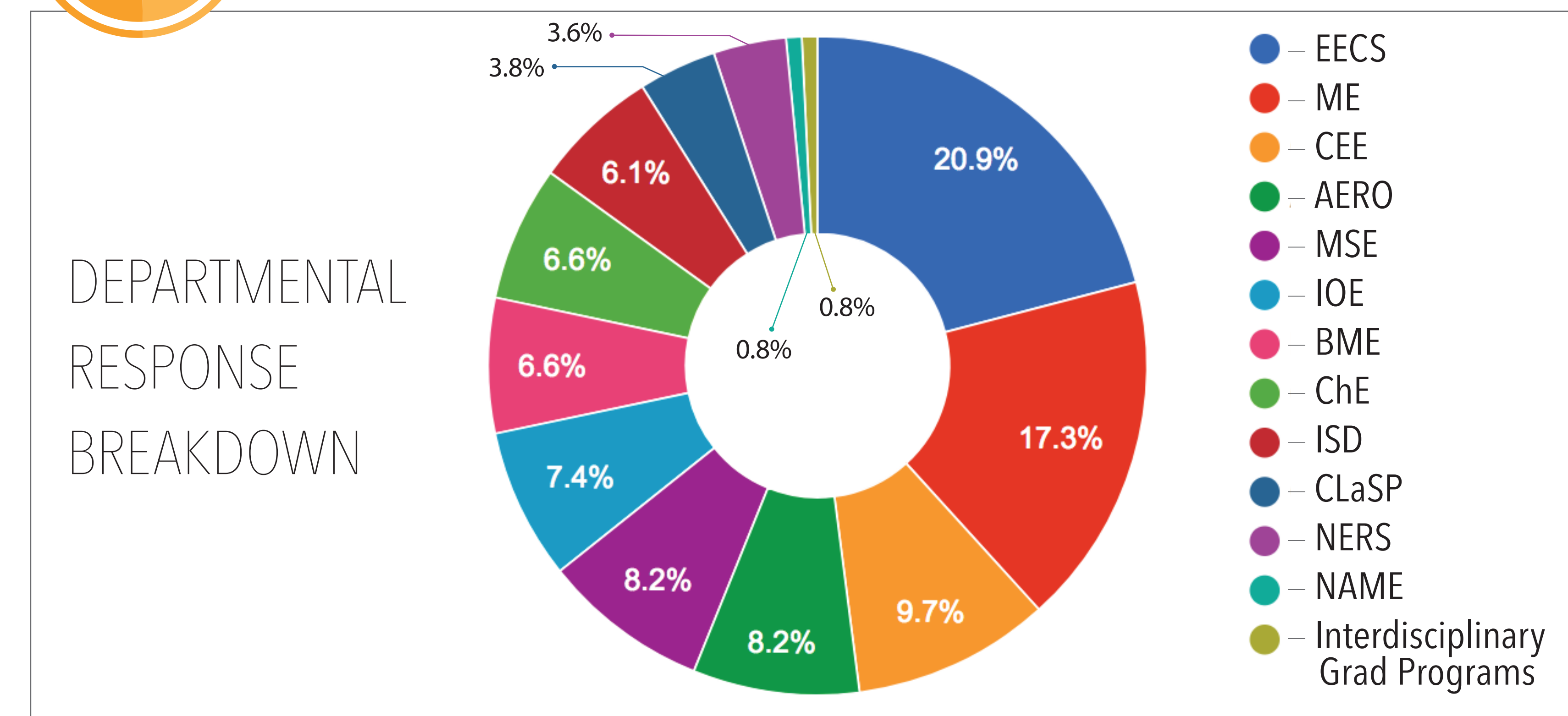
FOCUS GROUP

Attendees: 18 grad students (2 masters, 16 PhD)
When: Early December, 2017
What: 8 formal questions, with time for discussion

RESULTS



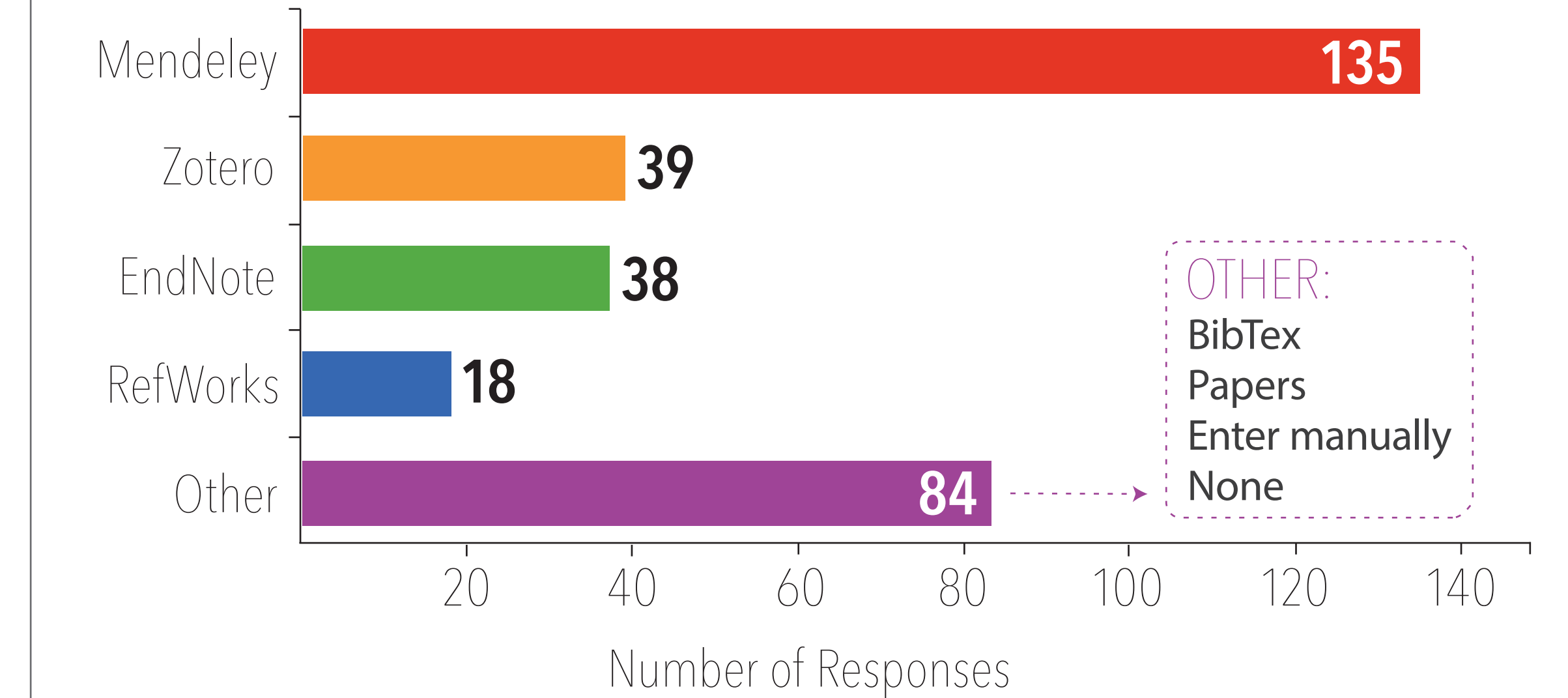
Out of all the questions asked during the survey and focus groups, these four provided the most insight for the future.



WHAT RESEARCH NEEDS ARE NOT BEING MET?

- Access to Articles
- Finding Funding
- Data Management Education
- Return the Engineering Books to the Library

CITATION MANAGER USE



In addition to being surprised at low usage of subject databases, librarians welcomed the knowledge that students were using BibTex for citation management. Most students were very open to more training in all aspects of InfoLit.

LOOKING FORWARD



Results indicate graduate students will benefit from additional library instruction. Based on collaboration with administrators and departments, the engineering librarians plan to put in place a new instruction program starting in fall 2018. This will be assessed annually by a survey of graduate students, convening a graduate student advisory group, and adding library-related questions to graduate student exit interviews.