Open Access Supports for Researchers at Canadian Universities

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Nov. 26, 2009

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1

Outline

- Open Access: overview

- Funder OA mandates

- Background to Study

- Research Questions

- Methods

- Survey Results

- Discussion

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2

Open Access Concept

- **Open Access:** "aims to increase the impact of research knowledge on society by making the full content of publicly funded research results easily available on the internet, permanently and without direct cost to the reader" (SSHRC – Open Access Policy)

- **Gold Road**: publish in an Open Access journal (all articles are free and accessible to everyone with an Internet connection)

- **Green Road:** deposit an article in an Open Access archive such as an institutional repository.

  - Verify publishers self-archiving policies thanks to SHERPA/RoMEO's website: http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/

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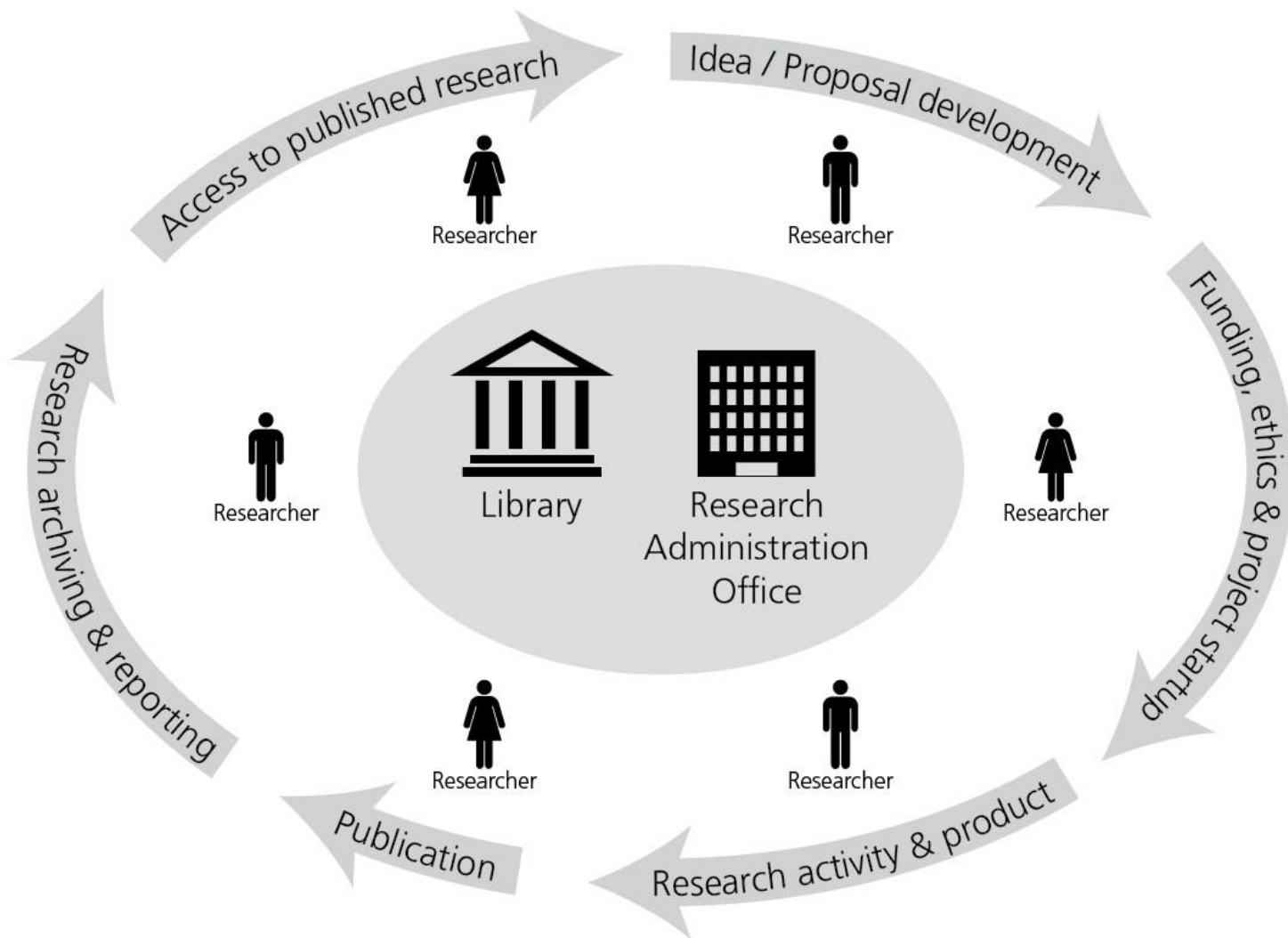
3

Open Access Mandates

- NRC (National Research Council Canada)
  - Since January 2009: requires OA to peer-reviewed articles within 6 months of publication. **Impetus on researcher!**

    Source: http://cisti-icist.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/news/cisti/2008/nparc.html

- Similar policies:
  - In Canada: CIHR, CHSRF, FRSQ, CBCRA, CCS, Genome Canada, OICR
  - Elsewhere in the world: US NIH, UK Wellcome Trust, UK Medical Research Council, l'Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale en France, …

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4

Life Cycle of Scholarly Research

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Previous Surveys

Focus on: faculty/researcher/authors

South African responses to Open Access publishing: a survey of the research community

Allison Fullard[1]

Research Librarian Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17 Bellville 7535, South Africa

afullard@uwc.ac.za

2007

Open access self-archiving: An author study
2005

Alma Swan et Sheridan Brown

Libre accès à la recherche scientifique:
opinions et pratiques des chercheurs au Québec

Kumiko Vézina (2006)

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6

Previous Surveys

Focus on: Libraries and IRs

Survey of Librarian Attitudes About Open Access

Title:
Author: Dill, Emily A.; Palmer, Kristi L.
Permanent Link: http://hdl.handle.net/1805/1113
Abstract: Presentation given at the Public Knowledge Project First Annual Conference, July 11-13, 2007, Vancouver, Canada. Revision of presentation entitled, "Preaching to the Choir?: How Academic Librarians Really Feel About Open Access"

The CARL institutional repositories project
A collaborative approach to addressing the challenges of IRs in Canada

The Authors
Kathleen Shearer, Canadian Association of Research Libraries, Quebec, Canada

Library Hi-Tech (2006)

SPEC Kit 300

Open Access Resources
September 2007

SURVEY RESULTS

Executive Summary..11
Survey Questions and Responses..15
Responding Institutions 47

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7

Our Focus:

The university research system as a whole, as represented by University Libraries and Research Administration Offices of

CARL universities

Main Research Questions

What are the major Canadian universities doing to support adherence to OA mandates?

- **Are university research supports** (Libraries and Research Offices) **aware** of OA funder mandates?

- **Do they feel it's their job to help** implement funder mandates?

- What **activities** do they offer to help researchers conform with OA funder mandates?

- **Are there coordinated approaches** to OA by University Libraries and Research Offices?

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9

Methods

The Research Team:

crossing boundaries by bringing together researchers affected by funder policies, policy-makers, and librarians both inside and outside of university libraries

- **Charlyn Black** – Medical Doctor and Professor (UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research)
- **Devon Greyson** – Librarian and Professor (UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research)
- **Don Taylor** – Librarian (Simon Fraser University)
- **Heather Morrison** – Librarian (BC Electronic Library Network)
- **Kumiko Vézina** – Librarian (Concordia University)

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10

Methods: Survey Construction

- Assessed previous surveys for models

- Drafted new questions based on the lifecycle of scholarly research model

  - Questions for both major research support entities within a university
  - Questions that relate to each of the 6 stages in the cycle
  - Questions that address our main research questions

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11

Methods: Survey

- Sample: 27 universities members of CARL

- 21 universities participated in the survey

- Personalized emails were sent on May 26, 2009 with a link toward the surveys

- 2 surveys (length: about 15 min.):
    1. Bilingual survey sent to University Librarians
    2. Bilingual survey sent to Research Office Administrators
    - Tool used: open source LimeSurvey software (free)

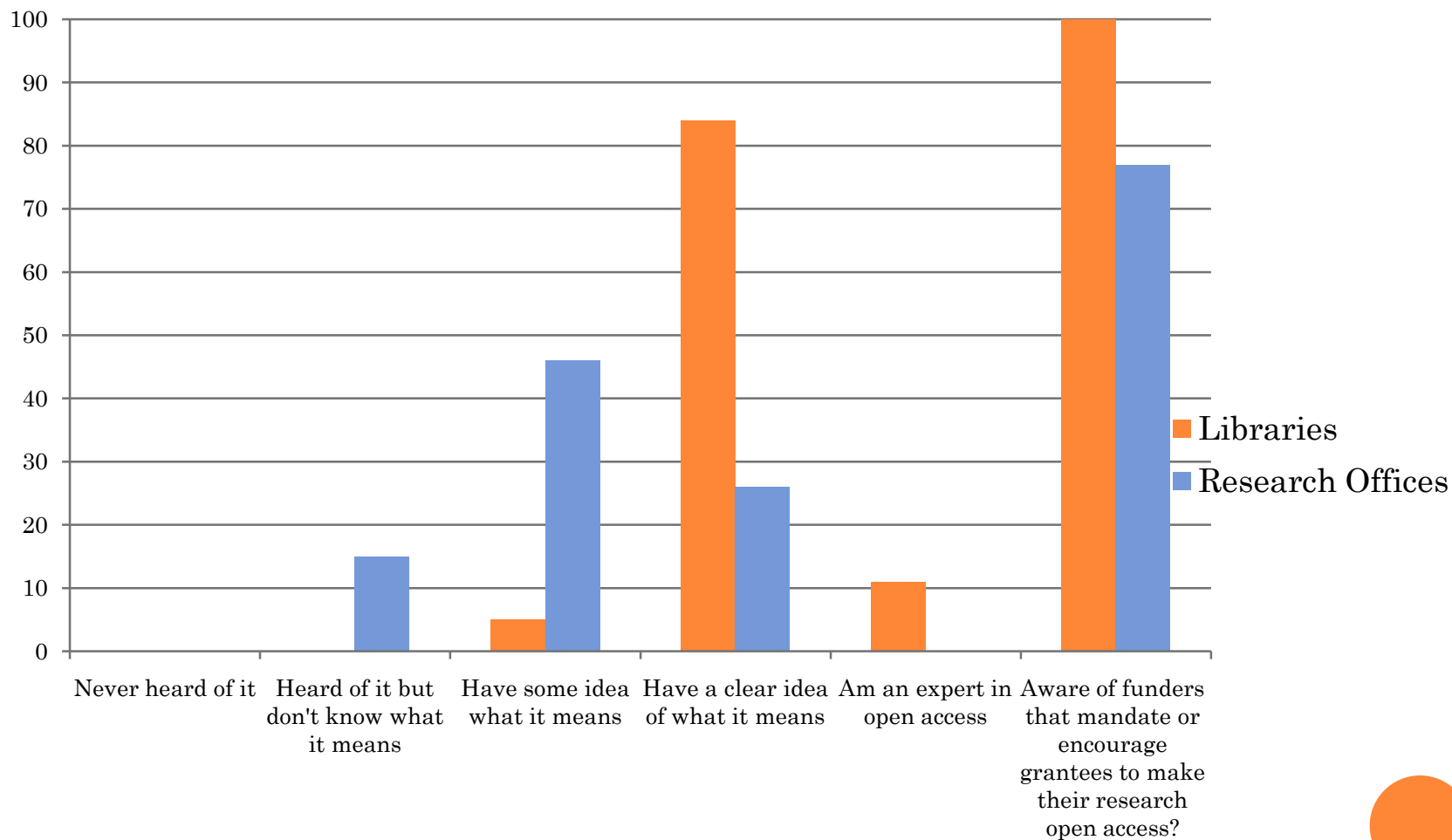- Reminder-emails were sent on June 17, 2009

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12

Results: Respondents

- **Libraries**: usable response rate of 67% from (n=19)

- **Research Administration Offices**:
  usable response rate of 48% from (n= 13)

- **10 Universities** (37% of sample) completed both surveys

- **4 Francophone institutions** completed French survey version (100% usable response rate)
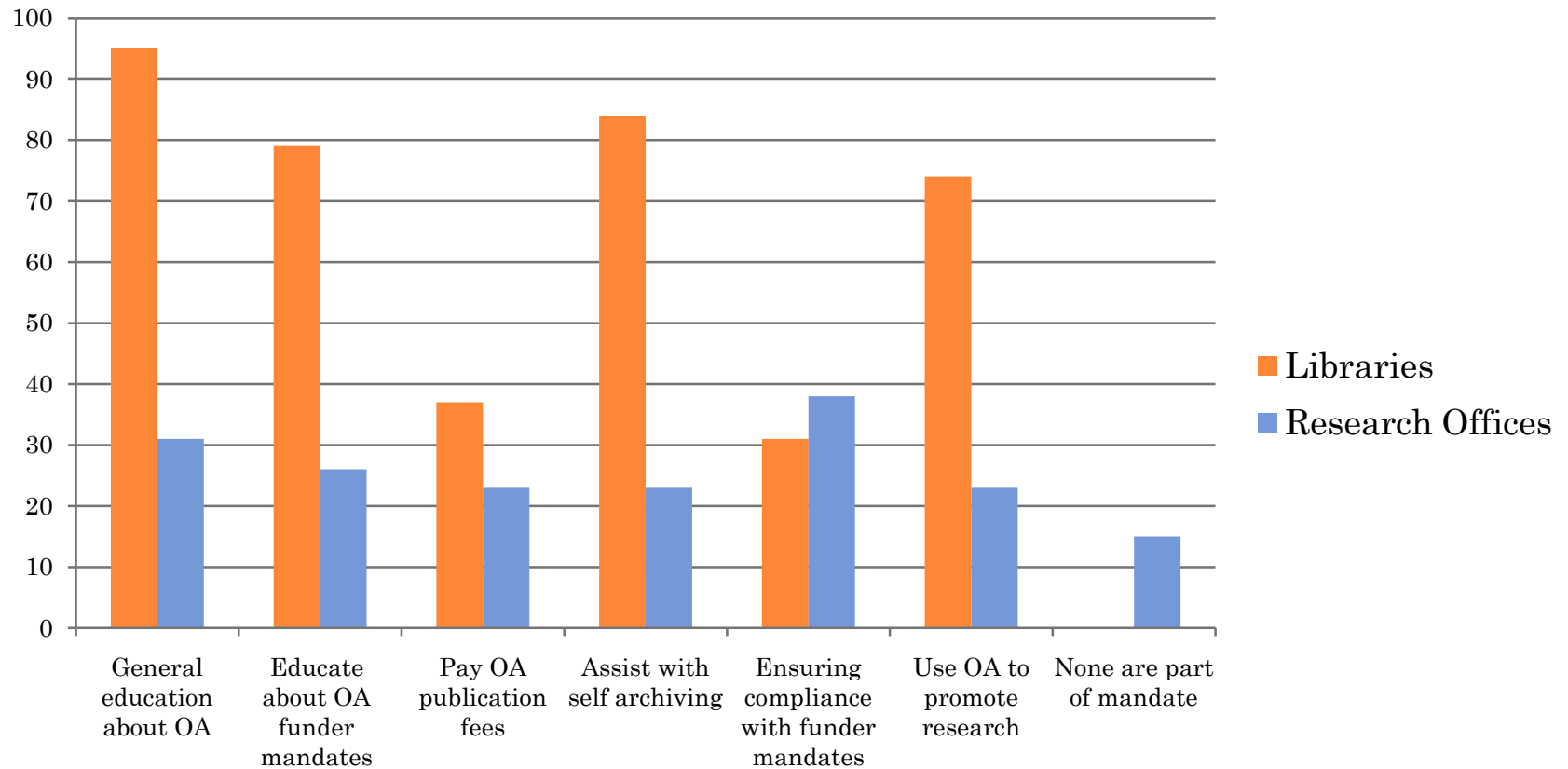
Results of the survey

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14

Awareness

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Sense of Mandate

Chart legend:
- Libraries
- Research Offices

Categories: General education about OA; Educate about OA funder mandates; Pay OA publication fees; Assist with self archiving; Ensuring compliance with funder mandates; Use OA to promote research; None are part of mandate

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16

Mandate: Concordia's Office of Research

The Office of Research (OOR) provides the services required to **support the development and growth of funded research** and scholarship at Concordia University. The mandate is divided into six main functions:
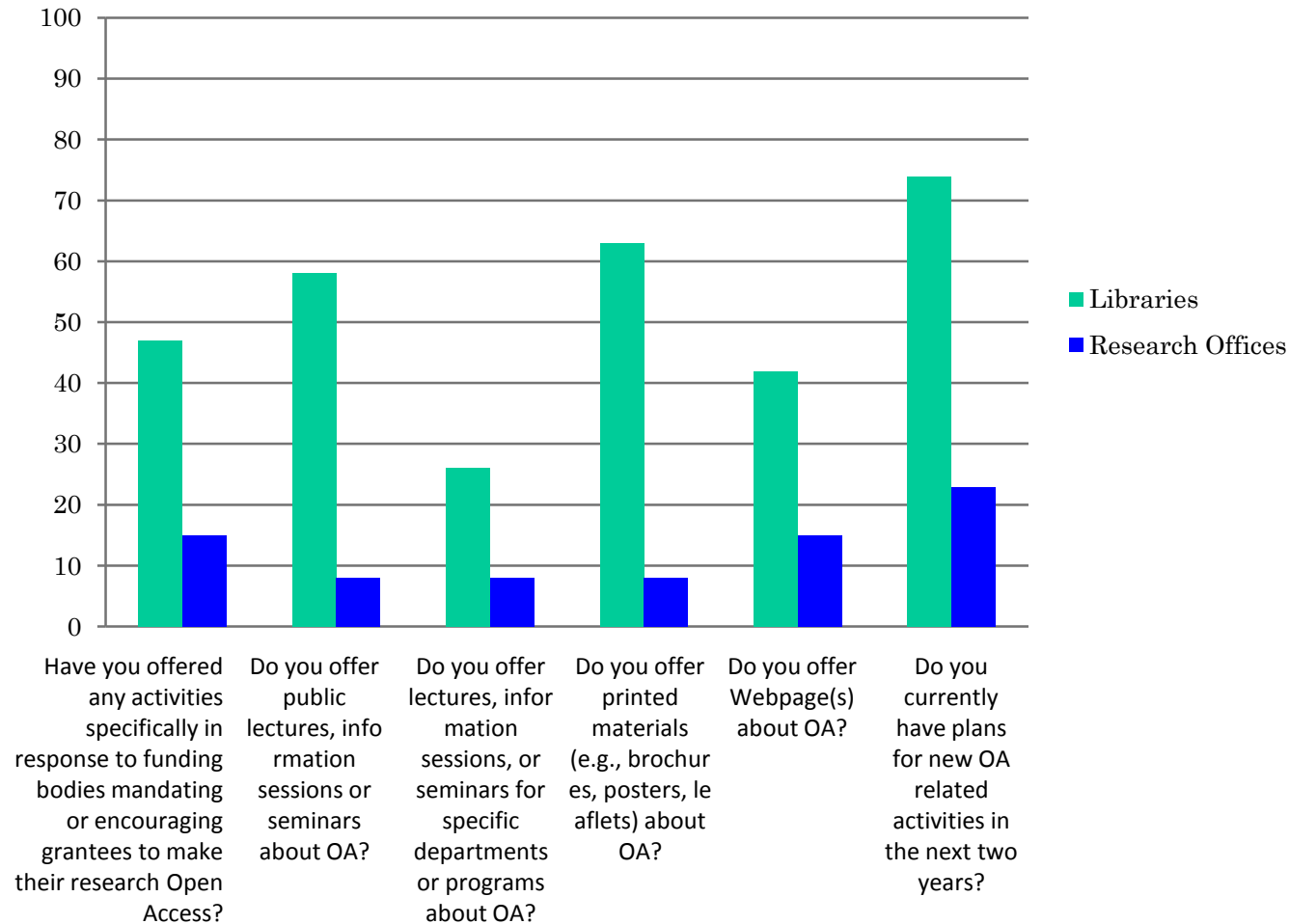
1. **Research Facilitation and Proposal Development** to **facilitate and support** individual faculty, groups of faculty members, [...] in obtaining funding opportunities.
2. **Institutional Stewardship** to **ensure compliance** with the various funding agencies requirements; compliance with internal policies; compliance with legal and government obligations and compliance with reporting requirements.
3. **Information Reporting and Analysis to support Planning and Decision Making**
4. **Research Administration** which includes acting as a **liaison** with granting agencies, foundations and other sources of research funds.
5. **Communications** to publicize and promote research at Concordia, to disseminate funding opportunities and to **provide guidelines and resources** to faculty.
6. **Policy Development and Support** to review current policies and practices and makes recommendations regarding the need for revisions, to **monitor agency and government initiatives** and assesses the impact on Concordia policies and opportunities related to research.

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17

Mandat: Bureau de la recherche (UdeM)

La mission du Bureau de la Recherche est d'être au service de la communauté universitaire, […] Par l'entremise de ses administrateurs de recherche, le Bureau **accompagne et conseille les chercheurs** dans l'ensemble du processus visant la valorisation des innovations et du capital intellectuel […]. À ce titre, il est notamment responsable de:
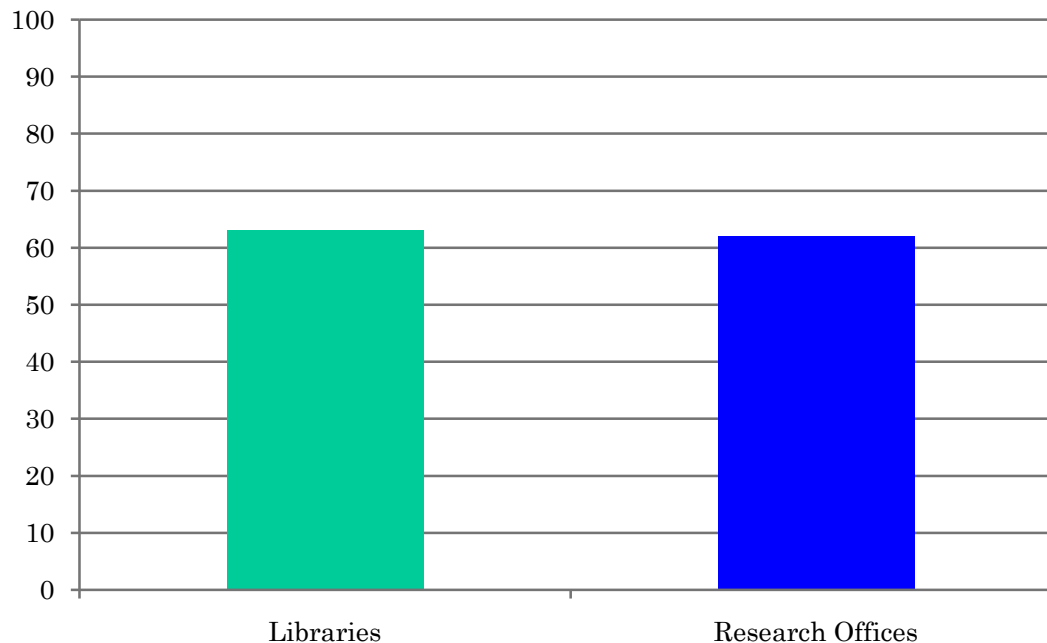
- **Assurer la promotion et la diffusion des programmes de subvention**

- **Jouer un rôle d'agent de liaison** entre les chercheurs et les différents organismes externes et internes à l'Institution

- **Informer les chercheurs** **sur les différentes questions entourant l'aspect administratif des recherches** (ex : propriété intellectuelle, valorisation des résultats de recherche).

- **Mettre à disposition** **des chercheurs** **toutes les informations** **concernant les démarches administratives** quant à la gestion des fonds de recherche une fois la subvention obtenue ou lors de la signature d'un contrat

- **S'assurer du respect des politiques**, **procédures et normes gouvernementales**, institutionnelles et des organismes externes en matière de recherche

Activity

Chart: A grouped bar chart (y-axis 0 to 100) comparing "Libraries" (teal) and "Research Offices" (blue) across six questions:

Question	Libraries	Research Offices
Have you offered any activities specifically in response to funding bodies mandating or encouraging grantees to make their research Open Access?	47	15
Do you offer public lectures, information sessions or seminars about OA?	58	8
Do you offer lectures, information sessions, or seminars for specific departments or programs about OA?	26	8
Do you offer printed materials (e.g., brochures, posters, leaflets) about OA?	63	8
Do you offer Webpage(s) about OA?	42	15
Do you currently have plans for new OA related activities in the next two years?	74	23

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19

Coordination & Collaboration?

Are you aware of other university depts. doing OA activities?

Research Offices:
- Library
- Grad Studies
- Departments with own repositories

Libraries:
- Medicine
- Law
- ORS
- Education

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20

Discussion

- Awareness lag between librarians and research administrators

- Corresponding difference in sense of mandate to carry out OA-related activities:

  – Is it the job of someone within the University to ensure researcher compliance with funder OA requirements?

  – If funders think so, they might do well to target communications beyond grantees

Discussion

- Difference in level of educational activities undertaken.

- Similar difference in level of outreach to researchers in response to funder mandates.

  - Does this discrepancy show a need for collaboration between Libraries and Research Offices to better educate researchers on OA issues and to avoid mixed messages?

This presentation was given at the

Premier Congrès
des milieux documentaires
du Québec

Montreal: 11-14 November 2009

Article to be published

Following our study, we wrote an article
for a special issue on Open Access
in the peer-reviewed journal:

Canadian Journal of Higher Education
(Guest Editor: Professor Jean-Claude Guédon,
issue will come out in December 2009)

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24

Thank you!

Questions?

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