

Government information at Canadian academic libraries

Emma Cross & Sylvie Lafortune, Carleton University Library
Concordia Library Research Forum
Friday April 27, 2018



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Ontario



Montréal 

Methodology

- Why?

How are Canadian academic libraries responding to changes in the publication and delivery of government information

- Research ethics – two levels
- Sample – 12 institutions balanced by size, region, language
- Telephone interviews – 12 technical service and 12 public service

Technical Services & government information

- ➔ “Mainstreaming” – no more special treatment
- ➔ Using available tools to save time / maximize access to government information
- ➔ Legacy print collections gradually being merged with general Library collections
- ➔ Consortiums especially for digitization and preservation

Impact of variables

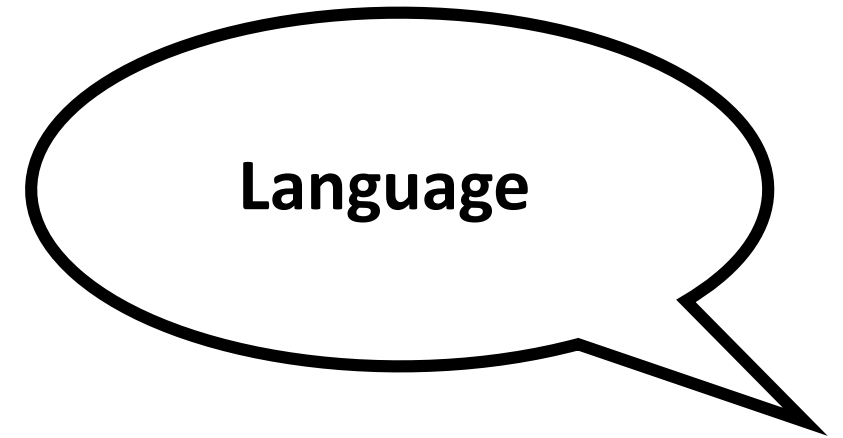


Size of library

Medical / doctoral

Comprehensive

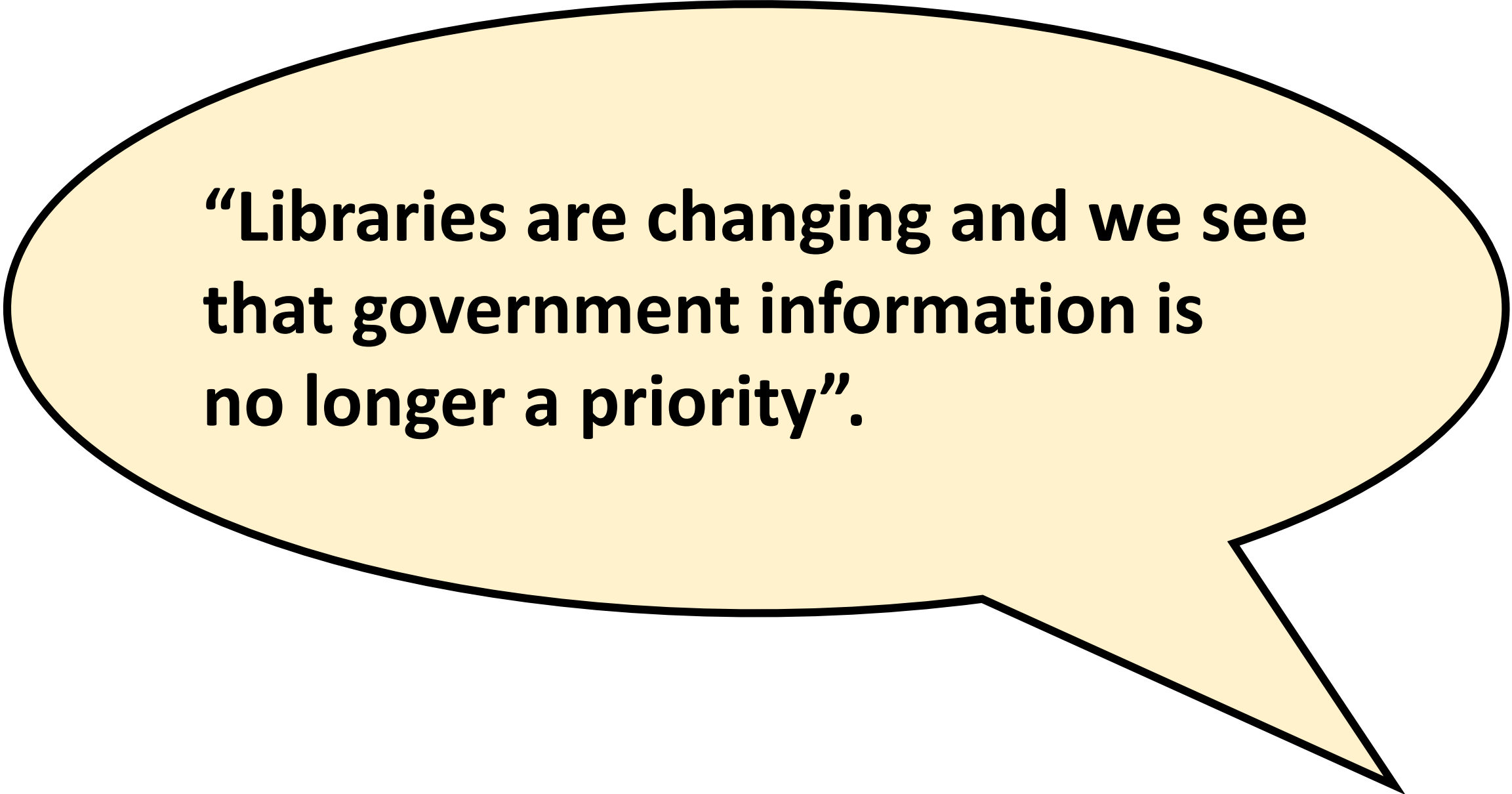
Undergraduate



Region

Libraries told us ...

“I’m not a fan of academic libraries taking on the role to preserve federal government documents – there is not enough time for libraries to do this. I support unique local government documents.”



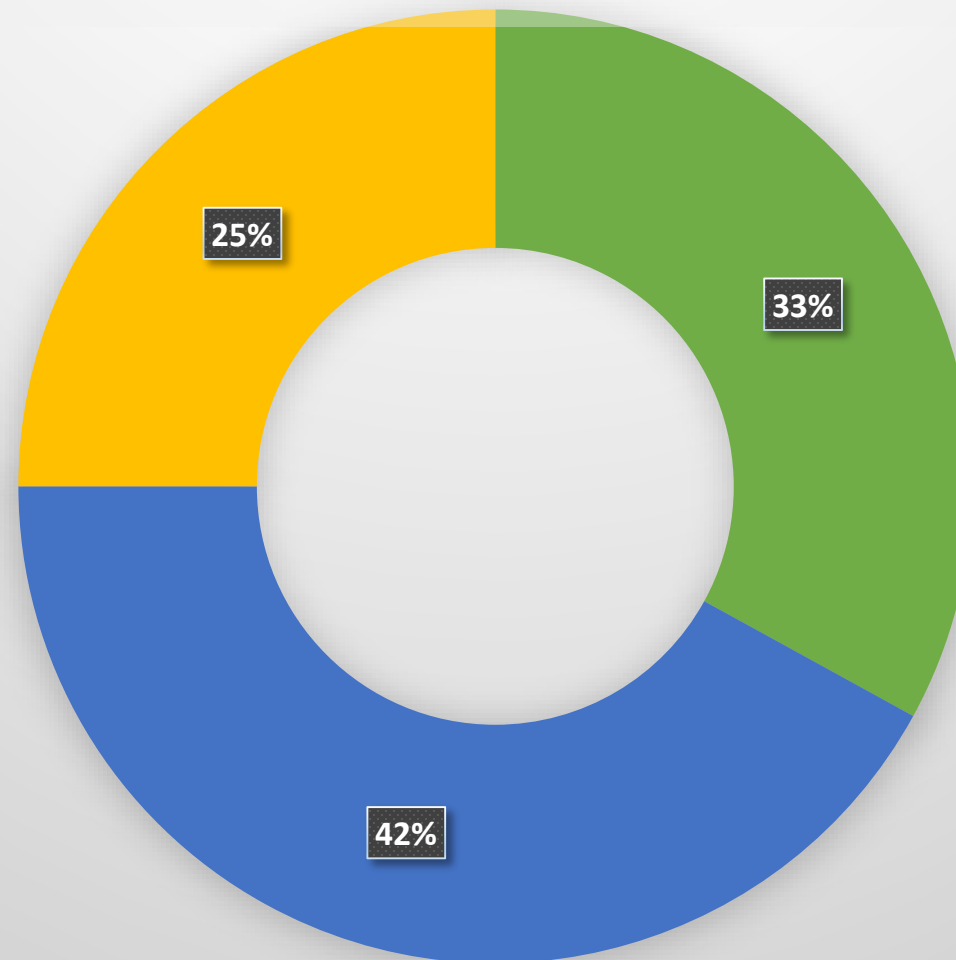
“Libraries are changing and we see that government information is no longer a priority”.

Research services: time spent on government information

■ less than 10% of time spent on G.I.

■ less than 25% of time spent on G.I.

■ over 50% of time spent on G.I.



Position titles reflect shifting priorities of academic libraries

Public Services

Law and Government Publications

Head, maps, data and government information

Reference/Liaison

Public Services

Liaison

Digital Scholarship and Government Information

Public Services

Data and GIS

Head, Acquisitions and Bibliographic Services

Liaison

Support for Disciplinary Activities

Collections and \$\$\$

- Active selection of GI is in decline
- Separate \$\$\$ for GI is ongoing but decreasing every year
- Funding for GI is changing

Role of academic libraries and future trends

**Access to
content**

Preservation

**User
education**

**MORE
COLLABORATION**

A few take aways . . .

- ✓ Collection and service realignment remains unsettled on many campuses
- ✓ Shift in the relationship between tech services and public services
- ✓ Impact of library consortia on GI in Canada

Thank you & questions