

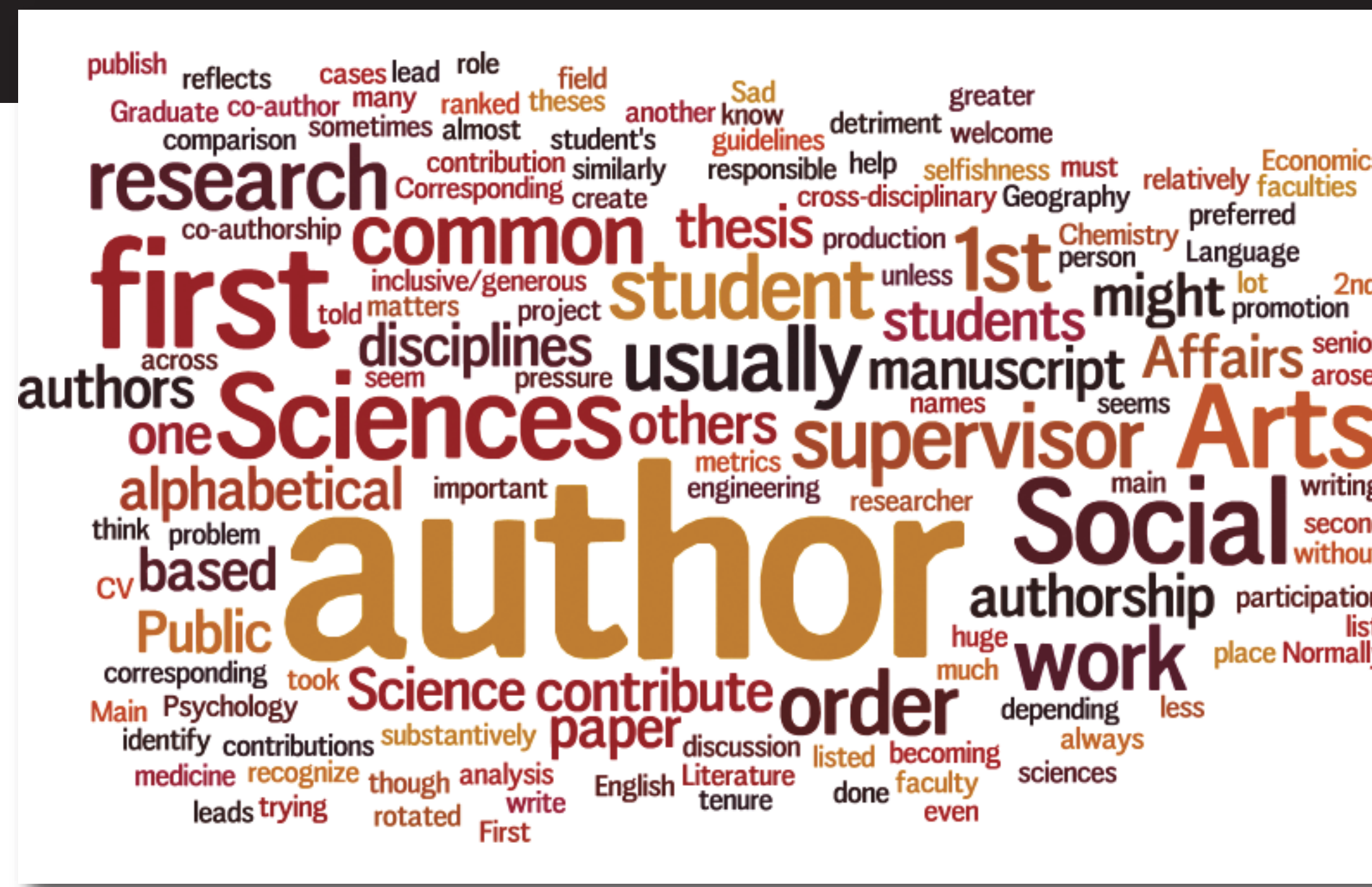
Collaboration & Recognition: Authorship Credit Across Disciplines

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What contributions are considered sufficient to justify authorship credit? As universities show increasing interest in both interdisciplinary work & research metrics, the library is in a unique position to help researchers across disciplines navigate through this important area of scholarly communication.

METHODOLOGY:

- Online survey to 46 department chairs & directors from across Carleton University.
- Questions related to publication credit, authorship order, graduate student practices, affiliation credit, & interdisciplinary co-authorship

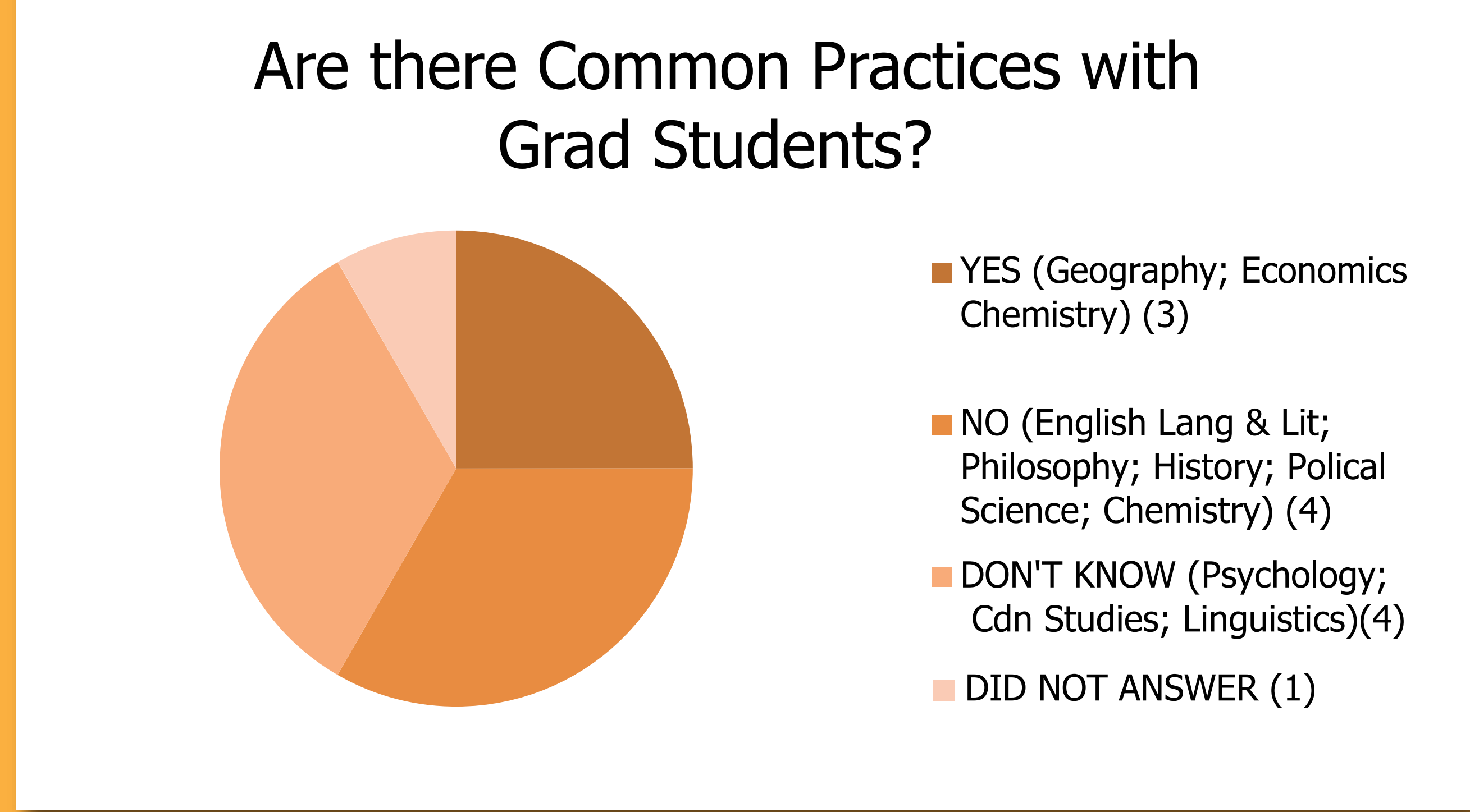
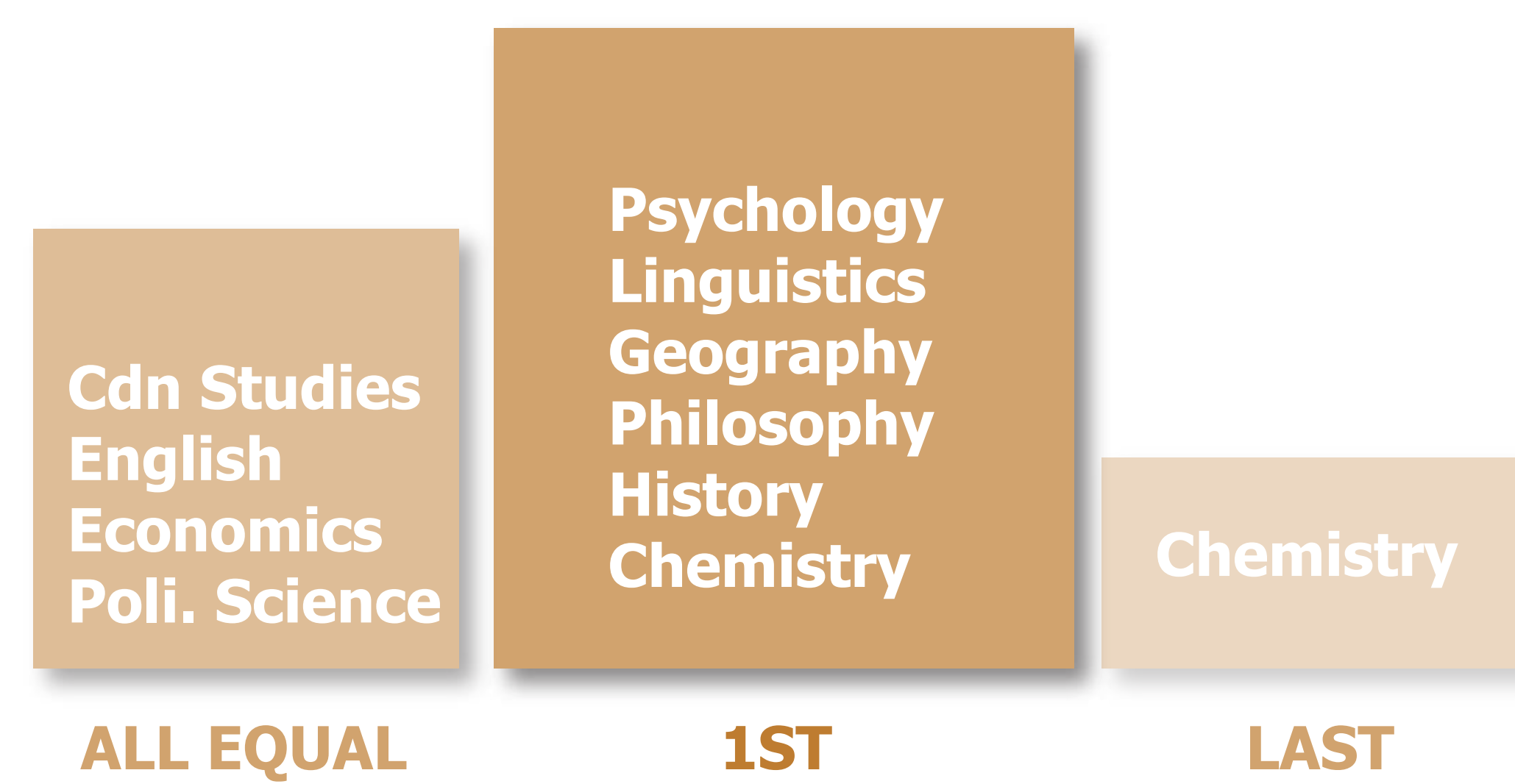


- "Main researcher first; if 1st author is a student the supervisor is 2nd; others based on discussion and contributions". (Geography)
- "Normally it is alphabetical. When it is not, it sometimes reflects the greater role of the first person listed. I do a lot of cross-disciplinary work, and with one co-author we rotated first place depending on who took the lead". (Economics)
- "Corresponding author is the senior author. First is usually the student who did the research". (Chemistry)
- "Graduate student names are ranked in order of contribution. 1st having done the most work". (Science)
- "The pressure on faculty to publish for tenure & promotion seems to create a selfishness about authorship to the detriment of students. Sad". (Arts & Social Sciences)
- "Some of us list % of work in their CV; co-authorship is not common in X, but becoming more common and guidelines would be welcome". (Arts & Social Sciences)

FINDINGS:

- 12 completed the survey in full (26% participation rate)
- Faculties- Science (2), Arts & Social Science (8), & Public Affairs (2).
- In the past 5 years, these faculty published between 1 & 25 papers (mean = 10)
 - Science faculty's papers were all co-authored (100%)
 - Arts and Social Science faculty's papers ranged from 9% to 100% of their papers being co-authored.
 - In Public Affairs, one faculty member's papers were co-authored 89% of the time, while the other wrote individually.

WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT "SPOT" IN A LIST OF AUTHORS?



WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS JUSTIFY AUTHORSHIP CREDIT?

- Most agreement among all disciplines include
 - Analysing data to answer research question (8)
 - Writing the literature review/introduction section of the article (7)
 - Planning the details for the research project/developing the research questions and methodology (6)
 - Writing an outline/organizing the article. (6)
- Listing order of authors determined by most work done for the majority of respondents (7)

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

- Preliminary survey only sent to departmental chairs & directors.
- Small sample size BUT results will help inform future research methods & audiences

NEXT STEPS:

The university library has an opportunity to help guide both new & more established researchers into the intricacies of this aspect of the scholarly publishing landscape. Further investigation of specific discipline results & graduate student practices will help shed light on a sometimes confusing set of rules for researchers and research administrators.