



Survey on Genre/Form Practices in National Libraries

IFLA Genre/Form Working group

- Formed in January 2014
- Members from Cataloguing Section & Subject Analysis and Access Section
- Conducted a survey on genre/form practices in national libraries

Survey:

- Open from February 1st – April 17th 2017




Main questions:

- Are libraries using one or more controlled vocabularies to express genre/form?
- What are the chief characteristics of the genre/form vocabulary?
- Are genre/form terms expressed through some other means?
 - What are the main benefits and hurdles to using genre/form terms?

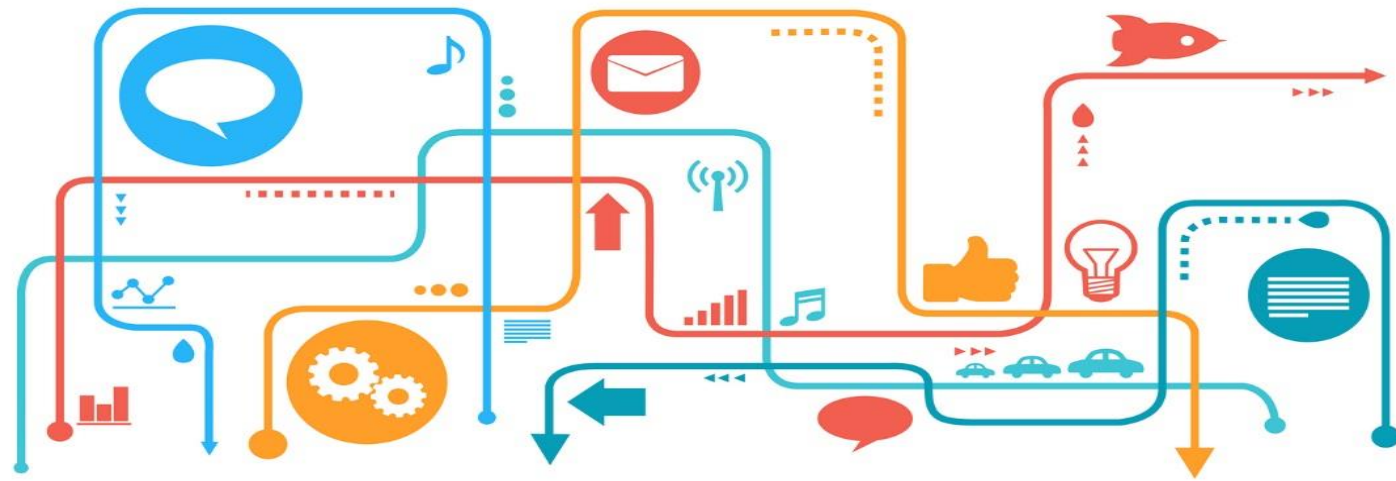


Survey structure:

- Section 1 – General questions
- Section 2 – Libraries using genre/form in their cataloging
- Section 3 – Libraries using one single genre/form vocabulary
- Section 4 – Libraries using multiple genre/form vocabularies

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- Section 5 – Libraries planning to develop one or more genre/form vocabularies
 - Section 6 – Use of broad subject vocabulary with genre/form instead, or in addition to, genre/form vocabularies
 - Section 7 – Use of controlled vocabulary or other means to express genre/form concepts instead of, or in addition to, genre/form vocabularies

- Section 8 – Benefits and hurdles of using genre/form terms



Section 1 – general questions

(key question – 5: Does your library currently use genre/form terms in its cataloging, or is it planning to use them in the future?)

Section 2 (already using)

Section 5 (planning to develop)

Section 3
(one)

Section 4
(multiple)

Section 6 (other vocabularies)

Section 7 (other means of expressing genre/form)

Section 8 (benefits & hurdles)

Question types:

- ❖ Multiple choice questions

(accompanied by several possible answers)

- ❖ Free text questions

(for explanations, reflections, contemplations, meditations)

Scope of the Survey

National libraries (forefront of genre/form developments)

But, with some exceptions with libraries acting as national in some domains

Languages of the Survey

- English & Arabic

Number of Responses

77

(66 in English + 11 in Arabic)

Respondents:

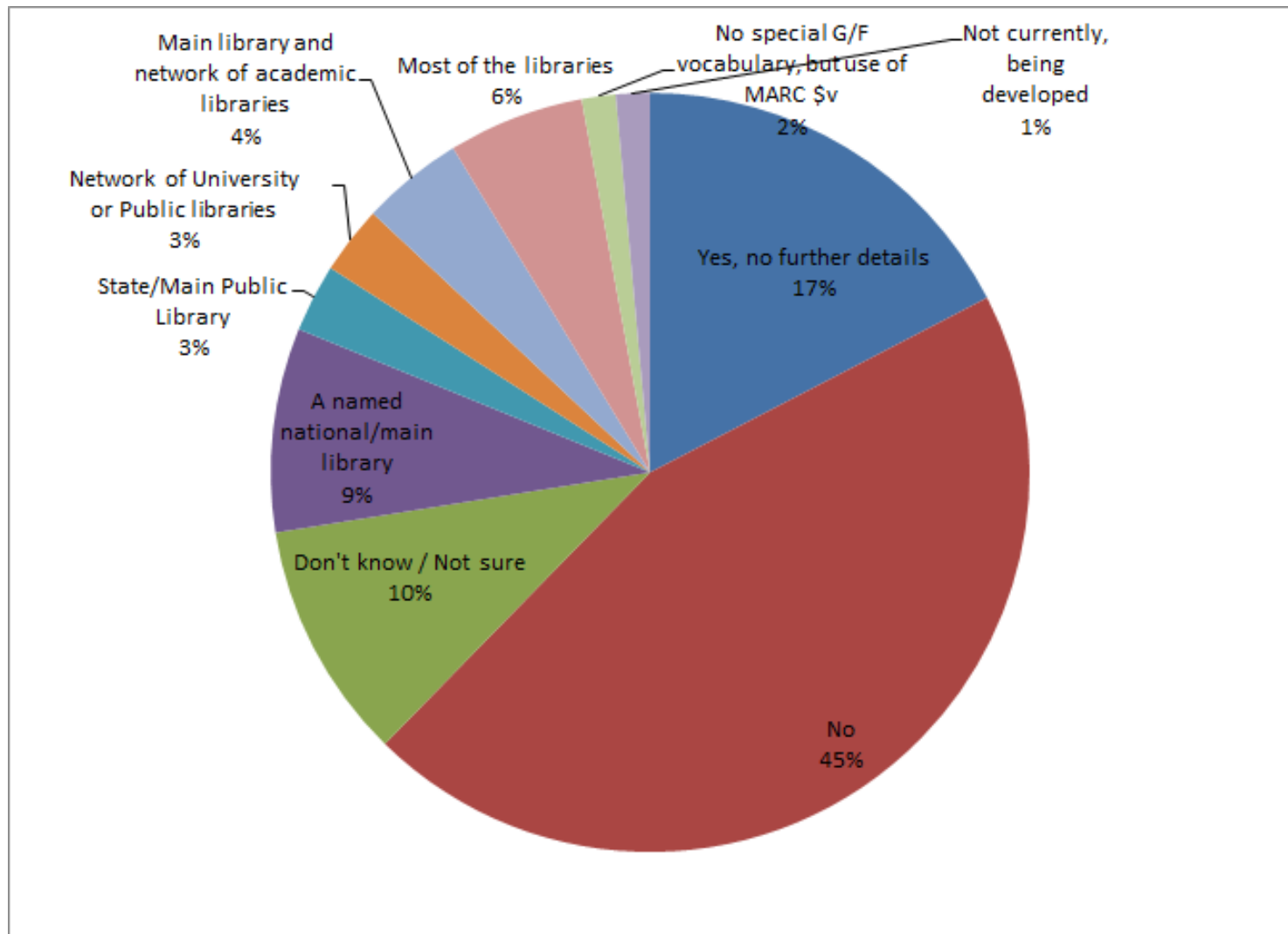
Austria, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Argentina, Republica Dominicana, Angola, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Paraguay, Peru, Italy, Spain, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Luxembourg, Russia, UK, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Dubai, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, USA, Lithuania, Myanmar, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Japan, Belize, Singapore, Albania, Australia, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Montenegro, New Zelenad, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Viet Nam, Chech Republic, Croatia, Iceland, Slovenia, Mongolia, Qatar, Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Switzerland, China, Finland, Sweden, South Africa.

SURVEY ANALYSIS

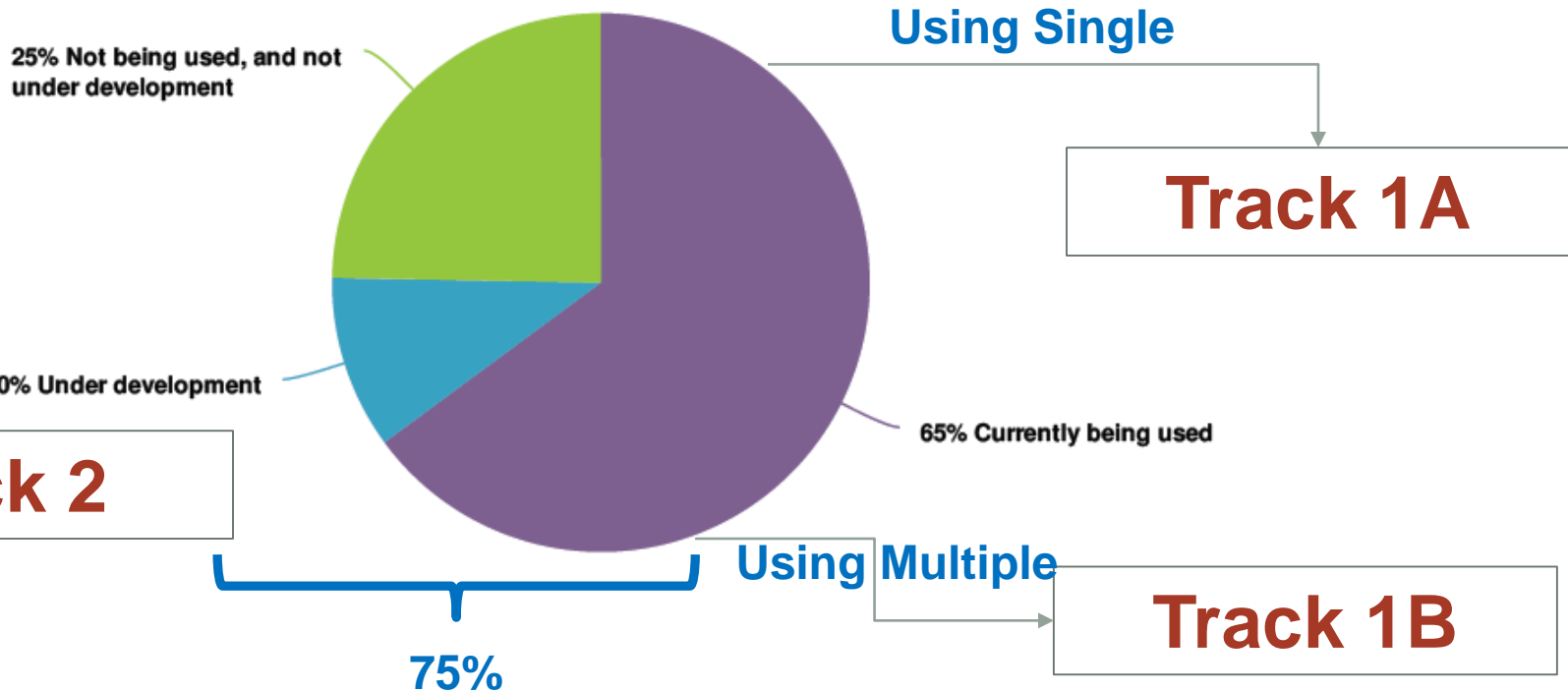
Analysis Methodology

Jointly analyzing parallel (similar) questions in all tracks to draw general and comparative conclusions.

Other Libraries Using/Developing G/F Vocabularies?

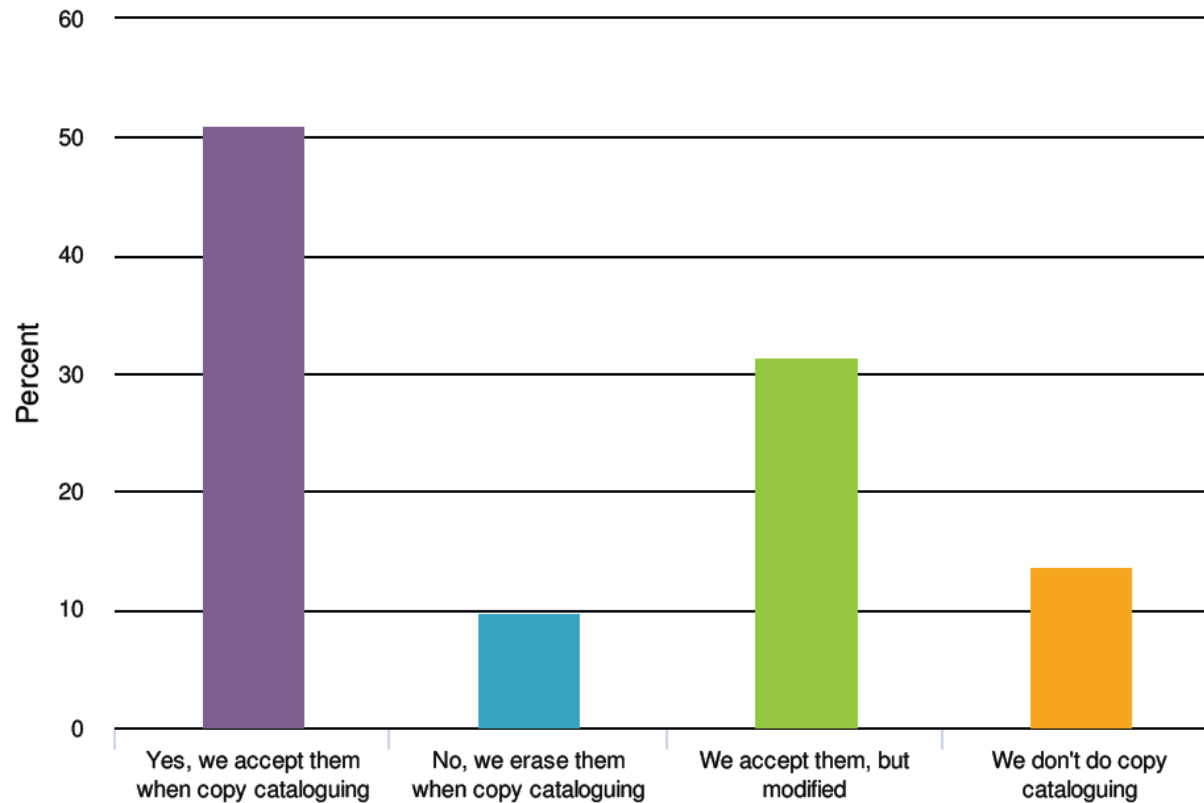


Using or Planning to Develop G/F



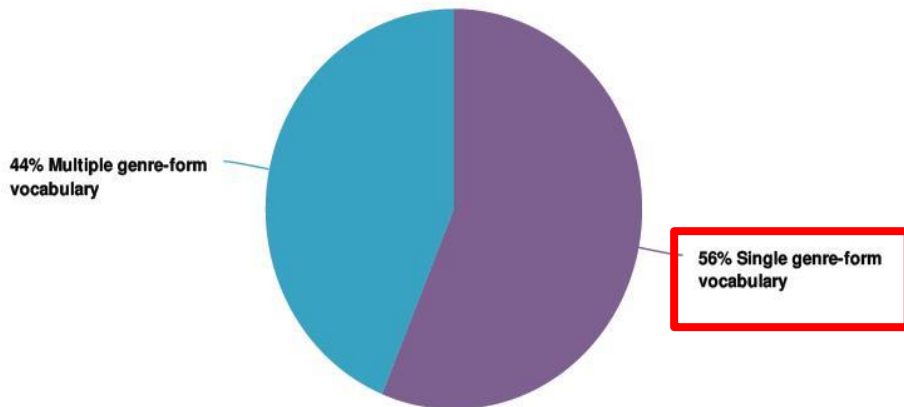
Branching question!

When Copy Cataloging



Single Vs. Multiple Vocab.

Using



Developing



In-House Vs. Elsewhere Development

Value	Percent	Responses
Developed its own	72.0%	18
Developed elsewhere (e.g., TGM, Art & Architecture Thesaurus)	4.0%	1
A mix of both	24.0%	6

Totals: 25

Only One Vocab.

Value	Percent	Responses
All home-developed	9.5%	2
All developed elsewhere e.g., Art & Architecture Thesaurus	14.3%	3
A mix of both	76.2%	16

Totals: 21

Multiple Vocab.

Content Vocab. Coverage*

Libraries Using a Single Vocab.

- 96% (25-26) include **both** genre and form terms.
- Only one library (National Library of Bulgaria) stated that its G/F vocabulary only included **form** terms.

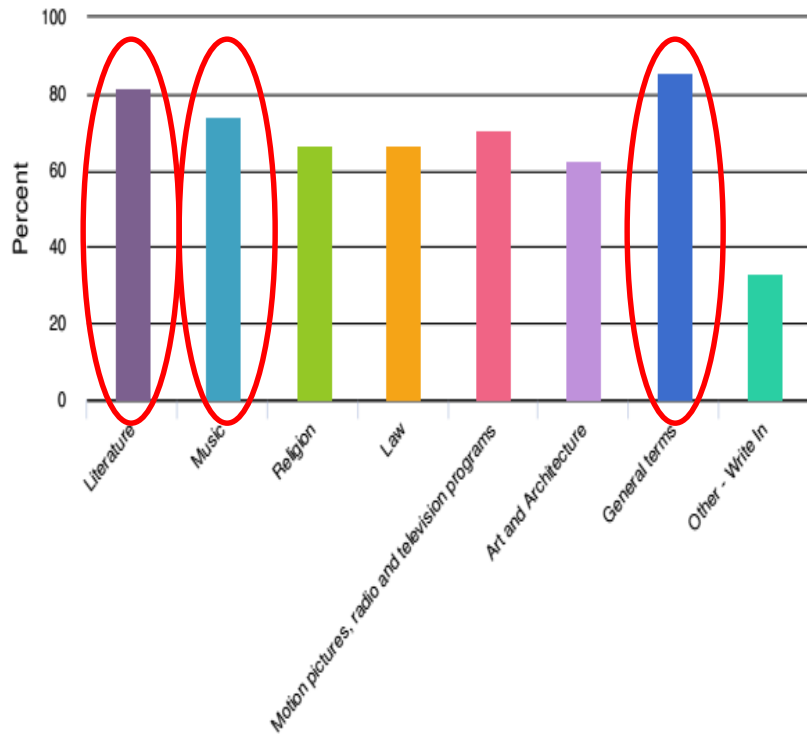
Libraries Developing Vocab.

- 8-9 responses stated that would include **both** genre and form terms
- Only one library (National Library of Sudan), only **genre** terms.

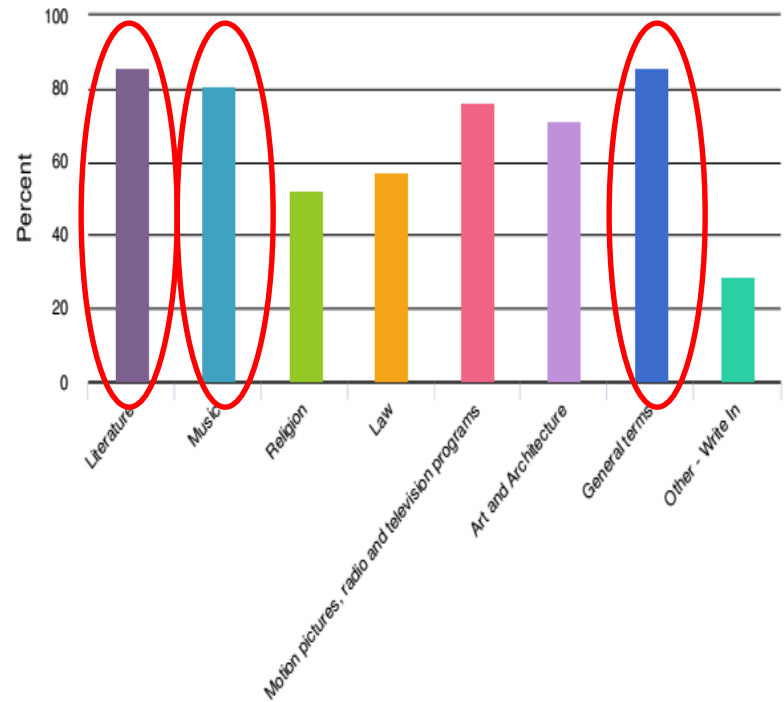
* This question was not asked for libraries using more than one genre/form vocabulary.

Subject Coverage

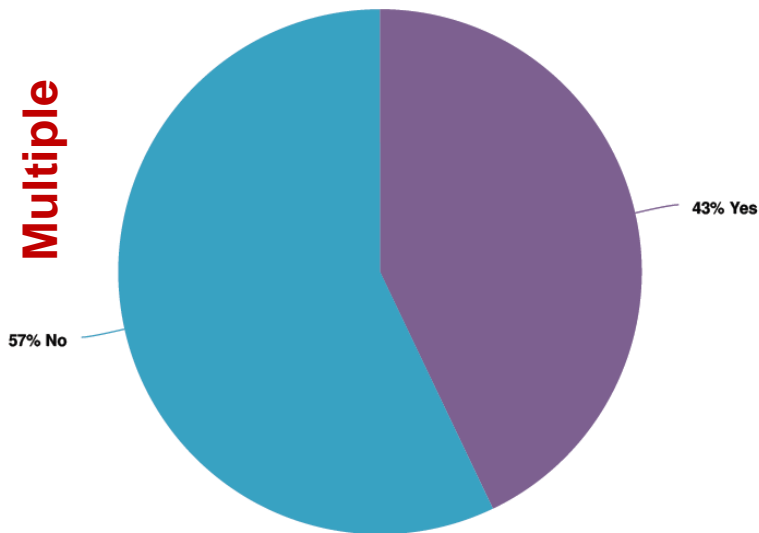
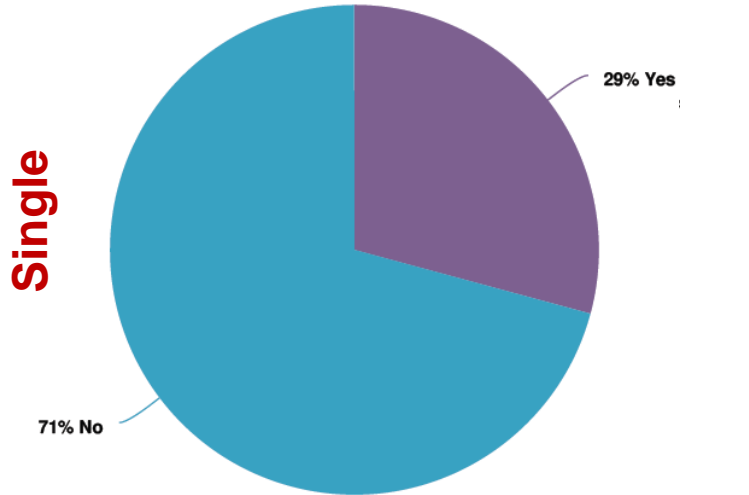
Single Vocab.



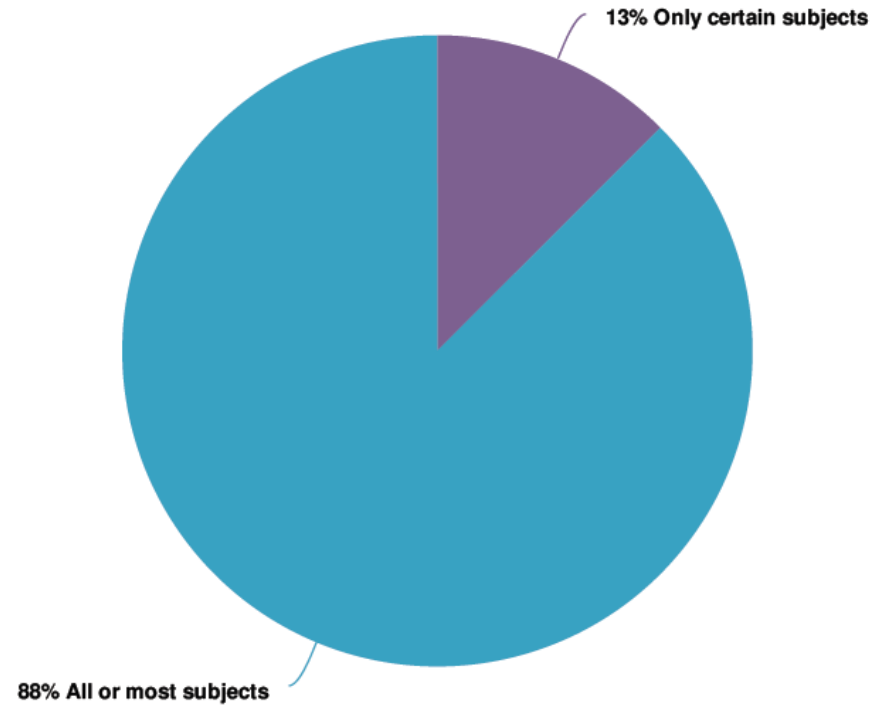
Multiple Vocab.



Plans to Add More Subjects?



Developing



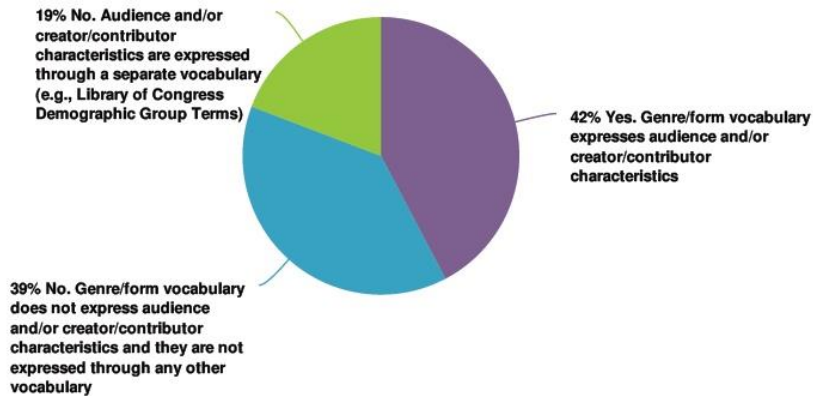
Types of Materials Covered

- Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of libraries using **one G/F vocabulary** cover as many types of materials as possible (**80%**).
- In libraries using **multiple G/F vocabularies**, this percentage is higher (**90%**).
- In cases where the G/F vocabulary or vocabularies are used for specific types of materials, **books** and **audiovisual** resources have the **highest** percentages (**over 80%**), and **comics** the **lowest** (about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the time).
- Libraries at the stage of **developing** vocabularies are generally planning to include **all kinds** of resources (7-8 libraries).

Audience/Creator Characteristics

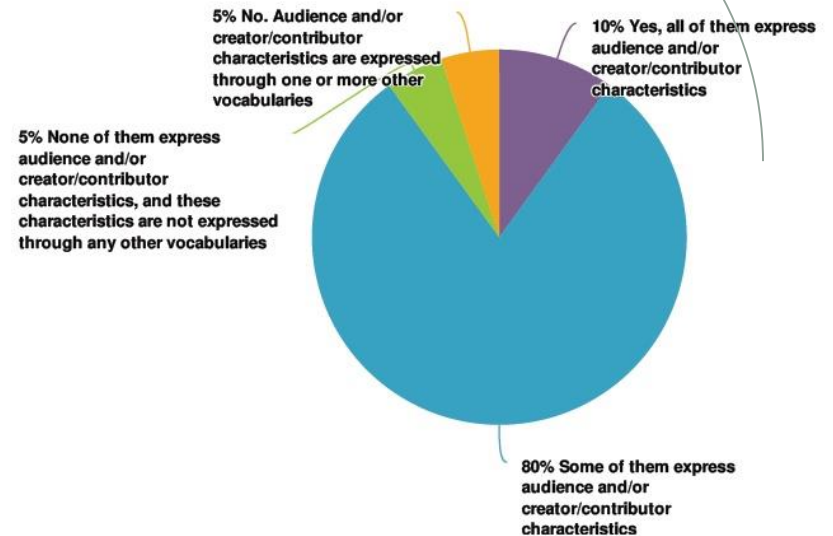
Using One Vocab.

60+%



Using Multiple Vocab.

95%



Frequency & Manner of Updating Vocabulary – Using Single

- Libraries using a single G/F vocabulary are updating more frequently than the ones using multiple vocabularies
- 5-19 respondents claim they update vocabularies continuously, even daily

Frequency & Manner of Updating Vocabulary – Using Multiple

- Most libraries using multiple G/F vocabularies answered that vocabularies are updated irregularly, on an infrequent basis, (in one case not at all)
- 2-20, depends upon the vocabulary, 3 responded: frequently and daily
- No specific answer on manner of updating

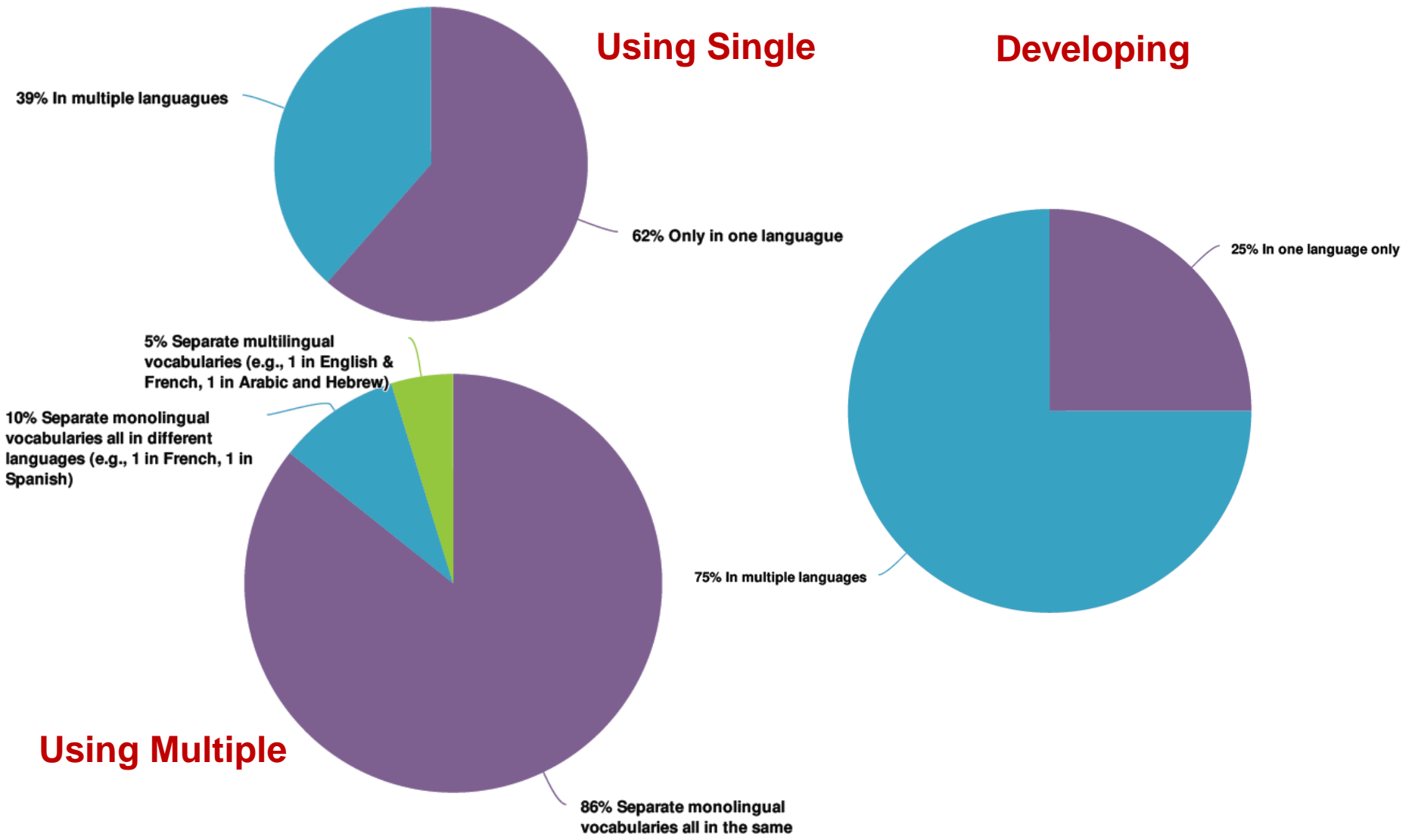
Frequency & Manner of Updating Vocabulary – Planning to Develop

- More specific about the answers on manner of updating.
 - 1 answer will be updated automatically (through the system).
- Not precise about the frequency of updating
 - Most of the answers were that it will depend on their needs.

One or Multiple Languages

Using Single

Developing

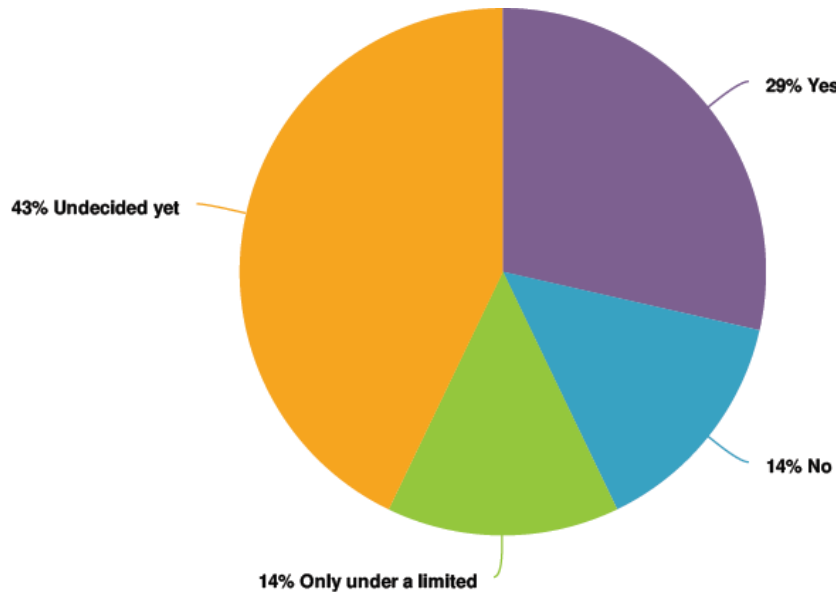
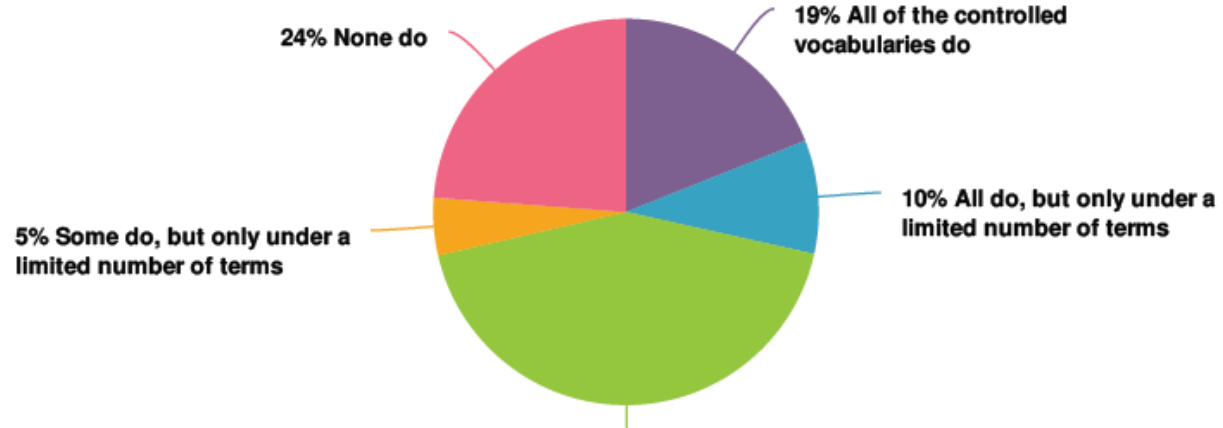
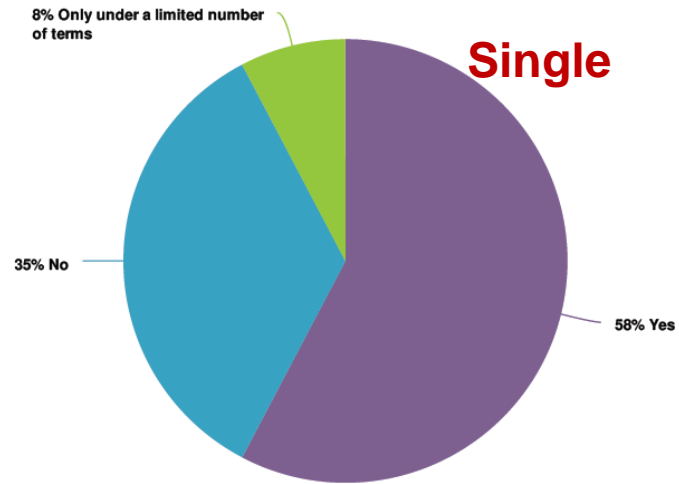


Use of Geographical Aspects

Single

Multiple

Developing






Expressing Geographical Aspects

Using Single

Subdivisions (e.g., Science fiction--Sweden)		26.3%	5
Phrase headings (e.g., Swedish science fiction)		21.1%	4
Individual facets		52.6%	10

Using Multiple

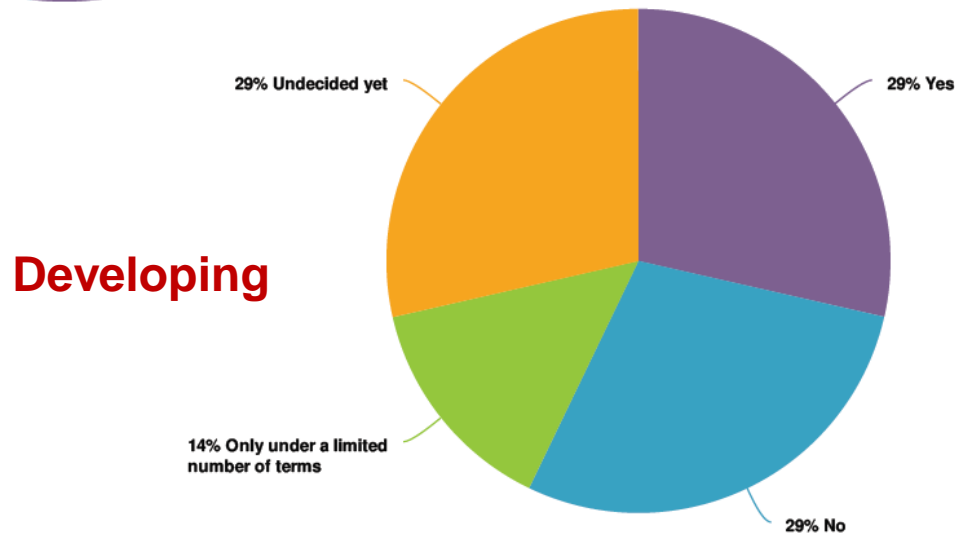
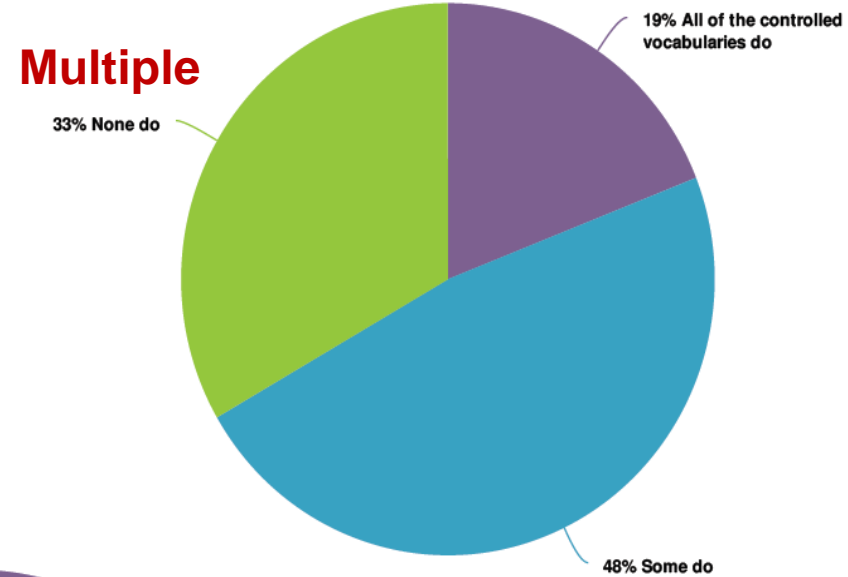
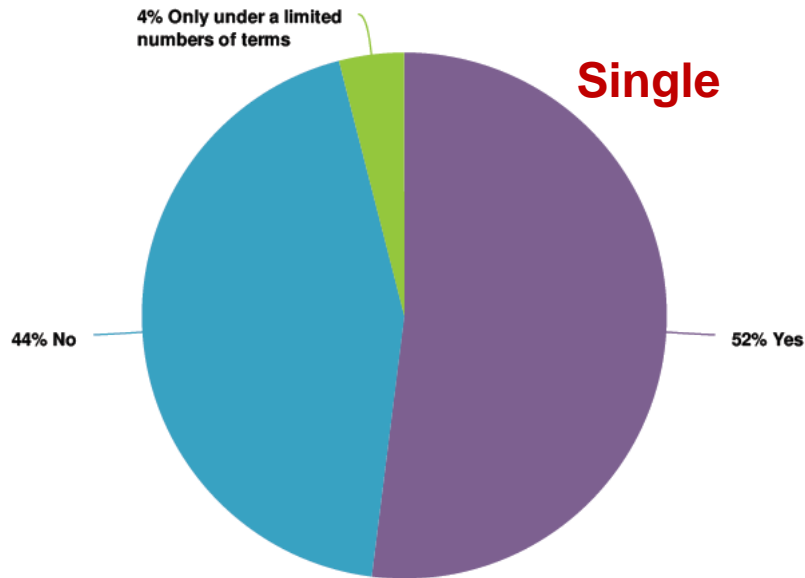
Some or all use subdivisions (e.g., Science fiction--Sweden)		47.1%	8
Some or all use phrase headings (e.g., Swedish science fiction)		58.8%	10
Individual facets		23.5%	4

Developing

Phrase headings (e.g., Swedish science fiction)		2.0%	1
Individual facets		15.0%	2
Undecided yet		62.5%	5

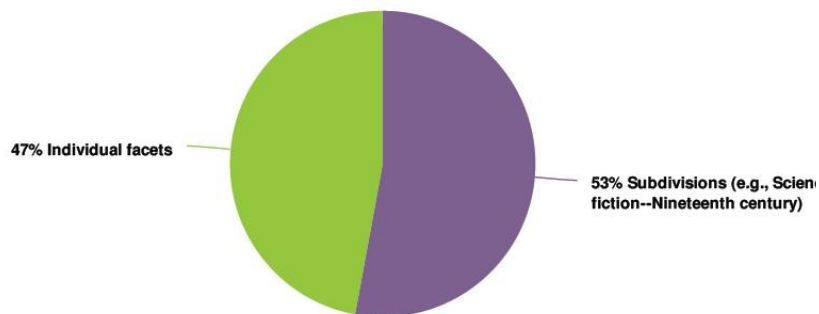
**No
Subdivisions**

Use of Chronological Aspects

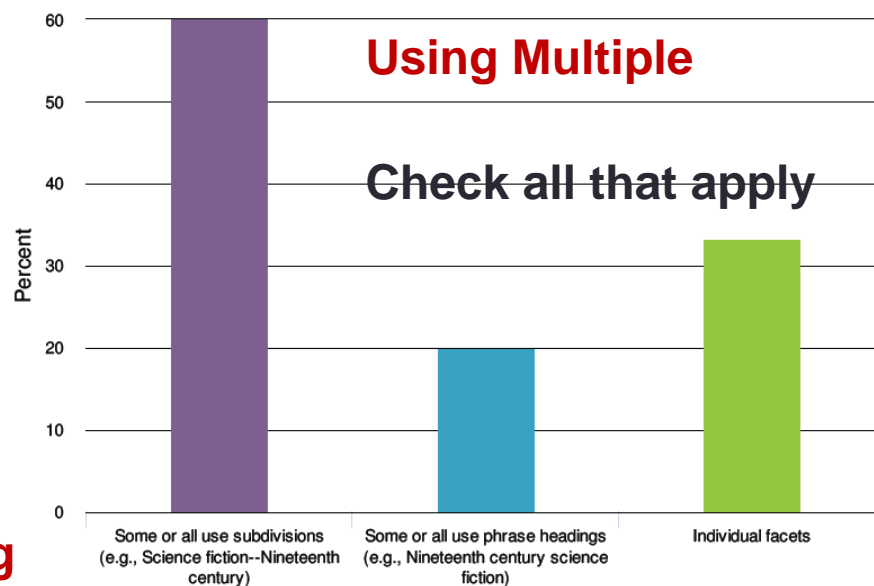


Expressing Chronological Aspects

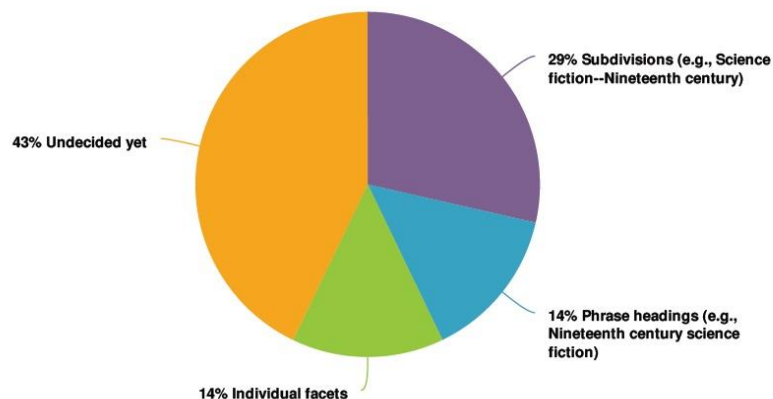
Using Single



Using Multiple



Developing

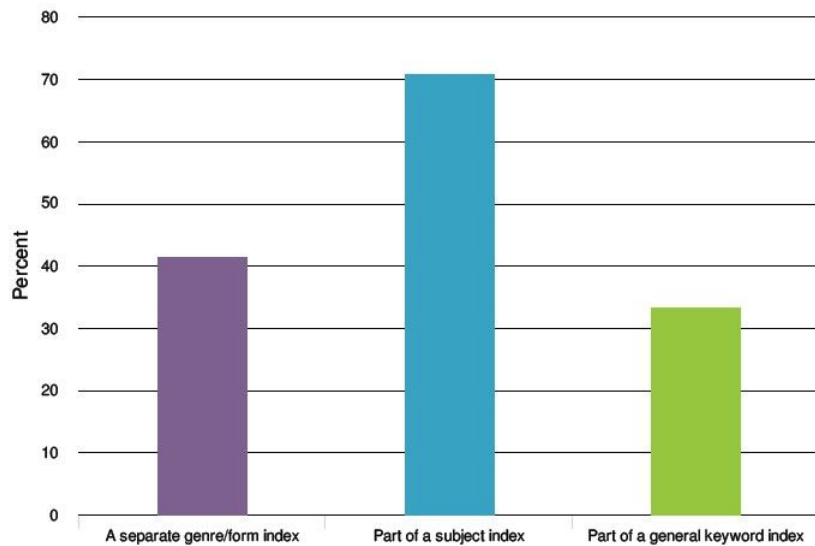


Expressing Chronological Aspects

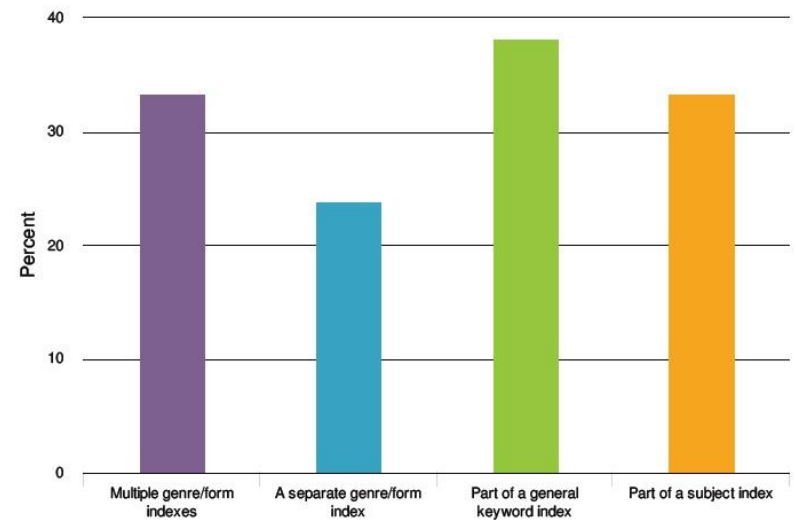
- Taking all libraries as a whole, **subdivisions** are the most common way to express them (over **50%**, 20-31), while a little over **1/3** of the libraries use or plan to use individual **facets** (14-31).
- **Phrase heading** is the **least** used (**3-17** in Track 1B, **1-7** in Track 2 use or plan to use phrase headings, 0 in Track 1A)
- **Similar to the geographic aspects**, individual chronological **facets** have a **lower** response in Track 1B than Track 1A (**3-17** libraries vs. **8-17** libraries).

Indexing of G/F Terms

Single Vocab.



Multiple Vocab.



Availability of G/F Terms as Linked Data



A little **over 1/2** of all respondents of any track responded that they are publishing/planning to, some or all of their G/F vocabs as linked data (**53%** or **28-53**).

Retrospectively Adding G/F to Legacy Data

- The **majority** of respondents who already are **using** genre/form vocabularies are **not considering** at this moment to retrospectively add G/F terms to legacy data (18-26 libraries in Track 1A and 11-21 libraries in Track 1B; total: **29-47, or 59%**)
- Libraries **developing** vocabularies, the percentage of those not planning retrospective addition of the terms is slightly **lower (37.5% or 3-8)**, with 1 library undecided
- Taking **all libraries as a whole** that are adding G/F terms to legacy data or planning to do so, one half will employ a **combination** of automated and manual means (**11-22**). The other libraries are about evenly split between just using manual or just using automated means.

Questions Asked Only in Track 1B

Reasons for Using Multiple G/F Vocabularies

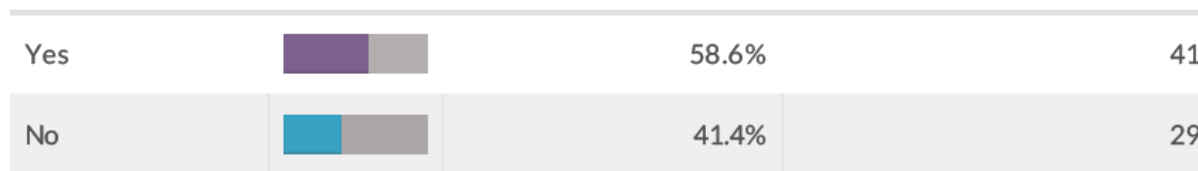
- No one thesaurus is rich enough to cover all kinds of resources in every subject area (about $\frac{2}{3}$ of responses)
- The library creates cataloging records in several languages.

Which Multiple Vocabularies Do They Use

- LCGFT is listed in 10-18 responses
- AAT (Art & Architecture Thesaurus), 5 responses
- TGM (Thesaurus for Graphic Materials), 4 responses

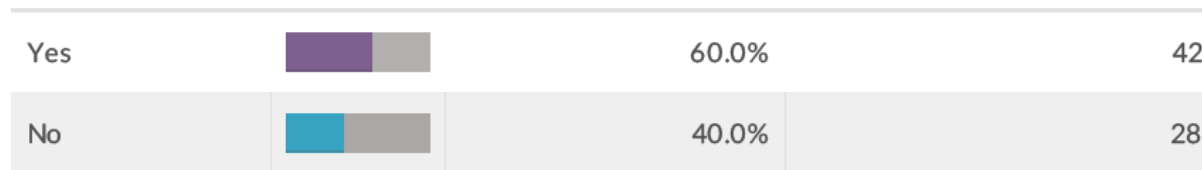
Other Means of Expressing G/F

Using G/F concepts through a broad subject vocabulary instead of/in addition to G/F dedicated vocab.



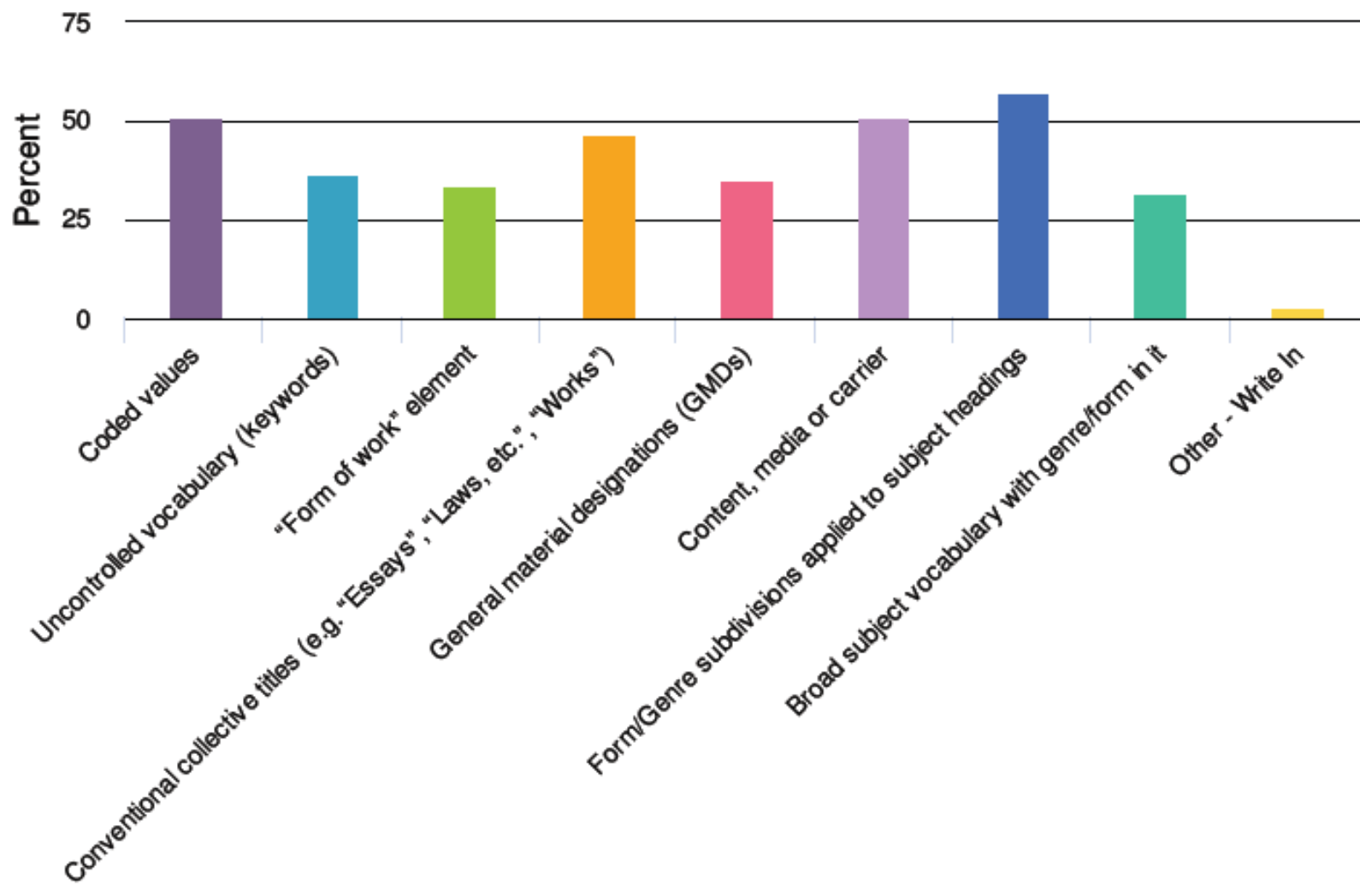
Totals: 70

Using genre/form subdivisions applied to subject headings (as in MARC21 6xx \$v)



Totals: 70

Other Means of Expressing G/F



Benefits & Hurdles:

Benefits:

- For users: enhanced searching possibilities, more specific and direct access, provision of additional access points, ability to filter searches by a specific genre or form, better and more direct access to materials...
- For librarians: control and standardization, improvement and simplification of cataloging and classification...

Hurdles:

- For Librarians: not enough trained specialists, not enough money, not enough time, indexing and faceting are difficult to build, needs continuous development and a lot of resources...



Conclusion:

- Majority of libraries are using or planning to use genre/form vocabularies
- There are more similarities than differences between libraries using vocabularies
- Libraries developing vocabularies tend to create more comprehensive, flexible and extensible tool than the existing ones
- The future of genre form vocabularies: will their use be increased or enhanced, will they be printed or digital, is there a preference for using one vocabulary whenever possible...



Thank you for your attention!

Rehab Ouf

Ana Stevanović