



# Survey Study of International Activities and Relations of National Libraries

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# Outline

1. The survey: purpose & method
2. Survey population
3. Survey response
4. Analysis of response
5. Conclusion



# 1. The Survey: purpose and method



# The survey: purpose & method

## Purpose

- Outcome of National Organizations and International Relations Special Interest Group (NOIR SIG) meeting August 2009
- Brainstorming: list of international activities
- Exploratory survey
- Nature and scope of international activities
- First phase: National libraries



# The survey: purpose & method (2)

## Method

- Internet survey using Qualtrics software
  - Web questionnaire, e-mailed invitations
  - CDNL mailing list (Why)
  - Invitations sent by CDNL Secretariat
  - Supplementary list (Univ. Queensland)
  - Pretest
- Data processing
  - Qualtrics & SPSS



## 2. Survey population & response

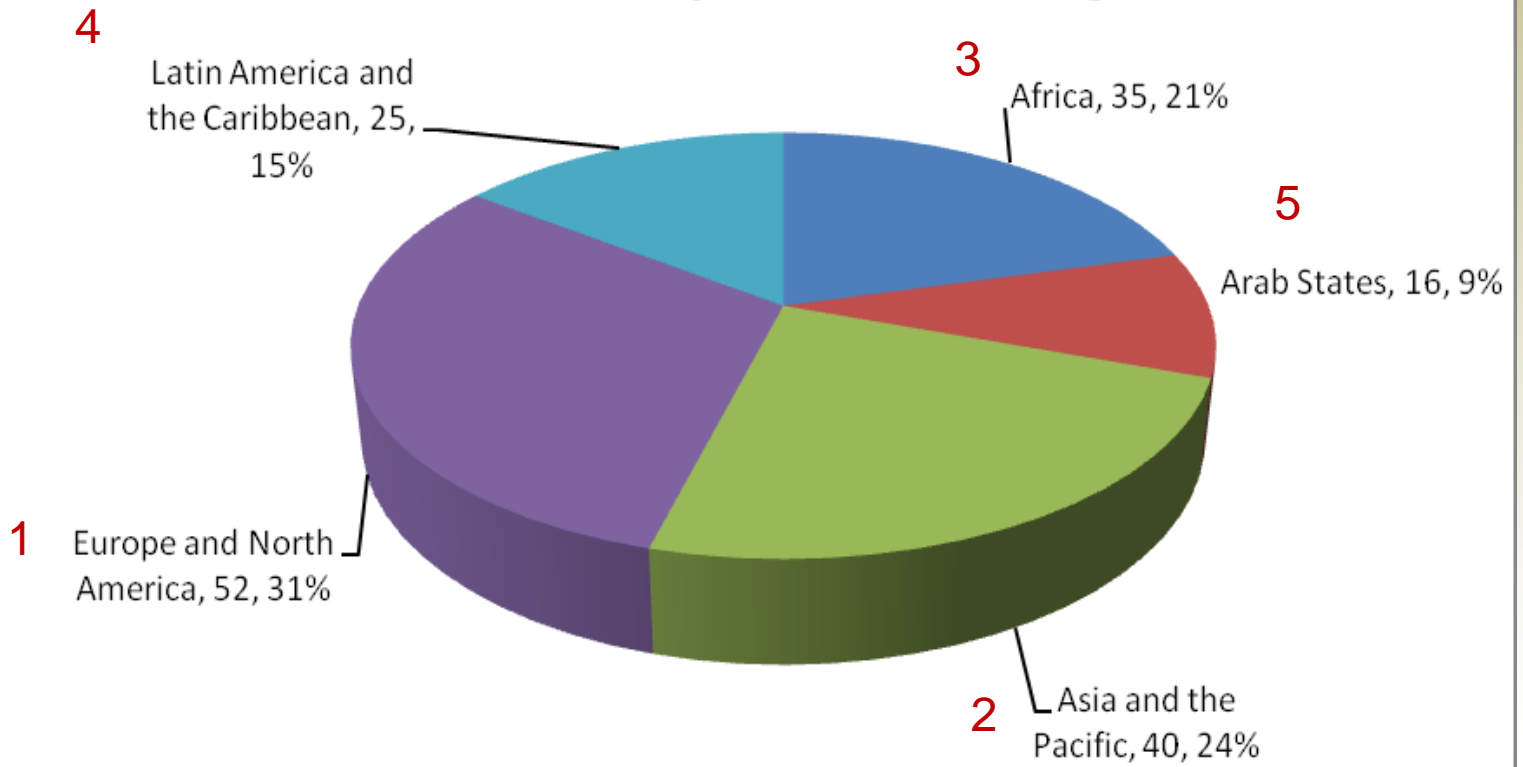




# CDNL Lists (168)



## CDNL Libraries by UNESCO Regions

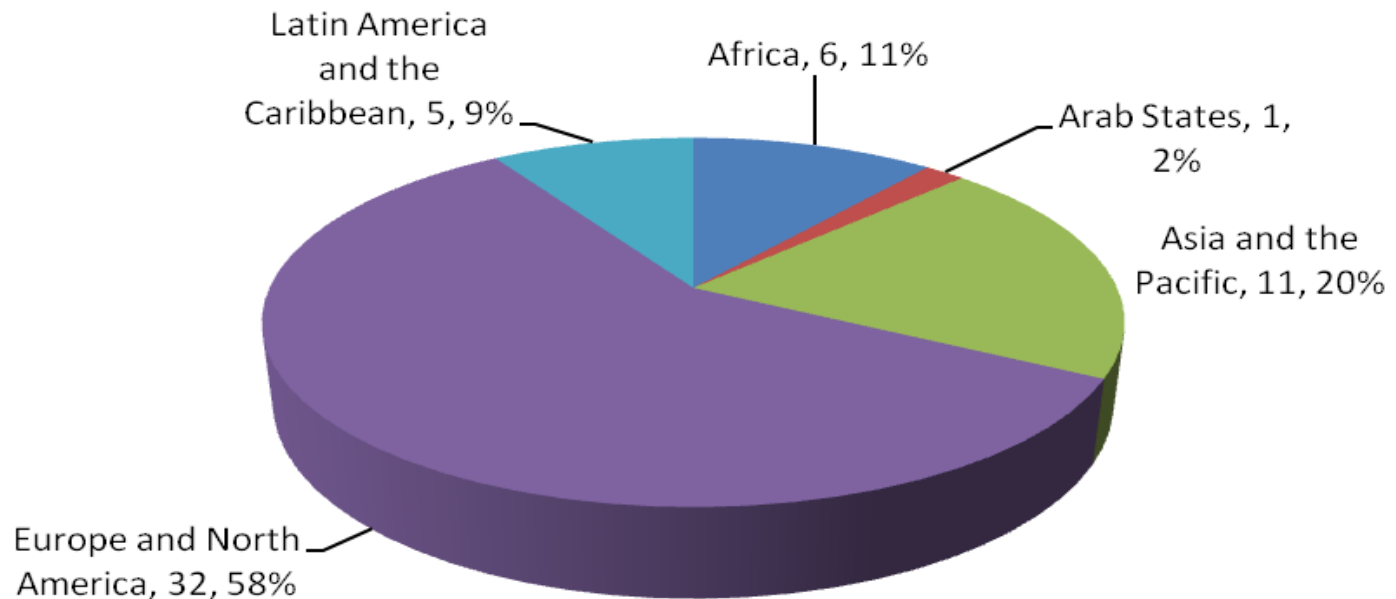




# Survey Respondents (55)



## Survey Respondents by UNESCO Region







## 5.4 How many full-time equivalent staff are there in your library?

<b>Levels</b>	<b>Staff #</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>%</b>
1	> 1000	5	9%
2	250 - 1000	25	45%
3	50 - 249	12	22%
4	10 - 49	11	20%
5	0 - 9	2	4%
Total		55	100%



# 5.5 What is the annual budget of your library?

(USD)

Levels	Annual Budget	Response	%
1	\$10,000,000 or more	22	41%
2	\$1,000,000 – \$9,999,999	17	31%
3	\$100,000 – \$999,999	11	21%
4	Less than \$100,000	3	7%
Total		53	100%



### 3. Levels of international activity



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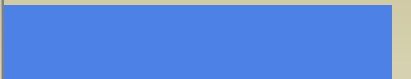

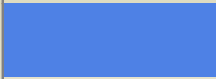




- We have questions regarding participation in international activities:
  - ◆ International relations & Cooperative activities
  - ◆ International organization
  - ◆ Responsibility for international relations



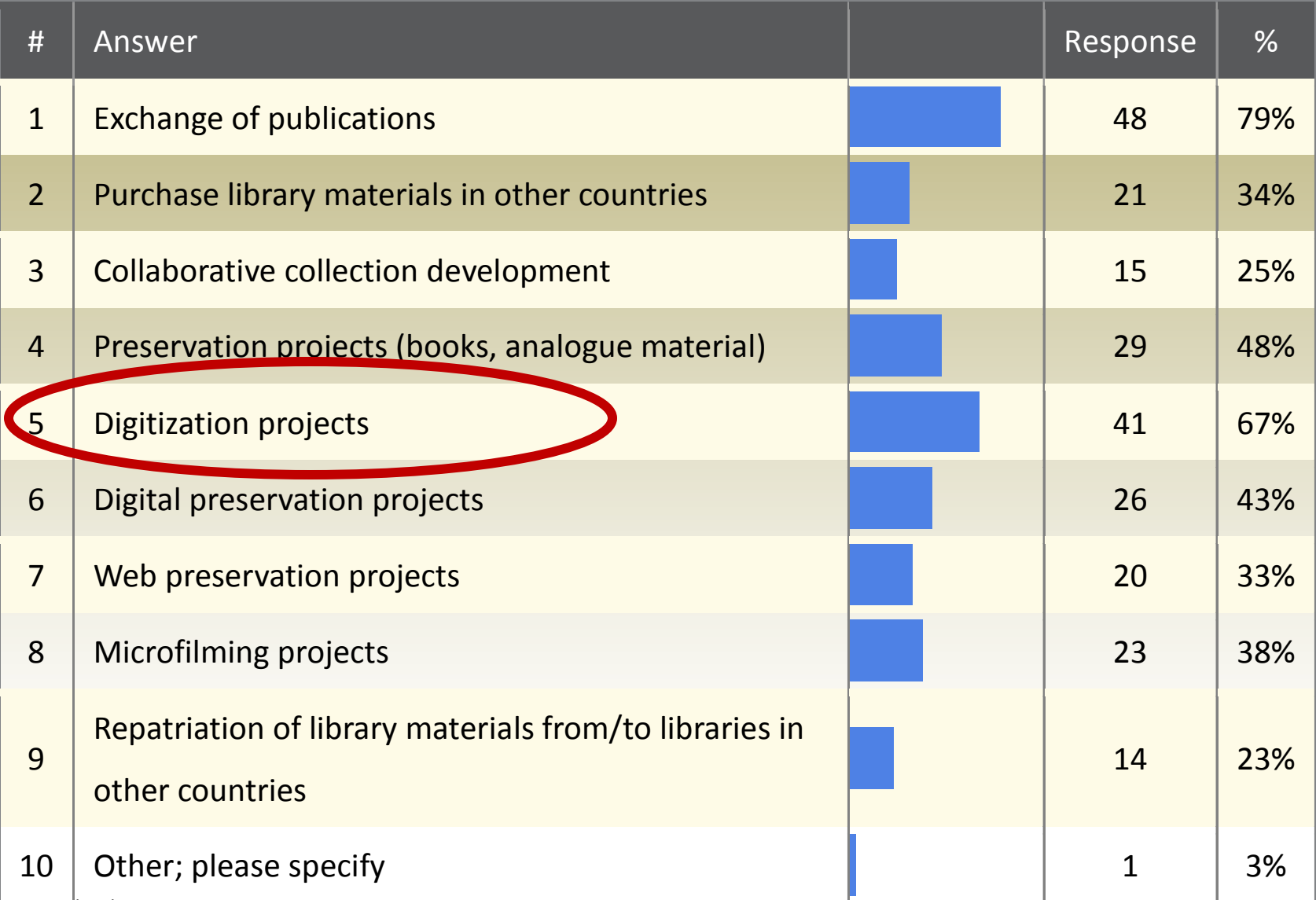
## 3.1 International relations & cooperative activities



# 1.1 General relations, visits, development assistance:

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Receive visiting librarians		51	93%
2	Receive high-ranking persons (VIPs)		49	89%
3	Send staff to visit libraries in other countries		47	85%
4	Staff exchange program(s)		26	47%
5	Library twinning agreement(s)		23	42%
6	Provide development assistance		24	44%
7	Receive development assistance		25	45%
8	Other; please specify		3	5%

## 1.2 Cooperative activities in collection development and management


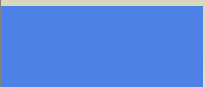





#	Answer	Response	%
1	Exchange of publications	48	79%
2	Purchase library materials in other countries	21	34%
3	Collaborative collection development	15	25%
4	Preservation projects (books, analogue material)	29	48%
5	Digitization projects	41	67%
6	Digital preservation projects	26	43%
7	Web preservation projects	20	33%
8	Microfilming projects	23	38%
9	Repatriation of library materials from/to libraries in other countries	14	23%
10	Other; please specify	1	3%








## 1.3 Cooperative activities in bibliographic services and knowledge organization

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Cataloguing, metadata or related standards		39	89%
2	Classification schemes, thesauri or related standards		28	64%
3	Authority files		18	41%
4	Retrospective cataloguing projects		14	32%
5	Other; please specify		2	7%



# 1.4 Cooperative activities in document and information access




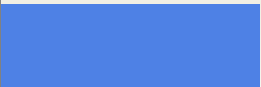

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Inter-library loans and provision of copies		45	92%
2	Digital reference		25	51%
3	Other; please specify		3	6%



## 3.2 Participation in international organizations


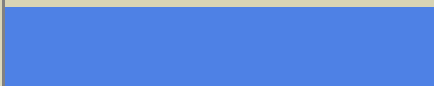

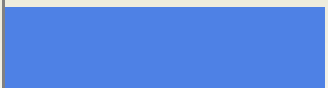



## 2.1 Participation in international library organizations and forums

#	Answer		Response	%
1	CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries)		51	89%
2	IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)		51	89%
3	Specialized international organizations (e.g. IAML, IATUL, IBBY)		29	51%
4	Regional organizations (e.g. ABINIA, CENL, CONSAL, SCECSAL)		44	77%
5	Other; please specify		23	40%



## 2.3 In which ways do staff of your library participate in the international library body you named in the previous question?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Hold membership		43	77%
2	Attend conferences		53	95%
3	Serve on committees, boards, working groups, etc.		39	70%
4	Participate in special projects		39	70%
5	Other; please specify		3	7%



## 3.3 Responsibility for international relations



# 3.1 Who in your library is responsible for international relations?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	The Director/Head of the Library		46	81%
2	Senior library managers (deputy & assistant directors)		30	53%
3	All staff members who are involved in relevant projects		29	51%
4	A staff member who (in addition to other duties) has a major responsibility for international relations		20	35%
5	A staff member whose main or sole responsibility is international relations		8	14%
6	A department or unit devoted mainly or solely to international relations		11	19%





## 3.2 What is the type of budget for international relations in your library?

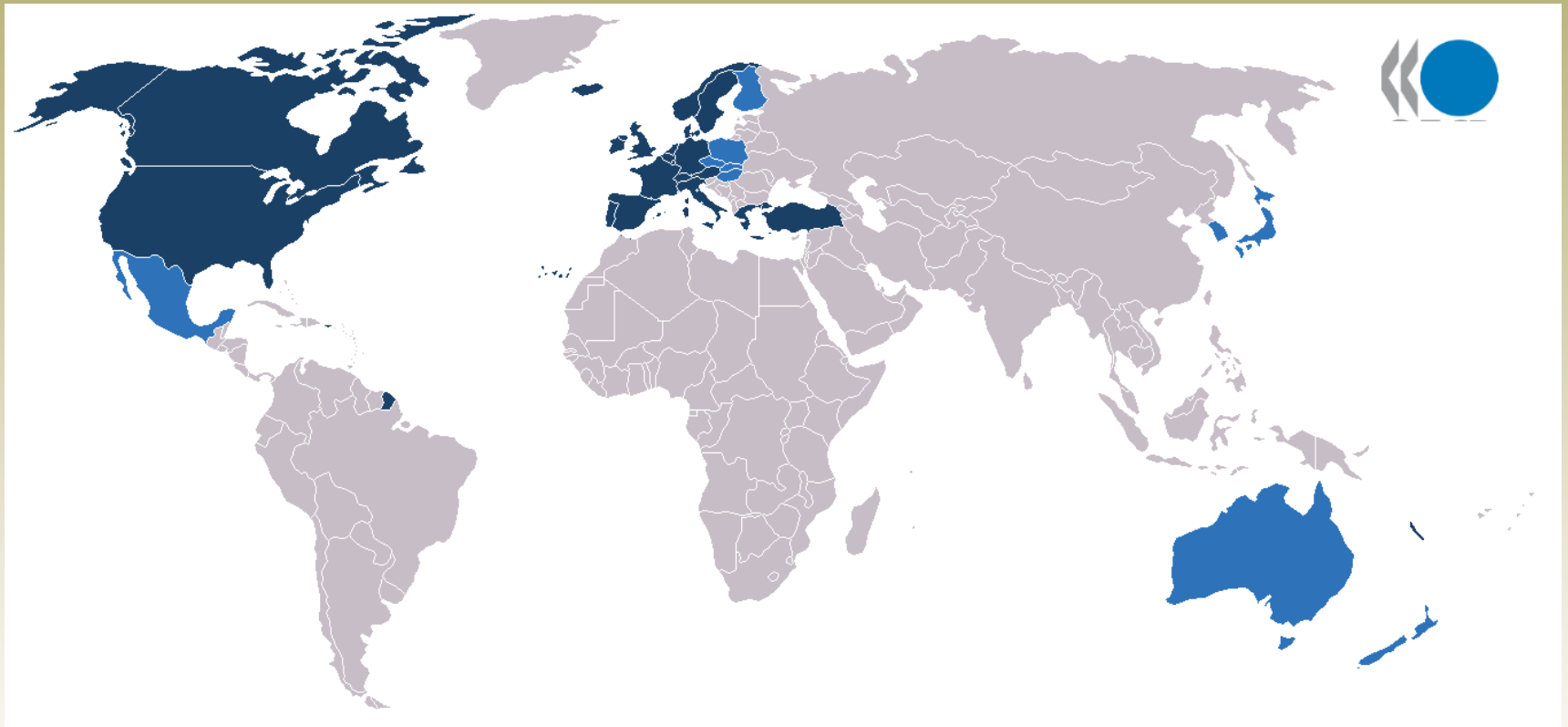
#	Answer		Response	%
1	As part of regular budget		44	79%
2	Special funding from government		4	7%
3	Project funding from sources other than government		17	30%
4	No funding		8	14%
5	Other, please specify		2	4%



## 4. Analysis of response

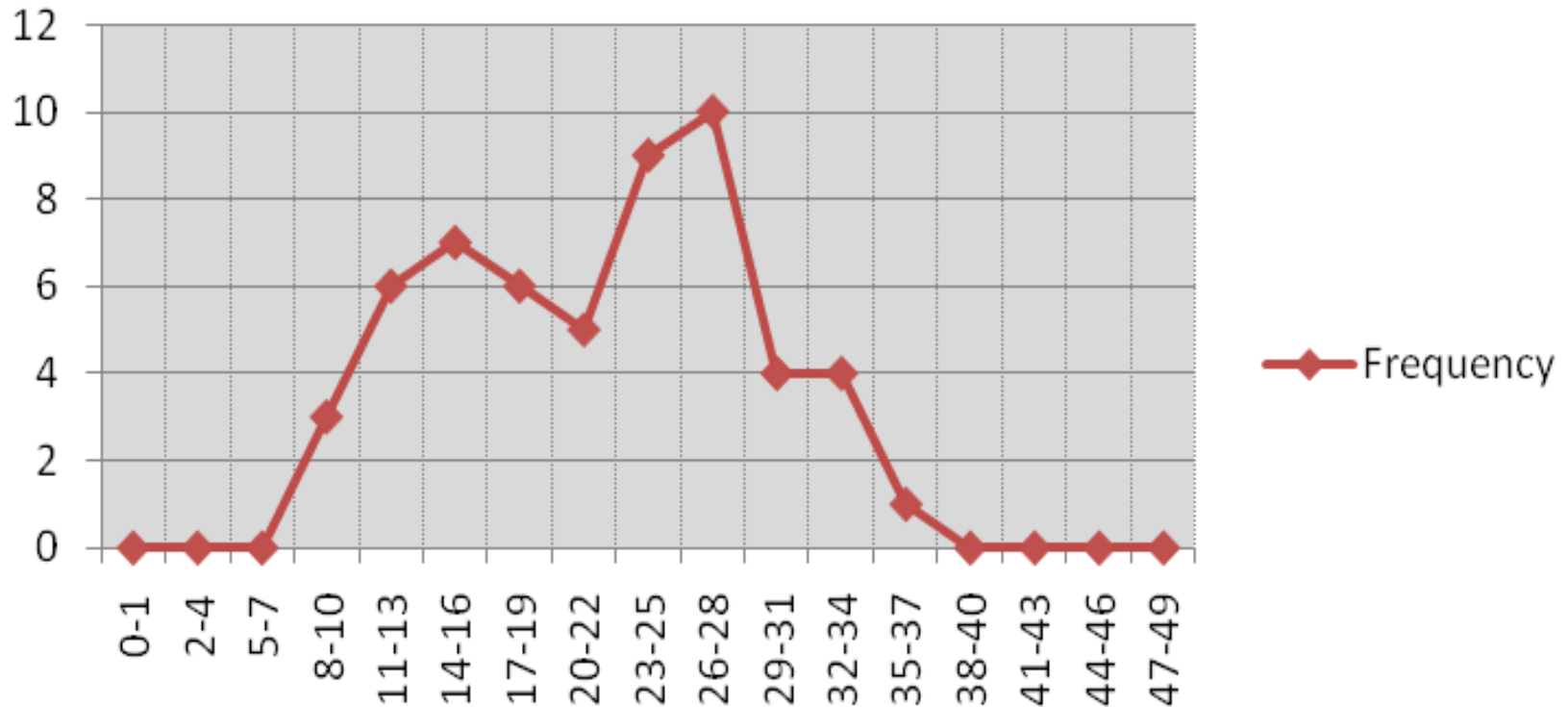


# Patterns?





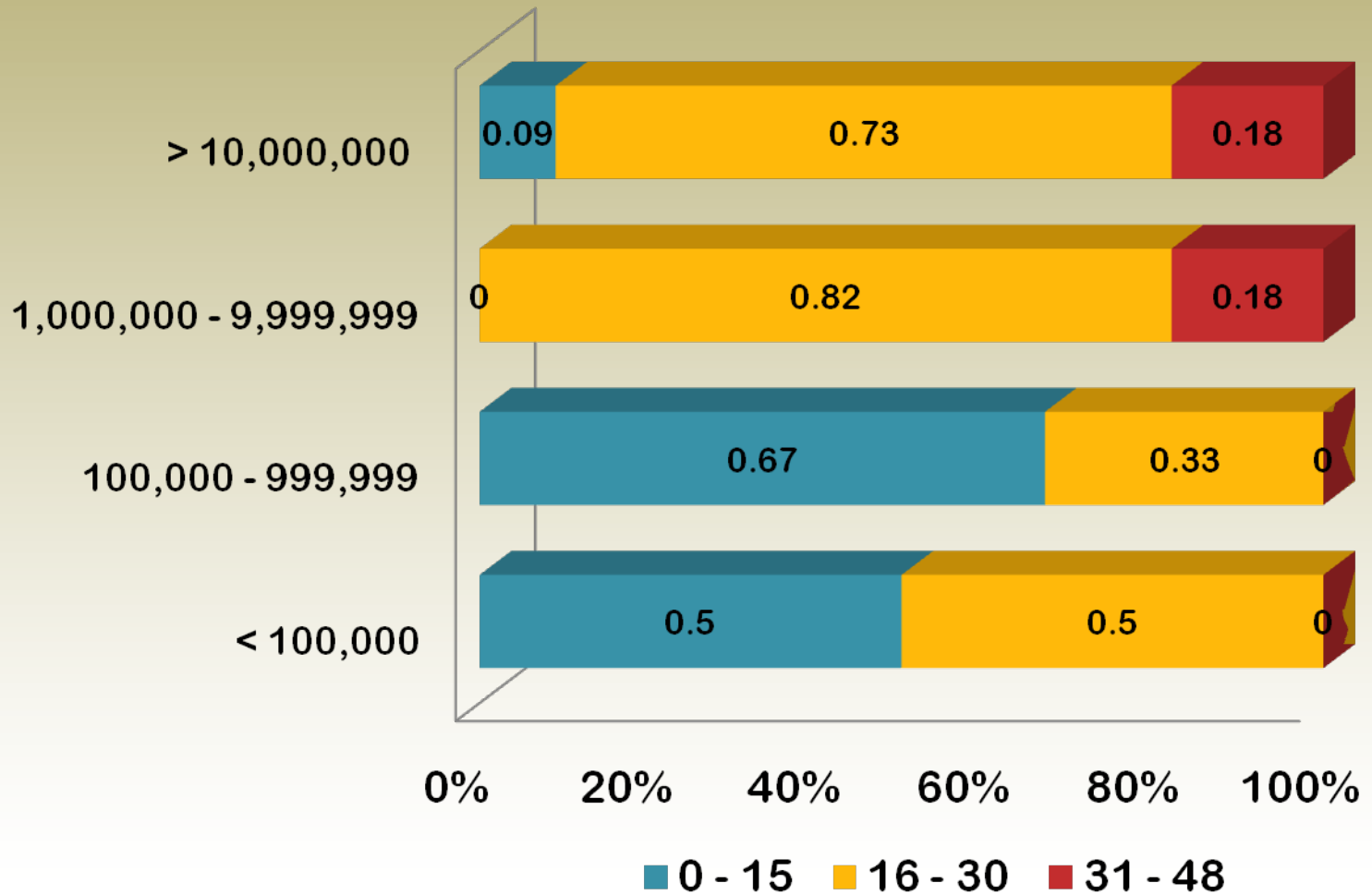
# Distributions of International Activities Frequency



The survey listed 48 different kinds of activities for national libraries to choose from. The lowest number of activities that the respondents have reported is 9, and the highest number is 35.



# Activities related to library budget





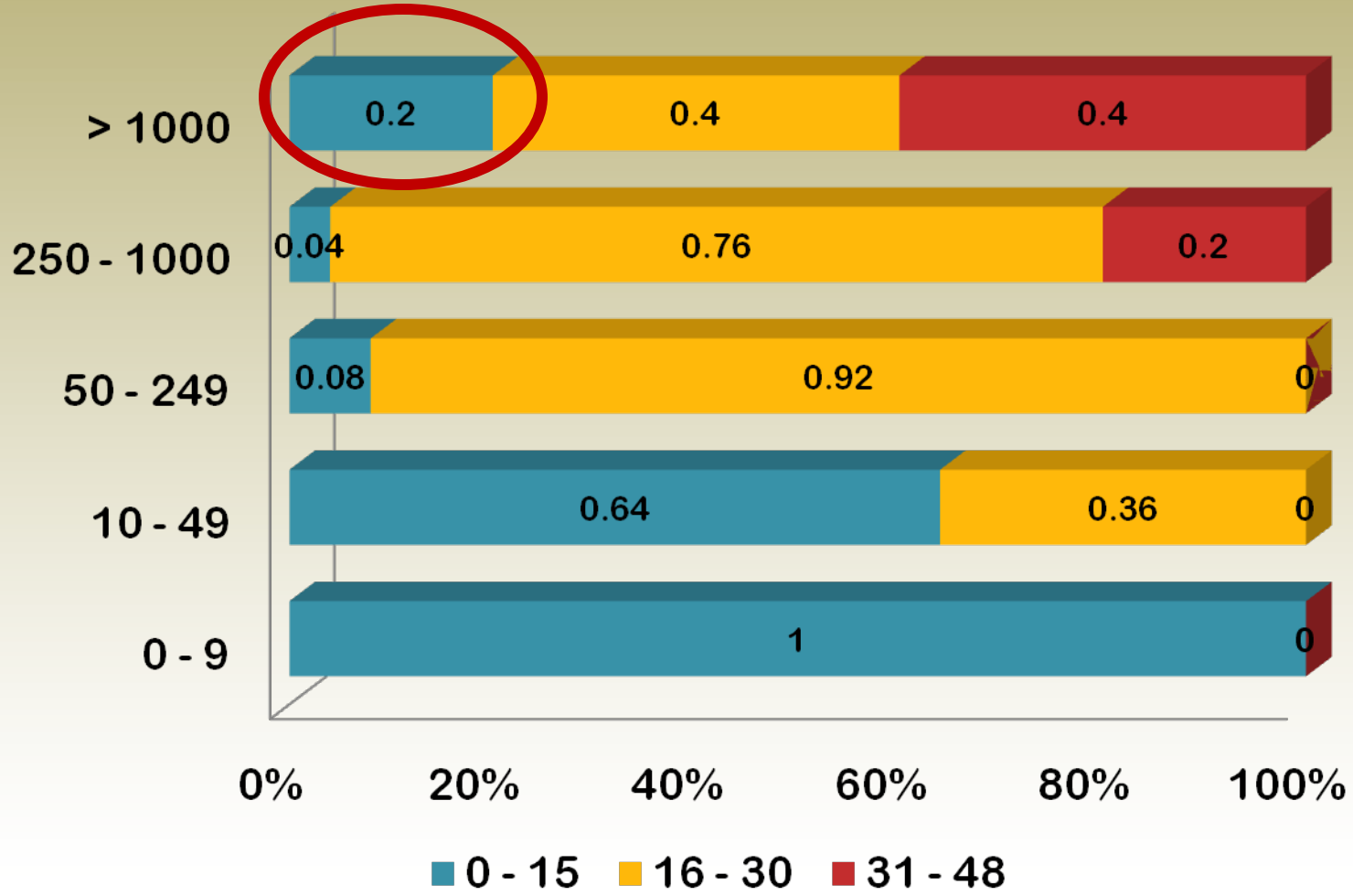
# Chi-Square Analysis

	Number of Activities			
Annual Budget	Low	Medium	High	Total
> 10, 000,000	2	16	4	22
< 10, 000,000	0	14	3	17
< 1,000,000	7	4	0	11
< 100,000	2	1	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>

\* Chi-Squared statistics is significant ( $X^2 = 23.414$  ,  $df =$  ,  $p = 0.03$ ).



# Activities related to size of staff







# No surprise!

## Conclusion

- Libraries with larger budgets are more active internationally ( $p = 0.003$ )
- Libraries with larger staffs are more active internationally ( $p = 0.001$ )
- But some very large libraries deviate a bit from the pattern



## Open Comments:

- Most comments are positive about international relations and activities; some express intent to expand these.
- Three of the comments mentioned that they have insufficient budget, and one of them mention there is a lack of professional librarian.
- Other emphases: collaboration within EU; digital projects



## 5. Conclusion



# Conclusion

No surprises - Pattern much as expected

Few comments under “Other, please specify”, mostly clarifications & amplifications (except for participation in international organizations & forums)

A few points of interest – high participation traditional activities :international visits ( 93%), cataloguing standards (89%), and exchange of publications(79%)

New activities are emerging and receive a moderate percentage of participation, including digitization projects (67%), digital reference service(51%), digital preservation (43%) , and repatriation of library materials (23%).



# Next steps

## Options:

A: Survey of national libraries

Refine the survey

Try to expand response

B: In-depth, qualitative study of international activities of small national libraries

C: Survey of national library associations

Adapt this survey questionnaire

Use IFLA MLAS list for survey population

Our recommendation for NOIR SIG: Option C



# Thank you!

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