

What Medical Students Want: A Library Survey of the First Ten Classes of a New College of Medicine

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SOUTHERN CHAPTER OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2020



Background and Purpose

❖ Background

- Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOM)
- Florida International University, Miami, FL
- Doors opened 2009
- First class 43 students; since 2016 has been 120+ students
- 5,500 sq ft Reading Room on 3rd floor of Main Library
- New Programs: Master's in Physician Assistant Studies (started 2015) and Graduate Certificate in Molecular and Biomedical Sciences Program (started 2016)

❖ Purpose:

- to gain insight into students' expectations for library resources, services, and the facility. It should also help with the design for a future medical library.



Methods

❖ Survey Administration

- Classes of 2013-2016 – various times in the curriculum using paper & pencil
- Classes of 2016-present – during the transition between 2nd and 3rd year using Qualtrics

❖ Types of Questions

- Multiple Choice
- Multiple Response (select all that apply)
- Open-Ended Responses (when given the choice to select “other”)

❖ Questions Asked

- General User Preferences
- Resources and Services
- Facility



Results [Figure 1]

Number and percentage of responses by class

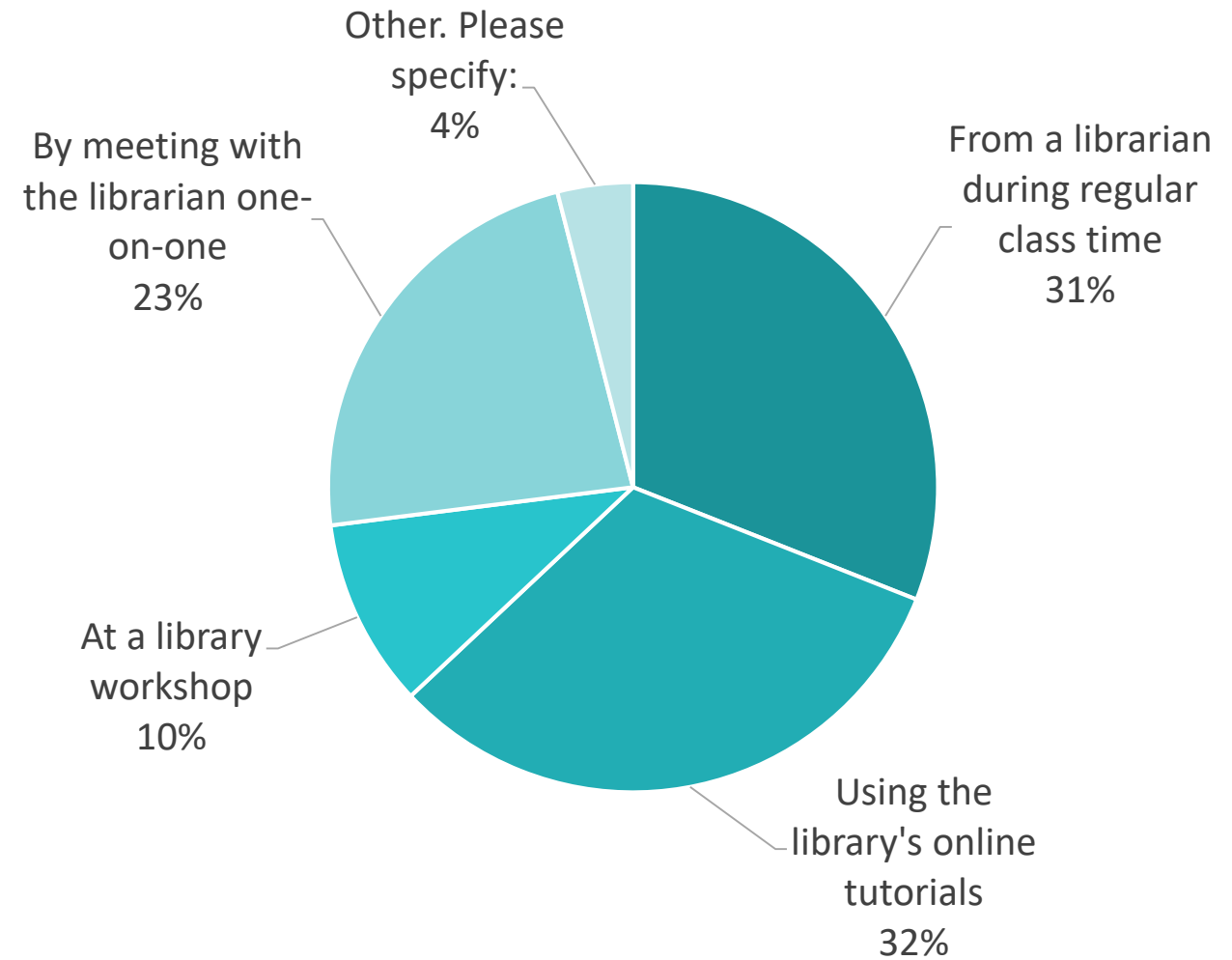
Table Graduation Year n = 839					
Class of	Number of responses	Class Size	Response Rate	Administered at start of...	% Total Responses
2013	29	43	67%	Year 4	3%
2014	35	43	81%	Year 4	4%
2015	70	80	88%	Year 2	8%
2016	106	114	93%	Year 3	13%
2017	98	118	83%	Year 3	12%
2018	40	125	32%	Year 3	5%
2019	114	124	92%	Year 3	14%
2020	115	125	92%	Year 3	14%
2021	128	117	109%	Year 3	15%
2022	104	119	87%	Year 3	12%

- Response rates varied by classes
- Except for CO 2013 and CO 2018 response rates were always above 80%
 - CO 2018 – attendance was not mandatory
 - CO 2021 – duplicate responses
- Due to changes in class size, earlier class' responses make up a smaller portion of total responses

Results [Figure 2]

How students like to learn from librarians

Select all that apply

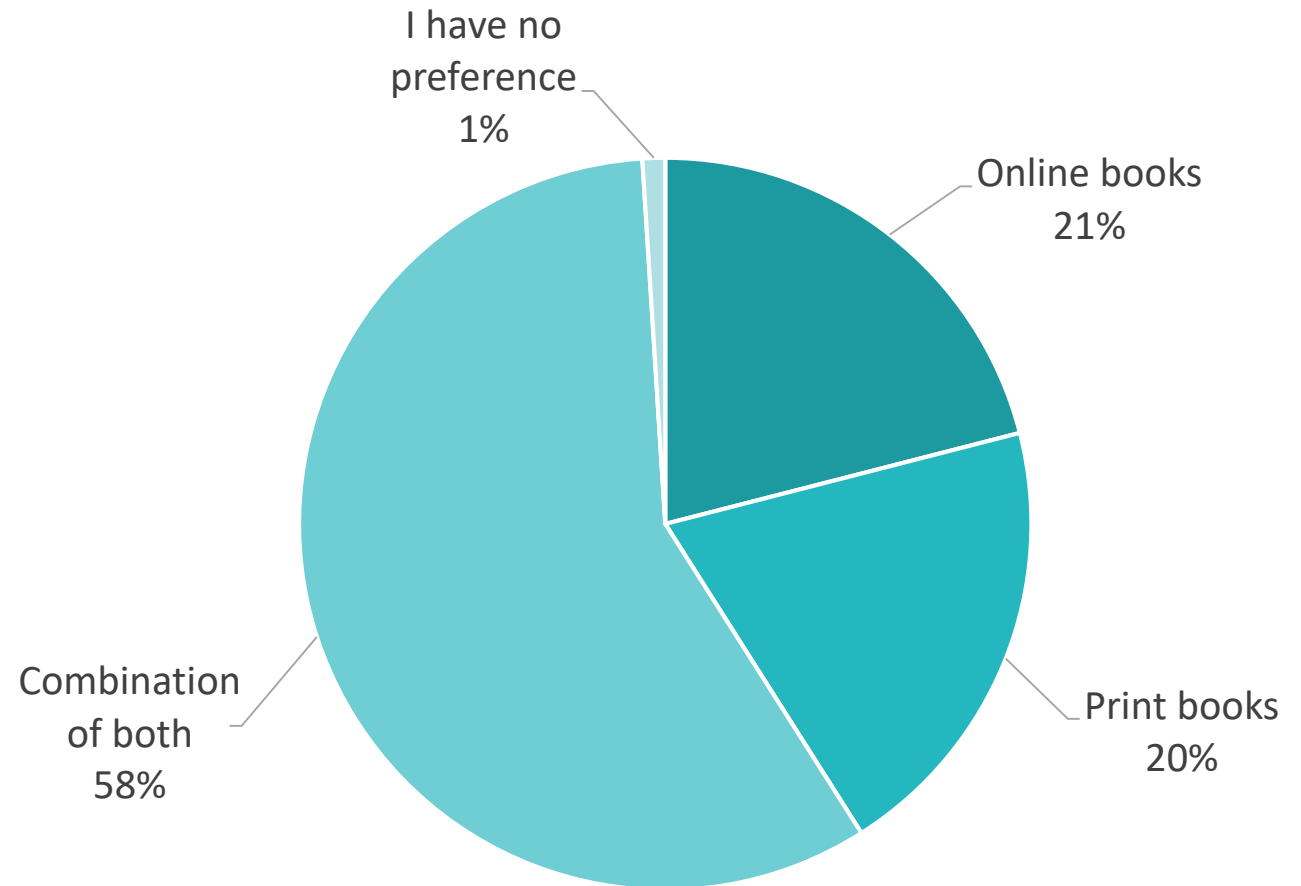


n = 1141



Results [Figure 3]

Book format preferences



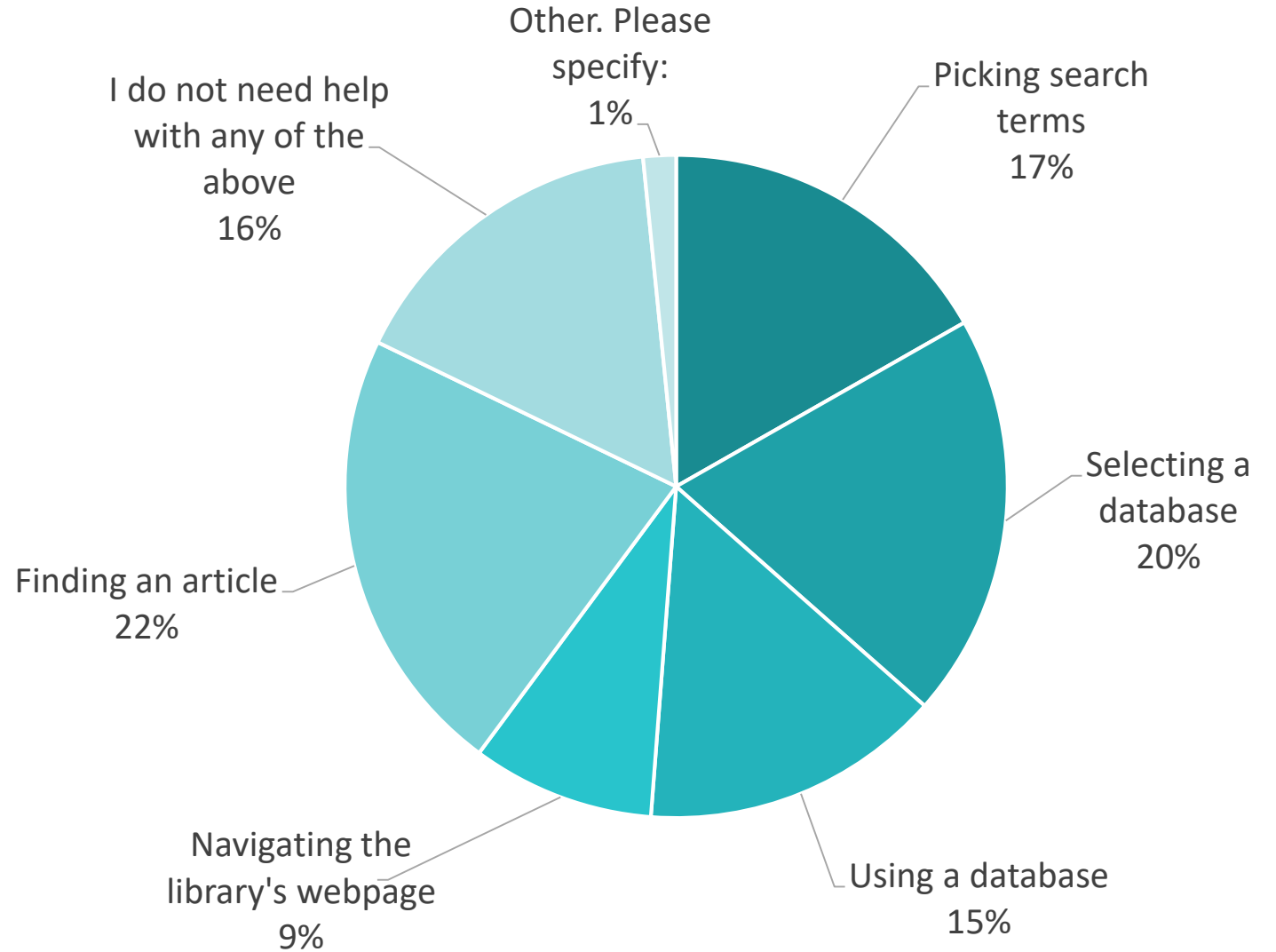
n = 836



Results [Figure 4]

Topics students need assistance with from librarians

Select all that apply

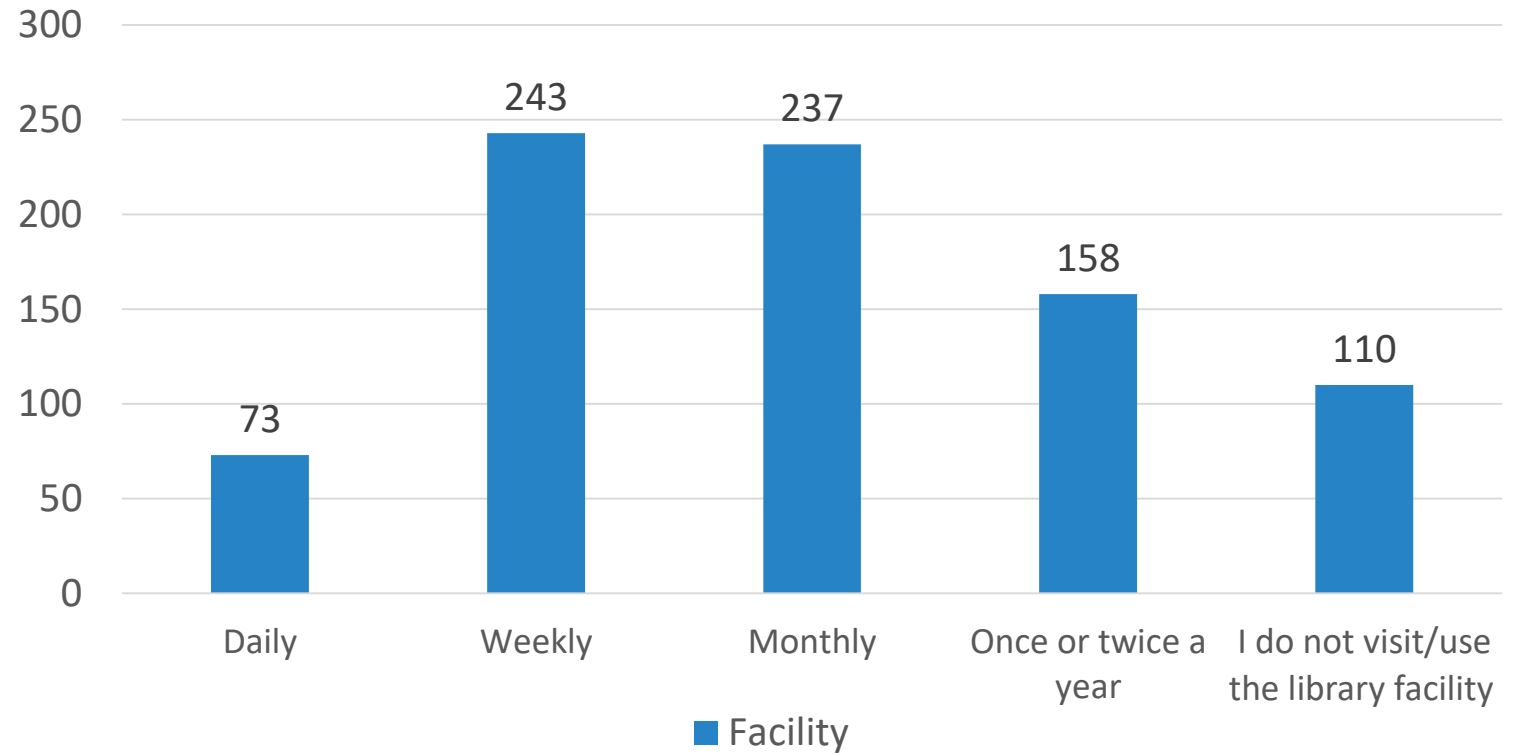


n = 1312



Results [Figure 5]

Library facility usage



Facility n = 821



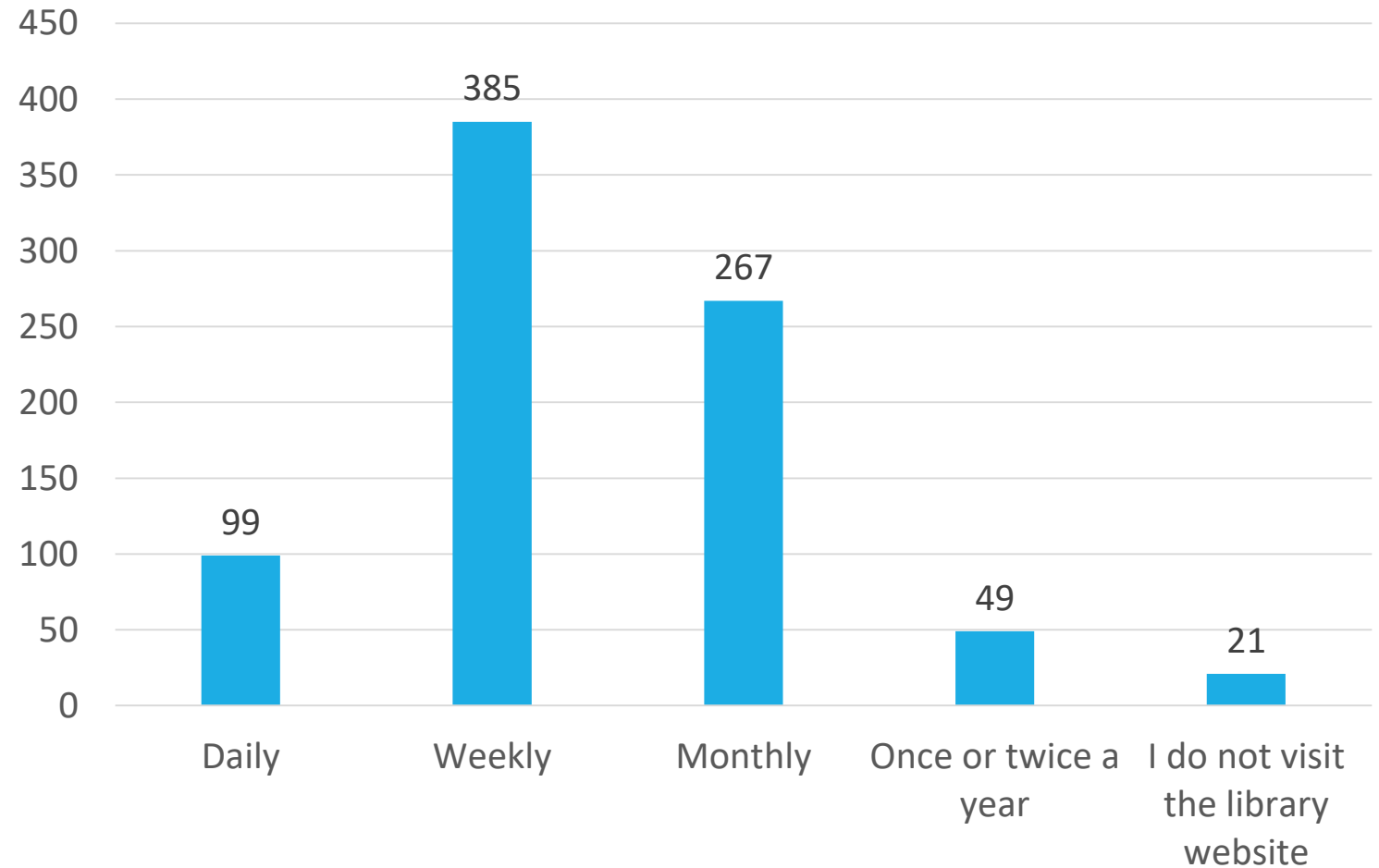
Results [Figure 6]

Reasons that students in the CO 2020-2022 gave for rarely or not ever using the medical library facility.



Results [Figure 7]

Library website usage



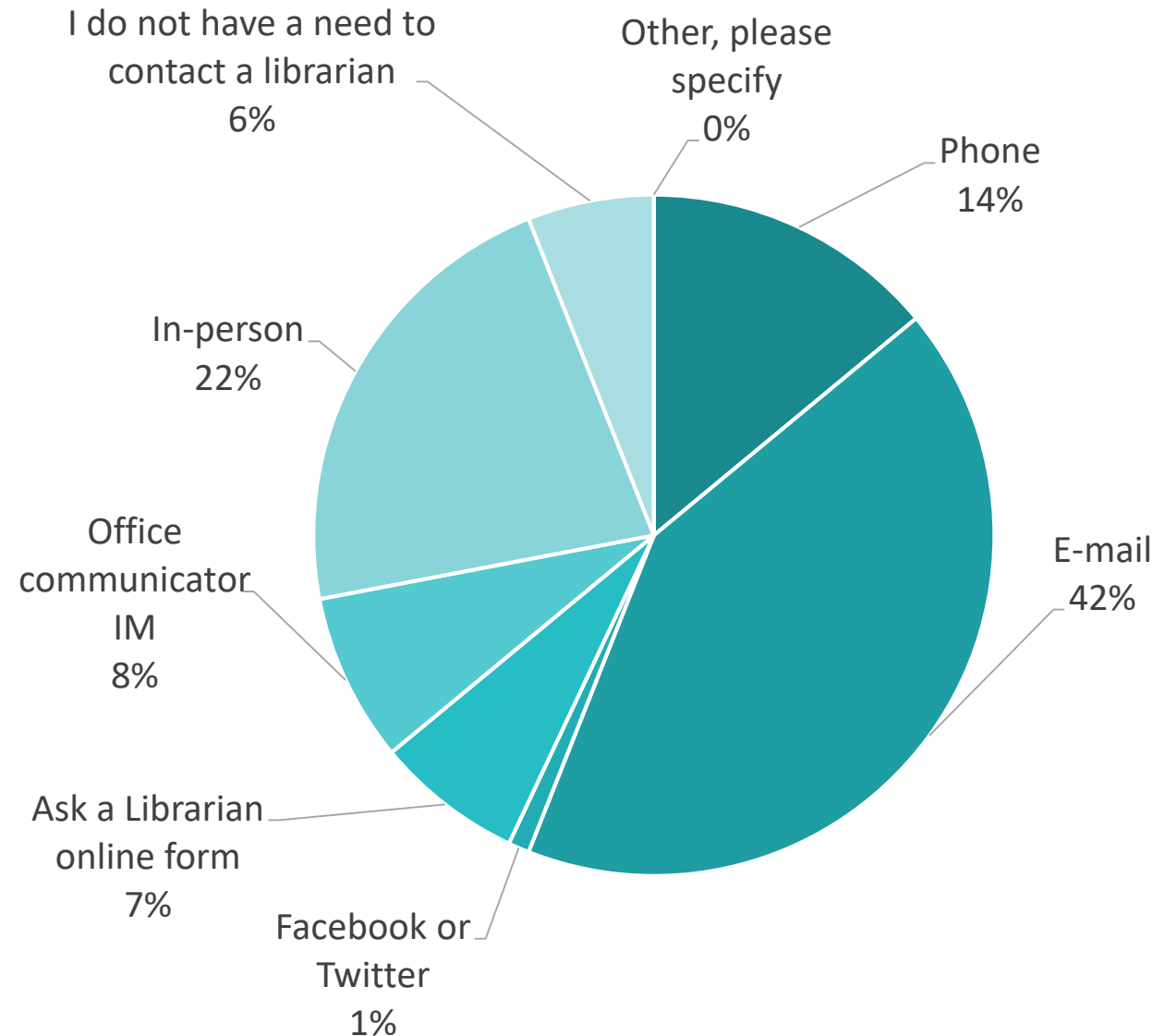
n = 821



Results [Figure 8]

Preferences for contacting librarians

Select all that apply

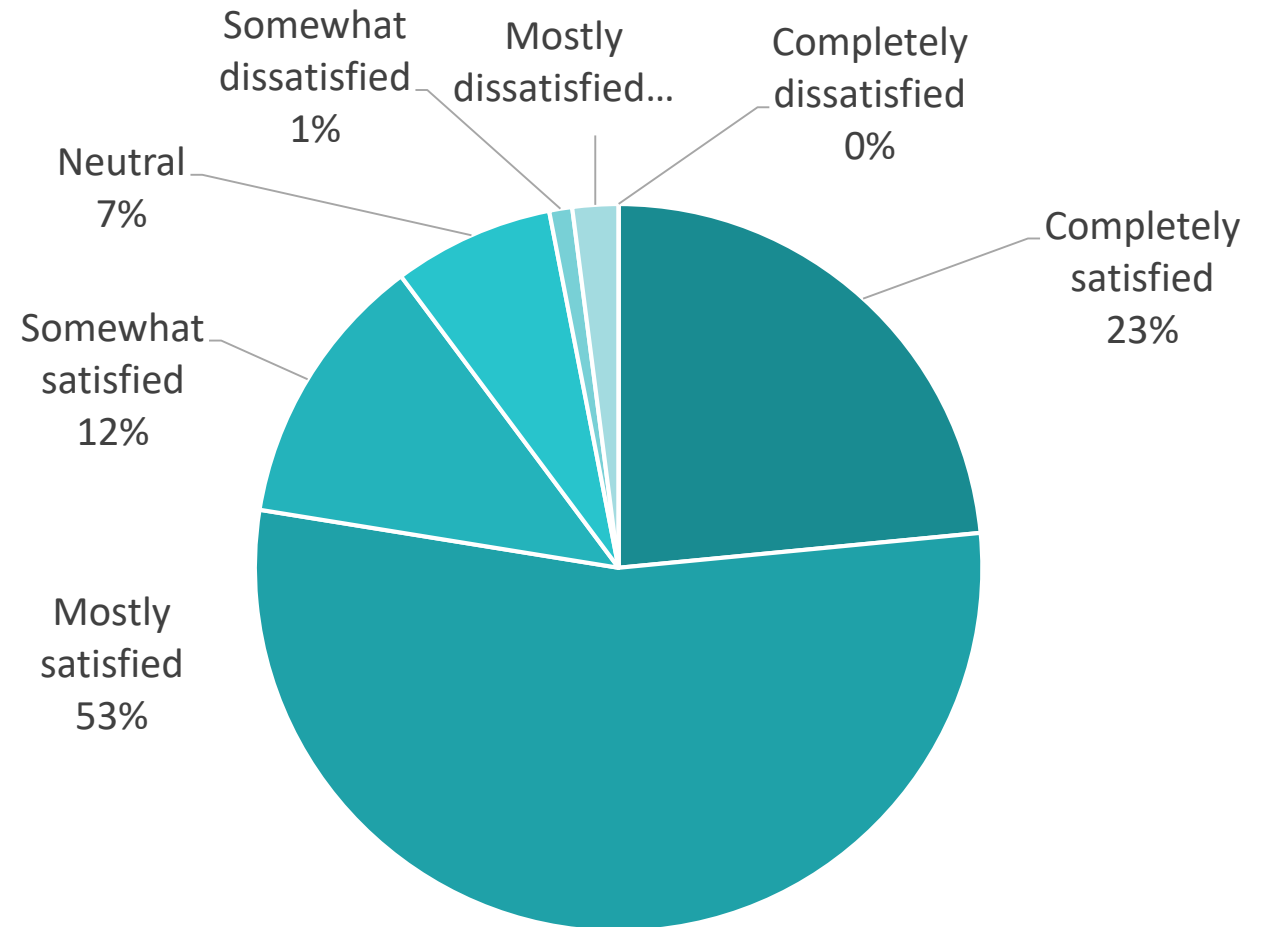


n = 1328



Results [Figure 9]

Satisfaction with library services

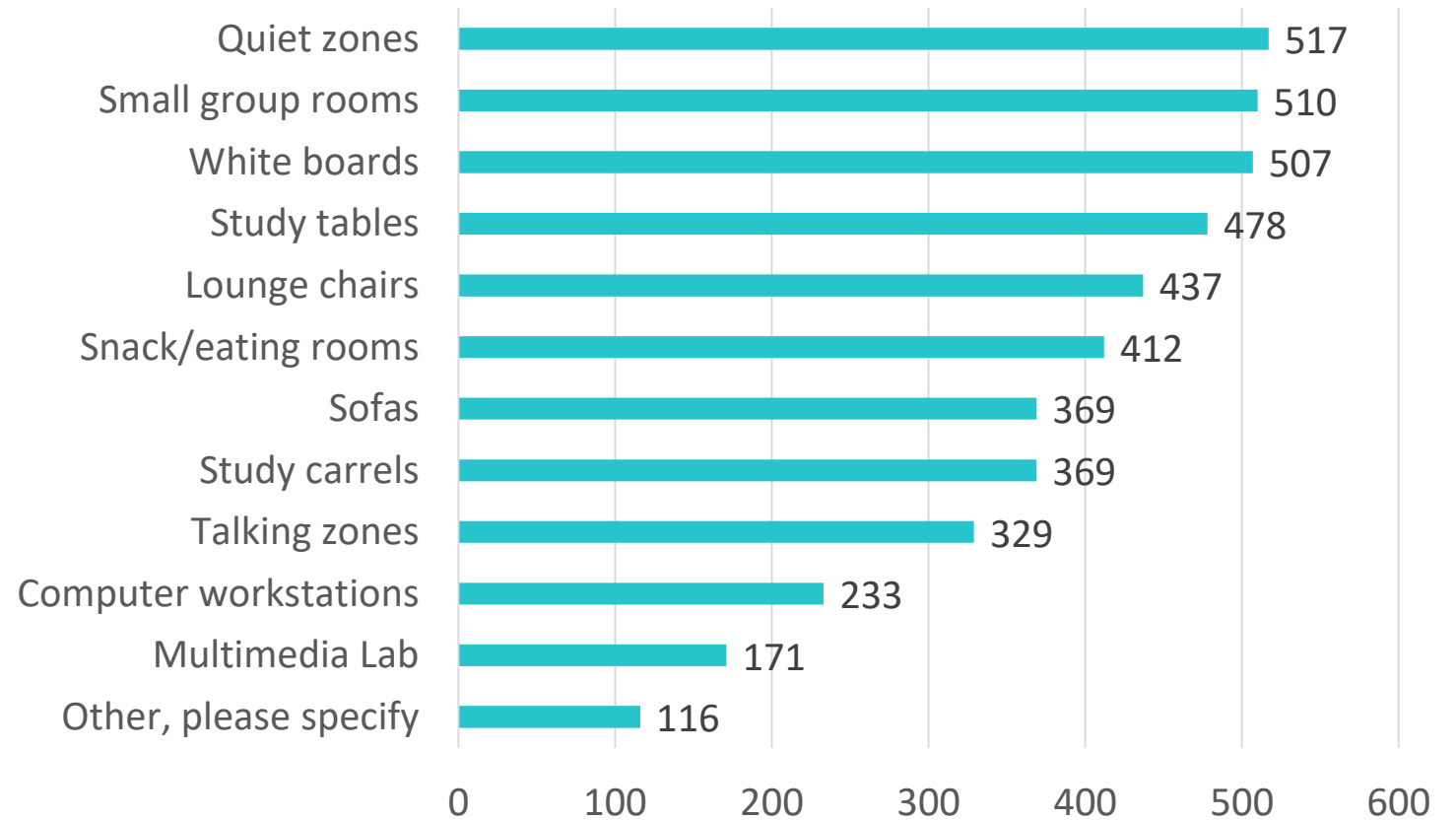


n = 809



Results [Figure 10a]

Features that students want (are important) in a library



n = 4448



Results [Figure 10b]

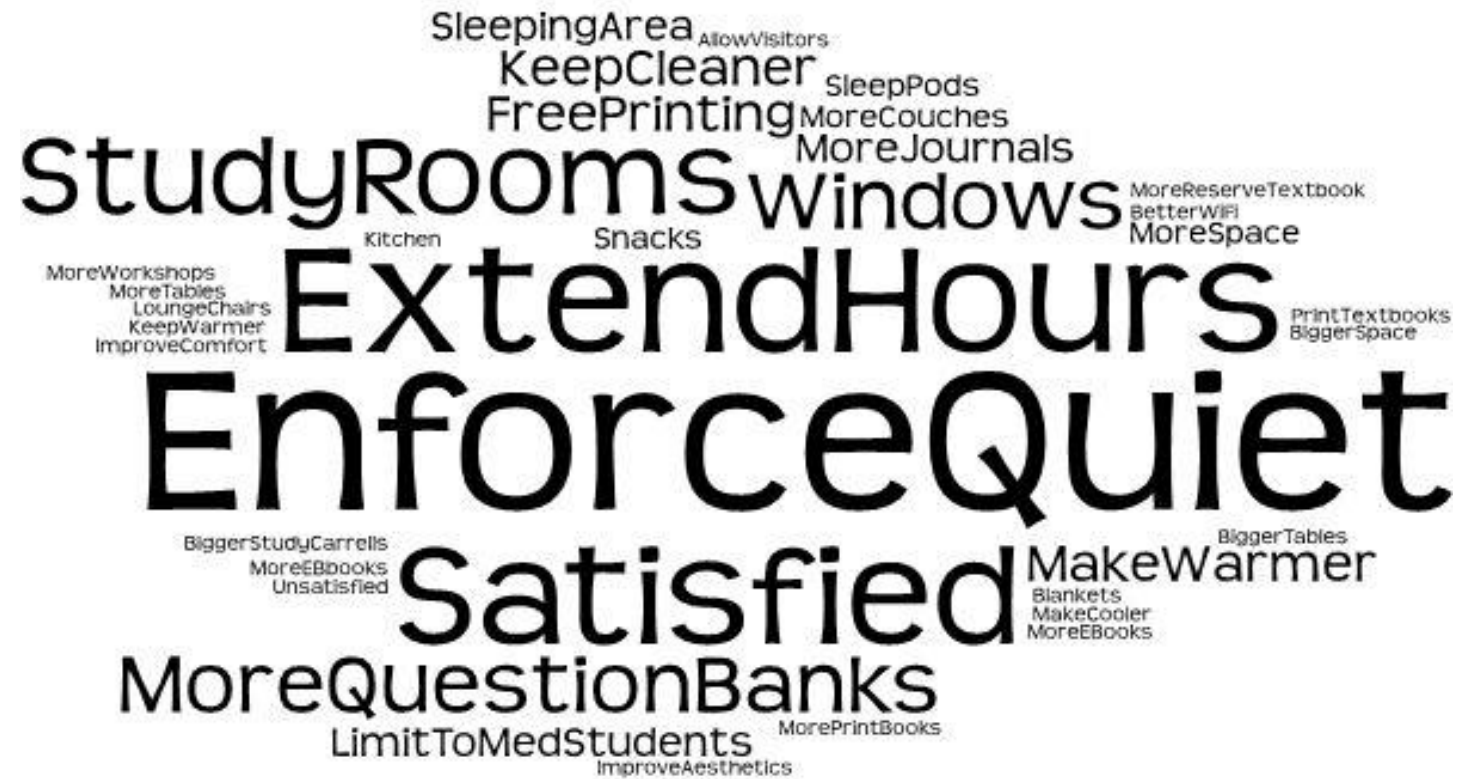
Features that students want (are important) in a library

Answers from students who responded with “other”



Results [Figure 11]

Suggestions for improving the library



n = 181



Highlighted Results

- ❖ Library should be closer to classrooms
- ❖ 24/7 hours
- ❖ Windows, natural light
- ❖ Better aesthetics
- ❖ More quiet zones
- ❖ Study rooms
- ❖ Vending machines, free coffee
- ❖ Free printing



Looking Forward

- ❖ The HWCAM administration has had plans for years to construct a new learning facility that could have space for a library
 - Based on survey data, students want study rooms, natural light, more comfortable seating, and better aesthetics
- ❖ Implications of Covid-19
 - Rethink space until return to normal
 - Post-Covid era
- ❖ Continue to administer the survey



Thank you!

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