

Gauging Involvement: An Exploratory Survey of Public Health Librarians, Student Literature, and Institutional Repositories

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Background

Institutional repositories and universities

- House intellectual and scholarly output
- Depend on contributions from the university community

Librarians and institutional repositories

- Collaborative means to recruit content and donors

Focus on student literature

- Underrepresented in literature
- Predominately limited to ETDs

Methods

The sample consisted of:

- 48 universities
 - Institutional repository
 - Master of Public Health (MPH) program
- 52 public health librarians
 - Identified through library website

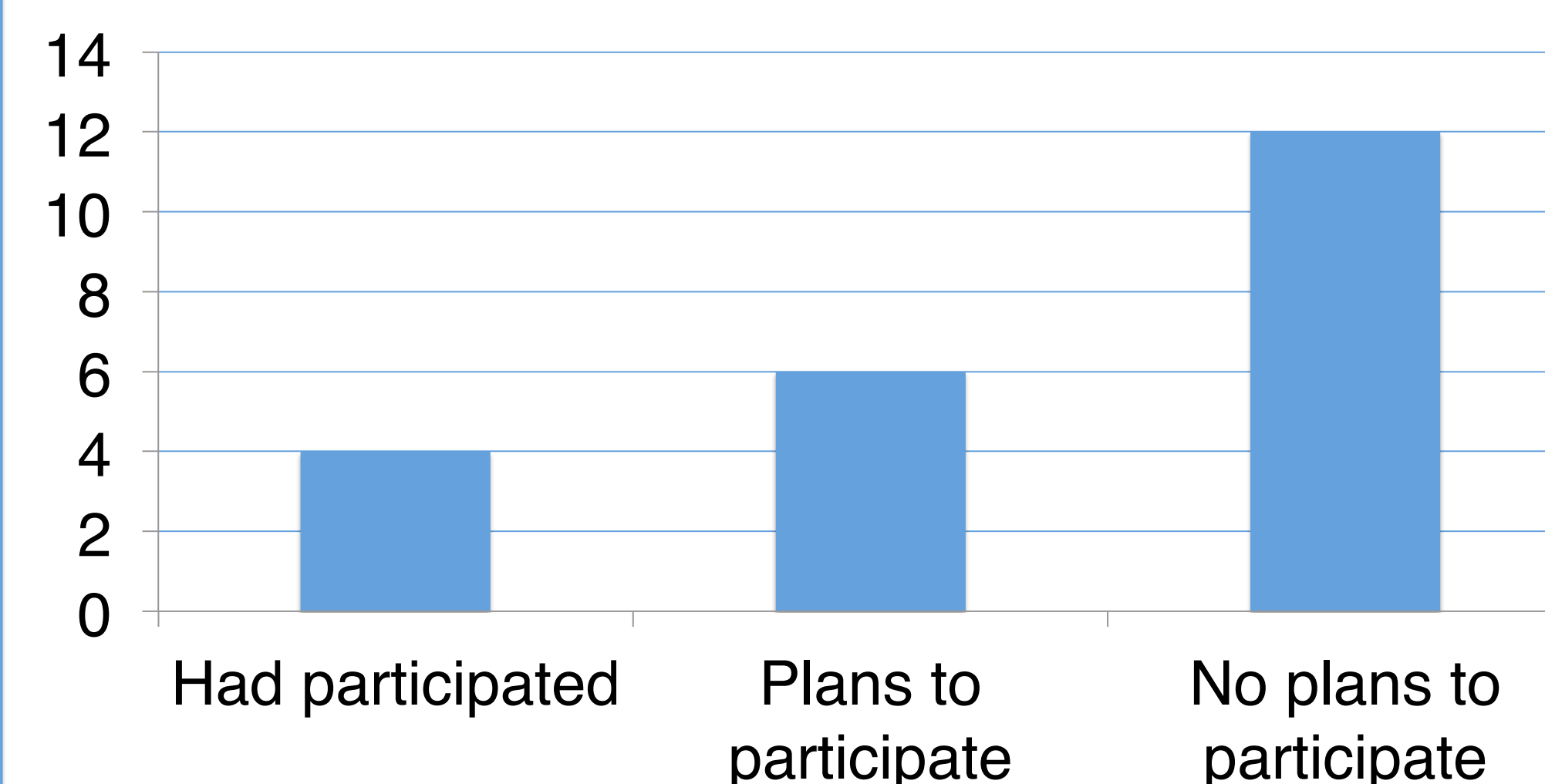
The survey consisted of:

- Questions related to:
 - Participation in deposit efforts
 - Types of MPH student literature deposited
 - Areas of public health represented by the literature
 - Interest in participating in deposit efforts
- Responses collected anonymously

Results

The survey was completed by 22 public health librarians.

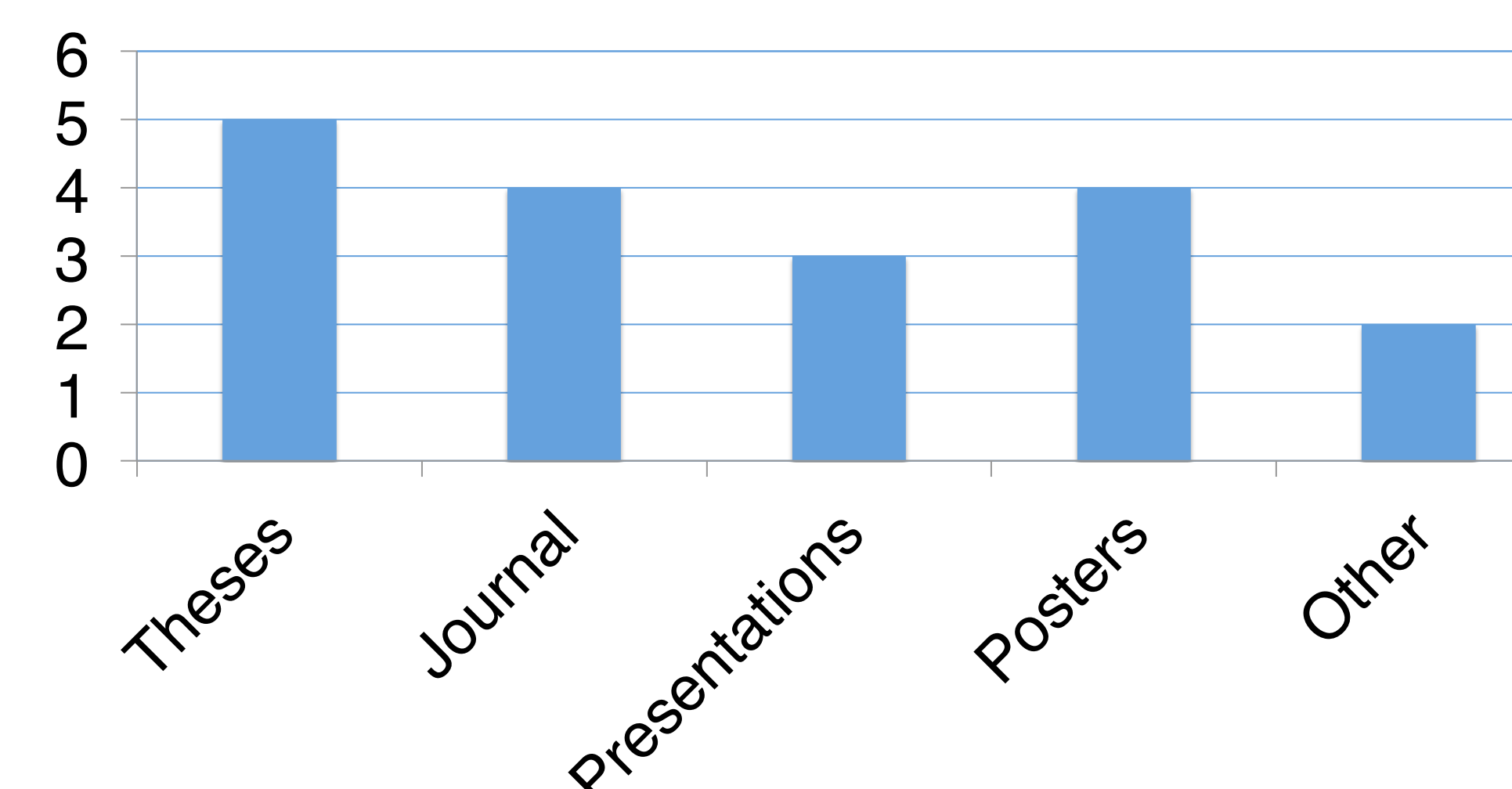
Participation in deposit efforts



10 librarians had participated or had plans to participate in the deposit of MPH student literature.

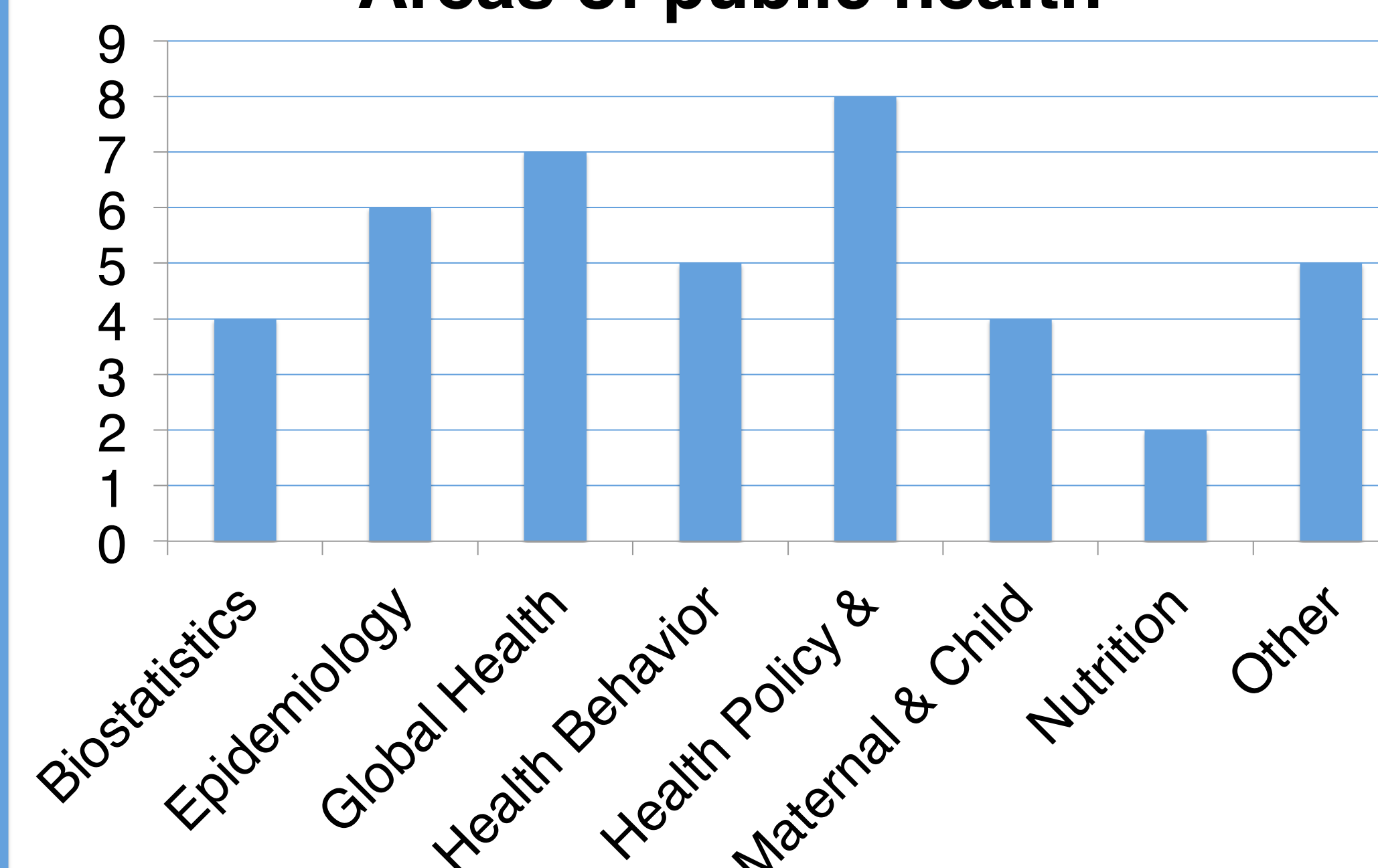
12 librarians had no plans to participate in the deposit of MPH student literature.

Types of MPH student literature



Types of MPH student literature included: theses, journal publications, presentations, posters, and “other” – data from research, capstones & dissertations.

Areas of public health

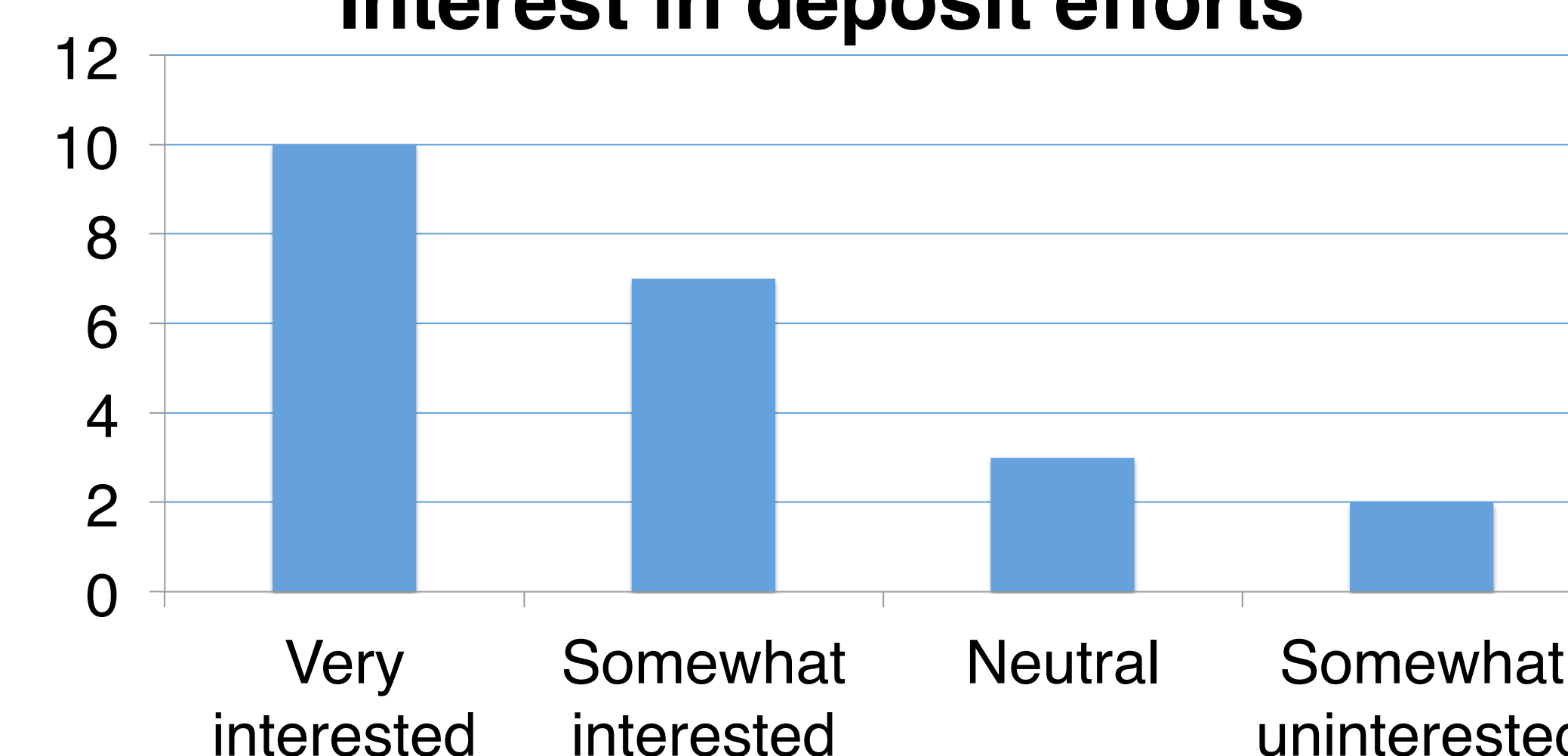


Areas of public health included: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Global Health, Health Behavior, Health Policy & Management, Maternal & Child Health, Nutrition, and “Other” – 7 additional public health concentrations.

17 librarians expressed interest in participating in deposit efforts.

5 librarians expressed neutrality or a slight disinterest in participating in deposit efforts.

Interest in deposit efforts



Conclusions

- Results indicate librarian involvement and interest in deposit efforts
- Suggests opportunities for collaboration between librarians and institutional repositories
- Provides insight about deposits of student literature into institutional repositories
 - Types of literature, areas of study

Future study

- Determine extent of librarian involvement in deposit efforts
 - Time spent, actions performed
- Extend survey to other librarian groups and disciplines
- Further exploration into this topic informs librarians and institutional repositories about realities and expectations of involvement and collaboration

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