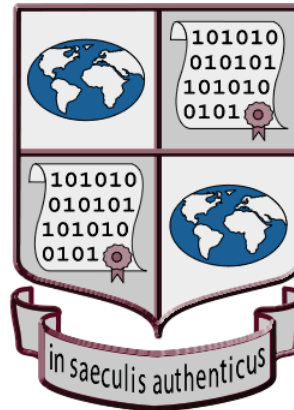


InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems



Digital Record-keeping Practices of GIS Archaeologists Worldwide: Results of an Online Survey Questionnaire

CAA 2006, Fargo, ND

19 April 2006

Randy Preston

School of Library, Archival and Information Studies
The University of British Columbia, Canada



InterPARES 2 Project

Randy Preston
GIS Survey – CAA 2006, 19 Apr 2006

Survey Background

- 40 questions that addressed specific records creation, documentation, management and preservation issues identified during case study interviews
- 896 GIS archaeologists from 69 countries worldwide invited to participate
- Online for one month
- 157 usable responses received from archaeologists in 30 countries



Survey Sections

- A. Introduction
- B. GIS Experience/Background
- C. File Mgmt/Documentation Practices
- D. Digital Preservation Practices
- E. Data Input/Output Practices
- F. Accuracy and Authenticity Issues
- G. General Comments

InterPARES Project: - Opera

File Edit View Navigation Bookmarks Mail Chat Tools Window Help

Rewind Back Reload New Open Save Print preview Fullscreen Print Tile Security

New page InterPARES Project:

http://www.interpares.org/cs14/cs14_survey.cfm?g=02&CFID=29947&CFTOKEN=65384069

Go Google search

InterPARES 2 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

survey of record-keeping practices of archaeologists

B. GIS EXPERIENCE/BACKGROUND

B1. How long have you been using GIS?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 2 years
- 2 to 3 years
- 3 to 4 years
- 4 to 5 years
- 5 to 6 years
- 6 to 7 years
- 7 to 8 years
- 8 to 9 years
- 9 to 10 years
- More than 10 years
- Not sure

Comments - Use this space if you wish to comment further on this question:

• Please answer carefully, answers can only be submitted once. •

Next question

Question 02 of 39

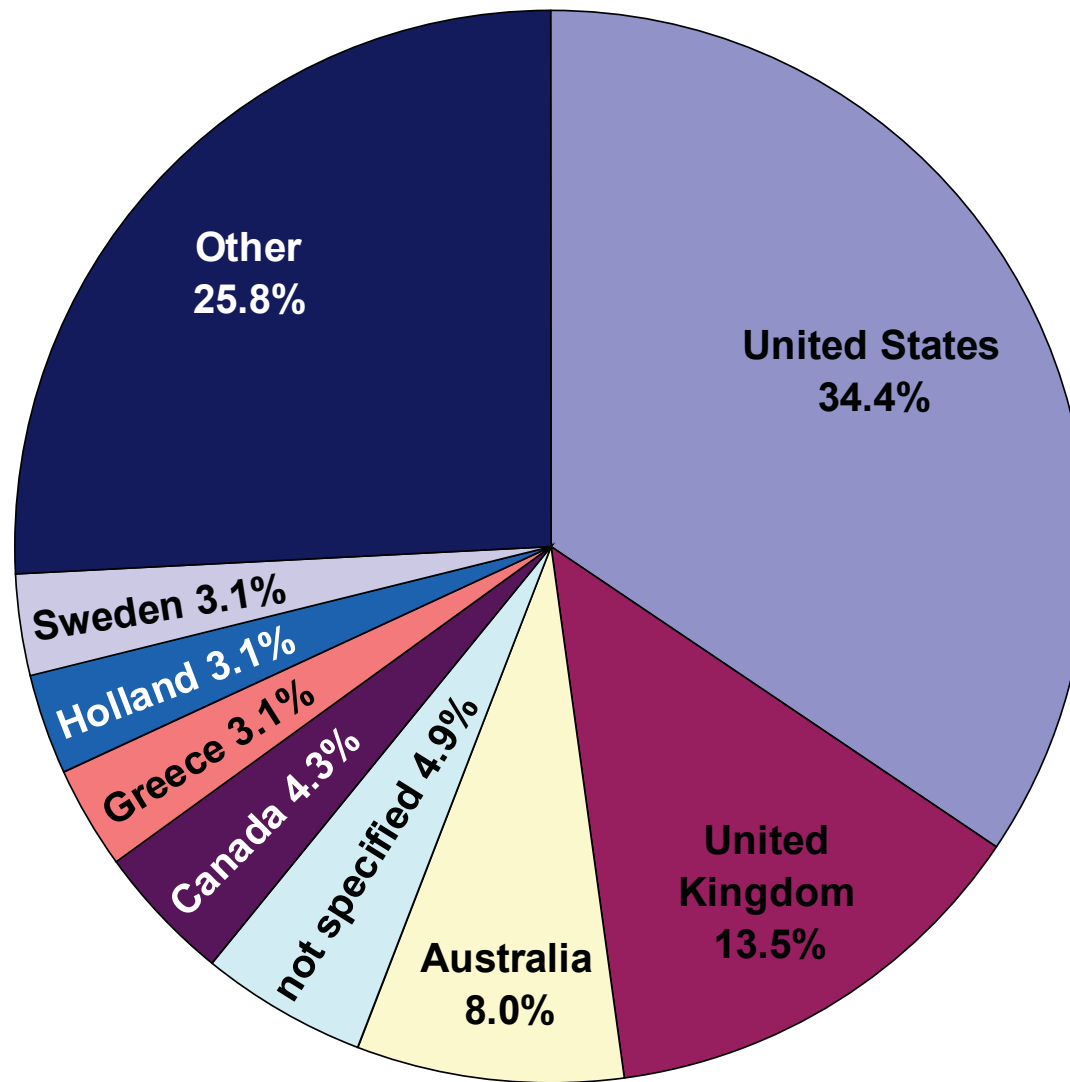


B. GIS Experience/Background

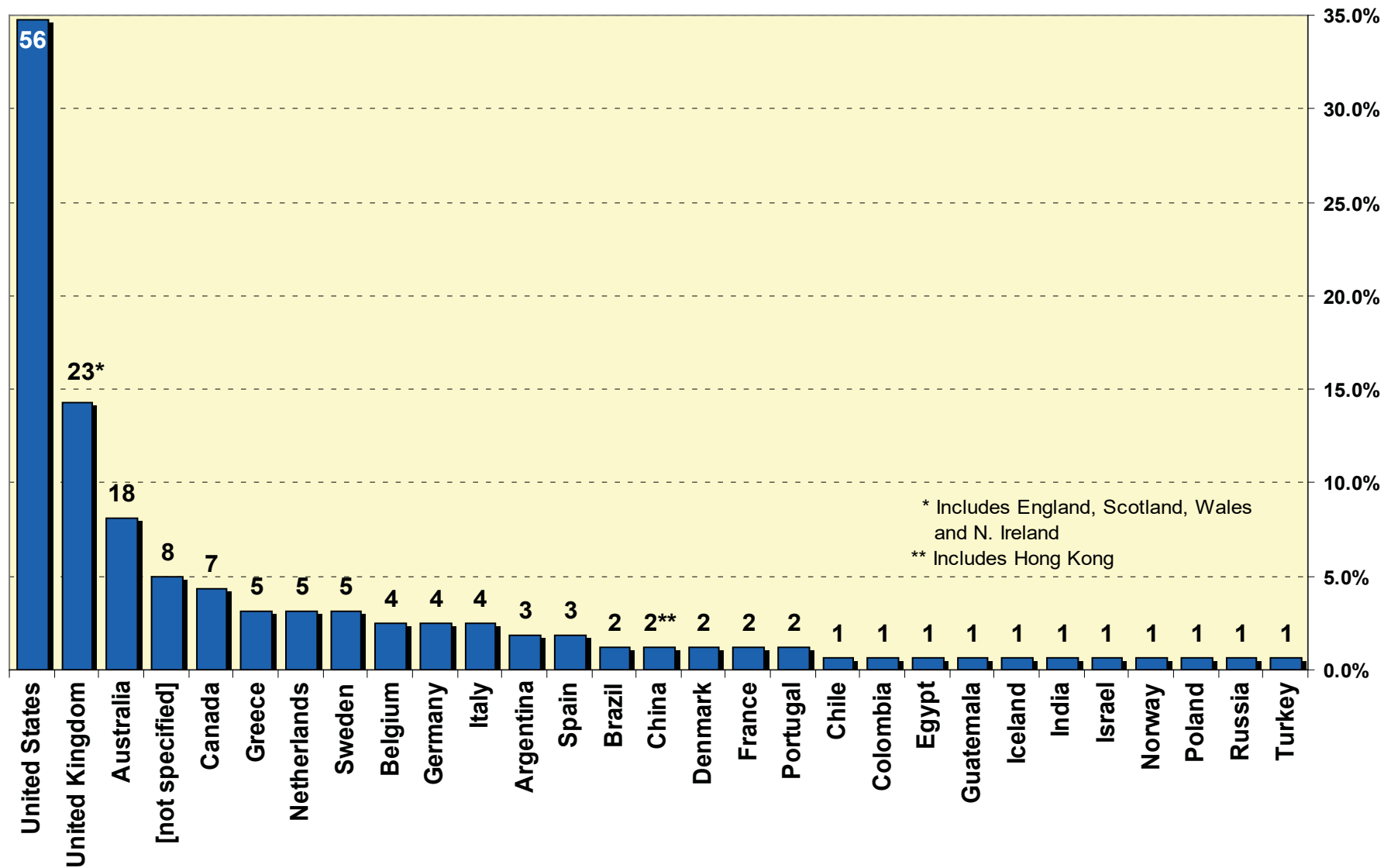
- 7 questions
- **Goal:** Gather basic background information about participants.
- e.g., current level of experience with GIS projects, length of experience using GIS, how often they use it, where they use it, etc.
- Information was used for statistical purposes (e.g., correlate experience with record-keeping procedures used)



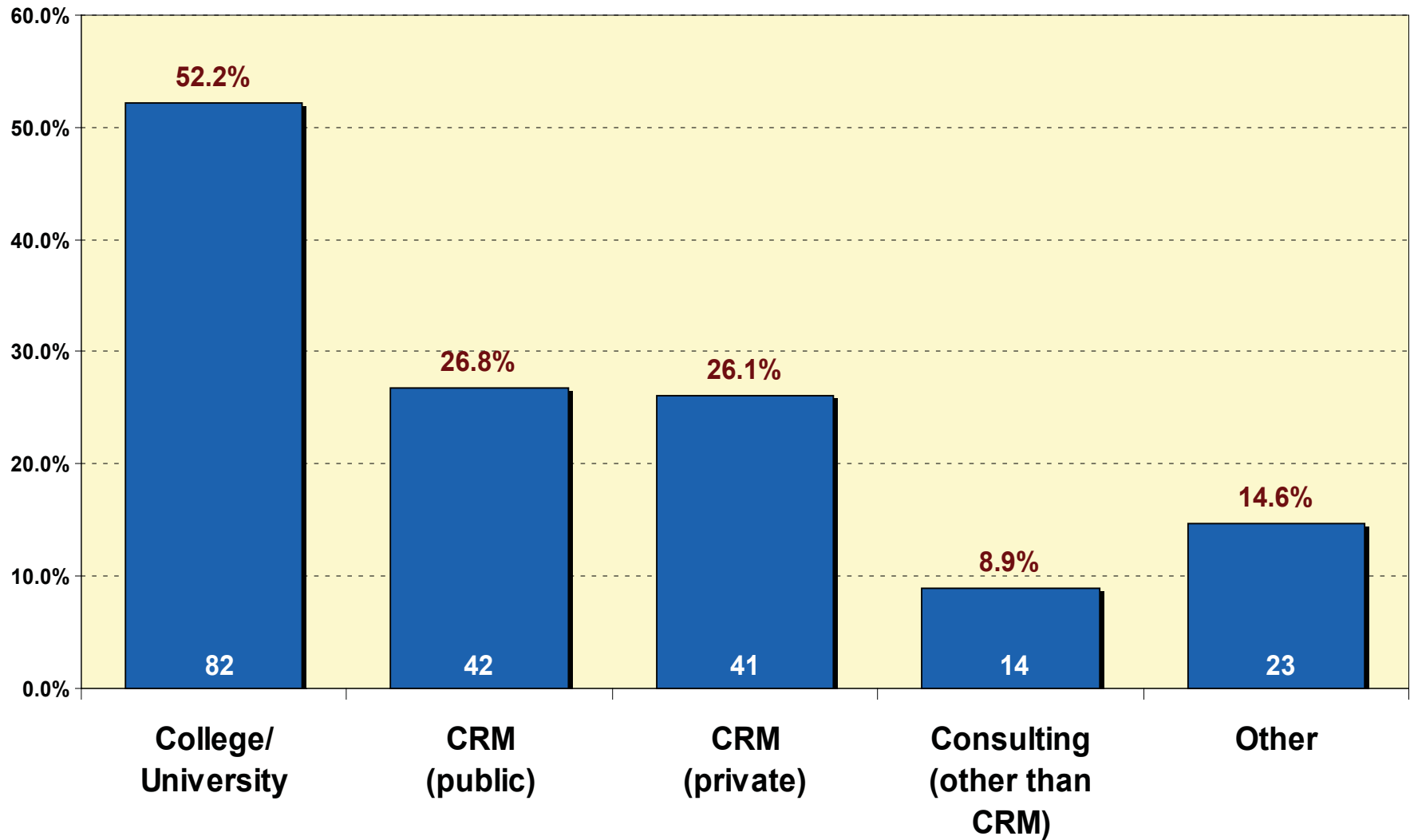
Major Participants by Country



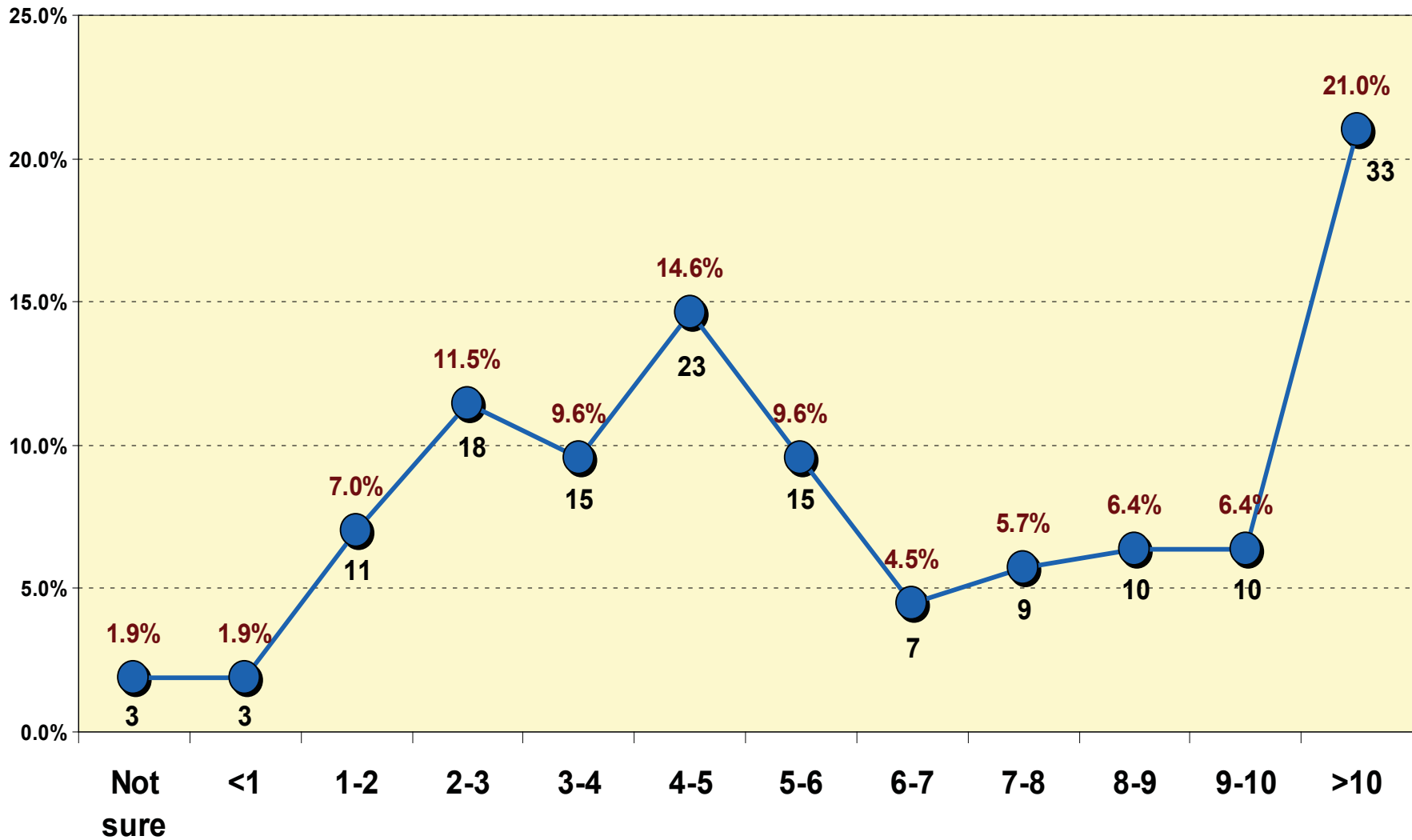
All Participants by Country



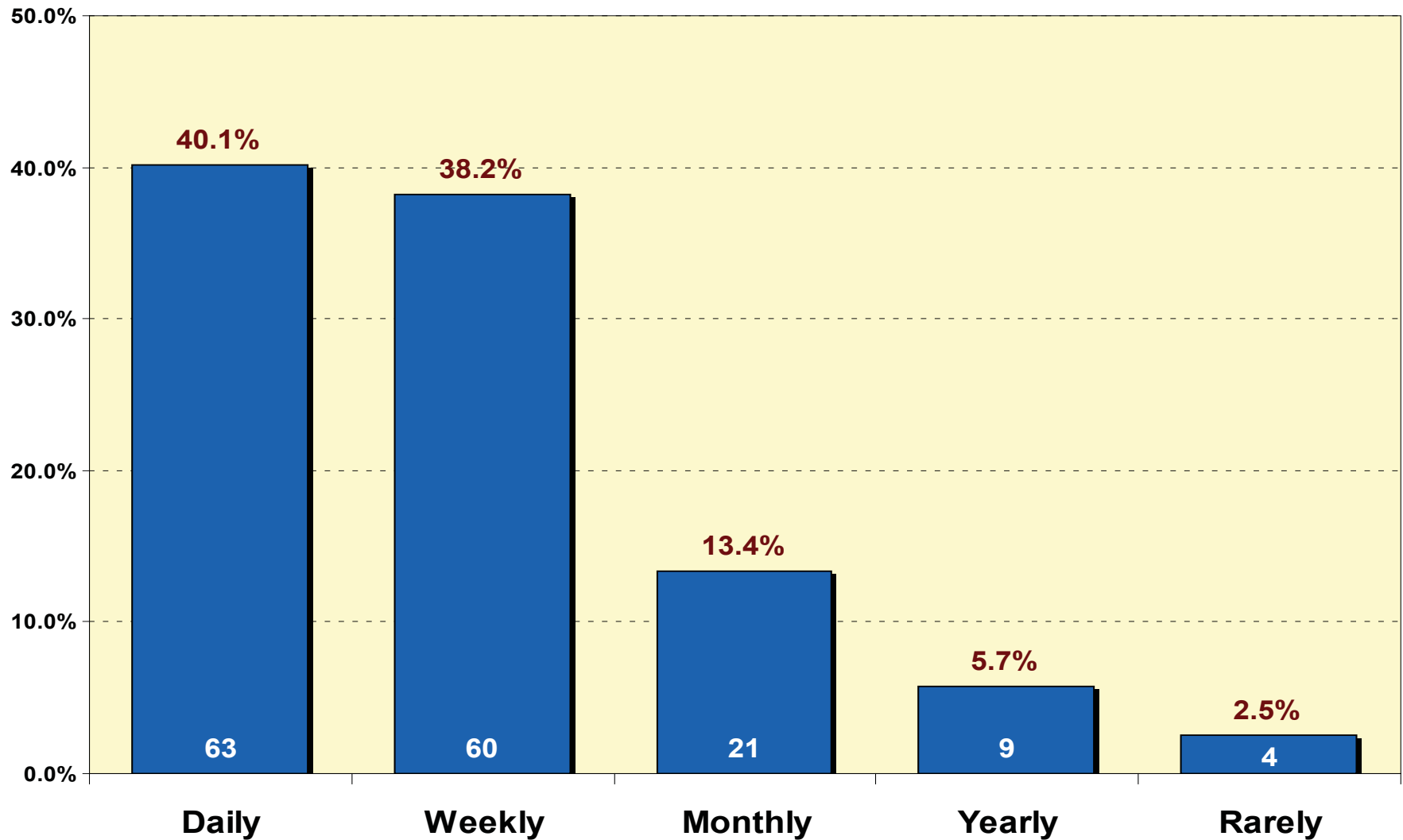
Professional Affiliation



Years of GIS Experience

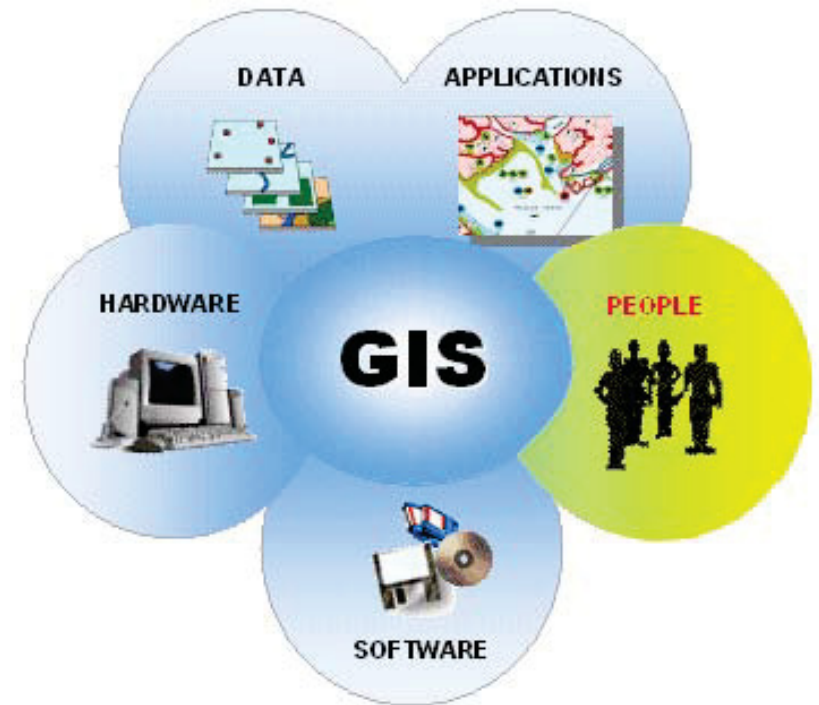


Frequency of GIS Use



A. Introduction

- 1 free-text question
- Define a GIS
- Highlight its most important, significant, and/or distinguishing components and functions.



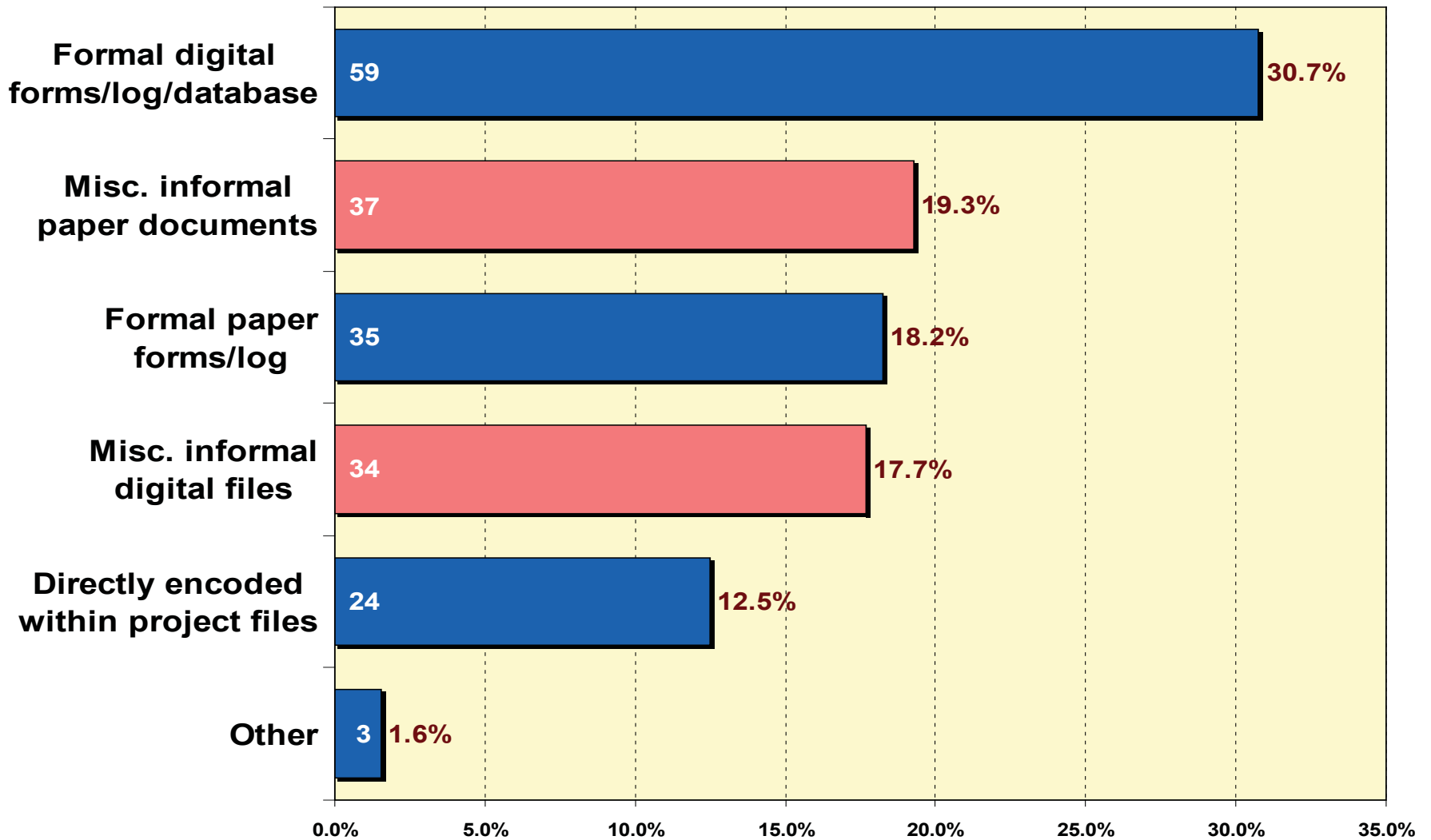
- **Goal:** Assess what importance, if any, participants assigned to their role (i.e., the human operator) in their GIS projects.

C. File Mgmt/Documentation Practices

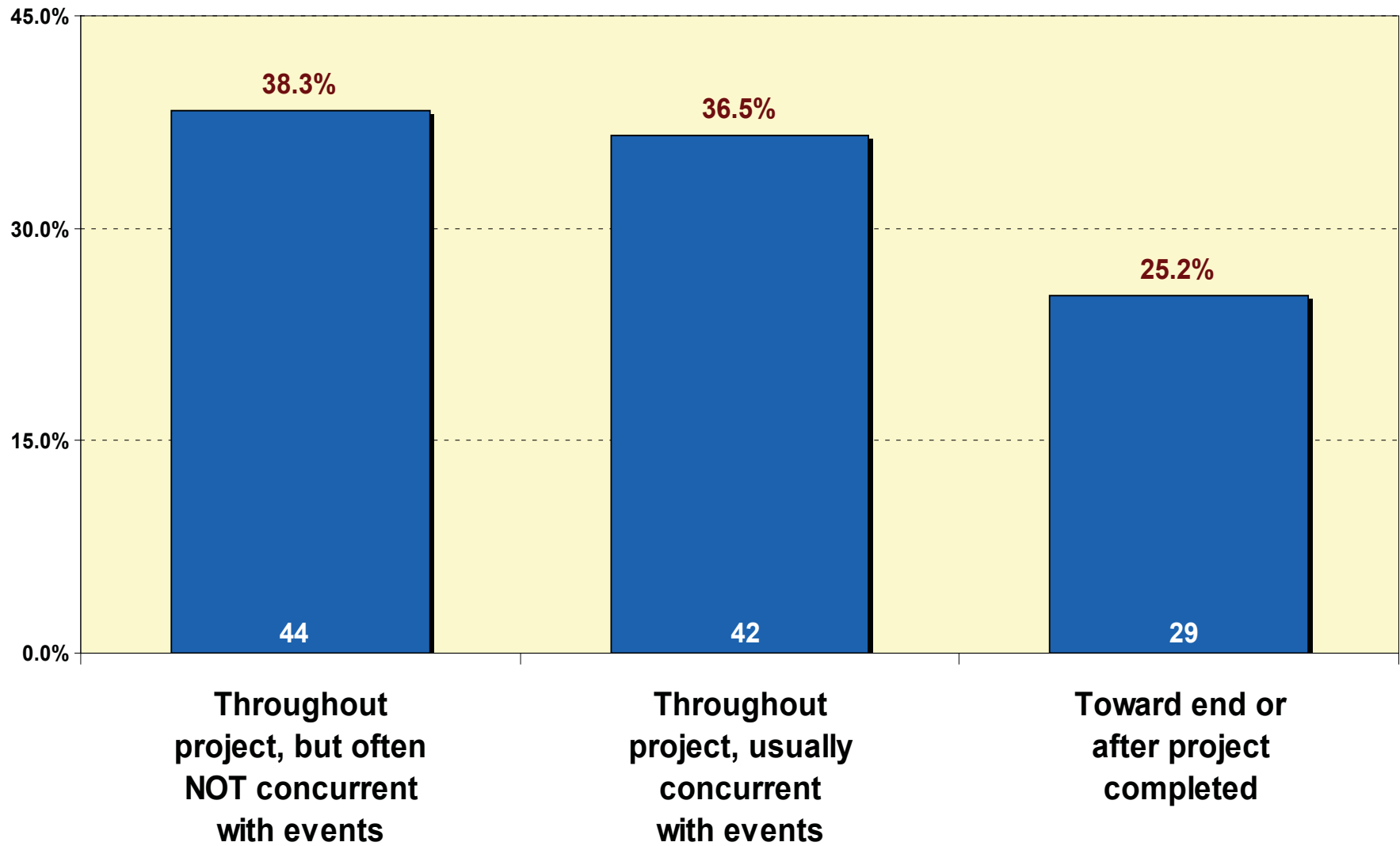
- 11 Questions
- **Goal:** Assess GIS project and file documentation and management habits, especially those associated with documentation and management of data file modifications and associations.
- e.g., file naming procedures, file version controls, associations with non-digital records, etc.



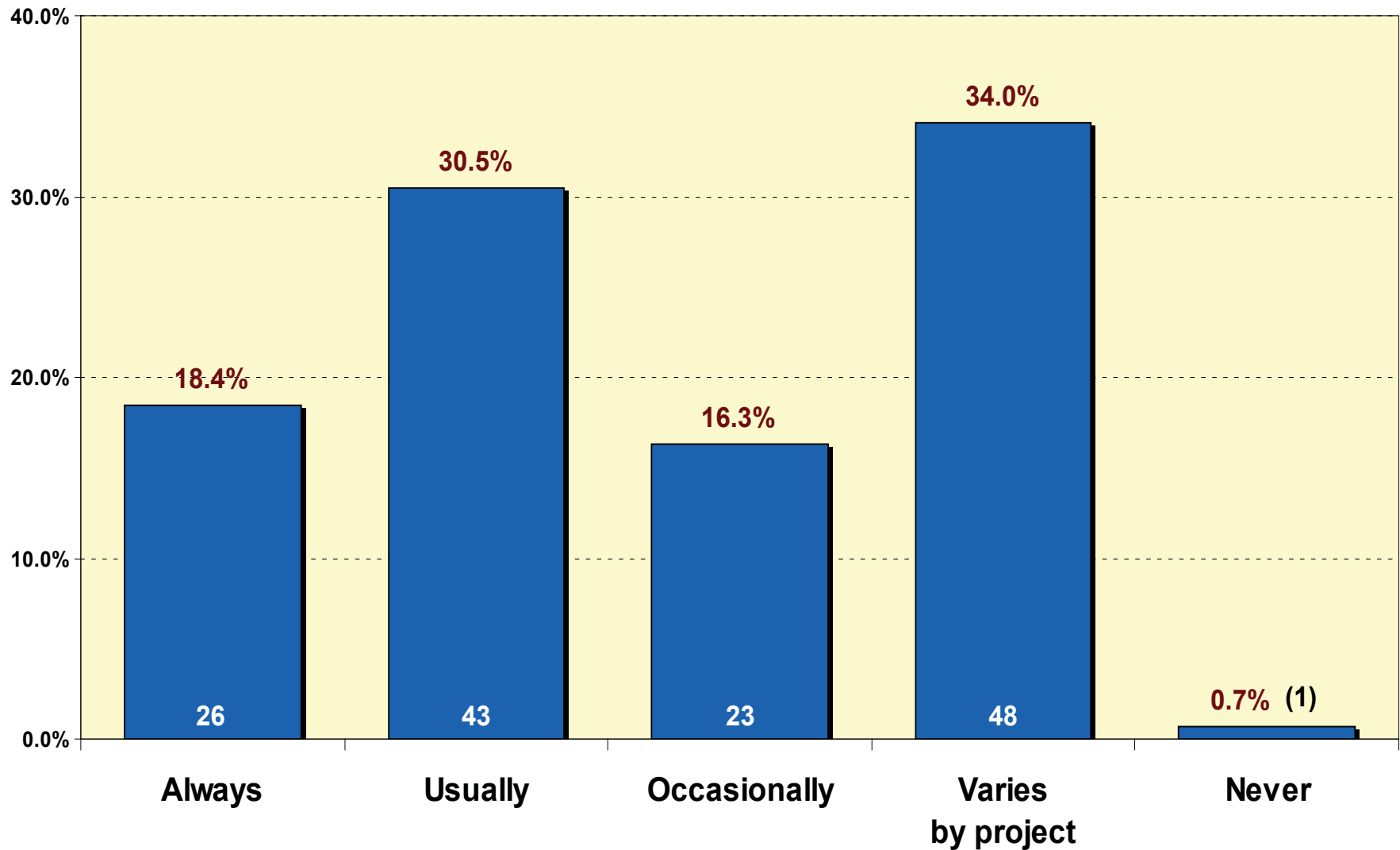
Documentation Approaches Used



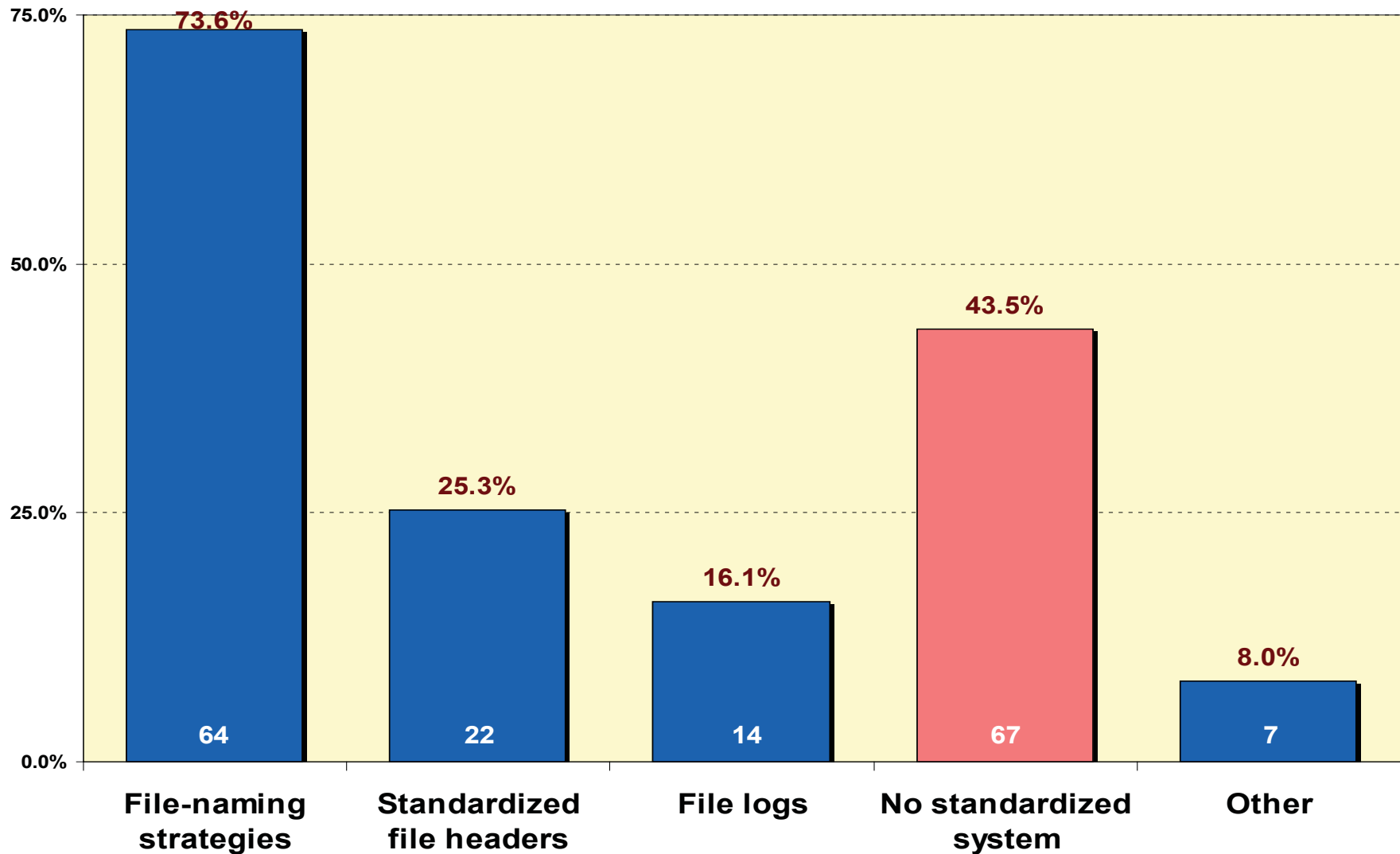
Timing of Project Documentation



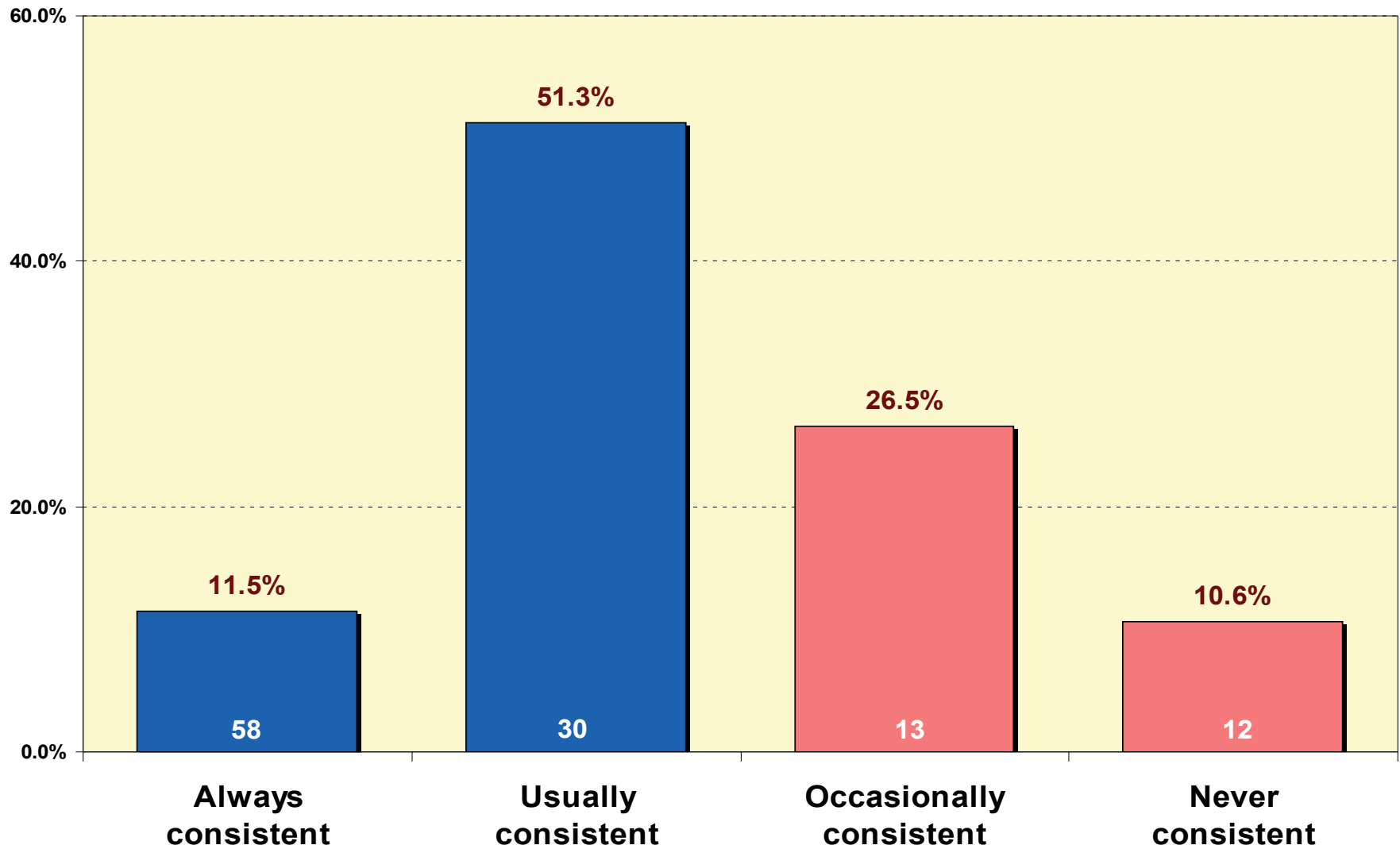
Use of Controlled File Naming Strategy



Use of File Version Control Strategy



Consistency of Overall Documentation

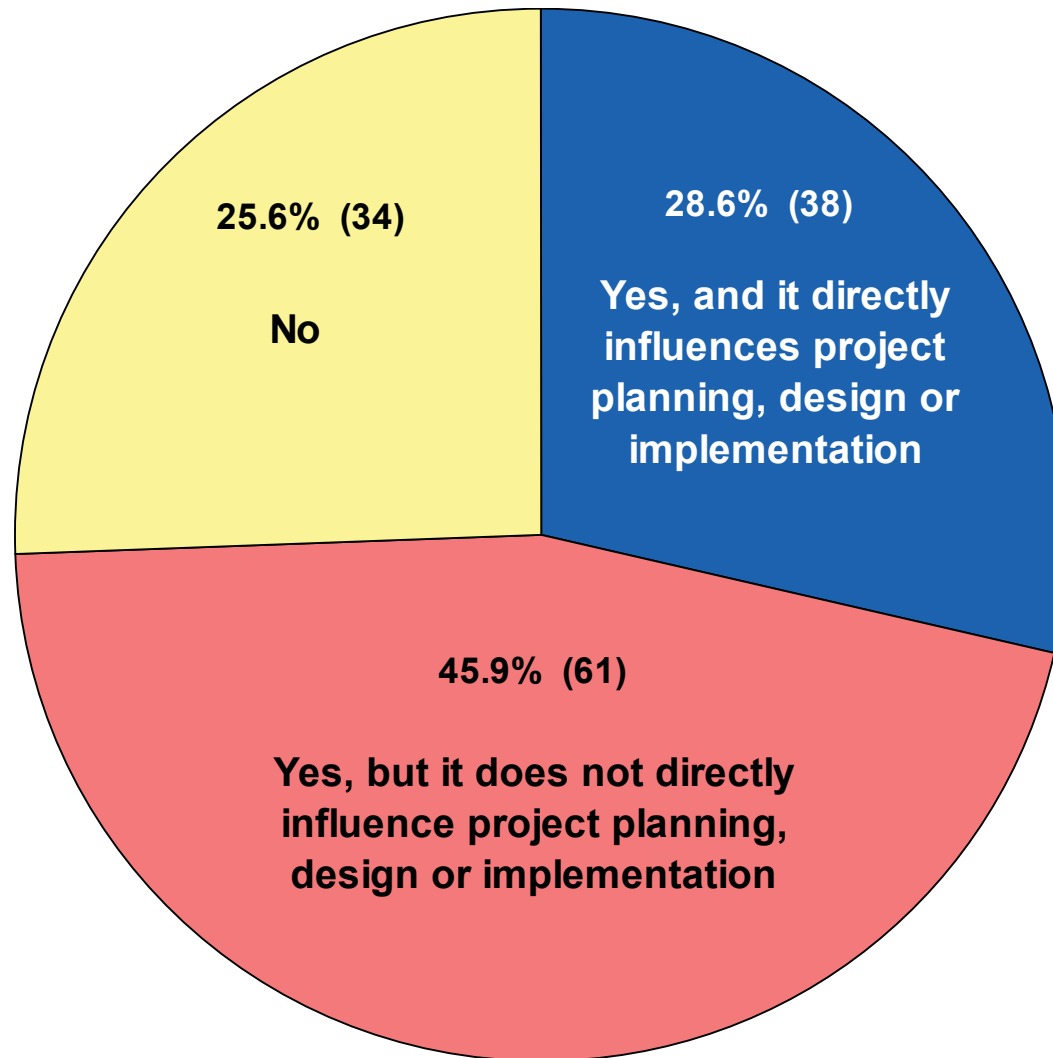


D. Digital Preservation Practices

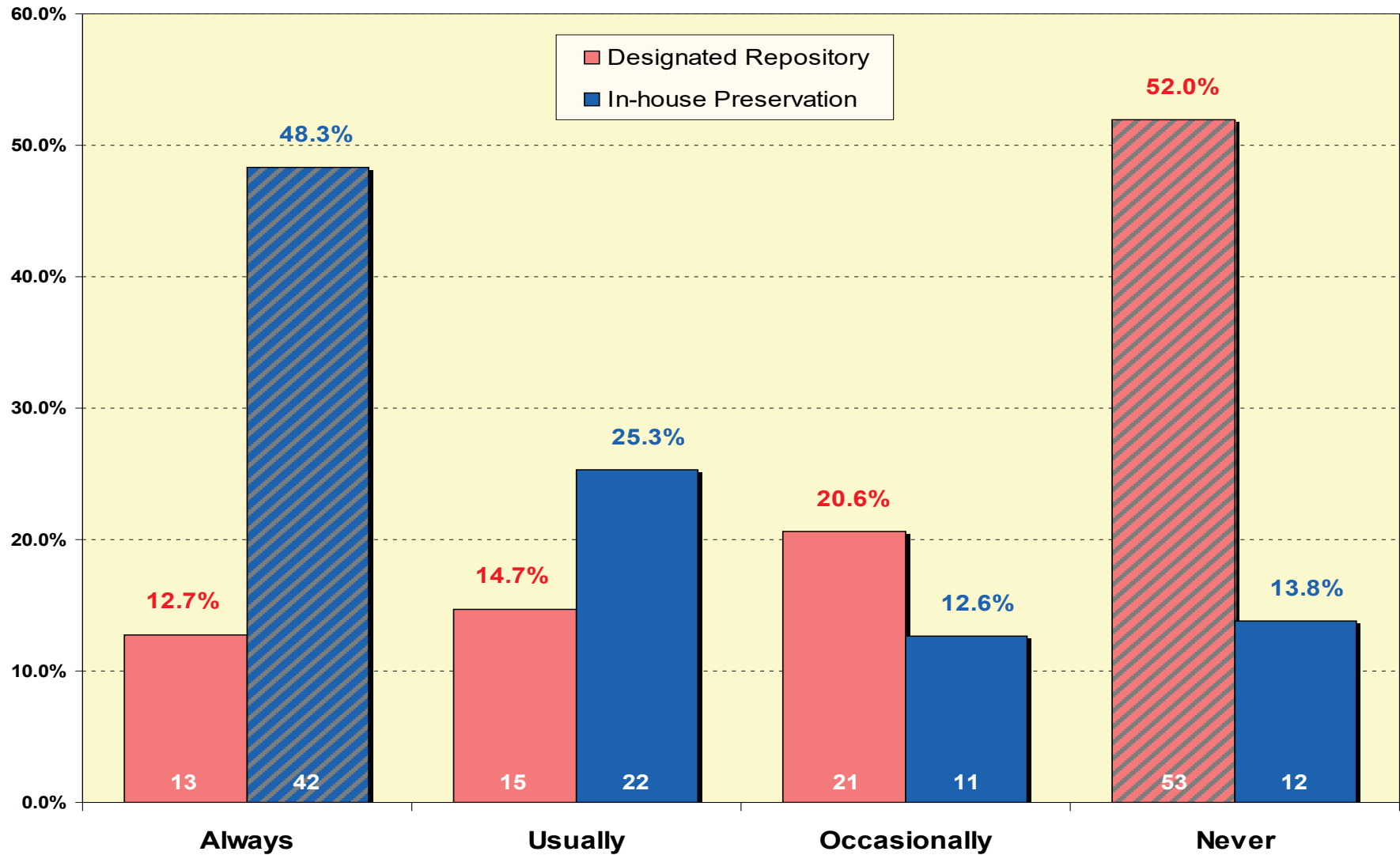
- 13 Questions
- **Goal:** Assess preservation strategies used when saving GIS projects for the long-term, either “in-house” or in a designated repository.



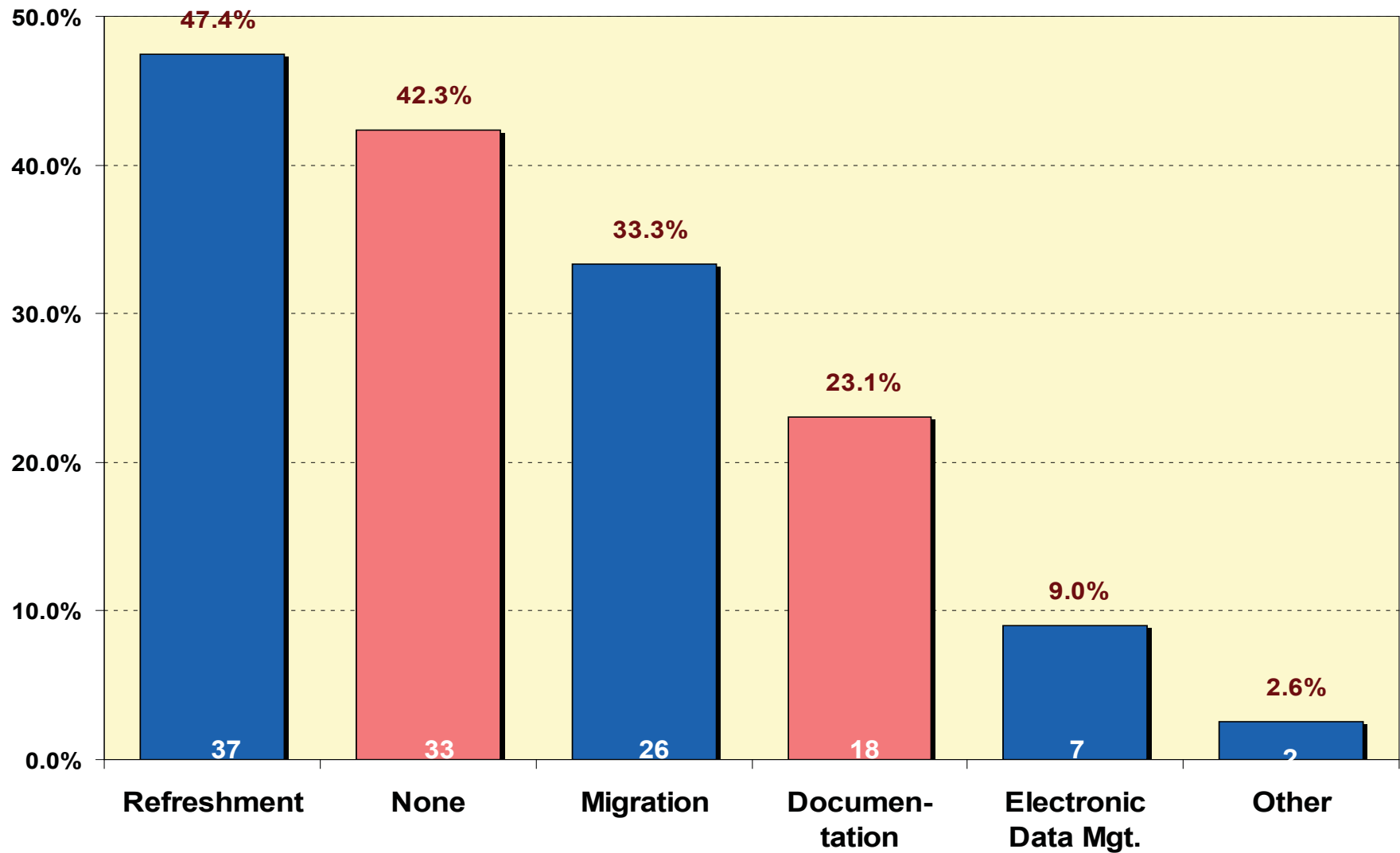
Concern for Archiving Projects



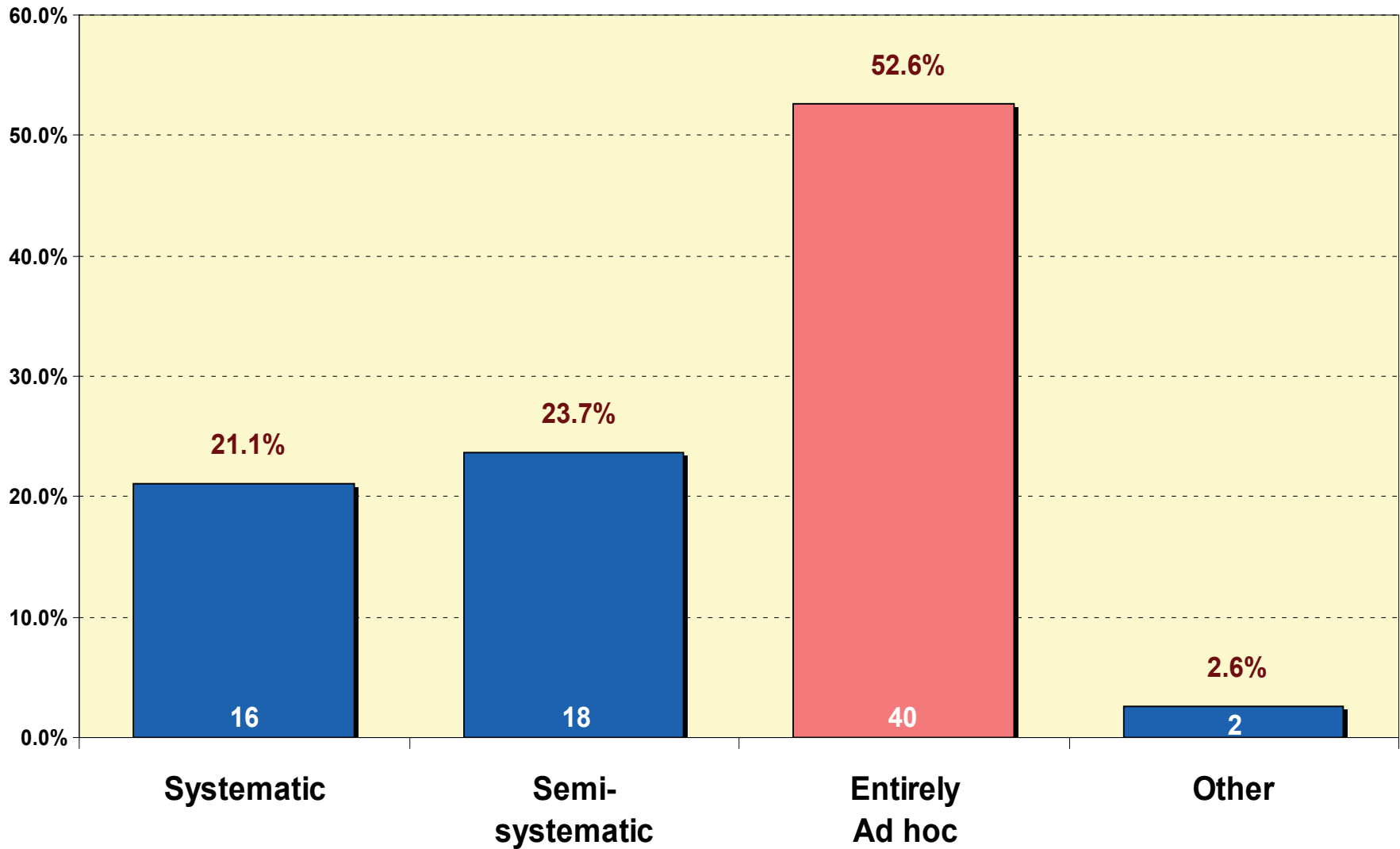
Preservation 'In-house' vs. Repository



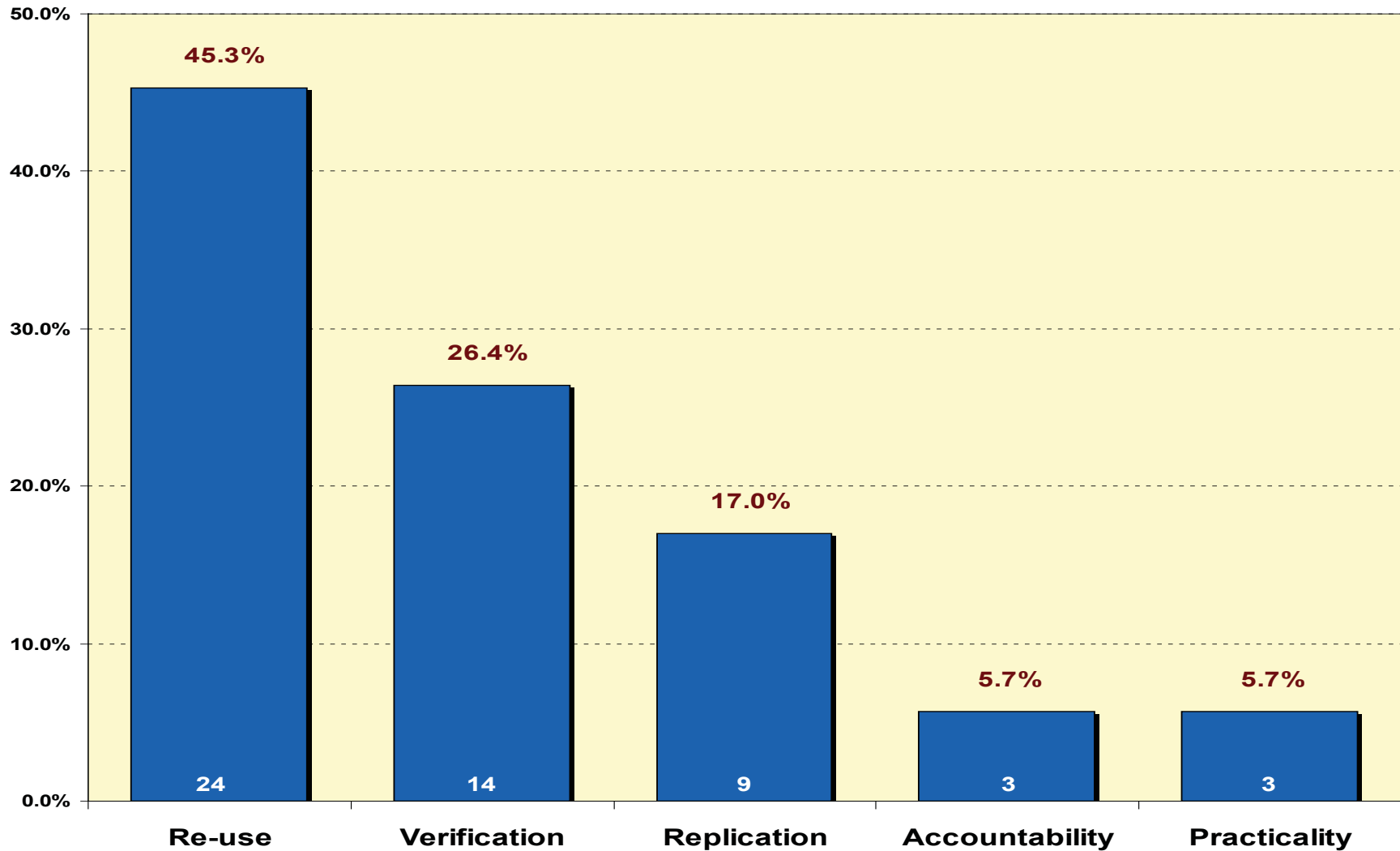
Long-term Preservation Strategies



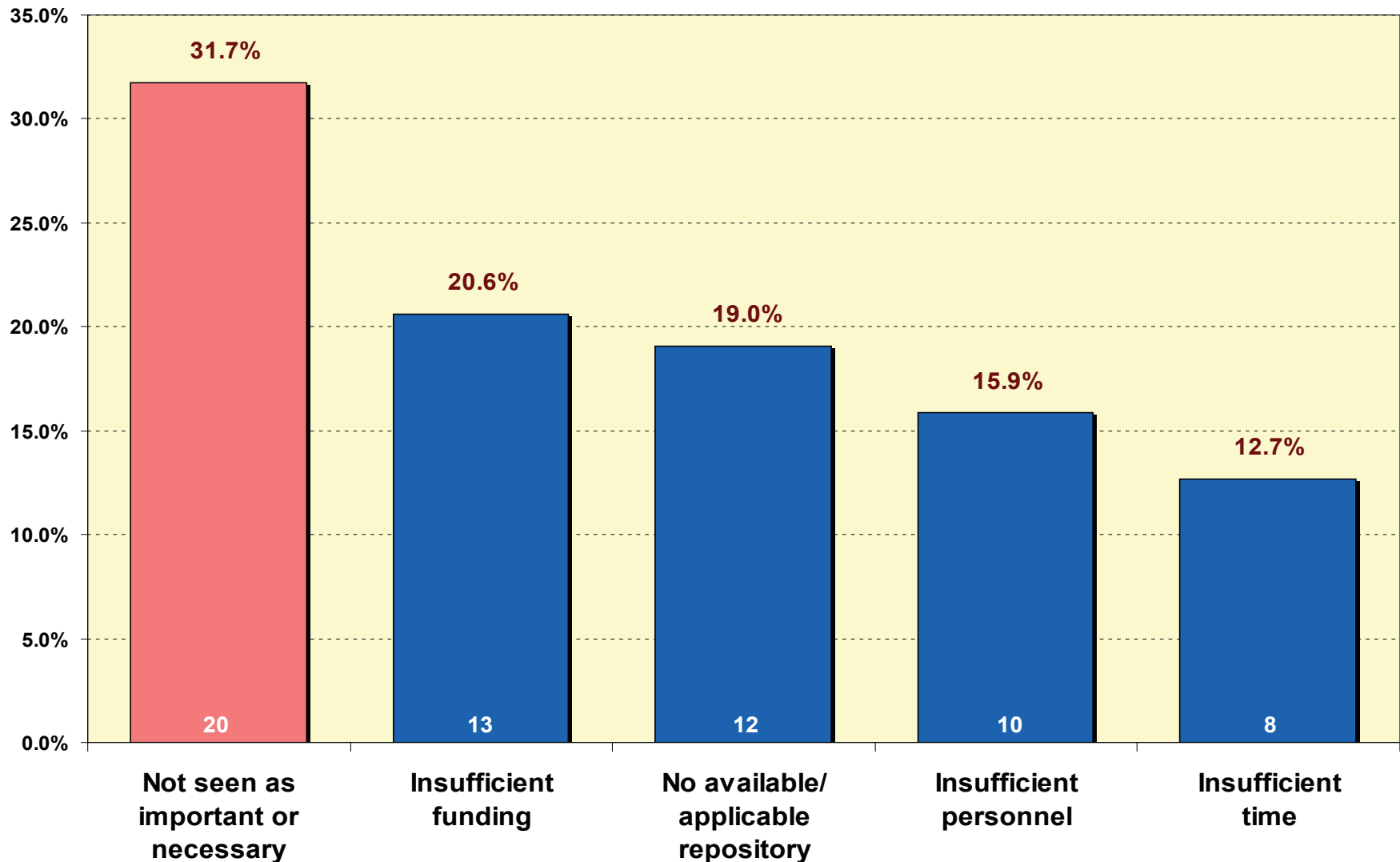
Application of Preservation Strategies



Reasons for Long-term Preservation



Long-term Preservation Impediments

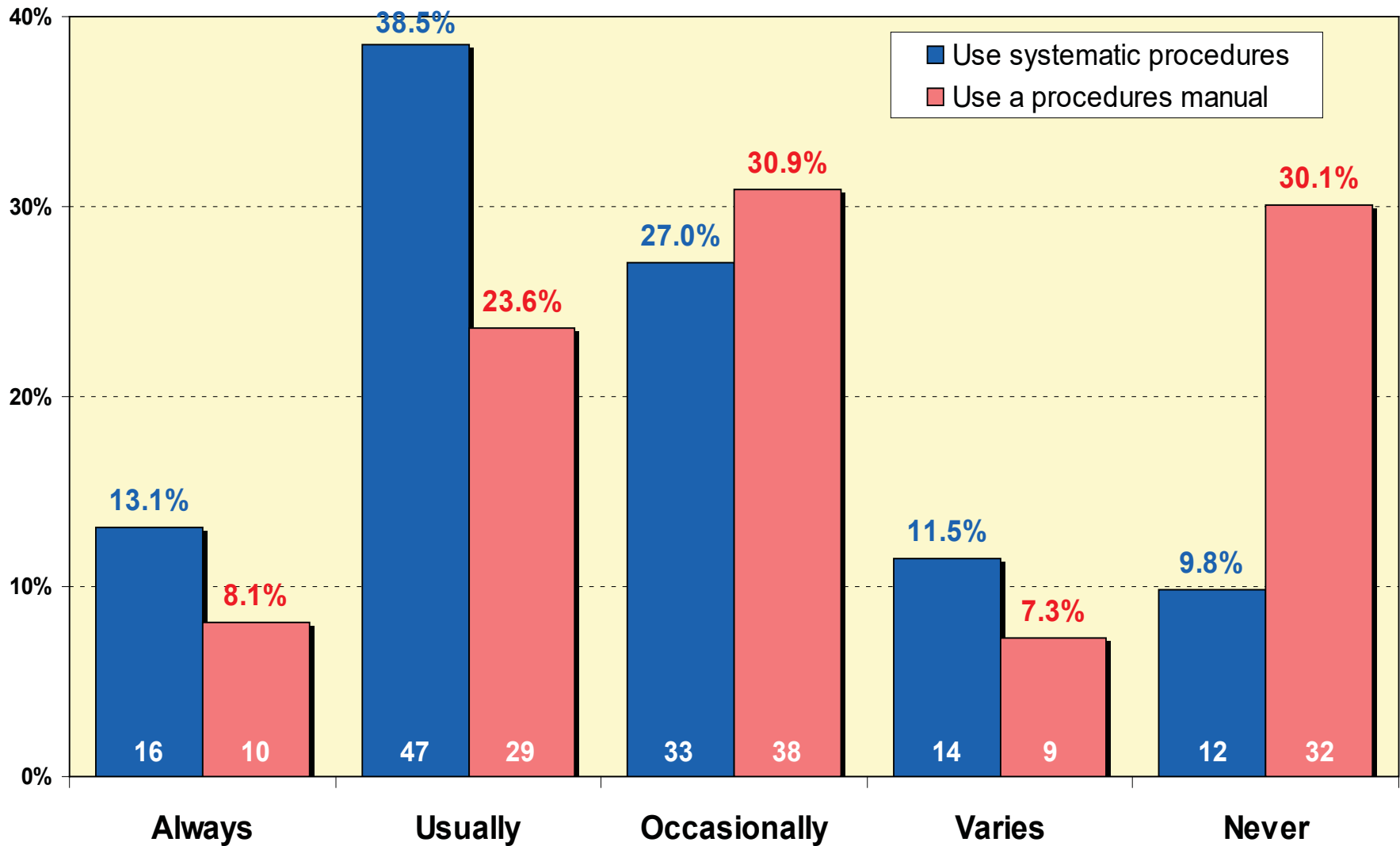


E. Data Input/Output Practices

- 2 Questions
- **Goal:** Assess overall routineness of creation and manipulation procedures used
- Serves as a measure of reliability.
- Reliability = trustworthiness of a file (or record) as a statement of fact; exists when file or record can stand for the fact it is about
- Established by examining completeness of file or record's form and amount of control exercised on process of its creation



File/Component Creation Procedures



F. Accuracy and Authenticity Issues

- 5 Questions
- **Goal:** Assess level of awareness and concern with data/record accuracy and authenticity issues.
- e.g., Asked to identify...
 - significance of the concept of “accuracy”
 - record/data auditing practices used (accuracy)
 - procedures used to identify authors/creators (authenticity)
 - security measures used to control access to, and prevent unauthorized modifications to, project files (authenticity, accuracy and reliability)



Accuracy

- Considerable variability in definition and use of accuracy, often use interchangeably with other related concepts like precision
- Increased overall awareness of accuracy issues relative to Gourad's 1998 survey findings
- However, only 33% of participants in current survey mentioned integral role that documentation of datasets plays in assessments of accuracy
- Inadequate dataset documentation can lead to “aura of accuracy” issues



Conclusions

- Discernable level of awareness of issues related to long-term preservation of digital records
- But no concerted, coordinated profession-wide response to date
- Survey and case study data concur that most current record-keeping practices and procedures tend to be, at best, ad hoc
- This ad hoc approach reflects, in part, the absence of formal GIS training among many archaeologists

