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Measuring the systematic reviews support provided at other HE institutions

UHMLG SPRING FORUM – APRIL 2020

Kevin Wilson, Academic Liaison and Collection Development Manager, LSE
Andra Fry, Academic Support Librarian, LSE

Operational Plan project to scope and develop a systematic reviews service.

Report for LLT included:

- Rationale
- Literature review
- Review of skills in ASL team
- Current support for systematic reviews at LSE
- Different systematic review models
- Recommendations



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BENCHMARKING INSTITUTIONS

Mixed methods survey using Qualtrics, distributed to a number of mailing lists for a 3 week period

Survey questions grouped by theme:

- Systematic reviews support by Librarians/Information Specialists in universities
- Extent of systematic reviews support provided
- Staff supporting systematic reviews
- Volume of systematic reviews supported
- Other aspects of systematic reviews support
- Final comments



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SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS SUPPORT BY LIBRARIANS OR INFORMATION SPECIALISTS

Questions asked:

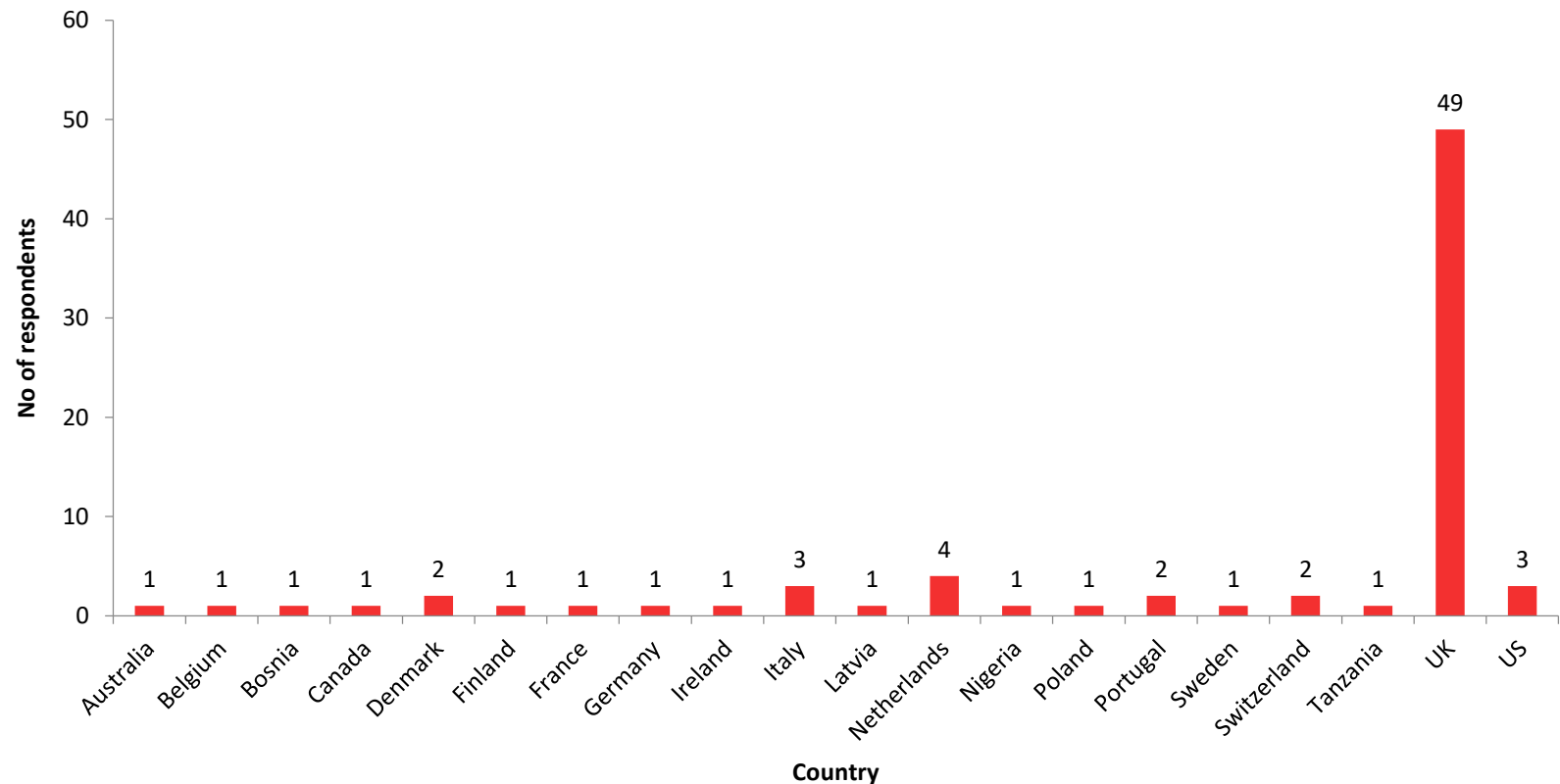
Q1. Consent agreement

Q2. What institution are you from?

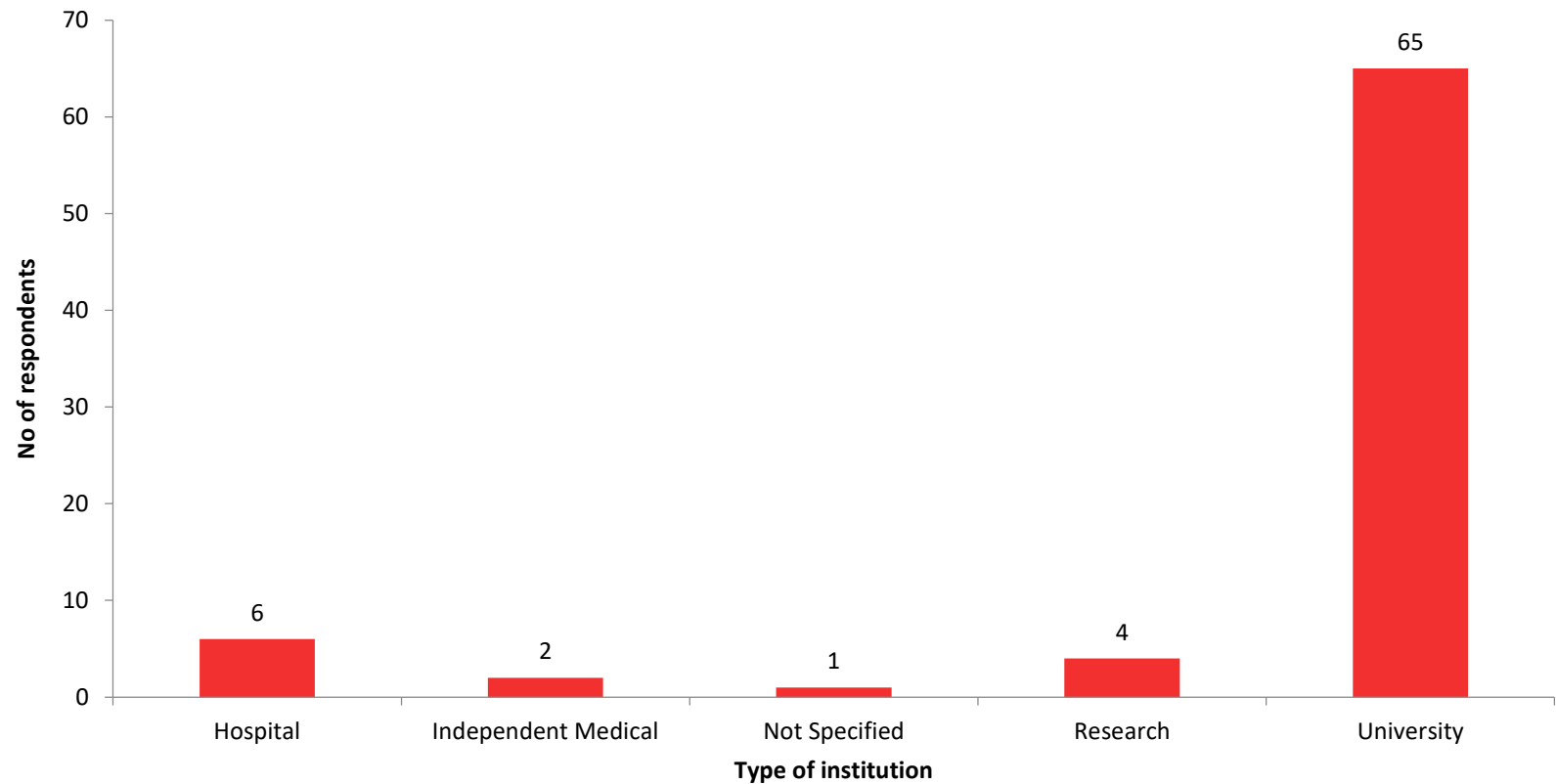
Q3. What is your job title?

Q4. Does your team support systematic reviews conducted by research staff?

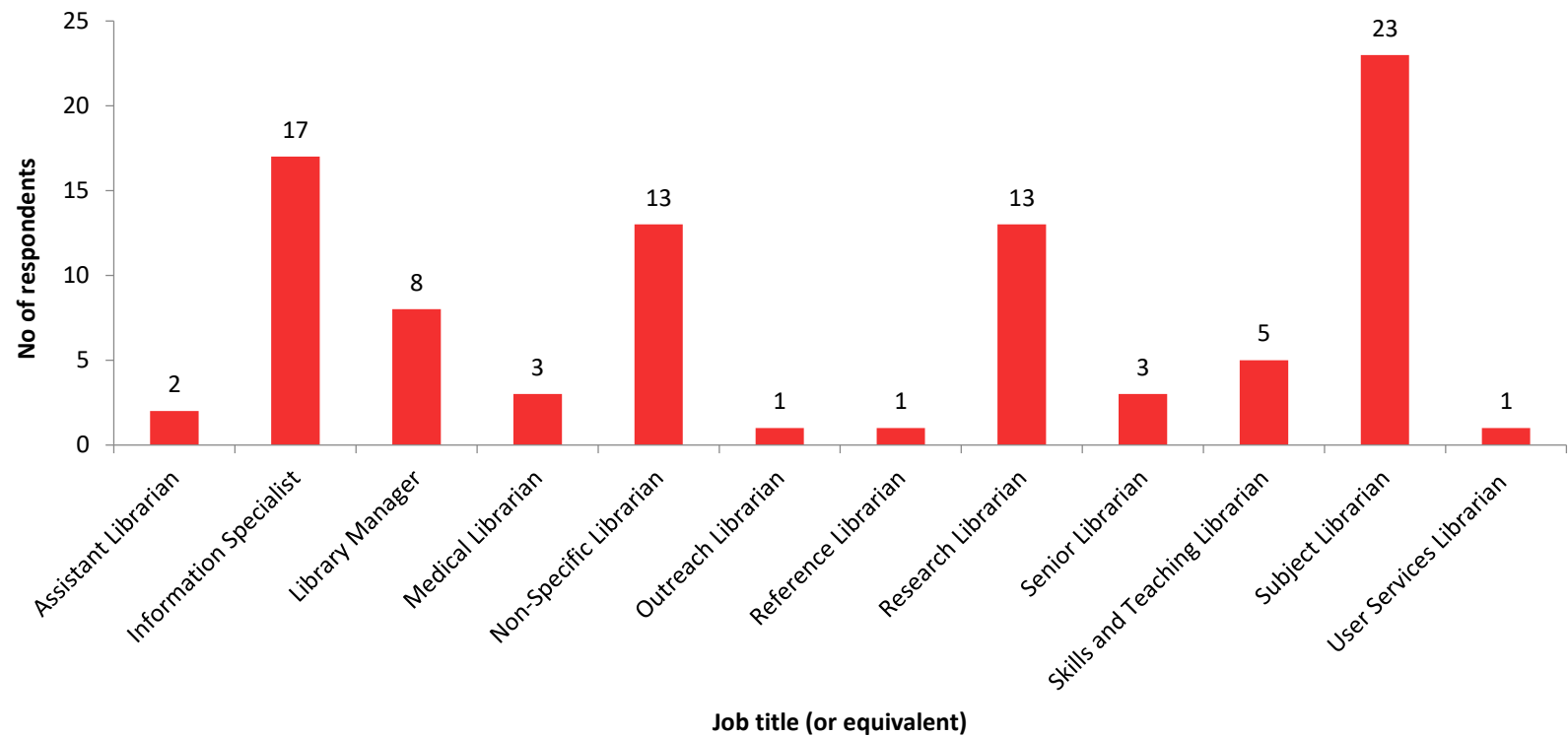
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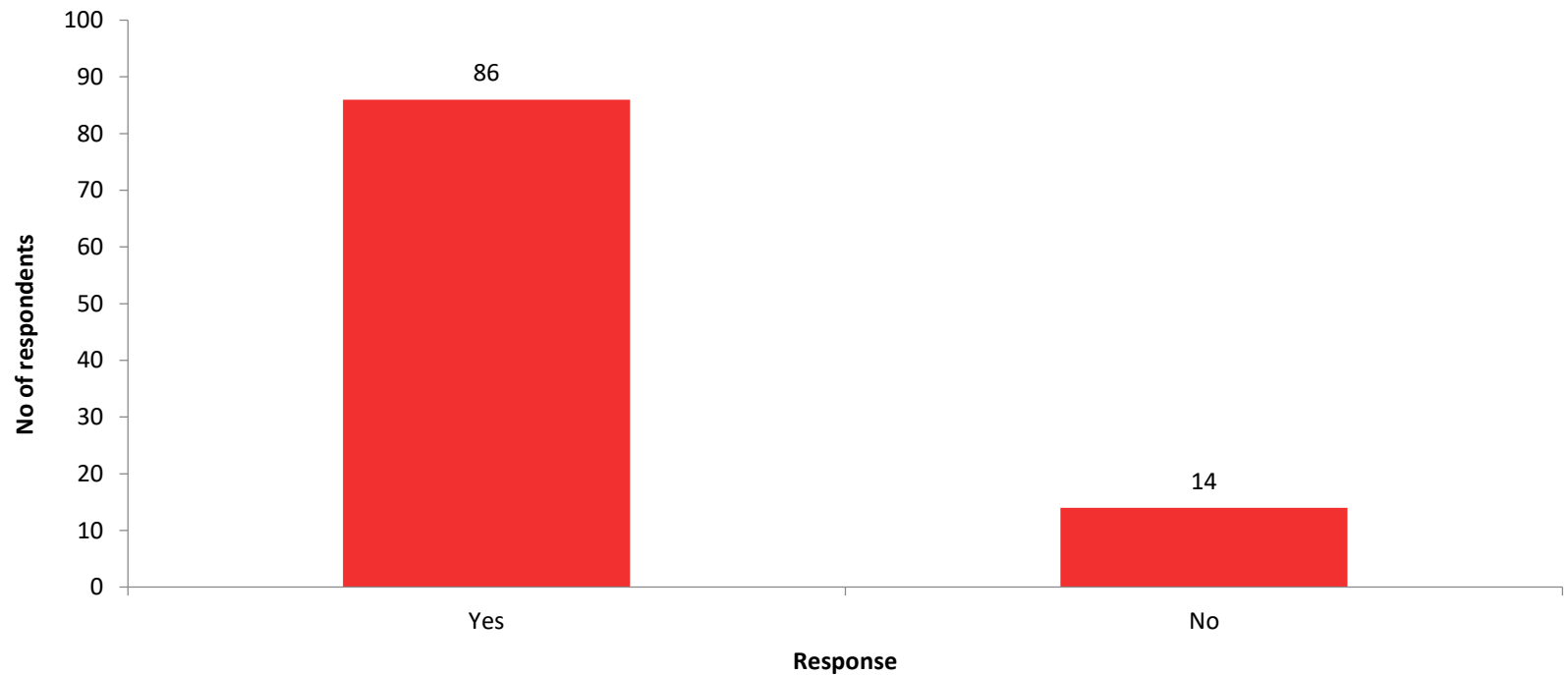
Q2. What institution are you from?



Q3. What is your job title?



Q4. Does your team support systematic reviews conducted by research staff?





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EXTENT OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS SUPPORT PROVIDED

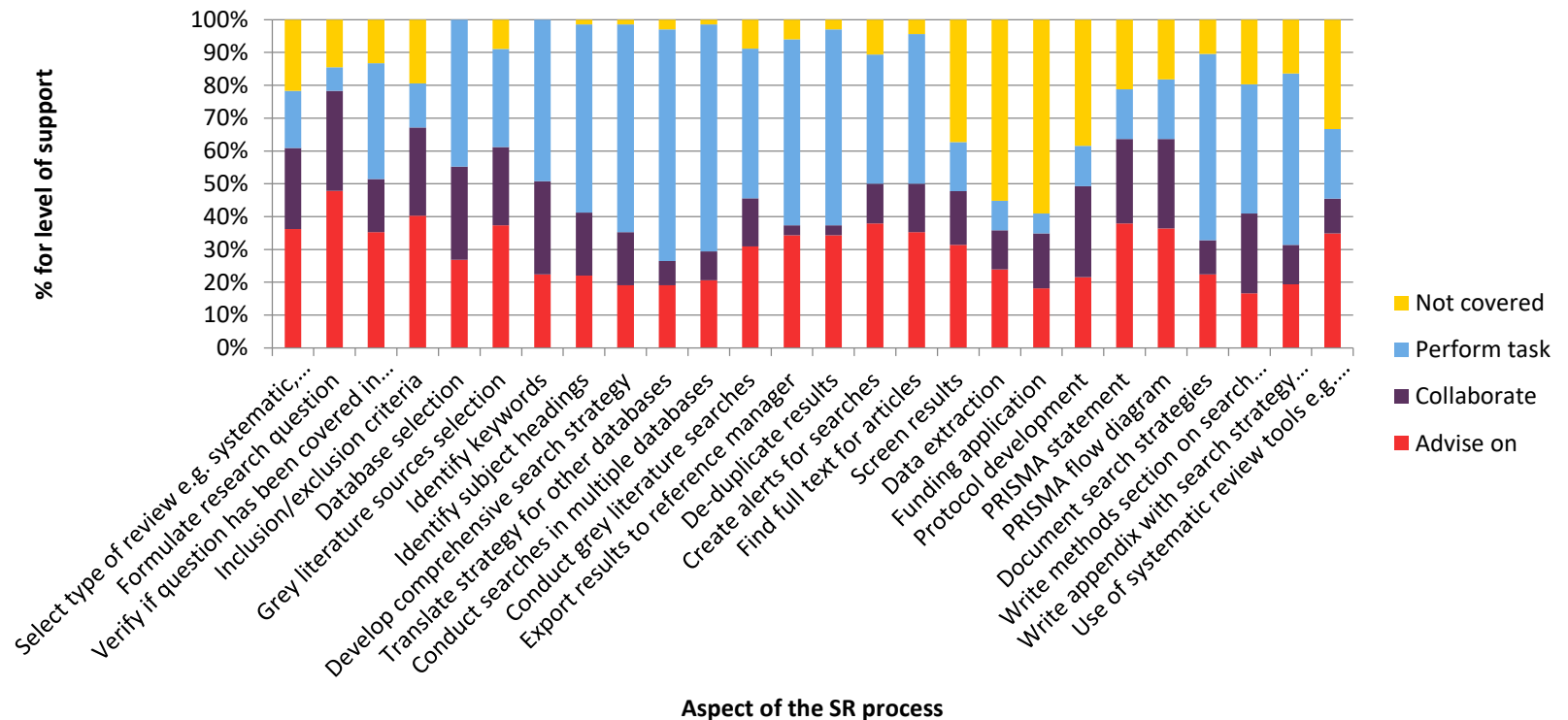
Questions asked:

Q5. Which aspects of the systematic review process does the team provide support for and to what extent?

Q6. How does your team support these stages? Please tick all that apply.

Q7. Does your team provide any online resources to support systematic reviews? Please tick all that apply.

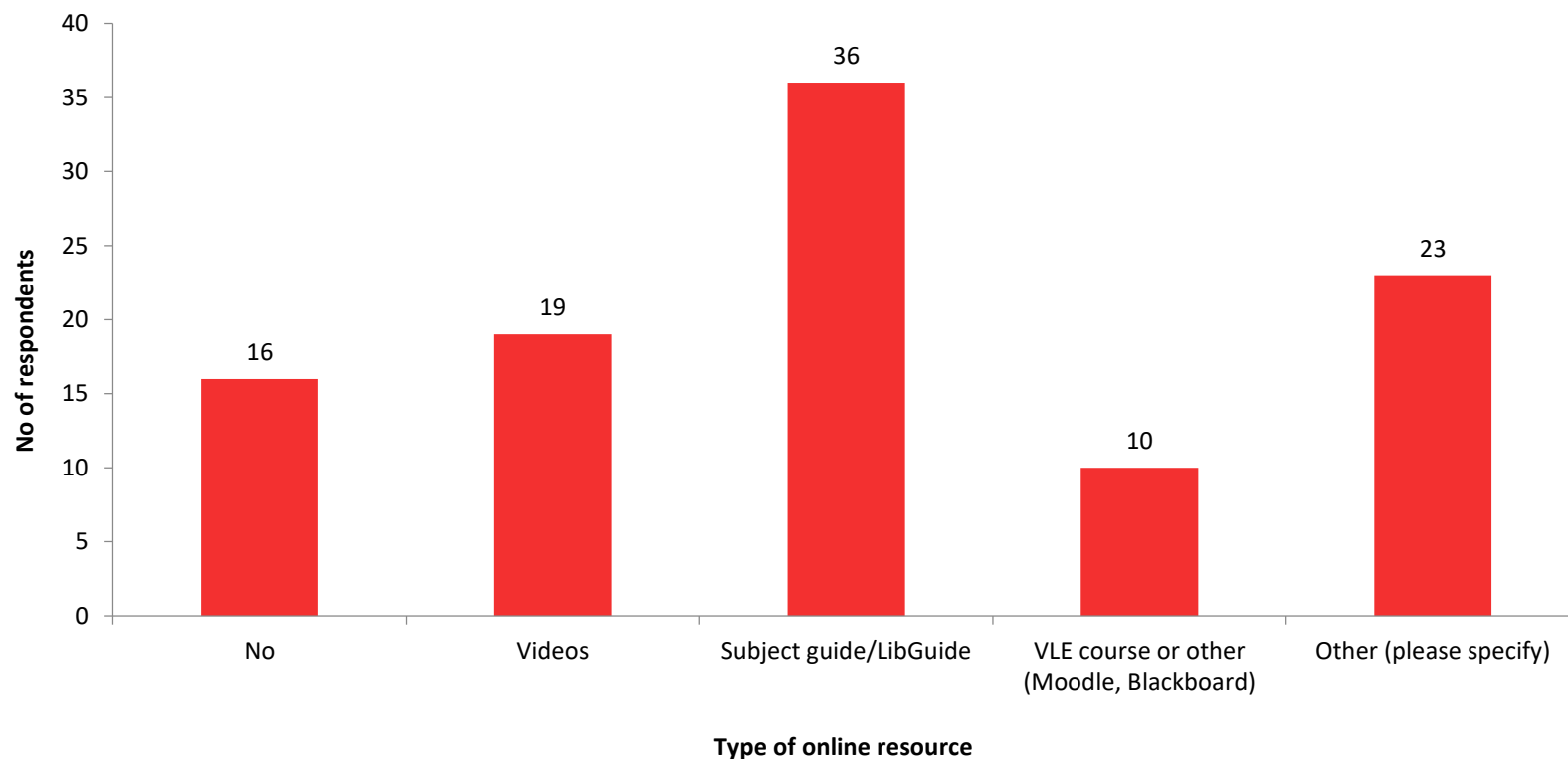
Q5. Which aspects of the systematic review process does the team provide support for and to what extent?



Q6. How does your team support these stages? Please tick all that apply.



Q7. Does your team provide any online resources to support systematic reviews? Please tick all that apply.





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STAFF SUPPORTING SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Questions asked:

Q8. How have team members been trained to support systematic reviews?

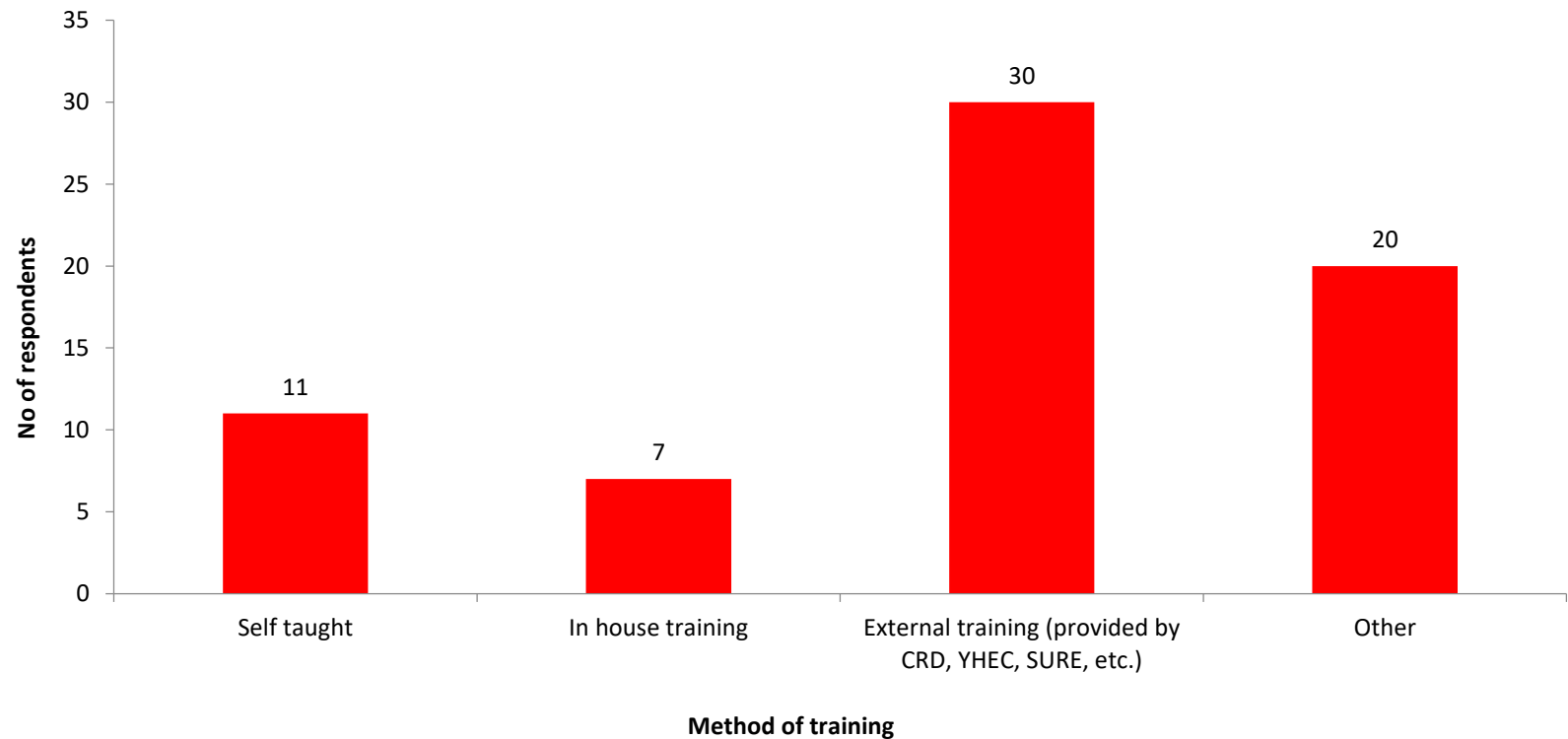
Q9. How many research staff are there in your medical or health department at your institution?

Q10. How many staff does the team have available to support systematic reviews. Please round up.

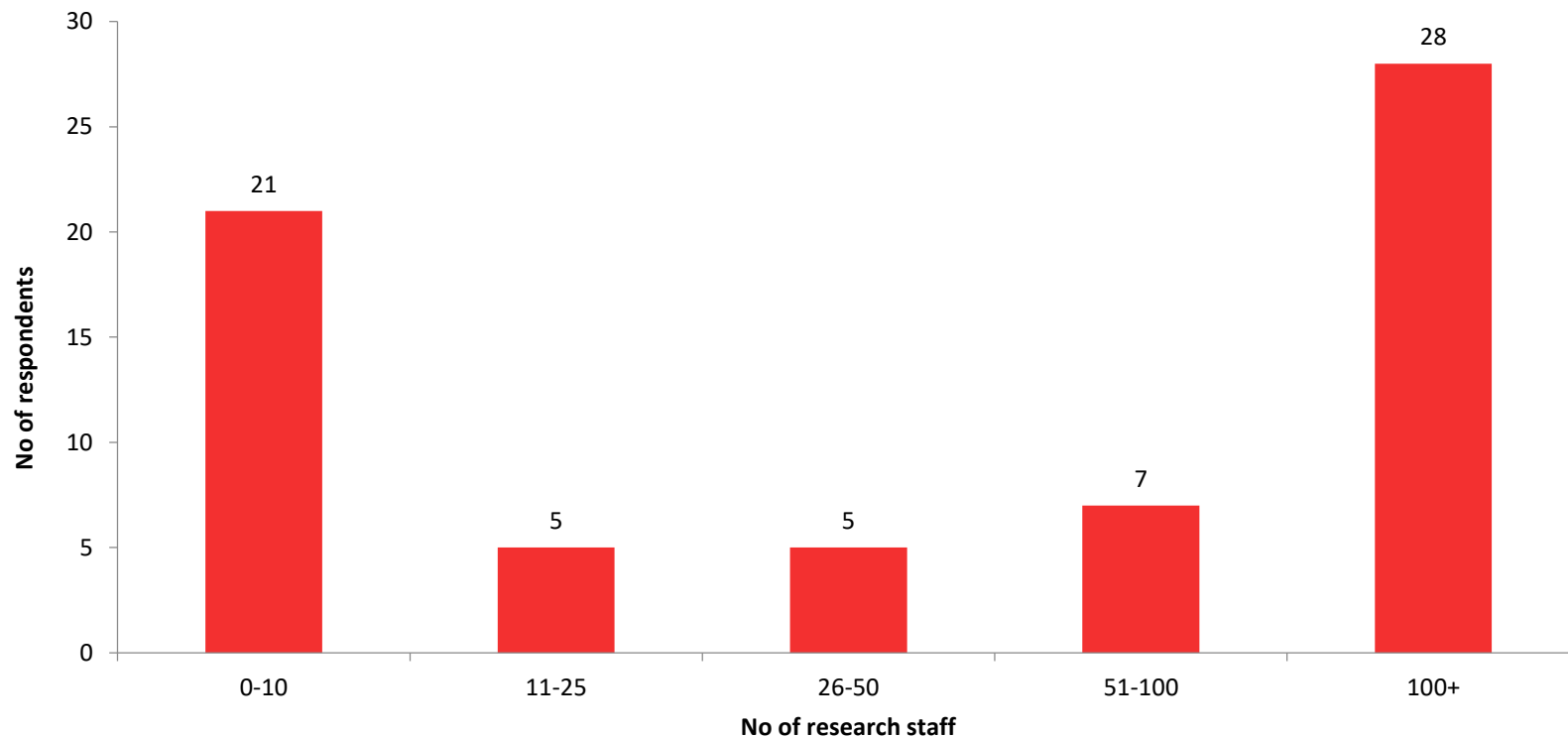
Q11. Is their role solely supporting systematic reviews?

Q12. Approximately what percentage of their role is for supporting systematic reviews?

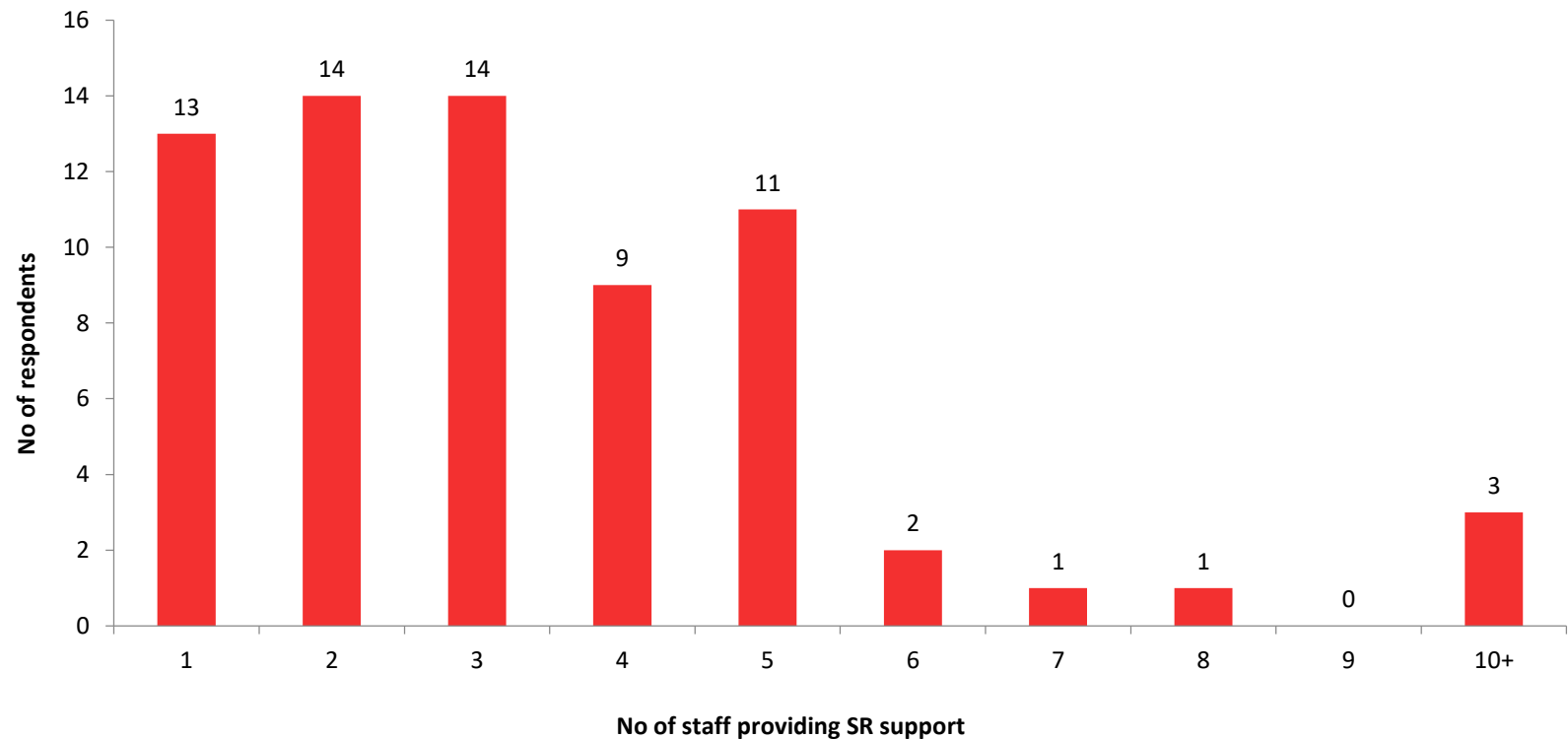
Q8. How have team members been trained to support systematic reviews?



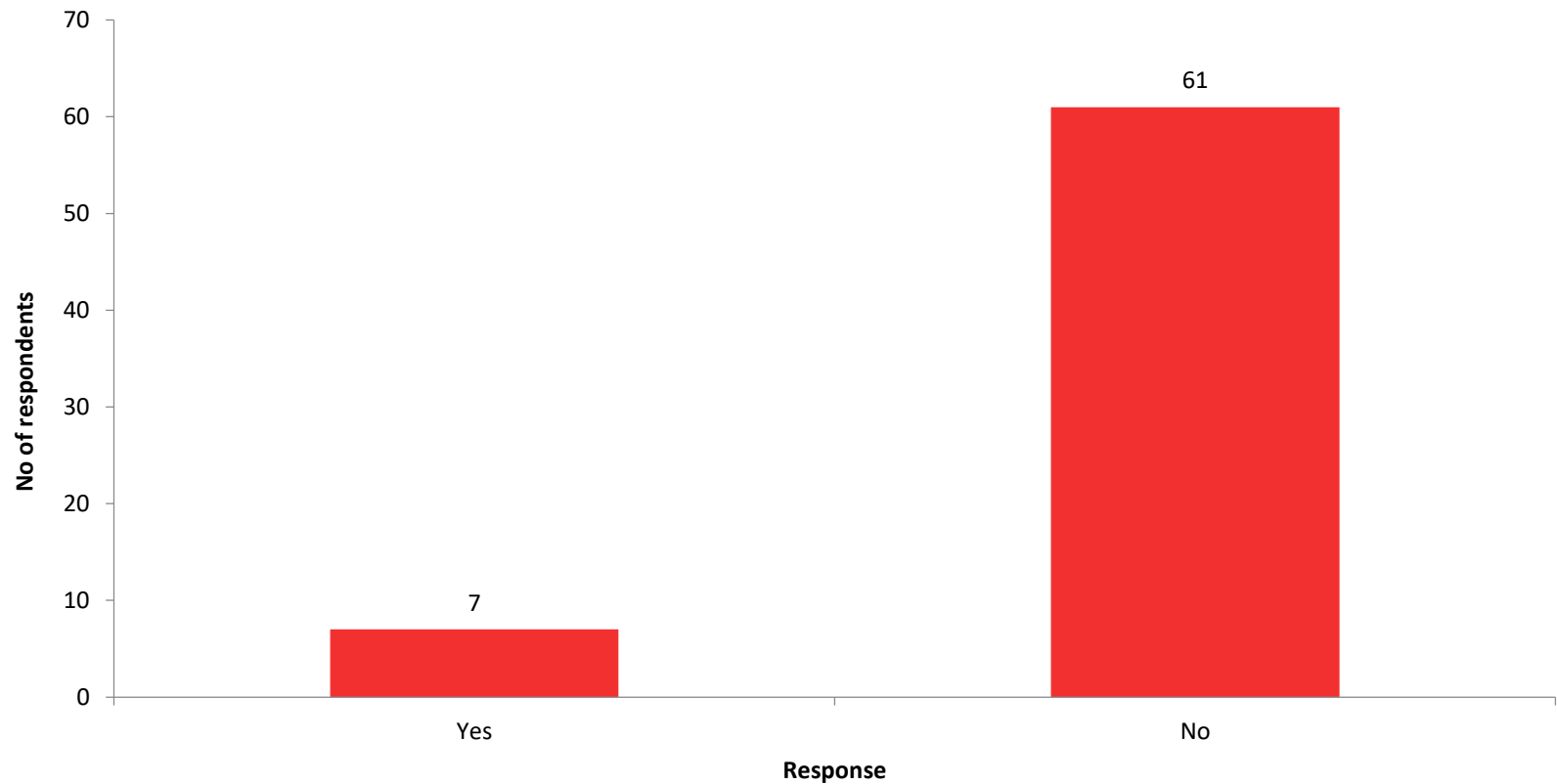
Q9. How many research staff are there in your medical or health department at your institution?



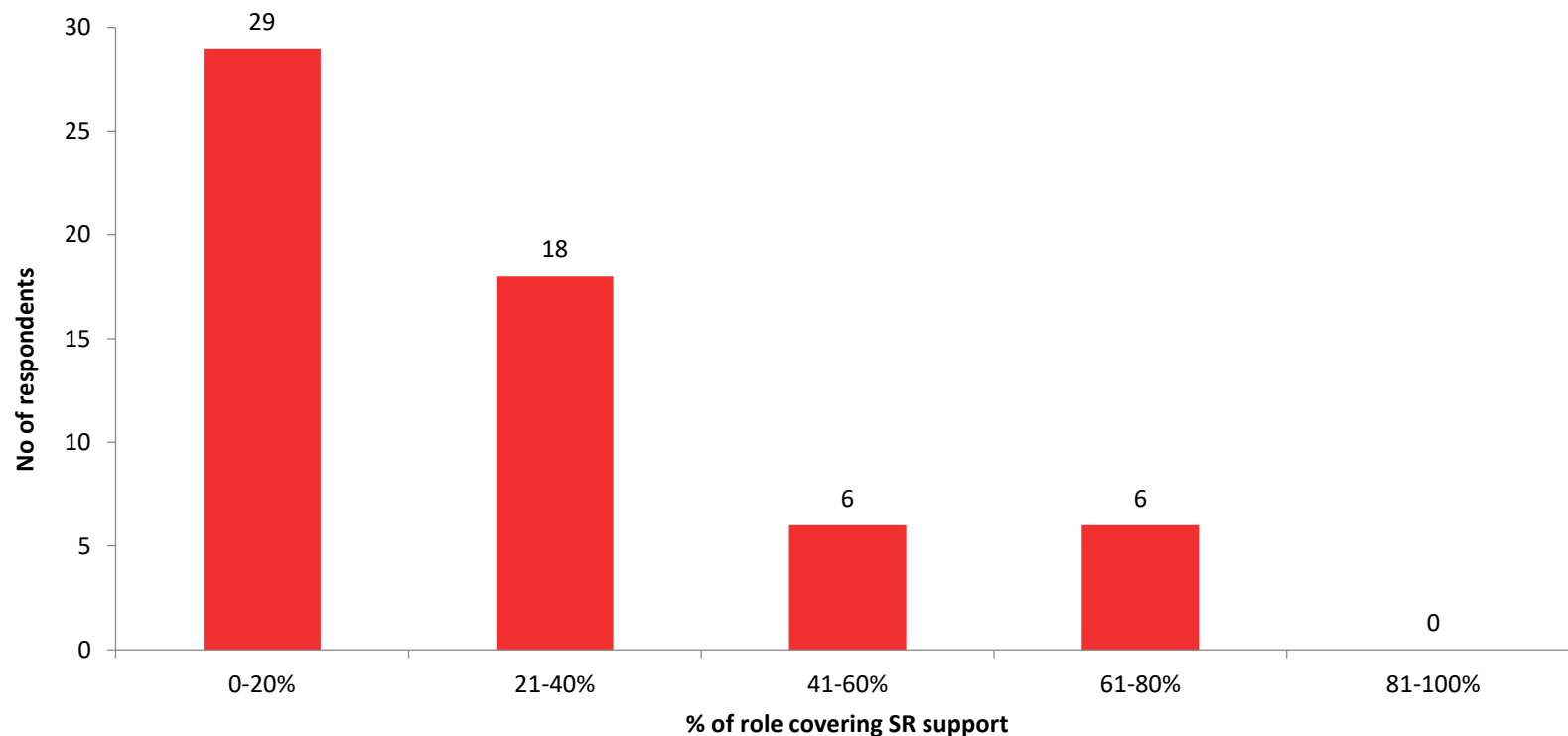
Q10. How many staff does the team have available to support systematic reviews. Please round up.



Q11. Is their role solely supporting systematic reviews?



Q12. Approximately what percentage of their role is for supporting systematic reviews?





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VOLUME OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS SUPPORTED

Questions asked:

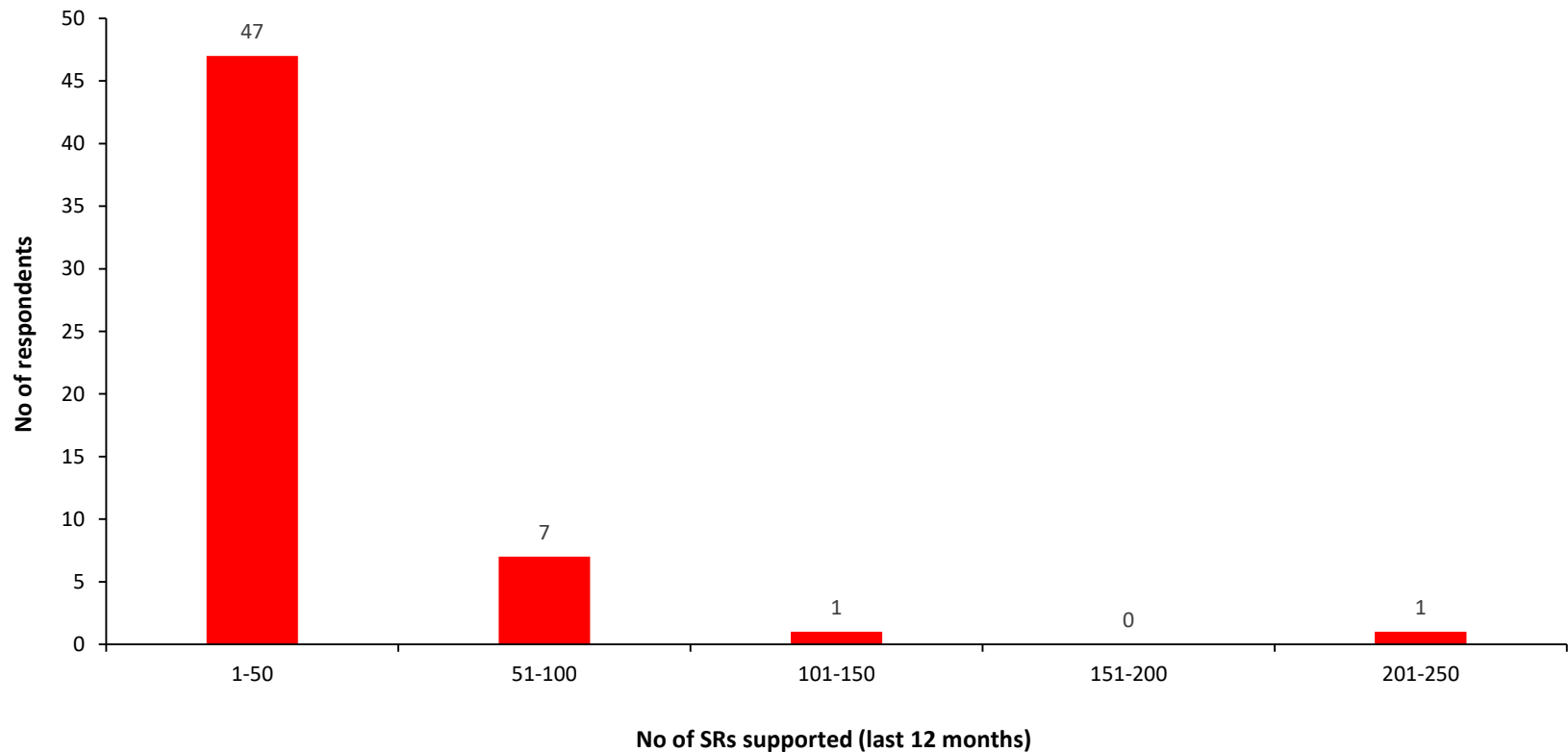
Q13. Approximately, how many systematic reviews has the team supported in the last year?

Q14. Over the last year, for approximately how many systematic reviews have staff been part of the review team?

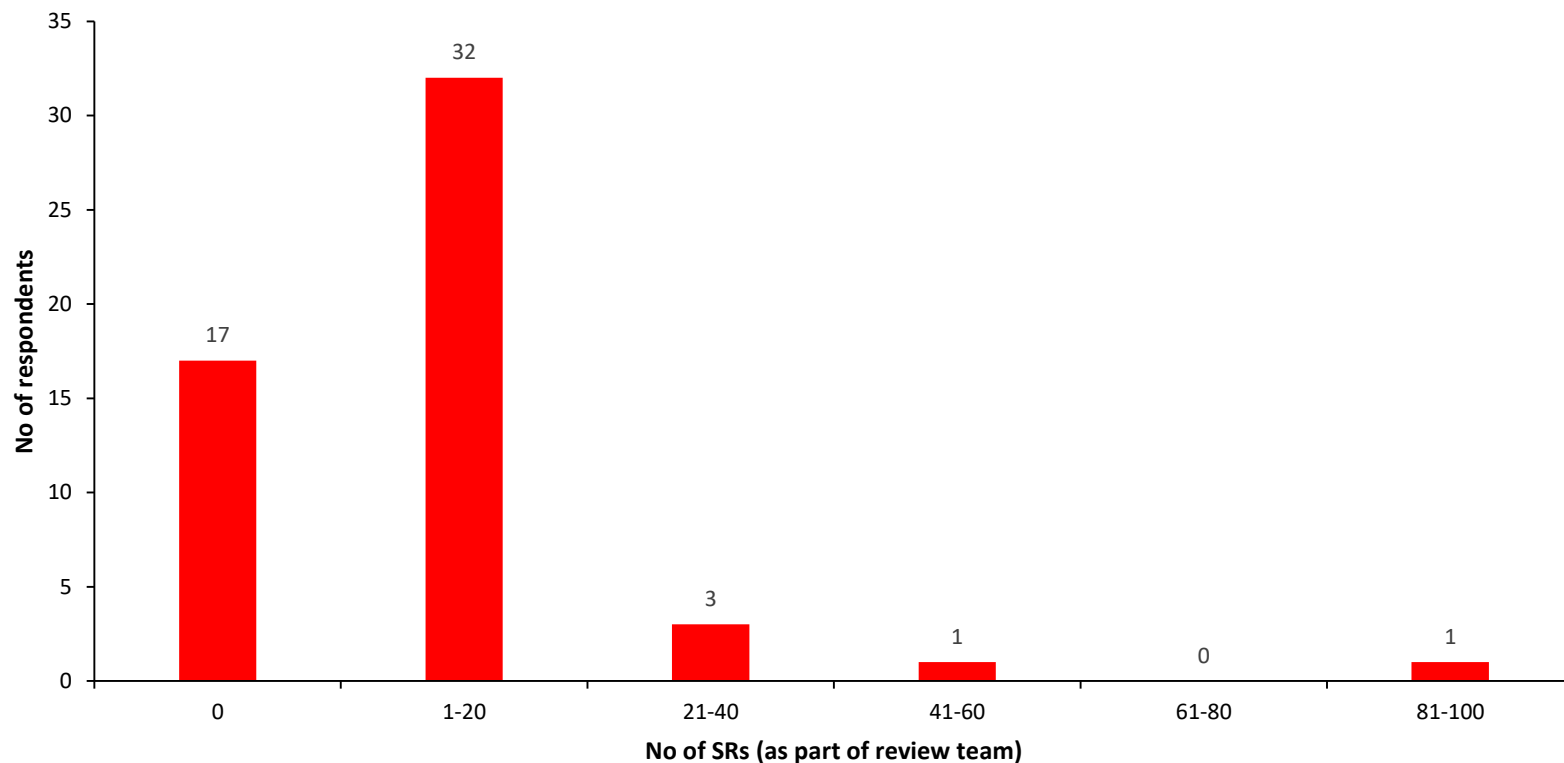
Q15. Over the last year, for how many systematic reviews have staff been co-authors?

Q16. When working as part of the review team, what is the average number of hours spent on each review?

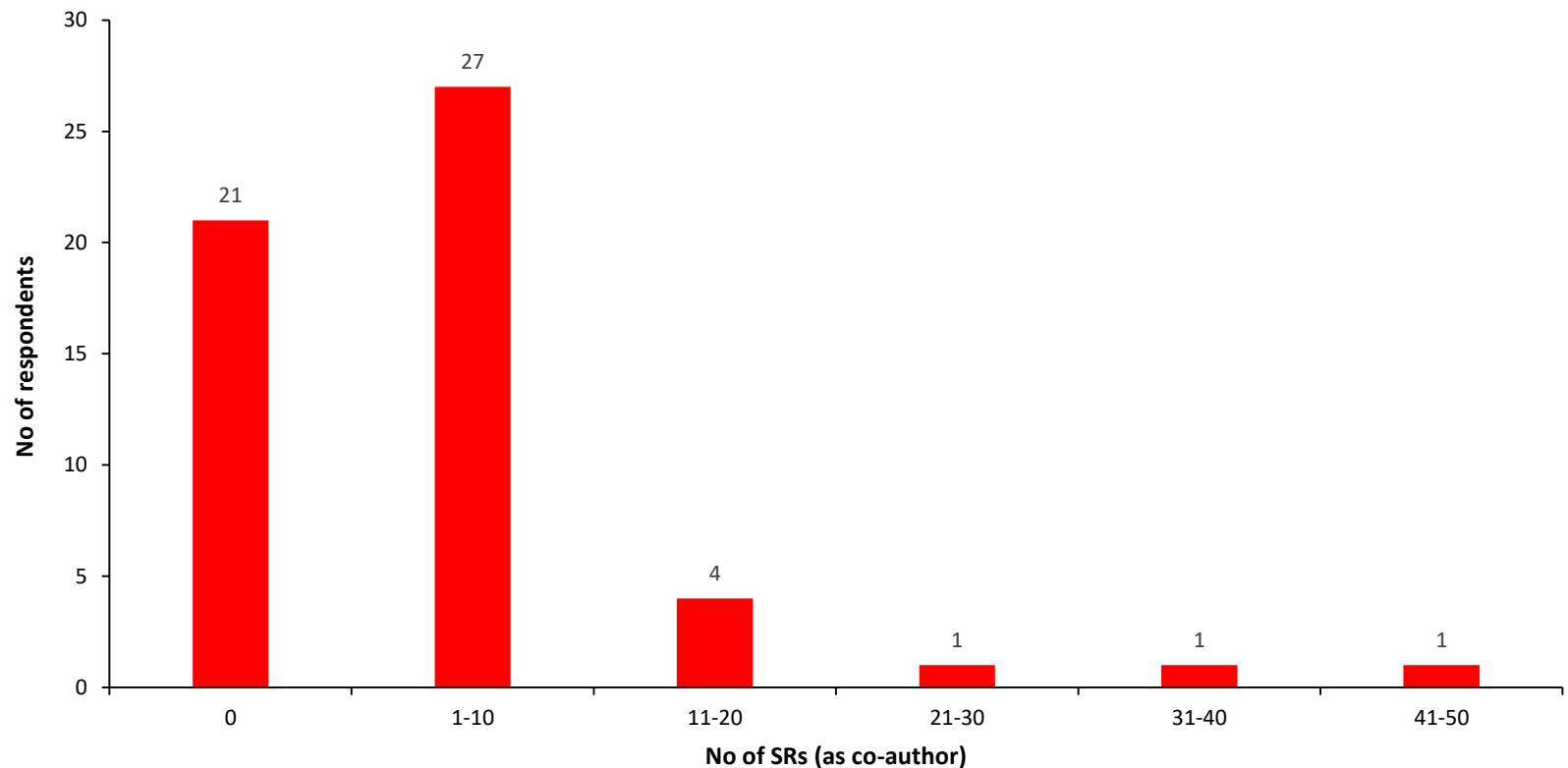
Q13. Approximately, how many systematic reviews has the team supported in the last year?



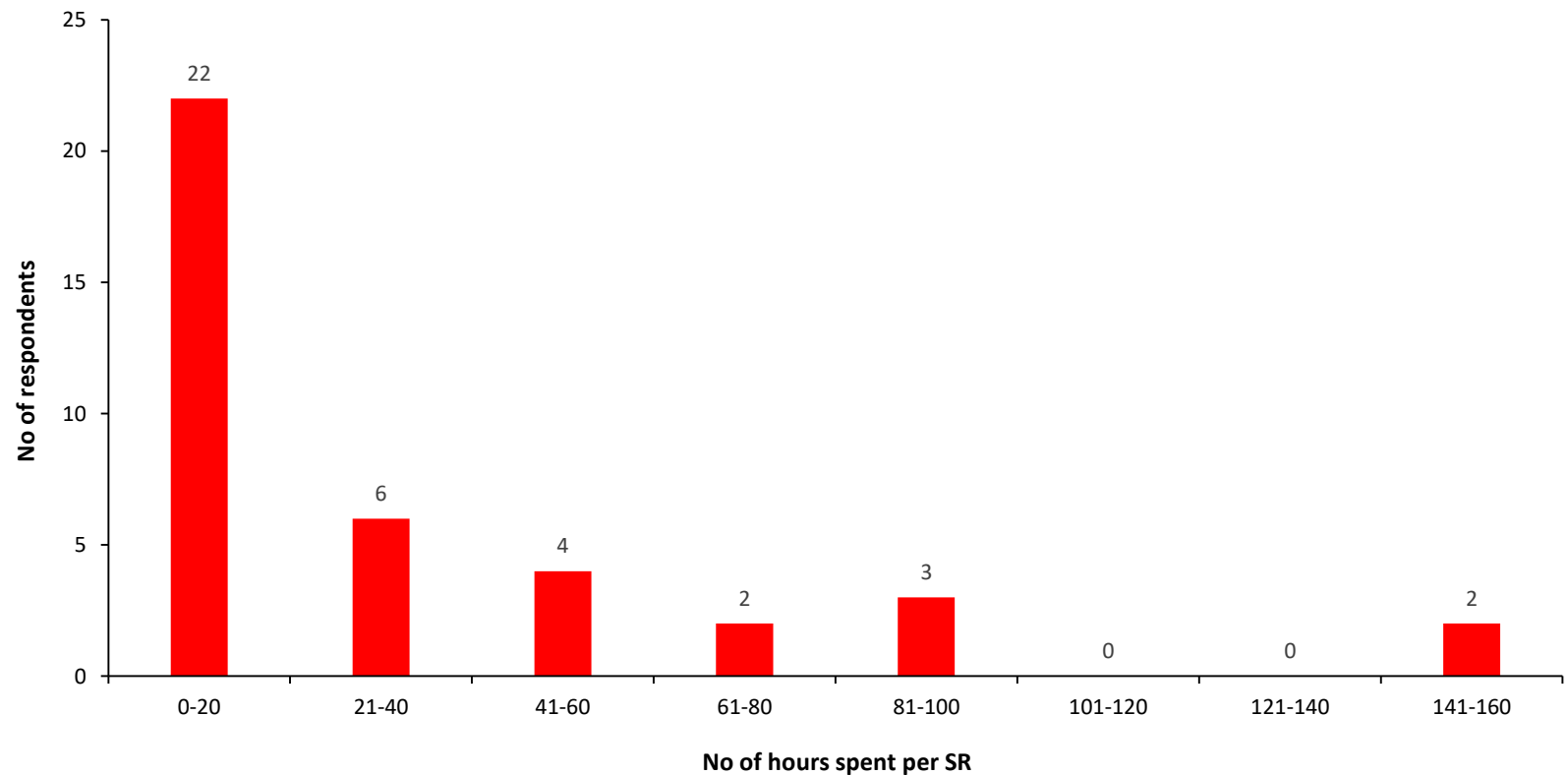
**Q14. Over the last year, for approximately how many
systematic reviews have staff been part of the review team?**



Q15. Over the last year, for how many systematic reviews have staff been co-authors?



Q16. When working as part of the review team, what is the average number of hours spent on each review?





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OTHER ASPECTS OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS SUPPORT

Questions asked:

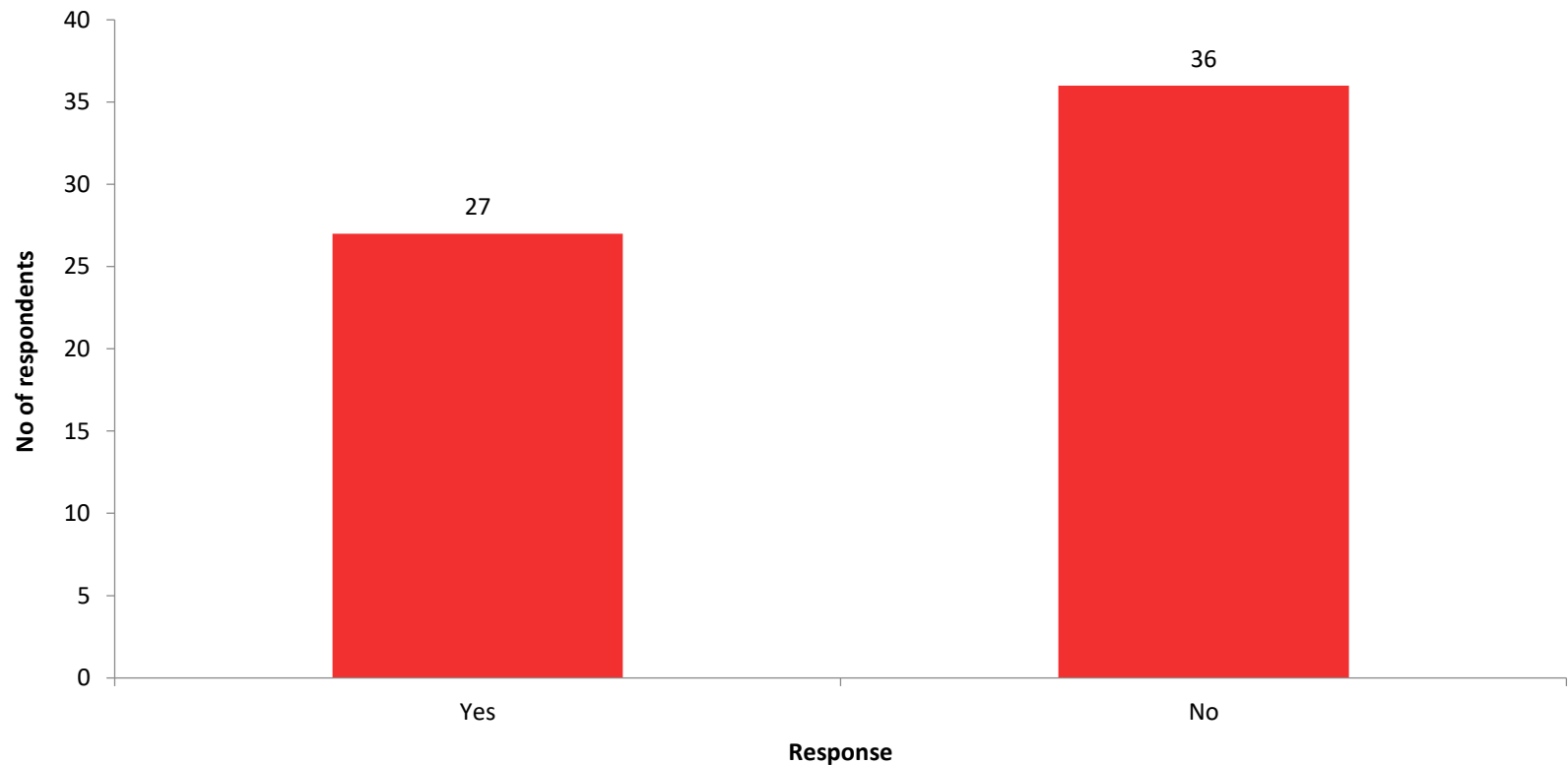
Q17. Does your team provide a formalised systematic reviews service (e.g. actively promoted, guidelines, terms and conditions)?

Q18. Does your team provide systematic reviews support on a cost recovery basis (e.g. you charge)?

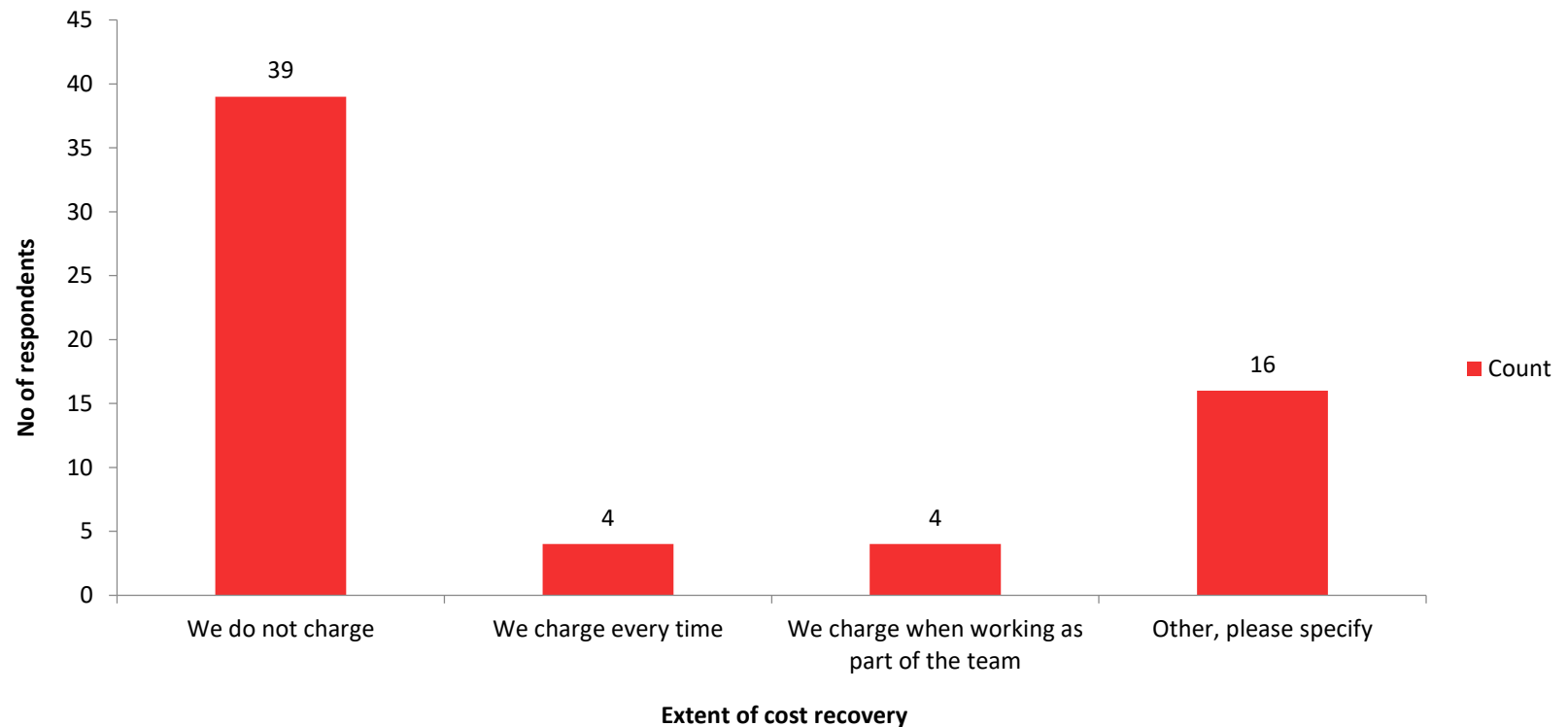
Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

Q20. What are the challenges your team faces with supporting systematic reviews?

Q17. Does your team provide a formalised systematic reviews service?



Q18. Does your team provide systematic reviews support on a cost recovery basis (e.g. you charge)?



Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

1. For the library/team providing this support
2. For the librarians or staff providing this support
3. For the researchers
4. For the institution and the wider world

Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

1. For the library/team providing this support (52 counts)

- Library's profile (17 counts)
 - Raise its profile (10)
 - Increase and demonstrate impact (7)
- Engagement with departments (18 counts)
 - Increase engagement (6)
 - Librarians collaborate as peers on research projects (12)
- Knowledge and understanding (15 counts)
 - Improve subject knowledge (2)
 - Increase understanding of researchers' needs (8)
 - Improve teaching (5)
- Additional income (2 counts)

Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

2. For the librarians or staff providing this support (60 counts)

- Job satisfaction (15 counts)
 - Increase job satisfaction (7)
 - Work feels meaningful (3)
 - Work is interesting and challenging (5)
- Expertise (30 counts)
 - Develop skills and expertise (21)
 - Use expertise (7)
 - Keep up to date (2)
- Recognition (15 counts)
 - Co-authorship (10)
 - Recognition of role and expertise (5)

Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

3. For the researchers (16 counts)

- Better supported with their research (12)
- Improve knowledge and skills (4)

4. For the institution and the wider world (33 counts)

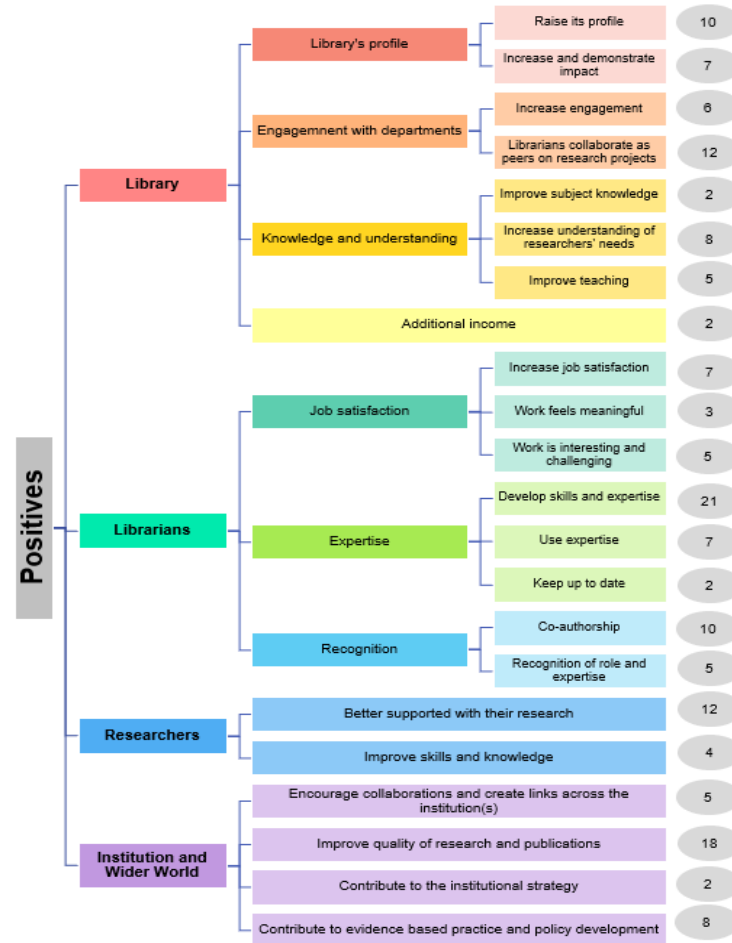
- Encourage collaboration/links across the institution (5)
- Improve quality of research and publications (18)
- Contribute to the institutional strategy (2)
- Contribute to evidence-based practice and policy development (18)

Q19. What are the positives of supporting systematic reviews?

Most frequently mentioned positives:

- Staff develop skills and expertise (21)
- Improve the quality of research and publications (18)
- Researchers are better supported (12)
- Librarians collaborate as peers (12)
- Co-authorship (10)
- Raise the Library's profile (10)

Measuring the systematic reviews support provided at other HE institutions



Q20. What are the challenges your team faces with supporting systematic reviews?

1. The systematic review service
2. Resources/capacity
3. The review team
4. Managing expectations
5. Keeping up to date (methods, search interfaces, technology)

Q20. What are the challenges your team faces with supporting systematic reviews?

1. The systematic review service (32 counts)

- Dealing with demand (11)
- Not visible in the institution (2)
- Managing the service (11)
- Juggling other responsibilities (8)

2. Resources/Capacity (51 counts)

- Lack of capacity (34)
- Lack of systematic reviews service (9)
- Imposter syndrome (3)
- Lack of subject knowledge (2)
- Lack of access to databases, software (3)

Q20. What are the challenges your team faces with supporting systematic reviews?

3. The review team (25 counts)

- Delays in projects (3)
- Little understanding of systematic reviews methods (8)
- Lack of funding (4)
- Poor collaborating relationships (6)
- Lack of recognition (acknowledgement/authorship) (4)

4. Managing expectations (18 counts)

- Unrealistic expectations (time/skills required) (7)
- Expect more than what is offered (advice/doing the work) (4)
- Saying 'no' (4)
- Unsuitable search platforms (3)

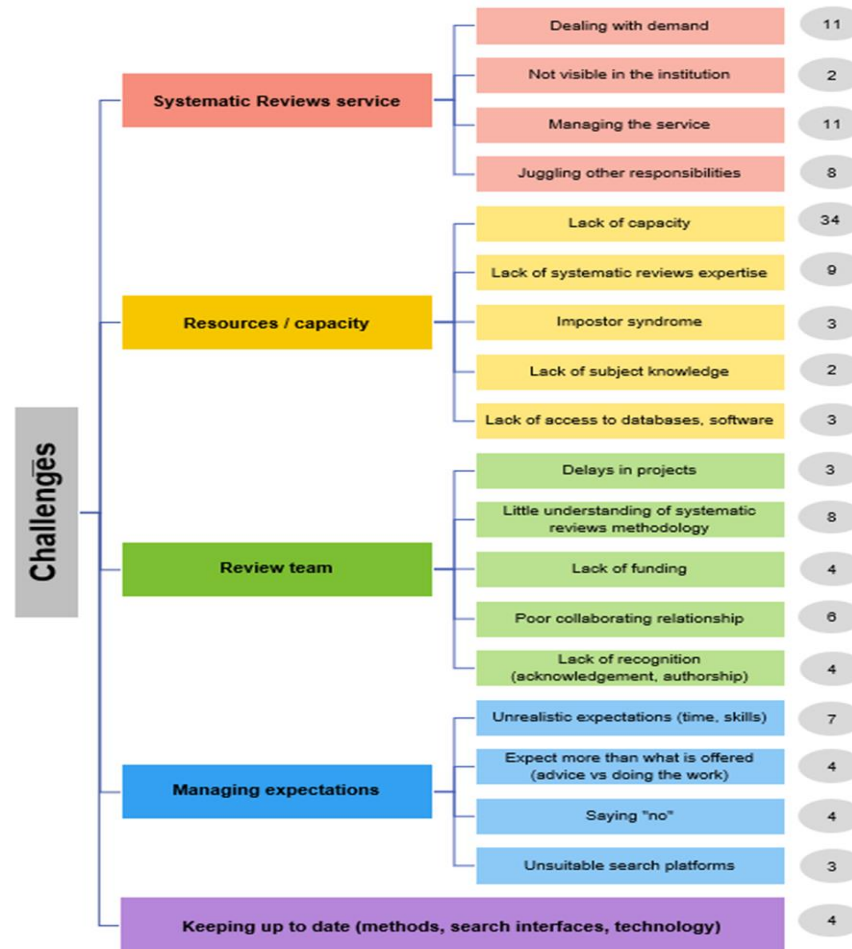
5. Keeping up to date (methods, search interfaces, technology) (4)

Q20. What are the challenges your team faces with supporting systematic reviews?

Most frequently mentioned challenges:

- Lack of capacity (34)
- Dealing with demand (11)
- Managing the service (11)
- Lack of systematic reviews expertise (9)
- Juggling other responsibilities (8)
- Little understanding of systematic reviews methods from the review team (8)

Measuring the systematic reviews support provided at other HE institutions



What now?

- Now developing a formal systematic review service
- Focus on advice/feedback rather than ‘hands on’
- Offering individual/group training to upskill researchers
- Extend support to different types of review e.g. rapid/mapping
- Creating a review protocol form for requests
- Providing educational resources e.g. links to protocols/standards – plan to develop online resources
- Potential reshaping of roles to support systematic reviews