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A Roadmap for Relocation: Surveying Research Behavior for Offsite Storage Decisions

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Introduction

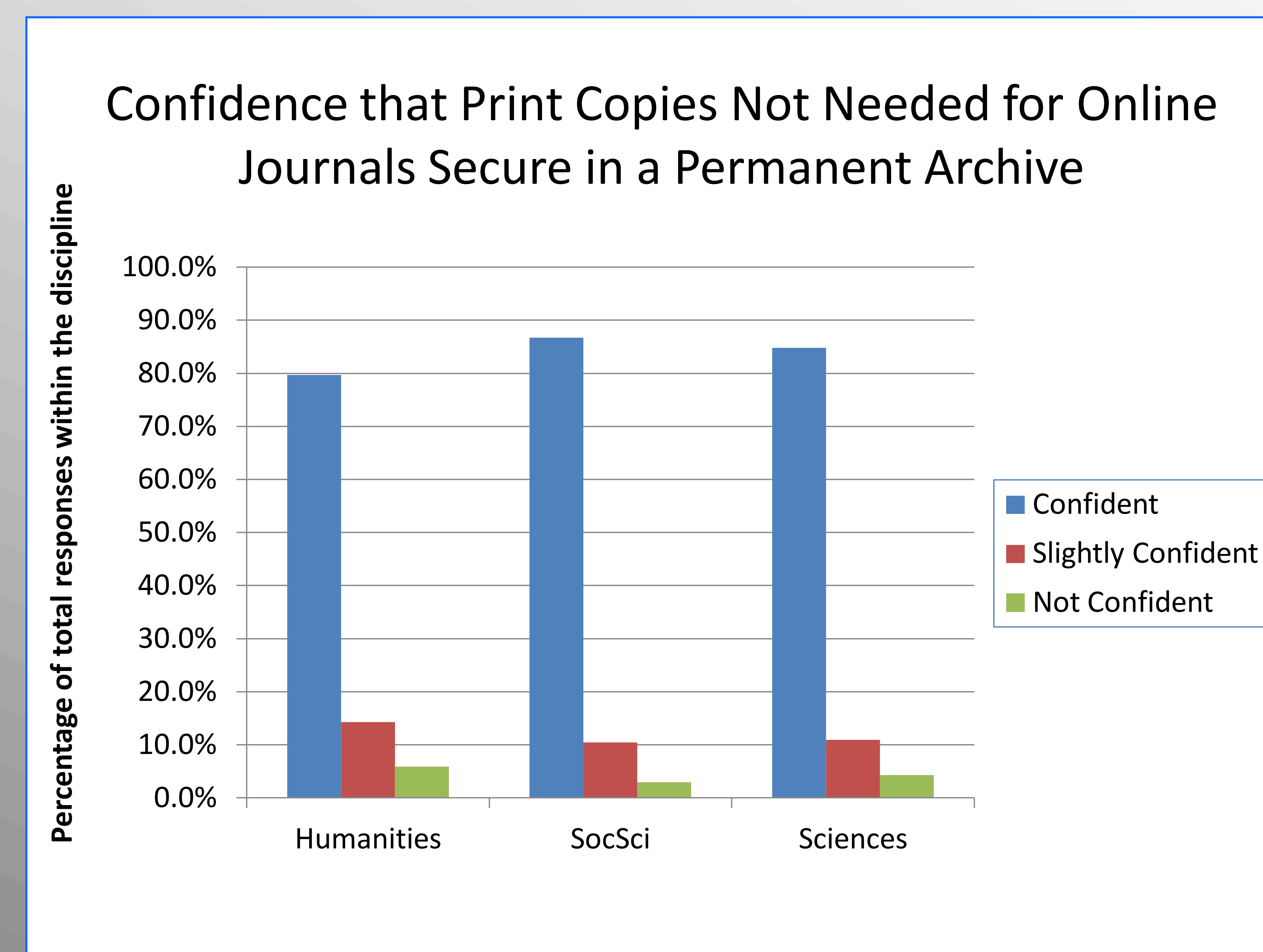
The UC Santa Barbara Library faced a major challenge in 2012 when it was determined that the collection of 700,000 volumes in the library's central tower had to be permanently reduced by 20 percent because of seismic retrofitting. The library surveyed faculty and graduate students to determine what to move offsite and how best to mitigate the effects of the relocation.

Steps Taken

- The Executive Vice Chancellor sent a letter to faculty announcing the start of a consultative process between the library and faculty to address the challenge.
- The UL convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Library Space Planning, consisting of faculty and student representatives nominated by academic deans and the Academic Senate.
- Consulting with the committee, a library team worked with the UCSB Social Science Survey Center to create the survey.
- The team used the survey results to develop strategies for offsite storage.
- The committee evaluated the strategies to ensure consistency with the survey results.

Key Survey Outcomes

- High confidence that for online journals, print versions are not needed onsite
- Strong willingness to wait for retrieval of needed books from offsite
- With enhancements to catalog records (such as tables of contents), lower need for books to be onsite
- Significant differences between humanities, social sciences, and sciences in browsing, in-library use of books, use of print books even with online availability, and use of older books.

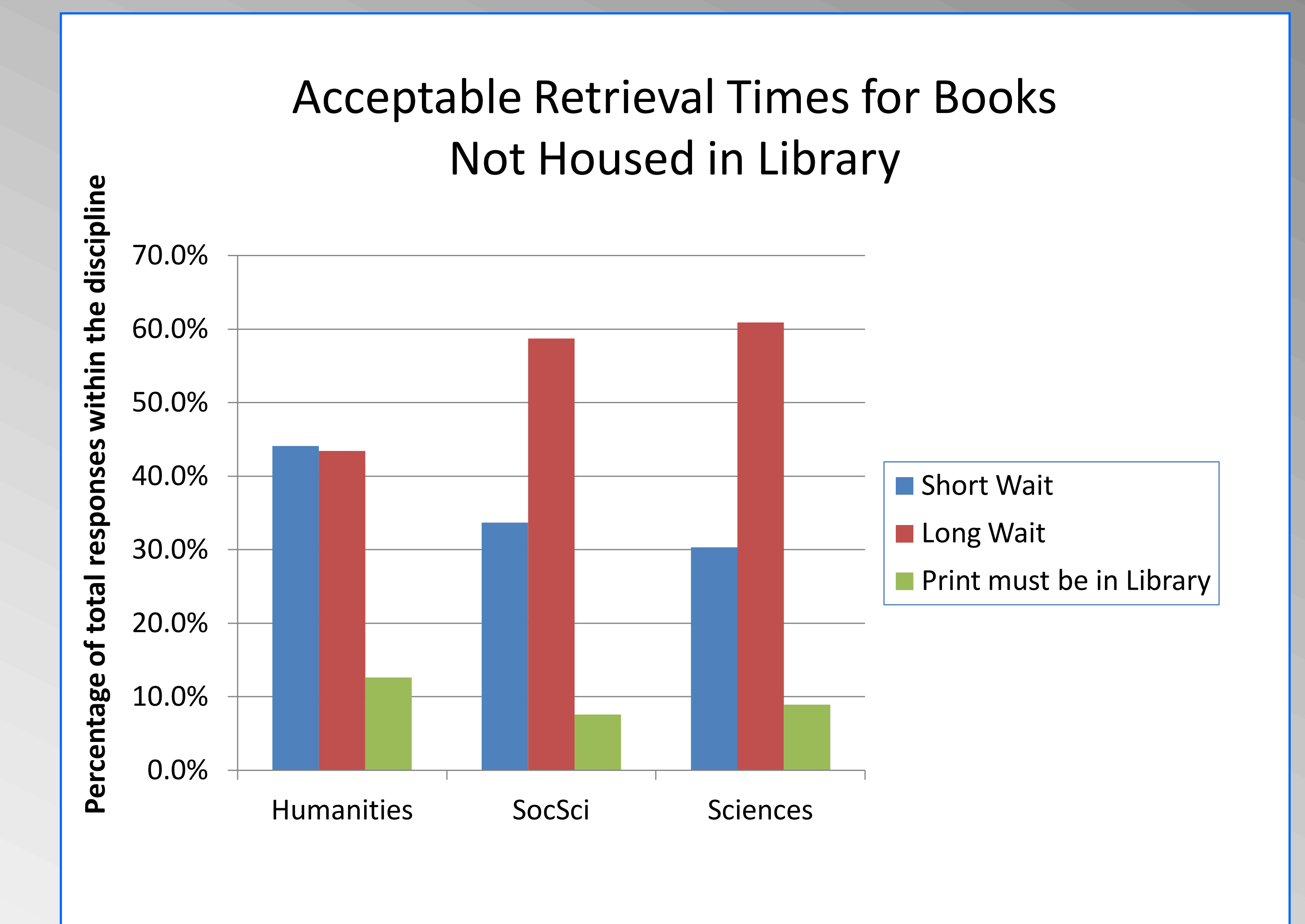
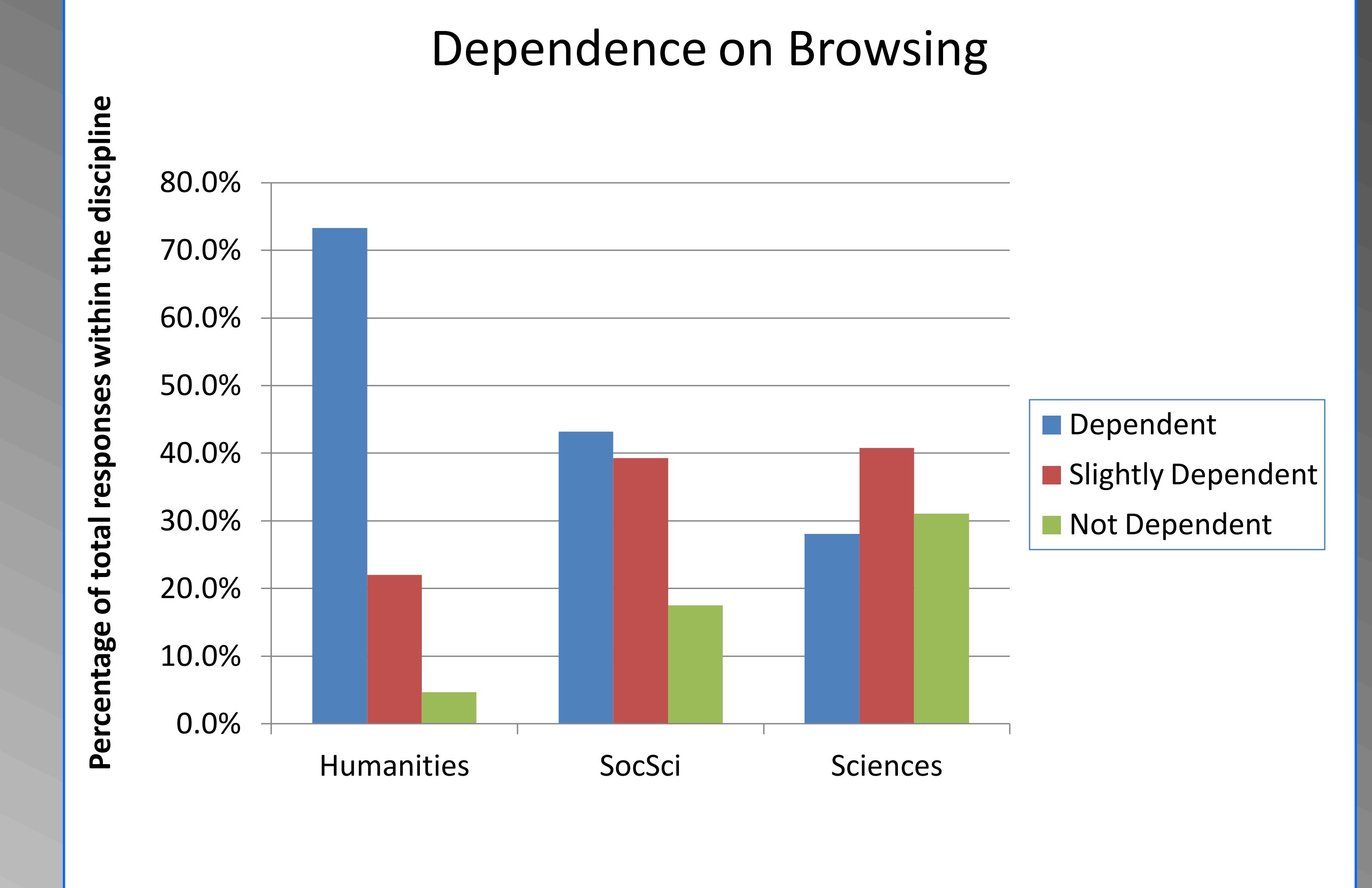


Strategies for Offsite Storage Selection

- Relocate to local offsite storage print volumes of journals that the library has cancelled in print but provides access to online.
- Relocate or withdraw selected print journals for which access and preservation are secure in a permanent and persistent archive such as JSTOR.
- Relocate to local offsite storage selected, previously cancelled journal titles.
- Relocate to local offsite storage selected older editions of books for which the library holds more recent editions, in disciplines where fewer than 20 percent of respondents said that these are important for their research and teaching.
- Relocate to local offsite storage selected non-English books in disciplines where fewer than 20 percent of respondents said that these are important for their research and teaching.
- Relocate to offsite storage selected older books; for example, selected titles published more than twenty years ago that have not circulated in over ten years.



Library Collection Space Planning Initiative



Conclusion

- With high rate of survey response, UCSB faculty and students provided reliable information about how they access and use library collections.
- Outcomes, validated by the Advisory Committee, have yielded the best available strategies for meeting the Library's necessary onsite collection reduction targets with the least impact on research and teaching.
- With disciplinary differences taken into account, the six strategies form a sound basis for shaping collection access, for both short time and long term needs.