CKGs: Enhancing Library Collections & Services and Evolving for the Future

UC Libraries Forum
October 29, 2021

Julia Gelfand (UCI), Cory Craig (UCD), Michele Potter (UCR)

Land Acknowledgement Statements

UC Irvine: The University of California, Irvine is located on the ancestral homelands of the Tongva and Acjachemen nations. However, land acknowledgments are just a first step in meaningful and lasting allyship with our local Native communities, and remain hollow without concrete actions to back them up. Below are some resources and information on different ways to learn about and support the Tongva and Acjachemen.

UC Davis: We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

UC Riverside: We at UCR would like to respectfully acknowledge and recognize our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Cahuilla [ka-weeahh], Tongva [tong-va], Luiseño [loo-say-ngo], and Serrano [se-ran-oh] peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. Today this meeting place is home to many Indigenous peoples from all over the world, including UCR faculty, students, and staff, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these homelands.

Presentation Outline

- CKGs: Background and Overview — Julia
- Survey: Development, Logistics, Results — Cory
- Key Ideas and Directions — Michele
- Discussion & Feedback — Attendees

Any Questions or Comments during the presentation: please post in Chat! Will address in Discussion

Background of Common Knowledge Groups (CKGs)

- Common Knowledge Groups (CKGs) are self-organized standing groups of experts or pioneers in areas of interest to the University of California Libraries (UCL)
- Adopted by the California Digital Library (CDL) in 2013 to

  "foster innovation by providing a venue for staff across campuses & from various levels to exchange ideas and collaborate on systemwide initiatives at the "Service Envisioning" stage."

  Intended for where "new ideas for new services or improvements to existing services are generated and shared."

Contributions of Common Knowledge Groups

- CKGs support spirit of diversity and inclusion
- Subject agnostic but covering all areas/formats of content
- Play role in CDL governance structure
- Training & professional development
- Promote systemwide goals, i.e., Open Access, Resource Sharing, Transformative Agreements, eScholarship repository
- Networking & community building

Evolution of CKGs & motivation for this survey

- Currently 43 CKGs are registered; 20 are subject-based; remainder are driven by functional roles; one CKG includes Stanford
- 25 Bibliographer or Subject Group CKGs have transitioned through birth, merger, and been phased out over time
- Subject diversified – promotes multi/interdisciplinary intersections; covers all areas/formats of content
- Better understanding of systemwide goals; reinforces concept of consortia
- All about resource sharing and accompanying services; building on strengths
- Ongoing development and promotion of efficiencies

Subject-based CKGs

African Studies	Health & Life Sciences (HLS)
Art & Architecture	Latin American Studies
British / U.S. History and Gender Studies	Law
Digital Humanities	Maps & Geospatial Data
East Asian Studies	Middle East Studies
Education	Music
English and American Literature	Performing Arts and Media Studies
Ethnic Studies	Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)
European History, Languages & Literature	Reference
Government Information	Social Sciences

Organizational culture of CKGs

- For those that meet regularly: meet online 4-6x year, via zoom or other remote options, for last 10 years or so; occasionally more often when collection decisions come up
- Part of the CDL Structure – reports to DOC; bottom up from campus level
- Provides input to campus library administration & CDL about subject related collections & potential investments
- Introduces new librarians to colleagues who share job responsibilities; mentors early career librarians; provides an understanding about CDL's eResource Acquisitions & Shared Cataloging teams @ UCSD
- Reinforces staffing & processing efficiencies; reduces costs & replication of activities such as troubleshooting access problems with a single method of communication

Values, goals & practices of CKGs

- Focuses on UC
- Reflects latest trends in OA, SCOMM, shared print, resource sharing, licensing & transformative agreements, institutional repository
- Promotes shared governance model; rotating leadership; documents actions
- Enhances diversity, inclusion, equity, social justice in resources
- Builds trust, advisory & transparent actions
- Fosters innovation
- Encourages networking, collegiality, friendships & community building
- Stages future planning

Survey: Development, Logistics, Results

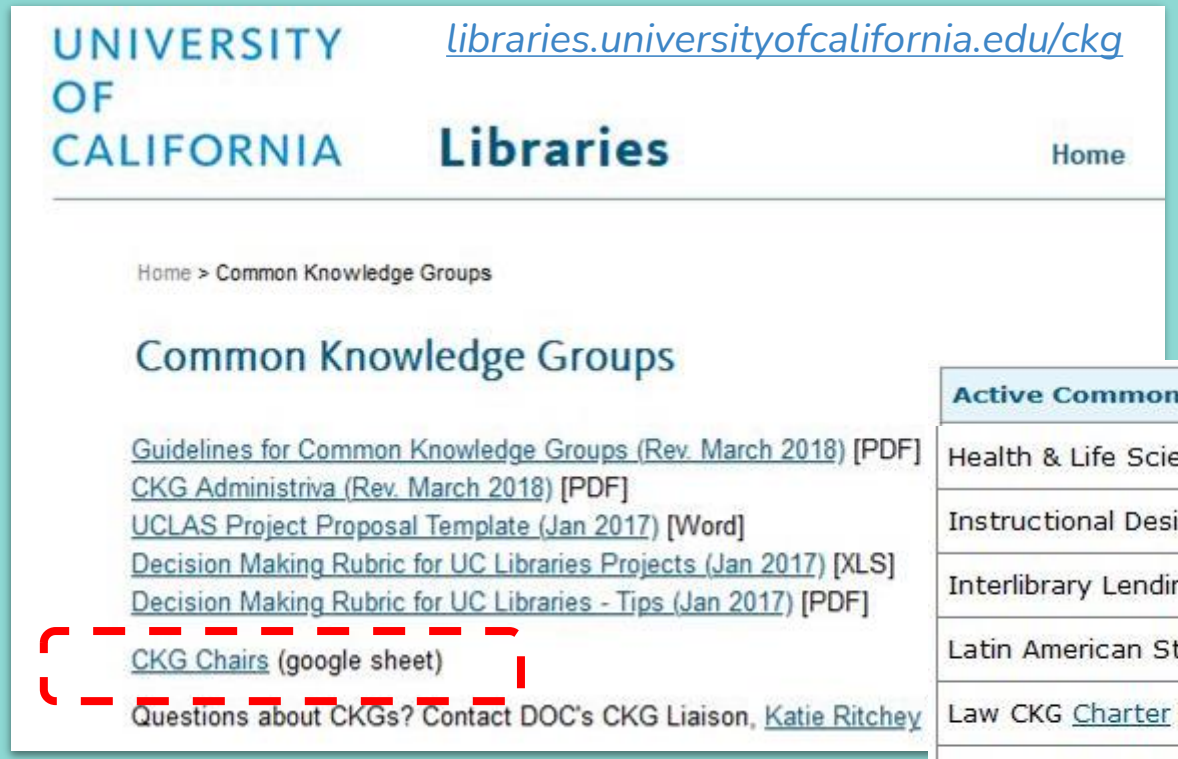
SURVEY: development, logistics, results

- **Question Development**
- **Survey Logistics**
- **Survey Results**

Survey questions & these slides available here:

- https://tinyurl.com/UCCKG
- anonymized data available upon request

SURVEY: Question development


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Libraries

libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/ckg

Home

Home > Common Knowledge Groups

Common Knowledge Groups

Guidelines for Common Knowledge Groups (Rev. March 2018) [PDF]
CKG Administriva (Rev. March 2018) [PDF]
UCLAS Project Proposal Template (Jan 2017) [Word]
Decision Making Rubric for UC Libraries Projects (Jan 2017) [XLS]
Decision Making Rubric for UC Libraries - Tips (Jan 2017) [PDF]
CKG Chairs (google sheet)

Questions about CKGs? Contact DOC's CKG Liaison, Katie Ritchey

CKG charters articulate:

- context, scope of work
- key expectations

Survey Questions:

- based on key functions ID'd in charters

Active Common Knowledge Group (CKGs)	Public Workspace
Health & Life Sciences CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Instructional Design CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Interlibrary Lending CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Latin American Studies Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Law CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Maps & Geospatial Data CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Middle East Studies CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Music CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Performing Arts and Media Studies CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace
Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE) CKG Charter [PDF]	Workspace

SURVEY: Subject-based CKGs

African Studies	Health & Life Sciences (HLS)
Art & Architecture	Latin American Studies
British / U.S. History and Gender Studies	Law
Digital Humanities	Maps & Geospatial Data
East Asian Studies	Middle East Studies
Education	Music
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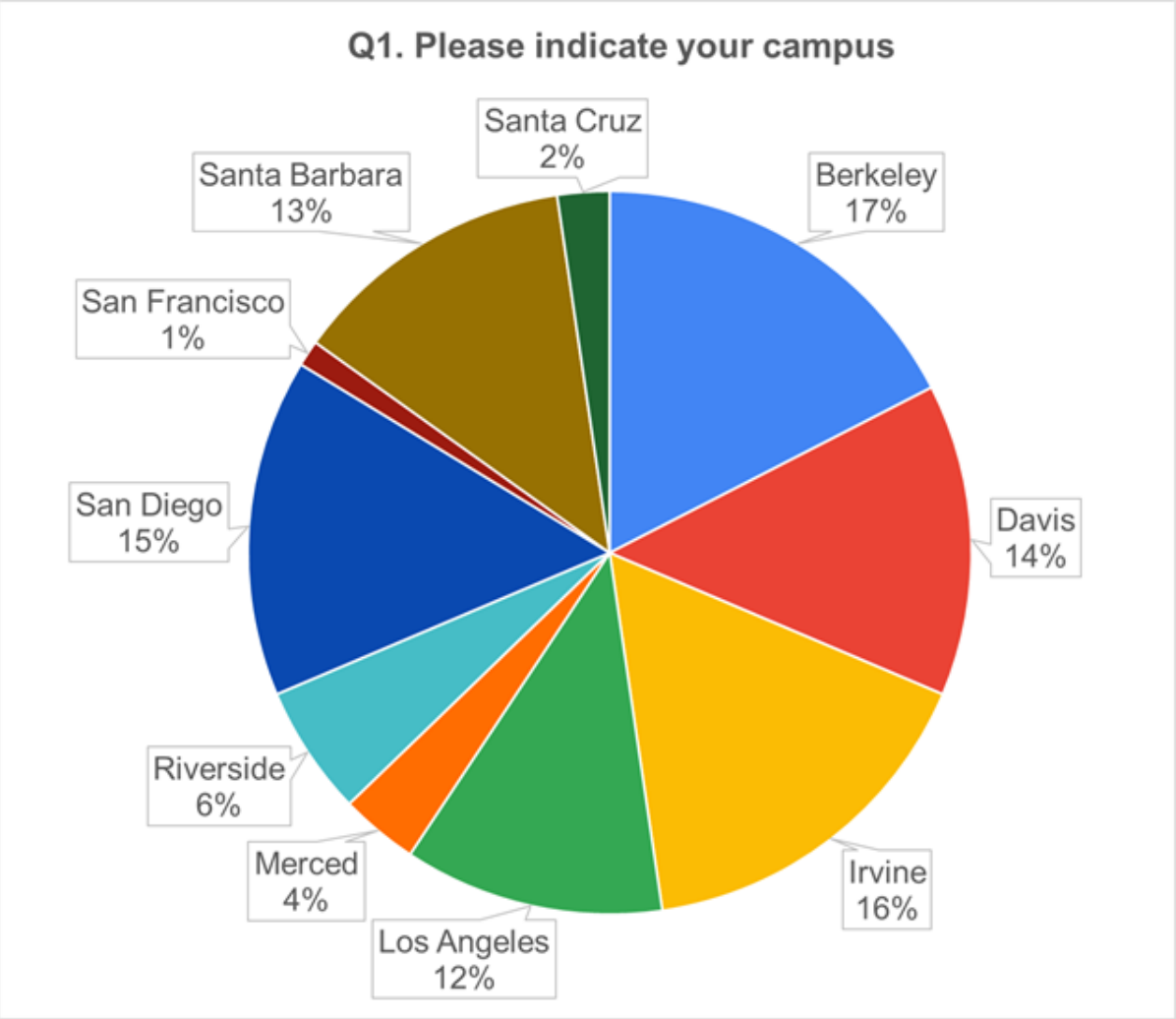
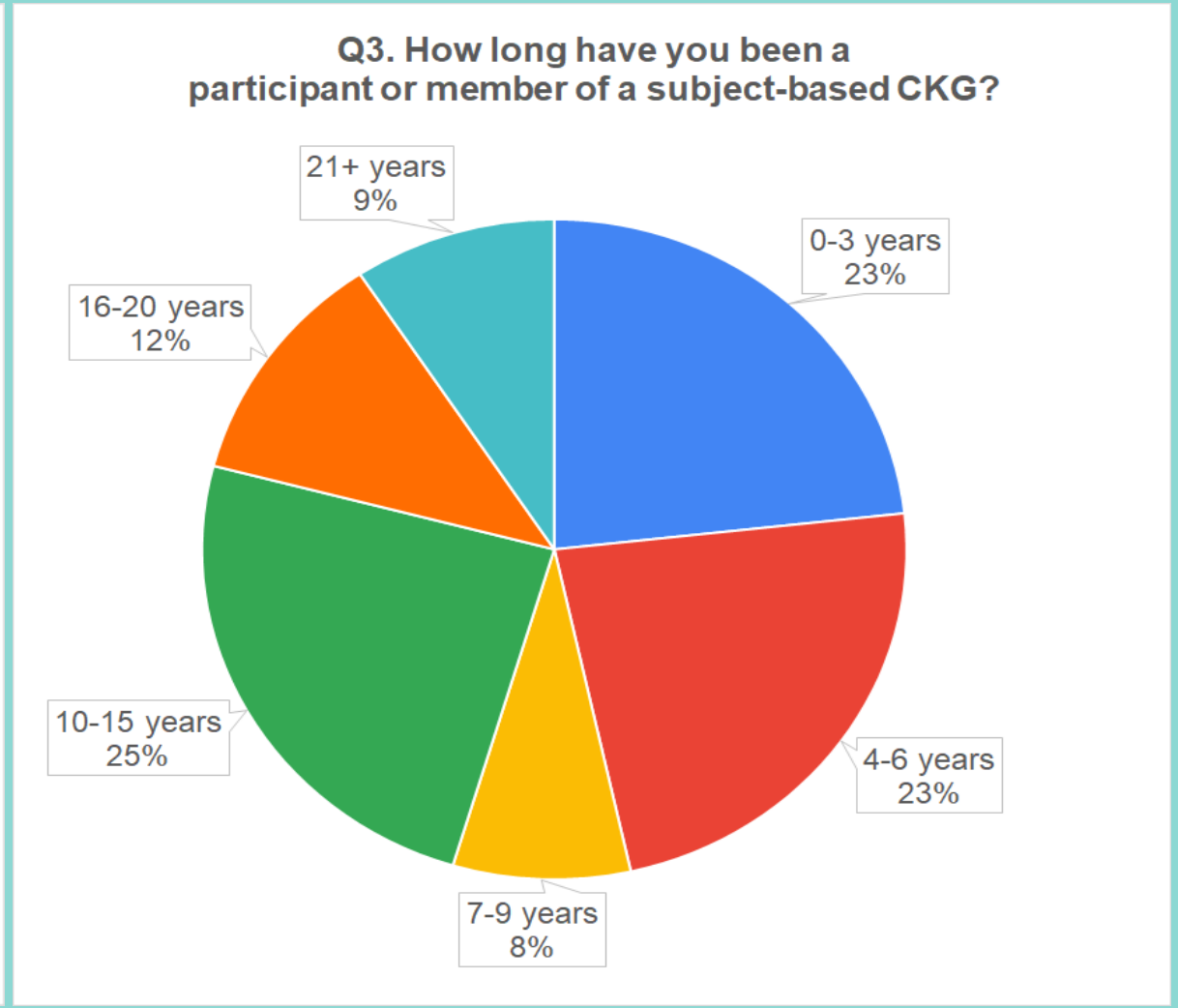
Ethnic Studies	Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)
European History, Languages & Literature	Reference
Government Information	Social Sciences

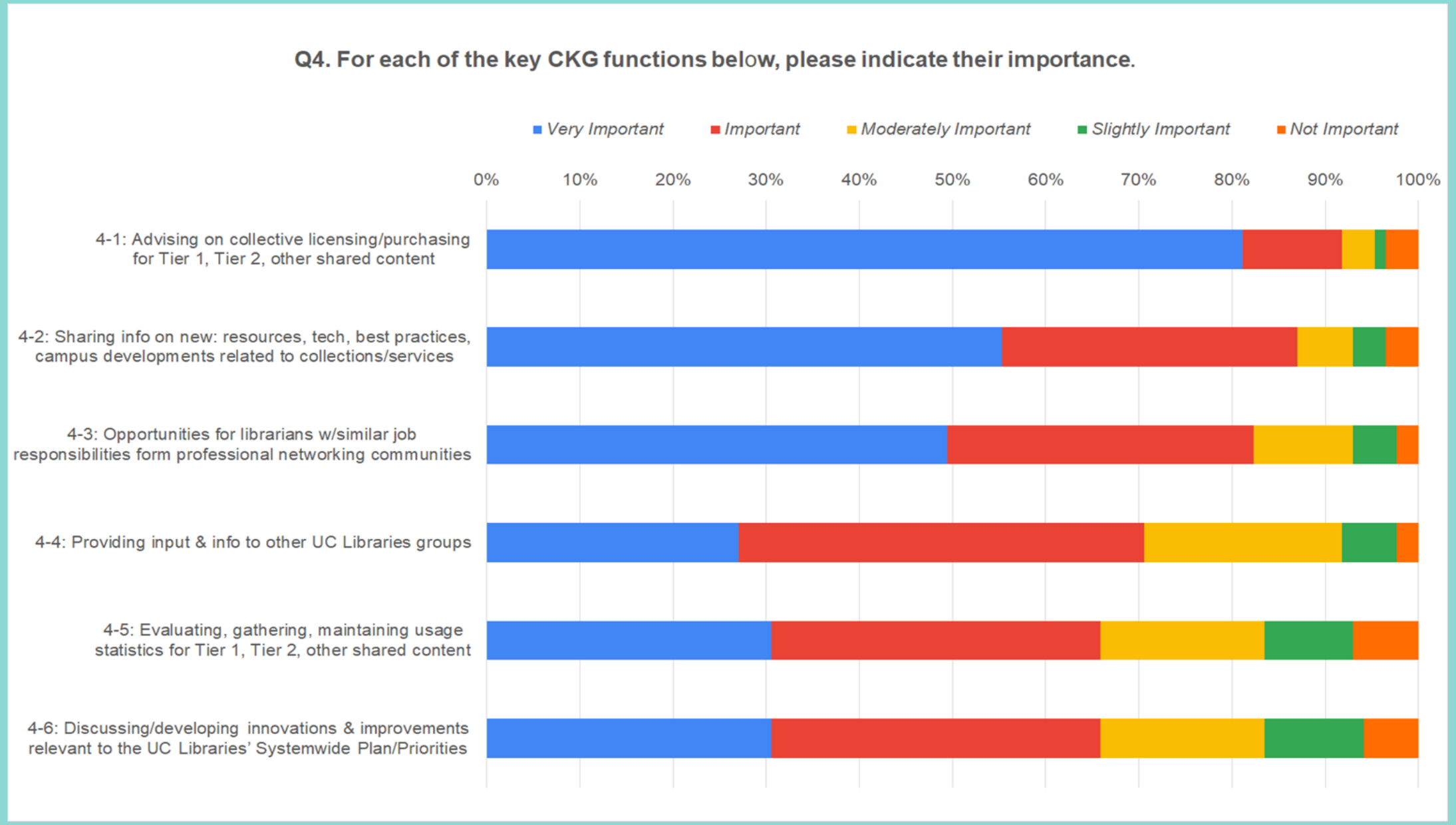
SURVEY: Logistics

- Conducted 7/29/21 thru 8/19/21, via Google Forms
- Sent to CKG chairs in 20 subject-based CKGs
  - forwarded to their membership/participants
- No questions had required responses
- Respondents not asked to identify which CKG(s) they work with
- Got 85 responses

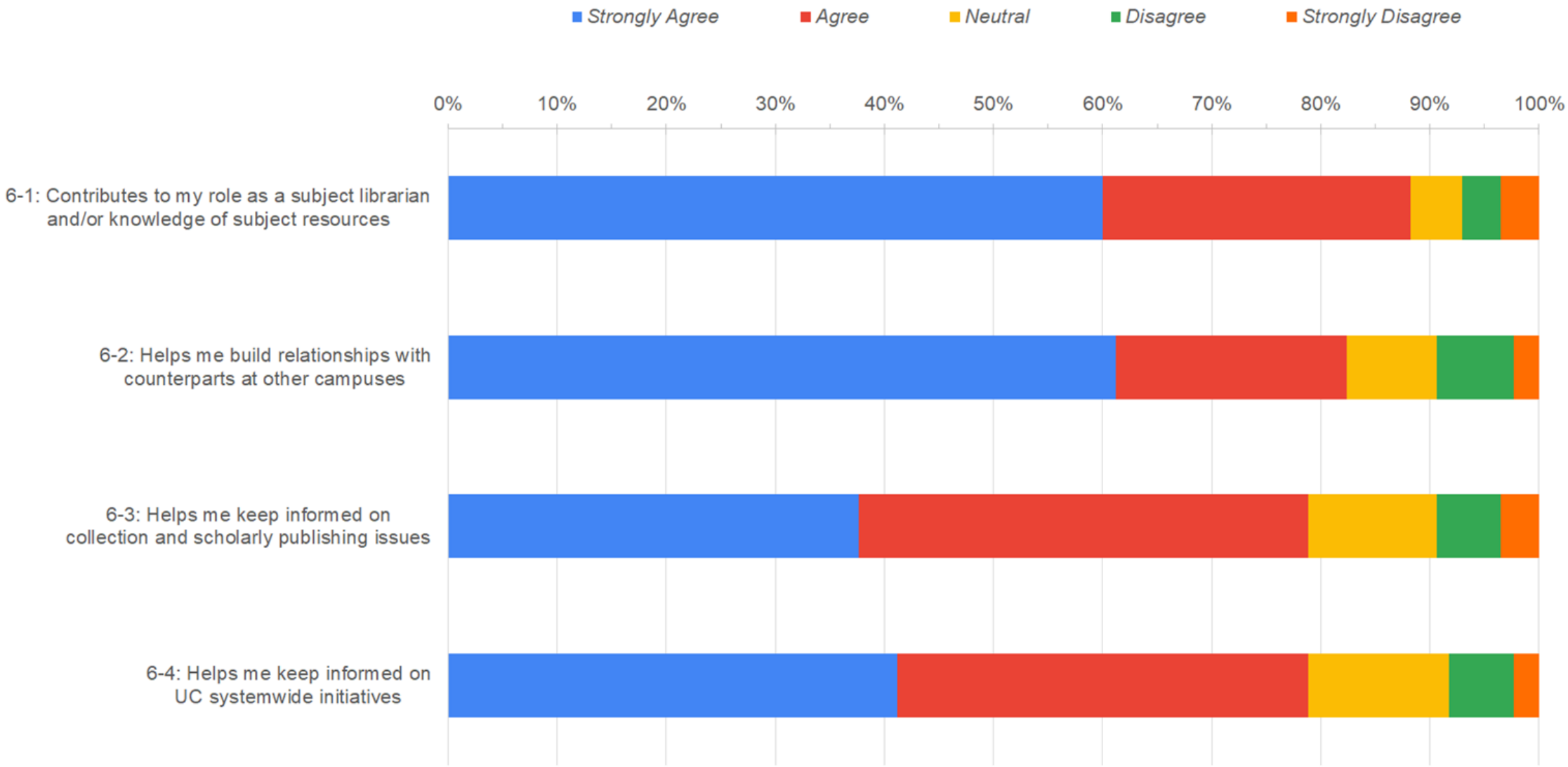




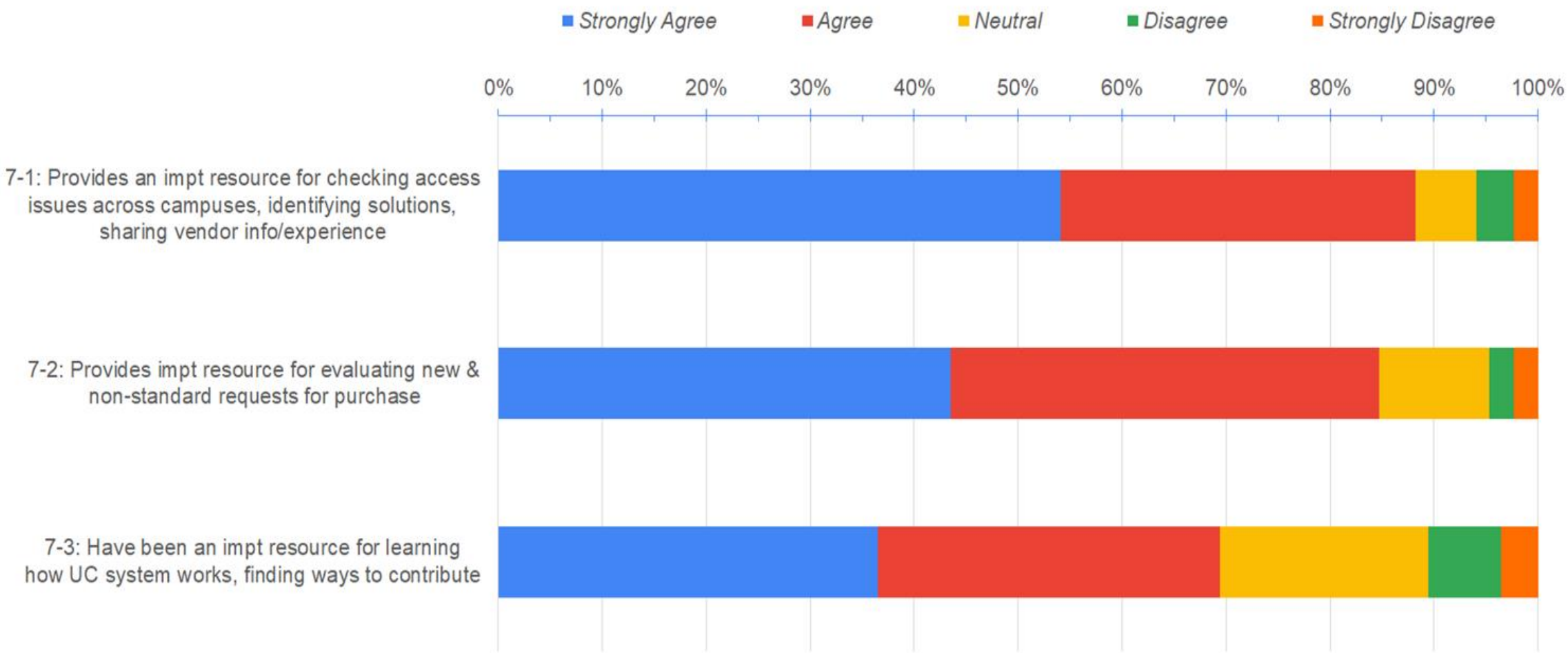
Q2: 100% of respondents: participant/member of subject-based CKG


Q4. For each of the key CKG functions below, please indicate their importance.
Very Important
Important
Moderately Important
Slightly Important
Not Important
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
4-1: Advising on collective licensing/purchasing for Tier 1, Tier 2, other shared content
4-2: Sharing info on new: resources, tech, best practices, campus developments related to collections/services
4-3: Opportunities for librarians w/similar job responsibilities form professional networking communities
4-4: Providing input & info to other UC Libraries groups
4-5: Evaluating, gathering, maintaining usage statistics for Tier 1, Tier 2, other shared content
4-6: Discussing/developing innovations & improvements relevant to the UC Libraries' Systemwide Plan/Priorities

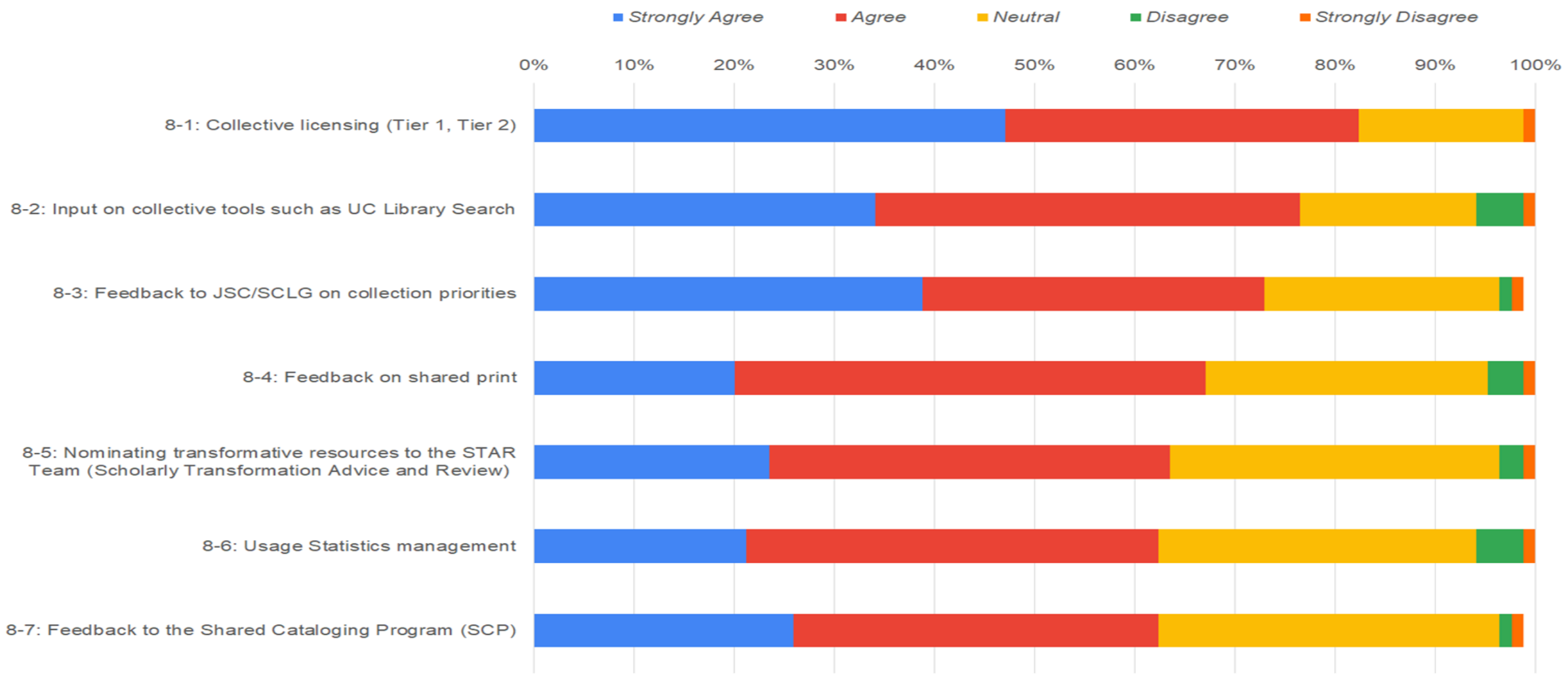
Q6. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the statements below regarding: Participation and/or membership in a CKG



Q7. Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the statements below regarding CKG listservs and/or participation



Q8. Are there any functions you would like to see expanded in CKGs you participate in?



SURVEY Results: Q5 and Q9: open text

Q5. Please identify and comment on any other CKG functions you wish to share.

- 18 responses – generally focused on:

  Collections (building, Tier 2, vendors, usage stats, licensing)

  Functions (different in some CKGs, expanding); Communication/value

Q9. Please identify and comment on any other aspect of CKG participation, membership, or functions you wish to share.

- 17 responses – generally focused on:

  Evolve focus/functions (UC Library Search, services, instruction)

  Collections (building, usage stats, focus)

Key Ideas and directions

Key Takeaways from the Quantitative Survey Data

- Subject CKG members found all of the functions of subject CKGs important, especially involvement in collective purchasing.
- Gaining/sharing knowledge about subject and subject resources was listed as the most key benefit to librarian members.
- Troubleshooting access issues was listed as the most important function of listservs. (I agree)
- More than half of the respondents would like to see more activity in every functional area.

Role Expansion

- Respondents would most like to see the following roles expand
  - Collective licensing
  - Feedback to JSC CKG on collection priorities
  - Input on shared tools

Ideas for Enhancing Collection Role

1. Training for leading tier 2 projects
2. Improve understanding of role CKGs play in facilitating Tier 2 projects
3. Create templates for documenting projects managed by or of interest to subject CKGs
4. Improve understanding of savings realized through Tier 2 projects.
5. Improve understanding of gaps in CKG feedback to JSC/SCLG if there are any.
    a. Possibly by having pre-populated field for each subject CKG to leave feedback within a spreadsheet or form...

Ideas for Enhancing Input on Collective Tools

1. Project leaders could utilize the CKG chairs listserv to solicit feedback.
2. CKG convenors can share on the CKG chairs listserv what topics they are thinking about soliciting feedback on
3. Discuss within CKGs what collective tools might be important to the functions of the librarians

Survey Comments (excerpted)

- “[Subject CKGs] have made a welcome transition to a more holistic subject-based approach of looking at subject-related services (reference and instruction), trends and more”
- “I haven't seen much action happening in [my CKG]”
- “Since the ‘new’ CKG alignment, my subject group became broader and less helpful.”
- “I’d love to have maybe 1x/year socials or other ways of connecting within each CKG. I still don’t feel like I know my peers across campuses.”
- “I am very new to the UC system and think the CKGs have great potential to be very useful but thus far I have seen very little activity in the one I follow.”
- “CKGs should occupy a more important role, especially in regard to systemwide acquisitions issues.”

Take-aways from Survey Comments

- Based on the number of respondents who identified themselves as new, it seems that CKGs could play a rather important mentoring role
- Some CKG members feel disconnected from the group
- CKG activity might be uneven across subject CKGs
- There might be a “sweet spot” for subject breadth
- More social interaction in CKGs might foster collegiality
- Collective work on common tasks such as creating tutorials might save time.
- Subject CKG’s are important and valued, but we can all contribute to making them even more effective.

Ideas For Enhancing Subject CKG Activity

- Annual meeting of convenors (who convenes the convenors?)
- A general discussion on optimal subject breadth might help maximize utility. Are sub-groups useful?
- Central Wiki for capturing best practices and tips related to CKG operations (bit.ly/ckg_tips)

UC Libraries Common Knowledge Groups

PAGE TREE

- Active Common Knowledge Groups
- Inactive Groups
- CKG Administrativa
  - **Bests Practices For Subject CKG**
- Meeting Notes
- User Access and Permissions

Bests Practices For Subject CKG Operations

Created by Michele Potter, last modified on Oct 11, 2021

Selection or Rotation of Co-Convenors

- Having Co-Convenors lightens the task load (HLS, PSE)
- Staggering Co-Convenors allows for greater continuity (PSE)
- Rotating Co-Convenors according to set rotation, i.e., alphabetical by campus (with escape clause) ensures that everyone gets a chance to lead. (PSE)

Meeting Frequency and scheduling

- **Tip 1**

Sharing of information on collectively licensed subject resources and potential resources

- **Tip 1**

Sharing and promoting Open resources and Open Education Resources

- **Tip 1**

Welcoming new members and reaching out to new potential members

- **Tip 1**

Sample potential CKG Best Practices

- Having Co-convenors lightens the task load and offers greater continuity.
- Rotating Co-Convenors according to set rotation, i.e., alphabetical by campus (with escape clause) ensures that everyone gets a chance to lead.
- Outreach to new librarians with subject responsibilities in line with CGK subject areas might be a useful role for a designated CGK member

Ideas for Future Research on Consortial Communities of Practice

- Best practices regarding
  - subject breadth
  - communication tools
  - information sharing
  - community and network building
- Other roles and benefits of consortial communities of practice
- Useful interventions in improving these communities
- Roles of consortial communities of practice in mentorship
- Time/benefit analysis of participation in these communities

Let’s all make CKGs Awesomer

- Do what works
- Make suggestions
- Volunteer

Thank you!
Questions?
Other Ideas?