

» “It’s funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed.”

—PAULA POUNDSTONE

Strategic Library™



Issue 57 // December 15, 2018

2019 Library Purchasing Survey

» The results of Strategic Library’s annual purchasing survey

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

SURVEY RESULTS

1. NATIONWIDE

2. LIBRARY SETTING

Public
Academic
Special
K-12

3. LOCATION

4. COLLECTION SIZE

5. BUDGET

6. PURCHASING INTENTIONS

The 2019 Library Purchasing Survey illustrates how libraries budget for and spend on automation, print and non-print media, professional services, furniture, equipment and supplies, and shelving for their facilities. Its charts and tables graphically present a broad range of data including, but not limited to:

- Who buys
- How much they budget
- What they buy
- Spending priorities.

SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

The 2019 Library Purchasing Survey was created in response to a demand for data on library spending to help librarians make informed decisions about library products and services. To achieve this objective, Strategic Library conducted an online survey of approximately 6,500 library and informa-

tion professionals. The online survey instrument elicited responses that provide unique information on the purchasing practices of the individuals polled, their involvement in purchasing and recommending products and services, and their satisfaction with industry suppliers.

The survey sample of 6,514 was selected using a computerized random generator, which built the sample from the Library-Works subscriber database of more than 80,000 library decision makers. These individuals represent all library types: public, K-12 school, academic, and special libraries. Survey participants were promised anonymity. Each person in the survey sample received an e-mail invitation to participate that included a link to the online survey questionnaire. The survey remained open for three weeks.

The survey questionnaire consisted of

» **The 2019 Library Purchasing Survey was created in response to a demand for data on library spending to help librarians make informed decisions about library products and services.**



two parts:

- I. Characteristics of Purchasing Decision Makers. This section elicited responses concerning the participant's title, primary role, and purchasing influence; and details about library type, size, location, and budget.
- II. Purchasing Intentions. This portion of the survey instrument addressed budgeted or projected 2016 spending on automation, furniture, shelving, professional services, equipment and supplies, print and non-print media, and other key areas.

331 librarians completed the survey questionnaire, a response rate of 5.08%.

ORGANIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SURVEY DATA

The charts and graphs present survey data based on nationwide results.

LIBRARY SETTING

Public: central/main library, branches, consortium/district/regional system

K-12: elementary (grades 1-5), middle (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12)

Special: law, medicine, government, corporate, and institutional

Academic: 2- and 4-year institutions

SURVEY REGIONS

Northeast: CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NY, PA, RI, VT

South: AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV


Midwest: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, WA, WY, UT

Published monthly, Strategic Library assists administrators and managers in all types of libraries as they deal with day-

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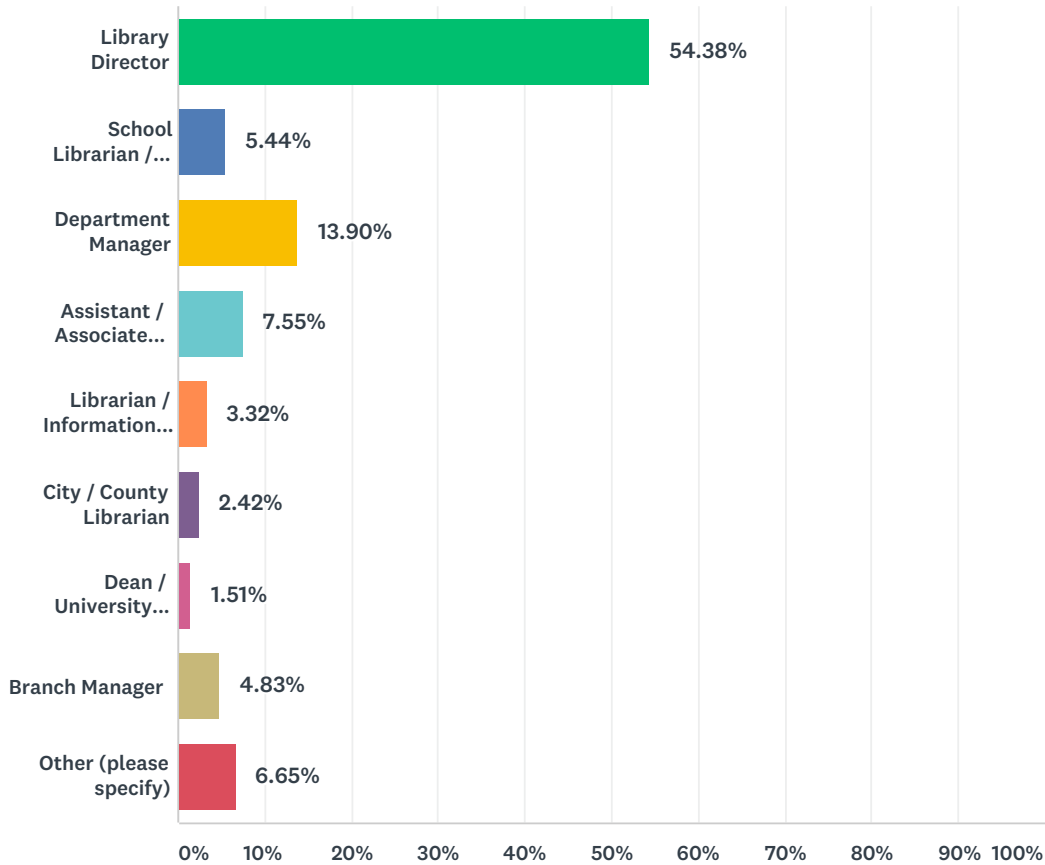
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Nationwide Survey Results

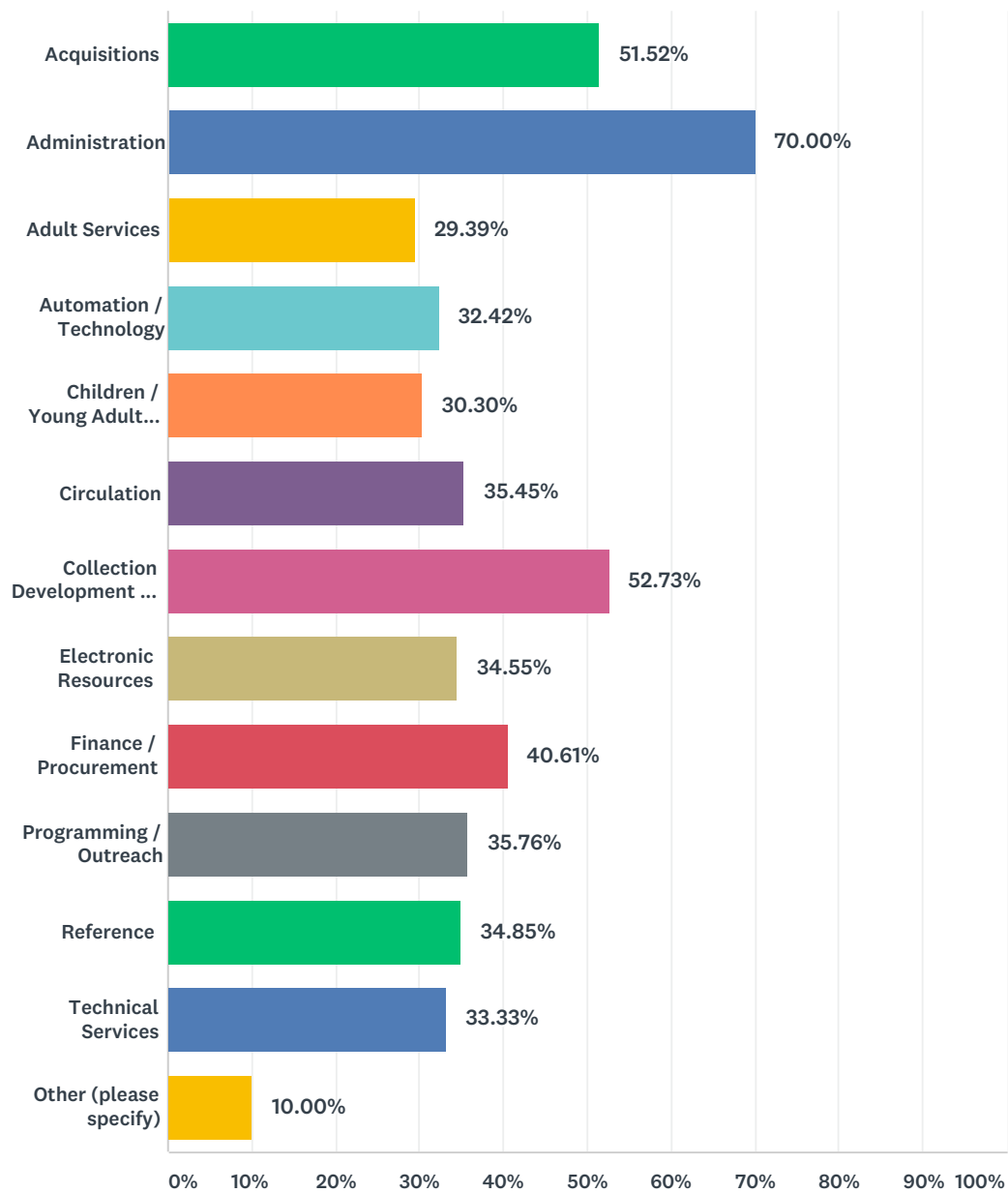
Q1 Which of the following best describes your TITLE?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 1



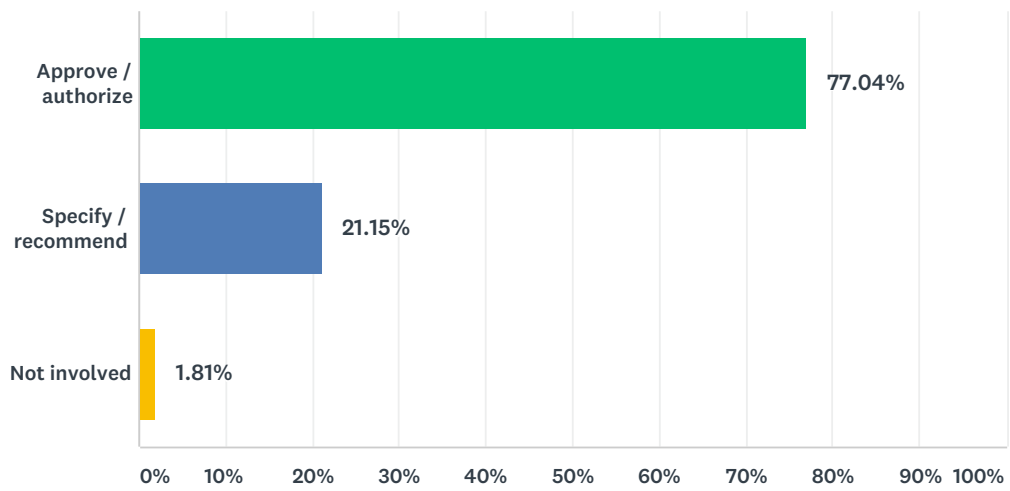
Q2 Which of the following best describes your AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY within the library? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 330 Skipped: 2



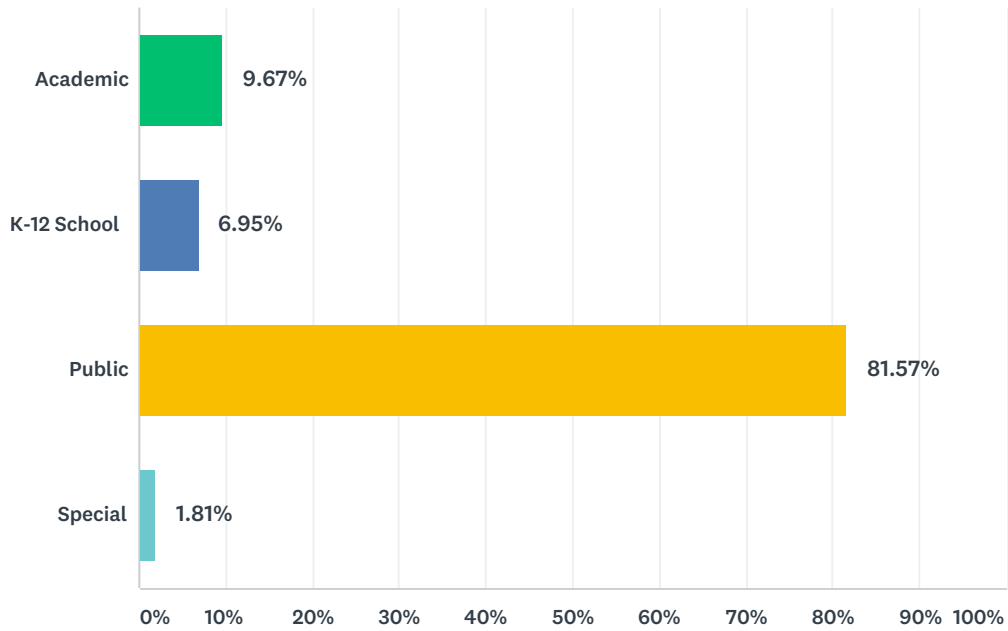
Q3 Which of the following best describes your involvement in PURCHASING for your library?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 1



Q4 Which of the following best describes your TYPE OF LIBRARY?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 1



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stylish *and*
functional.**

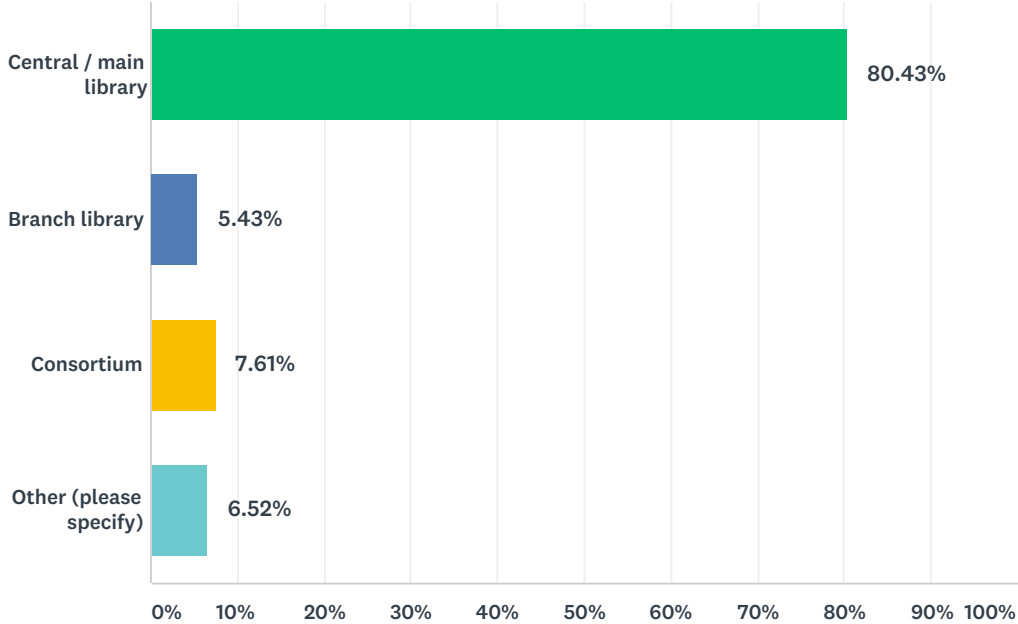
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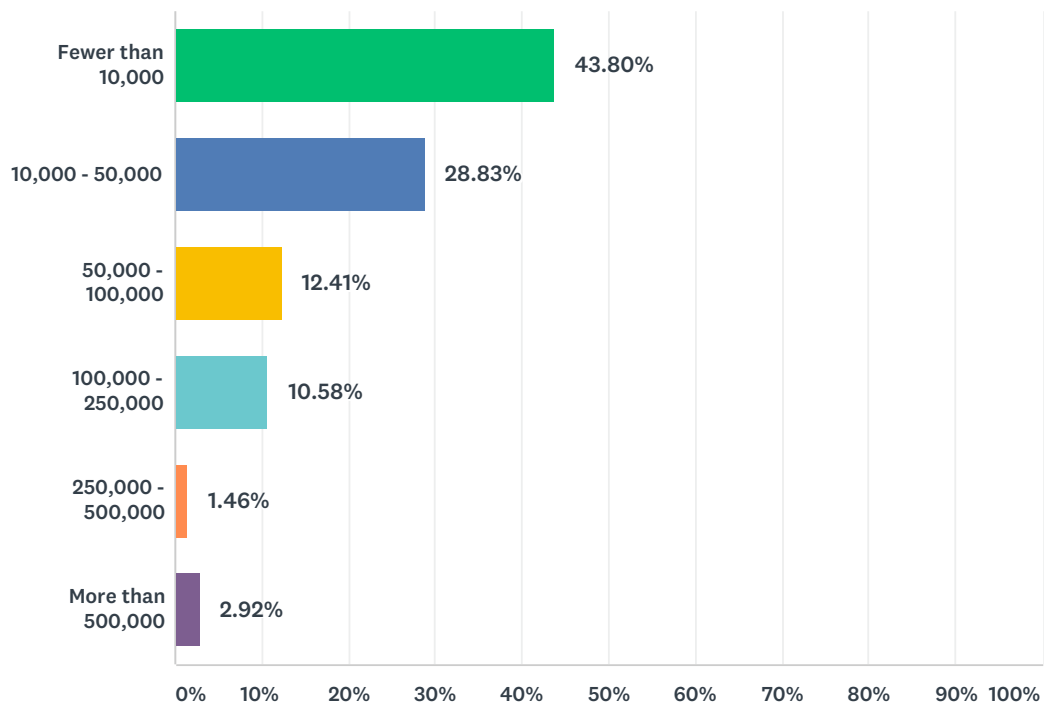
Q5 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes its SETTING?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 56




Q6 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes the population of its LIBRARY SERVICE AREA (LSA)?

Answered: 274 Skipped: 58



**Have a relocation or weeding project,
but don't know where to start?**

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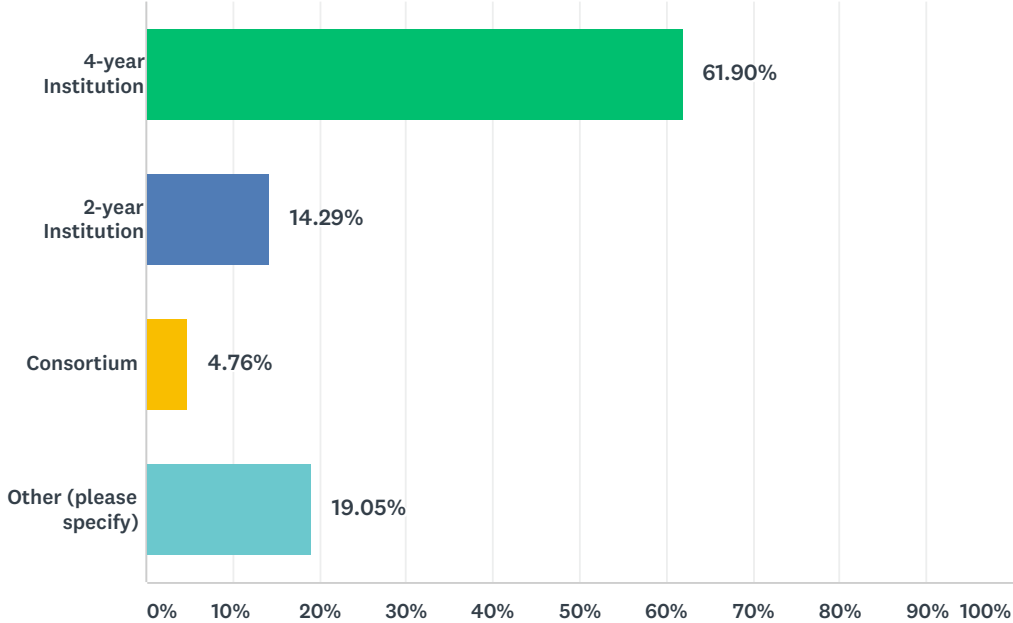


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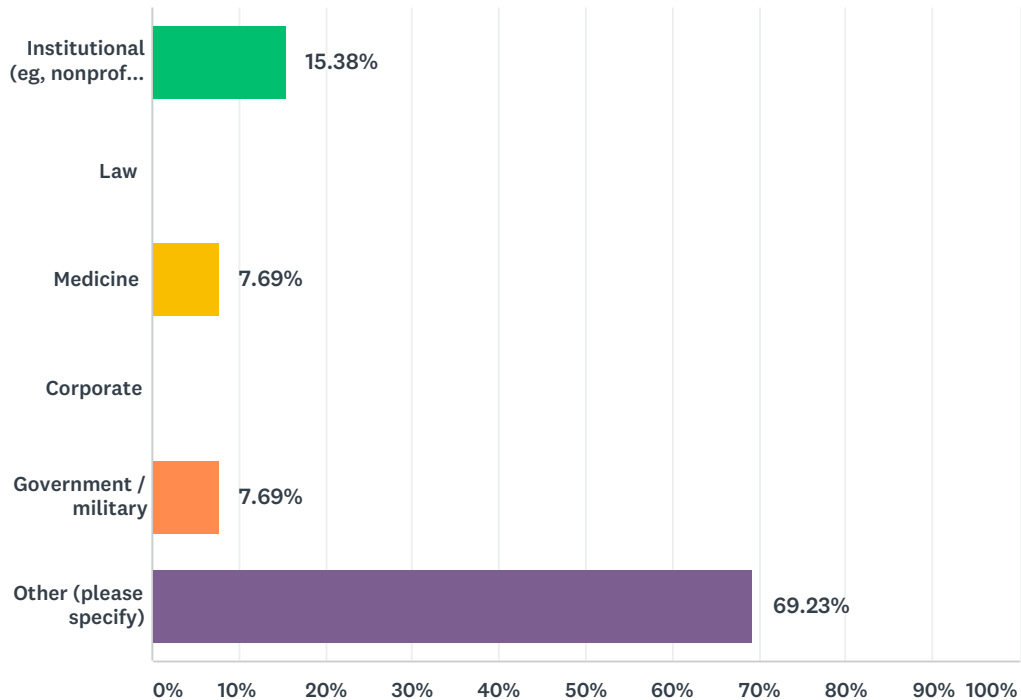
Q7 If yours is an ACADEMIC library, which of the following describes it?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 290



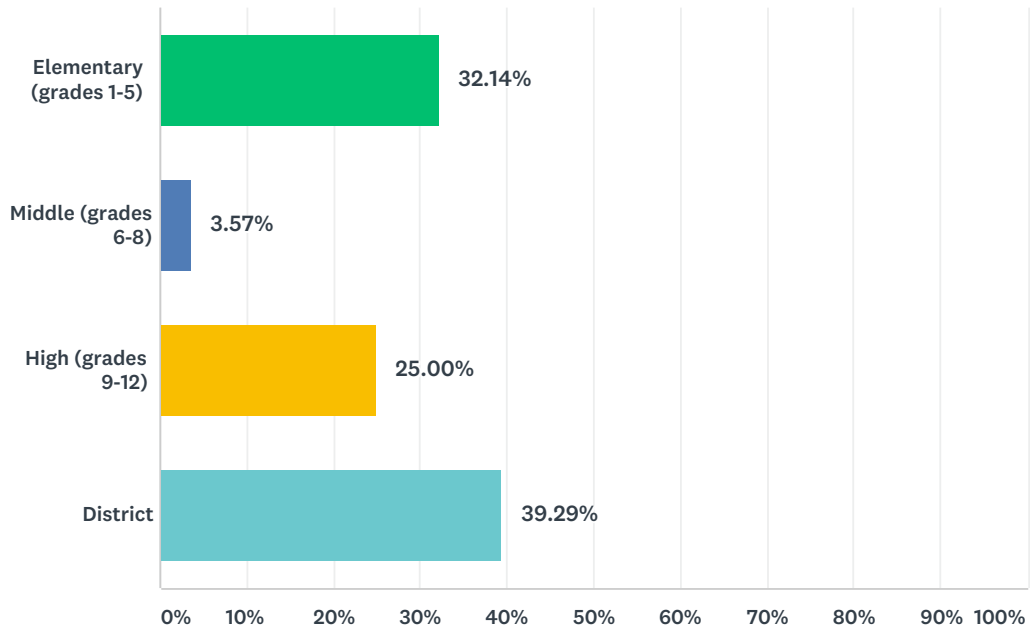
Q8 If yours is a SPECIAL library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 319



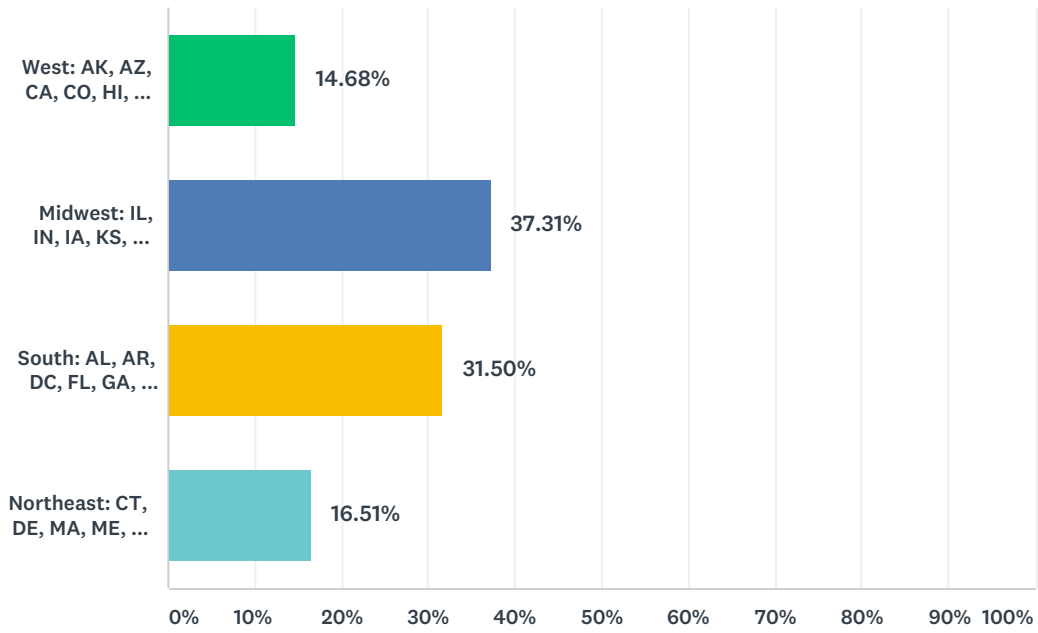
Q9 If yours is a K-12 library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 304



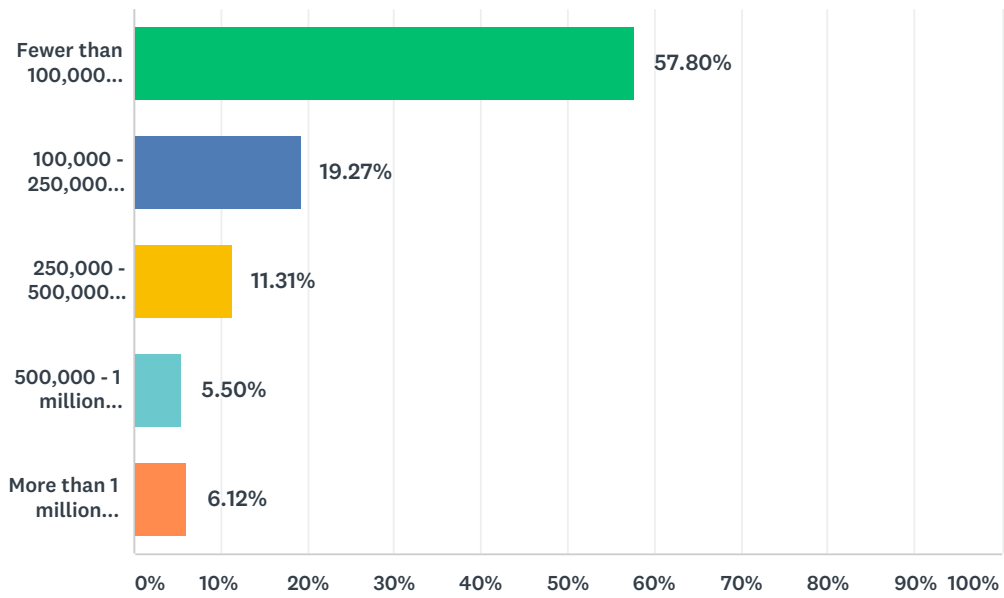
Q10 WHERE is your library?

Answered: 327 Skipped: 5



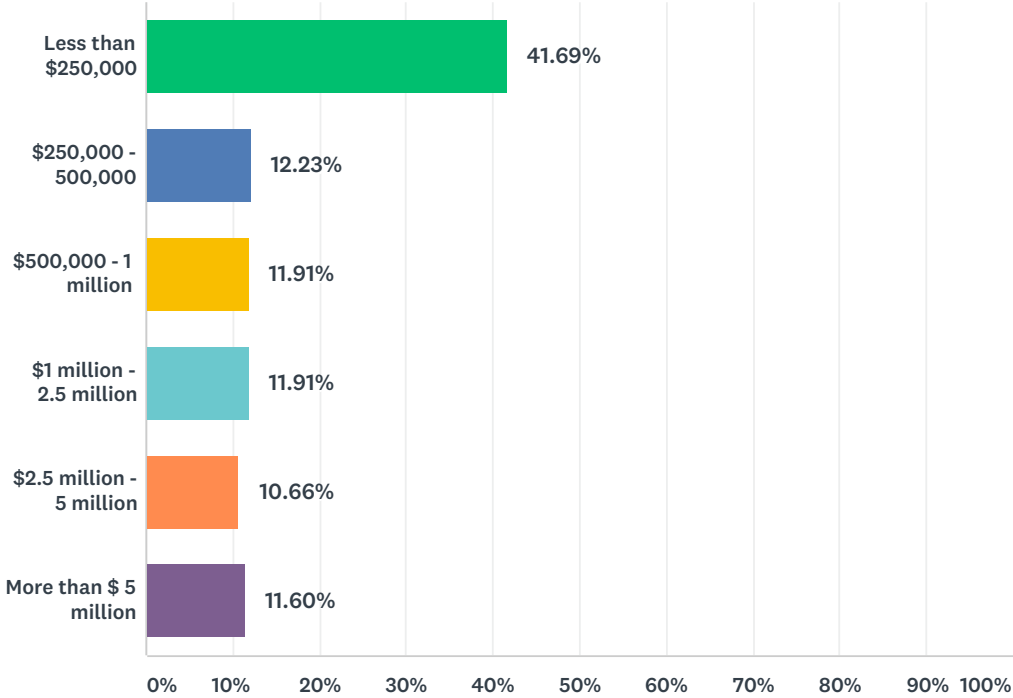
Q11 Which of the following best describes the SIZE OF YOUR LIBRARY'S COLLECTION?

Answered: 327 Skipped: 5



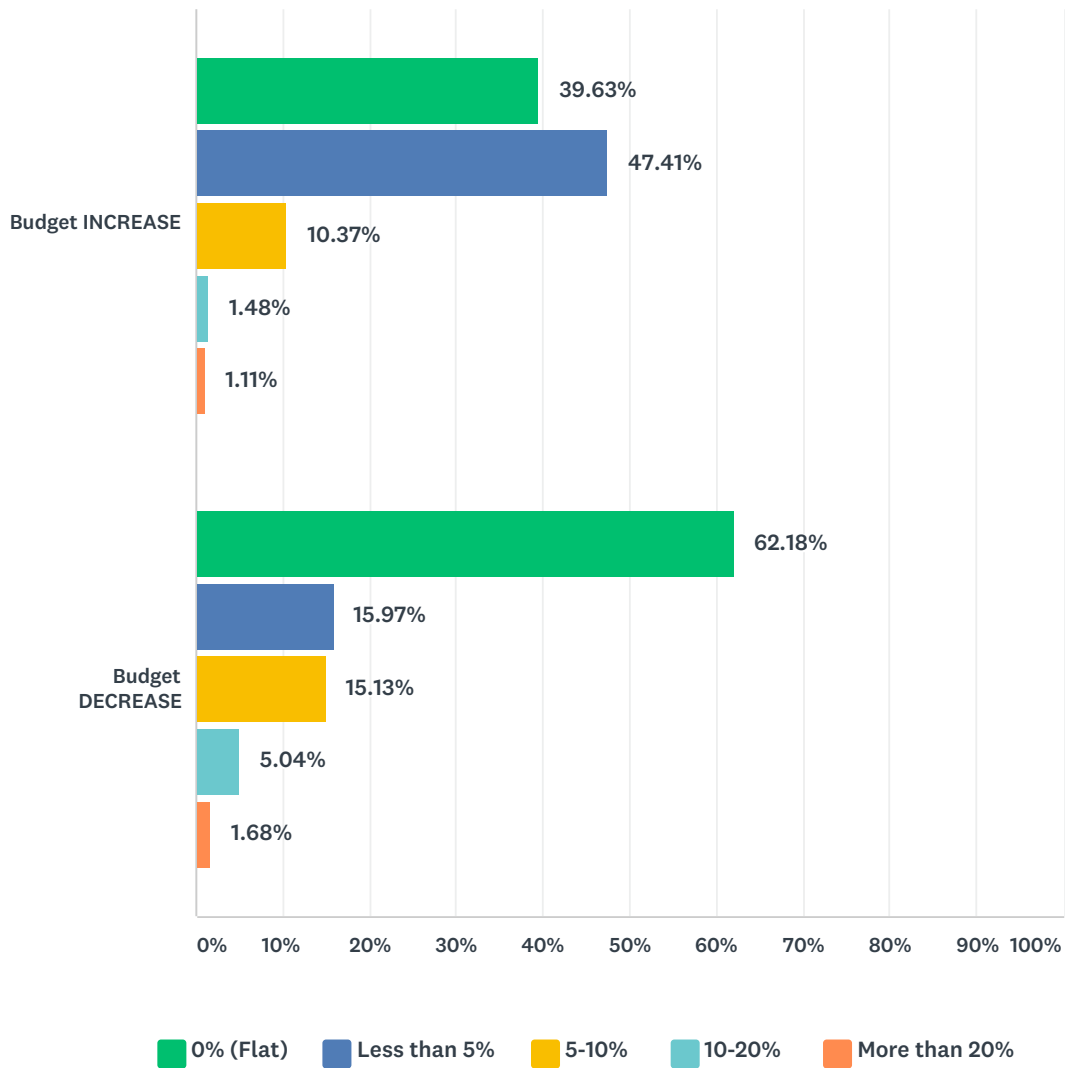
Q12 What is your library's total actual or projected 2019 OPERATING BUDGET?

Answered: 319 Skipped: 13

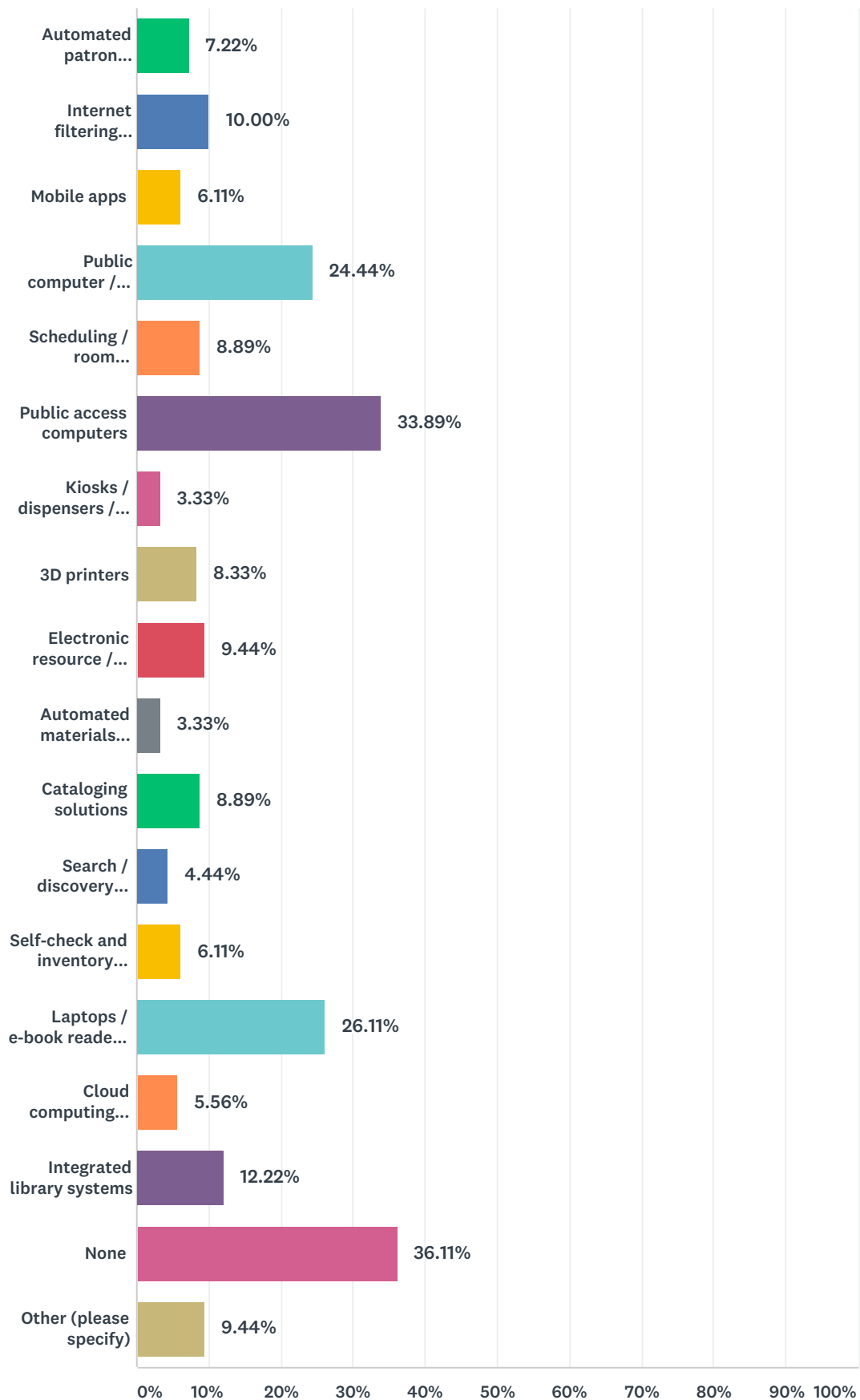


Q13 By what percentage did your 2019 budget INCREASE or DECREASE?

Answered: 310 Skipped: 22

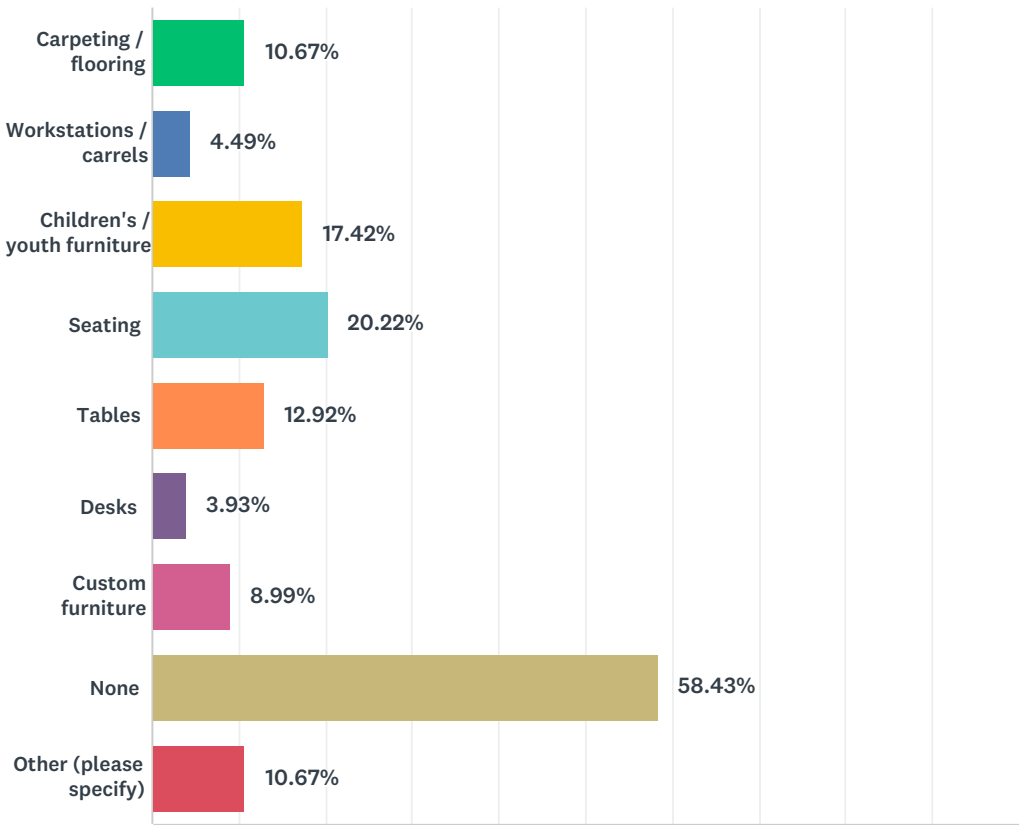


Q14 Which of the following INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / AUTOMATION products and services do you plan to purchase in 2019?



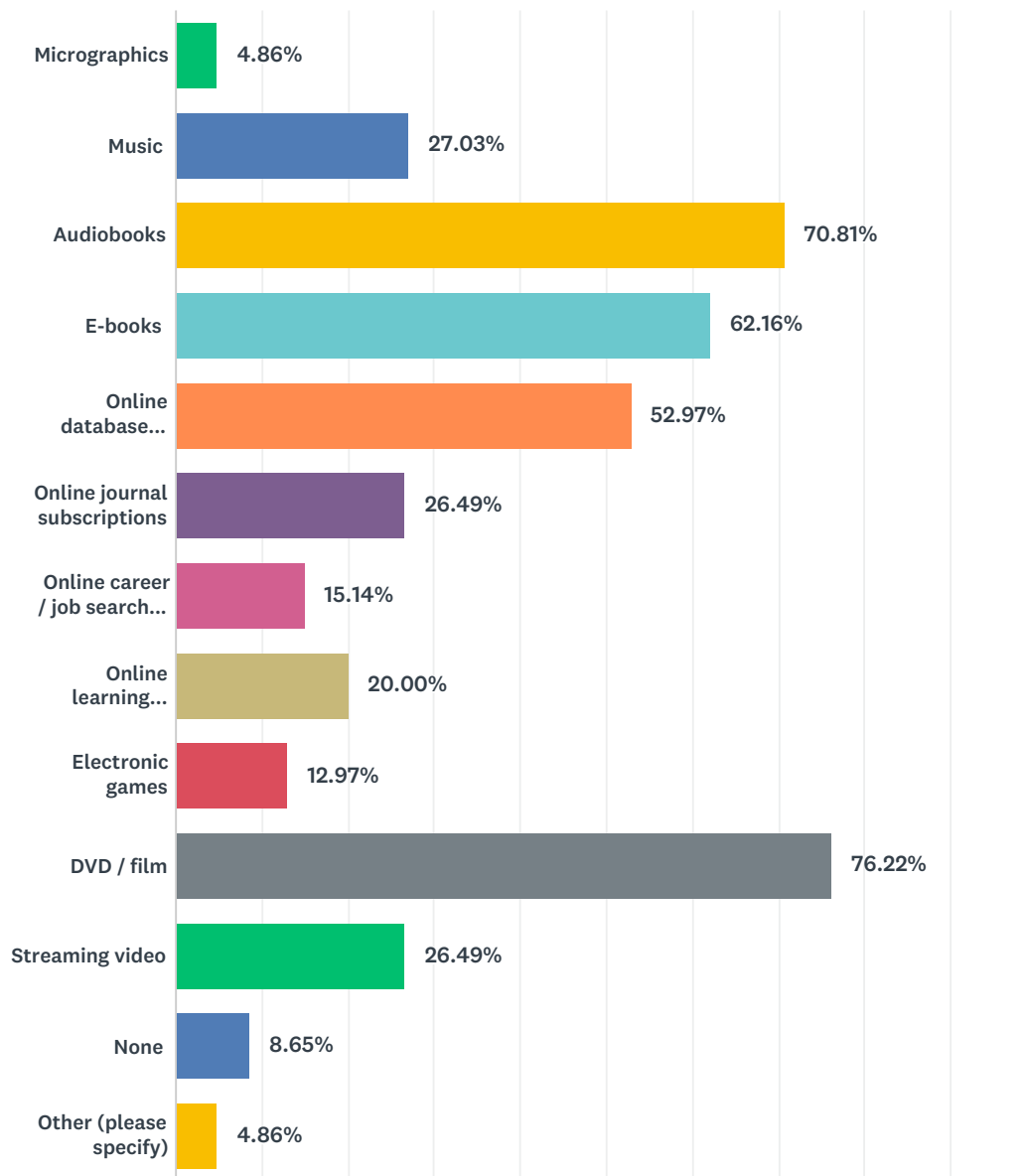
Q16 Which of the following FURNITURE/FURNISHINGS products do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 154



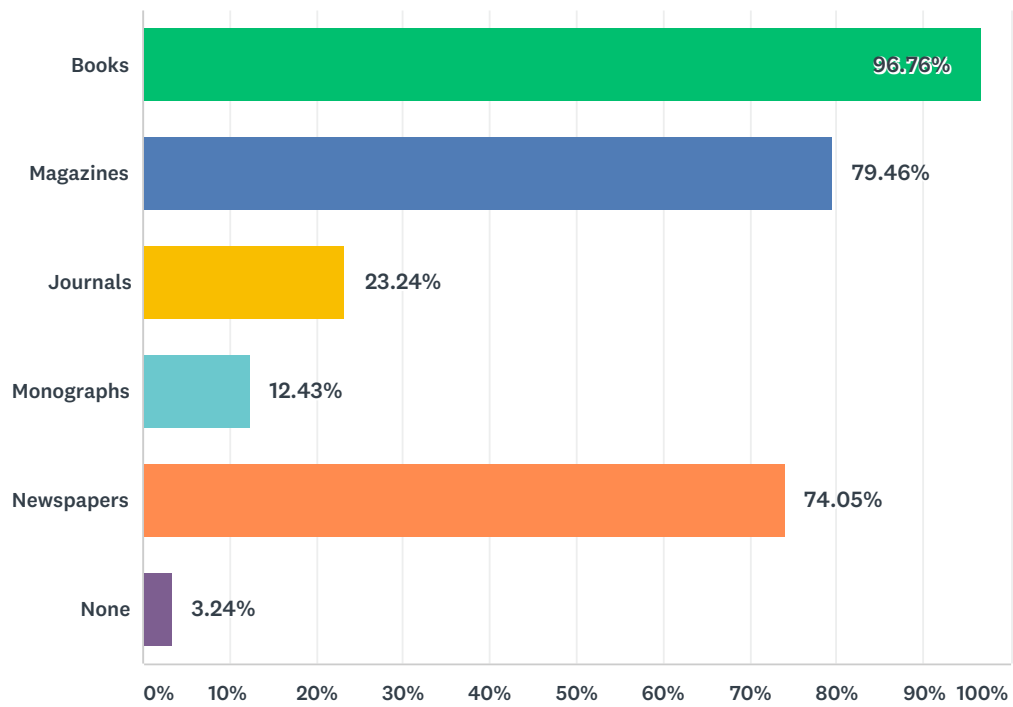
Q17 Which of the following NON-PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 147



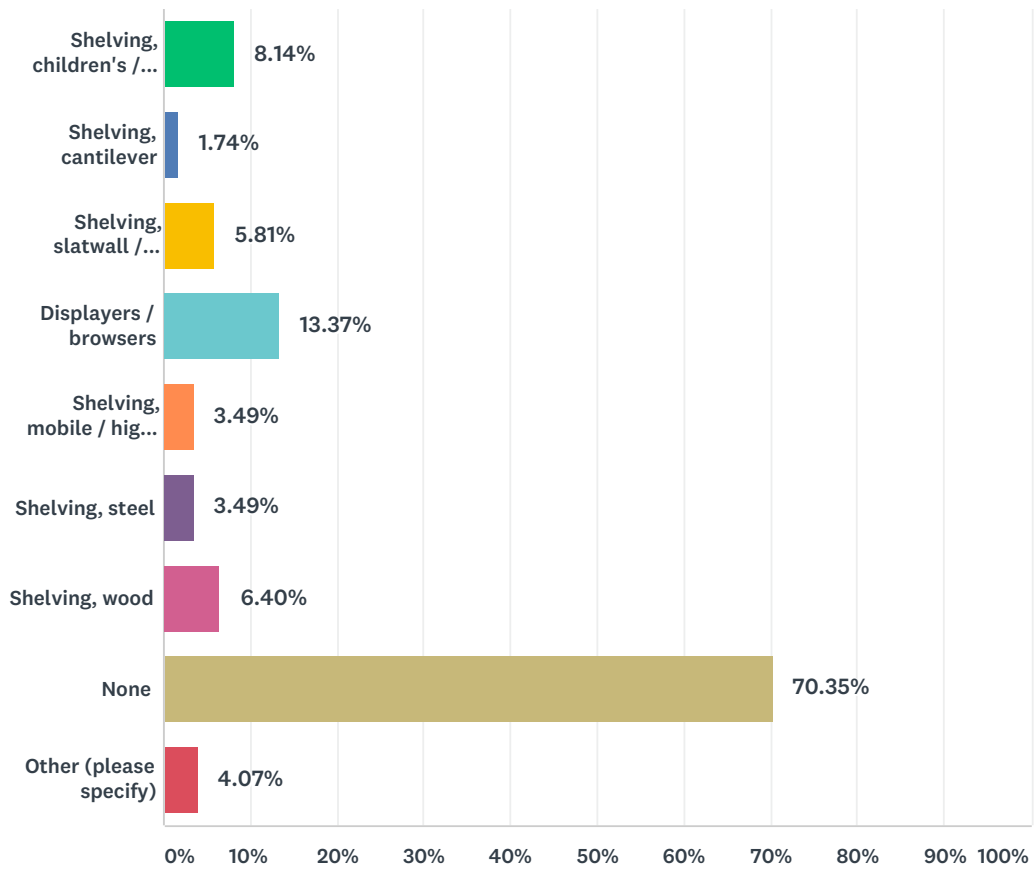
Q18 Which of the following PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 147



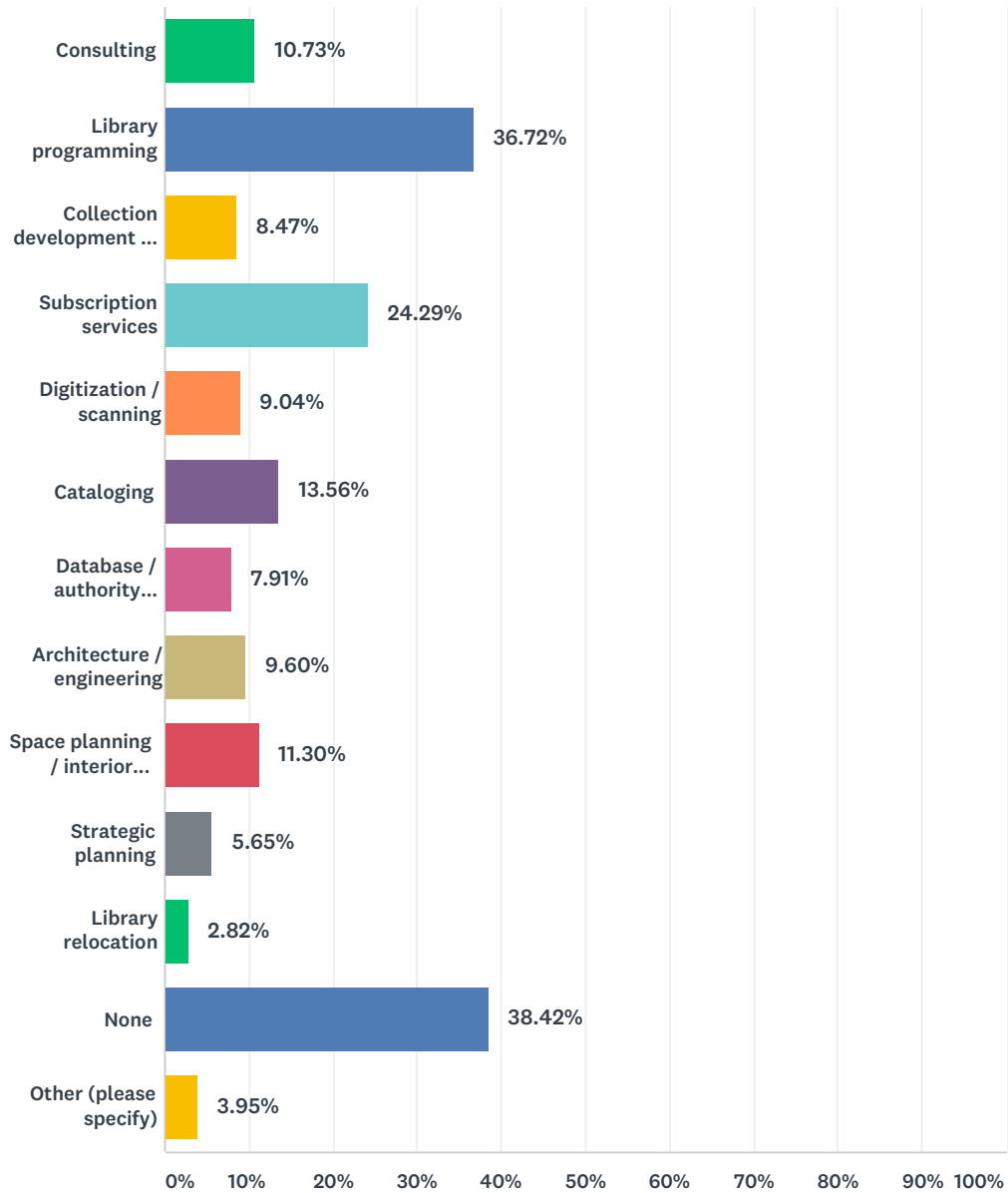
Q19 Which of the following SHELVING / STORAGE / DISPLAY products do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 172 Skipped: 160



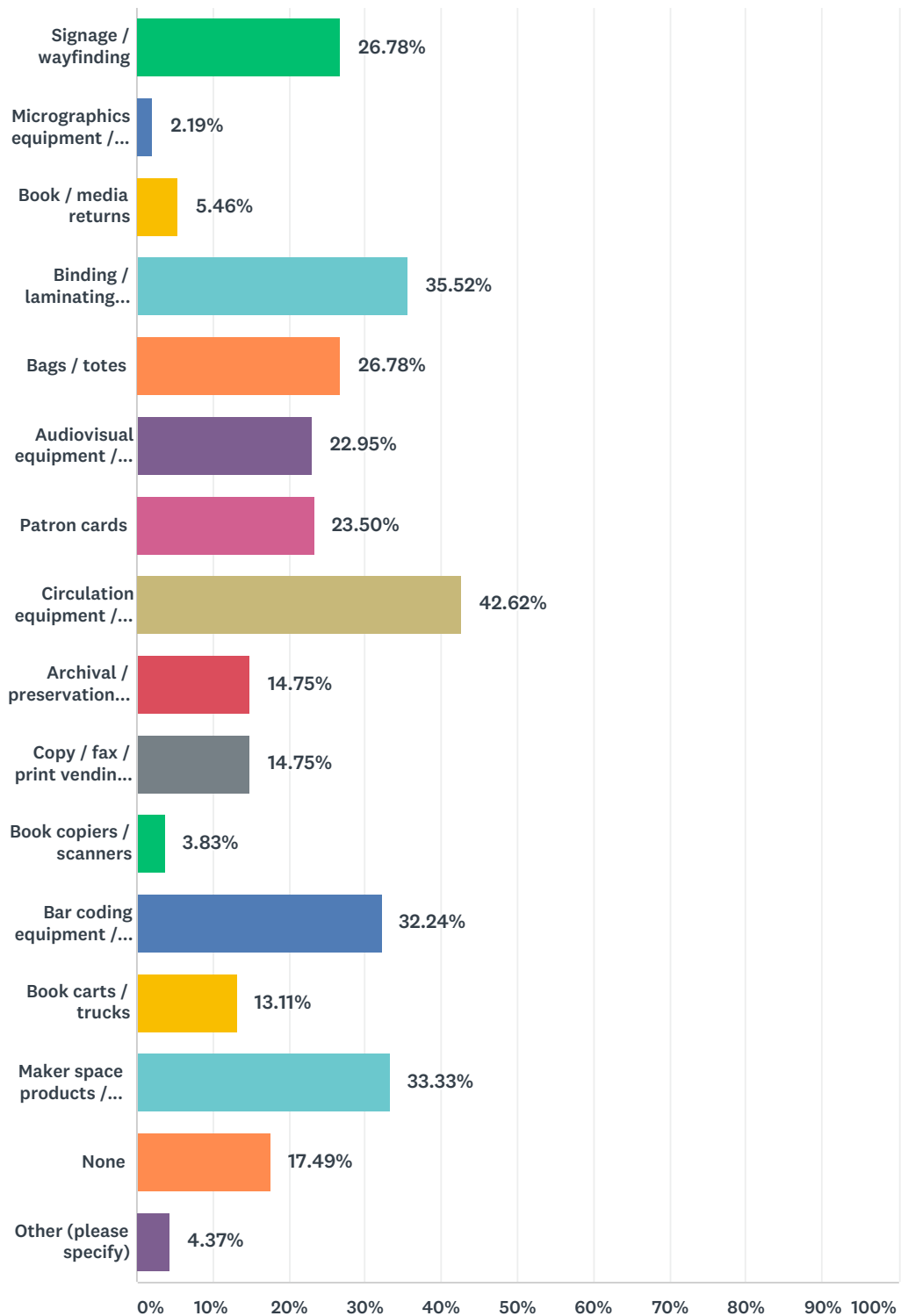
Q20 Which of the following PROFESSIONAL SERVICES do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 177 Skipped: 155



Q21 Which of the following EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES do you plan to purchase in 2019?

Answered: 183 Skipped: 149





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