



- Information in Various Forms
- Libraries in Transition
- Information Representation
- Information Retrieval
- User Services
- Information Systems
- User Studies
- Information Ethics and Information Policy
- Research Methods
- Information Technology in the Field
- Informetrics & Webometrics
- Topics proposal and discussion*
- Outline construction*
- Bibliography Selection*
- Drafting*
- Revision and Editing*
- laboration Survey*
- Face to Face Interaction
- Phone Calls
- Email
- List
- Blog
- ...

# Collaboration in Research and Authorship : The LIS Book Project

Faculty  
Librarians

Sai Deng, Wichita State University

Heting Chu, Long Island University



# Literature Review

- Librarians - “Teaching” faculty - Students Collaboration
  - “Embedded librarian” (Dewey, 2004)
  - Integration of **information literacy** into curriculum (Lindstrom et al., 2004)
  - Incorporate **technology** into curricula with instructional technologists and students (Boisselle et al., 2004)
  - LIS school faculty and librarian collaborating in **collection development** (Maurer & Wicks, 2004)
  - Faculty-librarian collaboration: “New Professors’ Fund” for collection development (Horava, 2005)
  - Building bridges between students and practitioners: LIS education, student-faculty **conference presentation** (Jurkowski, 2005)
  - “Teaching” faculty – “library” faculty - students collaborate in **research project** (Callison et al., 2005)

# Literature Review

- **Issues:**

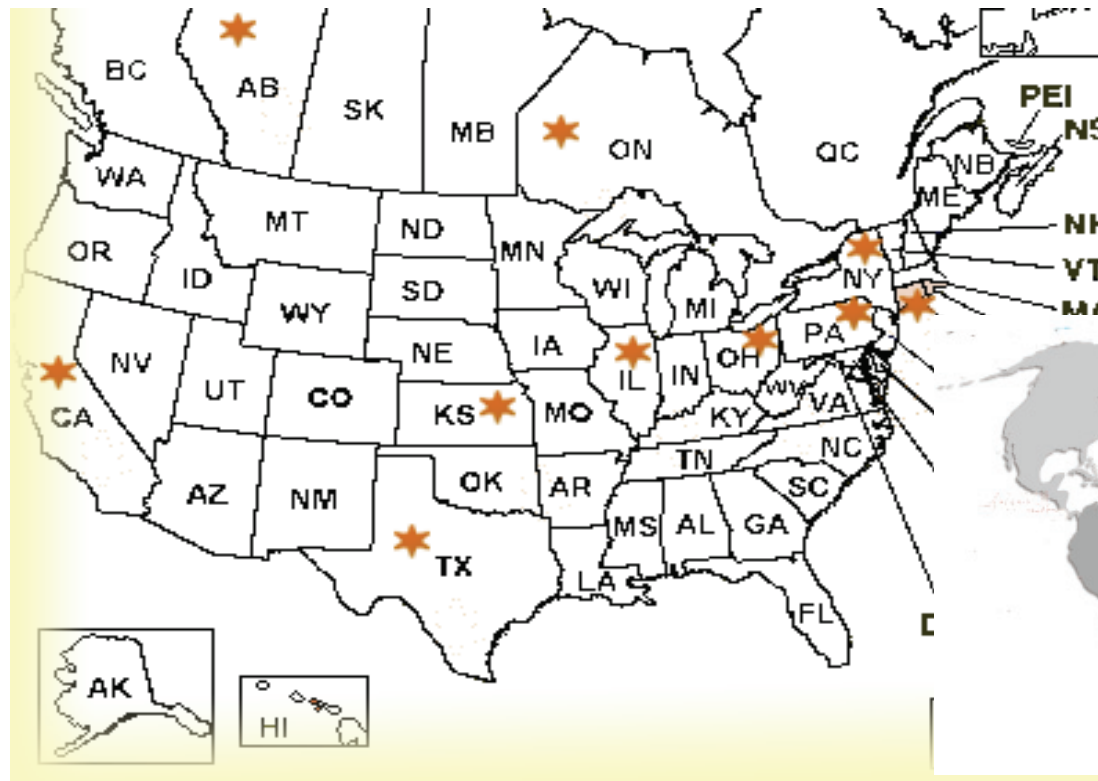
- Lack of literature in collaboration in authorship among librarians, LIS faculty and students
- Benefits and challenges of collaboration
- Technology for collaborative research
  - Web 2.0 technology (e.g., blogs, wikis, tagging, RSS)
  - Traditional vs. newer technology
  - Push vs. pull technology

# LIS Book Project: An Introduction

- **A volume in a book series**
- **Bibliographic description**
  - *Research Fronts in Library & Information Science in the West*. Heting Chu and Yin Zhang (Eds.). In: *Research Fronts in the Humanities & Social Sciences in the West* series. Shuming Lu (Ed.). Beijing: Renmin University Press, 2007.
  - 西方人文和社会科学研究前沿丛书 - 图书馆信息学分卷。分卷主编：储荷婷，张茵。丛书主编：鲁曙明。人民大学出版社。2007年出版。

# LIS Book Project: Geographic Distribution of Authors

- **Novelty of this project**
  - International collaboration



## Authors in the U.S.:

Connecticut: 3

Pennsylvania: 3

NY: 1

Ohio: 1

Illinois: 4

Texas: 2

Kansas: 2

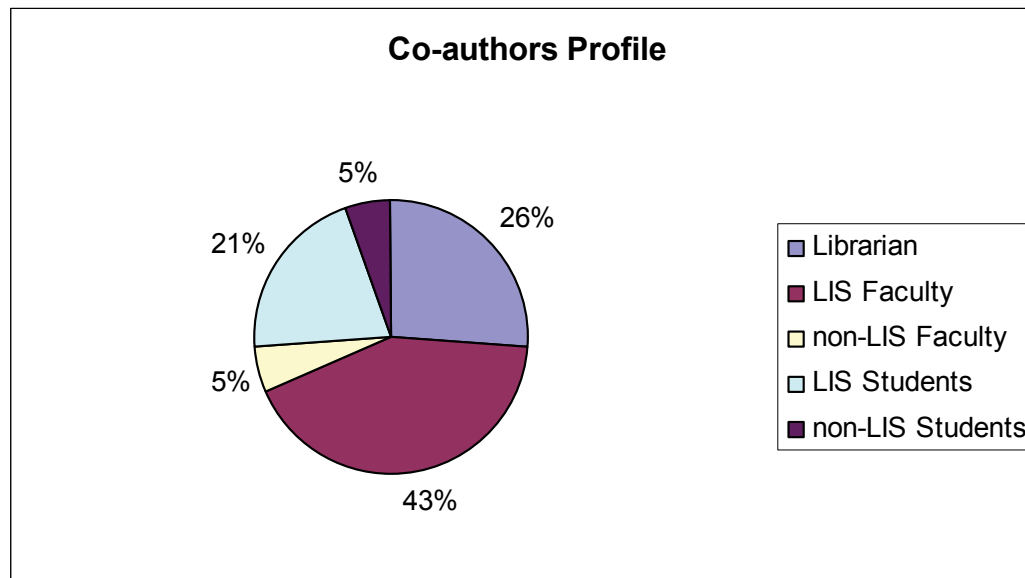
California: 1

## Authors from Canada: 2



# LIS Book Project: Author Affiliation

- Collaboration among students, faculty and librarians
  - 5 PhD students (4 from LIS, 1 from CS);
  - 8 faculty members from LIS, 1 faculty member from Information Systems in Business School;
  - 5 librarians.



# LIS Book Project: Chapter Titles

1. 各种形式的信息 (*Information in Various Forms*)
2. 变化中的图书馆 (*Libraries in Transition*)
3. 信息表述 (*Information Representation*)
4. 信息检索 (*Information Retrieval*)
5. 用户服务 (*User Services*)
6. 信息系统 (*Information Systems*)
7. 用户研究 (*User Studies*)
8. 信息伦理和信息政策 (*Information Ethics and Information Policy*)
9. 图书馆信息学的研究方法 (*Research Methods in Library and Information Science*)
10. 信息技术 (*Information Technology in the Field*)
11. 信息计量学与网络计量学 (*Informetrics & Webometrics*)

# Collaboration Stages (2-1)

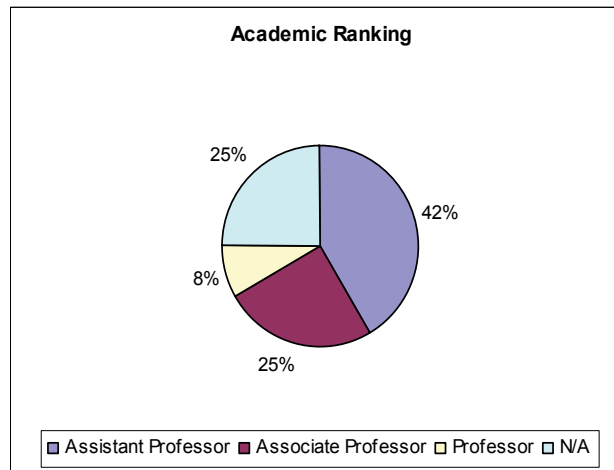
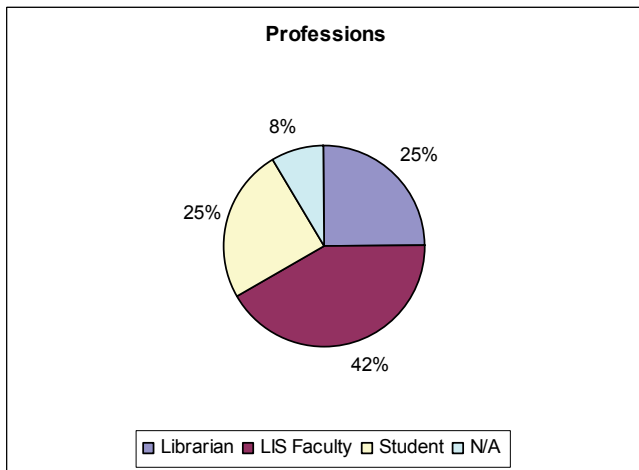
- **Call for collaboration; Chapter proposal and discussion (11/2005 - 12/2005)**
  - Use of a list CALISE: A LIS volume in a book series?
    - Chu Heting (volume editor) emailed the list
    - Lu Shuming (series editor)
  - After participants identified, chapter proposal and discussion
- **Chapter outline construction (12/2005 - 2/2006)**
  - A mailing list for the book project was established at
    - [cwp-palmerchu@lists.liu.edu](mailto:cwp-palmerchu@lists.liu.edu)
  - Zhang Qiping, the co-editor, created a blog at
    - <http://lisbook.blogspot.com>
  - Writing samples in both Chinese and English were requested
  - Editors' comments and peer comments on the chapter outline, ...  
book outline finalized
  - Chapter template provided



# Collaboration Stages (2-2)

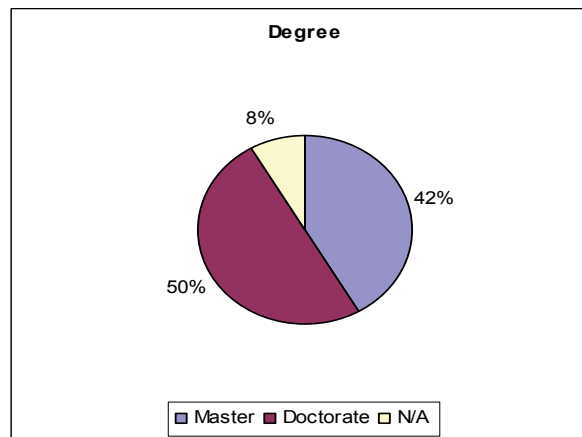
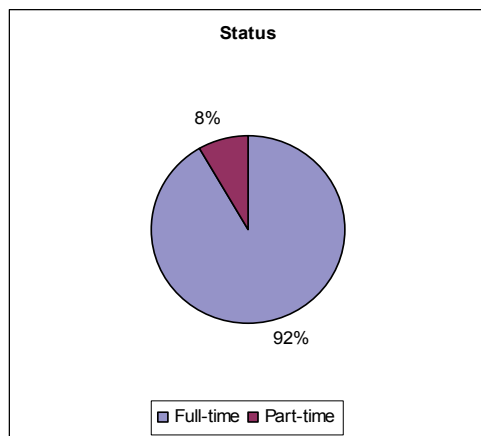
- **Bibliography Selection (1/2006-)**
  - Cover literature published since 1990
- **Draft Preparation (2/2006-)**
- **Review, Revision and Editing (5/2006-1/31/2007)**
  - Reference checking; editors' feedback and revision
  - New Publisher: Renmin University Press
  - New co-editor: Zhang Yin (replacing Zhang Qiping)
  - 1/31/2007 LIS Volume completed

# The LIS Book Project Survey: Q1- Participant Profile



*Issues:*

*Participants' different levels of knowledge and experience...*

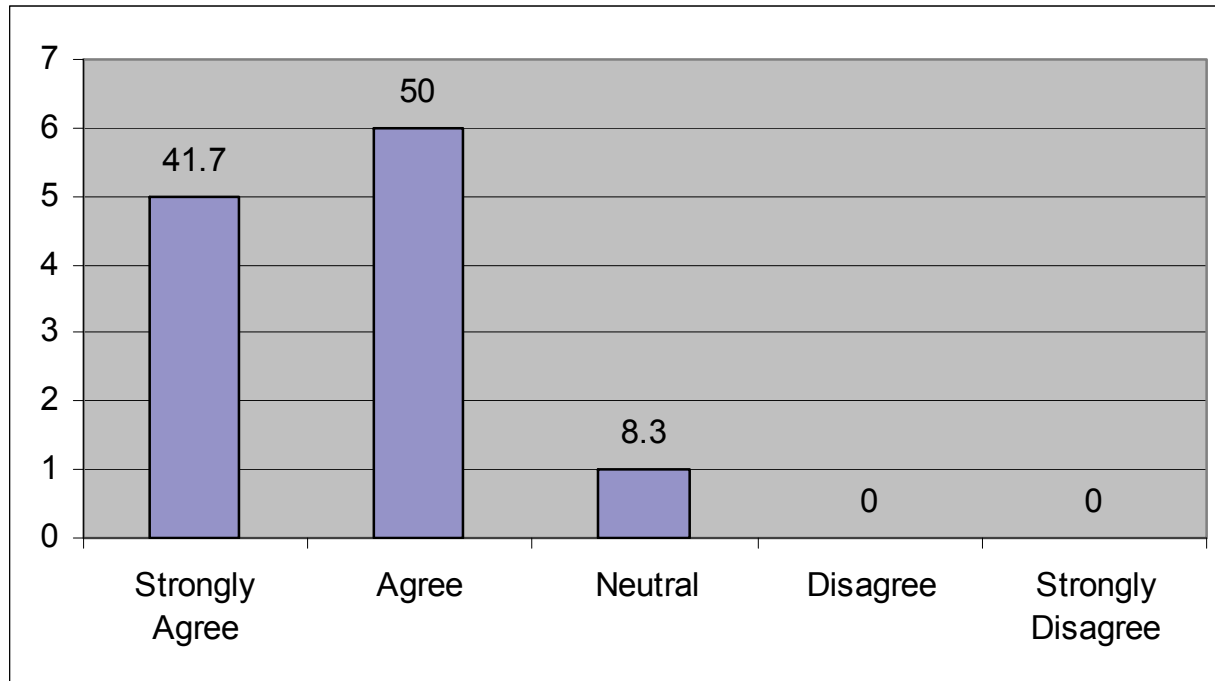


Response rate: 63%

Survey site:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com>

# The LIS Book Project Survey

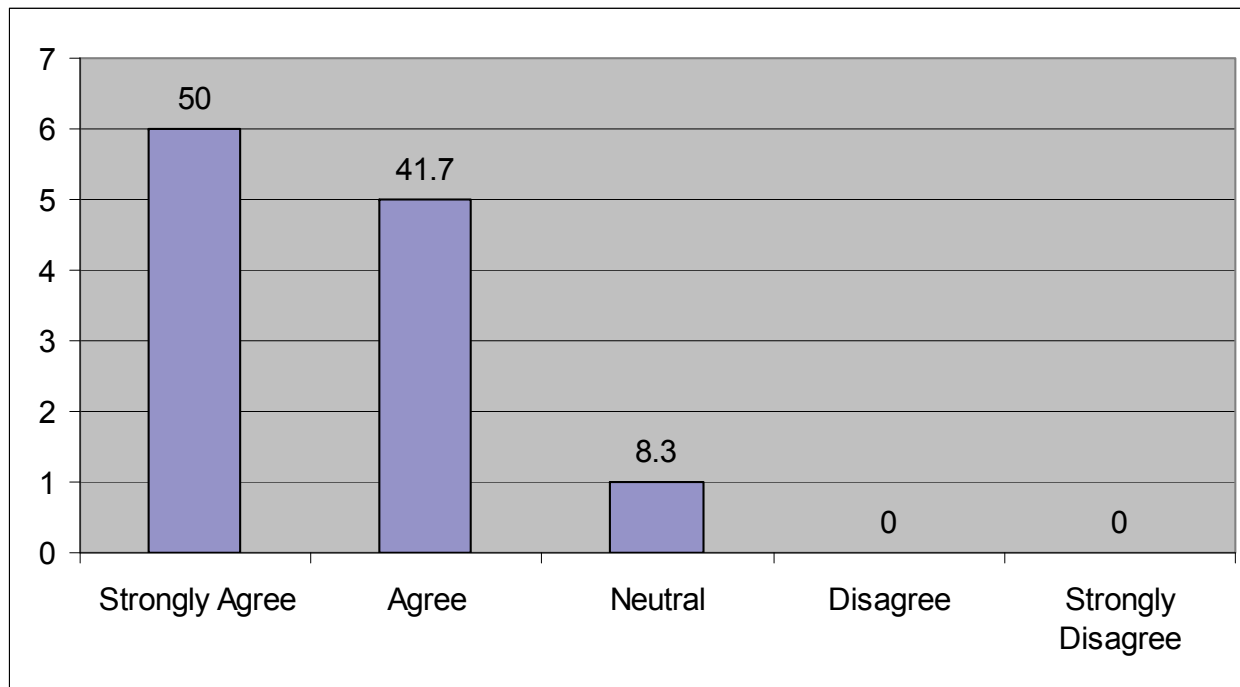
- Q2. A collaboration project among librarians, PhD students and LIS faculty is appropriate and efficient.



Remarks:  
Positive  
response!

# The LIS Book Project Survey

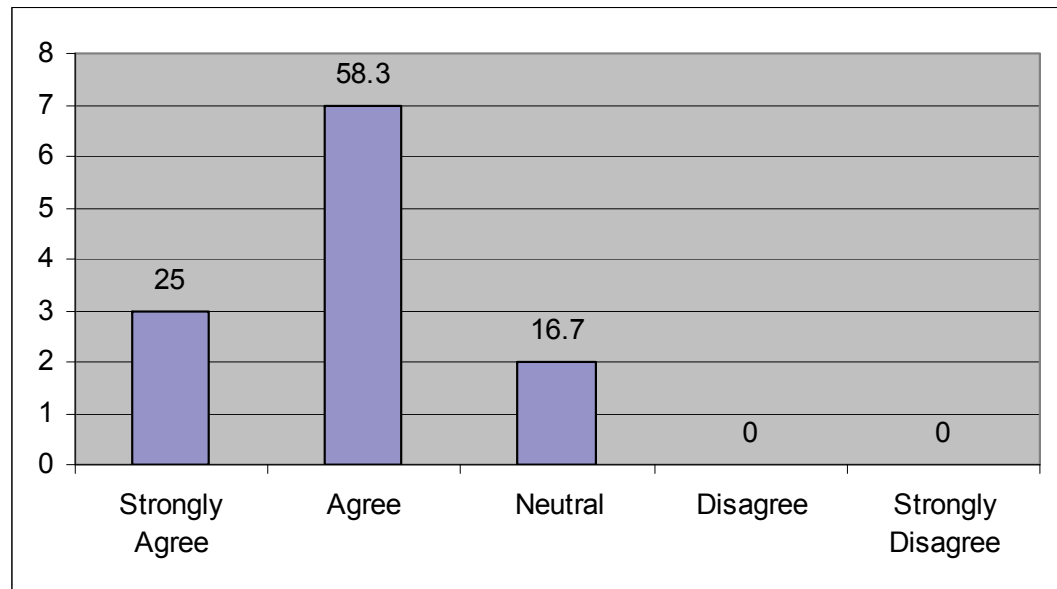
- Q3. The list we have for communication among ourselves is very helpful in this project.



*Remarks: Very positive response for the emailing list.*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

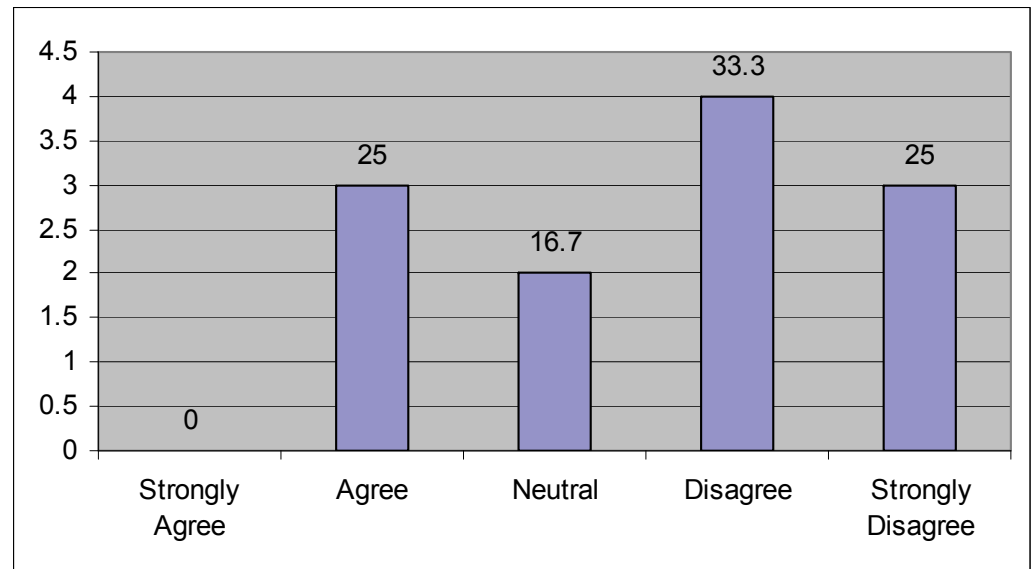
- Q4. The whole process, including outline preparation, bibliography selection, draft writing, peer review and revision is coherent and efficient.



*Remarks: Positive response for the collaboration process.*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

- Q5. I have encountered some difficulty in writing a literature review for the research topic(s) in this project.



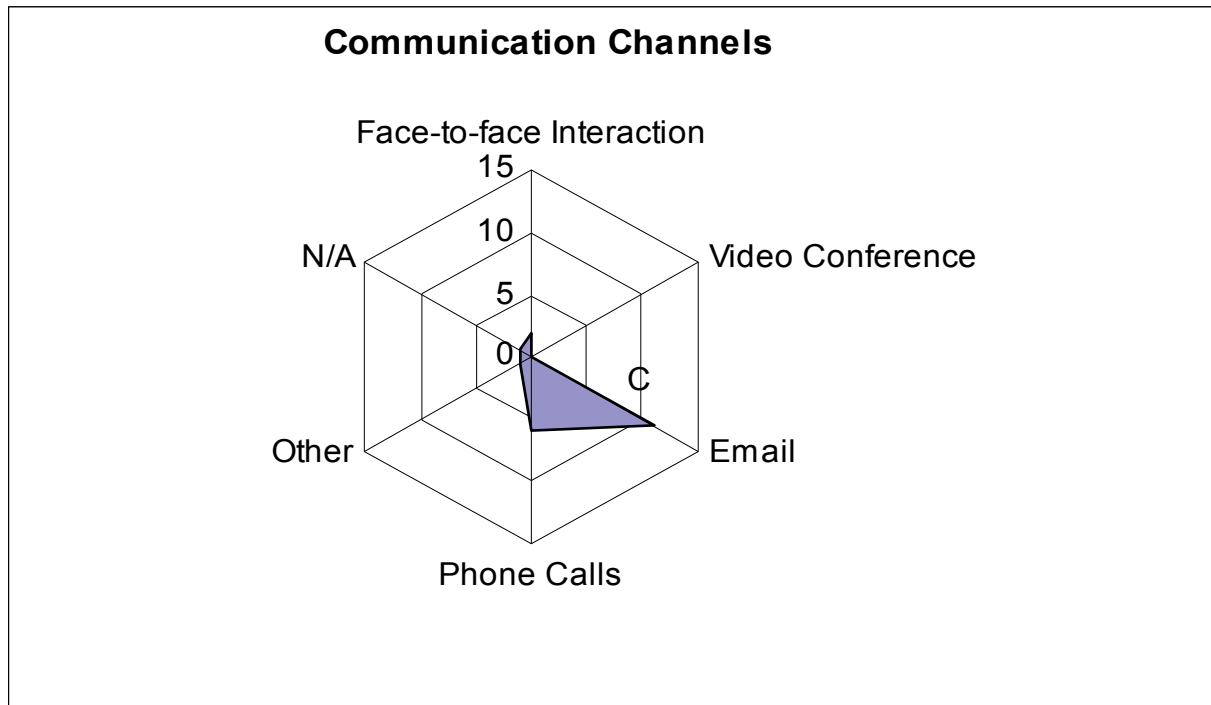
*Issues: Participants' different levels of knowledge and experience;*

*Opportunities for students and young professionals;*

*The pros and cons of collaboration...*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

- Q6. How did you communicate with your co-author(s)? (Check all that apply)



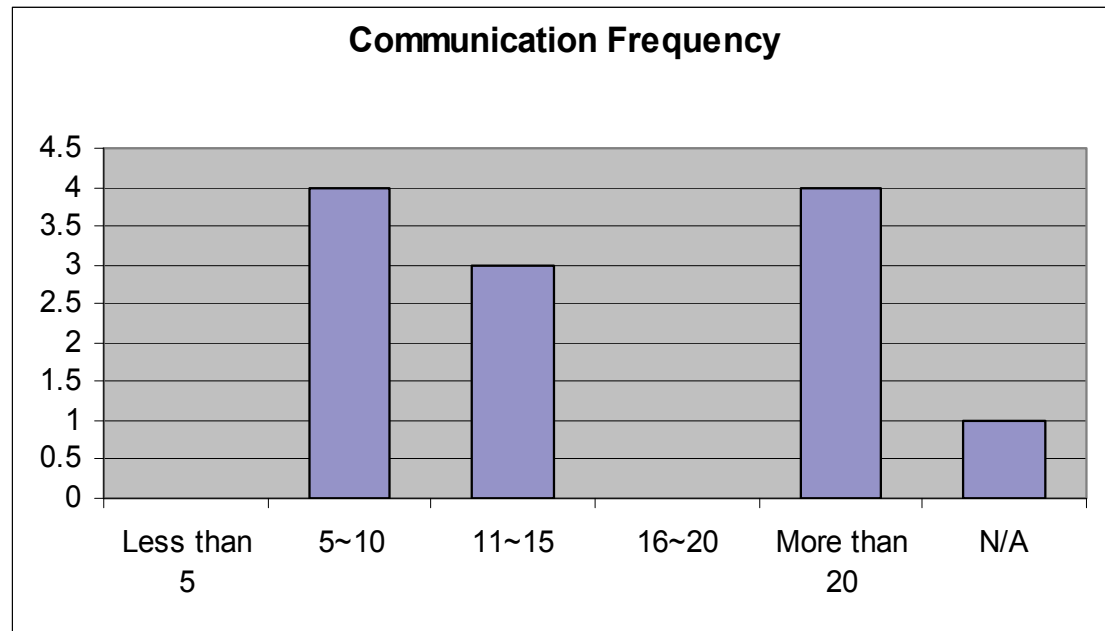
*Issues:*

*“Push”  
technology  
(such as  
email) is still  
preferred;*

*Traditional  
vs. New vs.  
newer  
technology...*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

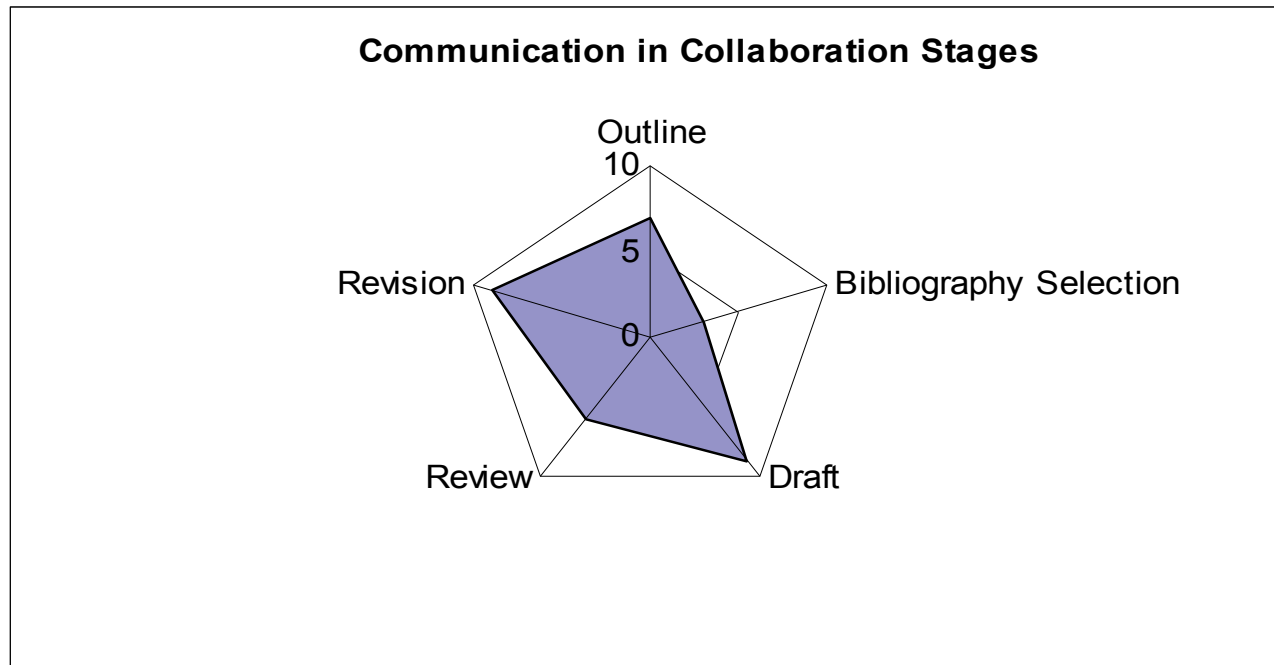
- Q7. How many times did you communicate with your co-author(s)?





# The LIS Book Project Survey

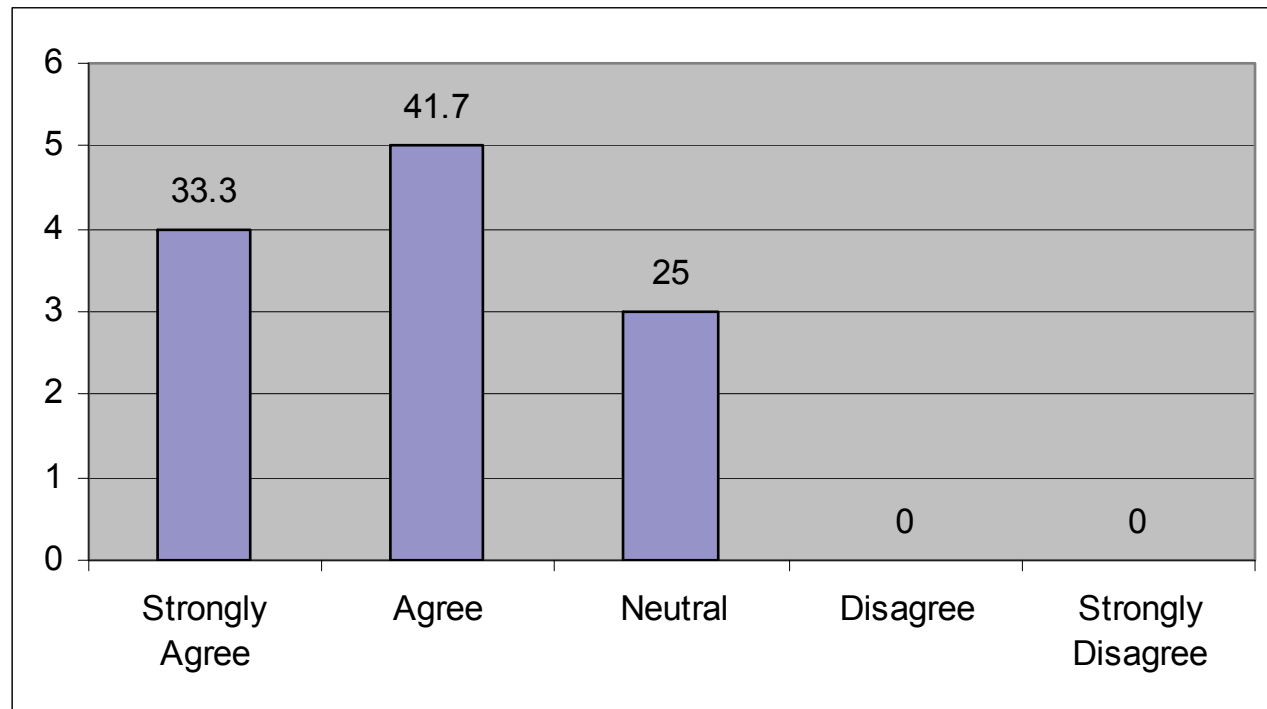
- Q8. In which stage(s) did you communicate a lot? (Check all that apply)



*Remarks: Drafting and revision are rated the highest, the next is outline, and the least is bibliography selection.*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

- Q9. I am satisfied with the result of this collaborated project, and I will participate in this type of collaboration in the future.



*Remarks:  
Positive  
response.*

# The LIS Book Project Survey

- **Q10. Please put any comments and thoughts you may have about the LIS book project below:**
  - The lack of accurate information about **the target audience** was the biggest issue. Collaboration among co-authors were pleasant and effective.
  - In my case, my communication with co-author(s) didn't involve much the content of the chapter. We each took care of different topics which did not overlap much. Most communications were for **logistic issues**, such as reminders of the deadline. Most communications with editors, likewise, involved deadlines, bios, citation formats, etc. Only at the **final stage of revision process**, our communications were focused on the **content**. We (authors) made revisions and additions following editors' feedback.
  - For Q9, I am satisfied, but I will probably not participate again in the near future, because **it took so much time**.
  - This is quite an experience for me as an **editor**. However, I am not sure if I will ever do it again this way.
  - It's a tremendous effort for the coordinator and editor(s) to bring together so many participants and organize such a big project! Would like to see more cooperation opportunities in the CALA community in the future!

# Concluding Remarks

- Collaboration in authorship among librarians, LIS faculty and students is considered as appropriate.
- Benefits of collaboration:
  - It could cover a **variety of topics** which is almost impossible as for a single author;
    - Ensure that important topics won't be missed;
    - Rates of co-authorship: Growing importance of teamwork and the increasing division of labor (Cronin et al., 2003, 2004).
  - Required by the **rapid growth of knowledge** and new research fronts;
  - **Training opportunities** for students and new library professionals.

# Concluding Remarks

- Challenges of collaboration:
  - Needs great **coordination** effort;
  - **Time consuming** for most of the participants;
  - **Different levels of knowledge** and experience can affect the coherence of chapters and the whole book.
  - Diffusion of **responsibility; motivation, accountability** (Wray, 2001, 2006) .
- “Push” technology such as email is more frequently used and more effective in terms of communication channels than “pull” technology such as blog.

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Thank you!