



# SAA Research Forum: An exploratory survey of archivists teaching outside the archives

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# Problem Statement

- The purpose of the research is to gather and evaluate information about experience and opportunity for librarians and archivists to teach outside their home departments and have taught one or more credit-bearing courses at an academic institution.
- The initiative for this research came from our own experience preparing to co-teach a new public history course for the history department at our university.
- Existing literature is comprised of two areas of study. There is significant research about both public history pedagogy and archivists teaching instruction sessions in the archives with primary sources. There are studies about collaborations between teaching faculty and archivists in ideating, creation, and implementing course assignments with specific literacy learning outcomes.
- However, there is a dearth of information and research about archivists teaching credit-bearing courses outside the library or archives, for example teaching a history course through the history department.



# Research Method

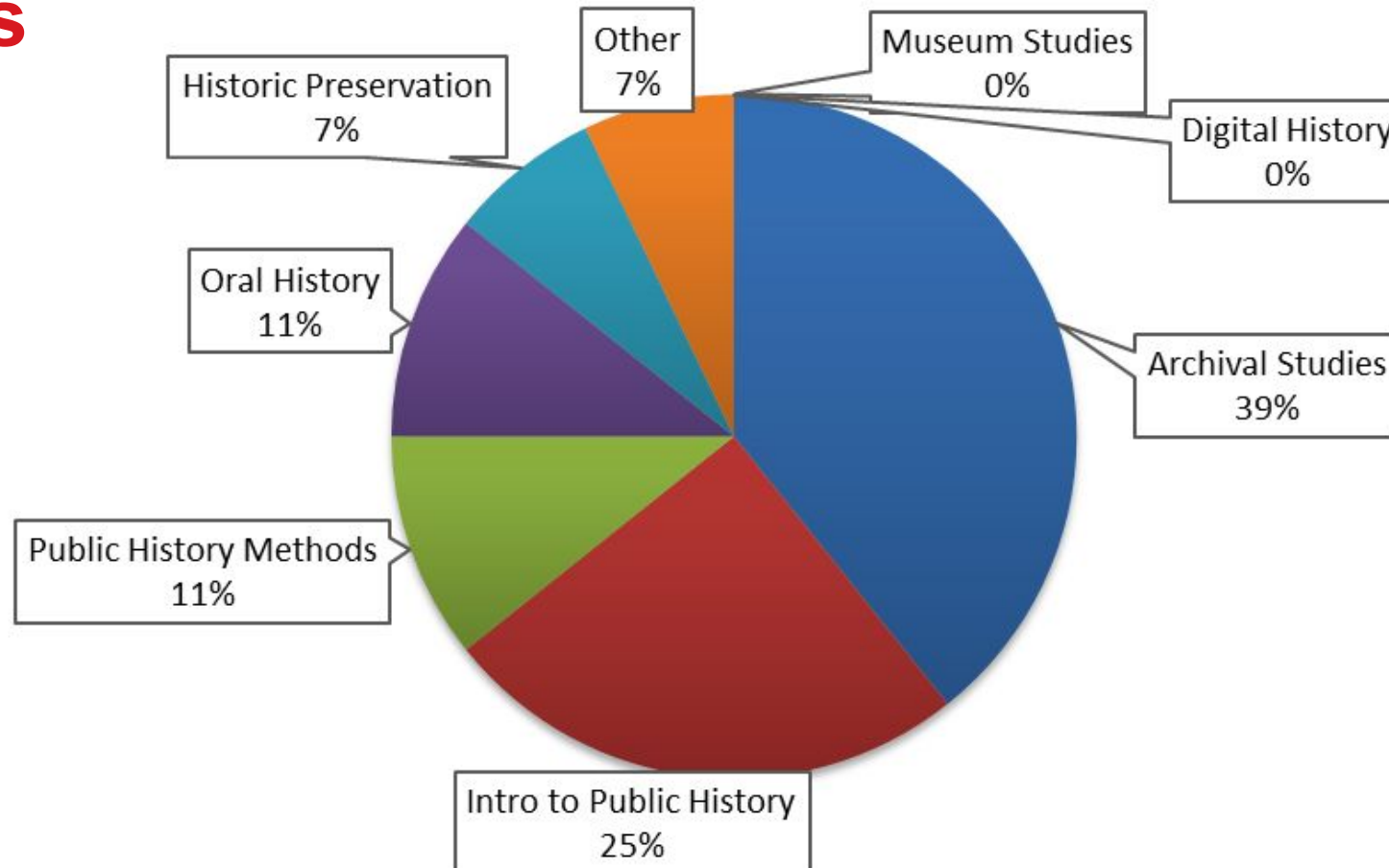
- We created a survey, “An exploratory survey of archivists teaching outside the archives,” in Qualtrics to gather opinions and preferences about teaching credit-bearing courses as part of, or adjacent to, professional responsibilities in academic libraries and archives.
- Across 34 questions, we asked respondents about teaching experience in both public history and library and information science, course development, institutional support, and remuneration.
- We sought and received IRB exempt status through our institution.
- We released the survey through professional listservs from March-June 2025.

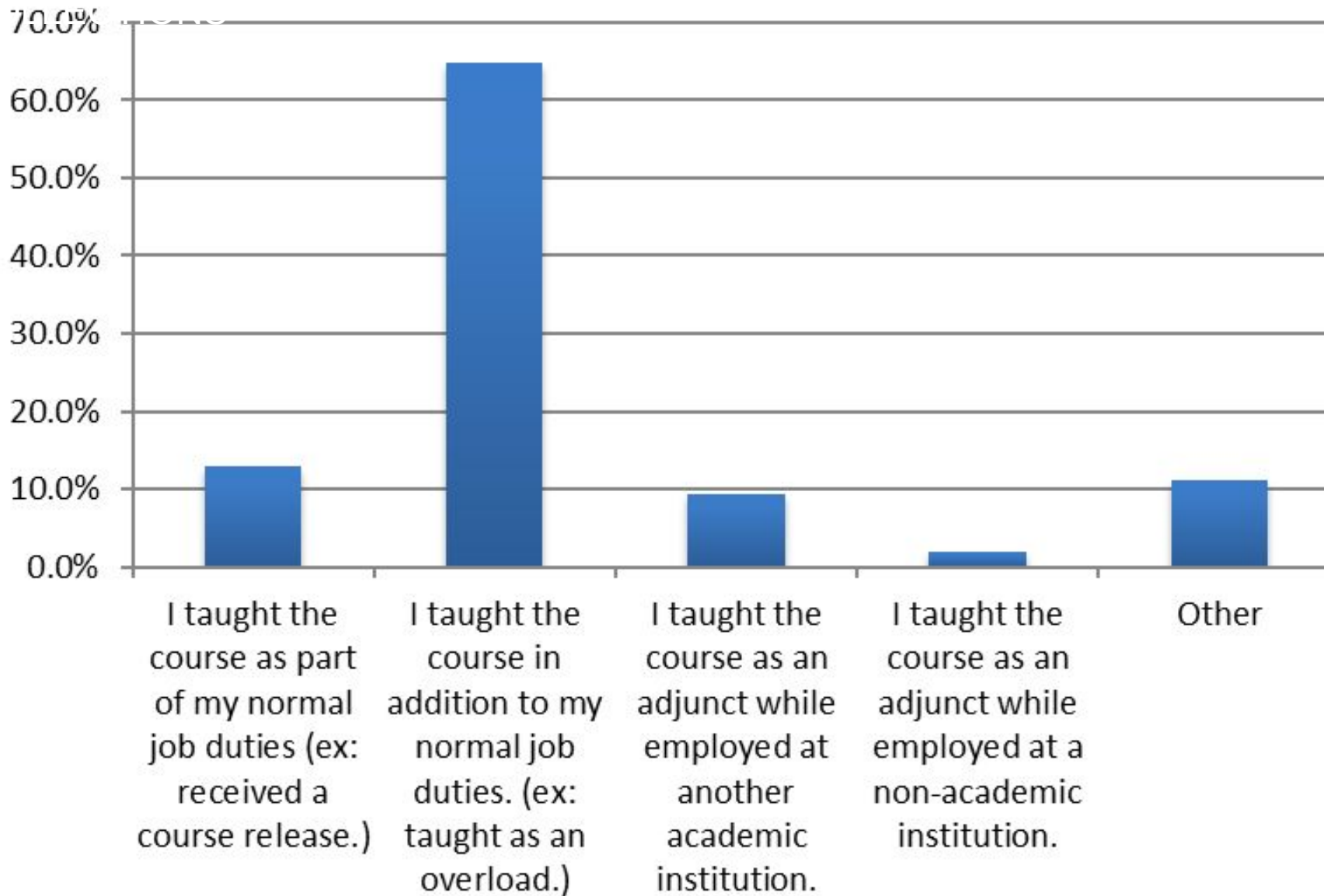
# Results

- 87 Recorded results
  - Fewer than we were hoping for
  - Acknowledge the narrow topic
  - Distribution in summer not ideal
  - Plans to re-release survey
- 60.8% of respondents said their primary professional identity was "Archivist"
- 18 respondents have taught a credit-bearing Public History course
- 19 respondents have taught a credit-bearing Library course
- 68.4% of respondents said there was precedent at their institution for librarians and archivists to teach credit-bearing courses

## Findings

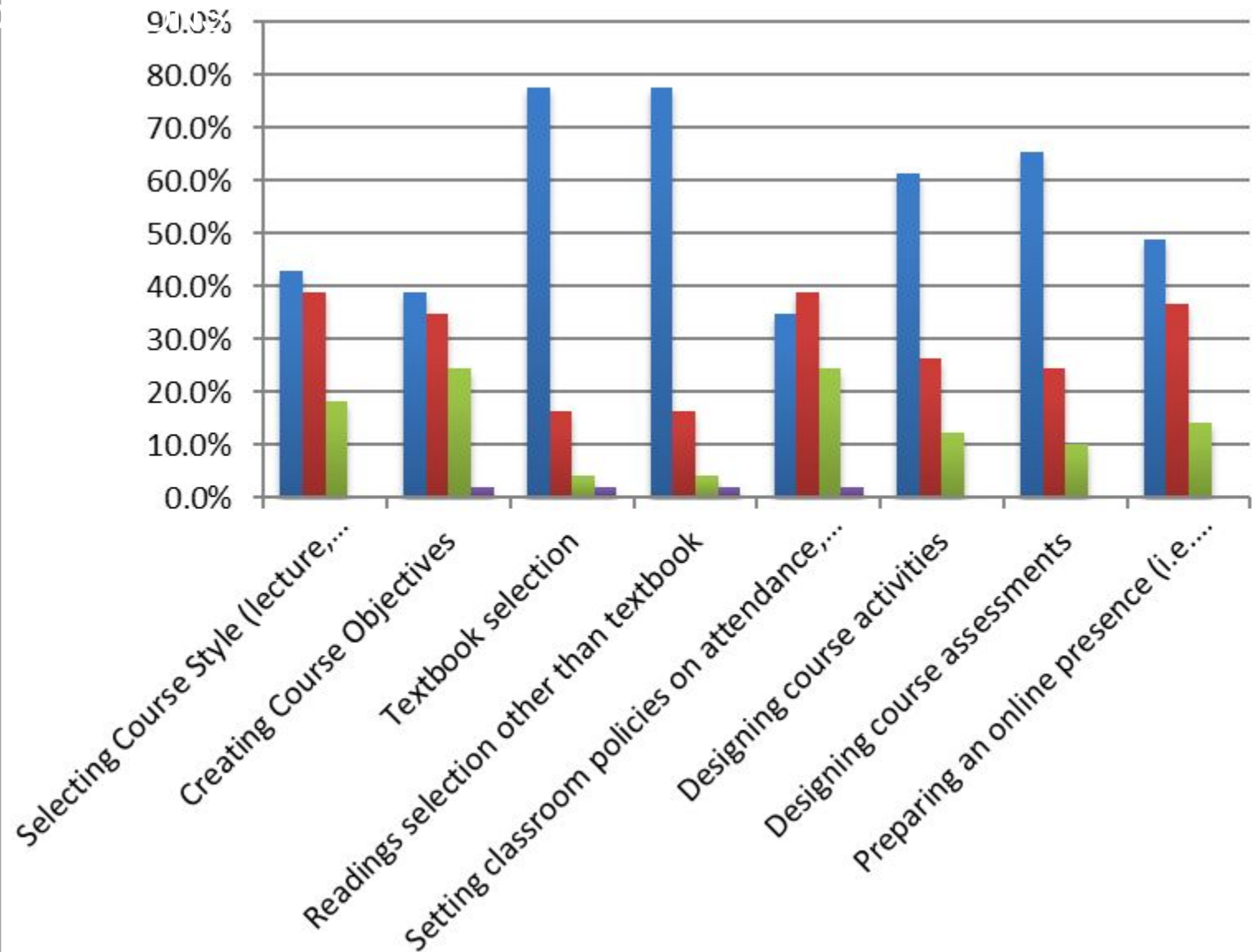
**What type of Public History courses have you taught?  
Select all that apply.**





**Thinking about your most recent teaching experience, select the answer that best describes your situation.**

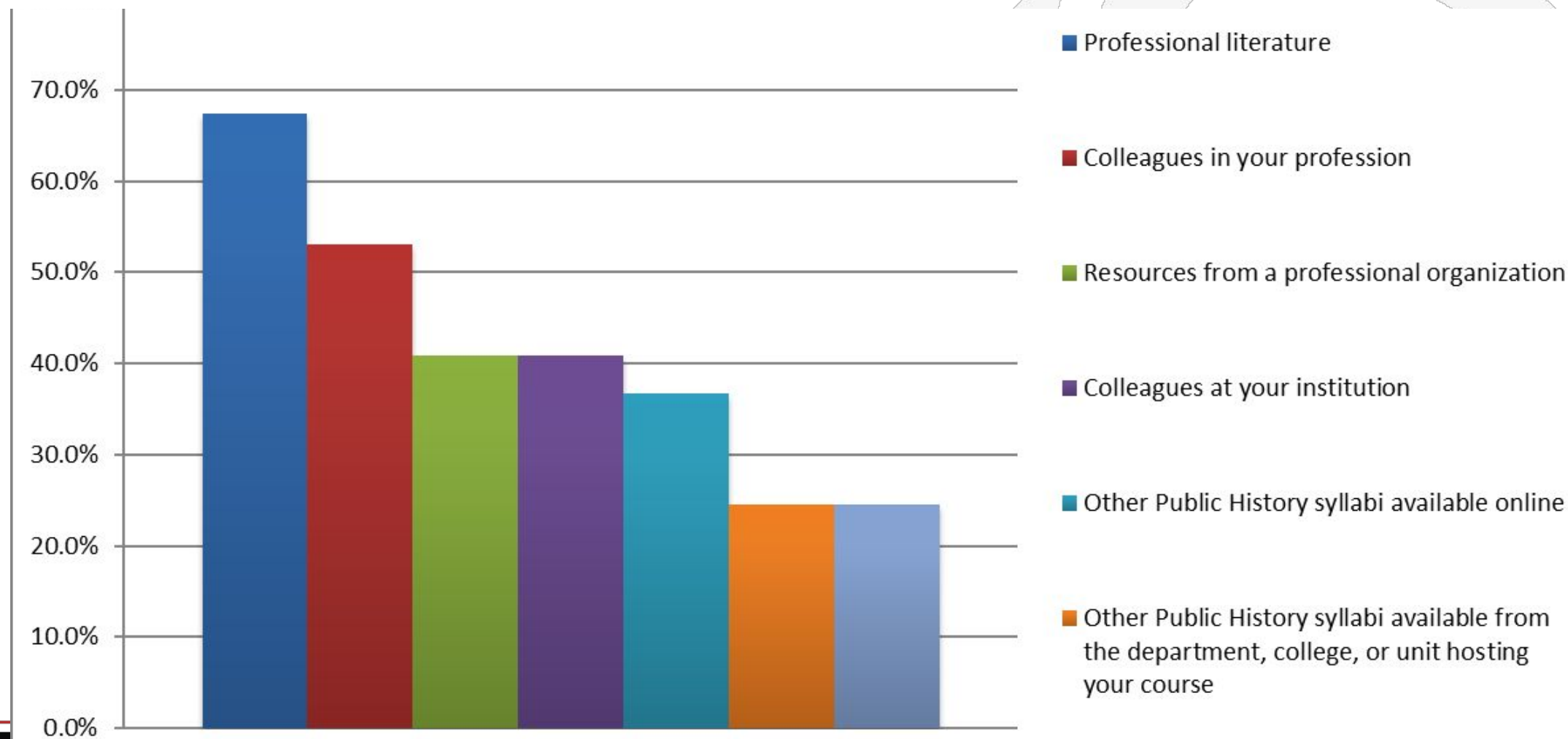




**Thinking about your most recent teaching experience, what amount of support/oversight (not including compensation) did you have within the department, college, or unit hosting the course to carry out the following activities?**

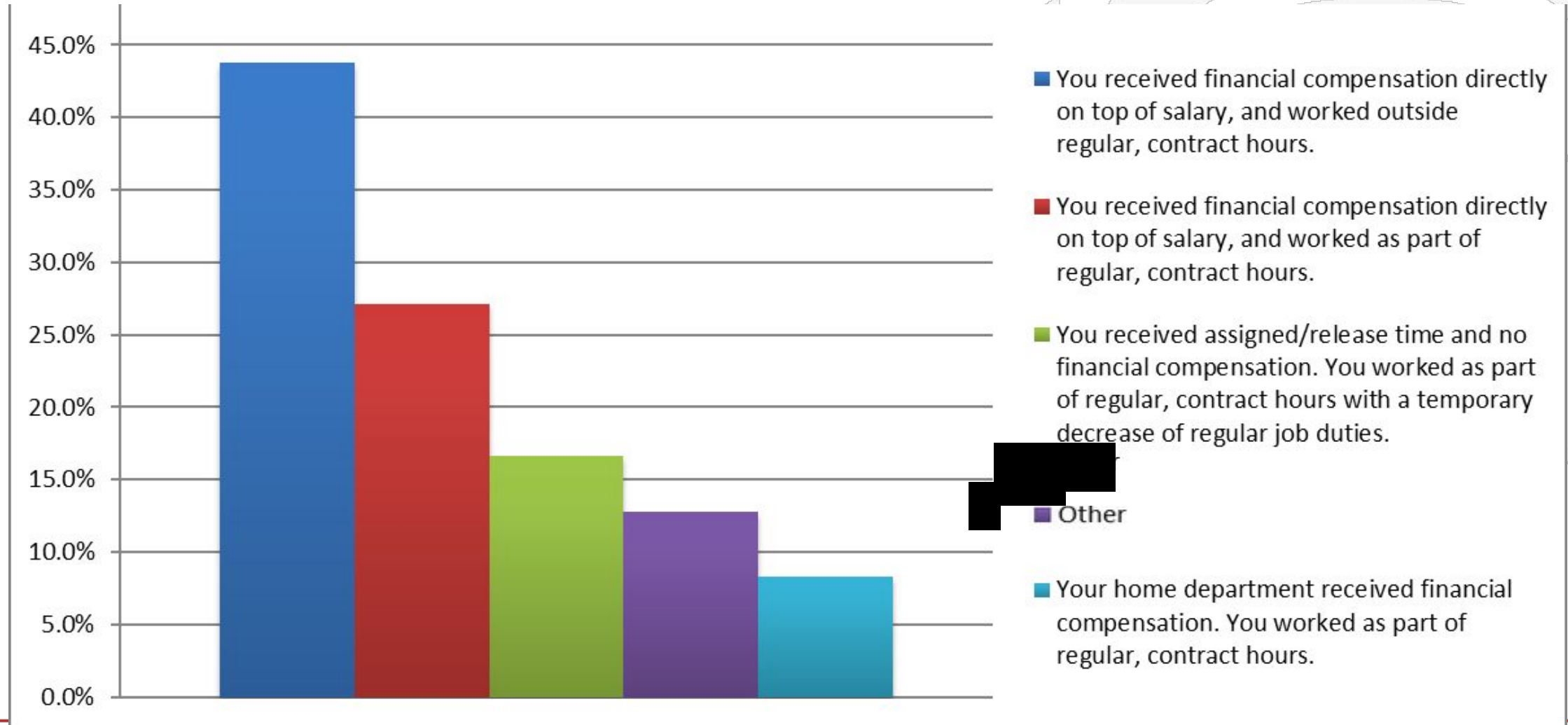
- No support or oversight
- Moderate support or oversight
- A significant amount of support or oversight
- Too much support or oversight

Thinking about your most recent teaching experience, what resources did you use to develop your course? Select all that apply.



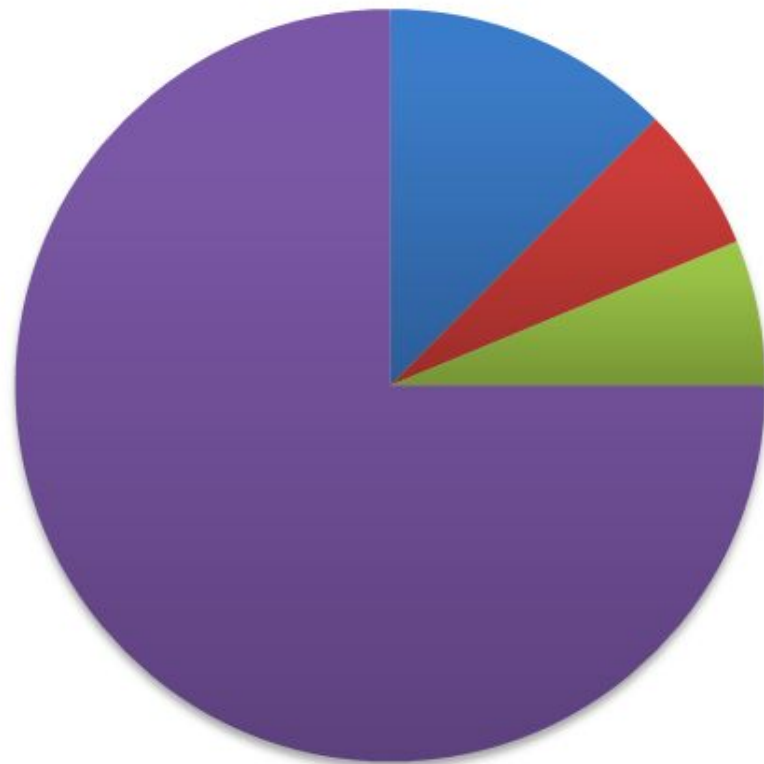


## Thinking about your most recent teaching experience, what was the remuneration arrangement between your home department and the department, college, or unit that hosted your course?



## Further Research

**Thinking about your most recent teaching experience, did you receive your first-choice form of remuneration, or did you need to negotiate / compromise?**



- I received my first choice
- I negotiated and received my first choice
- I negotiated and did not receive my first choice
- I was not given a choice in the form of my remuneration