

» “Where else but at a library can a person with no money in their pocket walk into a place of quiet and peace, and walk out with something beautiful and borrowed?”

-DON C. REED

Strategic Library™



Issue 69 // December 15, 2019

2020 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 2020 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 2020 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 information 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 6,525 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 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.

280 librarians completed the survey questionnaire, a response rate of 4.29%.

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

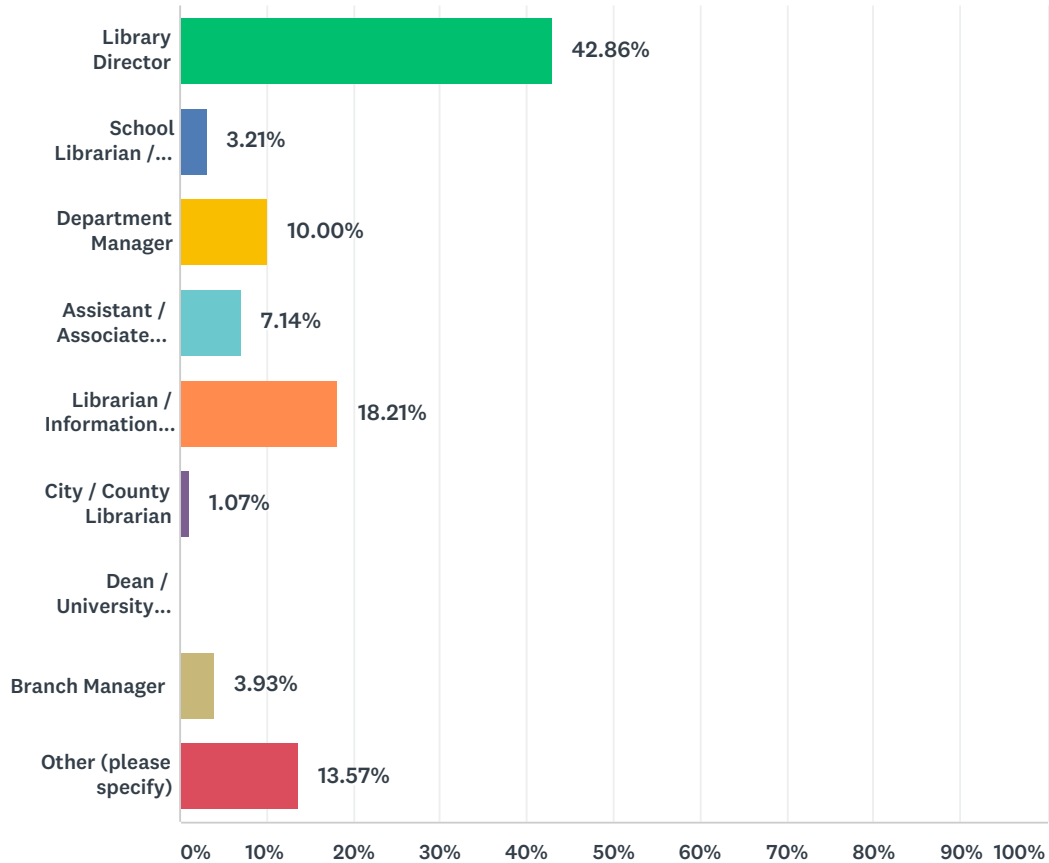
Midwest: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

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

Nationwide Survey Results

Q1 Which of the following best describes your TITLE?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 0



eReader Carrier

Durable padded zipper bag protects from damage

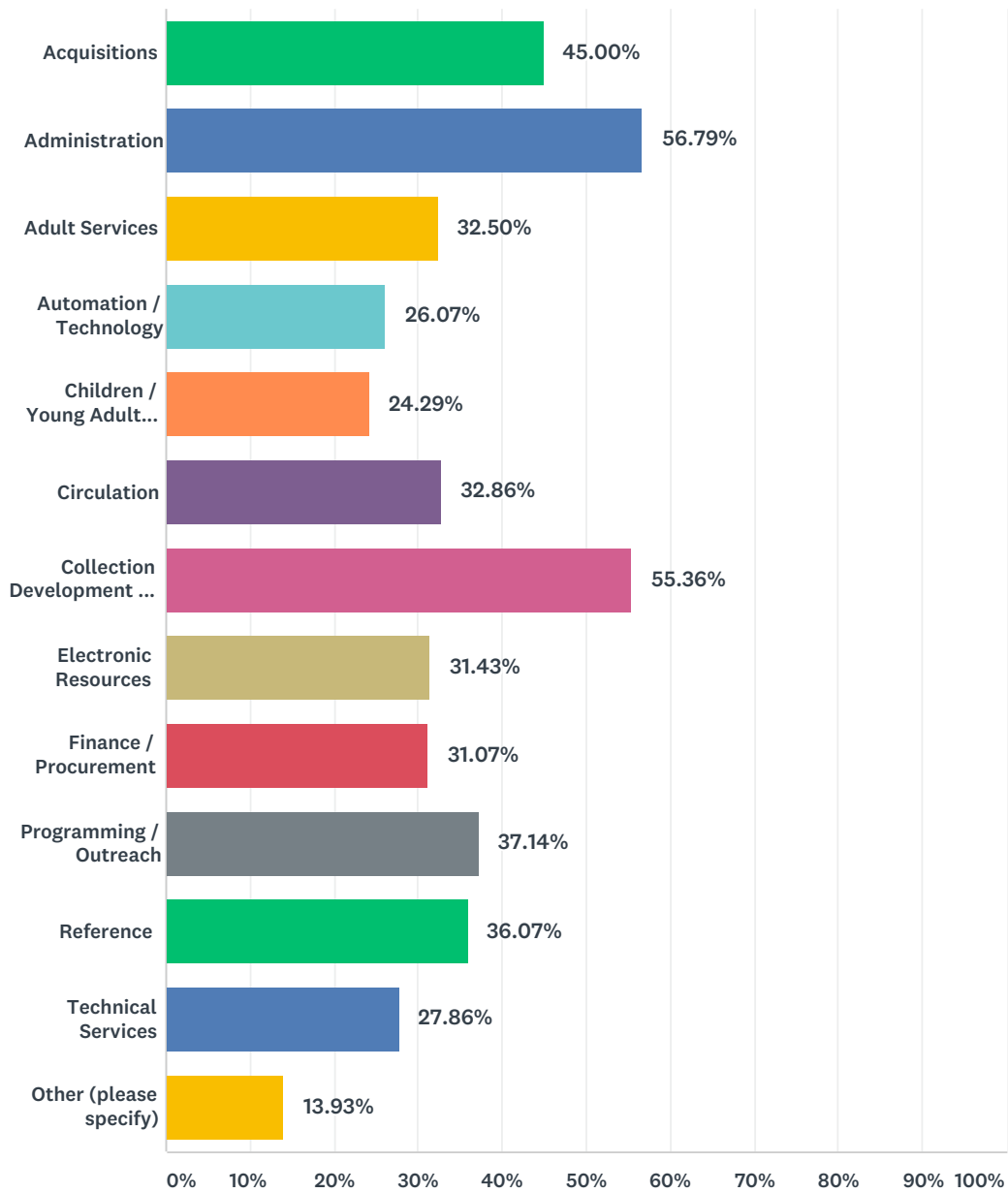
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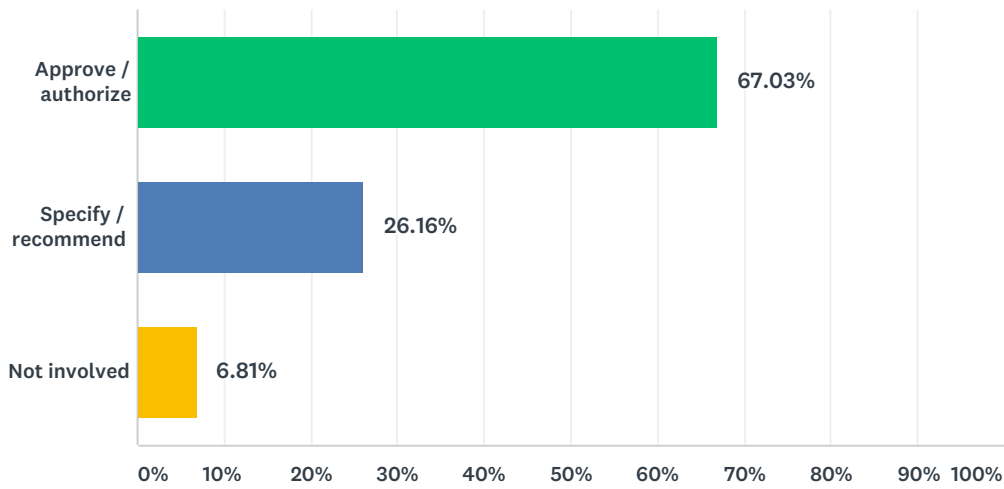
Q2 Which of the following best describes your AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY within the library? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 280 Skipped: 0



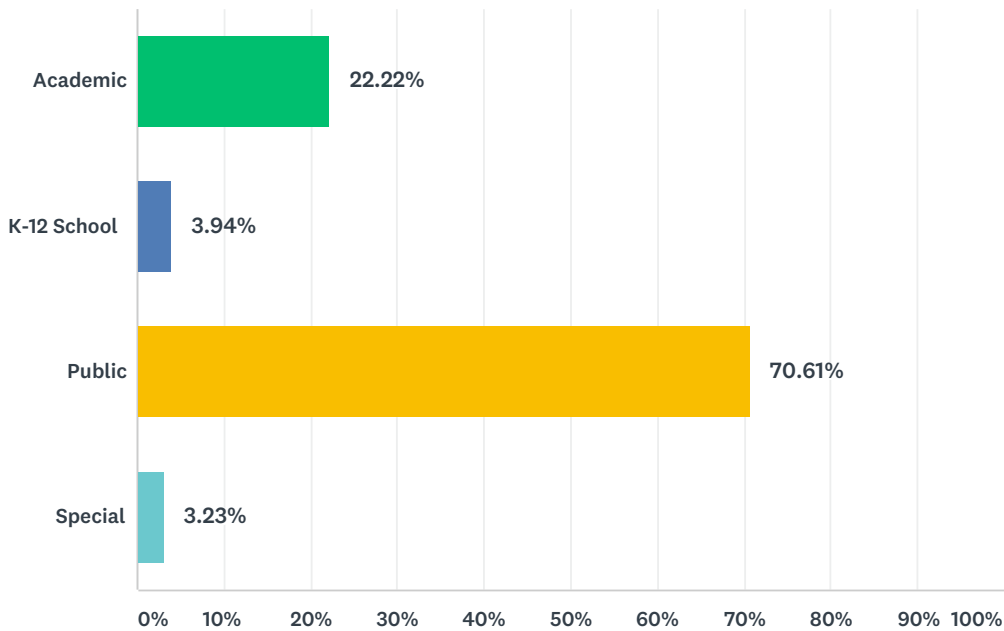
Q3 Which of the following best describes your involvement in PURCHASING for your library?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 1



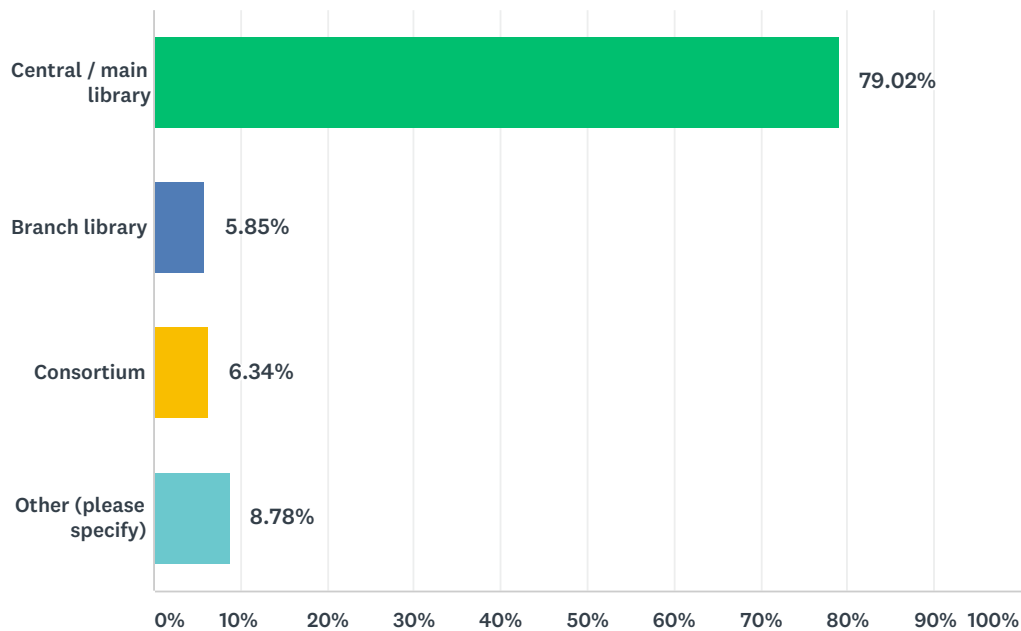
Q4 Which of the following best describes your TYPE OF LIBRARY?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 1



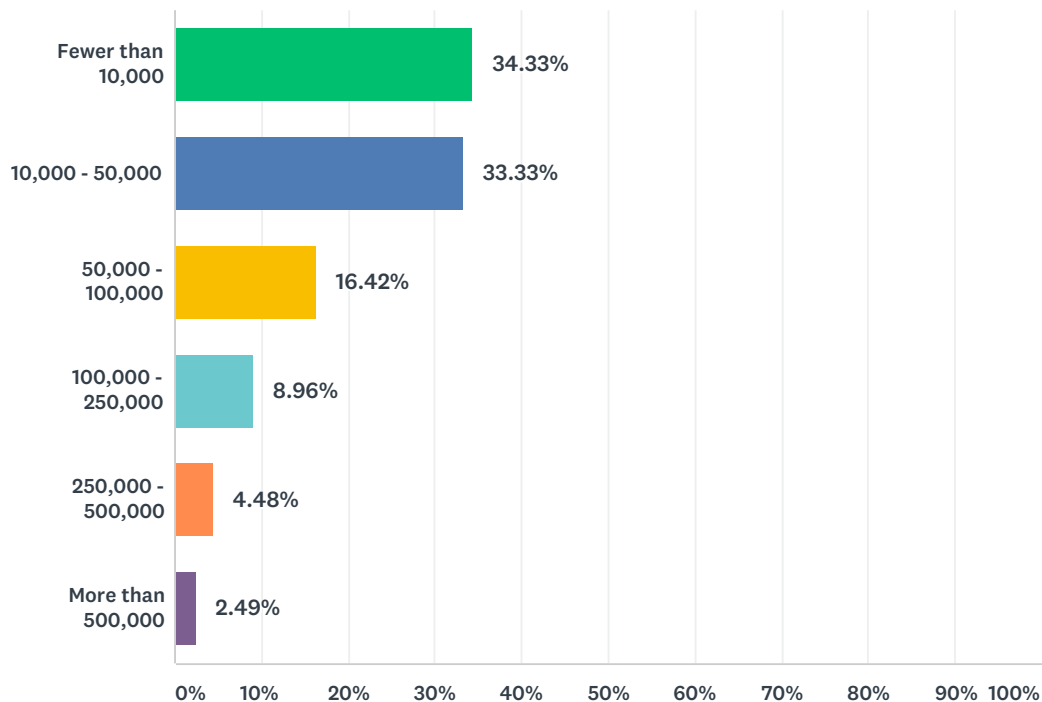
Q5 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes its SETTING?

Answered: 205 Skipped: 75



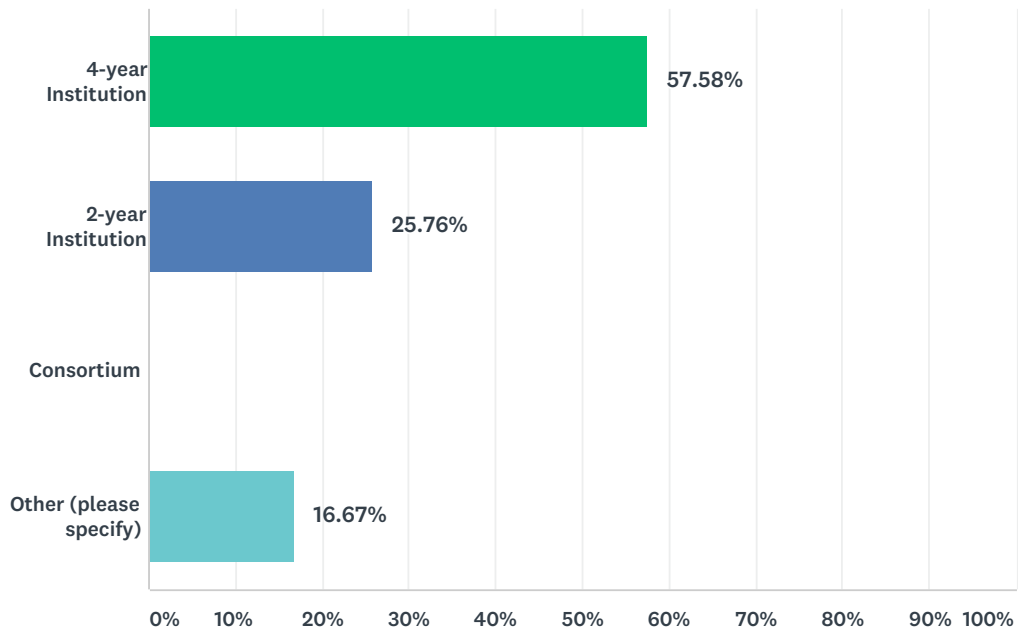
Q6 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes the population of its LIBRARY SERVICE AREA (LSA)?

Answered: 201 Skipped: 79



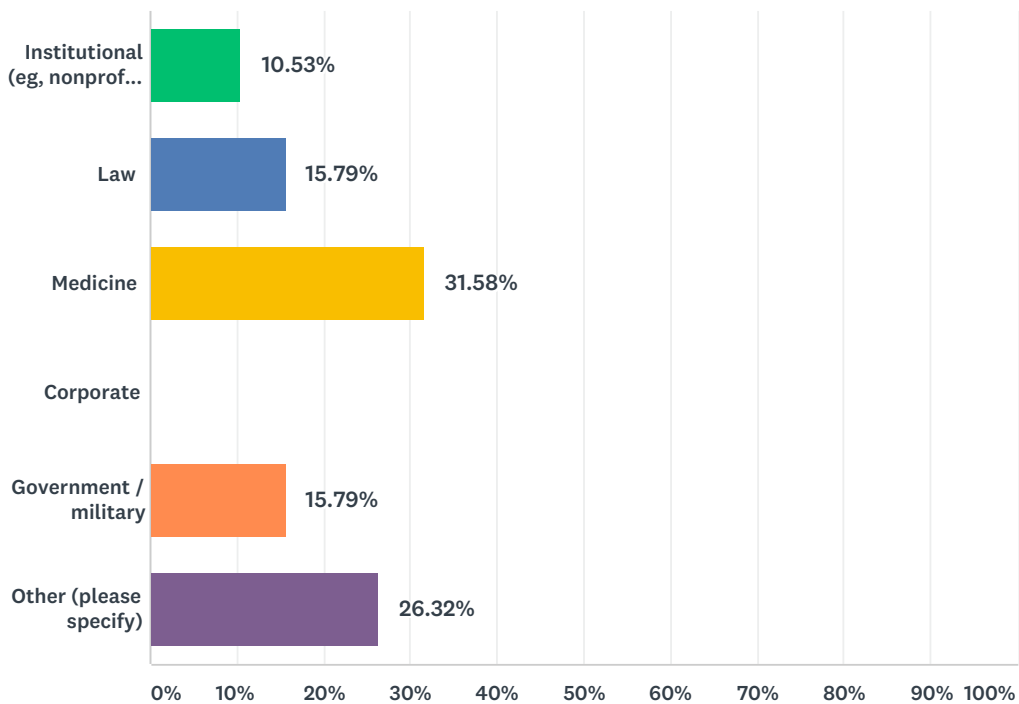
Q7 If yours is an ACADEMIC library, which of the following describes it?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 214



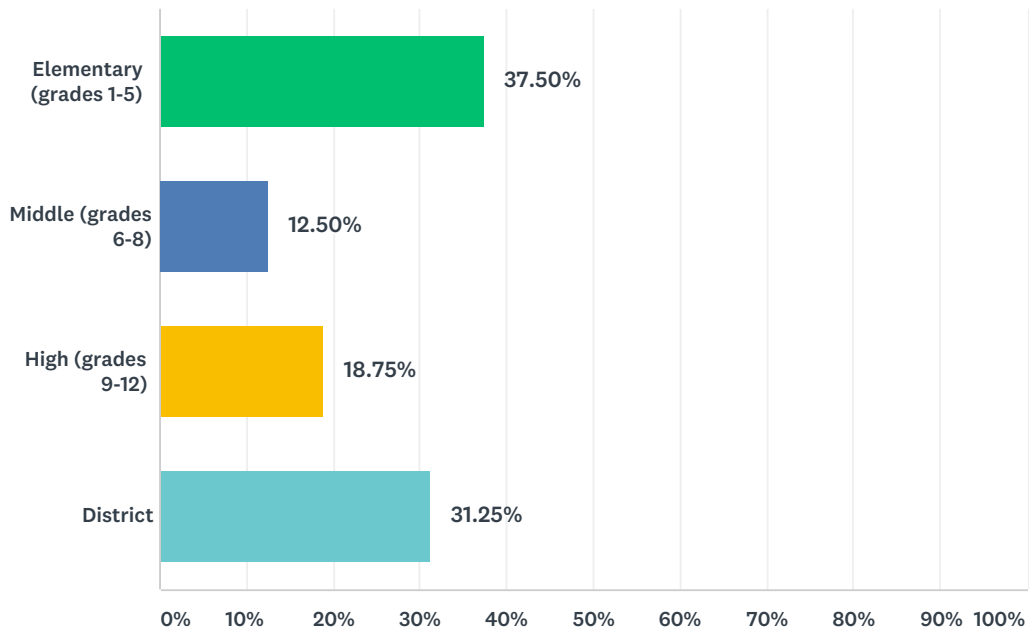
Q8 If yours is a SPECIAL library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 261



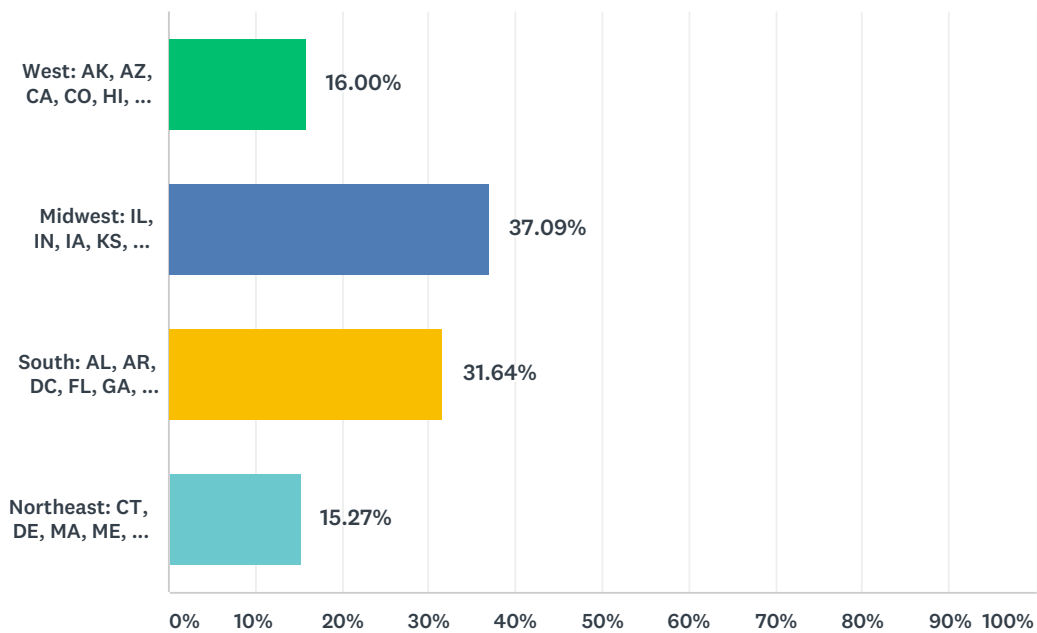
Q9 If yours is a K-12 library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 264



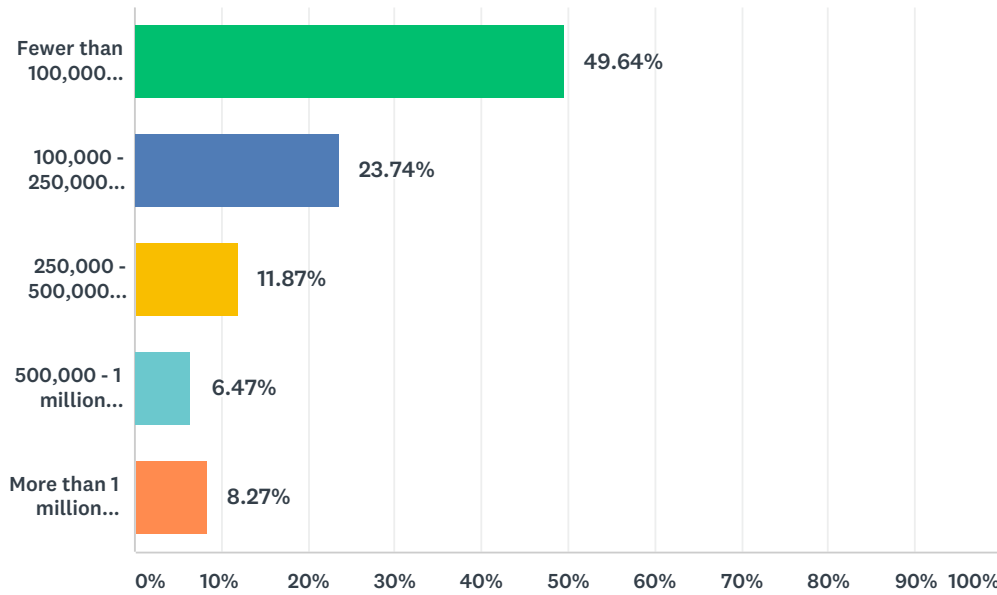
Q10 WHERE is your library?

Answered: 275 Skipped: 5



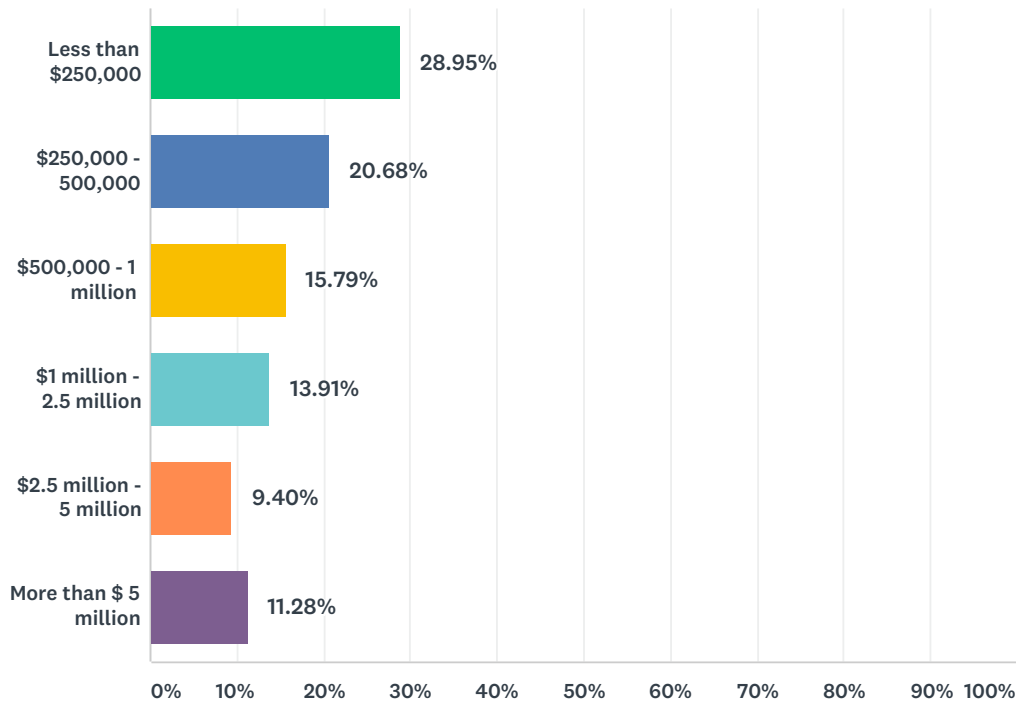
Q11 Which of the following best describes the SIZE OF YOUR LIBRARY'S COLLECTION?

Answered: 278 Skipped: 2



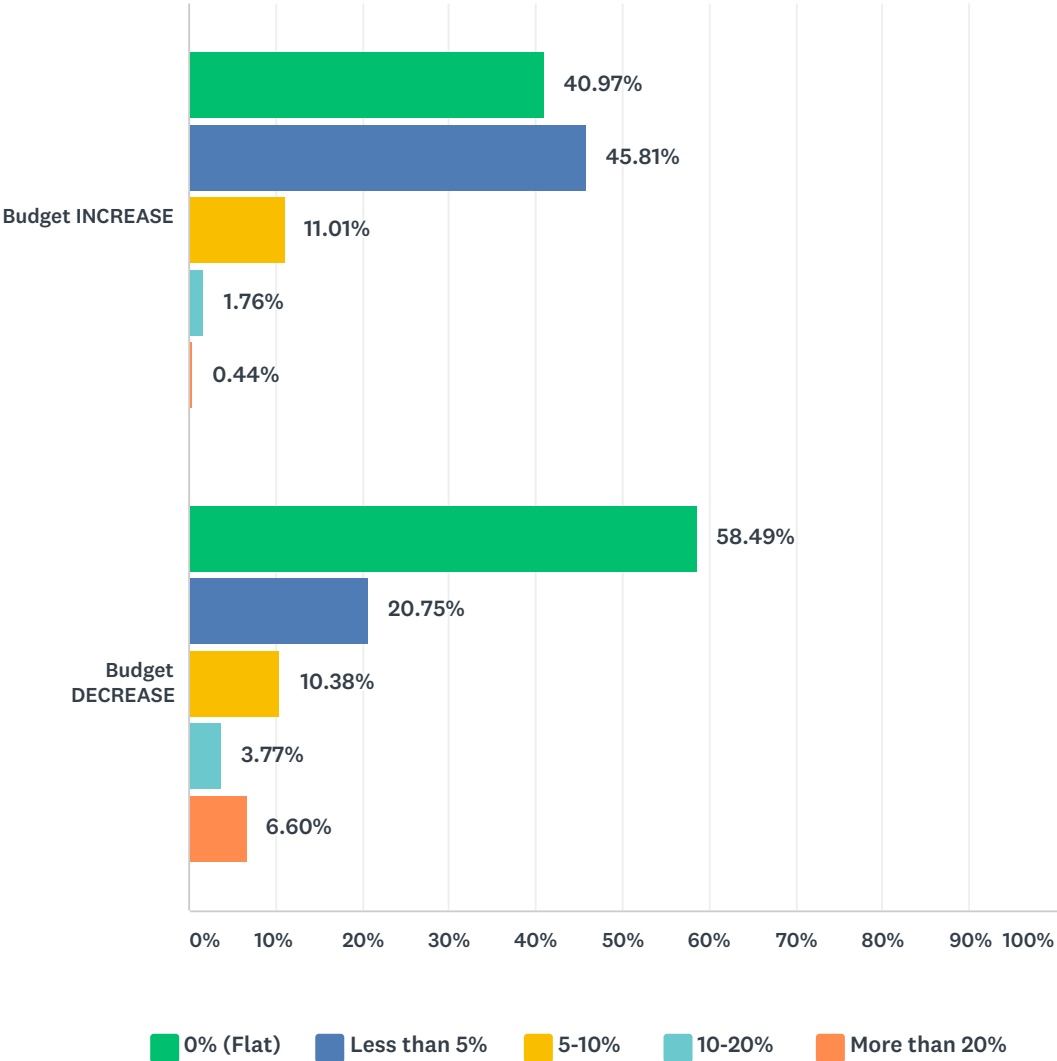
Q12 What is your library's total actual or projected 2020 OPERATING BUDGET?

Answered: 266 Skipped: 14



Q13 By what percentage did your 2020 budget INCREASE or DECREASE?

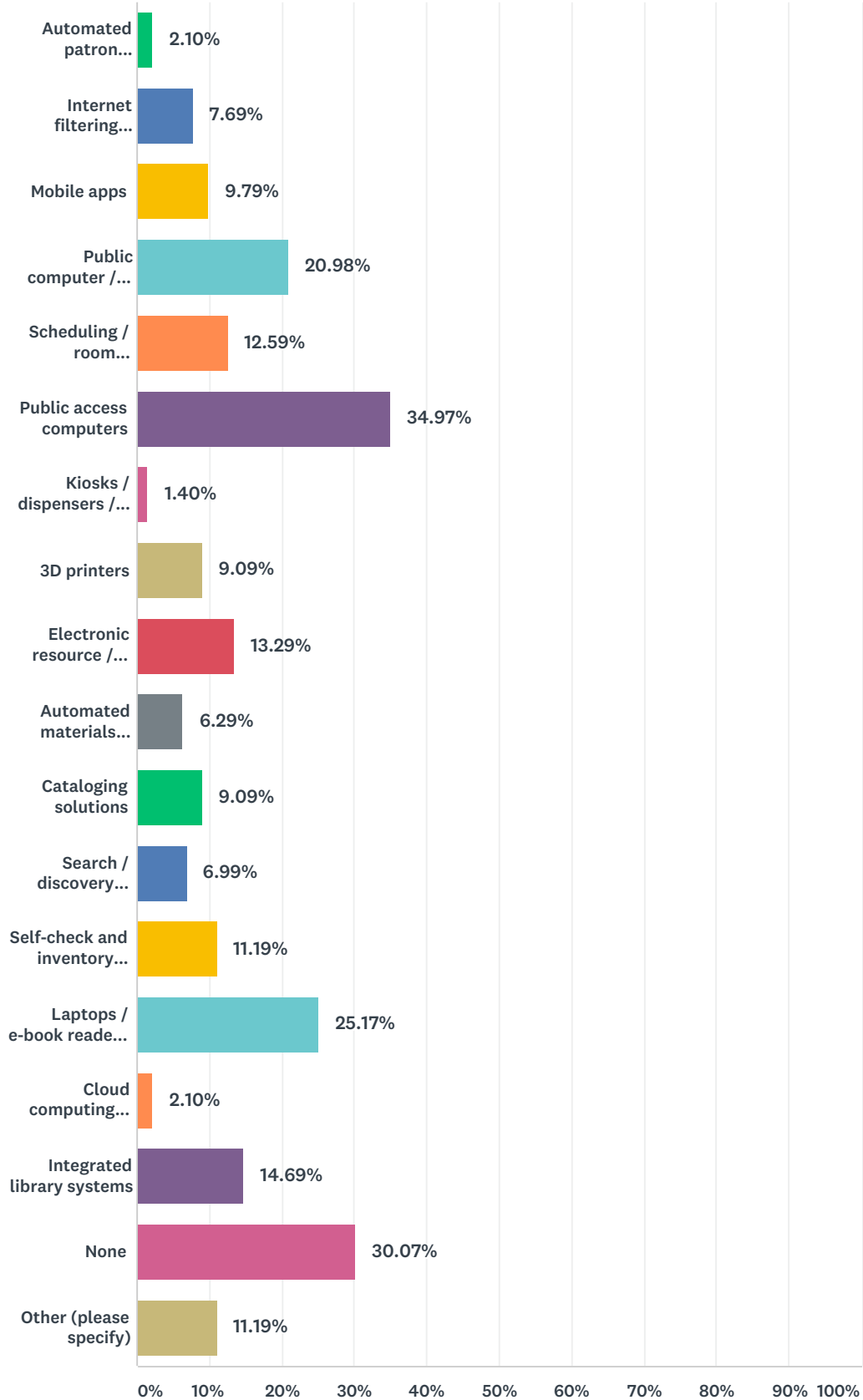
Answered: 259 Skipped: 21



Q14 Which of the following INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / AUTOMATION products and services do you plan to purchase in 2020?

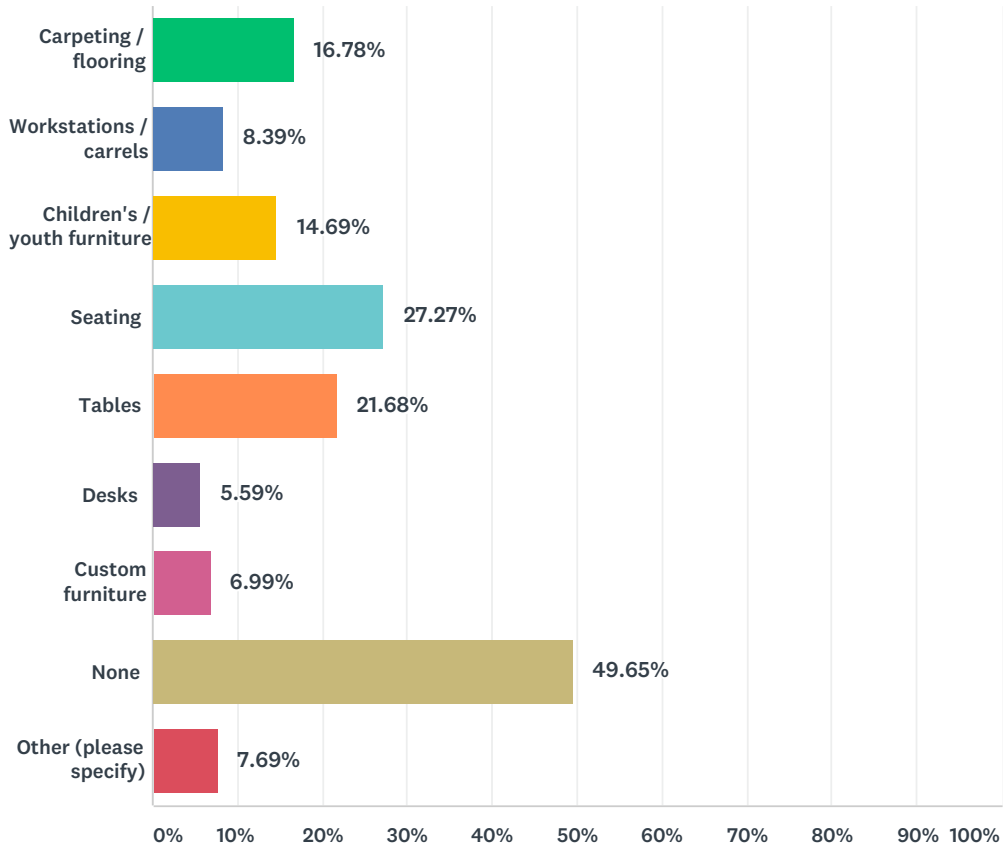
Answered: 143

Skipped: 137



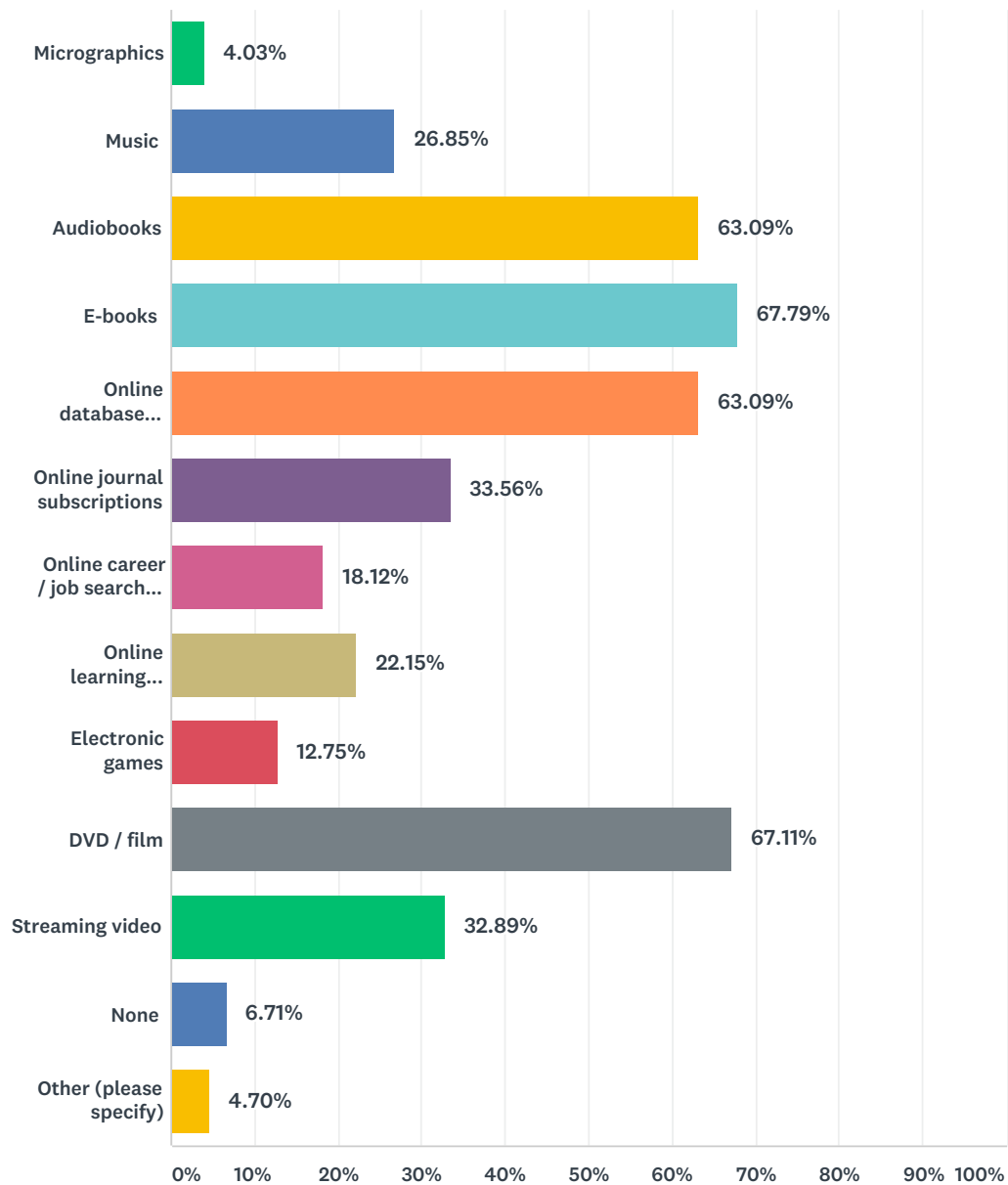
Q15 Which of the following FURNITURE/FURNISHINGS products do you plan to purchase in 2020?

Answered: 143 Skipped: 137



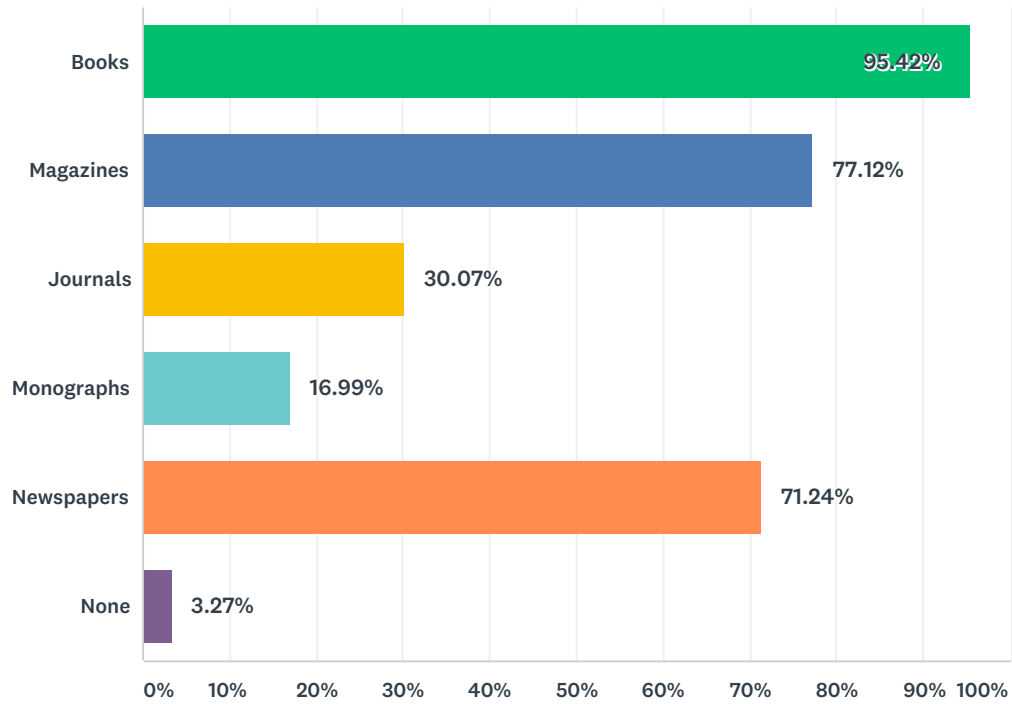
Q16 Which of the following NON-PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2020?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 131



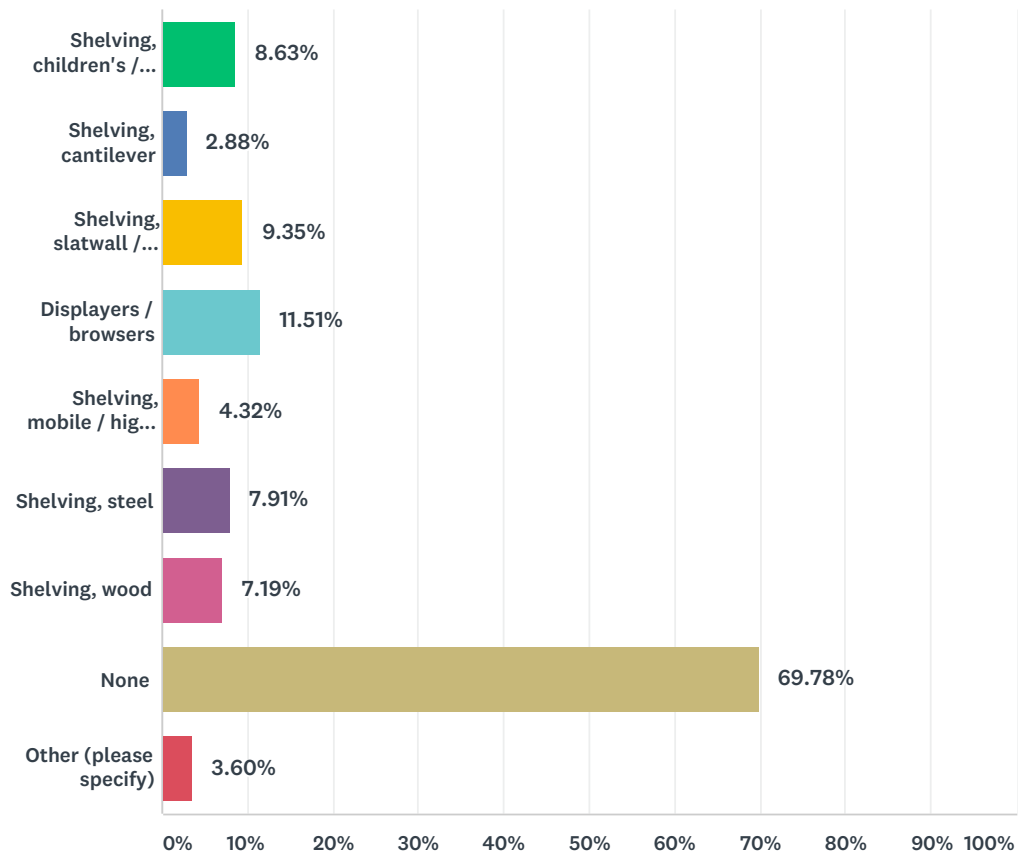
Q17 Which of the following PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2020?

Answered: 153 Skipped: 127



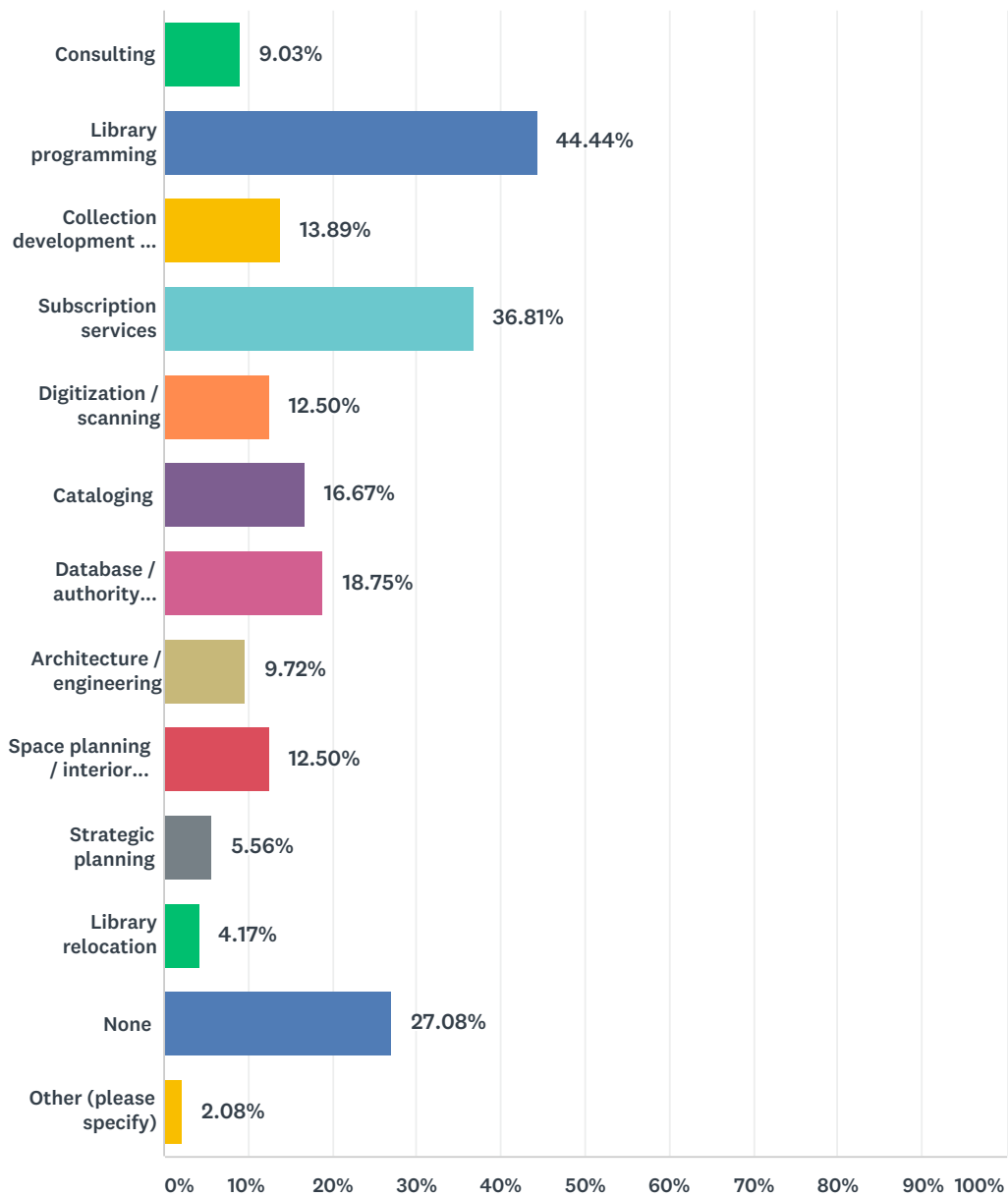
Q18 Which of the following SHELVING / STORAGE / DISPLAY products do you plan to purchase in 2020?

Answered: 139 Skipped: 141



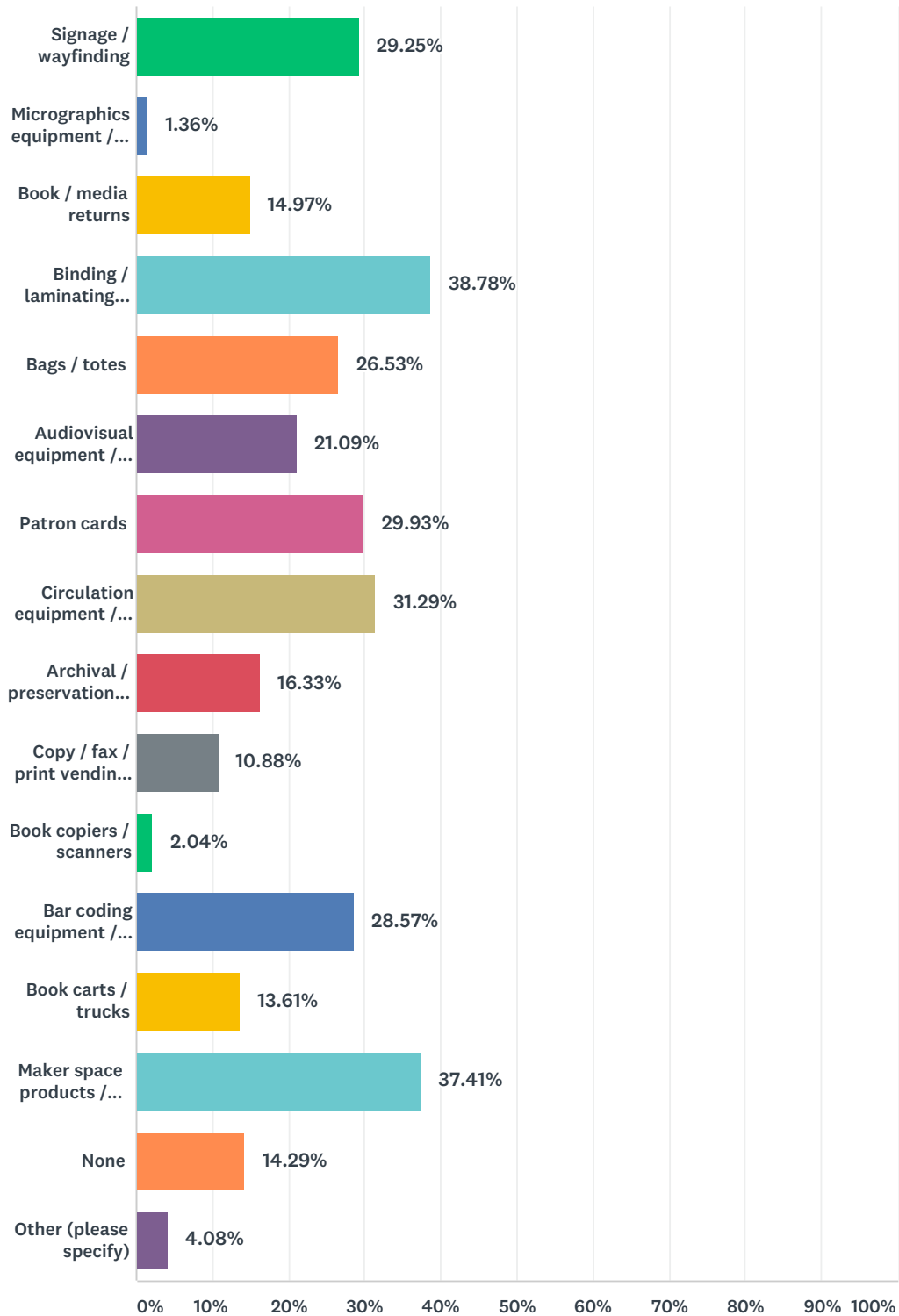
Q19 Which of the following PROFESSIONAL SERVICES do you plan to purchase in 2020?

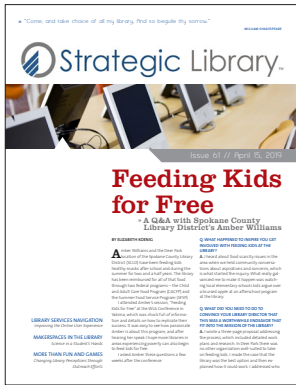
Answered: 144 Skipped: 136



Q20 Which of the following EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES do you plan to purchase in 2020?

Answered: 147 Skipped: 133





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