

» “Democracy depends on an informed population. And where can people get all the information they need? —At the Library.”

—ELLIOT SHELKROT



Issue 81 // December 15, 2020

2021 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 2021 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 2021 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 6,537 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.

441 librarians completed the survey questionnaire, a response rate of 6.75%.

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

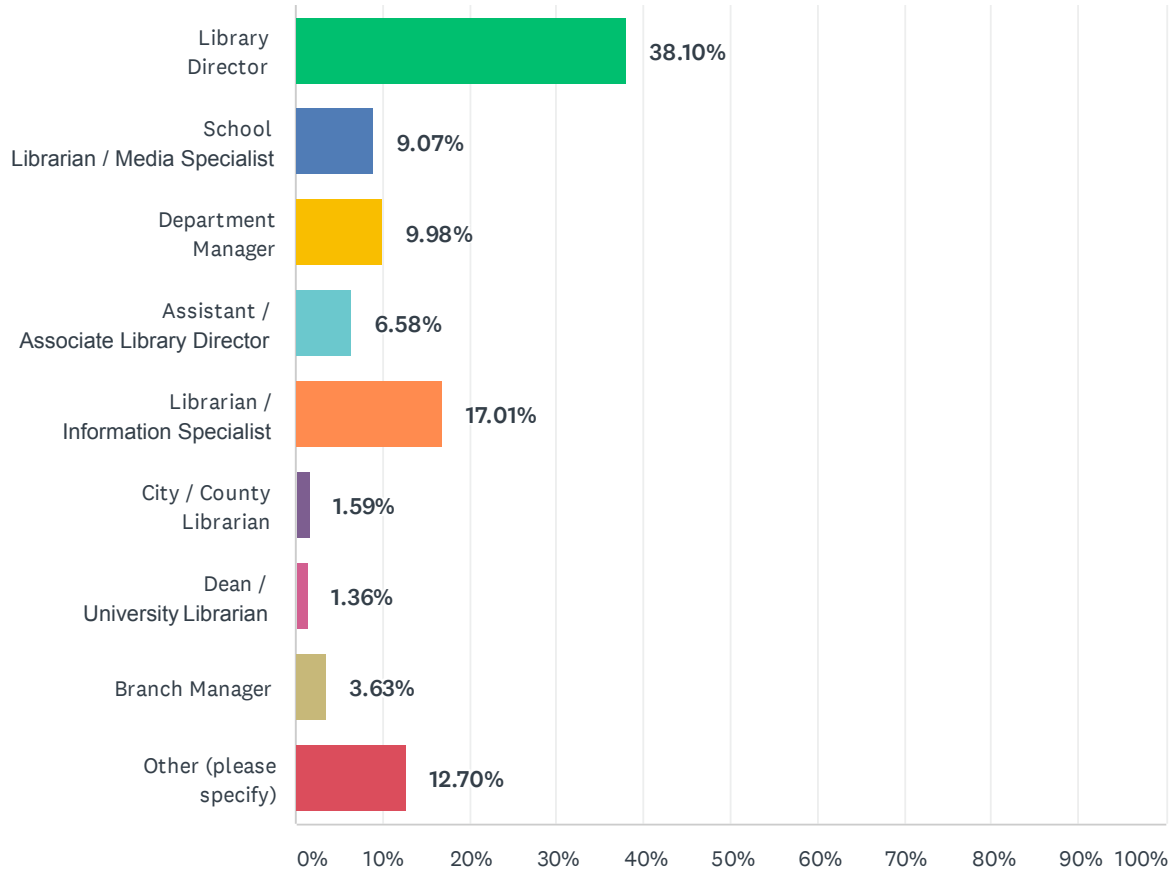
SURVEY REGIONS

- 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

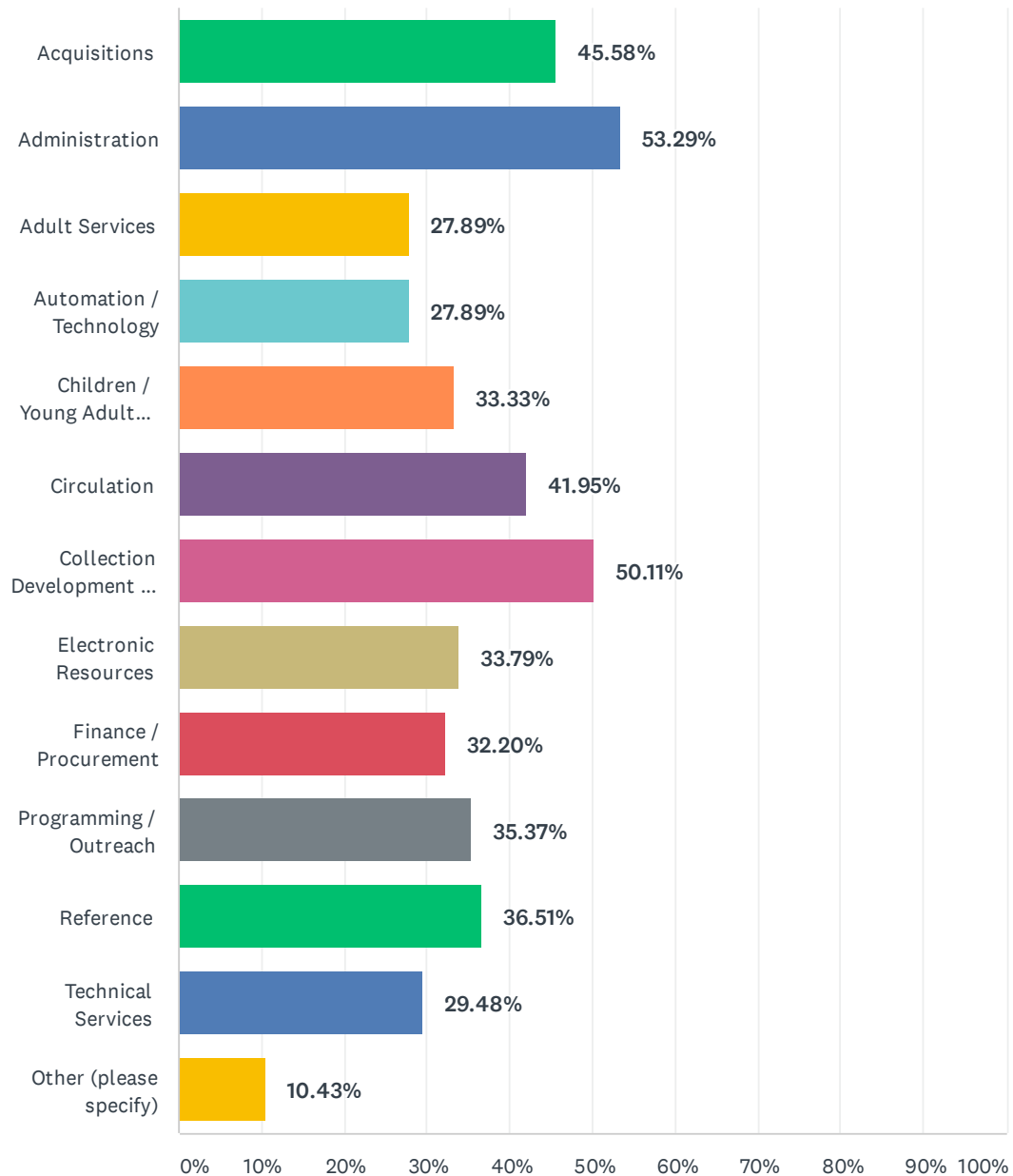
Q1 Which of the following best describes your TITLE?

Answered: 441 Skipped: 0



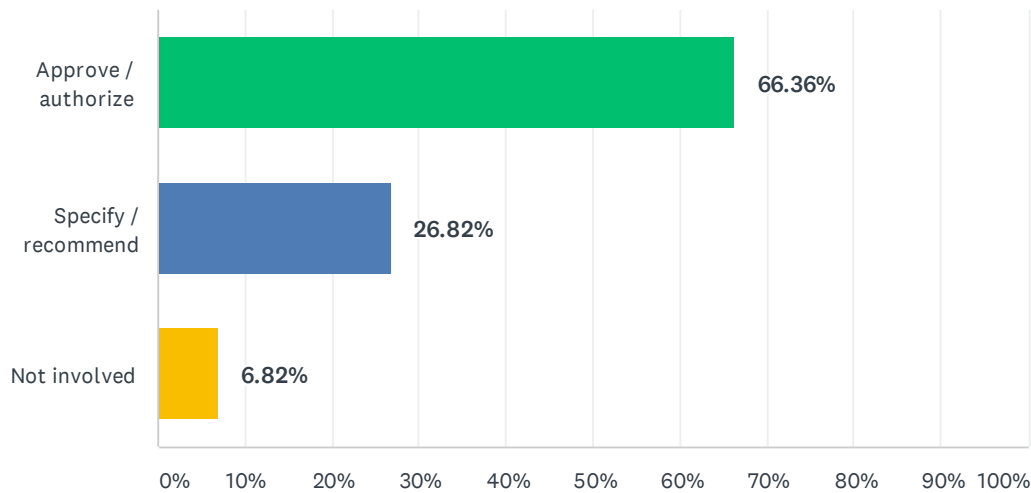
Q2 Which of the following best describes your AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY within the library? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 441 Skipped: 0



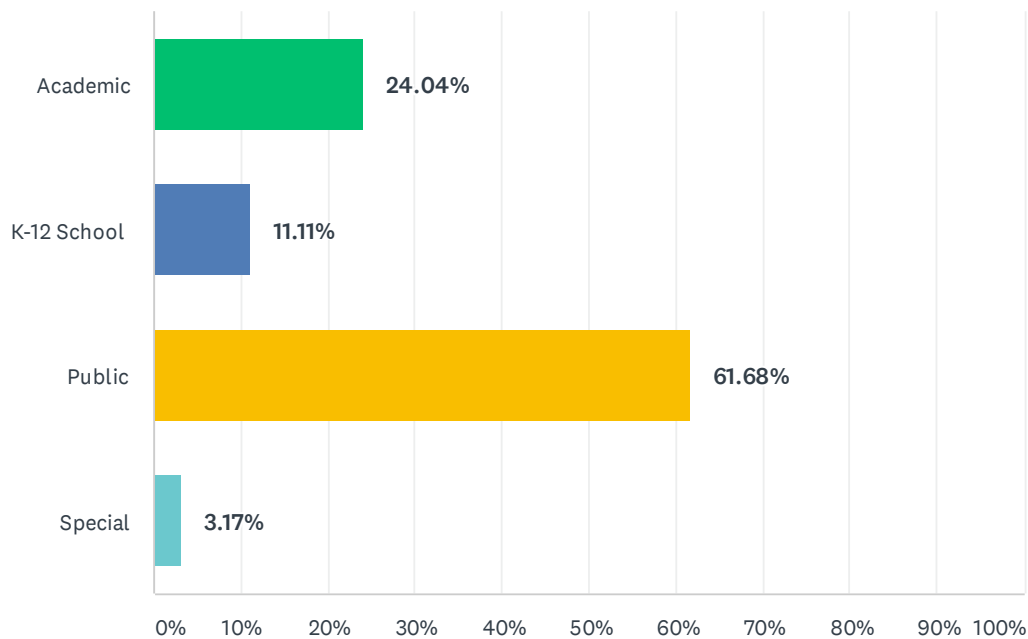
Q3 Which of the following best describes your involvement in PURCHASING for your library?

Answered: 440 Skipped: 1



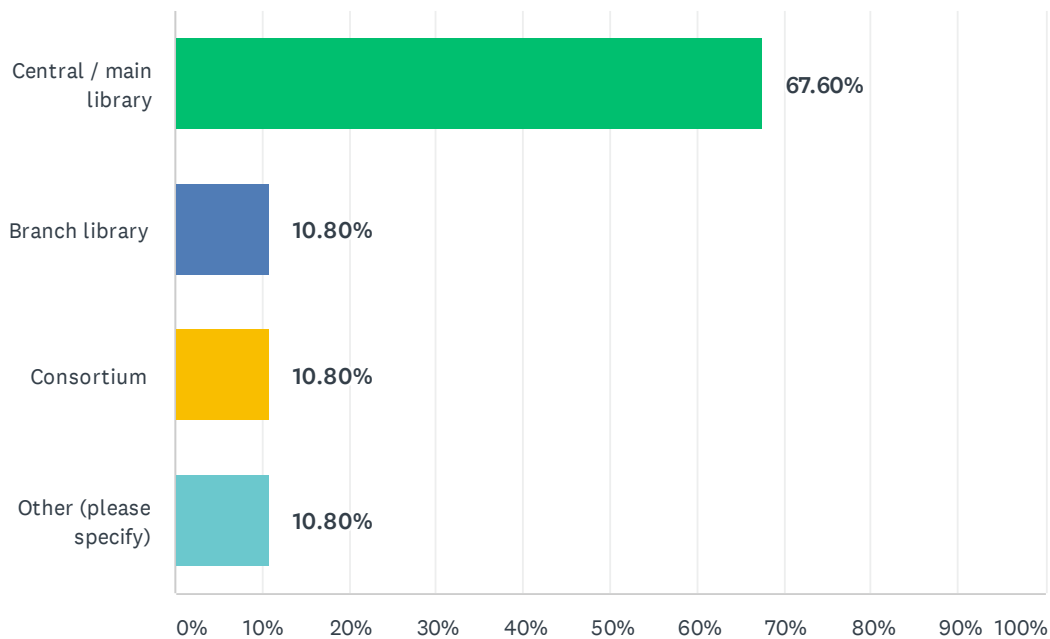
Q4 Which of the following best describes your TYPE OF LIBRARY?

Answered: 441 Skipped: 0



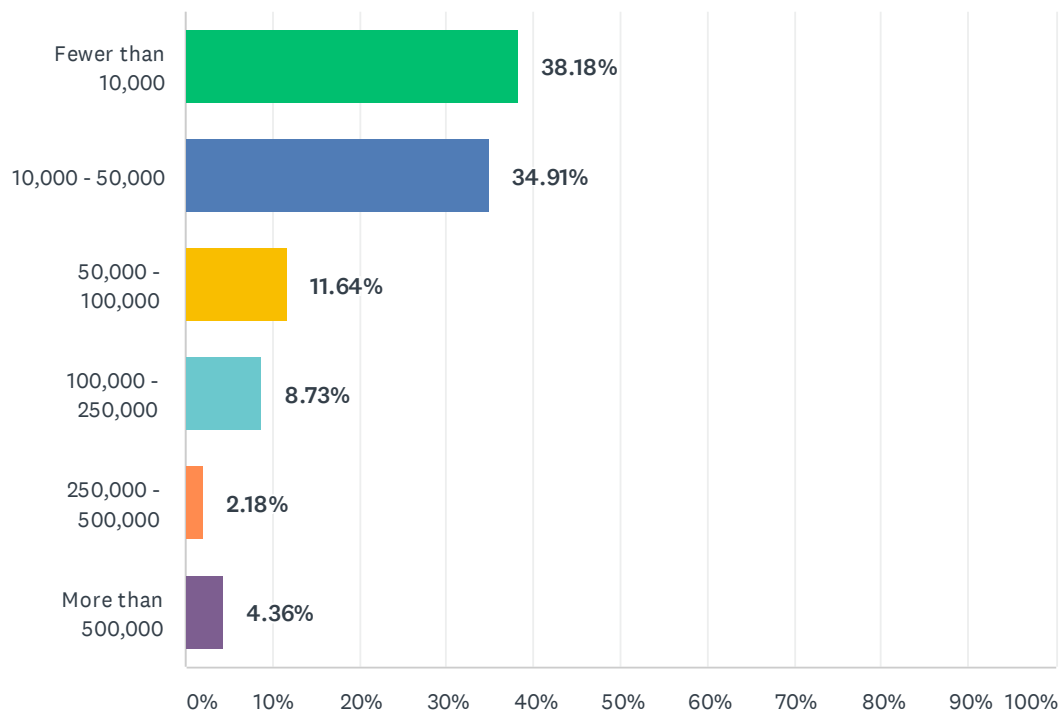
Q5 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes its SETTING?

Answered: 287 Skipped: 154



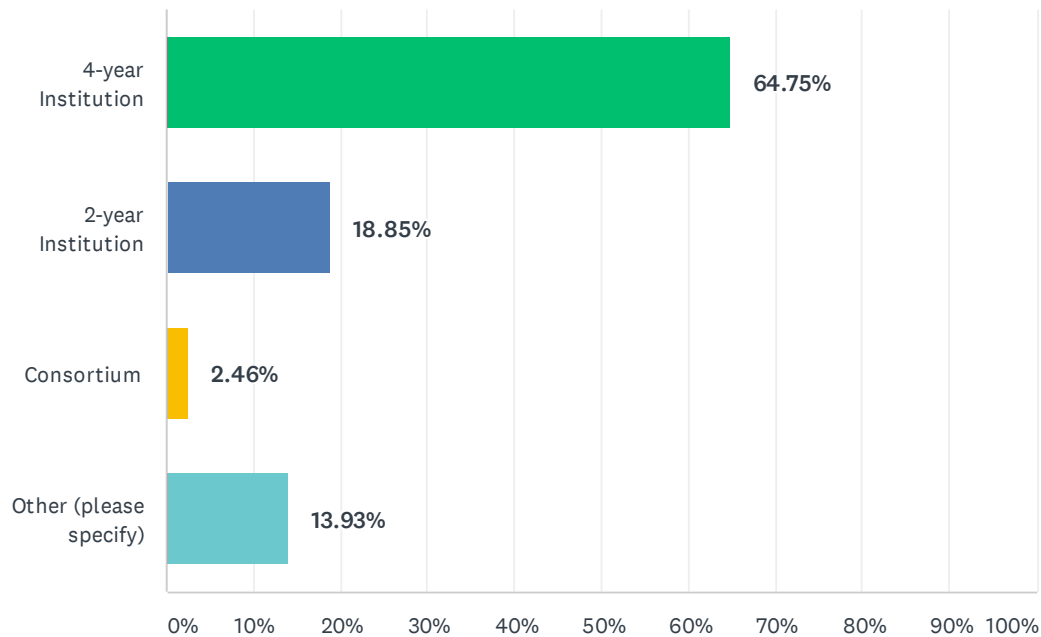
Q6 If yours is a PUBLIC library, which of the following best describes the population of its LIBRARY SERVICE AREA (LSA)?

Answered: 275 Skipped: 166



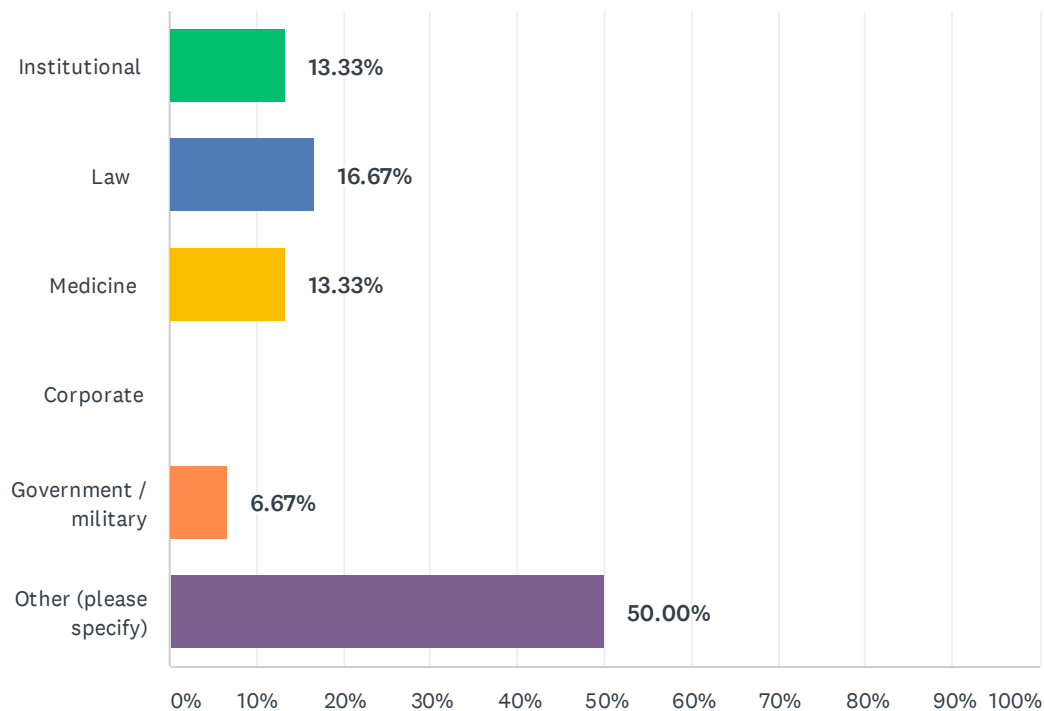
Q7 If yours is an ACADEMIC library, which of the following describes it?

Answered: 122 Skipped: 319



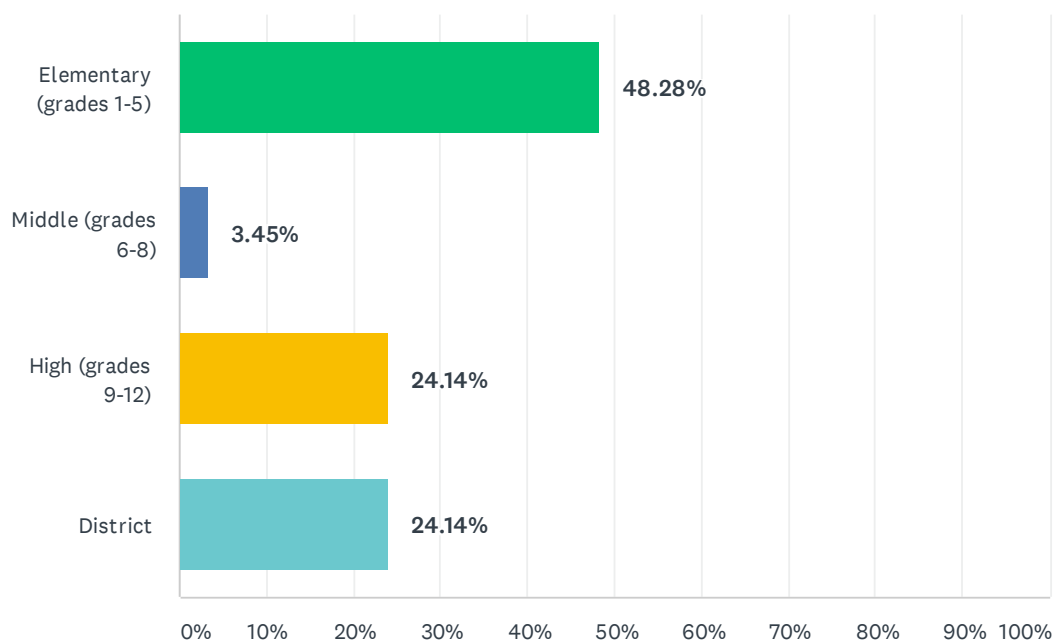
Q8 If yours is a SPECIAL library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 411



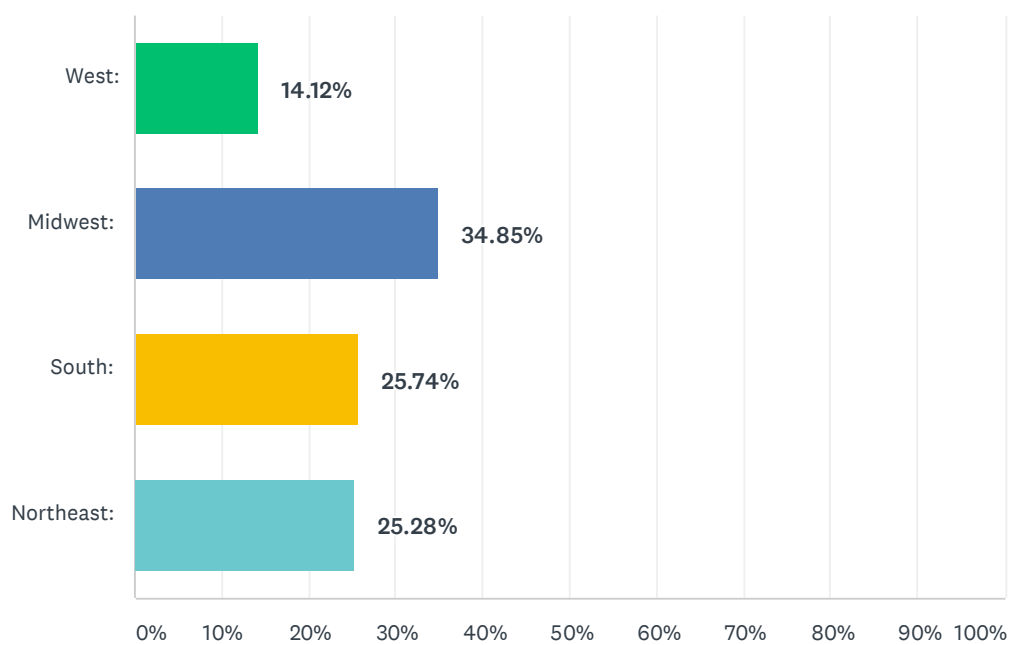
Q9 If yours is a K-12 library, which of the following best describes it?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 383



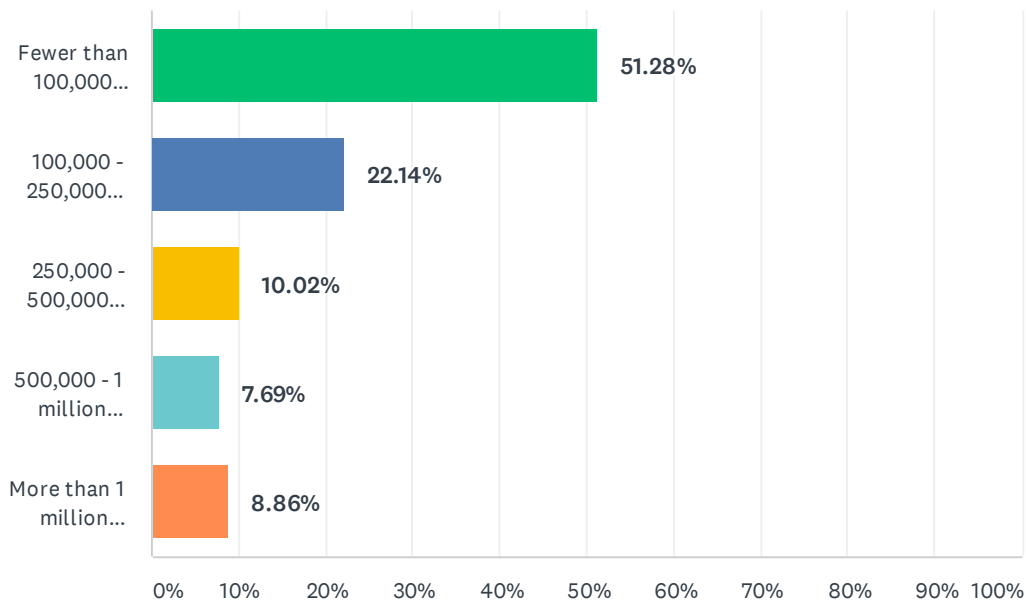
Q10 WHERE is your library?

Answered: 439 Skipped: 2



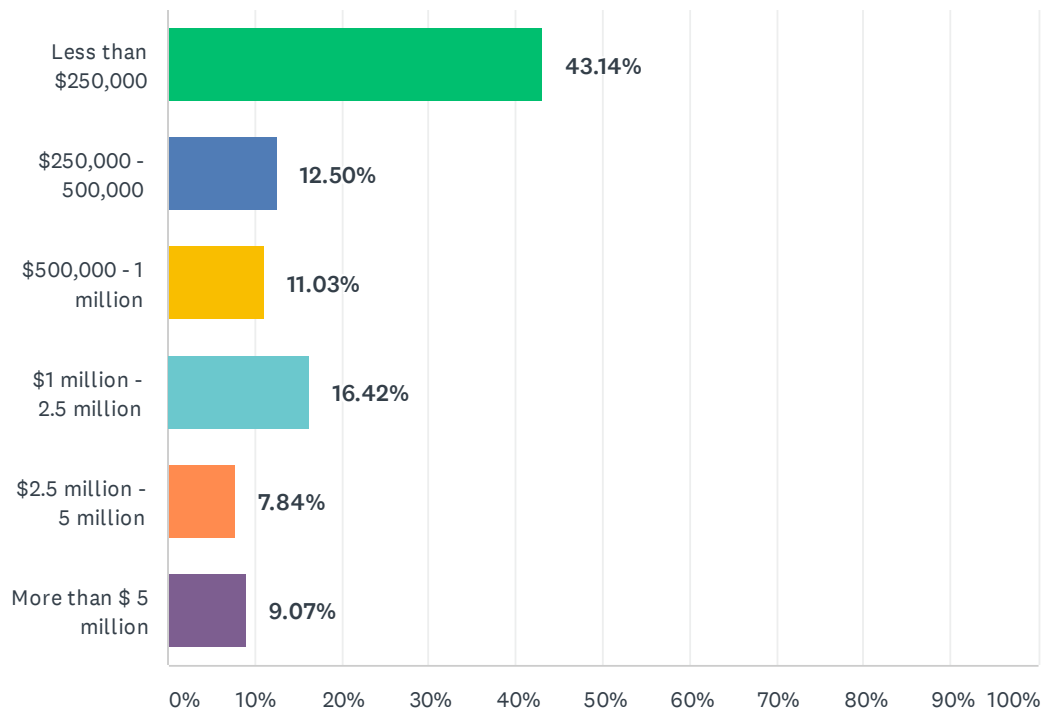
Q11 Which of the following best describes the SIZE OF YOUR LIBRARY'S COLLECTION?

Answered: 429 Skipped: 12



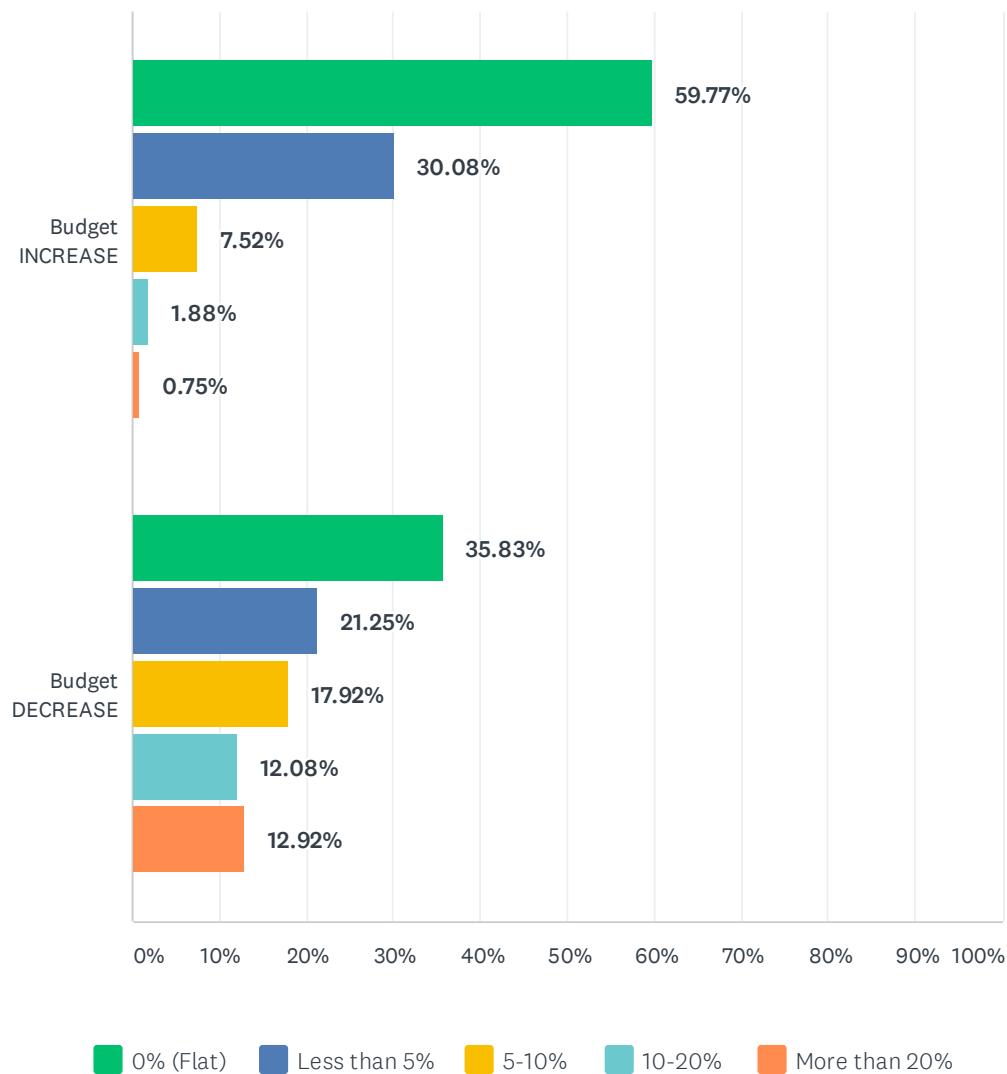
Q12 What is your library's total actual or projected 2021 OPERATING BUDGET?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 33

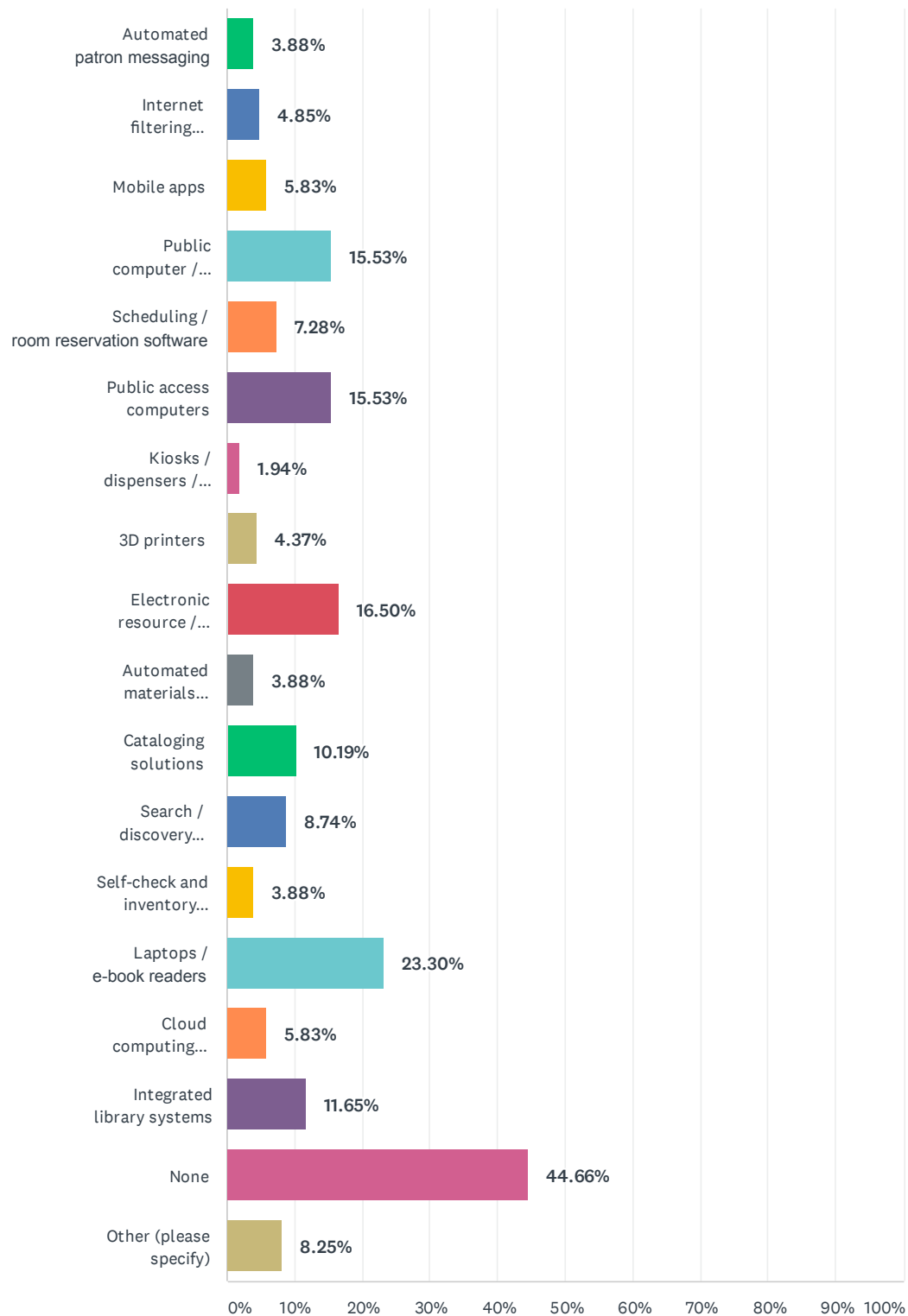


Q13 By what percentage did your 2021 budget INCREASE or DECREASE?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 47

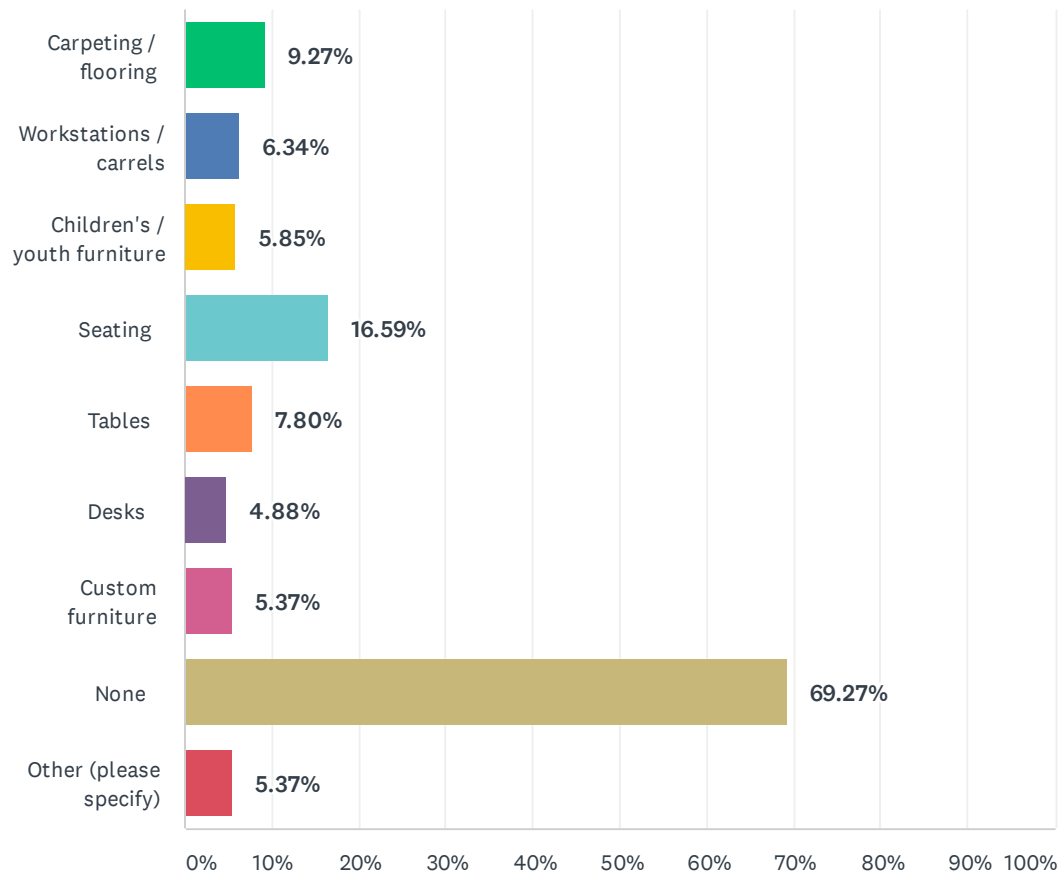


Q14 Which of the following INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / AUTOMATION products and services do you plan to purchase in 2021?



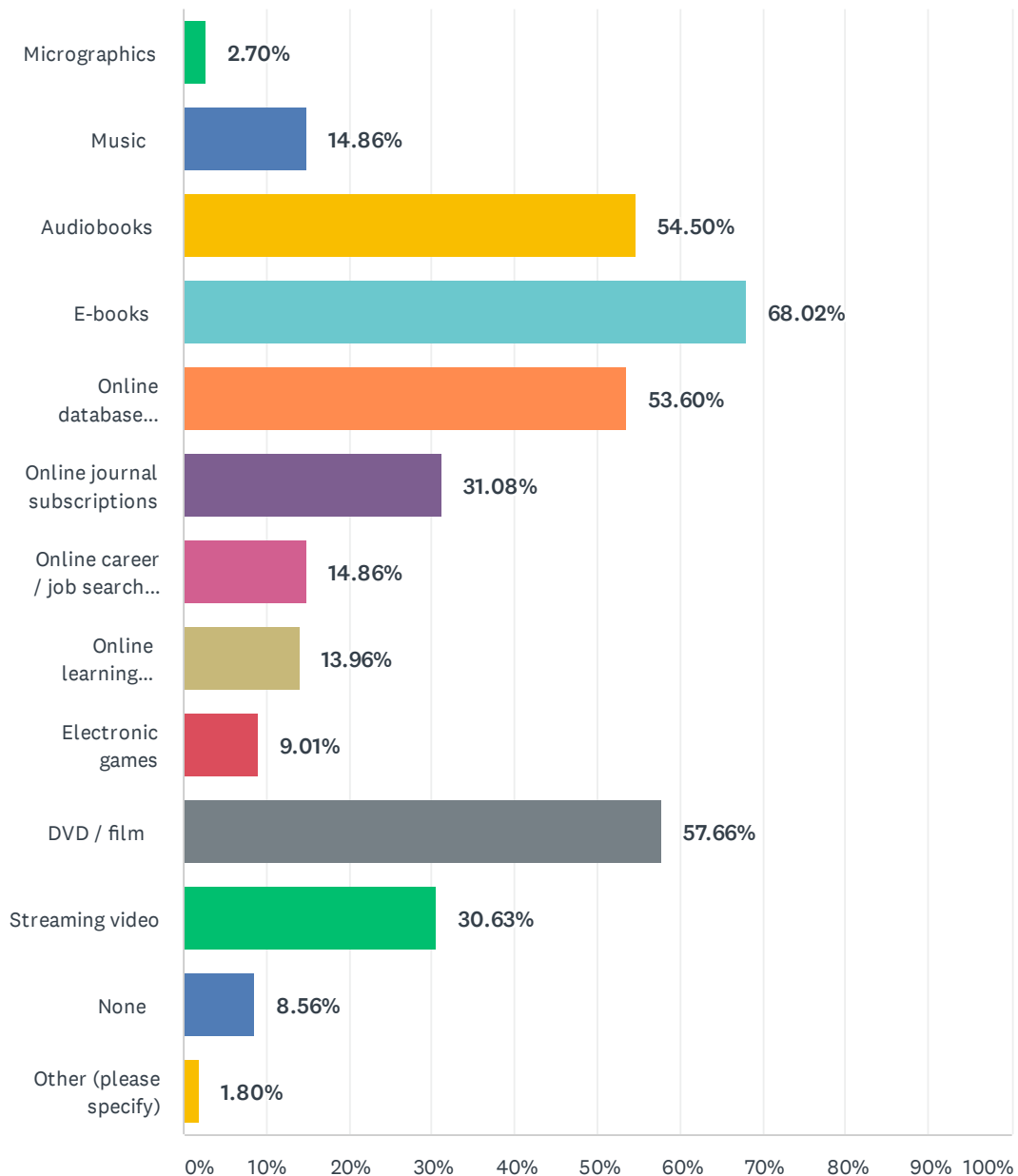
Q15 Which of the following FURNITURE/FURNISHINGS products do you plan to purchase in 2021?

Answered: 205 Skipped: 236



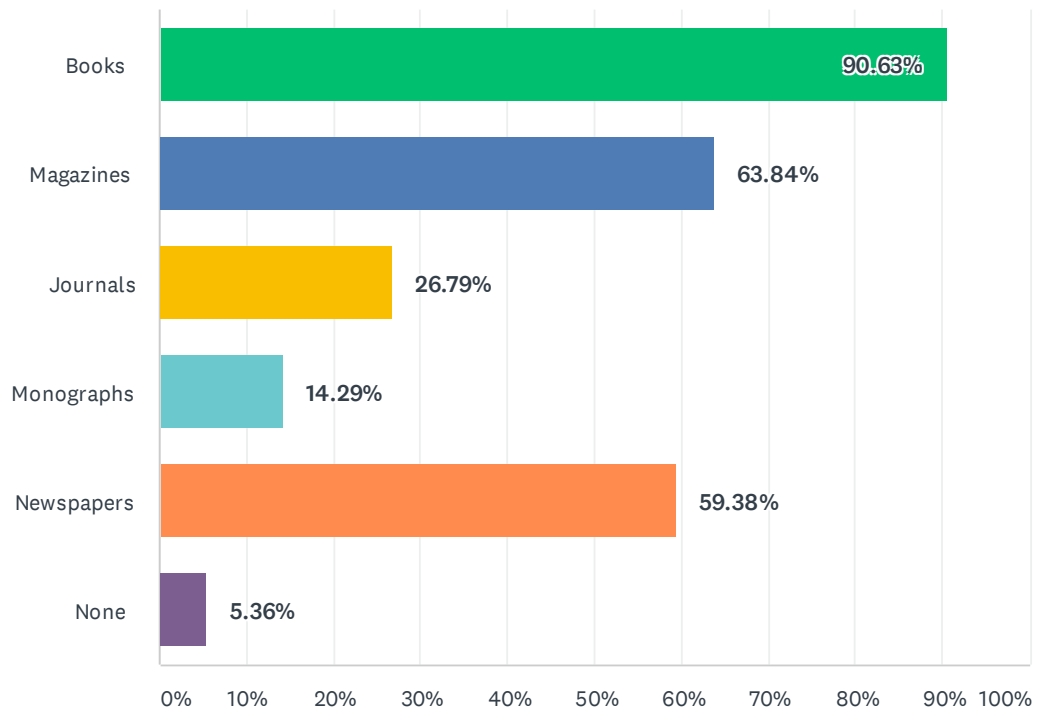
Q16 Which of the following NON-PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2021?

Answered: 222 Skipped: 219



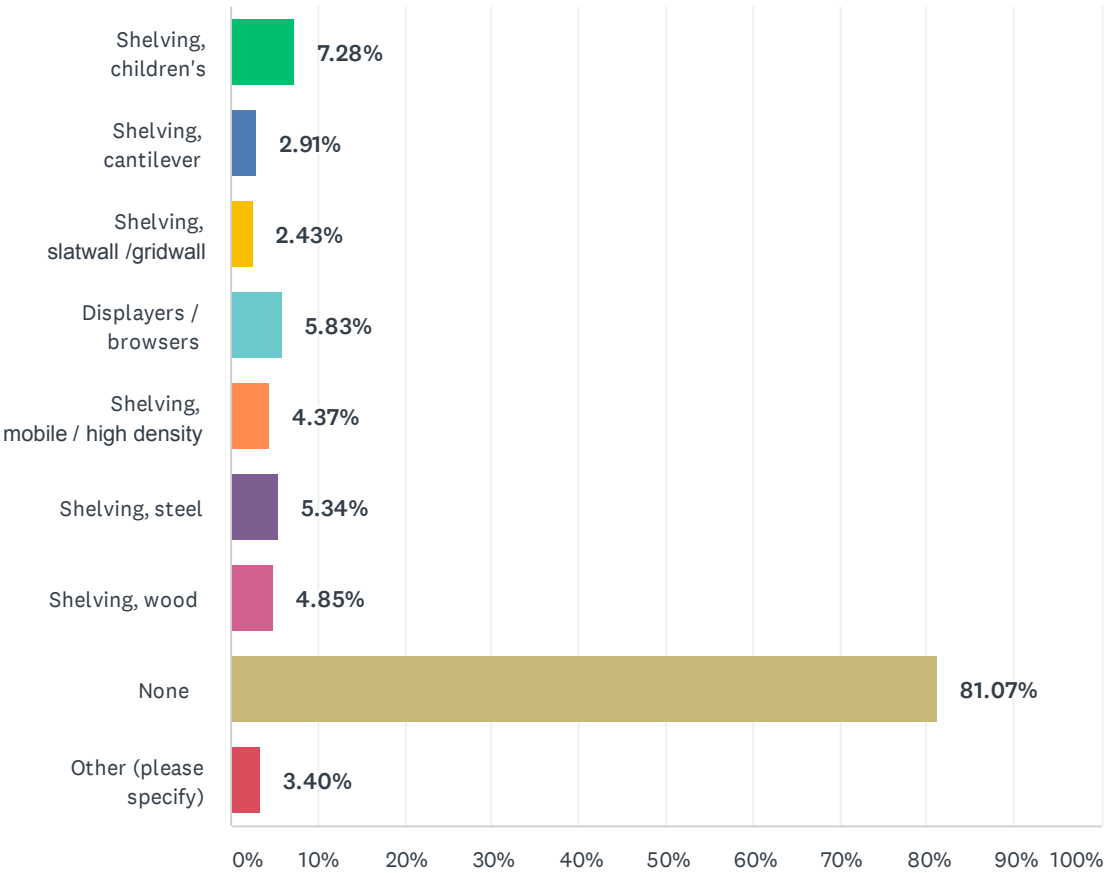
Q17 Which of the following PRINT MEDIA do you plan to purchase in 2021?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 217



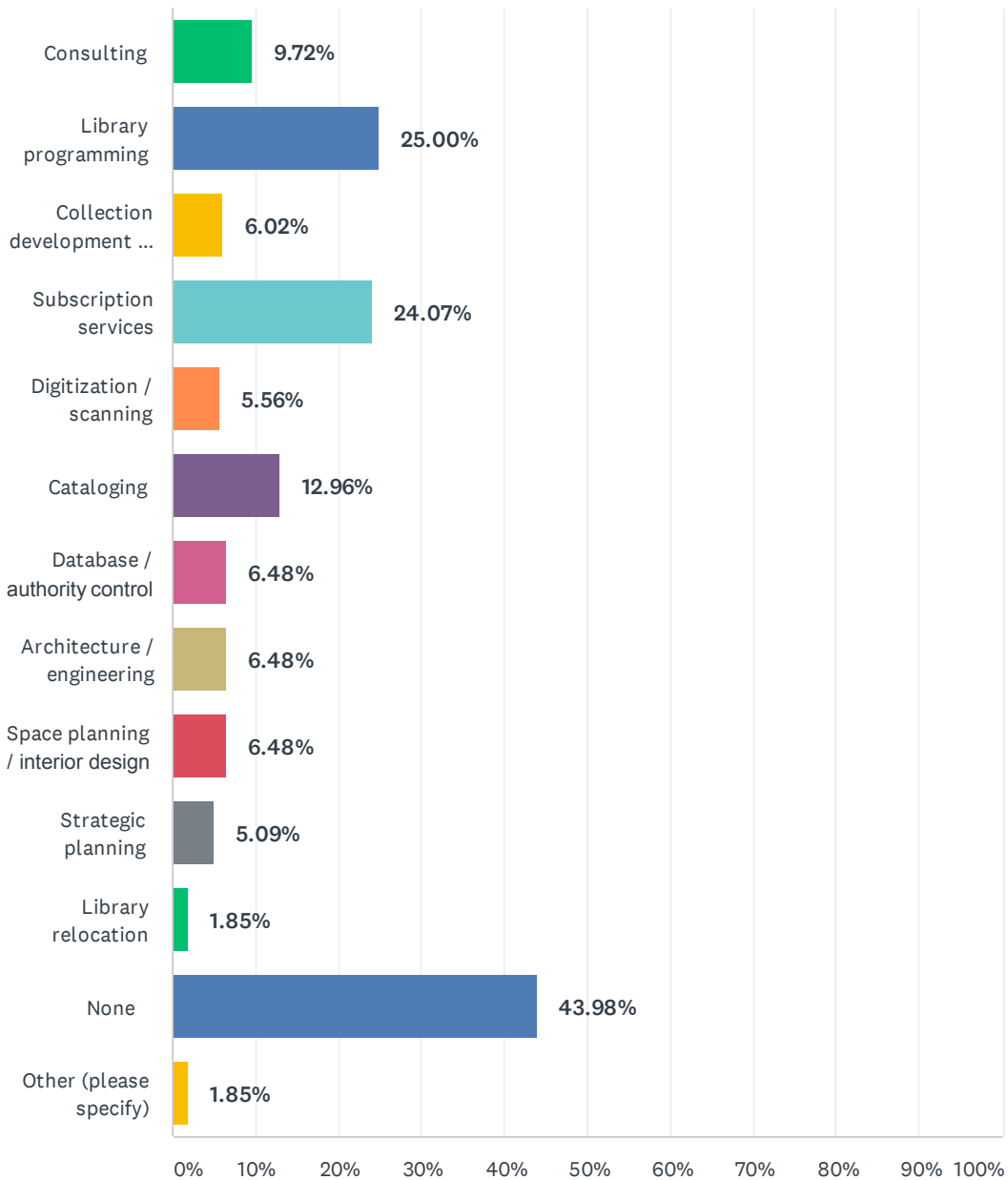
Q18 Which of the following SHELVING / STORAGE / DISPLAY products do you plan to purchase in 2021?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 235



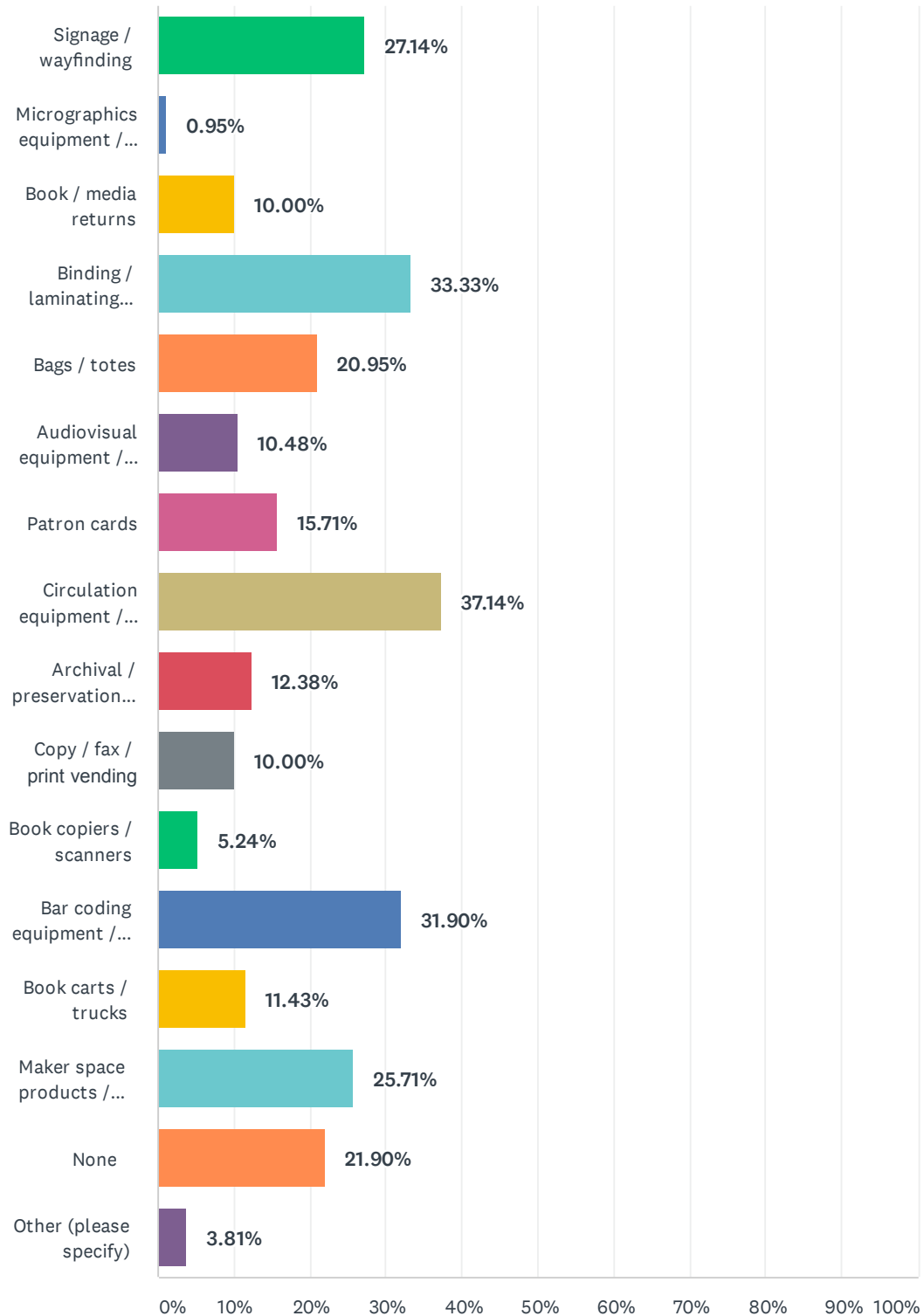
Q19 Which of the following PROFESSIONAL SERVICES do you plan to purchase in 2021?

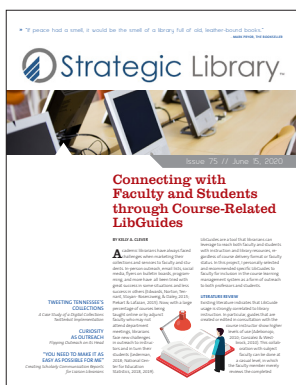
Answered: 216 Skipped: 225



Q20 Which of the following EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES do you plan to purchase in 2021?

Answered: 210 Skipped: 231





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