Identifiers in Heritage Collections - how embedded are they?

Virtual meeting for the Heritage PIDs project, 2020-07-17

Welcome!

- This session is being recorded

- Feel free to tweet #HeritagePIDs

- Agenda

  - Welcome - 5 mins

  - Survey Results - 10 mins

  - PID Demonstrator - 15 mins

  - Panel Discussion - 25 mins

Rachael Kotarski – Head of Research Infrastructure Services, British Library

Initial results from the survey of PID use and awareness across UK Heritage
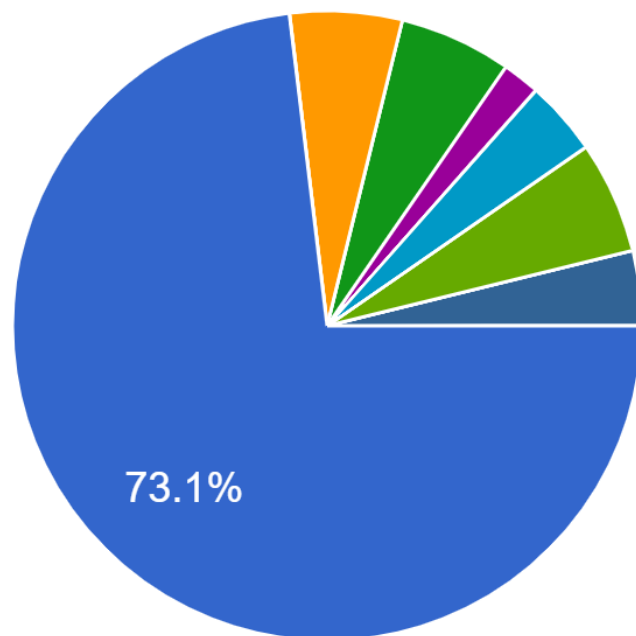
Mentimeter holding page

Demographics

Where are you based?

52 responses
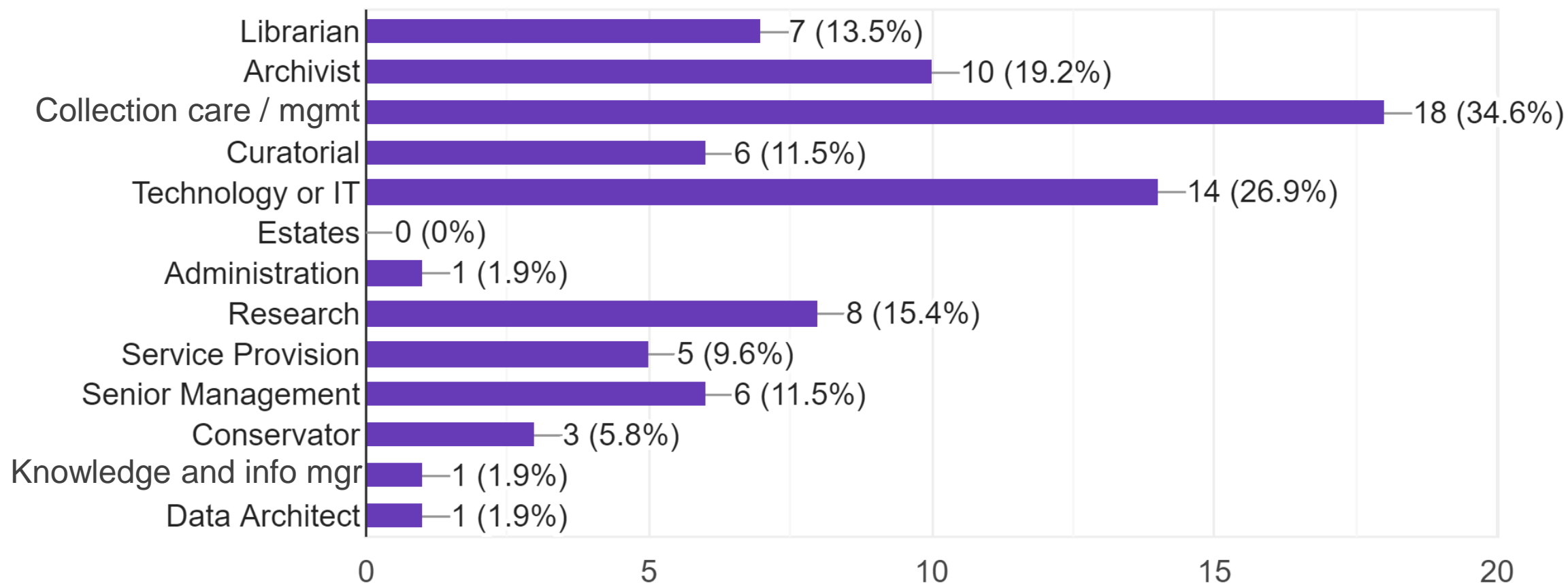

- England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Over…
- Rest of Europe
- Africa
- Americas
- Asia
- Australia, New Zealand and Pacific

73.1%

Demographics
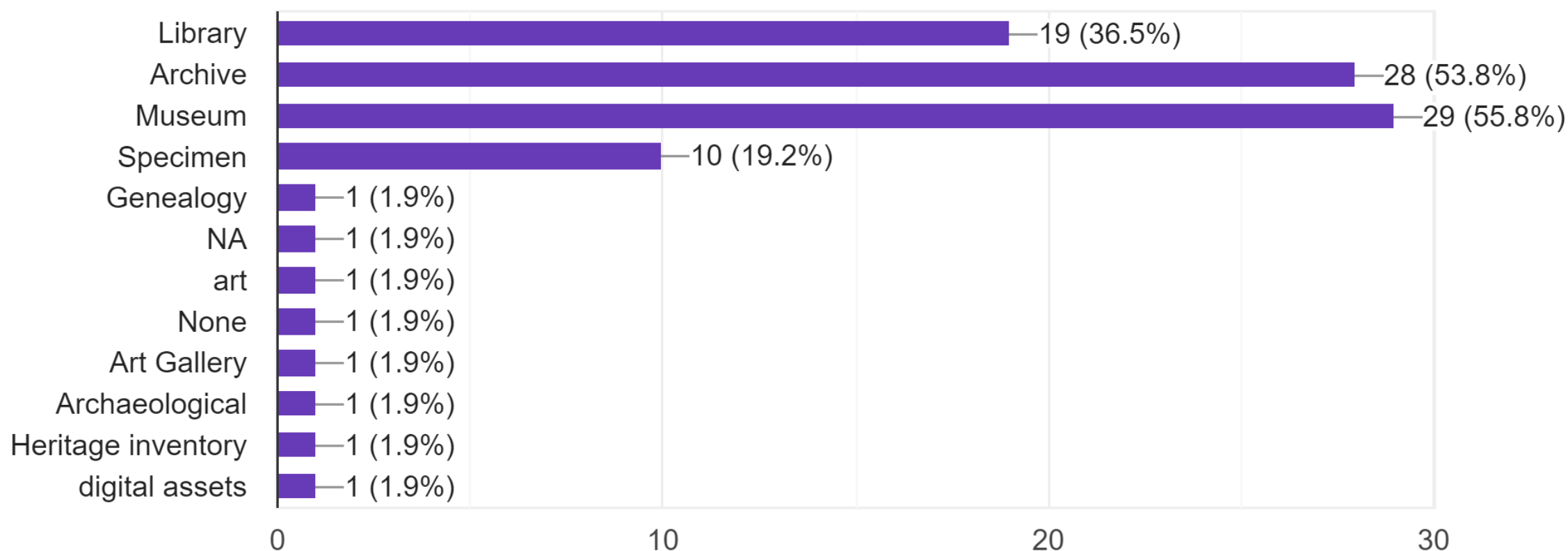
Which of the following best describe your role?

52 responses

Demographics

What kinds of catalogue or collection data do you work with?
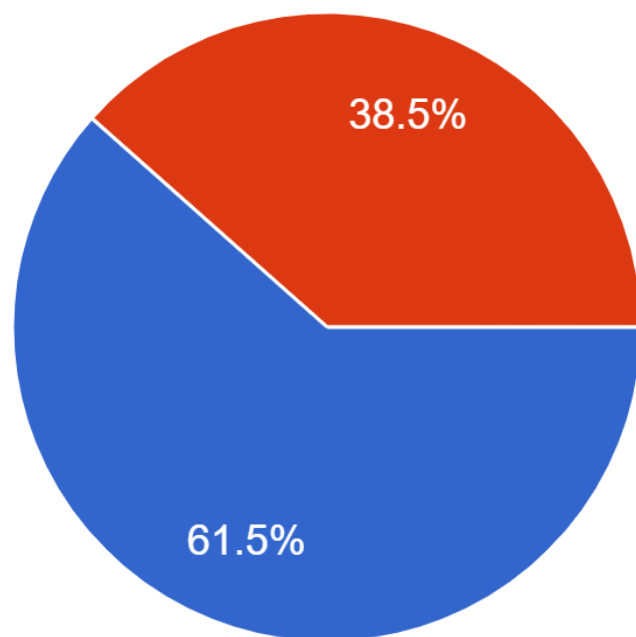
52 responses

Demographics

Are you responding as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation or project?
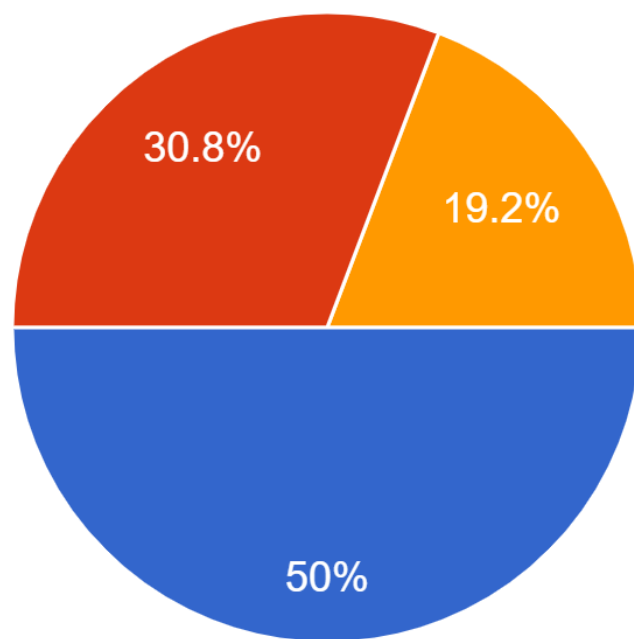
52 responses

● As an individual
● On behalf of an organisation or a project

*11 out of 20 organisation responses are from IROs

Organisational use of PIDs

Does the organisation or project you usually work for use Persistent Identifiers?
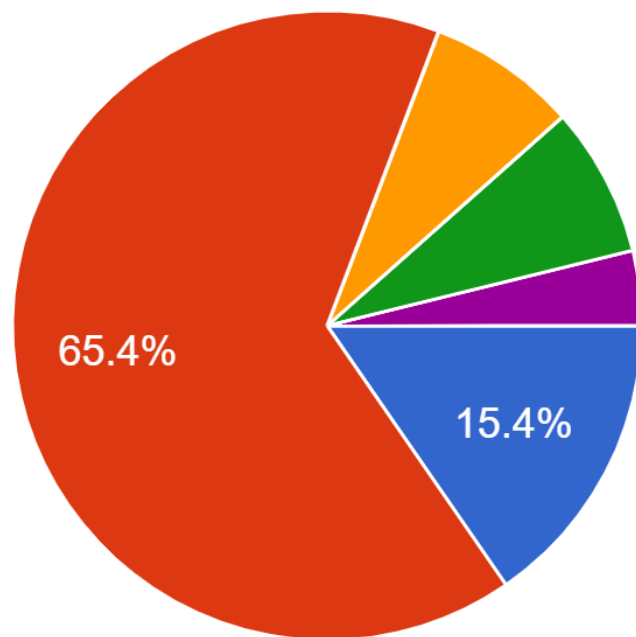
52 responses

● Yes
● No
● Don't know or I'm not currently working for an organisation or project

Organisational awareness

How much awareness of persistent identifiers do you think there is among staff across the organisation?
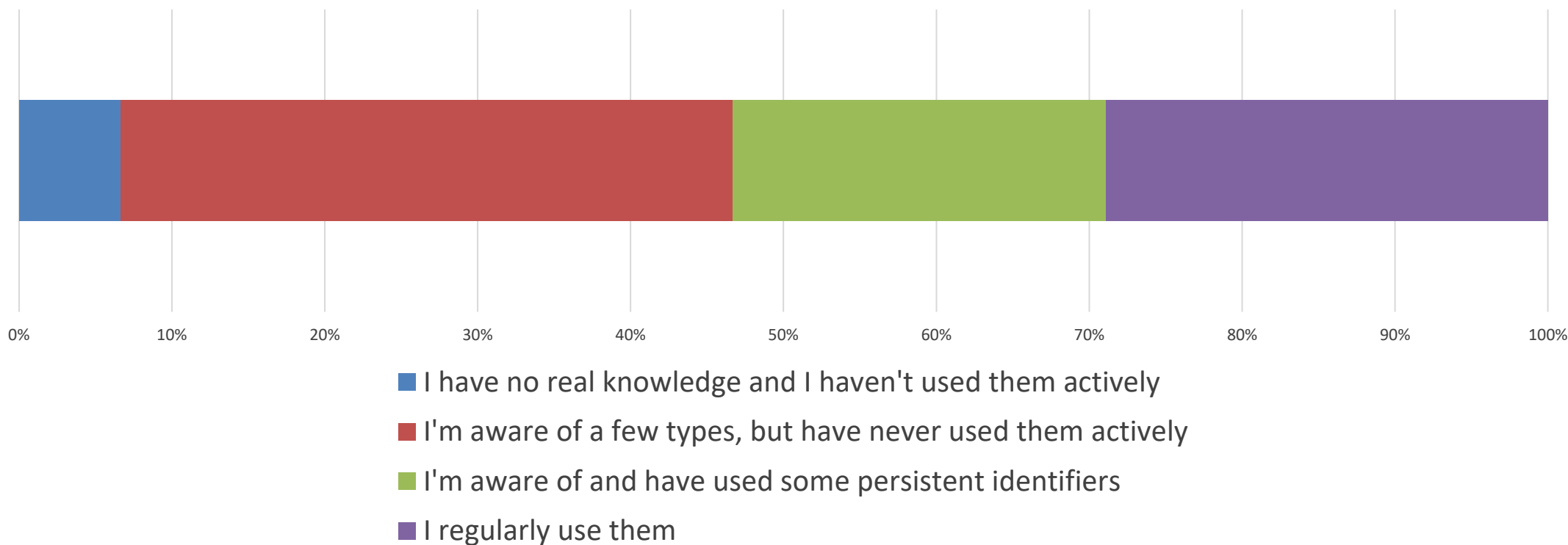
26 responses *

Legend:
- Low or no awareness
- Some pockets of awareness
- All staff who would benefit are aware
- Broad awareness across the organisation
- Some very high awareness, others with very little. Mostly people who need to know about them probably do.

Pie chart values: 65.4%, 15.4%

* Only those responding on behalf of an organisation answered this question

PID Use and Awareness

General PID Awareness, UK only
n = 45

Legend:
- I have no real knowledge and I haven't used them actively
- I'm aware of a few types, but have never used them actively
- I'm aware of and have used some persistent identifiers
- I regularly use them

PID Awareness

Awareness of PID types, UK only
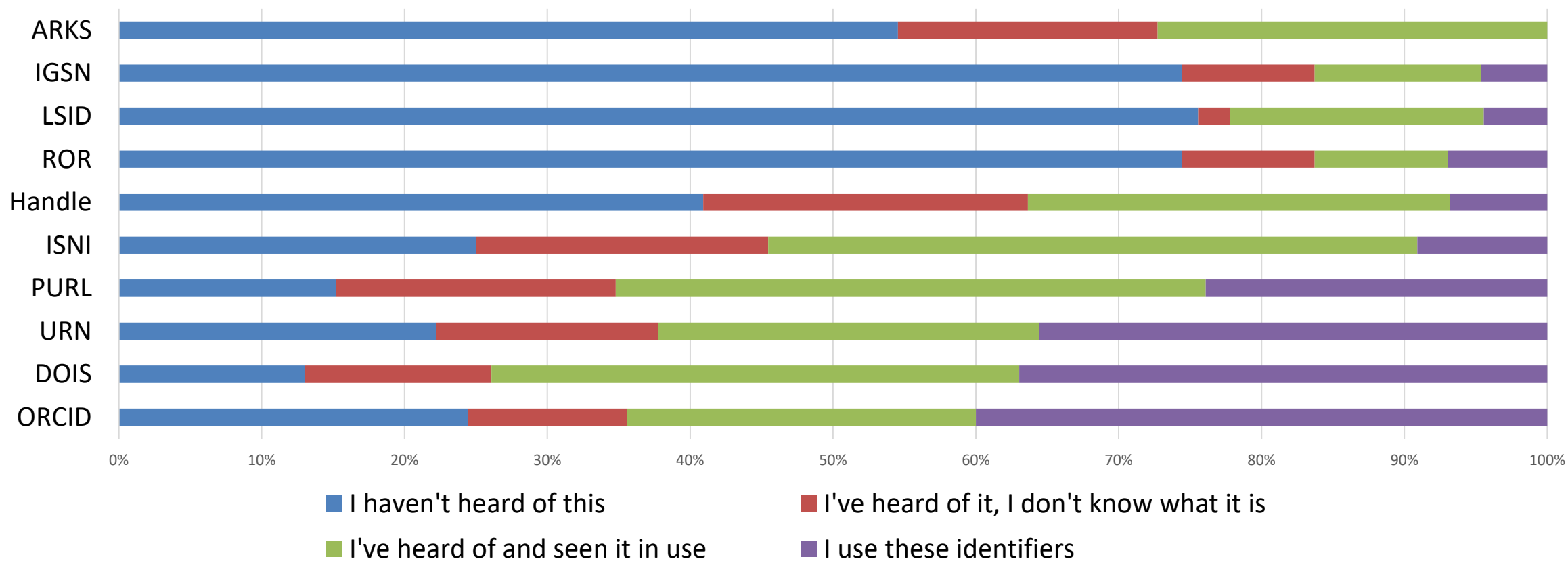
Our definition of 'persistent identifier'

As a reminder, by 'persistent identifier' we mean an ID that is globally unique, actionable (it can be clicked to take a user to a resource or information about a resource), and managed to remain unique and actionable for the long term.

Other PIDs in use

Identifiers that fit our definition:

- Wikidata
- GRID
- CETAF
- VIAF
- Getty URIs
- Gazeteer URIs
- Geonames
- w3ID
- IGSN
- EIDR
- Natural Science ID
- LoC Name Authorities
- LCSH
- AphiaID (=LSID)

Identifiers that don't seem to fit our definition:

- UUID
- CIDOC CRM
- ISBN
- UMID
- Dewey
- MDA Codes
- OccurrenceID in GBIF

14/18

Identifiers that *might* meet the definition

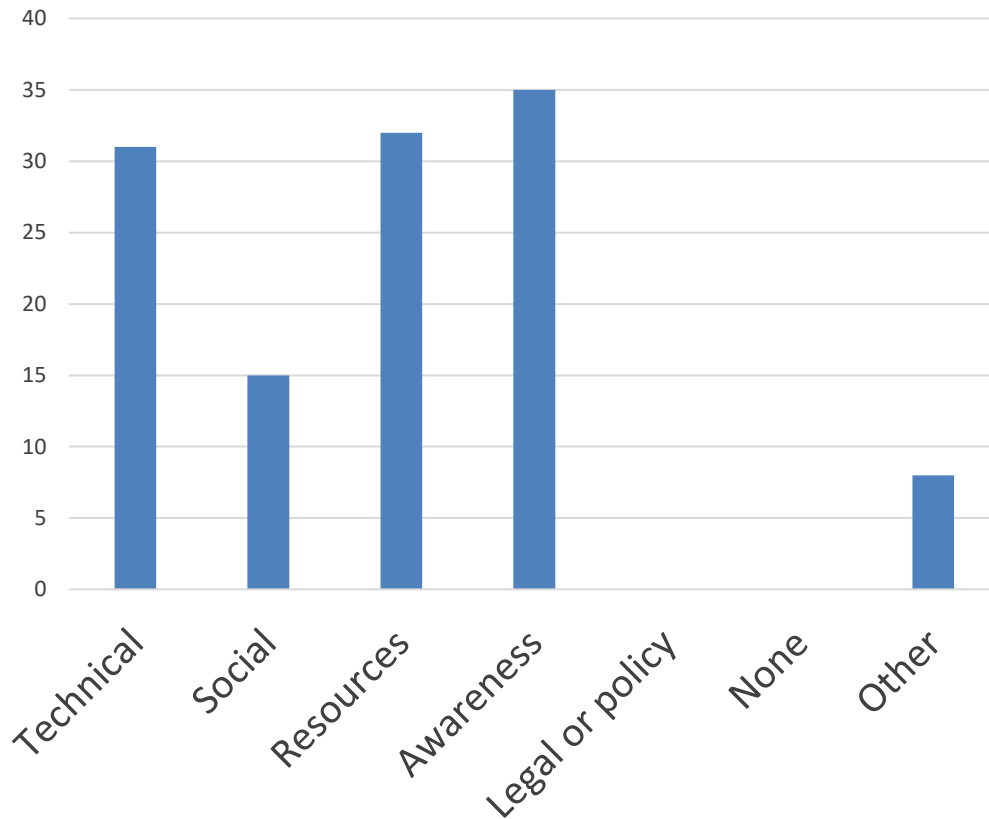Self generated by CMS, currently under im... ...our

Links to objects on our website's "search our collection" are persistent

Our arch... supposed to be pers... practice they are not always.

I'm actually now questioning if I do know what a PID is.

Barriers

Barriers to PID adoption, UK only
n = 46

Chart (bar chart) showing counts for barrier categories:
- Technical: ~31
- Social: ~15
- Resources: ~32
- Awareness: ~35
- Legal or policy: 0
- None: 0
- Other: ~8

*Respondents can select multiple items

- Establishing sustainability and governance over very long-term (100 years) and funding the sustainability are the critical issues. Community engagement and stimulating use when **immediate/short-term benefits are unclear** is difficult.
- Our digital presence is driving by marketing and visitor experience and 12 months is seen as long term
- Lack of their **utilisation** in standard sector software (beyond fields to store persistent IDs).
- Lack of easily **accessible implementations** that directly demonstrate the benefits
- Varied attitudes towards **what is valuable and necessary**
- The lack of feedback and **demonstrable measures** (cost/benefit analysis) on the usage of the PIDs. Seen as a "Research tool" rather than a mainstream "business benefit". There are no obvious easy "web stats" on use of LOD versions of PIDs to help argue that they are being used. Unlike e.g. counts of hits on web pages
- Almost **non-existent knowledge of the benefits** of PIDs for specimens.

Support tools

Preferred support tools, UK only
n = 46

Rachael Kotarski

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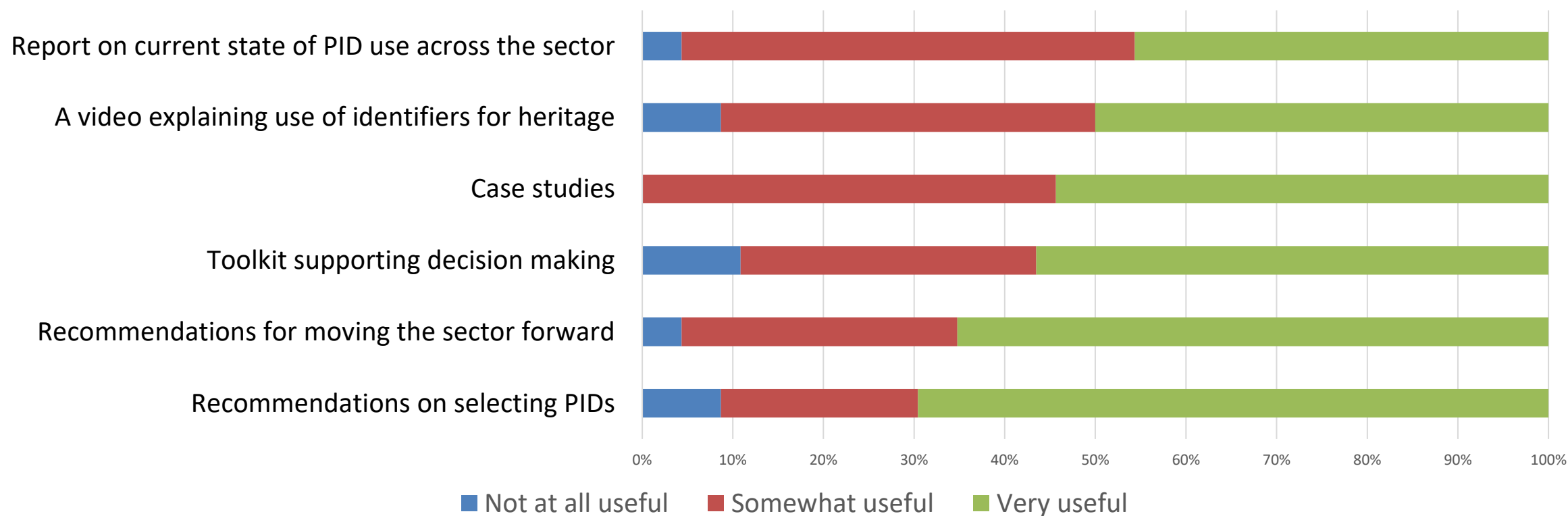
@HeritagePIDs

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