

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE US: WHAT ART STUDENTS VALUE ABOUT THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

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BACKGROUND

How can the library position itself to support the academic achievement of practicing artists? What motivates students to use library services and resources?

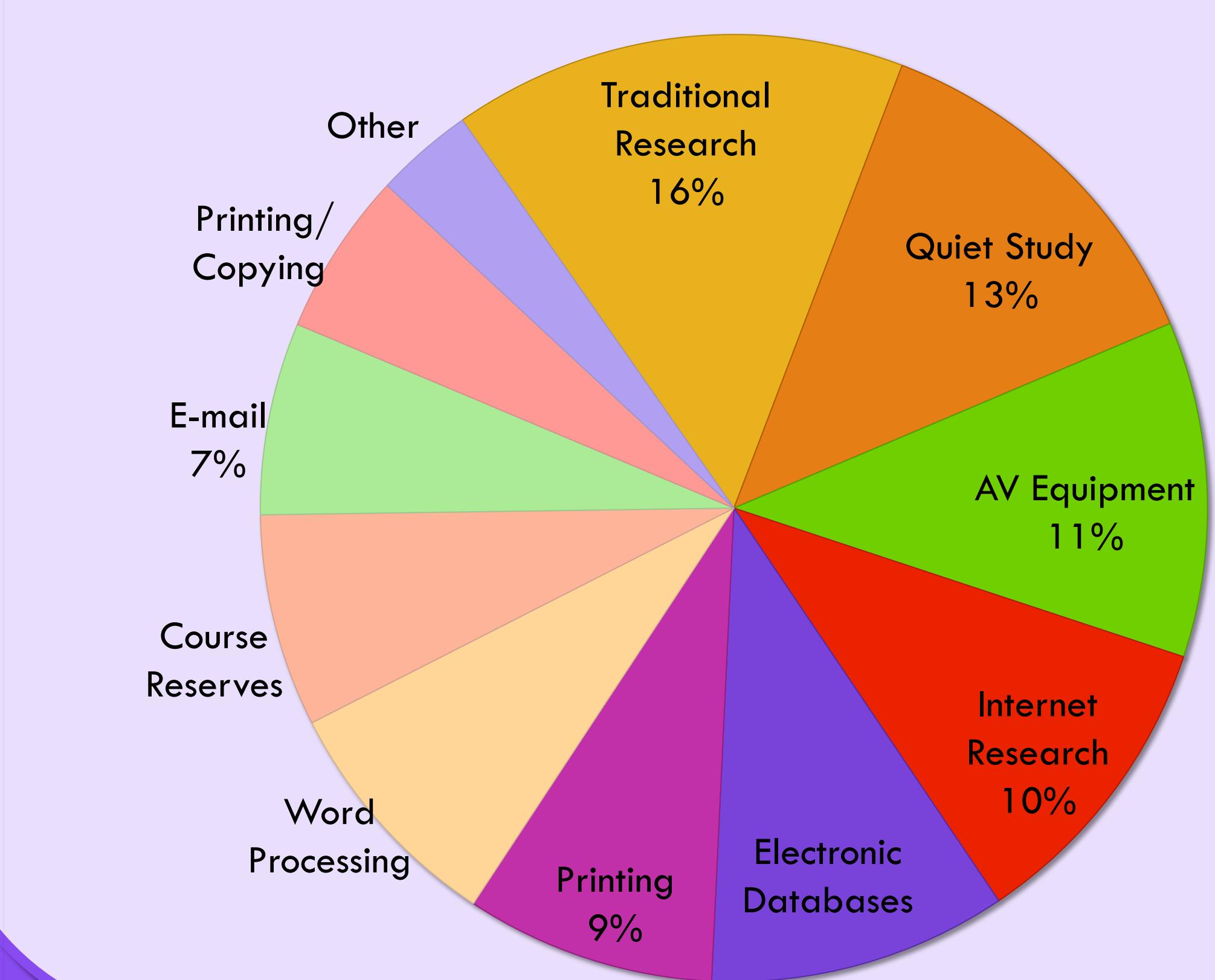
In Spring 2010, librarians at Moore College of Art & Design administered a survey to begin the process of answering these mission-critical questions. Moore College is a small urban institution with an approximate FTE of 500, offering nine BFA and three MFA programs. Nearly half of the student population responded to the survey, providing valuable feedback regarding their attitudes towards library use.

All survey respondents were enrolled in Moore College's BFA program, representing each major and class year. The survey findings confront widely held assumptions regarding the popularity of digital resources for research and study, and indicate the primary reasons why students use the library.

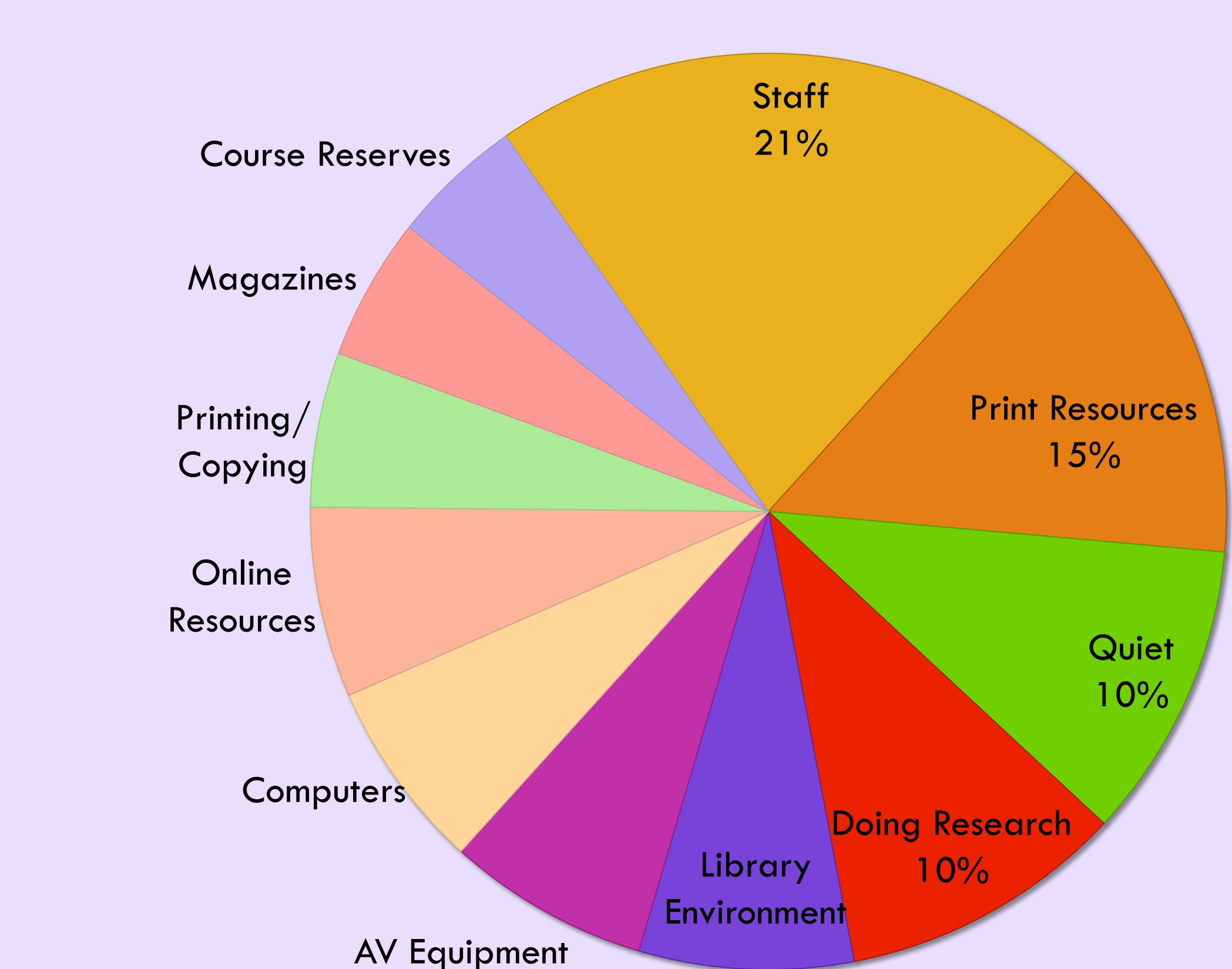


RESULTS

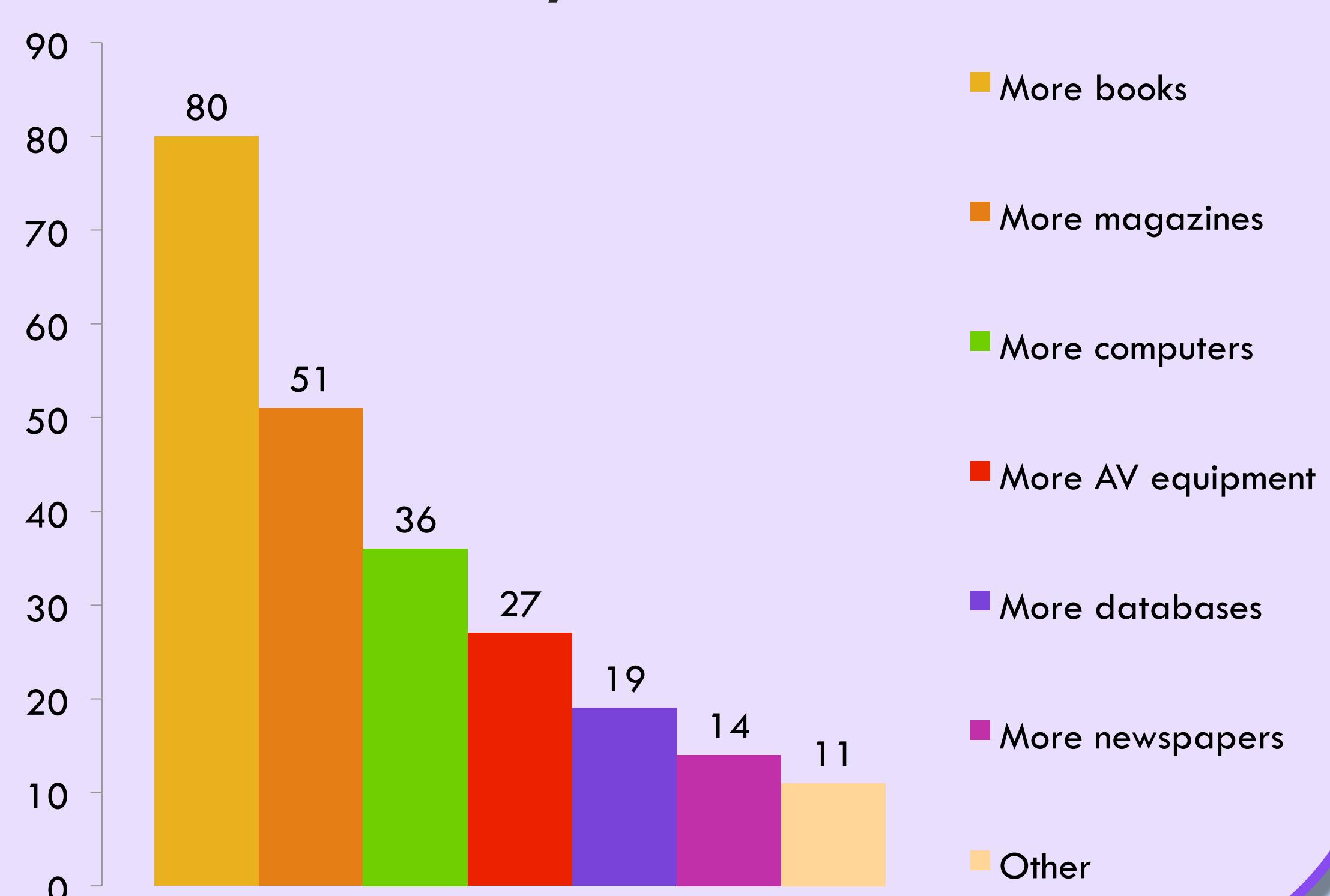
"Rank your primary reasons for visiting the Library"



"What do you find most helpful about the Library?"



"What other resources would you like the Library to offer?"



CONCLUSIONS

1. **"I love to study there!"** Traditional research, defined by use of print resources, and quiet study were the most popular responses for library usage. Overwhelmingly, students asked for additional books and periodicals. These results indicate the continuing need for resources and services traditionally associated with libraries.
2. **"Your cameras are great."** Audio Visual equipment, such as digital cameras, projectors, and flat bed scanners, was frequently mentioned. These materials appear to be highly valued by students, whom would otherwise have difficulty completing assignments requiring AV equipment.
3. **"Always someone to help."** Students found the library staff to be very helpful, but they may not conceptualize how their practice aligns with the library unless explicitly expressed by instructors. Positive research habits can be encouraged through assignments requiring library use or research sessions provided by librarians.

