

# SURVEY ON LIBRARIANS' CAPABILITIES FOR OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORY DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR: RESULTS FROM THE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONS

DR PAMELA ABBOTT  
INFORMATION SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD,  
UK

MRS KOKUI APPIAH  
WACREN  
ACCRA, GHANA

MR OMO OAIYA  
WACREN  
ACCRA, GHANA

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Motivations, Key Questions, Aims and Objectives
- Survey Approach
- Issues identified from the survey
- Further Information



# MOTIVATIONS, KEY QUESTIONS, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

# MOTIVATIONS

- The identification of librarians as potential “***institutional focal points***” in the aftermath of the successful TANDEM project promoting advocacy of NRENs in the WACREN region
- Identifying ***librarian communities of practice*** who were already active in the region and playing a role in mobilising their institutions and influencing policy
- A need to understand from the viewpoint of librarians ***the drivers for, and the hindrances against, change*** in their institutions that would help build the an information management capability.

## KEY QUESTIONS FOR LIBSENSE WORKSHOPS

- How can Open Access Repositories operate ***embedded in NREN e-infrastructure*** and provide a foundation for an innovative, open, distributed and networked resource for ***scholarly communication and Open Science in Africa?***
- What are librarians' inputs into a ***guiding framework for federated Open Access Repositories in Africa?***
- What part does the ***upskilling of librarians in digital skills*** play in providing guidelines and policy direction for this framework of action?

# KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN OAR CREATION

## NRENS

- REN-NREN structures
- Liaisons (e.g. focal points)
  - Technical expertise
  - Infrastructure

## HEI LIBRARIAN COMMUNITIES

- Networks of mobilisation and influence
- Liaisons (e.g. institutional focal points)
  - Information & Knowledge expertise
    - Technical expertise
    - Institutional embeddedness

## CONTENT PROVIDERS

- Knowledge producers/consumers/prosumers
- Scientific communities of practice
- Universities/research institutes/HEIs

## E-INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORM (E.G. KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY)

**NREN contribution** – technical expertise and infrastructure architecture/ federated digital platform developers

**CONTENT PROVIDER contribution** – custodians, implementers of repositories, research data, outputs, information needs

**HEI LIBRARIAN COMMUNITIES contribution** – design and management of knowledge discovery and curation mechanisms, technical expertise in repositories implementation

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- The **aim** of the survey was to produce a rounded picture of how higher education sector librarians view the **enabling and constraining factors of their practice as information resource managers** especially regarding the development, implementation and maintenance of Open Access Repositories.
- The **objectives** of the survey were to:
  1. Understand the evolving role of the library function in contemporary African higher education institutions (HEIs)
  2. Understand how institutions affecting the higher education sector support or constrain the roles of librarians
  3. Determine how NRENs can work with librarians to support their roles
  4. Gather demographic information that would be useful in categorizing the librarian communities of practice



# SURVEY APPROACH





# SURVEY APPROACH I

## ■ **Regions:**

- Ubuntunet Alliance – Region 1 (East & Southern) – 1<sup>st</sup> Survey & Discussion Workshop
- WACREN – Region 2 (West & Central) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Survey & Discussion Workshop
- ASREN – Region 3 (Northern) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Survey & Discussion Workshop

## ■ **Key Partners**

- WACREN, EIFL, COAR, Information School, University of Sheffield

## ■ **Distribution**

- Librarian consortia and associations in these key regions

# SURVEY APPROACH II

## ■ **Questionnaire Development**

- Developed in consultation with HEI librarians in LIBSENSE workshops and the online mailing list
- Launched as a pilot in the WACREN region in 2017
- Further revised with key partners to focus on OAR development as key digital initiative in African HEIs

## ■ **Questionnaire Structure**

- ~100 questions, 6 sections
- Sections A to D target specific library functions:
  - Management, Operational, Subject Specialist, Technical
- Section E deals with librarians' digital skills
- Section F deals with demographics

# SURVEY APPROACH III

## ■ **Sample, Participants and Distribution**

- Convenience sample chosen from WACREN's, EIFL's and AFLIA's librarian consortia, open access country representatives and related contacts in the East and Southern Region
- Participants were contacted through email and the survey launched online through WACREN's survey software
- 338 invitations were sent; 178 responses returned; 83 incomplete; 95 usable for analysis – response rate 28%

## ■ **Analysis & Presentation (a collaborative effort)**

- Data analysts from University of Lagos used a combination of descriptive statistics and bivariate analyses
- The project's Research Associate contributed to the analysis interpretation, report write up and presentation
- Research Lead Pamela Abbott contributed to the analysis interpretation, and overall summary, report write-up, and did part of the qualitative analysis of open question data



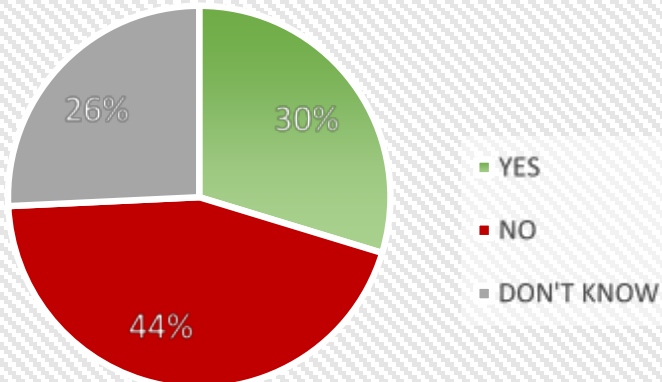
# ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM THE SURVEY



# ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM THE SURVEY – OAR POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

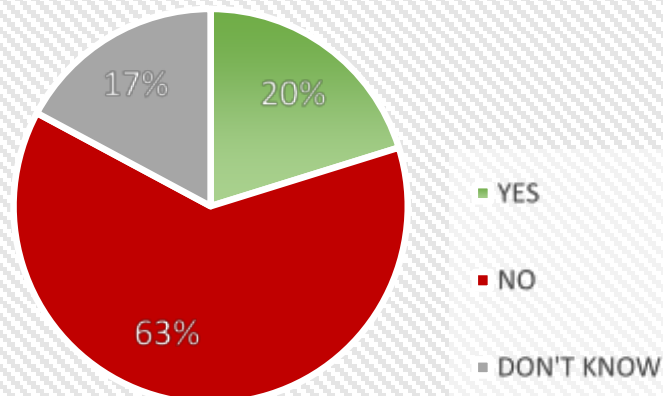
- Lack of sufficient information about OA policy at the national level
- Lack of implementation of OA repositories at the national level
- Sufficient institutional activity in OAR development and operation
- Insufficient formulation of policy related to this activity at the institutional level.

**AVAILABILITY OF NATIONAL POLICY FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS**



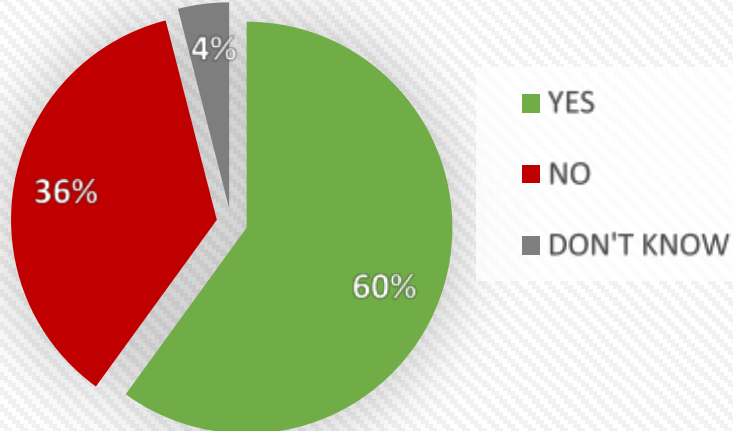
A6. Does your country have a national policy regarding approaches to the management of research outputs?

**EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL OAR**



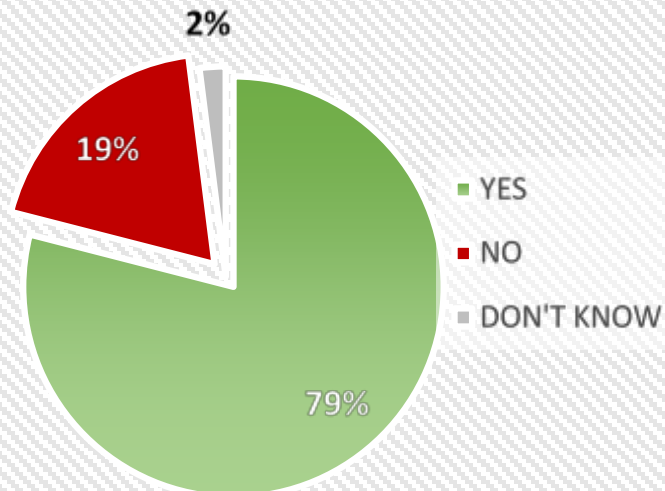
A5. Does your country have a national Open Access repository?

**AVAILABILITY OF POLICY ON DEPOSIT OF RESOURCE OUTPUTS IN OAR**



A8. Does your institution have a policy regarding the deposit of research outputs in Open Access repositories?

**EXISTENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL OAR**



A7. Does your institution maintain an Open Access repository?

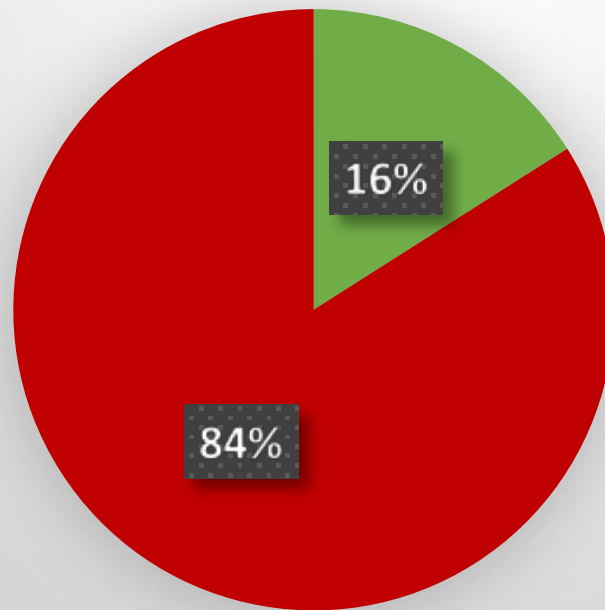
# ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM THE SURVEY – INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- Lack of sufficient funding for management of digital information resources.
- Insufficient support for external expertise on digital skills and funding for digital repositories.
- Institutional support for the technical function, in network and telecoms management, digital imaging and information architecture
- Institutional support for technical capability development to support digital services lacking mainly in external technical and information expertise
- Institutional support for OARs, this was proportionally low on all categories queried, with policy training being the lowest.

# FUNDING FOR DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

## FUNDING ADEQUACY FOR MANAGEMENT OF DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Base: 56



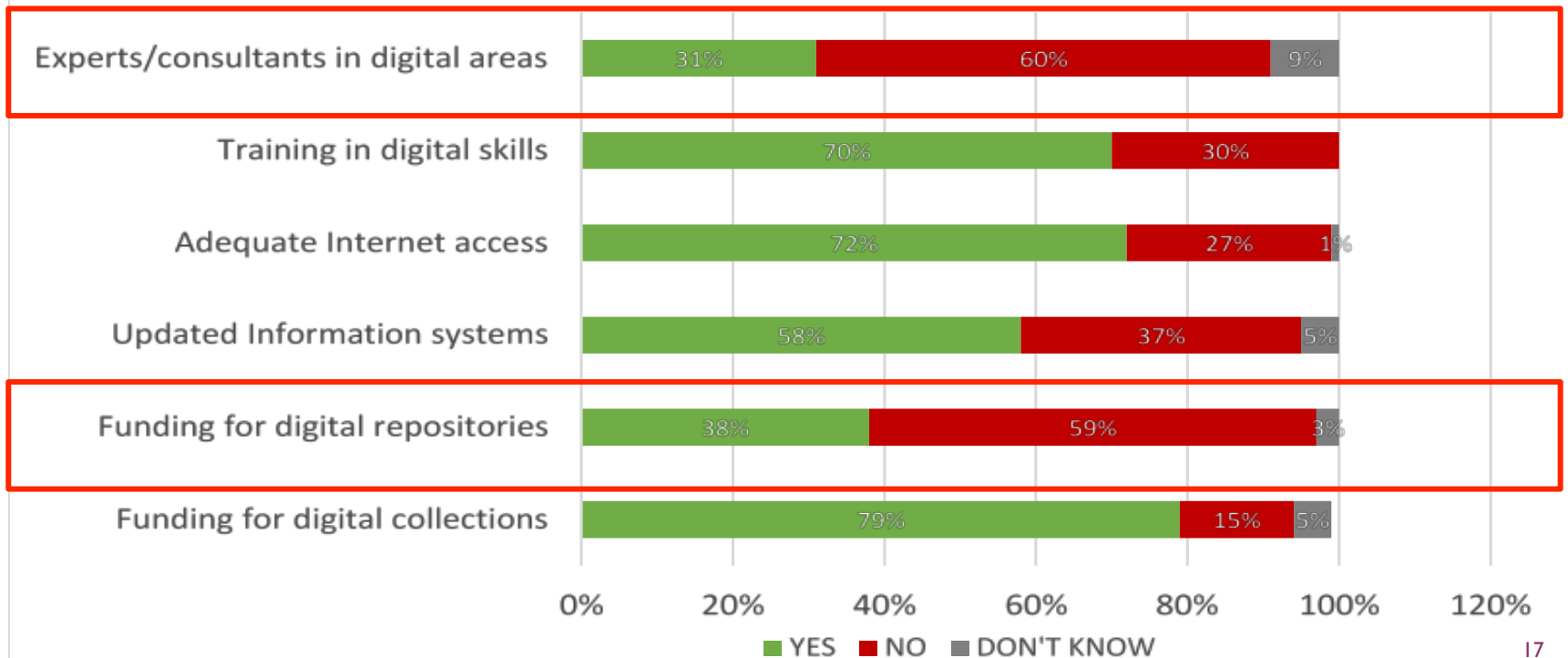
■ Yes  
■ No

*A12. Is there adequate funding for the management of digital information resources in your institution?*



# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

## FORMS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO LIBRARY

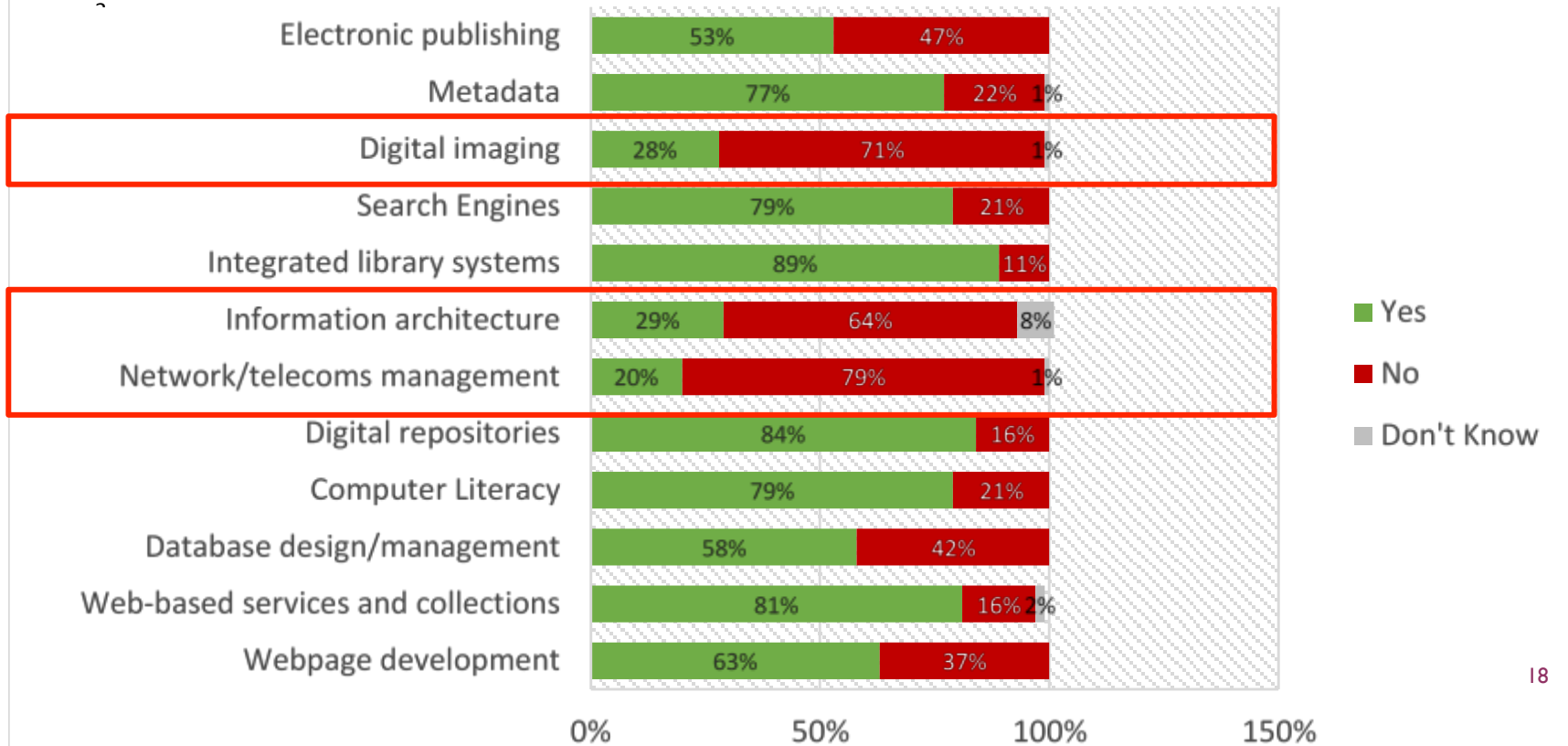


B6. What forms of support does your library receive from the institution?

# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL LIBRARIAN FUNCTION

## TECHNICAL AREAS COVERED BY LIBRARIES

D1. Does your library carry out any work in any of these technical

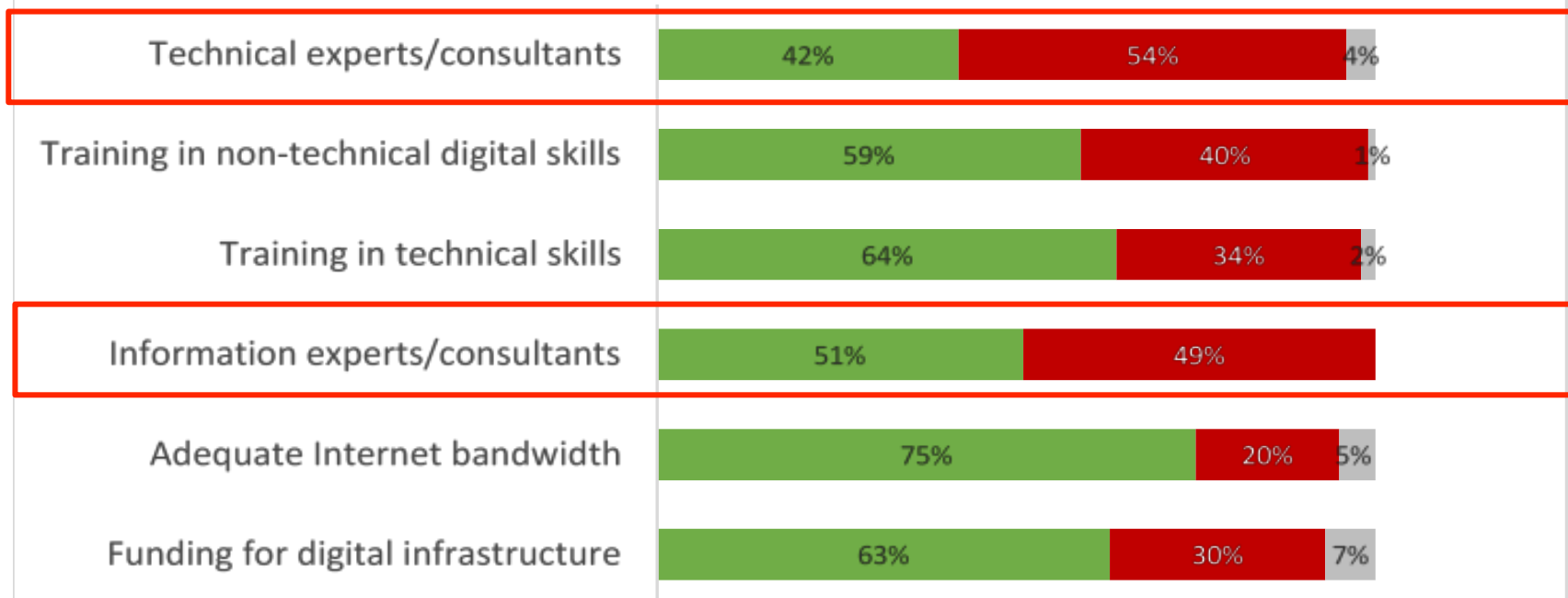


# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL CAPABILITY IN DIGITAL SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

## TECHNICAL - INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES

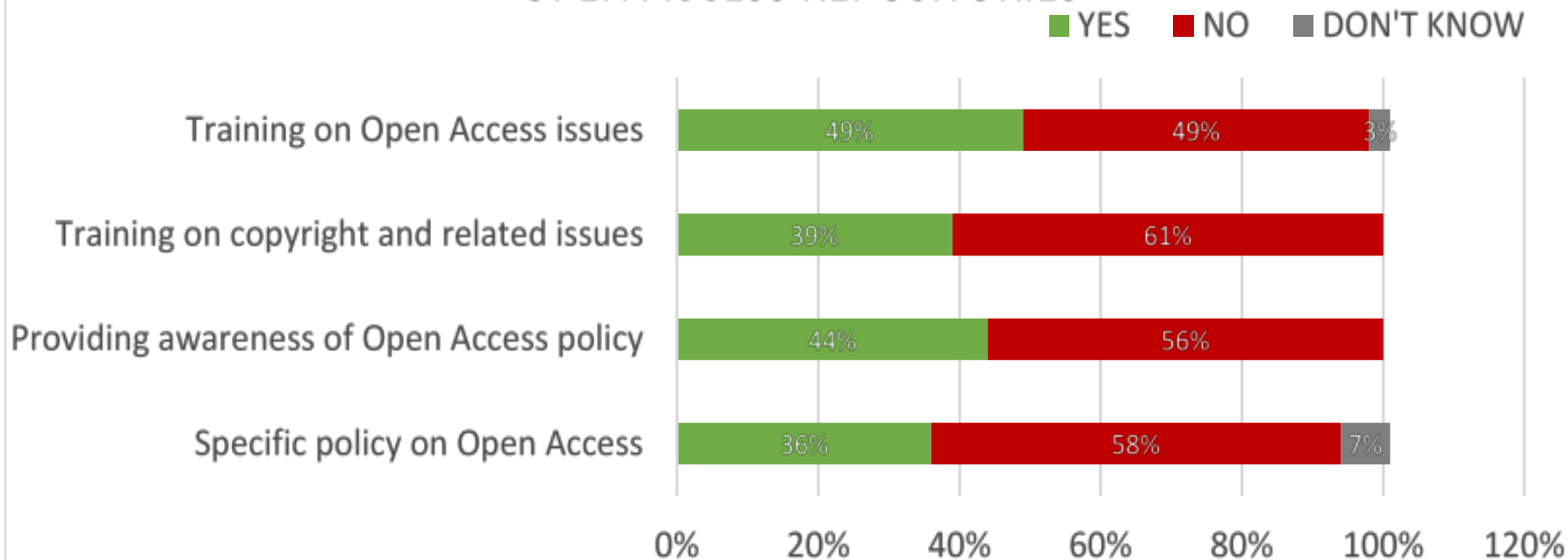
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know

D2. What forms of support does your library receive from the institution?



# INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR OAR-SPECIFIC TRAINING & AWARENESS

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT WITH RESPECT TO OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORIES

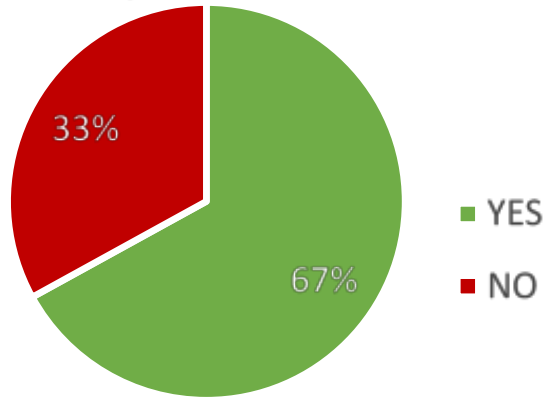


B7. With respect to Open Access Repositories, what forms of support does your library receive from the institution?

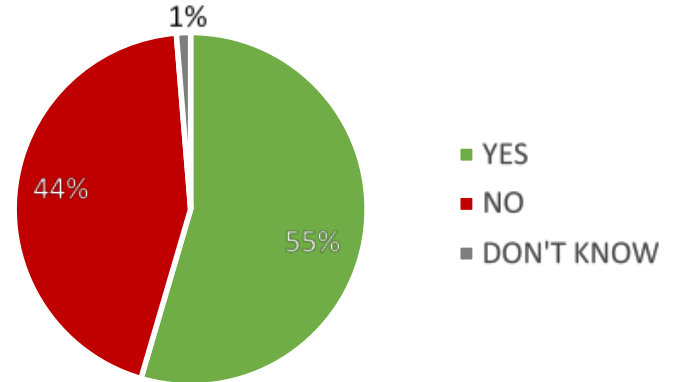
# ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM THE SURVEY – LIBRARIAN DIGITAL SKILLS CAPABILITY

- While access to continuing professional development (CPD) is fairly well represented, training in digital skills and OA-specific capabilities is lacking

### ACCESS TO CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SKILL AREA

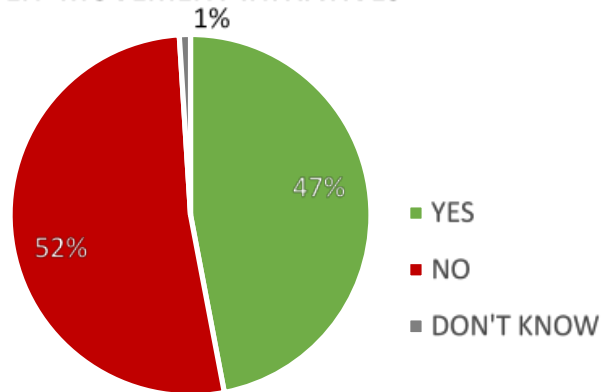


### ACCESS TO CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL LIBRARY SKILLS



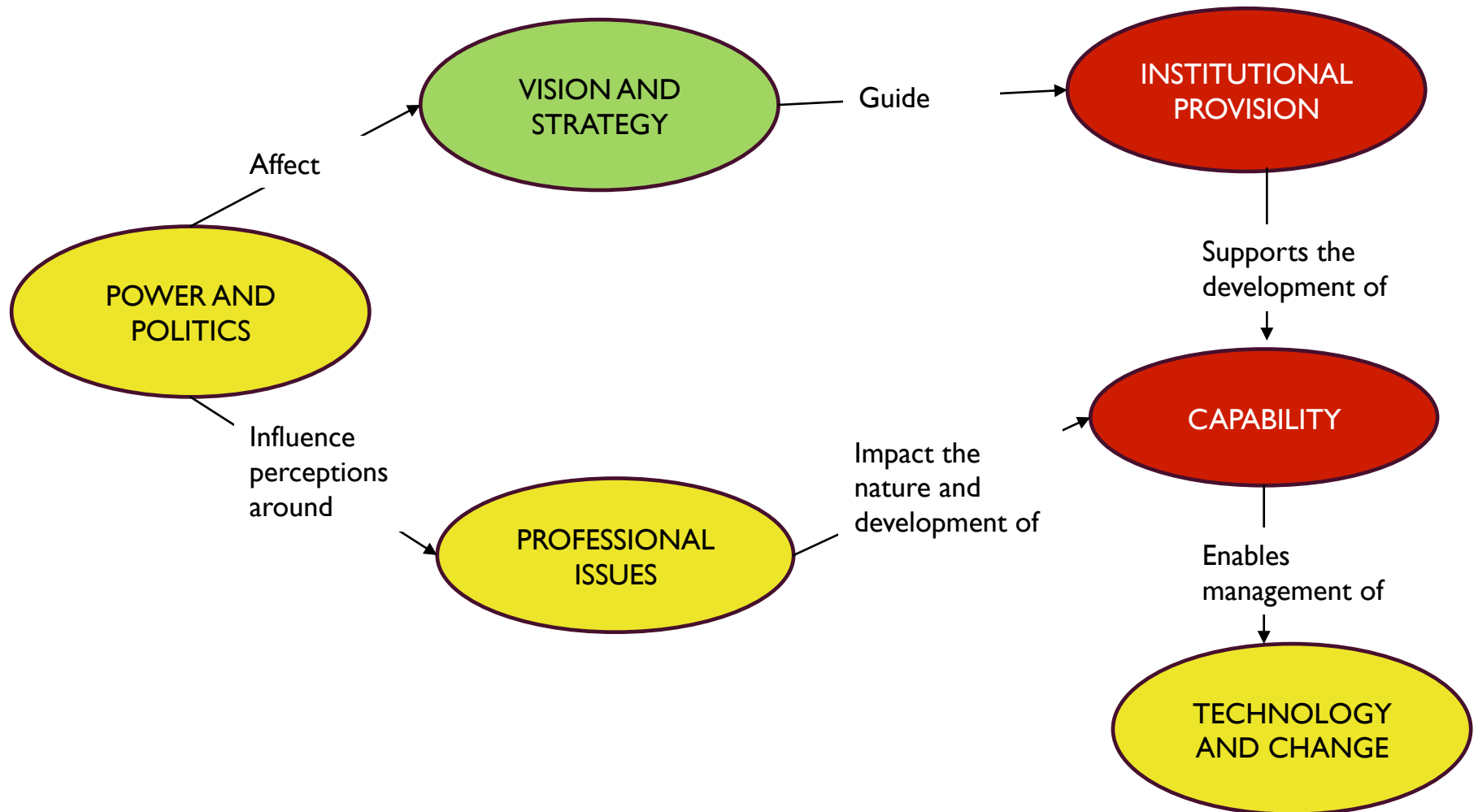
E3. Do you have access to continuing professional development of digital library skills, e.g. learning about new digital repositories and how to manage them?

### ACCESS TO TRAINING IN 'OPEN' MOVEMENT INITIATIVES

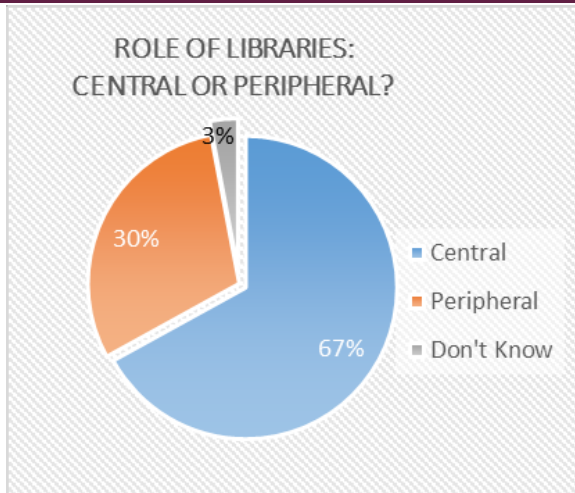


E8. Do you have access to training in any "open" movement initiatives, e.g. Open Access, Open Science, Open Data?

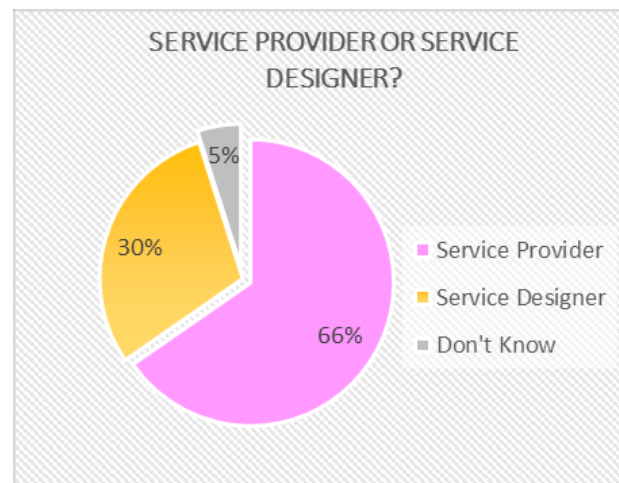
# 6 IDENTIFIED KEY CHALLENGE AREAS



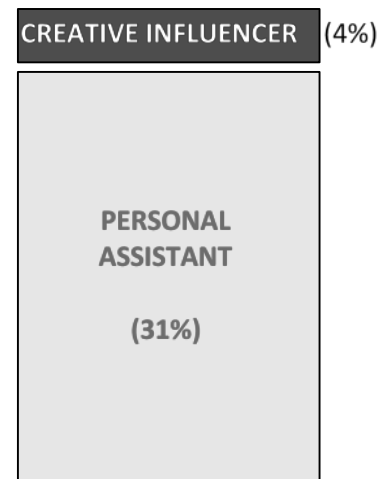
# LIBRARIANS' EVOLVING ROLE



Central



Peripheral





## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- The full report is available at: <https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE/Survey>
- The UA region LIBSENSE workshop report is available at: <https://www.wacren.net/en/news/report-libsense-repository-workshop-l>
- Information on the LIBSENSE initiative is available at: <https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE/Home>
- Inquiries to: [libsense@ren.africa](mailto:libsense@ren.africa)