Same Difference? A Comparison of Information Literacy Skills of Australian Undergraduate and Postgraduate Information Studies Students

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Demographics

<u>133 students</u>

Undergraduate 51 (38.3%) **Postgraduate** 82 (61.6%)

Curtin	40
Curtin OUA	19
Charles Sturt	74

Female 121 **Age** 39+ years (49.6%)

Male 12

Course Weighted Average 70-79 (Distinction), 42.1%

All Students
Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

Getting started on an assignment is difficult
51.1%

Knowing how good an assignment is, is difficult
62.2%

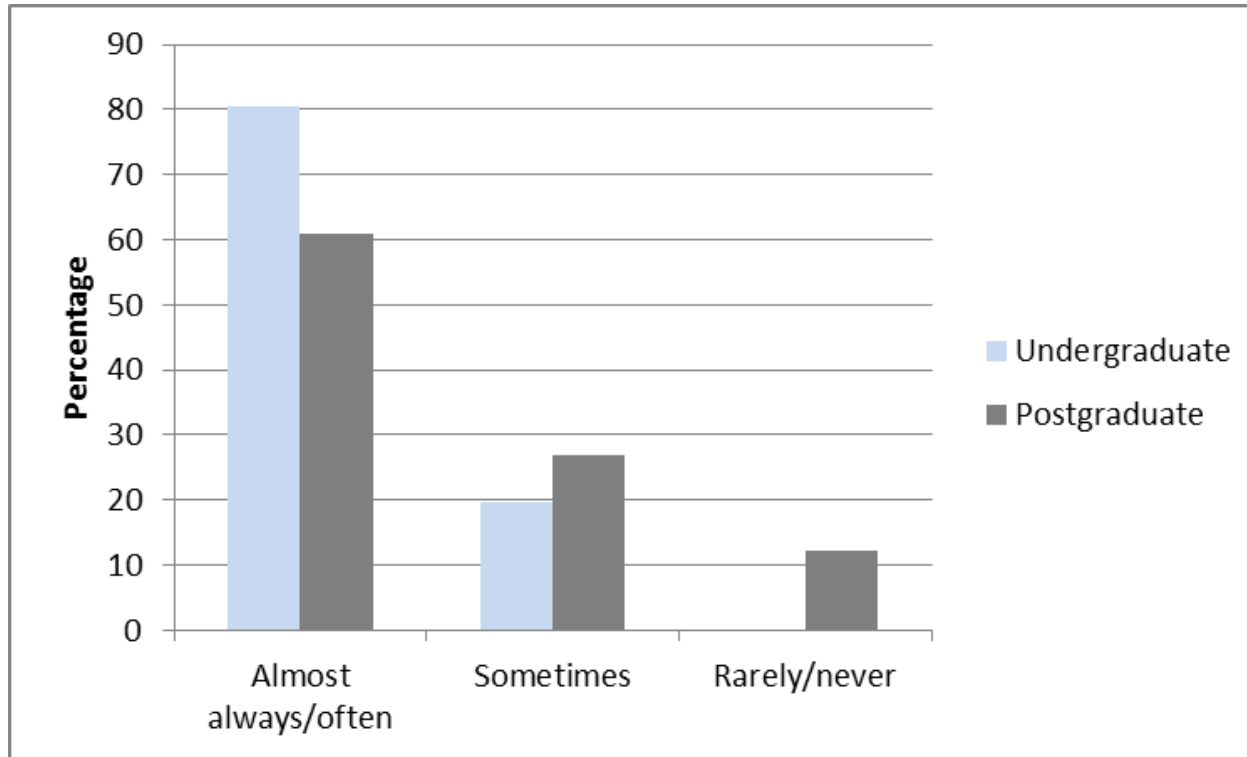Library catalogues, databases, & course readings are most often used ~65%

Developing an outline is often undertaken for an assignment
78.9%

Library & web sources are often evaluated for currency
97.1% & 89.5%

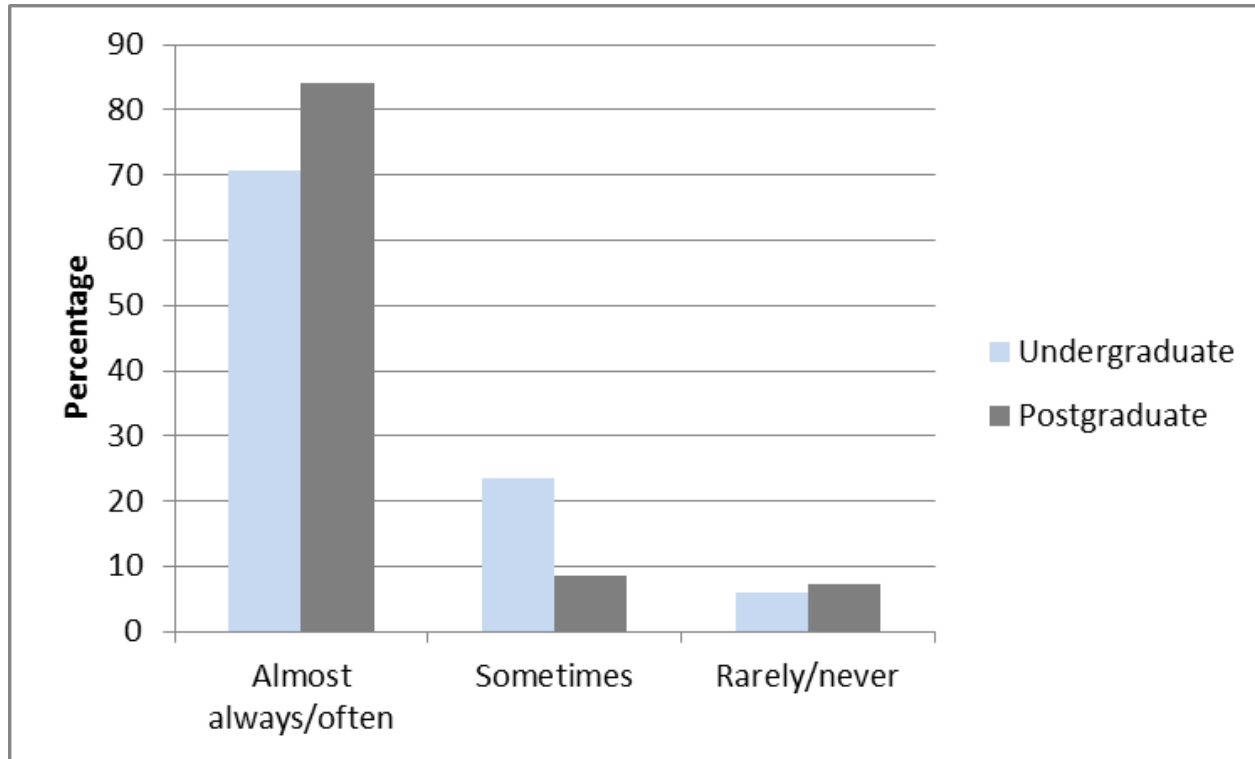Passing the course is most important
98.5%

Students consult their tutor first and librarians last for information when preparing an assignment

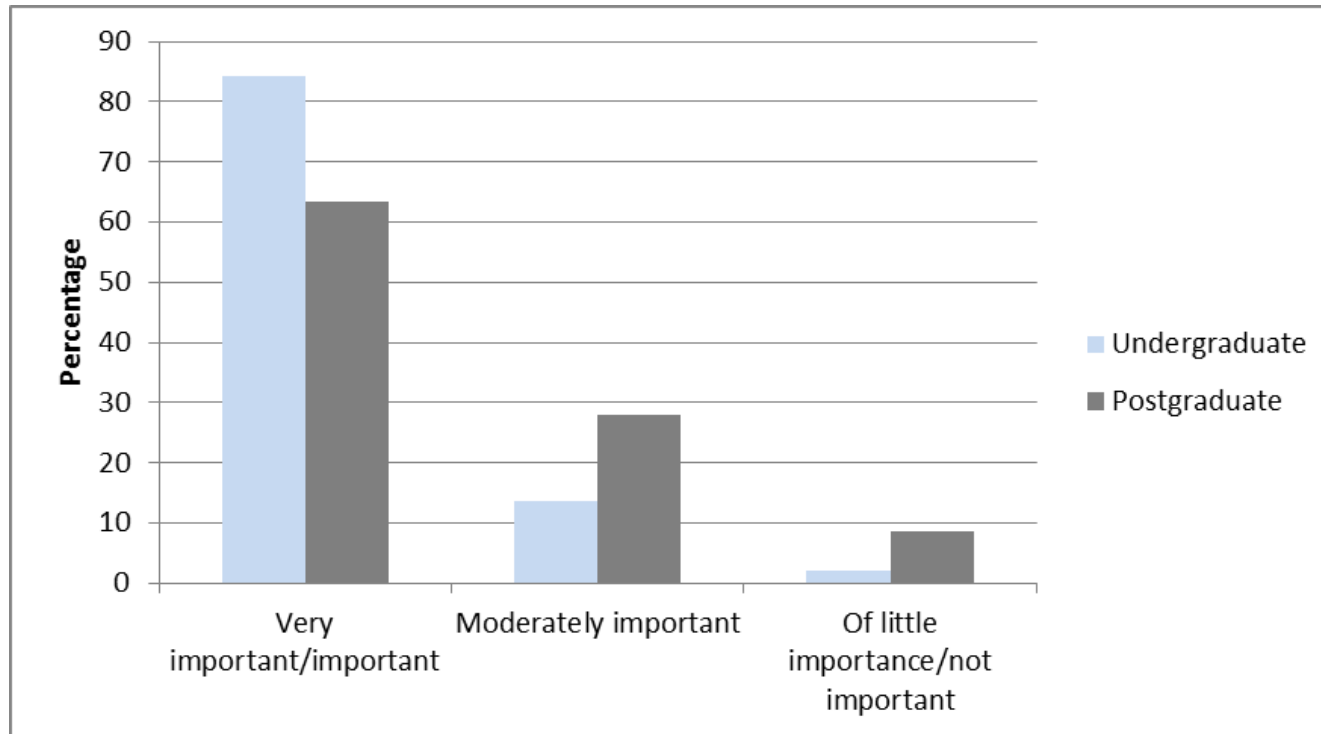# Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students

Considering the URL of web sources

Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students

Developing an outline when preparing an assignment

Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students

Improving writing skills when working on an assignment

Undergraduate Students
Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

Getting started on an assignment is difficult
54.9%

Knowing how good an assignment is, is difficult
68.6%

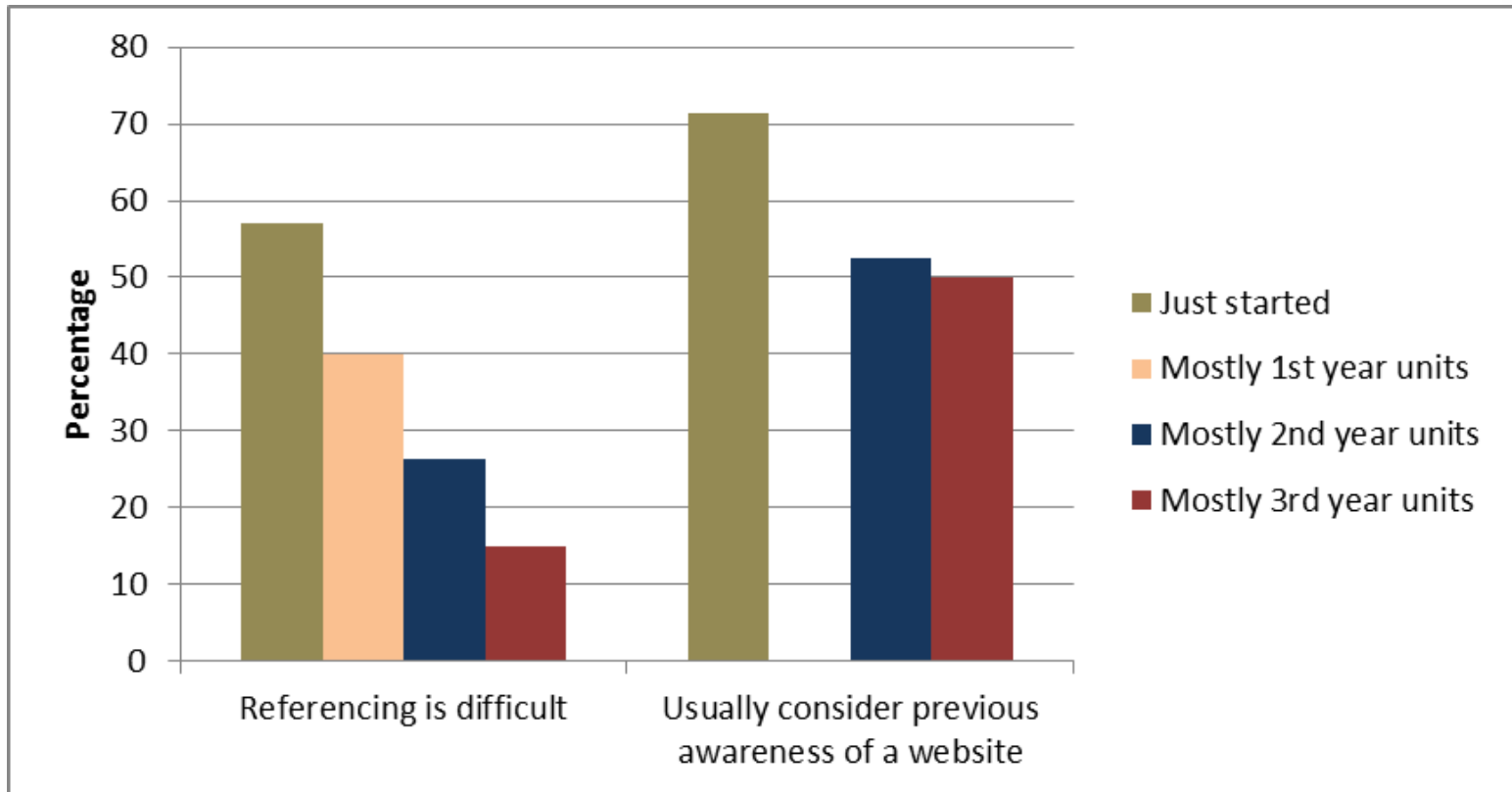Information on social networking sites are rarely used
82.4%

Library and web sources are often evaluated for currency
92.2 & 84.3%

Deciding on search terms is often a first step for an assignment
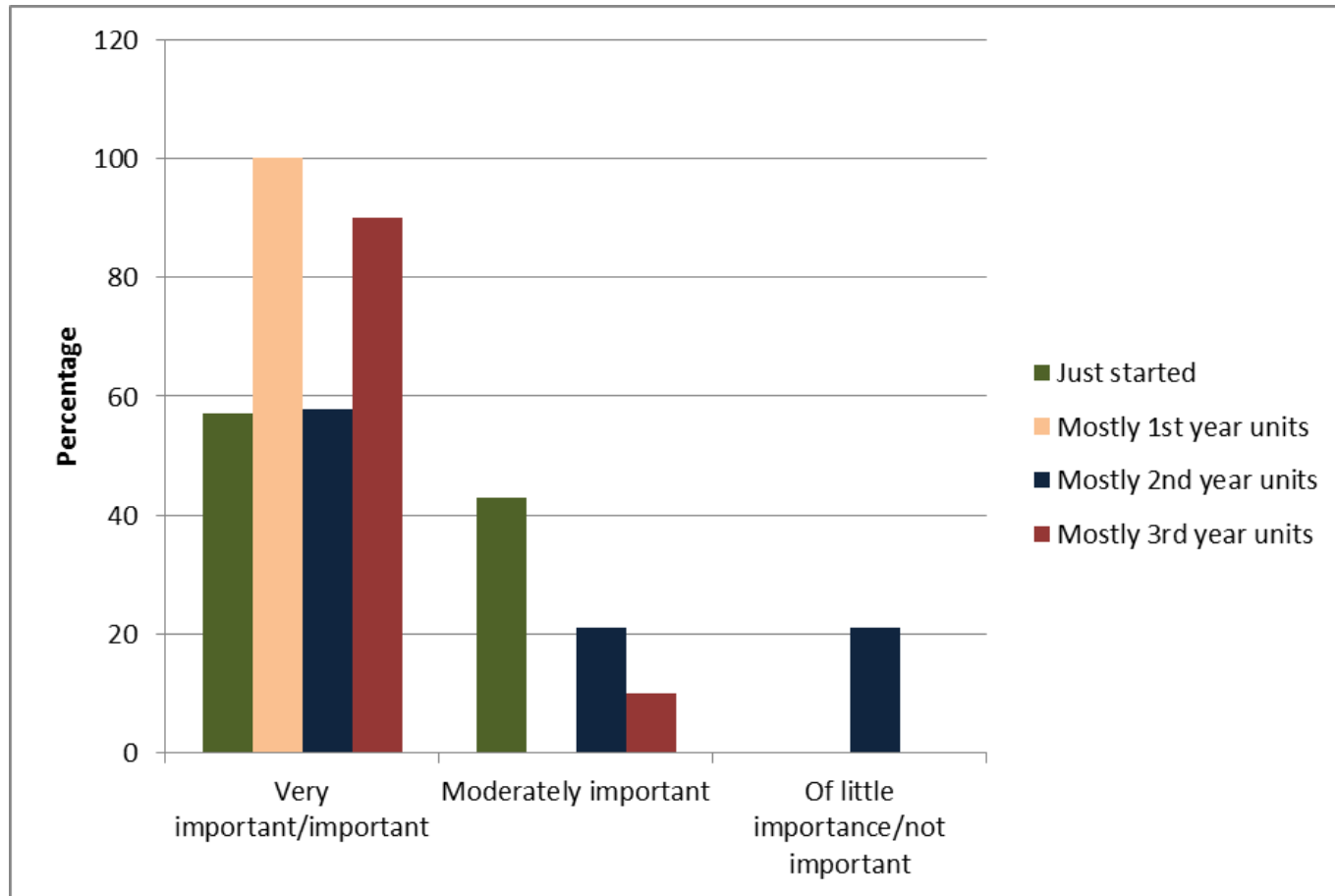74.5%

Passing the course & finishing the assignment are most important 98%

Nearly 30% of the undergraduates rarely or never consult their tutor about assignments

Undergraduate Students Stage in Degree

Undergraduate Students Stage in Degree

Finding answers to include in an assignment to demonstrate research

Concluding remarks

- Formative assessment to improve student awareness of performance
- Develop study skills early in course
- Value of library and some web sources demonstrated & currency important
- Awareness of librarian as information consultant?
- New to study vs returning to study – experience?
- Undergraduates develop information literacy skills

Thank you