

Information Literacy Skills Assessment of LIS Students: A Case Study at the Jagiellonian University



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The purpose of research – a case study

The main goal of the research was the identification and exploration **selected aspects** of the information behaviour and experience in carrying out the activities necessary for meeting the study programs' objectives, as well as the identification of the information literacy skills among information and library science (LIS) students at the Jagiellonian University.

Theoretical background

Information behaviour research:

- ✓ combination of scholarly communication and IB gives numerous of models and empirical research (Fisher et al. eds. 2005)
- ✓ specific and heterogeneous context significance – the social, academic, local, individual
- ✓ specified group of users: students – analysis of their information behaviour, undertaken information processes and information skills (e.g. Kuhlthau, 1991, 1993; Limberg, 1997; Rowley and Urquhart, 2007, Ellis 2005)
- ✓ approach in the Taylor's *Information Use Environments* model –it is possible to treat the group as a professional collective of future librarians : characterized by intentional information behaviour to a particular purpose-a solution to the problem (Taylor, 1991)

Theoretical background

Determinants influencing the complementary approach to understand the users' behaviour are:

- ✓ analysis of IB held in a variety of contexts,
- ✓ information seeking divided into multiple stages
- ✓ factors which affect the process - motivations, incentives, academic and affective components linked to individual information literacy skills.

The **holistic idea to the information literacy** as a crucial concept not only in the development of the information processes -

it also constitutes the crucial factor for the quality of the information behaviour and the intellectual approach to develop and interpret it.

Research

- The case study was **a part of the international research** of students' information literacy skills that covered LIS institutes from Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, and the USA.
- **the research had the nature of the pilot project and was conducted strictly among the students of the Institute of Information and Library Science at the Jagiellonian University**
- The group was represented by 146 bachelor students and 86 master students.

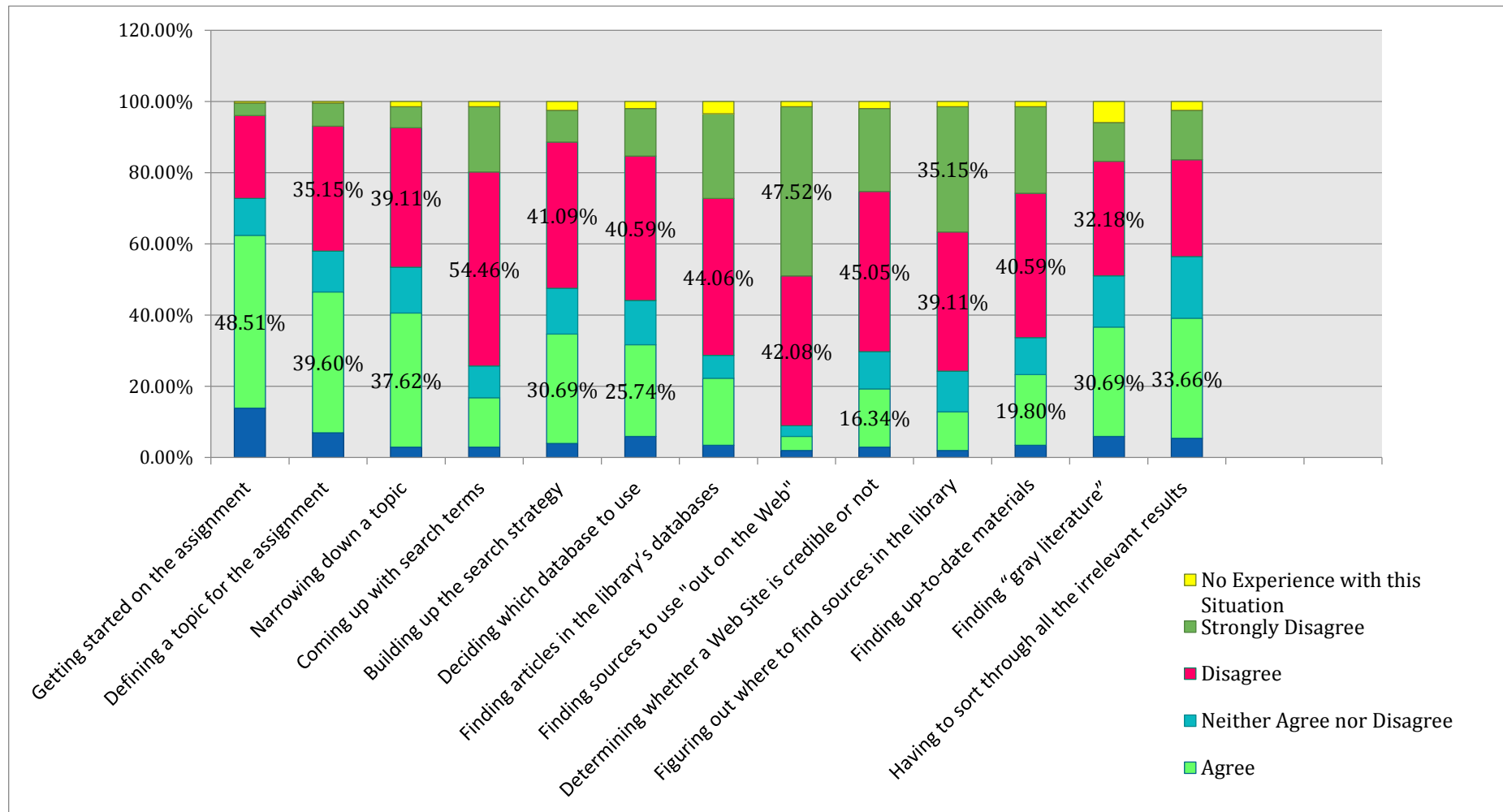
Online survey as a research tool

A joint research instrument was prepared and translated by each participating national representatives, distributed via the online environment (*Lime Survey* software) from November 2012 until April 2013.

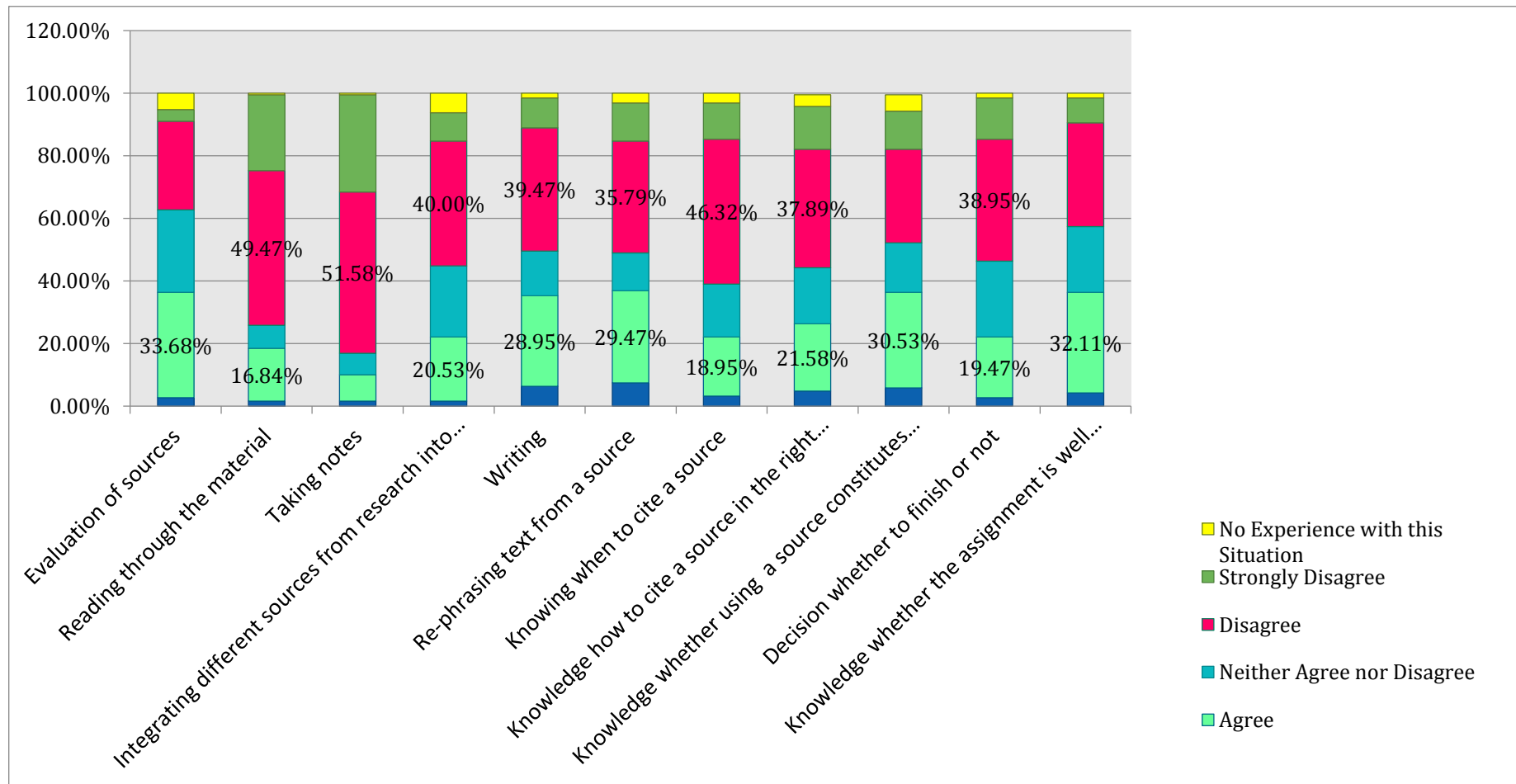
The questions was related to the model of the information behaviour in the academic environment with a particular regard to:

- research experience,
- individual stages of the information seeking,
- knowledge about the sources and ICT tools, their use, the evaluation criteria,
- creation of new knowledge.

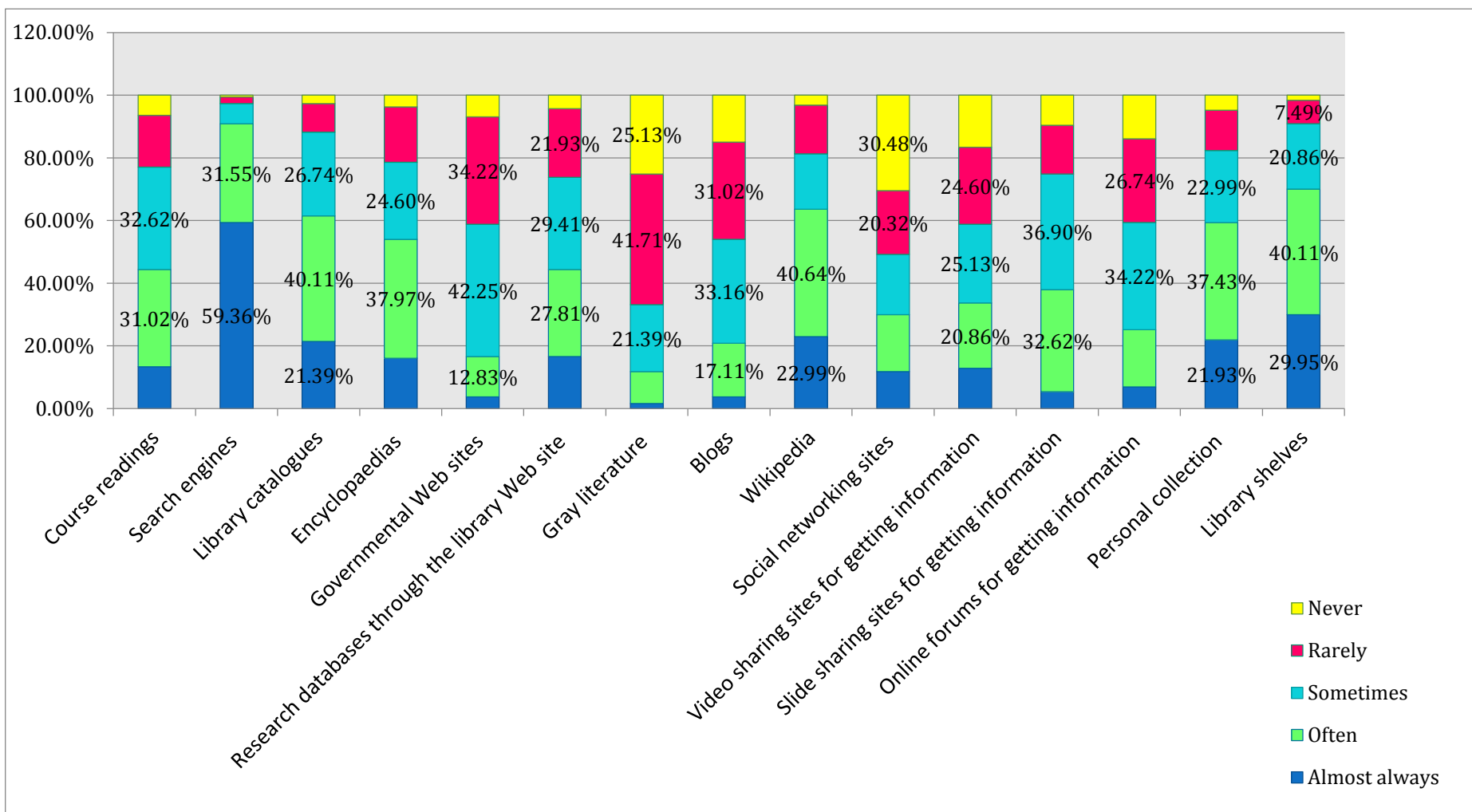
Information processes that students find difficult while starting and searching information for course-related assignments



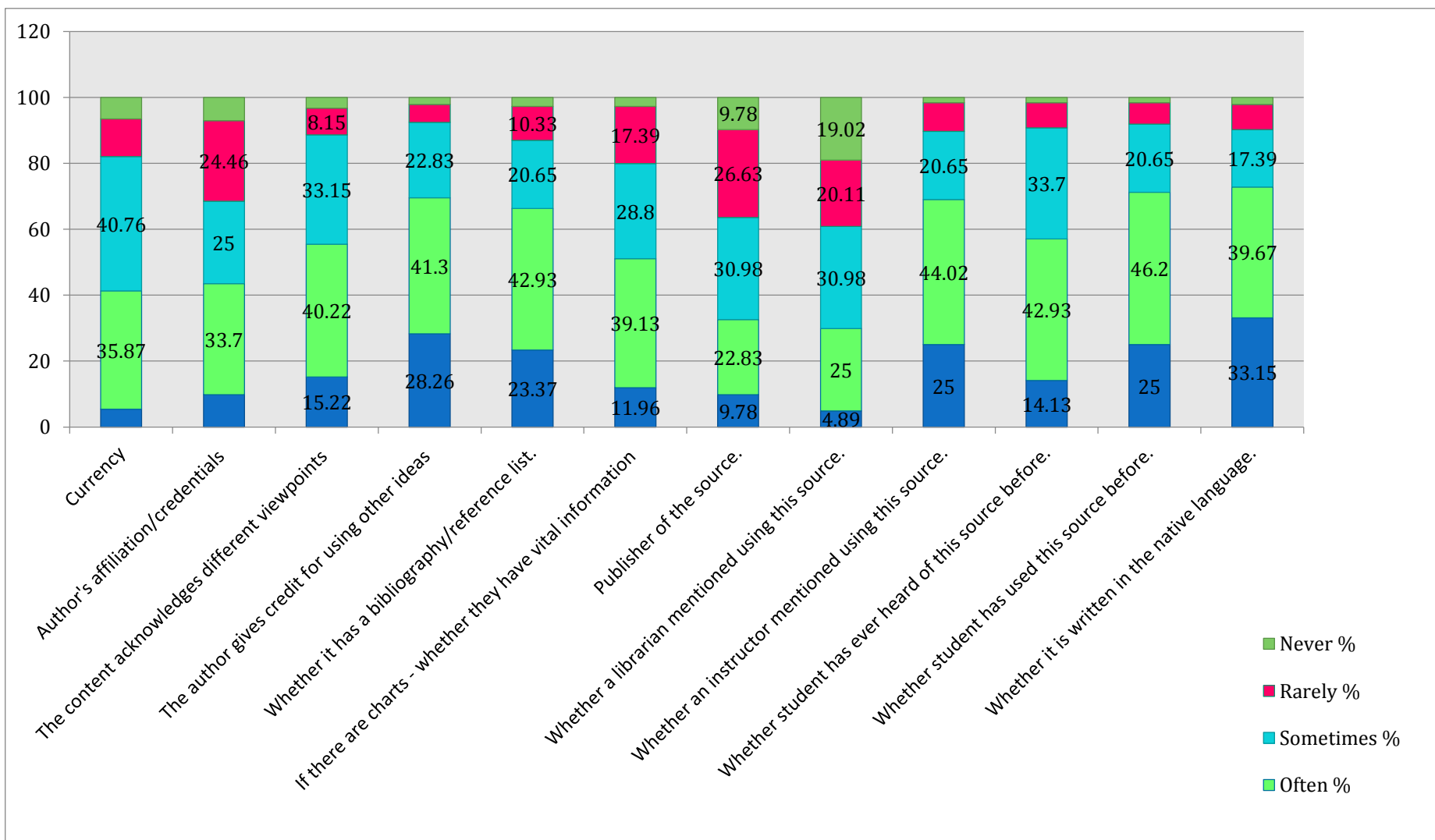
Information processes that students find difficult while realising the course-related assignments



Frequency of sources referred by LIS students for providing information during the course-related assignments



Information resources' quality evaluation criteria indicated by LIS students



Discussion

- Students cannot efficiently use the variety of new information and communication technologies and what is more, they also seem to be unable to take full advantage of the sources they are already familiar with (Google, Wikipedia, etc.);
- useful to consider the possible cause of not using the social networking sites or slides sharing sites for getting information-what factors cause that? Are there new social relationships or is it the real ignorance of new forms of communication?
- Quite interesting is the fact of ignoring or doubting in librarians or avoiding the traditional library services (? LIMB model, Abrahamson&Fisher 2008);
- There has been observed a change in the sources' preference (students use mainly the online resources that could be searched instantly), significance of sources and criteria for their evaluation;

Discussion

- Research will require in-depth analysis and extension of the target group-study is planned in all academic centres teaching in the field of LIS
- A peculiar comparison of the results within bachelor and master degree students' groups **would be an answer** to some questions - e.g. indicating the lack of knowledge and experience in the evaluation process, integrating the knowledge from different sources, citing the resources and using them in a right way and manner.
- A need for in-depth evaluation of the information literacy skills, drawing attention to factors that affect and shape students' IB and attempt to compare LIS students competences in different training centres and study levels.

THANK YOU !

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