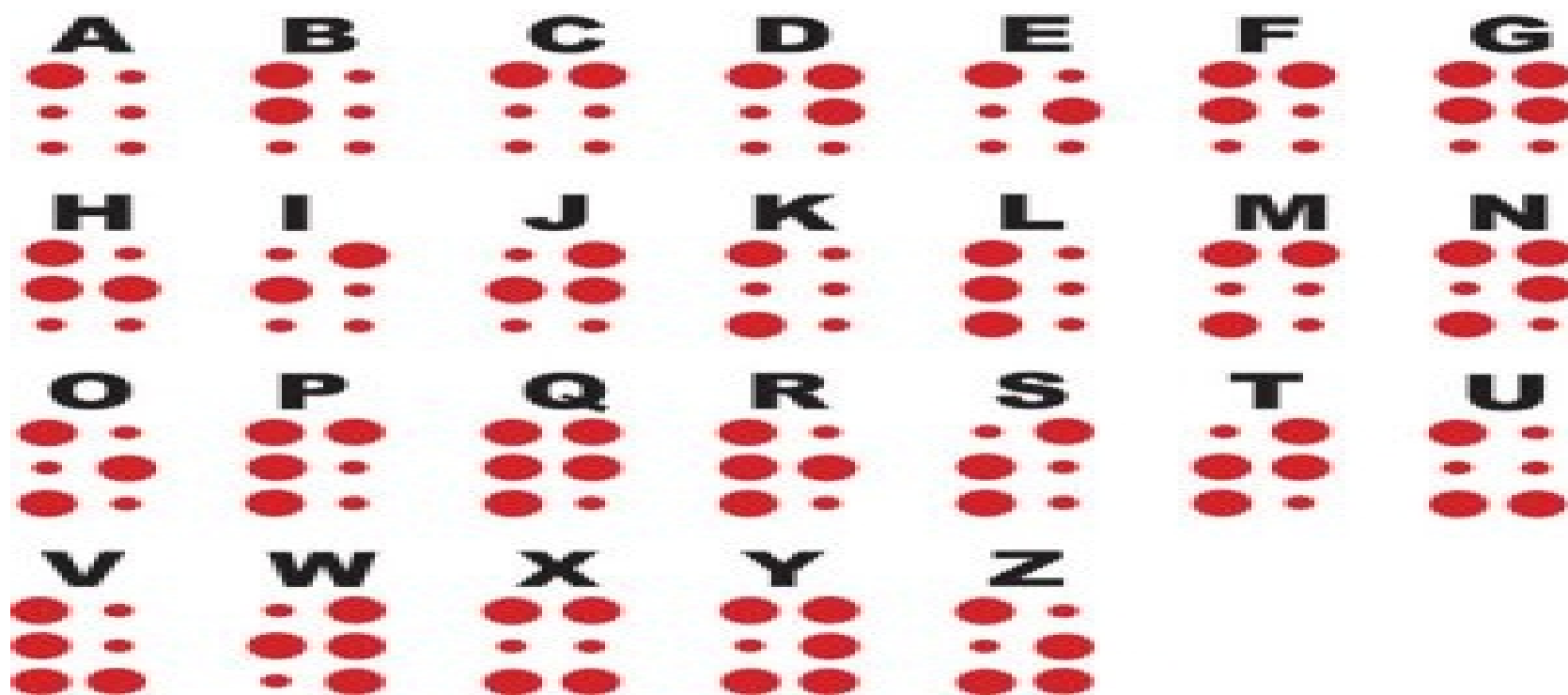


GREY LITERATURE BY THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC LIBRARIES



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Assistive Technology

‘Assistive Technology’ means, any product, that is used to increase or monitor functional capacities of individuals with disabilities.

Assistive Technology consists of hardware, software and services that help people with disabilities to achieve greater independence and to enhance the quality of their lives

Objectives

1. To know the extent of use of prominent Grey Resources by the visually challenged users in Mysore City.
2. To know the extent of familiarity with various assistive technology, hardware and software for accessing information, print as well as, electronic sources.
3. To understand various problems faced by the visually challenged while using assistive technology.
4. To determine the training needs for effective use of the assistive technology.

Methodology

Interview Schedule was used to collect the responses from the 72 visually challenged members of Mysore University Library and J.S.S Polytechnic for Differently Abled in Mysore.

Table 1: Category of Users and Access to Assistive Technology

Sl No	Category of Users of Assistive Technology	Extent of Use During the Year 2013-2014	
		Total No. Users	No. of Visits
1	Teachers	09 (12.5%)	178 (27.9%)
2	Researchers	04 (05.6%)	44 (06.9%)
3	Students	59 (81.9%)	415 (65.2%)
	Total	72 (100%)	637 (100%)

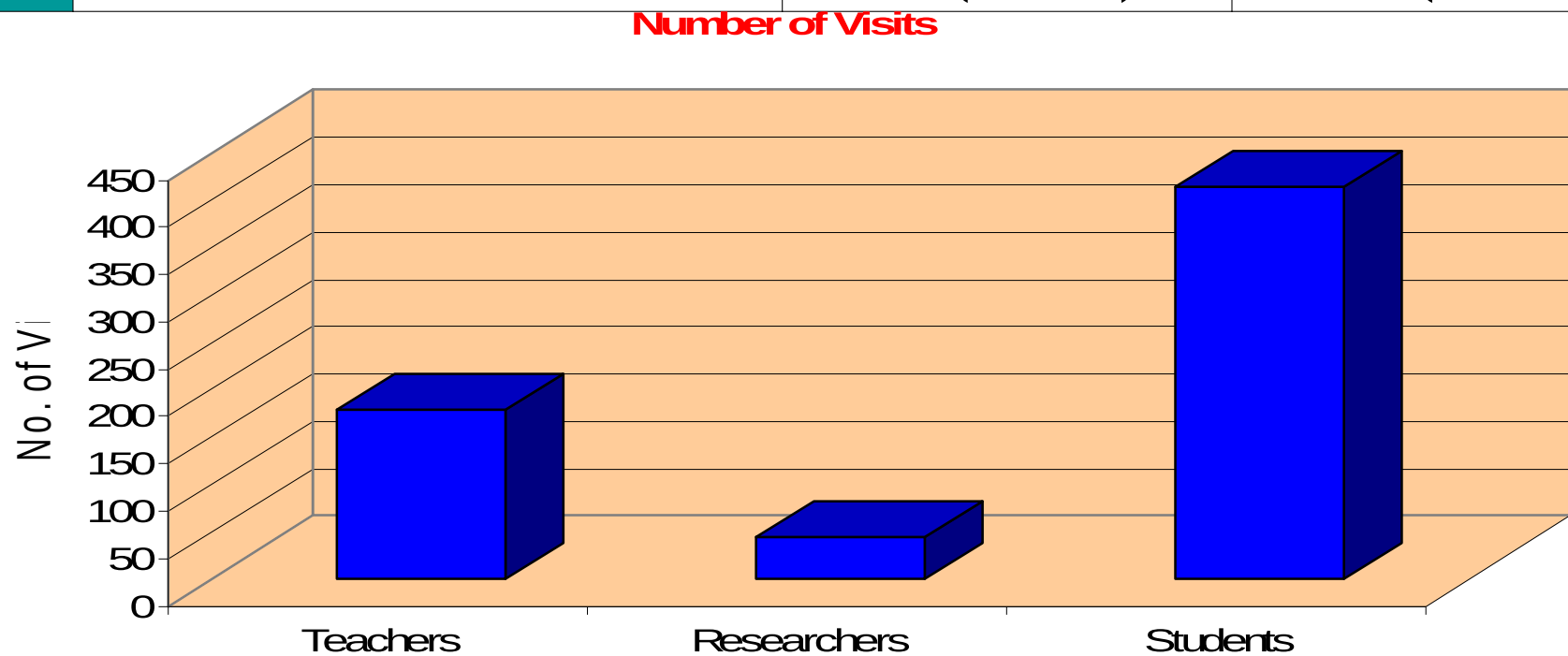


Table 2: Extent of Use of Assistive Technology : Hardware

Sl.No.	Hardware	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at All
1	Sara Book Reader	54 (75.0%)	2 (02.8%)	10 (13.9%)	6 (08.3%)	- -
2	Angel and Plex Talk	22 (30.5%)	30 (41.7%)	11 (15.3%)	4 (05.5%)	5 (07.0%)
3	Prisma ,Zoomex, Topaz	12 (16.7%)	28 (38.9%)	20 (27.8%)	6 (08.3%)	6 (08.3%)
4	Braille Printers	14 (19.4%)	09 (12.5%)	16 (22.2%)	11 (15.3%)	12 (16.6%)

Table 3: Extent of Use of Assistive Technology: Software

Sl.No.	Software	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at All
1	JAWS	56 (77.8%)	14 (19.4%)	2 (02.8%)	-	-
2	NVDA	16 (22.2%)	9 (12.5%)	6 (08.3%)	-	41 (57.0%)
3	Braille Translation Software	4 (05.5%)	20 (27.8%)	30 (41.7%)	11 (15.3%)	7 (09.7%)
4	Kurzwel-OCR Software	37 (51.4%)	12 (16.7%)	14 (19.4%)	6 (08.3%)	4 (05.5%)

Table 4: Extent of Use of Grey Literature: Acquired Sources

Sl.No	Grey Literature in Use	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at All
1	Proceedings of Conferences, Seminars and Workshops	6 (08.3%)	14 (19.5%)	34 (47.2%)	10 (13.9%)	8 (11.1%)
2	Technical Reports	3 (04.2%)	4 (05.5%)	22 (30.5%)	22 (30.5%)	21 (29.3%)
3	Archives	1 (01.4%)	2 (02.8%)	6 (08.3%)	12 (16.7%)	51 (70.8%)
4	News Letters	2 (02.8%)	1 (01.4%)	16 (22.2%)	22 (30.5%)	31 (43.1%)

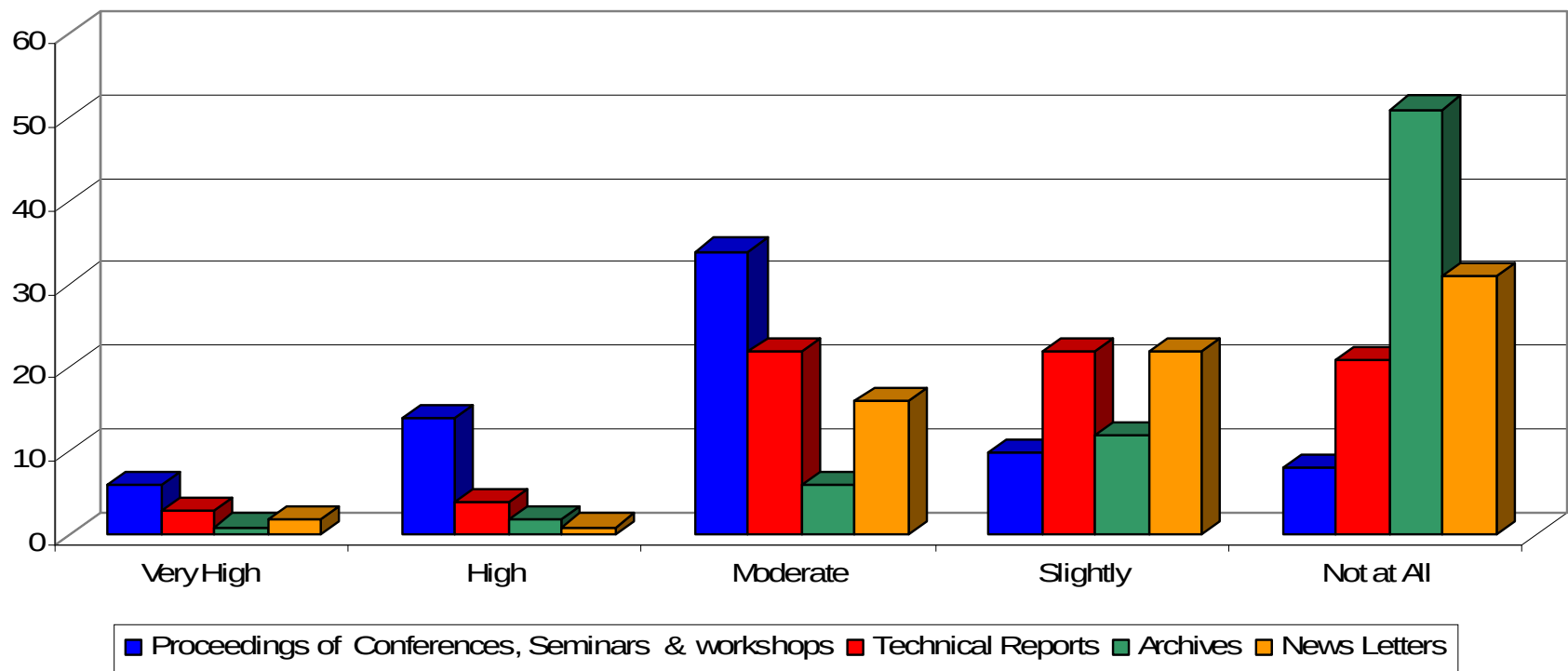


Table 5: Extent of Use of Grey Literature: In-house Sources

Sl.No	Grey Literature in Use	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at All
1	Doctoral Theses	2 (02.8%)	7 (09.7%)	12 (16.7%)	22 (30.5%)	29 (40.3%)
2	Dissertations and Project Reports	6 (08.3%)	14 (19.5%)	26 (36.1%)	14 (19.5%)	12 (16.7%)
3	Institutional Publications	10 (13.9%)	12 (16.7%)	24 (33.3%)	22 (30.5%)	4 (05.5%)
4	Braille Courseware: In-house	33 (45.8%)	23 (31.9%)	16 (22.2%)	-	-

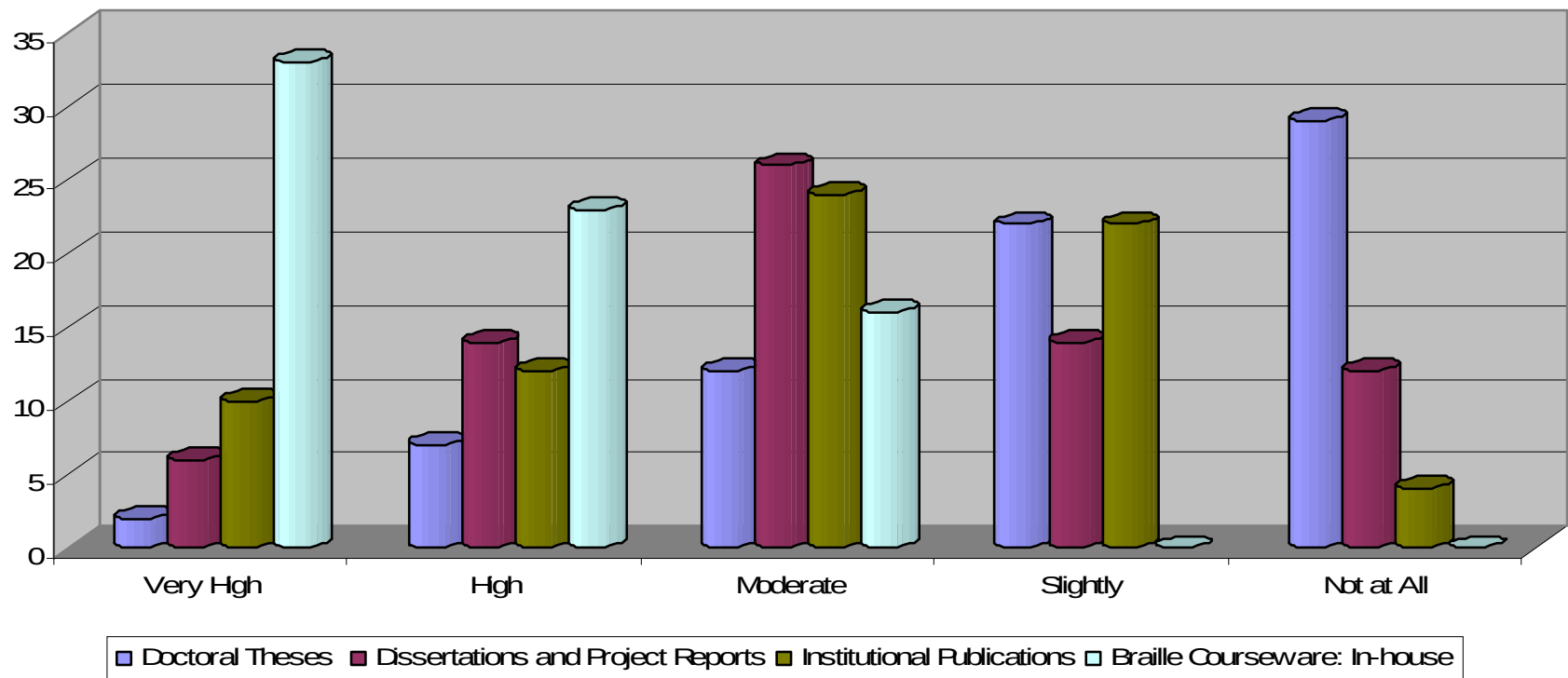


Table 6: Degree of Familiarity of with Assistive Technology : Hardware

Sl.No	Hardware	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at all
1	Sara Book Reader	22 (30.6%)	49 (68.0%)	1 (1.4%)	-	-
2	Angel and Plex Talk	17 (23.6%)	35 (48.6%)	13 (18%)	7 (9.8%)	-
3	Prisma ,Zoomex, Topaz	18 (25.0%)	26 (36.1%)	25 (34.7%)	3 (4.2%)	-
4	Braille Printers	10 (13.9%)	08 (11.1%)	26 (36.1%)	22 (30.6%)	6 (8.3%)

Table 7: Degree of Familiarity of with Assistive Technology : Software

Sl.No	Software	Very High	High	Moderate	Slightly	Not at all
1	JAWS	43 (59.7%)	16 (22.2%)	8 (11.1%)	2 (2.8%)	3 (4.2%)
2	NVDA	16 (22.2%)	11 (15.2%)	5 (7.0%)	12 (16.7%)	28 (38.9%)
3	Braille Translation Software	2 (2.7%)	25 (34.7%)	34 (47.2%)	23 (32.0%)	14 (19.4%)
4	Kurzwel-OCR Software	37 (51.5%)	11 (15.2%)	6 (8.3%)	12 (16.7%)	6 (8.3%)

Table 8: Problems Faced by Respondents While Using Assistive Technology

Sl.No	Problems Faced by Users	Yes	No
1	Out-dated Infrastructure	11 (15.2%)	61 (84.8%)
2	Inconvenient Timings	06 (8.3%)	66 (91.7%)
3	Lack of Guidance and Assistance	42 (58.3%)	30 (41.7%)
4	Lack of Knowledge and Skill Among the Staff	41 (57.0%)	31 (43.0%)
5	Lack of Training for Users	44 (61.1%)	28 (38.9%)

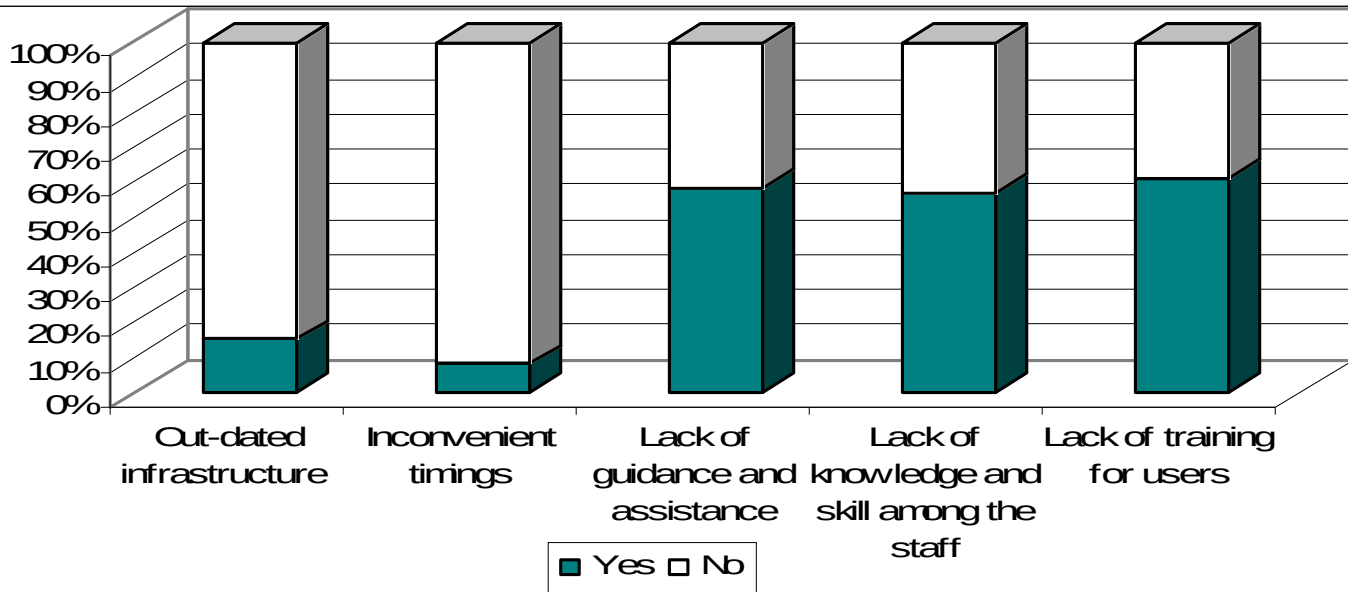


Table 9: Training Requirement Projected by Users : Hardware

Sl.No	Assistive Technology : Software	Responses	
		Yes	No
1	SARA Book Reader	04 (5.5%)	68 (94.5%)
2	Angel and Plex Talk	12 (16.7%)	60 (83.3%)
3	Prisma, Zoomex, Topaz	09 (12.5%)	63 (87.5%)
4	Braille Printers	46 (63.9%)	26 (36.1%)

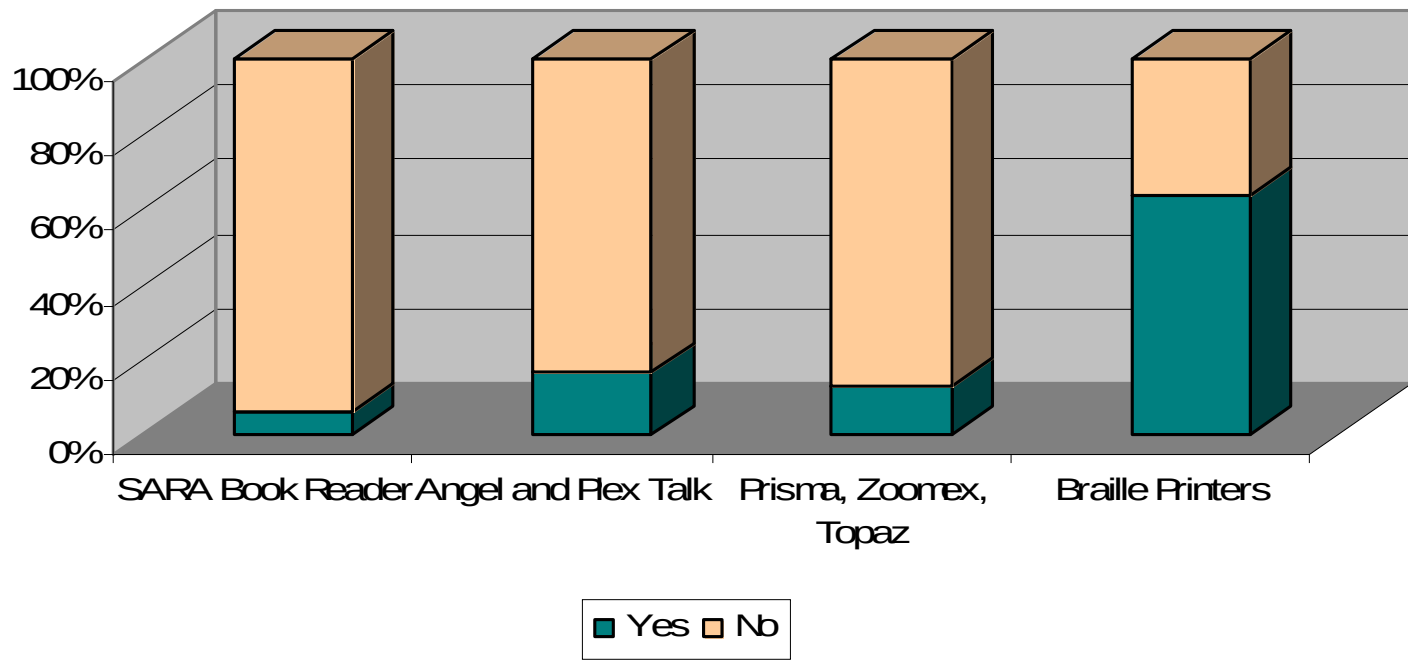
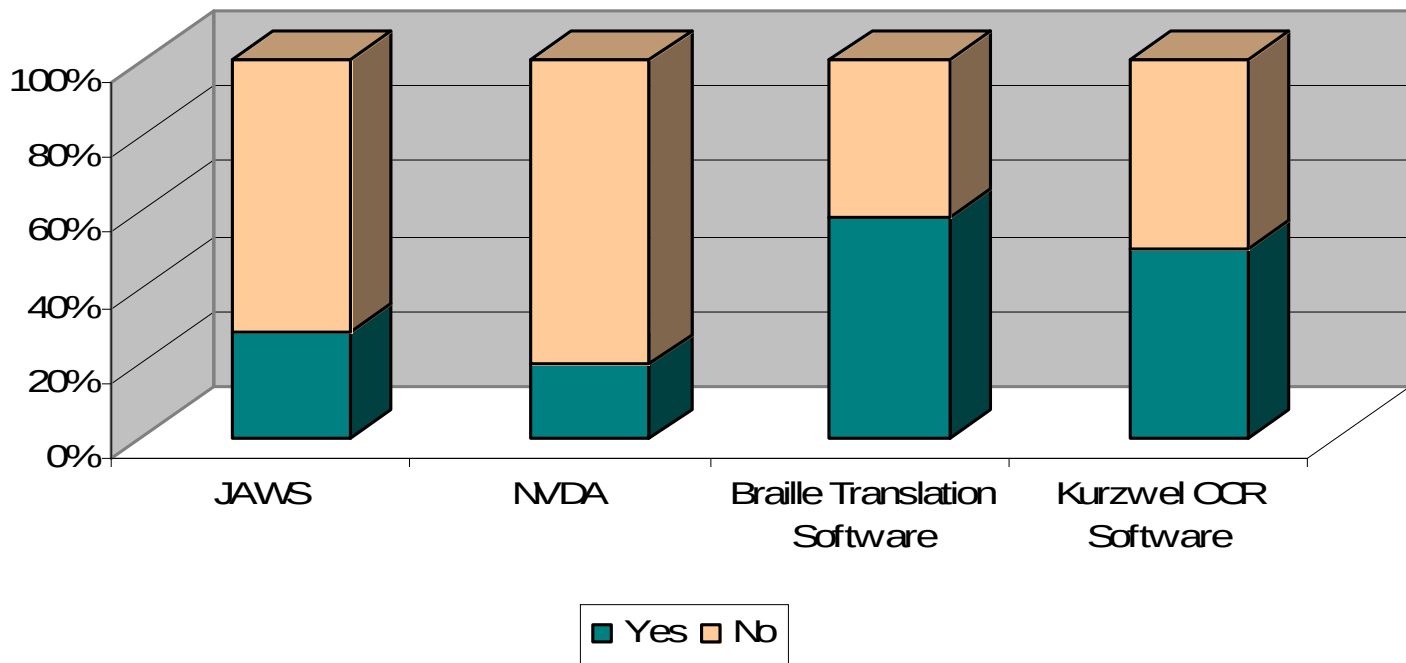


Table 10: Training Requirement Projected by Users : Software

Sl.No	Assistive Technology: Hardware	Responses	
		Yes	No
1	JAWS	20 (27.8%)	52 (72.2%)
2	NVDA	14 (19.4%)	58 (80.6%)
3	Braille Translation Software	42 (58.3%)	30 (41.7%)
4	Kurzwel OCR Software	36 (50%)	36 (50%)



Findings of the study

1. A small segment of users rely upon dissertations and proceedings of seminars, conferences and workshops in the higher range. A large majority access the proceedings to a moderate extent.
2. Library members rely upon 'Braille Courseware' to a greater extent.
3. Use of archives and news letters is quite low and 70.5% of users seldom access archival sources. Technical reports are accessed only to a moderate and lower extent.
4. A large percentage of users are familiar with the use of book readers and magnifiers and use is also to the higher extent. Faculty members rely more upon the assistive technology than researchers and students.
5. Many users are not familiar with Refreshable Braille Display and V4 Braille Printers. They need training for the effective use.
6. The respondents feel that the staff lack skill in handling technology and extend support. The staff also need to be trained.

Thank You...