MANAGEMENT OF OBSOLETE GREY LITERATURE IN ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

C.P. Ramasesh
University of Mysore, India

N. Chowdappa
B.M.S.College of Engineering, Bangalore, India

L. Usha Devi
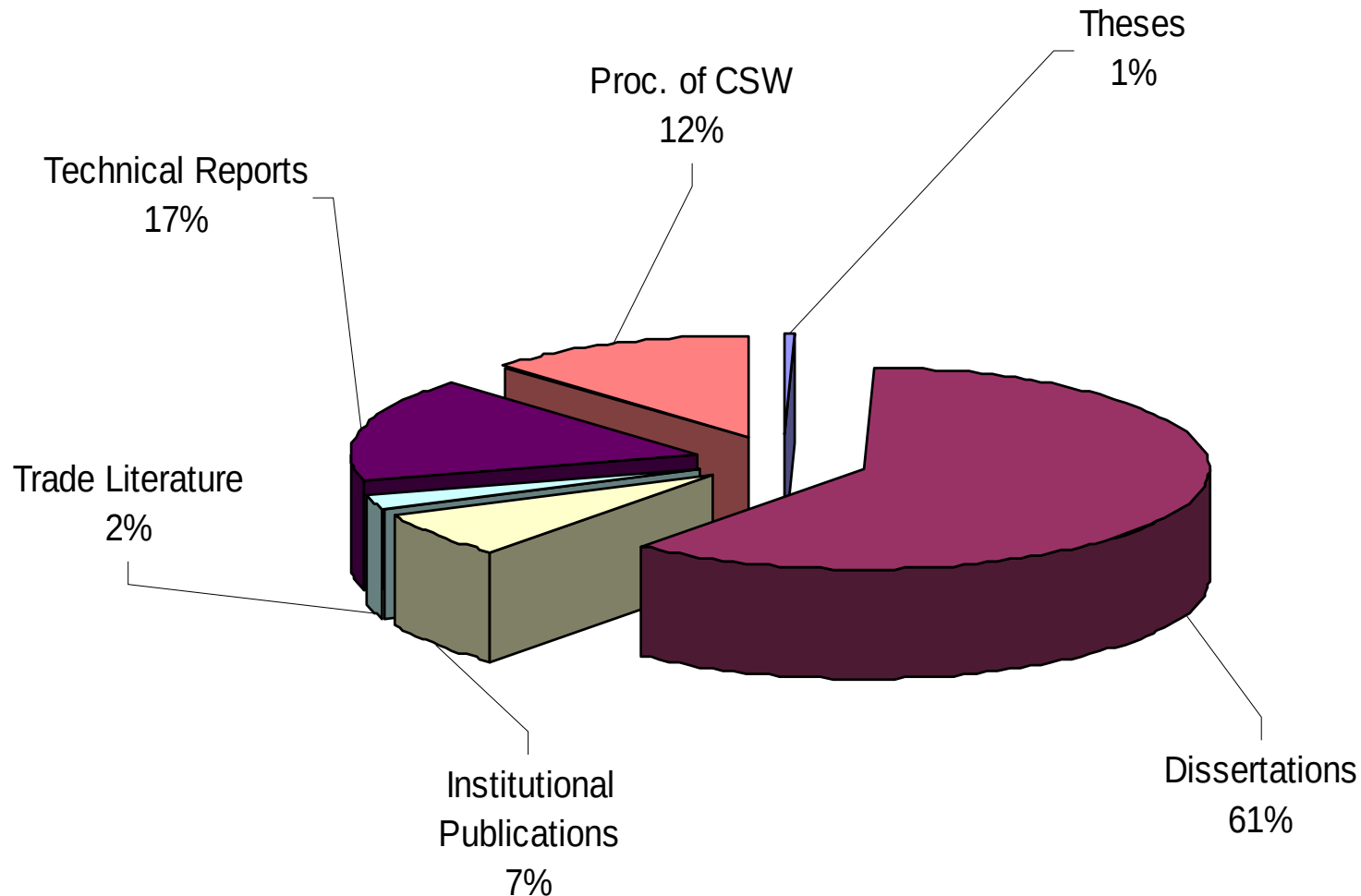Bangalore University, India

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

TO STUDY THE USE PATTERN OF GL:

➢ Active Collection and Obsolete Collection

➢ Weeding out / Relegation Process:

1.Necessity 2.Periodicity 3.Preservation

QUESTIONNAIRE METHOD:

1.Research supervisors – 340

2.Research scholars – 930

Total respondents – 1270 : Percentage of Response 84.6

3.Research Centres – 65

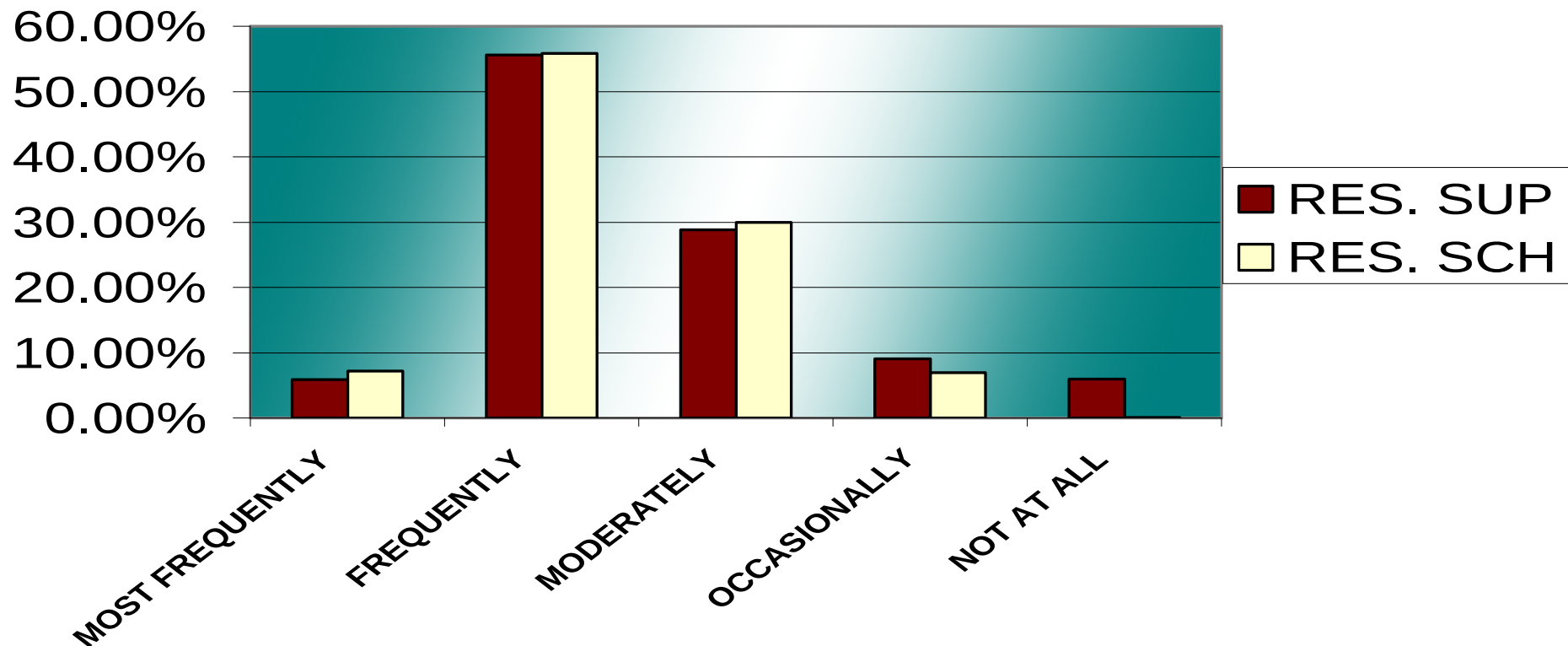4.Categories of GL- 6

GL Collection in the Research Centres

Theses
1%

Proc. of CSW
12%

Technical Reports
17%

Trade Literature
2%

Institutional
Publications
7%

Dissertations
61%

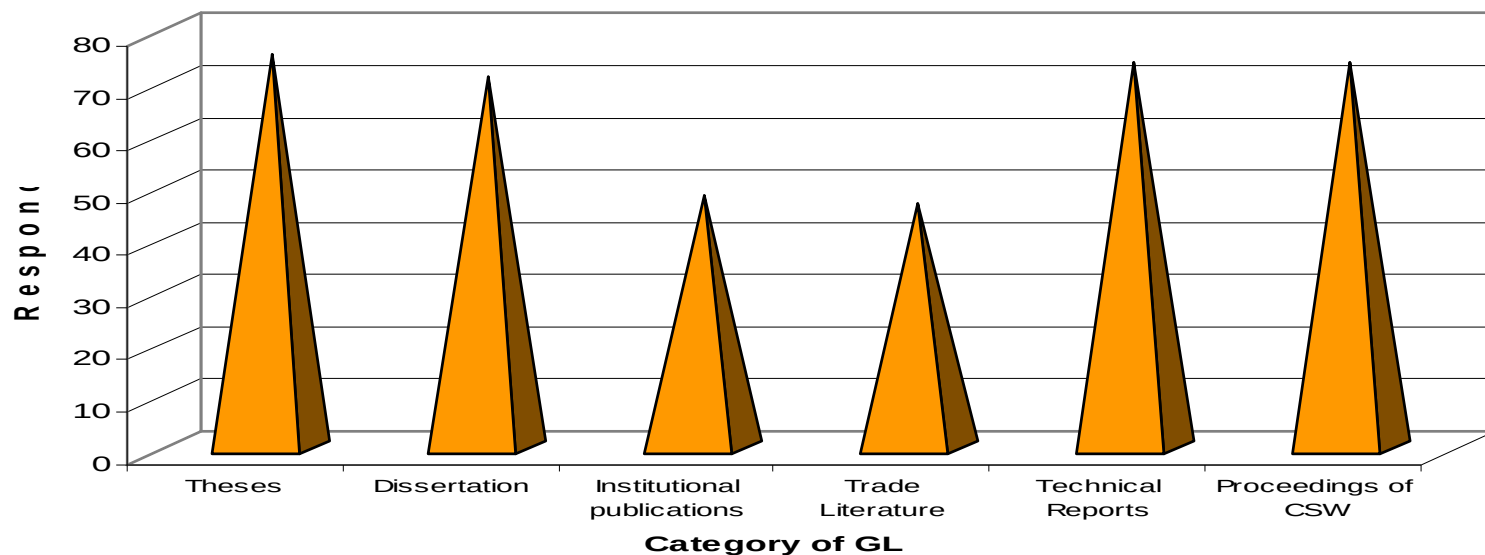Theses Dissertations Institutional Publications Trade Literature Technical Reports Proc. of CSW

GL Collection in Foreign Languages

SL	Libraries possessing GL In foreign languages	Govt. Inst	Aided Inst	Private Inst	Total
1	Positive response	2 (33.3%)	Nil	9 (18.0%)	11 (16.9%)
2	Negative response	4 (66.7%)	9 (100%)	41 (82.0%)	54 (83.1%)
	Total	6 (100%)	9 (100%)	50 (100%)	65 (100%)

Frequency of access to GL

Use of various categories of GL for research

Librarians on the extent of obsolete collection of GL

Category of GL	Extent of Obsolete Collection of GL				
	100%	75%	50%	25%	Nil
Theses	5	6	21	25	8
Dissertations	4	18	20	11	12
Institution Publications	4	15	19	17	10
Trade Literature	7	21	21	13	3
Technical Reports	2	7	24	22	10
Proc. of CSW	3	7	18	25	12

Response on the use of old collection of GL

Response on the use of old GL collection	Research supervisors	Research scholars	Total
Positive: Yes, useful	277 (81.5%)	661 (71.1%)	938 (73.9%)
Negative: No, not useful	63 (18.5%)	269 (28.9%)	332 (26.1%)
TOTAL	340 (100%)	930 (100%)	1270 (100%)

73.9% of the researchers opine that the old collection of Grey Literature is useful for research endeavour.

Opinion on weeding out of old GL collections

Response	Govt. Inst.	Aided Inst.	Private Inst.	Total
Yes, weed out	12 41.4%	105 28.4%	302 34.7%	419 33.0%
No, Don't weed out	17 58.6%	266 71.6%	568 65.3%	851 67.0%
Total	29 100%	371 100%	870 100%	1270 100%

A large segment of researchers representing 67% have offered negative response. However, 41.4% of the researchers representing govt. institutions have offered positive response.
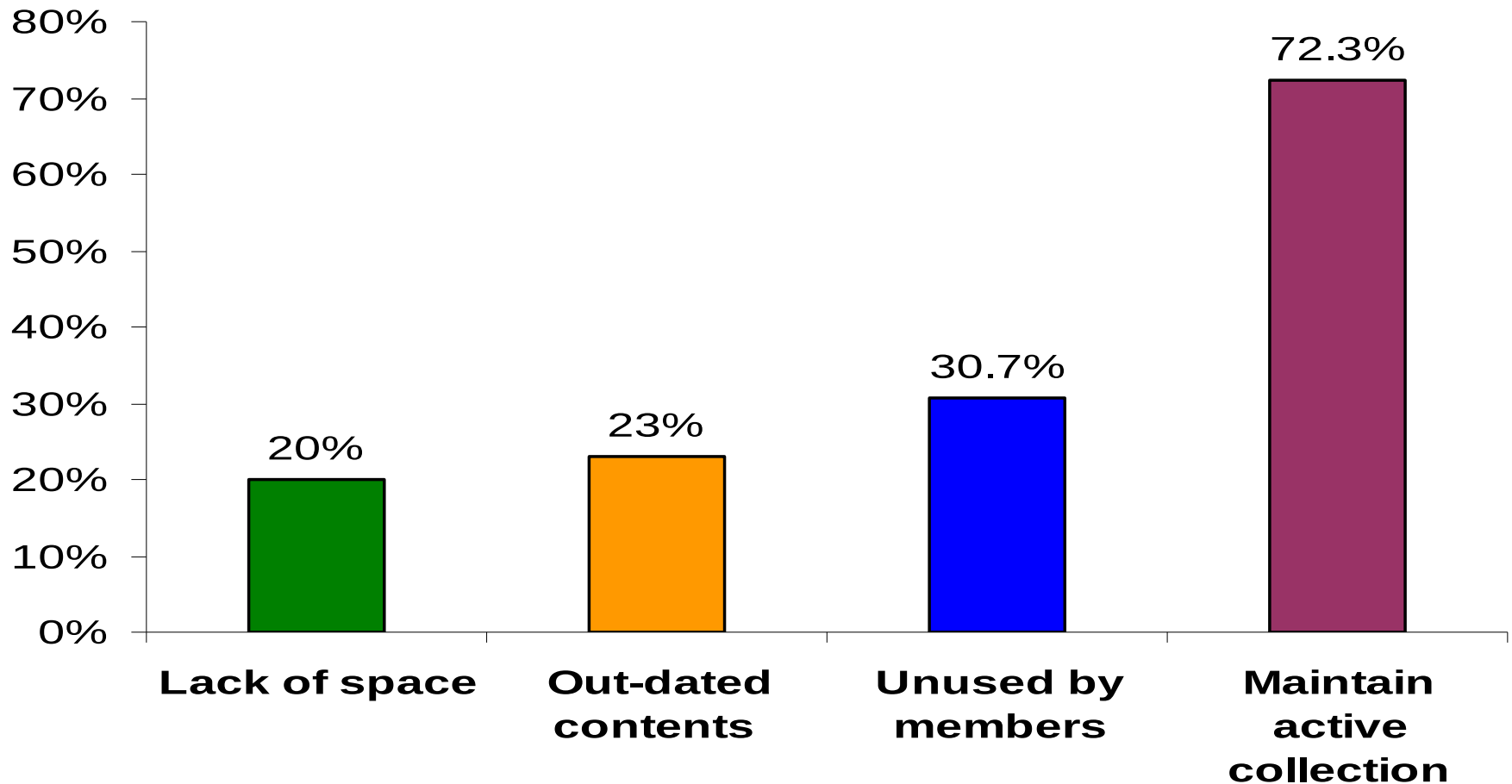
Weeding out of obsolete GL collections
(Inst. according to year of establishment)

Weeding out Process in the institutions	Year of establishment of the institutions			
	Till 1980	1981-2000	2001 onwards	Total
Yes, Weed out	9 32.1%	2 11.8%	2 10.0%	13 20.0%
No Don't weed out	19 67.9%	15 88.2%	18 90.0%	52 80.0%
Total	28 100%	17 100%	20 100%	65 100%

32.1% of the libraries established prior to 1981 weed out old collection of GL and only 10% among the newly established Libraries weed out old collection periodically.
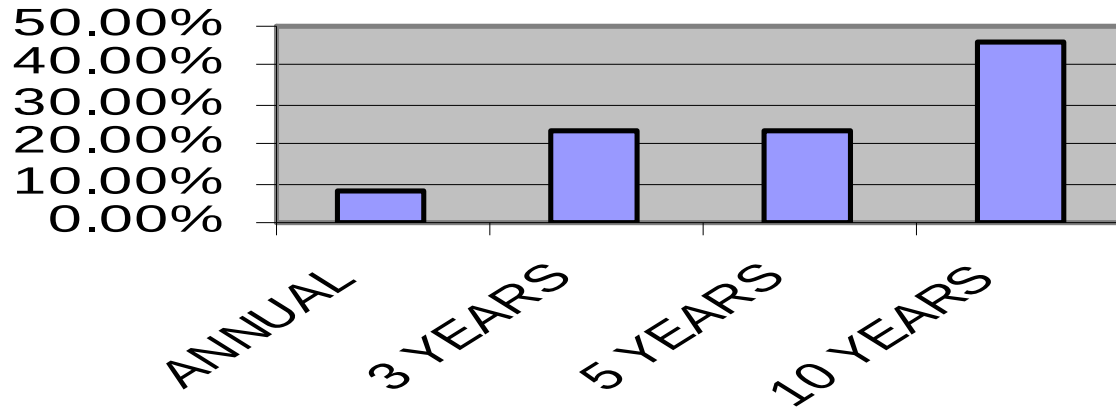
Reasons for Weeding out of GL collections

72.3% of the libraries weed out in order to accommodate/ make adequate space for active collection of GL
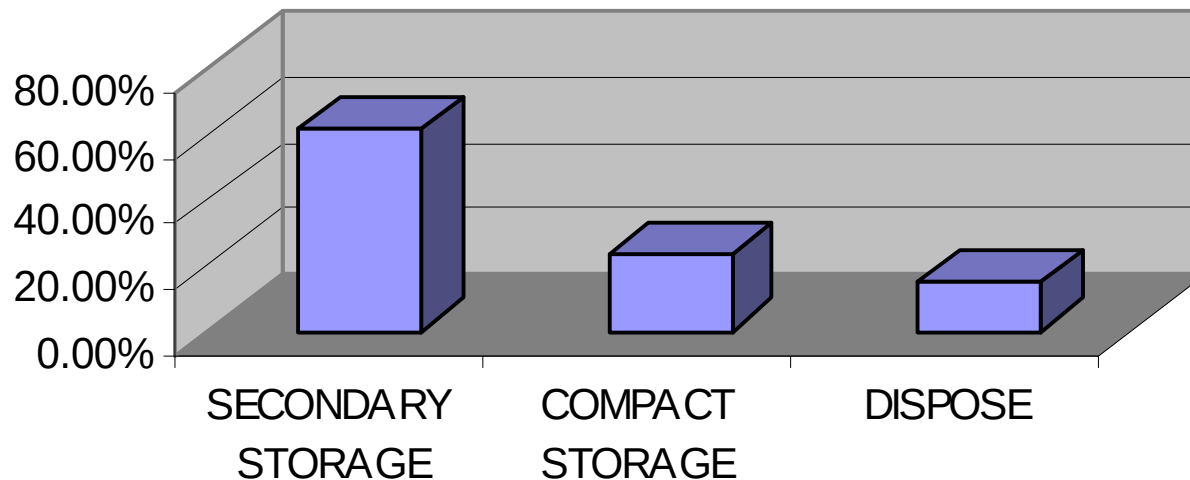
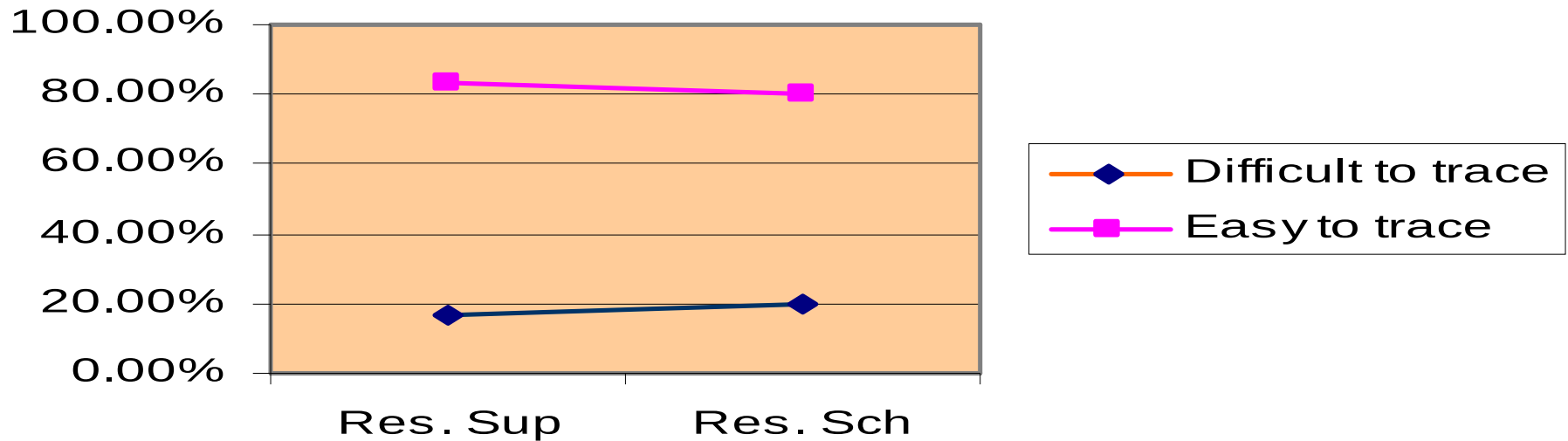# Periodicity in Weeding Process

NUMBER OF INST

Percentage of Inst.
Annual: 7.7%
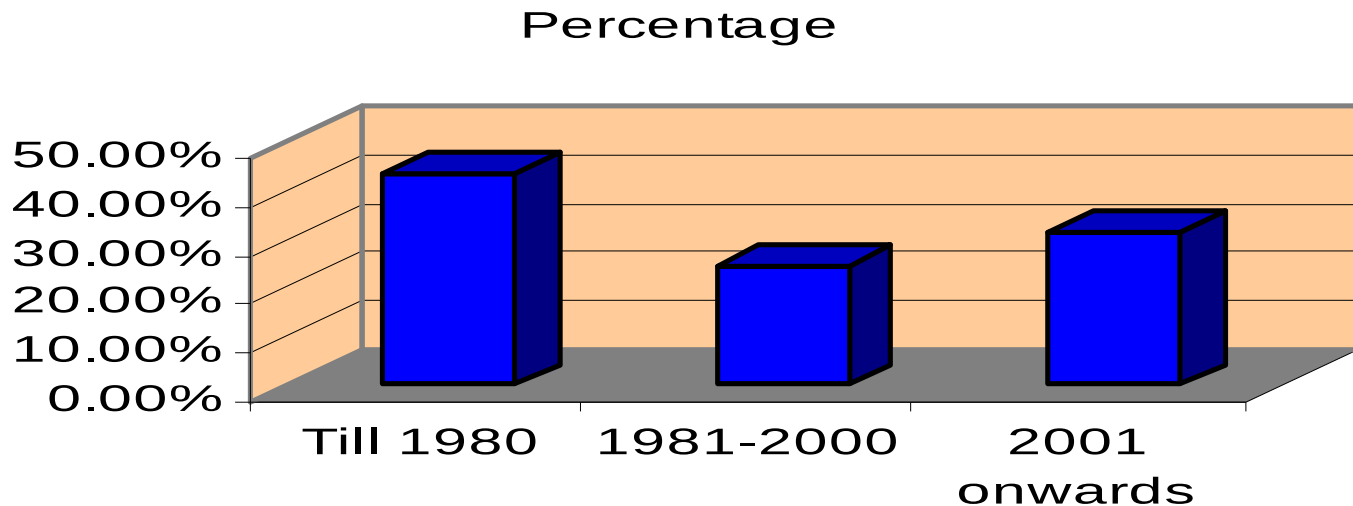3 Years: 23.1%
5 Years: 23.1%
10 Years: 46.1%

Preservation of Obsolete GL

Response Regarding Scatter of GL

Training Requirement of Librarians

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. 62.6% of the researchers frequently access GL
2. Trade literature and dissertations form major part of obsolete collections in the libraries
3. 73.9% of the users also use old collections of GL for research
4. 33% of the researchers recommend for weeding out process
5. Only 20% of the libraries weed out old GL collections periodically. Majority of these libraries were established prior to the year 1981
6. 72.3% of the libraries weed out to accommodate active collection. 20% move obsolete collections to secondary sequence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Dissertations of students and trade literature lose value in time and may be weeded out periodically.
2. Theses, technical reports and proceedings of CSW form vital source for research. Sharing of the Proceedings of CSW is the felt need among the researchers. These sources may be taken up on priority for digitization and resource sharing programs.