

# Understanding the Library Connection to UW Graduate Students in the Biosciences

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“[Access to online resources] has changed the way I do library research. It used to be a stage process: Initial trip, follow-up trip, fine-tuning trip. Now it’s a continuous interactive thing. I can follow-up anything at any time. While I’m writing I can keep going back and looking up items or verifying information.”

*Graduate Student, Psychology (2002 UW Libraries focus group)*

# Primary Information Sources

## 2006 UW Libraries Biosciences Review

[http://www.arl.org/arldocs/resources/pubs/mmproceedings/150/wilson\\_files/wilson.ppt](http://www.arl.org/arldocs/resources/pubs/mmproceedings/150/wilson_files/wilson.ppt)

- Focus group questions
  - What barriers do you encounter
  - What other services would you like available
  - What do you like about the library? What do we do well?

## 2007 UW Libraries Triennial Survey

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/assessment/surveys/survey2007/>

- Large-scale survey run every 3 years since 1992
  - Separate faculty, graduate and undergraduate surveys
  - Importance, needs, satisfaction, impact, usefulness, use patterns
  - 580 graduate respondents in 2007 (33% response rate)
    - 142 Health Sciences (non-professional degree); 67 Biosciences

## 2005 UW Biomedical Research Data Management Study

<http://www.jamia.org/cgi/content/abstract/14/4/478>

# **Grad Student Focus Group Themes**

- **Content is primary link to the library**
  - Identify library with ejournals; want more titles & backfiles
- **Provide library-related services and resources in our space not yours**
  - Discovery begins primarily outside of library space with Google and Pub Med; Web of Science also important
  - Library services/tools seen as overly complex and fragmented
- **Print is dead, really dead**
  - If not online want digital delivery/too many libraries
  - Go to physical library only as last resort
- **Data and reference management important to some**
  - Bioresearcher toolkit, EndNote, JabRef, StatA

# **2007 Triennial Library Survey**

## **Bioscience Follow-Up**

Were themes raised by bioscience focus group students seen in the bioscience population? By graduate students in other areas?

## **2007 Grad Student Survey Related Questions**

Mode of access (in-person/remote)

Teaching and externally funded research

Resource type importance

Sources consulted for research

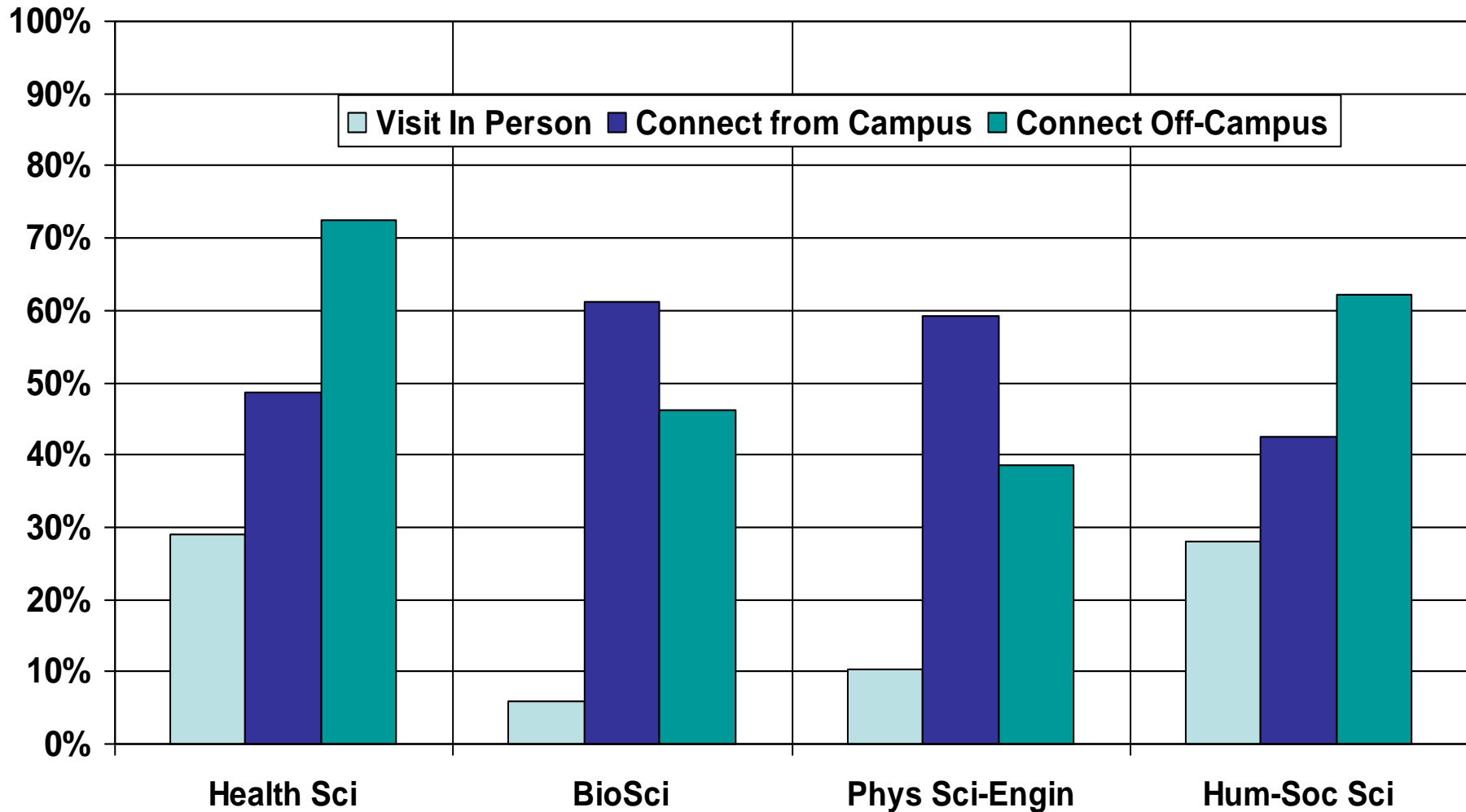
Primary reasons for using Libraries Web sites

Libraries contribution to work and academic success

Useful library services

# Mode of Access: In-Person/Remote

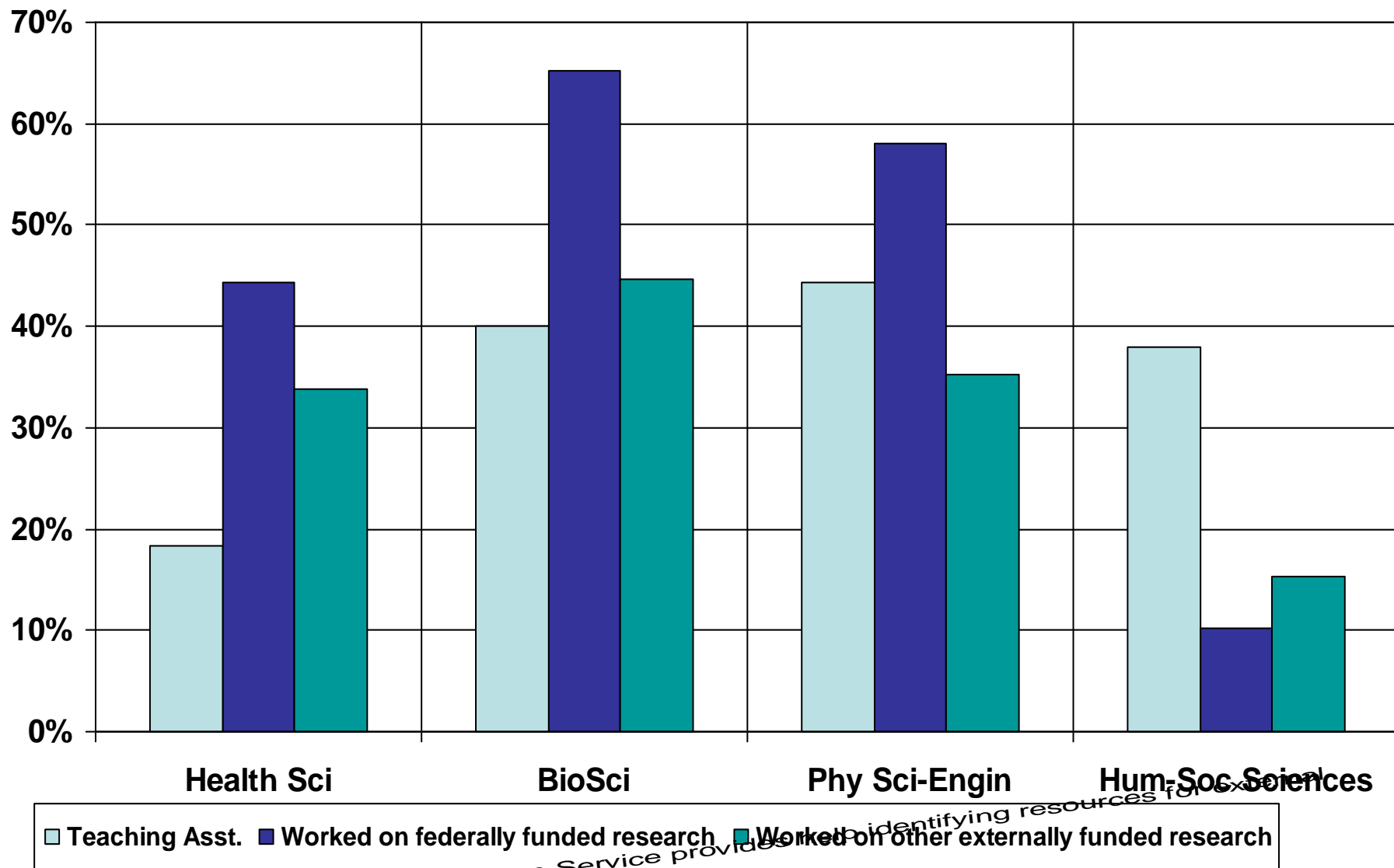
(% using at least 2x week)



I use online library resources but do not go to the library. So easy online and too complicated and time consuming to pull an actual book or journal. *Social Work grad student*

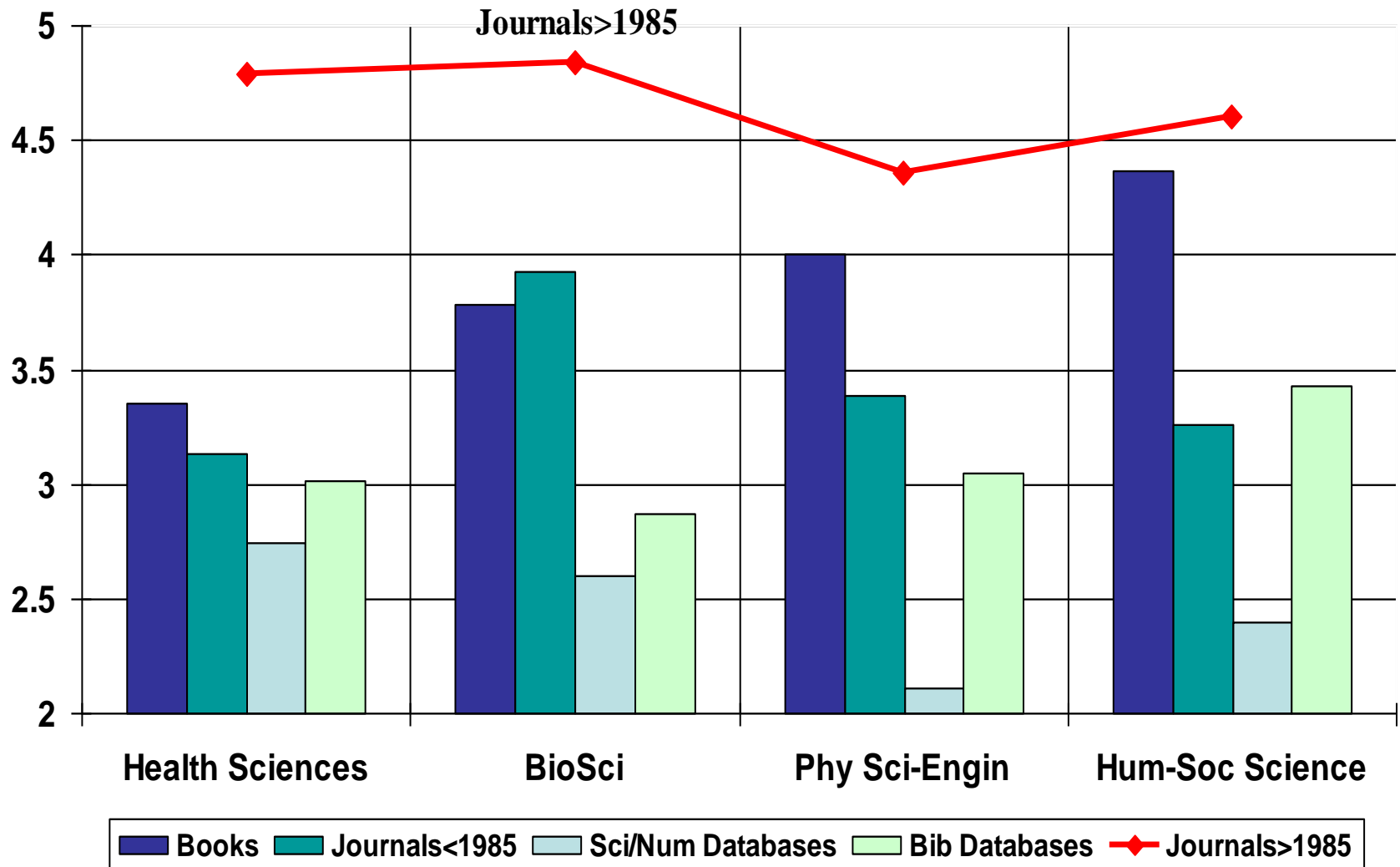
# Beyond Course Work

## Teaching and Externally Funded Research



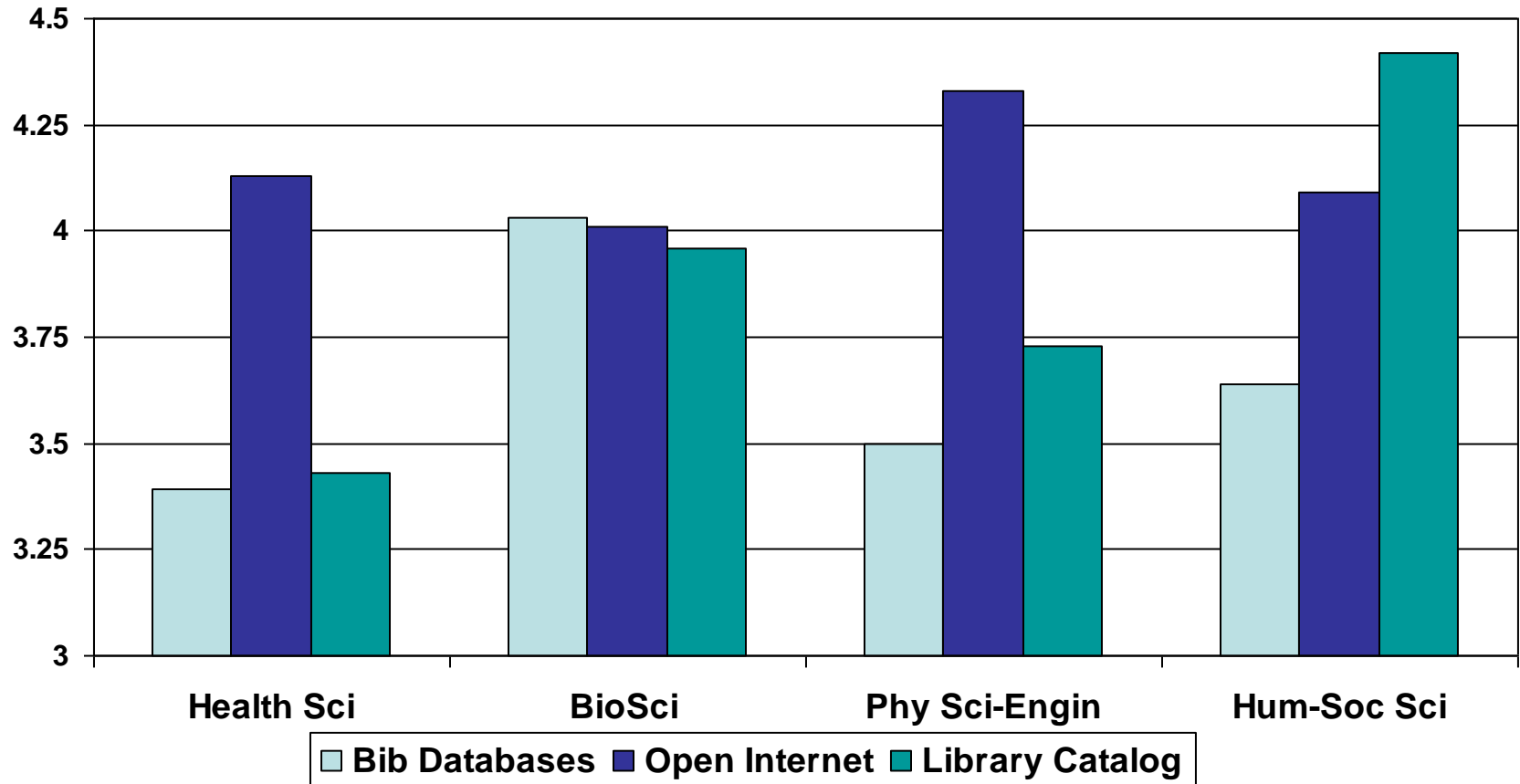
# Resource Type Importance

(Scale of 1 “not important” to 5 “very important”)



# Sources Consulted for Information on Research Topics

(Scale of 1 “never” to 5 “usually”)

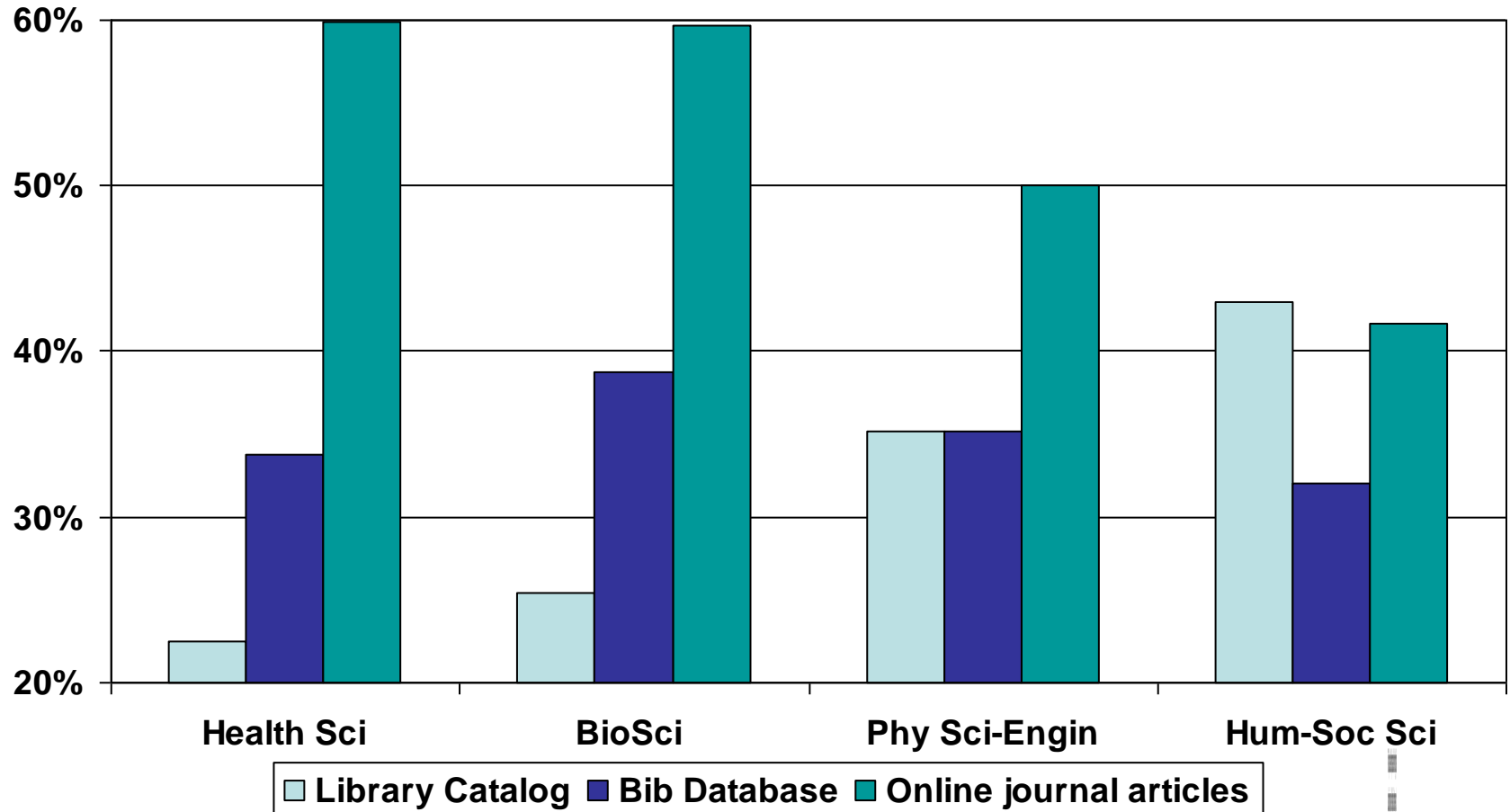


I wish the interface between scholar and UW libraries was better. I want to search with scholar, but use UW's credentials to access full-length articles. Right now, there are a lot of intermediary pages I need to visit. *Bioengineering grad student*



# Primary Reasons for Using Libraries

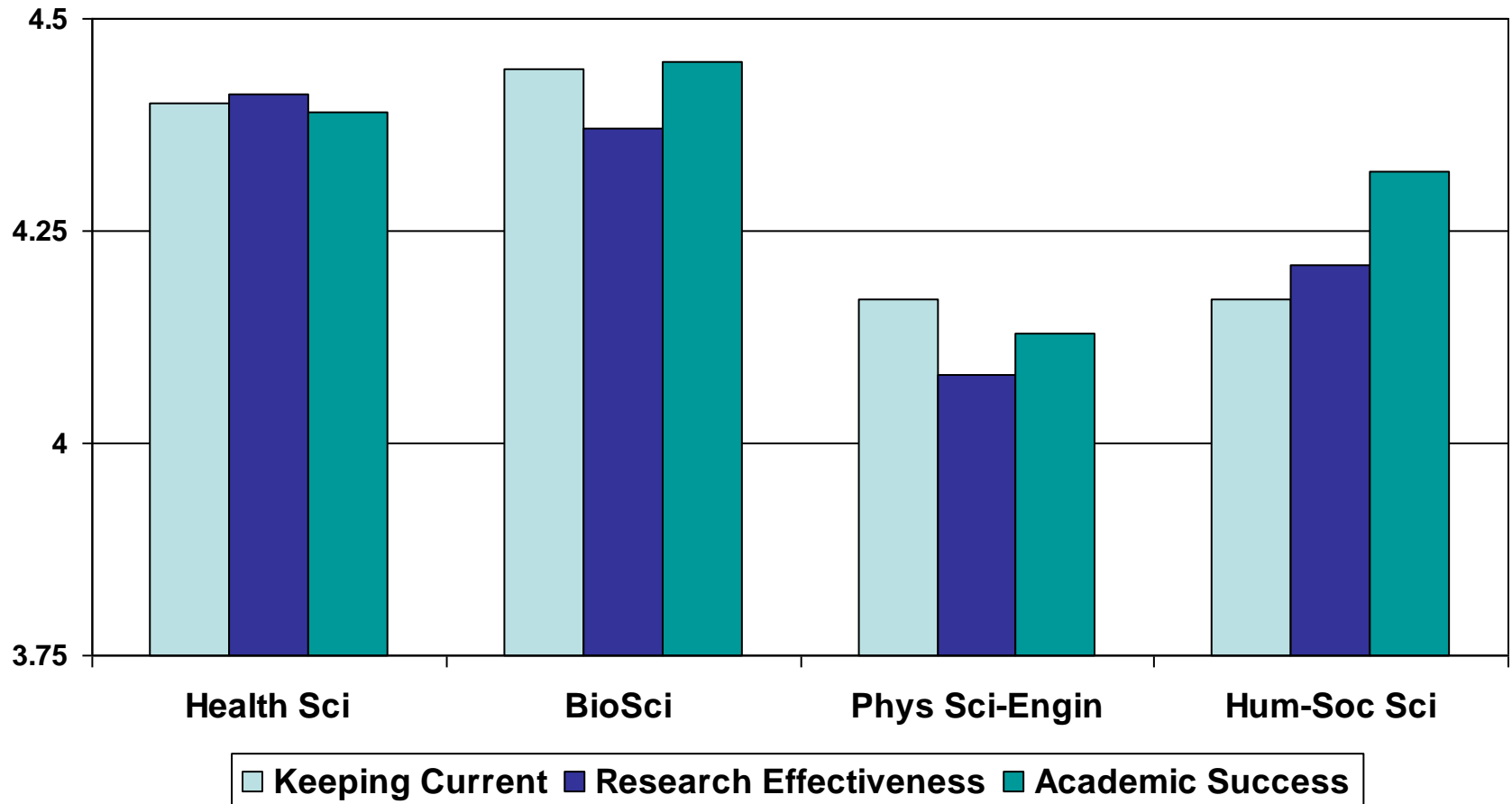
## Web Sites (at least 2x per week)



**The ability to access full-text or PDF research articles online through the library subscriptions is my primary use of the library and is central to my research.** *Neurobiology Grad Student*

# Libraries Contribution to Your:

(Scale of 1 “low” to 5 “high”)



# Most Useful Library Services

	Health Sciences	Biosciences	Phys Sciences Engineering	Hum-Soc Sciences
Scan on demand	<b>79%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Manage your info/data</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>55%</b>	29%	33%
Digitize collections	<b>44%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>57%</b>
Deliver books to office	18%	<b>43%</b>	28%	24%
Integrate library services into campus Web sites	36%	34%	32%	33%

The one change that would be most useful for me and many in my department would be to make more journal articles available electronically from older volumes. 90% of our trips to the physical library are spent finding and photocopying older articles from a few key journals in the field. *Fisheries grad student*

# Findings/Next Steps

- Survey results generally confirmed focus group themes among grad students in biosciences and health sciences
  - Journal dependent . . . Digitally dependent
  - Discovery takes place increasingly in non-library space
  - Physical library used as last resort (unless needed for work space)
  - Library search engines/tools seen as complex/fragmented
  - Data/info management services viewed as very useful
- Many of these themes also apply to all graduate students
- Additional information needed on specific contributions the Libraries make to grad student success
- Work underway to enhance discovery & delivery services and to understand data management needs