

# **Student engagement and library use: an examination of attitudes towards use of libraries and information amongst undergraduate students at a Turkish university library**

**Gulcin Cribb, Singapore Management University  
Ilkay Holt, Ozyegin University, Turkey**

# agenda

- **Student engagement**
- **Connecting engagement to library use and information literacy**
- **Ozyegin University study of first year students**
- **Survey and outcomes**

# Student Engagement



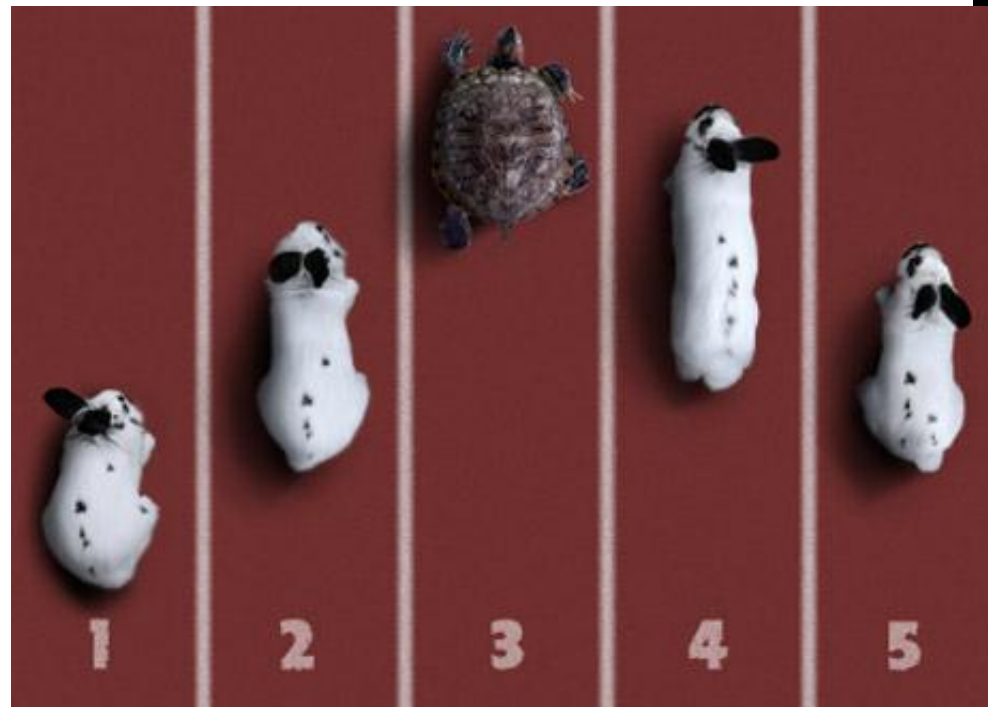
‘All aspects of student engagement are positively related to students’ overall satisfaction with university study. More engaged learners are more satisfied, and vice versa.’

(ACER, 2008)



## Global competition amongst universities

**Student engagement - a critical KPI for all stakeholders, especially the students**



Gwen van der Velden, director of learning and teaching enhancement, University of Bath

First understand what **student engagement** means: There are many interpretations of the term: one relates to how and whether students are engaged, for example. motivated to learn. Another concentrates on how to actively involve students of specific backgrounds, or from specific groups in society. Thirdly and arguably the most pressing for universities at the moment is the issue of engagement in terms of student satisfaction, much encouraged by the national introduction of student surveys (**the NSS in the UK, NSSE in North America and AUSSE in Australia**)

Guardian, Wednesday 26 October, 2011



# MILLENNIALS

A PORTRAIT OF GENERATION NEXT

**Confident.  
Connected.  
Open to Change.**



# students

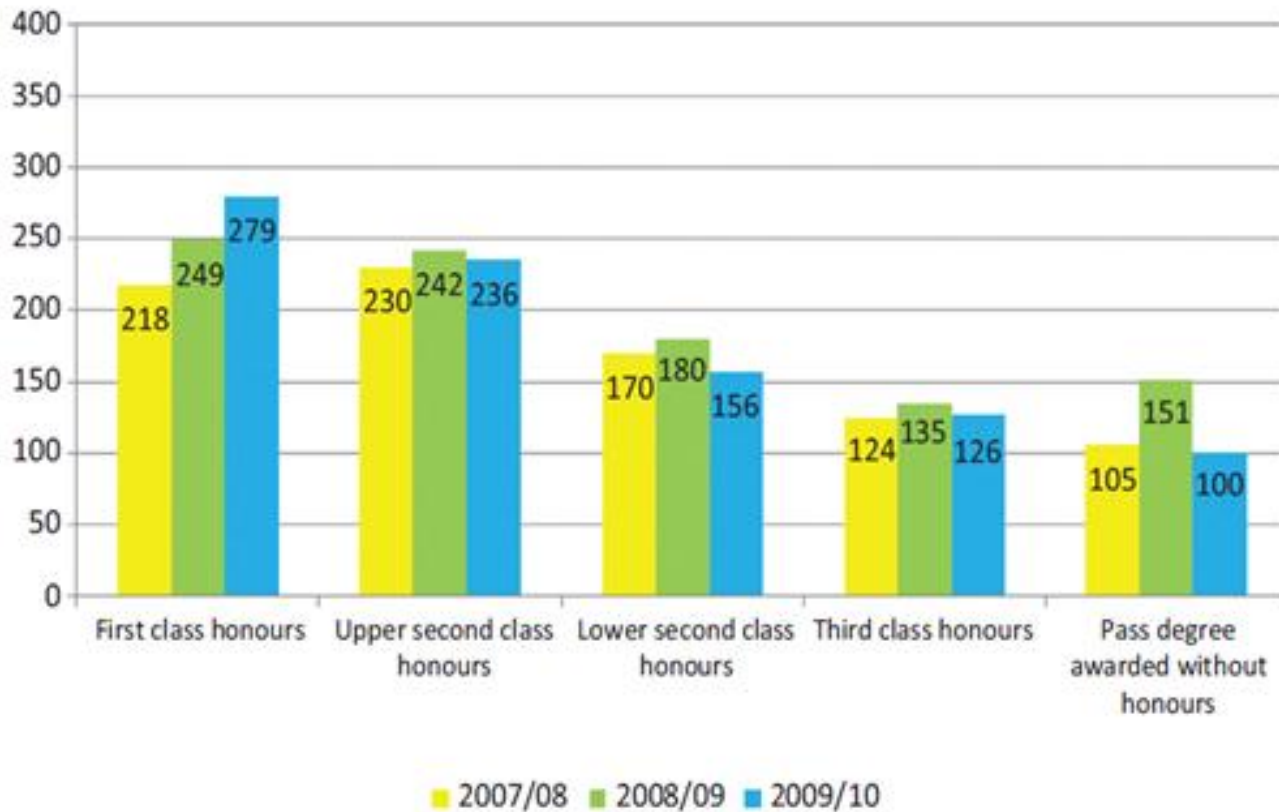
- Don't start searching on library website
- Think library sources more trustworthy
- Don't borrow many books
- Less interested in extra-curricular activities
- Spend less time on the campus
- Like using library as social and collaboration spaces
- Think 'anyone can find information – so easy!'
- Prefer technological and personal methods to research



# library use, information literacy and student success

- Does the library have any impact on student learning?
- Does 'library use' (loan of books, e-resource usage, library visits, information literacy, network logins and so on) have any impact on student learning, engagement and academic performance?
- Are we shifting focus from 'information access' to 'student learning and engagement'?

Fig. 2: Relationship between book loans (including renewals) and student attainment.



Stone, et al, 2011, Does Library Use Affect Student Attainment?  
A Preliminary Report on the Library Impact Data Project

# turkey, higher education



A new private (not-for-profit) university,  
Established in 2008  
2000 plus students  
Both undergraduate and graduate programs



North American approach  
Instruction in English  
Prep year – English  
language immersion



# information literacy and library awareness

- Use of learning portfolios in English language instruction offered by SELI (School of English Language Instruction)
- Levels of English competency linked to academic and life skills including information literacy
- Information literacy component becomes progressively more challenging as students move from one level to the next
- Research guide designed to meet the requirement
- 'Introduction to University' class and '*The Journey of Information*' lecture and small group case study approach

# survey – first year students

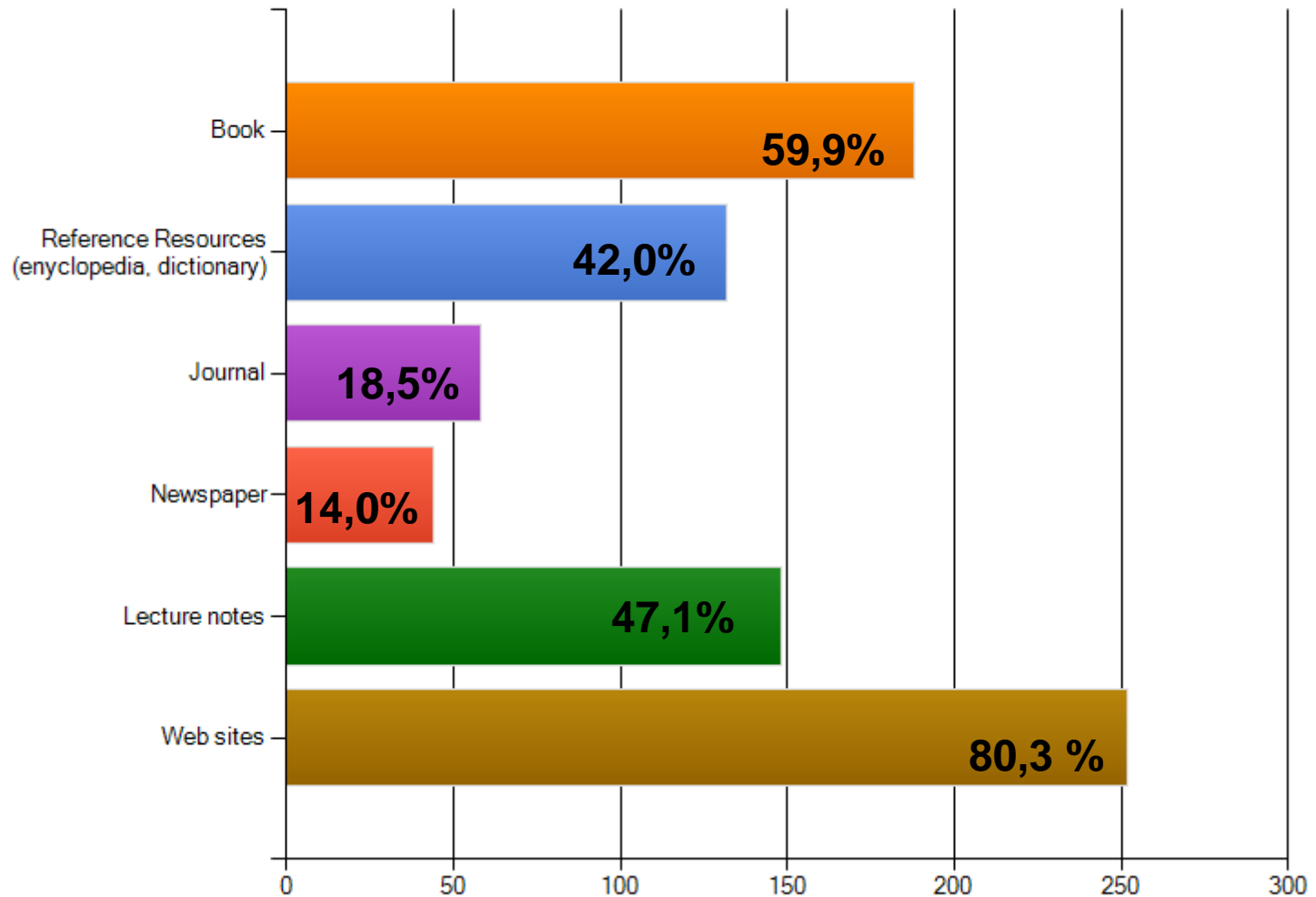
- All first year students enrolled in English language classes
- Beginning of spring term
- In collaboration with SELI faculty
- 57% response rate

# survey aims

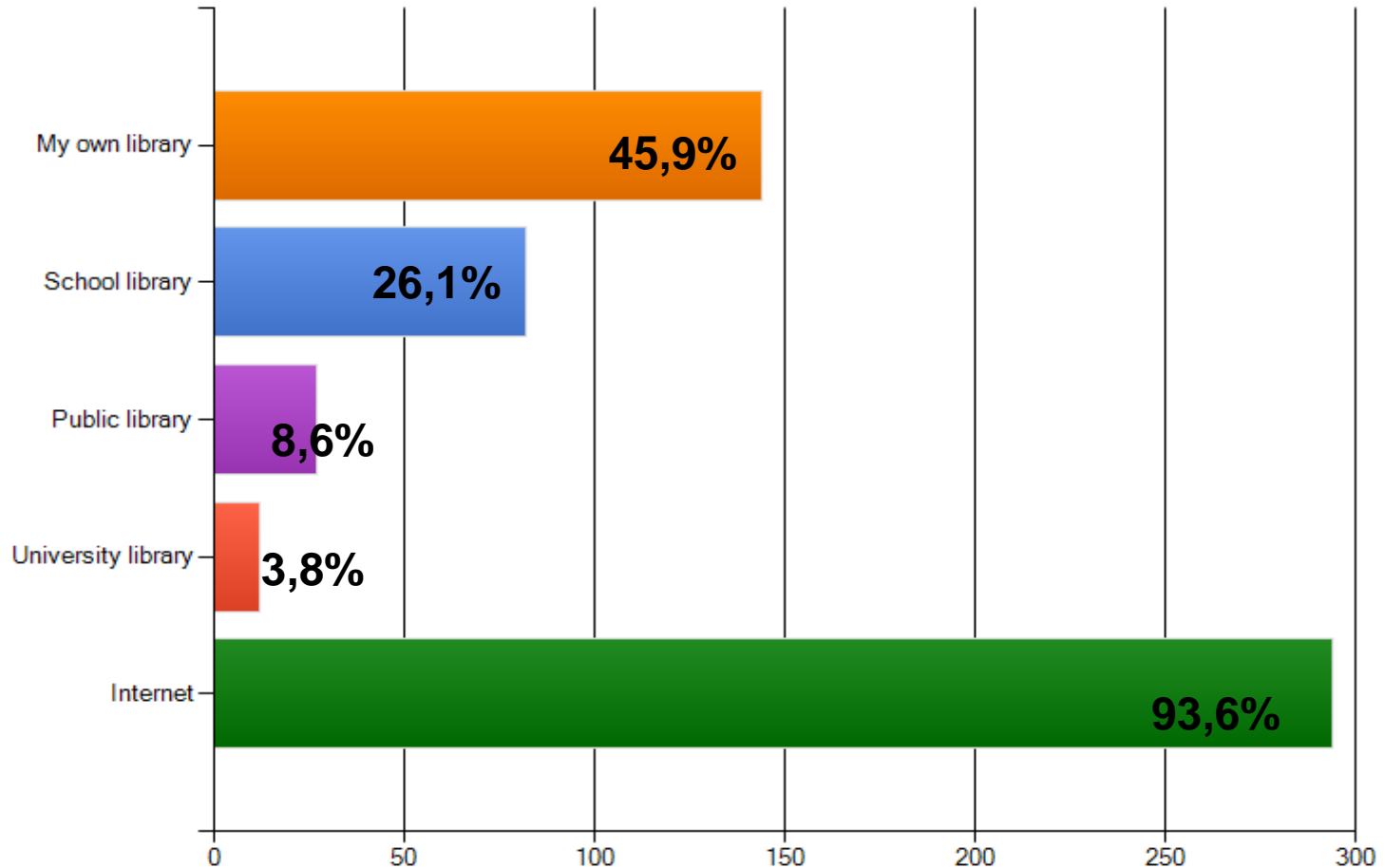
- What kind of experience, if any, did the students have with libraries, information resources and research prior to coming to OzU?
- What were the students' perceptions of libraries and information resources prior to coming to OzU and at the beginning of the second term at the University?
- How did the students' rate their own competency in using information resources prior to coming to OzU and at the beginning of the second term at the University?



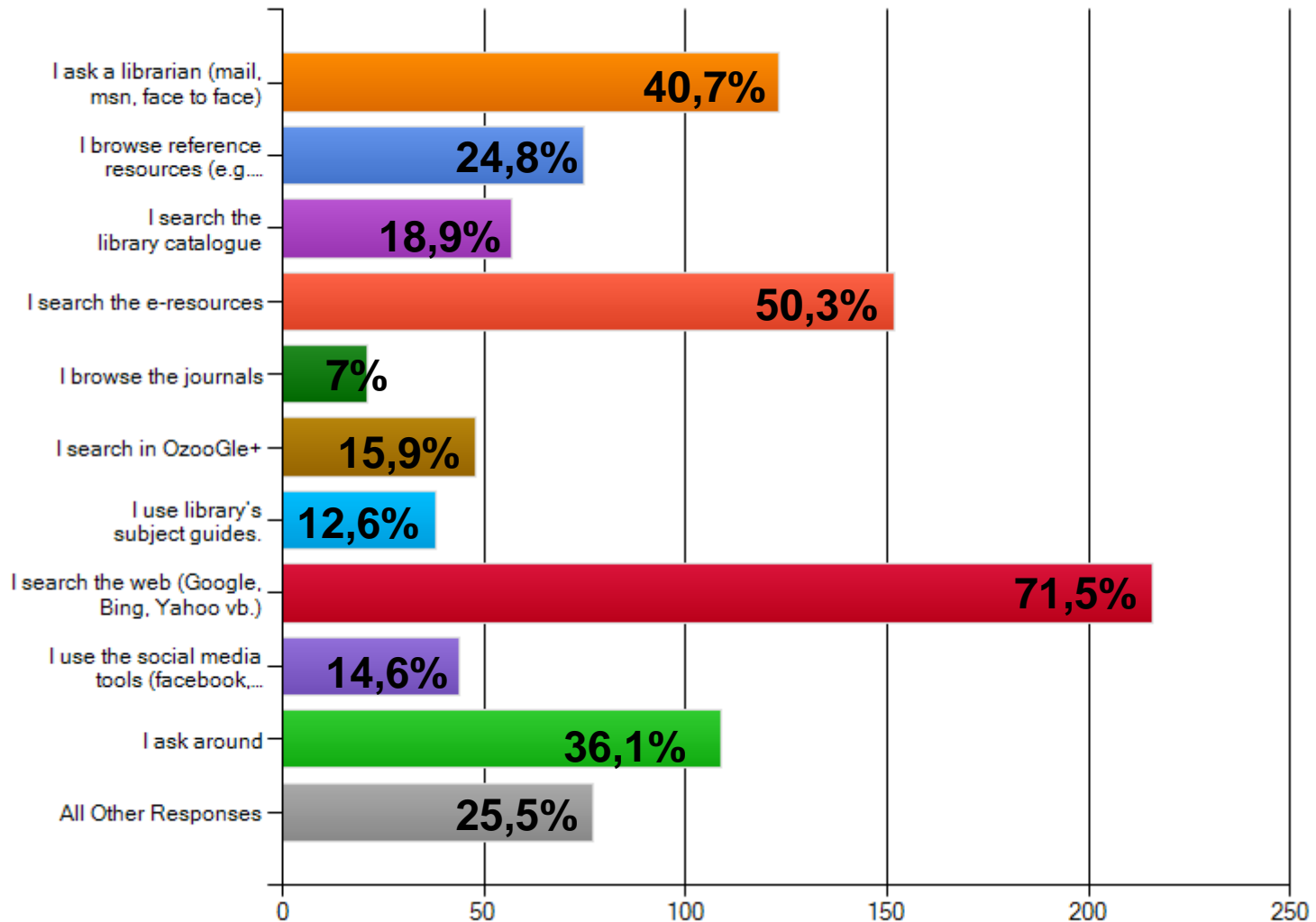
## Which of the following type of resources did you use to do a research or homework in high school?



**Which of the following places did you use to do a research or homework when you are at high school?**



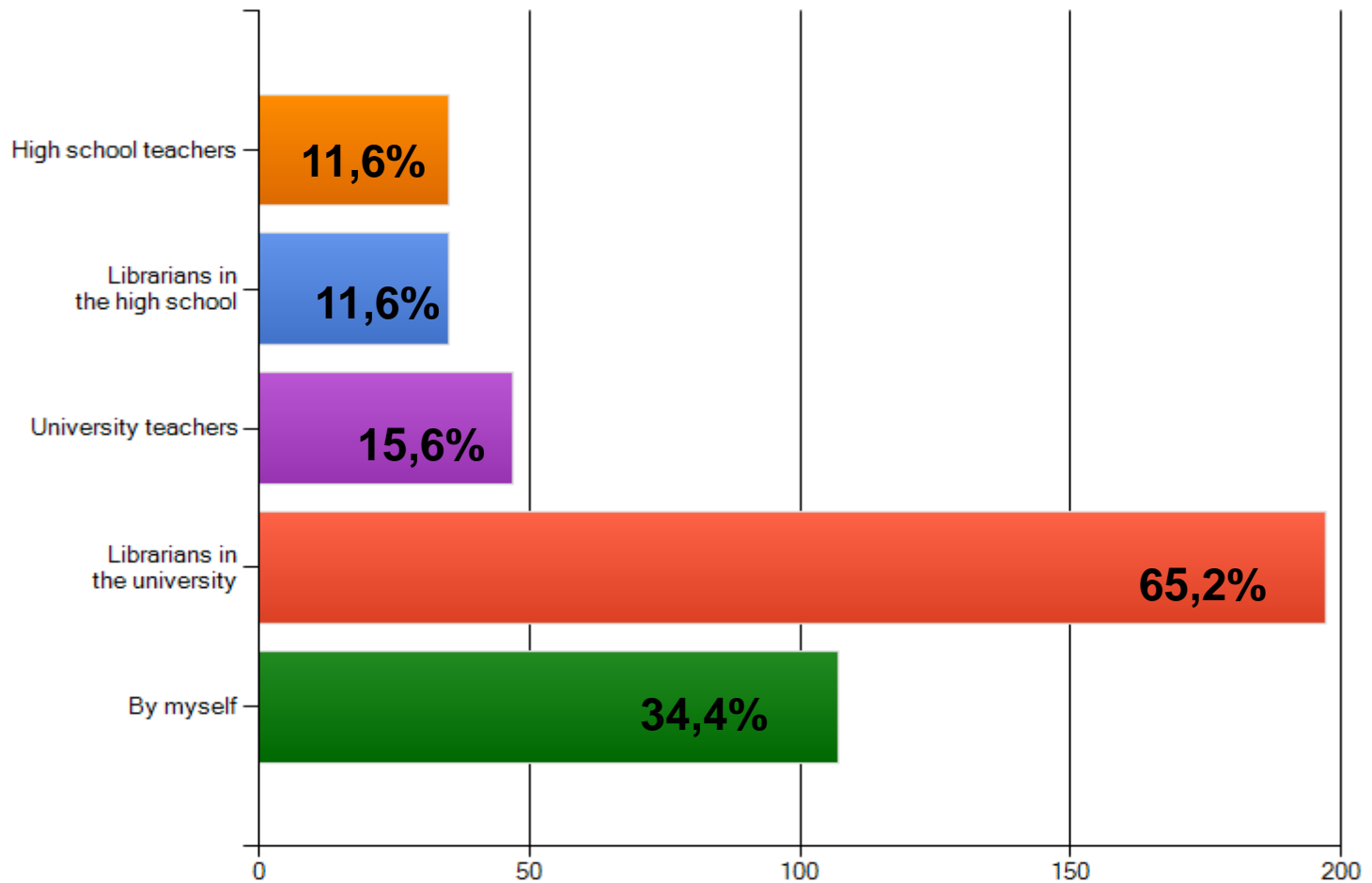
## Where do you start searching for resources for a research/ homework?



# what is different?

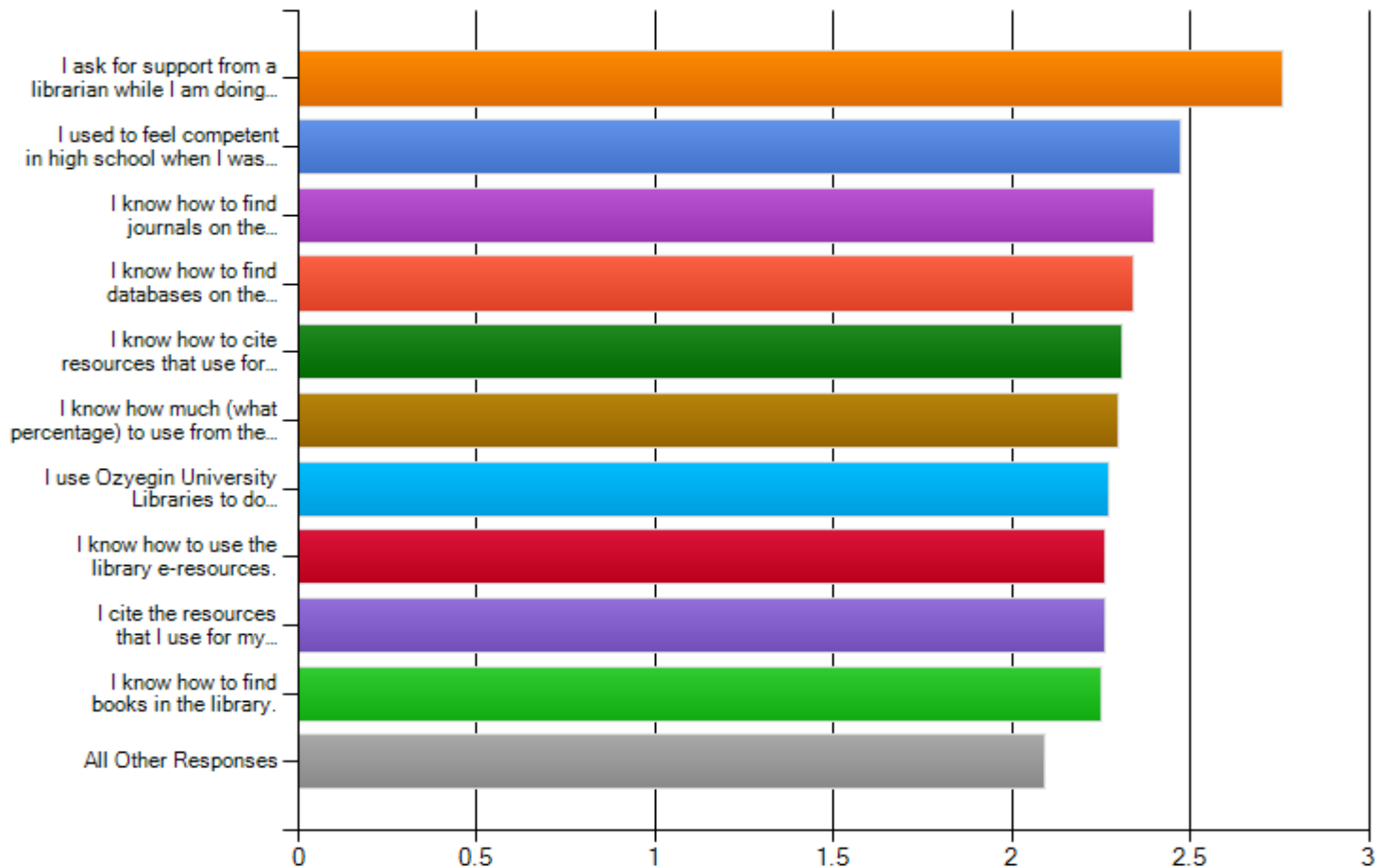
- selection of resources
- increased use of e-resources
- appearance of the 'ask a librarian' option
- slight decline in selecting the web as the starting point for research compared to the figures whilst at high school (80.3% at high school and 71.5% at the university)
- transition from dependency on their own resources to increased usage of library resources

### I learned how to use library resources from...



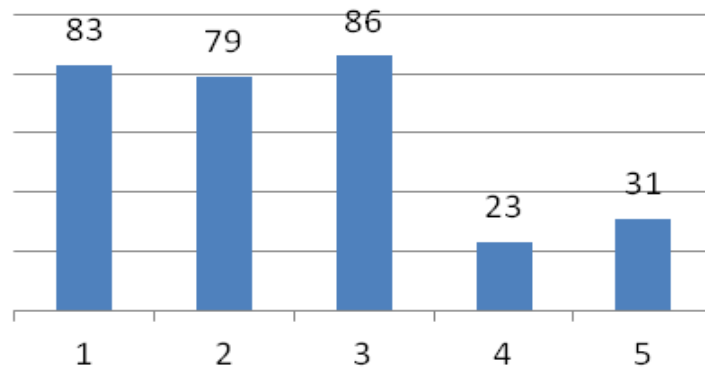
# Self-assessment of students' own competencies

On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "strongly disagree" and 5 being "strongly agree," please indicate your response by picking the score that most accurately reflects your feelings about the following statements.



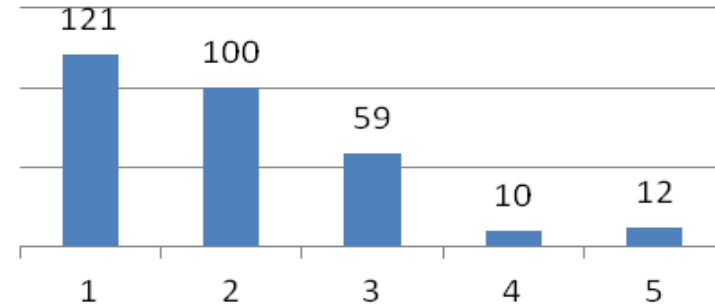
I used to feel competent at high school when I was doing homework or study.

1 "strongly agree" ; 5 "strongly disagree"



I feel competent when I do homework or study since I've started the university.

1 "strongly agree" ; 5 "strongly disagree"



## Self-assessment of students' own competencies



# some comments, observations

**‘I used to think that libraries were just spaces to study’**

**‘I used to think they were boring and suffocating places’**

**‘ No idea about e-resources before coming to university’**

**‘Internet is sufficient for my information needs’**

**‘Other students should learn how to use library’s e- resources’**

# contributing factors

- Student demographics
- High schools the students attended
- Collaborative approach to information literacy
- Curriculum integration
- Continuous activities to engage and involve students offered by the Library
- Participation and involvement in university-wide student engagement activities

# conclusion

- OzU Library impact on students' perceptions and awareness
- Students' awareness of their own needs and competencies
- Library's impact on student engagement, experience and learning as part of the OzU strategy

# way forward

- Input for the next review and revision of the 1st year SELI curriculum and IL program
- Linking with student performance and attainment
- Annual survey for benchmarking
- Possible use of the survey to benchmark with other universities in Turkey and maybe abroad
- Share with stakeholders, students in particular