University of Pretoria

The use and usefulness of UPeTD:
the University of Pretoria's ETD repository

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Background

❑ University of Pretoria (UP)

- One of the leading & largest universities in South Africa
- 9 faculties & Business School
- Culturally diverse students
- Lectures presented in Afrikaans, English and Sepedi
- Offers 230 qualifications
- In 2011 - 1343 postgraduate programmes
- Student population 62 500
  - 45 000 contact students
  - 18 000 distance education students (67% are from Southern African Development Community Countries)

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
UPeTD

- ❑ UP supports Open Access
- ❑ Take active responsibility for dissemination of research outputs
- ❑ UPeTD – operation for 12 years
- ❑ Ranking web of World Repositories – ranked no. 67
- ❑ Mandatory policy
  - ▪ Required to submit both a paper and electronic copy of TD
  - ▪ Encouraged to self-submit
- ❑ Open Scholarship Office manages the policy with 2 staff members

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Ranking Web of Repositories

UPeTD is ranked number 67 of the institutional repositories in terms of content, size and visibility and is the most used repository in the African continent

RANKING WEB OF REPOSITORIES

| HOME | AFRICA | AMERICA | ASIA | EUROPE | OCEANIA | RANKING BY AREAS | TOP INSTITUTIONA |

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MAJESTIC SEO

ahrefs

Africa

ranking	World Rank	Instituto	Country	Size	Visibility	Rich Rich	scholar
1	67	University of Pretoria Electronic Theses and Dissertations		1142	90	54	103
2	157	Stellenbosch University Scholar Repository		135	407	169	117
3	165	University of South Africa Institutional Repository		68	377	154	207
4	190	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Space		178	332	345	190
5	237	University of Johannesburg UJDigiSpace		377	358	153	320
6	250	University of the Witwatersrand Institutional Repository		440	675	109	99
7	266	Rhodes University Eresearch Repository		932	261	373	374
8	267	University of Pretoria Institutional Repository		32	531	198	408
9	334	Addis Ababa University Libraries Electronic Thesis and Dissertations Database		505	610	443	216
10	462	Mahider Digital Repository International Livestock Research Institute		107	479	537	801
11	493	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology KNUSTspace		598	914	500	263
12	534	University of the Free State ETD database		1402	481	693	546
13	540	American University in Cairo Digital Archive and Research Repository		59	887	762	518

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Methodology

❑ Decided to utilize a questionnaire to

- ▪ evaluate the adoption of the electronic submission of theses and dissertations to the UPeTD database
- ▪ investigate and analyse the current processes and
- ▪ gain insight into supervisors attitudes towards the UPeTD repository

❑ Objectives

- ▪ determine the usefulness of UPeTD as a repository
- ▪ establish the benefits for UPeTD users
- ▪ measure policy knowledge and compliance
- ▪ determine the most popular communication channel
- ▪ establish the current knowledge and awareness level

Qualtrics

- ❑ Only supervisors were targeted
- ❑ Personal e-mails were sent
- ❑ Library website
- ❑ Facebook page
- ❑ Information specialists
- ❑ Campus News
- ❑ 3 weeks completion time
- ❑ 165 Supervisors completed the questionnaire

Supervisors and ETDs

- Libraries are more enthusiastic than supervisors (Greig)
- Some supervisors can be very negative towards ETDs
- Supervisor's role is critical
- Quality of student-supervisor relationship is important in positive outcome (Styles & Radloff)
- Focus : attitudes of UP postgraduate supervisors towards UPeTD

Biographical results : Age distribution
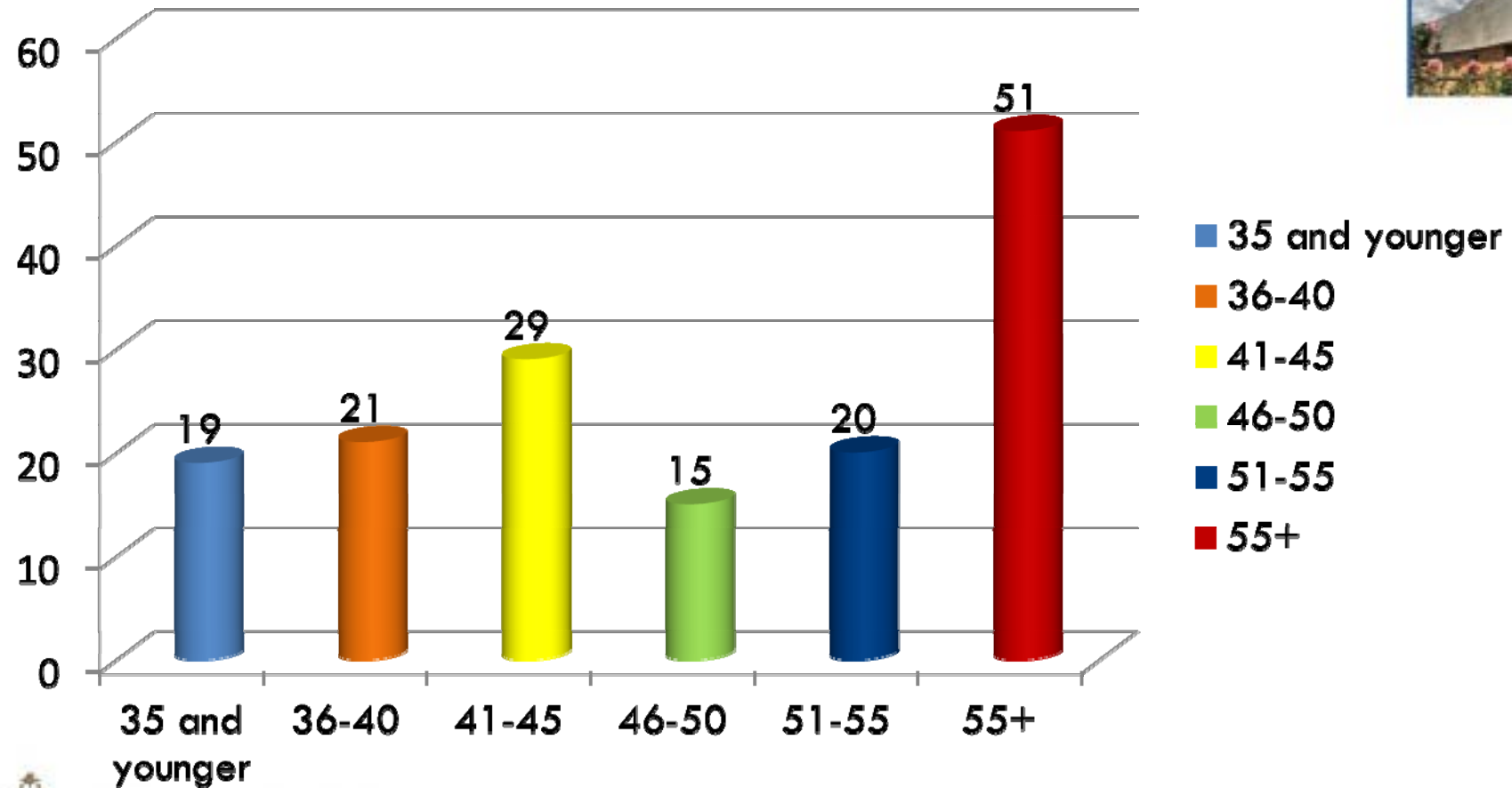
Faculty representivity

Natural & Agricultural Science has 1818 items, followed by Humanities (1384) and Engineering (1290)

Category	Value
NAT	42
ENGINEERING	25
ECO	23
HUMANITIES	22
VET	11
HEALTH	11
EDUCATION	9
THEOLOGY	8
LAW	2
GIBS	2
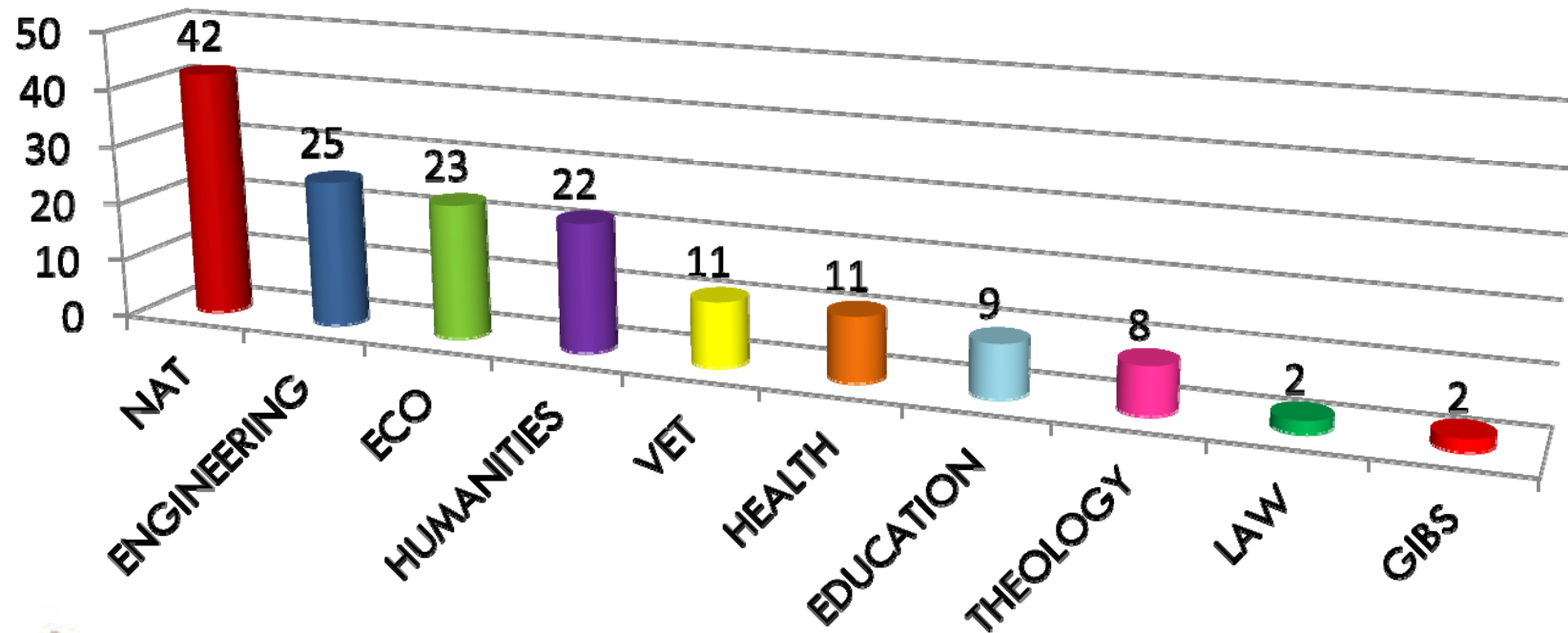
Experience levels

Experience levels varied, but 3 supervisors had more than 20 students

#	Question	None	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20+
1	Masters level	6	6	8	13	8	8	9	6	13	2	11	1	3	0	2	7	0	0	1	0	36
2	Doctoral level	32	19	16	10	15	7	9	5	2	1	6	2	2	0	1	4	0	1	0	1	3

Do you as supervisor make use of UPeTD?

68

72%
92

Yes
No

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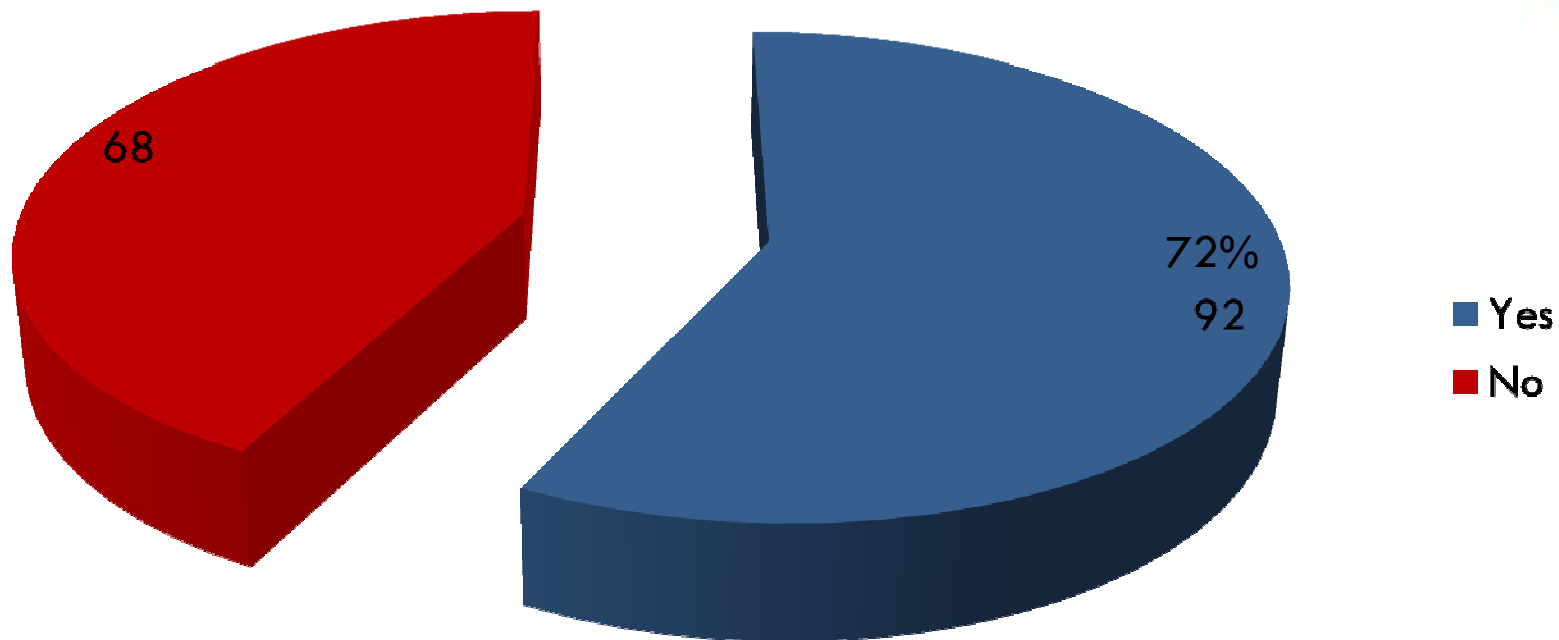
Do you encourage your students to use UPeTD?

- Yes
- No

39

77%
126
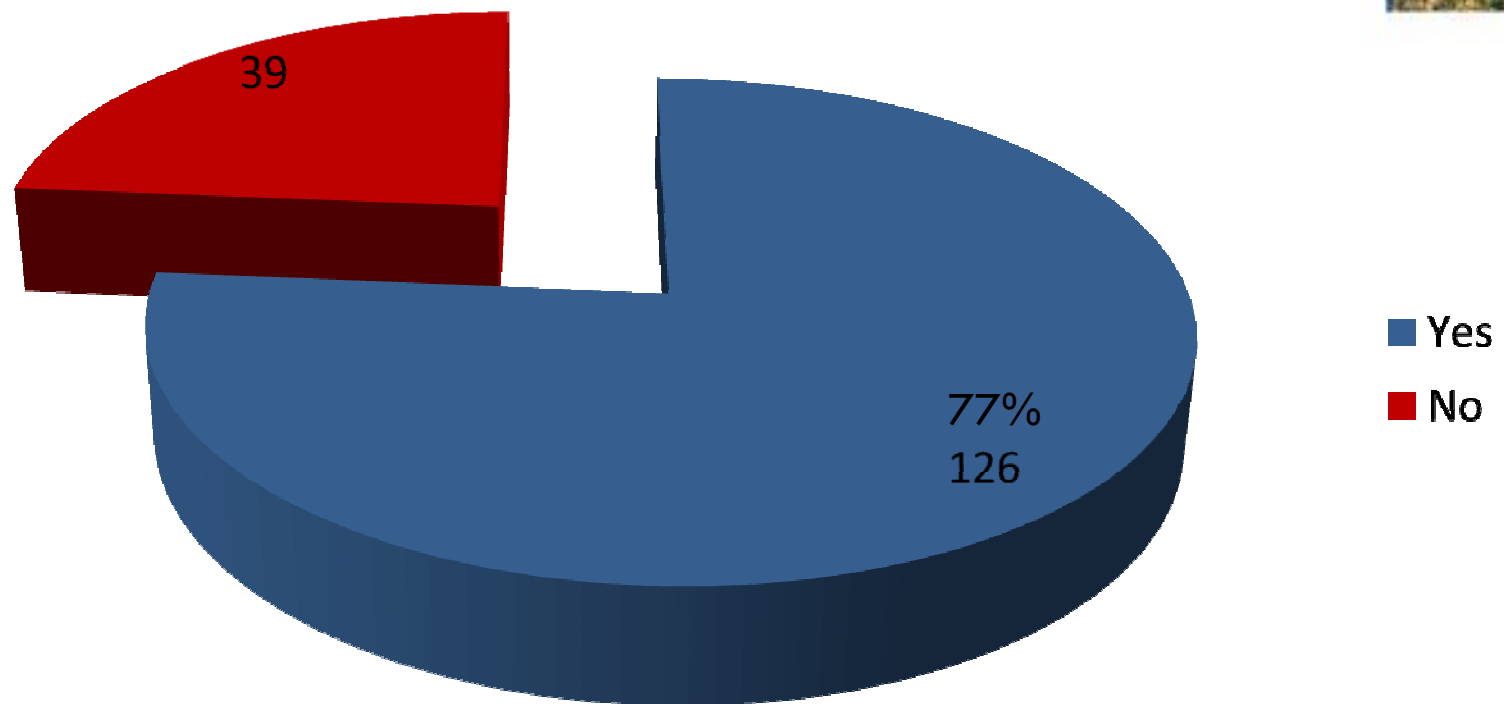
What do you expect students to gain from ETDs?

Pie chart:
- Examples of research: 101
- References: 91
- Ideas on structuring: 87
- Other: 31

Legend:
- Examples of research
- References
- Ideas on structuring
- Other

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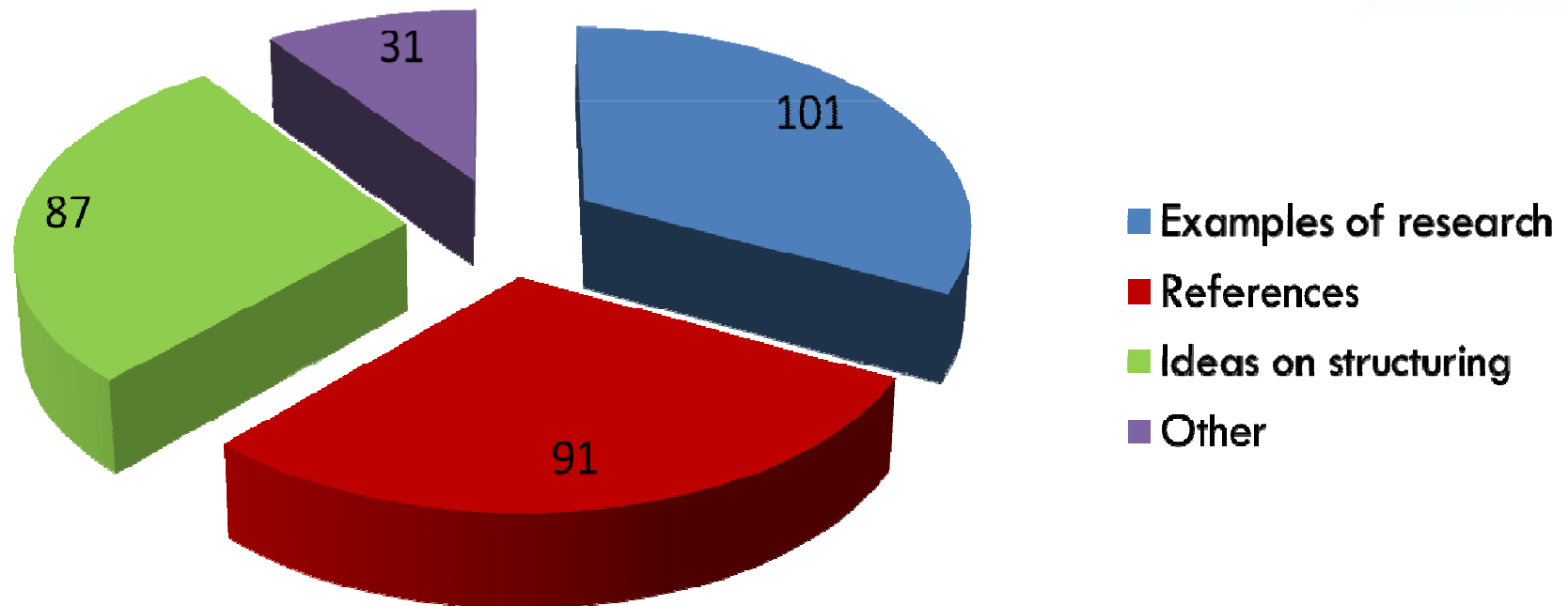
Which gateway to ETDs do you refer your students to?
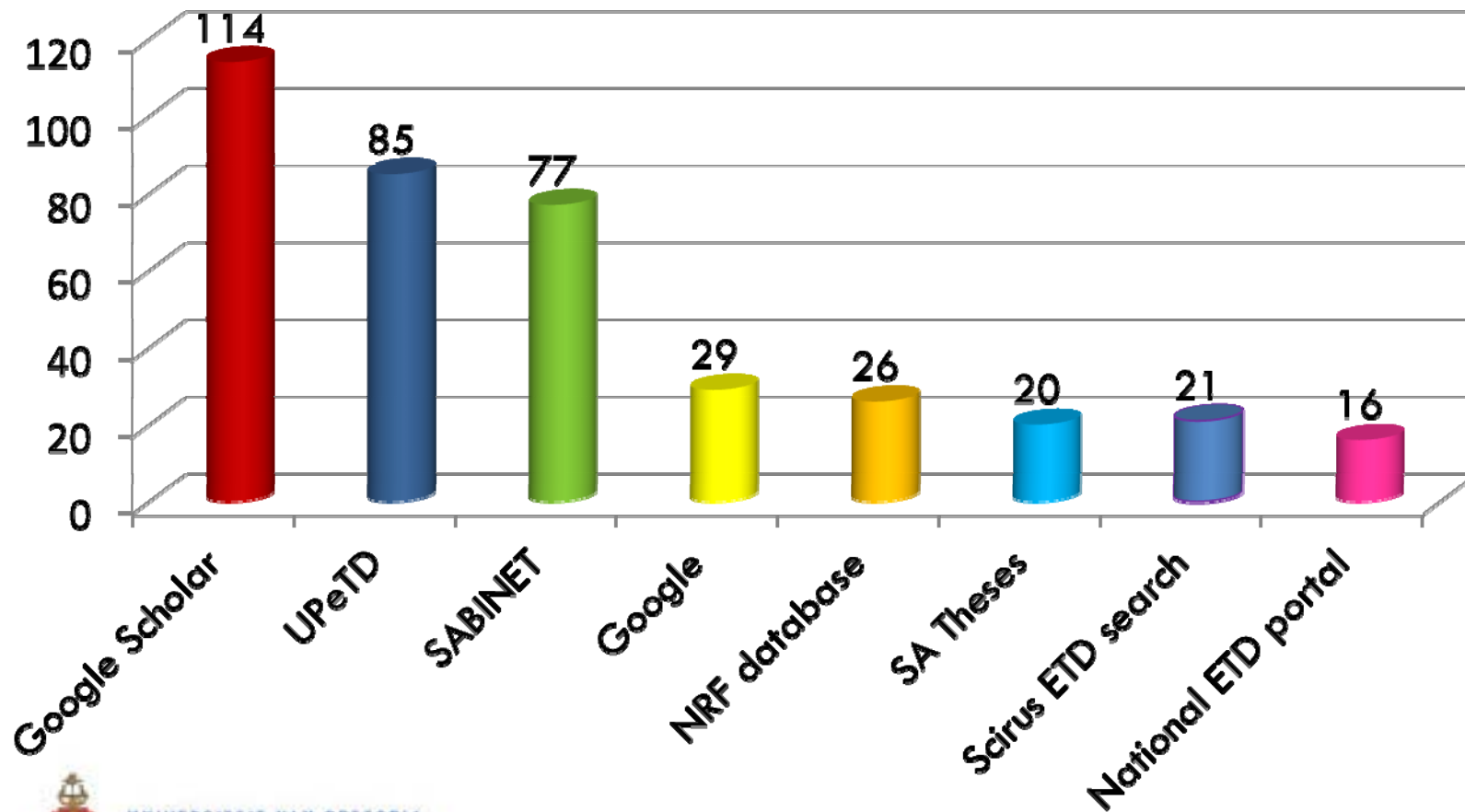
Gateway	Count
Google Scholar	114
UPeTD	85
SABINET	77
Google	29
NRF database	26
SA Theses	20
Scirus ETD search	21
National ETD portal	16

What is your personal opinion of UPeTD?

Although supervisors find UPeTD useful, many do not know how to access it

#	Question	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The repository is very useful	1	2	27	78	39
2	I do not make use of it at all	45	43	25	26	14
3	I do not obtain much value from accessing UPeTD	35	55	37	12	3
4	I cannot find what I am looking for	34	55	46	8	1
5	I do not know how to obtain access to UPeTD	71	52	11	8	1

Do you support the availability of TDs in open access mode?

- **Yes**
- **No**
- **Uncertain**

6

11

90%

141
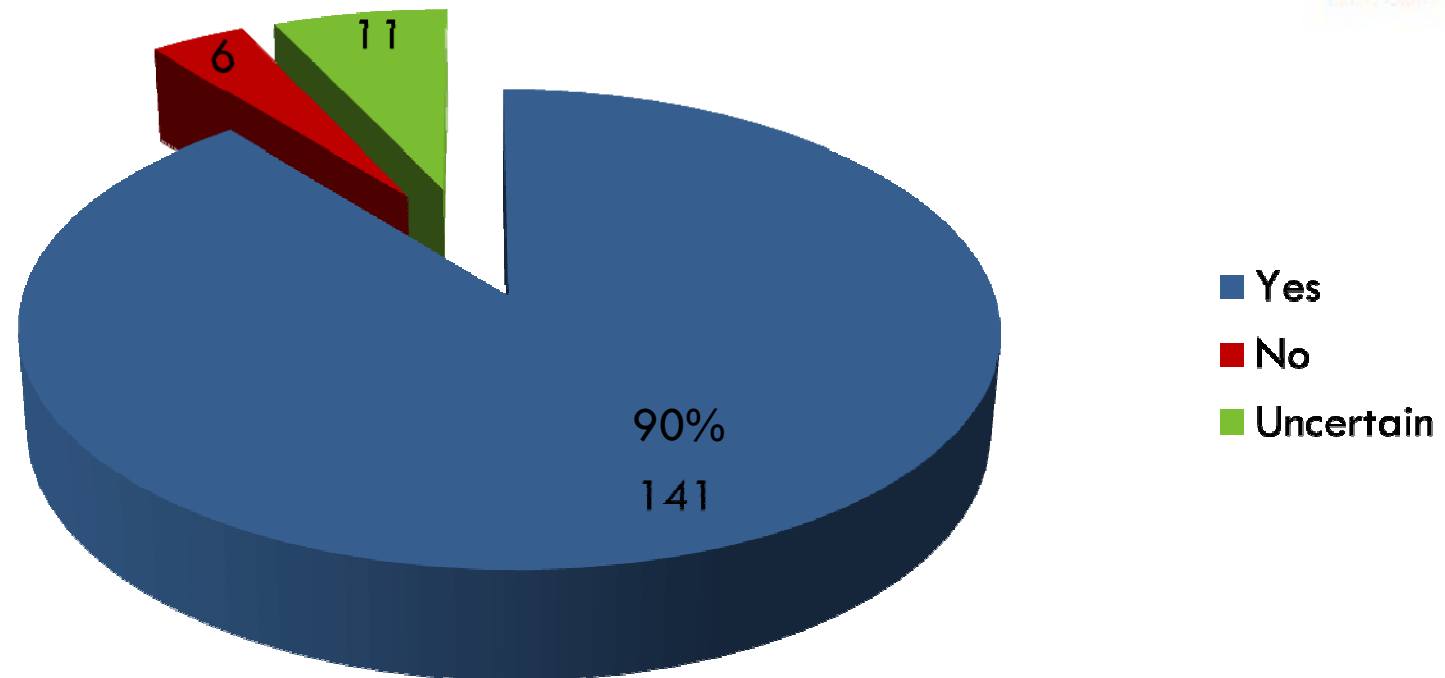
What are the benefits of UPeTD for your students?

Pie chart data:
- 24/7 access: 144 / 91%
- Visibility: 141 / 88%
- Enhance CVs/web: 99 / 63%
- Multimedia possibilities: 68 / 43%
- Other: 11
- No benefits: 5

Legend:
- 24/7 access
- Visibility
- Enhance CVs/web
- Multimedia possibilities
- Other
- No benefits

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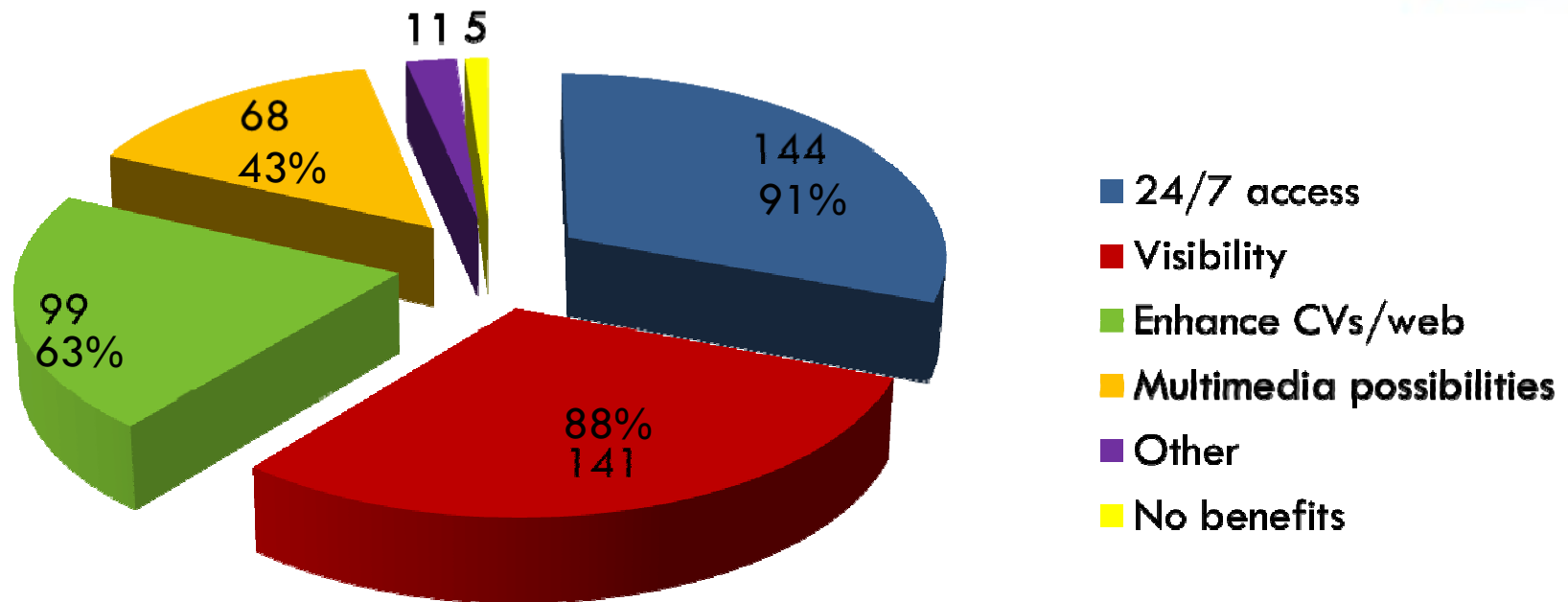
Awareness

❑ 97% knew that it was compulsory to submit ETDs

❑ 85% was familiar with the policy

❑ Only 39% knew where to access the policy

❑ Many have never studied the policy & don't know where to access it

❑ Open ended question: what would you change about the policy

- 53 answered
- 28 would change nothing

What would you change about the policy?

❑ More time for publication should be allowed

  ▪ UPeTD allows a 2 year embargo period

❑ Work gets plagiarised more

  ▪ "Another advantage of electronic theses - Turnitin has access as well
    and assist in countering plagiarism."

Do you inform, encourage and assist students to self-submit ETDs?

- ❑ Self-submission rate is very low – 19%
- ❑ Supervisors inform & encourage
- ❑ Do not assist in self-submissions
- ❑ 57% was unaware of the web support and submission guidelines

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What is your preferred communication channel?

Bar chart showing preferred communication channels:

- Twitter: 4 — 3%
- Facebook: 8 — 5%
- Library web: 45 — 29%
- Campus News: 59 — 38%
- Faculty coordinator: 78 — 50%
- Librarian: 81 — 52%

(horizontal axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100)
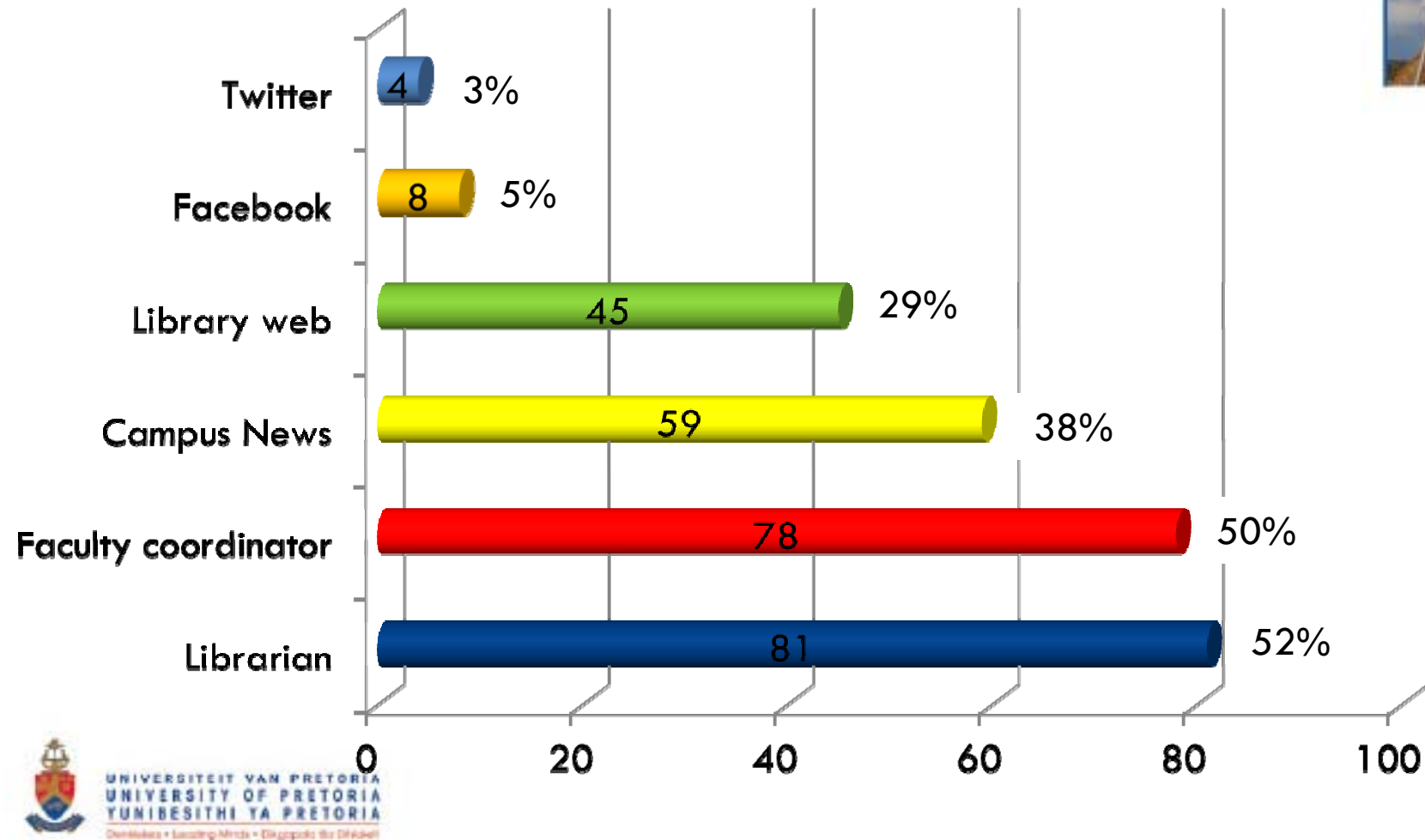
Retrospective digitization of ETDs

❑ Support from 86%

❑ Only 15% knew that they could request to have items digitized

Access options to ETDs

❑ 42% discussed the access options carefully

❑ Only 34% knew that they needed a letter from the Vice-Principal to place an item on total embargo

❑ Management of access options causes huge problems

 ▪ "I did not realise that we could restrict dissertations"

❑ 90% indicated that they were satisfied with the current management of the access options

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Final lessons learnt

❑ **How can your UPeTD experience be improved?**

- 39 responses received

- Questionnaire in itself raised awareness

- More queries have been received since the questionnaire circulated

- Some commented on the excellent service

- BUT many requested more assistance, marketing and training

- Many misconceptions e.g. publishing & copyright

❑ **Possible solutions**

- Annual awareness drives

- Communicate news more regularly

- Provide more training, assistance and updated UPeTD manual

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Conclusion

❑ Questionnaire was a valuable data collection instrument

❑ Provided insight into current adoption practices and attitudes

❑ Positive side

- Many were fairly knowledgeable
- UPeTD was rated as a valuable source of information
- Offered many benefits for students

❑ Negative side

- Supervisors had a lack of knowledge regarding policy, access options
- Misconceptions thrive on campus

❑ Advocacy and training is an ongoing process

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Final word from a supervisor…

"I have not used it in the past but due to this survey I will certainly do so and recommend to my students to use. In the past I just considered the electronic depositing of theses as an extra nuisance!"

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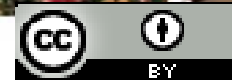
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Thank you!
Questions?

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