

Clinical Librarians and Their Essential Services in Academic and Health Care Settings: A Comparative Survey

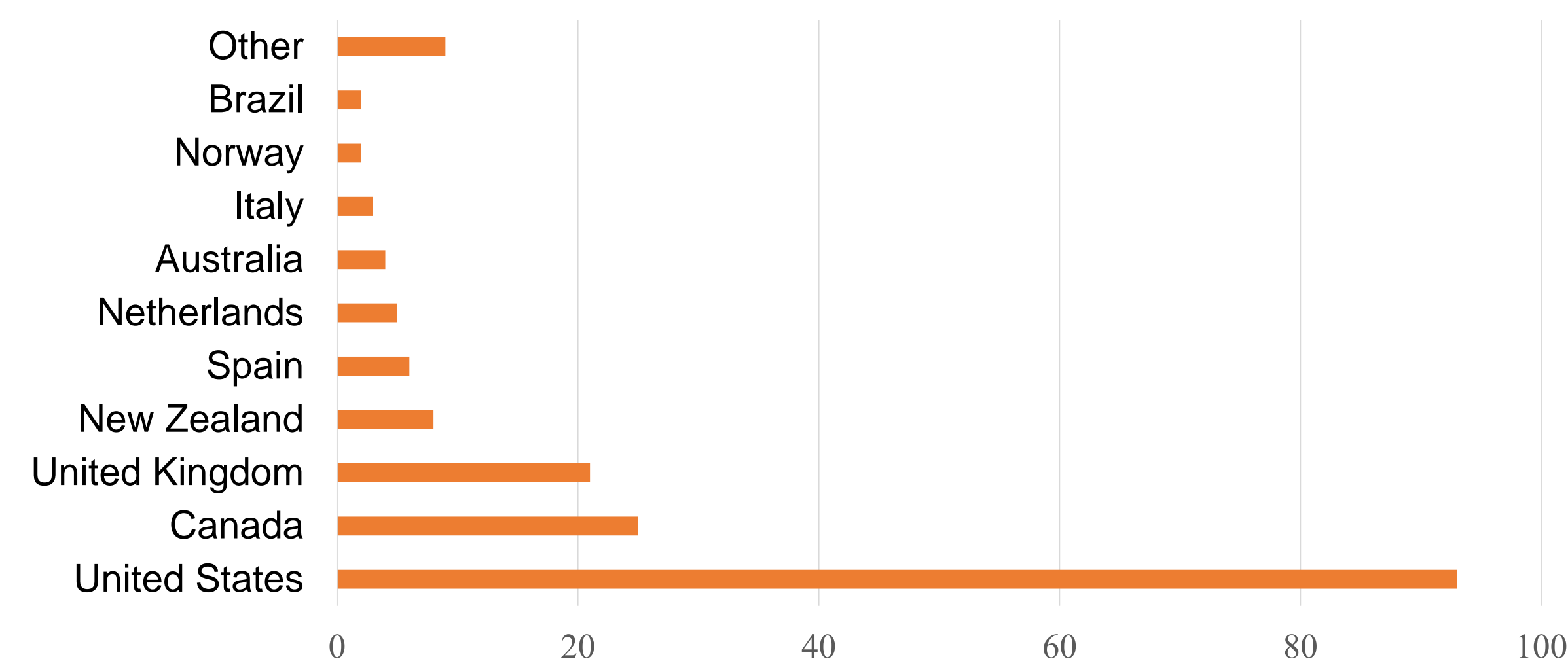
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Introduction

While there are many indicators and models of individual successful clinical librarian services and programs in health sciences libraries in the literature, there is no recent, comprehensive summary of services provided by clinical librarians.

This poster, based on a 2018 survey of clinical librarians, provides summary data of clinical librarian service models in the US and internationally.

Location of Clinical Librarian Participants

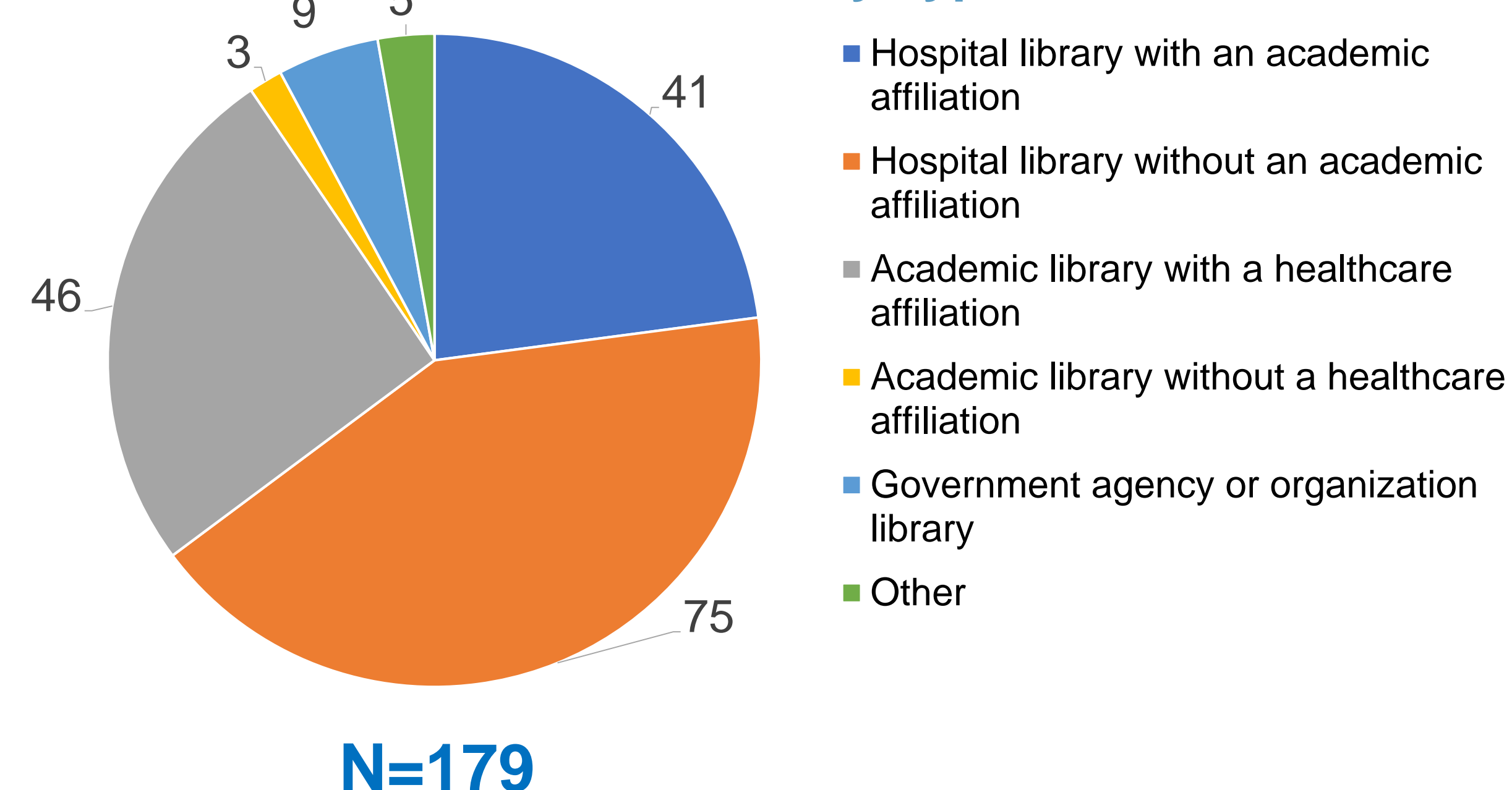


Methods

We distributed an online survey with 12 questions to medical librarian listservs in the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom as well as international listservs covering many countries and continents. The survey requested responses from any librarian who was currently providing clinical services in any health-oriented library setting.

The survey was designed to collect statistics on librarian participation in the following areas: clinical team rounding, grand rounds, case conferences, M&Ms, department meetings, research committees or councils; library instruction, expert searching, and research involvement. We also asked for identification of clinical teams served; the ratio of clinical librarians to all health sciences librarians at the institution, the average number of clinical departments served; and their geographic locations by country.

Number of Clinical Librarians Employed at Health Sciences Library Types



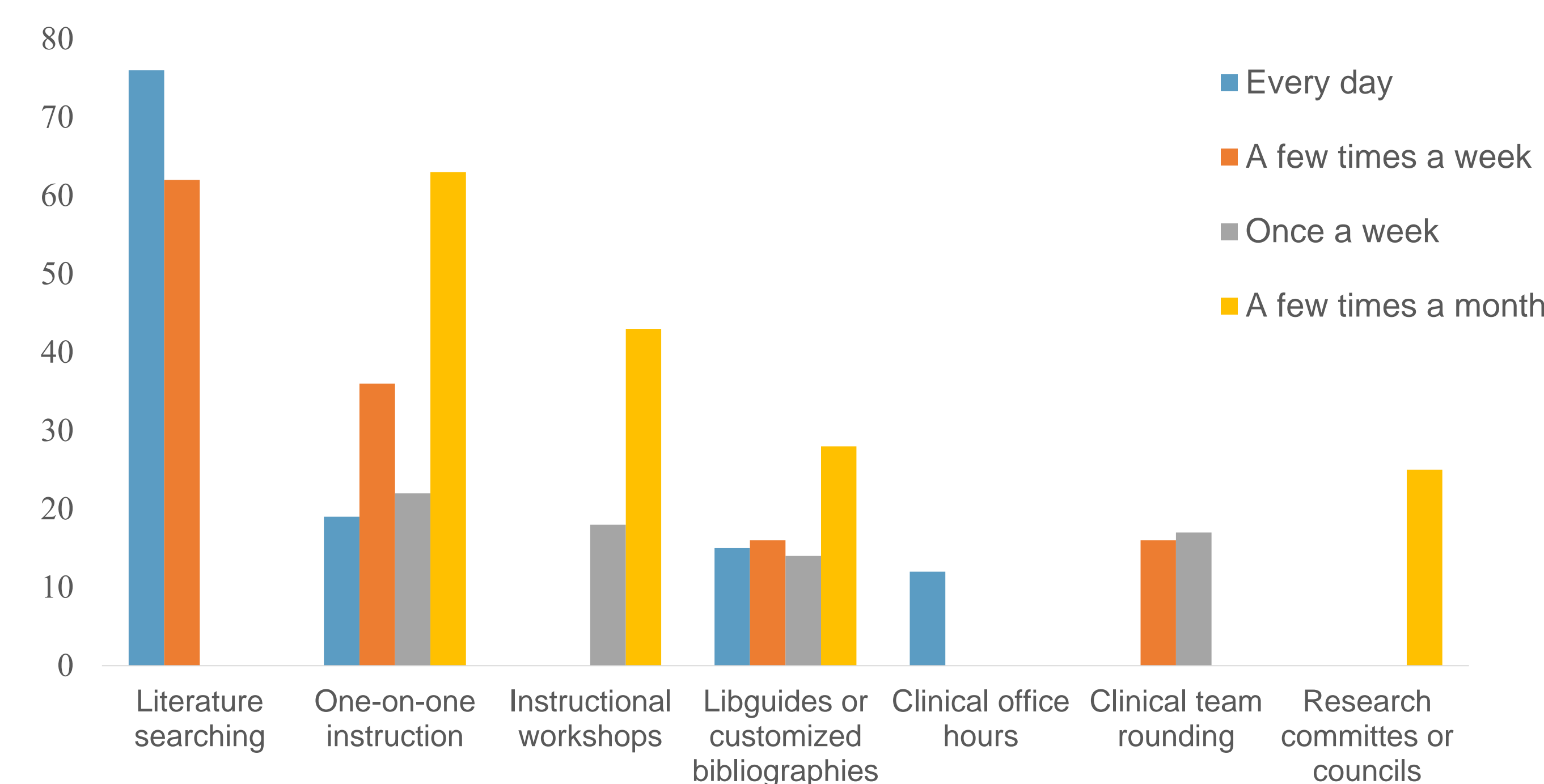
Results

Between February 22, 2018 and March 25, 2018, three hundred and thirty-eight participants responded to the 14 question survey. Responses to the ranked questions regarding services were coded by the authors using Qualtrics. Overall, 180 respondents answered all questions. The remaining participants answered some of the survey questions. 27% survey responses were from individuals at academic libraries, and 63% of responses were from hospital libraries. 52% of respondents were from the United States, while 48% were from international respondents, including Canada, the UK, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe.

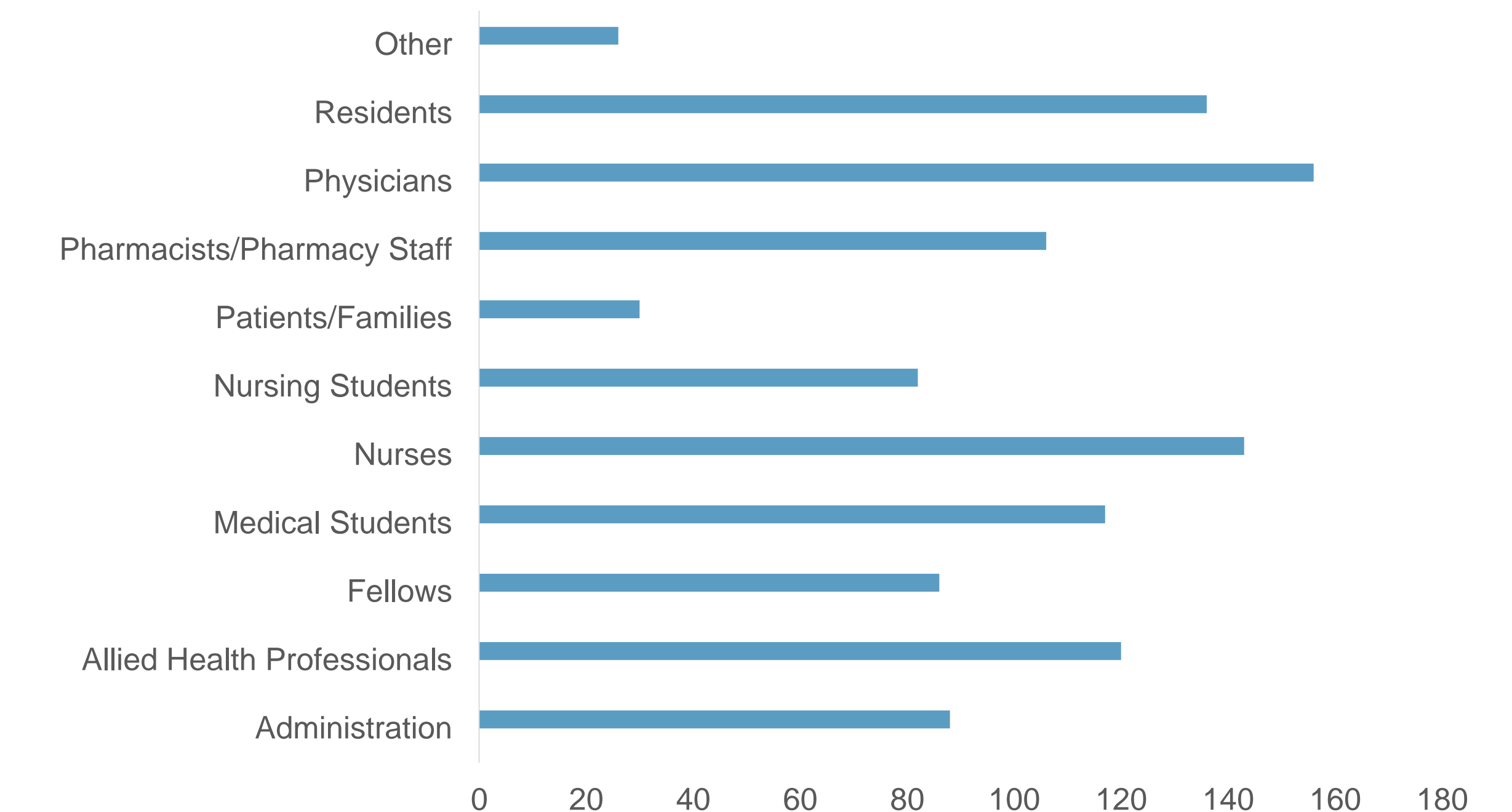
From this survey, the authors can make the following statements:

Clinical librarians serve multiple specialties working with a variety of clientele. The majority of clinical librarians serve physicians, residents, allied health professionals, and nurses. In ranking their services, clinical librarians feel that they provide these top impact services to their clientele: 89% save clinicians time, 87% advance evidence-based practice, and 76% increase teaching skills of clinicians.

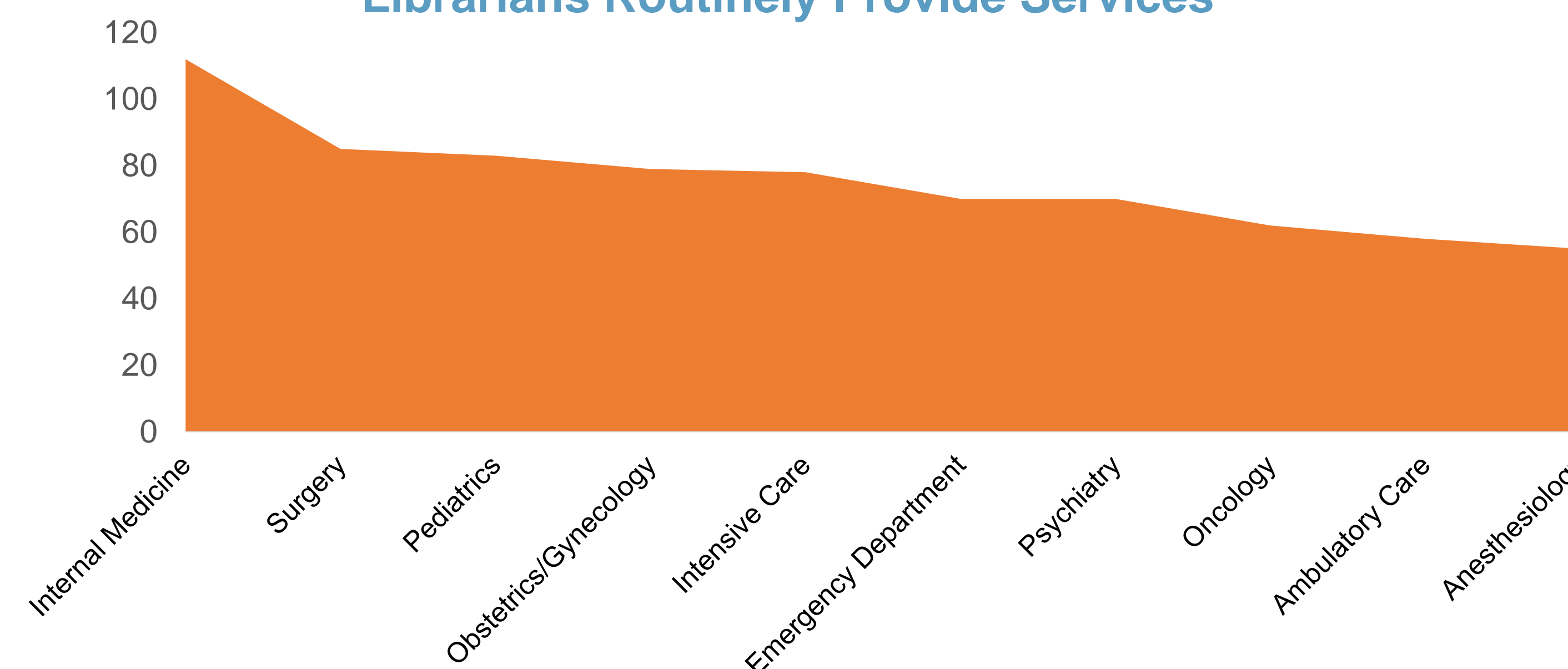
The Most Frequently Provided Clinical Librarian Services



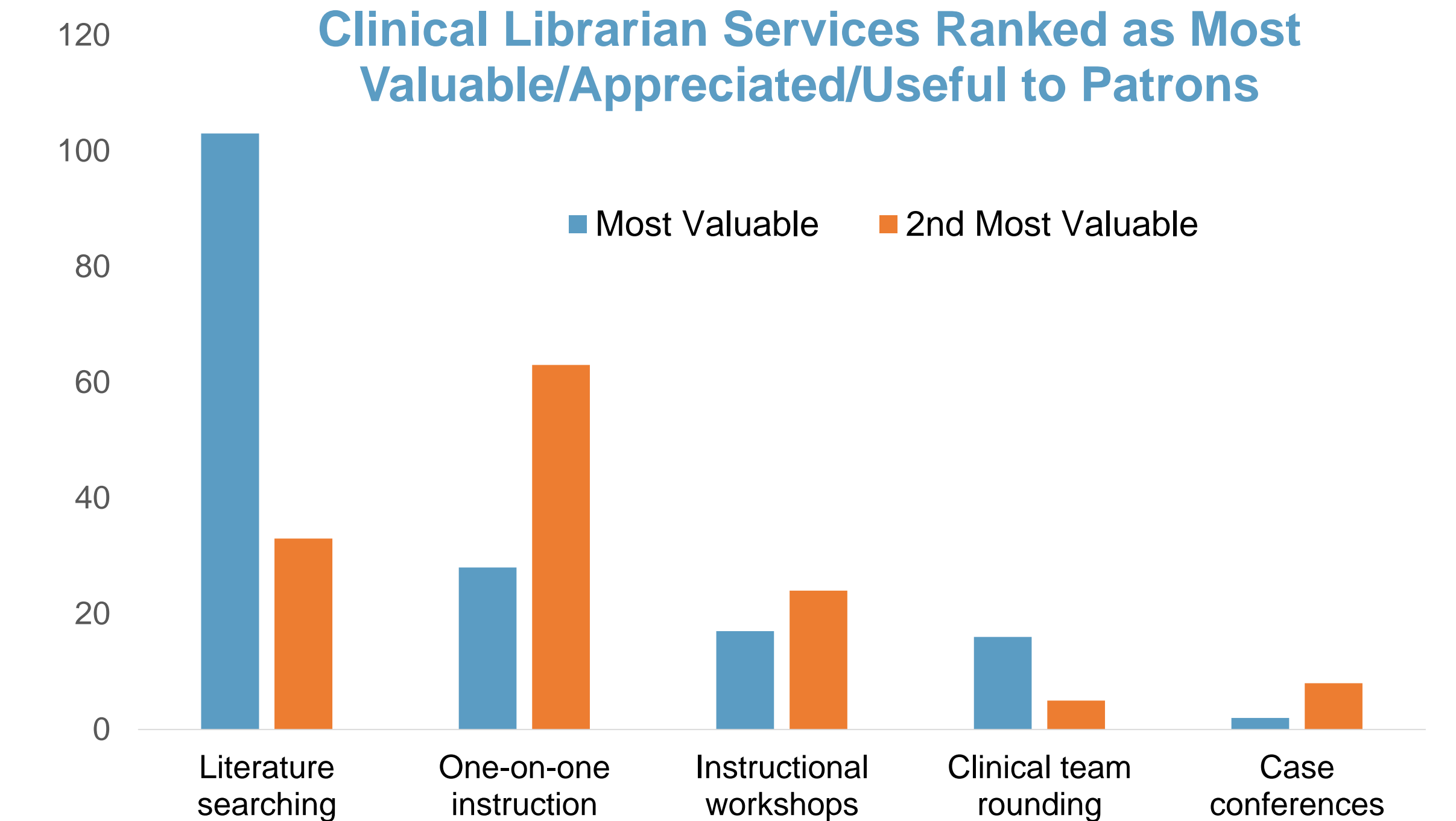
Clinical Patrons Served



Departments in Which Clinical Librarians Routinely Provide Services



Clinical Librarian Services Ranked as Most Valuable/Appreciated/Useful to Patrons



Conclusions

Our analysis of current trends in clinical librarian services provides an overview of service models and the areas of focus clinical librarians have in their current positions. These results can be used to:

- 1) Give creative ideas for services to current clinical librarians,
- 2) Help justify a clinical librarian service to management,
- 3) Assist a new clinical librarian in providing creative and meaningful services to health care professionals.

Lessons Learned

Success of Clinical Librarianship is based on the individual needs of the department and the institution. The more time a clinical librarian can devote to a specific department, the more successful the service will be. Our plan is to further analyze the collected data to look for useful trends of clinical librarianship.

