

Is there a future in librarianship?

A Data Geek's Point of View
~Nicolle Steffen~

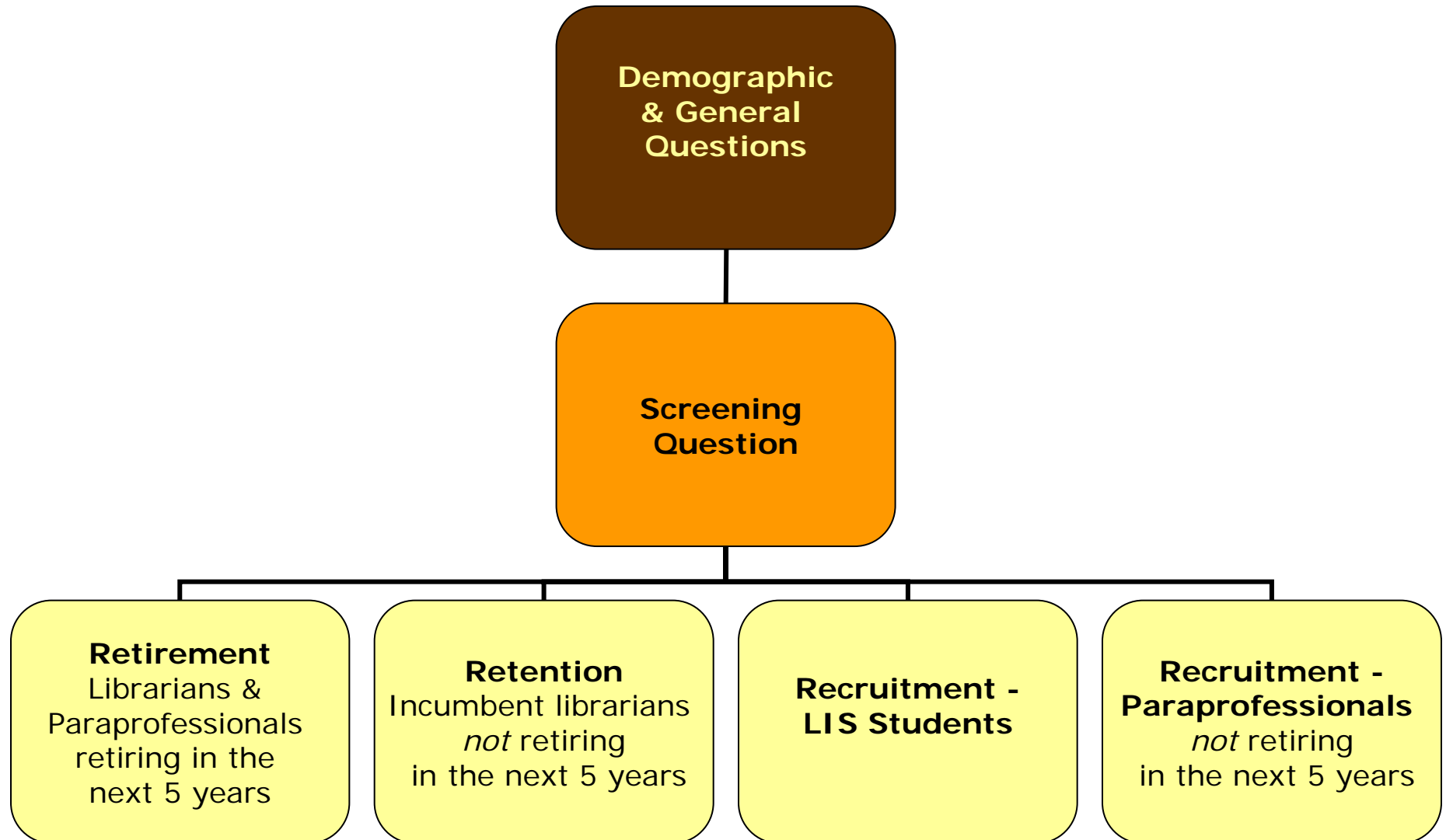
Topics

- **Librarian retirements**
- **Job vacancies**
- **Salaries**
- **MLIS value**



3Rs

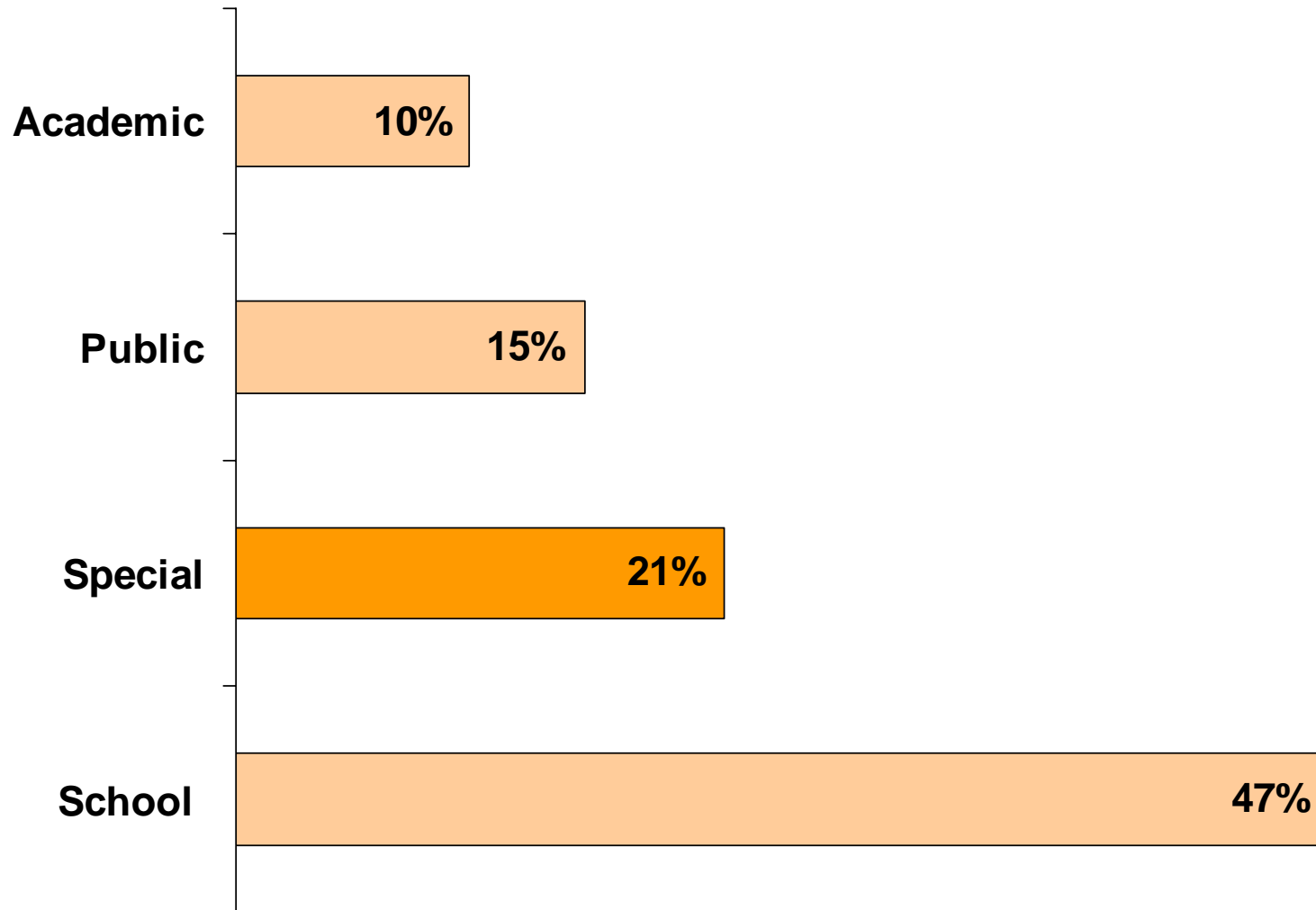
Retirement, Retention, and Recruitment: The Future of Librarianship in Colorado



Retirees

- **17% of all respondents**
- **1 in 5 librarians**
- **1 in 7 paraprofessionals**

Retirees By Library Type



Experience

- **3 in 5 have 20 or more years of library experience**
- **1 in 4 have 11 to 20 years of library experience**
- **3 in 4 are supervisors**

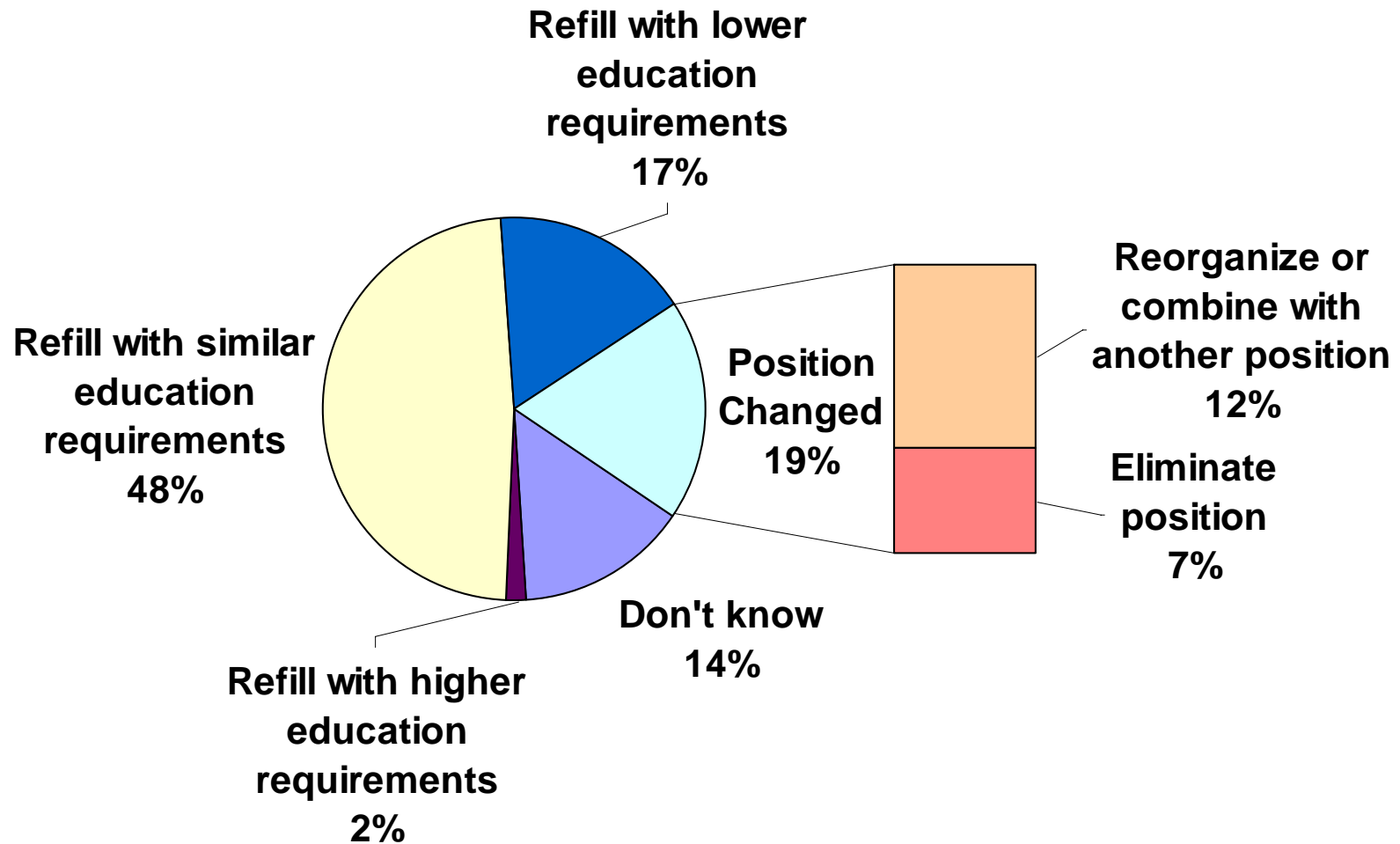
Job Description

- **2 in 5 are generalist**
- **1 in 5 is an administrator**
- **1 in 6 is in public service**
- **1 in 10 is in technical services**

What does this mean to the profession?

- **Significant institutional and professional knowledge will be lost**
- **Possible dearth of leaders**
- **Opportunities**
- **Loss of positions**

Will the position be filled with an MLS librarian?



Job Future

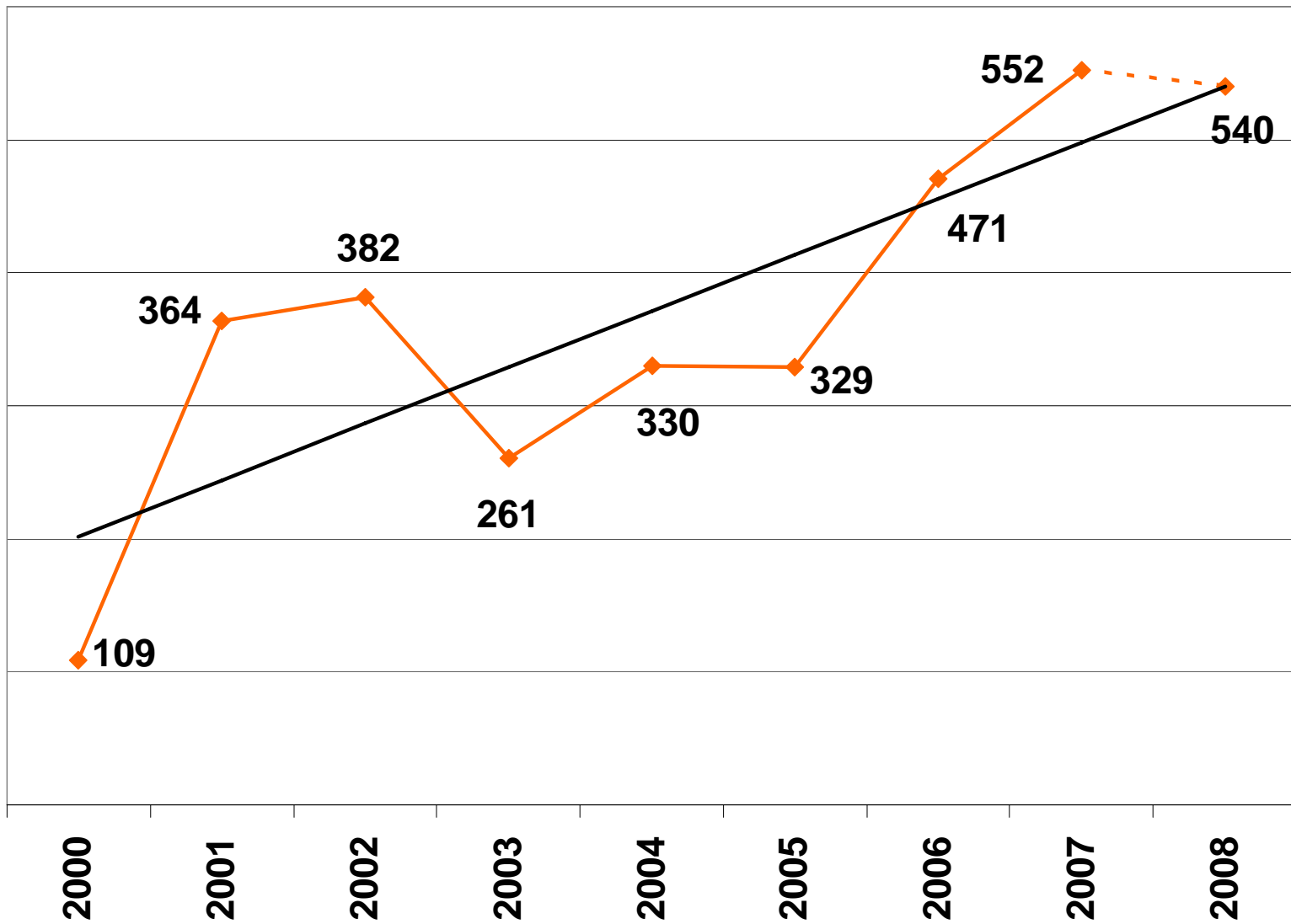
- **1 in 5 expects job to be combined with another job or eliminated**
- **Almost 1 in 5 expects job qualifications to be lowered**

LibraryJobline.org
Colorado State Library

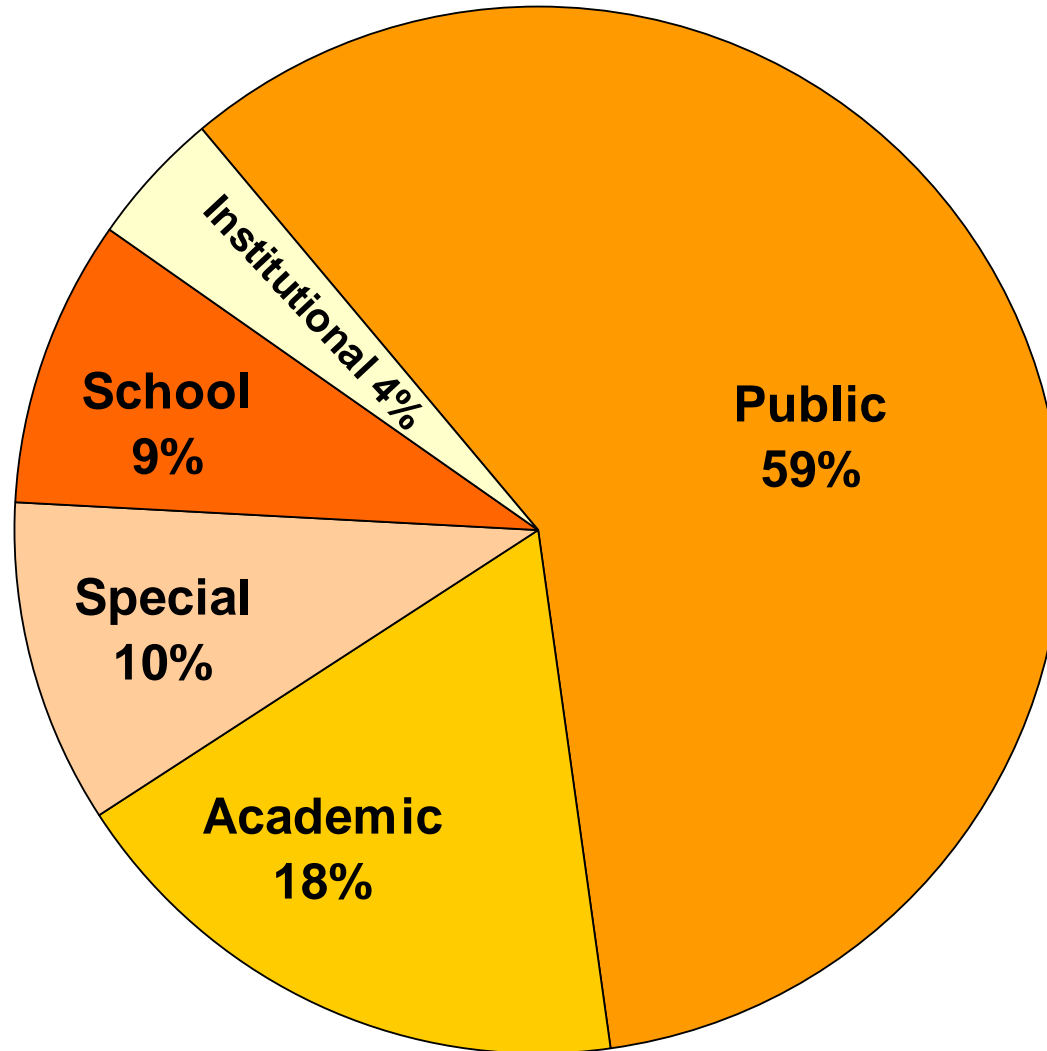
Jobs Since January 2007

- **940 postings**
- **1,150 positions**
 - **598 in 2008**
 - **552 in 2007**

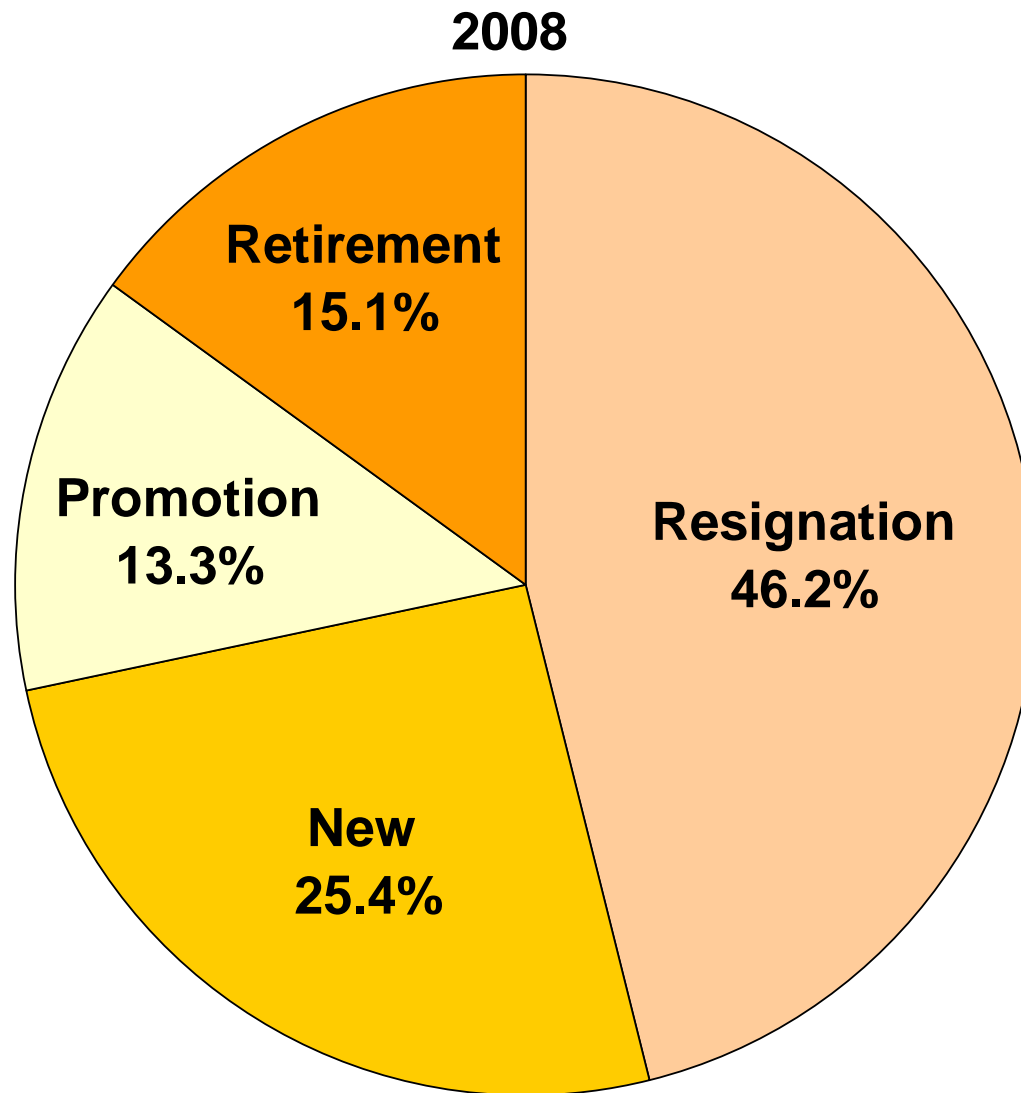
Job Postings



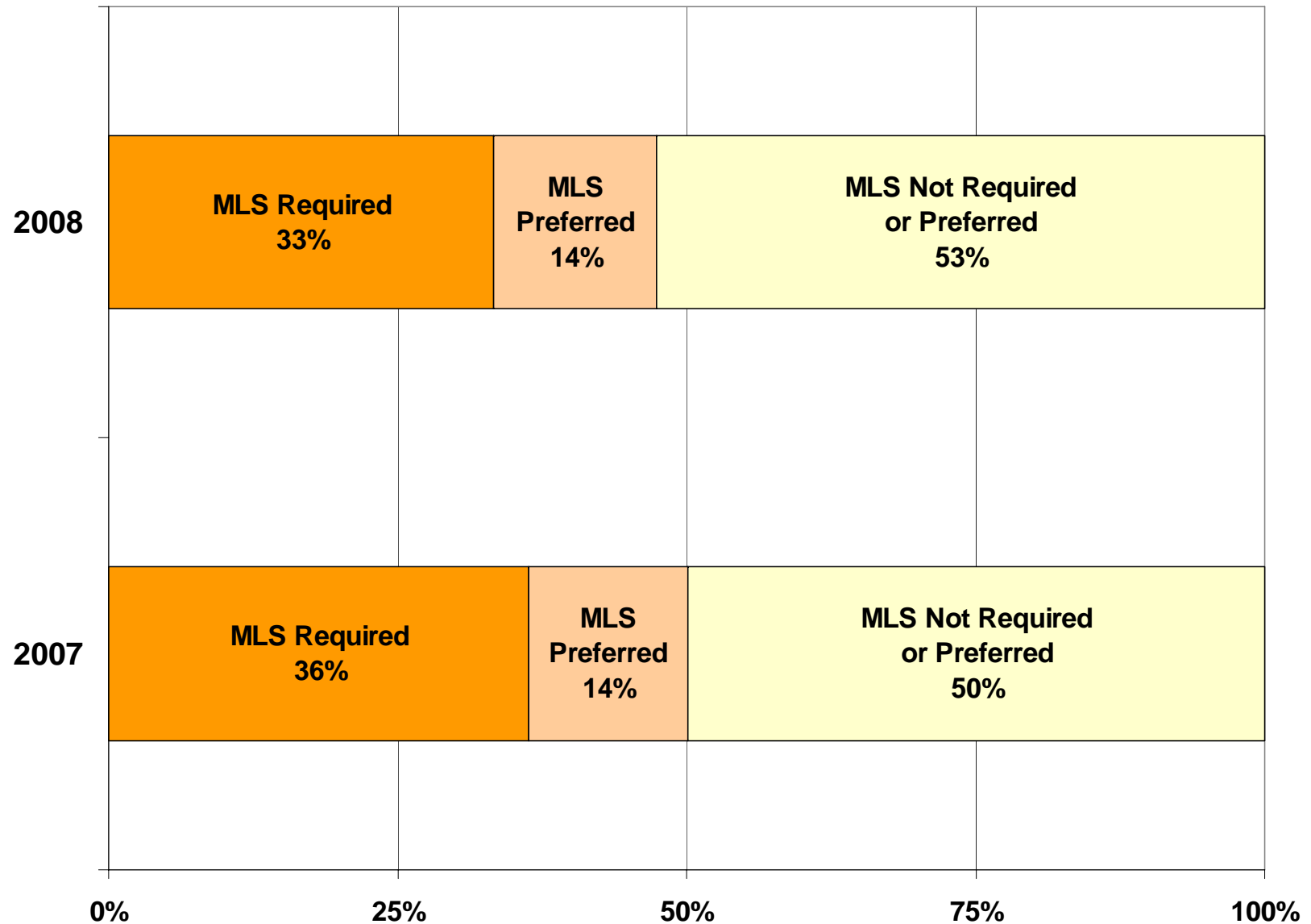
Job Postings by Library Type 2007-08



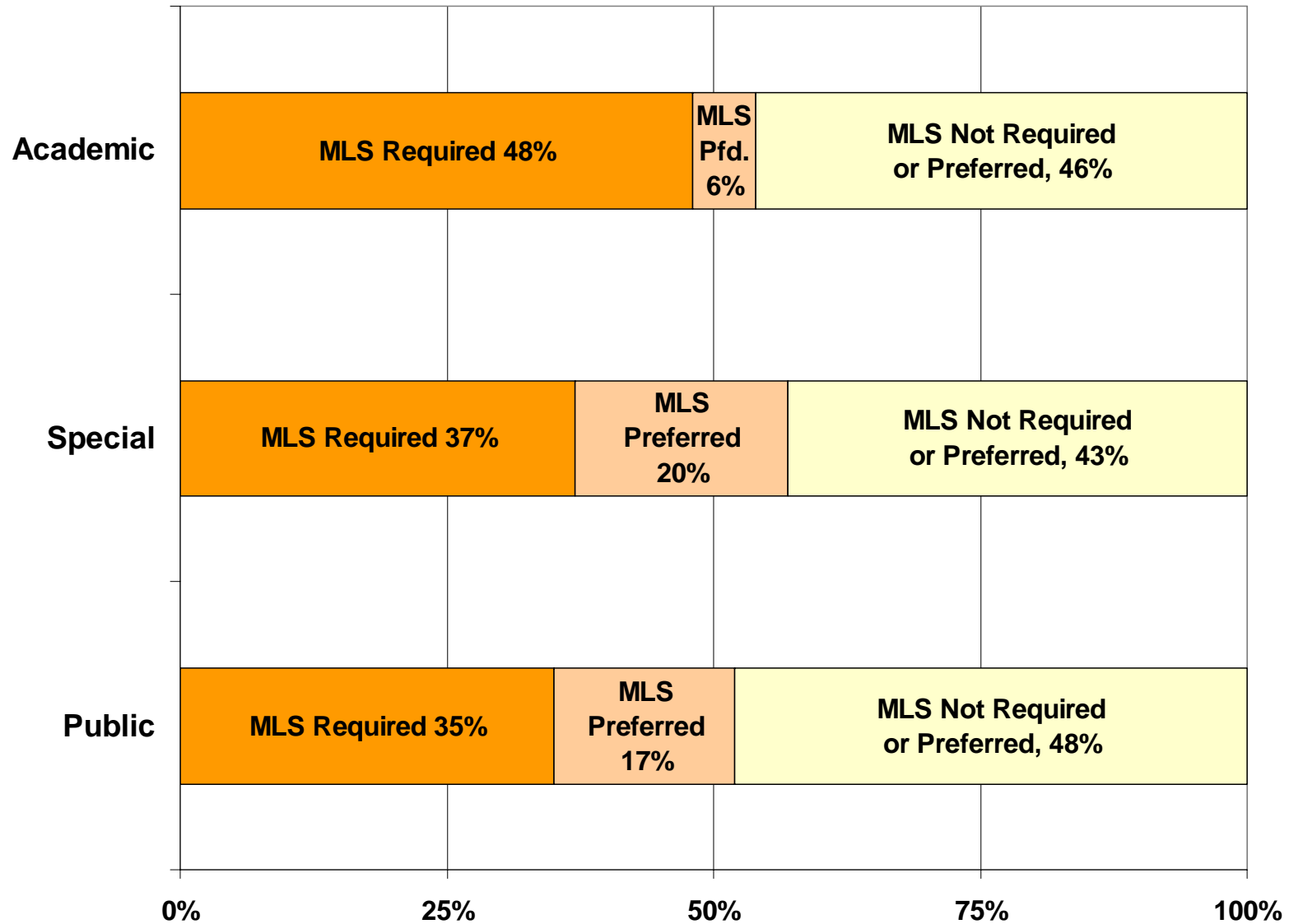
Reason for Job Vacancy



MLS Requirements



MLS Requirements by Library Type



10 Hottest Jobs - 2008

Rank	Job	Organization	Views
1	Teacher Librarian	Denver Public Schools	4,142
2	Economic Intelligence Specialist	City of Littleton	1,520
3	Assistant Librarian	Lafayette Public Library	1,515
4	Para- Librarian	ASRC Management Services	1,484
5	Patron Services Specialist II	Arapahoe Library District	1,444
6	Temporary Librarian Pool	Colorado State University	1,443
7	Library Assistant/Receptionist	Regis Jesuit High School	1,394
8	Assistant Librarian	Community College of Aurora	1,343
9	Librarian	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.	1,292
10	Branch Manager	Pikes Peak Library District	1,290

BLS

- 2006 - 158,000 librarian jobs
- 2016 - 164,000 librarian jobs
- Growth of 4%
- Growth is slower than average
- Retirements will make for a favorable job market
- Jobs outside traditional libraries growth the fastest
- School librarian jobs also growing

Salaries – SLA

Respondent Country	Salary					Number	Mean	Percent Change
	10th Percentile	First Quartile 25%	Median 50%	Third Quartile 75%	90th Percentile			Mean Percent Change
Canada*	45,000	54,000	64,000	76,000	93,160	315	67,171	4.9%
United States	40,620	50,000	64,000	82,000	104,000	2,833	69,426	5.1%
United Kingdom**	26,470	28,500	42,000	60,000	90,100	48	48,185	7.9%
All Other Europe***	29,660	39,836	51,500	76,950	86,500	28	57,246	6.8%

Note: Slide was edited for posting to web. 10/16/08

Salaries – ALA

- **ALA-MLS**
 - **Average – \$57,809**
 - **Median – \$53,251**
 - **Ranged from \$22,000 to \$331,200**
- **Non MLS**
 - **Ranged from \$10,712 to \$143,700**

So, is an MLS worth it?

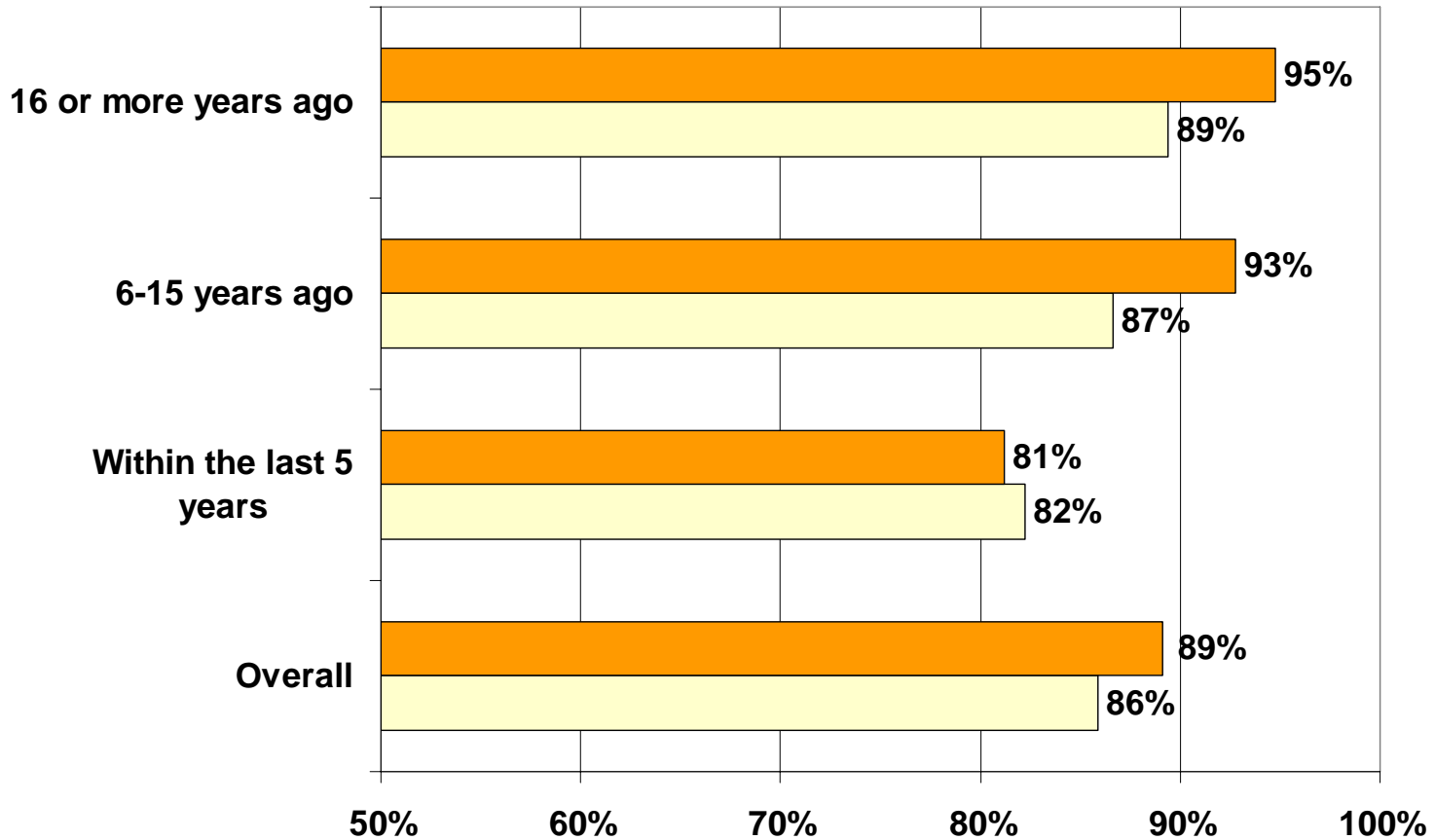
**Would you recommend
the degree?**

Value of an MLS degree

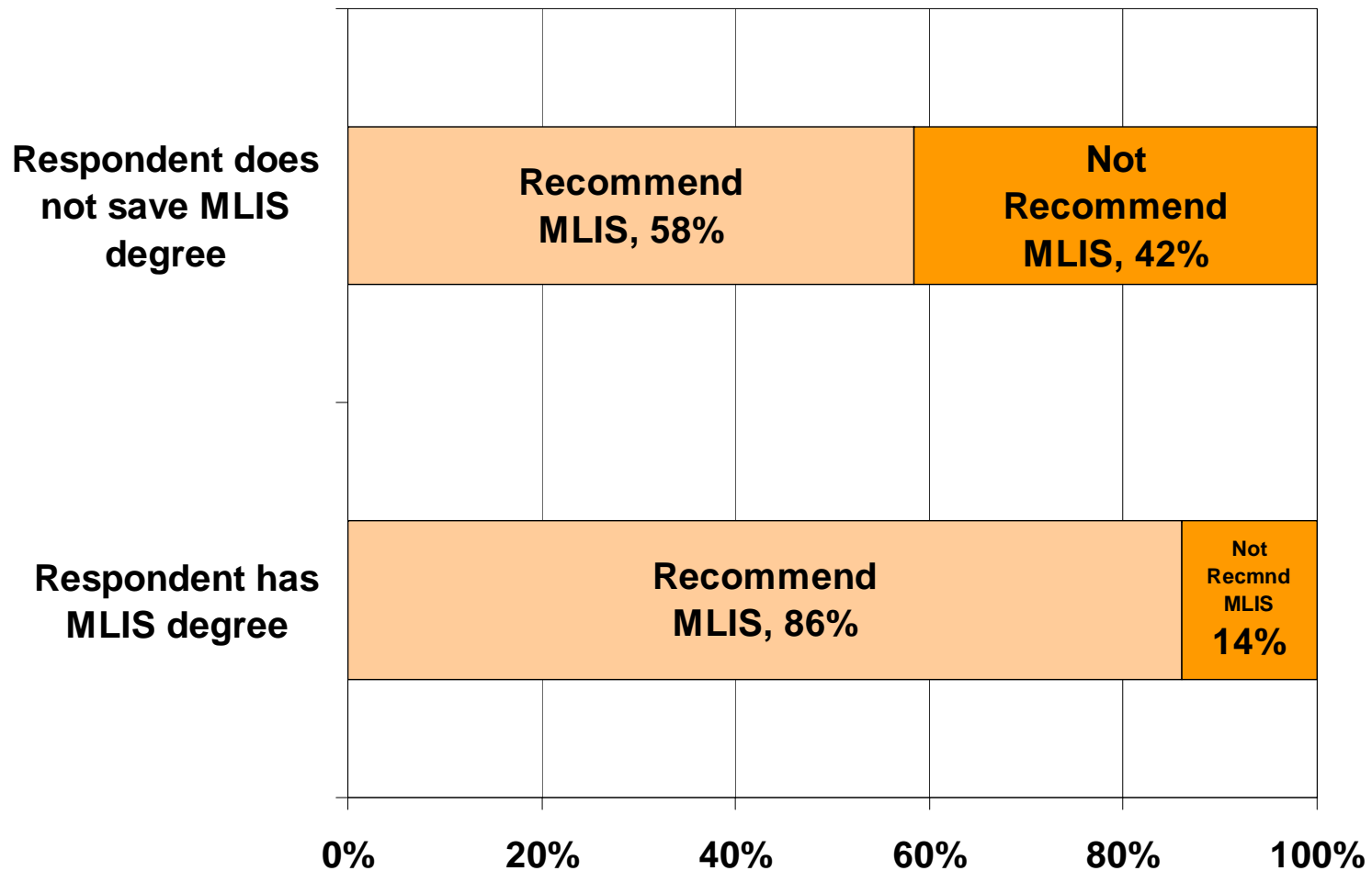
- **Market driven**
- **Reader poll style survey**
- **Almost 2,000 respondents**
- **All 50 states**
- **6 continents**

Perceptions of the Value of an MLIS Degree by Years Since Earning Degree

- MLS worth the investment to respondent
- Respondent would recommend MLS degree to others today



Perceptions of the Value of an MLIS Degree By Degree Status



**Is there a future in
librarianship?**

YES!

Trends to watch

- **Continued retirements**
- **Tighter entry-level positions**
- **Advancement opportunities**
- **Differences based on geography**
- **Economic influences**

Sources

- *Retirement, Retention, and Recruitment: The Future of Librarianship in Colorado*. Available at <http://www.lrs.org/workforce.php>.
- Library Jobline. See www.LibraryJobline.org and Fast Facts: *LibraryJobline.org – The First Year*. No. 257, May 16, 2008 at <http://www.lrs.org/fastfacts.php>.
- Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/>.
- *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2008-09 Edition*. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.
- *2007 SLA Annual Salary Survey & Workplace Study*. See: <http://www.sla.org/content/resources/research/salariesurveys/salsur2007/index.cfm>.
- *2008 ALA-APA Salary Survey: Librarian - Public and Academic*. See: <http://www.ala-apa.org/news/news.html#survey08>.