

Alumni of the Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University: Career Opportunities of Library and Information Science Graduates

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Background

- ▶ During 1992-2008 900 students graduated LIS program of Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University
- ▶ There is no information on their career paths and other employability related data
- ▶ Survey methodology was developed using experience of LIS workforce and career research projects done in USA, Pakistan, Canada
- ▶ Research, based on a “snowball” approach for reaching graduates, was carried on in spring 2009

Respondents

- ▶ In total 318 filled questionnaires were received
- ▶ Response rate 35.3 % of the general group (901)
- ▶ Response rate differ by the year of graduation
- ▶ 92,8 % women and 7,2 % men
- ▶ 92,5 % respondents lives in Lithuania, other live abroad

Employment opportunities after graduation

- ▶ After graduation 151 respondents had found a job easily, it makes almost half surveyed graduates
- ▶ 95 said it was quite easy
- ▶ Some difficulties experience 23 respondents and it was very difficult to find a work for 8 graduates
- ▶ 22 respondents have started working before graduation

Current employment

- ▶ 83.65% or 266 respondents declared as currently having a job
 - ▶ 27 were working, but looking for another job
 - ▶ At the time 7 respondents were unemployed
 - ▶ 18 respondents marked an open ended option
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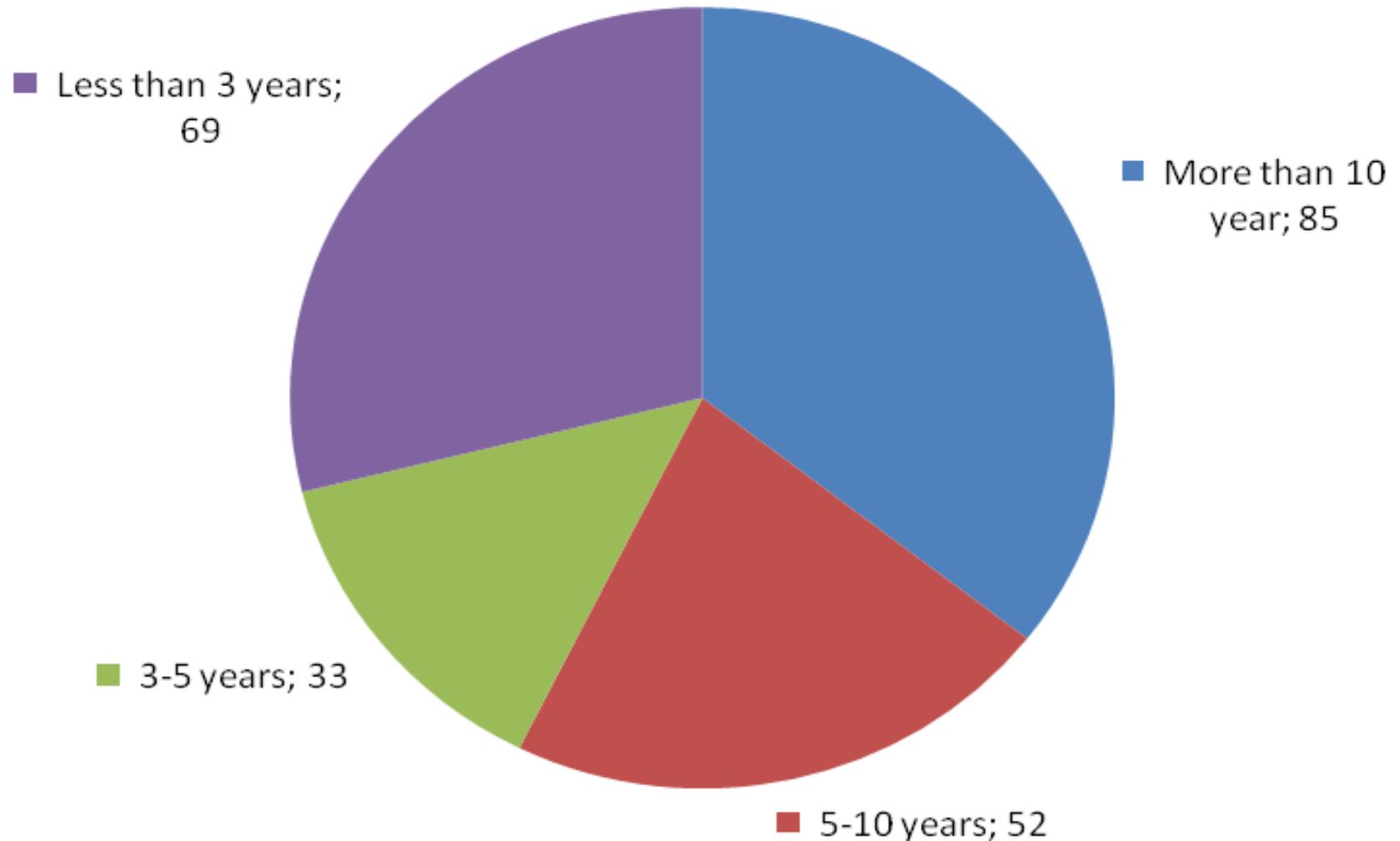
Job positions

- ▶ 11 respondents work in top management positions, mainly directors (one of them has started his own business)
- ▶ 71 respondent holds middle management positions, i.e. work as heads of the departments
- ▶ 180 (56.6 %) are employed in specialist positions
- ▶ 57 (17.9 %) graduates has chosen an open ended option, stating they are senior specialists (5); project managers (9), managers (5); deputy heads (4), administrators (7), consultants (2)

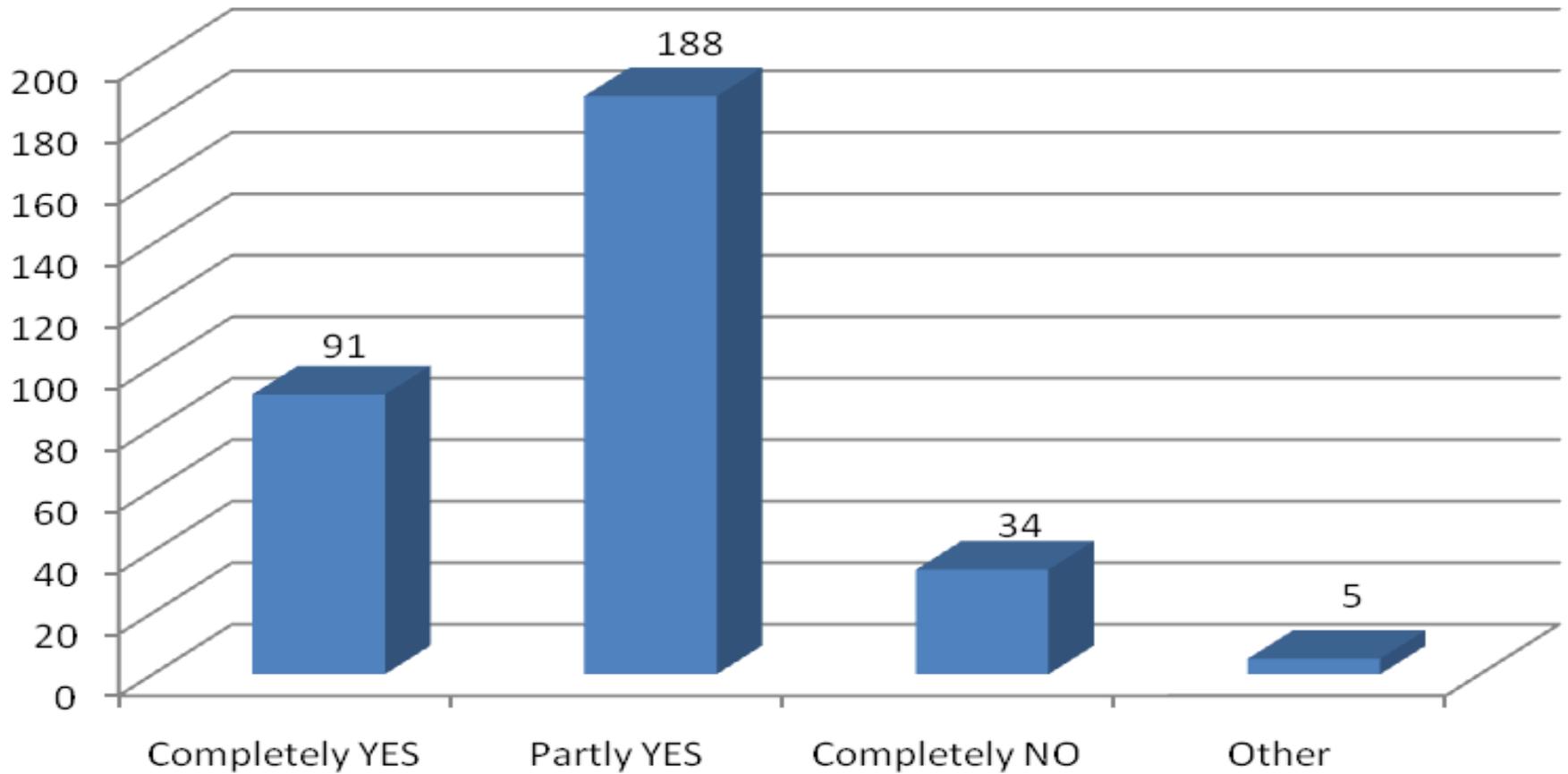
Library related career...

- ▶ 165 respondents work in the libraries (51.9 %)
- ▶ 70 respondents have worked in a library before
- ▶ About 78 LIS graduates (24.5 %) have never worked in the library
- ▶ 106 respondents have worked in academic libraries; 89 respondents in the public libraries, 24 - in Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas library, 23 - in school libraries and 23 - in special libraries

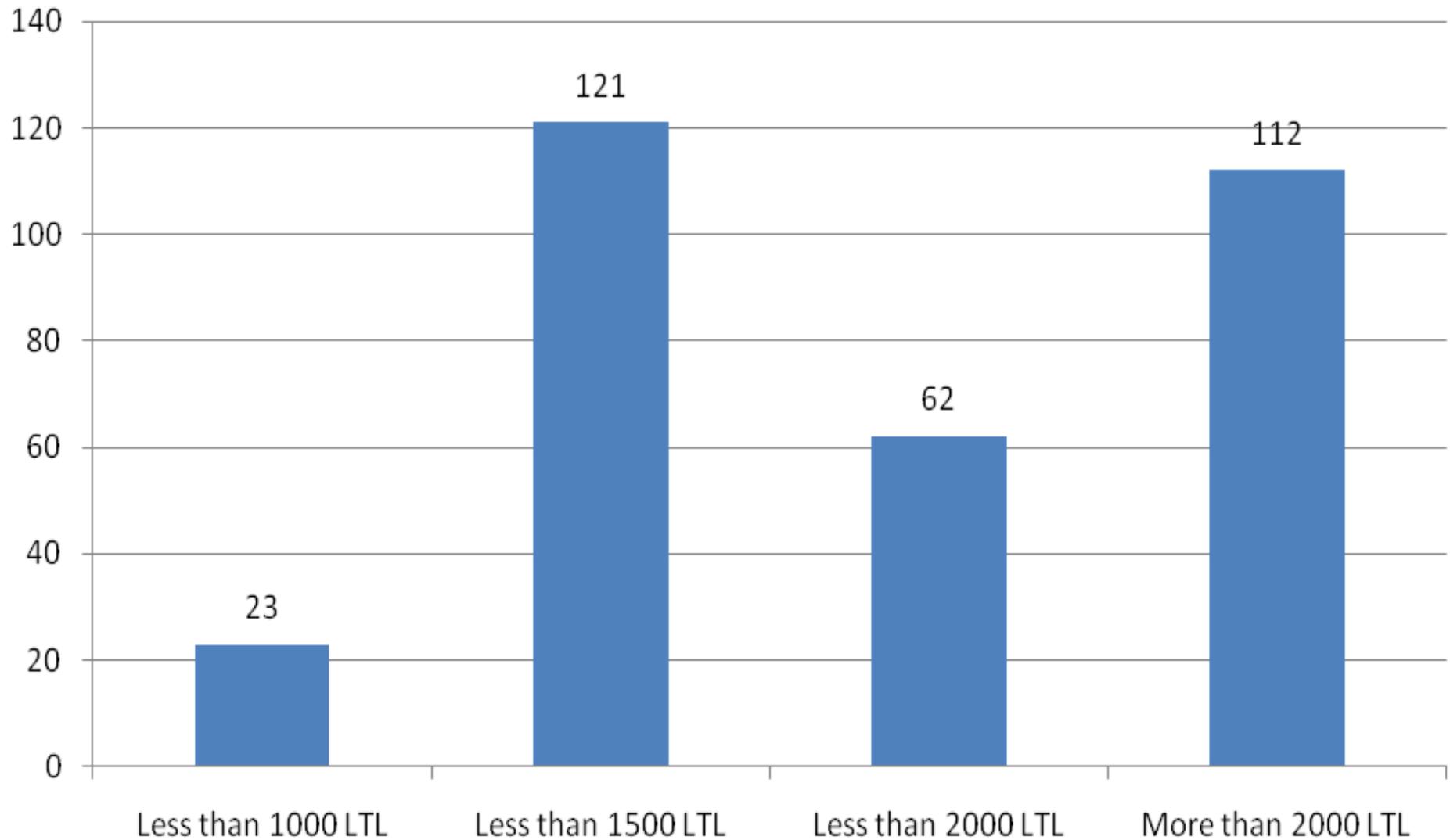
Library related career by its length



Self-realization at work

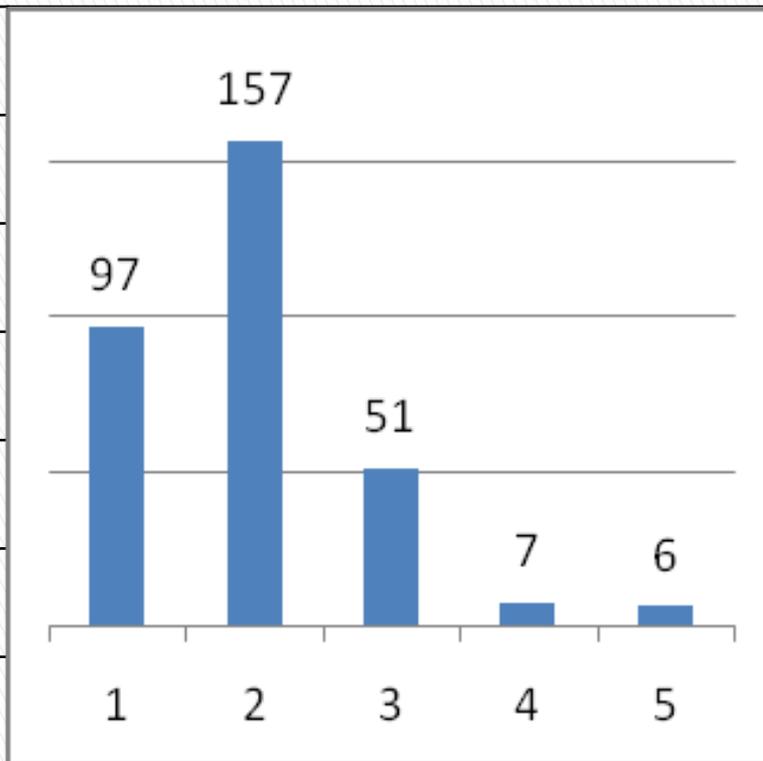


Monthly earnings of the respondents



LIS skills are useful in graduates' careers

Option	Respondents	%
1. Definitely YES	97	30.5
2. More YES, than NO	157	49.37
3. More NO, than YES	51	16.04
4. Definitely NO	7	2.2
5. Other	6	1.89
N=318		



Summarising

- ▶ In general Vilnius university LIS graduates' have good employability opportunities
 - ▶ Around 2/3 of respondents after graduation had worked in libraries for some time, half of all continue their career in the library world
 - ▶ It seems that payment differences in library sector and other fields is an ever-lasting issue and it one of the factors influencing graduates career choice
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- ▶ LIS graduates are not frequent job changers, only one third of them falls into the group of average career changes
 - ▶ Almost 80 % graduates find positive impact of acquired LIS skills to their careers
 - ▶ Though there was difficult to reach the graduates, the majority of them (222) was intrigued by this research, and expressed an interest in the findings
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- ▶ There is a need for in depth qualitative research for understanding why some graduates meets difficulties finding the job and what reasons make some of them to turn to other fields, after working experience in the library