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Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey 2009

Strategic Insights for the Research Library

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ITHAKA is a not-for-profit organization that helps the academic community use digital technologies to preserve the scholarly record and to advance research and teaching in sustainable ways.

We pursue this mission by providing innovative services that aid in the adoption of these technologies and that create lasting impact.

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- **Ithaka S+R** is a research and consulting service that focuses on the transformation of scholarship and teaching in an online environment, with the goal of identifying the critical issues facing our community and acting as a catalyst for change.



- **JSTOR** is a research platform that enables discovery of, access to, and preservation of scholarly content.



PORTICO

- **Portico** is a digital preservation service for e-journals, e-books, and other scholarly e-content.

Sustainability of Digital Resources

- » [Sustaining Digital Resources: An On-the-Ground View of Projects Today](#)

The Role of the Library

- » [What to Withdraw: Print Collections Management in the Wake of Digitization](#)

Practices and Attitudes in Scholarly Communications

- » [Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey 2009](#)

Teaching and Learning with Technology

- » [Unlocking the Gates: How and Why Leading Universities Are Opening Up Access to Their Courses](#)

Scholarly Publishing

- » [University Publishing in a Digital Age](#)

In September 2009, we mailed 35,184 paper surveys to our sample, a similar approach to previous surveys in 2000, 2003, and 2006.

Our sample was drawn from faculty at US colleges & universities

- » Arts & sciences, education, law, engineering, business; no health
- » No international institutions or community colleges

The 3,025 completed responses yielded an 8.6% response rate.

In considering them as an input,

- » Responses are representative of the sample
- » Findings have consistency over time
- » Should be used in conjunction with local assessments

- 1. Changing faculty research practices and the strategic implications for the academic library**
- 2. Faculty attitudes and expectations on the print and electronic formats and their implications for collection development and management.**

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Section 1:

Changing faculty research practices and the strategic implications for the academic library

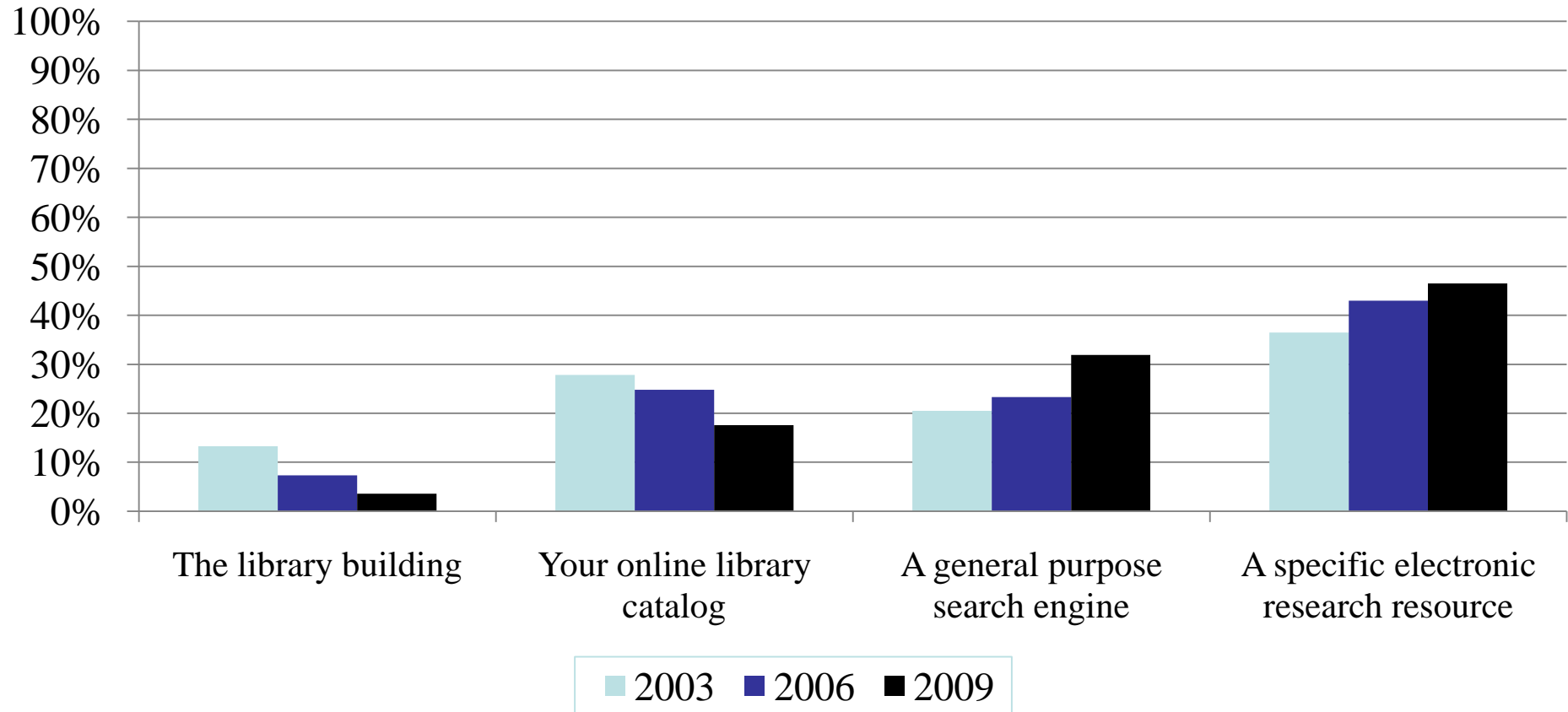
Starting points for research

Typically, when YOU are conducting academic research, which of these four starting points do you use to begin locating information for your research?

- » The library building
- » Your online library catalog
- » A general purpose search engine on the World Wide Web such as Google or Yahoo
- » A specific electronic research resource / computer database

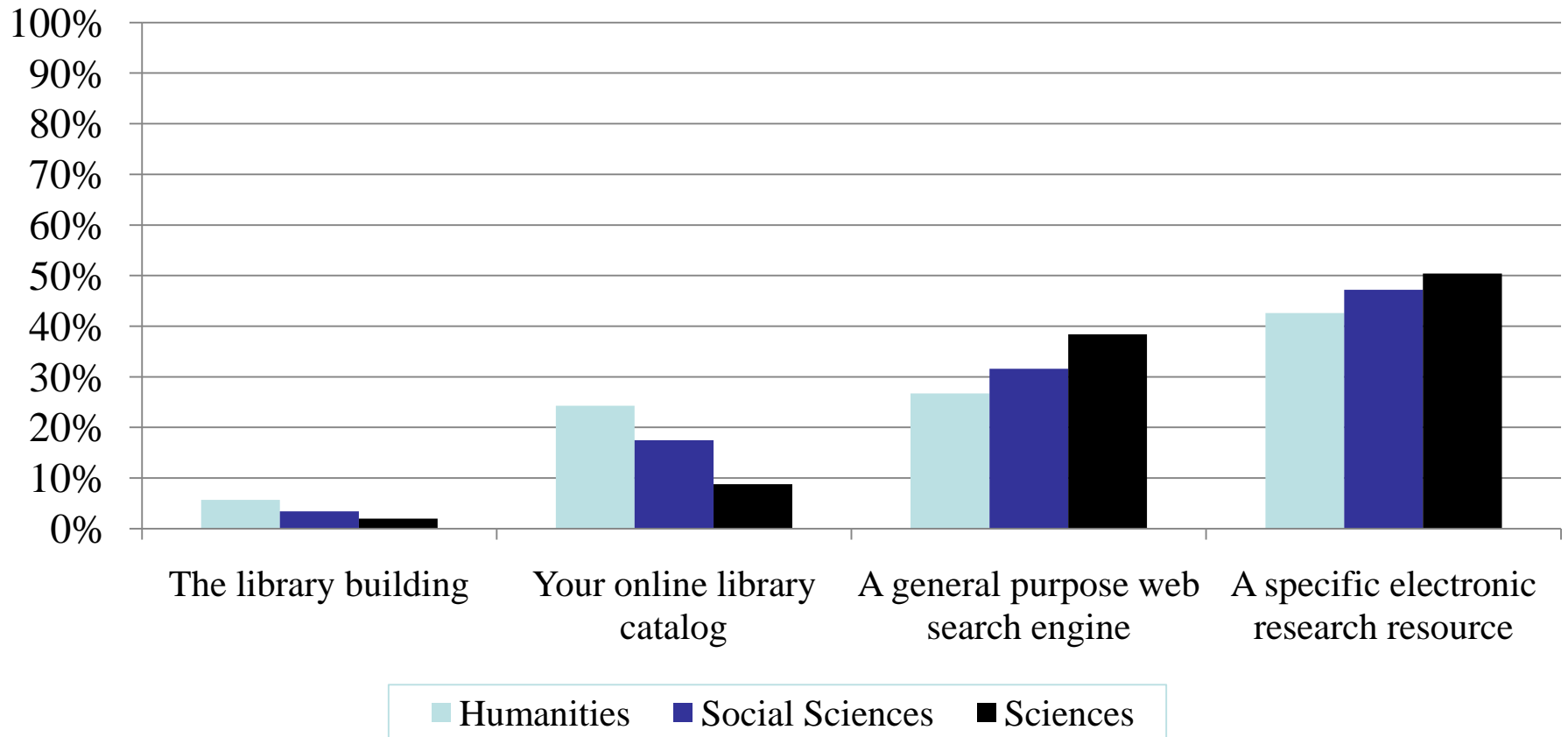
Library access roles are perceived as declining, network level services are increasingly important

Starting point for research



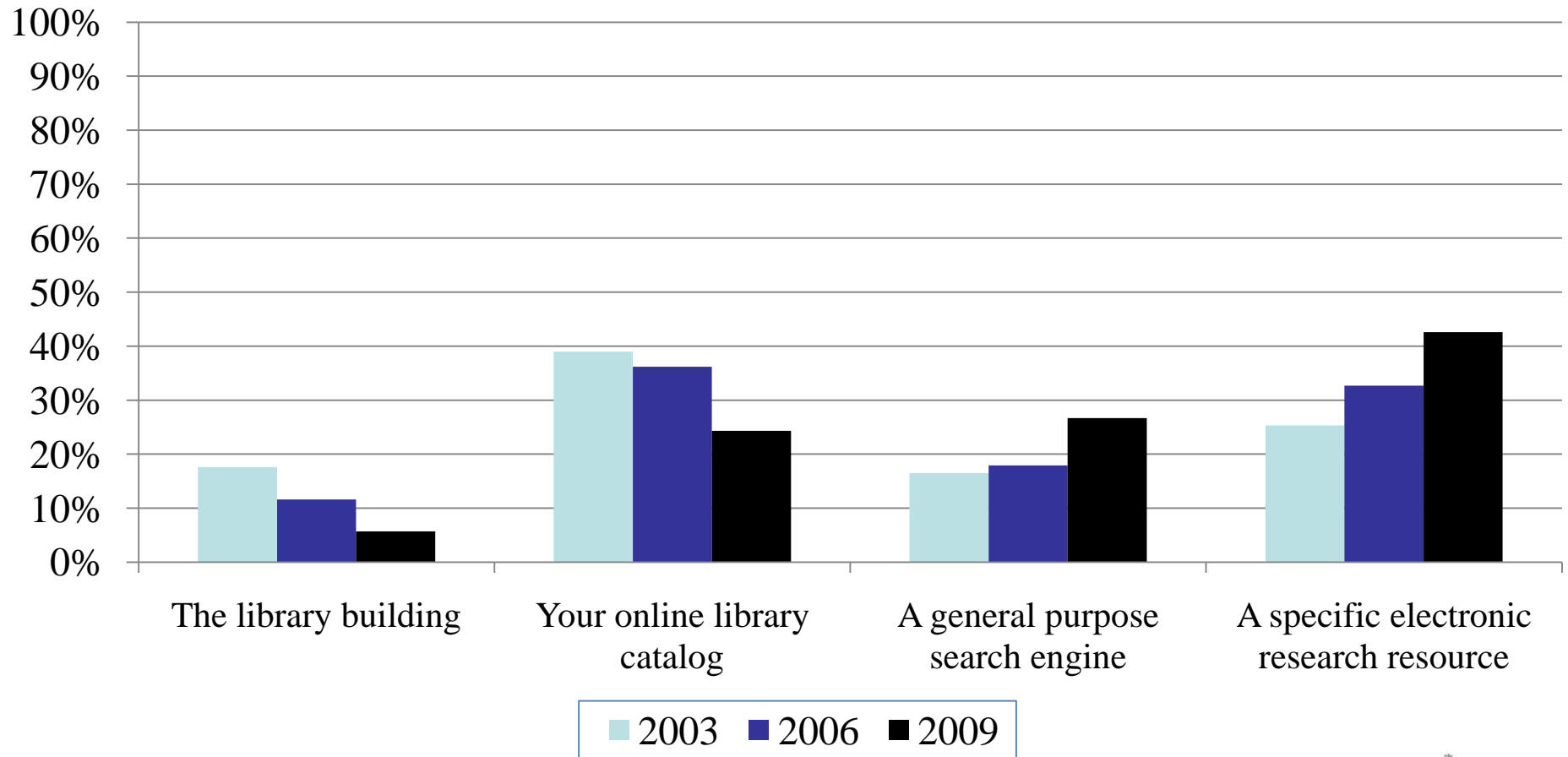
Some noteworthy disciplinary differences

Starting point for research, by discipline



But even in the humanities, local gateways are declining

Starting point for research *in the humanities*, over time

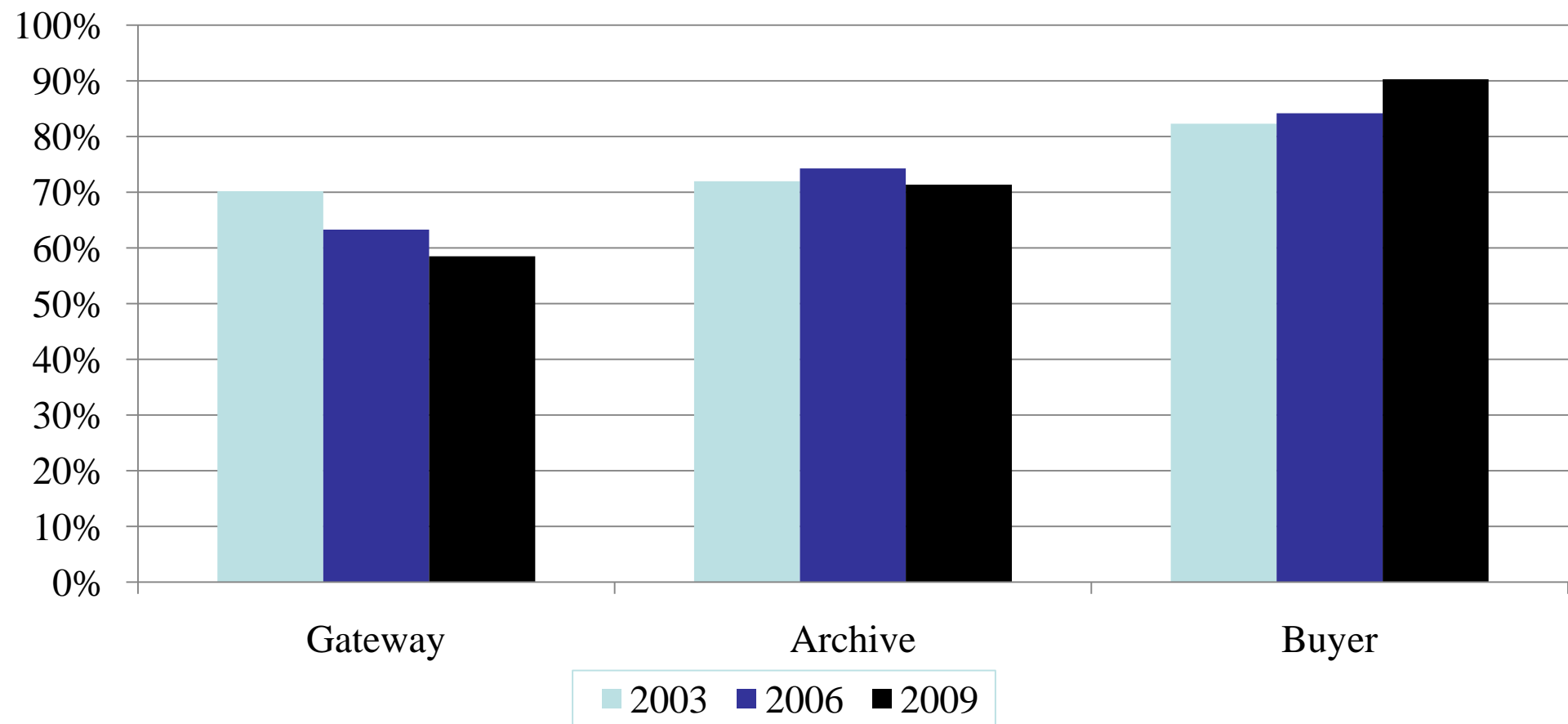


“How important is it to you that your college or university library provides each of the functions below?”

- » Gateway: “The library is a starting point or “gateway” for locating information for my research”
- » Archive: “The library is a repository of resources – in other words, it archives, preserves, and keeps track of resources”
- » Buyer: “The library pays for resources I need, from academic journals to books to electronic databases”

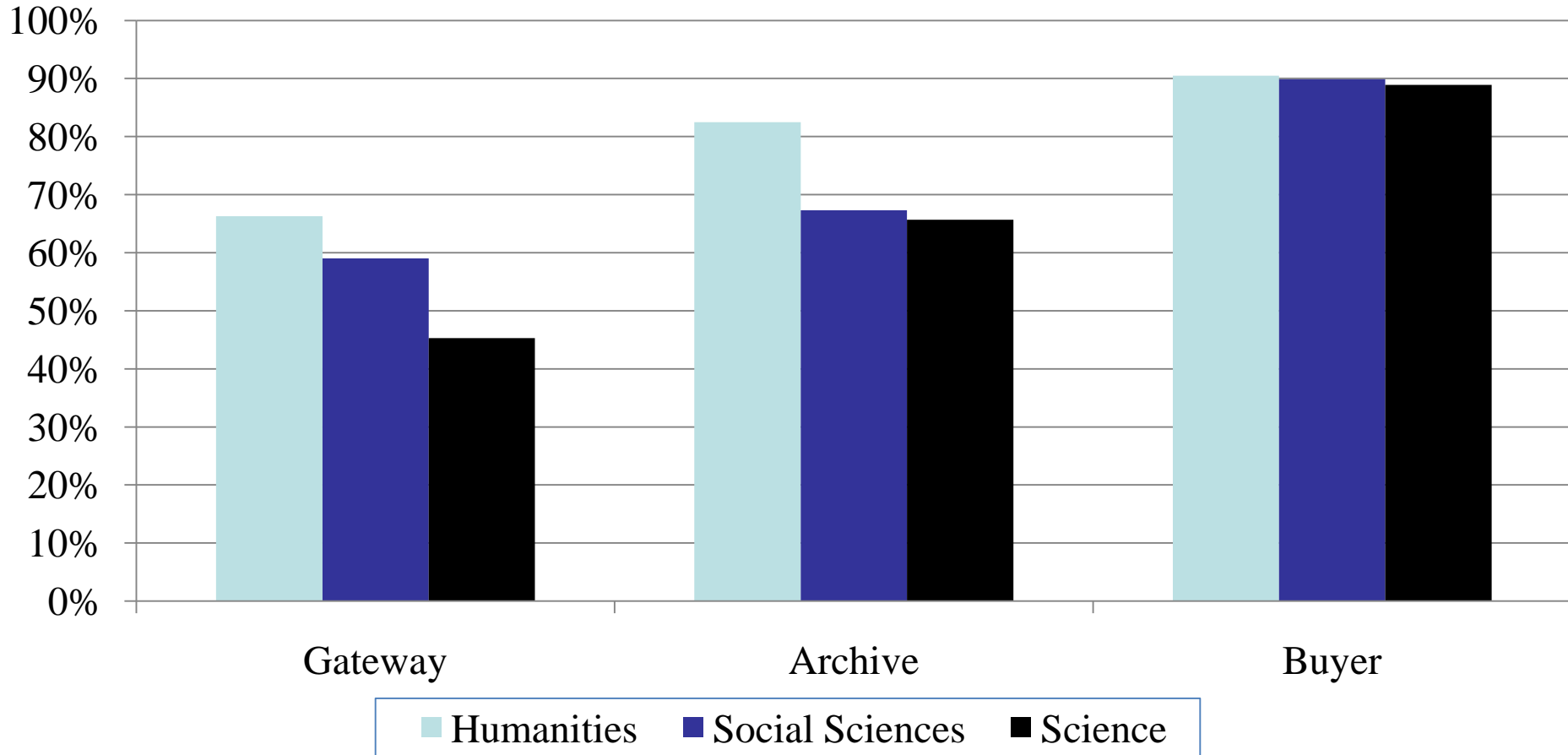
The buyer role is increasingly the most important...

Percent of faculty rating these roles of the library as very important, in 2003, 2006, and 2009



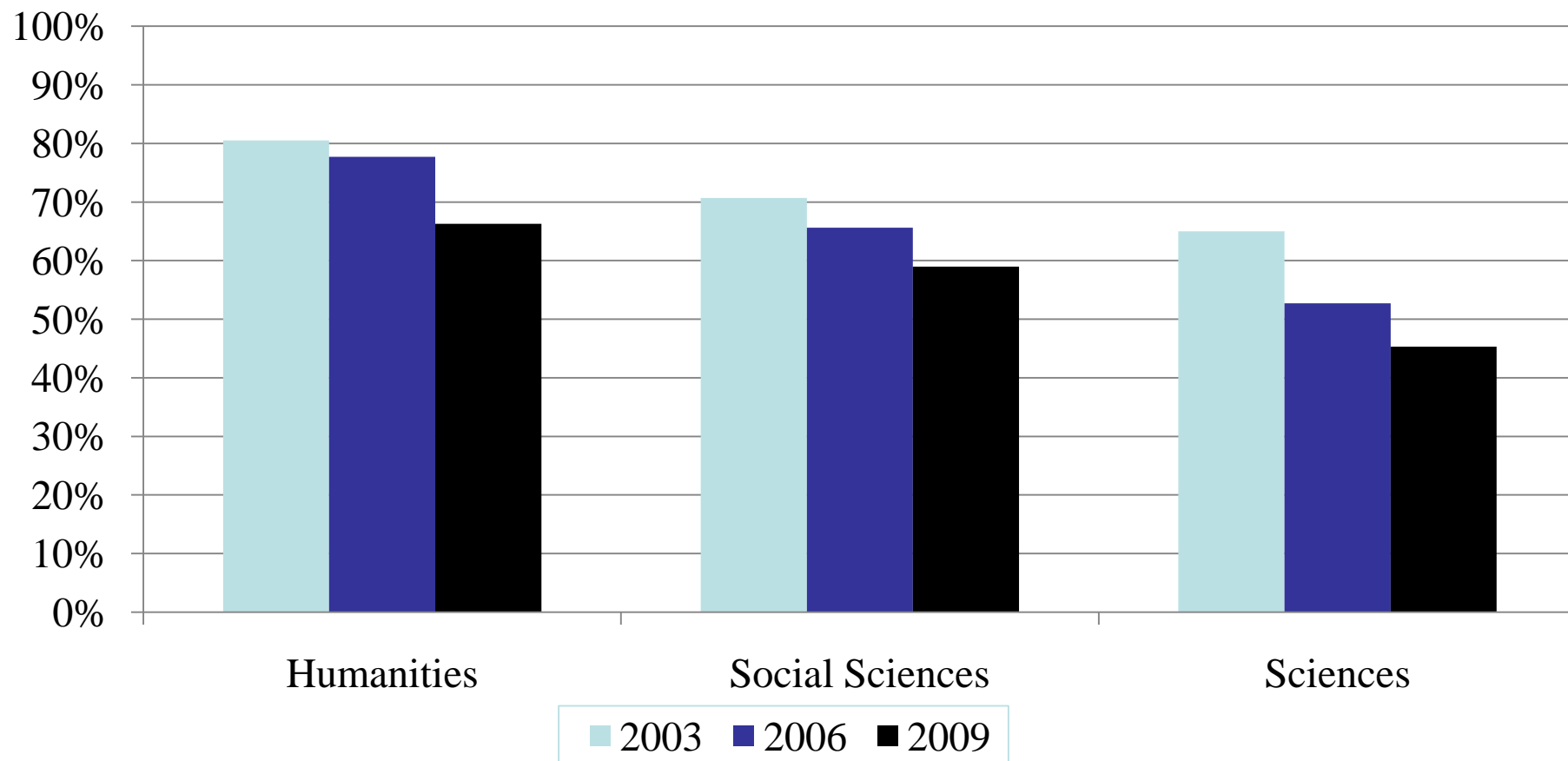
Humanists value functions more, but the buyer role dominates

Percent of faculty rating these roles of the library as very important, by disciplinary grouping



The trend for gateway appears consistent across fields

Percent of faculty rating the library's "gateway" role as very important, by disciplinary grouping, in 2003, 2006, and 2009



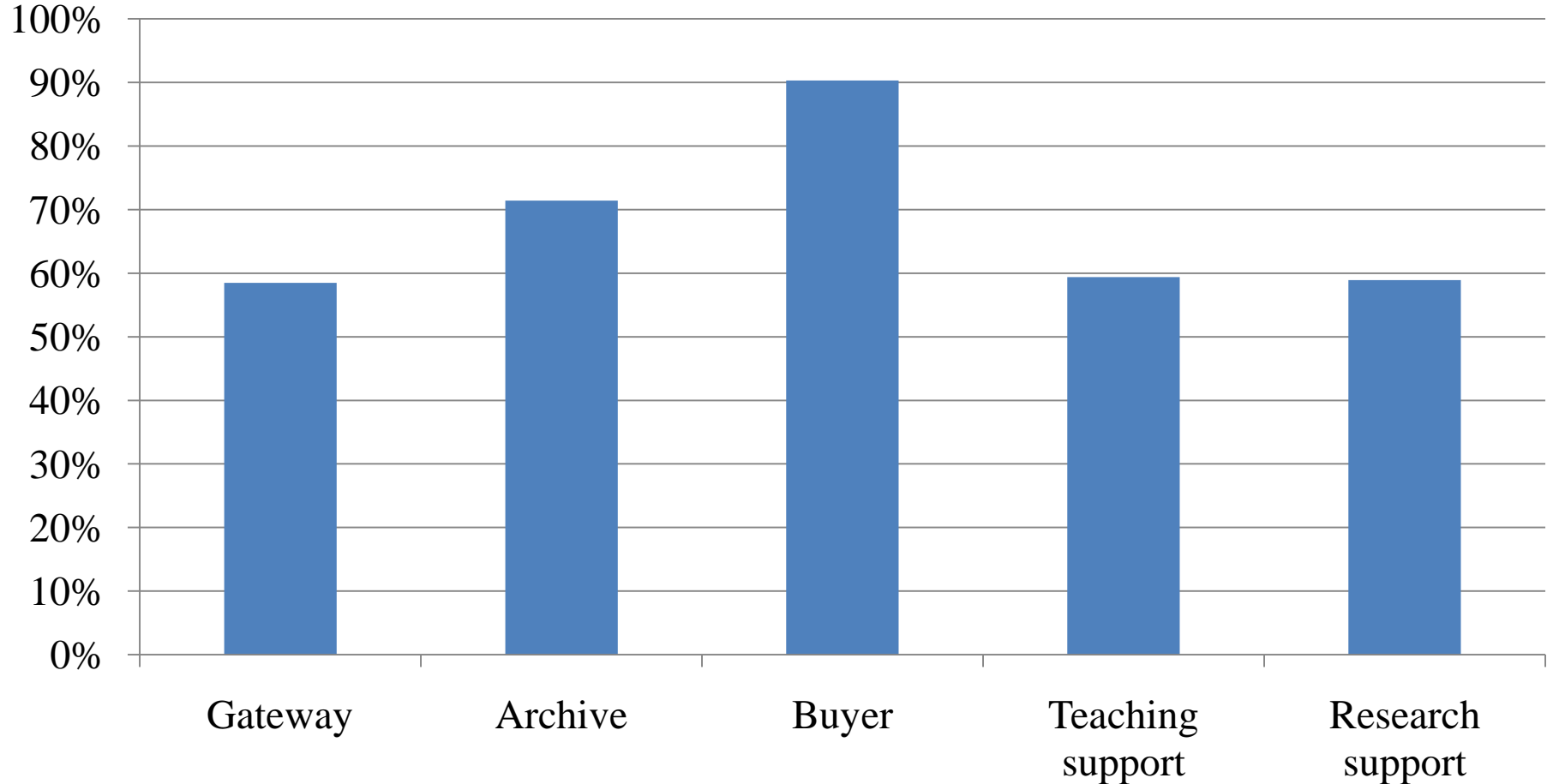
“How important is it to you that your college or university library provides each of the functions below?”

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- » Archive: “The library is a repository of resources – in other words, it archives, preserves, and keeps track of resources”
- » Buyer: “The library pays for resources I need, from academic journals to books to electronic databases”
- » Teaching support: “The library supports and facilitates my teaching activities”
- » Research support: “The library provides active support that helps to increase the productivity of my research and scholarship”



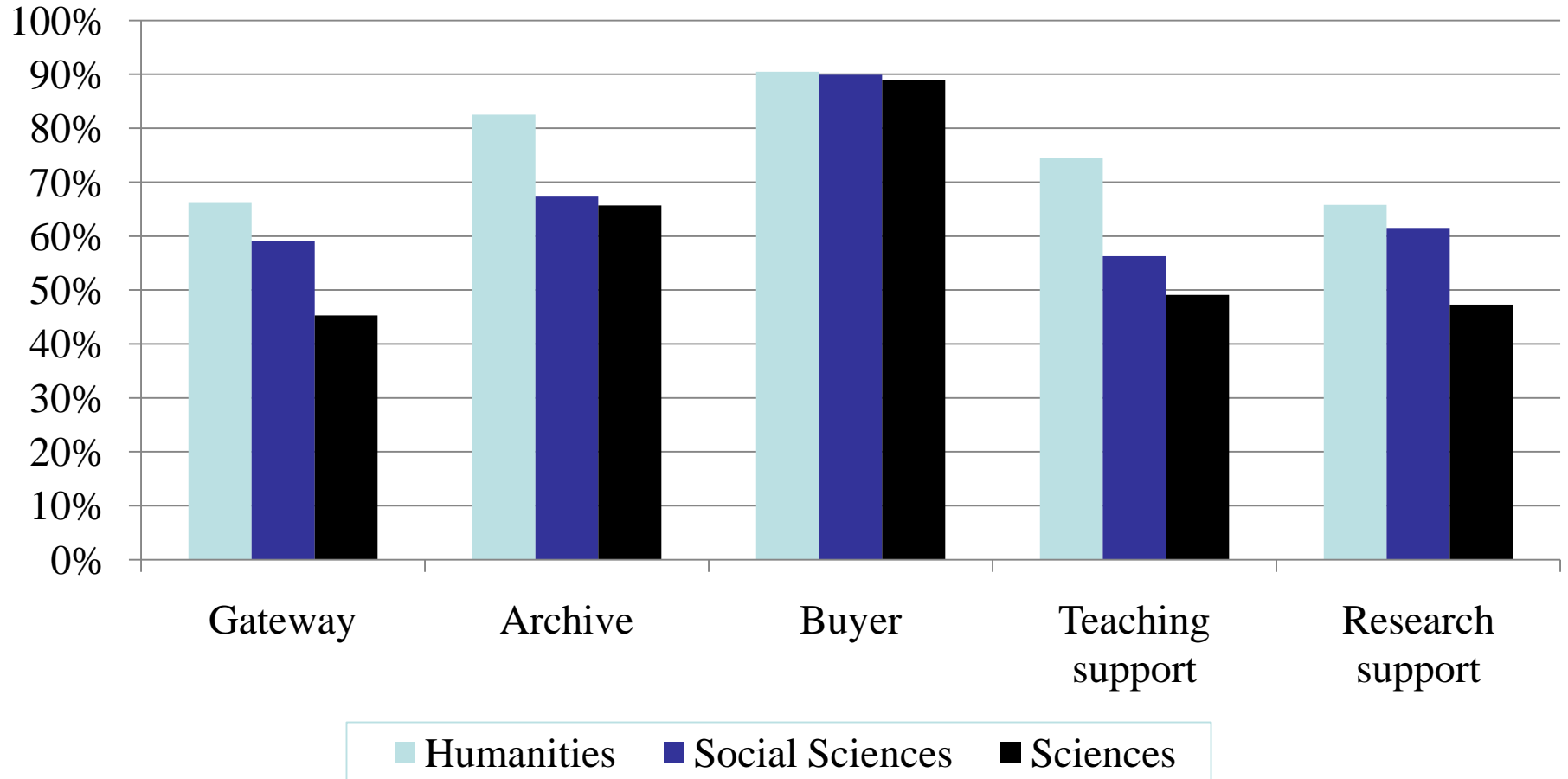
Teaching & research support roles do relatively well...

Percent of faculty rating these roles of the library as very important



But why is there such disciplinary variation for these roles?

Percent of faculty rating these roles of the library as very important, by disciplinary grouping



Increasing use of network-level resources for discovery

- » Not just journal-users, but book-users more gradually as well

The library's purchasing role is uniformly most highly valued

The perceived value of the library gateway role has declined

- » Not just journal-users, but book-users more gradually as well

Mixed valuation of the teaching and research support roles

- » Higher levels of perceived value in the humanities than in other fields

Ultimately, humanists seem to be on the same trajectory as scientists, though ultimate outcomes are unclear

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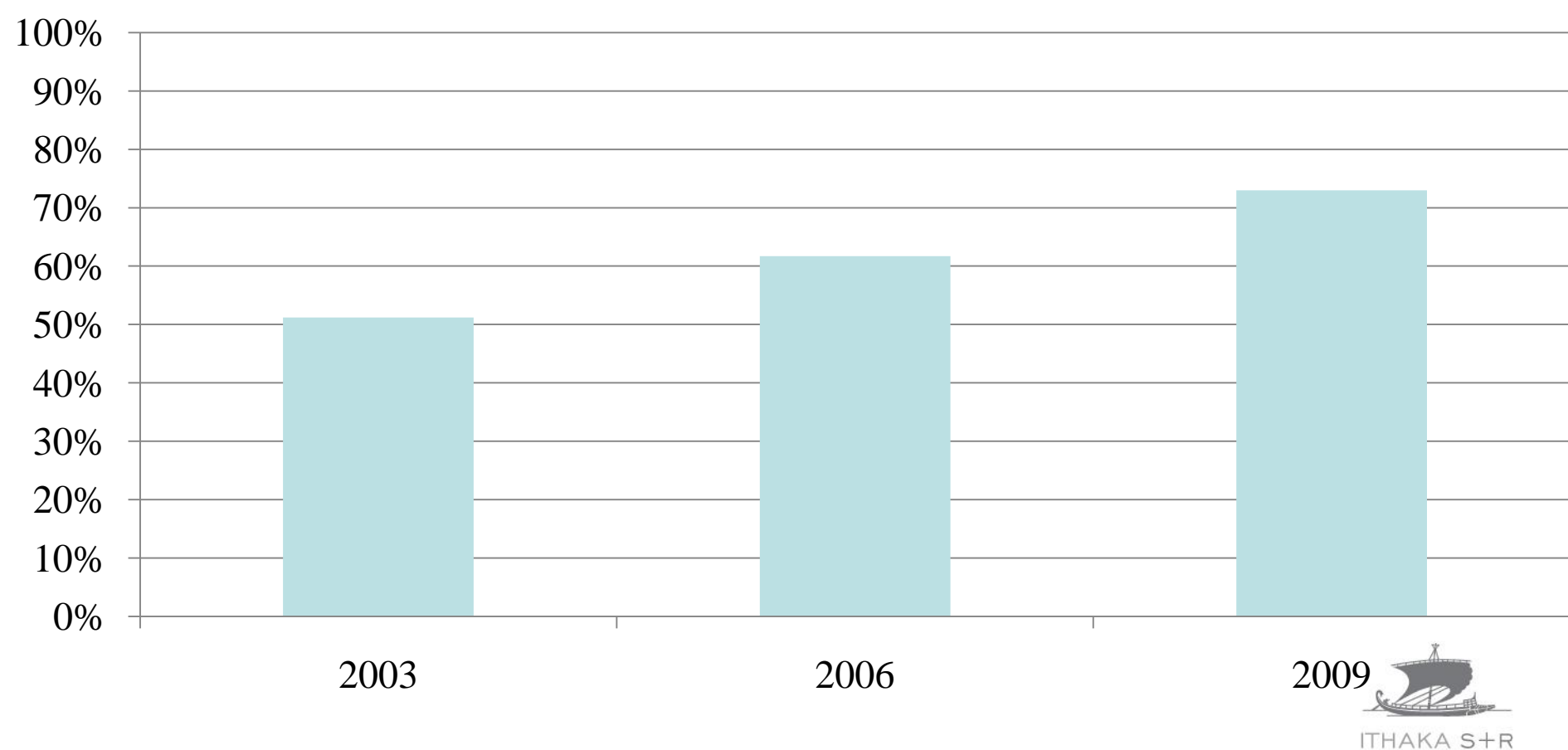
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Section 2: Shifting Format Preferences

Current issues of scholarly journals

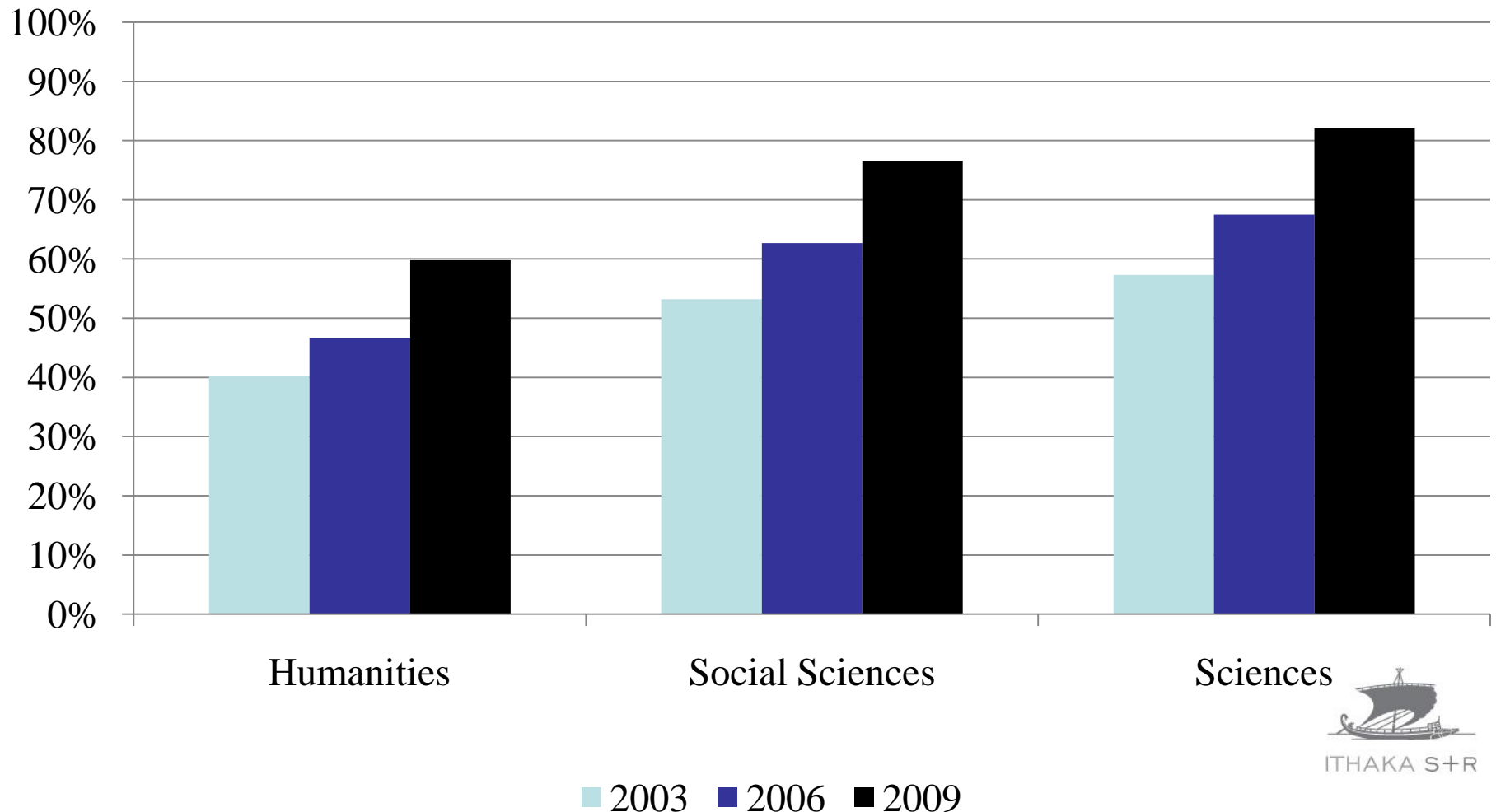
Support for cancelling print versions grows further

Strong agreement with statement:
“If my library cancelled the current issues of a print version of a journal but continued to make them available electronically, that would be fine with me.”



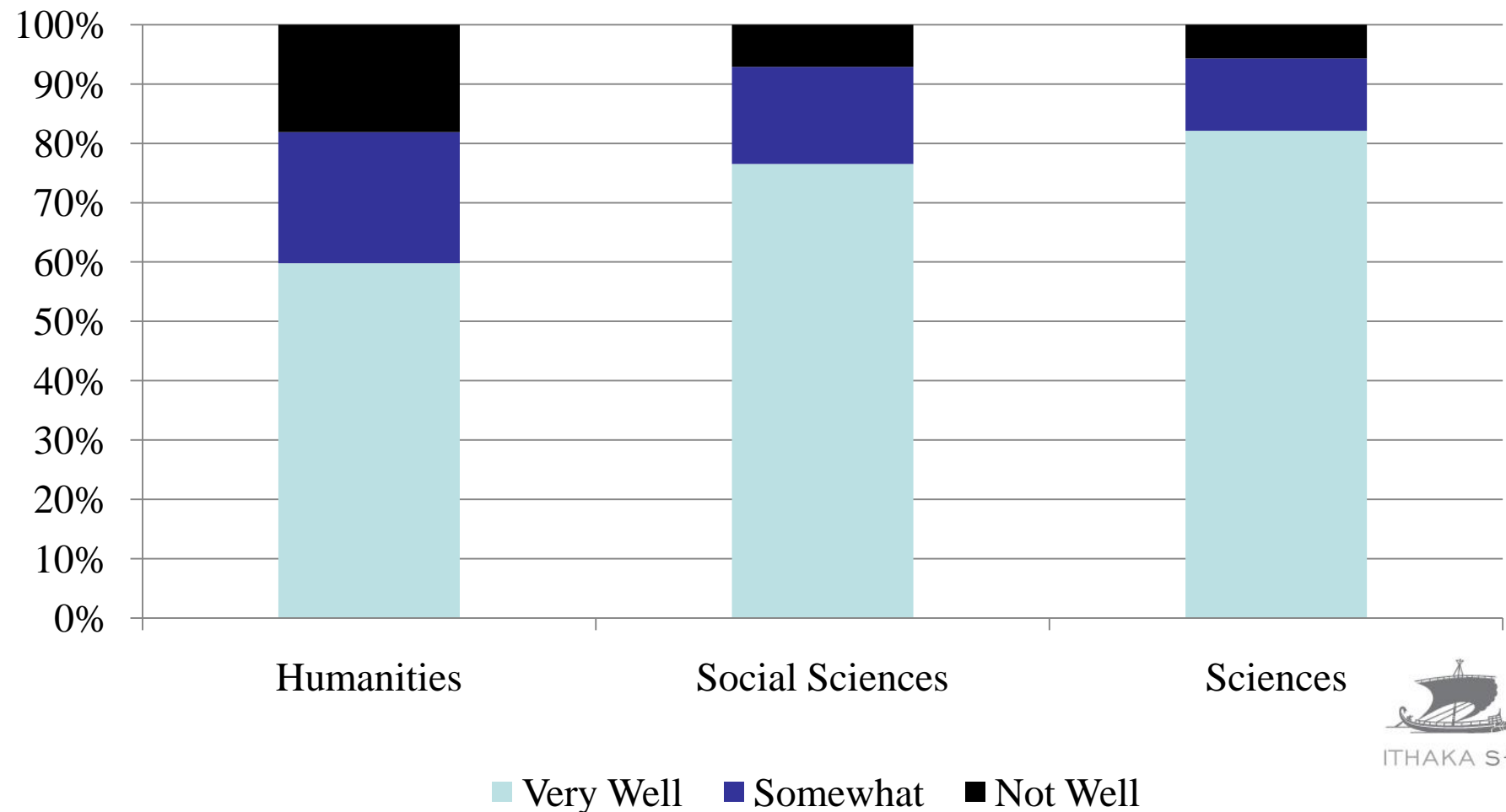
Support has grown across disciplines

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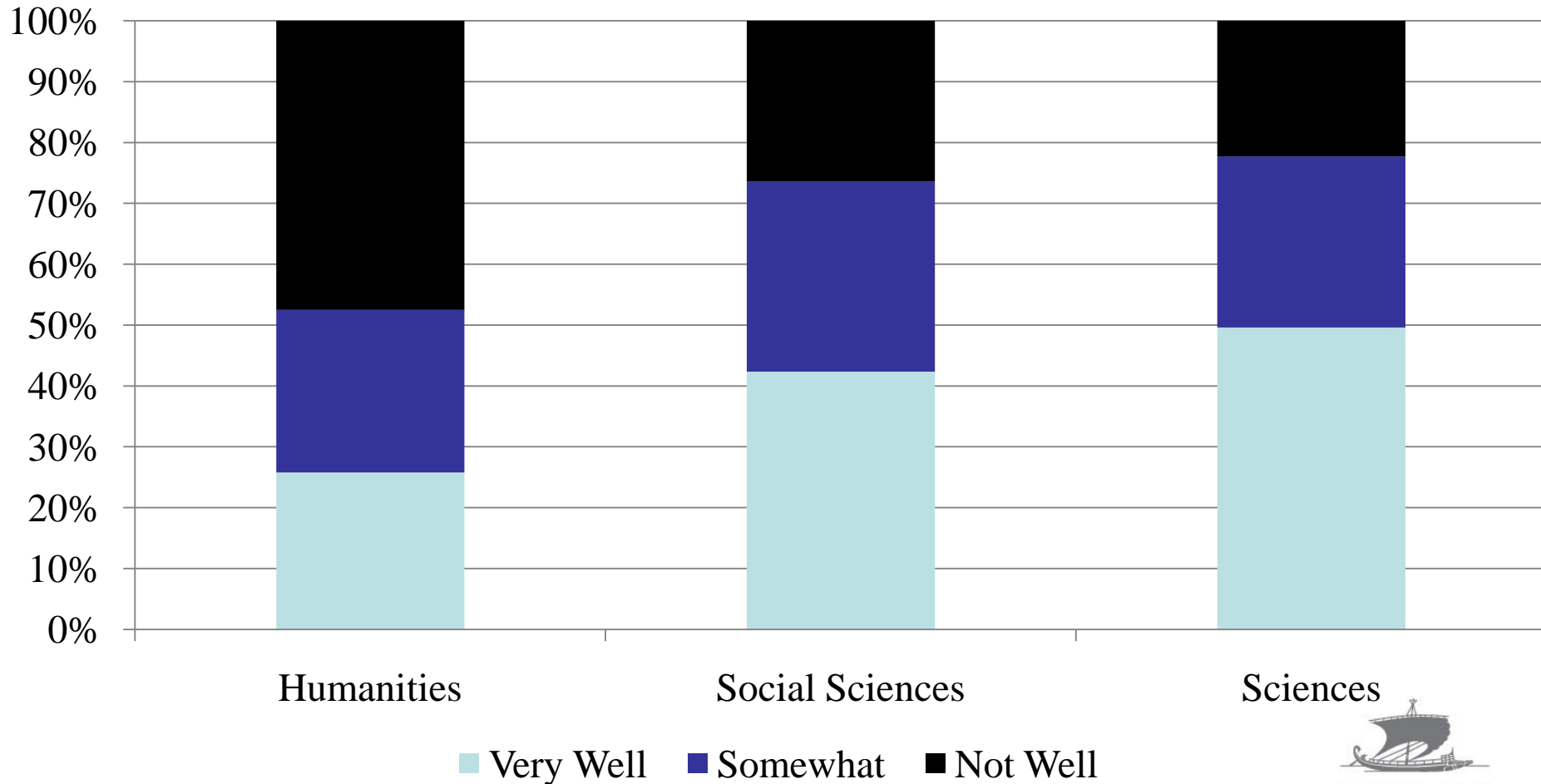
With only humanists holding any significant reservations

Extent to which respondents agree with the statement:
“If my library cancelled the current issues of a print version of a journal but continued to make them available electronically, that would be fine with me.”



But winding down print publishing is seen as a different issue

Extent to which respondents agree with the statement:
“I am completely comfortable with journals I use regularly ceasing print versions
and publishing in electronic-only form”

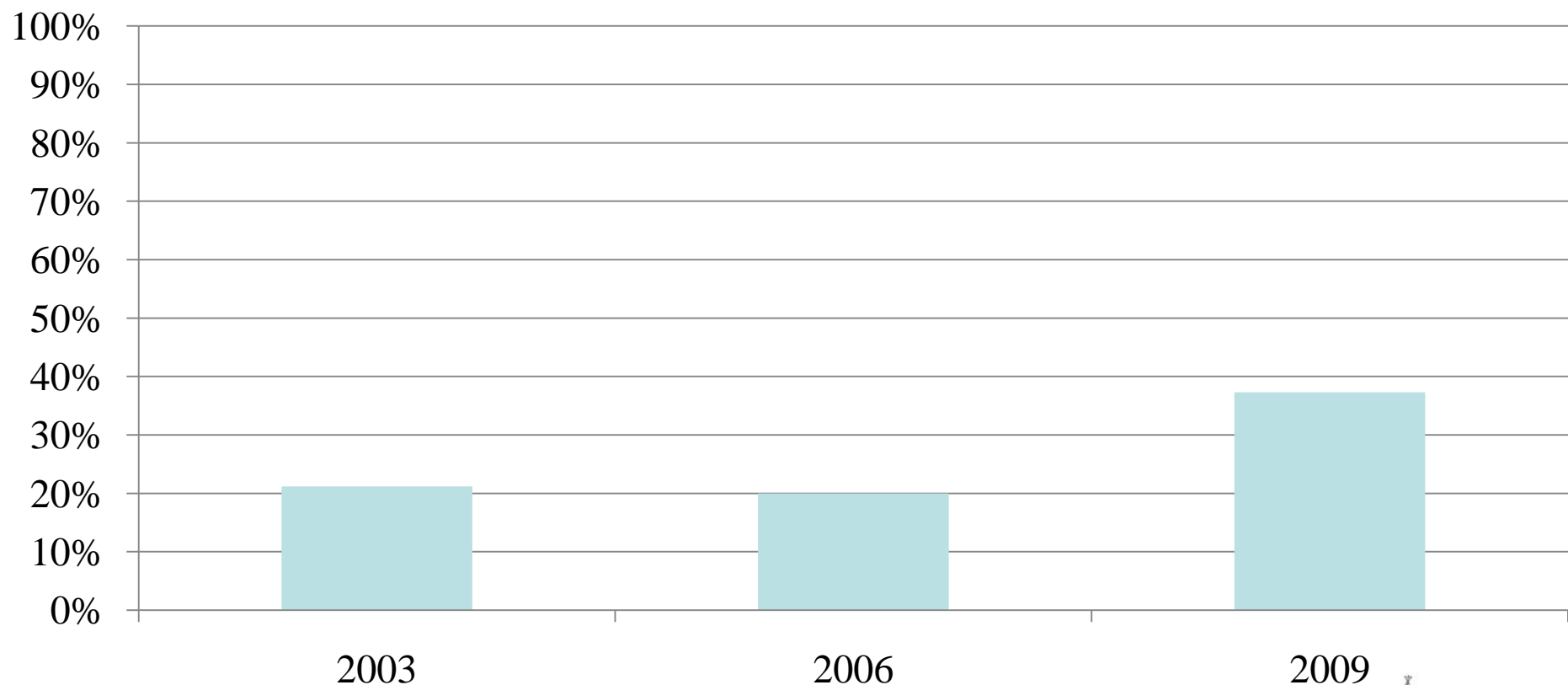


Scholarly Journal Backfiles

Attitudes on historical print collections are starting to shift

Strong agreement with the statement:

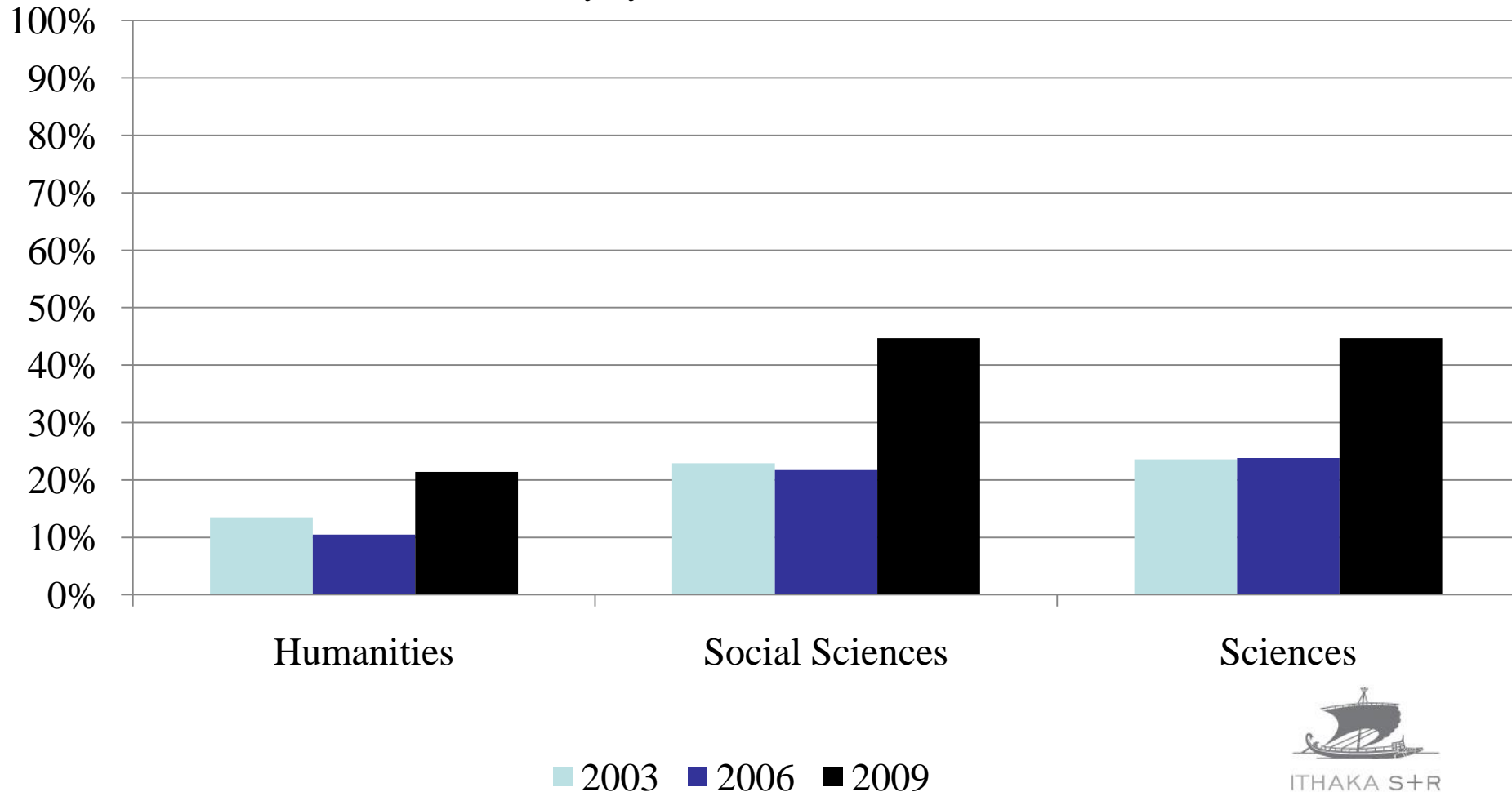
“Assuming that electronic collections of journals are proven to work well and are readily accessible, I would be happy to see hard-copy collections discarded and replaced entirely by electronic collections.”



Support for discarding print backfiles nearly doubles

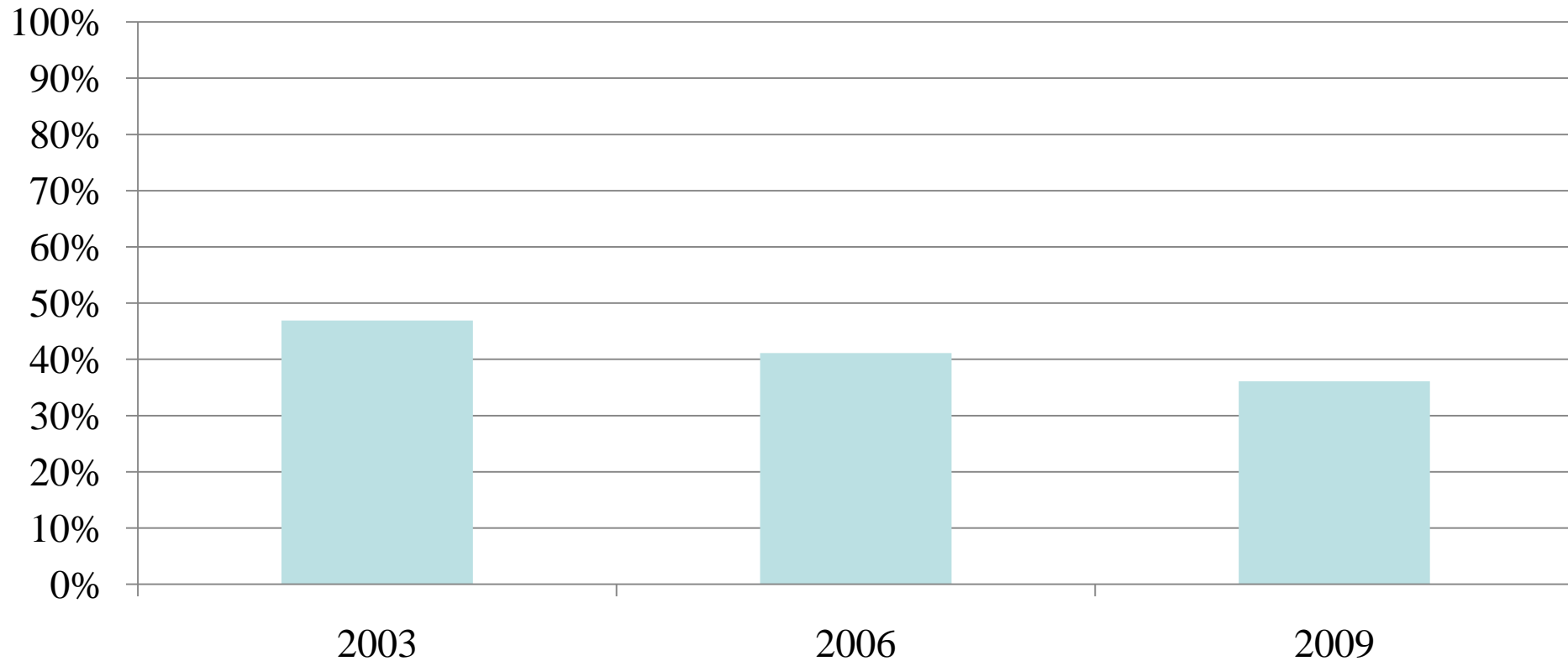
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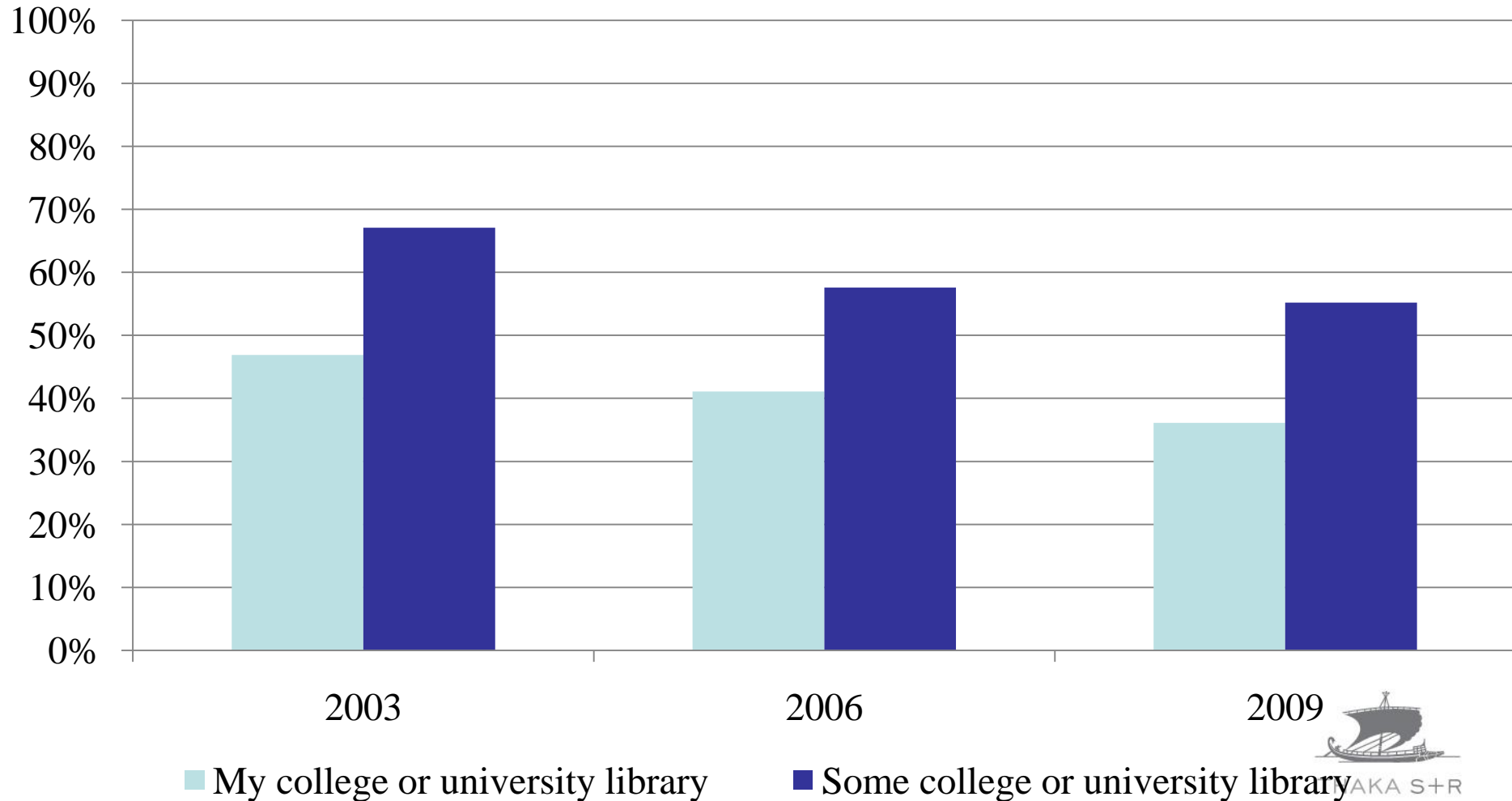
Declining interest in local print preservation

Strong agreement with the statements:
“Regardless of how reliable and safe electronic collections of journals are,
it will always be crucial for my college or university library to maintain
hard-copy collections of journals.”



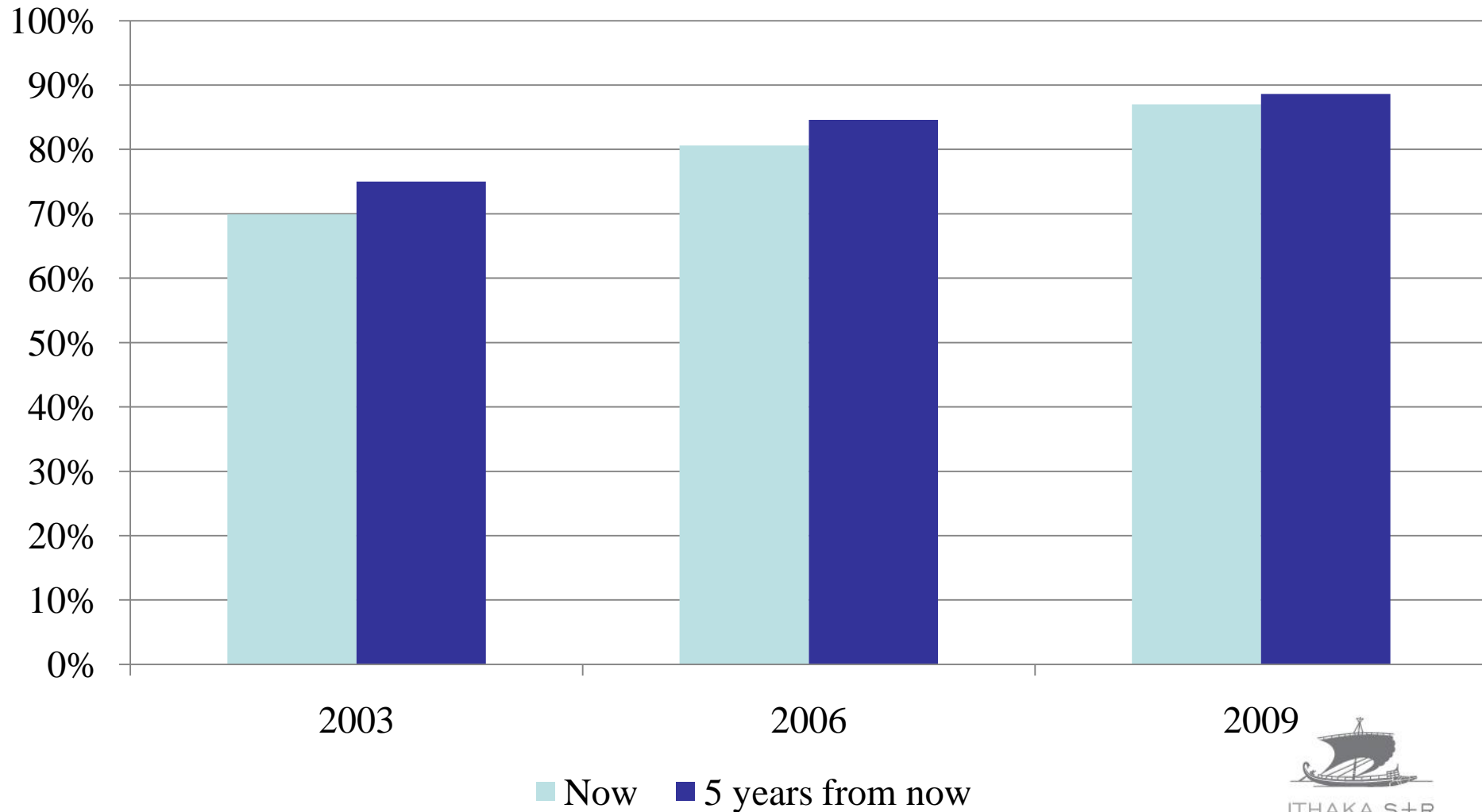
Declining interest in print preservation, both local and remote

Strong agreement with the statements:
“Regardless of how reliable and safe electronic collections of journals are, it will always be crucial for _____ to maintain hard-copy collections of journals.”



Preservation of e-journals is ubiquitously important

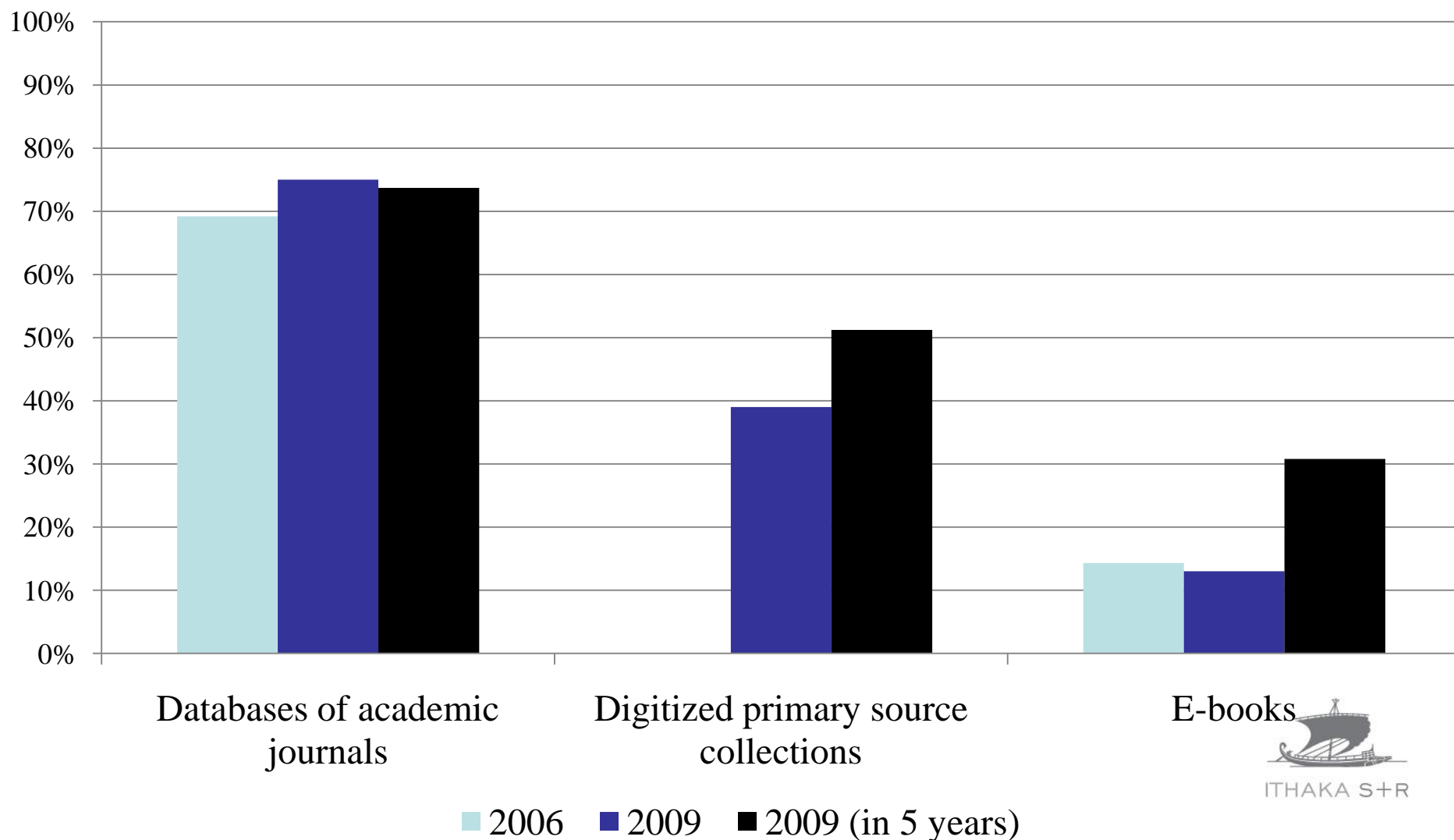
Percent answering very important in response to:
“How important is the long-term preservation of electronic journals to you?”



Other content types, including electronic books

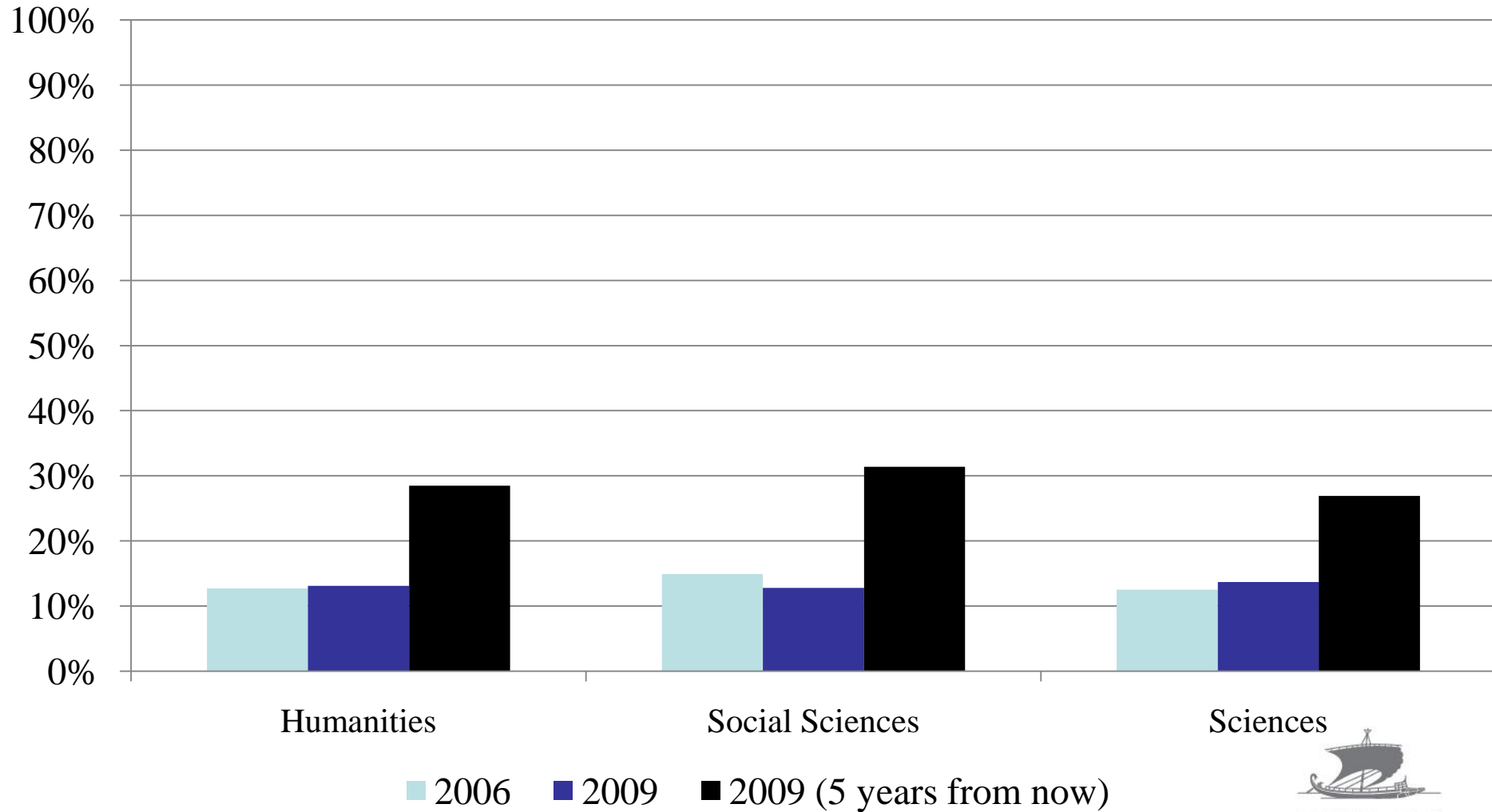
Relative perceived importance of digital content types

Percent of faculty indicating that each item is today (or will be in 5 years from now) very important to their research and teaching



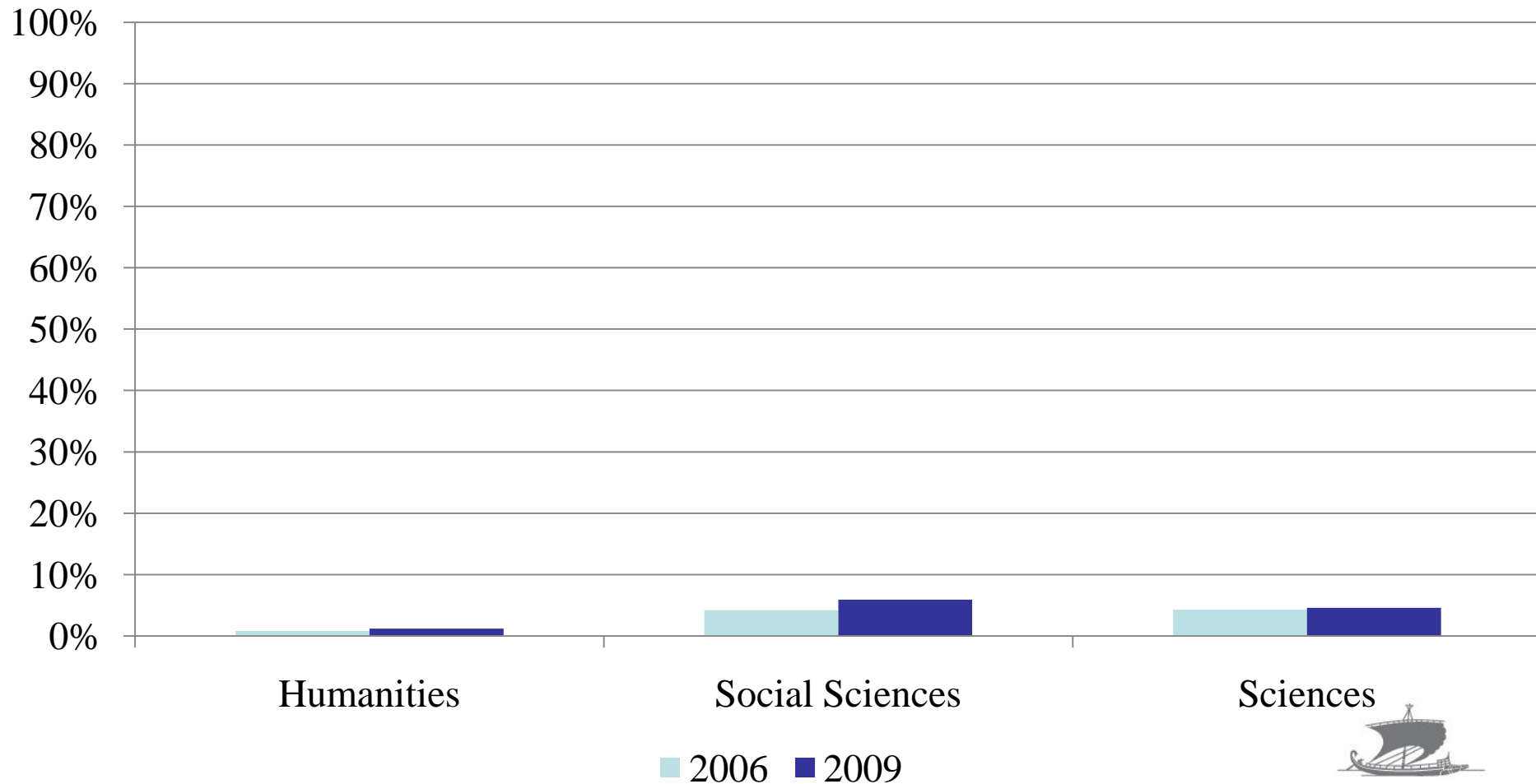
E-books held steady, but expected to grow in importance

Percent of faculty indicating that e-books are today (or will be in 5 years from now) very important to their research and teaching



But a p2e transition for books is not foreseen

Strong agreement with “Within the next five years, the use of e-books will be so prevalent among faculty and students that it will not be necessary to maintain library collections of hard-copy book.”



Respondents in all disciplinary groupings are comfortable with the replacement of print current issues with a digital version

- » Exceptions: fields such as art history and Asian Studies
- » Yet many journals, especially smaller, humanities, and overseas publications, are not yet available electronically, complicating library workflows

But faculty members have significantly less comfort seeing publication of print current issues cease entirely

- » Is this divergence functional, reputational, or sentimental?
- » Should libraries and publishers work to reduce print publishing?

Valuation of print journal collections is in steady decline

- » A strong subset of science and social science faculty members is *enthusiastic* about deaccessioning digitized backfiles
- » How can the library find efficient and sustainable models to ensure the preservation of print artifacts?

Divergence of faculty support for print and digital preservation

- » Can libraries build trust and support among faculty through a longer-term vision for the preservation of valuable content?

Collection management is moving to the network level

- » Can we refocus the conversation on collective research infrastructure?
- » How will programmatic preservation evolve?

Findings and Discussion: E-books

The perceived importance of e-books has not grown

Many respondents expect e-books to grow in importance over five years

Still, faculty members do not believe that e-books are likely to replace print books.

Are e-books likely to replace or supplement print?

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Thank you-

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