

University Library System



Swanson School of Engineering Student Surveys 2014 Library Questions

Report prepared by
Strategic Assessment Unit, ULS
April 2015

In 2014, ULS has moved away from SAILS information literacy testing of Pitt undergraduate students at Swanson School of Engineering. Instead, we got a permission to embed “library service-related” questions into local surveys developed by SSOE and administered at the end of every term to various engineering student cohorts. The questions were developed by ULS and were designed to seek information about students’ experiences with ULS library services and their levels of information literacy skills.

This report provides descriptive analysis of the survey results for the following cohorts:

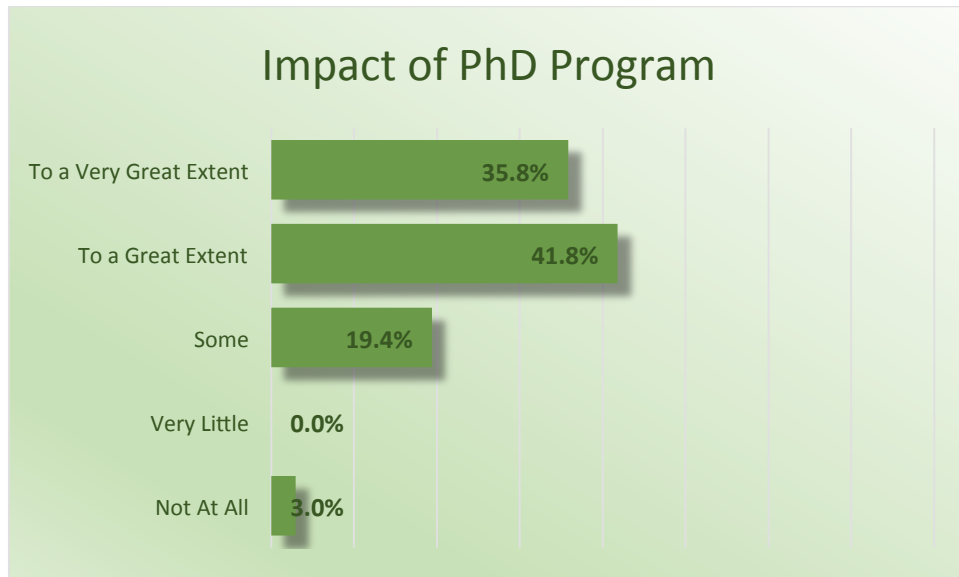
- Spring 2014, all undergraduate and graduate students
- Summer 2014, seniors and graduate students
- Fall 2015, seniors and graduate students

All the surveys administered to senior and graduate students are exit surveys.

The first part of the report looks at the overall data for the entire calendar year of 2014, aggregating the results for all the students who were asked the same questions. The rest of the report looks at each individual cohort.

Impact of PhD Program, N = 42

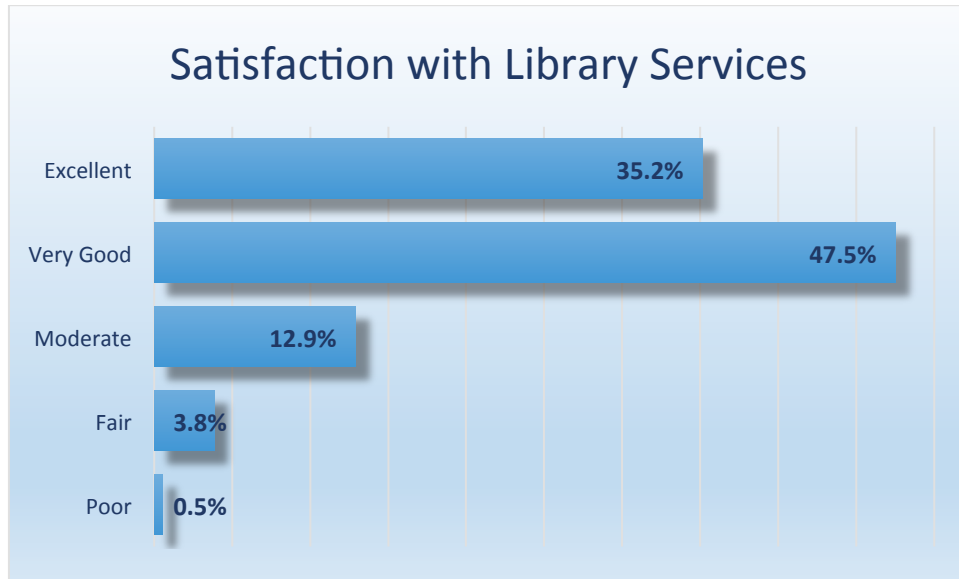
Survey Question: Please rate the degree to which your ability or background was positively impacted in the following area as a result of your PhD program: The ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for your dissertation.



The chart shows the extent to which doctoral students considered that the PhD program impacted their ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for their dissertation. During the calendar year of 2014, 77.6% of the students considered that the program impacted their ability to a great and very great extent.

Satisfaction with Library Services among Seniors, N = 408

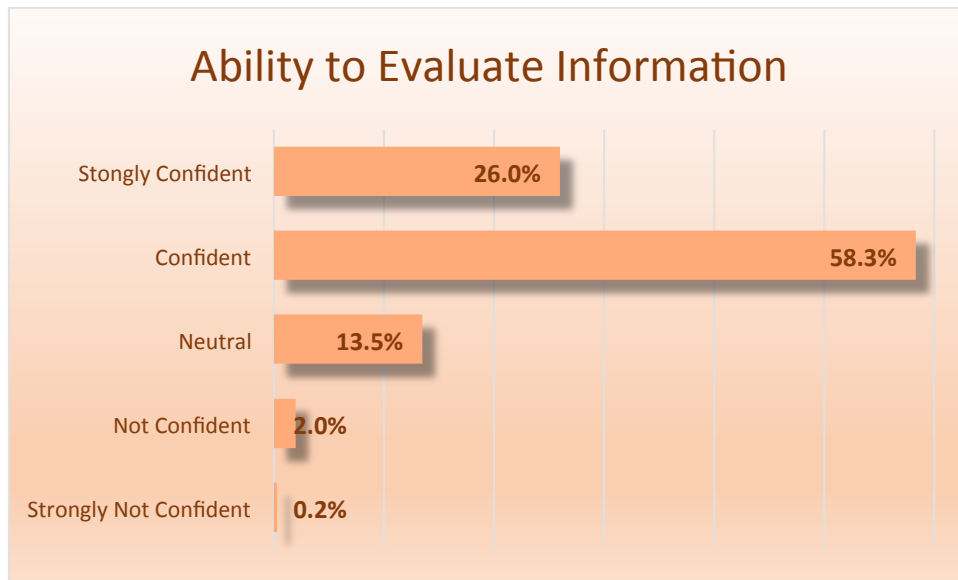
Survey Question: *Based on your experiences at Pitt, how would you rate the following? Library services.*



The chart shows the level of satisfaction with library services among senior students. During the calendar year of 2014, 82.7% of the students considered that library services were very good and excellent.

Ability to Evaluate Information among Seniors, N =408

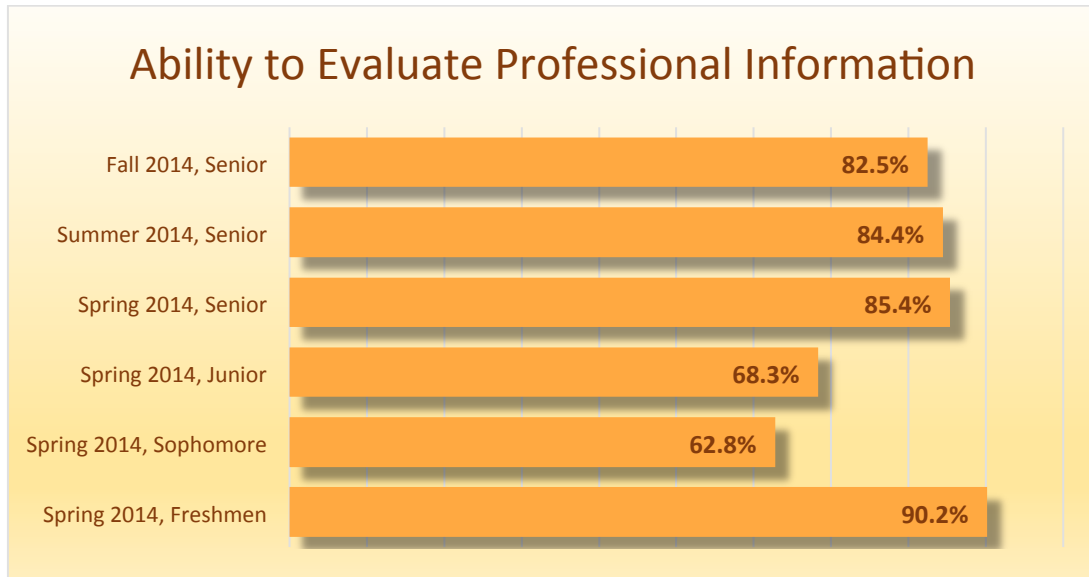
Survey Question: *Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in the following area: Ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.*



The chart show seniors' level of confidence in their ability to evaluate professional information to solve engineering problems. During the calendar year of 2014, 84.3% of the students felt confident and strongly confident in their ability.

Ability to Evaluate Professional Information across Cohorts

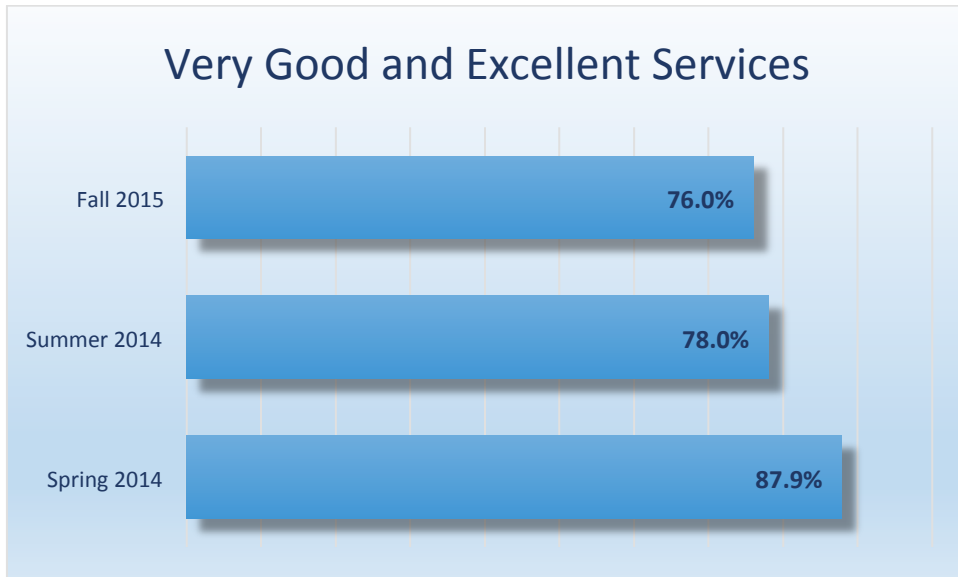
Survey Question: *Ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.*



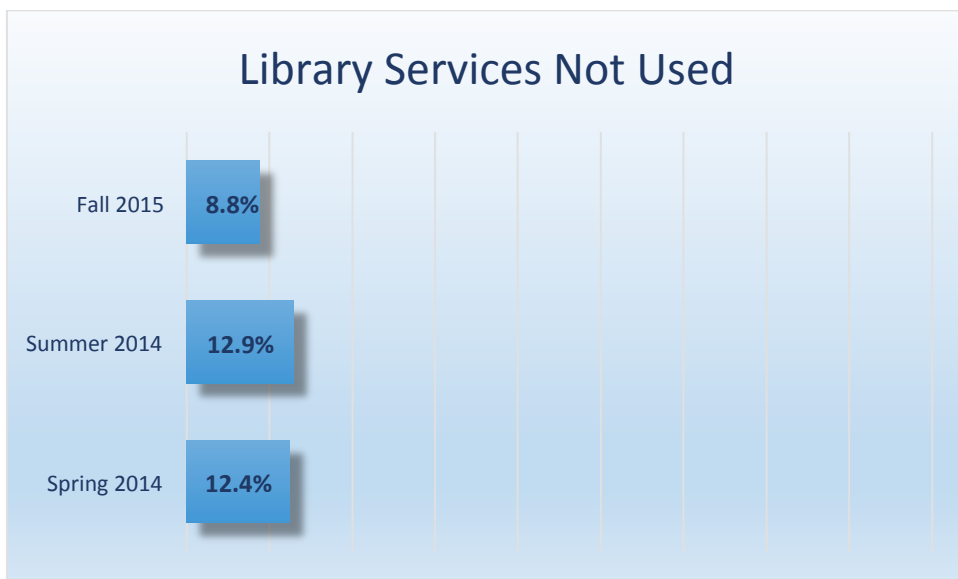
The chart shows the aggregate percentages of students who agreed and strongly agreed with a positive statement about their ability to evaluate professional information related to engineering problems or research papers. The statement was differently phrased in a couple of in the freshmen survey but we can presume that the item measured the same ability.

Satisfaction with Library Services among Seniors, N =408

Survey Question: *Based on your experiences at Pitt, how would you rate the following? Library services.*

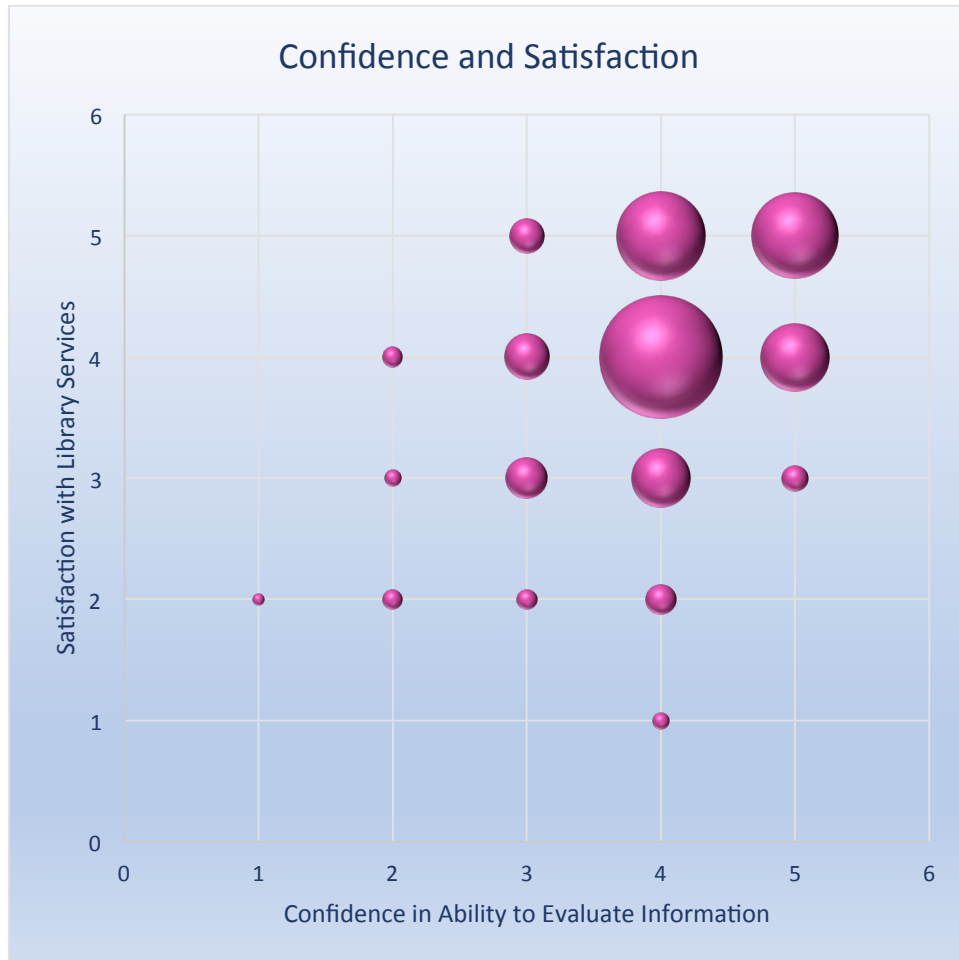


The chart shows the aggregate percentages of senior students who found the library services very good and excellent. A small percentage of seniors did not use any library services and their percentages are represented bellow.



Confidence and Satisfaction among Seniors, N =408

The following analysis looks at the relationship between the level of 'confidence in the ability to find information' and the level of 'satisfaction with library services' among senior students.



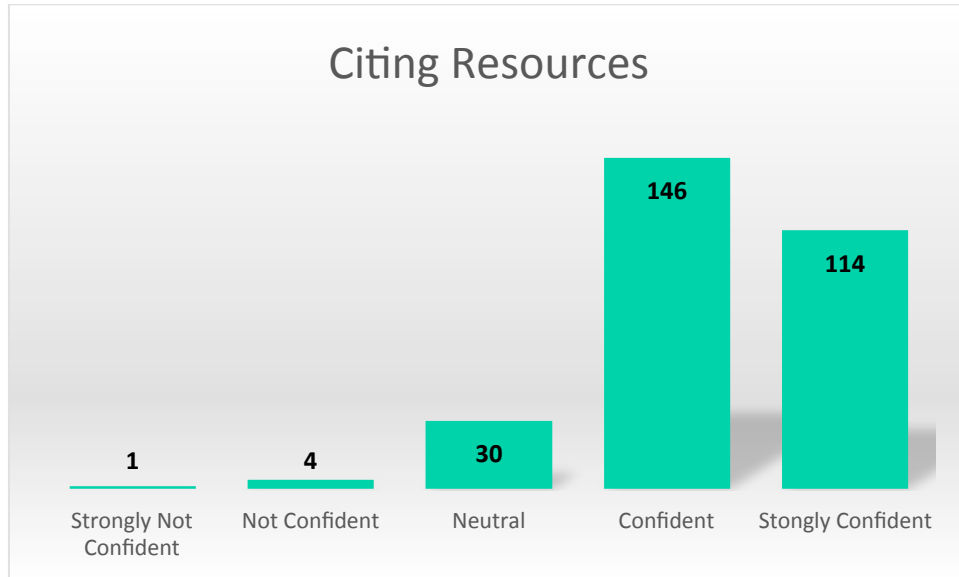
Confidence scale ratings: 1 = strongly not confident; ... 5 = strongly confident.

Satisfaction scale ratings: 1 = poor; ... 5 = excellent.

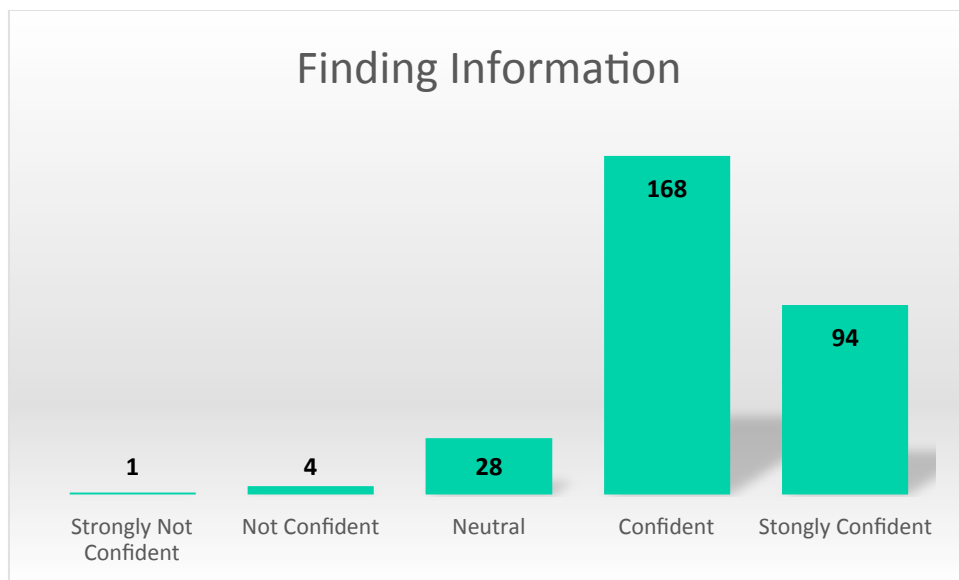
Three different dimensions have been represented in this chart: confidence, on the horizontal axis; satisfaction, on the vertical axis; and number of responses for each combination of ratings, depicted as the size of the bubble.

Visual inspection of the chart reveals the existence of a positive relationship between confidence and satisfaction. The more confident a senior student is, the more satisfied he or she tends to be. Statistical analysis shows that, indeed, there is a significant, positive correlation between the two variables. (Spearman's rho = .36, $p < .01$)

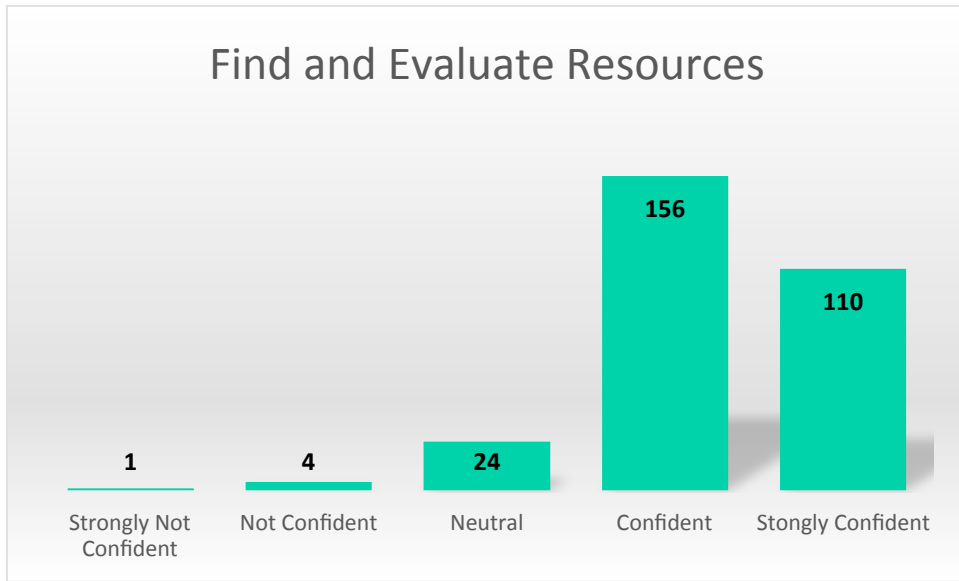
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in each of the following areas: Understanding how to acknowledge and cite sources of information I use in solving engineering problems.



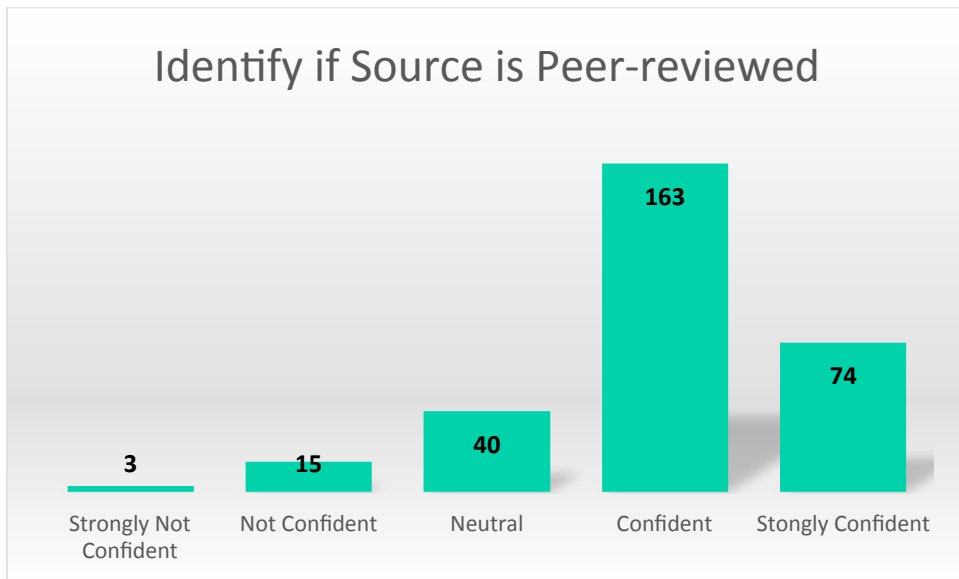
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in each of the following areas: Understanding how to find appropriate information to solve an engineering problem.



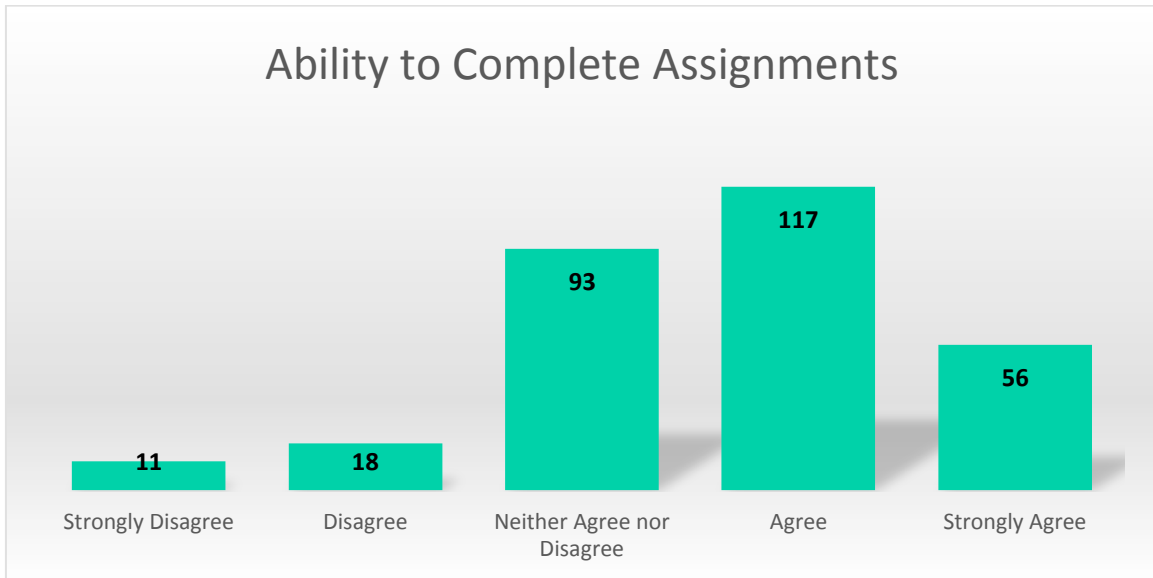
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in each of the following areas: Ability to find and evaluate resources that support my engineering research paper.



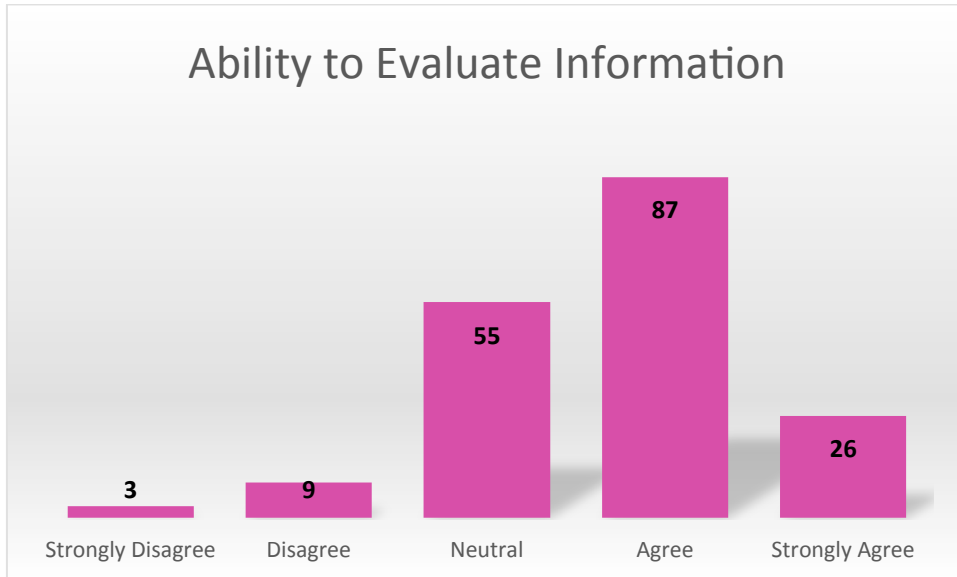
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in each of the following areas: Ability to identify when a particular article is from a peer-reviewed source.



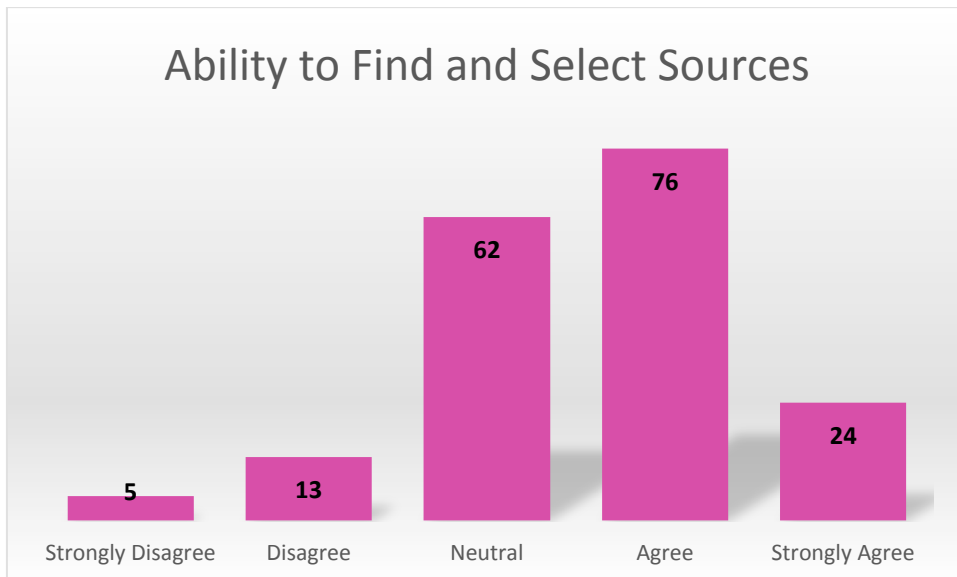
Survey Question: *The presence of library services (e.g., teaching and advice) improved my ability to complete my writing assignments.*



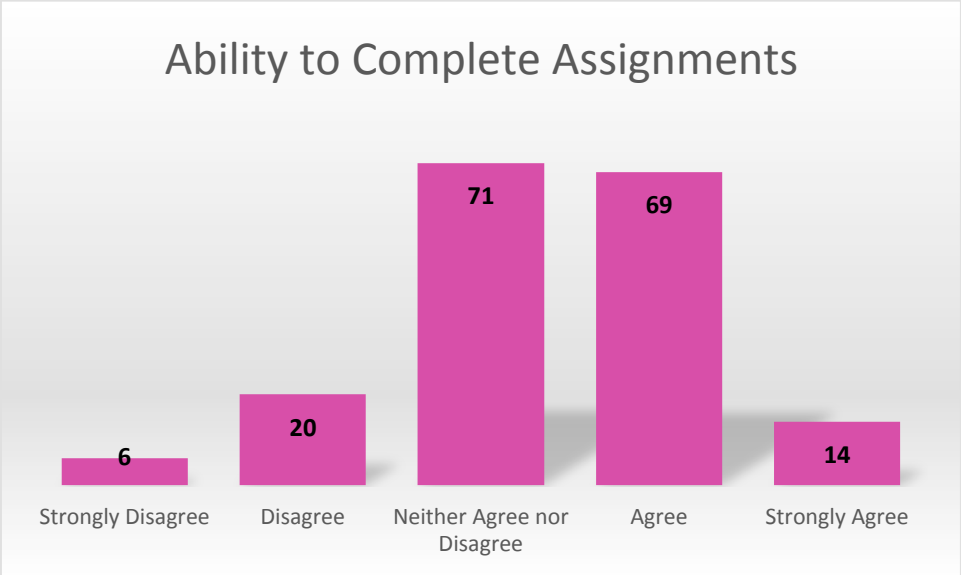
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following: As a result of my freshman year, I was prepared for my sophomore year in terms of my ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.



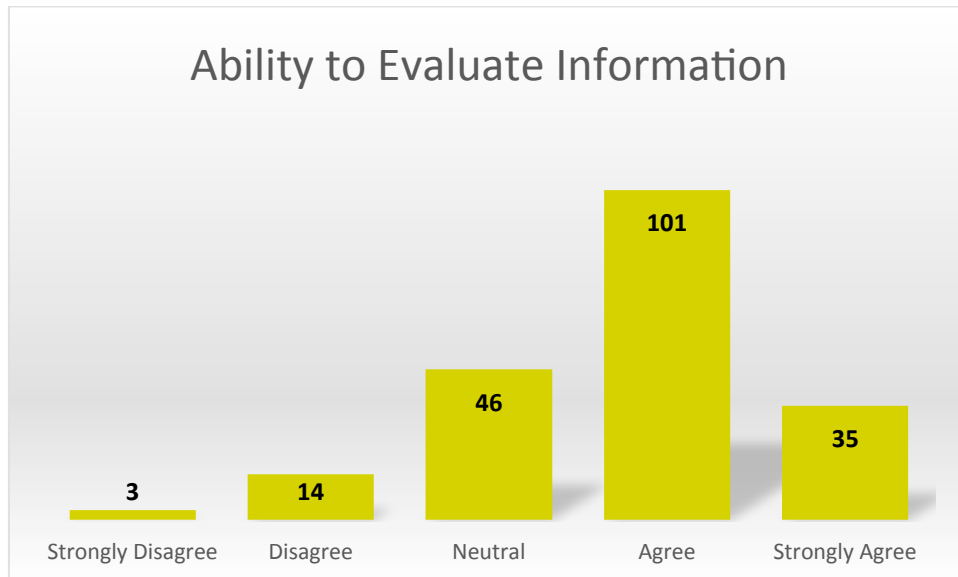
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following: After participating in the freshman conference, I am more confident in my ability to locate information sources and select appropriate sources for my needs.



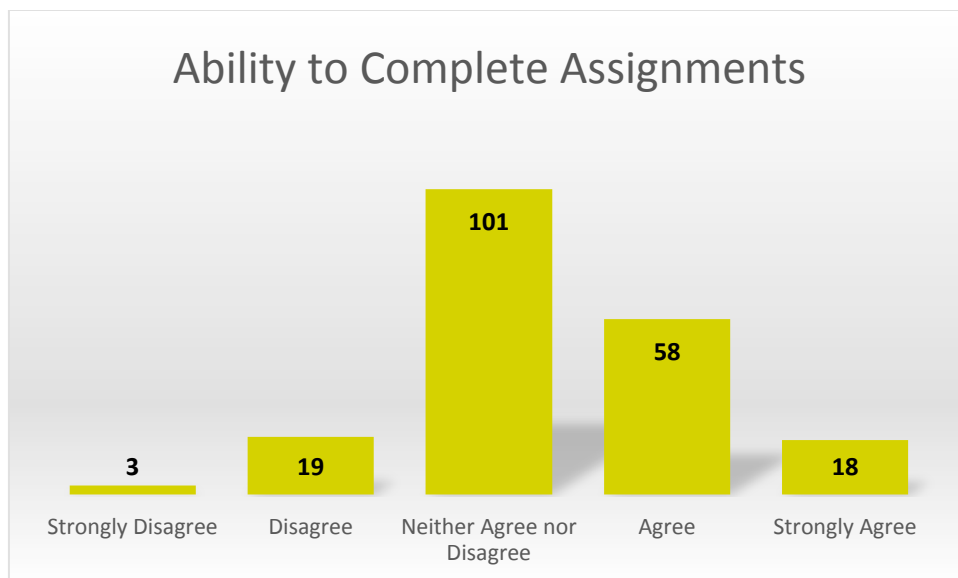
Survey Question: *The presence of library services (e.g., teaching and advice) improved my ability to complete my writing assignments.*



Survey Question: *Please indicate your level of agreement with the following: As a result of my sophomore year, I was prepared for my junior year in terms of my ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.*

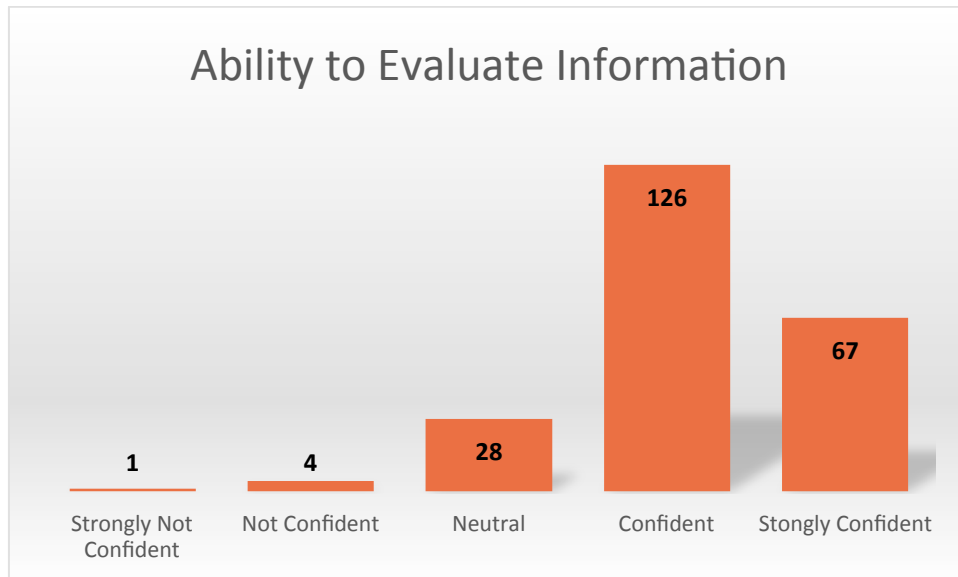


Survey Question: *The presence of library services (e.g., teaching and advice) improved my ability to complete my writing assignments.*

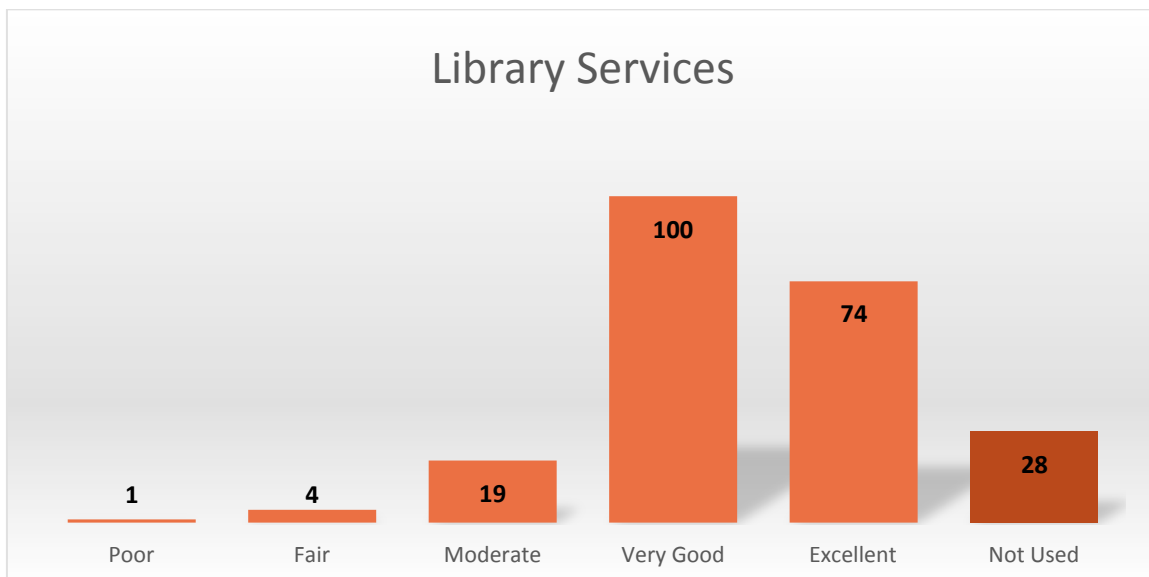


Spring 2014 – Senior Students, N = 226

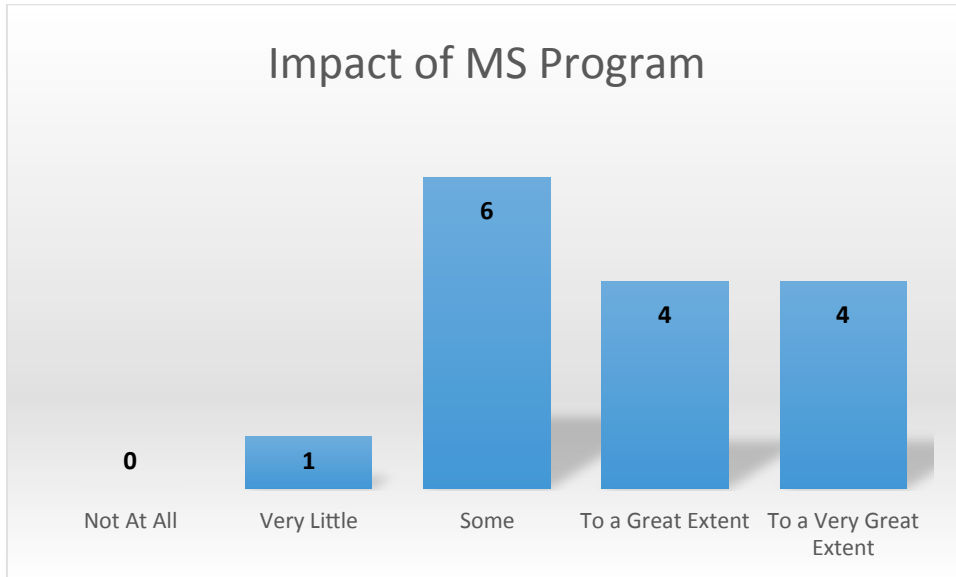
Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in the following area: Ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.



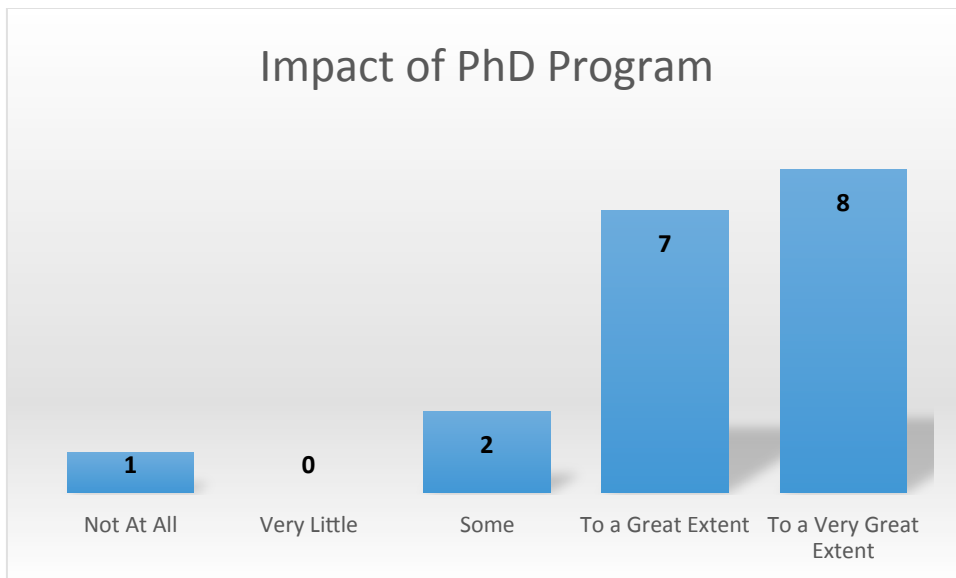
Survey Question: Based on your experiences at Pitt, how would you rate the following? Library services.



Survey Question: Please rate the degree to which your ability or background was positively impacted in the following area as a result of your Thesis MS program. The ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for your thesis.

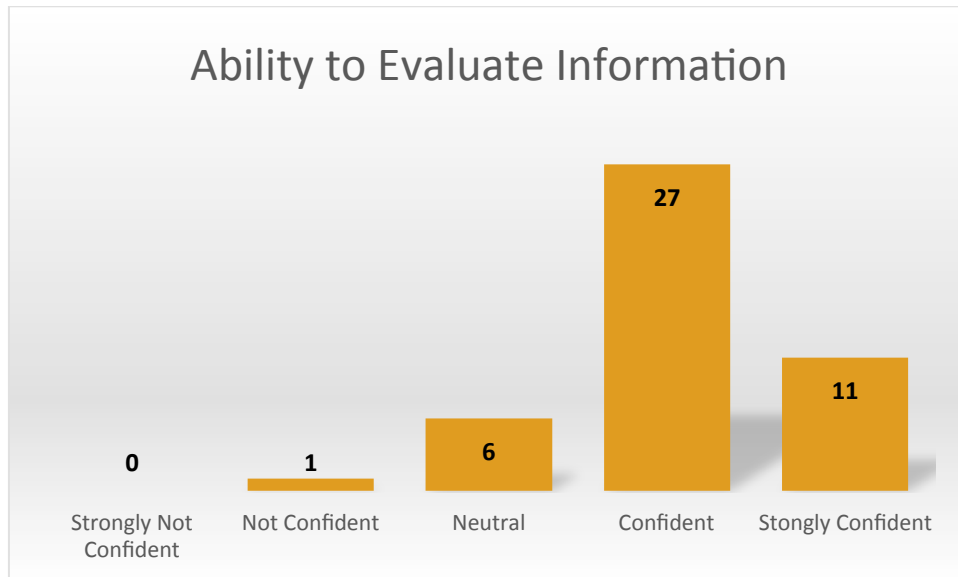


Survey Question: Please rate the degree to which your ability or background was positively impacted in the following area as a result of your PhD program: The ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for your dissertation.

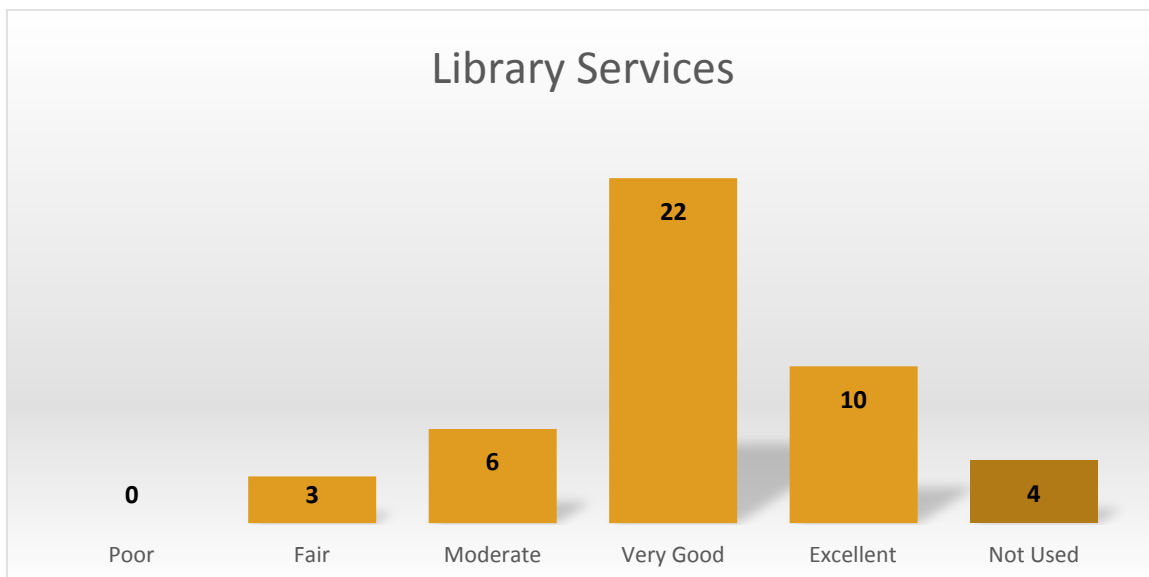


Summer 2014 – Senior Students, N = 45

Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in the following area: Ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.

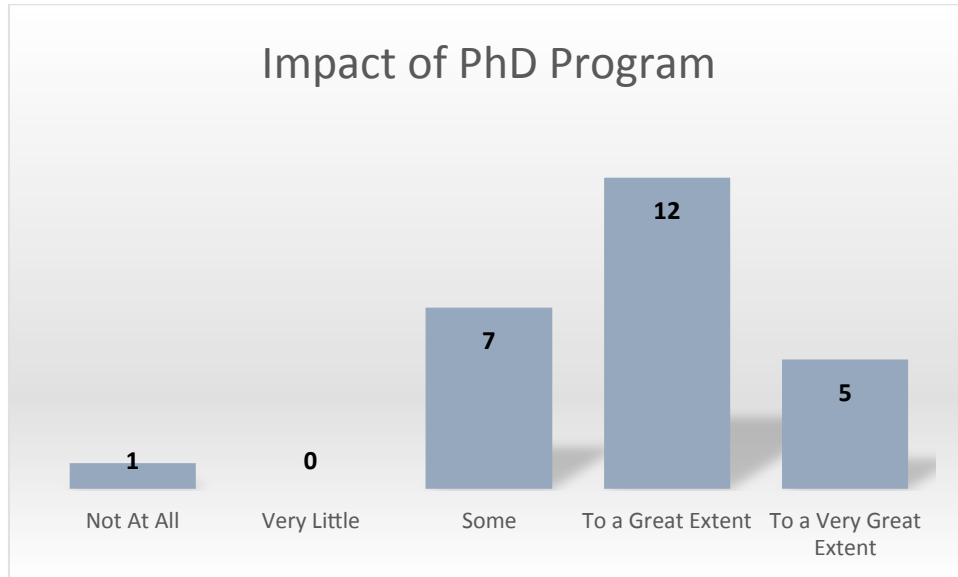


Survey Question: Based on your experiences at Pitt, how would you rate the following? Library services.

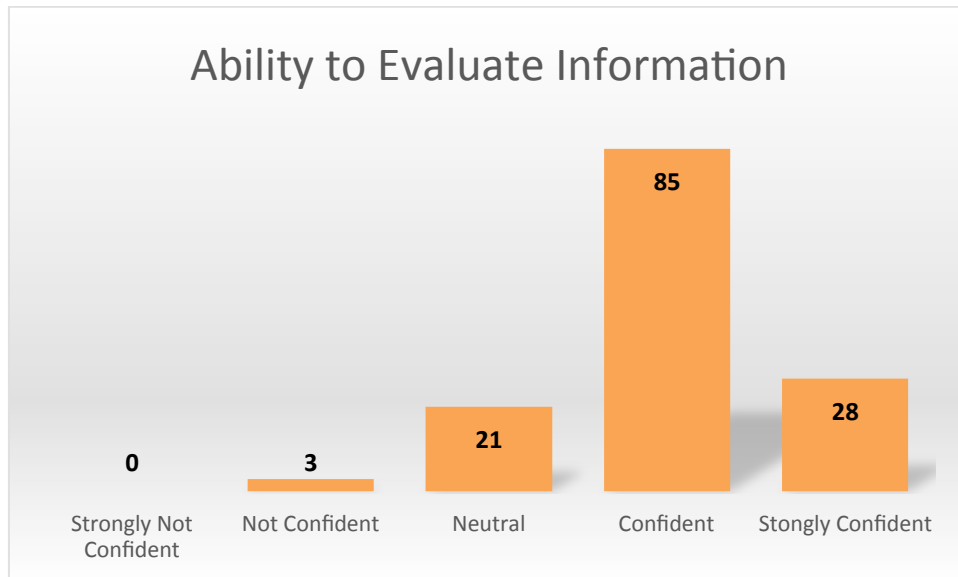


Summer 2014 – Graduate Students, N = 24

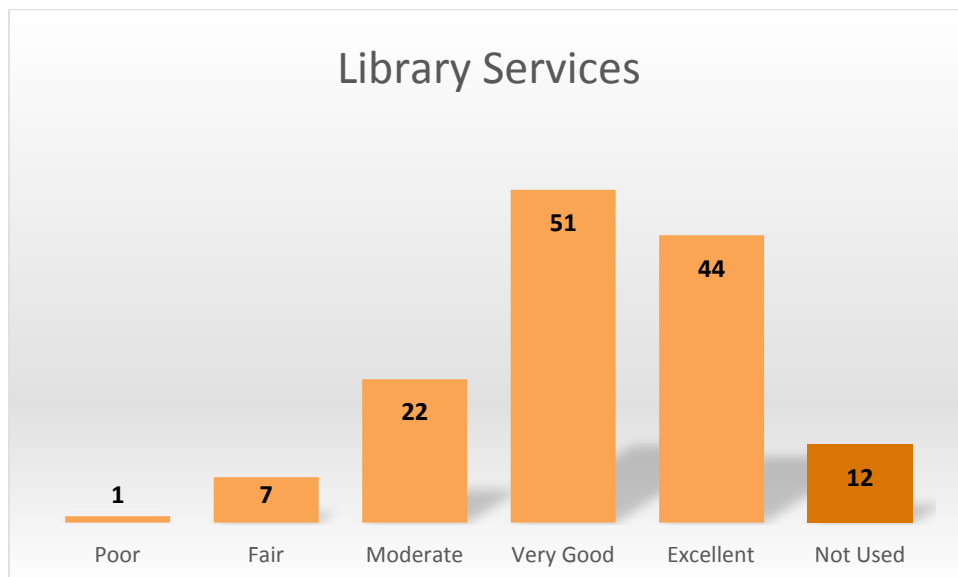
Survey Question: *Please rate the degree to which your ability or background was positively impacted in the following area as a result of your PhD program: The ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for your dissertation.*



Survey Question: Please indicate your level of confidence in your abilities in the following area: Ability to evaluate professional information (e.g., science and technology books, articles, etc.) to solve engineering problems.



Survey Question: Based on your experiences at Pitt, how would you rate the following? Library services.



Survey Question: *Please rate the degree to which your ability or background was positively impacted in the following area as a result of your PhD program: The ability to find and correctly cite a variety of quality information sources for your dissertation.*

