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## Wait...the library can help manage my research data?!?

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## Introduction

- In February 2013 the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy began mandating public access to publications and digital data derived from federally-funded research.<sup>1</sup> In response to the subsequent demand on researchers to evidence more stringent data control, many libraries have developed and initiated data services.
- In addition to offering a significant range of data services, New York University (NYU) employs two librarians entirely dedicated to research data management (RDM). While these librarians are prepared and available to assist researchers with data needs across the entirety of their research life cycle, they are largely underutilized.

## Objectives

To determine if NYU life sciences faculty are:

- Aware the library can assist them with their RDM needs
- Interested in using RDM services offered through the library

## Methods

The NYU Life Sciences Librarian and the Librarian for Research Data Management and Reproducibility\*\* partnered to administer an 11-question survey to NYU Life Sciences faculty. Three of those questions are presented and analyzed here:

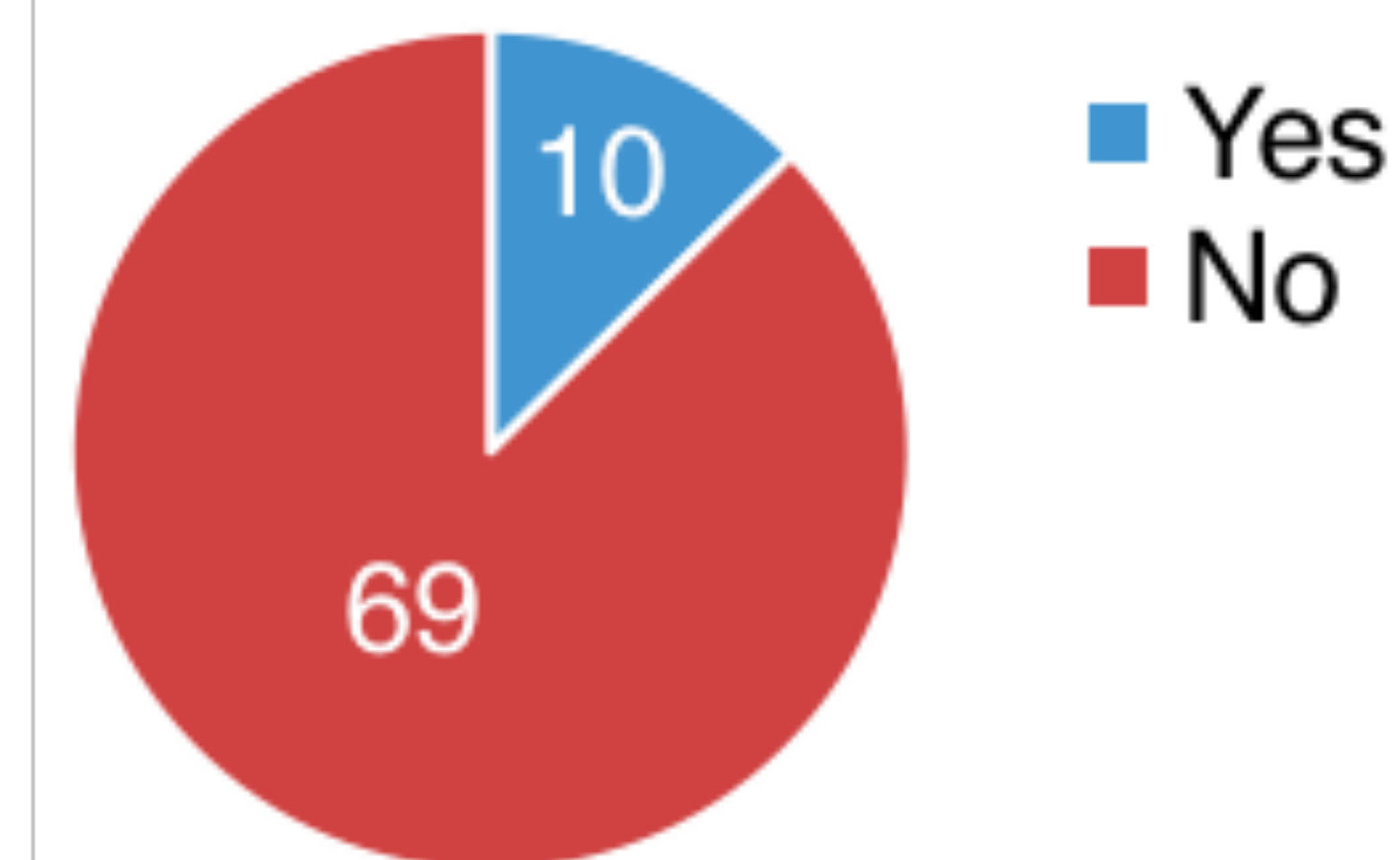
- Are you aware of any data management services currently offered through the library? (Yes, No)
- Would you be interested in using data management services offered through the library? (Yes, No, Maybe)
- Have you encountered difficulties with any aspect of data management (writing Data Management Plans, selecting repositories, sharing or reusing your own data, etc.)? (Yes, No)  
3a. If yes, would you be interested in using data management services offered through the library? (Yes, No, Maybe)

\*\* Kelly Johnson and Vicky Steeves, respectively

## Results

**“The greatest challenge facing many librarians is raising awareness among academic researchers that the library can provide guidance in data management”<sup>2</sup>**

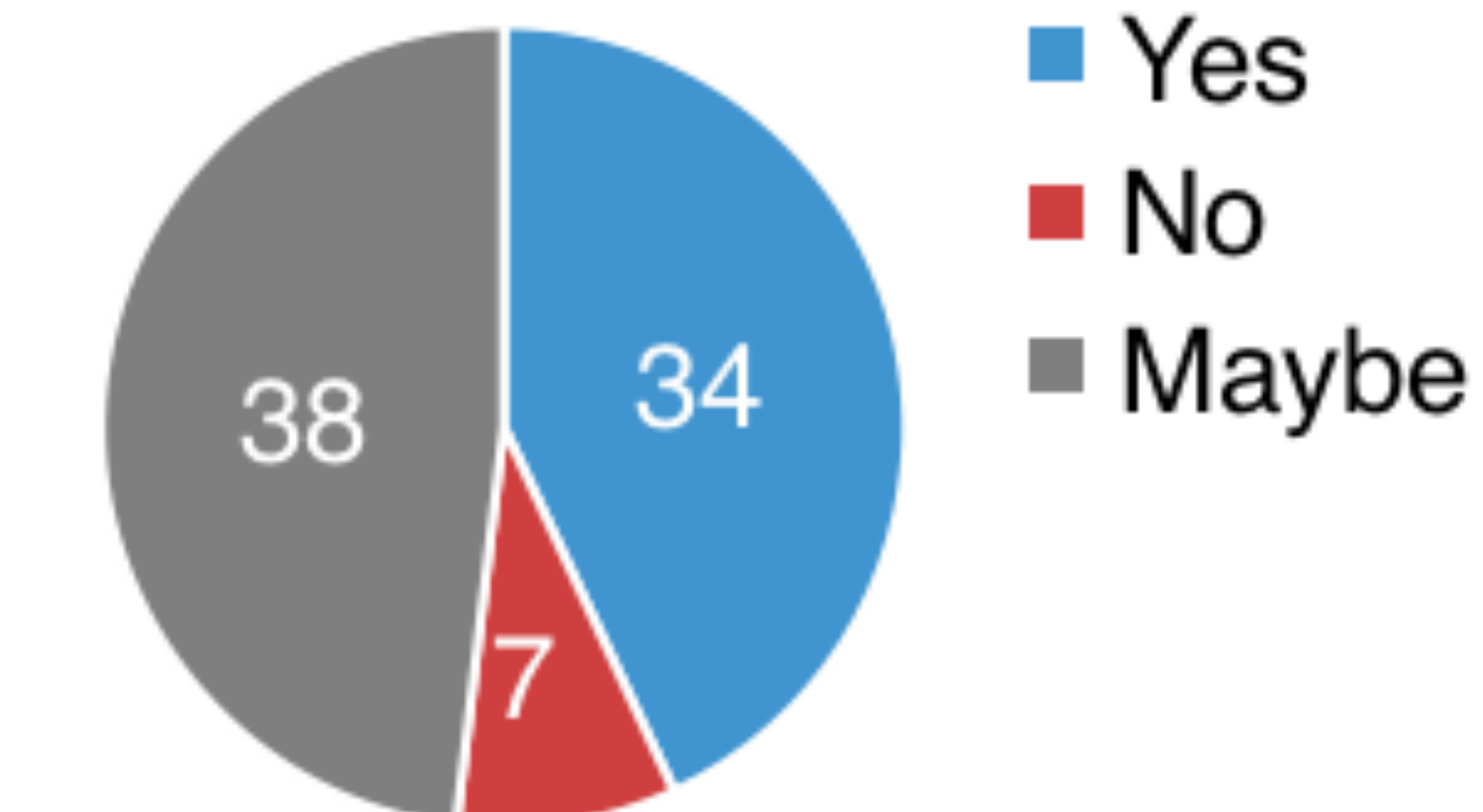
### Awareness



**Q1. Are you aware of any data management services currently offered through the library?**

- 87% of faculty were unaware that the library offers RDM services

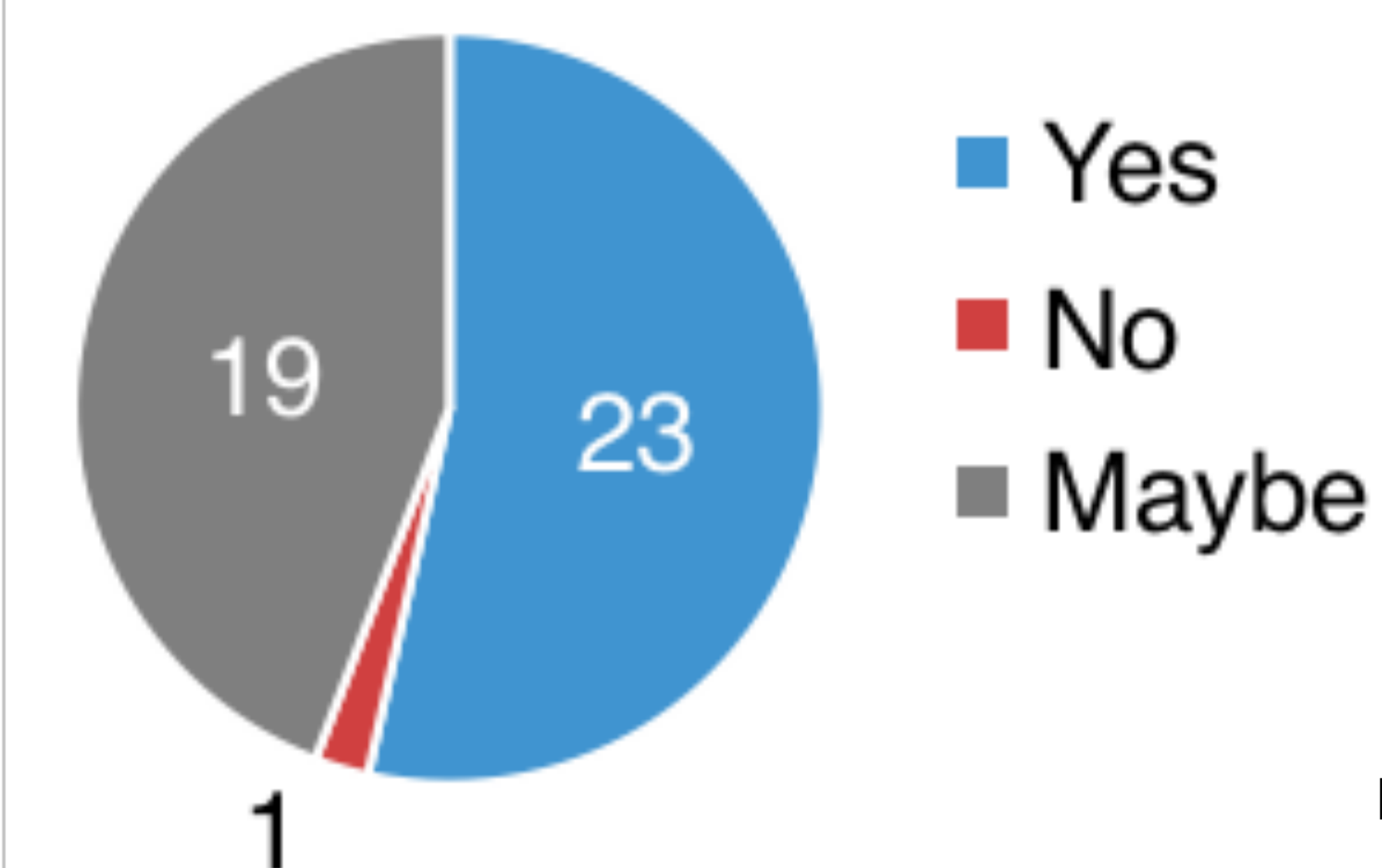
### Interest



**Q2. Would you be interested in using data management services through the library?**

- 91% of respondents reported they were interested or were maybe interested in utilizing RDM services through the library, suggesting they are confident librarians are equipped to provide them.

### Interest (with issues)



**Q3a. Would you be interested in using data management services through the library? (asked of those who reported having difficulties with data management)**

- Only 1 faculty member who reported having difficulty with data management was not open to library assistance.

Response rate: 29% (79 respondents of 271 faculty members)

## Conclusions

- NYU Life Sciences faculty are largely unaware of the library's RDM services, but are open to using them.
- Increased awareness of RDM services will allow librarians to better support faculty throughout their research life cycles.
- More effective outreach is essential to increase data service uptake, and should be an immediate focus for NYU's Research Data Management librarians.

## Future efforts

- Following this study, some faculty were interviewed to allow for more in-depth research.
- Both the survey and the interviews themselves served as outreach.
- Librarians will continue to reach out to faculty members individually in order to learn more about their RDM practice as well as promote library services.

## Literature cited

- Holdren, J. P. (2013, February 22). Increasing access to the results of federally funded scientific research. White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Retrieved from [https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp\\_public\\_access\\_memo\\_2013.pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf)
- Buys, C., & Shaw, P. (2015). Data management practices across an institution: Survey and report. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1225>

## Additional information

This poster presents a portion of the results from a project titled “Research Data Management Among Life Sciences Faculty: Implications for Library Service.” The full survey, datasets, and analysis code that underscore the fuller project are available at <https://osf.io/sm22z/>

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