

iDigBio Evaluation Update

Shari Ellis, iDigBio Evaluator

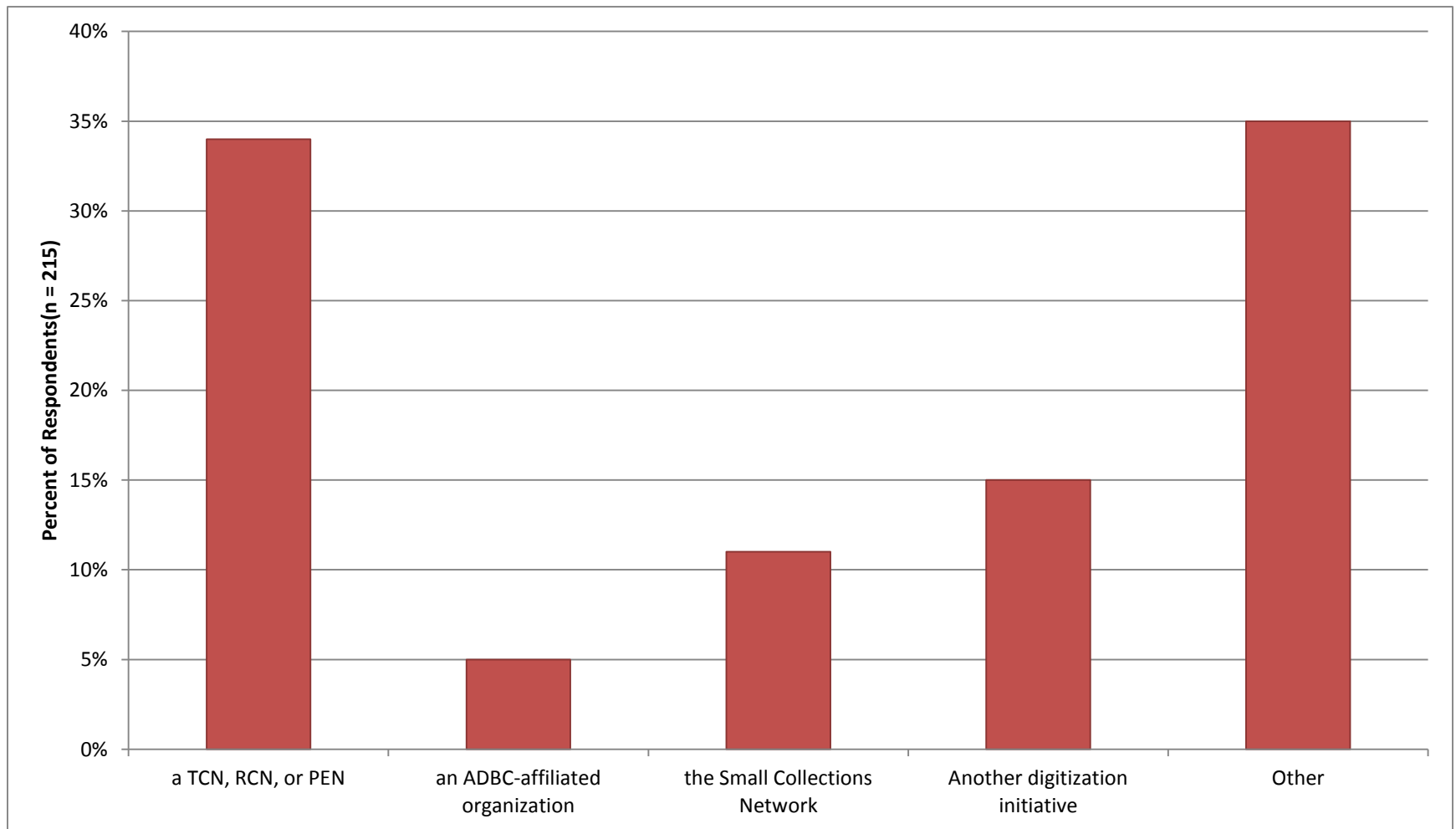


iDigBio is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Program (Cooperative Agreement EF-1115210). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

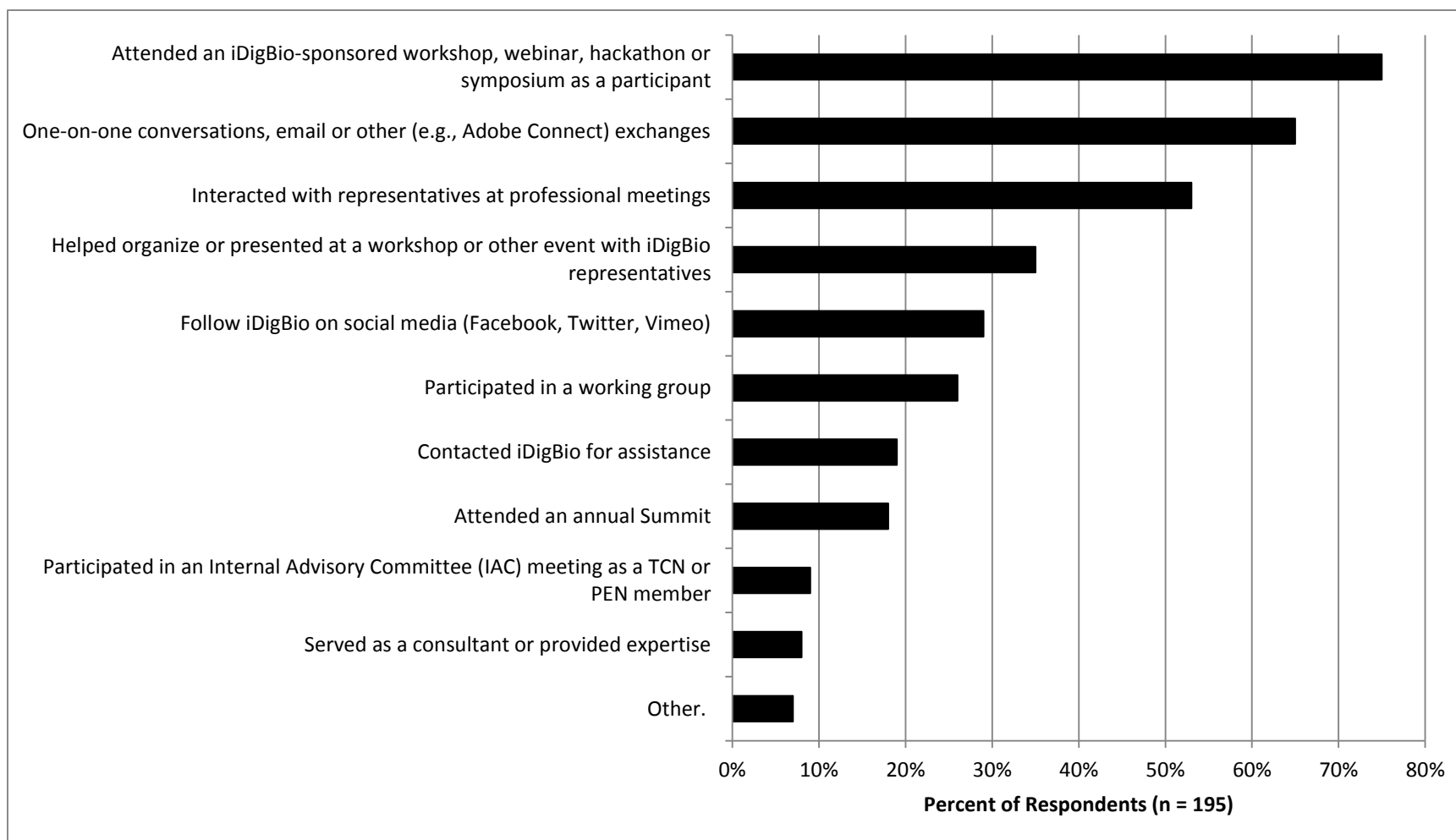
Today

- 2015 Community Survey
- 2015 Internal Survey
- Webinars
- Summit V

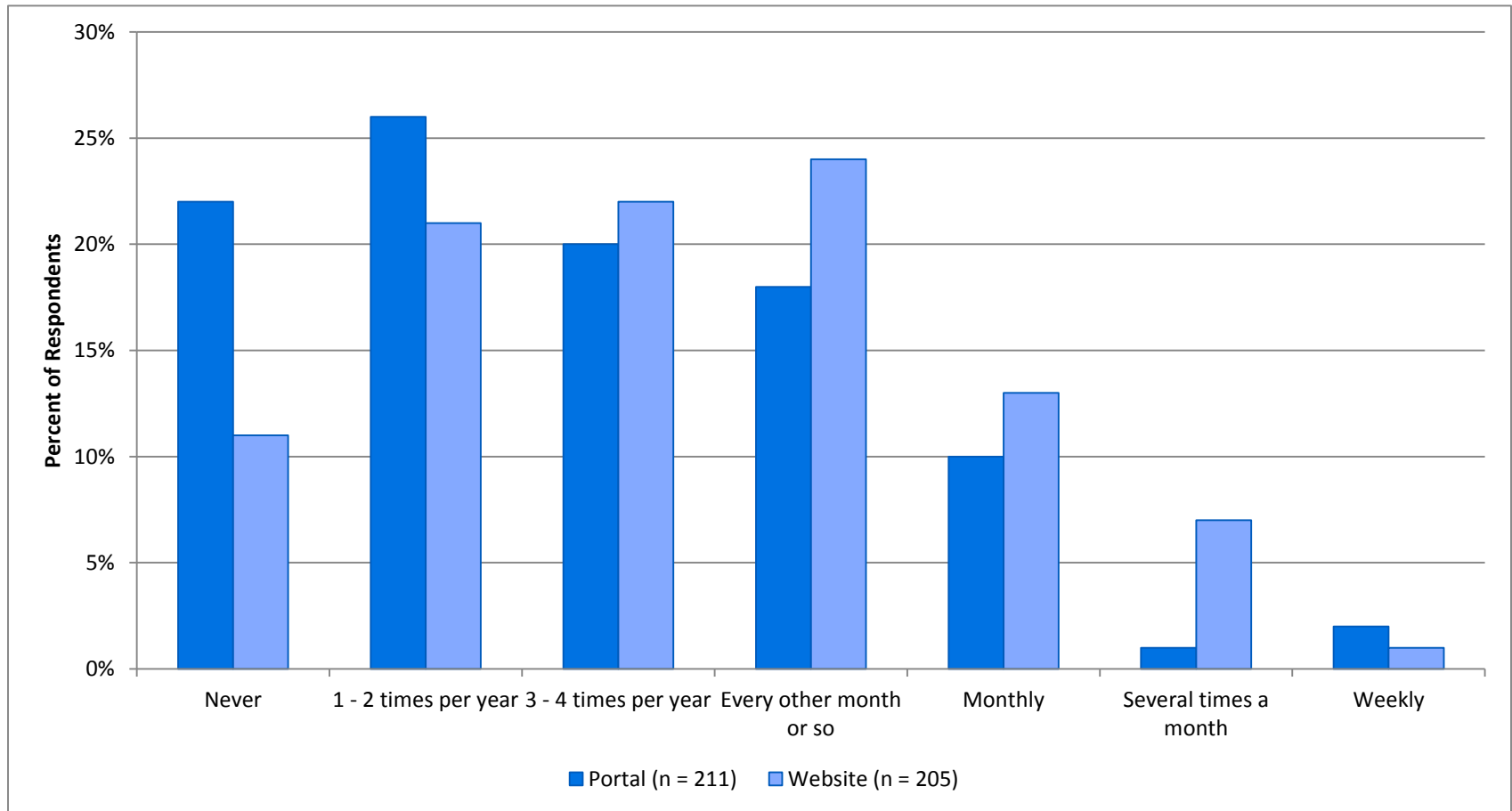
2015 Community Survey



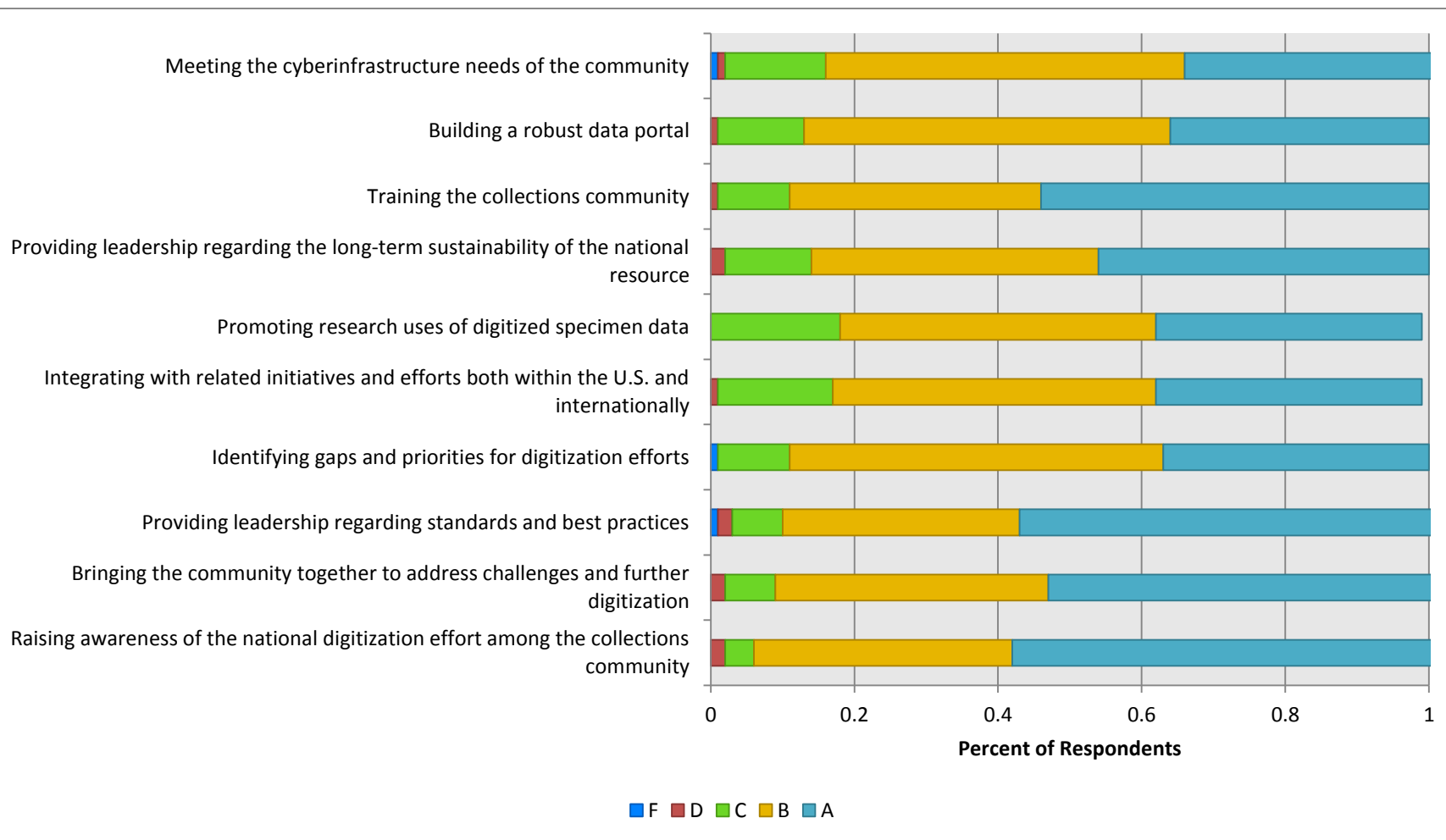
2015 Community Survey



2015 Community Survey-Visits to Portal & Website



2015 Community Survey - Grades

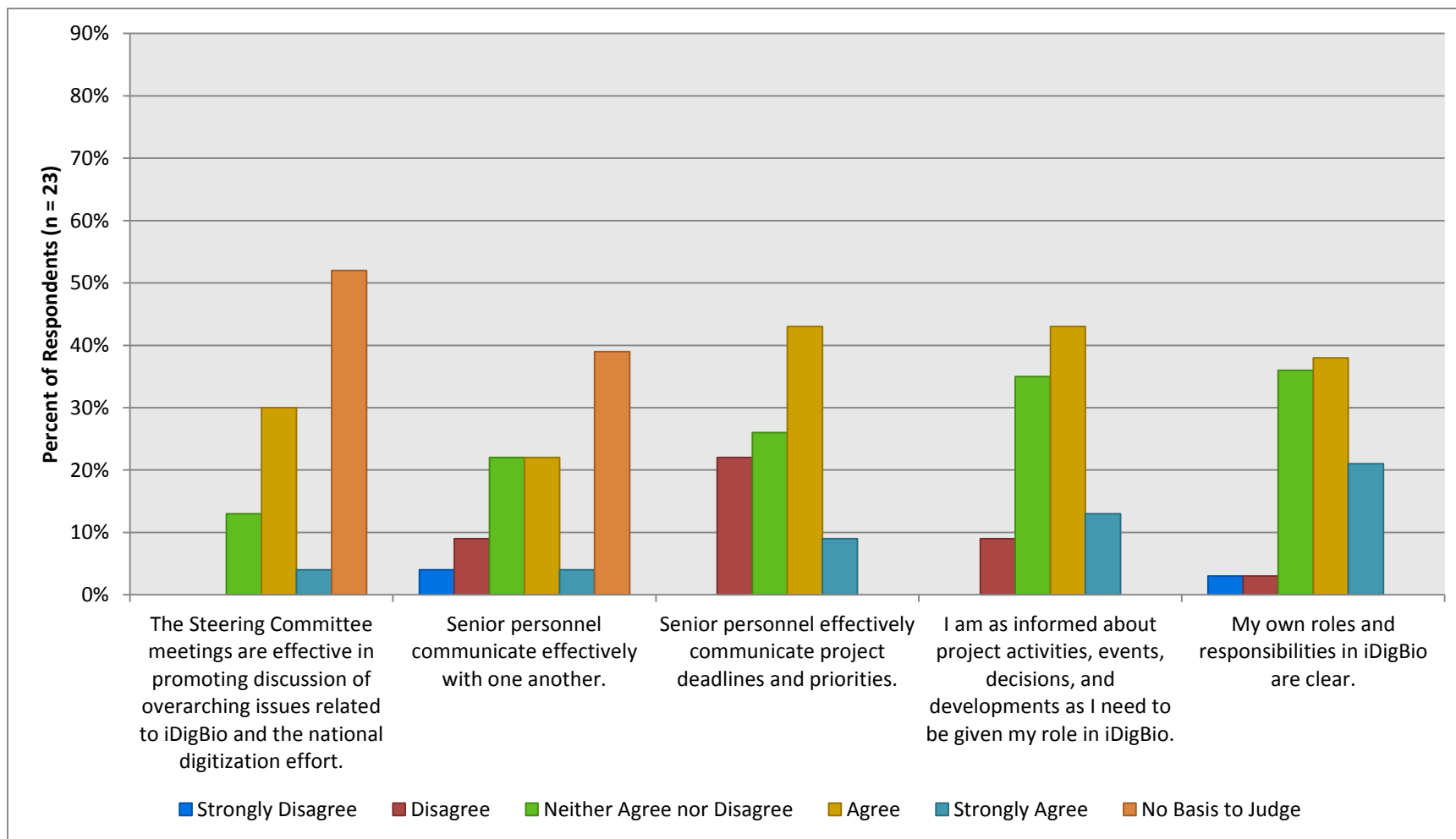


2015 Community Survey

Suggestions—iDigBio Priorities

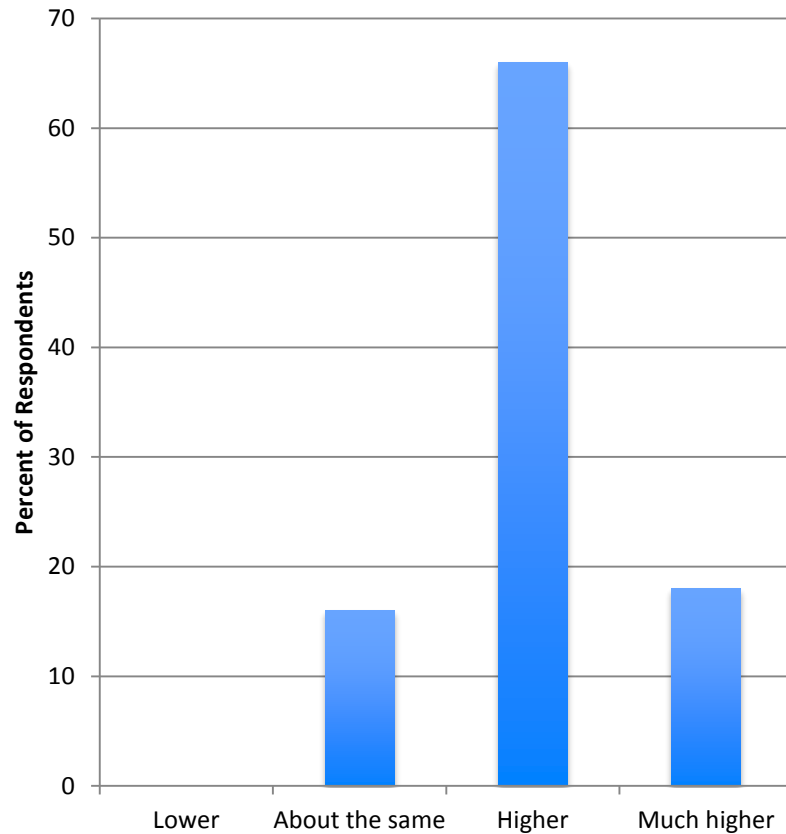
- Workshops and training
- Software development
- Bringing data online

2015 Internal Survey - Communication

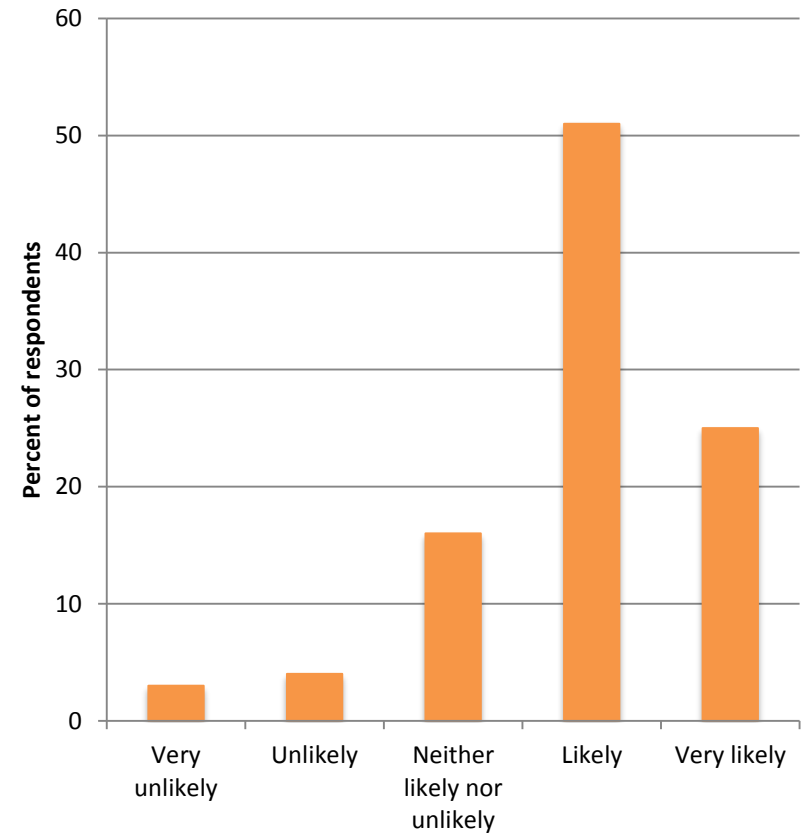


Webinars – 17 since August

Knowledge



Application

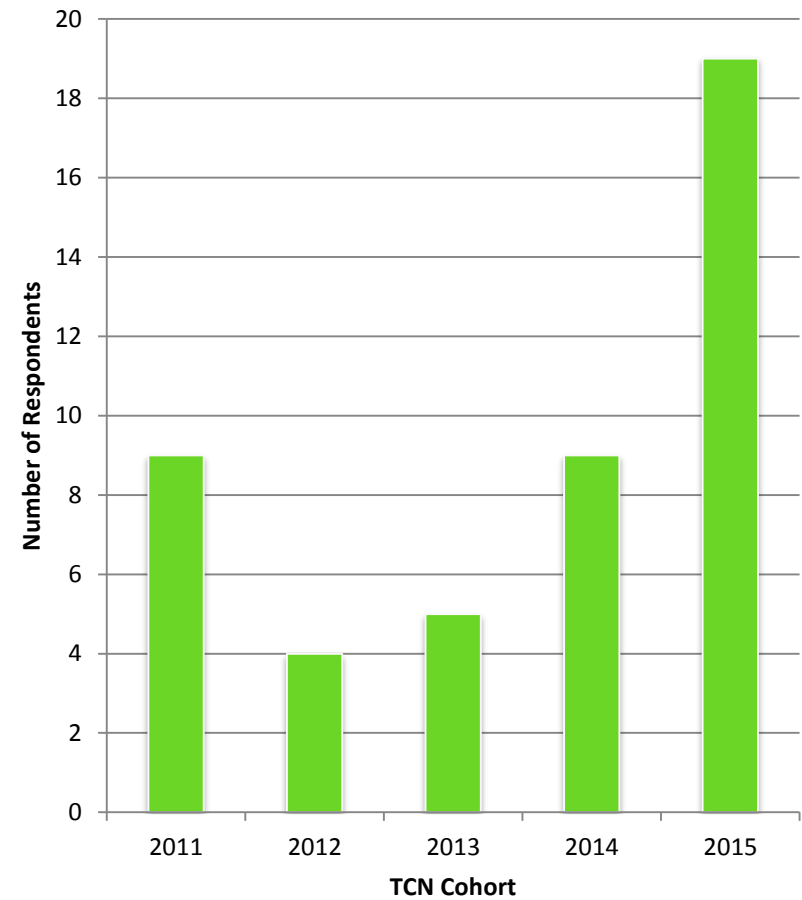
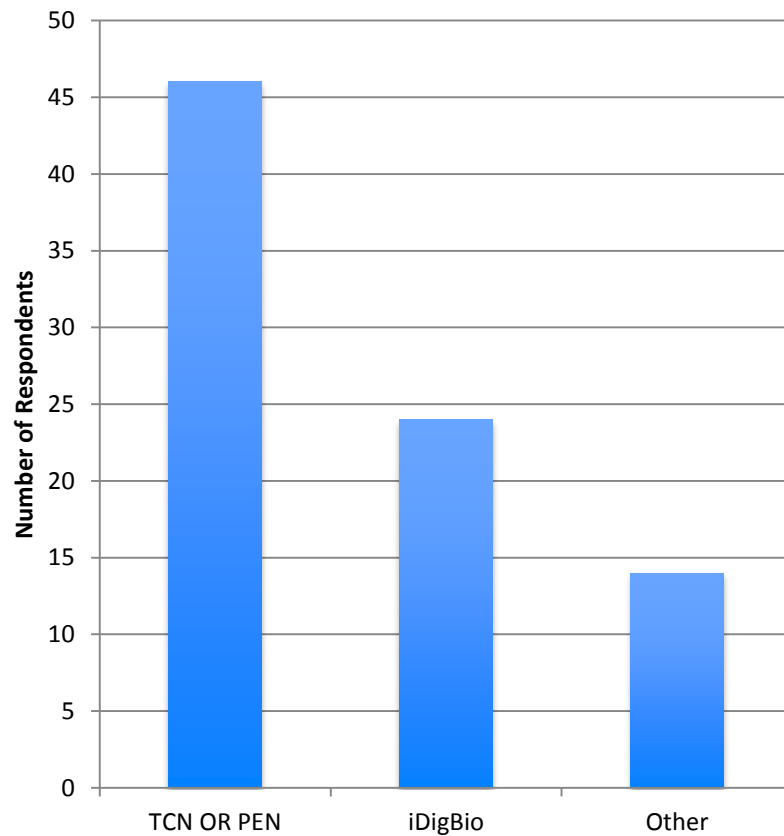


Webinars - Comments

- Thanks iDigBio for always making the time to put these webinars (& workshops) together for all of us to share & learn from one another to get the job done of digitising our collections specimens & data
- I use these webinars to teach my collections care and management class. Some good discussion here for class as well as for work!
- I enjoyed the webinar, and look forward to more. THANKS! I didn't learn much new, but it is good to hear what others are thinking.
- Thanks for today's presentation. I still feel very much a newbie at all this. As a data provider it's very useful to understand the specific processes that are being developed to handle data cleaning. You've put to rest several of my concerns and I'm excited to know about the intentions especially with preserving and displaying raw data and tracking changes. There is a lot of lingo to pick up on and these webinars really help me to solidify what I'm trying to learn on my own. Looking forward to future sessions!
- This webinar was extremely useful and there were some great tidbits about how Symbiota works and advice from more experienced databasers. Please continue to hold this webinars for both new and more experienced Symbiota users. Again thank you so much!
- I "attend" a lot more webinars than I expect to be able to apply. I like to keep an eye on the landscape of the natural history collections world (among other things), gain others' perspectives, and think about how their work may relate to mine, either now or in the future. So I would not interpret in any way my response that I am very unlikely to apply what I learned today as a negative. I was not necessarily expecting to. Thanks.

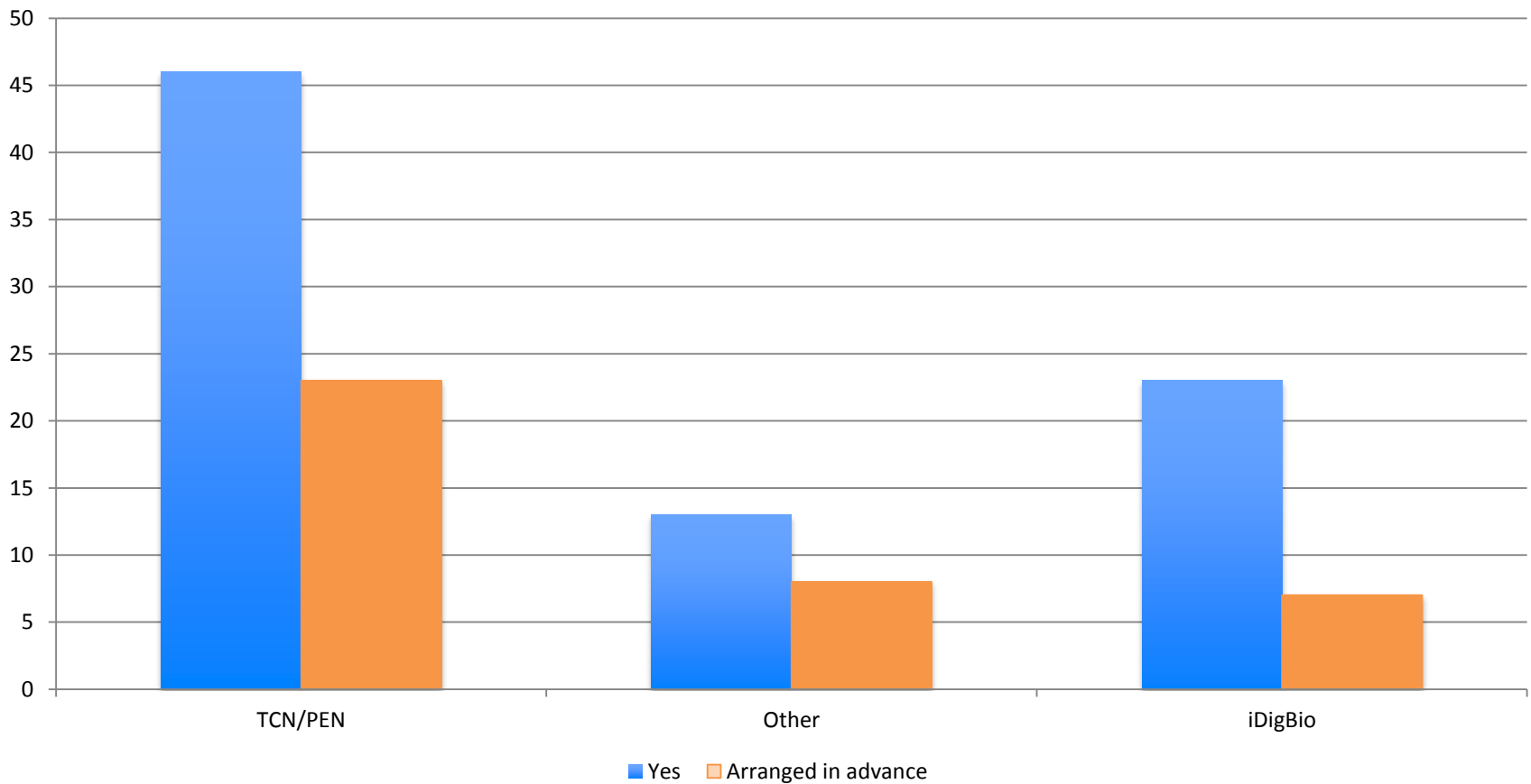
Summit V

Affiliations of Respondents



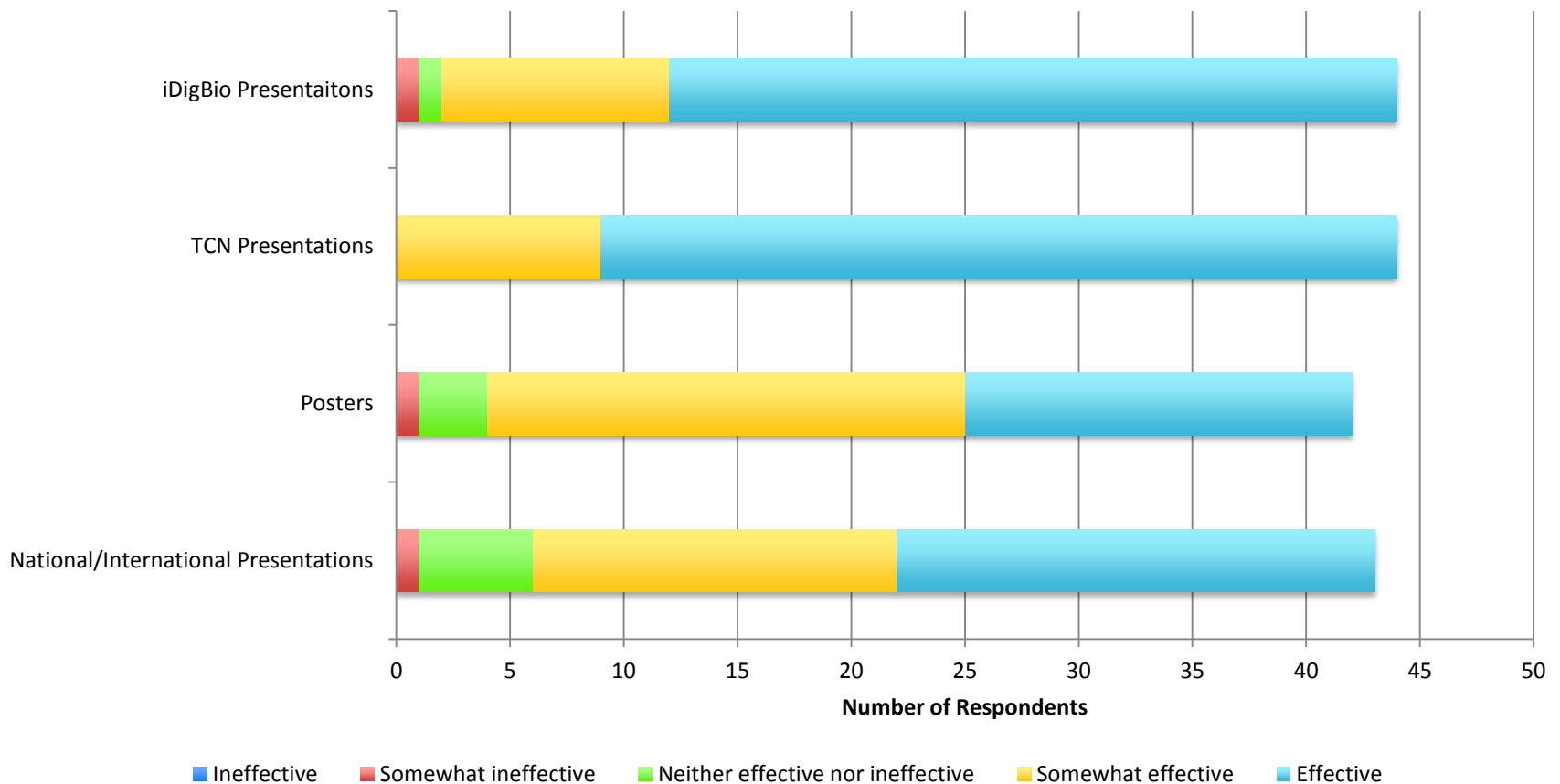
Summit V

Used Summit to Meet with Colleagues



Summit V

TCN Ratings of Meeting Components



Increase communication among TCNs/PENs

- Form working groups based on organism type being digitized ($n = 3$)
- Having monthly meetings was incredibly helpful for the TTD Project. I'd like to see bi-monthly meetings across TCNs.
- To promote and schedule more regular communication among the participants, at least through Adobe Connect, through the funding period and beyond
- One thing would be to publicize the IAC meetings more widely - only a very few participants outside of lead PI ever attend.

Summit V

- No one complained about lack of networking opportunities!
- Ad Hoc and other spaces appreciated
- However...
 - Concerns about length and expense
 - Heavy on acronyms
 - Presentation format still an issue

Increase communication among TCNs/PENs

- If you were to assign explicit TCN mentors it would spur more collaboration and communication.
- Focus on us as future workshop leaders and mentors for new TCNs. Might even come up with some kind of "buddy" system. Please remember that active participants are not always the project PIs.

But...

Sometimes I think too much emphasis is placed on communication among TCNs -- certainly there is a reason for this when different TCNs are working on similar collection types -- but aside from listening to presentations and attending the bimonthly online meetings, I think iDigBio should not worry about communication among TCNs -- we all know who each other are, and can contact one another on our own as needed.

Increasing Awareness

Any kind of advertising in appropriate venues; as it is, I learned several things about the resources available through iDigBio at this Summit that I don't think many of my colleagues know. Waiting for word of mouth will take a long time.

Increasing Awareness

Researchers - More researchers need to know about the data. That means more presentations at national meetings.

Students - Our path to students should be through instructors. Getting them involved means reaching out. It's up to the P.I.'s to communicate what they have with their colleagues in a meaningful way.

Citizen scientists - In my opinion the best way to bring this resource to citizen scientists is through amateur clubs/groups.

The general public - Finding clever ways to get into the news and popular press is the best way to bring these resources to the attention of the general public.

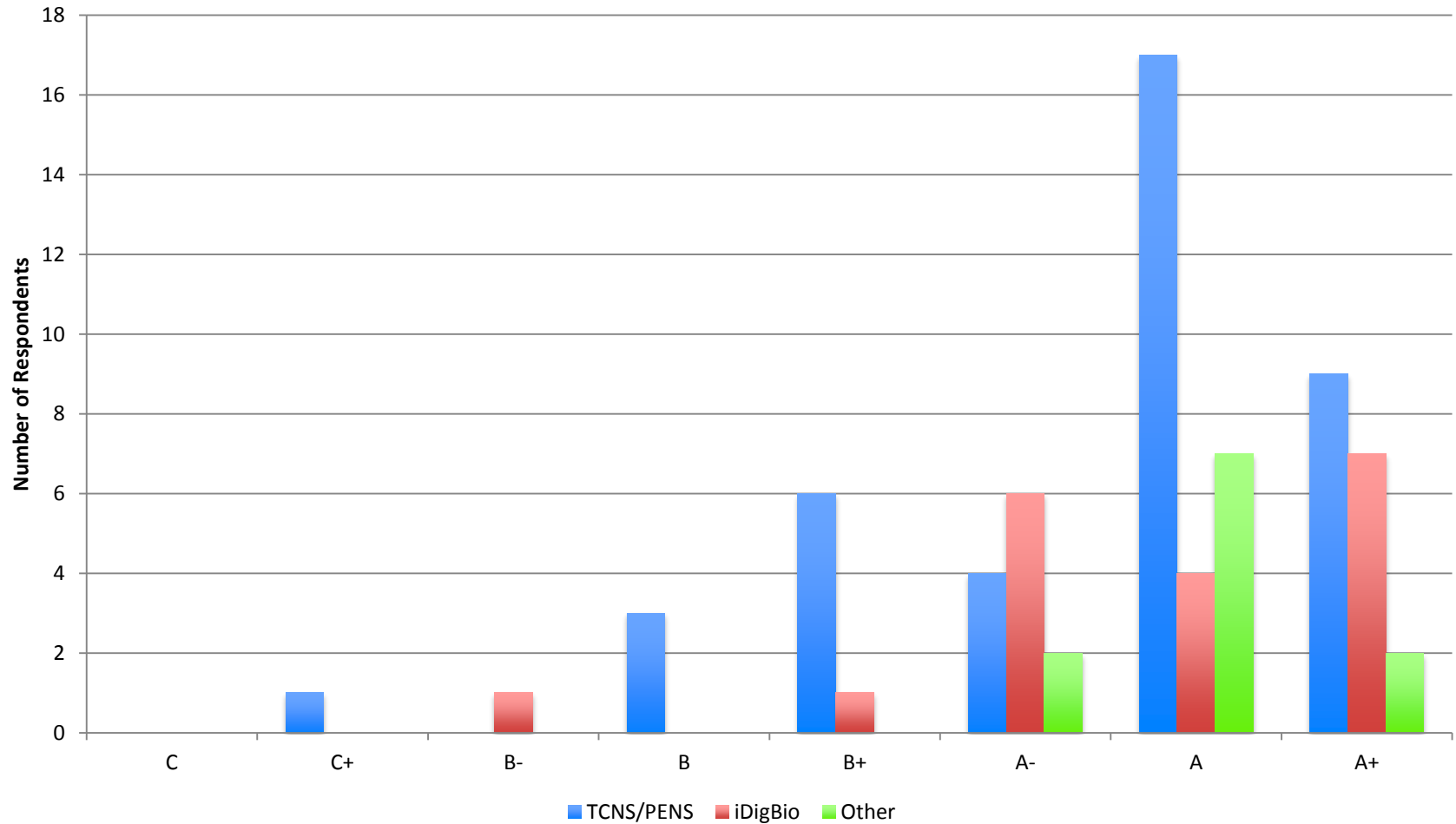
Increasing Awareness

Primary stakeholders in this effort are the various institutions where the collections come from. These stakeholders are often NOT engaged at all. In my opinion, this is an area where iDigBio and TCN P.I.'s should focus. We need to demonstrate the value of the data (and as follows, the collections) to our university/institution administrators and higher-ups in order to justify continuing (or renewing efforts in) funding collection curation, management, research, accessibility, etc.

Summit V

- 78% likely to have increased communication with other TCNs
- 66% likely to begin new collaboration
- 41% start or join a Working Group

Overall Summit Grade



In conclusion...

- I've been to all of the summits and I hope to go to many more. This is singularly the best opportunity for me to network with collections people across taxa and to talk about stuff I care a lot about. It was a very positive event and I learned a ton as always. I particularly appreciated the strong presence of GBIF at this summit, as it helped address community concerns about connectivity to GBIF and long term sustainability. Great job!