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Libraries as Partners Around the University Table

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Libraries as Partners Around the UNIVERSITY Table

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
(**AASHE**) Conference and Expo
Nashville, TN • October 6-9, 2013



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Agenda

- Introduction – the need for the study
- Research Questions
- Research Method
- Main Findings



“Sustainability Curriculum in Higher Education”

- Academic libraries involvement in ‘call to action’
- Decisions behind conducting the survey
- Survey Participants



Research Questions

- What sustainability activities are academic libraries engaged in – to support sustainability curriculum?
- What is the level of engagement of academic libraries in sustainability activities?
- Is there a relationship between the level of engagement and the Carnegie Classification (CC) taxonomy of higher education institutions in the US?



Working Definition

Practices and activities in Academic Libraries that contribute to sustainability are those that:

- promote equitable access to information
- enhance scholarly research and communication on sustainability topics
- encourage collaboration in the area of sustainability

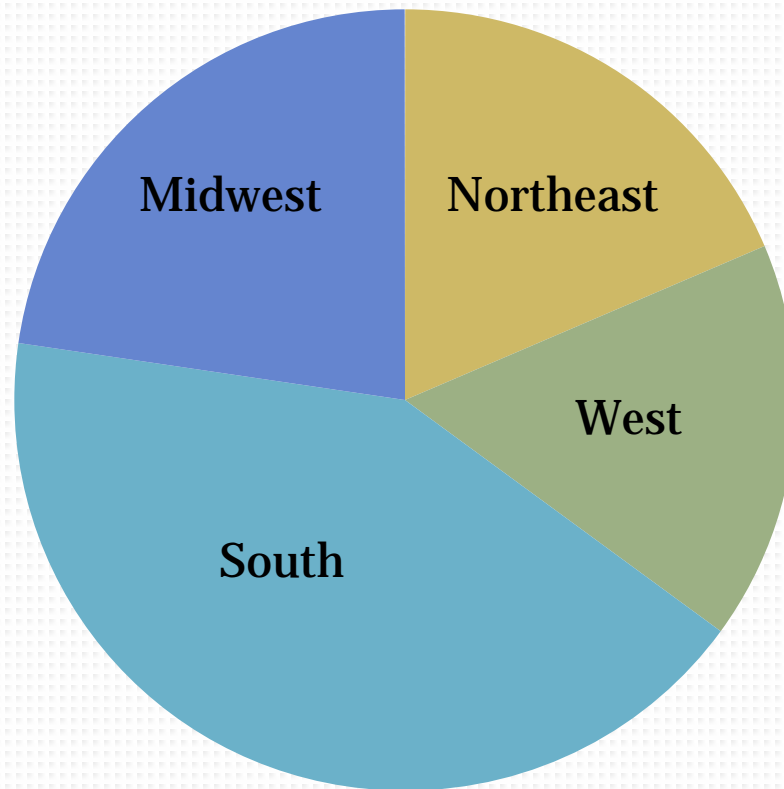


About the Web Survey

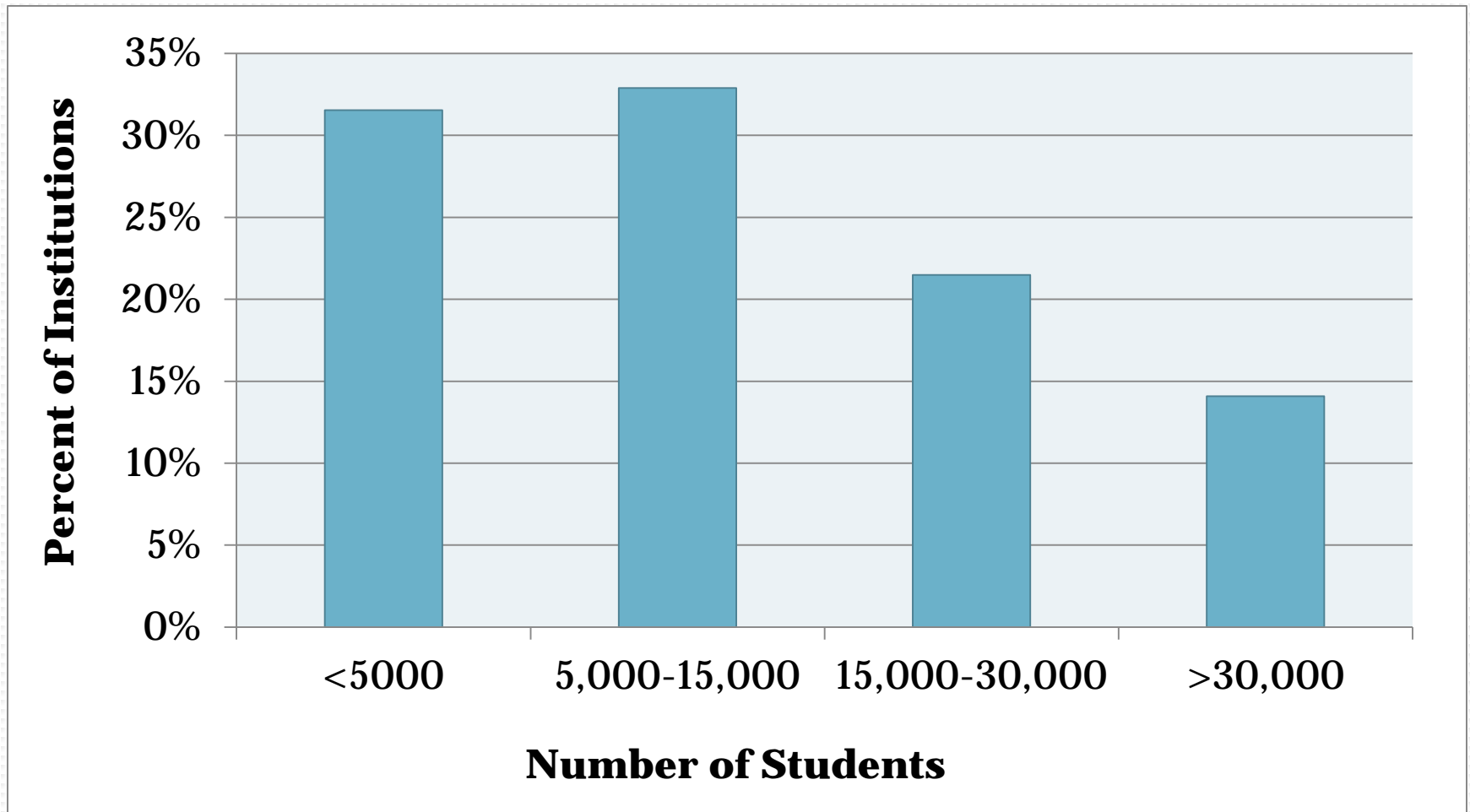
- **27 questions**
- **203 respondents from academic libraries**
- **149 institutions**



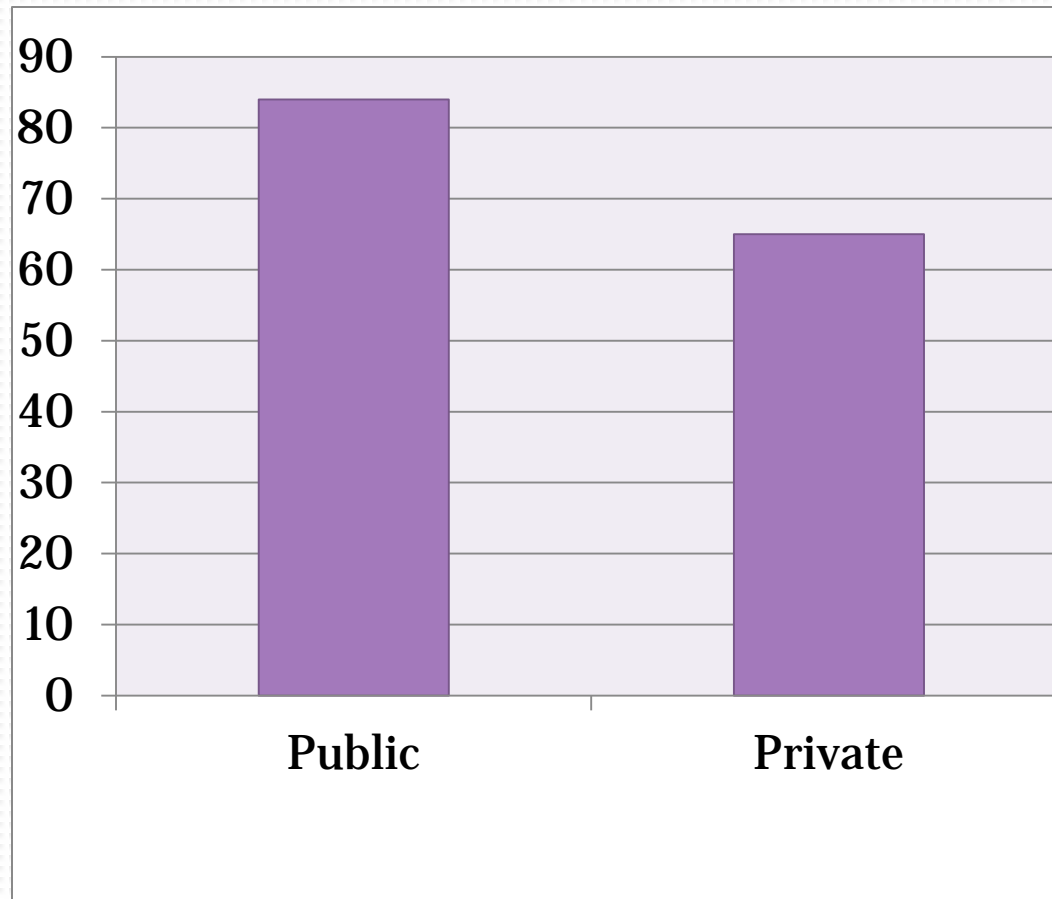
Geographical Distribution



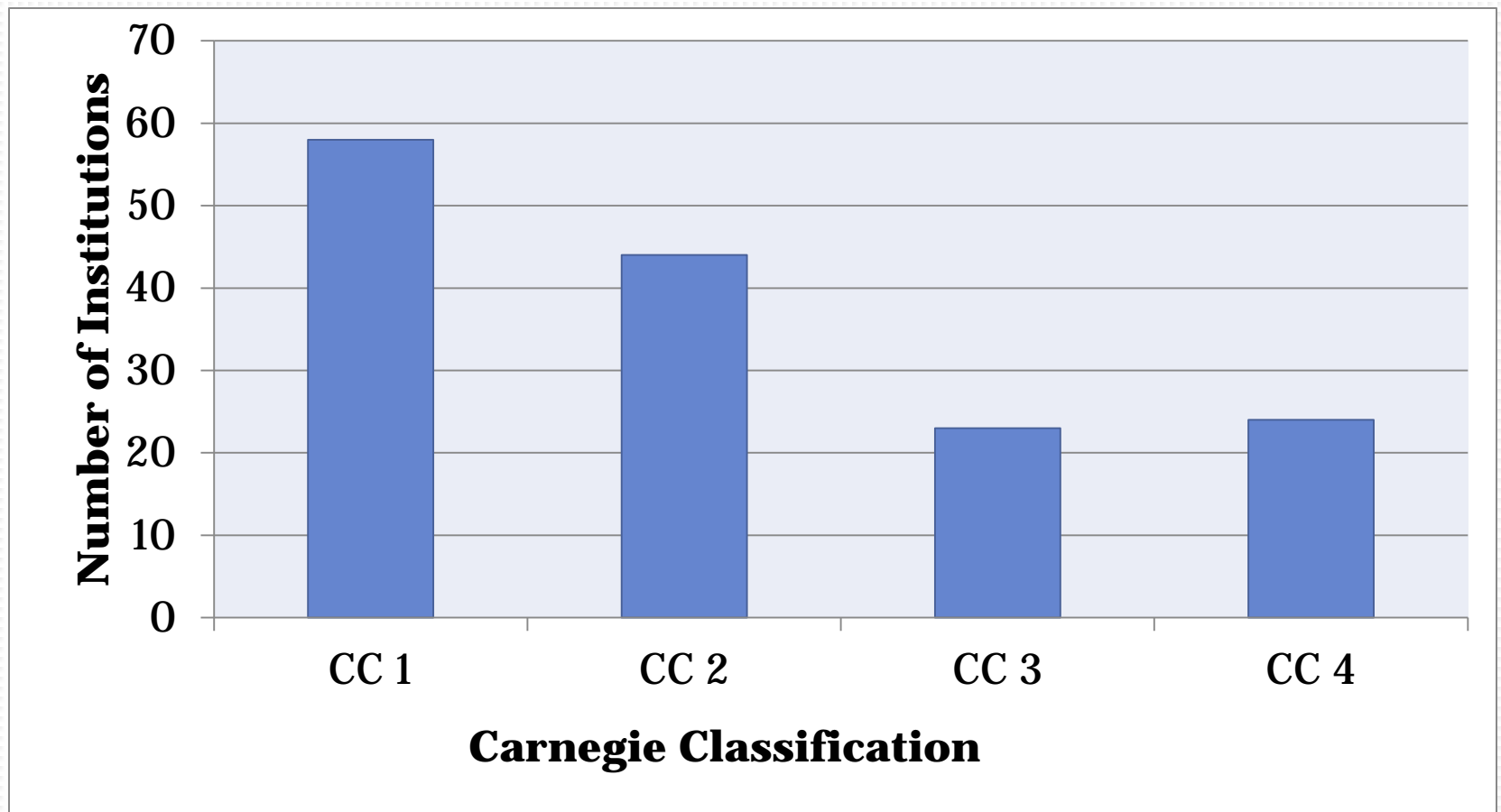
Percent of Institutions by Number of Students



Number of Institutions by Type



Number of Institutions by Carnegie Classification





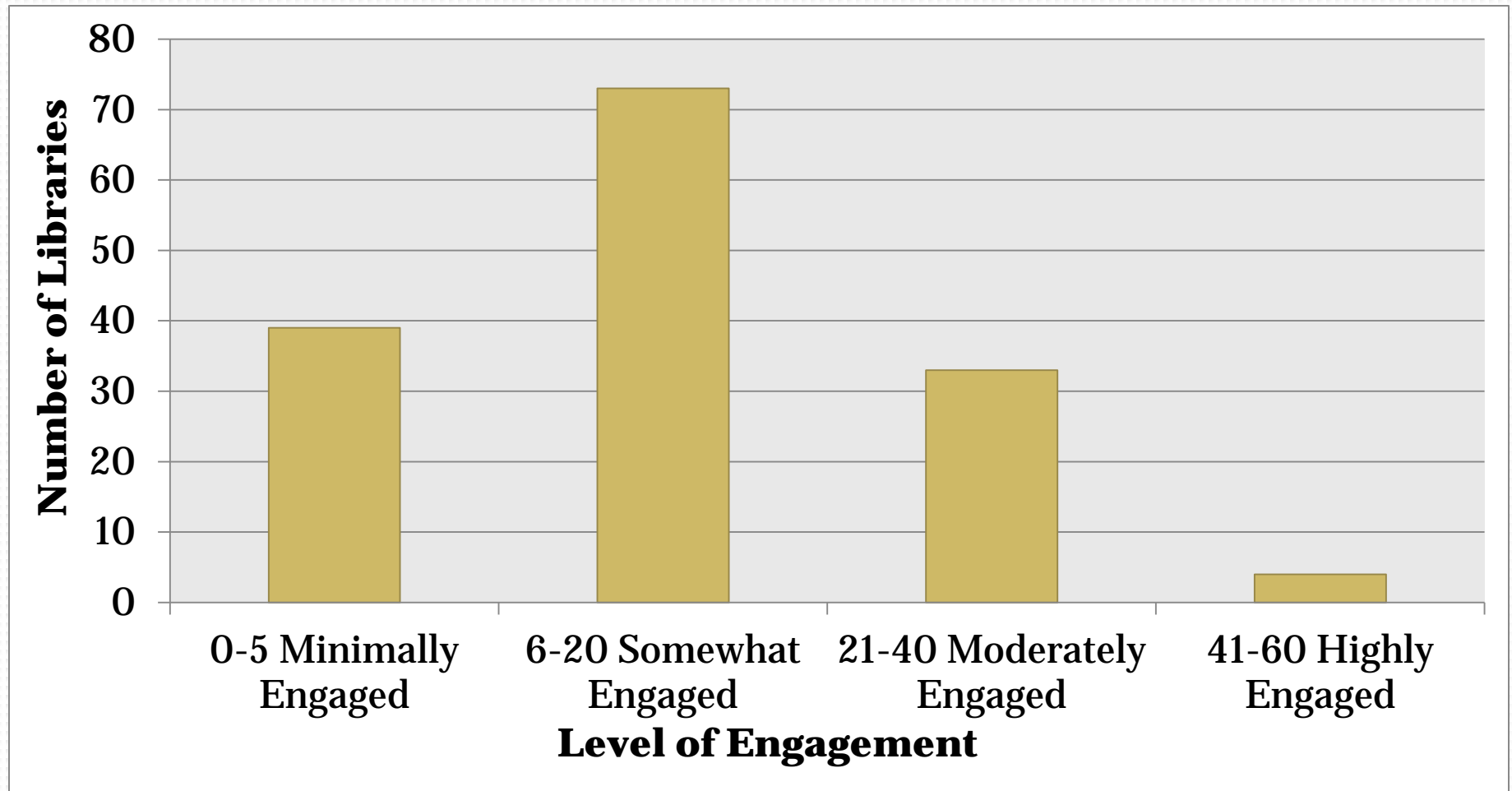
Questions

- **Resources/Instruction/Content**
- **Outreach/Collaboration**
- **University/College Information**

Findings

- **74% of the libraries represented** reported between 6 and 40 sustainability related activities and initiatives

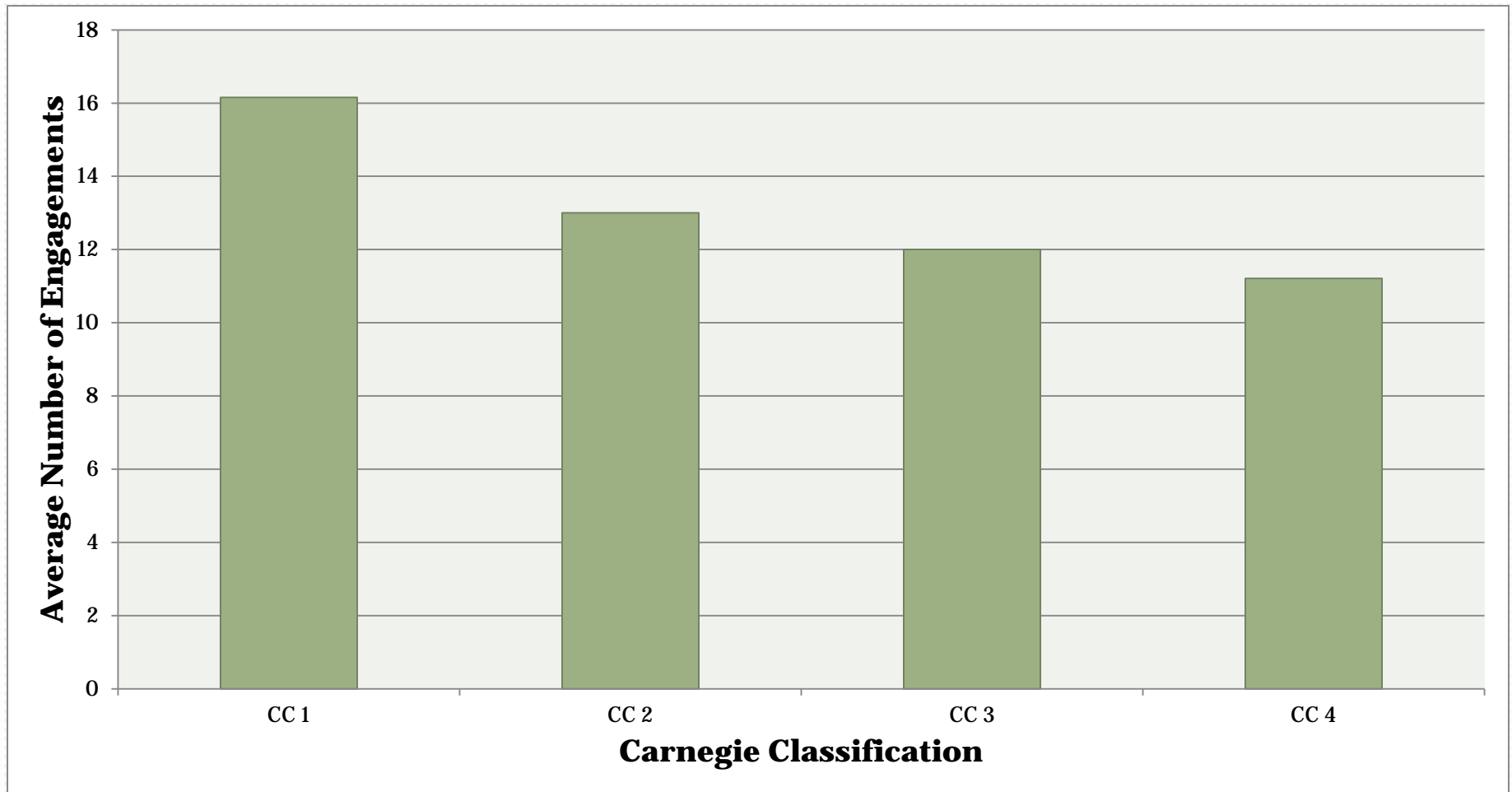
Level of Library Engagement in Sustainability Activities



Findings

- **Weak positive correlation** between the level of engagement of academic libraries in the emerging focus of teaching sustainability across the curriculum and the Carnegie Classification taxonomy of higher education institution in the US

Average Number of Engagements by Carnegie Classification





Most Reported Library Activities Related to Sustainability

71% - Classes on how to use library resources and conduct research that incorporate sustainability topics such as:

- open access research,
- use of the institutional repository (IR),
- the environment,
- retaining author rights,
- social equity, and
- community engagement.

Most Reported Library Activities Related to Sustainability

- 62% - Collaborating with other units on campus on sustainability-related activities
- 46% - Subject guides related to sustainability

More activities

- **Efforts to build collections devoted to sustainability-related topics (40%)**
- **Greening libraries (35%)**
- **Involvement in sustainability research (23%)**
- **Teaching (17%)**
- **Involvement in STARS report (5%)**



Conclusions

The exploratory study gave a better understanding of the library's role in educating for sustainability:

- **current status**
- **opportunities for increased engagement**
- **direction for further research**

Thank You for Your Attention

Questions