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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



# Presentation Authors

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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



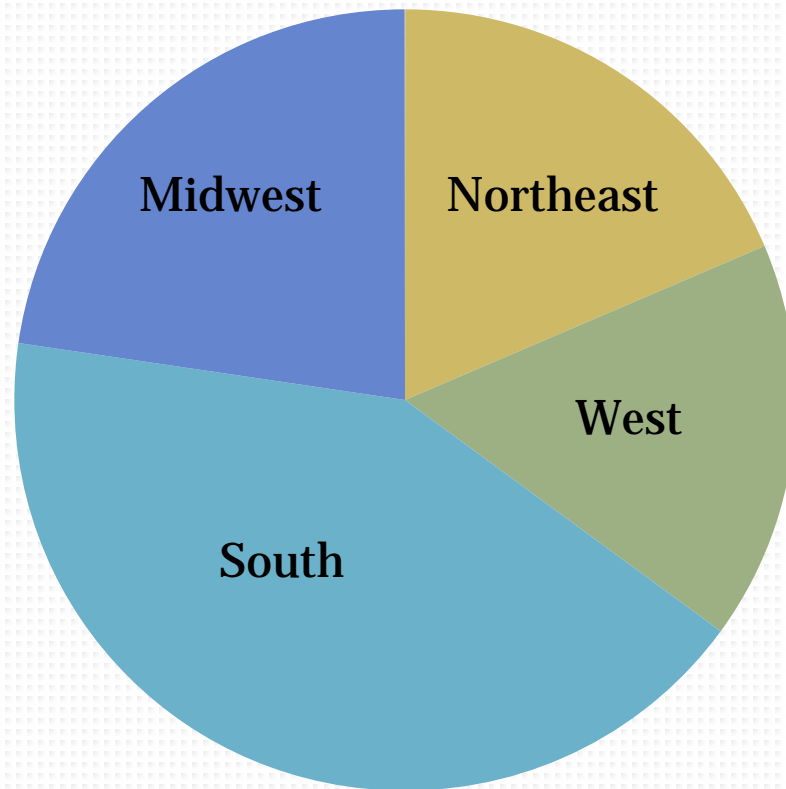
# About the Web Survey

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

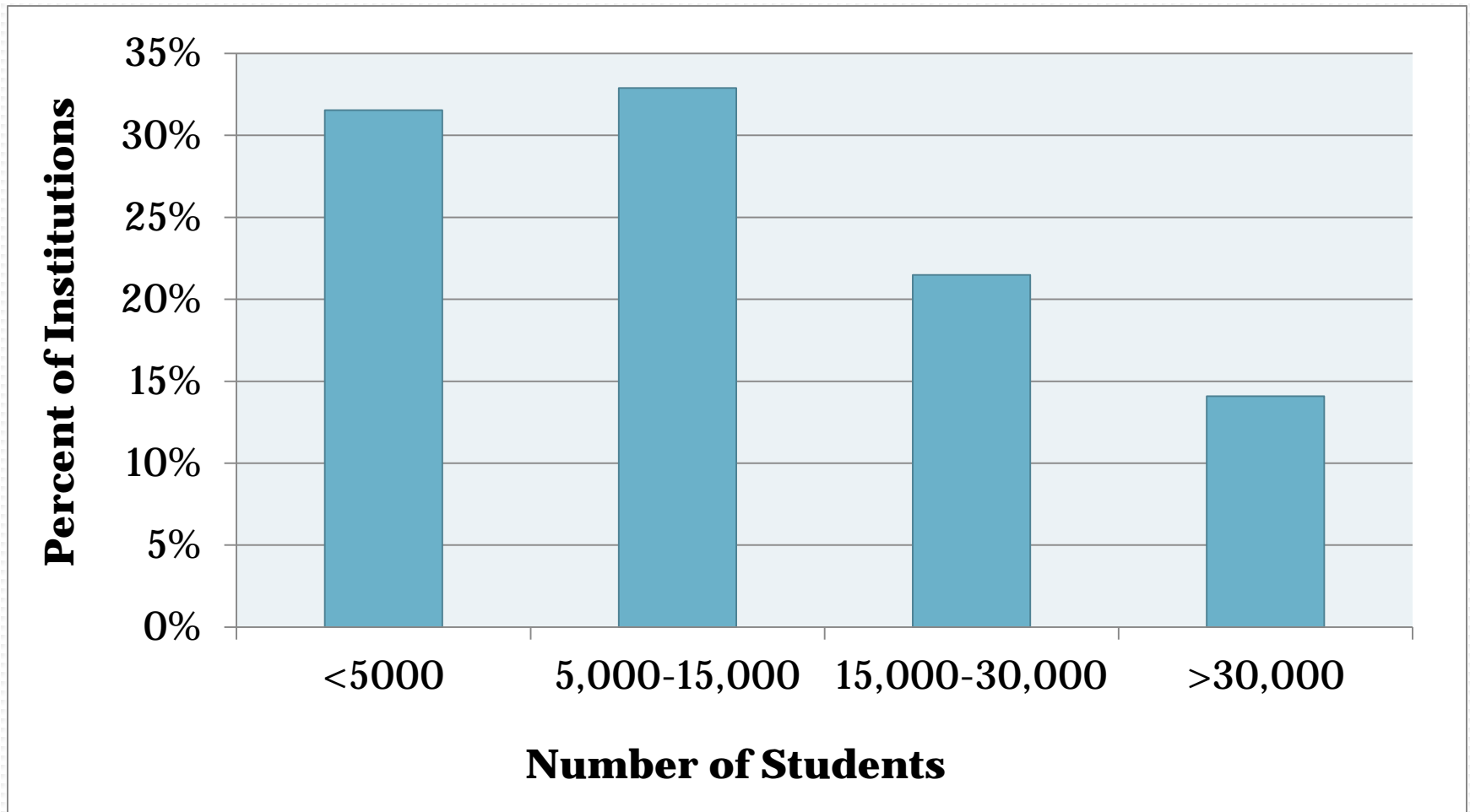




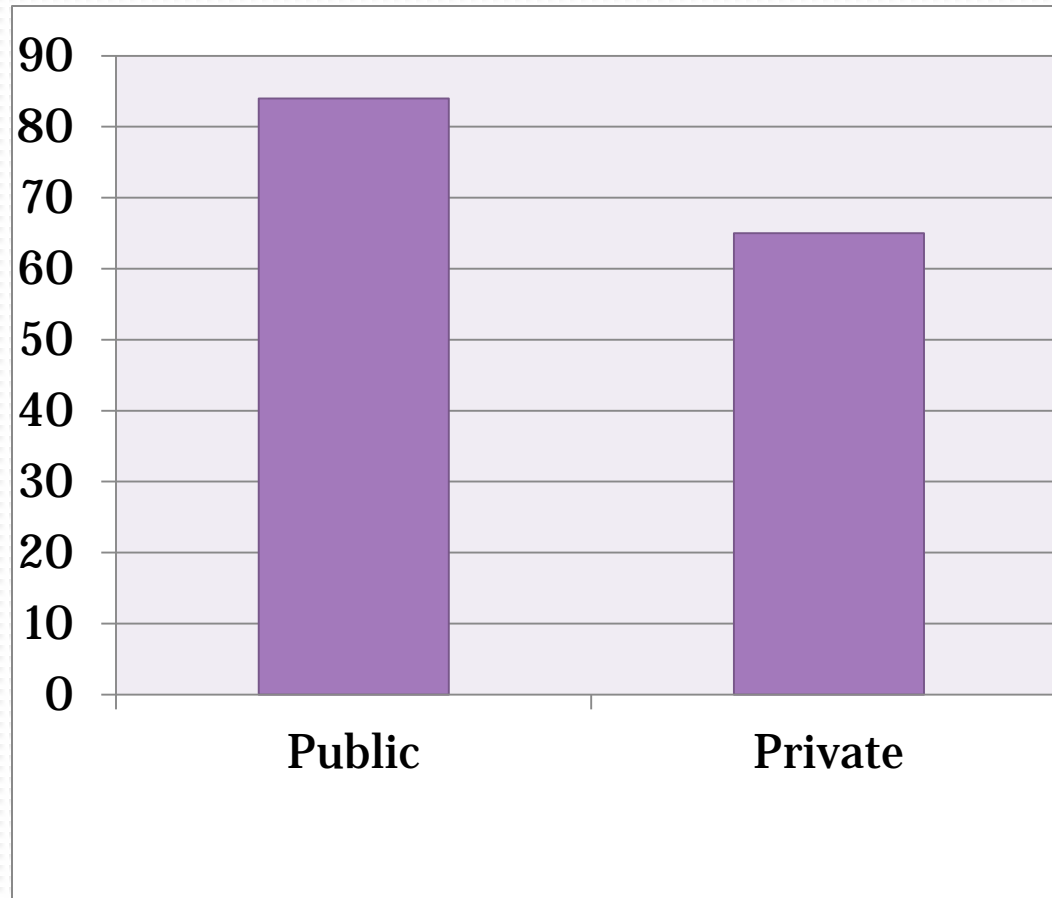
# Geographical Distribution



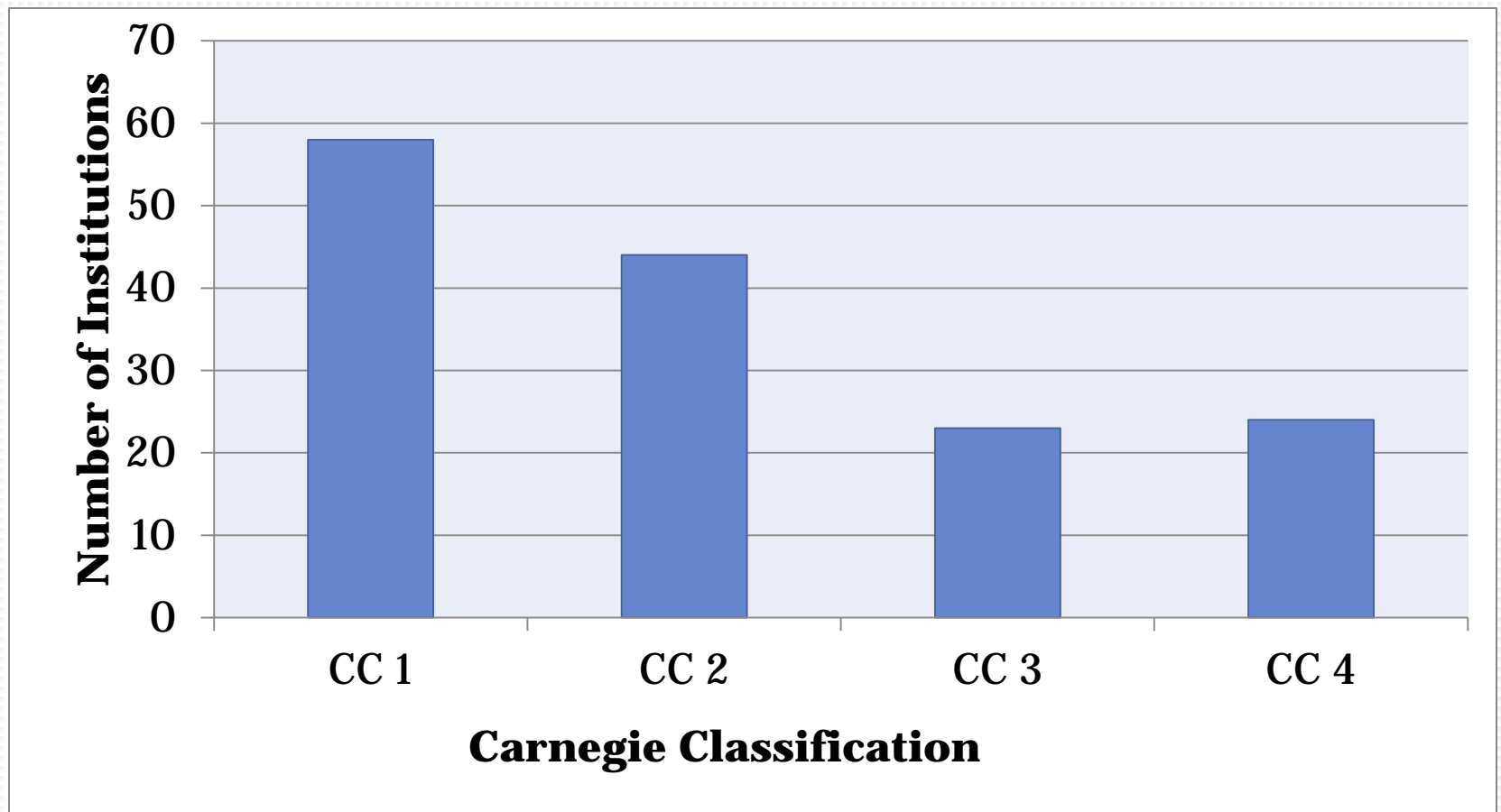
# Percent of Institutions by Number of Students



# Number of Institutions by Type



# Number of Institutions by Carnegie Classification





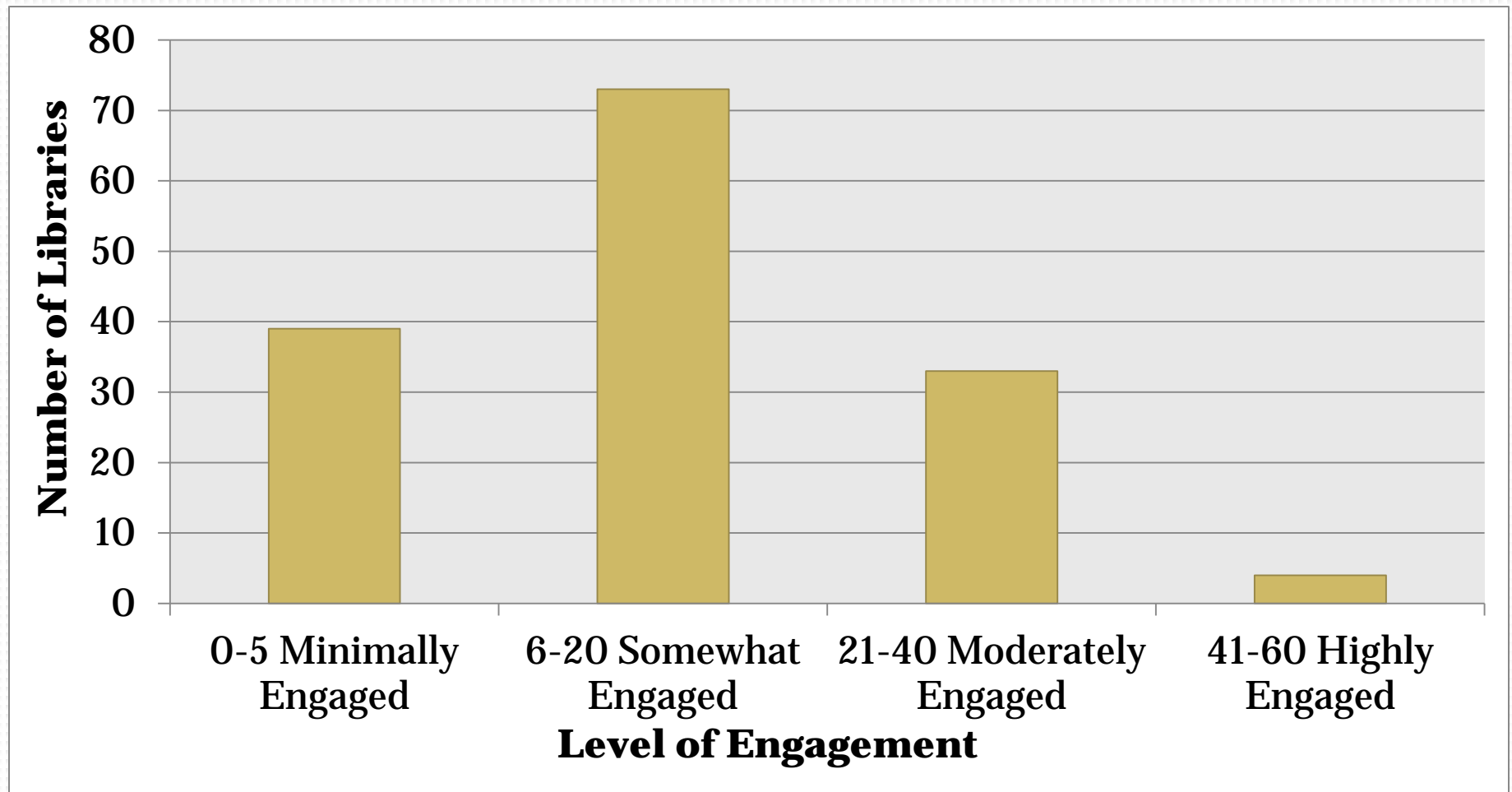
# Questions

- **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

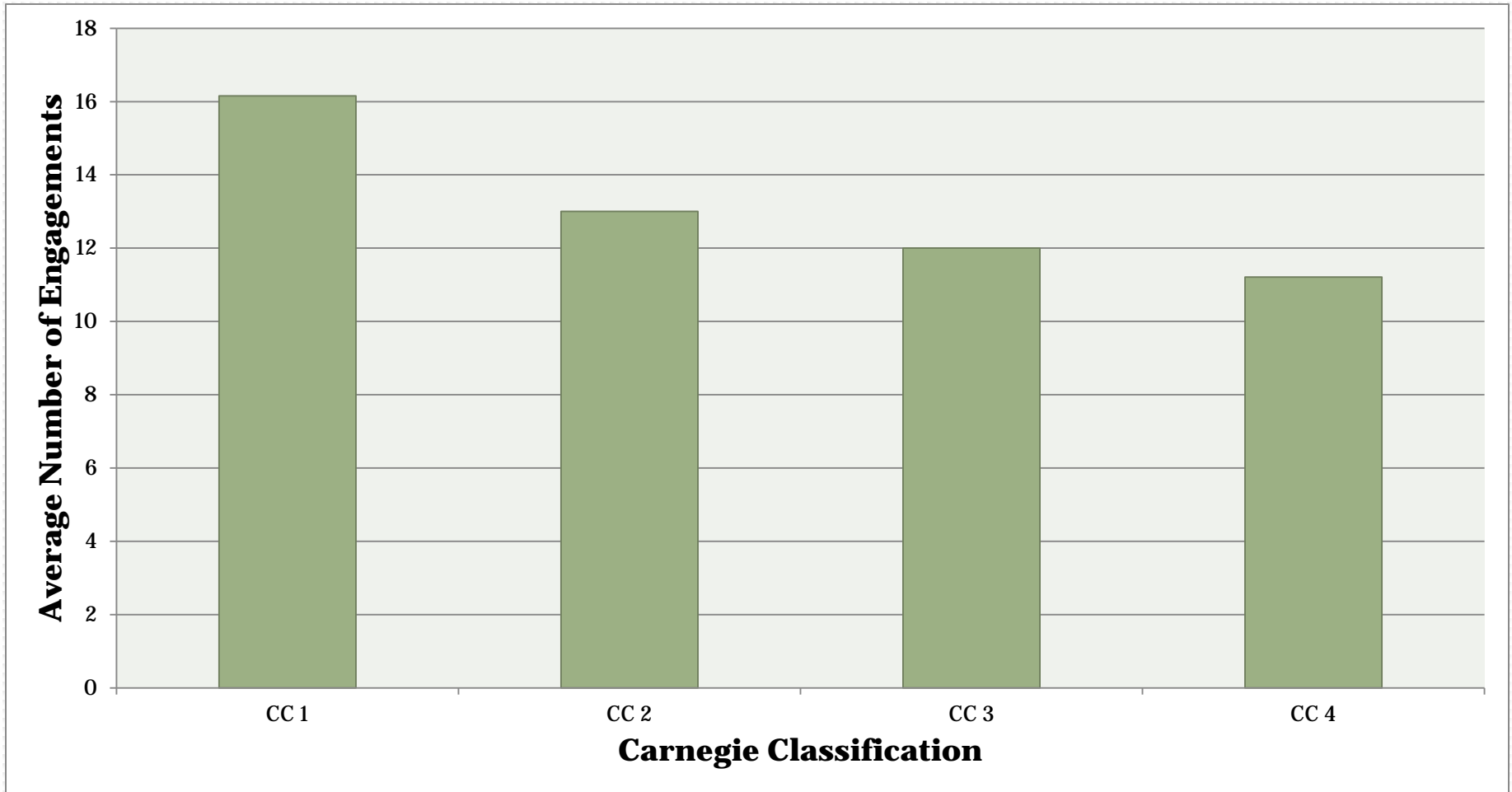


# Findings

- **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