The library publishing landscape: how we define and situate ourselves

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Research questions:

With so much overlap in supports offered, why do some libraries choose to identify as publishers, while others identify as hosts?

Where does hosting end and publishing begin?

How do libraries decide how to self-identify?

These questions are nit-picky, but they poke at larger questions about the role of the library in the production of scholarship.

Data we gathered:

- Sampling frame (142 institutions)
- Interviews (8 people)
- Follow-up survey (67 responses)

FINDINGS

It’s complicated:

host, publisher, *library* publisher?

Yes, there's a spectrum

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- Does spectrum runs publishing to hosting, or is it a publishing spectrum, with hosting situated elsewhere?

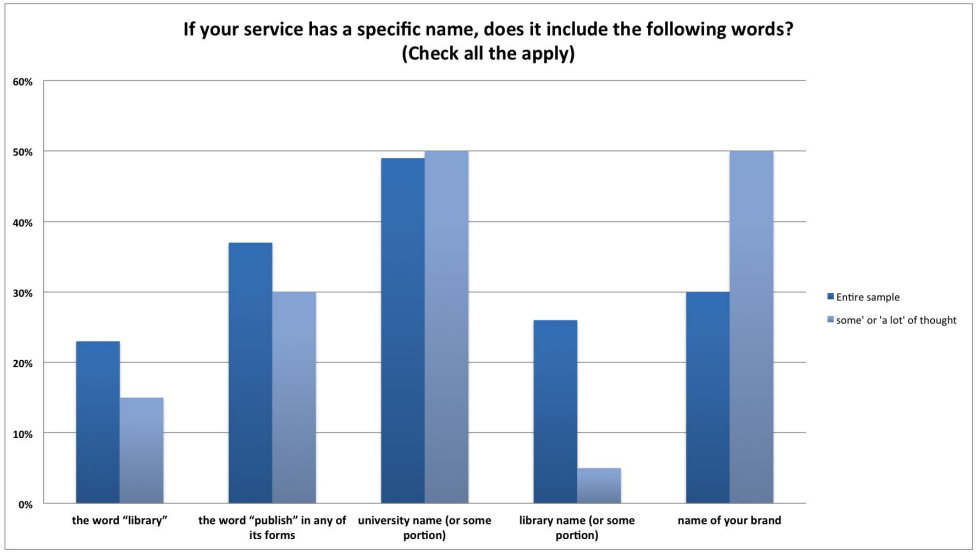
- Spectrum does not indicate quality!

“Library publishing” as a useful phrase

“We’re going head to head with large publishers, like Sage, for particular journals. And if you want to compete, you can’t say “well **we’re just a library publisher**.” [Interview 4]

“I believe the term "library publisher" **implies fewer services or lesser quality** at low/no cost” [survey]

When units are intentional in their naming, they drop the word ‘library’



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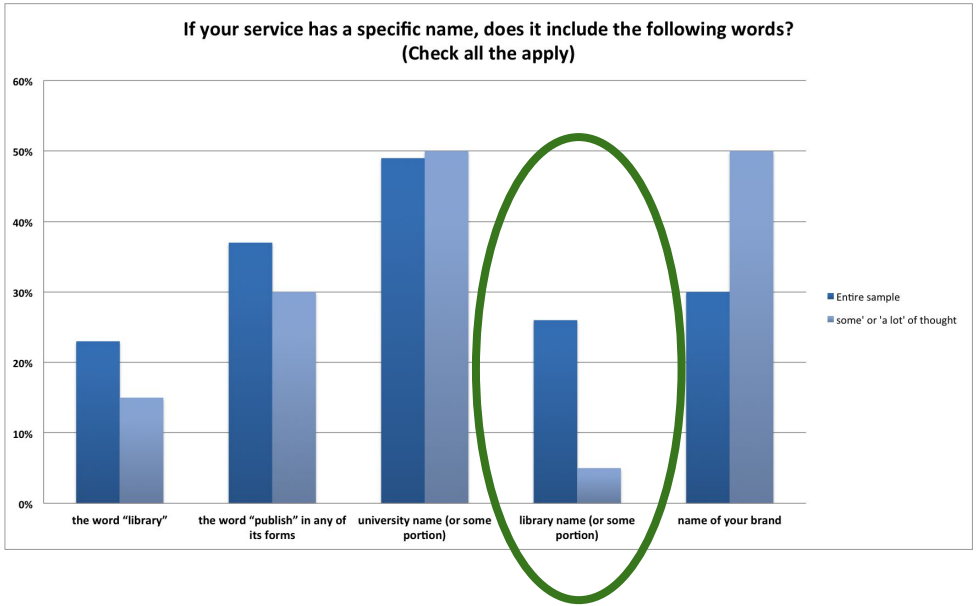


“Who is the publisher of record?”
“…I’ll have to check.”

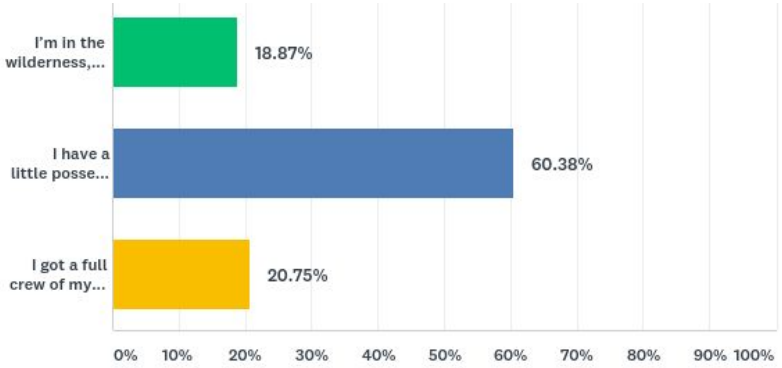
Pressures on naming, workload, scope? …not really

- We asked about presence of university press, involvement of administration, history and size of program
- Presence of a university press had a *slight* influence, but nothing significant
- No other significant pressures identified

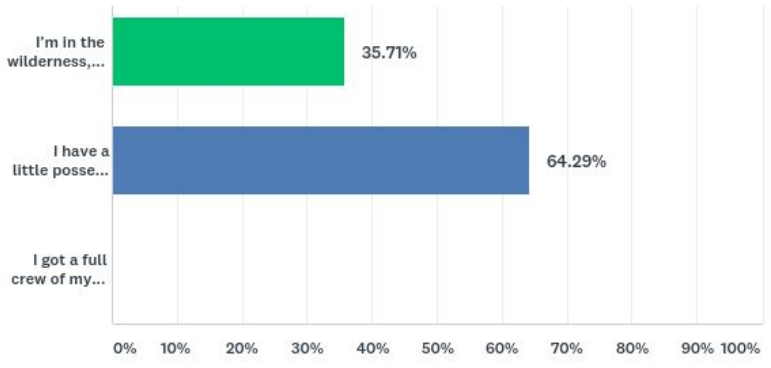
NEXT UP
National Difference?

Survey respondents: US vs. Canada

Which statement most accurately reflects how you feel about the level of support for your service at your library?



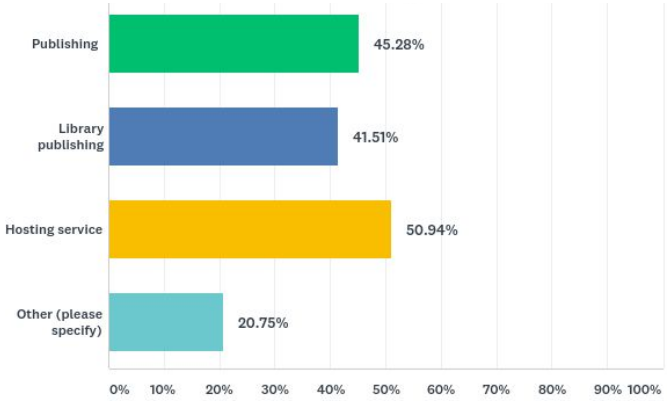
United States



Canada

Survey respondents: US vs. Canada

What term do you use to describe your service to stakeholders?
(select all that apply)



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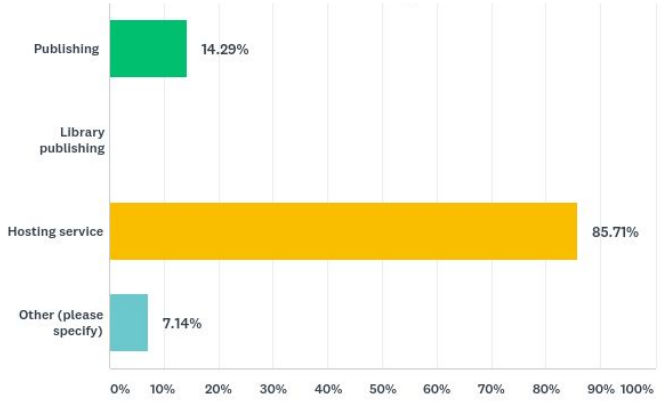

Canada

Thank you!

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