

Research Sprints: Elevating Faculty & Librarian Collaboration

Jenny McBurney & Emma Molls, University of Minnesota Twin Cities Libraries

What are Research Sprints?

Research Sprints offer faculty the opportunity to partner with a team of expert librarians on a specific project, or component of a broader project, for a set number of days to accomplish a research or teaching goal. Sprints differ from one-time consultations in their timing and depth of interaction. The intent is for the team to work without distractions to produce a tangible outcome. UMN adapted the idea from Kansas University: lib.ku.edu/research-sprints/about



5 Iterations of Sprints at UMN

2 Types of Sprints	Description	Who is eligible	Iteration	# of Applications	# of Teams
Spring Sprints	Annual iterations organized by the Libraries	Any tenured, tenure track, or clinical faculty on campus	May 2017 (pilot)	10	7
			May 2018	20	6
			May 2019	14	5
Grand Challenges Sprints	Organized jointly with the Provost's Office	Faculty who have been awarded a Grand Challenges grant	January 2018	na	6
			March 2019	na	5

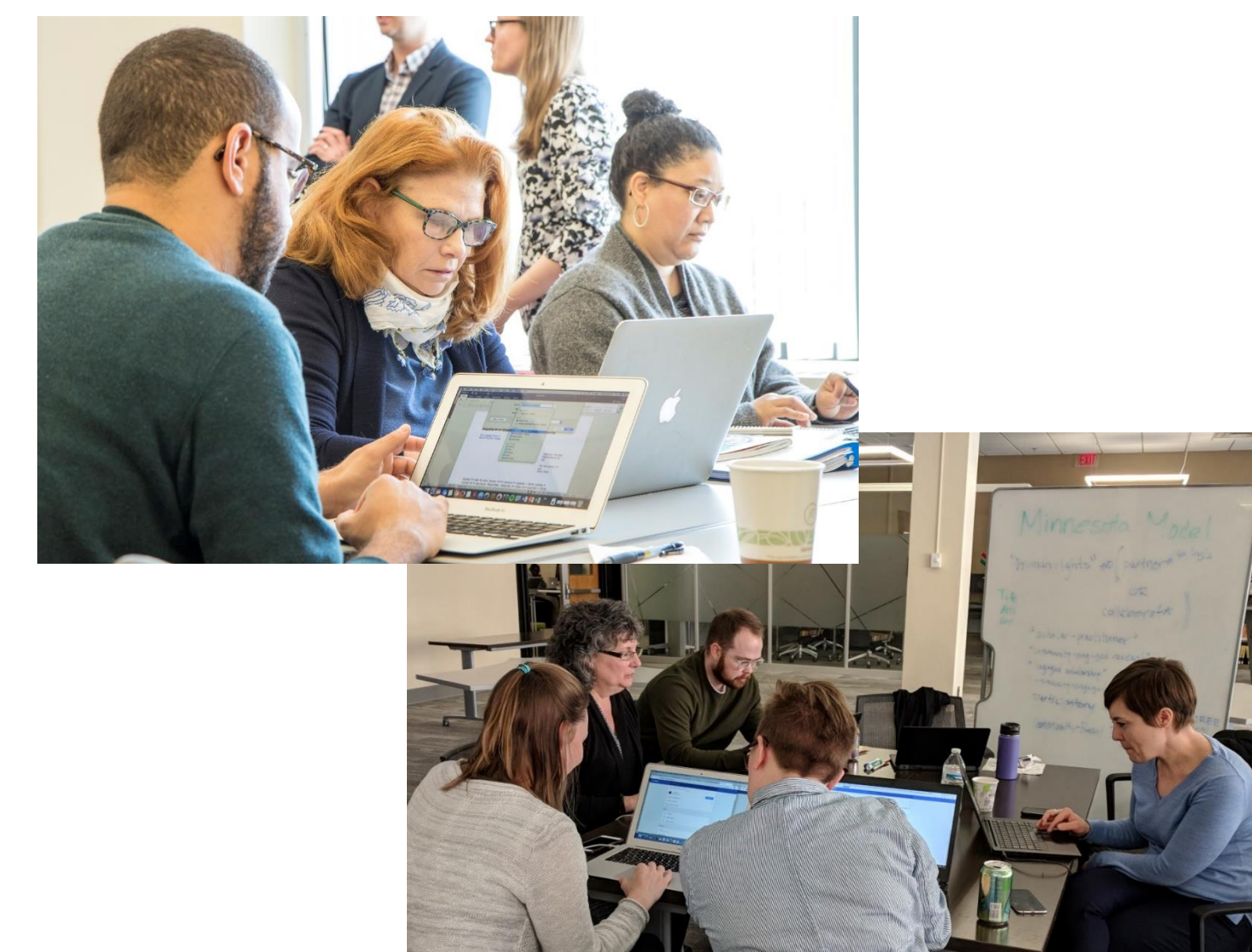
Application and Selection Process

- 3-6 person rotating planning committee
 - Marketing coordinated through the Libraries' Communication Team
 - Hold information session for interested faculty
- Faculty submit brief application form
 - Overview of project
 - What support they want from the Libraries
- Applications were selected by the planning committee
 - Scoring rubric based on Feasibility, Impact, Fit with Libraries' strategic goals
- Connect faculty with support for projects not selected

Building a Team

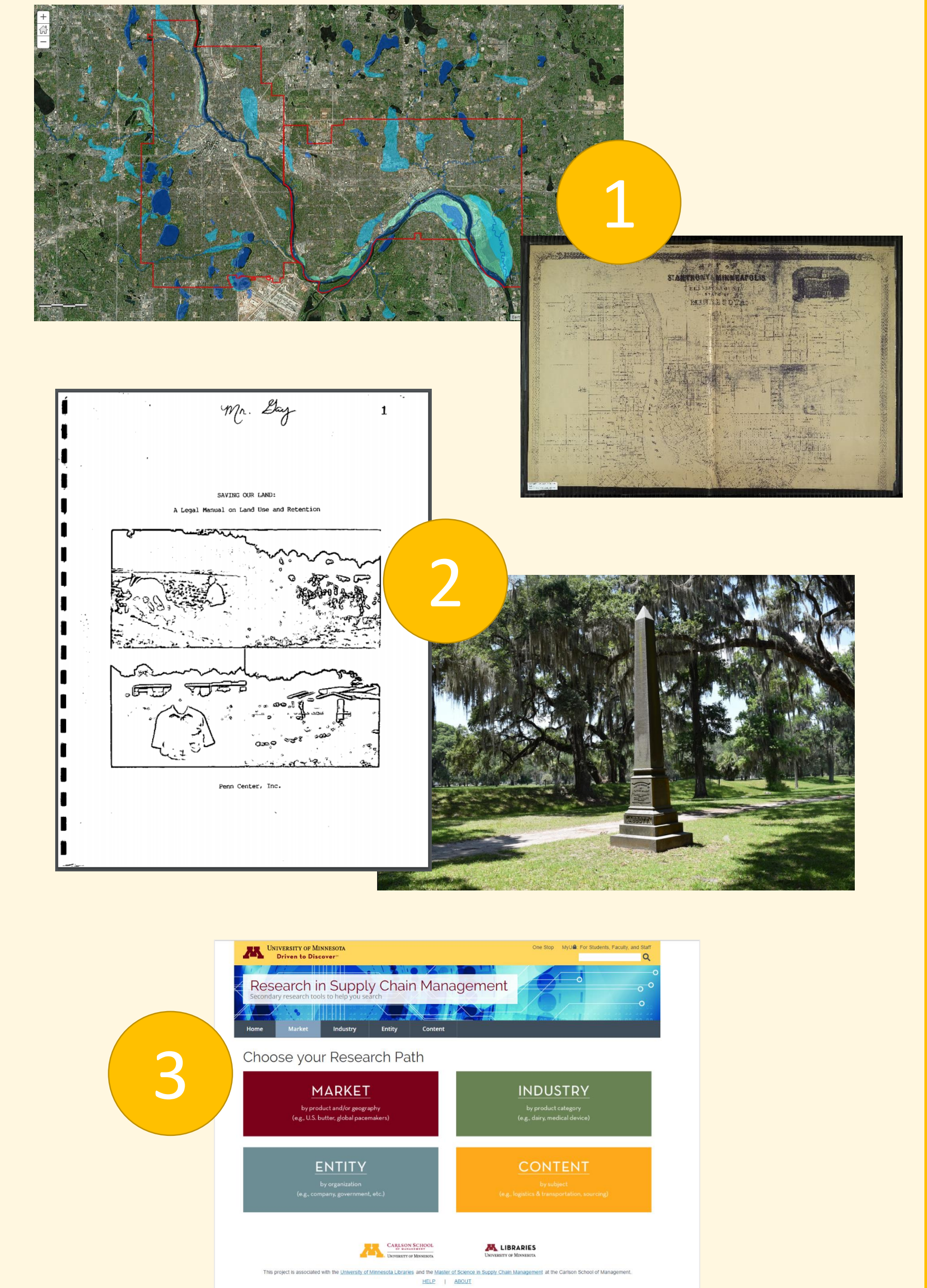
- Planning committee worked with department directors to identify library staff
- 3-6 library staff members on each team:

Faculty	Libraries
Faculty Member(s)	Project Manager
Research Assistant(s)	Subject Liaison
Sometimes community members	Functional specialists
	Other areas of expertise
	Librarian consultants (attend portions of the Sprint week)



Example Projects

- Faculty Member in Architecture**
Goal: Create a map of the hidden & lost waters that lie below the Twin Cities
End Product: Literature search and map of the rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands based on land surveys that date back to pre-1900 which will be submitted to DRUM and ArcGIS Online
- Faculty Member in Geography**
Goal: Discover and evaluate government and archival data about Gullah/Geechee people of the Southeastern United States, and explore grant options
End Product: Identified and cataloged government data, surveyor records, maps, and archival materials on the historical relationship between the state and the Gullah/Geechee people
- Faculty Member in Management**
Goal: Create a secondary research tool for the Masters in Supply Chain Management program's capstone class
End Product: Designed a "choose your own adventure"-style website with Drupal Lite, currently being used for the summer course



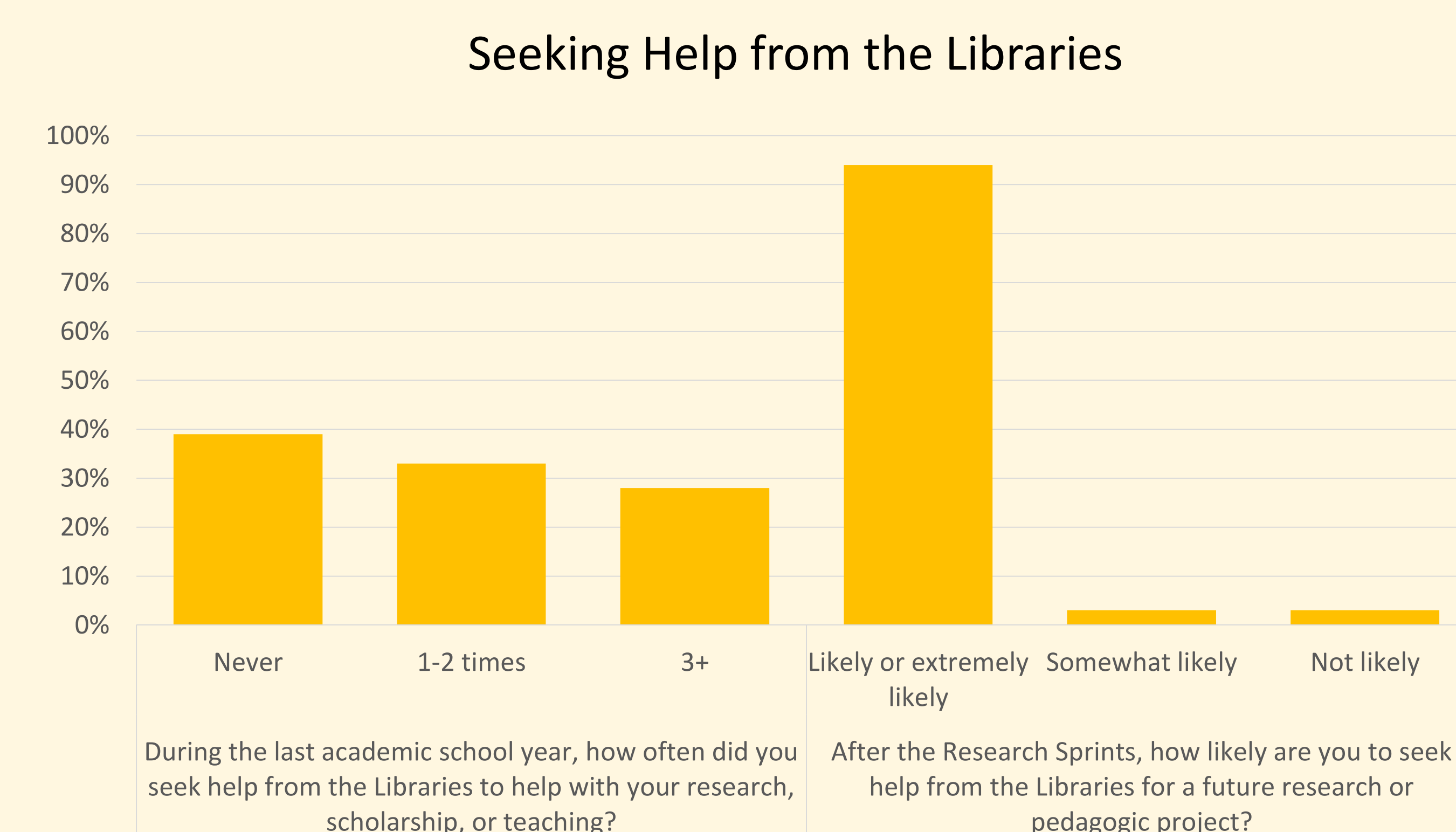
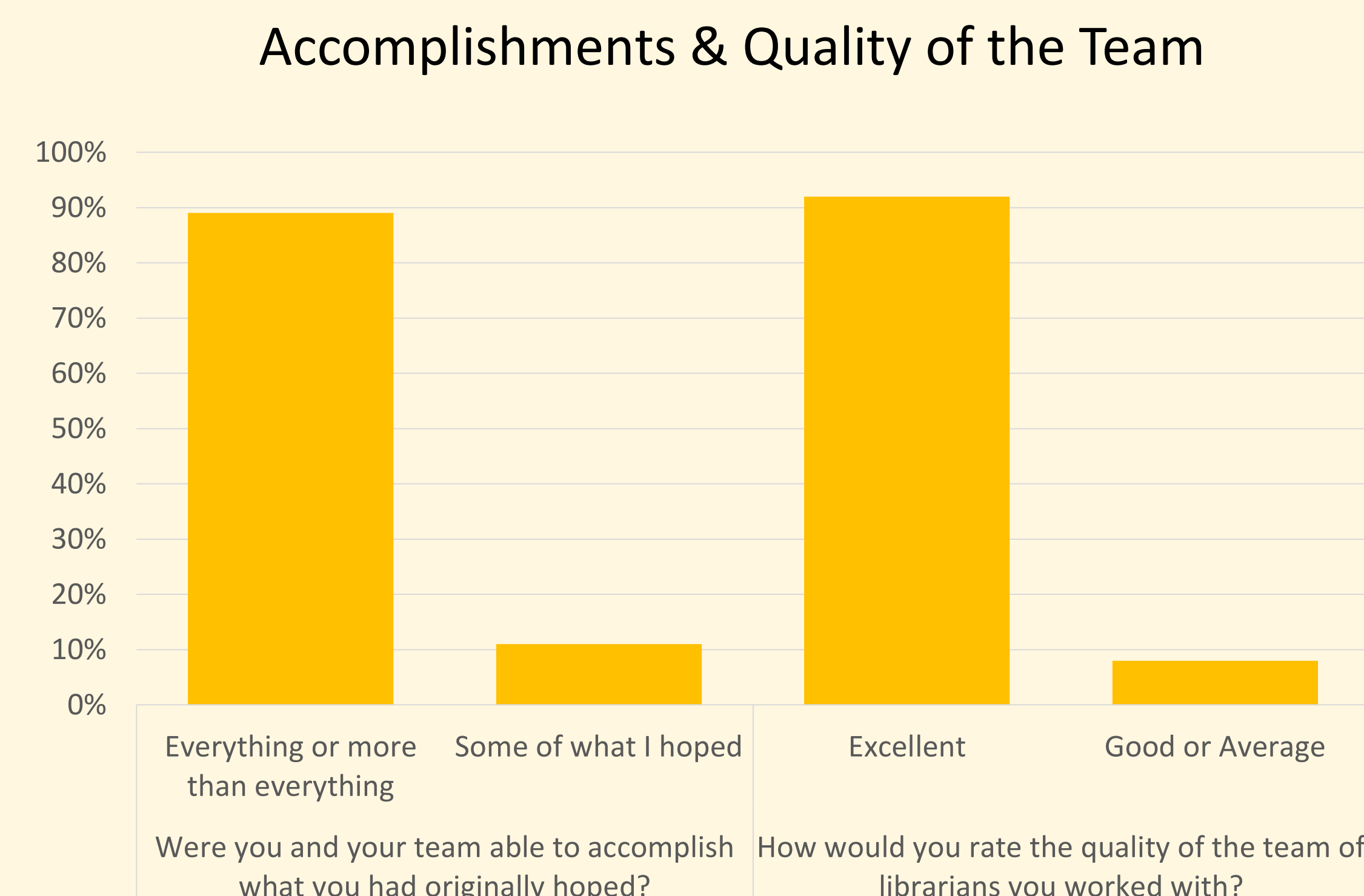
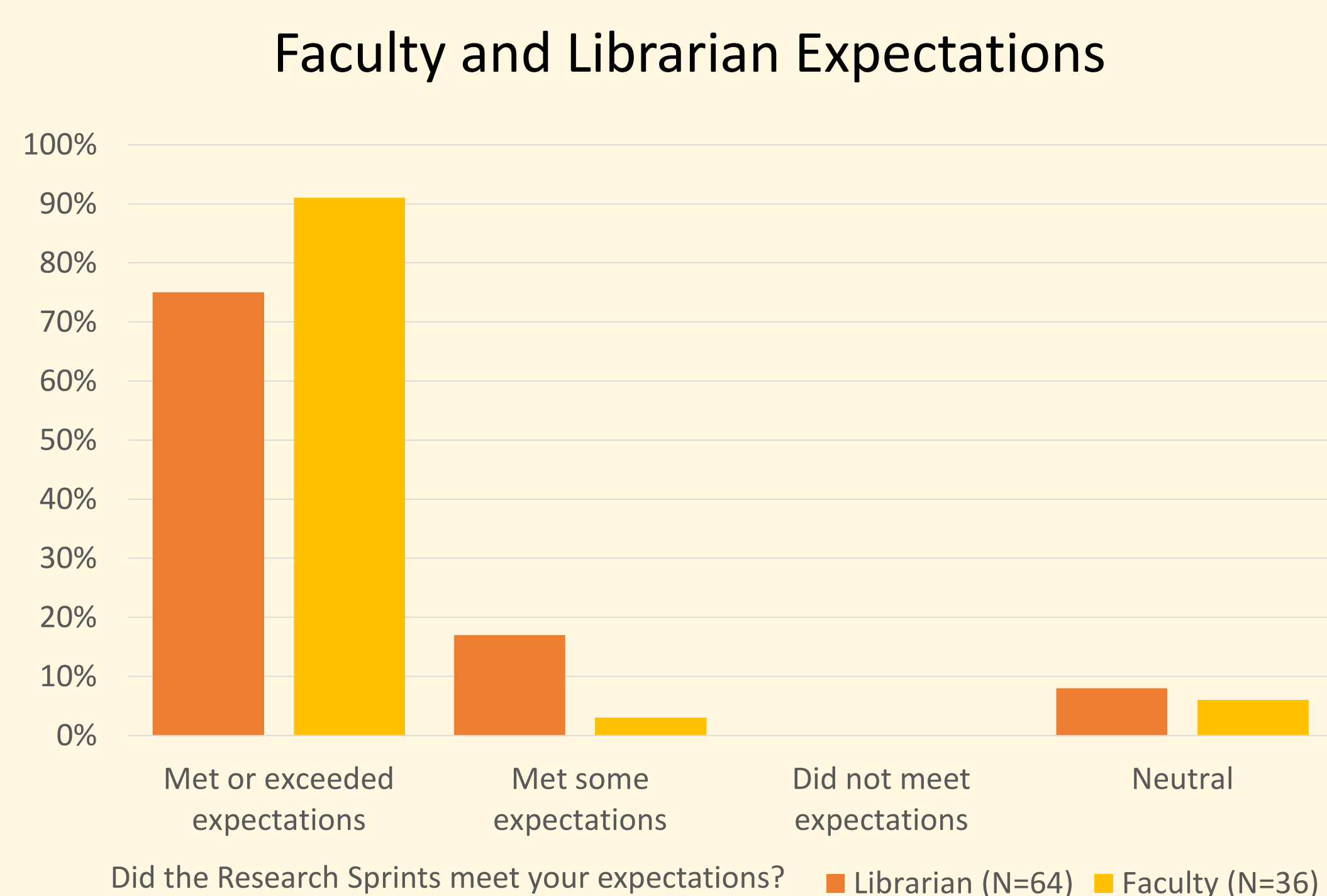
Preparation and Project Management

- Orientation for librarians
- Pre-Sprint meetings with faculty to clarify scope of project and identify technological and training needs
- Scrum Training for Project Managers (new in 2019)
- PMs customize templates for documentation during and after Sprints

Example Sprint Week

- Monday-Thursday, 9am-4:30pm
- One large room for cross collaboration
- Breakout rooms available
- Coffee, meals, and snacks provided
- Organized breaks and optional activities
- End-of-Sprint celebration with appetizers and a cash bar at a nearby restaurant

Survey Feedback from Participants in May 2017, January 2018, and May 2018 Sprints



Next Steps

- Paper forthcoming in *portal: Libraries and the Academy* analyzing survey feedback from the first 3 iterations of UMN Sprints
- Beginning a collaboration with KU to evaluate the long-term results for faculty participants.

Sprint Toolkit

For more examples and information, including templates, visit ResearchSprints.org.

