

First Year of Creating a Data Management Plan: A New Workshop Offered by the University of Minnesota Libraries

Audience & Instructors

In anticipation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) new requirement that all grant proposals include a data management plan as of January 2011, the University of Minnesota Libraries began offering a 90-minute discussion-based workshop, "Creating a Data Management Plan for your Grant Application".

Topics: Data preservation, tools for sharing data, and more.

Audience: Faculty, graduate students, postdocs & other researchers

Instructors: Research Services Librarian/data curation specialist with liaison librarian/subject specialist

12 librarians (21%) taught the workshop with our Research Services Librarian⁶

Between December 2010 and January 2012, over 300 researchers attended the workshop

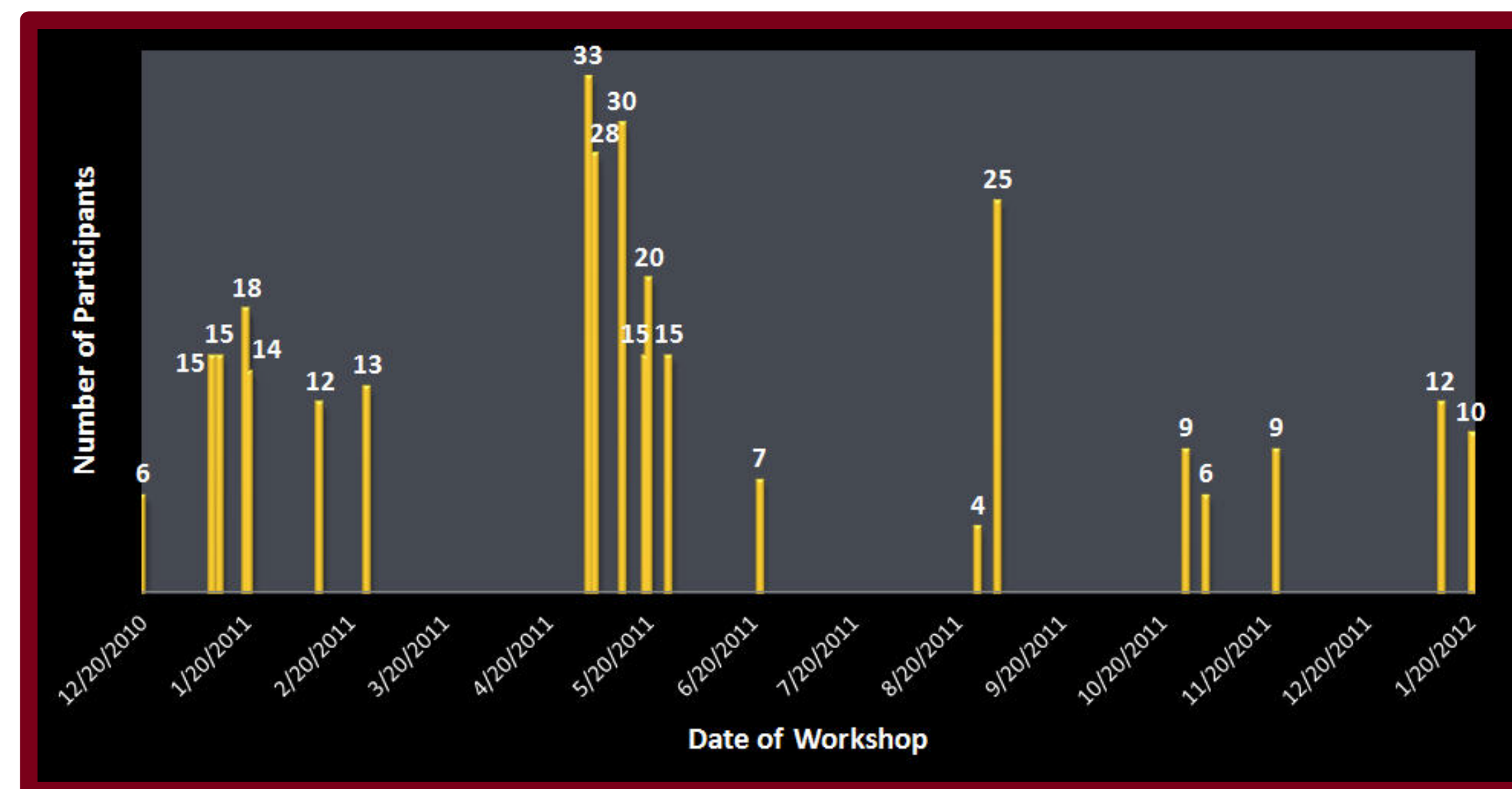


Figure 1. Attendance from Dec. 2010 to Jan. 2012.⁶

Why Did We Do It?

Our 2006 & 2007 surveys of University of Minnesota researchers' needs told us people struggled to manage their research data. A 2009 survey of 780 researchers on campus revealed an education gap with managing data (Figure 3).⁴ Libraries have a lot of relevant expertise to offer and can take a lead role.^{1, 2}

Over 25% of researchers had lost important data and did not have backup copies

Over 50% used unsecured external hard drives for backing up data

"There are probably better ways. If there were a workshop on organization and file management, I would go. The Libraries do this so well."²

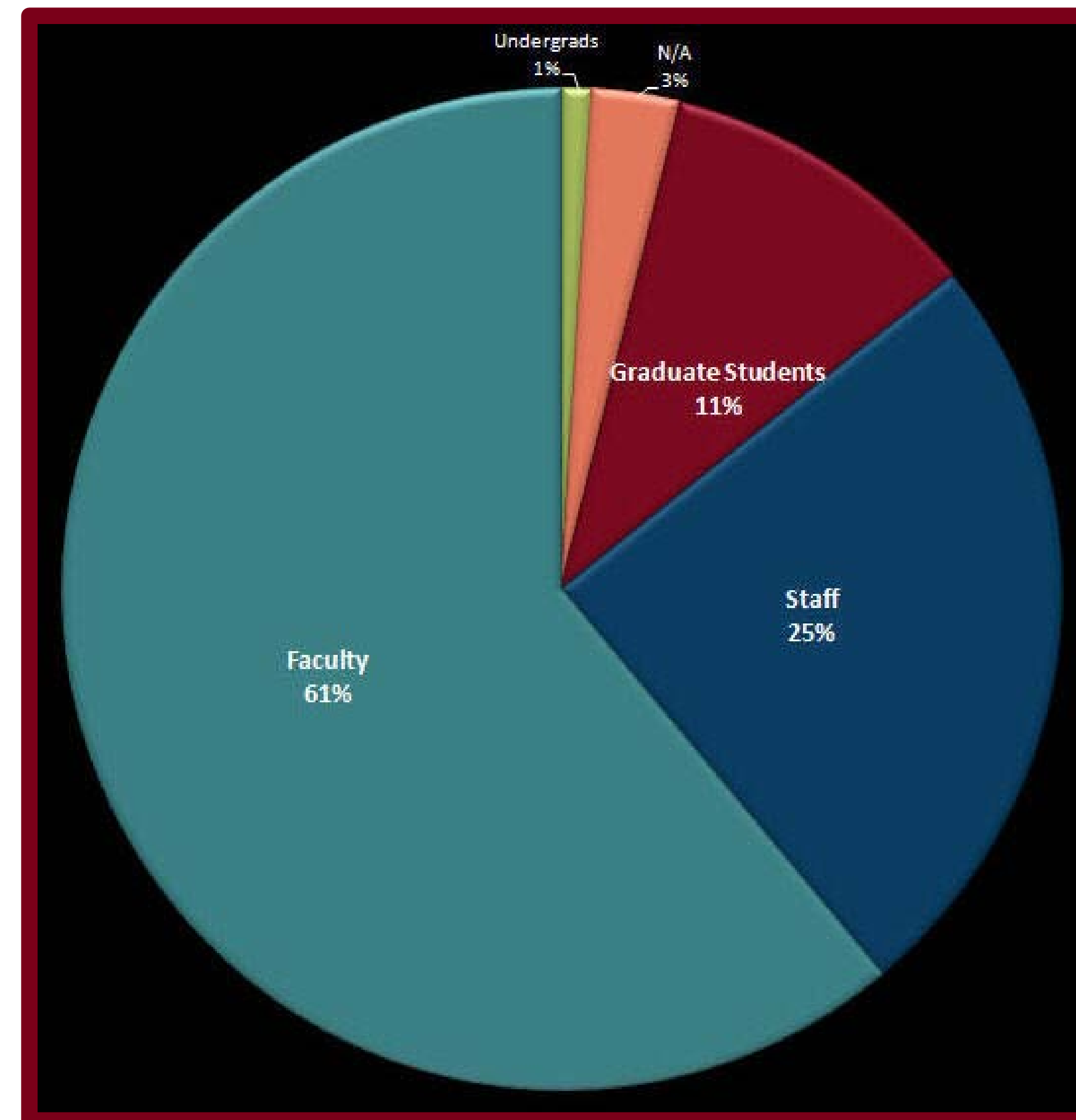


Figure 2. Workshop attendees by role.⁶

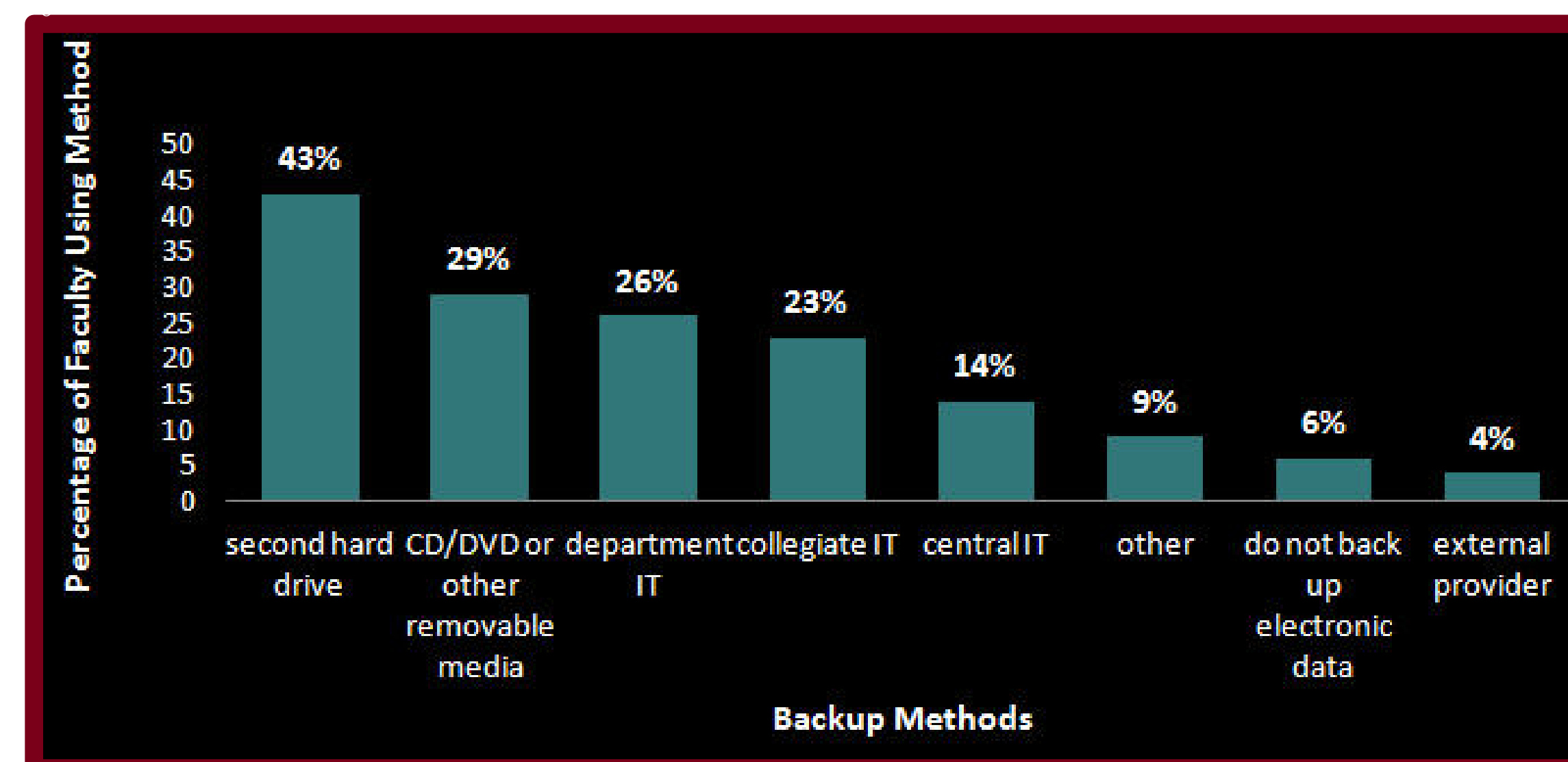


Figure 3. Data backup methods used by University of Minnesota faculty.⁴

References

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- Diekmann, F. (2012). *Data Practices of Agricultural Scientists: Results from an Exploratory Study*. *Journal of Agricultural & Food Information*, 13:14-34.
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How Can Agricultural Researchers Benefit?

Agricultural researchers "routinely manage sizeable amounts of scientific data"⁵ In addition to NSF, increasing numbers of funders are now requiring data management plans or data sharing.³

The College of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) had the second highest number of attendees (Figure 4).⁶

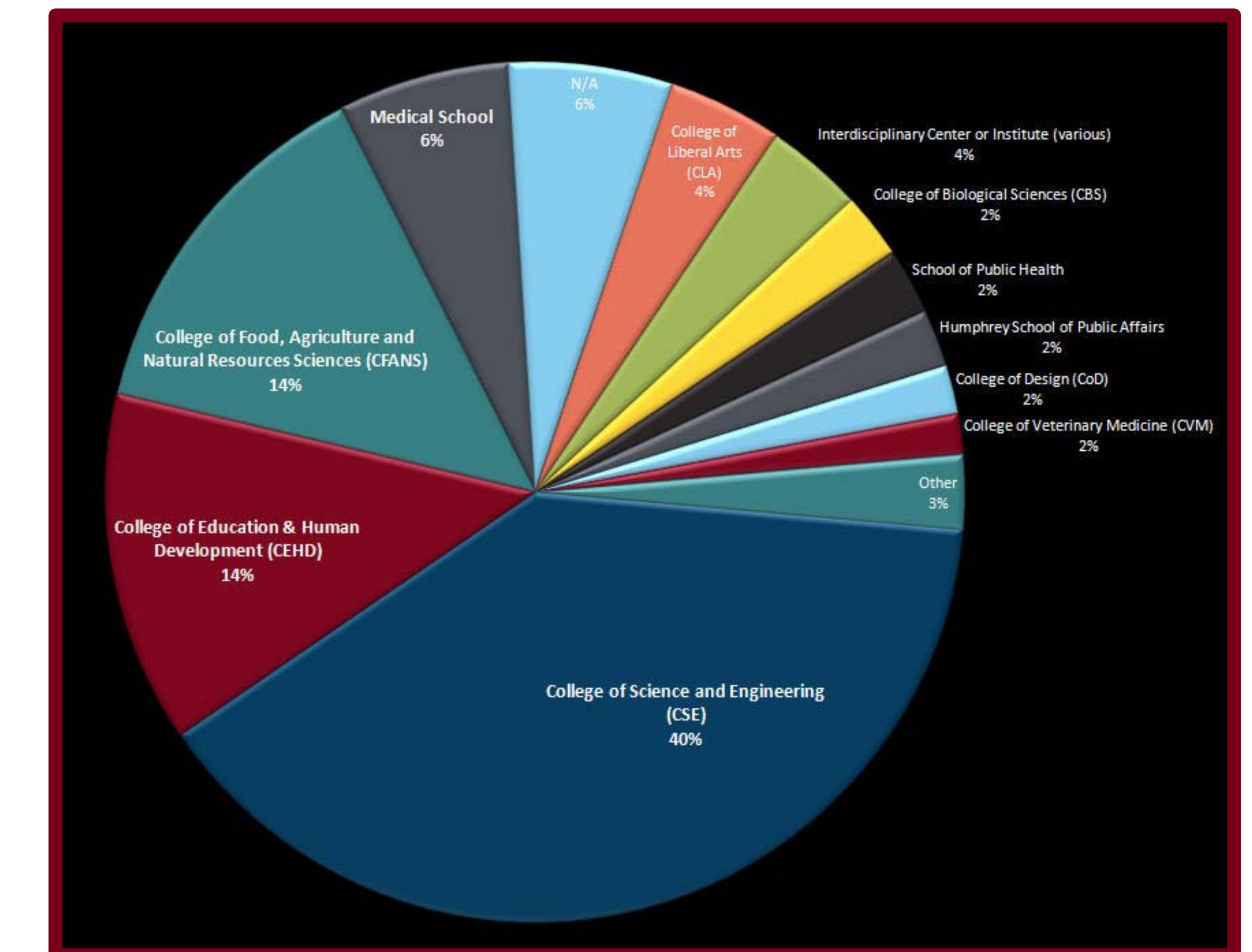


Figure 4. Workshop attendees by college.⁶

Future Directions

The Research Services Librarian and a colleague are developing data management curriculum for graduate students with an anticipated start date of Fall 2012. The project is funded by an IMLS grant led by Purdue University.

Beth Petsan, Science Librarian, petsan@umn.edu
Meghan Lafferty, Science Librarian, mlaffert@umn.edu
Lisa Johnston, Research Services Librarian, ljohnsto@umn.edu

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