



Knowledge syntheses (KS) published by academic researchers in the Province of Quebec and the involvement of librarians and library technicians: an overview.

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Context

- ▶ May 2024 to May 2025: a pilot project in the health sciences library at the Université de Montréal for the implantation of a formal KS support service including collaboration;
- ▶ Increase in requests for library support in KS in non-health disciplines;
- ▶ Studies documenting librarian contributions in Canadian KS publications: Kennedy & Kung, 2024 (U. Alberta); Monnin & L  , 2024 (U Manitoba); Ross-White A., 2016 and 2020 (Queen's U), Raynard E, 2025 (U Laval)
- ▶ Main objective:
 - ▶ Documenting Quebec librarian's and library technician's contributions to structured reviews published by researchers in Quebec Universities

18 Quebec Universities										Full-Time Graduate Enrolment 2024*
Bishop's University										169
Concordia University										6,251
McGill University										7,892
Université de Montréal, including HEC & Polytechnique										15,703
Université Laval										9,370
Université de Sherbrooke										5,971
Réseau de l'Université du Québec (UQ Network, n=10):										
ENAP	ETS	INRS	TELUQ	UQÀM	UQAC	UQAR	UQAT	UQO	UQTR	16,714
Programs across all disciplines, including a Medical faculty				Programs across various disciplines, including a Nursing fac./dept.				Arts & Humanities <i>and/or</i> Business <i>and/or</i> Engineering <i>and/or</i> Sciences <i>and/or</i> Social Sciences		

*Source: Universities Canada. [Enrolment by university](#): Quebec Full-time Graduate. Fall 2024

Methods

- ▶ YEARS: 2023-2024 [to be done: 2020-22]
- ▶ SOURCES
 - ▶ Web of Science Core Collection, Scopus and MEDLINE All (Ovid)
 - ▶ Articles in French: LiSSa, Érudit, CAIRN & Google Scholar
 - ▶ [To be done: Google Scholar; Contacting Qc librarians identified in the studies]
- ▶ MAIN SEARCH STRATEGY
 - ▶ WoS: university names in **OG** field [Organization-enhanced field] **AND** types of review (review* OR synthes* OR meta-analys*, etc.)
 - ▶ WoS, Scopus, MEDLINE ALL: university names or campus cities names **AND** Canada in **Institution** field) **AND** Types of review (review* OR synthes* OR meta-analys*, etc) [also some MeSH in MEDLINE]

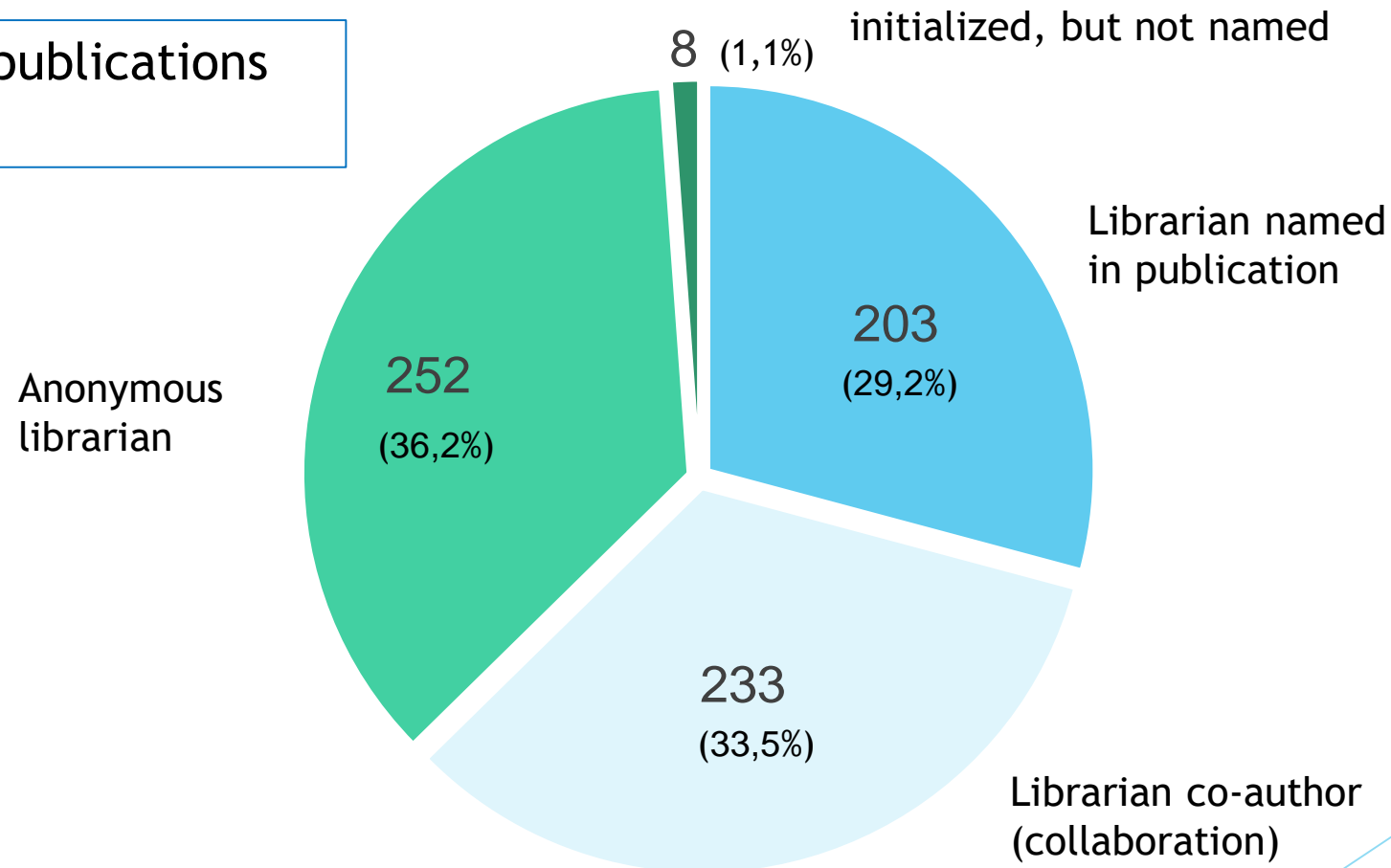
Methods

INCLUSION CRITERIA for screening (in Covidence)

- ▶ Title/Abstract Screening
 - ▶ Review or review protocol or updated review of some kind
 - ▶ More than one author
 - ▶ Search completed in at least one major articles database and at least one other source. [if info in the abstract]
- ▶ Full Text Screening
 - ▶ First, last or corresponding author affiliated to a Qc university
 - ▶ Review or review protocol or updated review with a structured method section.
 - ▶ Search completed in at least one major articles database and at least one other source.
 - ▶ Librarian/Information specialist/library technician is a co-author or acknowledged (named or not named) in the publication.

Quebec librarians' involvement in knowledge synthesis publications (Qc Universities and affiliated institutions, 2023-24)

N=696 publications



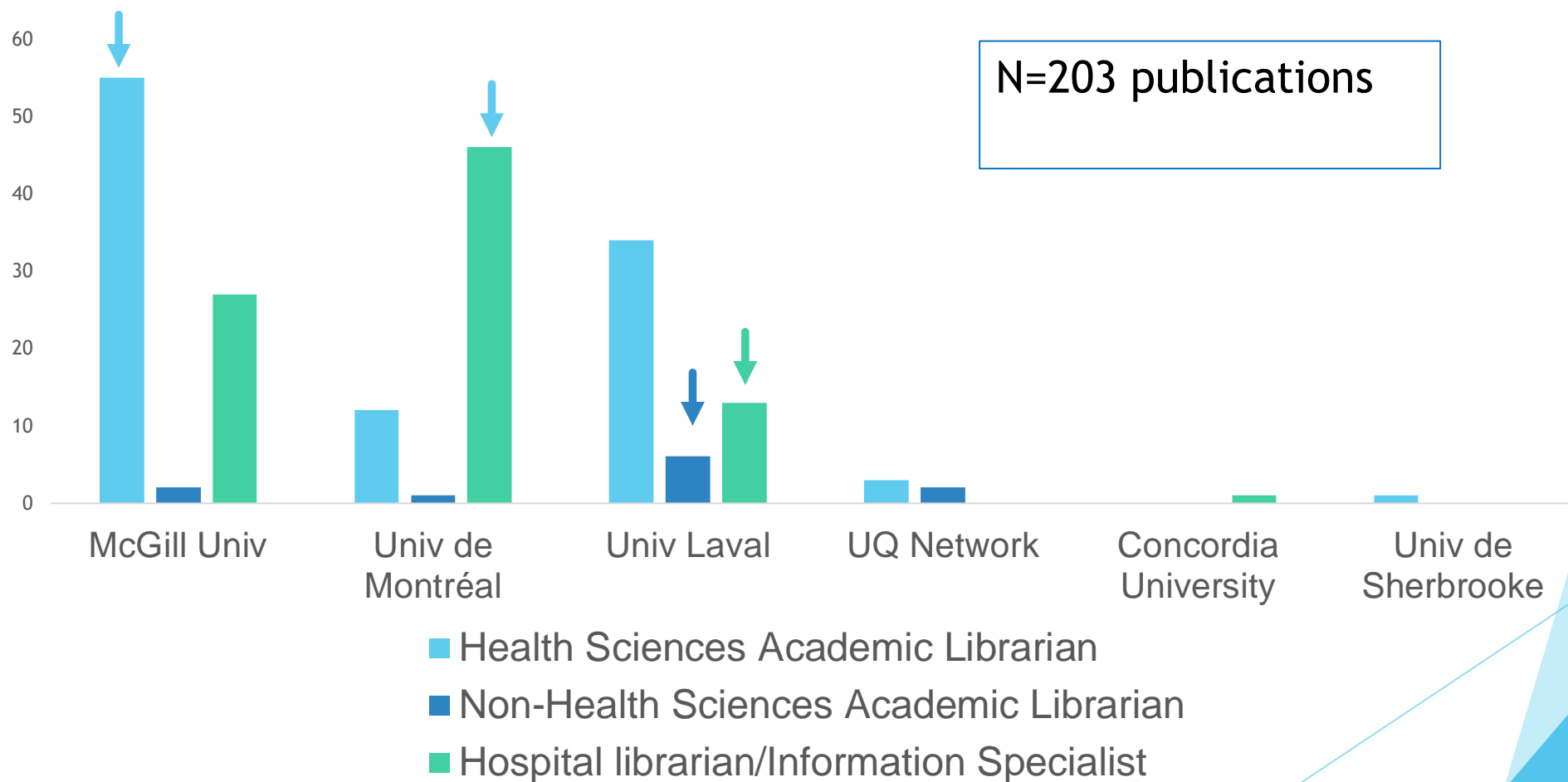
Librarian's involvement by university

UNIVERSITIES	CO-AUTHORSHIP (collaboration)	LIBRARIAN NAMED IN PUBLICATION	ANONYMOUS LIBRARIAN *	Total
Concordia Univ.	1	2	3 (+5)	11
McGill Univ.	84	96	9 (+64)	253
Univ. de Montréal	59	67	8 (+62)	196
Univ. de Sherbrooke	1	12	7 (+30)	50
Univ. Laval	53	47	7 (+33)	140
UQ Network	5	9	4 (+20)	38
Total	203	233	38 (+214) = 252	688**

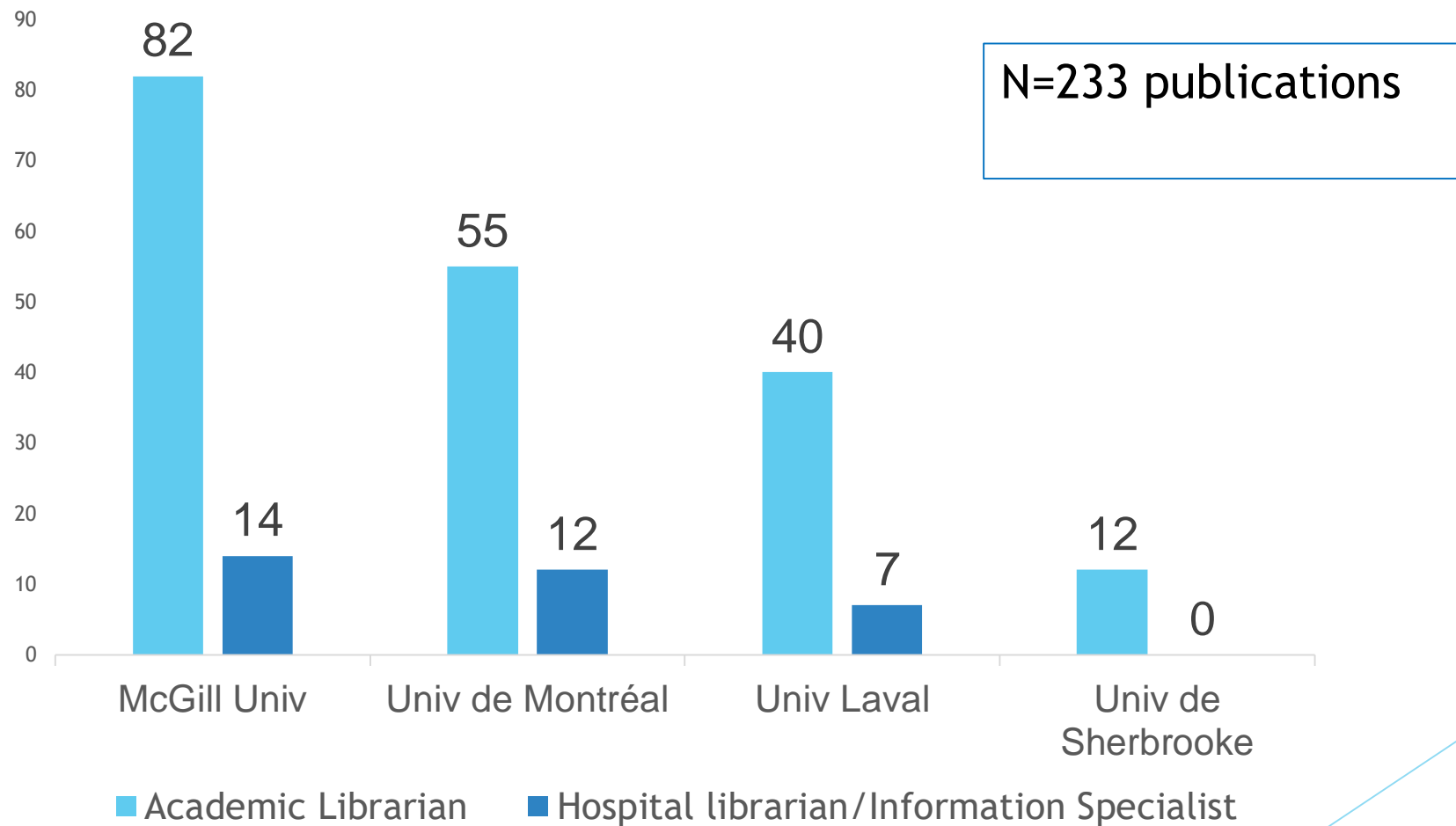
*Numbers in parentheses: affiliation established from corresponding, first or last author of the publication. *The librarian could be affiliated to another institution.*

**8 publications where librarians' names were initialized, but not named, are excluded from this table.

Co-authorship: academic librarians and hospital librarians/information specialists



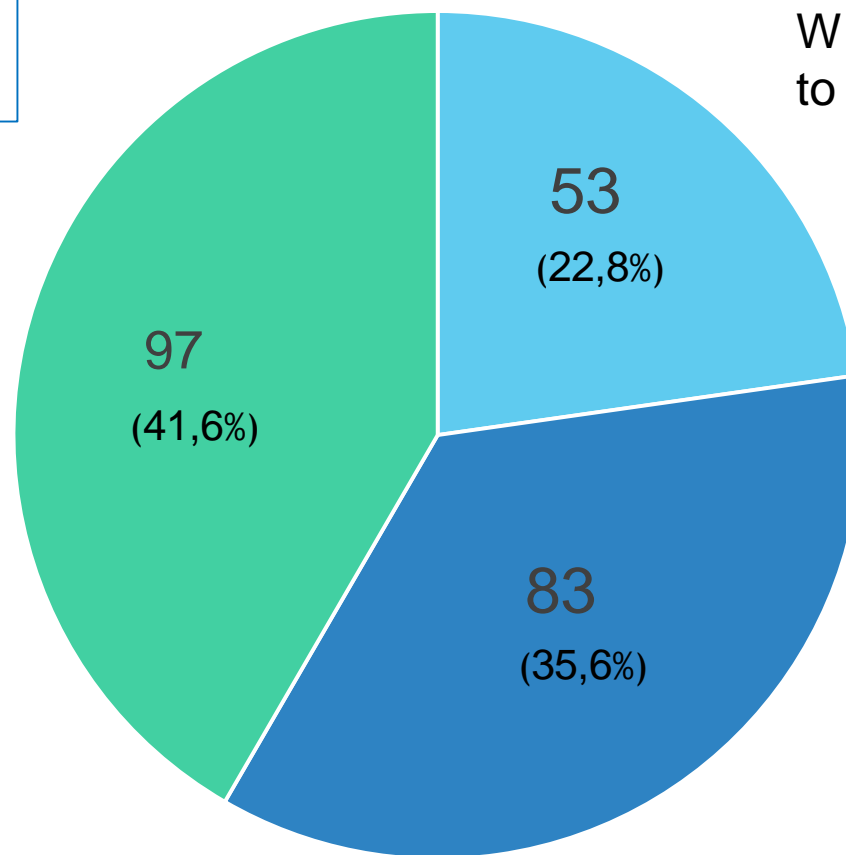
Librarians named in publication: academic librarians and hospital librarians/IS



Librarians named in the Acknowledgements: affiliations

N=233 publications

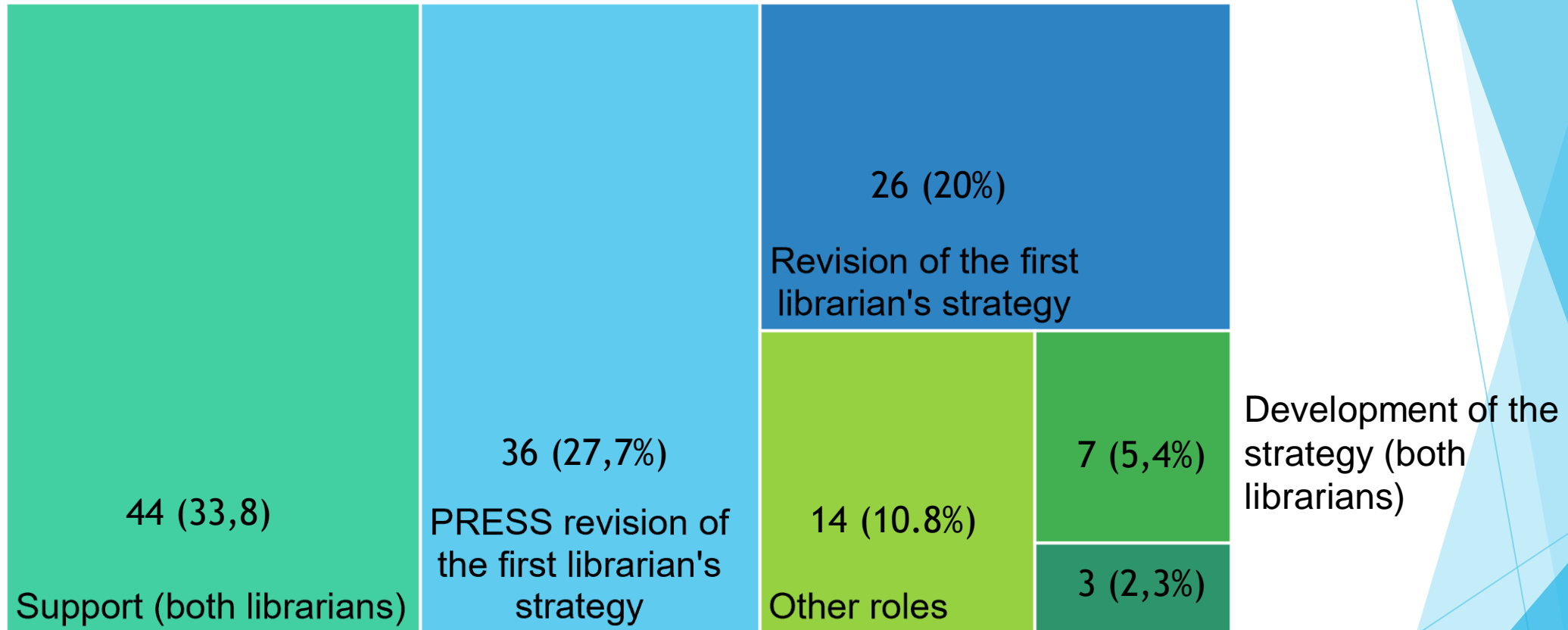
Without any
affiliation



With their affiliation
to their library

With their affiliation
to their institution

Roles of the second librarian (n=130)



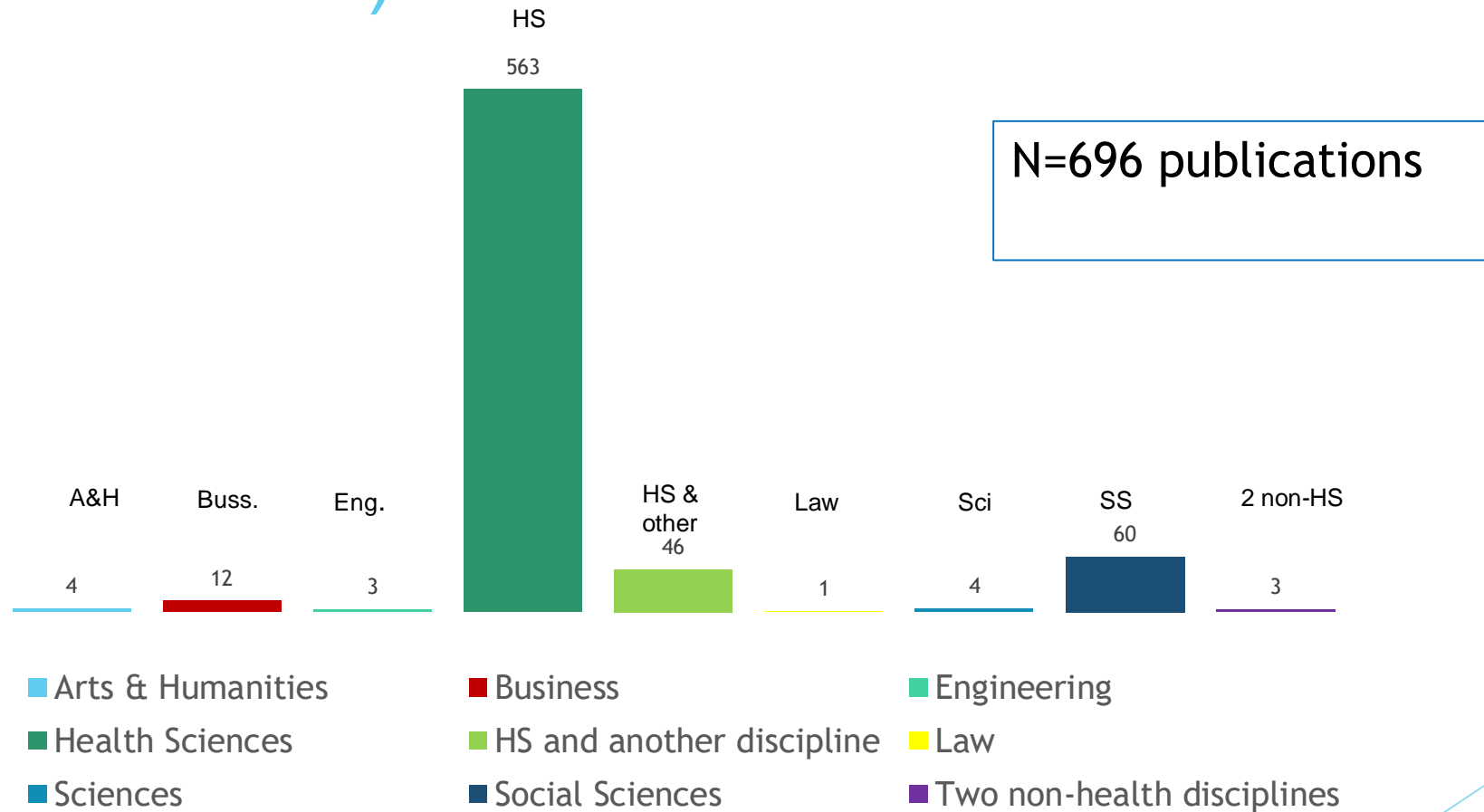
Both librarians consulted independently

In some publications, 3 or 4 librarians were involved

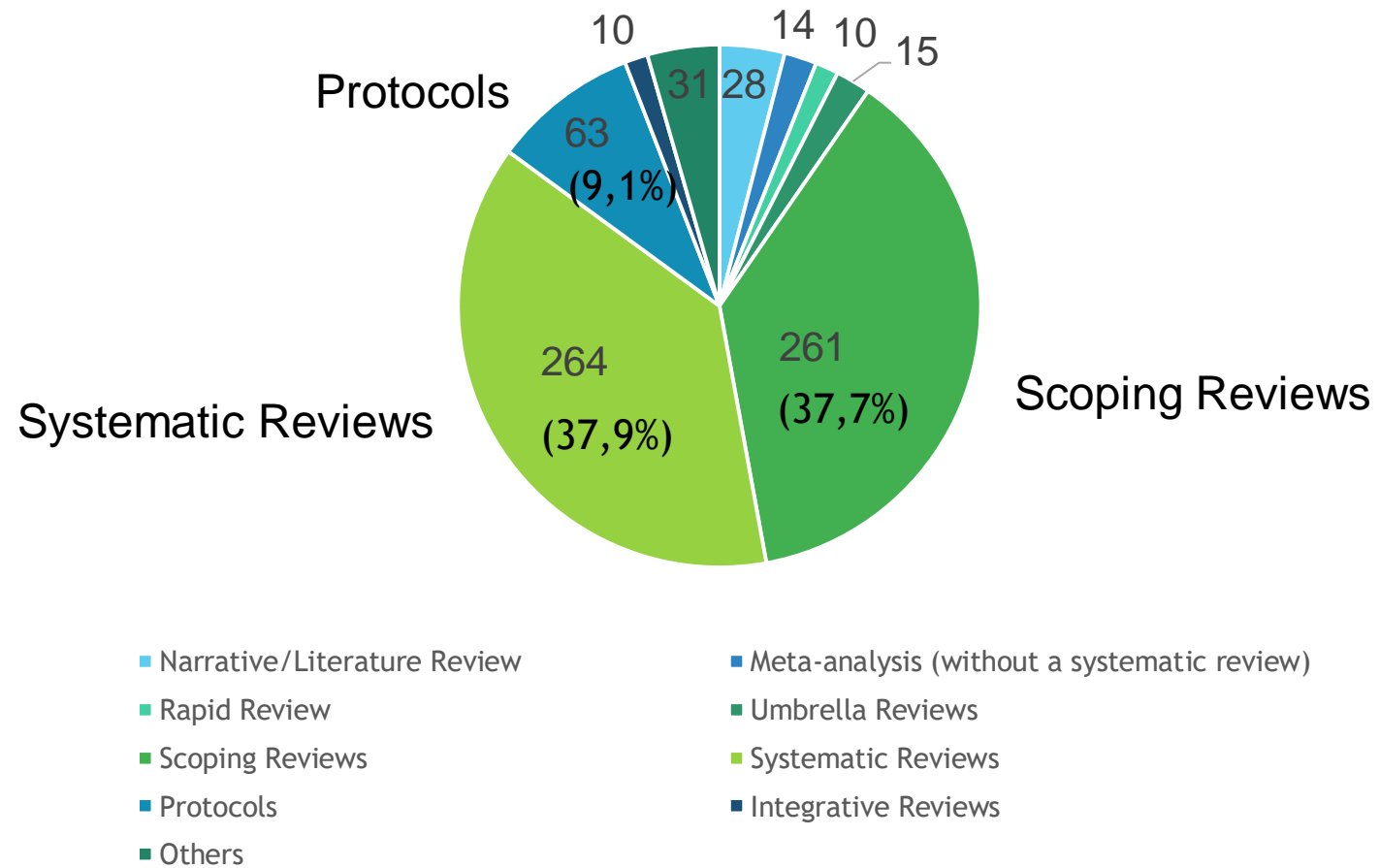
The elusive library technician

- ▶ 4 library technicians named in the Acknowledgements section
- ▶ 4 mentions found of the use of Inter-library loan Services
- ▶ 5 acknowledgements to the library staff
- ▶ 1 named librarian who actually works as a library technician

Disciplines of the researchers (first and last authors)



Types of reviews



Publications in French

- ▶ Very few publications in French
n=25, 3,6%
- ▶ **1** with a librarian co-author
- ▶ **11** scoping reviews, **5** integrative reviews
- ▶ **16** in Health Sciences, **6** in Social Sciences

Limitations

- ▶ Preliminary results: cross-referencing with librarians' names in Google Scholar and contacting librarians is still to be done.
- ▶ Authors or acknowledged people in publications are not always easy to identify as a librarian, information specialist or library technician.
- ▶ Years 2020-2023 still to be done to get a more complete overview.
- ▶ Only reviews with more than one author and more than one source consulted were considered.
- ▶ Only reviews with Quebec researchers as corresponding, first or last authors were considered.
- ▶ Appendices and supplements of articles were not consulted when looking for the mention of librarian or library technician involvement.
- ▶ Protocols were not analyzed separately.

Conclusion

- ▶ Two university libraries, McGill and Laval, have a mature KS service (years > 5) and this can be seen in the number of publications co-authored by academic librarians from those universities.
- ▶ The late start at UdeM at offering a collaboration service (co-authorship) has, we think, given an opportunity to clinical librarians in its affiliated institutions to develop their expertise and services in KS. This can be seen positively as strong expertise will be available in both settings.
- ▶ Other universities have few librarians' co-authoring KS. To our knowledge, KS services in some of them have been implanted recently or are in development.
- ▶ Librarians are still mainly involved in systematic reviews, scoping reviews and protocols in health sciences.

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MERCI!

DES QUESTIONS?