

Survey on Generative AI Adoption & Impact in East Asian Librarianship

Preliminary Findings

CEAL Library Technology Committee

Overview

29

Questions
(6 open-ended)

Dec – Feb

Survey Period
Dec 1, 2025 – Feb 6, 2026

74

Valid Responses

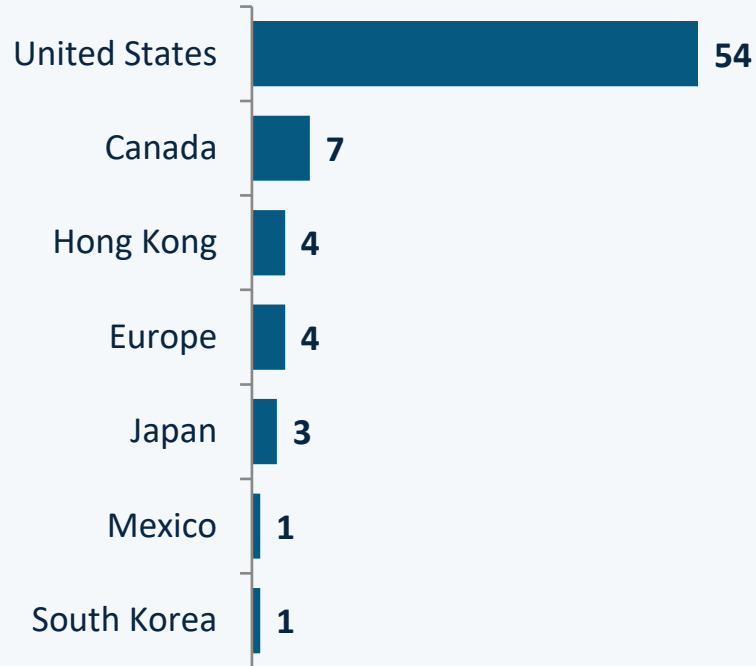
11%

Response Rate
(typical for listserv)

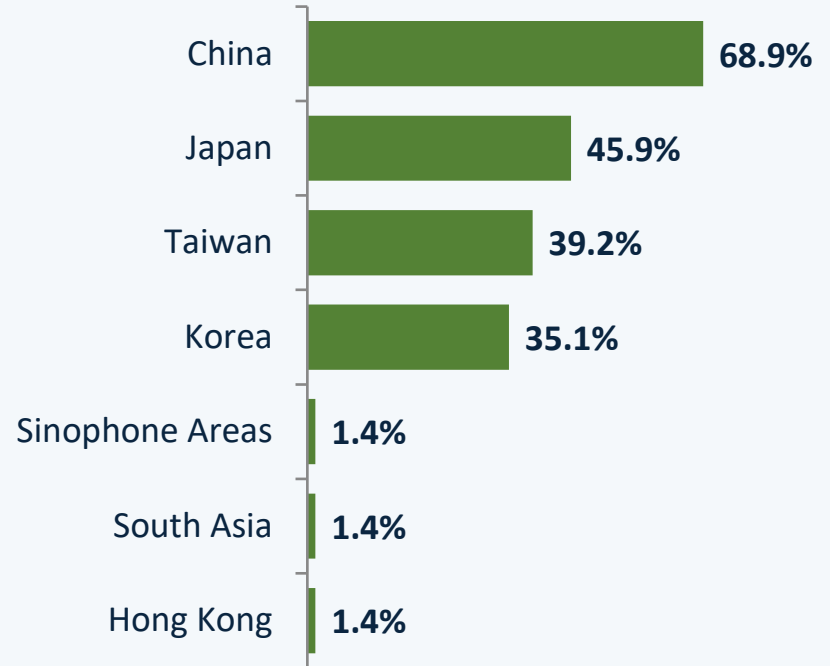
Distributed via Eastlib listserv to CEAL members

Respondent Profile (1/2)

Library Location

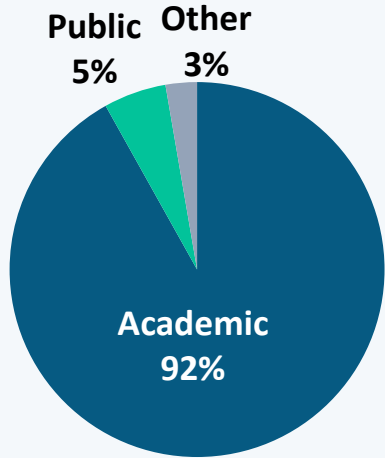


Primary Geographic Focus(es)

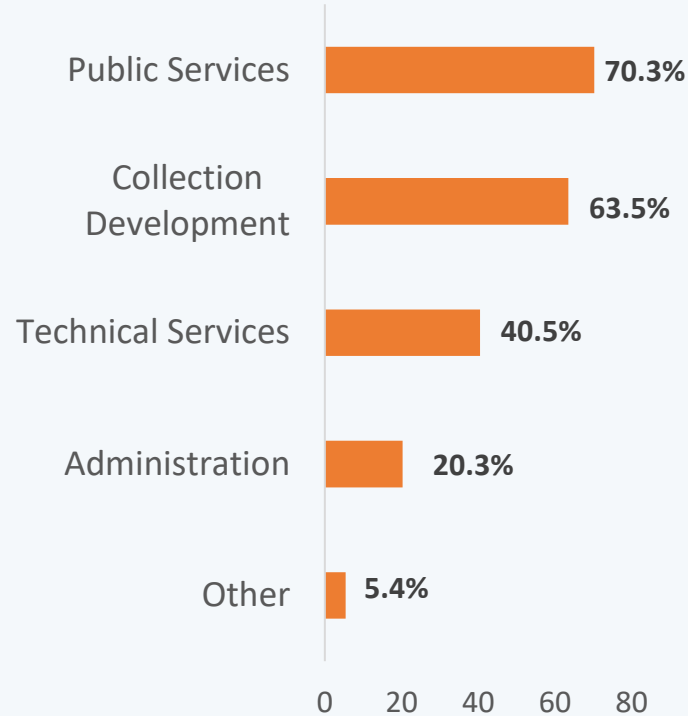


Respondent Profile (2/2)

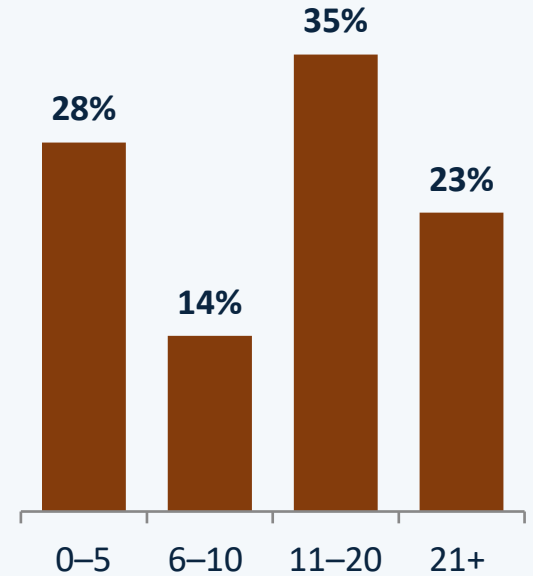
Library Type



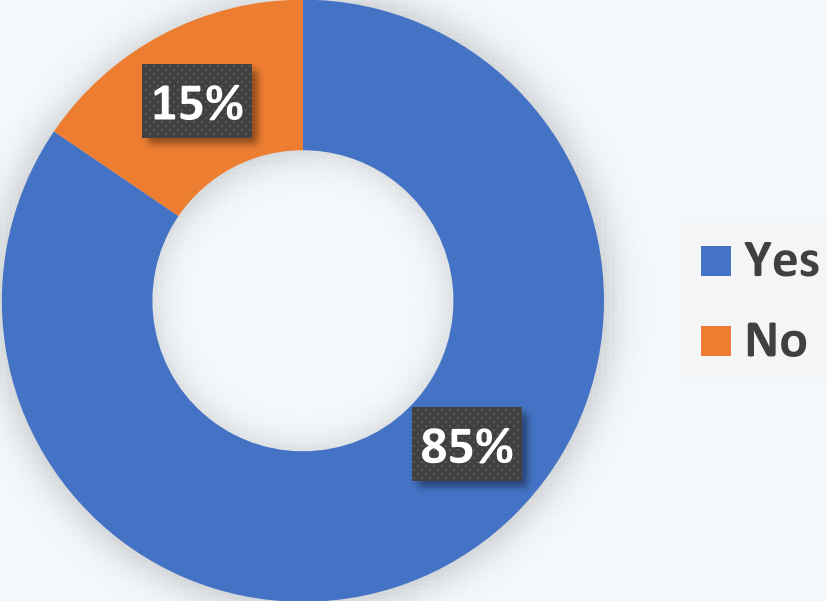
Functional Area(s) of Work



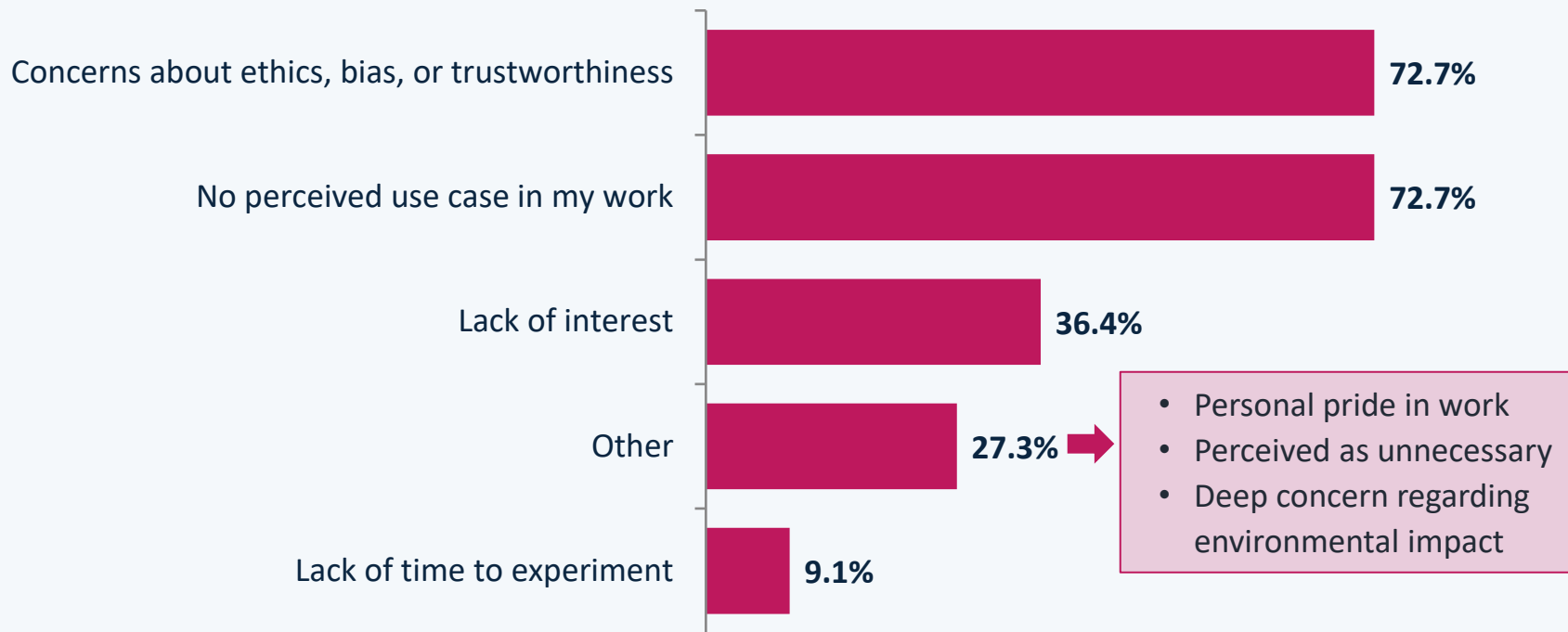
Years of Experience



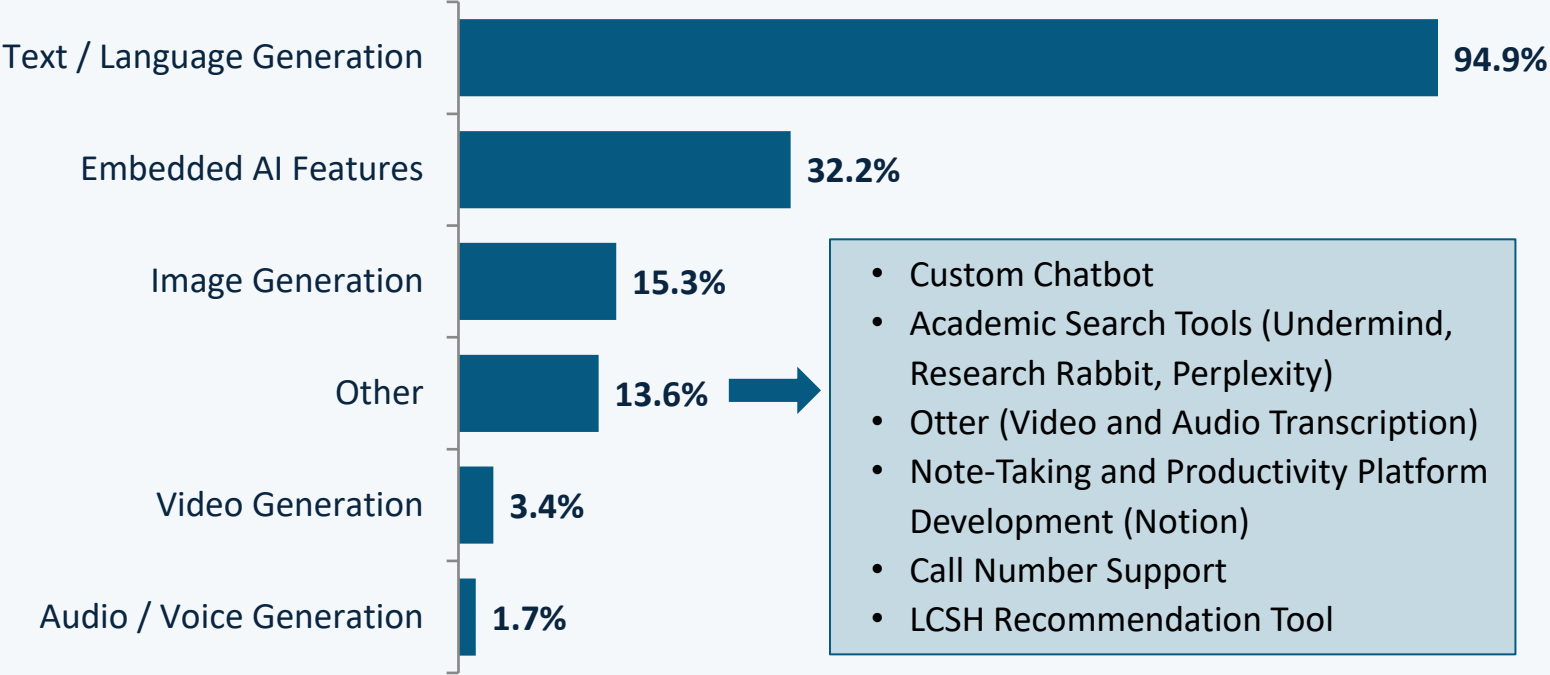
Have You Personally Used Generative AI in Professional Work?



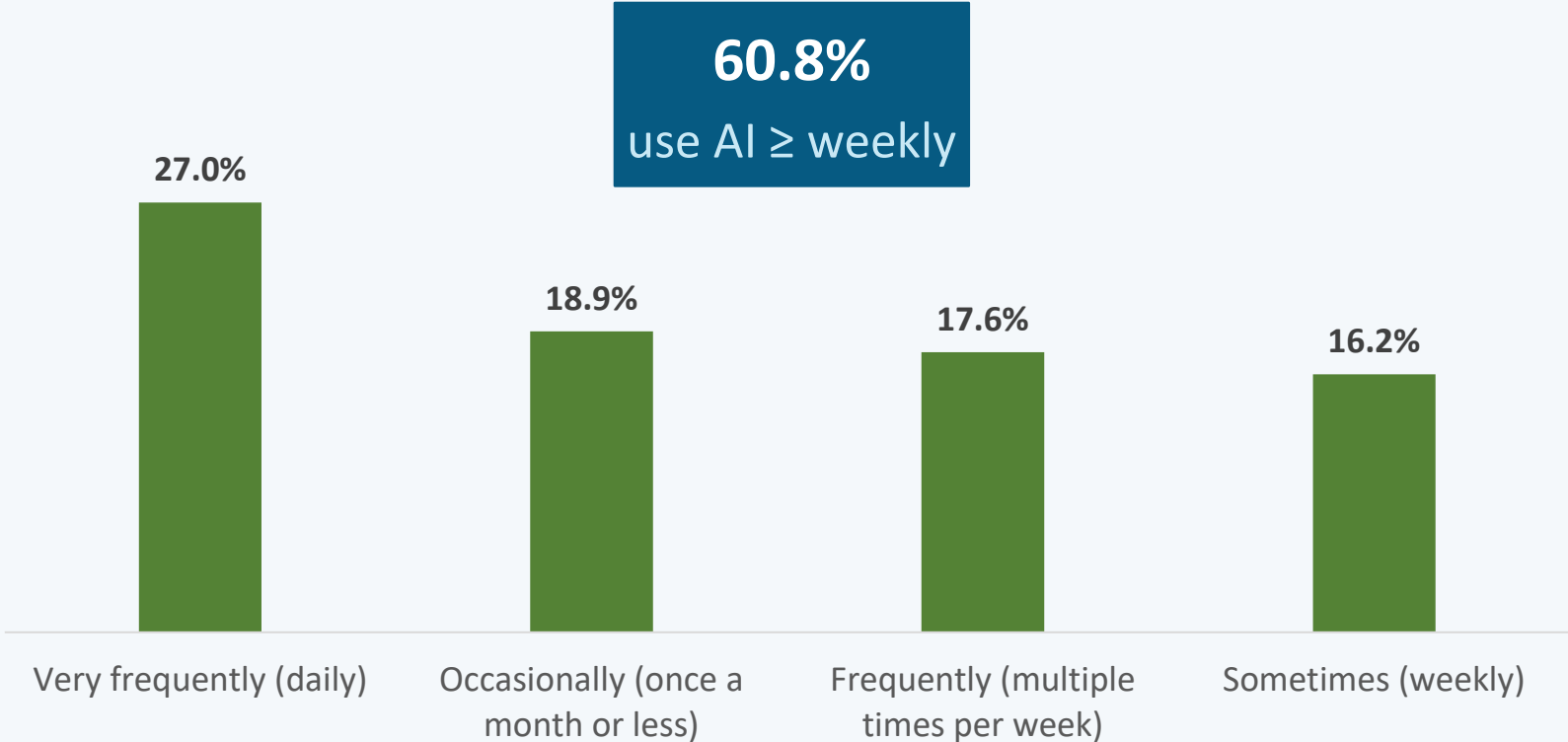
Reasons for Not Using Generative AI



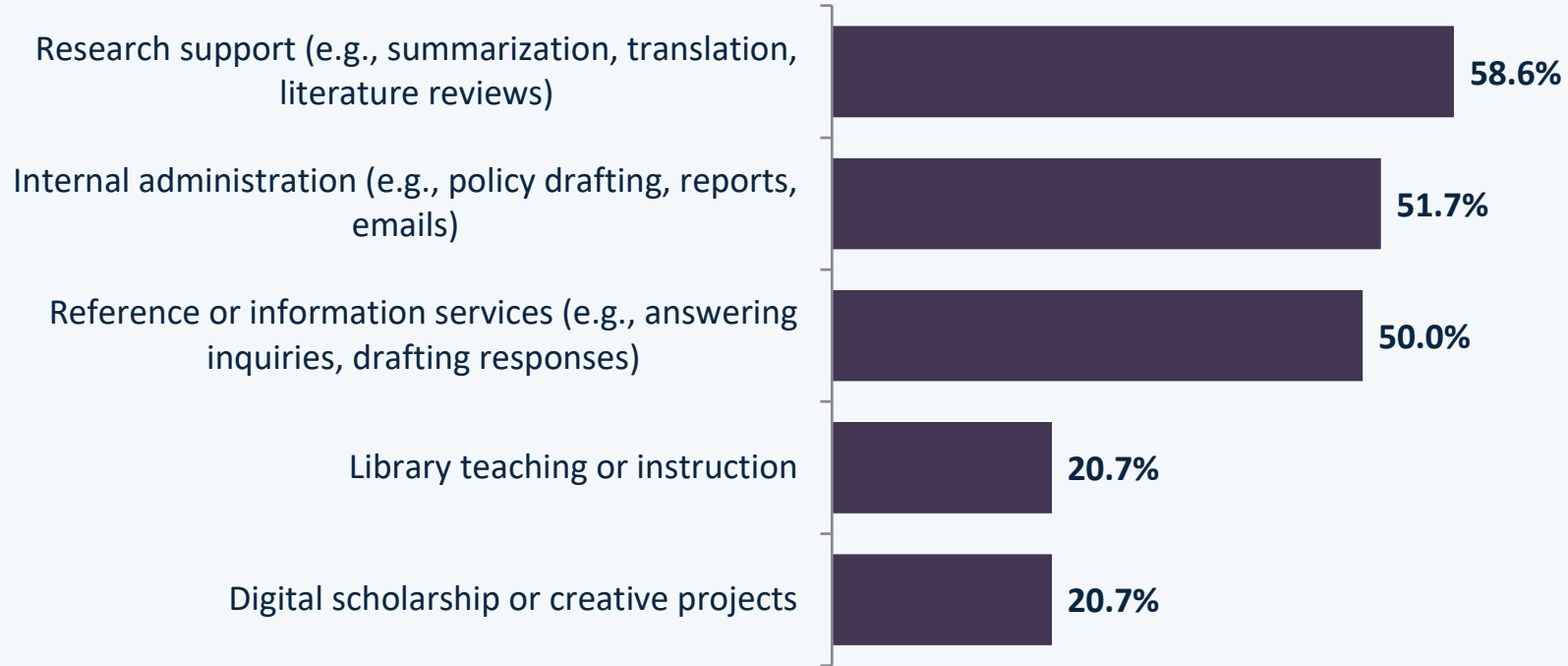
Types of Generative AI Tools Used



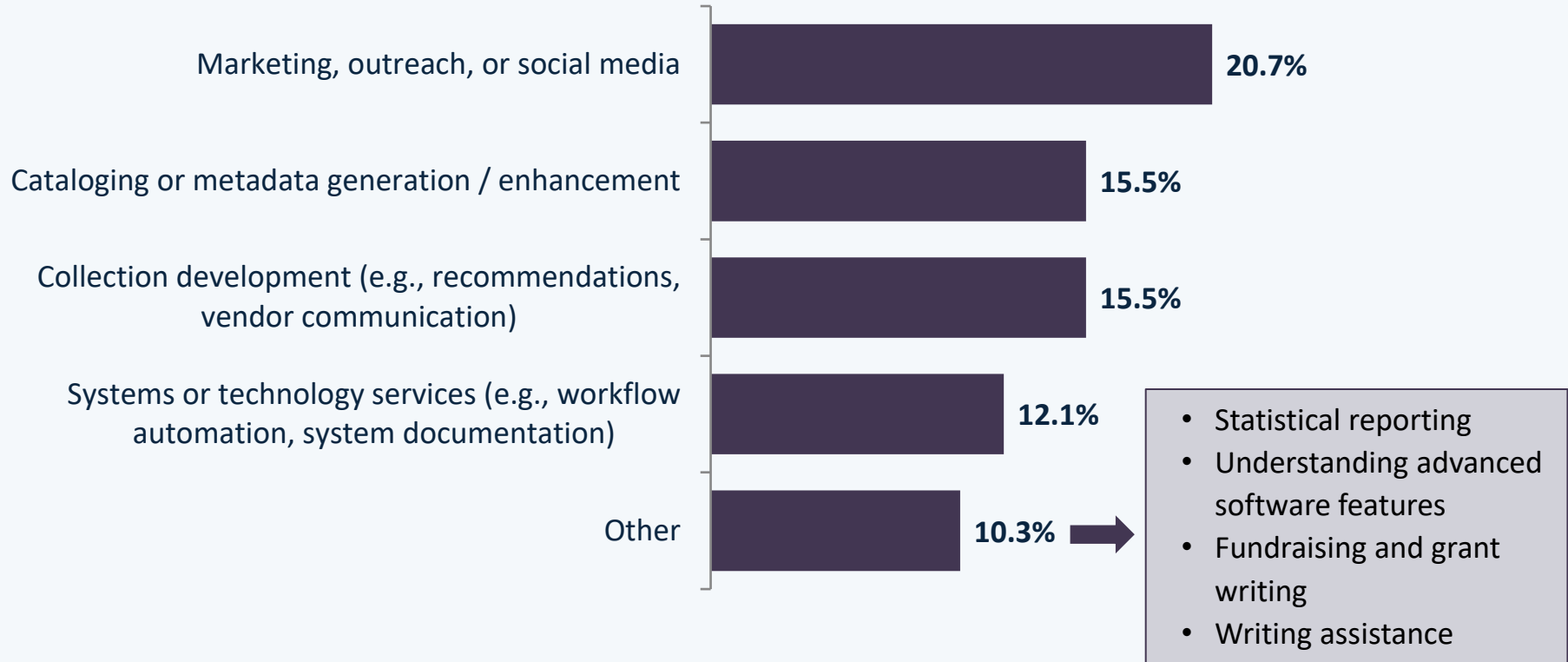
Frequency of Generative AI Use



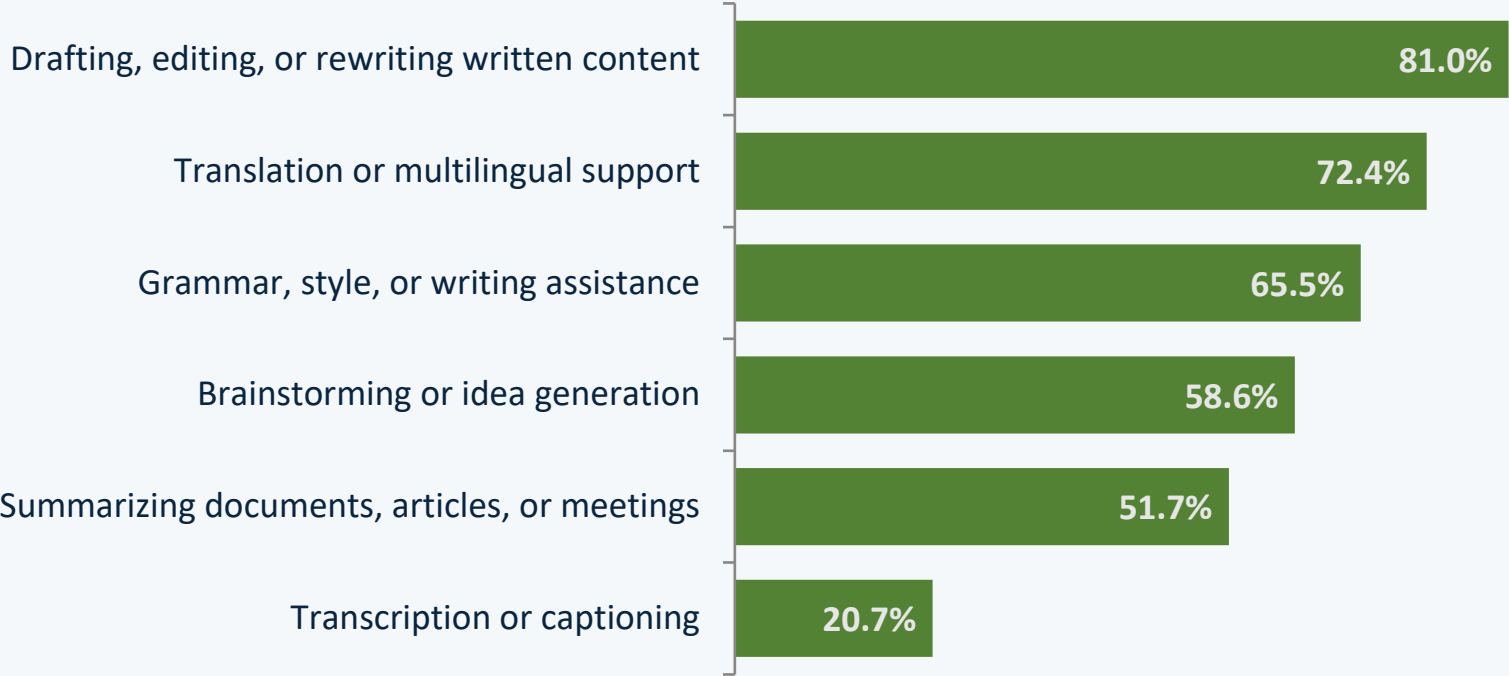
Professional Areas of AI Use (1/2)



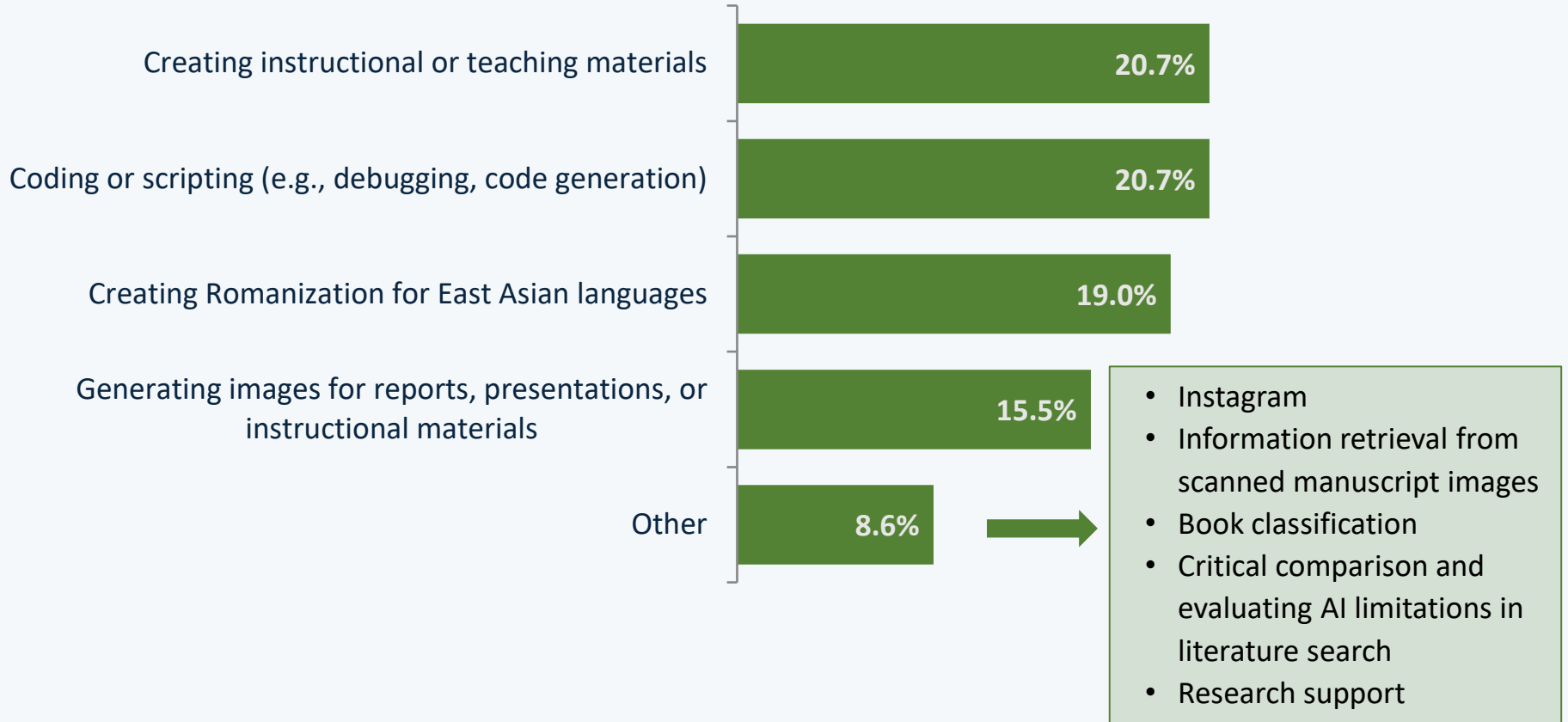
Professional Areas of AI Use (2/2)



Specific Tasks Using Generative AI (1/2)

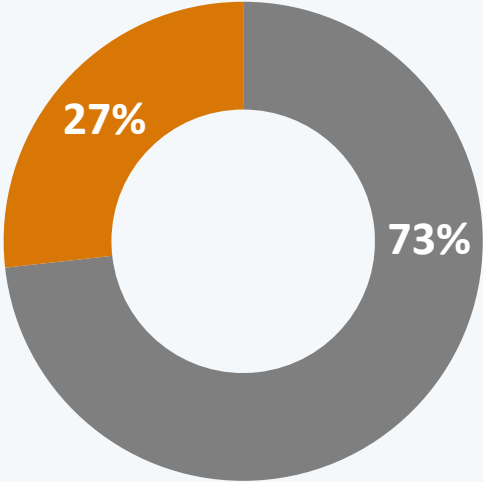


Specific Tasks Using Generative AI (2/2)



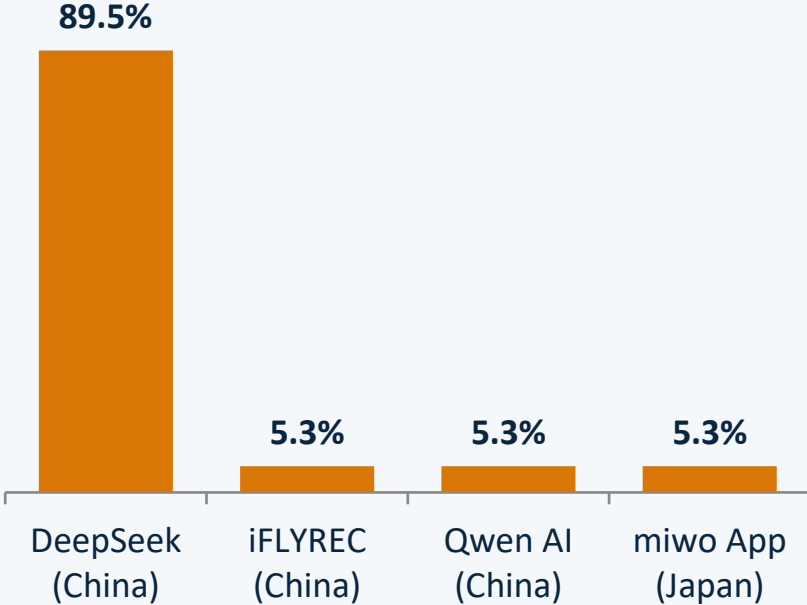
East Asian-Developed AI Tools

Used East Asian AI Tools?



■ No ■ Yes

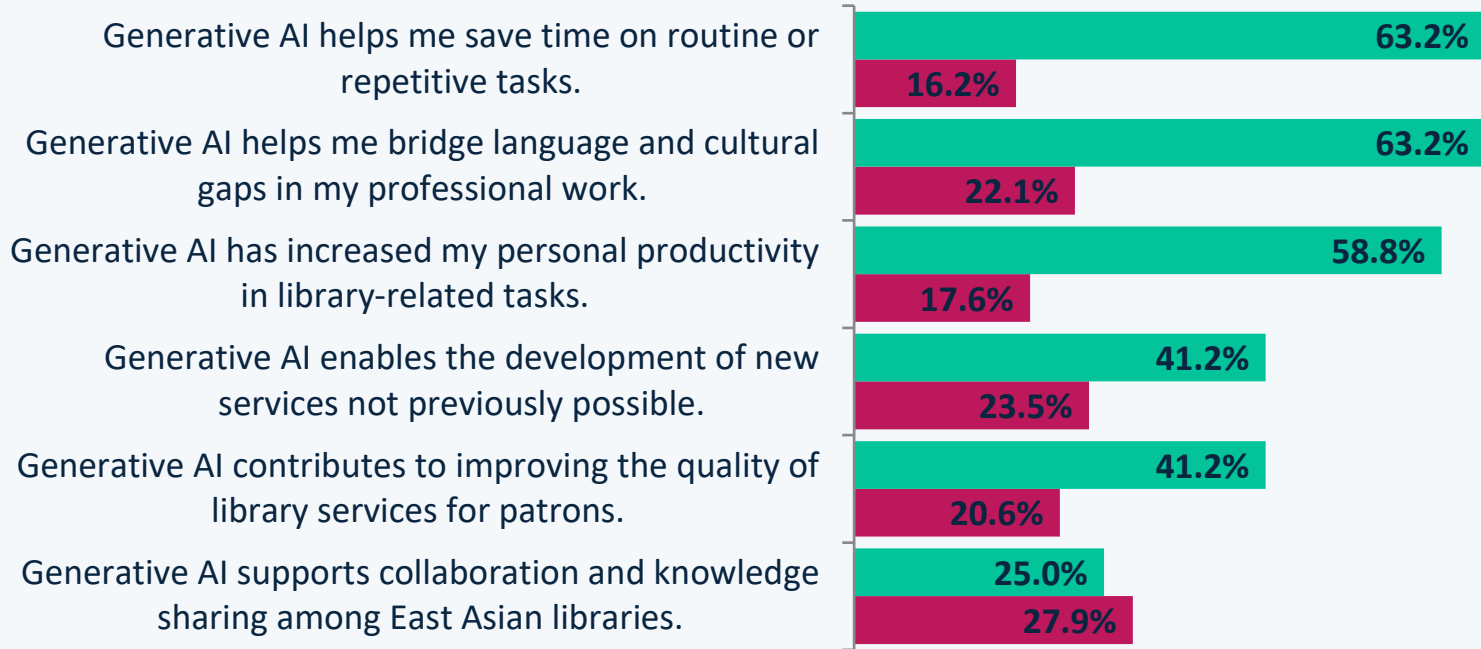
Which Tools?



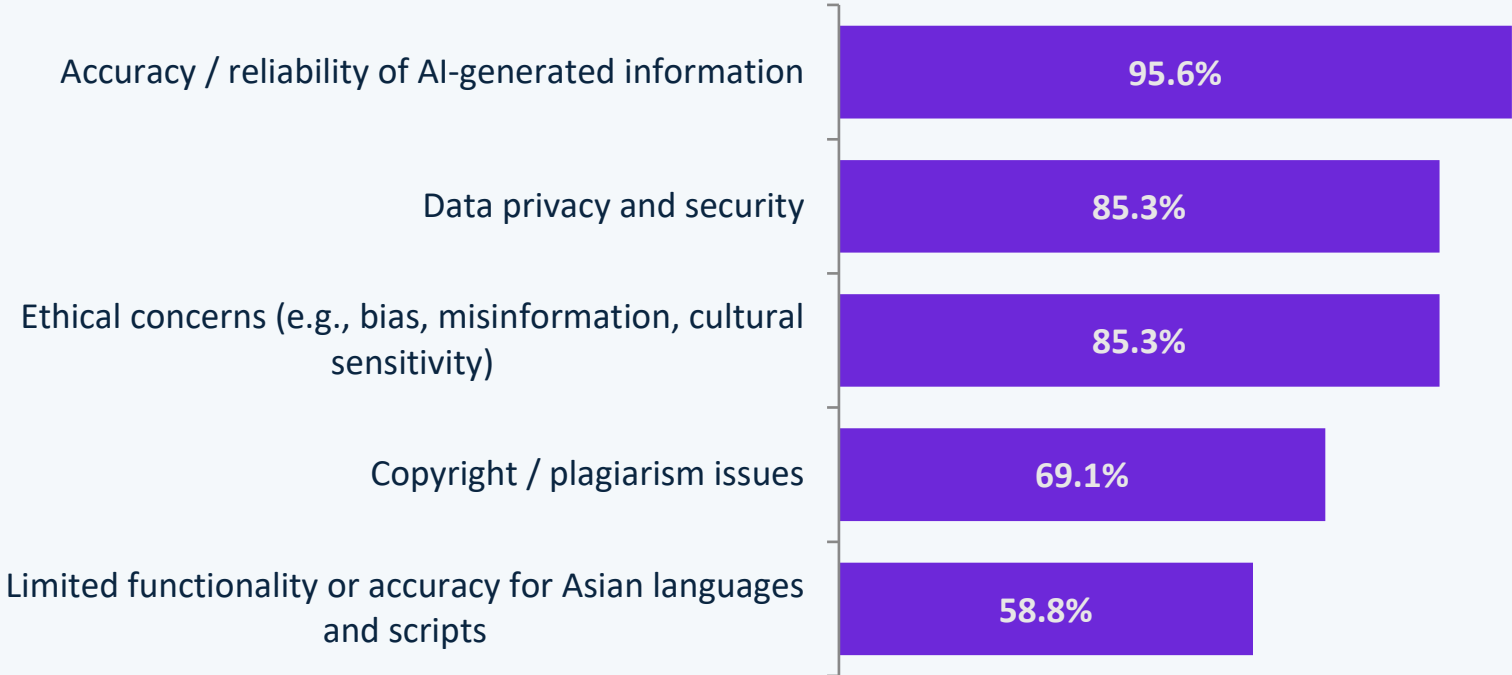
Perceived Benefits of Generative AI

■ % Positive (Agree / Strongly Agree)

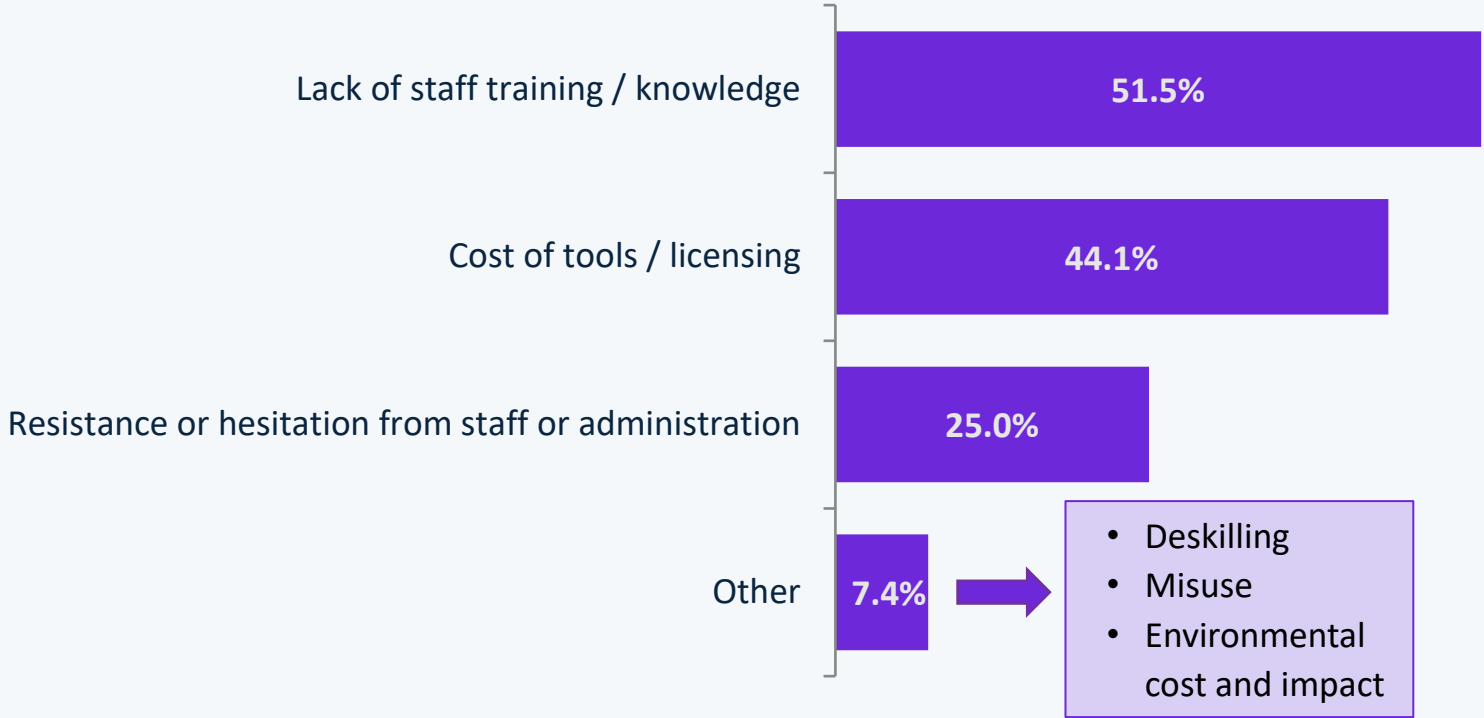
■ % Negative (Disagree / Strongly Disagree)



Challenges & Concerns About Generative AI (1/2)

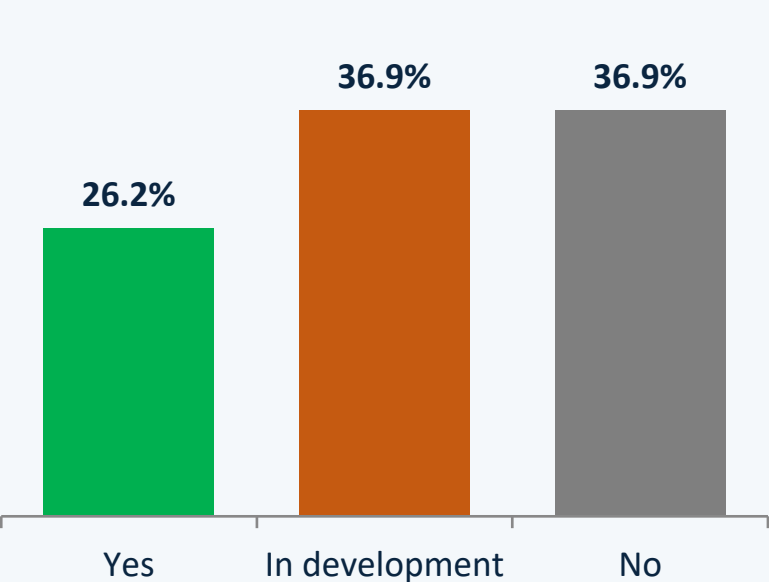


Challenges & Concerns About Generative AI (2/2)

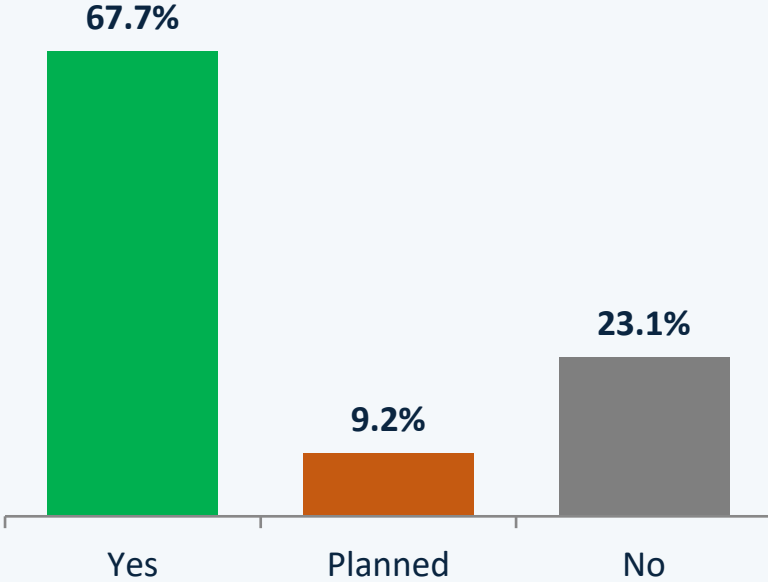


Institutional AI Policies & Training

Official AI Policies?



AI Training Offered?



What Institutional AI Policies Cover

Institutional Governance

AI use in course syllabi, appropriate use policies

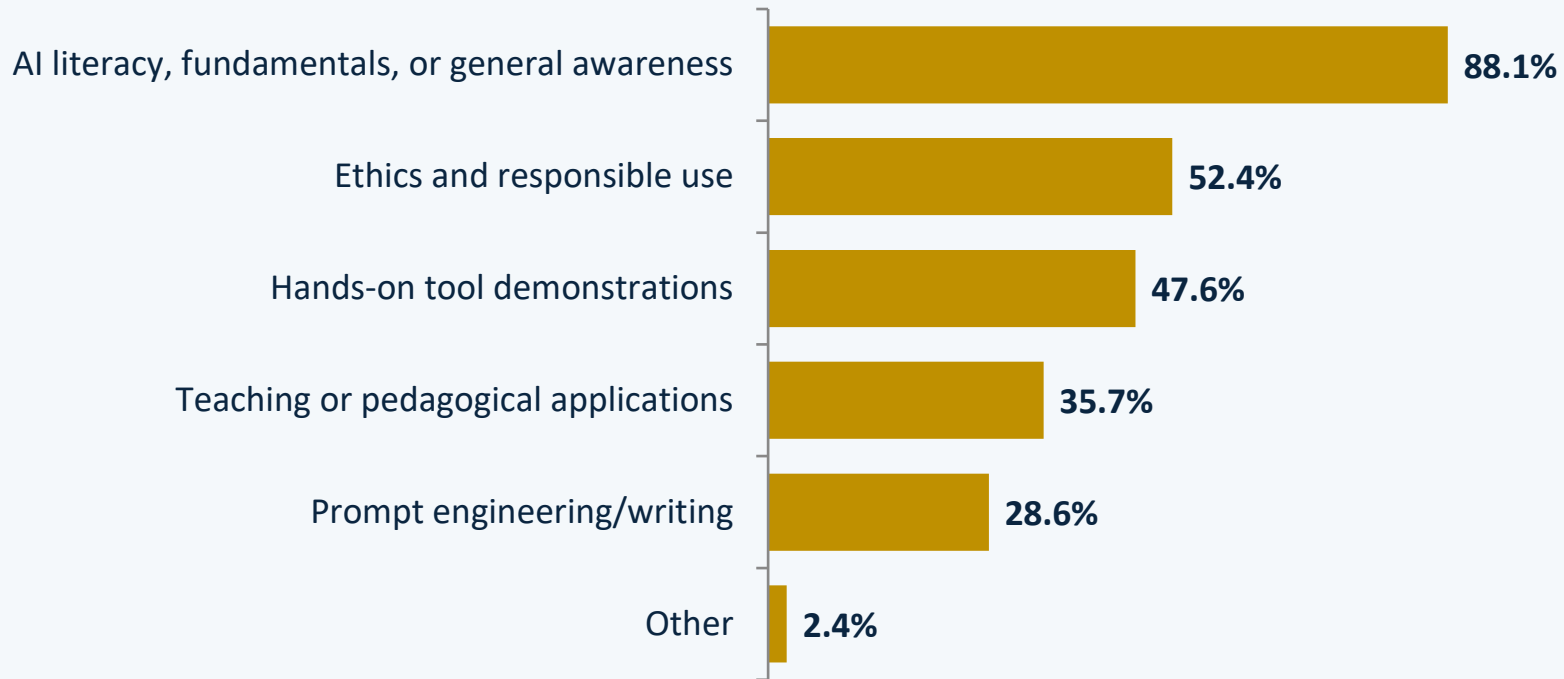
Operational Guidelines

AI content acquisition

Best Practices

Data security, privacy protection, responsible and ethical AI use

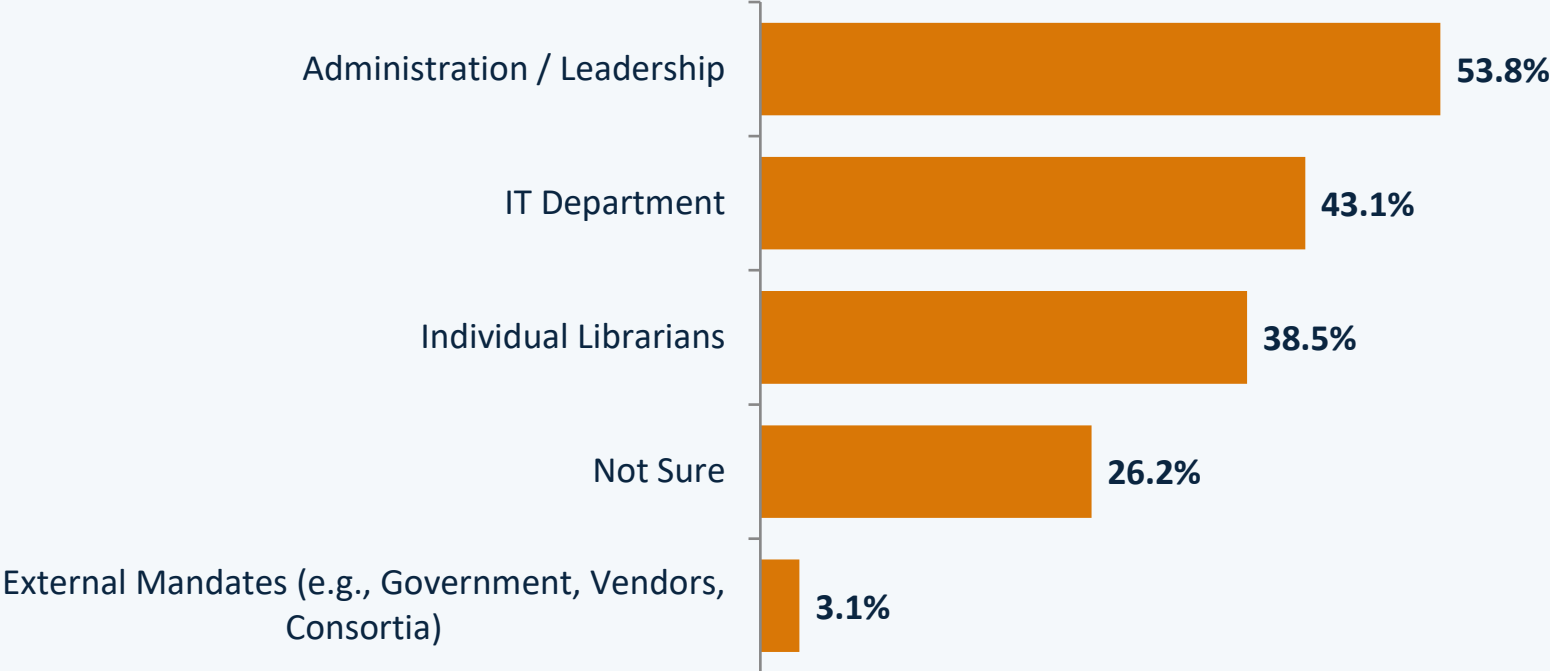
Type of AI Training Received



Generative AI Tools Adopted or Endorsed by Institution — Ranked by Popularity

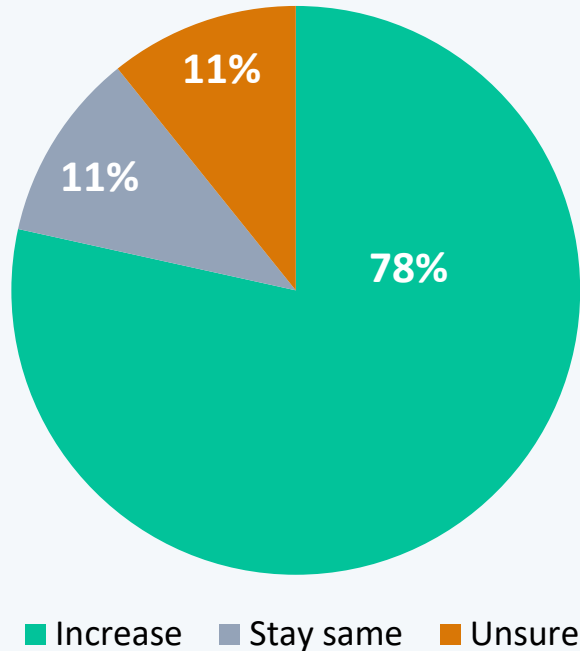
1	Copilot	5	Claude
2	ChatGPT	6	DeepSeek
3	Gemini	7	Locally Developed Platform (e.g. AI sandbox, AI hub)
4	NotebookLM		

Who Is Primarily Driving AI Adoption?

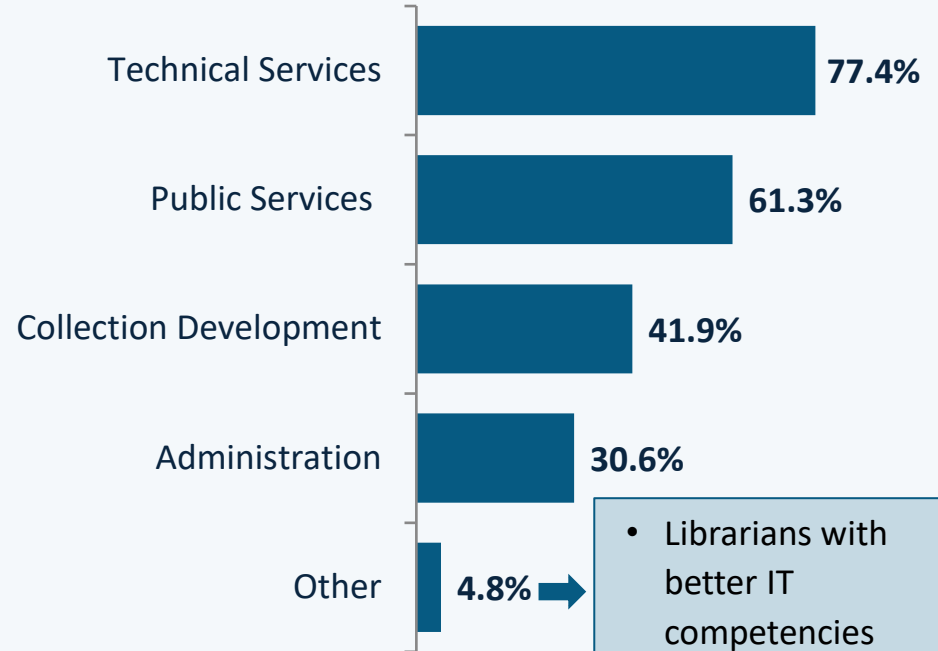


Future AI Outlook

AI Use Expected to...

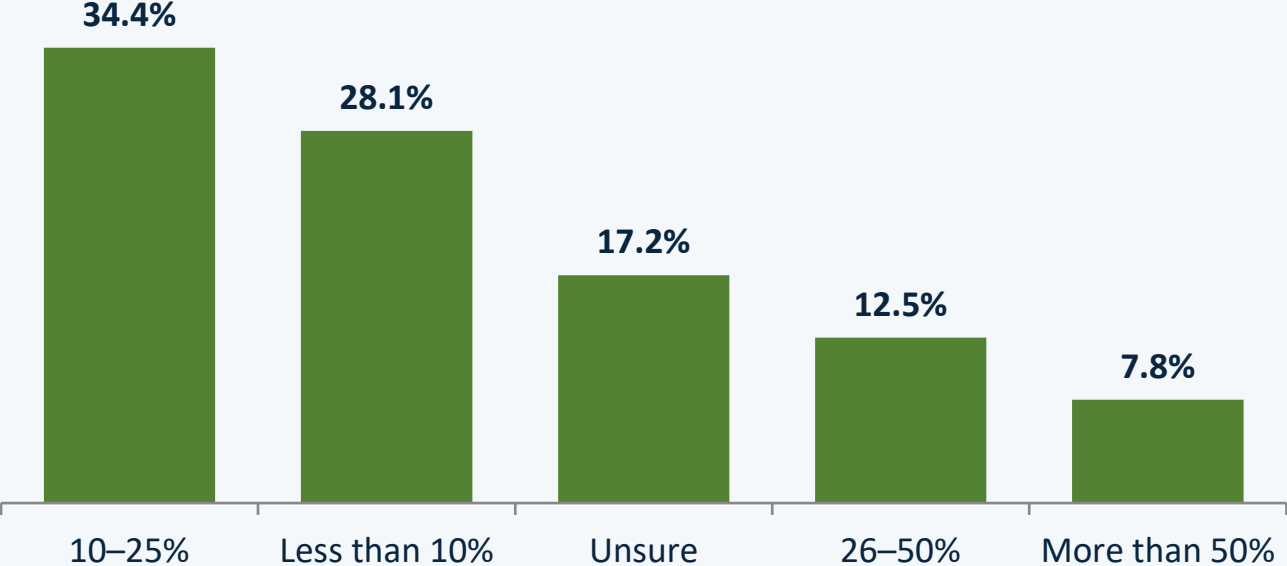


Functional Areas Most Impacted



- Librarians with better IT competencies
- All areas

How Much of Your Daily Work Expected to Be AI-Supported in 3–5 Years?



62.5% expect less than 25% of daily work to be AI-supported

Support & Resources Needed for Informed AI Adoption Decisions

Assessment & Evaluation

AI efficacy for East Asian scripts, environmental impact, tools, training data, corpora

Open-Source LLMs

Availability and access to open-source large language models

Case Studies & Research

LibGuides, scholarly research, and practical case studies

Guidelines & Policies

Development of policies, operational workflows, and ethics frameworks

Experience Sharing

Exchange of best practices across institutions

Training Programs

Hands-on workshops on tools, copyright, ethics

Vendor Negotiations

Clearer and more flexible usage terms in the AI era

IT & Funding Support

Institutional IT support and funding for AI tool adoption

Success Stories / Examples of Generative AI Use in Work

Technical Support

- Multilingual cataloging
- Collection development in limited-language-capacity areas
- Transliteration and Romanization

Writing & Communication

- Drafting and refinement
- Proofreading
- Translation
- Email responses
- Text summarization

Administrative Support

- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Grant applications
- Student worker management

Teaching & Instruction

- Library tutorials
- Image and chart generation for presentations

Biggest Concerns about Generative AI in East Asian Librarianship (1/2)

Accuracy & Reliability

- Inaccuracies (e.g., misinformation, cultural misrepresentation)
- AI use without human review
- Decline in metadata and bibliographic quality

Job Security

- Declining demand for academic librarianship
- Loss of positions
- Reduced need for East Asian language expertise

Ethical Use & Social Concerns

- Unethical use (copyright violations, misuse of licensed e-resources)
- Privacy risks (sharing sensitive info with AI tools)
- Environmental impact of AI systems

Biggest Concerns about Generative AI in East Asian Librarianship (2/2)

Linguistic Justice & Representation

- Language representation gaps (e.g., Anglo-centric / Western bias)
- Underrepresentation of non-Latin scripts in LLM training data
- Deskilling (e.g., reduced motivation for East Asian language learning)

Governance & Institutional Readiness

- AI use without clear guidelines or policies
- Budgetary and administrative constraints
- Limited institutional support

Adoption & Professional Culture

- Conservative perspectives on AI
- Generational resistance to adoption
- Diminished curiosity, agency, and critical engagement

What Generative AI cannot or should not Replace? (1/2)

- Human interaction & connection — reference services, user engagement, donor relations, outreach
- Professional judgment, decision-making, and accountability
- Research process, consultations, and idea development
- Specialized expertise — collection development, cataloging, rare materials, curation, long-term stewardship
- Critical thinking, creative activities, and ethical consideration
- Mentoring, training, and building professional expertise
- Leadership, organizational skills, and project management
- Some respondents felt AI should not replace any part of their work.

What Generative AI cannot or should not Replace? (2/2) — Respondent Voices

"My expertise. I should always have the ultimate say — and responsibility to check — whether any AI work product is accurate or appropriate. AI cannot yet replace my years of training, knowledge of the field, and professional discernment."

"Generative AI is just a tool. I am more optimistic about generative AI. It's not going to replace what we do, but it will definitely open up new kinds of jobs for us in East Asian librarianship, we just need to be more adaptive."

Additional Comments, Reflections & Suggestions

"We need to explore the AI tools and evaluate if these are really helpful for librarians or just fancy platforms to look cool."

"I would like to see generative AI improve its performance in deciphering Japanese cursive kuzushiji scripts soon!"

"I would really like to see conversations that don't start from a place of 'this is inevitable.' Honesty about where pressure is coming from and how people actually feel about their experiences with this technology feels more grounded in reality."

"This is an excellent survey! Thank you to CLT for your leadership of taking us to the next level in adopting AI!"

Key Takeaways

01 AI adoption is already widespread.

02 Use is concentrated in writing, translation, and administrative tasks.

03 Significant concern remains about accuracy, ethics, and linguistic justice.

04 Most colleagues expect AI to support — not replace — their work.

05 Clear policy, evaluation tools, and training are urgently needed.

Thank You!