

Walking the textbook tightrope:

How might copyright
specialists help?

ABC Copyright Conference
June 1, 2018, Vancouver, BC

Rumi Graham, University of Lethbridge





#TextbookBroke: Campaign for Affordable Textbooks

FEBRUARY 18, 2014 | IN HOT ISSUES



FIXING THE BROKEN TEXTBOOK MARKET

HOW STUDENTS RESPOND TO HIGH TEXTBOOK COSTS AND DEMAND ALTERNATIVES

**ETHAN SENACK
THE STUDENT PIRGS
JANUARY 2014**

recent report, *Fixing the Broken Textbook Market*, that details the huge impact textbook prices have on students. Among the findings:



- 65% of student consumers have opted out of buying a college textbook due to its high price. Of those students, 94% suffer academically.
- 48% of students said the price of textbooks determined which classes they take and how many classes they take.

International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning

Volume 18, Number 4

June - 2017

Investigating the Perceptions, Use, and Impact of Open Textbooks: A survey of Post-Secondary Students in British Columbia



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Students: Is it legal to download a free copy of my course textbook?

Cost? Content?



Legal Advice > Copyright infringement > Advice > Is downloading freely available PDF textbooks c...

Q&A

Asked in Los Angeles, CA | March 27, 2013

 Save

Is downloading freely available PDF textbooks considered illegal in U.S (California) ?

For my degree studies, I have been looking for a book (print) which is only available in UK and would cost me over US\$210. Through Google search, I came across way too many websites offering the same book/edition in PDF format, freely available to download at NO COST. I am bit skeptical about downloading 'free' stuff, but this is quite tempting, as I can see this free eBook all over the net and wonder if I would I be violating any laws by downloading this book, purely for my own studies purposes? I asked the website folks and they say, they are not violating any laws because they are not selling it, and there are thousands of people downloading the book everyday from many similar websites. Only if I sell it, then I will be in violation. I am really confused and freaking out. Please help

Torrenting

Textbooks

Legal Issues and Law in Everyday Life

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2 Answers



Admiral Steven, Torrenting and Safety procedures

Answered Mar 17, 2016

If you are careful and do not distribute them for money or mass distribute them then you should be alright. Remember to only torrent from trusted sites

Book Piracy: A Non-Issue

Contributor Aug 23, 2011

O'Reilly's words might sound revolutionary, especially when compared to the lock-it-down-and-sue-the-bastards attitude of the music and film industry. But when it comes to publishing, the notion that a rising tide of reading raises all publishing ships has been the reality for centuries. **Pirate ebooks are just the 21st century equivalent of the lending library or of real-world book sharing, and — in all but the most egregious cases — can be safely ignored.**

r/Piracy

Piracy Megathread Wiki ▾

Posted by u/Amosqu **Torrents** 2 years ago

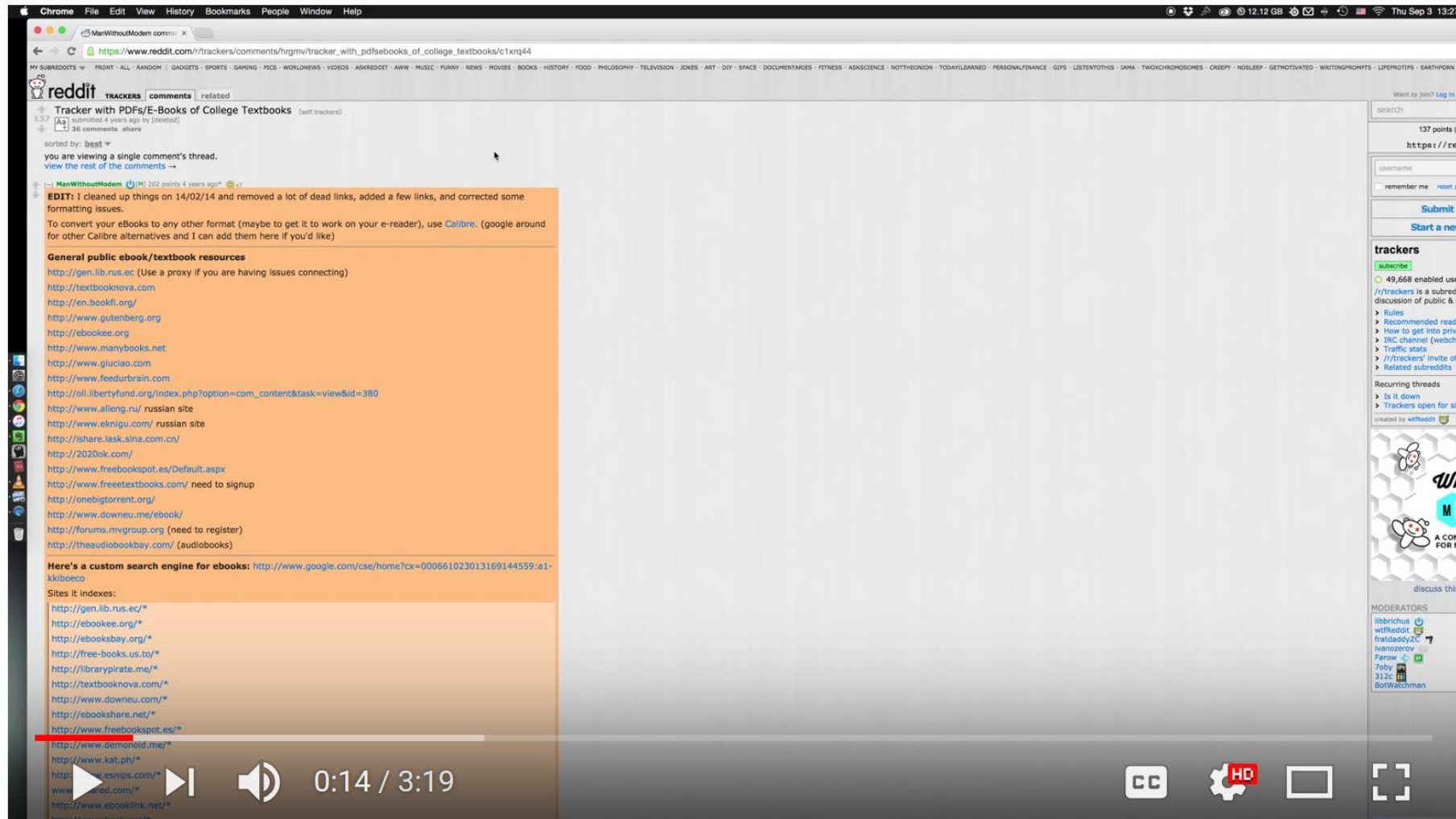
Guide **Guide for Finding Textbooks**

I'm going to thank [this](#) and [this](#) for most of the methods that I'm going to explain in this thread.

So you have a list of books you need to buy for college. There are some really great resources for finding them online, but I'm going to run through the easiest methods for searching all of them here.

First, let's start off by using the method that will allow you to find the vast majority of books. Google. It tends to be easier if you can search multiple sites at once, and this is the easiest way to do it.

There was a search engine that [u/ratokursi](#) made 3 years ago, but by now most of the sites are either dead or have changed the url. I decided to make a new one, this time after reviewing 100+ sites and adding to working ones to the custom search engine.



The screenshot shows a YouTube video player displaying a video of a Reddit post. The video player includes a progress bar at the bottom with a play button, a volume icon, and a timer showing 0:14 / 3:19. The video content is a screenshot of a Reddit page from the subreddit r/trackers. The post is titled "Tracker with PDFs/E-Books of College Textbooks" and was submitted 4 years ago. The post content includes an edit notice, a recommendation to use Calibre for converting eBooks, and a list of general public eBook/textbook resources. The resources list includes URLs for various websites such as gen.lib.rus.ec, textbookenova.com, en.bookfi.org, www.gutenberg.org, ebookey.org, www.manybooks.net, www.guciao.com, www.feedurbrain.com, oil.libertyfund.org, www.alleng.ru, www.eknigu.com, ishare.lask.sina.com.cn, 2020ok.com, www.freebookspot.es, www.freetextbooks.com, onebigtorrent.org, www.downeu.me, forums.mvgroup.org, and theaudiobookbay.com. A custom search engine for eBooks is also mentioned with the URL http://www.google.com/cse/home?cx=000661023013169144559-a1-kkiboeco. The video player interface includes standard YouTube controls like a share icon, a settings icon, and a full screen icon.

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Instructors: What is the best textbook or course material for my course?

Content? Cost?



PUBLISHING



Use of Free Textbooks Is Rising, but Barriers Remain

By Beth McMurtrie | DECEMBER 19, 2017

A growing number of professors are replacing the traditional textbook with an openly licensed one, according to a survey released on Tuesday. But their overall numbers remain small—and widespread adoption of the practice could remain out of reach unless key barriers are overcome.

Top Barriers to OER adoption (Babson Survey Research Group, 2017)

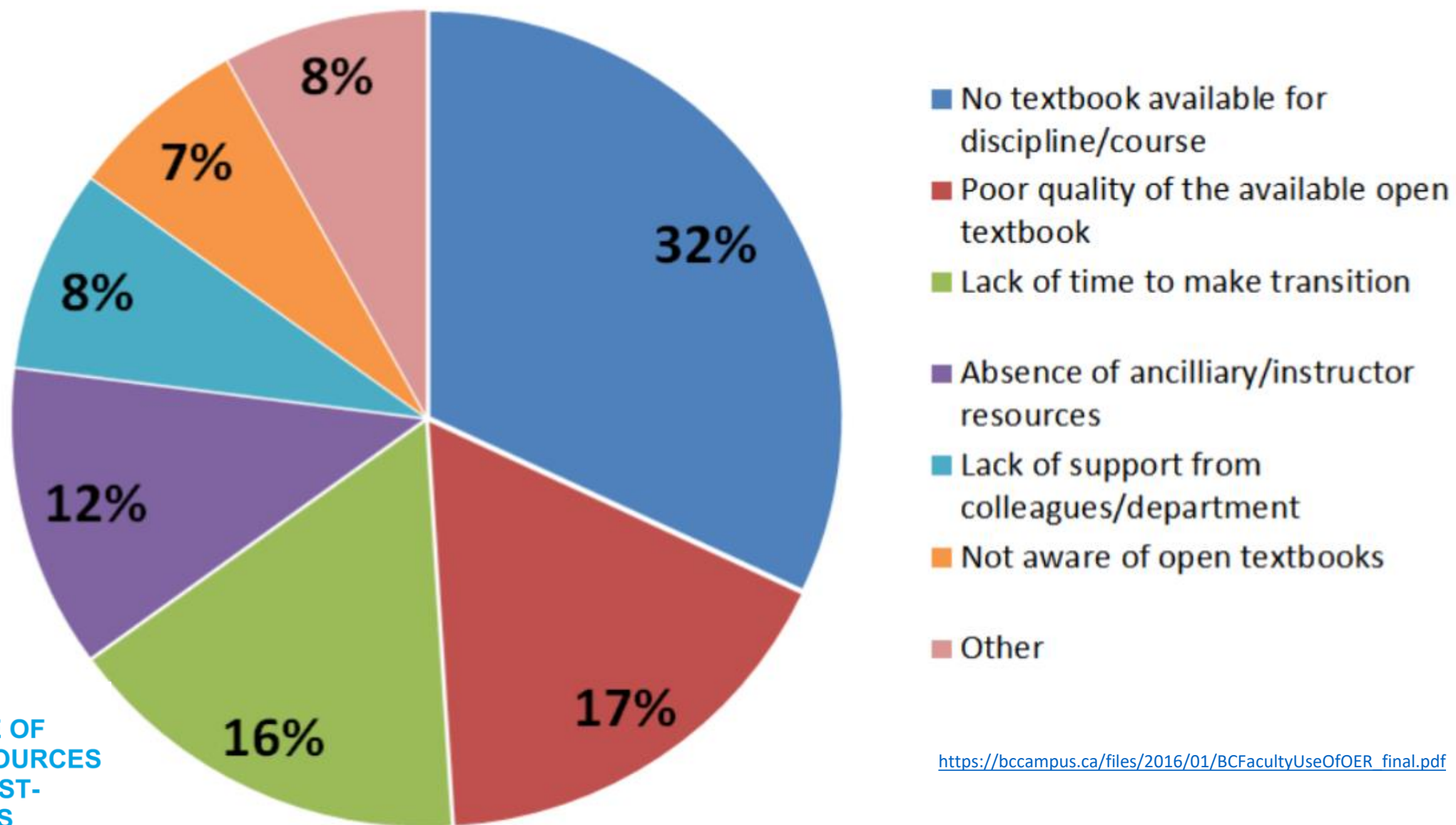
difficult to find what I need (50%)

lack of resources for my subject (47%)

concern about updates (29%)

not high-quality (28%)

Figure 9: Reported reasons for not using open textbooks from the BC OTP



Copyright specialists:

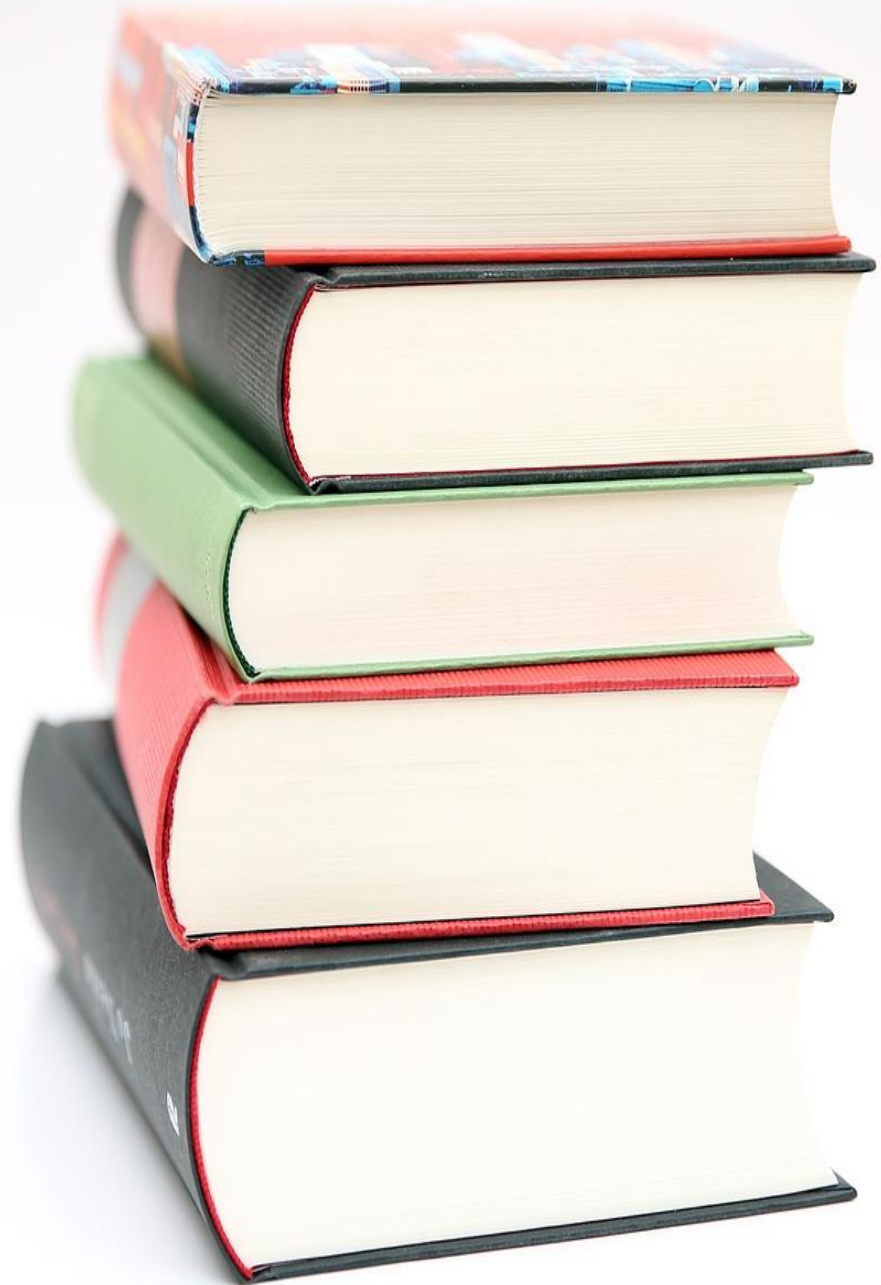
How to help students and faculty deal their textbook challenges? (What are our tightropes?)



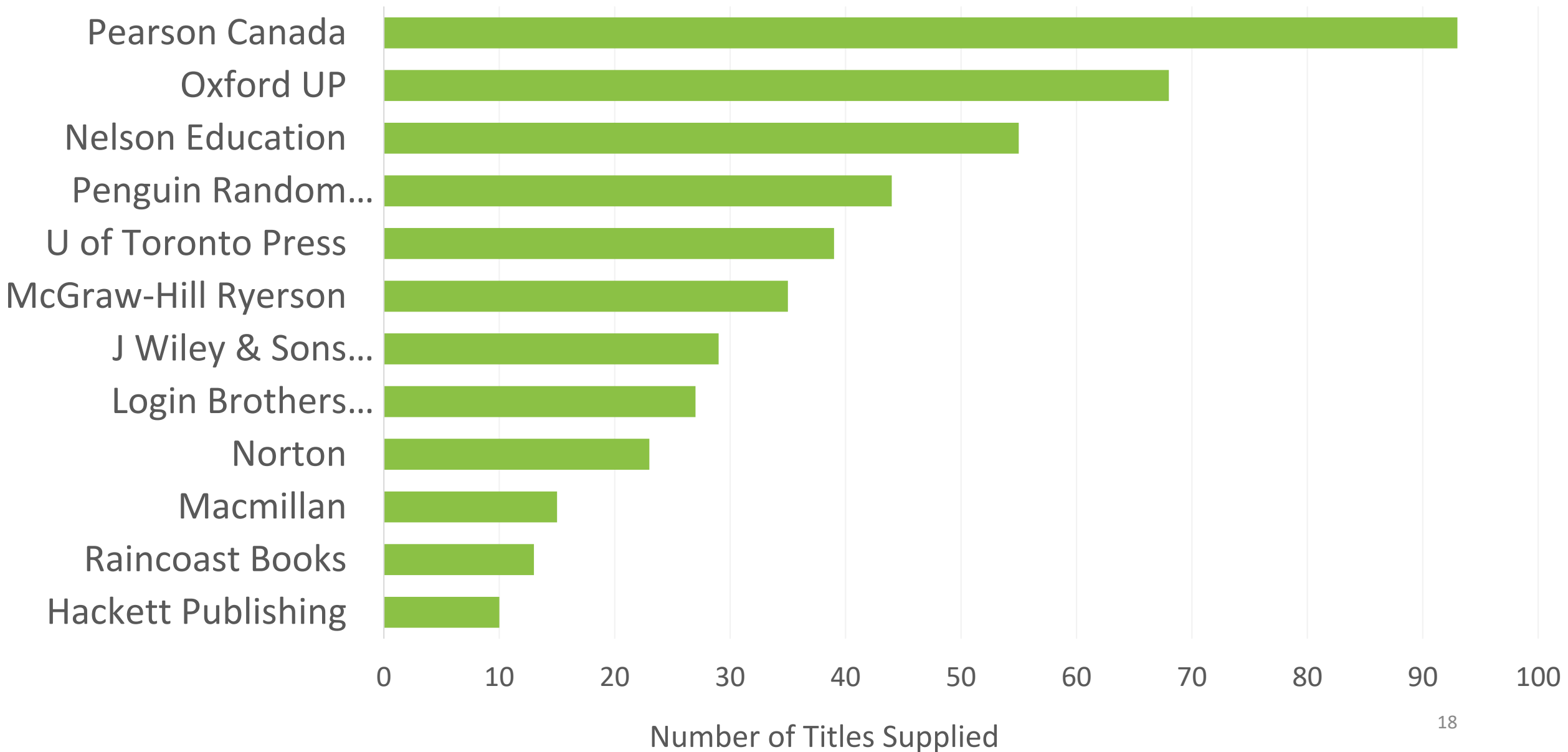
Fall 2017:

562 adopted textbooks

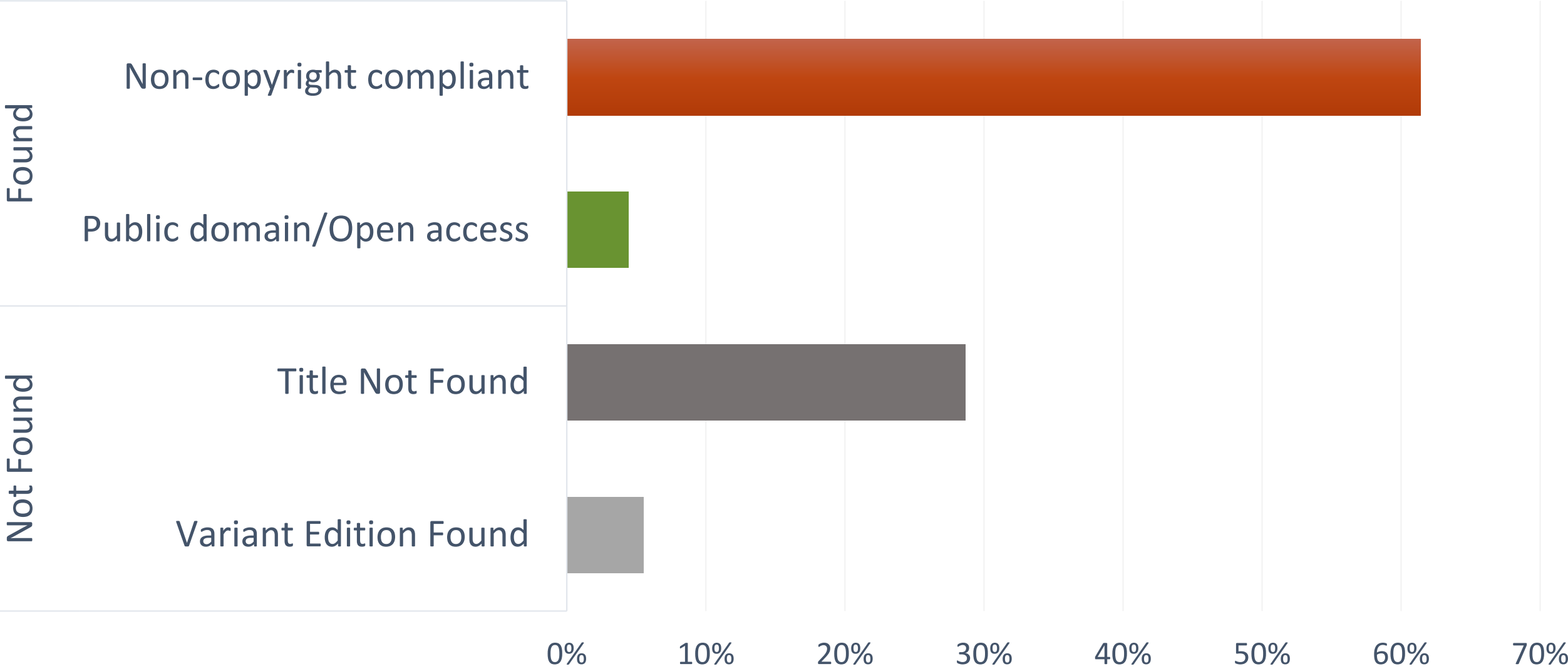
- 66 different publishers/distributors
- 450 (80%) of the adopted textbooks supplied by 12 (18%) of the publishers/distributors



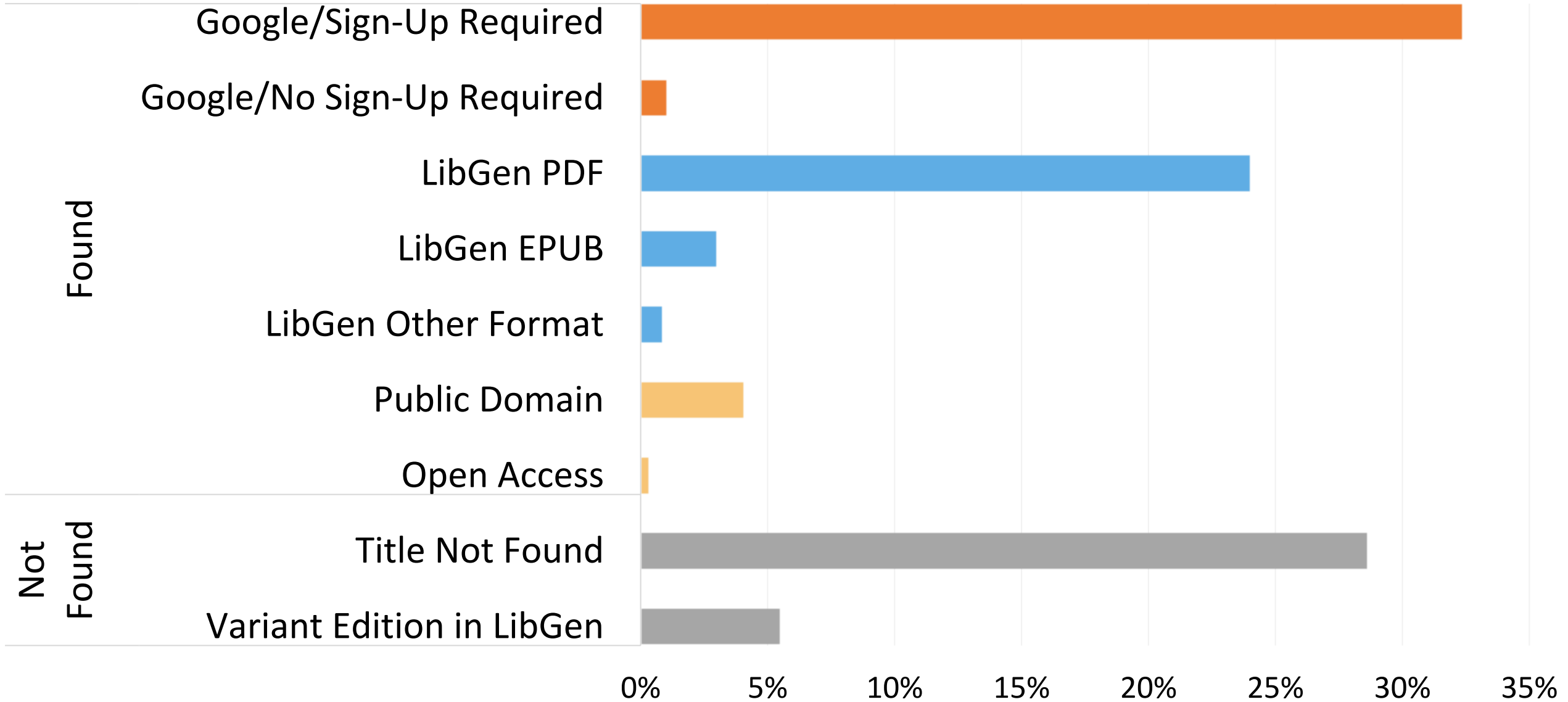
Top 12 Publishers/Distributors Suppling 80% of Fall 2017 Textbooks



Download Availability of Adopted Textbooks (n = 562)



Download Availability of Adopted Textbooks By Source (n = 562)



Copyright specialists:

How can we help students and faculty?



Some small steps

- [newsletter column](#) about Fall 2017 textbooks
- asked about adding language to *academic calendar* re abiding by all applicable laws
- copyright website [FAQ](#) on textbook downloading

What else might be useful?

- more student-focused copyright guidance/resources?
- necessary or helpful to spell out the need to abide by applicable laws? where?
- online tutorials?
- include a standard copyright note in all course syllabi/outlines? models?
- effective outreach or partnership approaches (education, awareness)?
- ???



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