

Preliminary Findings:
Evolution of the Copyright Specialist
Position in Canadian Post-Secondary
Institutions

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Outline

- A tale of two snapshots – 10 years apart
- What changed and what didn't
 - Position titles
 - Workload
 - Experience
 - Education
 - Institutional context
- Next steps in our project



Study Goals

- If and how the copyright specialist profession and the institutional context at Canadian post-secondaries has changed over the past decade?
- Update and build upon Erin Patterson's 2015 study

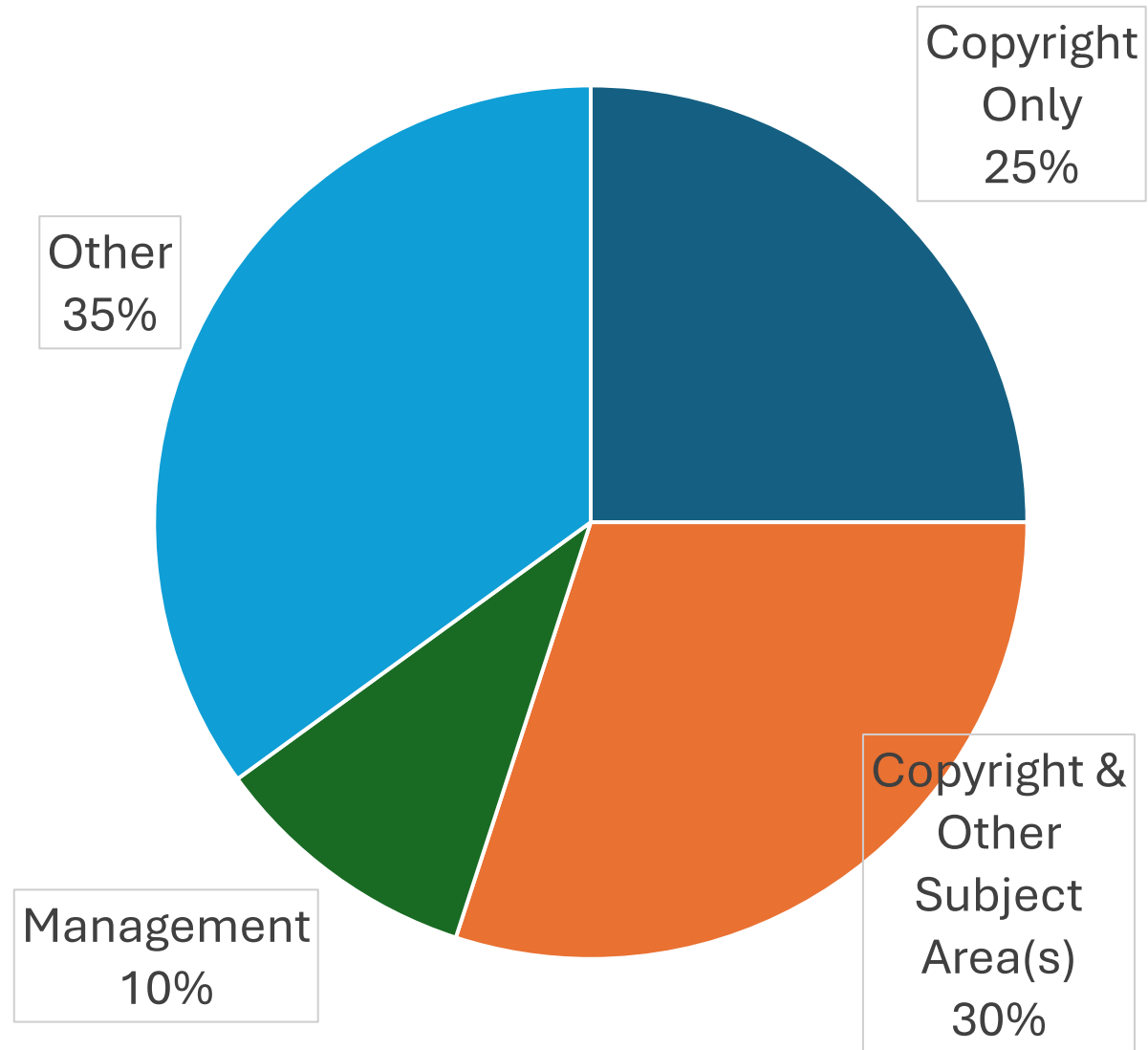


Tale of Two Snapshots

- 2015 (E. Patterson)
 - **Method:** Telephone interviews
 - **Language:** English
 - **Target:** Members of Universities Canada and CAUT
 - **Data:** 67 interview invitations, 46 responses
- 2025 (Our research team)
 - **Method:** Survey and focus groups
 - **Language:** English and French
 - **Target:** Universities, colleges, institutes, CEGEPs
 - **Data:** 207 survey invitations, 61 responses



Position Titles 2025

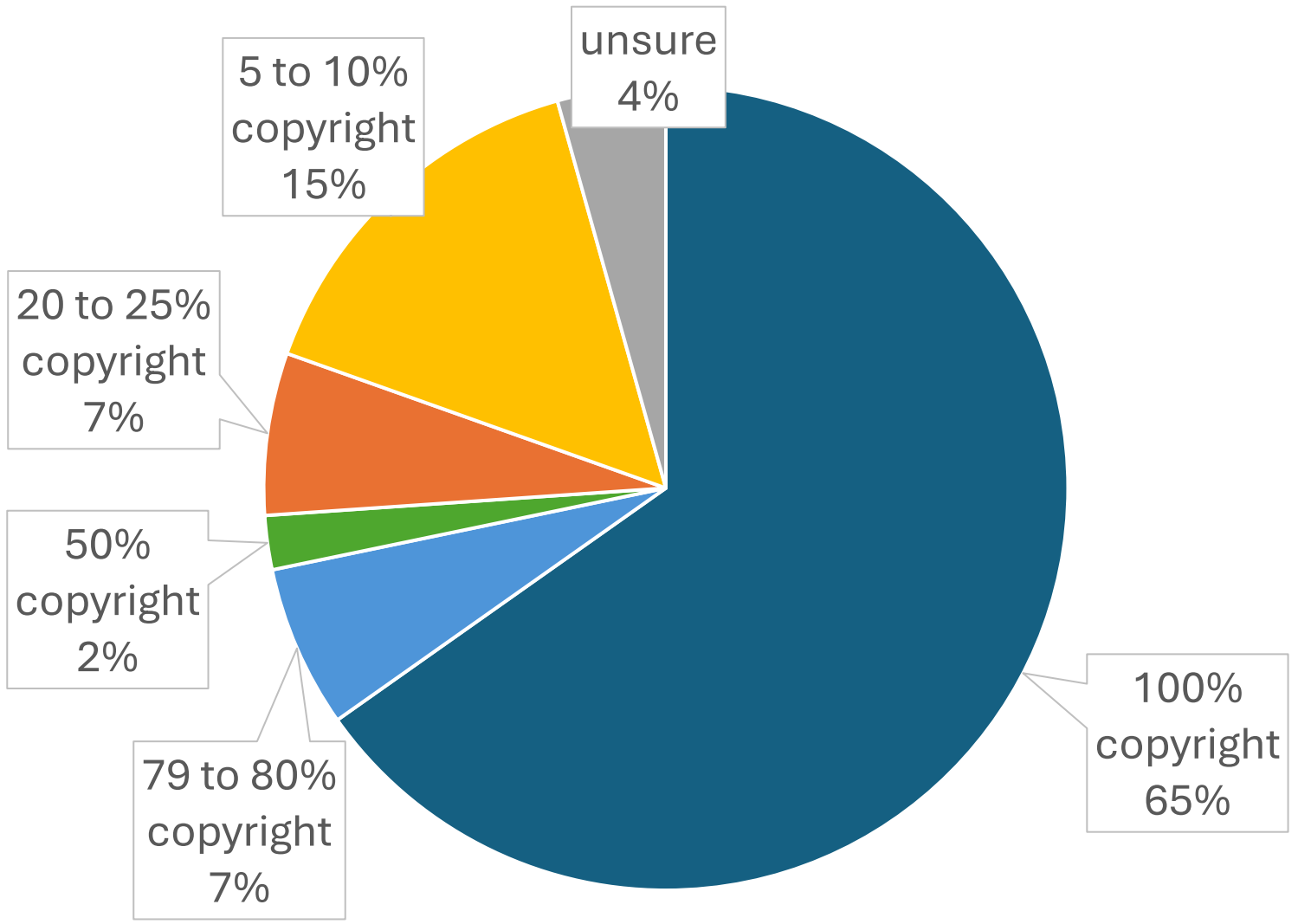


Position Titles 2015 vs. 2025

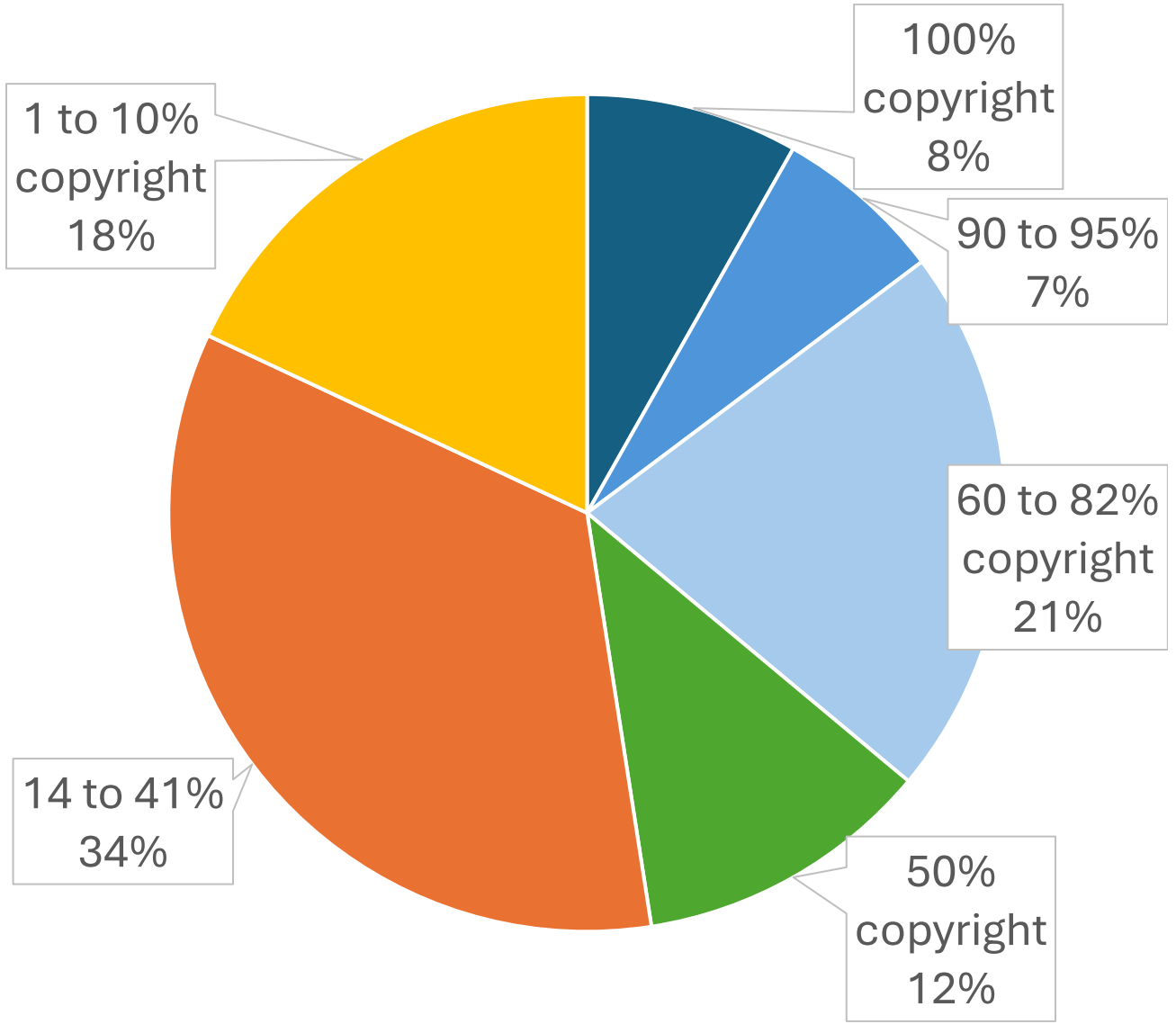
- 2015 – "Copyright Officer" (33%) was the most common title
 - Second most common = "Copyright Librarian" (13%)
- 2025 – "Copyright Librarian" or some variation thereof (42%) was the most common title
 - Second most common = "Copyright Officer" (23%)



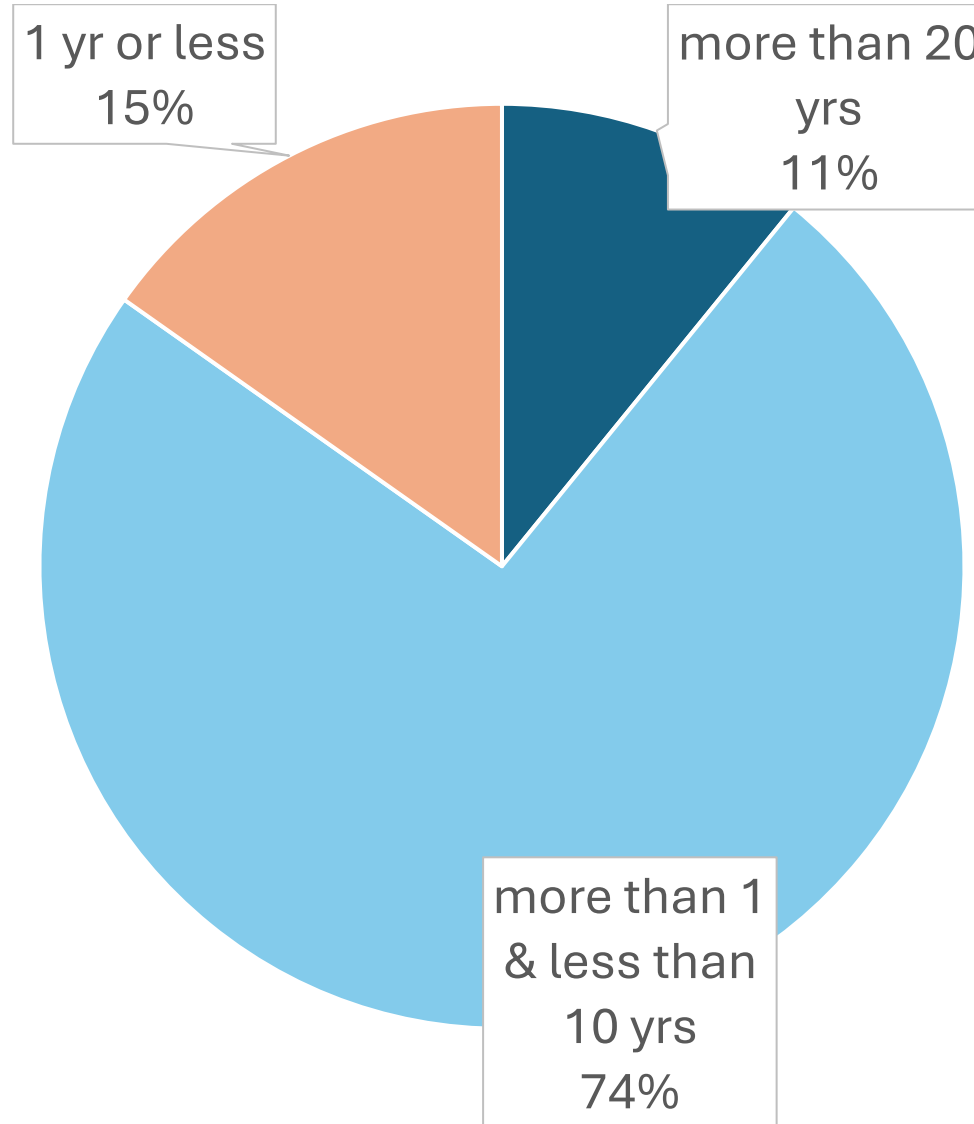
Workload 2015



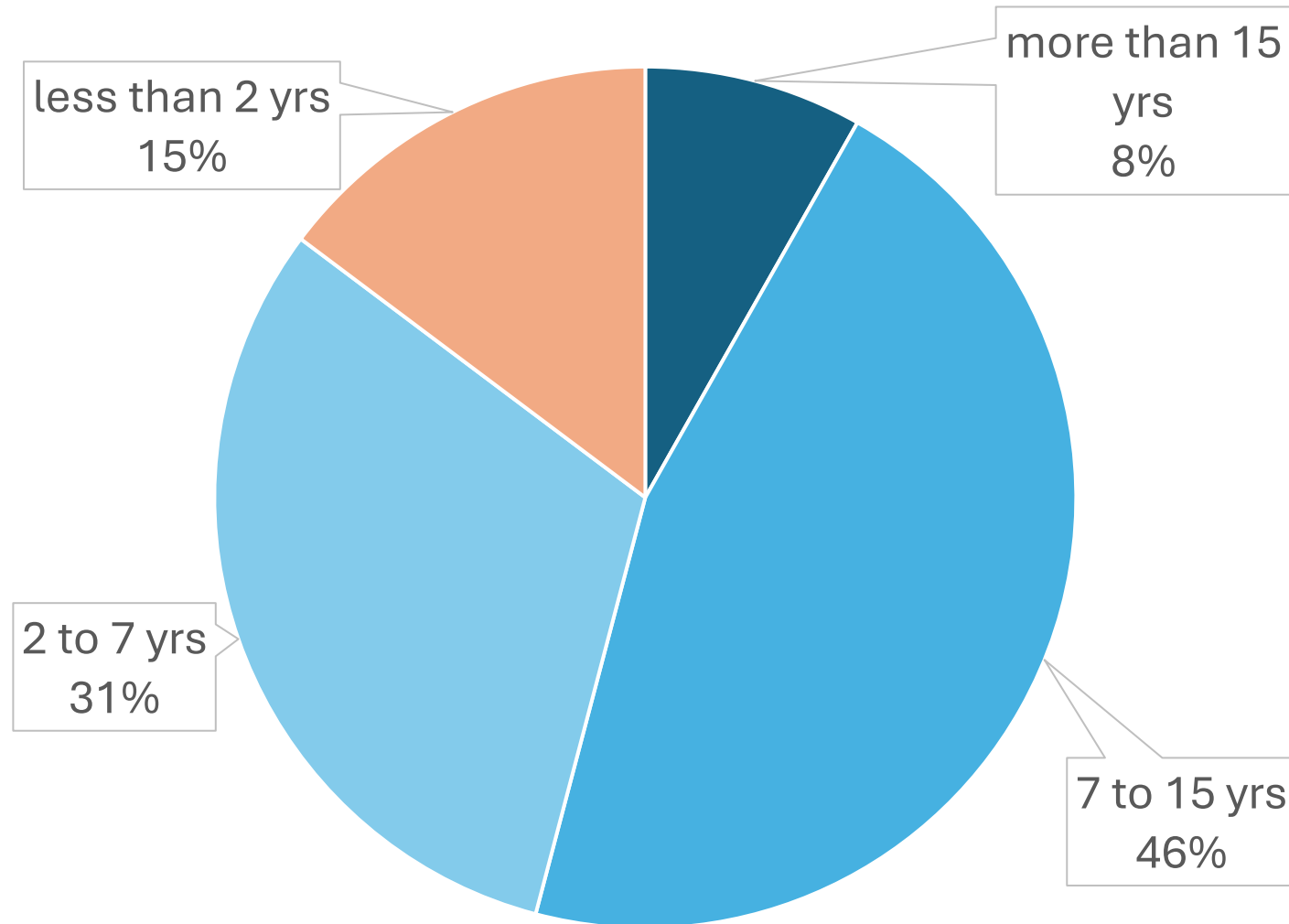
Workload 2025



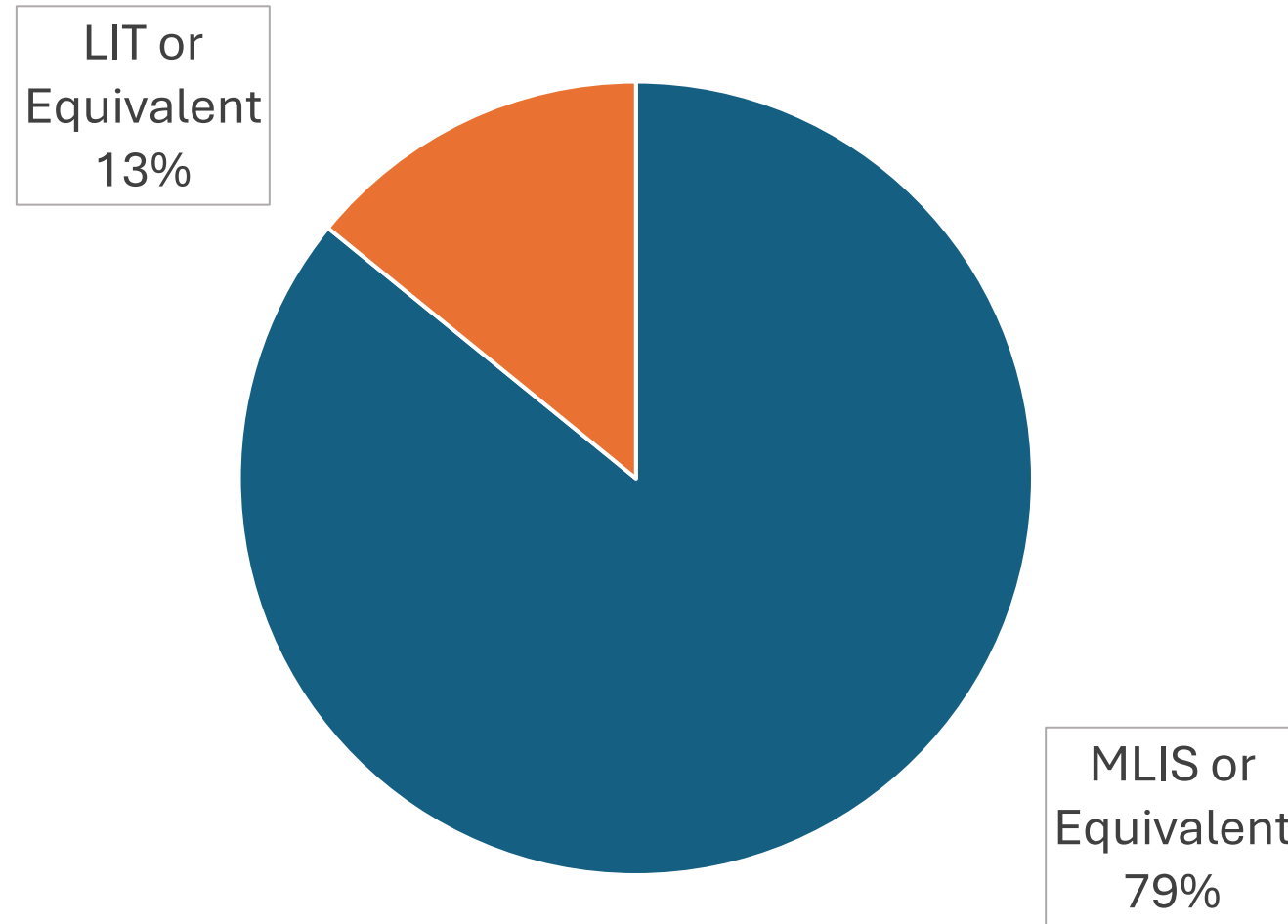
Experience 2015



Experience 2025



Library Education 2025



Note: 3% of respondents hold a MLIS and LIT, while 12% hold neither.

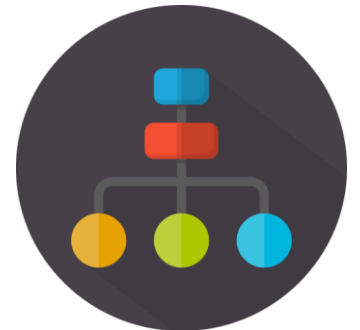
Library Education 2015 vs. 2025

- 2015 – ~66% of interviewees were MLIS-holders, 11% were LIT-holders
- 2025 – An increase of MLIS-holders (79%), while LIT remained similar to 2015 (13%)
- 2025 saw fewer law degree holders compared to 2015
 - 2015 = 13%
 - 2025 = 3%



Institutional Context 2015 vs. 2025

- 2015 study – 75%+ of interviewees located in Library and 46% part of a faculty bargaining unit
- 2025 – 93% of respondents located in the Library and 87% part of a collective bargaining unit



Next Steps

- Analyze focus group data
 - 4 groups, 17 participants
 - Institutions represented: university, college, institute, CEGEP



Discussion

- Are there changes you expected?
- Are any of the changes we reported on surprising?



Sources

- Patterson, E. (2016). The University Copyright Specialist: A Cross-Canada Selfie. ABC Copyright Conference 2016, Halifax, NS
<https://abccopyrightconference2016.sched.com/event/6bVL/the-university-copyright-specialist-a-cross-canada-selfie>
- Patterson, E. (2017). The Canadian University Copyright Specialist: A Cross-Canada Selfie. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 11(2).
<https://doi.org/10.21083/partnership.v11i2.3856>

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