

# The Evolving Role of Liaison Librarians – Supporting Researchers in the Systematic Review Process



## ABSTRACT

From the summer of 2013 to early 2014, four University of Waterloo librarians surveyed Health Sciences faculty and PhD students to gather data on their current and future systematic review work. Data provided insight into expectations of librarian support, and identified multiple ways to meet the needs of the surveyed population. Findings also identified how librarian expertise can be used towards knowledge creation and synthesis, confirming that librarian work will continue to move from an advising, supportive role to being an integral part of the research process and a member of the research team.

## FACULTY & PhD COMMENTS

### FACULTY

*“Thanks for being proactive.. Please let me know if you wish to discuss this at future SPHHS faculty meetings.”*

*“Help of a librarian is essential in these projects in my opinion.”*

*“I see Library Liaisons as essential members of the research team for scoping and systematic reviews.”*

*“My policy would be to include them as co-authors with the expectation that they would oversee the methodological development of the review and the initial data collection.”*

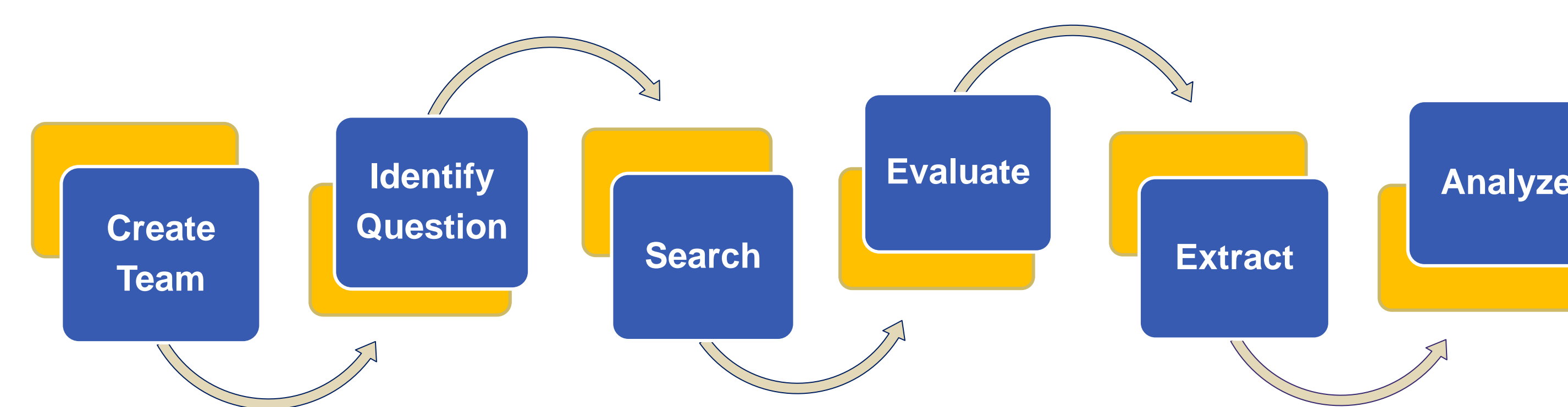
### PhD

*“There has been no specific training on how to conduct systematic reviews in SPHHS and this would be valuable, at least to help candidates interpret SRs done by others.”*

*“I appreciate that these services could be offered!”*

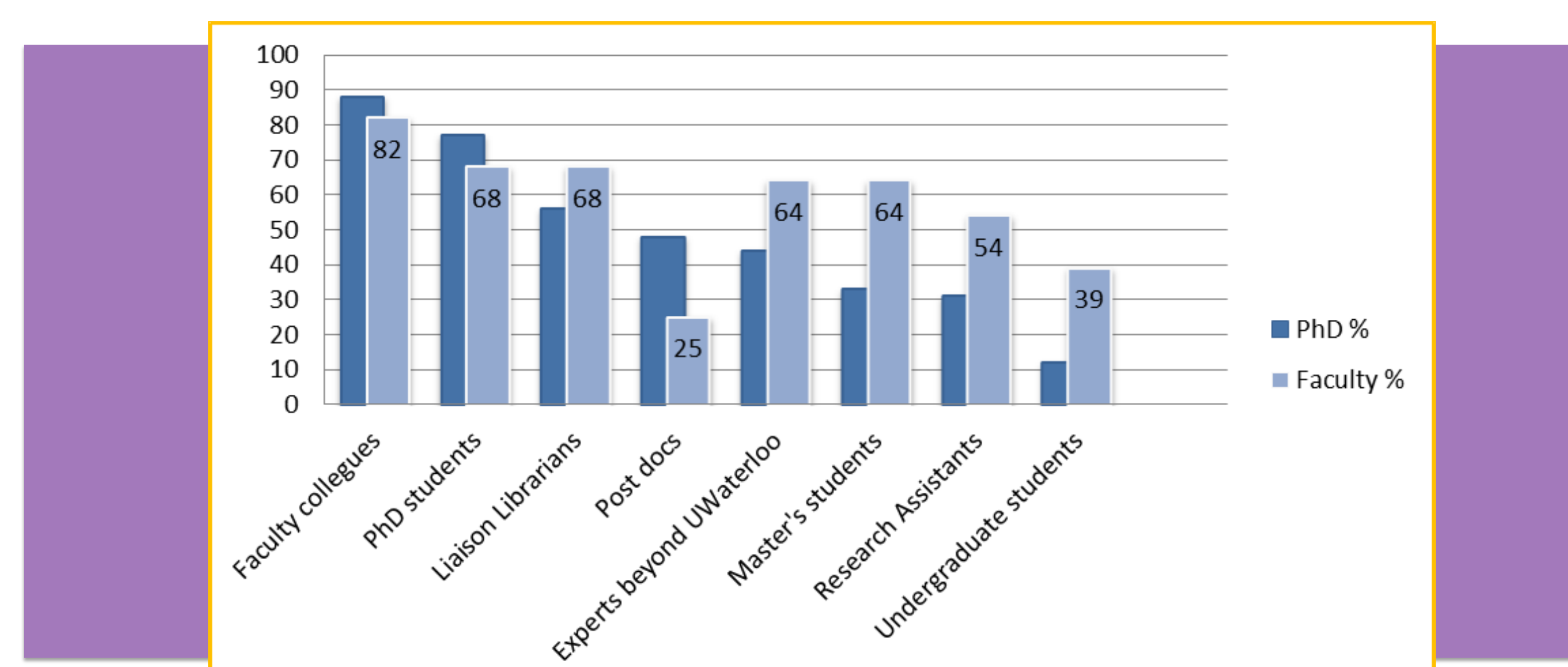
*“For the purpose of writing my dissertation, I need to start a systematic review of the literature and I would appreciate it if you could help me with that!”*

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW PROCESS

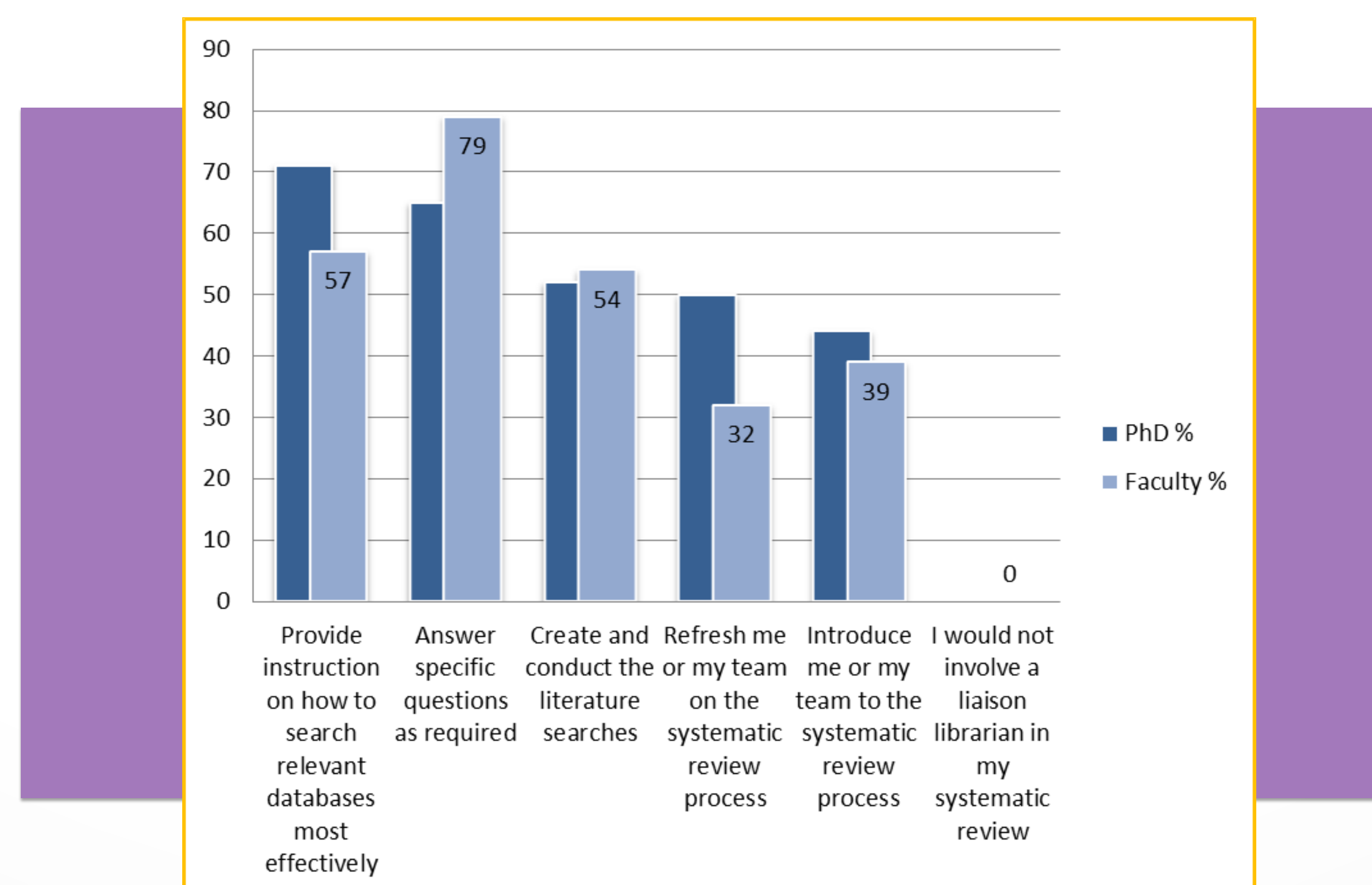


## FINDINGS

Survey question:  
 If you were to author/co-author a systematic review, who would you include in your research team? (Total 52 respondents)



Survey Question:  
 If you looked to a liaison librarian for systematic review support, what level of support would be ideal? (Total 52 respondents)



## OUTCOMES

These findings provided us with strong evidence to influence how we can best support current and future SR needs. Our deliverables included:

### Creation of a SR protocol template

- Outlines various aspects of a SR project for the SR Team
- Should minimize the risk of introducing bias into the SR process
- Indicates 'Librarian support is available' for SR project stages where this is relevant

### New SR graduate course (pending approval)

- Two librarians were invited to co-instruct a new graduate course
- Will involve guiding students through the SR process
- Addresses survey feedback which indicated that “There has been no specific training on how to conduct systematic reviews...and this would be valuable”

### SR subject guide

- Clarify review types: systematic reviews vs. scoping reviews vs. literature reviews
- Guidelines and standards for conducting a systematic review

### Disseminating study results

- A summary of the research study results for uWaterloo Library administrators providing evidence of need for SR research support
- Poster presented at the 2014 Ontario Library Association (OLA) Conference 'Systematic Reviews and the Evolving Role of Librarians'
- Poster presented at the 2014 Canadian Health Library Association (CHLA) Conference 'The Evolving Role of Liaison Librarians – Supporting Researchers in the Systematic Review Process'

## We would like to hear from you!

Please let us know about your work with Systematic Reviews and let's start sharing our information.  
 Let's talk!

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