

Where Do Librarians Come From? Examining Educational Diversity in Librarianship

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Abstract

Recent years have seen increased focus on the lack of gender and ethnic diversity in American librarianship, but educational and disciplinary backgrounds of librarians also lack diversity. Historical studies show that librarians hail predominately from humanities backgrounds, especially English and history. Librarianship needs to reflect the educational diversity of today's patrons, especially given the increased focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. How educationally diverse is contemporary librarianship? This poster presents an infographic of educational representation in librarianship. Anonymized data from ALA-accredited graduate programs from the last five years was used to determine librarians' educational and disciplinary orientations and identify underrepresented fields for outreach and recruitment.

Key to Symbols

English

English: Literature

Comparative Literature

English: Writing

History

Art History

Languages

Religious Studies

Philosophy

Classics

General Humanities

Business

LIS

Education

Law

Psychology

Cultural Studies

Political Science

Economics

Anthropology

Sociology

Communication

Journalism

Linguistics

Media & Film Studies

Geography

Gender Studies

General Social Science

Computer Science

Engineering

Biology

Mathematics

Medicine & Health

Chemistry

Earth Sciences

General STEM

Physics

Studio Art

Music

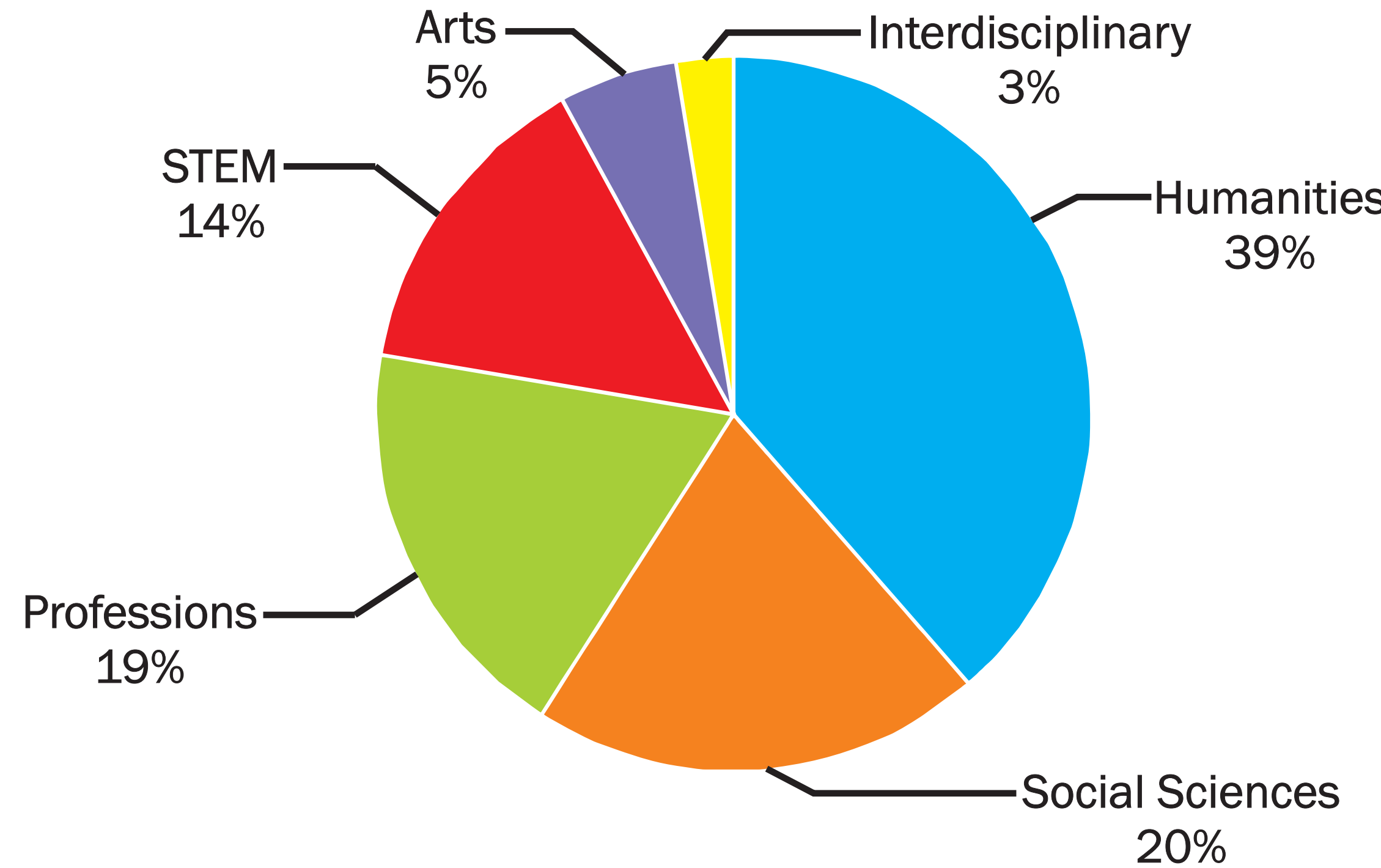
Design

General Art

Theatre

Architecture

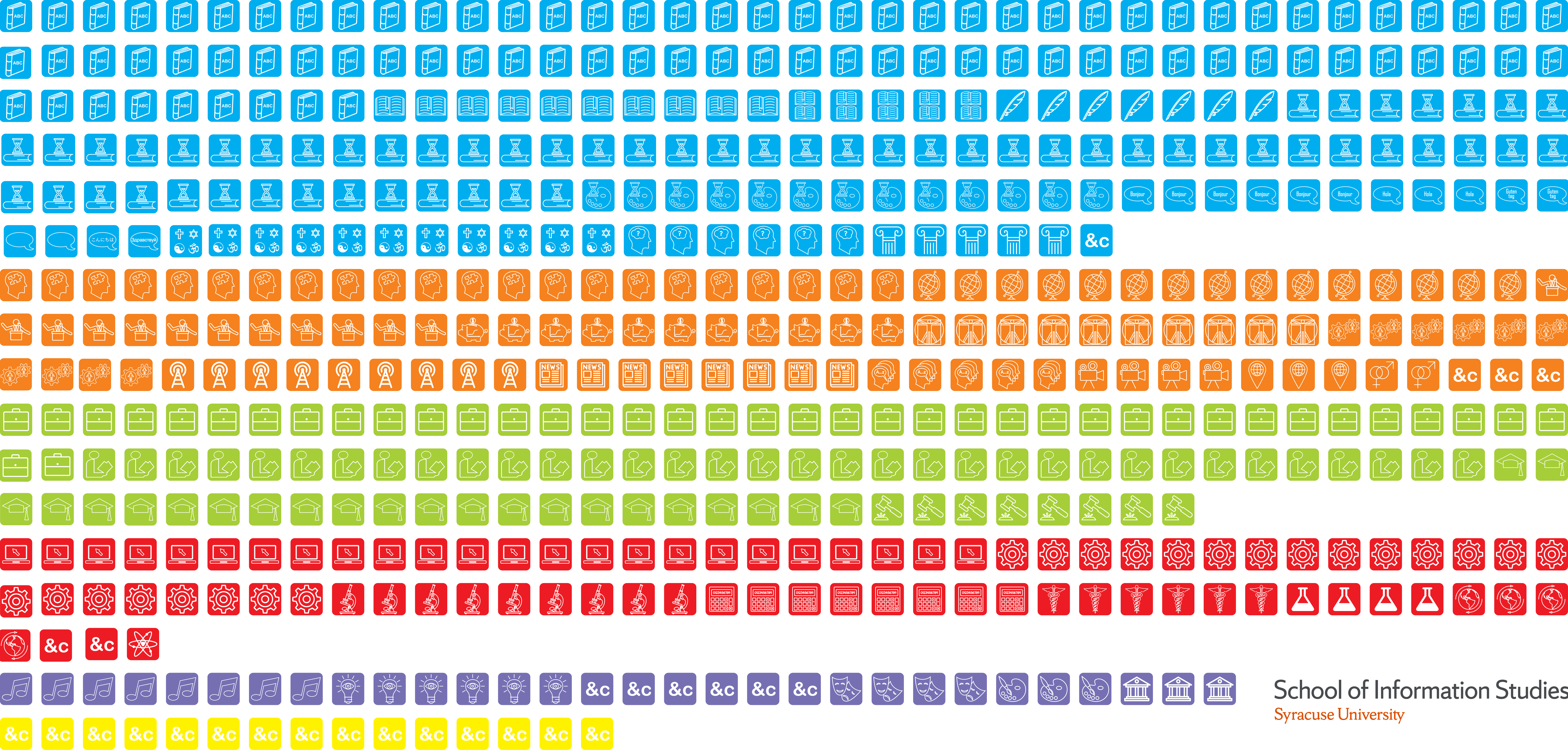
Inter-disciplinary



1 box = 5 degrees in that area of study
2825 degrees · 2173 unique students

60 schools with ALA accredited programs
5 contributed data · 30 declined · 23 no response · 2 pending

Special thanks to Young-In Kim, College of St. Rose, for her assistance collecting, compiling, and analyzing data.



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