

A Systematic Review of Survey Reports in Medical Libraries

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Introduction

- Surveys are most common research method utilized by medical librarians [1]
- Standards for reporting or evaluating surveys are lacking
- Few studies published overall quality of survey reports

Objectives

- To present the protocol for a systematic review focusing on evaluating the quality of surveys of potential clients of medical libraries
- To assess the feasibility of the protocol
- To report the results of protocol feasibility testing

Protocol of systematic review

- *Question:* What is the overall quality of the published survey reports aimed at assessing medical library users?
- *Eligibility criteria:* the reported survey should have been delivered by or in coordination with medical librarians, participants were potential clients of medical libraries, published from 2005 to present, and reported in an English article
- *Search:* MEDLINE (Ovid),CINAHL(Ebsco), LISTA (Ebsco), & Academic Search Complete (Ebsco).
- *Selection:* Citations screened by two authors independently in Covidence.
- *Coding and appraisal:* Each survey report coded and appraised independently by both authors using survey form developed in Qualtrics, including demographic information about report, reported data, and quality appraisal-developed combining criteria from multiple resources [2-6].

Sample

- Selected 10 survey reports from 3 journals [JEAHIL (3), JMLA (4), Journal of Hospital Librarianship (3)]
- Tested selection methods by exporting citations from JMLA and JHL retrieved in Medline search to Covidence
- Browsed JEAHIL starting with the newest issue to find 3 survey reports matching criteria

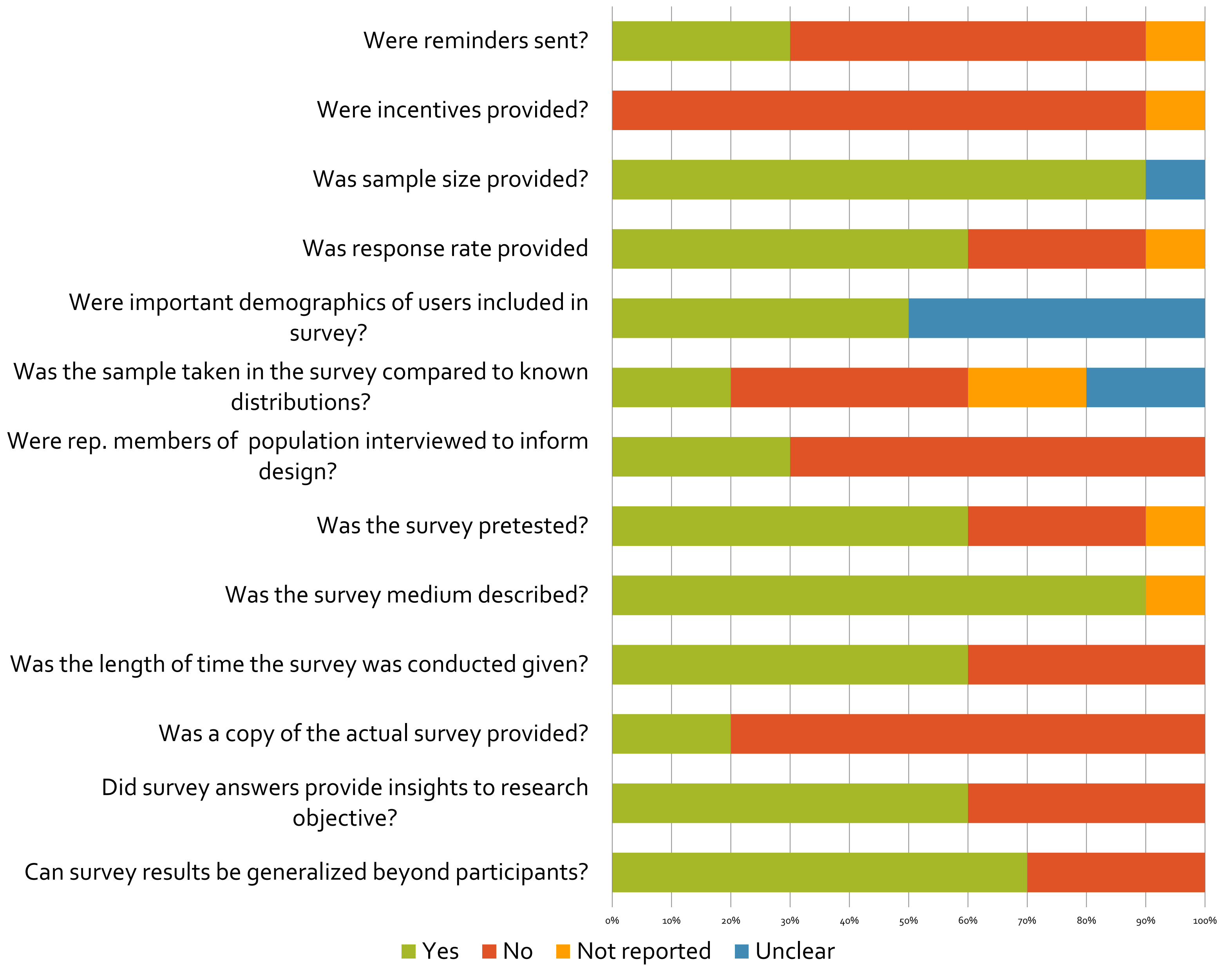
Results

Coding and appraisal of the 10 survey reports provided an snapshot of sample:

Demographics

- Settings: mixture of academic medical libraries, hospital libraries, clinics, and multi-institutional projects.
- Location: 4 US, 4 European, 1 US/European, 1 ns
- Participants: Most (7) focused on practitioners (medicine/nursing) 2 students, and 1 all library users
- Focus: Most focused on information needs/ resource use

Report and quality of survey reports



Conclusions

- SR protocols be internally assessed for feasibility and externally evaluated for feedback
- Future actions:
 - Search needs to be modified, many abstracts did not include the term library, libraries, or librarians
 - Search needs to be peer reviewed
 - Eligibility criteria need further details
 - Several of appraisal questions need additional options, and terms

Medline (OVID)

1. exp Libraries/
2. ((medical or health* or dental* or nursing or dentist*) adj2 librar*).ti,ab,sh.
3. or/1-2
4. exp Surveys and Questionnaires/
5. (questionnaire* or survey*).ti,ab.
7. or/4-5
8. 3 and 7
9. limit 8 to yr="2005 -Current"
10. limit 9 to English language

References

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