

**UbuntuNet-Connect 2014**  
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**Lusaka, Zambia**

***Beyond Connectivity: Impact of  
Increased Access on Researcher  
Behaviour***

**[www.ubuntunet.net](http://www.ubuntunet.net)**  
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# Our thesis..

- *“Improved and affordable connectivity will enable African researchers to produce proportionate intellectual output and generate a proportionate amount of intellectual property goods”*
- *Our objective is to end the intellectual isolation of academics and researchers in Africa*

# Sample Used

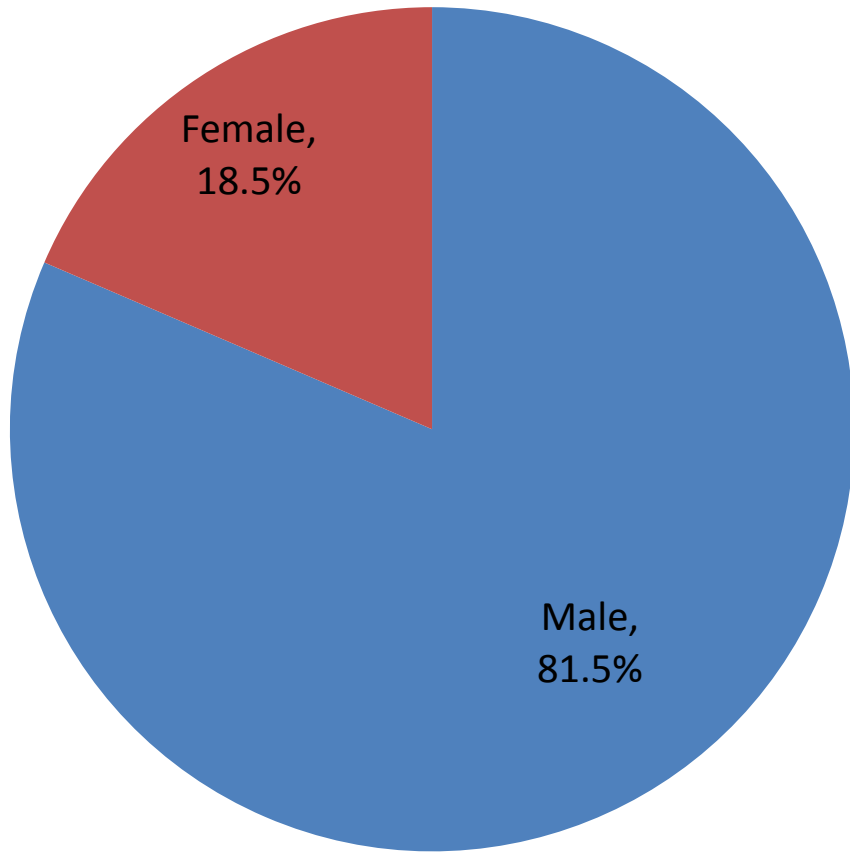
- **5 out of fourteen countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia)**
- **Ethiopia – 6 institutions (215 valid returns)**
- **Malawi – 4 institutions (53 valid returns)**
- **Tanzania – 10 institutions (63 valid returns)**
- **Uganda – 6 institutions (80 valid returns)**
- **Zambia – 3 institutions (32 valid returns)**

# Highlights

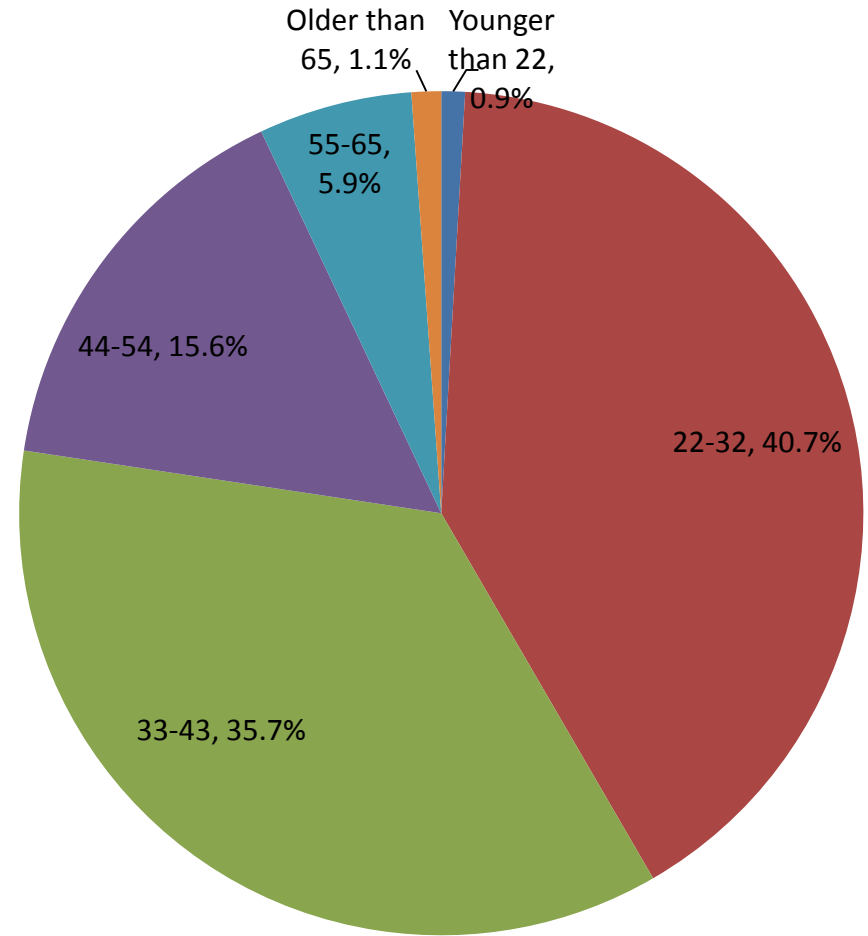
- **On average, bandwidth per institution increased from 12.8MB (2011) to 15.8MB (2013)**
  - **BW/PC rose from 7.5 to 22.7 kb/PC**
  - **BW/(staff + student) rose from 1.0 to 3.1 kb/head**
- **Slight improvement in research output/staff from 0.17 to 0.22**
  - **1309 outputs (2011, 5 years) vs. 1187 (2013, 2 year)**
- **While connectivity improved, staff felt that Internet access was less reliable and slow**

# Demographics – Staff overwhelmingly Young and Male

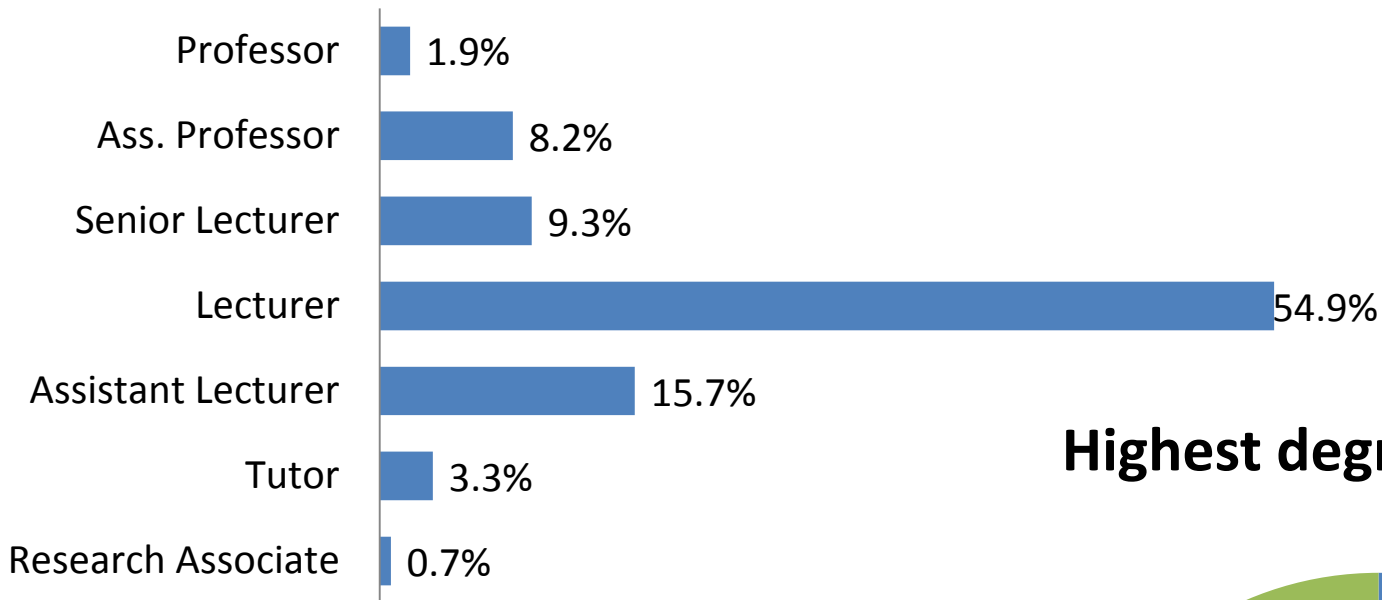
## Gender of interviewee



## What is your age range (years)?

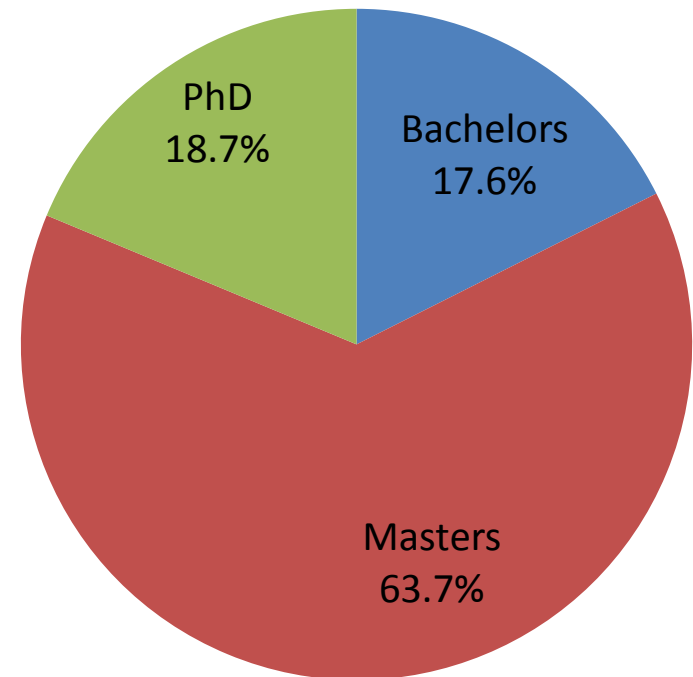


## What is your academic rank?



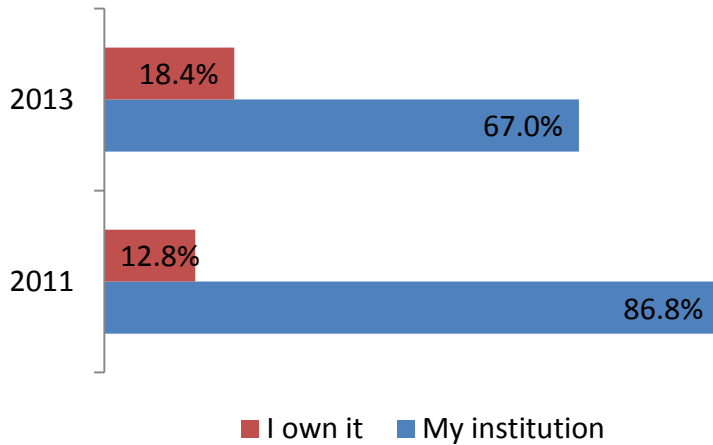
**Number of PhDs still very limited – impacts on research and research quality**

## Highest degree attained



# Ownership and use of computers

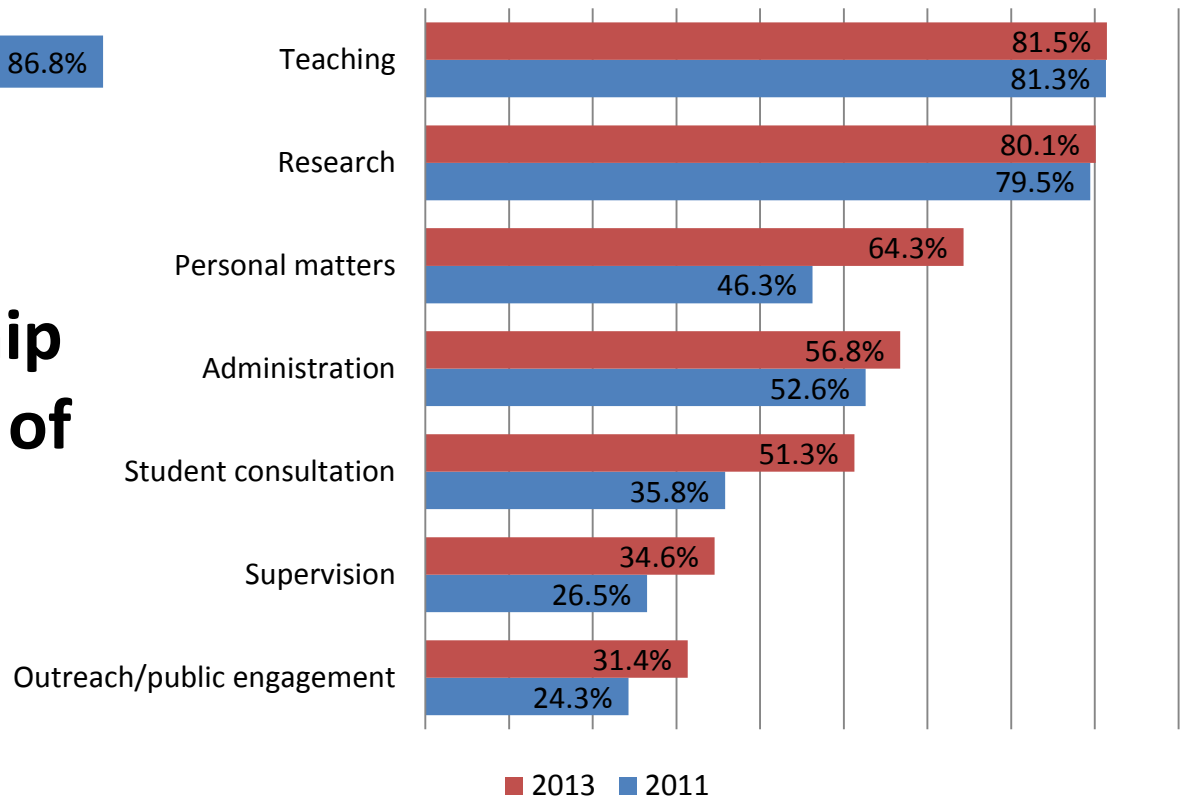
## Who owns the computer?



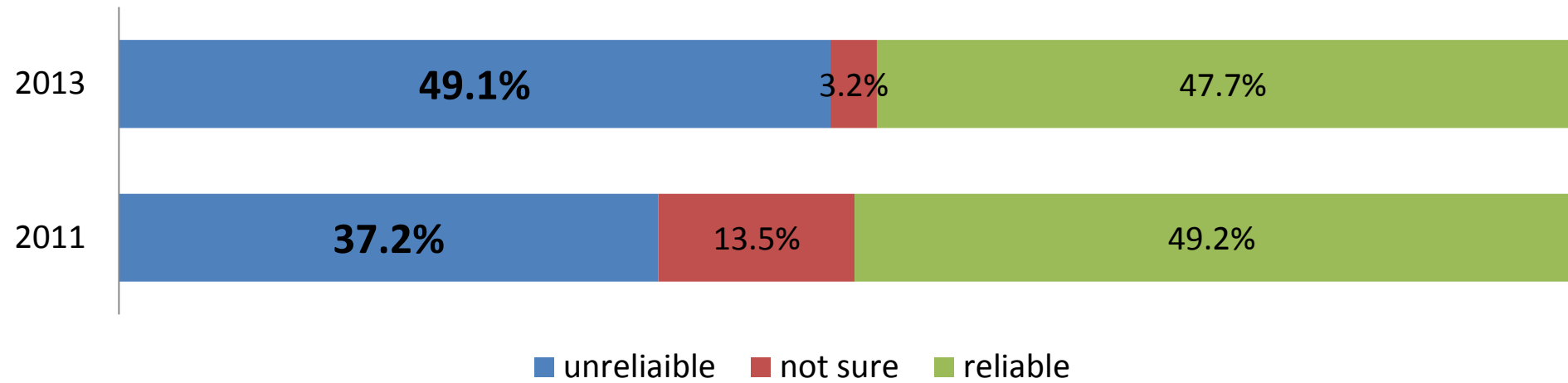
**Computer ownership  
no longer preserve of  
institutions**

## Use of computers in all areas has improved

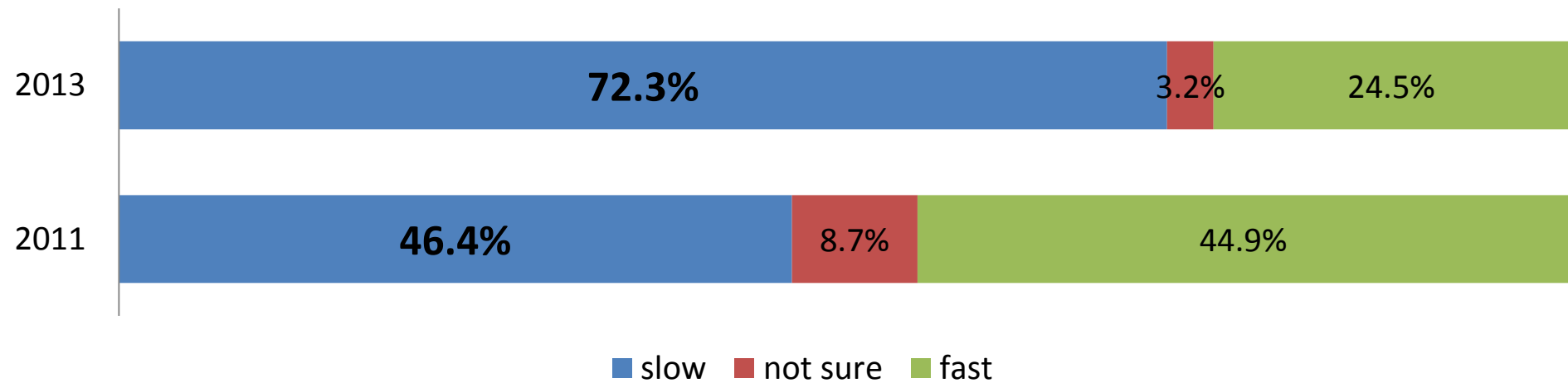
### What do you use this computer for?



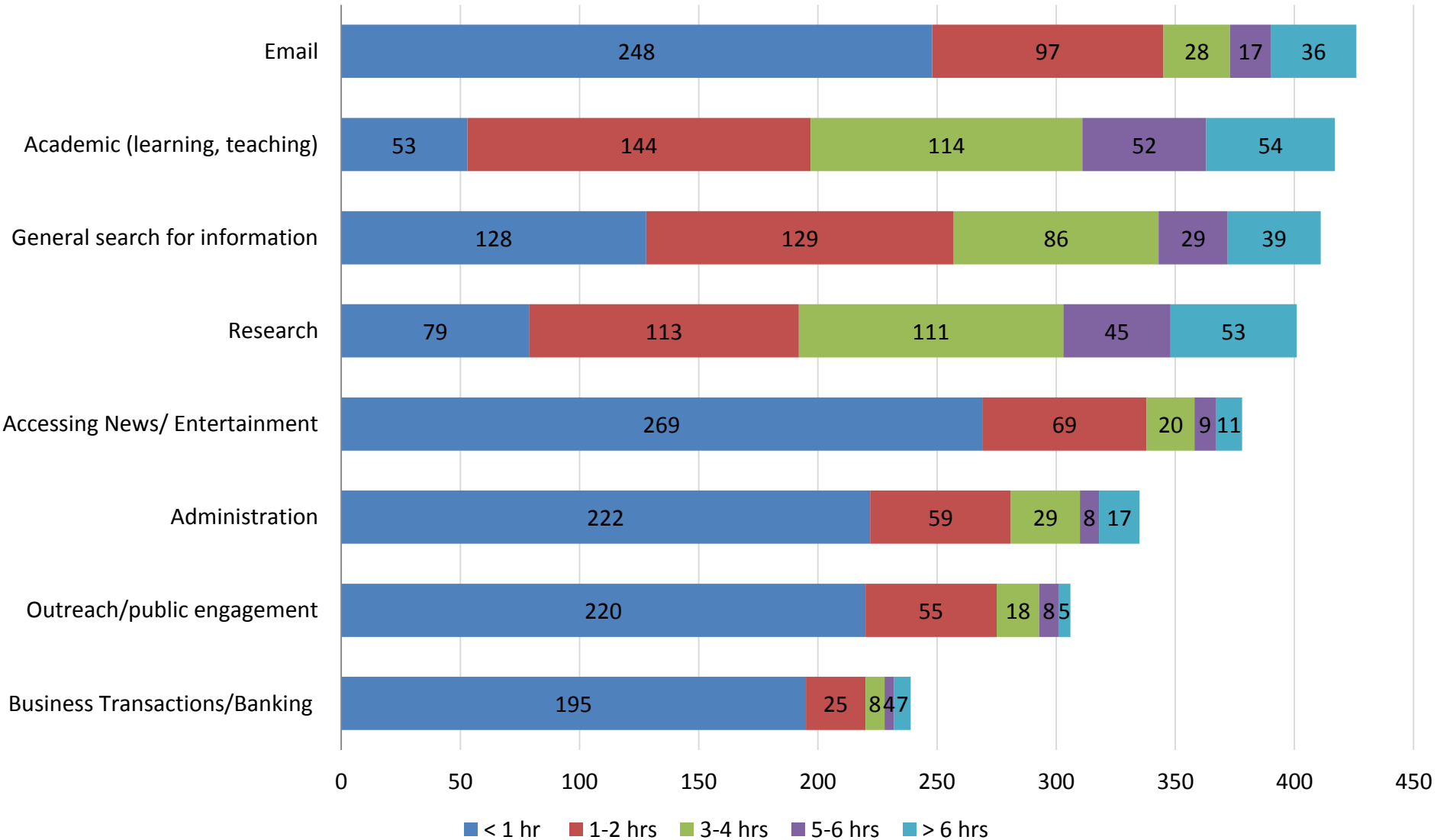
## How would you classify the reliability of the Internet service at your institution?



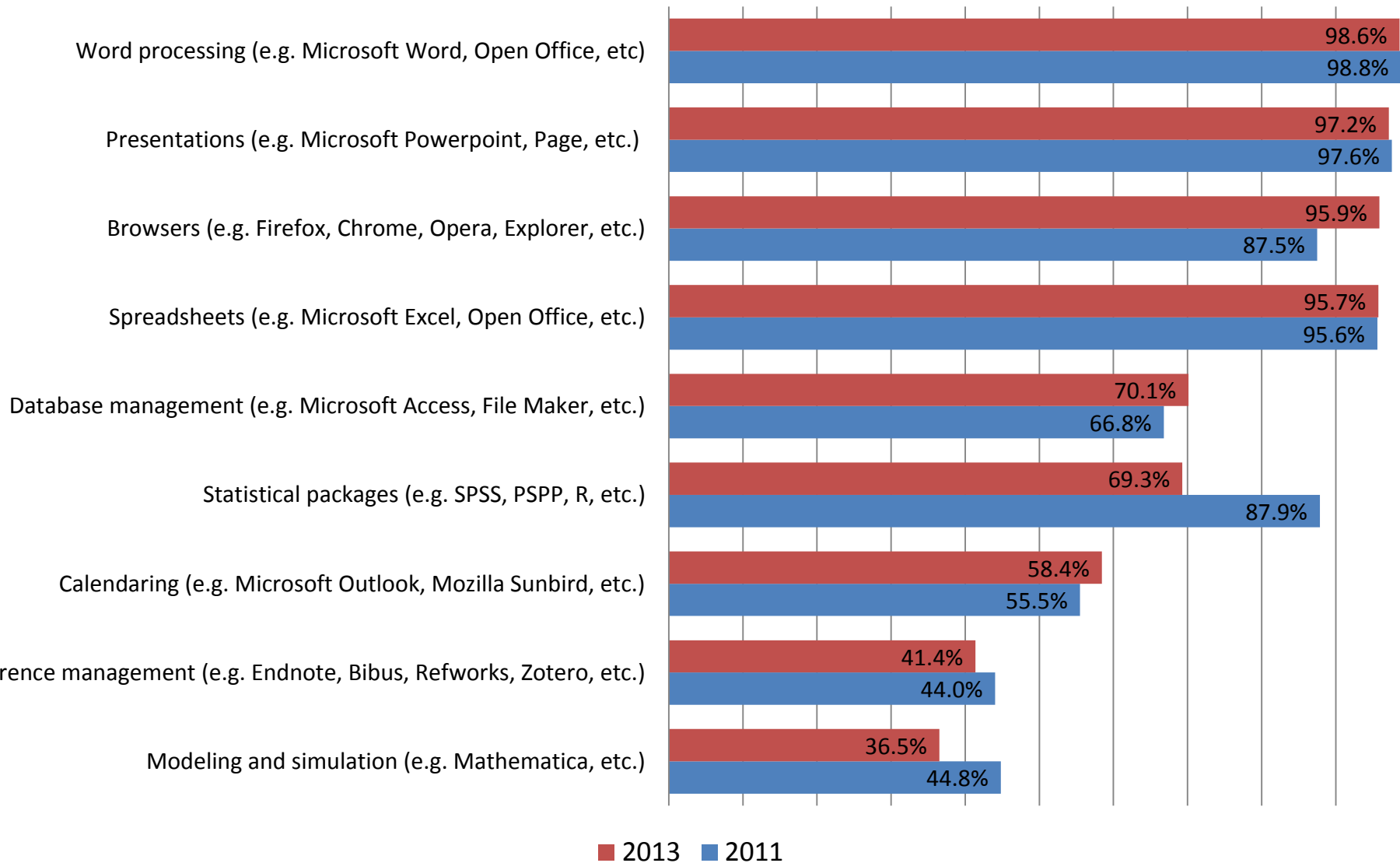
## How would you classify the speed of the Internet service at your Institution?



# Academic use of the Internet is growing

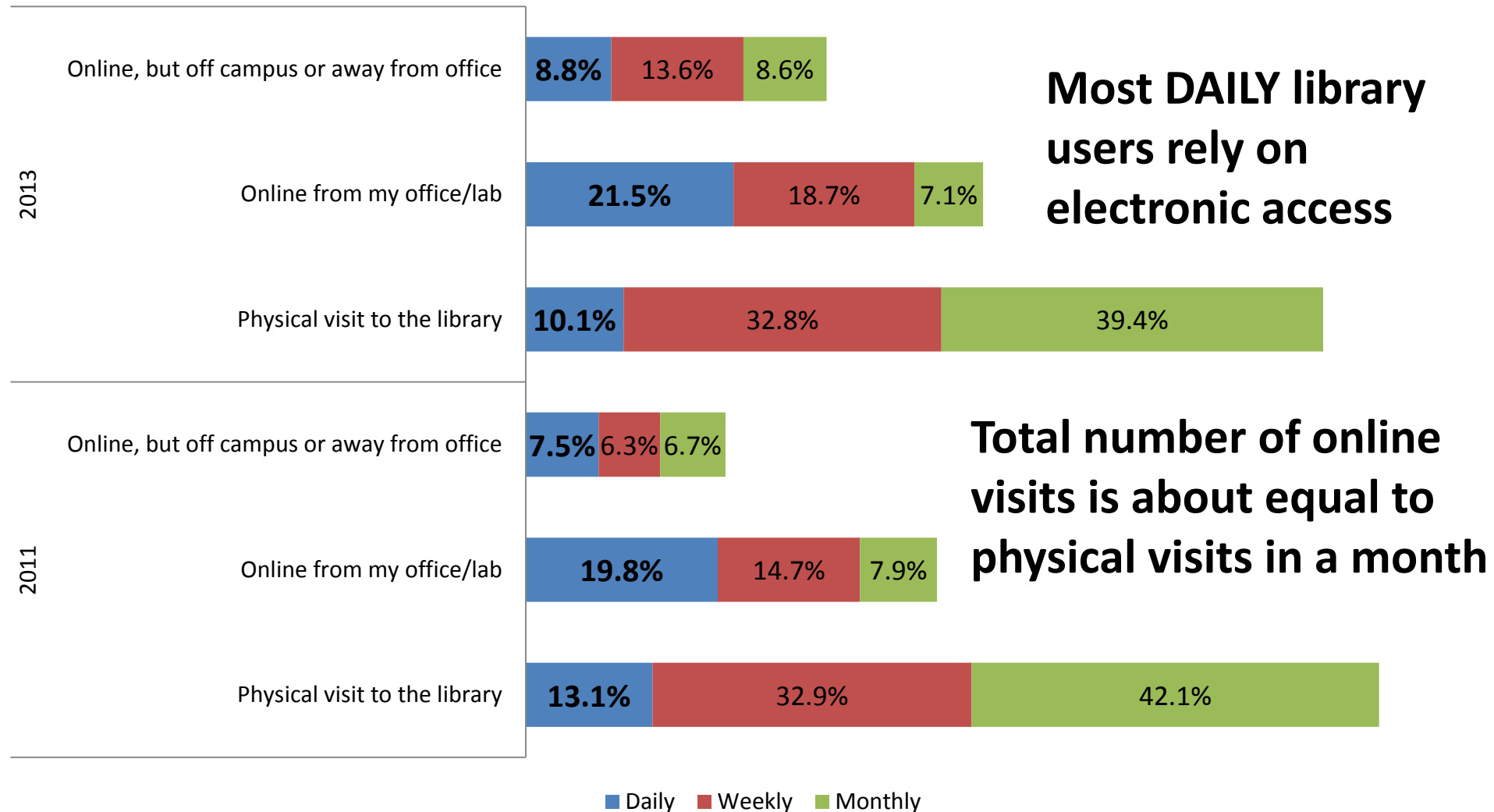


# Relevance of software to research



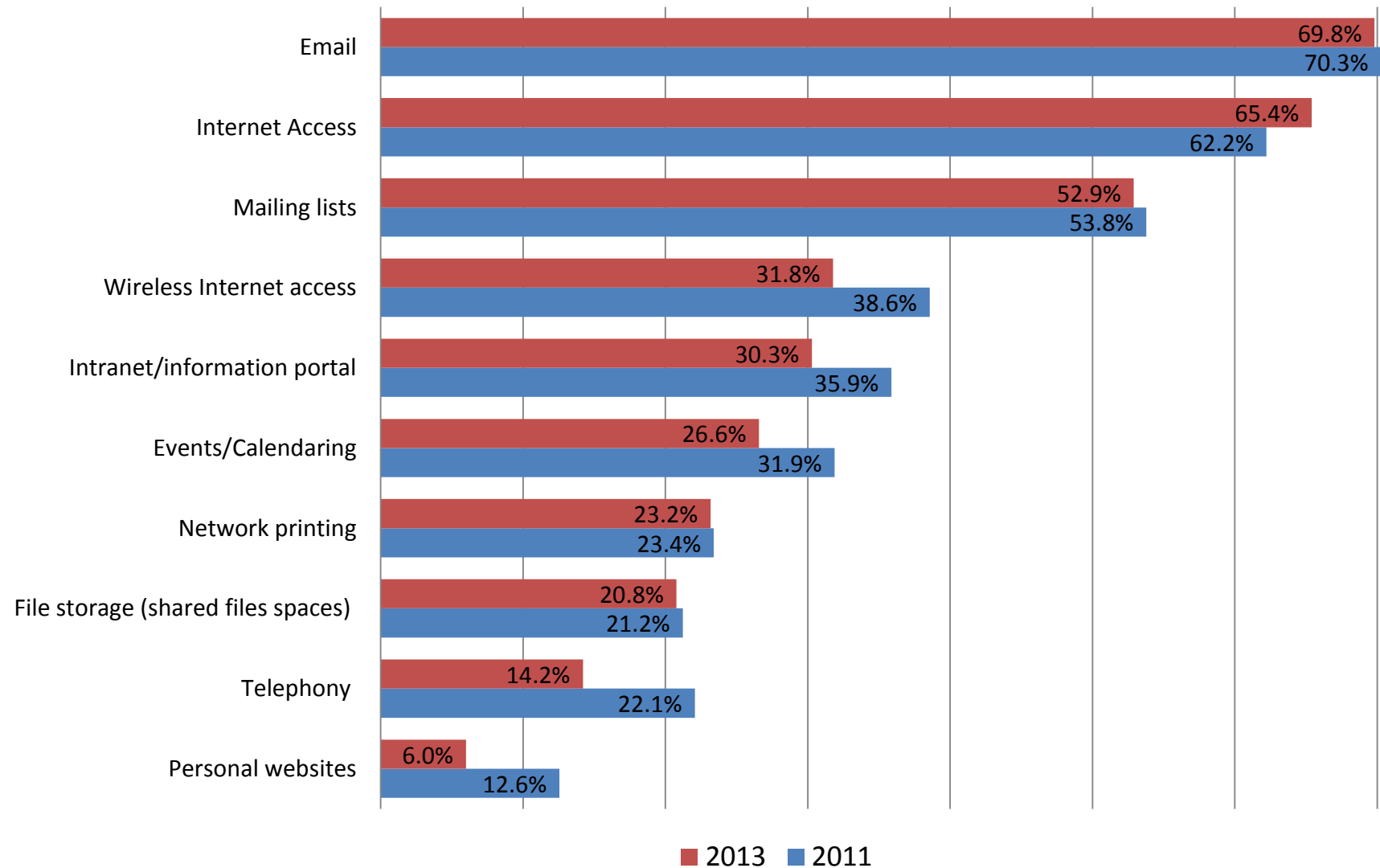
# Changing use of the library

How often do you access library services this way at your institution?

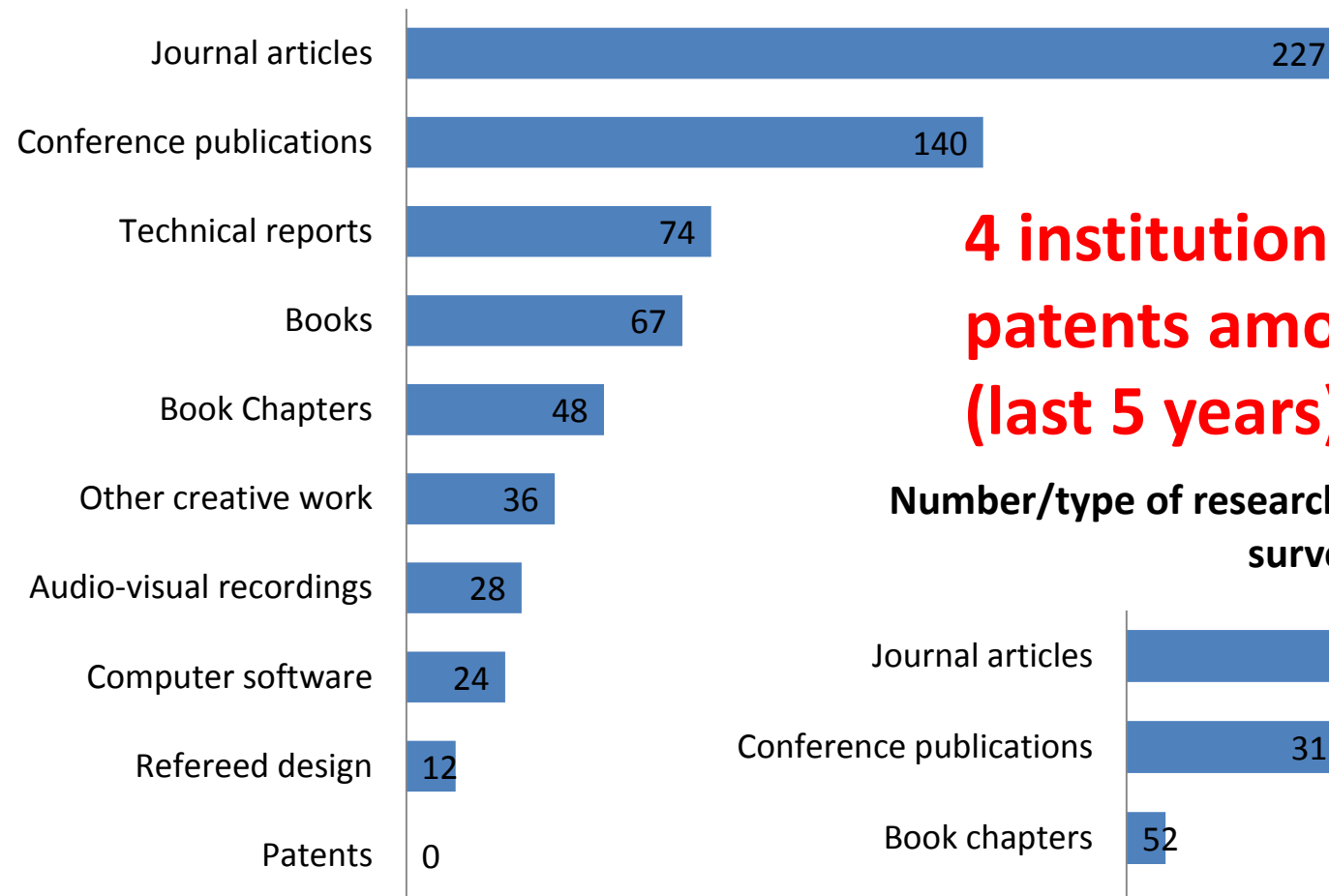


# Falling level of satisfaction with Internet services

Level of satisfaction with Internet services (satisfied or very satisfied)

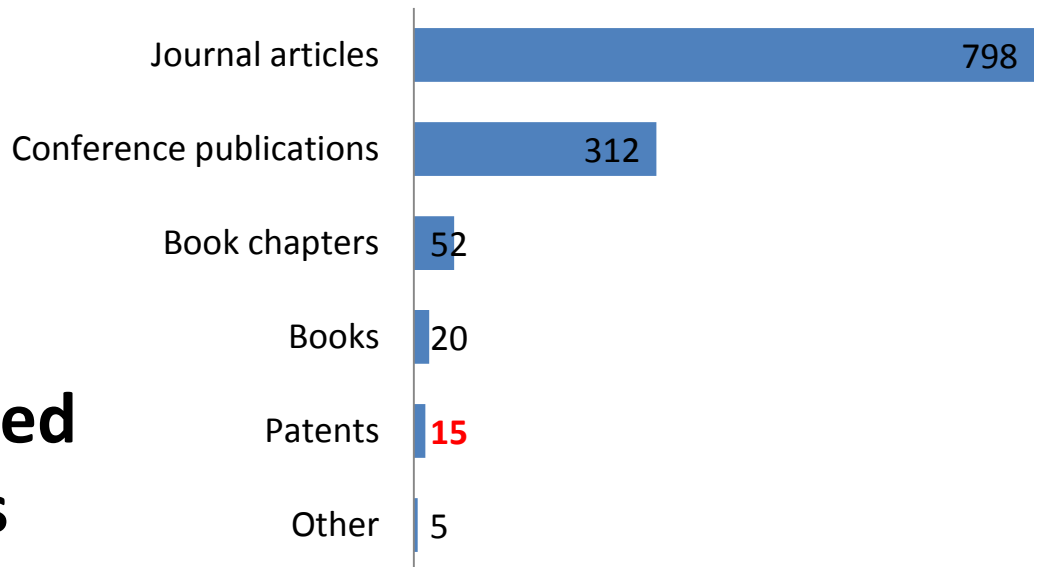


## Number/type of research outputs (individual survey)



**4 institutions reported 15 patents amongst them (last 5 years)**

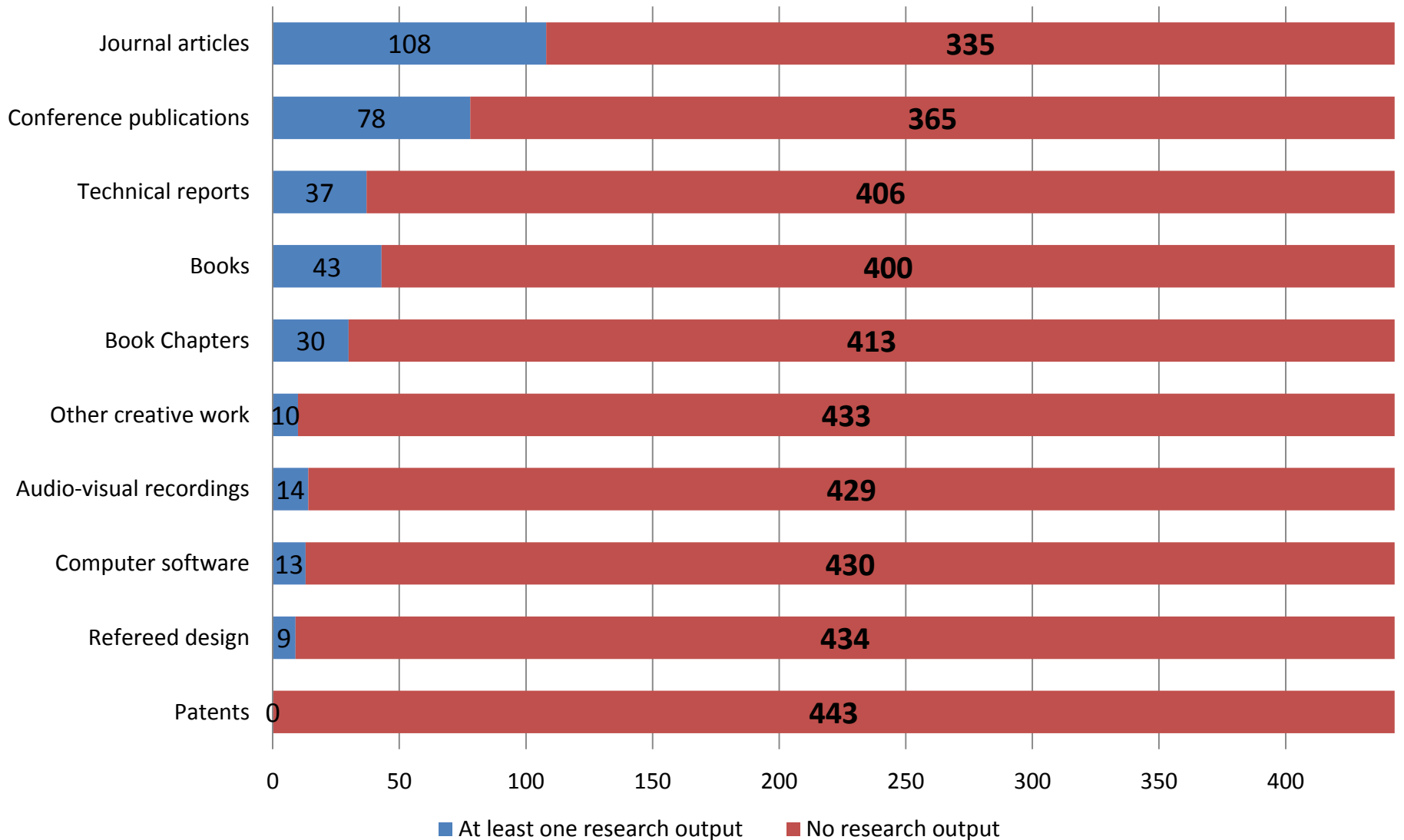
## Number/type of research outputs (institutional survey)



**Institutions have started to keep better records about research and IP**

# Few staff have research outputs

Individuals with no research output (individual survey)



# Some observations

- **Access to connectivity and e-services is improving at the institutional level. But user expectations are changing faster resulting in lower levels of satisfaction**
- **Documentation of research outputs and dissemination has started to improve – some records exist**
- **Commercialization of research outputs is still low: Among all the 29 institutions, 4 reported 15 patents amongst them in last 2 years**

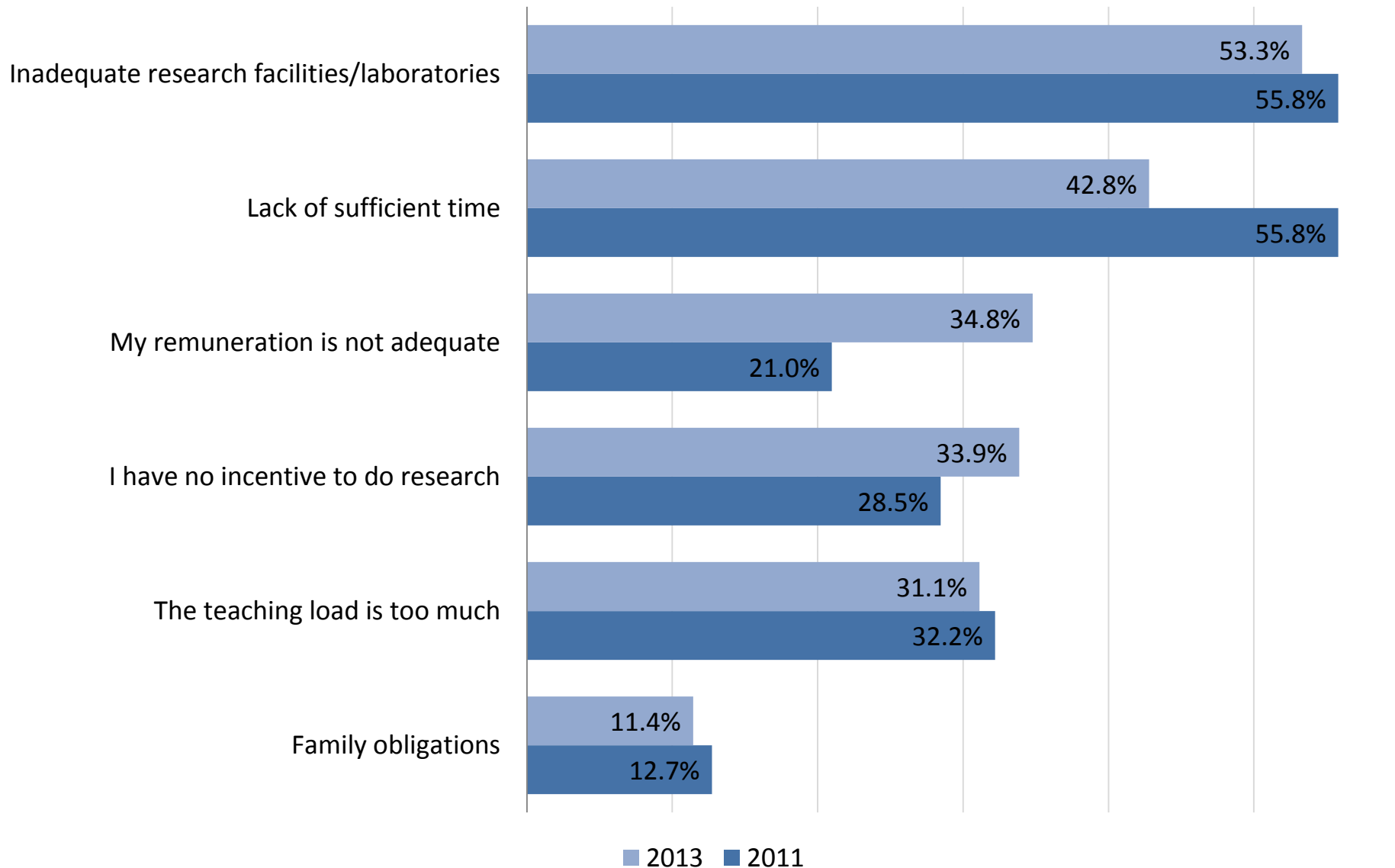
# Conclusion

- **Institutions have made progress, but gaps and weaknesses still exist.**
- **Institutions do have some leverage.**
  - **Individual promotion (57.4%) and recognition through awards (40.3%) are tools that institutions can use to drive uptake of research because they are still perceived more important than higher remuneration by more individuals**
- ***Change is possible – we just have to apply ourselves to the challenges!***

*Appreciation:*  
***IDRC; EUC; INASP; NSRC***

***THANK YOU***

# What do you consider the biggest obstacles for you to undertake research? (multiple-select)



# What would best motivate you to get involved in research? (multiple-select)



# Approach

- **Questionnaire Structure is aimed at examining the environment the researcher is immersed in;**
- **Started with baseline, track each element over a period of five years as the environment evolves**
- **Work-out correlations and see where these are significant**
- **Provide evolving feedback to universities about the factors impacting research output, with some focus on validity of the initial thesis**

# What Impacts Researcher Behaviour?

- **Research Policy (enabling)**
- **Human Resource Policy (Recognitions, perks, promotion, financial rewards, etc)**
- **Research environment (Library and online resources, instrumentation, bandwidth, graduate programmes, etc)**
- **Institutional Research Culture and momentum**
- **Research Funding**
- **We want to argue contribution, not attribution**