

FDLP Forecast Study Data Report

Library Forecast Question 16



July 3, 2013

Question 16 of the Library Forecast Questionnaire asked depository libraries: “As government information is increasingly produced and distributed in digital-only formats, what barriers to access, if any, do you anticipate in the next five years?” This report documents the data gathered from this question. Please note: totals may not always equal 100% due to rounding.

The data report, [Overall High-Level Quantitative Data for Library Forecast Questionnaires](#), is available for viewing.

The results are presented by:

- Library Type
 - Academic General
 - Academic, Community College
 - Academic, Law Library
 - Federal Agency Library
 - Federal Court Library
 - Highest State Court Library
 - Public Library
 - Service Academy
 - Special Library
 - State Library
- Library Size
 - Large = > 1,000,000 volumes
 - Medium = 250,000 – 1,000,000 volumes
 - Small = < 250,000 volumes
- Depository Type
 - Regional
 - Selective
- Cross-tabulated by Library Size and Depository Type
- Cross-tabulated by Library Type and Depository Type

PRESENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE RESULTS

Question 16 asked, “As government information is increasingly produced and distributed in digital-only formats, what barriers to access, if any, do you anticipate in the next five years?” The response options were:

- 1) I do not anticipate any barriers to access.
- 2) I anticipate barriers to access. (Please identify anticipated barriers)

Of the 802 respondents to Library Forecast Question 16, 419 (52%) responded, “I anticipate barriers to access,” while 383 (48%) responded, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

Figure 1: Overall Response Rate

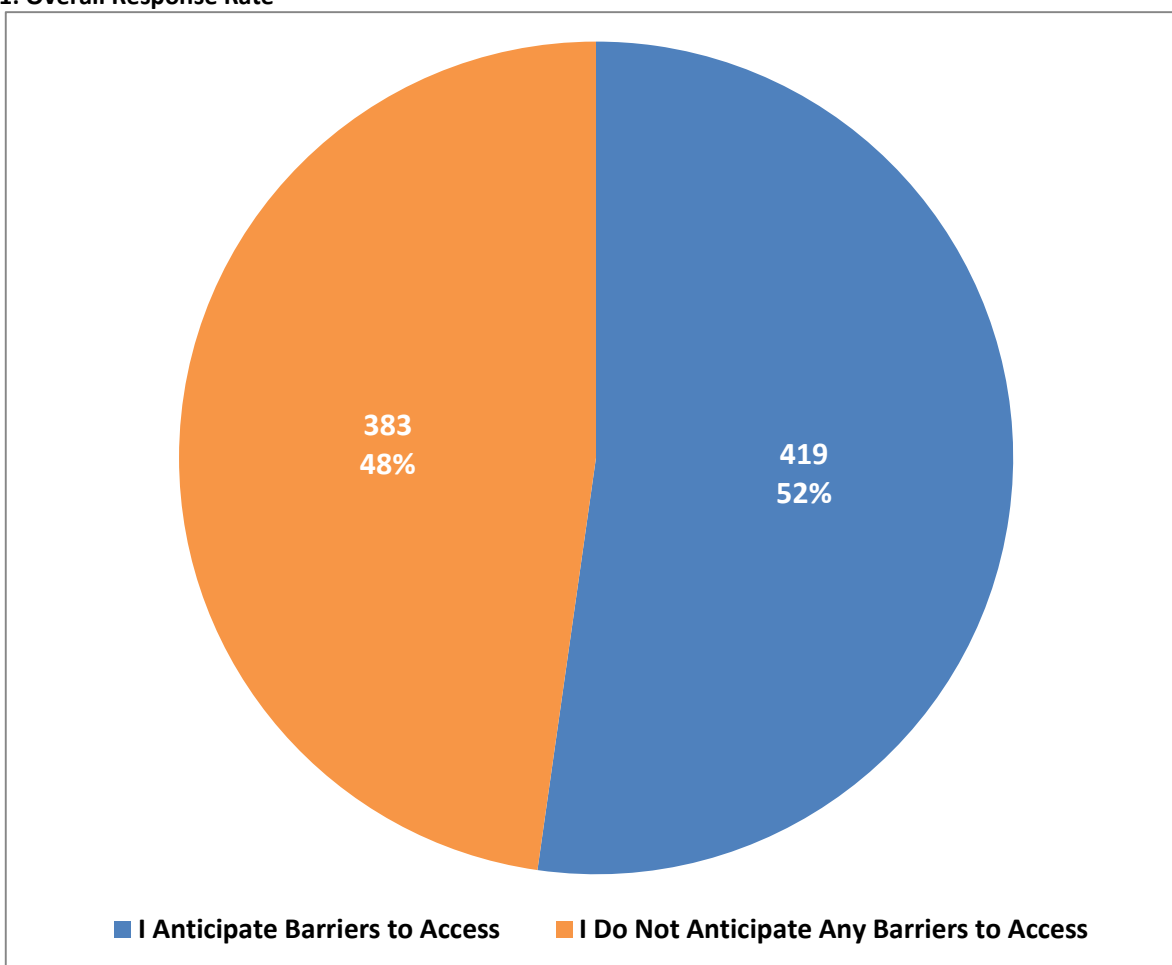


Figure 2 illustrates response rates by library type for all 802 respondents.

State Libraries had the highest “I anticipate barriers to access” response rate (71%), and Service Academies had the highest “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” response rate (100%).

Figure 2: Response Rates by Library Type

Library Type	I Anticipate Barriers to Access		I Do Not Anticipate Any Barriers to Access		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Academic General	235	53%	210	47%	445	100%
Academic, Community College	16	47%	18	53%	34	100%
Academic, Law Library	44	40%	65	60%	109	100%
Federal Agency Library	9	50%	9	50%	18	100%
Federal Court Library	2	33%	4	67%	6	100%
Highest State Court Library	16	62%	10	38%	26	100%
Public Library	67	58%	49	42%	116	100%
Service Academy	0	0%	2	100%	2	100%
Special Library	3	38%	5	63%	8	100%
State Library	27	71%	11	29%	38	100%
Grand Total	419	52%	383	48%	802	100%

Figure 3 illustrates responses by library type for all 802 respondents.

Academic General Libraries, Highest State Court Libraries, Public Libraries, and State Libraries had a higher number of “I anticipate barriers to access” responses than “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” responses.

Figure 3: Responses by Library Type

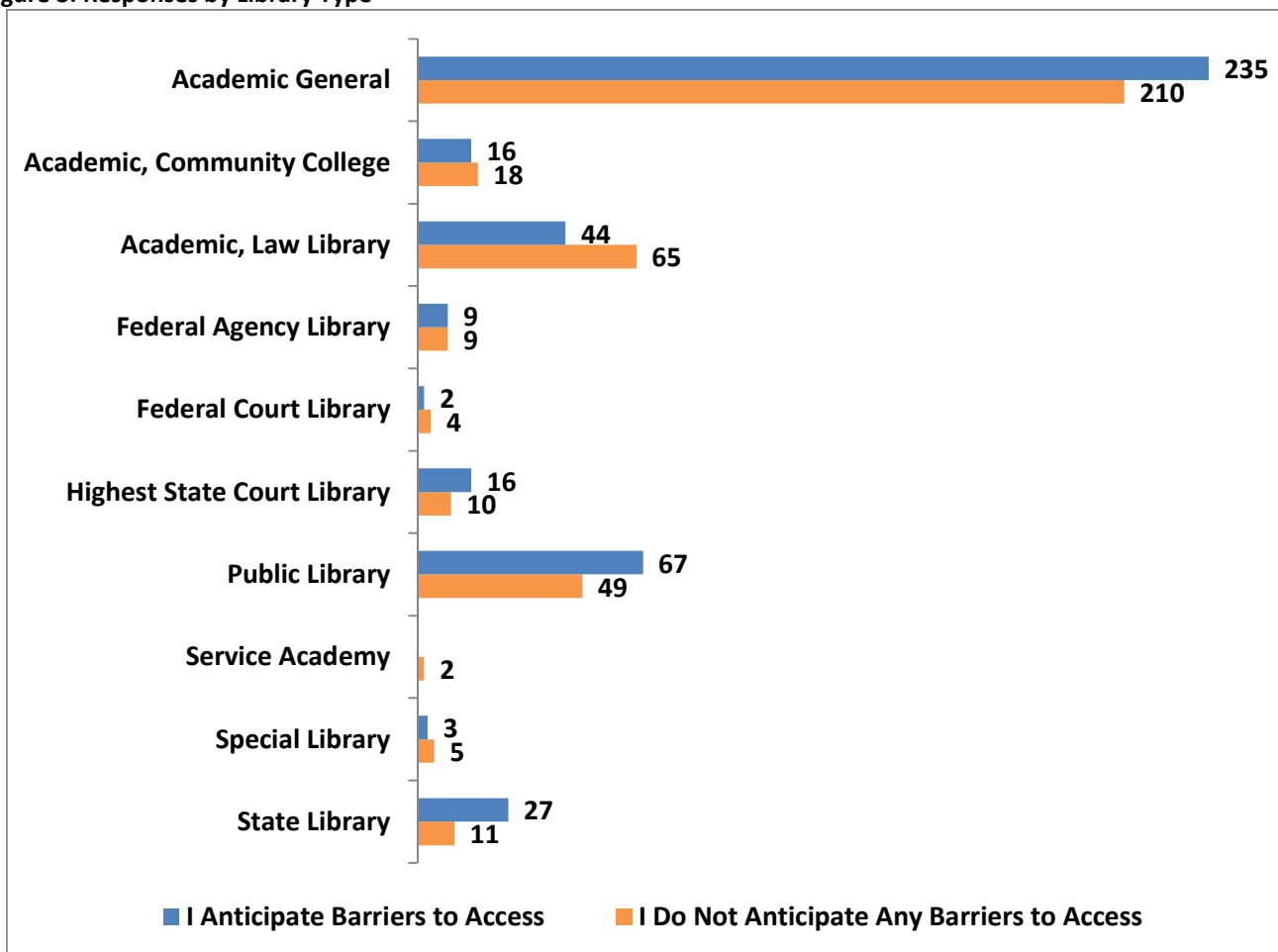


Figure 4 illustrates response rates by library size for all 802 respondents.

Of the total 419 “I anticipate barriers to access” responses, Large Libraries had the highest number with 169 followed by Medium Libraries with 164. Of the total 383 “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” responses, Medium Libraries had the highest number with 172.

Figure 4: Response Rates by Library Size

Library Size	I Anticipate Barriers to Access		I Do Not Anticipate Any Barriers to Access		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Large	169	60%	114	40%	283	100%
Medium	164	49%	172	51%	336	100%
Small	86	47%	97	53%	183	100%
Grand Total	419	52%	383	48%	802	100%

Figure 5 illustrates responses by library size for all 802 respondents.

Large Libraries had the highest “I anticipate barriers to access” response rate (60%), while Small Libraries had the highest “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” response rate (53%).

Figure 5: Responses by Library Size

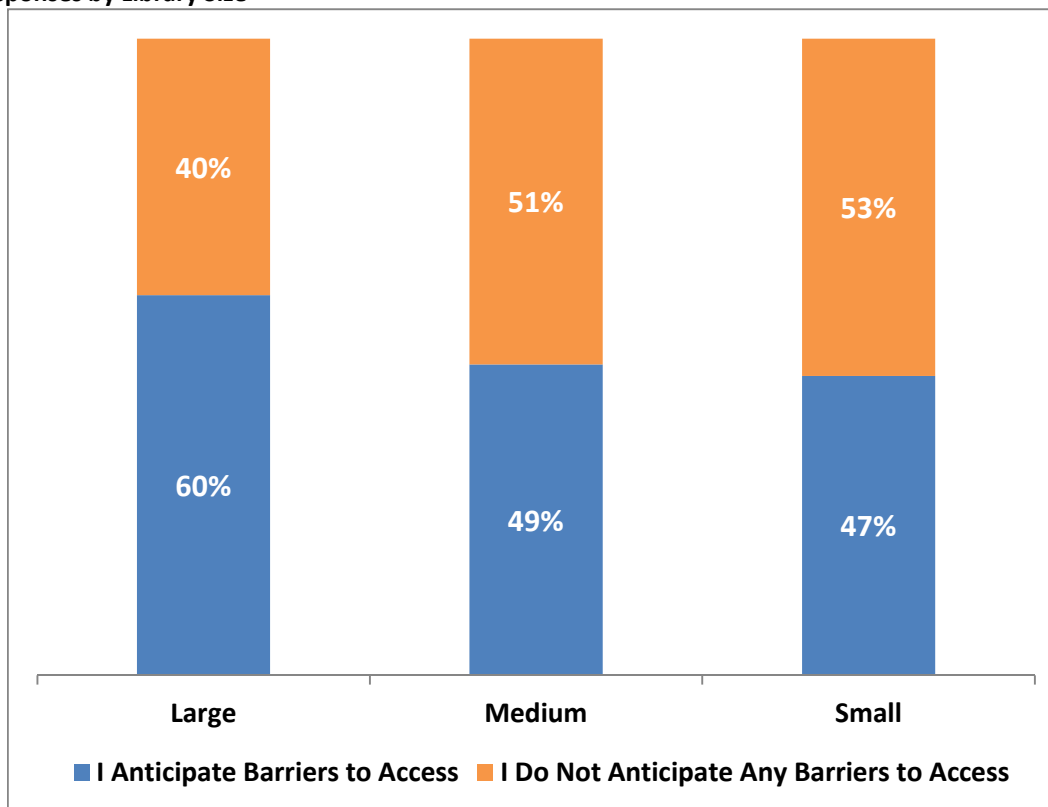


Figure 6 illustrates responses by depository type for all 802 respondents.

Of the total 41 Regional Library responses, 27 were “I anticipate barriers to access,” and 14 were “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.” Of the total 761 Selective Library responses, 392 were “I anticipate barriers to access” and 369 were “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

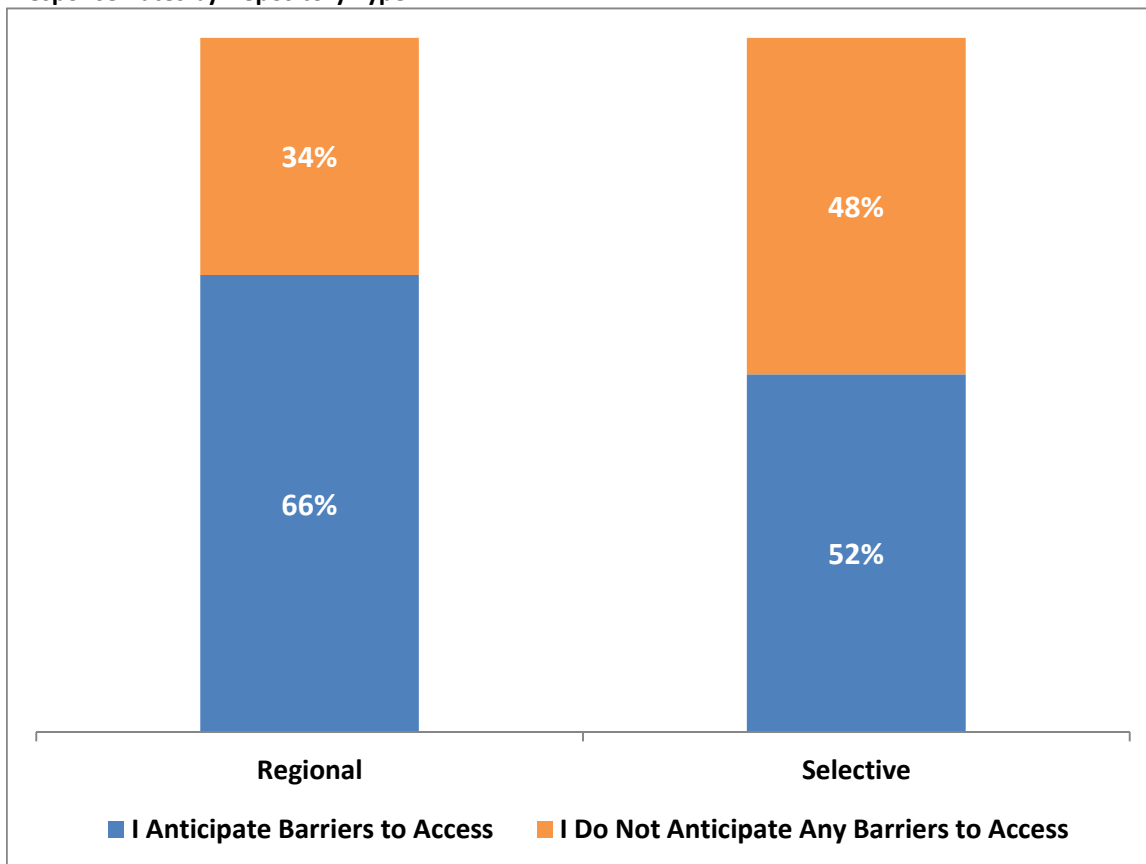
Figure 6: Responses by Depository Type

Depository Type	I Anticipate Barriers to Access		I Do Not Anticipate Any Barriers to Access		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	27	66%	14	34%	41	100%
Selective	392	52%	369	48%	761	100%
Grand Total	419	52%	383	48%	802	100%

Figure 7 illustrates response rates by depository type for all 802 respondents.

Regional Libraries had a higher “I anticipate barriers to access” response rate (66%), and Selective Libraries had a higher “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” response rate (48%).

Figure 7: Response Rates by Depository Type



Figures 8, 9, and 10 illustrate responses cross-tabulated by depository type and library size for all 802 respondents.

Of the 40 Large Regional Libraries, 27 responded “I anticipate barriers to access,” and 13 responded “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” to Question 16. In addition, the one Medium Regional Library responded, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

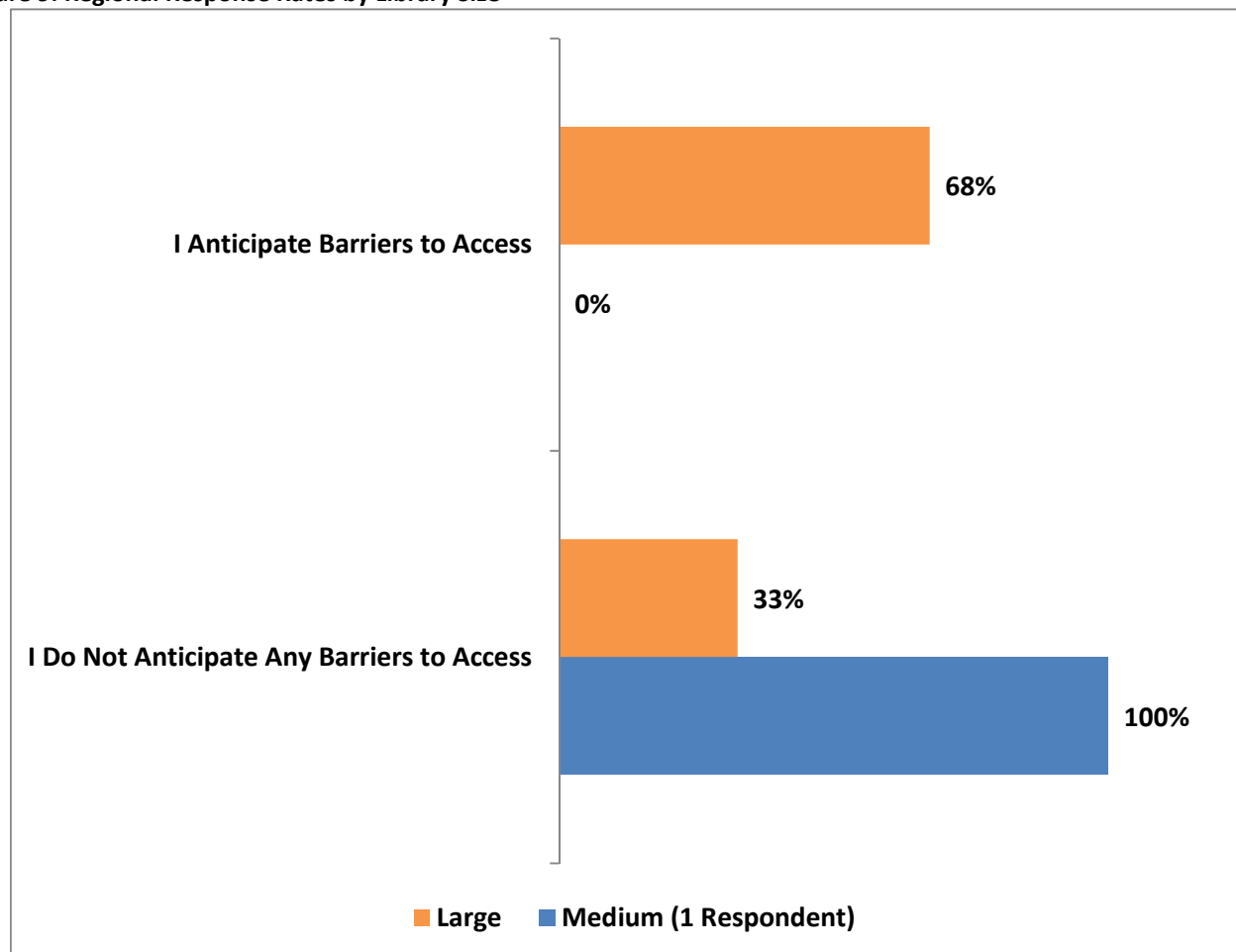
Of the 243 Large Selective Libraries, 142 responded “I anticipate barriers to access,” and 101 responded “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.” Of the 335 Medium Selective Libraries, 164 responded “I anticipate barriers to access,” and 171 responded “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.” Of the 183 Small Selective Libraries, 86 responded “I anticipate barriers to access,” and 97 responded, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

Figure 8: Responses by Depository Type and Library Size

Depository Type	Library Size	I Anticipate Barriers to Access		I Do Not Anticipate Any Barriers to Access		Total Freq	Total %
		Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	Large	27	68%	13	33%	40	100%
	Medium	0	0%	1	100%	1	100%
Regional Total		27	66%	14	34%	41	100%
Selective	Large	142	58%	101	42%	243	100%
	Medium	164	49%	171	51%	335	100%
	Small	86	47%	97	53%	183	100%
Selective Total		392	52%	369	48%	761	100%
Grand Total		419	52%	383	48%	802	100%

Large Regional Libraries had a higher, “I anticipate barriers to access” response rate (68%), while the one Medium Regional Library responded “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

Figure 9: Regional Response Rates by Library Size



Large Selective Libraries had the highest, “I anticipate barriers to access” response rate (58%), while Small Selective Libraries had the highest “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” (53%).

Figure 10: Selective Response Rates by Library Size

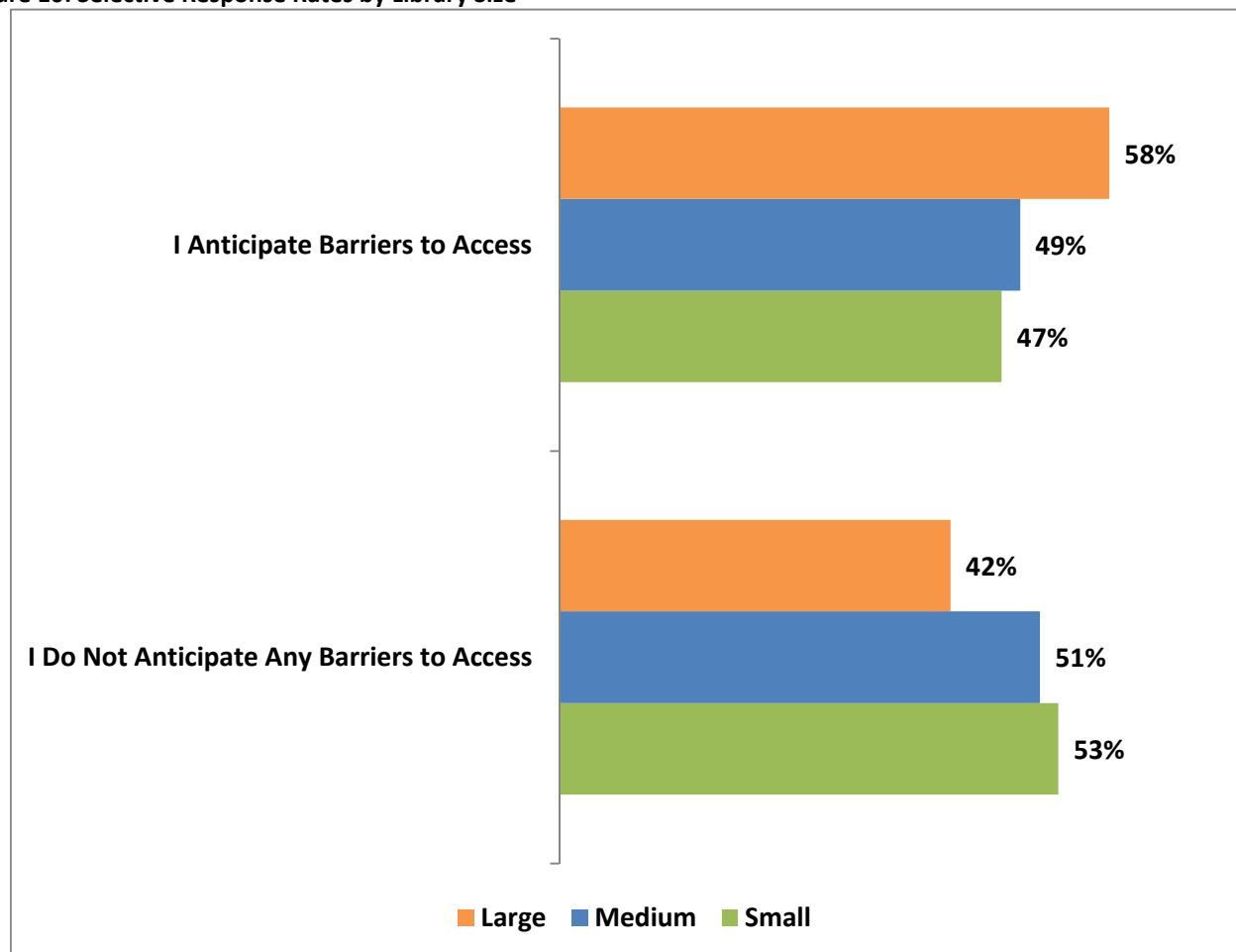


Figure 11 illustrates response rates cross-tabulated by depository type and library type for all 802 respondents.

Of the Regional Libraries, State Libraries had the highest rate (100%) of, “I anticipate barriers to access,” and Public Libraries had the highest rate (100%) of, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

Of the Selective Libraries, Highest State Court Libraries had the highest rate (62%) of, “I anticipate barriers to access,” and Service Academies had the highest rate (100%) of, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access.”

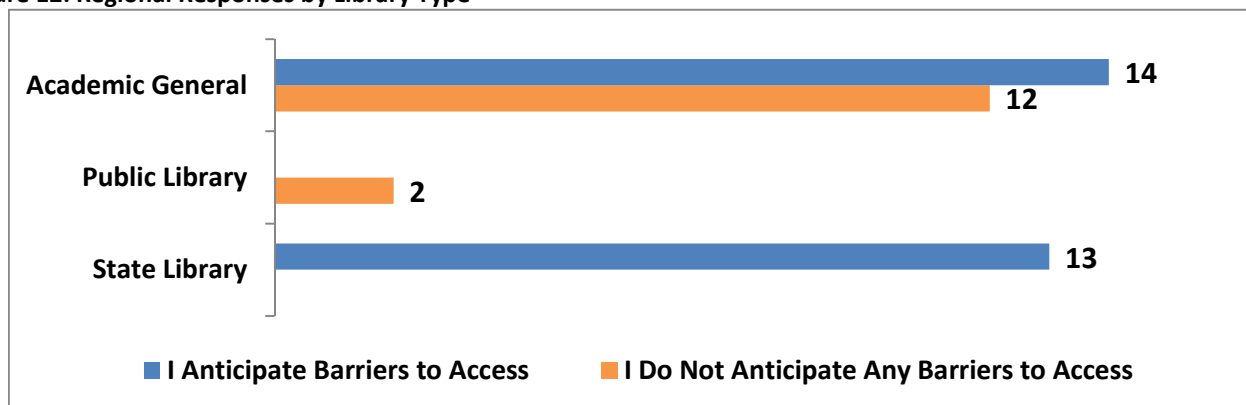
Figure 11: Response Rates by Depository Type and Library Type

Depository Type	Library Type	I Anticipate Barriers to Access		I Do Not Anticipate Any Barriers to Access		Total Freq	Total %
		Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	Academic General	14	54%	12	46%	26	100%
	Public Library	0	0%	2	100%	2	100%
	State Library	13	100%	0	0%	13	100%
Regional Total		27	66%	14	34%	41	100%
Selective	Academic General	221	53%	198	47%	419	100%
	Academic, Community College	16	47%	18	53%	34	100%
	Academic, Law Library	44	40%	65	60%	109	100%
	Federal Agency Library	9	50%	9	50%	18	100%
	Federal Court Library	2	33%	4	67%	6	100%
	Highest State Court Library	16	62%	10	38%	26	100%
	Public Library	67	59%	47	41%	114	100%
	Service Academy	0	0%	2	100%	2	100%
	Special Library	3	38%	5	63%	8	100%
	State Library	14	56%	11	44%	25	100%
Selective Total		392	52%	369	48%	761	100%
Grand Total		419	52%	383	48%	802	100%

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate responses cross-tabulated by depository type and library type for all 802 respondents.

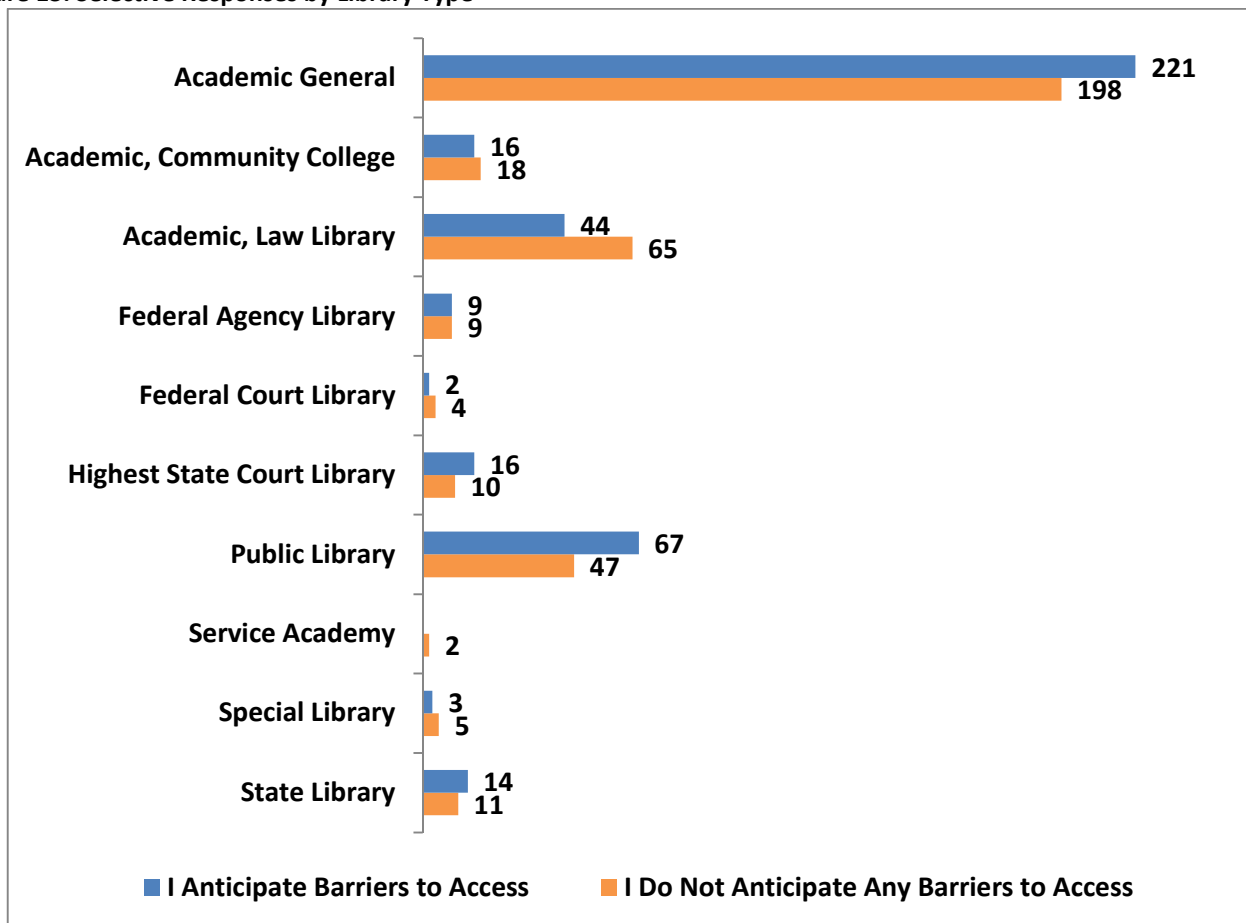
Among Regional Libraries, Academic General Libraries had the highest number of both, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” and “I anticipate barriers to access” responses.

Figure 12: Regional Responses by Library Type



Among Selective Libraries, Academic General Libraries had the highest number of both, “I do not anticipate any barriers to access” and “I anticipate barriers to access” responses.

Figure 13: Selective Responses by Library Type



PRESENTATION OF QUALITATIVE RESULTS

419 libraries indicated that they anticipated barriers to access, and were also given the opportunity to identify anticipated barriers. Respondents were not limited to the number of anticipated barriers they could indicate. The following figures depict the results of the qualitative analysis, and the findings of the individual open-ended responses.

Individual open-ended responses totaled 689 observations (individual anticipated barriers specified). Observations were grouped into six over-arching categories for reporting purposes:

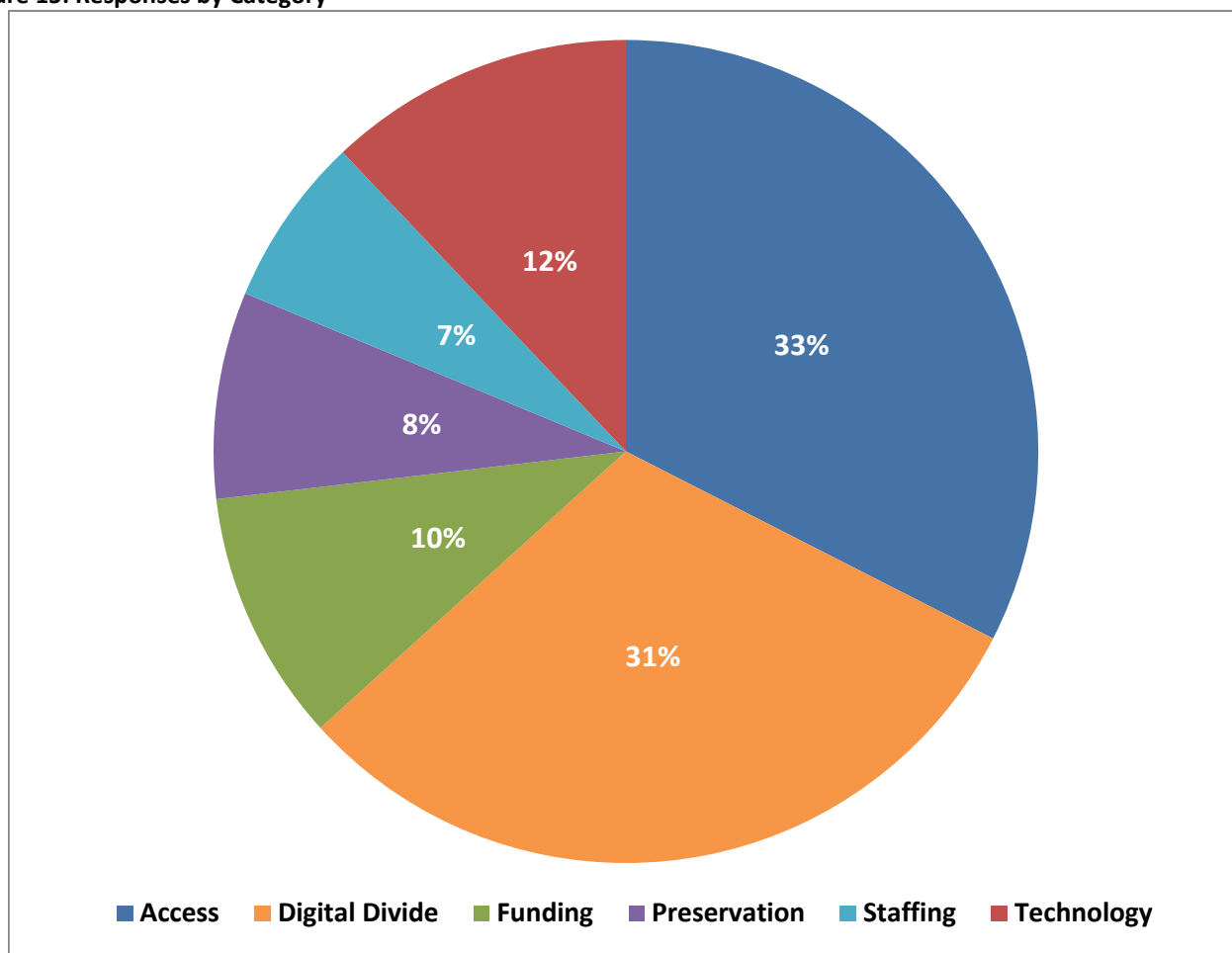
- 1. Access** refers to the issues and problems relating to accessing digital collections, such as the need for quality cataloging and metadata. Examples of responses include: a concern about incomplete cataloging; lack of metadata standards; poor indexing; and poor, unwieldy, and inconsistent search interfaces.
- 2. Digital Divide** refers to all issues regarding any inequality in the ability to afford and own the computers and Internet access necessary to use digital content. It also refers to the lack of related technical skills to use such equipment and services. Examples of responses include: reference that in rural parts of the US, users have reduced access to Internet connection speeds, and the distance between libraries limits the ability of users to travel to a library to use computers and the Internet.
- 3. Funding** refers to responses expressing concern that GPO's funding will be insufficient to maintain and provide access to digital collections on FDsys and other servers. Examples of responses include expressed concern that cuts to budgets may shift some publications at agencies from free to fee-based subscriptions and that libraries in the FDLP will fall farther behind due to their limited funding.
- 4. Preservation** refers to all related preservation issues surrounding permanent access to digital collections. Examples of responses include: the need to harvest and archive Web-based Government publications, the need for an increased capability to harvest content, and the need for preservation plans and standards.
- 5. Staffing** refers to responses regarding how the number and the expertise of staff in FDLs can limit the ability of libraries to assist patrons in accessing digital collections. Examples of responses include: the need for staff training, problems with limited staffing, the decline in Government information specialists hired for Government collections, and how the time that Government documents specialists have has been taken away by other library duties as libraries reduce levels of staff overall.
- 6. Technology** refers to all the technical issues related to obtaining, maintaining, and updating equipment and services related to accessing and maintaining digital collections, whether in libraries or at GPO. Examples of responses include: the need for specialized, supplemental software; limited number of printers in the library; changing technologies; the proliferation of new access devices; bandwidth issues; and the ability to migrate collections to new software and systems.

Of the total number of observations reported by respondents, 33% reported barriers related to Access, 31% reported barriers related to Digital Divide, 10% reported barriers related to Funding, 8% reported barriers related to Preservation, 7% reported barriers related to Staffing, and 12% reported barriers related to Technology.

Figure 14: Responses by Category

	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Total	224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 15: Responses by Category



Figures 16 and 17 illustrate anticipated barriers to access by library type.

As reflected in the data, the majority of Library types indicated Access and Digital Divide as the more significant barriers to access. Responses from Academic General Libraries and Federal Agency Libraries anticipated the most concern for Access barriers to access.

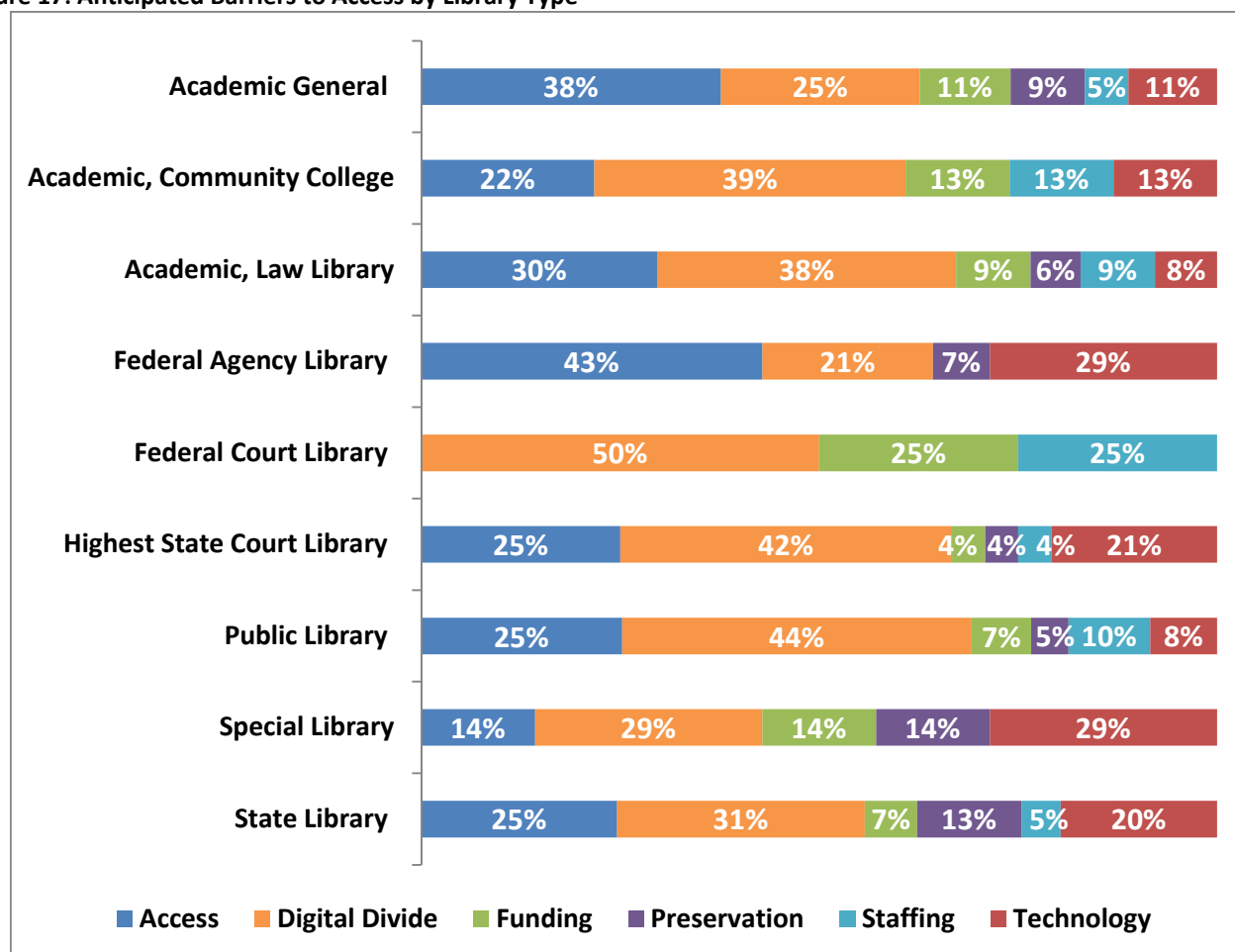
Academic, Community College Libraries; Academic, Law Libraries; Federal Court Libraries; Highest State Court Libraries; Public Libraries; and State Libraries anticipated the most concern for Digital Divide barriers to access.

Special Libraries were evenly split on Digital Divide and Technology barriers to access.

Figure 16: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Library Type

Library Type	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Academic General	145	38%	96	25%	44	11%	36	9%	21	5%	43	11%	385	100%
Academic, Community College	5	22%	9	39%	3	13%	0	0%	3	13%	3	13%	23	100%
Academic, Law Library	19	30%	24	38%	6	9%	4	6%	6	9%	5	8%	64	100%
Federal Agency Library	6	43%	3	21%	0	0%	1	7%	0	0%	4	29%	14	100%
Federal Court Library	0	0%	2	50%	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	4	100%
Highest State Court Library	6	25%	10	42%	1	4%	1	4%	1	4%	5	21%	24	100%
Public Library	27	25%	47	44%	8	7%	5	5%	11	10%	9	8%	107	100%
Special Library	1	14%	2	29%	1	14%	1	14%	0	0%	2	29%	7	100%
State Library	15	25%	19	31%	4	7%	8	13%	3	5%	12	20%	61	100%
Grand Total	224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 17: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Library Type



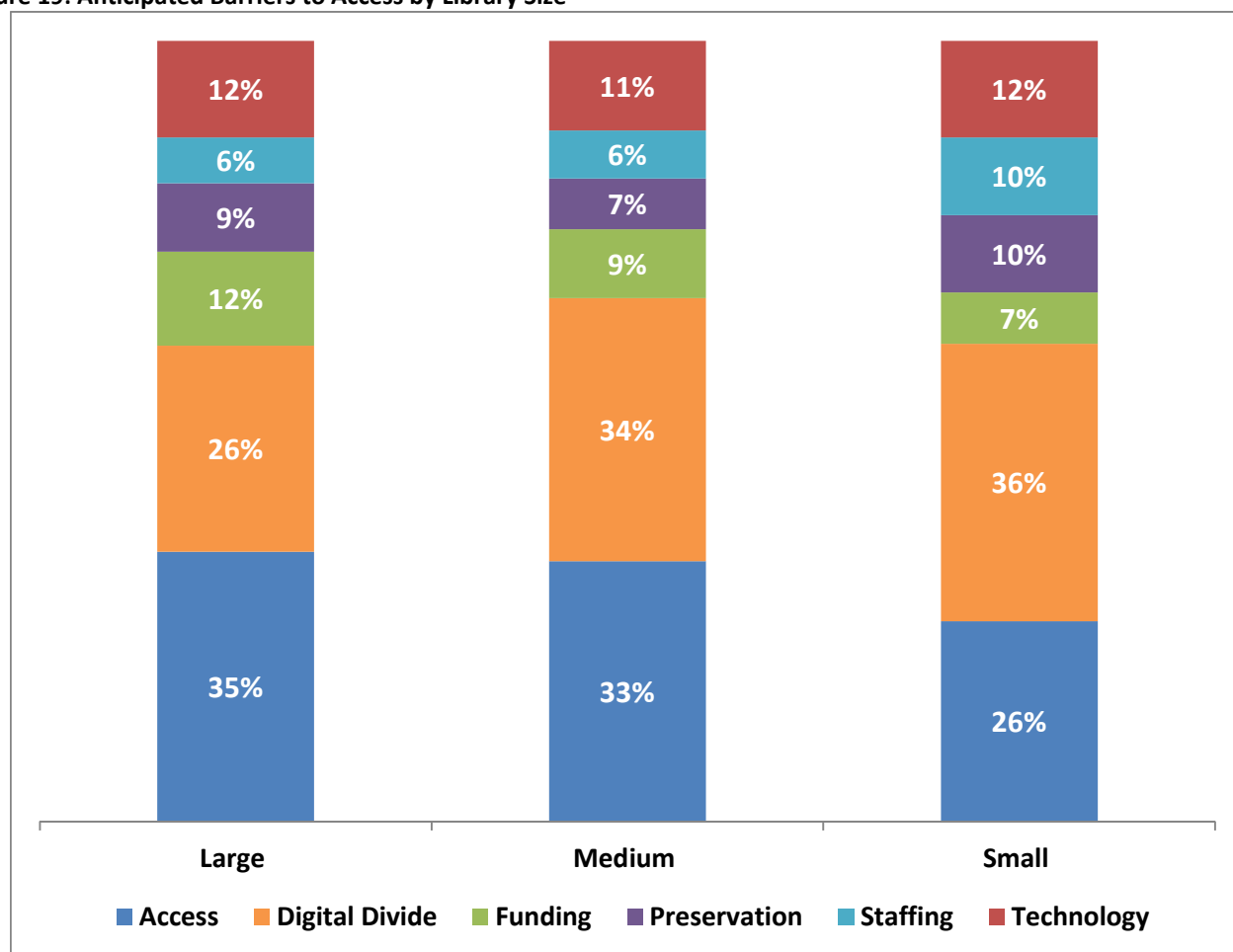
Figures 18 and 19 illustrate anticipated barriers to access by library size.

All Library sizes reported Access and Digital Divide as the more significant anticipated barriers to access.

Figure 18: Anticipated Barriers by Library Size

Library Size	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Large	106	35%	81	26%	37	12%	27	9%	18	6%	38	12%	307	100%
Medium	87	33%	88	34%	23	9%	17	7%	16	6%	30	11%	261	100%
Small	31	26%	43	36%	8	7%	12	10%	12	10%	15	12%	121	100%
Grand Total	224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 19: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Library Size



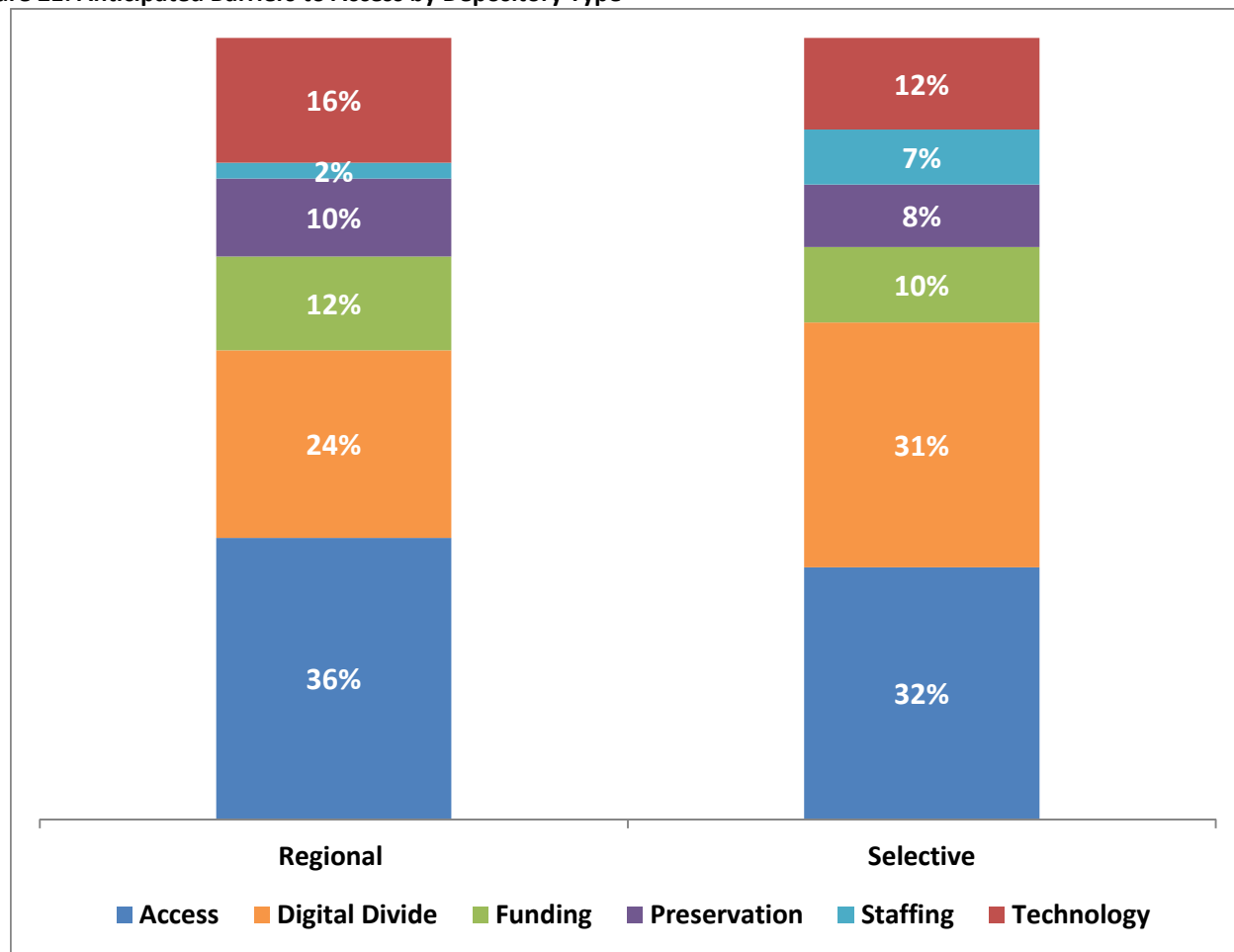
Figures 20 and 21 illustrate anticipated barriers to access by depository type.

The results show that Regional Libraries and Selective Libraries reported their largest concerns for anticipated barriers to access to be Access and Digital Divide barriers.

Figure 20: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Depository Type

Depository Type	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	18	36%	12	24%	6	12%	5	10%	1	2%	8	16%	50	100%
Selective	206	32%	200	31%	62	10%	51	8%	45	7%	75	12%	639	100%
Grand Total	224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 21: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Depository Type



Figures 22, 23, and 24 illustrate anticipated barriers to access cross-tabulated by depository type and library size.

Large Regional Libraries and all Selective Libraries indicated Access and Digital Divide barriers as the more significant anticipated barriers to access.

Figure 22: Anticipated Barriers to Access by Depository Type and Library Size

Depository Type	Library Size	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	Large	18	36%	12	24%	6	12%	5	10%	1	2%	8	16%	50	100%
Regional Total		18	36%	12	24%	6	12%	5	10%	1	2%	8	16%	50	100%
Selective	Large	88	34%	69	27%	31	12%	22	9%	17	7%	30	12%	257	100%
	Medium	87	33%	88	34%	23	9%	17	7%	16	6%	30	11%	261	100%
	Small	31	26%	43	36%	8	7%	12	10%	12	10%	15	12%	121	100%
Selective Total		206	32%	200	31%	62	10%	51	8%	45	7%	75	12%	639	100%
Grand Total		224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 23: Anticipated Barriers to Access for Regional Libraries by Library Size

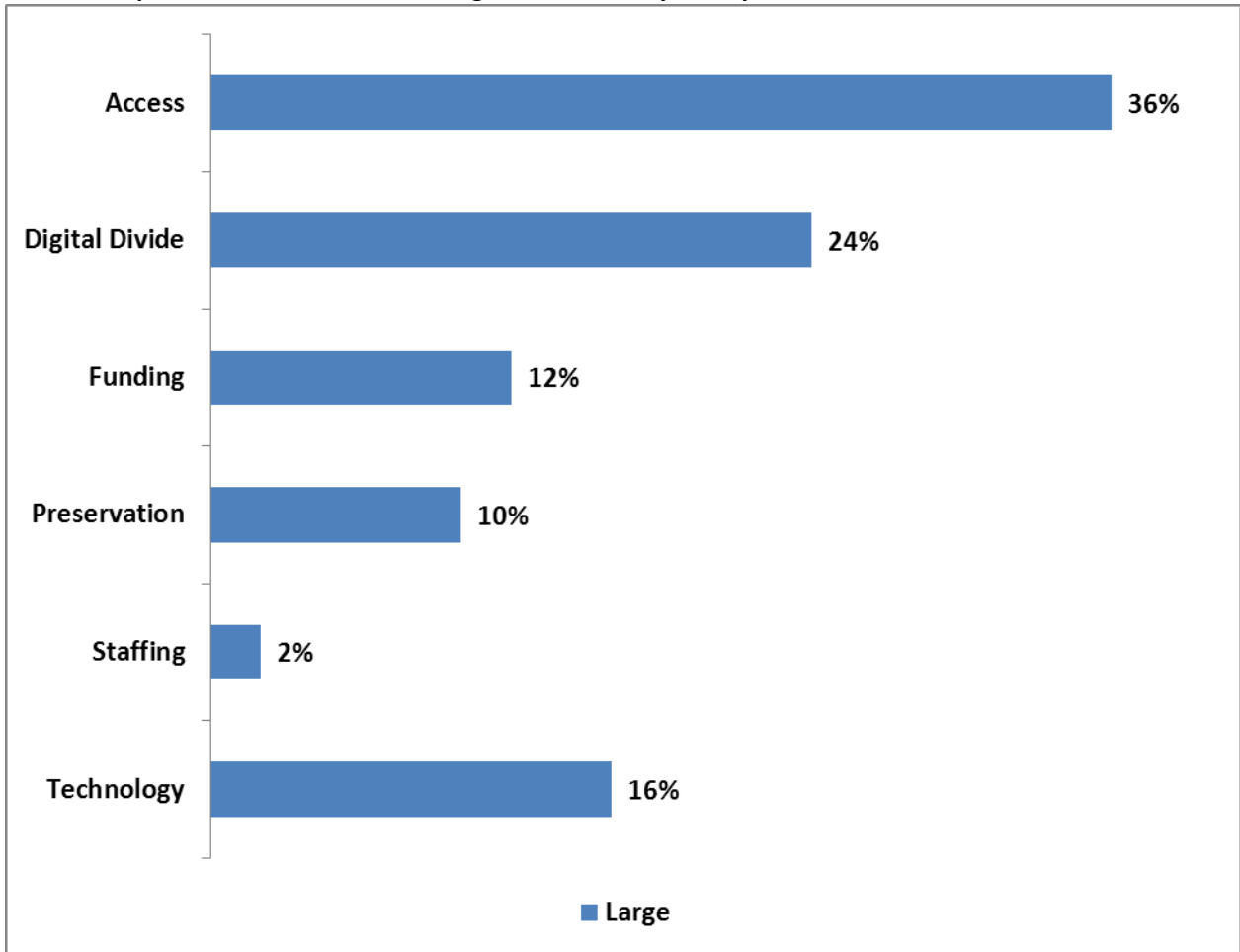
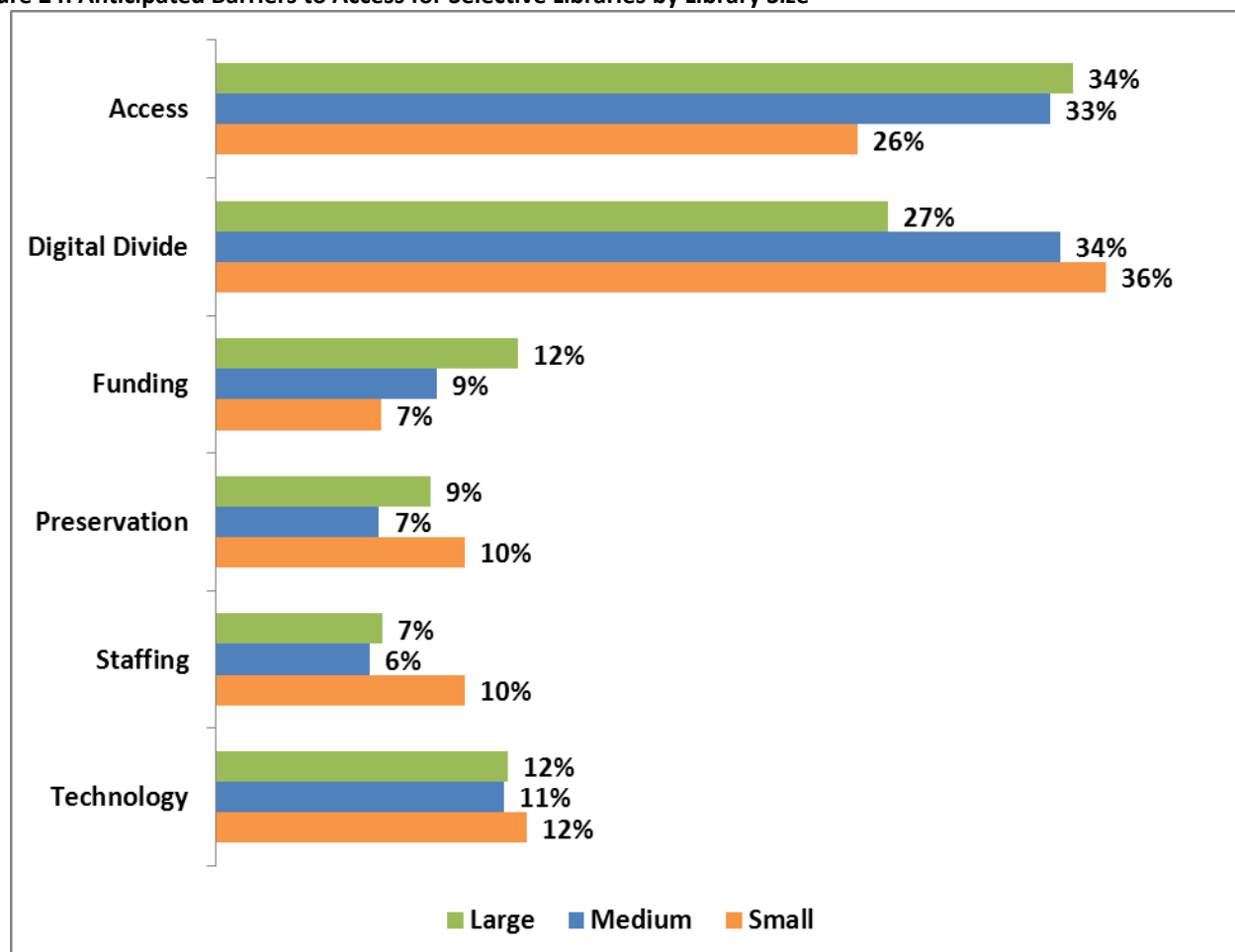


Figure 24: Anticipated Barriers to Access for Selective Libraries by Library Size



Figures 25, 26, and 27 illustrate anticipated barriers to access cross-tabulated by depository type and library type.

Regional Academic General Libraries expressed a more significant concern for Access and Digital Divide barriers as anticipated barriers to access. Regional State Libraries were about evenly split between Access, Digital Divide, and Technology barriers to access.

For Selective Libraries:

- Academic General Libraries and Federal Agency Libraries reported the most concern for Access barriers.
- Academic, Community College Libraries; Academic, Law Libraries; Federal Court Libraries; Highest State Court Libraries; Public Libraries; and State Libraries; reported a higher concern for Digital Divide barriers.
- Special Libraries anticipated an even split for Digital Divide and Technology barriers.

Figure 25: Barriers to Access by Depository Type and Library Type

Depository Type	Library Type	Access		Digital Divide		Funding		Preservation		Staffing		Technology		Total Freq	Total %
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Regional	Academic General	10	48%	5	24%	4	19%	0	0%	1	5%	1	5%	21	100%
	State Library	8	28%	7	24%	2	7%	5	17%	0	0%	7	24%	29	100%
Regional Total		18	36%	12	24%	6	12%	5	10%	1	2%	8	16%	50	100%
Selective	Academic General	135	37%	91	25%	40	11%	36	10%	20	5%	42	12%	364	100%
	Academic, Community College	5	22%	9	39%	3	13%	0	0%	3	13%	3	13%	23	100%
	Academic, Law Library	19	30%	24	38%	6	9%	4	6%	6	9%	5	8%	64	100%
	Federal Agency Library	6	43%	3	21%	0	0%	1	7%	0	0%	4	29%	14	100%
	Federal Court Library	0	0%	2	50%	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%	4	100%
	Highest State Court Library	6	25%	10	42%	1	4%	1	4%	1	4%	5	21%	24	100%
	Public Library	27	25%	47	44%	8	7%	5	5%	11	10%	9	8%	107	100%
	Special Library	1	14%	2	29%	1	14%	1	14%	0	0%	2	29%	7	100%
	State Library	7	22%	12	38%	2	6%	3	9%	3	9%	5	16%	32	100%
Selective Total		206	32%	200	31%	62	10%	51	8%	45	7%	75	12%	639	100%
Grand Total		224	33%	212	31%	68	10%	56	8%	46	7%	83	12%	689	100%

Figure 26: Barriers to Access for Regional Libraries by Library Type

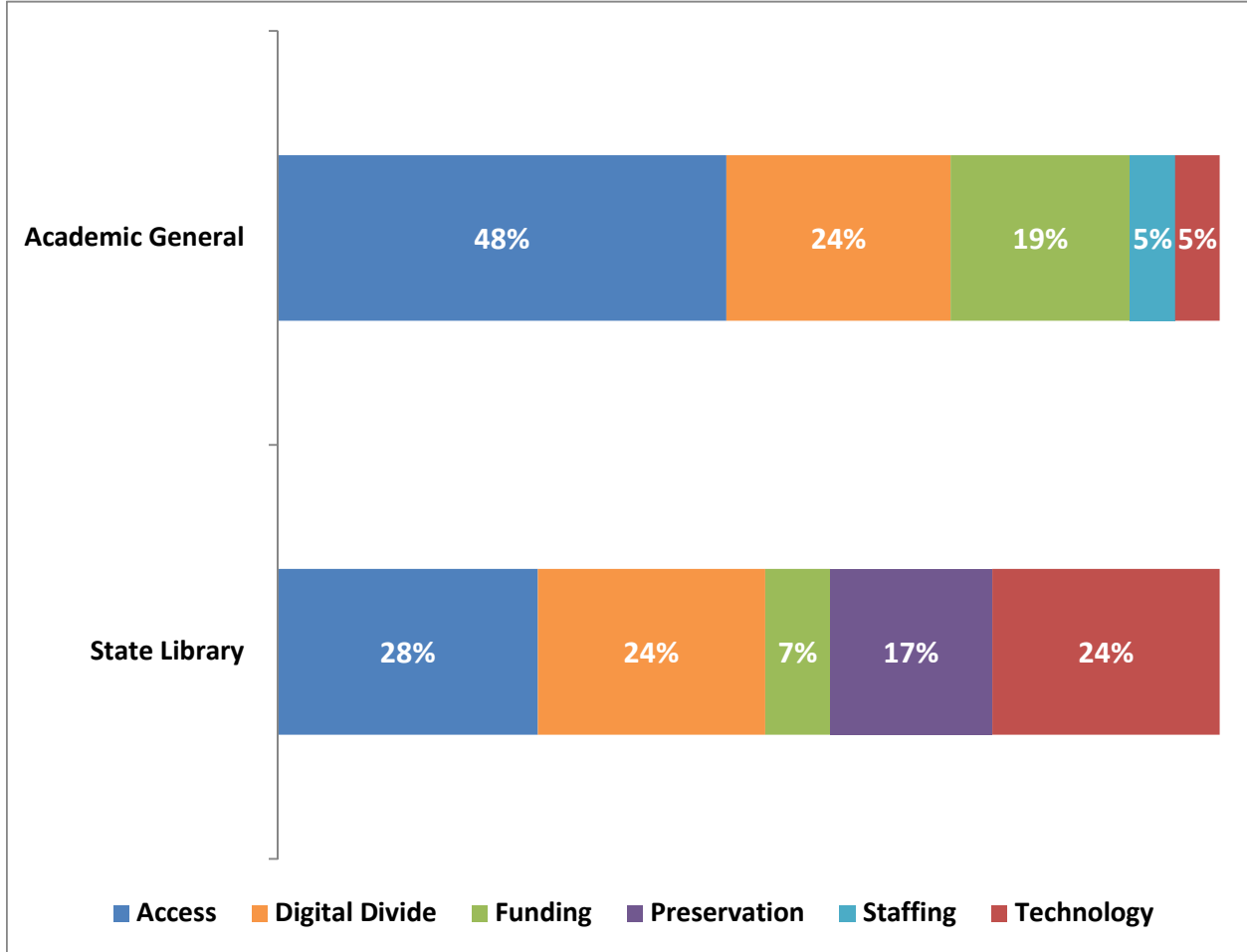


Figure 27: Barriers to Access for Selective Libraries by Library Type

