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# e-Social Science as an Experience Technology: Distance From, and Attitudes Toward, e-Research

William Dutton and Eric Meyer  
Oxford e-Social Science Node  
of UK National Centre for eSocial Science

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# Certainty Trough

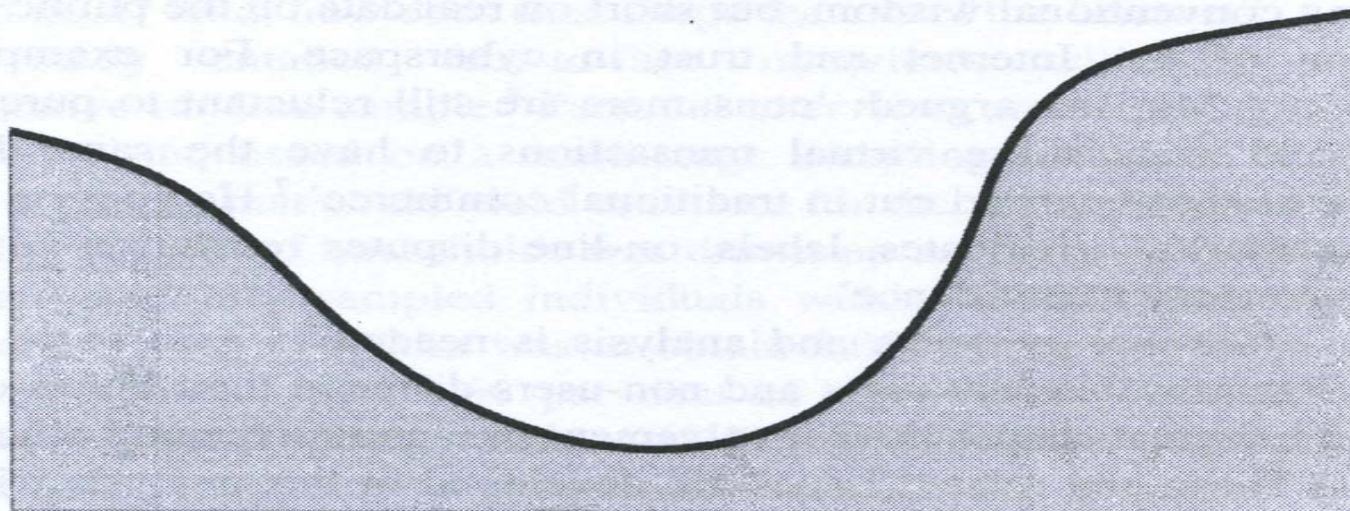


Figure 7.1 The certainty trough

High

Level of uncertainty

Low



Directly involved in knowledge production

Committed to technological institute/programme but users rather than producers of knowledge

Alienated from institutions committed to different technology

Source: Adapted from MacKenzie (1999, p. 43).

# Sample



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## Sample Characteristics

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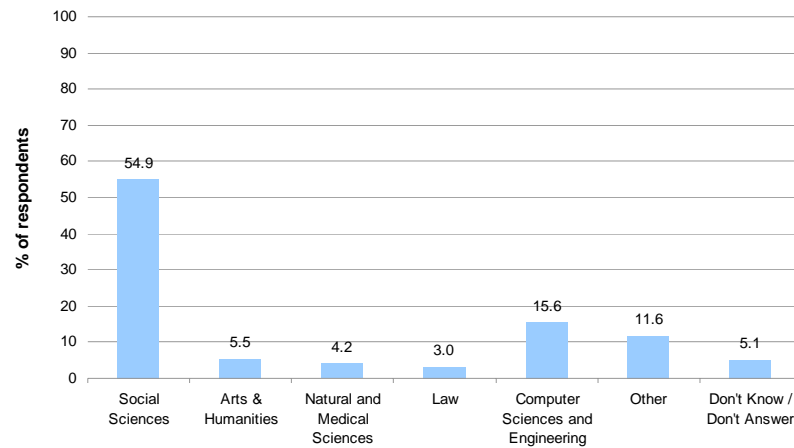
Source	N Sent	N Responded	Response Rate	% of sample
NCeSS List	615	141	22.9%	26.8%
OII List	1761	180	10.2%	34.2%
Open mailings	n/a	205	n/a	39.0%
<b>Total</b>		526		100.0%

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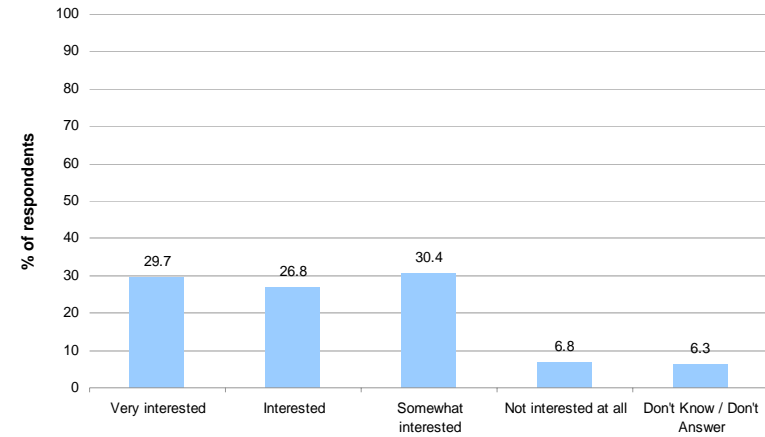
# Bias of the Sample



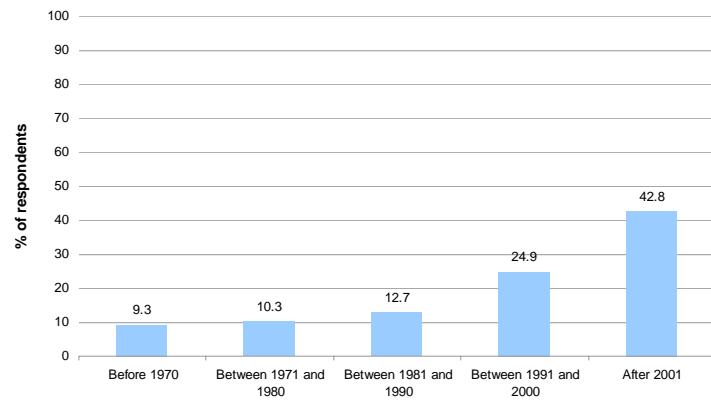
Disciplines (%)



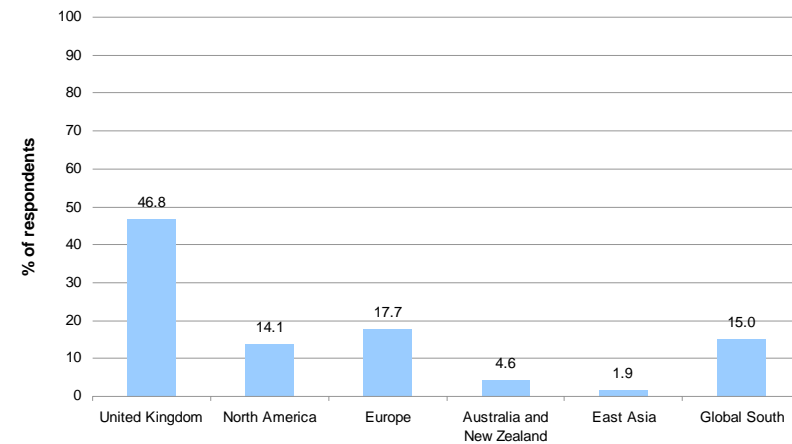
How would you describe your interest in e-Social Science initiatives? (%)



Year of Degree (%)



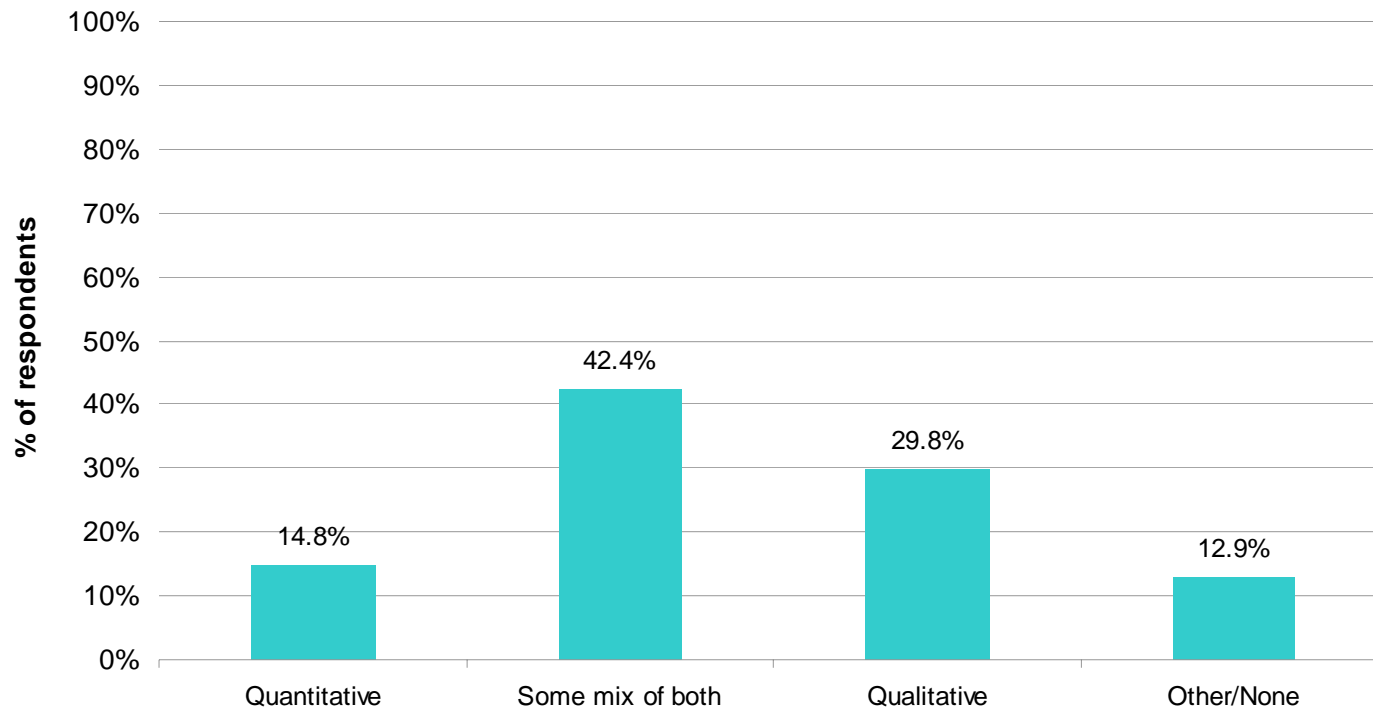
Country (%)



# Type of Research



Type of Research (%)



# Researcher Clusters



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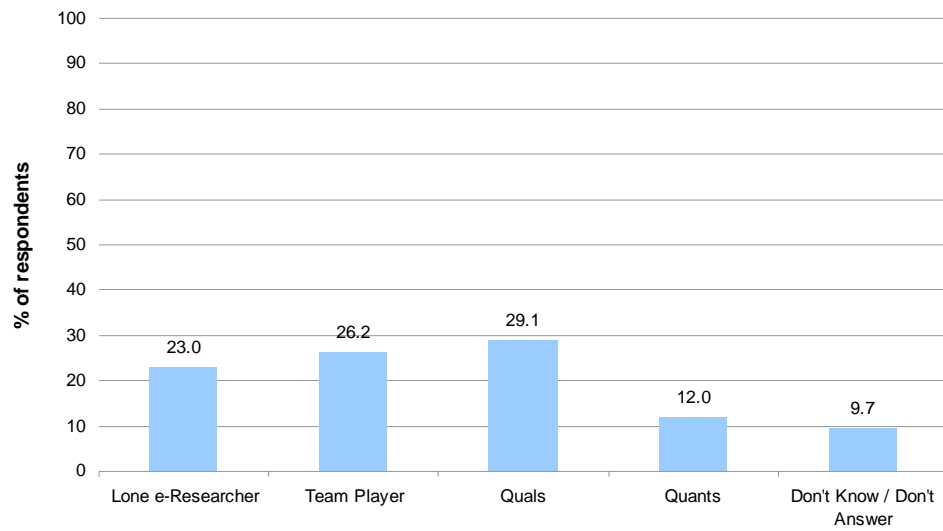
	Cluster Centers			
	Cluster			
	Lone e- Researcher	Team Player	Quals	Quants
User of research methods	0.47	0.34	0.74	0.18
Both a user and developer	0.45	0.66	0.22	0.55
Methodologist, developing or studying methods	0.08	0.00	0.03	0.27
Quantitative	0.19	0.07	0.09	0.57
Some mix of Quantitative and Qualitative	0.66	0.86	0.18	0.04
Qualitative	0.15	0.07	0.72	0.39
Never or Rarely Code or Design applications by myself	0.00	0.83	1.00	0.05
Often or Always Code or Design applications by myself	1.00	0.17	0.00	0.95
Sole investigator on all or most my projects	0.45	0.06	0.53	0.00
Sole investigator on about half	0.42	0.07	0.23	0.00
One of a team on most or all my projects	0.13	0.87	0.23	1.00

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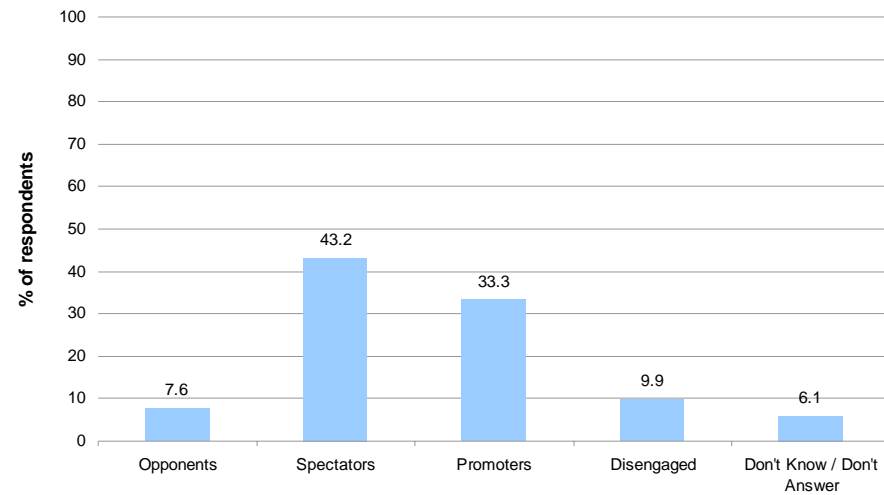
# Types of Researchers



Clusters (%)



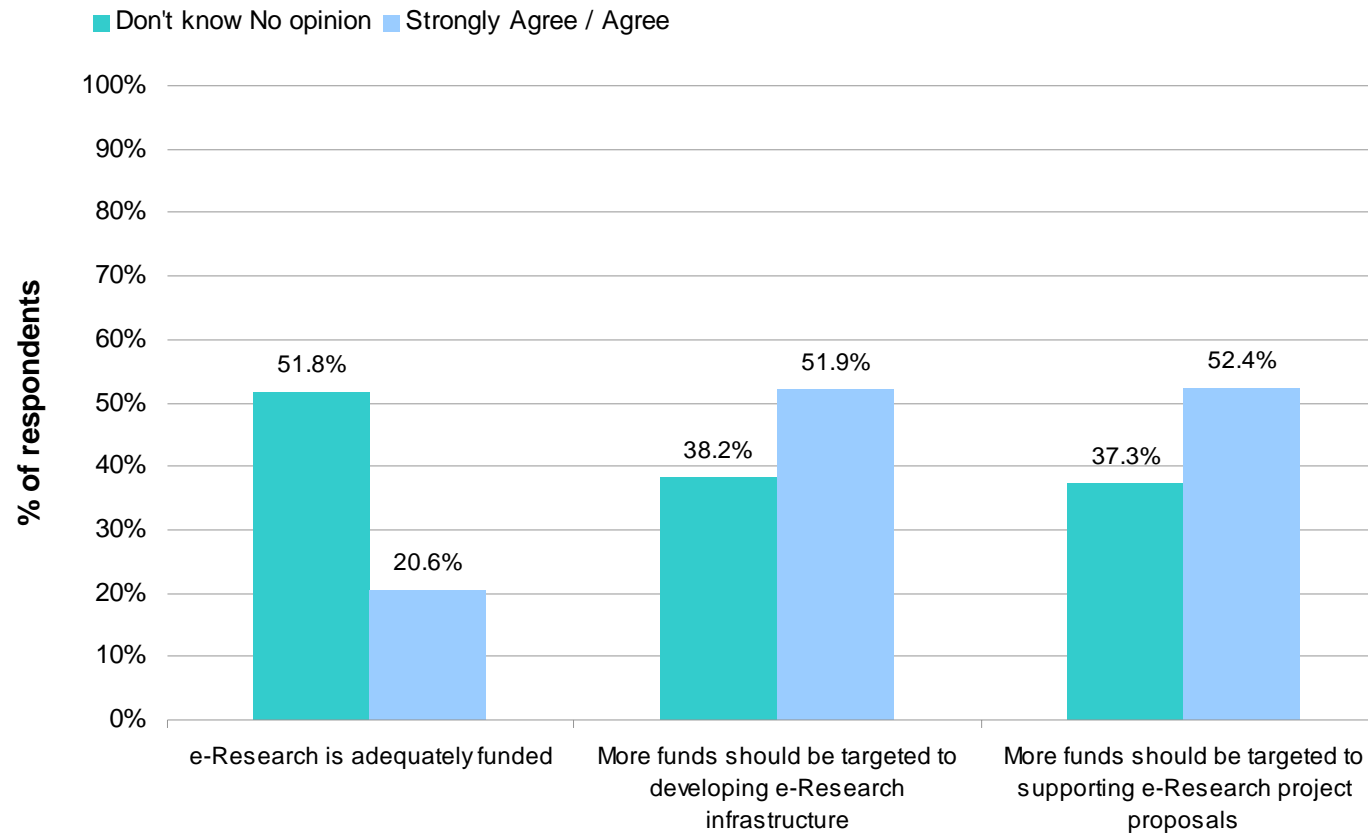
Perspective (%)



# Attitudes towards e-Research (I)



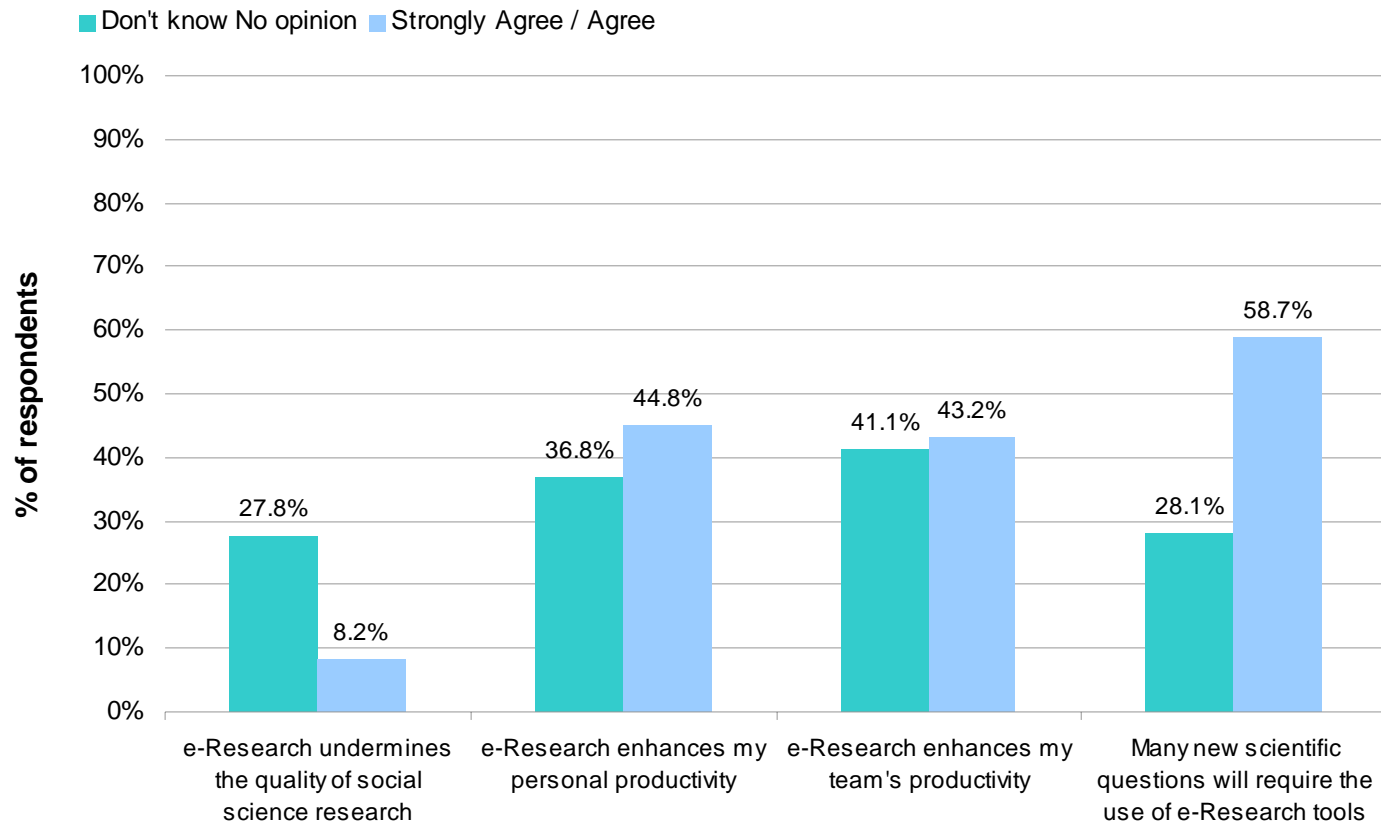
## Attitudes towards e-Research - Funding



# Attitudes towards e-Research (II)



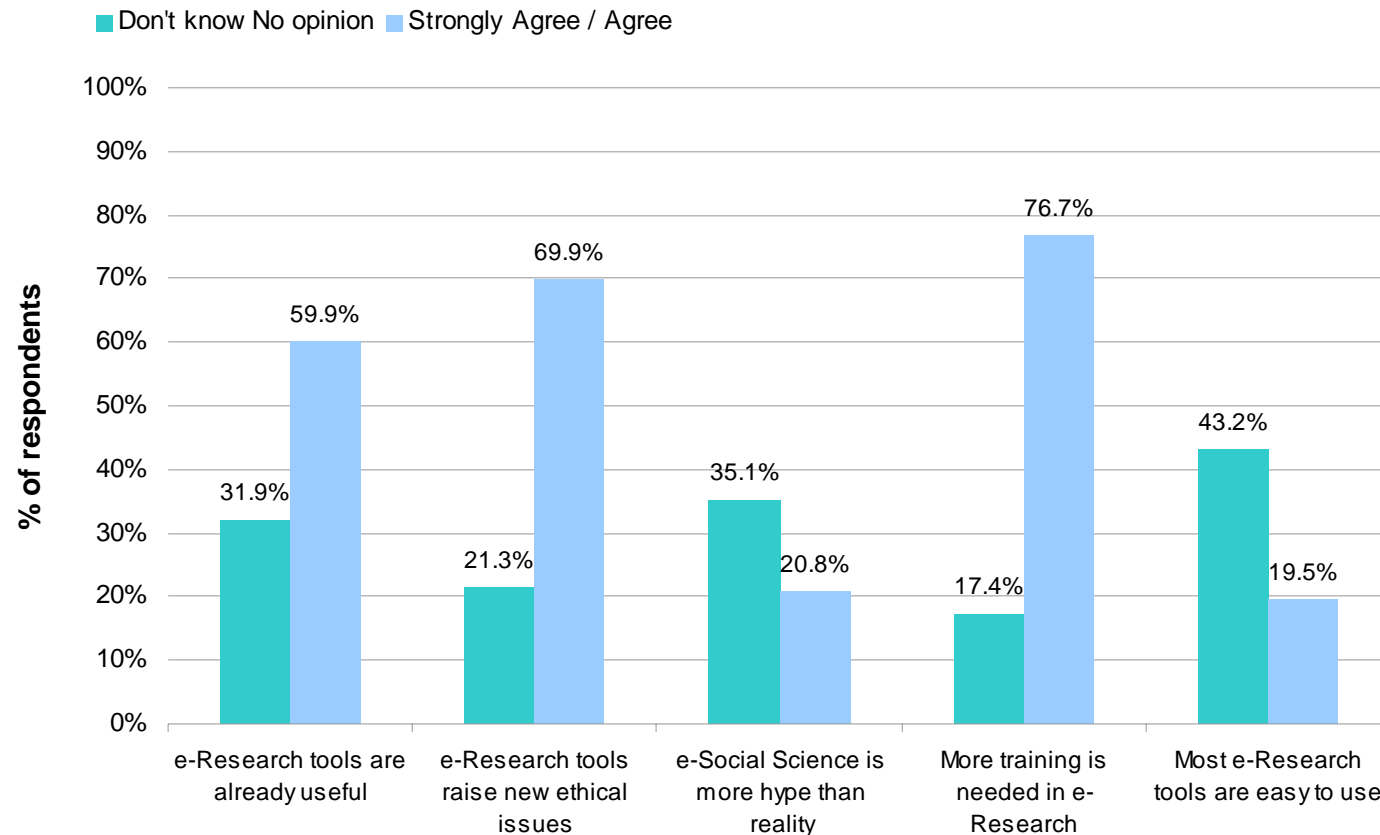
## Attitudes towards e-Research - Quality and new tools



# Attitudes towards e-Research (III)



## Attitudes towards e-Research - Usability



# Indicators



## Proximity (additive index):

NCeSS Mailing List (Yes = 1); Access Grid (Use = +1, Organized = +2), e-Social Science (Followed eSS = +1, Involved = +2)

## Uncertainty (additive index):

Number of 'Don't Know' responses to questions about e-Research, categorized high, medium, low

## Support for e-Research (additive index):

Number of positive responses to statements about e-Research (excluding 'adequacy of funding'; and 'new ethical issues'), categorized high, medium, low

# Uncertainty by Proximity



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## Uncertainty by Proximity (\*\*)

		Proximity			Total
		Distant	Marginal	Proximate	
Uncertainty	Certain	23.1	48.3	66.2	37.8
	Marginal	28.2	32.9	23.5	29.0
	Uncertain	48.7	18.8	10.3	33.2
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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# Support by Proximity



## Support by Proximity (\*\*)

		Proximity			Total
		Distant	Marginal	Proximate	
Support	Low support	47.5	19.2	23.5	34.6
	Moderate Support	29.4	36.4	32.4	32.2
	High Support	23.1	44.4	44.1	33.3
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Uncertainty by Perspective



## Uncertainty by Perspective (\*\*)

		Perspective				Total
		Opponents	Spectators	Promoters	Disengaged	
Uncertainty	Certain	40.5	19.7	68.1	8.7	37.9
	Marginal	27.0	33.7	23.5	30.4	29.1
	Uncertain	32.4	46.6	8.4	60.9	33.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Support by Perspective



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## Support by Perspective (\*\*)

		Perspective				Total
		Opponents	Spectators	Promoters	Disengaged	
Support	Low support	62.2	43.8	6.5	71.7	34.4
	Moderate Support	27.0	38.9	28.0	23.9	32.5
	High Support	10.8	17.3	65.5	4.3	33.1
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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# Proximity by Perspective



## Proximity by Perspective (\*\*)

		ESS Perspective				Total
		Opponents	Spectators	Promoters	Disengaged	
Proximity	Distant	59.0	60.9	32.0	88.5	53.4
	Marginal	23.1	31.1	42.9	7.7	32.2
	Proximate	17.9	8.0	25.1	3.8	14.5
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Certainty Trough

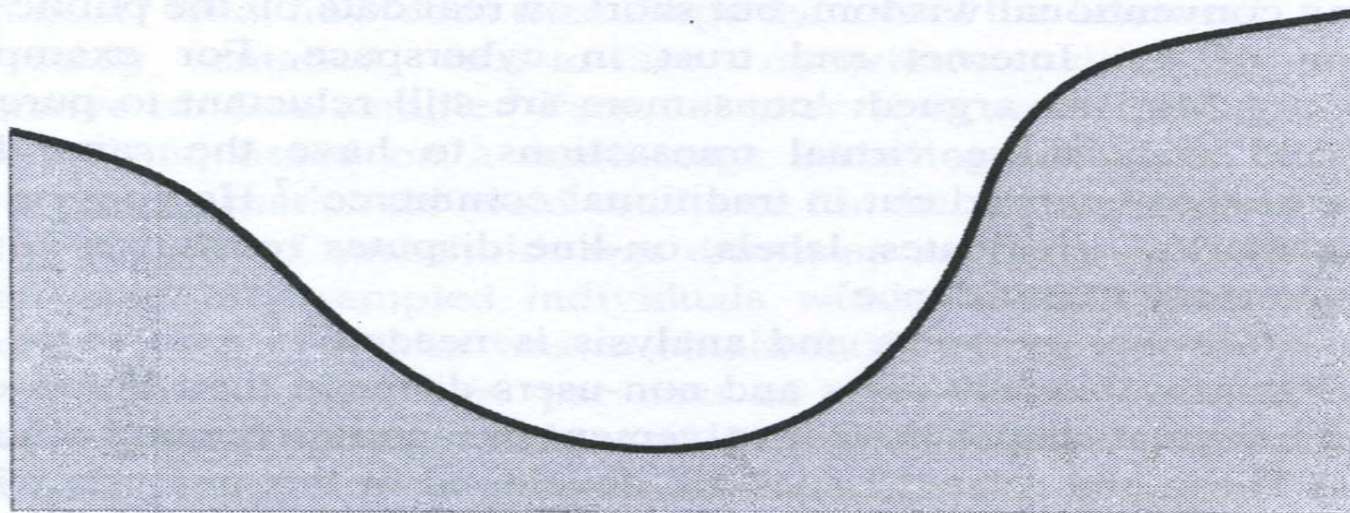


*Figure 7.1 The certainty trough*

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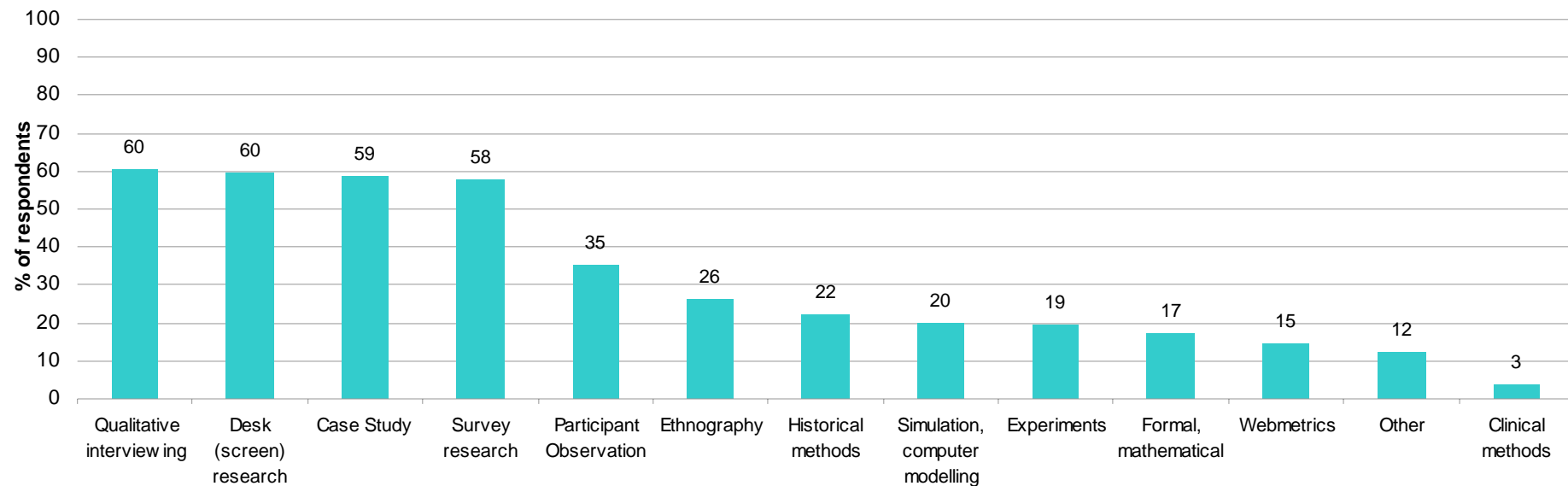
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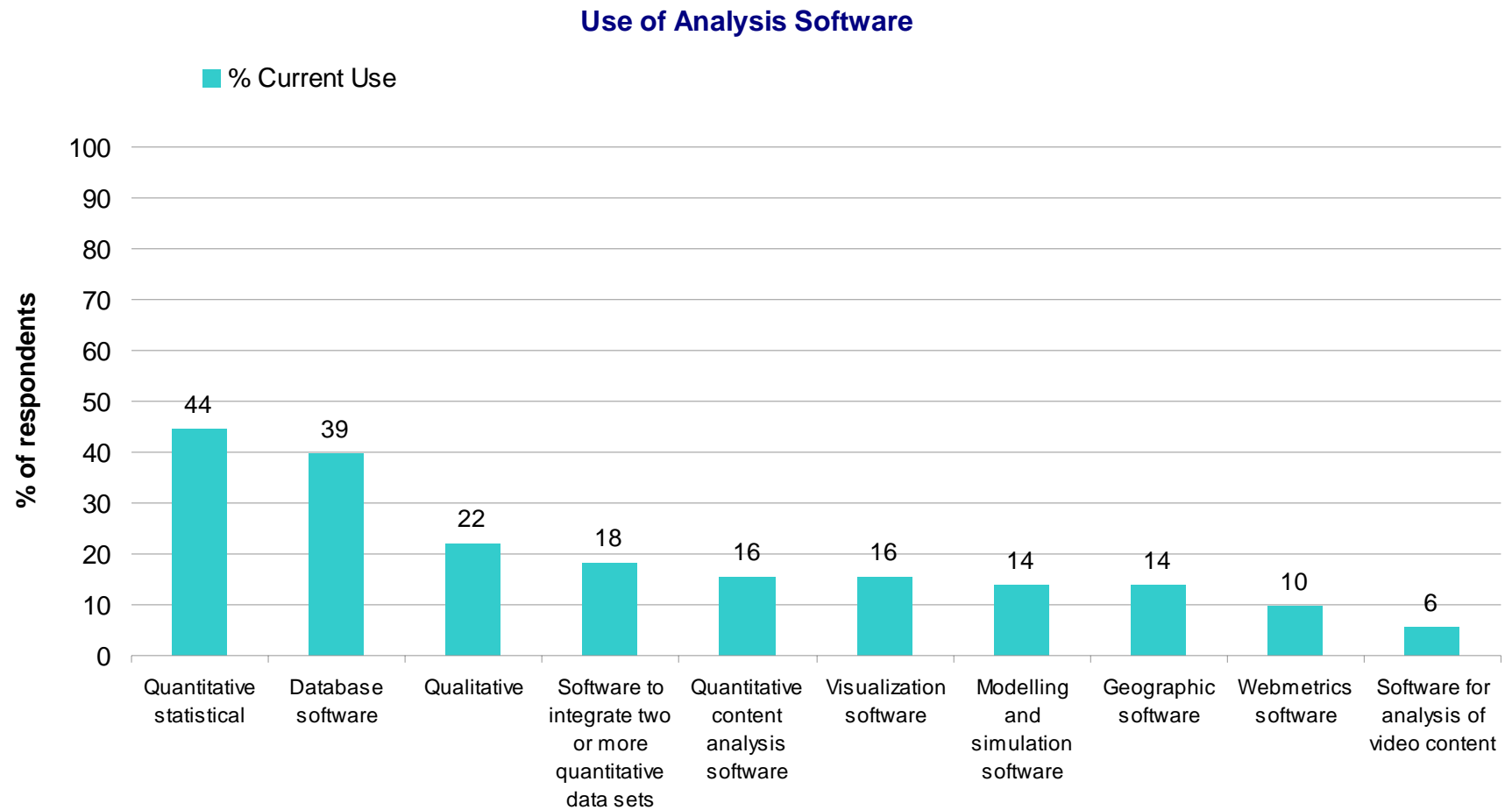
Presentation for the 4th International Conference on e-Social Science,  
University of Manchester, 19 June 2008.

# Methodological Approaches

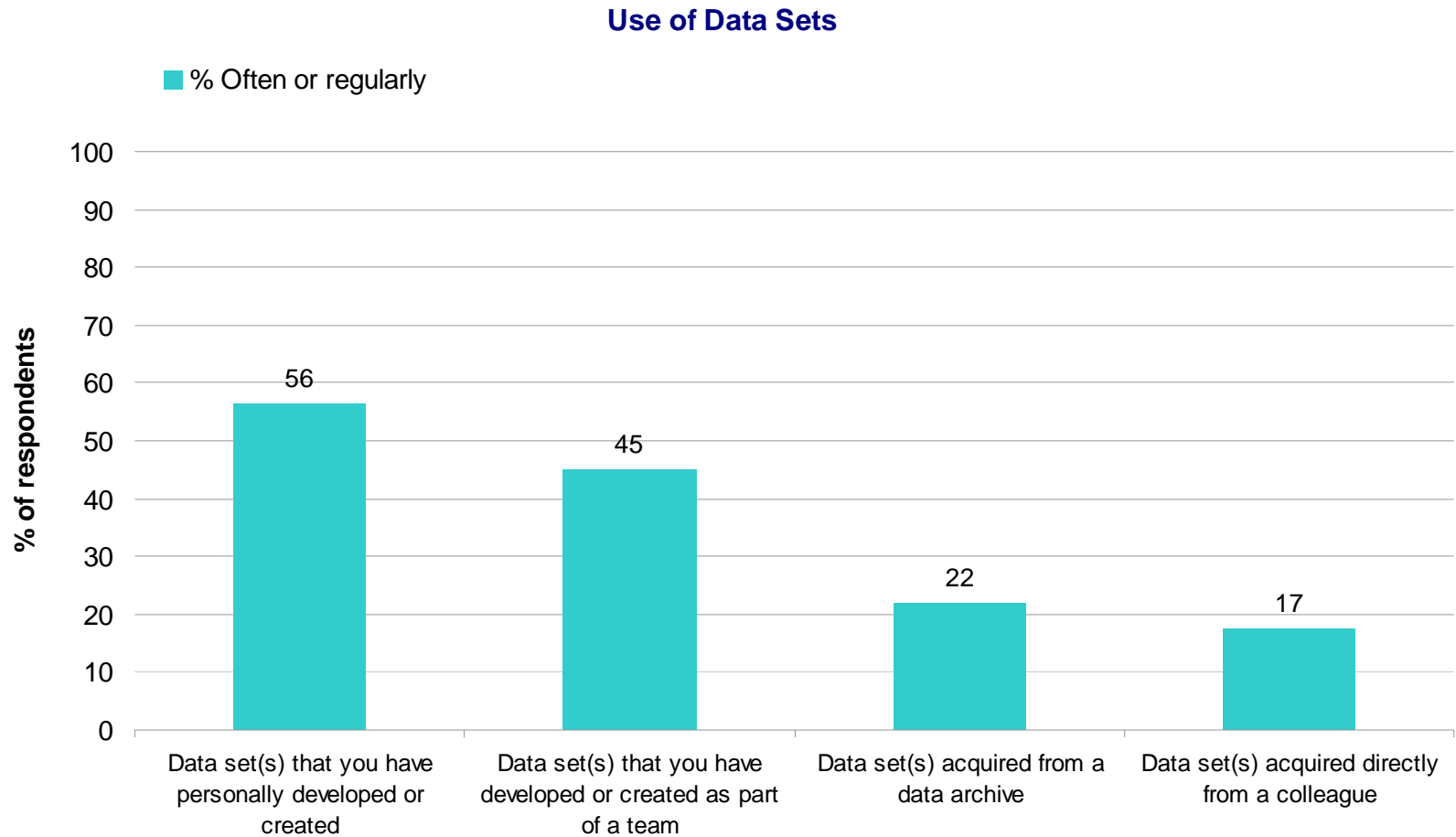
Which methodological approaches do you use in your research? (%)



# Use of Analysis Software

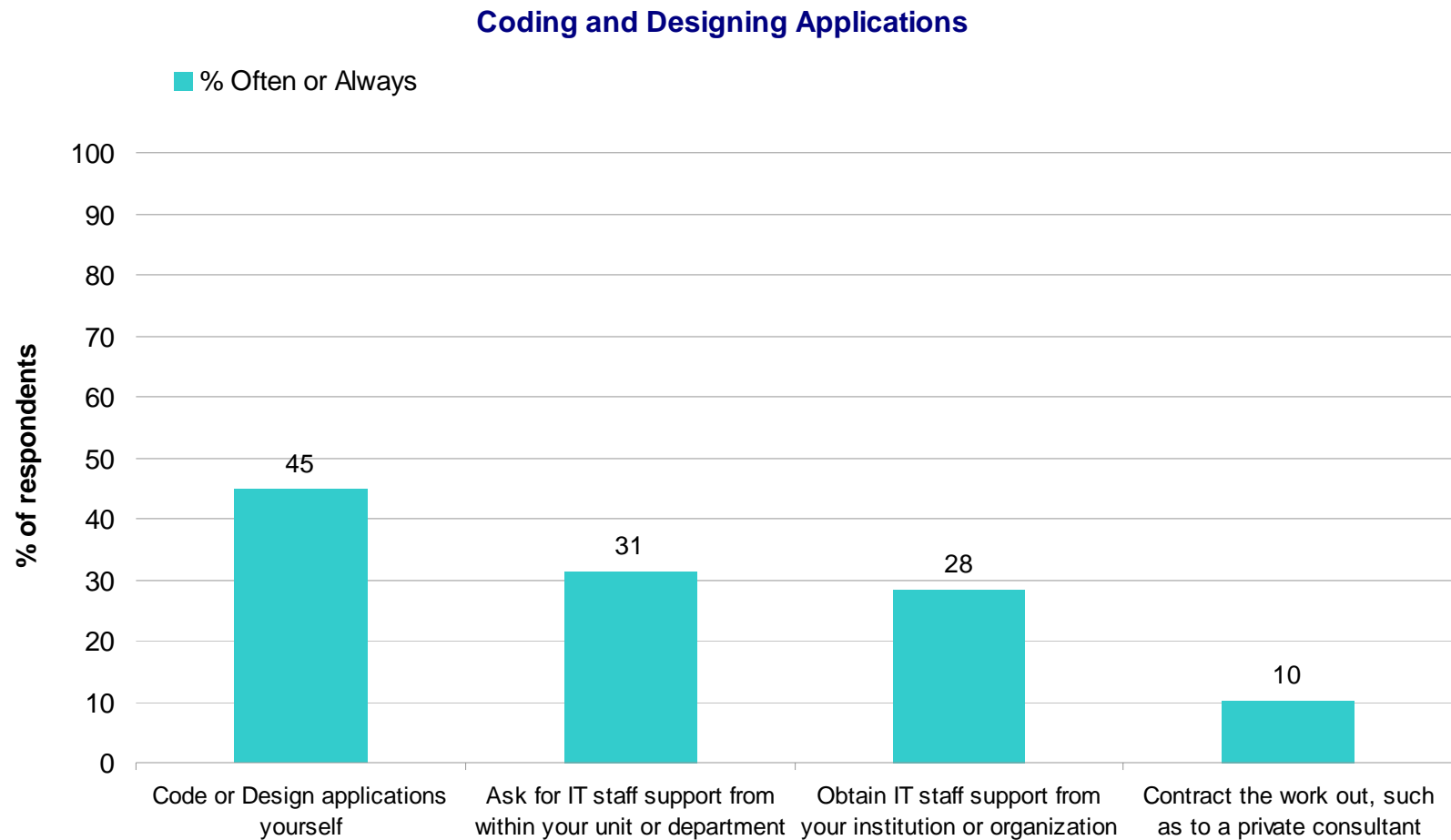


# Use of Data Sets



# Coding and Designing Applications

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# Use of Software (I)

Use of Quantitative software		
	N	%
Any quantitative	205	39.0%
SPSS	168	82.0%
Inhouse software	35	17.1%
Stata	34	16.6%
SAS	32	15.6%
R	32	15.6%

Use of Content Analysis Software		
	N	%
Any content analysis	59	11.2%
Inhouse software	22	37.3%
Wordstat	8	13.6%
Concordance	6	10.2%
TextAnalyst	6	10.2%

Use of Qualitative Software		
	N	%
Any qualitative software	96	18.3%
Atlas.ti	42	43.8%
Nvivo	40	41.7%
Nudist	15	15.6%
Inhouse software	15	15.6%

Use of Video Analysis Software		
	N	%
Any video analysis	22	4.2%
Transana	11	50.0%
The Observer	4	18.2%
Inhouse software	4	18.2%
Ethovision	3	13.6%
Memetic	3	13.6%

Use of Visualizing Software		
	N	%
Any visualizing	69	13.1%
General purpose (Excel, Sigmapk)	35	50.7%
UCINet	18	26.1%
Pajek	16	23.2%
Inhouse software	16	23.2%
Gnuplot	12	17.4%

Use of Webmetrics		
	N	%
Any webmetrics	44	8.4%
Commercial (Google, Yahoo, Live)	26	59.1%
Webtrends	17	38.6%
Inhouse software	14	31.8%
Commercial traffic (Alexa)	10	22.7%
Microsoft Site Analyst	6	13.6%
Issue crawler	5	11.4%
VOSON	5	11.4%

# Use of Software (II)

<b>Use of Simulation / Modelling Software</b>		
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Any simulation / modeling	59	11.2%
Inhouse software	29	49.2%
NetLogo	14	23.7%
Repast	10	16.9%

<b>Use of Geographic Software</b>		
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Any geographic	62	11.8%
Google Maps	40	64.5%
Google Earth	34	54.8%
ESRI	31	50.0%
MapInfo	13	21.0%
Common GIS	12	19.4%
Microsoft Virtual Earth	10	16.1%
Inhouse software	9	14.5%
Google Map Creator	8	12.9%

<b>Use of Database Software</b>		
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Any database	179	34.0%
Excel	119	66.5%
Access	87	48.6%
MySQL	65	36.3%
Inhouse software	27	15.1%
SQL Server	23	12.8%
Oracle	18	10.1%

<b>Use of Integrating Software</b>		
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Any integrating	68	12.9%
Inhouse software	38	55.9%