

Current Status and Future Plan of Research Support Services (RSS) in academic medical libraries in Taiwan

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Table 1 n=24

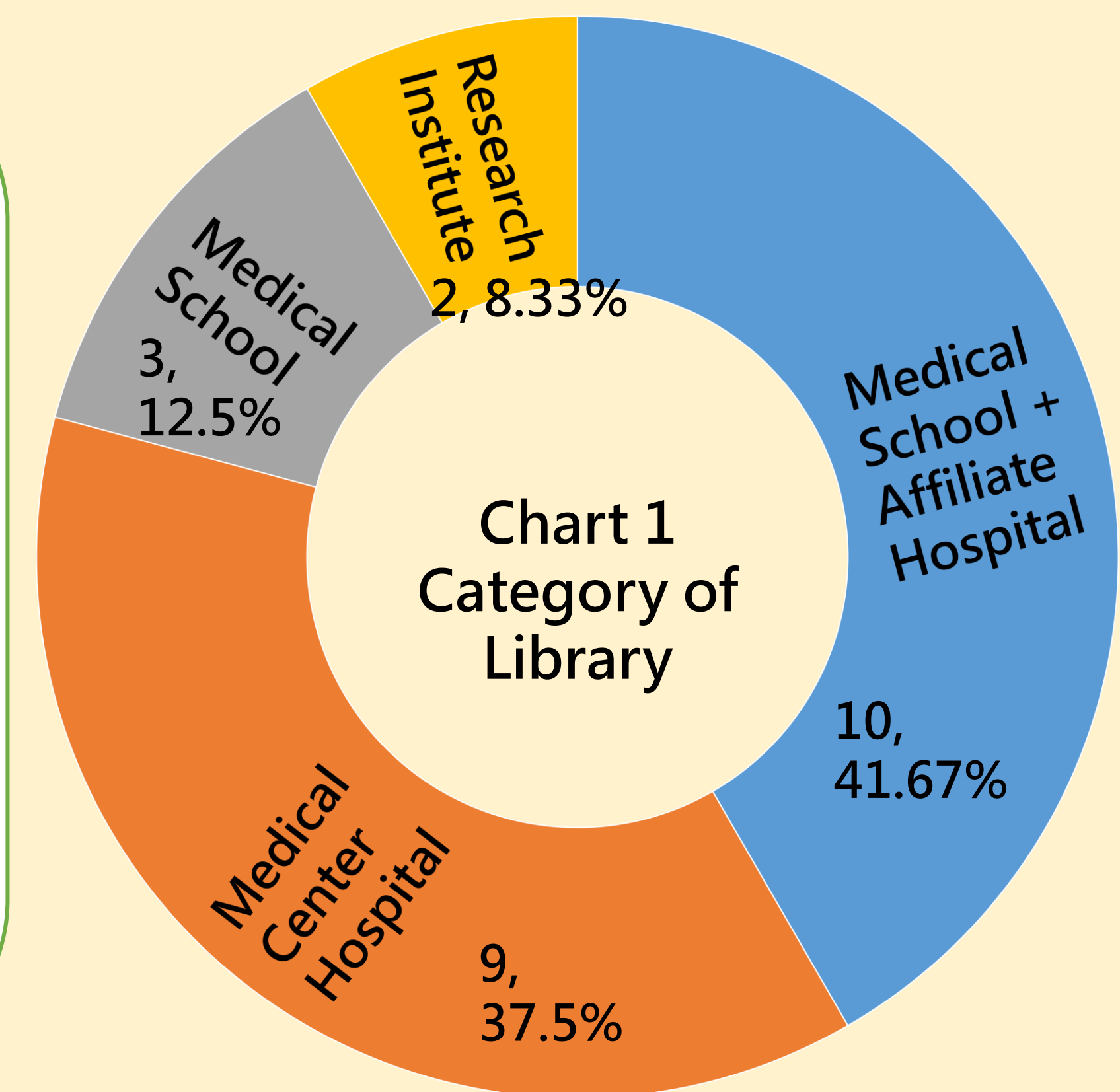
Research Support Service	Not applicable	Currently provide	Plan to provide in the next 1-3 years	Not intend to provide
The stage of research proposal writing				
Research Data Management (RDM) plan writing Consulting	6	1	5	12
Research Support Services (RSS) webpage construction and maintenance	4	11	3	6
Research related LibGuide compilation	3	10	4	7
The stage of research paper writing				
Systematic review (SR) papers writing assistance	4	8	2	10
Bibliography management software (e.g. EndNote) training and consulting	0	24	0	0
Essay originality comparison software (e.g. Turnitin or iThenticate) training and consulting	0	21	0	3
The stage of research paper submission				
Journal Impact Factor and ranking inquiry and consultation	0	22	0	2
Open Access Journals (OAJ) promotion	0	19	1	4
OAJ Article Processing Chargers (APC) grant	1	13	2	8
Predatory Journal advocacy and consulting	1	21	1	1
Author ID advocacy and consulting	2	11	7	4
International journal submission selection consulting	3	7	6	8
Held lectures on paper submission and essay writing	3	14	3	4
The stage of post- publication				
Spot check on the originality of published papers	7	7	1	9
Institutional Repository (IR) construction and maintenance	3	13	2	6
Academic hub and experts database construction and maintenance	6	6	3	9
Research performance analysis and indicators (e.g. FWCI, H-index) consulting	3	12	3	6
Altmetrics advocacy and consulting	4	8	5	7

Object

Researchers in medical schools and large teaching hospitals have been under pressure to “publish or perish”. In Taiwan, the number of papers published by researchers in these institutions has always been the highest in all fields, and the quality and quantity of papers by teachers and clinicians have a deep impact on their re-employment and promotion. Therefore, these academic medical libraries should provide services to support their users with research need. It is the author’s hope that in addition to outlining current statuses and future plans for the provision of RSS, this study will also identify benchmark libraries for reference.

Method

The academic medical libraries in Taiwan as defined by this study include two national health science research institutes and all medical schools and medical center hospitals in Taiwan, with a total number of 28. The author collected data by means of questionnaire survey, distributed an online questionnaire on December 13, 2023, and collected a total of 24 valid questionnaires on January 4, 2024, with a recovery rate of 85.7%. (See Chart 1). The first part of the questionnaire is the basic information of the investigated library (category, location, number of staff, and number of professional librarians), and the second part is based on the four stages of the research life cycle (research proposal writing, research paper writing, research paper submission, and post-publication), and proposes 18 research support services (RSS), which are investigated whether each academic medical library currently provides them, whether they plan to provide them in the next 1-3 years, or whether they do not plan to provide them (and the reasons for not providing them).



Results

Of the 24 responding libraries, 14 are in the northern part of Taiwan, 4 in the central part, 4 in the southern part, 2 in the eastern part, with an average of 10.96 full-time staff and 7.5 LIS professionals. At present, the RSS provided by the most libraries are as follows: bibliographic management software (e.g. EndNote) (24/24), journal impact factor and ranking (22/24), Turnitin or iThenticate (21/24), and consultation for predatory journals (21/24); RDM writing consultation is currently only available in 1 library, and only 5 are planned to provide this service in 1-3 years. (See Table 1 for details)

Conclusions

The survey identified three benchmark academic medical libraries, and 17 of the 18 RSS have been provided, including: the National Institutes of Health Library, the Taipei Medical University Libraries, and the National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Library, the former two does not currently provide RDM service, and the latter one does not provide Altmetrics service. The medical center libraries that are not affiliated with medical schools (there are 9 in this study) are small in staffing and currently provide fewer than 10 RSS. Further research is ongoing, and the author is conducting in-depth interviews with the directors and business librarians of above academic medical libraries in Taiwan to understand the opportunities and difficulties of promoting research support services.