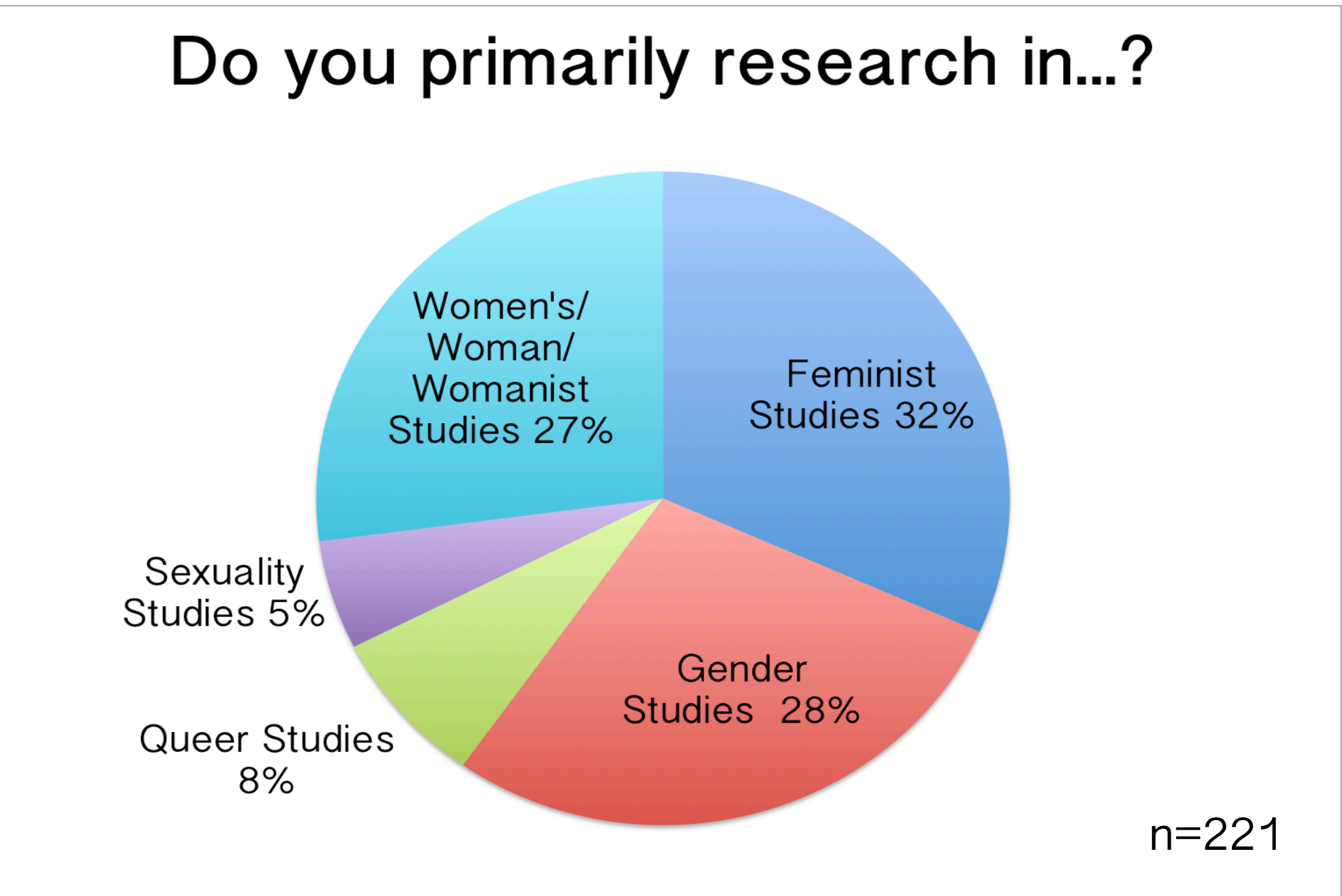
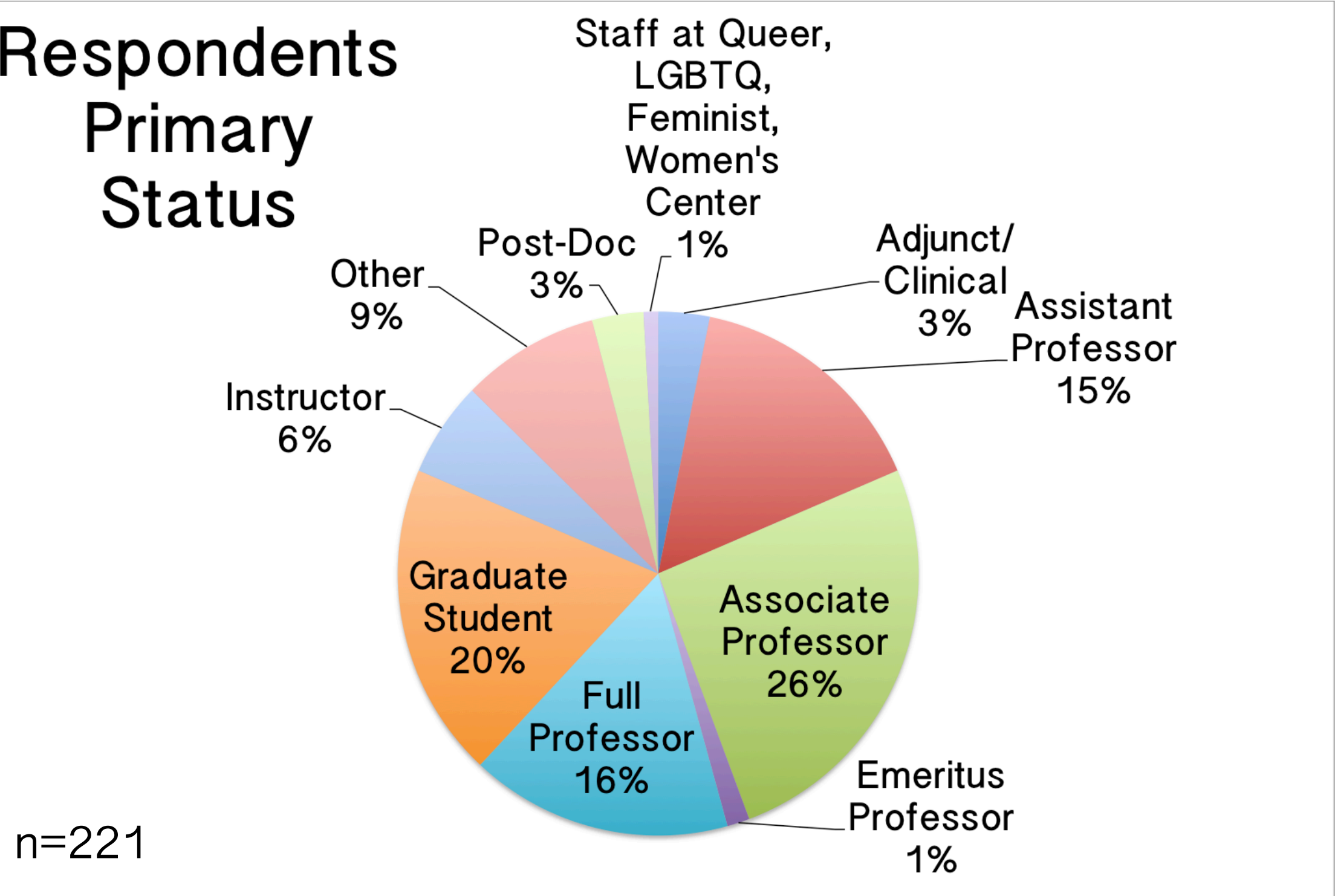


WGSS Journals Revisited: Scholars Share Their Core Titles

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About this Survey

Women’s Studies has expanded to include Gender, Sexuality and Queer studies along with other subfields since the Core Journal List was last updated in 2008, making the list incomplete and unreflective of the discipline’s breadth. To update the list, the WGSS Collections Committee distributed a Qualtrics hosted seven question survey to learn which journals are considered core for teaching and research. Three questions asked respondents to name titles of journals used and the remaining four asked about for demographic information. The 221 respondents shared the top five journals they consider core to courses they regularly teach and to their current research. Unclear listings of journal titles were checked against Ulrich’s and Google.



Learning from Other Librarians

Pertinent literature on core journal identification in the social sciences and in interdisciplinary fields includes thorough overviews of the concept of ‘core,’ and its problems, methods, and usefulness in academic libraries and studies on efforts to conceptualize and create core lists for various social sciences. The complexities related to establishing core lists for interdisciplinary topics and against-the-grain or nontraditional knowledge domains are also considered.



Journals Used for Instruction	Total Mentions	Journals Used for Research	Total Mentions
Signs	73	Journal of the Motherhood Initiative	83
Journal of the Motherhood Initiative	69	Signs	80
Gender & Society	41	Feminist Studies	44
Feminist Studies	31	Gender & Society	41
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	25	Feminist Formations	33
Feminist Formations	23	Hypatia	29
Journal of Women's History	22	GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies	23
Hypatia	21	Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	23
GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies	19	Women's Studies Quarterly	18
Women's Studies Quarterly	18	Feminist Media Studies	15

Respondents named 162 unique titles used for instruction and 199 for research.

Next Steps

- Additional analysis to determine:
- ✓ which journals respondents regularly read
 - ✓ which department or center respondents primarily work in
 - ✓ the relationship between degrees offered and titles used
- Results raise questions about the gap between what respondents consider core and what is considered core by tools like Journal Citation Reports®.
- Findings will be combined with Journal Citation Reports® and other metrics to update the WGSS Core Journal List. Once compiled, librarians can assess and benchmark their libraries' holdings. It is hoped the list will support librarians wishing to expand their holdings.