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Information Literacy Session Attendance and Library Website Visit Frequency: Impacts on Awareness of LibGuides among Undergraduate and Graduate Health Professions Students at an Urban Campus

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Introduction

Public, large, non-residential four-year and master's college with separate Health Professions Library (HPL) serving 1,300+ health professions students. The Hunter College Libraries offer over 180 LibGuides via the "Research Guides" link on library's home page. HPL librarians teach one-shot and other information literacy (IL) sessions for students.

Key Findings

- 45% (n=20) of the participants who visited the library's website at least once/week were aware of the LibGuides, with awareness dropping to 25% (n=7) among those who visited the website once/month.
- Among participants who attended library IL sessions, awareness reached 54% (n=13) among undergraduate and 64% (n=9) among graduate health professions students.
- Awareness was low among participants who had not attended IL sessions (21%, n=13) or had never visited the library website (11%, n=1).
- Results were similar across fields of study (nursing, physical therapy, medical laboratory sciences, and speech language pathology/audiology) and across years of study (sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate students).

Methods

100 participants recruited face to face, with no compensation
In-person survey instrument collected data on the:

- a) use, perceptions, and awareness of LibGuides;
- b) attendance at library IL sessions, frequency of visits to library website;
- c) major, academic year, age, gender, and race.

Results analyzed with IBM SPSS 27 (Carey, Pathak, & Johnson, 2020)

Research Questions

What is the impact of IL instruction attendance on health professions students' awareness of library-created LibGuides?

What is the impact of visiting the library's website on health professions students' awareness of library-created LibGuides?

What effect do the following factors have on awareness:

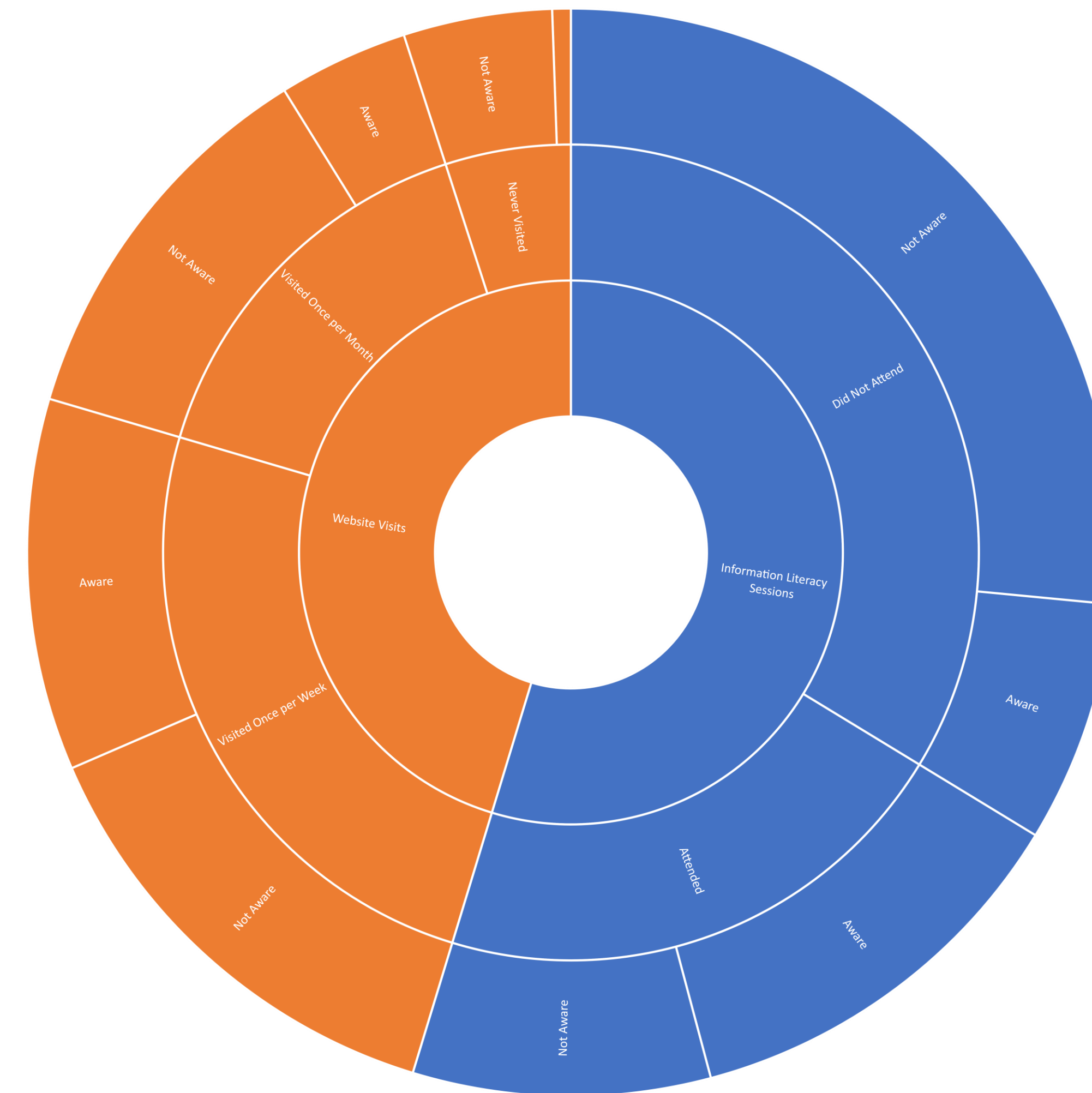
- Frequency of website visits
- Graduate or undergraduate status
- Health sciences track or field of study
- Age
- Gender
- Racial or ethnic identification

Conclusions

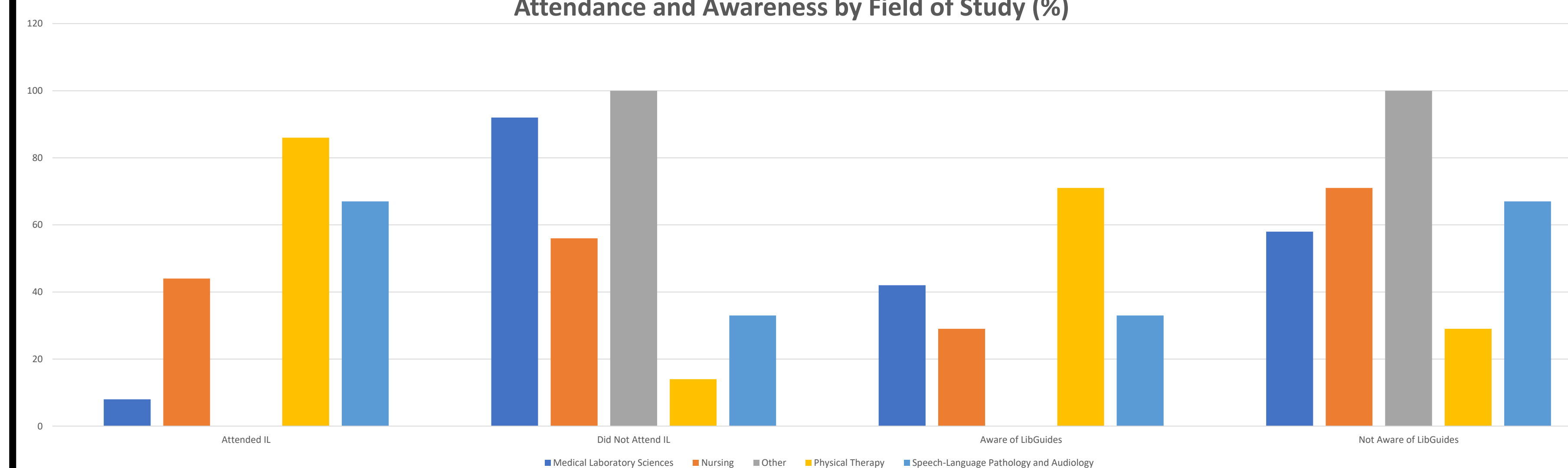
- Students who attended IL sessions showed increased awareness of LibGuides.
- Demographic factors affected the association between IL attendance and LibGuide awareness.
- Instruction librarians should employ LibGuides when teaching IL sessions to promote awareness of these resources.
- Library staff should encourage patrons to visit the library's home page to find information resources.
- Events such as orientation sessions for higher education opportunity programs represent a chance for library staff to promote these resources to students from underrepresented groups.

Results

Awareness of LibGuides by Website Visit Frequency and IL Session Attendance

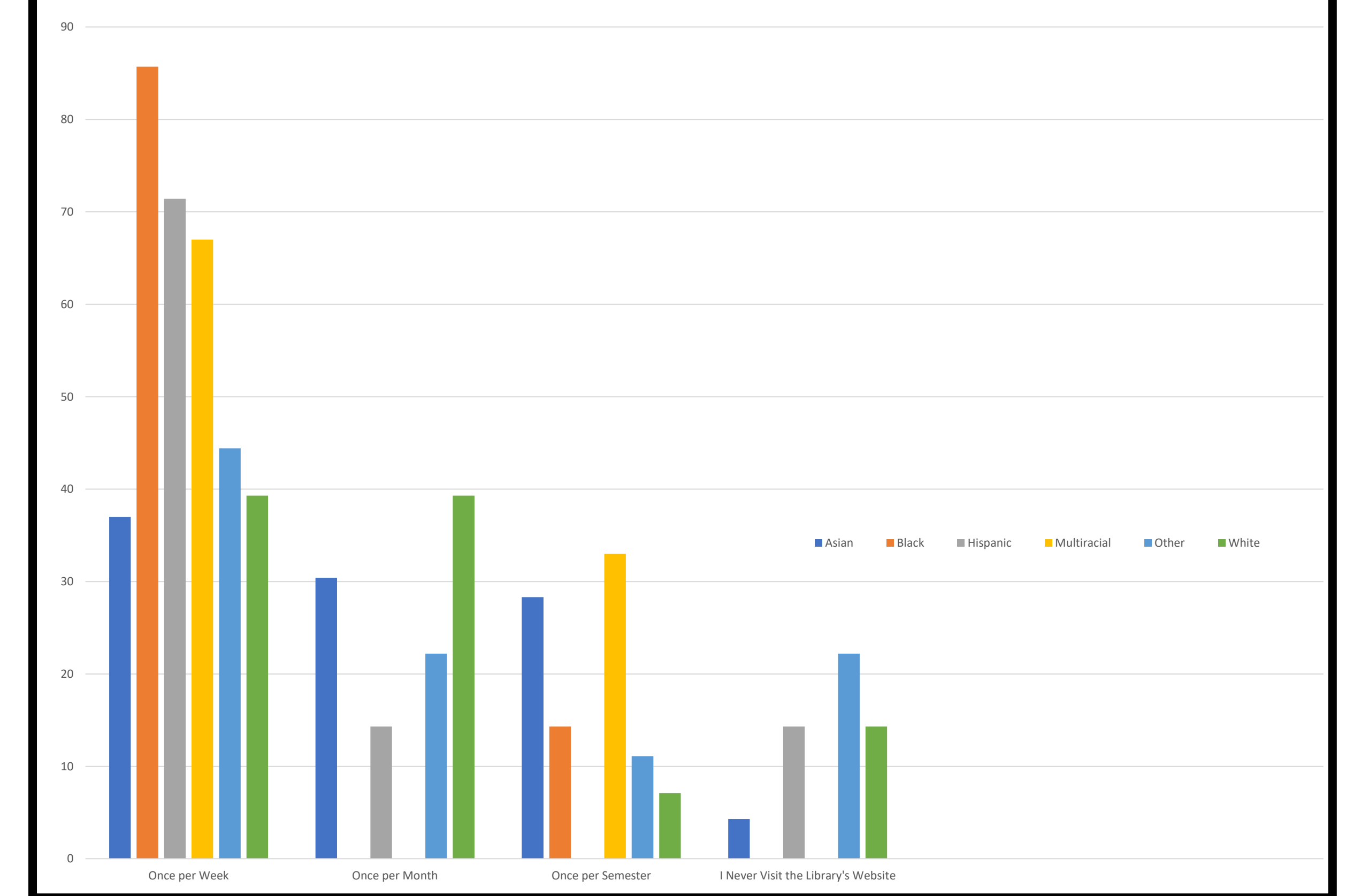


Attendance and Awareness by Field of Study (%)



Results

Website Visit Frequency by Race/Ethnicity (%)



Reference

Carey, J., Pathak, A., and Johnson, S. (2020). Use, perceptions, and awareness of LibGuides among undergraduate and graduate health professions students. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* 15(3), 157-172.