Research Collaboration in Asia LIS Schools -- Experience of the Asia Library and Information Research Group (ALIRG)

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Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Workshop Review**
- **Research Collaboration Outcomes**
- **Keys to International Research Collaboration**
- **Conclusion**

INTRODUCTION

Background

- We know a lot about our western LIS colleagues, but how about our Asian colleagues?
  - Similar culture, society, value systems, …
- Taiwan-Singapore-Thailand LIS Research Group
  - Taiwan: National Taiwan Normal University
  - Singapore: Nanyang Technological University
  - Thailand: Khon Kaen University, Mahasarakham University

Background (Cont.)

TST LIS Workshop

- The Taiwan-Singapore-Thailand Workshop series on Library and Information Science (LIS) Research
  - 1st: National Taiwan Normal University (Sep 2008)
  - 2nd: Khon Kaen University (Thailand) (Nov 2009)
  - 3rd: Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) (Jan 2011)
  - 4th: National Taiwan Normal University (Mar 2012)
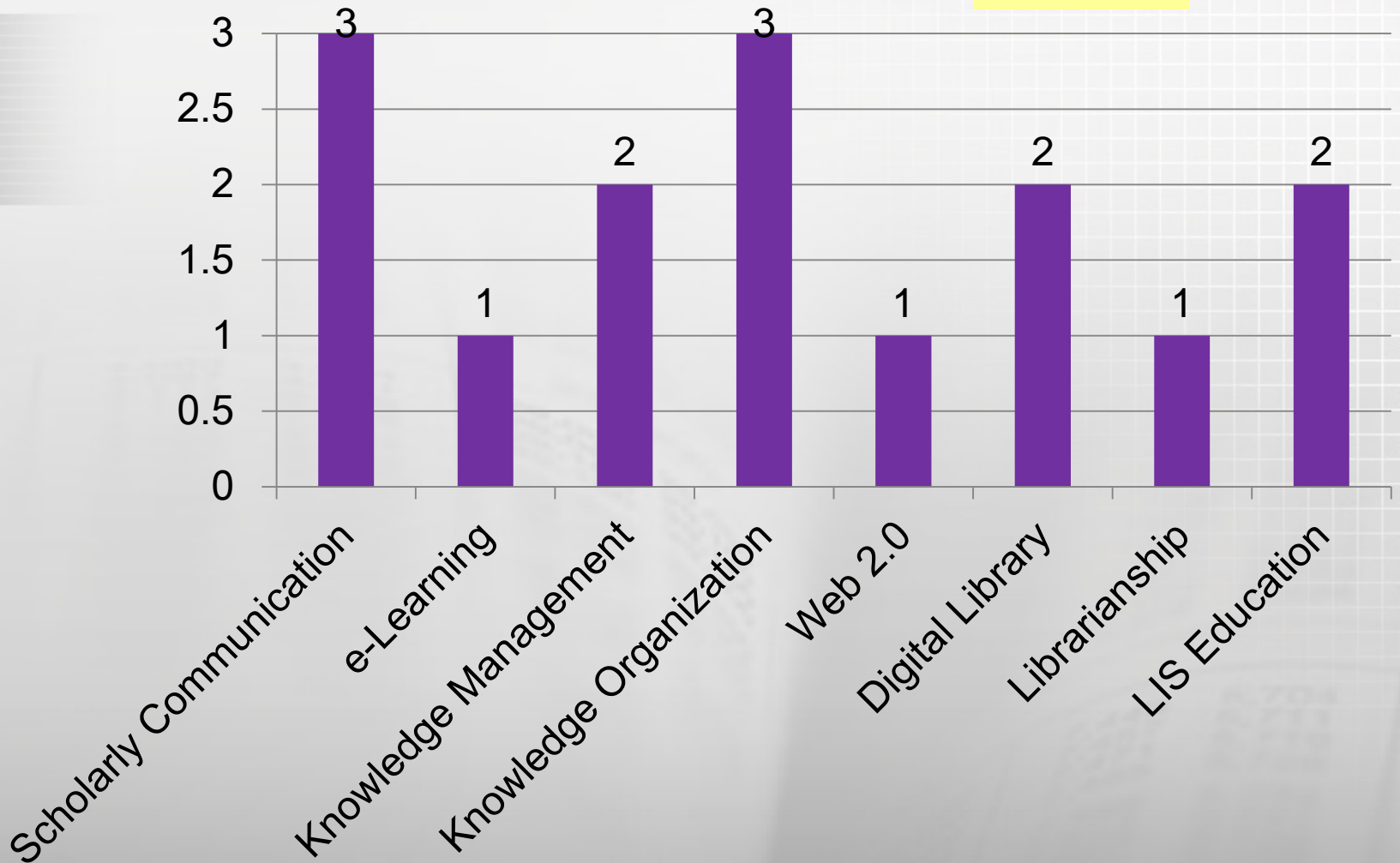- Change name to *Workshop of the Asia Library and Information Research Group* from 2012

Objectives

- To initiate and carry out regional collaborative projects
- To establish regional library and information research groups
- To obtain expert feedback on current research studies
- To provide an opportunity for PhD students to network, and to obtain feedback on their research

WORKSHOP REVIEW

1ˢᵗ Workshop – Subject Coverage

Total = 15

Bar chart showing subject coverage:
- Scholarly Communication: 3
- e-Learning: 1
- Knowledge Management: 2
- Knowledge Organization: 3
- Web 2.0: 1
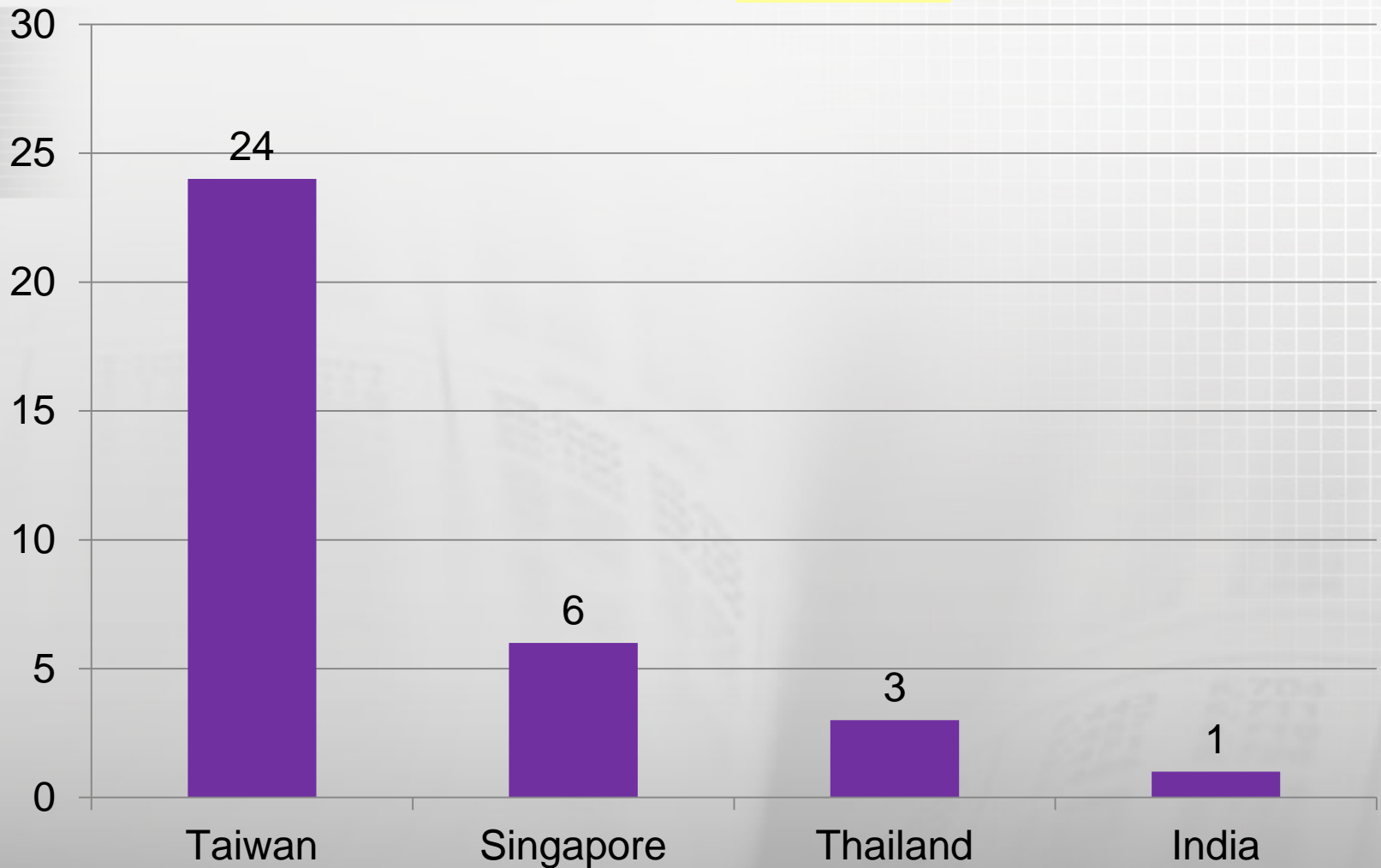- Digital Library: 2
- Librarianship: 1
- LIS Education: 2

1st Workshop – Collaborative Group

- Information/knowledge organization, Digital Library and archives
- Education & e-learning
- Research communities (Scholarly Communication & Collaboration)
- Library management, service and system
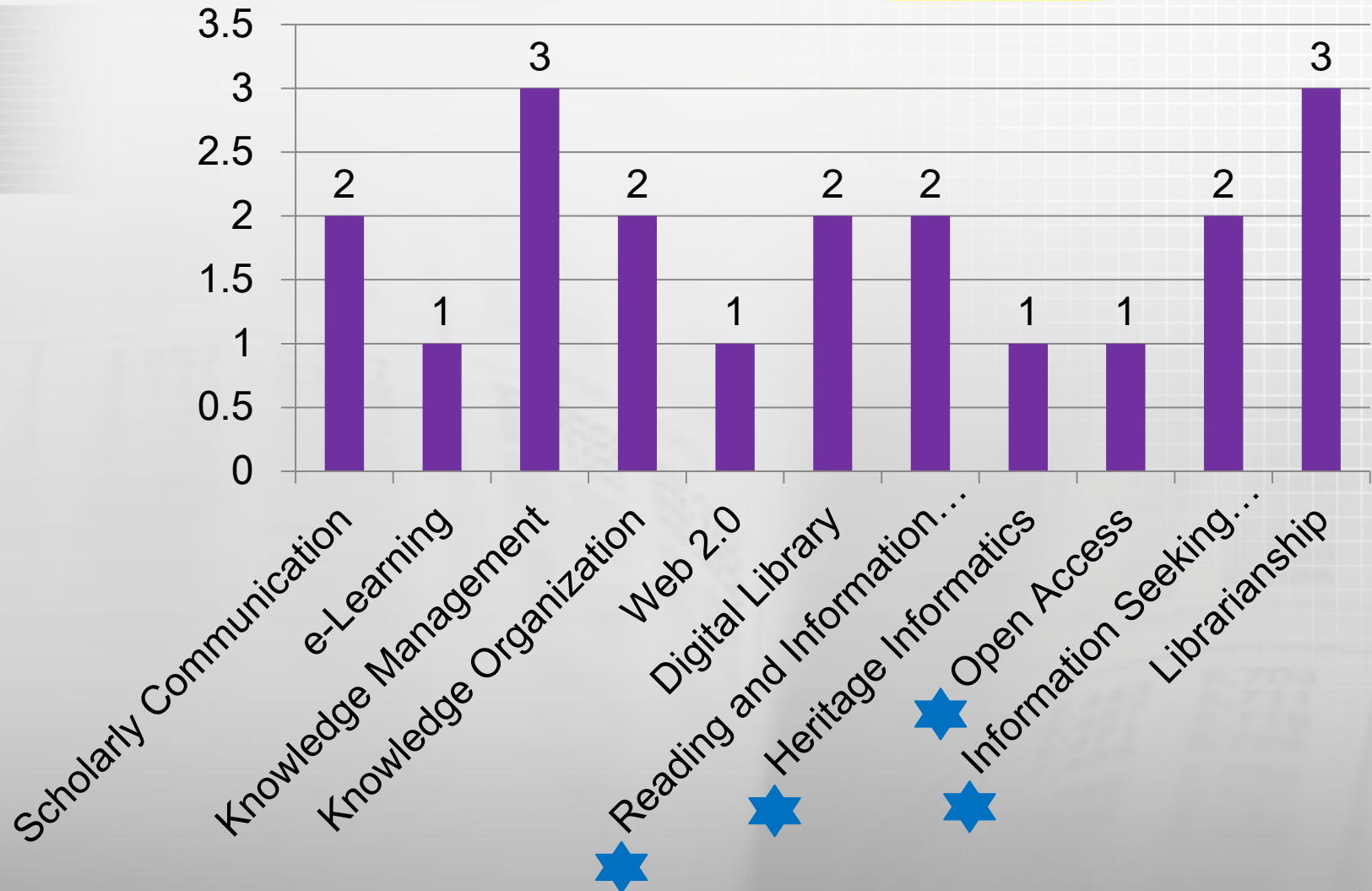
1ˢᵗ Workshop – Participants

Total = 34

Photos of 1st Workshop

2nd Workshop – Subject Coverage

Total = 20

Bar chart showing subject coverage with the following values:
- Scholarly Communication: 2
- e-Learning: 1
- Knowledge Management: 3
- Knowledge Organization: 2
- Web 2.0: 1
- Digital Library: 2
- Reading and Information…: 2
- Heritage Informatics: 1
- Open Access: 1
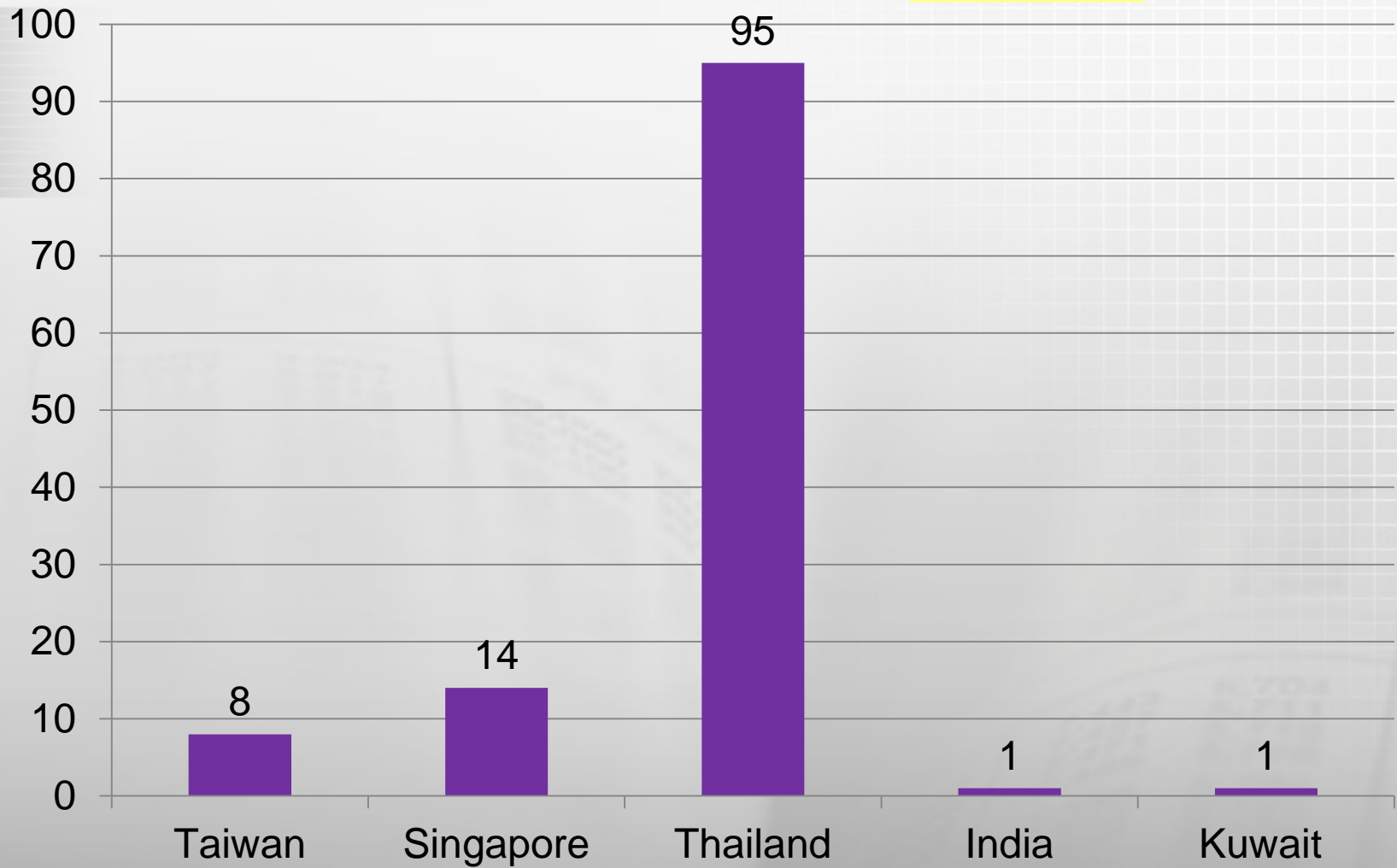- Information Seeking…: 2
- Librarianship: 3

2nd Workshop – Collaborative Group

- E-learning / teaching methods in LIS
- Digital libraries / archives
- Reading / information literacy
- Scholarly Communication
- Knowledge management / organization

2ⁿᵈ Workshop – Participants

Total = 115
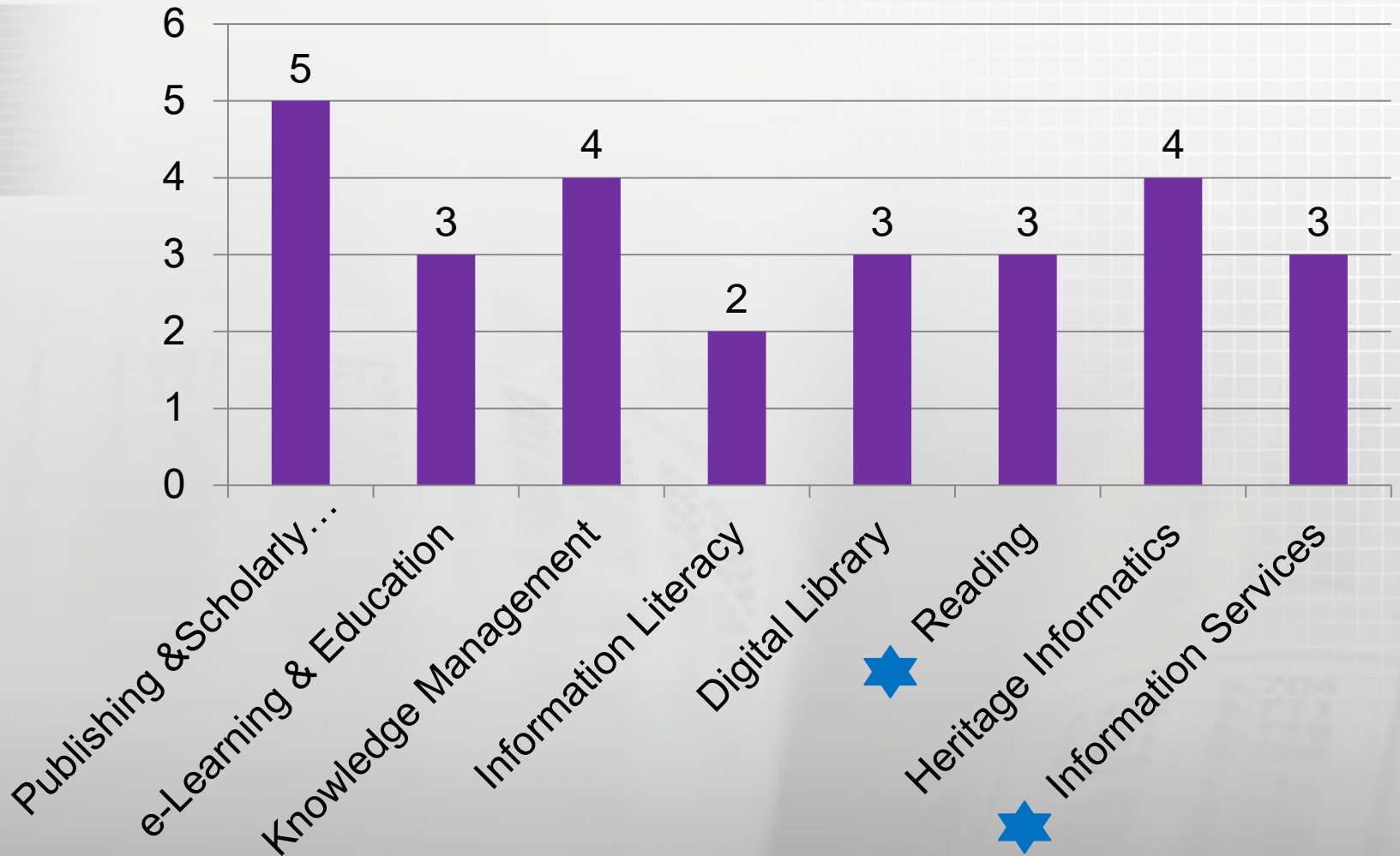
95

14

8

1

1

Taiwan   Singapore   Thailand   India   Kuwait

Photos of 2nd Workshop

3ʳᵈ Workshop – Subject Coverage

Total = 27

Bar chart values: Publishing &Scholarly… = 5, e-Learning & Education = 3, Knowledge Management = 4, Information Literacy = 2, Digital Library = 3, Reading = 3, Heritage Informatics = 4, Information Services = 3

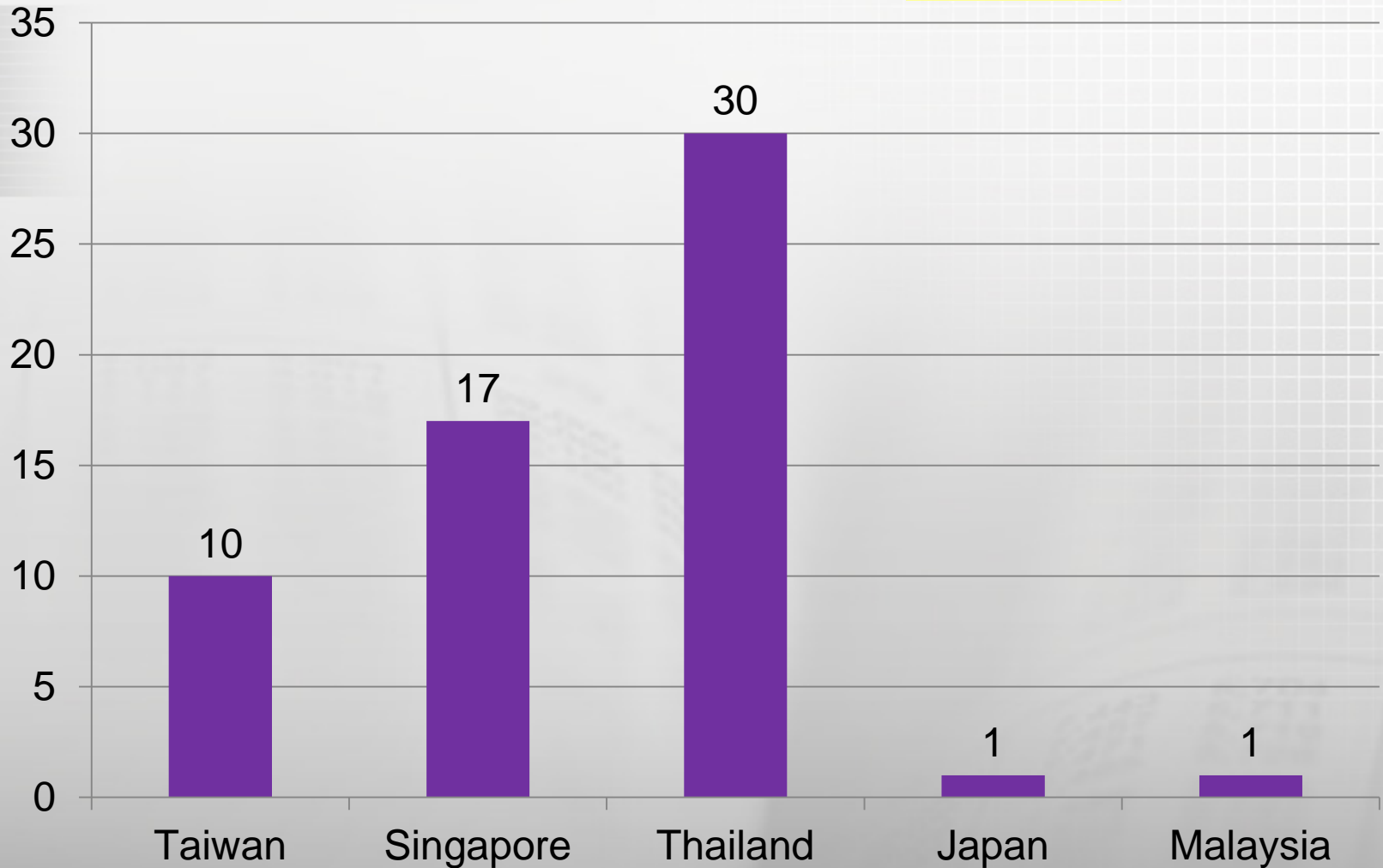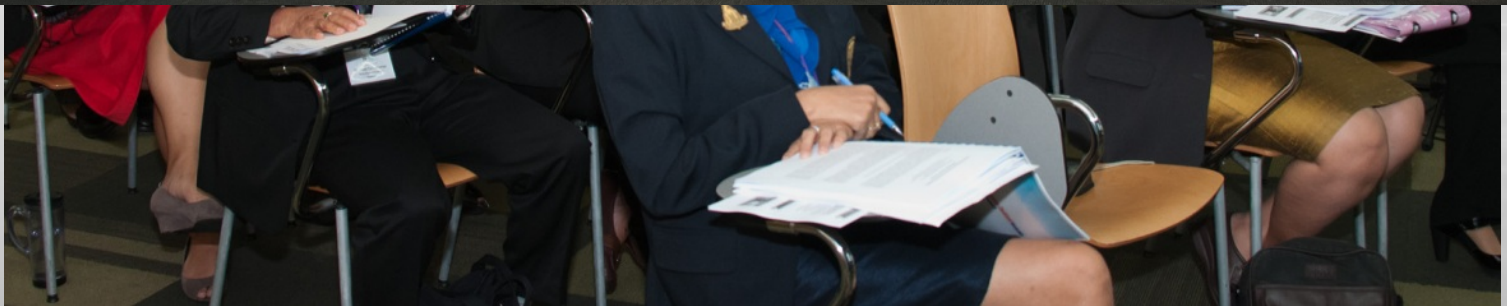# 3rd Workshop – Collaborative Group

- Reading
- Knowledge Management
- Developments in Information Service
- E-Learning & Education
- Publishing & Scholarly Communication
- Heritage Informatics
- Information Literacy
- Digital Libraries

Photos of 3ʳᵈ Workshop

4th Workshop – Subject Coverage

Total = 30

Bar chart values:
- Open Access &Scholarly…: 4
- Web 2.0 in Information…: 3
- Knowledge Management: 2
- Information Societies: 6
- Digital Library: 3
- Reading & Information…: 4
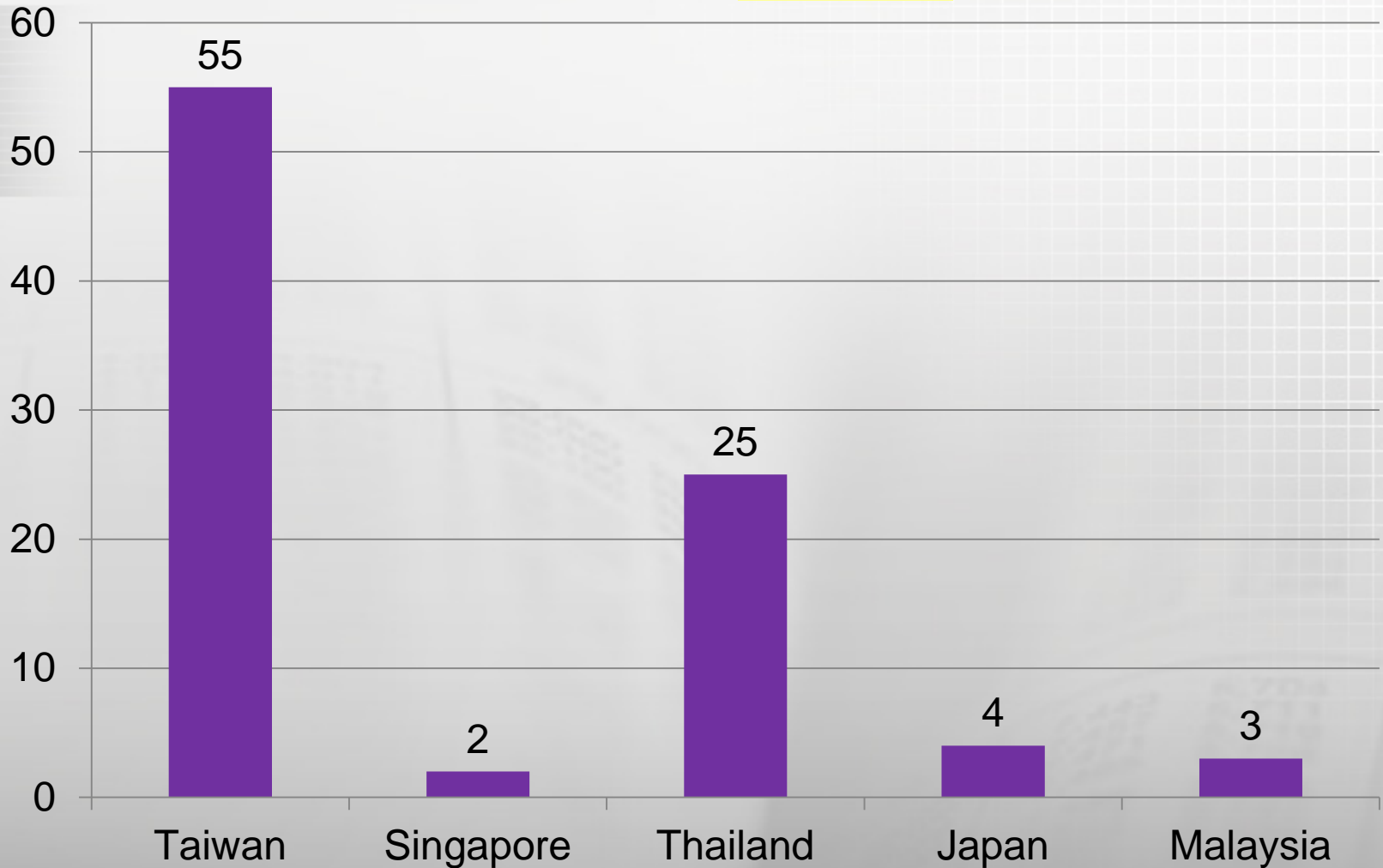- Heritage Informatics: 3
- Knowledge Organization: 5
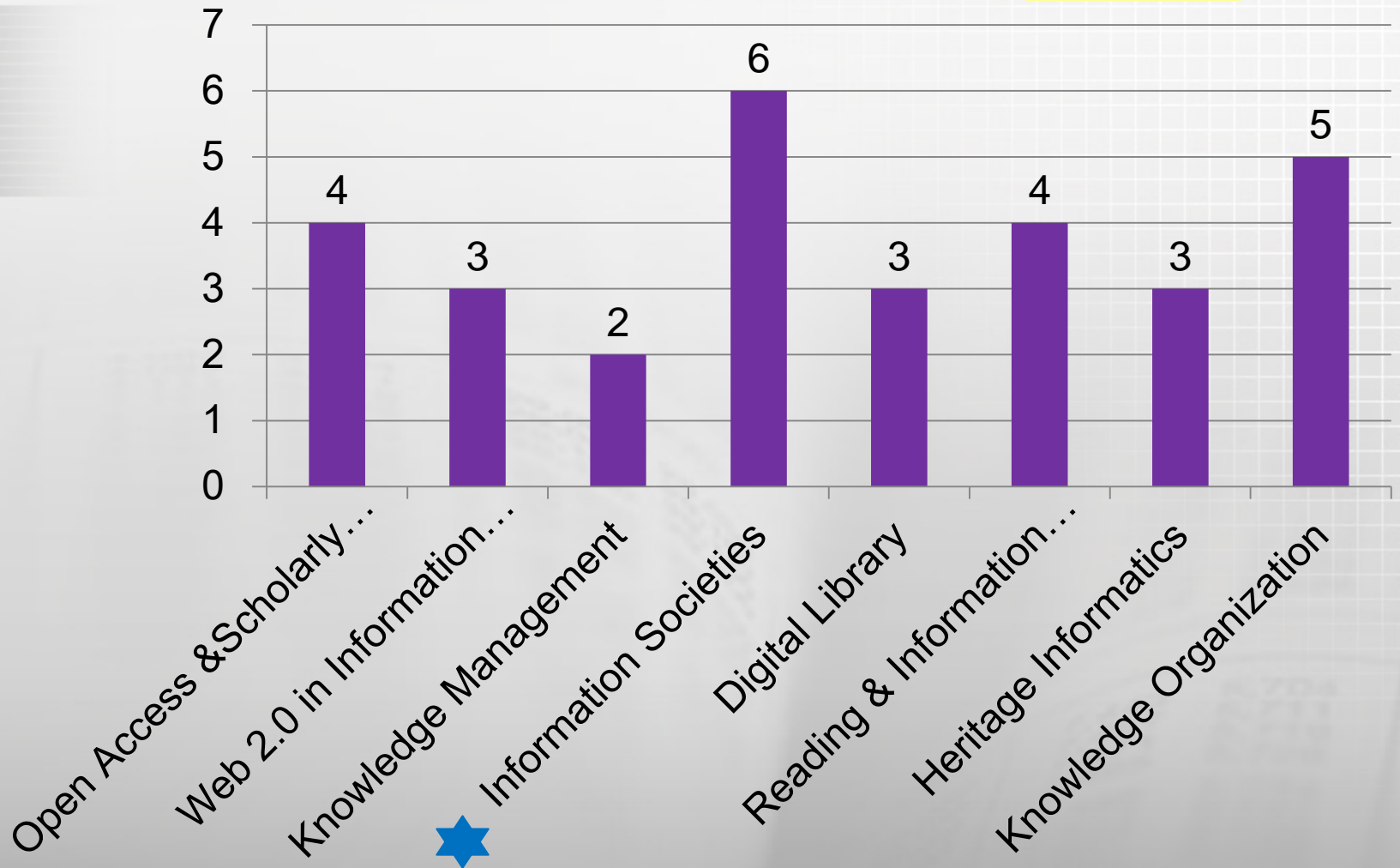
4th Workshop – Collaborative Group

- Digital Libraries
- Reading & Information Literacy
- Information Societies
- Knowledge Organization
- Heritage Informatics
- Open Access & Scholarly Communication
- Web 2.0 in Information Services
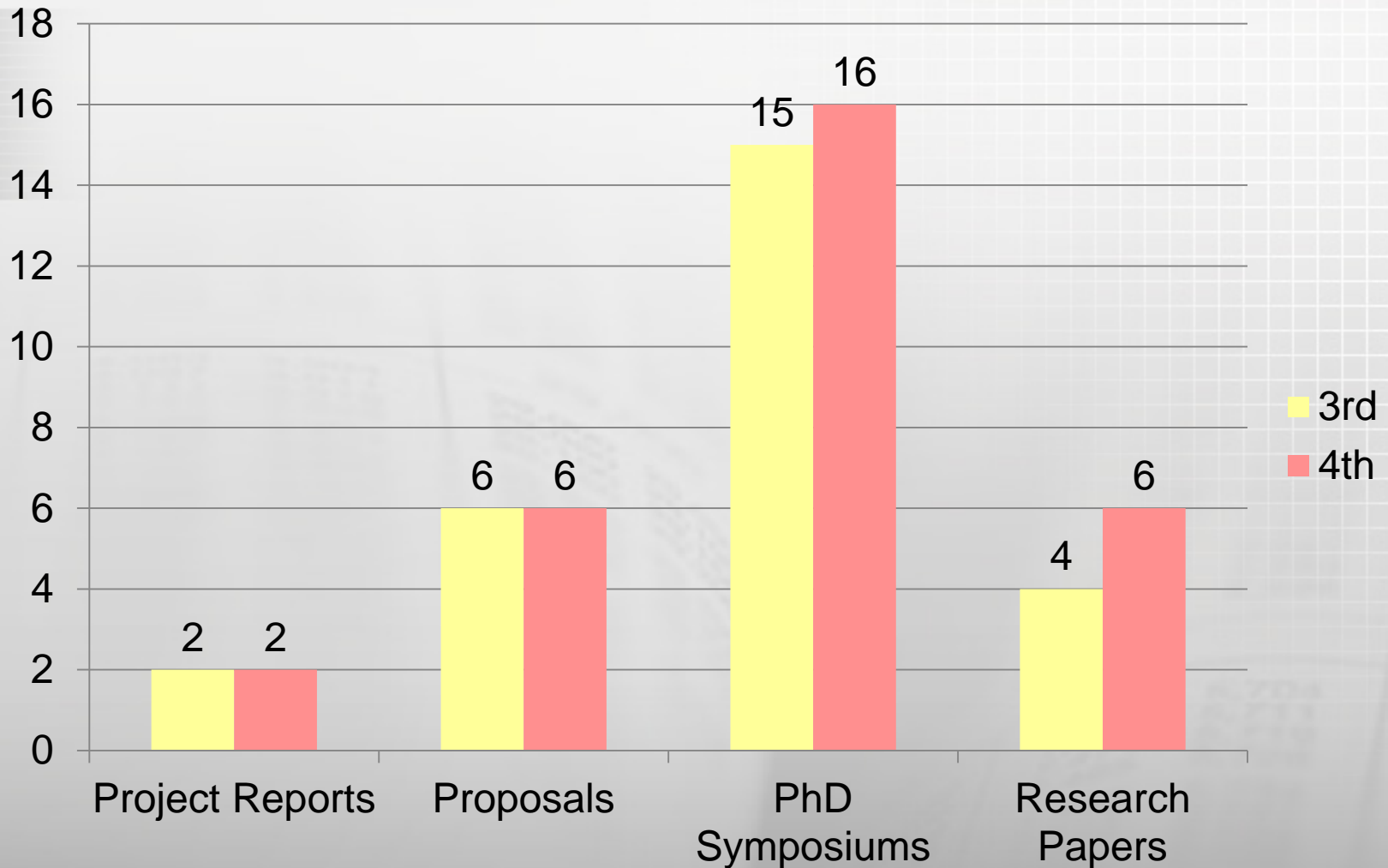- Knowledge Management

4th Workshop – Participants

Total = 89

Photos of 4th Workshop

Project Reports / Regional Collaboration Proposals

RESEARCH COLLABORATION OUTCOMES

Research Collaboration

- Factors affecting re-usability of learning objects: a collaborative case study of two subject areas in LIS
  - Kuwait, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand
- The information needs of end-users of digitized collections of cultural heritage resources
  - Singapore, Thailand

Research Collaboration (Cont.)

- Metadata Schema Development for Digital Thai Ancient Document Collection Management
  - Japan, Thailand
- Launching of a New OA Journal in LIS: A Case of Asia Pacific Journal of Library and Information Science (APJLIS)
  - Thailand
  - 13 editorial board members from India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, USA

Asia Pacific Journal of Library and Information Science

Keys to International Research Collaboration (IRC)

Research Collaboration

- Within the last decades knowledge production underwent radical changes
- Research collaboration (RC) has become a necessity due to the enormous pressure scientists, institutions or even countries face in their daily struggles to meet the required publication output requirements
- The number of internationally co-authored papers is abruptly increasing, and an intensification of RC is reported at all aggregation levels

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International Research Collaboration

- International research collaboration is a crucial , complex, and fragile process

- Effective strategies are needed to manage the inevitable conflicts that arise

- Promoting collaborative dialogue, taking time, and developing trust are discussed as strategies to support a fuller international engagement

Dale Bagshaw, Margret Lepp, Cecelia R. Zorn (2007)

IRC Roadblocks and Strategies

Roadblocks to Effective International Teamwork	Strategies to Counteract the Roadblocks and Enhance Effective International Teamwork for Research
Ambivalence and uncertainty	• Develop an inspiring or motivating shared vision • Establish clear goals and objectives • Develop clear norms • Provide access to information and a shared knowledge base to enhance common understanding
Individuals promoting self-interests by working competitively or independently	• Acknowledge diversity and develop cooperative, shared goals • Take time and develop trust • Practice collaborative dialogue • Empower and recognize all team members' abilities, resources, and strengths • Focus on the individual and team benefits of mutual, cooperative work • Share ownership of and responsibility for decisions • Appreciate all accomplishments

Dale Bagshaw, Margret Lepp, Cecelia R. Zorn (2007)

IRC Roadblocks and Strategies (Cont.)

Dynamics that reinforce biases and simplifications: for example "groupthink," domination of individual views, demands for conformity, or coalitions formed to promote special interests

- Practice self-reflection and reflexivity
- Expose and challenge stereotypes and respect cultural differences and diversity
- Directly and openly confront relationship issues and conflicts as they arise
- Engage in constructive, open-minded controversy, explore opposing views, positions, and issues, identify common ground, and generate options and alternatives
- Be open to new information and ideas and willing to integrate or incorporate different perspectives, ideas, positions, or minority views into effective solutions
- Continuously search for opportunities for innovation and be willing to take risks
- Be flexible and adaptable when situations change
- Communicate for continuous improvement and development

Dale Bagshaw, Margret Lepp, Cecelia R. Zorn (2007)

Inter-organizational collaborative Capacity (ICC) Model
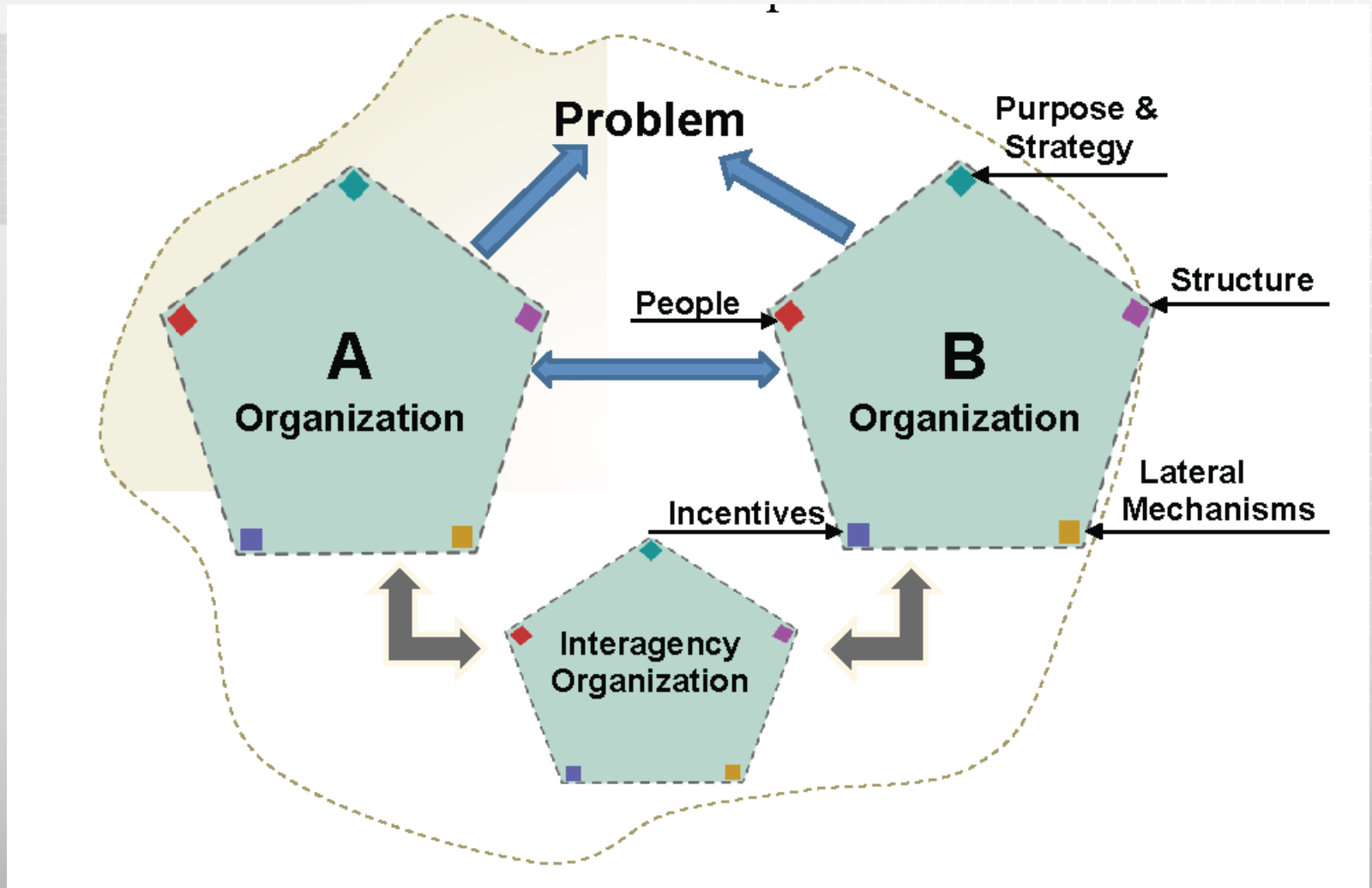
Inter-organizational collaborative Capacity (ICC) Model (Cont.)

Organizational Domains & Factors

Purpose & Strategy
- Need to Collaborate
- Strategic Action for Collaboration
- Resource Investments

Incentives & Reward Systems
- Incentives & Reward Systems

Structure
- Structural Flexibility
- Support for Individual Collaborative Efforts
- Metrics
- Collaboration Structures

Design Factors for Inter-Organizational Collaborative Capacity

Lateral Processes
- Collaborative Learning
- Collaborative Tools & Technologies
- Social Capital
- Information Sharing

People
- Individual Collaborative Capacities

Five Domains of ICC Model

- Purpose & Strategy
- Structure
- Incentives and Reward Systems
- Lateral Mechanisms
- People

Factors of ICC Model

- **People & Strategy**
  - **Felt need to collaborate**
    - ✓ Recognition of interdependence with others
    - ✓ Acknowledged need to collaborate in order to effectively accomplish its mission and goals
  - **Strategic for collaboration**
    - ✓ Goals for collaboration
    - ✓ Demonstrated senior leadership commitment
    - ✓ Willingness to consider other organizations' interests in planning
  - **Resource investment**
    - ✓ Personnel and budget

Factors of ICC Model (Cont.)

- **Structure**
  - Structural flexibility for collaboration
  - Support for individual collaborative efforts
    - How clearly individual collaborative work is structured in terms of clear goals, constraints, and authorities
    - The strength of the link between personnel in boundary spanning roles working directly with other organizations and the strategic leadership of their own organization
  - Metrics for assessing outcome
  - Collaboration structures
    - Liaison roles
    - Task forces
    - Roles for each participating organization
    - Internal process enabling collaboration

Factors of ICC Model (Cont.)

- ▶ Incentives and Reward Systems
- ▶ Lateral Mechanisms
  - ✹ Social capital for awareness and trust building
  - ✹ Collaborative tools & technology
    - ✓ Interoperable information systems and collaborative planning tools
  - ✹ Collaborative learning
    - ✓ Joint learning, workshop,
  - ✹ Information sharing
- ▶ People
  - ✹ Individual collaborative capacities

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- **Preliminary Achievements**
  - Develop the most important ingredients of IRC: trust, friendship, hospitality, social skill
  - The number of presentations has doubled
  - A small number of regional collaboration projects
  - Increasing number of Ph.D. students join the workshop to present and build their social ties
- **The future…**

Future of ALIRG

- 5th: Mahasarakham University (Thailand) (Jul 2013)
- Actions
  - Communicate via social media
    - ✓ Mailing list ('LI_RESEARCHGROUPS@MLIST.NTU.EDU.SG')
    - ✓ Facebook group
  - Experienced faculty should encourage young faculty and Ph. D. students
  - Sign student/faculty exchange
  - Start to read and cite papers from our Asian colleagues

Suggestions for ALIRG

From Rama Reddy Enukonda

- Encouraging and bringing the Research Scholars in LIS together at the ALIRG workshop platform.

- The peer interaction, communication, establishing trust, understanding areas of interest, and understanding information gathering and management.

- Identifying the common areas of interest, creating road map and timeline for collaboration.

- Sharing the responsibilities, constant interaction while following the road map.

Suggestions for ALIRG (Cont.)

- Collaborative research can be initiated at individual level or institutional level.
- Collaborative authorship within and between the nations is the future of research In LIS
- Funding agencies will support such proposals
- Asia LIS Research activities should be visible to the rest of the World which could open up collaborations at Global level
- Asia Research visibility rests on the submission of publications in Open Access journals/platforms

Thank you for Your Attention

Reference

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