



# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' INFORMATION LITERACY BEHAVIOUR IN CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY



**จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย**  
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# Information Literacy (IL)

- Definition
- Educational necessity
- Some IL standards
  - Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)
  - Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)





# Asian Survey of Information Behavior of College Students" (ASIBCS project)

- UNESCO aims to develop media and information literacy indicators
- Initiates IL activities as a part of life-long learning programmes
- Makes policies on IL in Asian countries





## For this study, ...

- The survey results allow Chulalongkorn university executives understand its undergraduates' IL behaviour in the current situation.
- The results benefit higher education leaders at a national and regional level.



# Research purpose

To examine IL behaviour of the CU undergraduate students in four issues:

- The use of information resources
- Evaluation of information
- Research styles
- Difficulties encountered during their research practices.



# Methodology

The questionnaire was designed on the basis of the University of Washington Information School's survey instrument originally developed within its Project Information Literacy (PIL).





# Results and discussions

1. Background information to respondents
2. Information behaviour of accomplishing course-related assignments
3. Information behaviour of conducting everyday life research



# 1. Background information to respondents

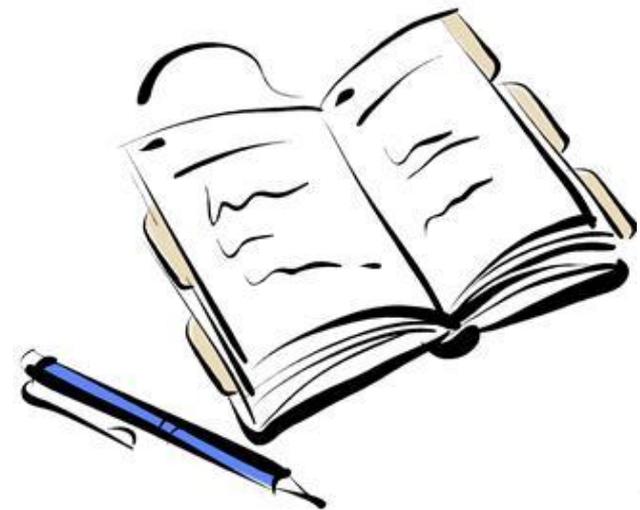
- Sent to 378 CU undergraduates in 18 faculties
- 369 questionnaires returned (95%)
- Most respondents were ...
  - Sophomores
  - 21/22 years old
  - Studying engineering, commerce & accountancy, and science





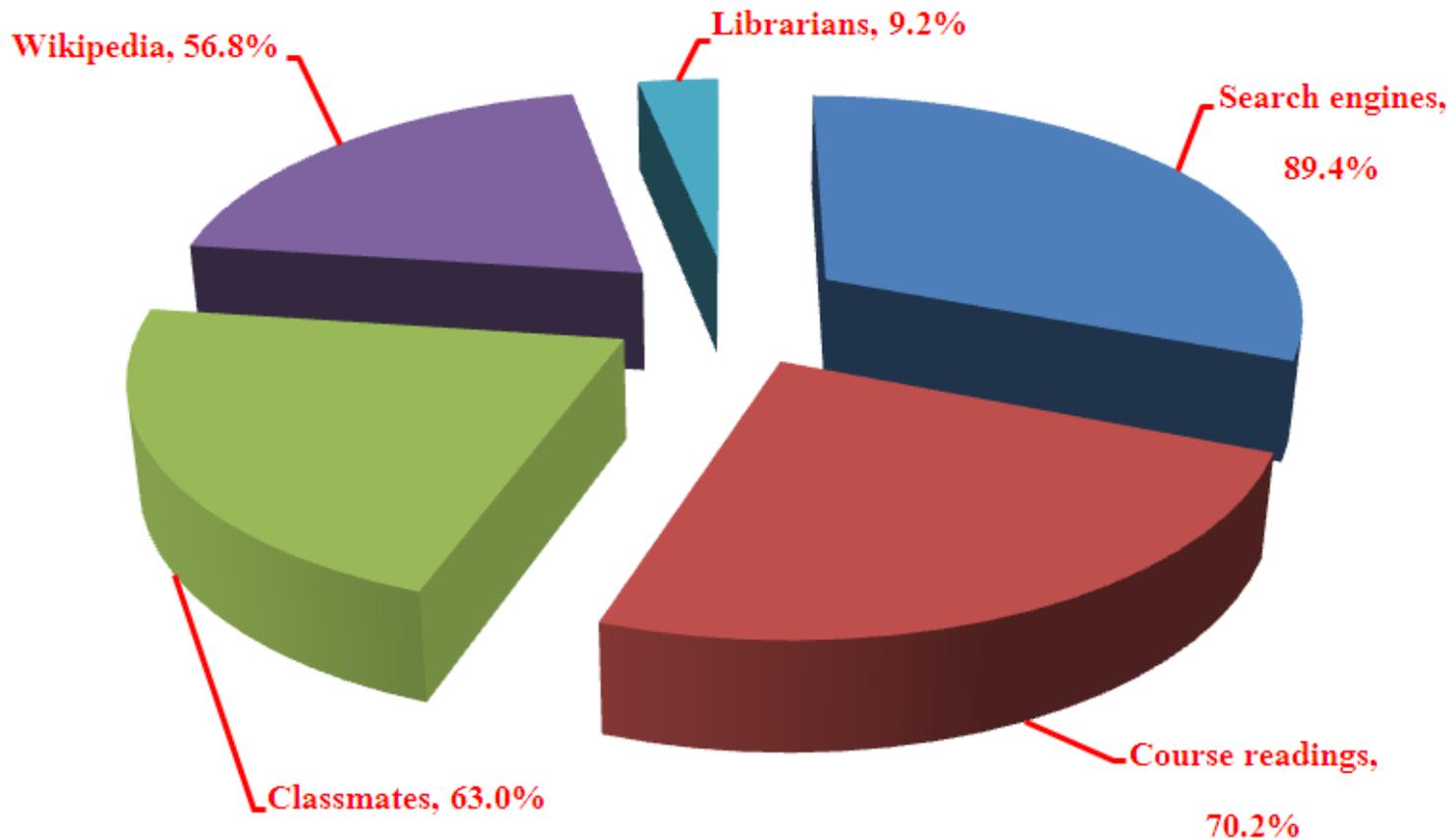
## 2. Information behaviour of accomplishing course-related assignments

- Type of course-related assignments: giving oral presentation with the submission of term-papers"
- Most social sciences/humanities undergraduates frequently had to write term-papers.
- Most business undergraduates had to analyse case studies & write case reports.





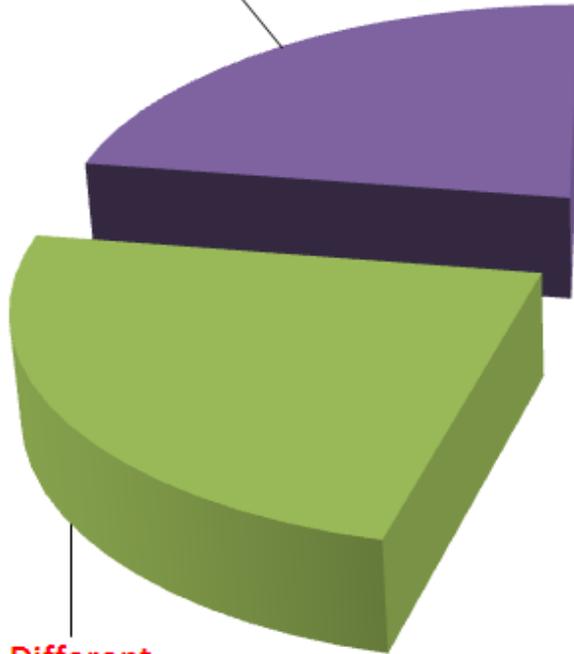
# Information sources used for assignments





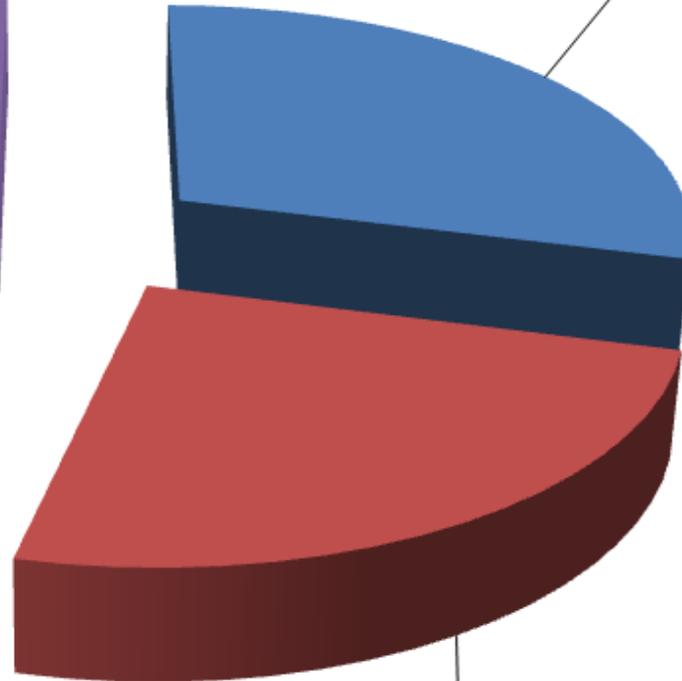
# Evaluation of library materials

Provide credits to sources, 37.0%



Different viewpoints, 39.3%

Has a bibliography or references, 48.1%



Timeliness of content, 40.7%

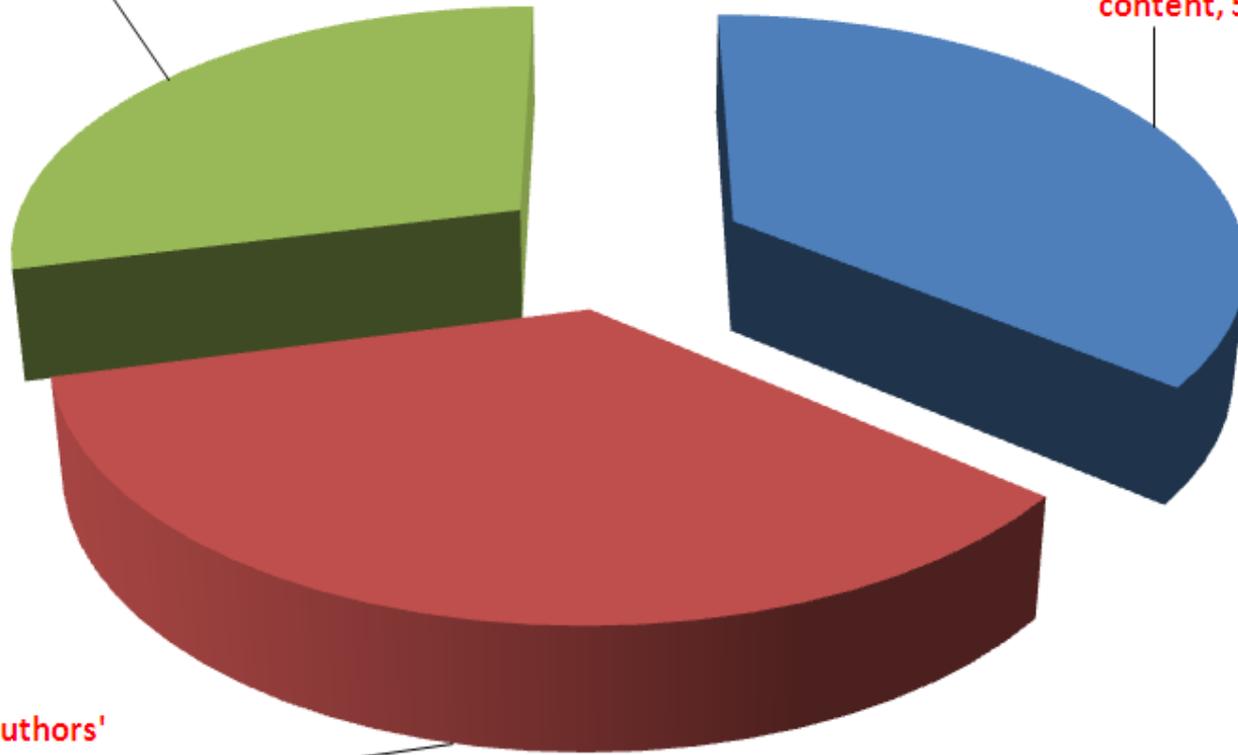


# Evaluation of web content

Different viewpoints  
, 45.1%

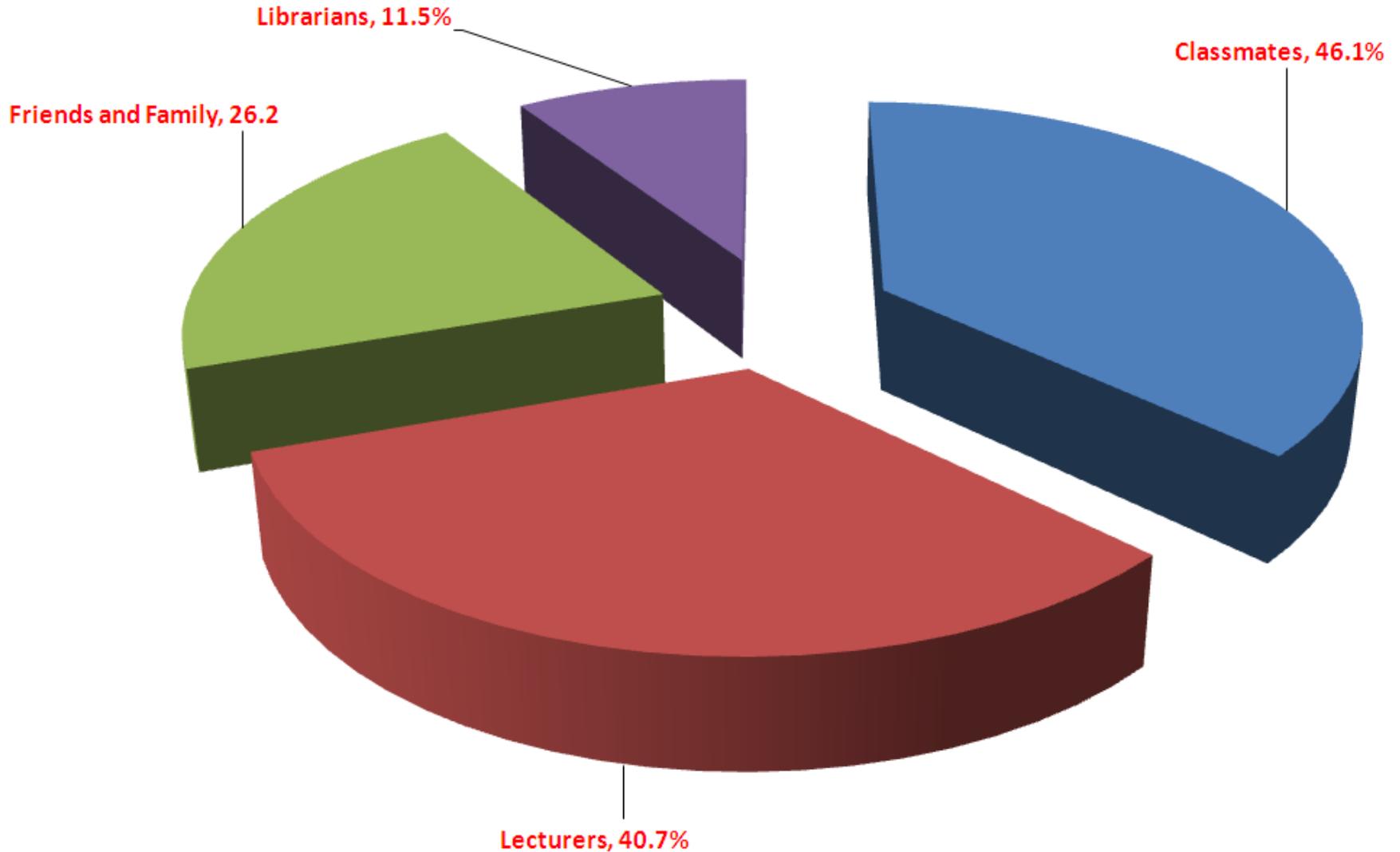
Timeliness of digital  
content, 56.0%

Web authors'  
credentials, 54.8%





# Doing assignments in consultation with ...

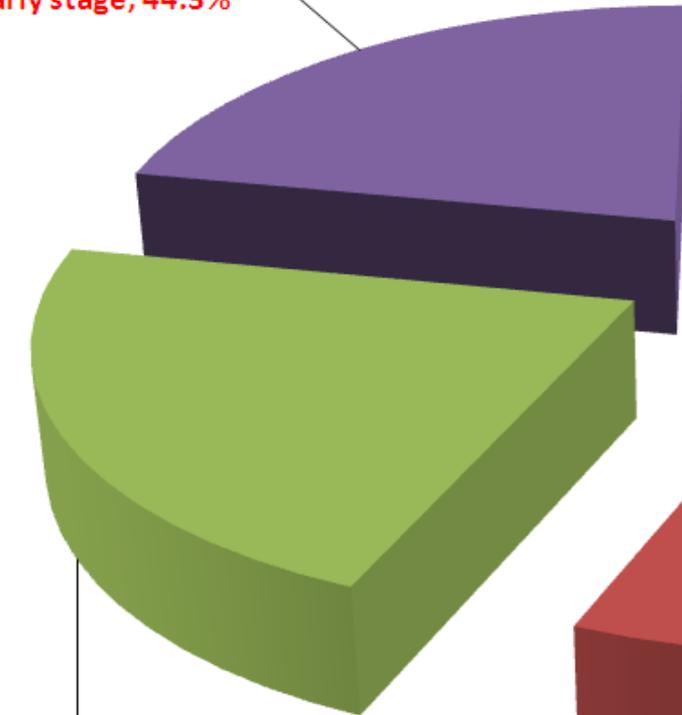




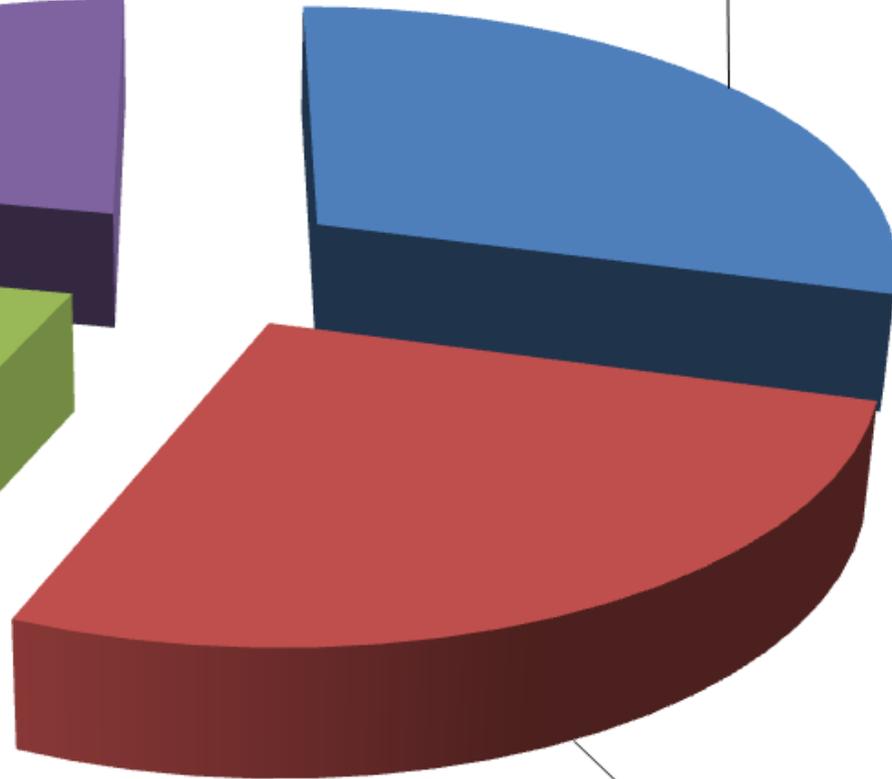
# Research styles and practices

Define topics/problems  
of term-papers at the  
early stage, 44.3%

Create search terms,  
59.6%



Stop searching  
information when  
getting enough  
references, 44.5%

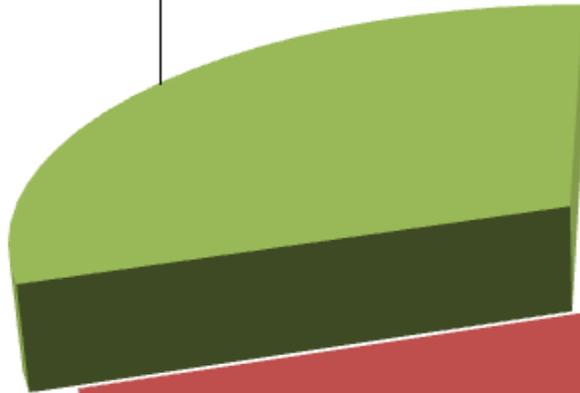


Develop an outline,  
54.6%

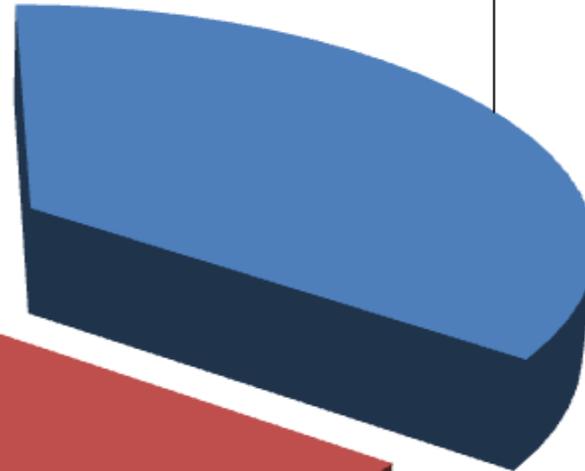


# Goals of doing assignments

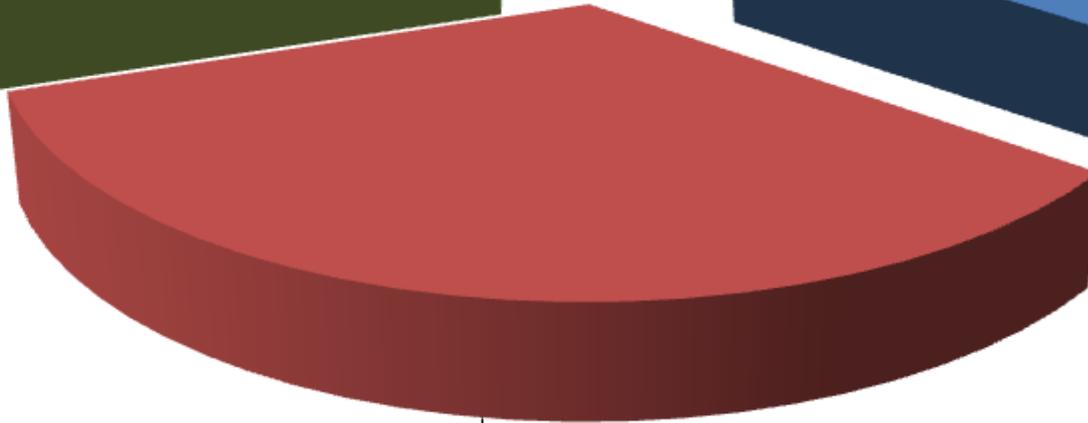
Getting a good grade  
, 72.7%



Finishing the  
assignment , 84.7%

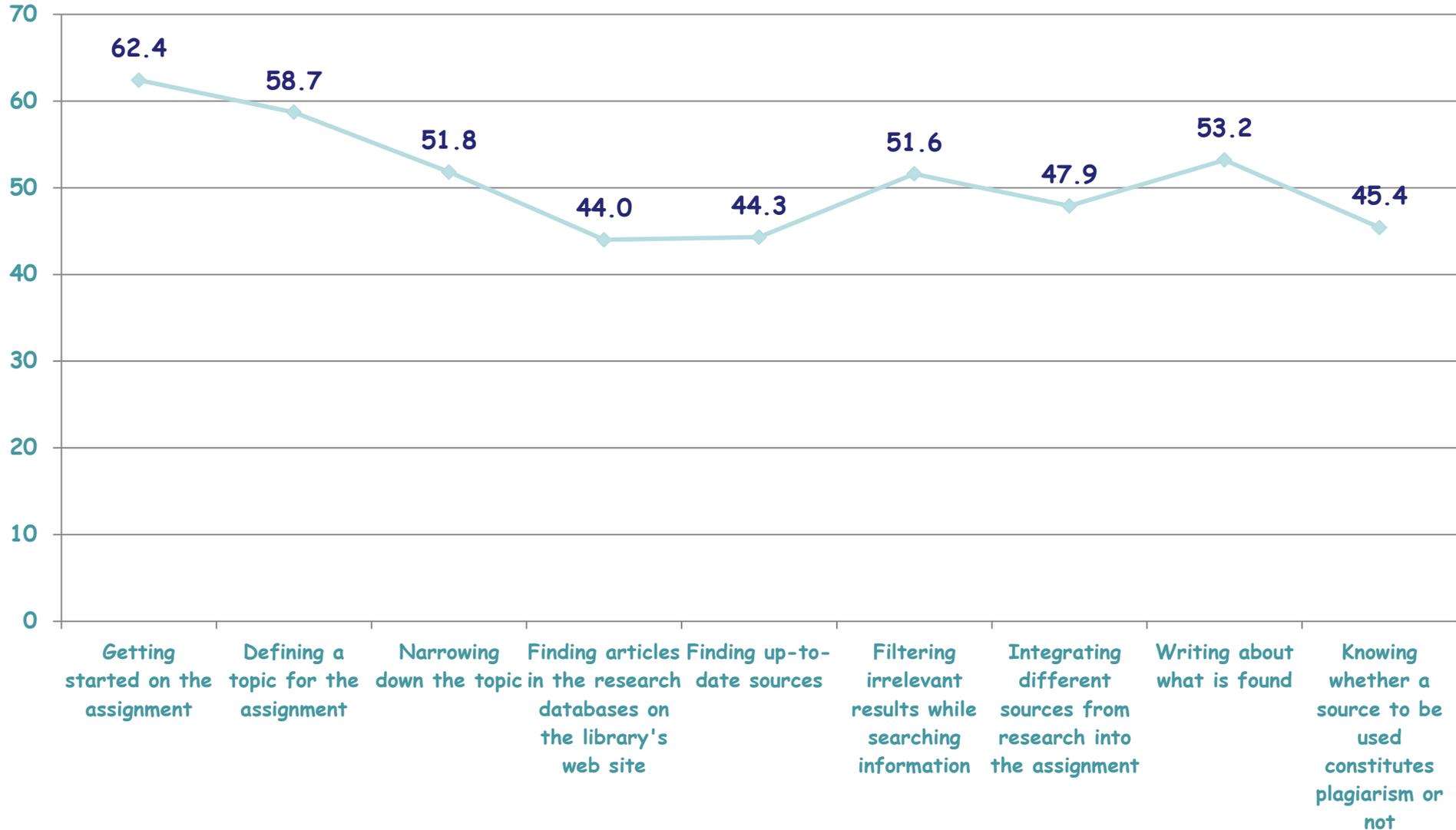


Passing the course,  
82.7%





# Problems face the undergrads doing assignments



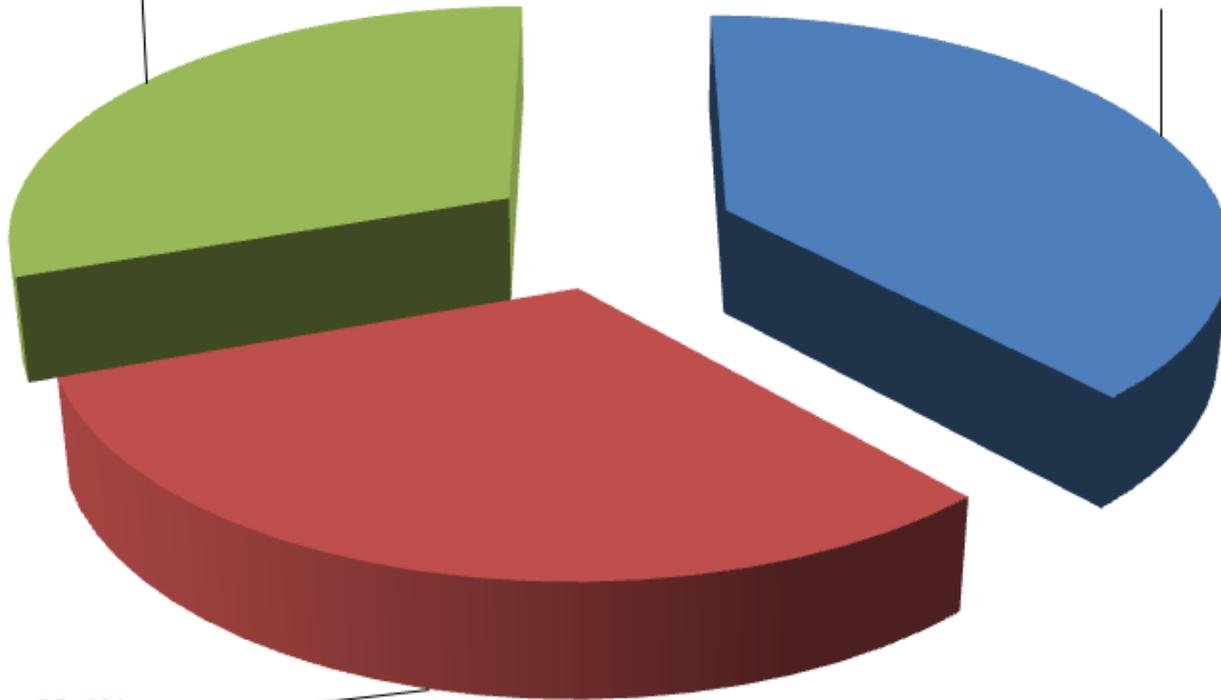


# Resources used for finding everyday life information

Classmates, 68.2%

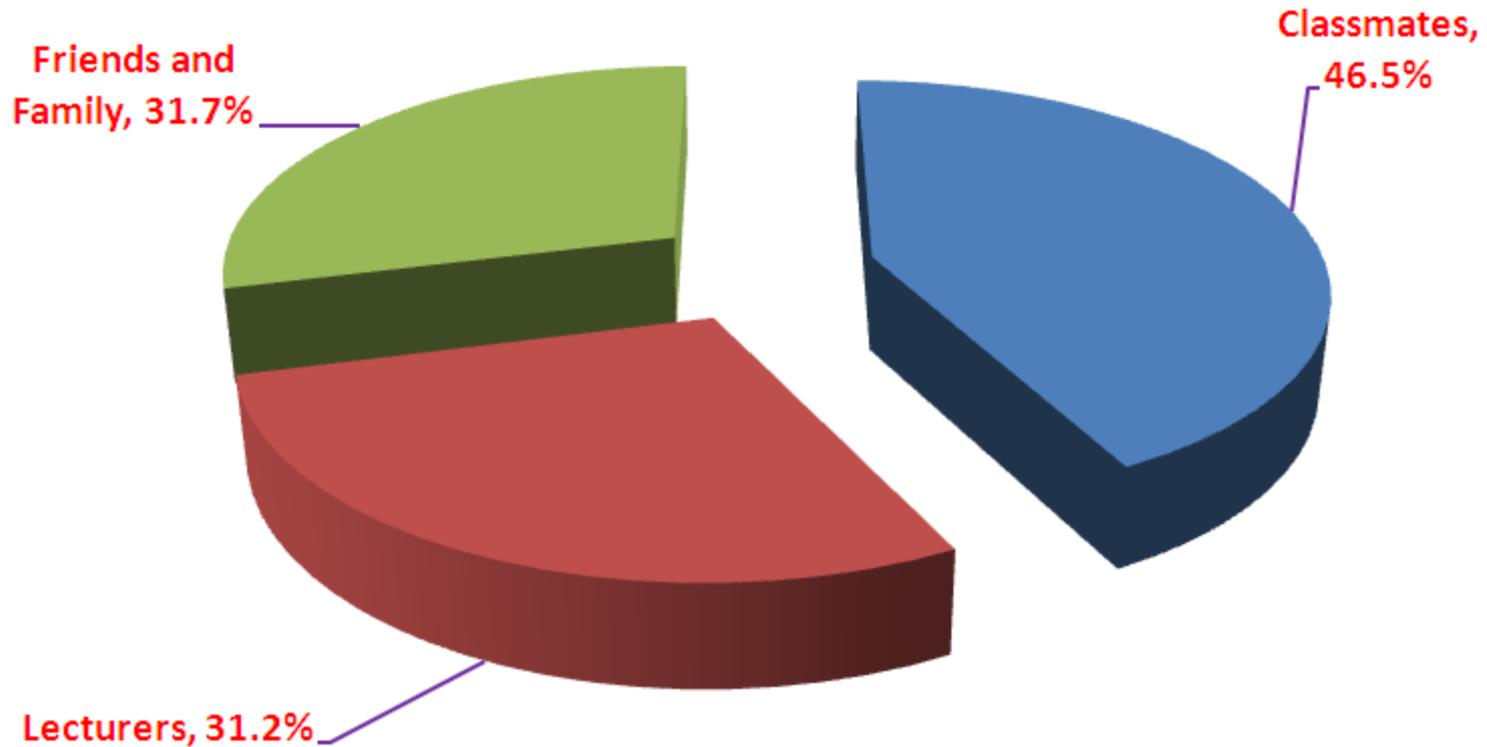
Search engines, 85.7%

Wikipedia, 69.4%



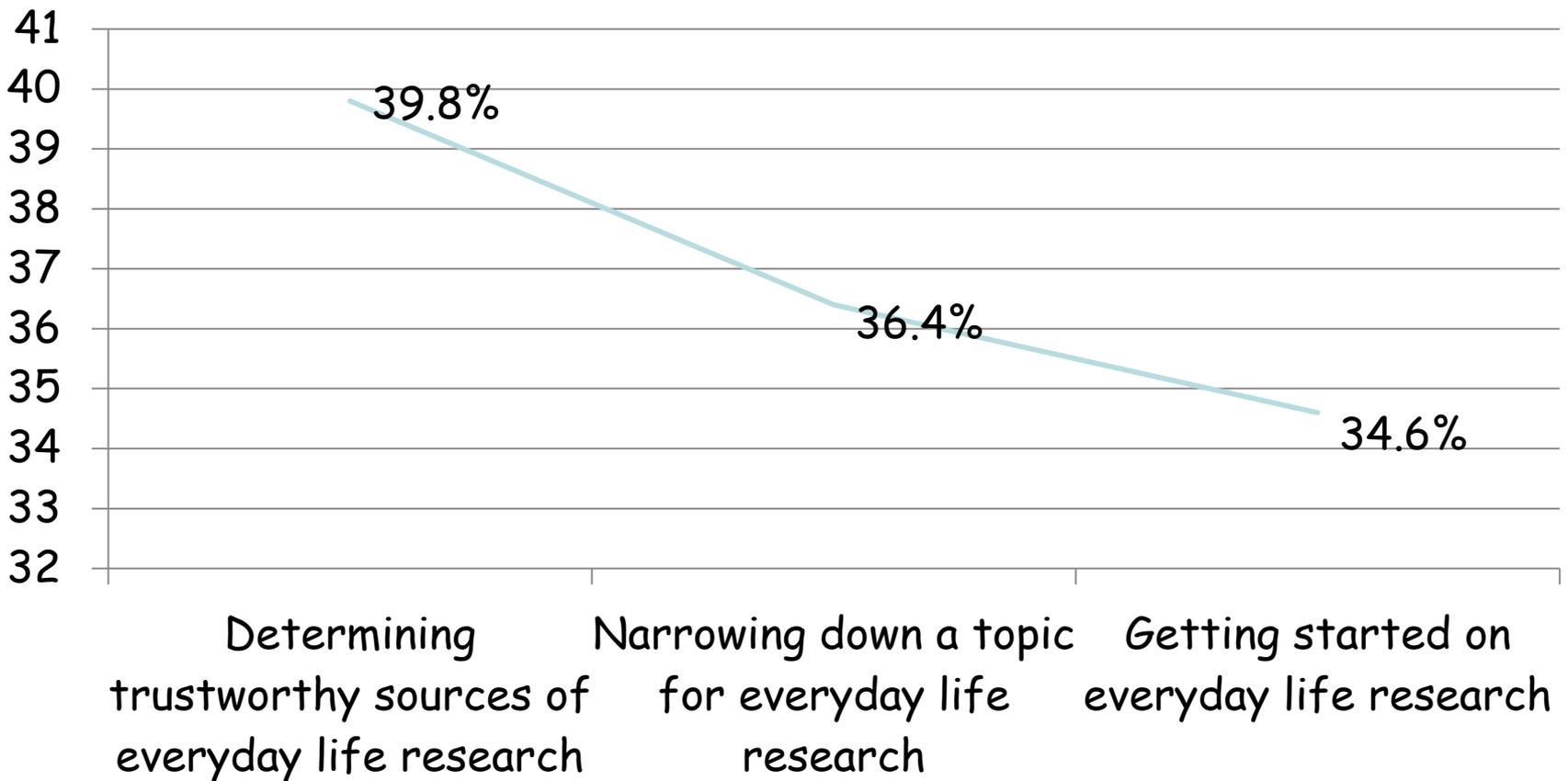


# Doing everyday life research in consultation with ...





# Problems face the undergrads doing everyday life research





## Recommendations: the CU libraries should ...

1. Train their users to have IL skills in searching and evaluating information on the Internet
2. Promote an increase in the use of the databases
3. Deliver proactive public relations to inform users about reference collections and information services



## Recommendation: CU should ...

encourage faculty members to integrate training sessions of IL skills into classroom activities on any undergrad courses.



# Lecturers should suggest their students ...

- plan how to proceed the assignment
- learn techniques for getting started on the assignment
- define a research topic
- know methods of presenting term-papers
- limit the scope of research topics
- select right information for accomplishing course-related assignments
- Etc.



## Future work

- Other methods for assessing students' IL skills should be applied to further studies
- More research should be done to investigate the outcome of activities implemented for building up students' IL skills



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