University Data Policies and Data Services

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Ask Yourself These Questions

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- What happens to your data when you leave your institution?
- Who can you go to locally to get help in this area?

These Are Important Questions

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But they don’t always have clear answers

How are universities supporting research data management?

Support Systems Examined

- Library data services
  - Data services
  - Data librarian
  - Institutional repository accepting data
  - Data repository
- University data policy
  - Type of policy
  - Policy contents

Which types of universities support data better?

University Metrics

- Carnegie Classification
- ARL membership
- Research expenditure
- Faculty size
- Student population
- Public/private

Study methods

Methods

- 206 US-based universities
  - Carnegie “Very High” or “High” classification
- Student assistants gathered basic information on universities
  - Cleaned and grouped for easier analysis
- Reviewed library website for services
- Searched for publicly available data policy
  - Keyword search on university websites
- Coded policies by content and type

Categories of Data

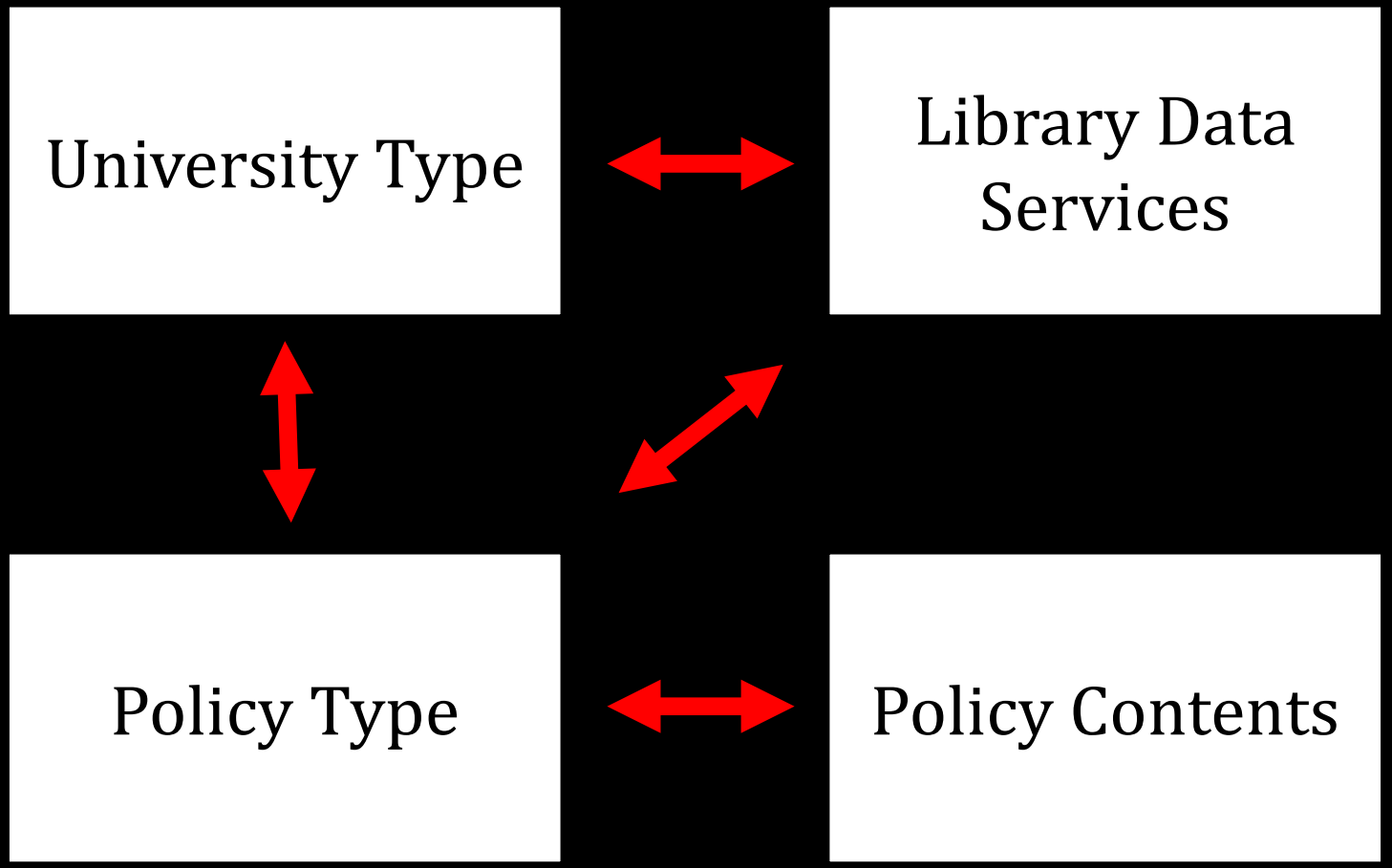
University Type

Library Data Services

Policy Type

Policy Contents

Correlations



Results

University Type

Library Data Services

Policy Type

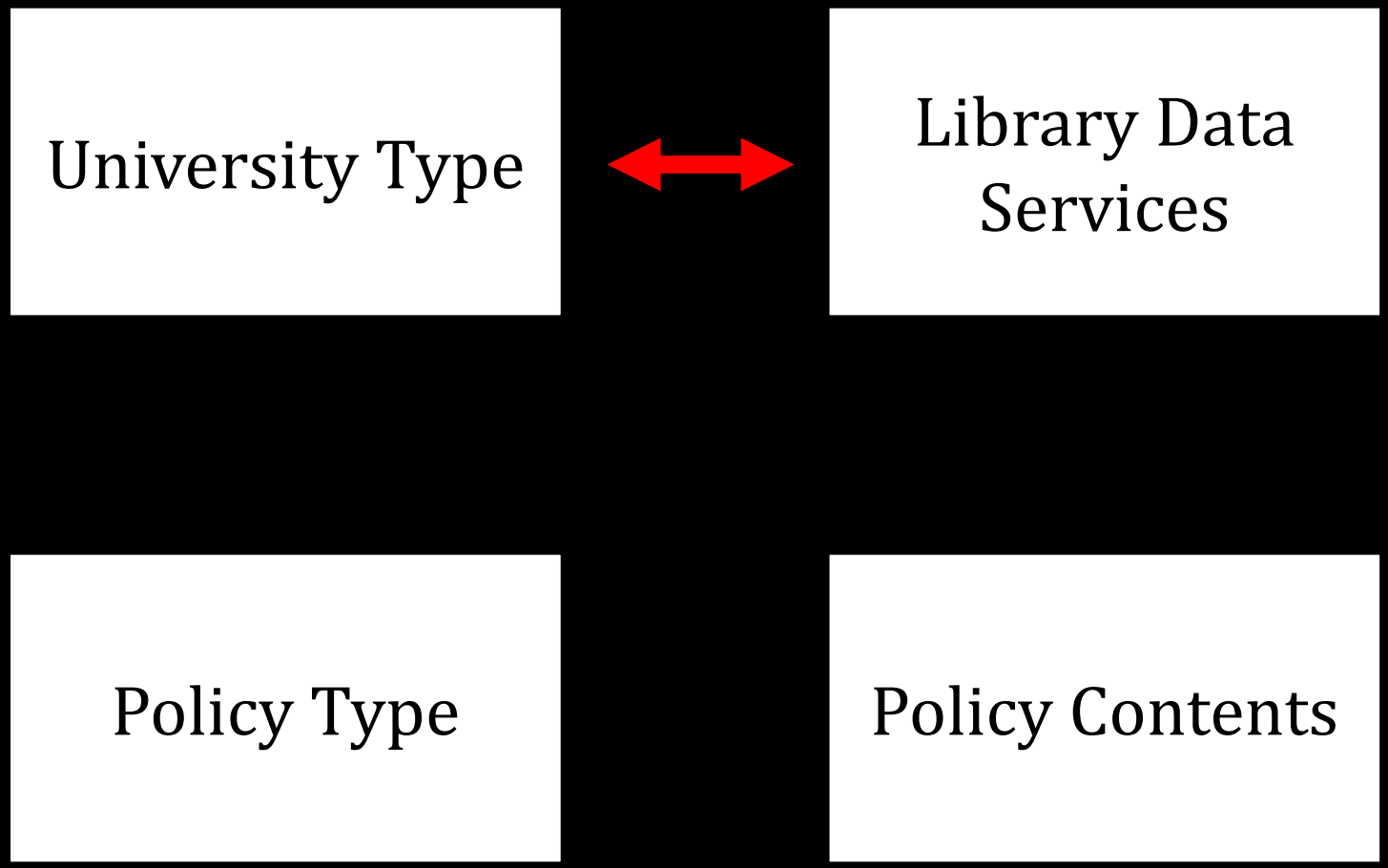
Policy Contents

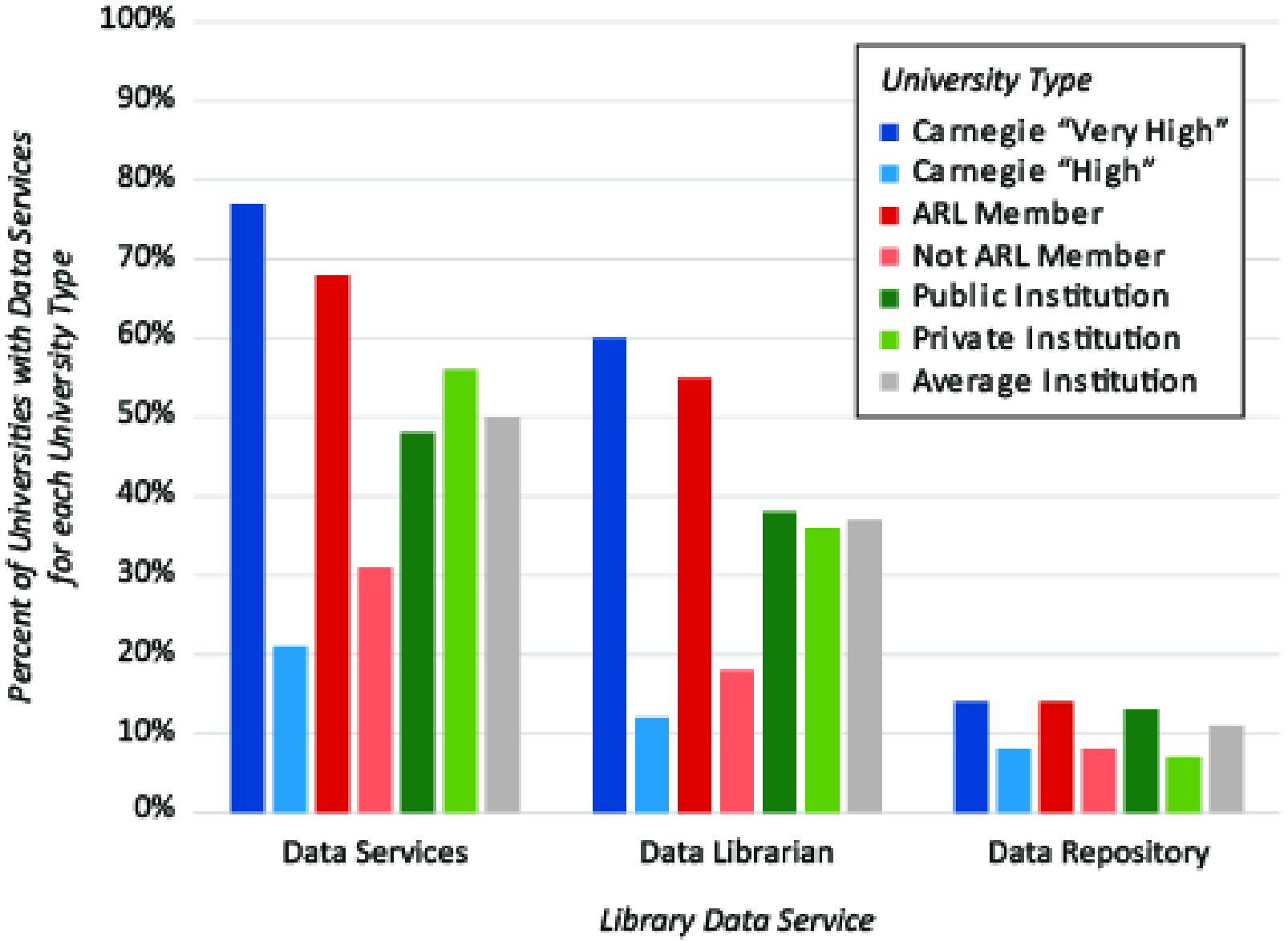
Library Data Services

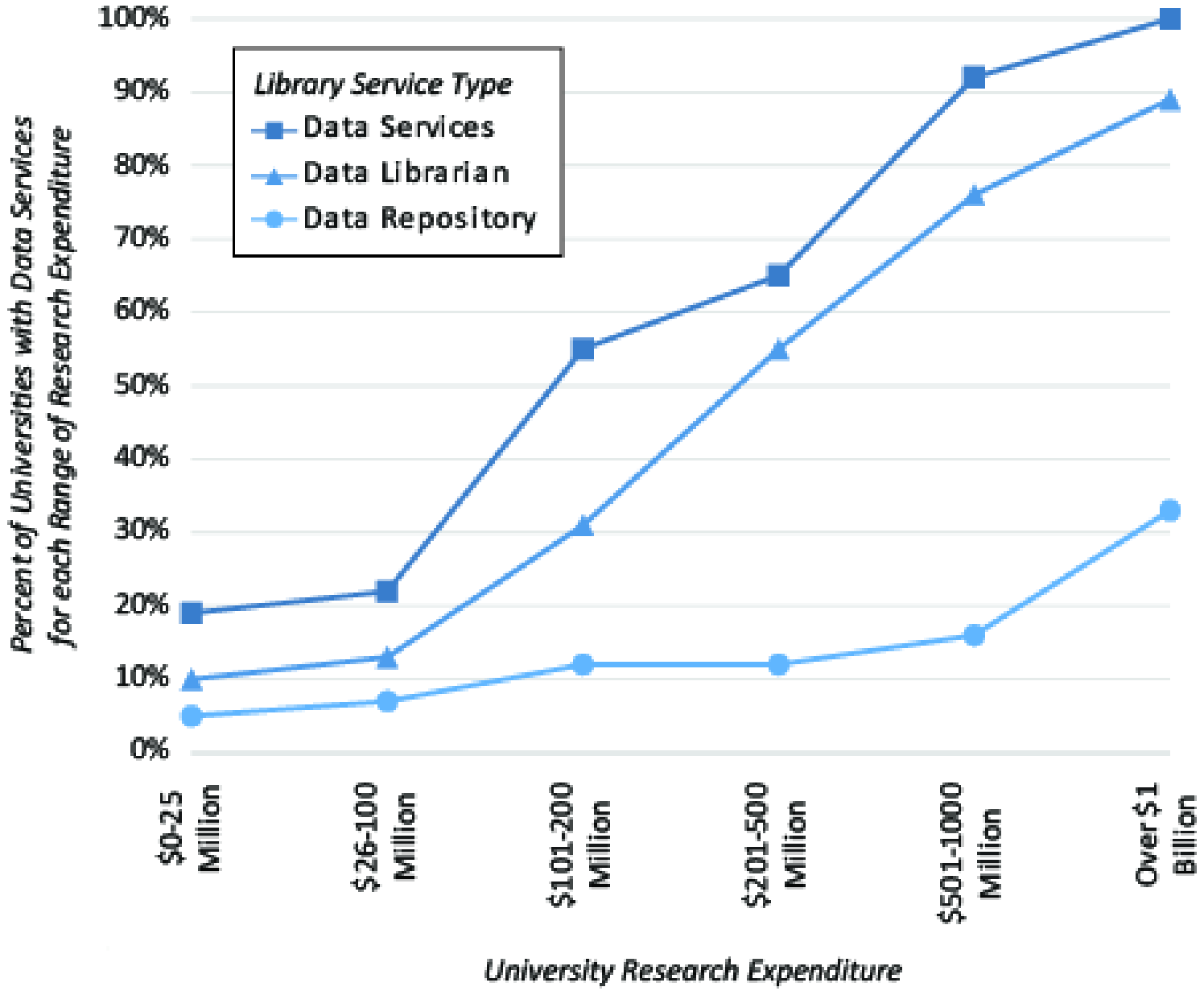
Library Service	Total	%
Data Services	104	50%
Data Librarian	77	37%
Data Repository	23	11%
Institutional Repository	119	58%
Repository (Either Type)	133	65%

Library Data Services

- Numbers increased since Tenopir et al. study in 2012
  - >20% data services
  - <10% data librarians
- Repositories
  - Small number of data repositories
  - Large number of IRs accepting data
    - Even more than have data services


University Type
Library Data Services
Policy Type
Policy Contents


100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Percent of Universities with Data Services for each University Type
University Type
Carnegie "Very High"
Carnegie "High"
ARL Member
Not ARL Member
Public Institution
Private Institution
Average Institution
Data Services
Data Librarian
Data Repository
Library Data Service


Percent of Universities with Data Services for each Range of Research Expenditure
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Library Service Type
Data Services
Data Librarian
Data Repository
$0-25 Million
$26-100 Million
$101-200 Million
$201-500 Million
$501-1000 Million
Over $1 Billion
University Research Expenditure

Basic data management support

- Universities with more research offer more data services
  - Higher Carnegie Classification
  - ARL membership
  - Higher research expenditure
  - Larger faculty size
- Services saturated at top research levels
  - Will it soon be expected for all academic research libraries to provide data services?

University Type

Library Data Services

Policy Type

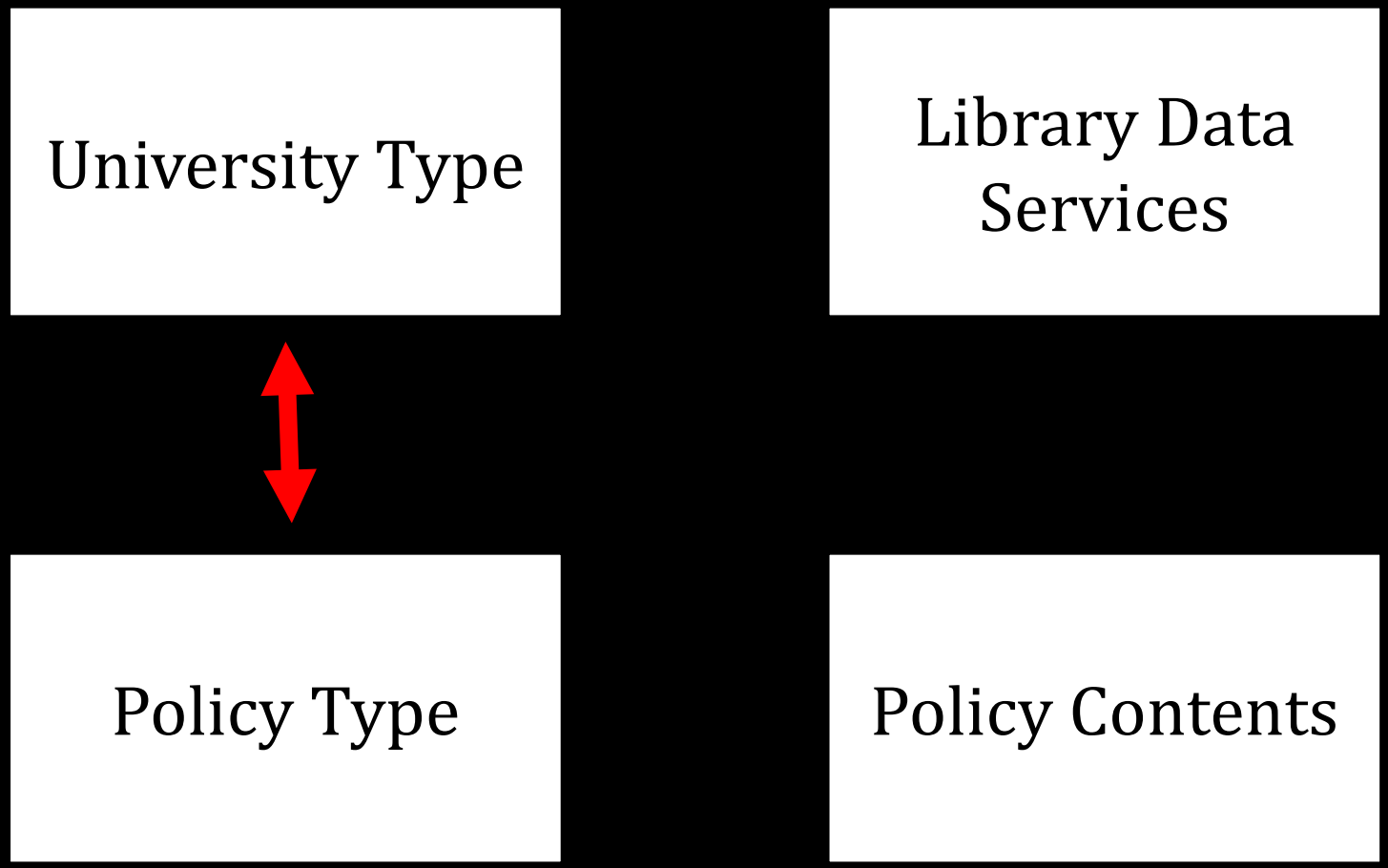
Policy Contents

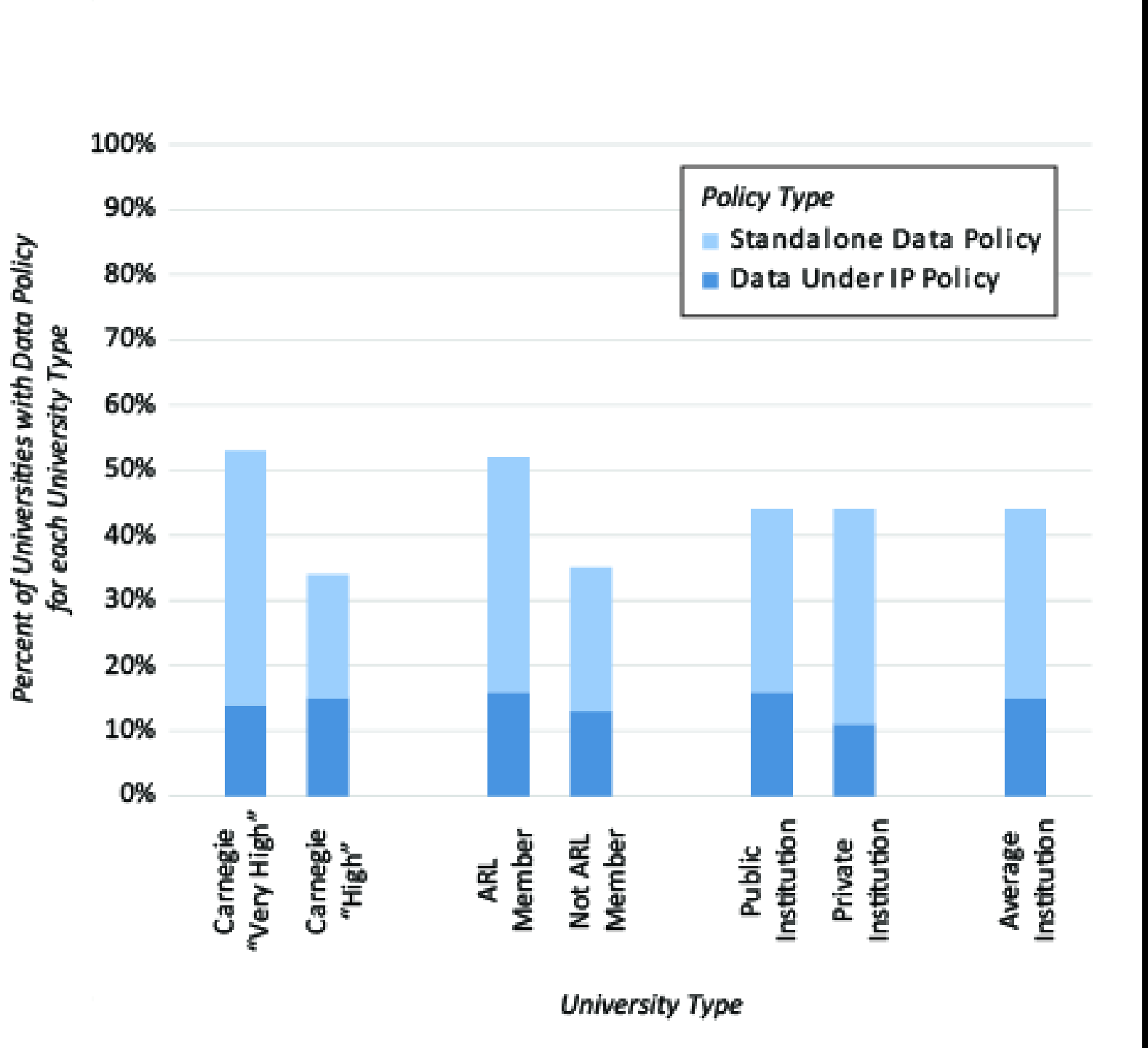
University Data Policies

Policy Type	Total	%
Has Data Policy	90	44%
Data Under IP Policy	30	15%
Standalone Data Policy	60	29%

University Data Policies

- Difference since DataRes project (2013)
  - 18% existence of [standalone] policy
  - Difference in study method but at least some is likely growth


University Type
Library Data Services
Policy Type
Policy Contents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70%
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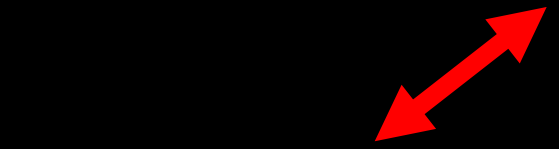
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Percent of Universities with Data Policy for each University Type
Policy Type
Standalone Data Policy
Data Under IP Policy
Carnegie "Very High"
Carnegie "High"
ARL Member
Not ARL Member
Public Institution
Private Institution
Average Institution
University Type

Data Policy

- Universities with more research more like to have a standalone data policy
  - Higher Carnegie Classification
  - ARL membership
  - Higher research expenditure
- No significant difference for data falling under an IP policy

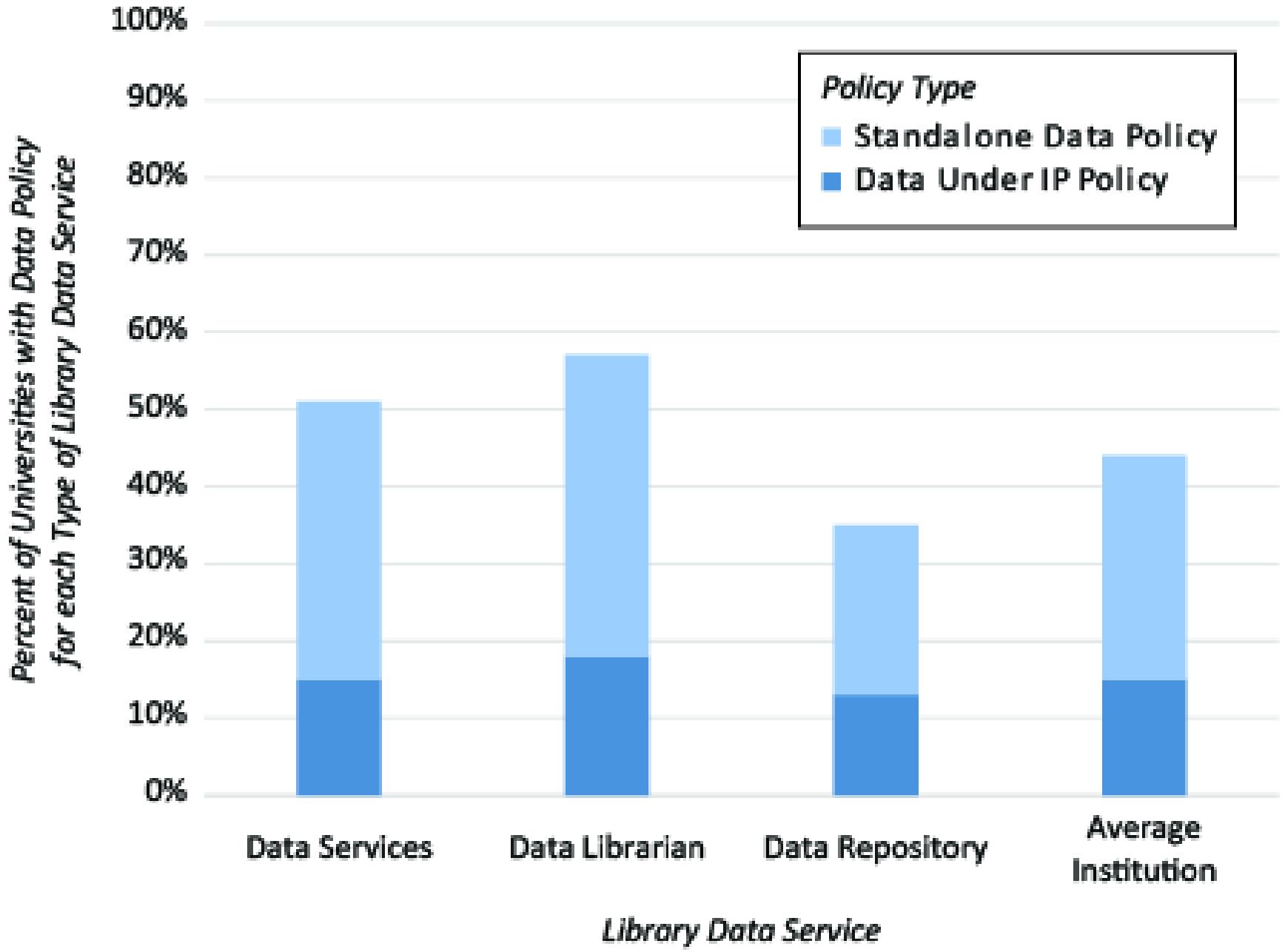
University Type

Library Data Services



Policy Type

Policy Contents


100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Percent of Universities with Data Policy for each Type of Library Data Service
Policy Type
Standalone Data Policy
Data Under IP Policy
Data Services
Data Librarian
Data Repository
Average Institution
Library Data Service

Data Services and Policy

- Universities with data services or a data librarian are more likely to have standalone data policy
  - Data repository numbers too small to find significant difference
- No significant difference for data falling under an IP policy

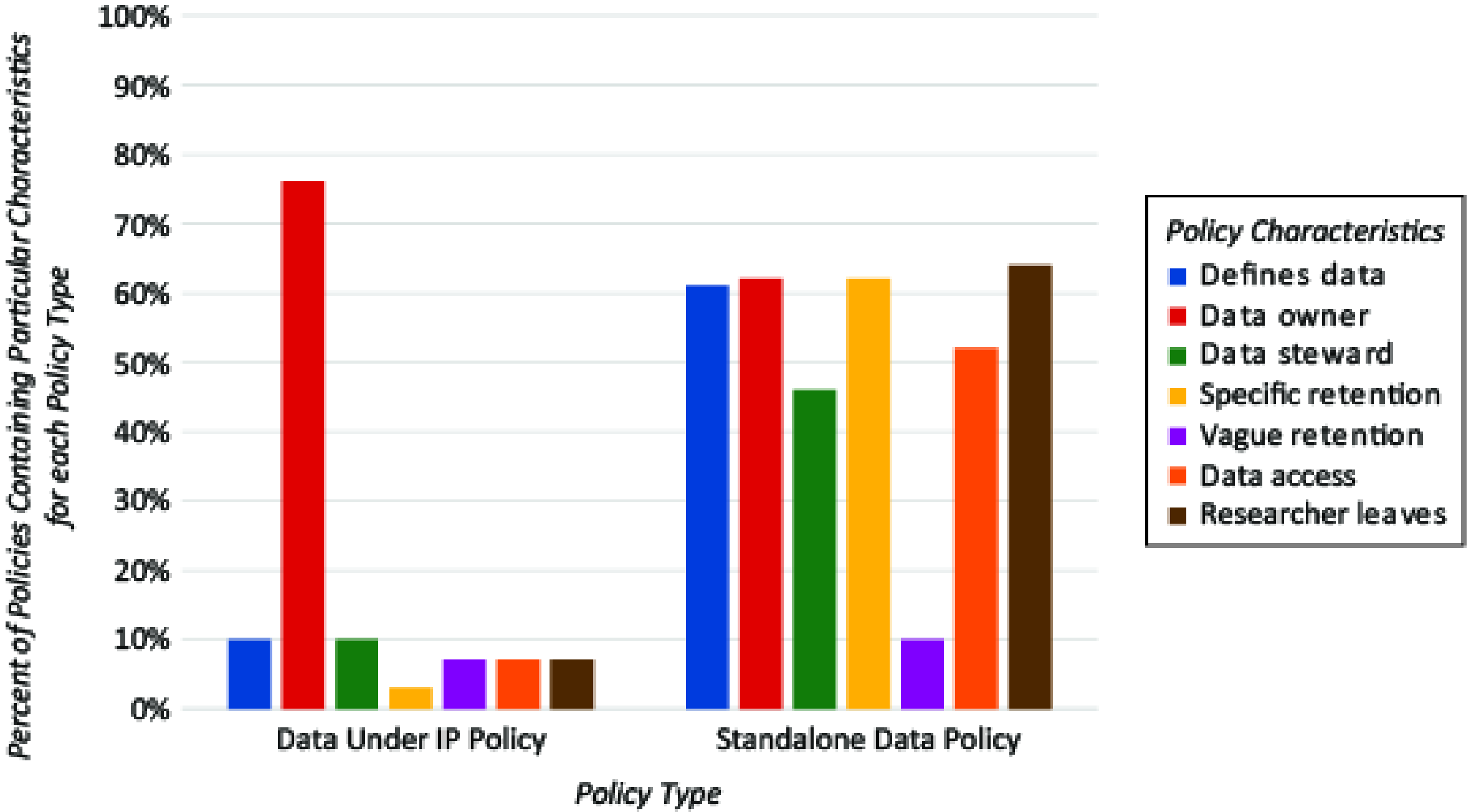
- Could there be a link between the growth in data services and the growth in standalone data policy?

University Type

Library Data Services

Policy Type

Policy Contents


Percent of Policies Containing Particular Characteristics for each Policy Type
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
Data Under IP Policy
Standalone Data Policy
Policy Type
Policy Characteristics
Defines data
Data owner
Data steward
Specific retention
Vague retention
Data access
Researcher leaves

Policy Contents

- Universities focus on legal repercussions of research data
  - IP policies covering data are concerned with data ownership
  - Standalone policies cover access, retention, separation, etc.
- Difference in institutional data policy contents and funder data policy contents
  - NIH focuses on data sharing and NSF on disseminating results (DataRes)
- More analysis to do here

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Recent growth in both data services and data policy
  - This is coming from the top, so will there be an expectation for libraries at all research universities to have services in this area?
  - Is there a correlation?
- More likely to have a standalone data policy if
  - University conducts more research
  - Library has data services or a data librarian

How are Universities Supporting Research Data Management?

- Universities' significant concern is ownership and legal issues
  - Provide important clarity where policies exist
- Libraries doing increasingly more data support
  - Librarians have a role in policy development

Thanks!

References

- Tenopir, C., Birch, Ben, & Allard, S. (2012). *Academic Libraries and Research Data Services*. ACRL.
- Keralis, S. D., Stark, S., Halbert, M., & Moen, W. E. (2013). Research Data Management in Policy and Practice: The DataRes Project. *Research Data Management*, 16.