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# *Archivists' Views of Copyright*

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# Research Problem

**How do American archivists view  
copyright?**

**Why should we care?**

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# Data Sources

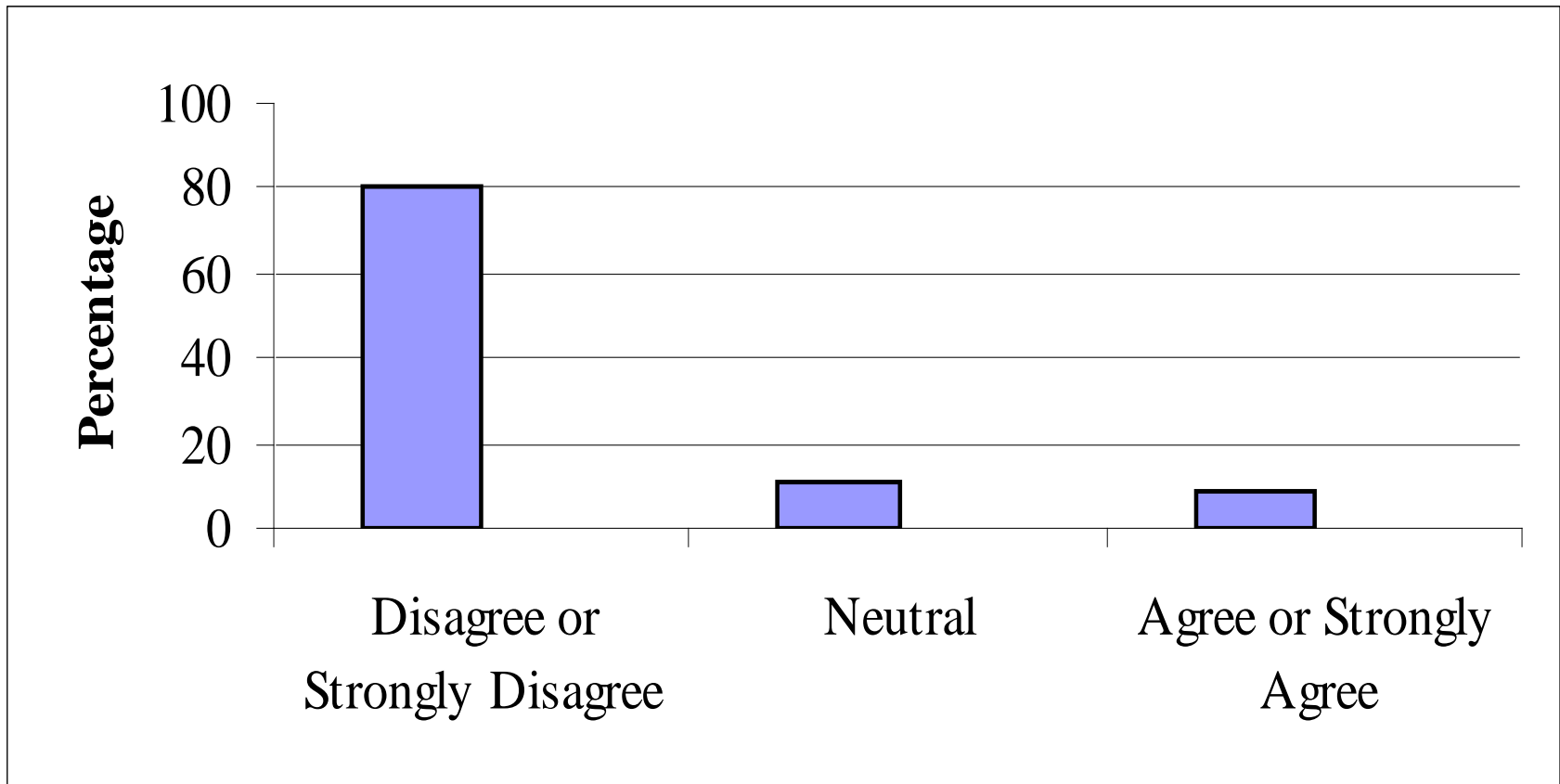
## **Study population:**

- Purposive sample of 96 institutional members of Society of American Archivists (SAA)

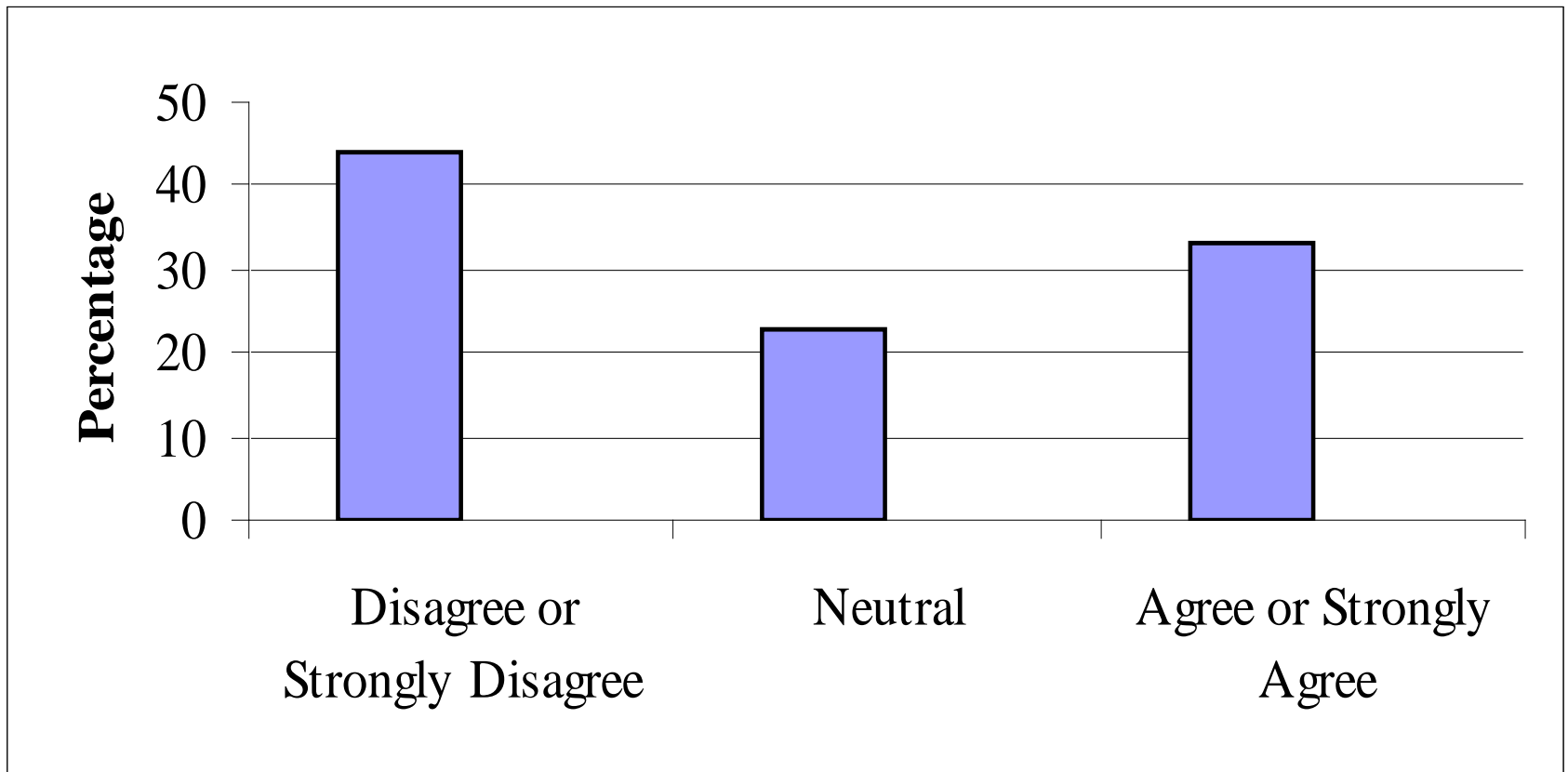
## **Data Collection:**

- 66 questionnaires (69% response rate)
- 18 telephone interviews with archivists

# Copyright is not a problem for archival repositories making archival material available on the Internet (Q21a) (N=66)

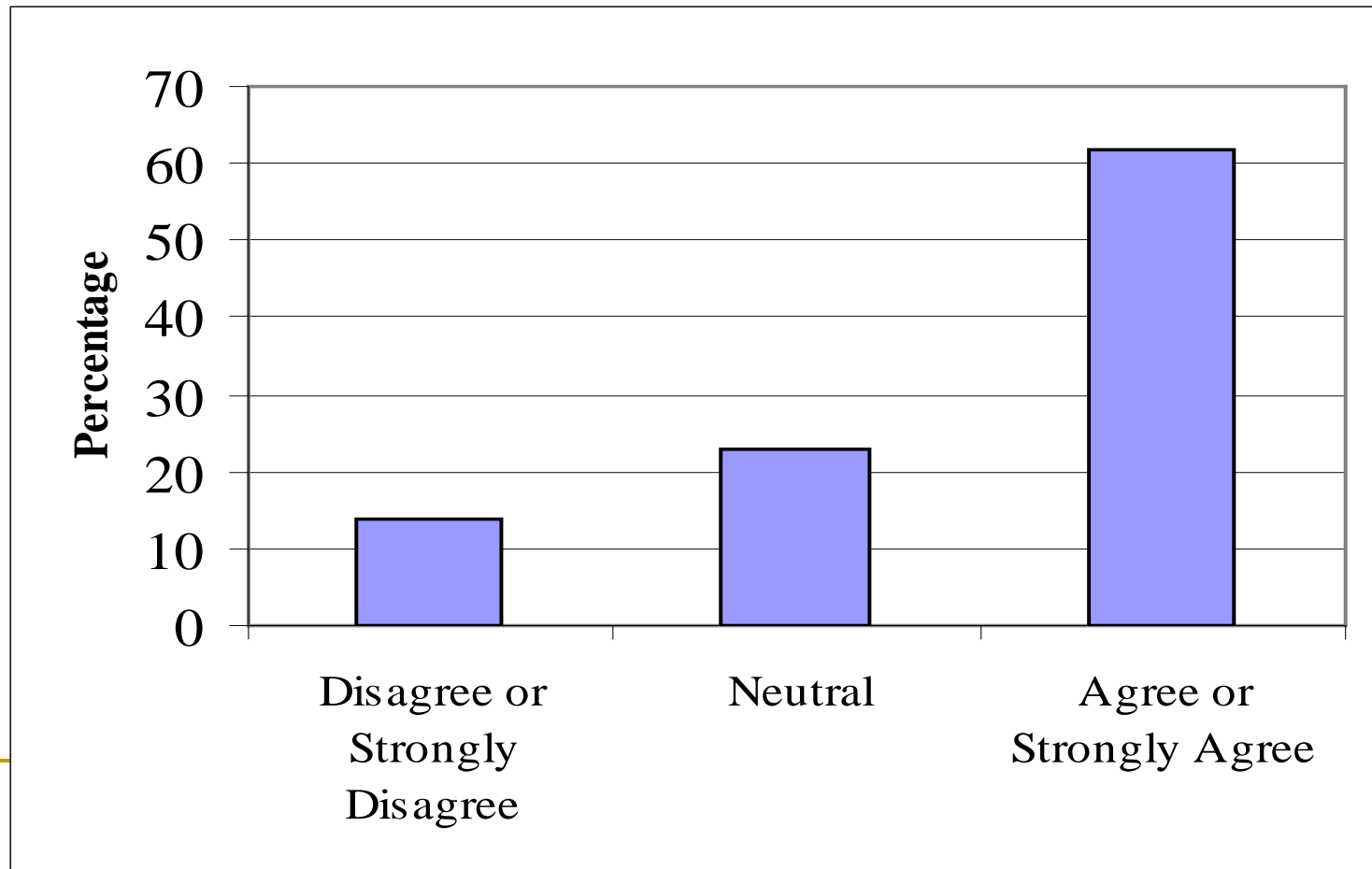


# The risk of legal consequences for copyright infringement involving archival material is low (Q21b) (N=66)

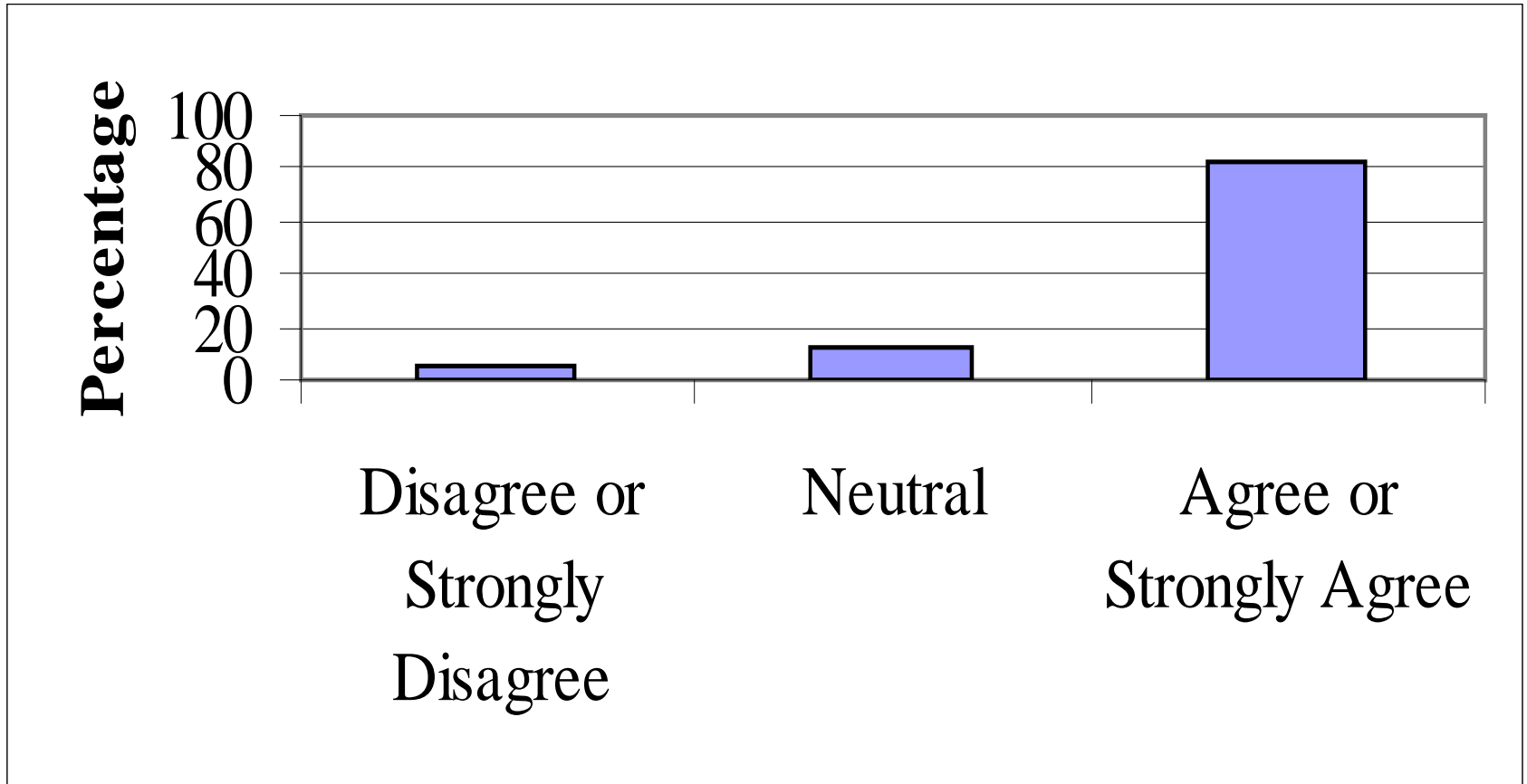


**I am reasonably confident that I can provide colleagues and researchers with accurate information and advice about copyright issues.**

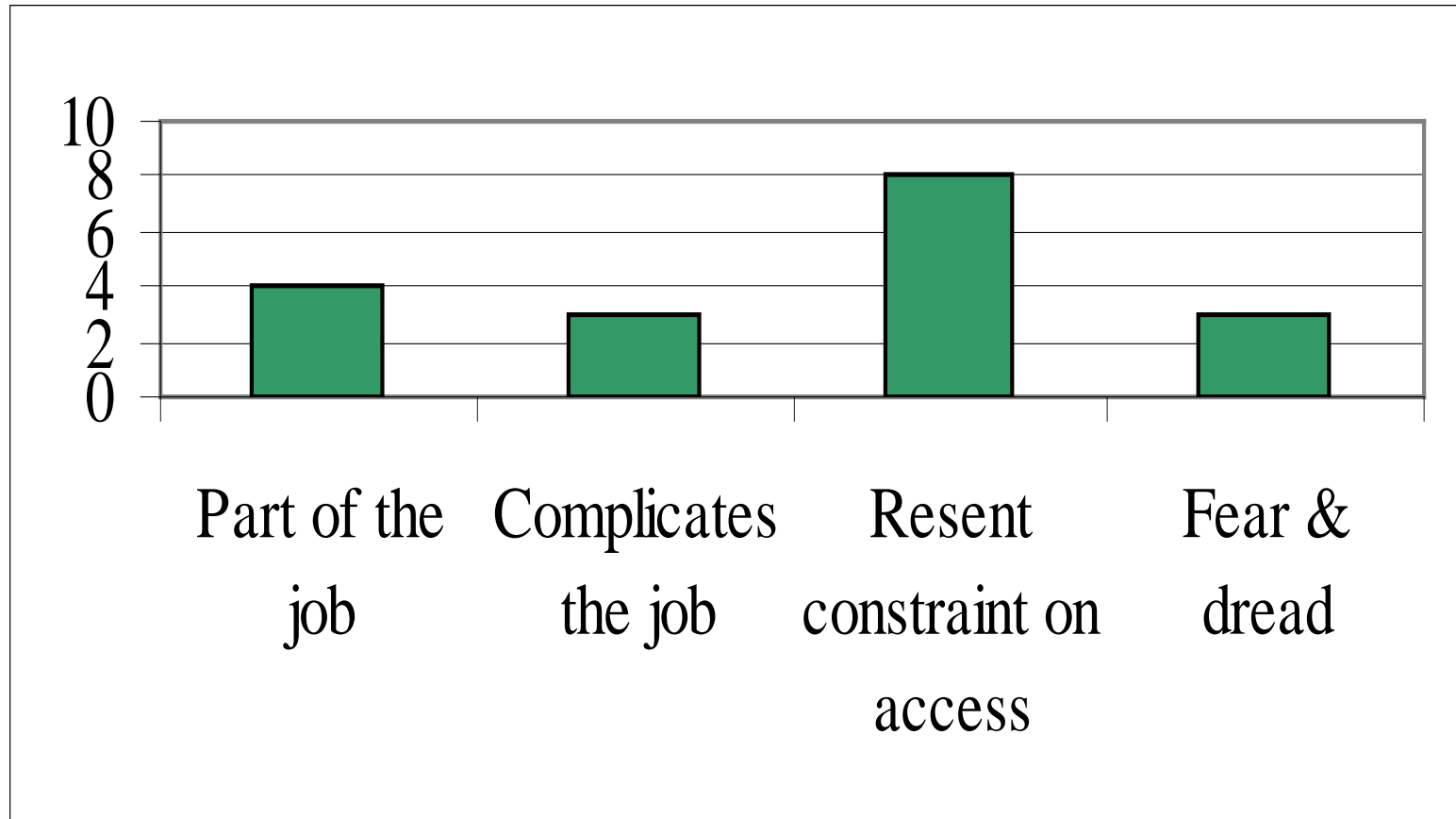
**(Q21c) (N=66)**



# It is our professional duty to educate our patrons about copyright. (Q21h) (N=66)



# What do you think about copyright as it affects your job? (N= 18)



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# Part of the Job

- “fascinating” (A15)
- “enjoy the intellectual challenge” (A7)
- “I’ve become probably more expert than I would like to be” (A2)
- “It feels a little bit unfair that archivists have to go out and gain this knowledge on their own” (A7)

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# Complicates the Job

- “I find it very difficult” (A3)
- “It makes our jobs harder” (A6)

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# Resentment

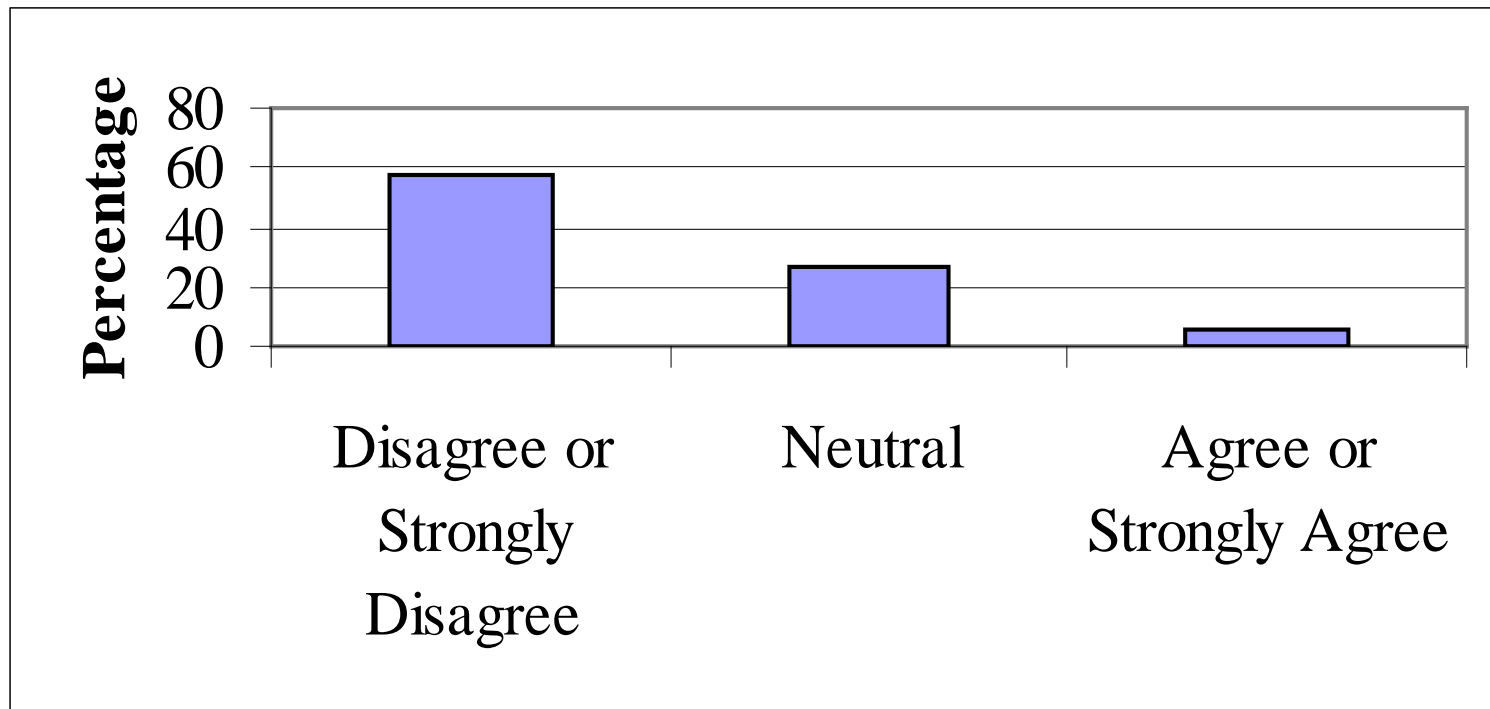
- “A part of me... resents the copyright law” (A4)
- “It really holds back your ability to [make holdings available] without spending enormous time and effort which in the end equals money.” (A7)
- “It is a royal pain” (A11)

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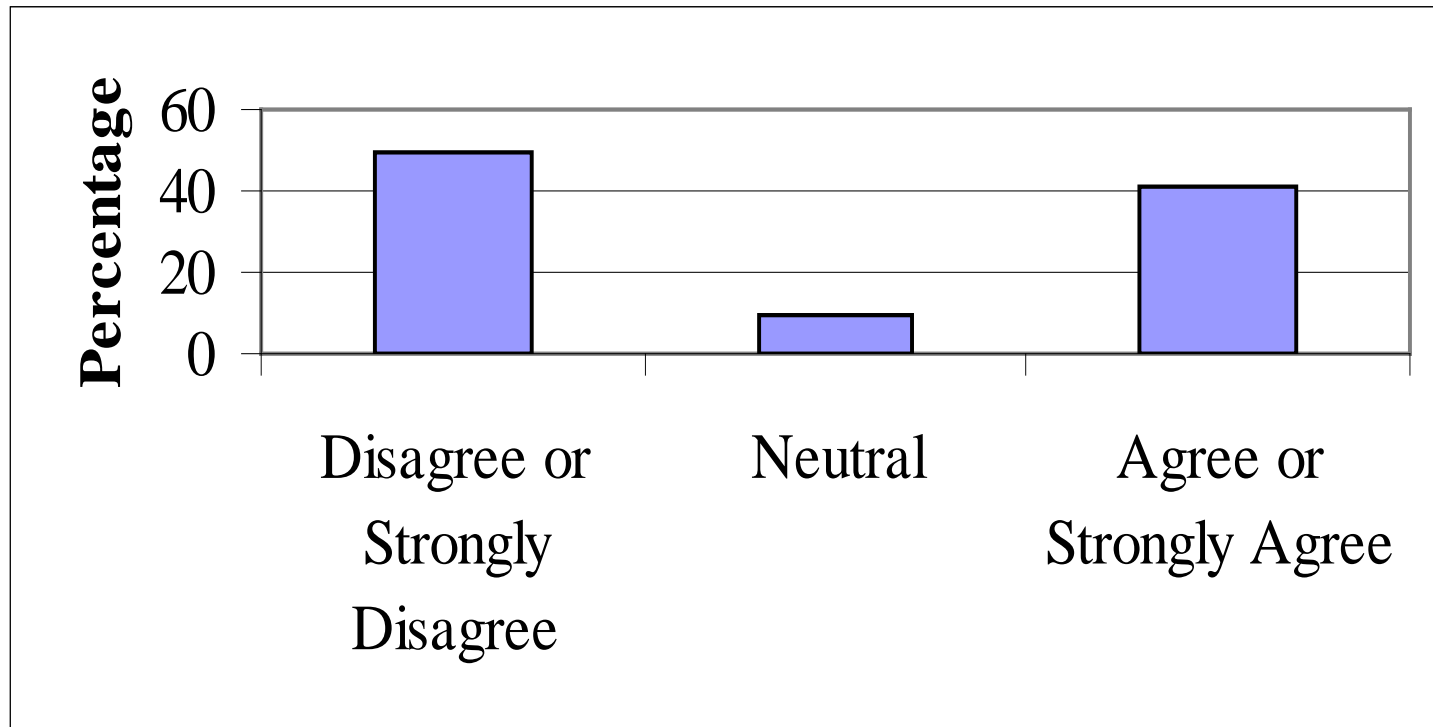
# Fear

- “I kind of live in fear because I’m the person that is responsible for the website and the digitization” (A12)
- “People are very scared when they hear the word copyright.” (A16)
- “one of the questions that I dread getting” (A17)

**It is important to restrict the ability of visitors to our website to copy or download documents from our website without our permission (Q21j)**  
**(N=66)**



As long as the repository is credited as the source, it's OK for members of the public to download documents from our website and use them in a publication or on another website. (Q21e) (N=66)



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# Preliminary Conclusion

**How do American archivists view  
copyright?**

**Apprehensive ambivalence**

**Ambivalent apprehension**

**“It is a royal pain”**

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# Further Investigation

- Ways to reduce resentment/fear factor
  - Copyright education for archivists: best content and delivery modes
  - Risk assessment tools
  - Study the risk-takers' methods and outcomes