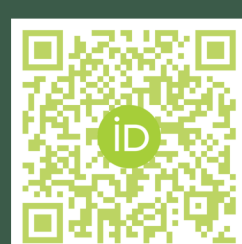


Author Contribution Statements and Gender Dynamics in Library and Information Science Scholarship

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Background

Since its introduction in 2014, the Contributor Role Taxonomy (CRediT) has become a widely adopted tool for attributing research contributions,¹ particularly in fields with high levels of collaboration. Library and Information Science (LIS) has also seen a rise in multi-authored work, yet the adoption of CRediT in LIS journals remains limited.

As an ANSI/NISO standard, CRediT provides a structured approach to recognizing diverse contributions, promoting transparency, and ensuring equitable attribution. Given documented gender disparities in research contributions, understanding how contributor roles are assigned in LIS publications is essential.

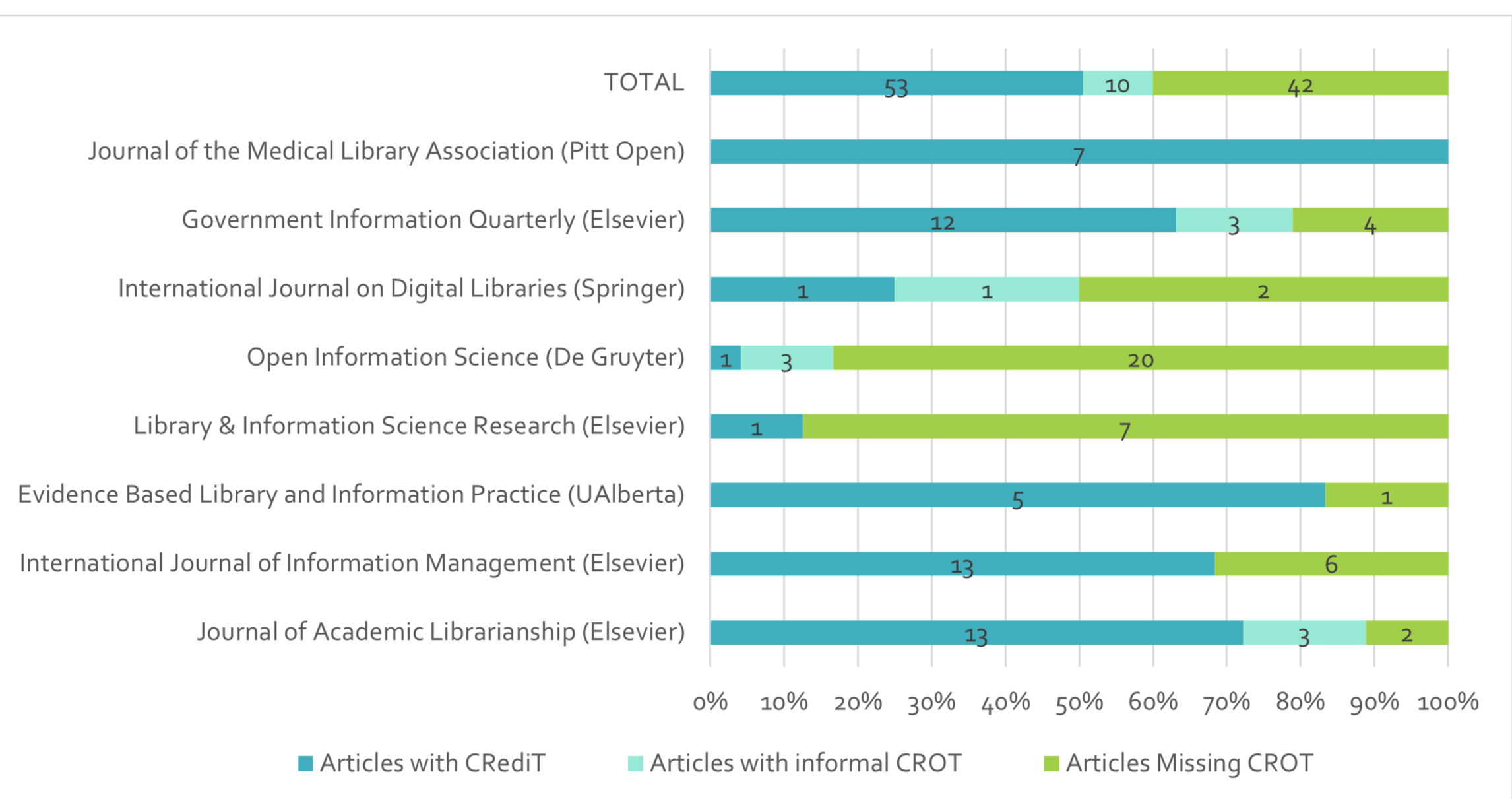
Methods

We reviewed 145 peer-reviewed LIS journals, as organized by the Centre for Evidence Based Library and Information Practice,² to determine whether they required Contributor Role Taxonomy (CROT) statements. Next, we extracted all articles from the first issue of 2023 from these journals. A total of 1,326 research articles were screened in Covidence. Articles that included a contributor statement (n=73) were extracted into Excel. We then analyzed informal CROT statements (n=17) and the adoption of CRediT (n=56).

Using WikiGenderSort³ and matching variants using online searches to verify preferred pronouns, we identified the gender of 203 authors that used CRediT (90 women, 113 men) out of 204, with the remaining unidentified (1).

Results

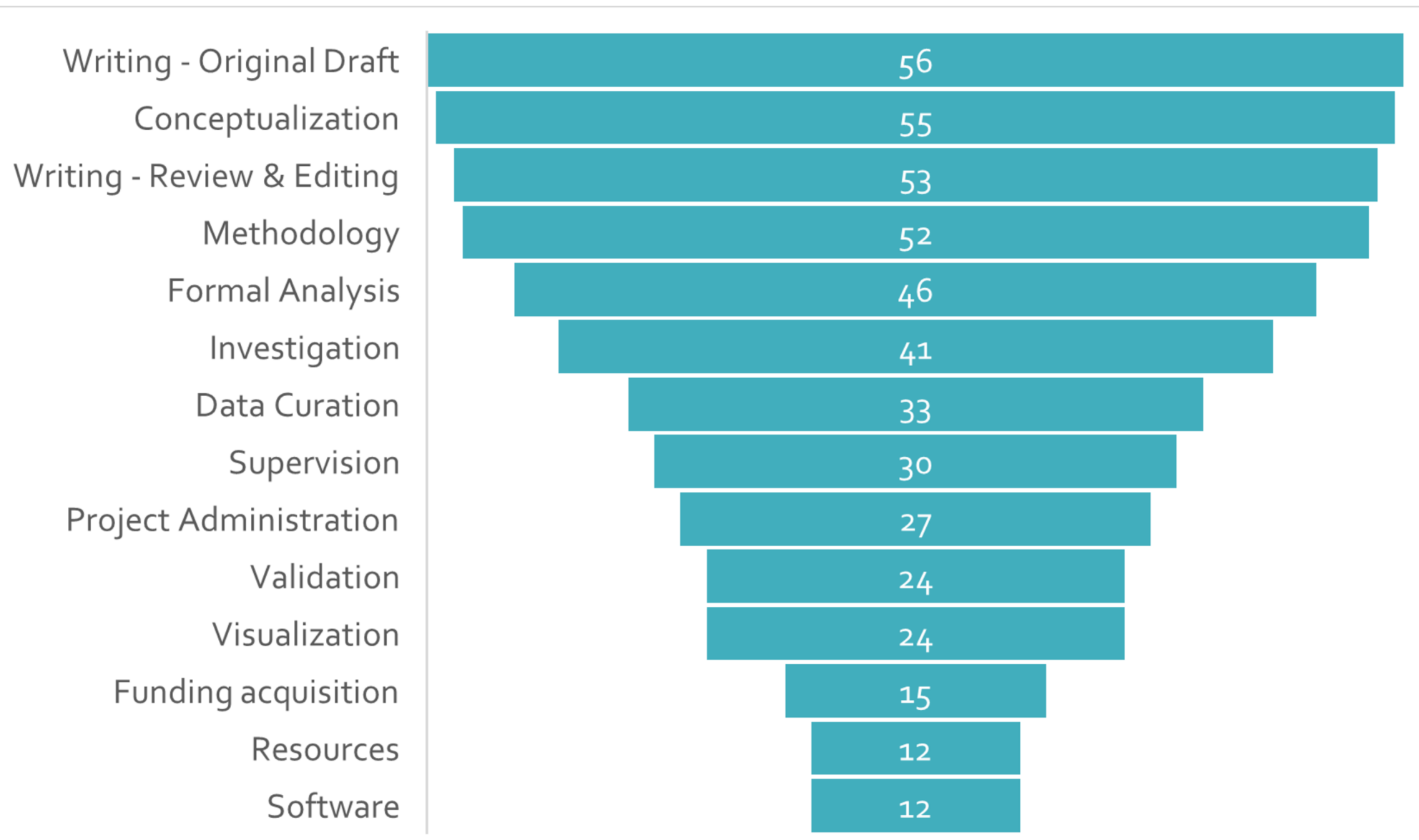
LIS Journals Requiring Contributor Statements



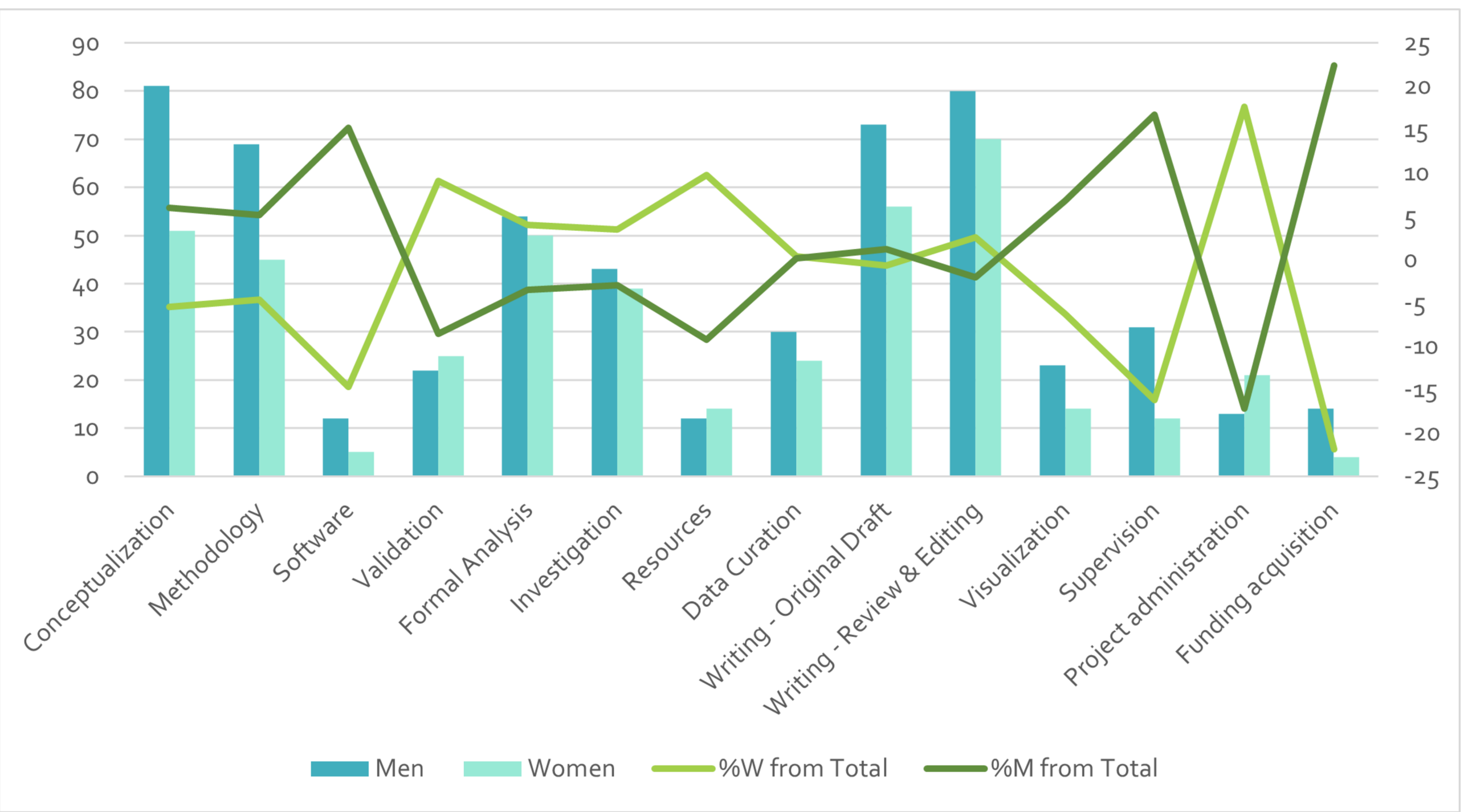
- Of the **145 journals**, **only 8** require a contributor statement.
- Of those **8**, **only 1** journal (Journal of the Medical Library Association) had **100%** compliance.
- The **most common** contributor statement was **CRediT** (n=56 articles).
- 3 of the 8** LIS journals had **≤ 50%** CROT compliance.

CRediT Roles Present in LIS Articles (n=56)

- The **most common** CRediT roles in LIS articles were:
 - Writing - Original Draft** (n=56)
 - Conceptualization** (n=55)
- The **least common** CRediT roles in LIS articles were:
 - Software** (n=12)
 - Resources** (n=12)



CRediT Roles by Gender



- Of the 204 CRediT authors:
 - 44.12% were women** (n=90)
 - 55.39% were men** (n=113)
- Men** were **more common** in the following CRediT categories:
 - Software** (15.2%)
 - Supervision** (16.7%)
 - Funding acquisition** (22.39%)
- Women** were **more common** in the following CRediT categories:
 - Validation** (9.07%)
 - Resources** (9.73%)
 - Project administration** (17.65%)

Discussion

Authorship transparency in LIS journals remains inconsistent. Only 8 of 145 journals required contributor statements, with the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* being the only one with 100% compliance. CRediT was the most common statement format (50%), but compliance varied, with three journals showing less than or equal to 50% adherence.

Gender disparities were evident, with men more often credited in Software, Supervision, and Funding Acquisition, while women were more common in Project Administration, Resources, and Validation roles. These patterns suggest gendered divisions in research contributions, where men are more frequently tasked with technical and leadership roles, while women's contributions are concentrated in administrative and evaluative tasks. Addressing these disparities requires greater awareness and equitable recognition of diverse research contributions.

Conclusion

Standardizing contributor statements across LIS journals will improve transparency, accountability, and equity in scholarly publishing. Greater enforcement by journal editors is necessary to ensure their consistent inclusion.

Our future research plan includes expanding our dataset and, based on our evidence, encouraging journal editors to require the use of contributor statements and to monitor compliance.

References

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3. Bérubé N, Ghiasi G, Sainte-Marie M, Larivière V. Wiki-Gendersort: Automatic gender detection using first names in Wikipedia. SocArXiv. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/ezw7p>