

# **Developing Librarian Data Services Skills:**

**An Assessment of Current Levels of  
Competency and a Plan for the  
Future**

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# Aims

1. Measure current level of data services competency among academic librarians
2. Explore preferred methods of PD to support data services in libraries

# Method

- 22-question online survey
- 3 parts:
  1. Demographics
  2. Self-assessment of specific data services skills
  3. Importance of professional development opportunities

# Results

- **Soft skills** and **library instruction** are stronger skill sets
- **General data services** and **programming languages/software** are weaker
- Statistical significance between **percentage of time providing data services** and **higher levels of technical data services skill**

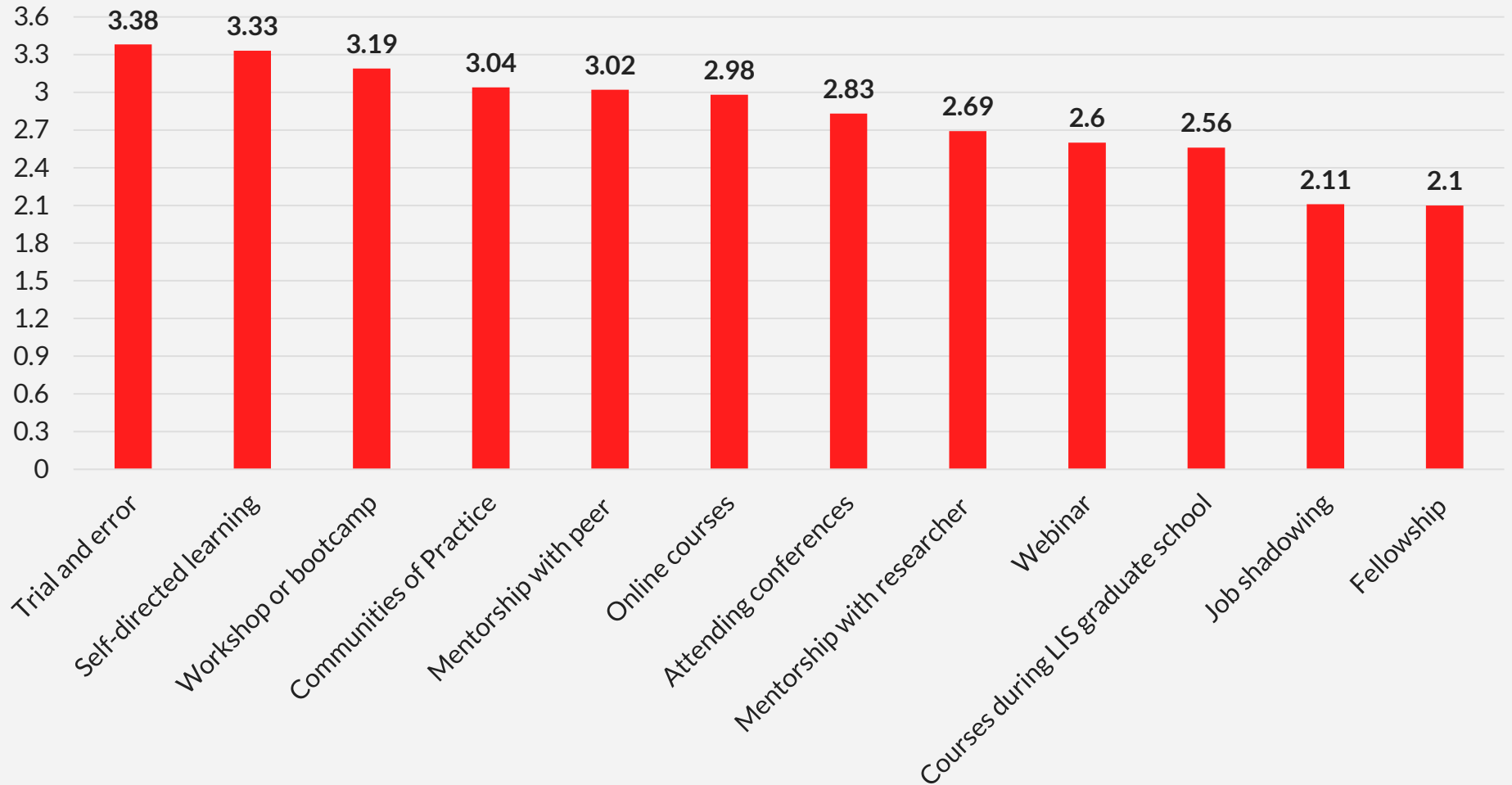
# Stronger Skill Sets

Skill set	Category	Mean score (n=120)
Written communication	Soft Skills	3.53
One-on-one session	Library Instruction	3.43
Working well with others	Soft Skills	3.4
Interpersonal customer service	Soft Skills	3.37
Library instructional sessions	Library Instruction	3.31

# Weaker Skill Sets

Skill set	Category	Mean score (n=120)
Programming languages (JavaScript, R, Python, C++, etc.)	Programming Languages and Software	0.76
GIS software (e.g. ArcGIS)	Programming Languages and Software	0.77
Data mining	General Data Services Skills	0.94
Statistical software (e.g. SAS, SPSS, RStudio)	Programming Languages and Software	1.02

# Importance of Professional Development Initiatives



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*The challenge is that data librarians  
**are not all doing the same thing** and so  
there is no one key skill set.*

# Outcomes

1. Hiring dedicated data librarians
2. Providing both autonomous and non-autonomous modes of PD
3. Huge range of tasks and skills that data services comprise

# More Details

- **Research article forthcoming!** Submitted for publication and in review for *College & Research Libraries*.
- <https://bit.ly/FuhrDataServices> for more detailed results.

# Thanks, email me with any questions!

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