User Behavior Across International and Disciplinary Boundaries

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Center for Information Studies

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Data From Tenopir & King

- 18,000+ scientists and social scientists
- 1977 to present
- University and non-university workplaces
- Mostly North America
- Recent studies of Astronomers, Medical faculty, faculty and students at several universities

Three Types of Data

- Demographic
- Estimates of behavior
- Details of “last” reading

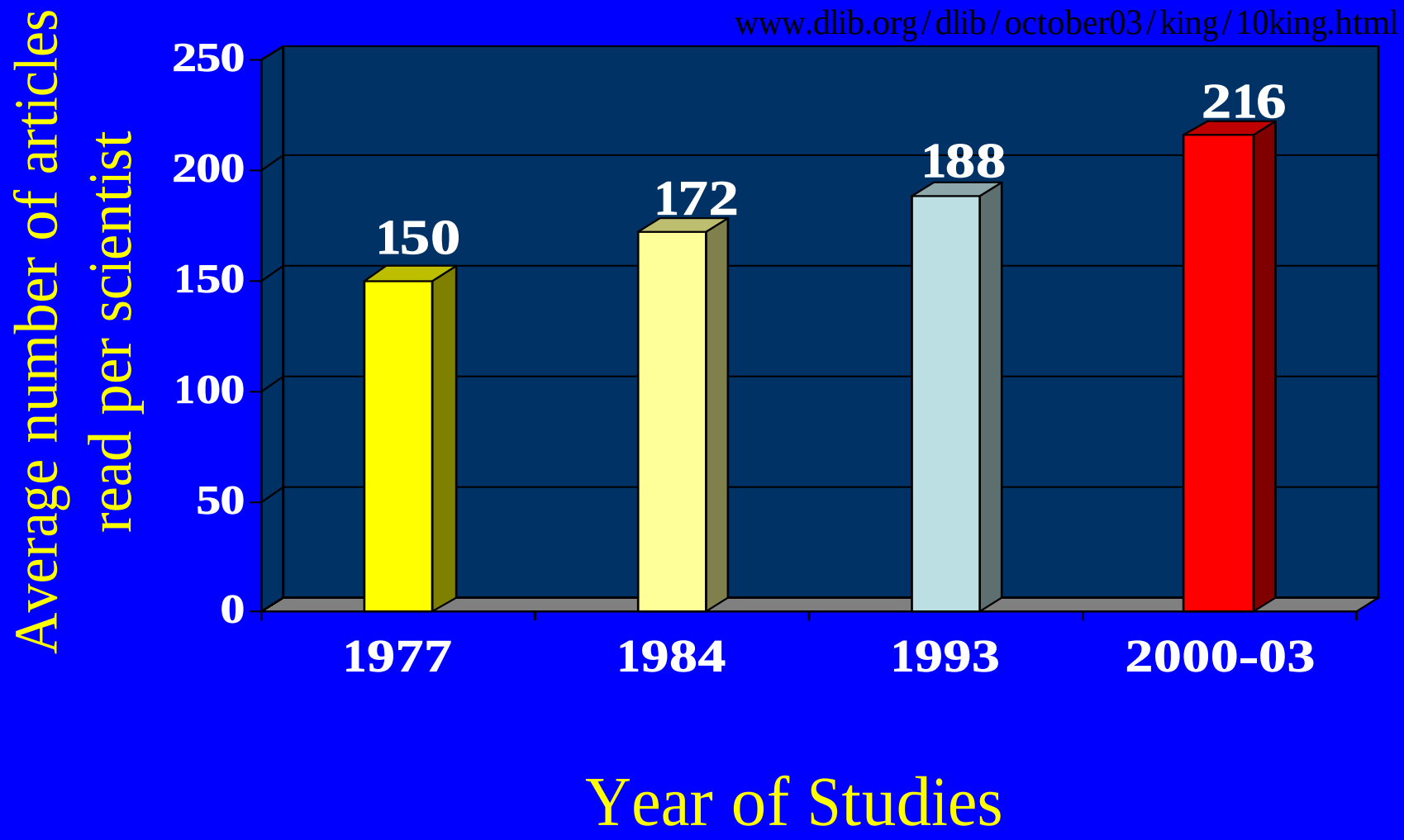
Articles:

“can include those found in journal issues, Web sites, or separate copies such as preprints, reprints, and other electronic or paper copies.”

Readings:

“going beyond the table of contents, title, and abstract to the body of the article.”

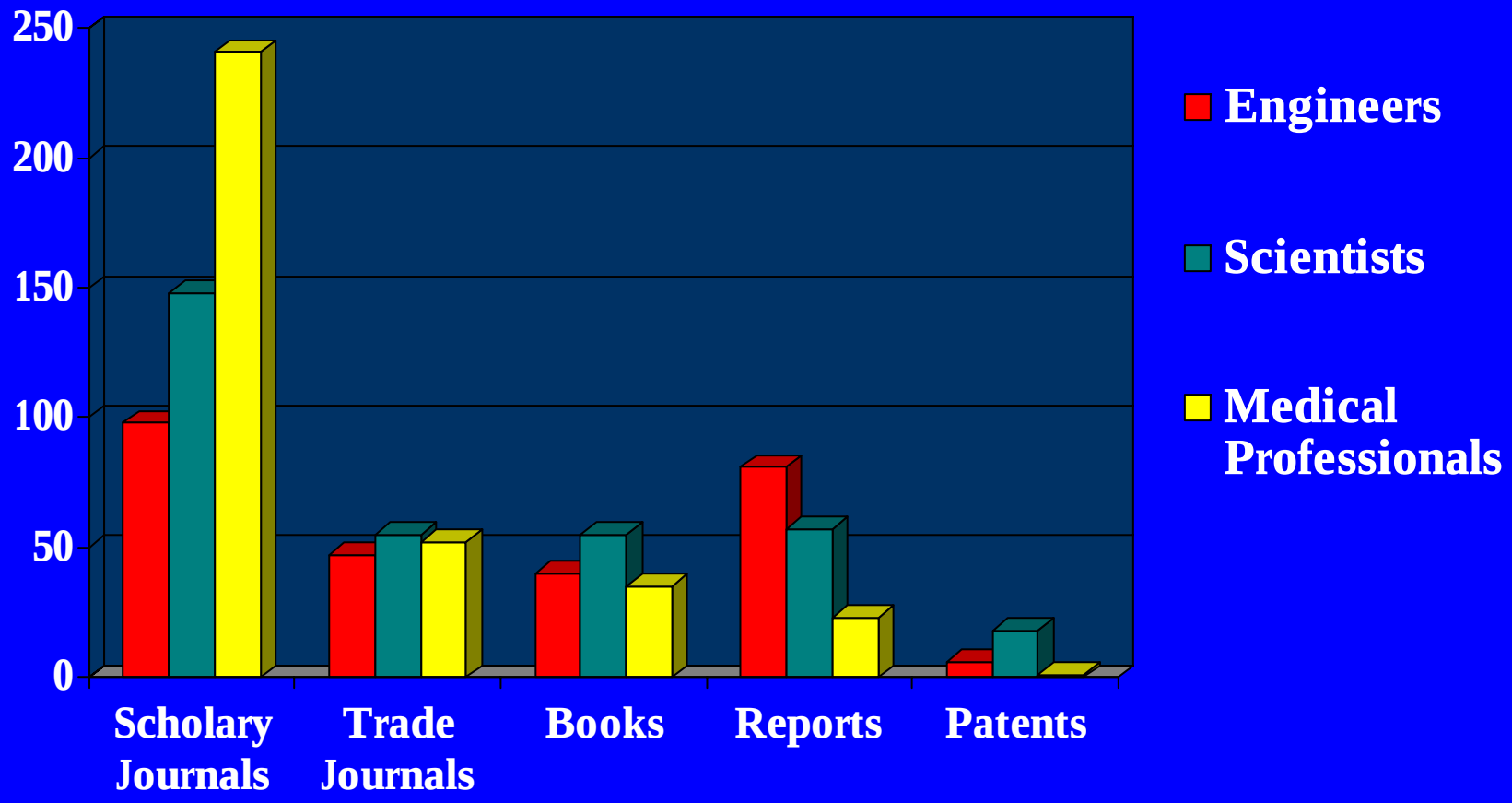
Average Articles Read per Scientist



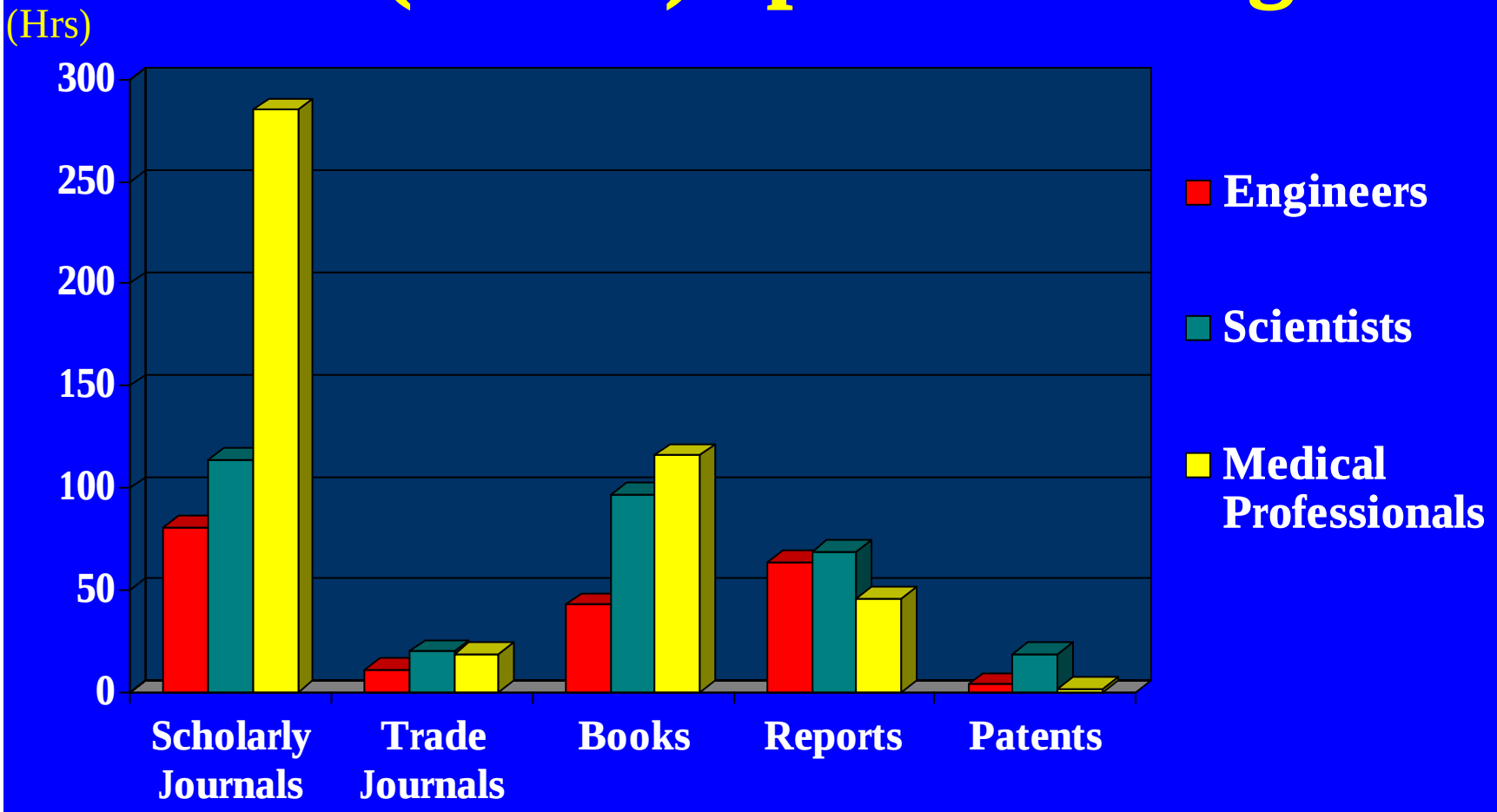
Scholarly Article Reading

Work Field	Articles Read (Per Year)	Time Spent (Hours)	Time Per Article (Min)
Univ. Med.	~322	118	22
Chemists	~276	198	43
Life Scientists	~239	104	26
Physicists	~204	153	45
Soc Sci/Psych	~191	121	38
Engineers	~72	97	81

Average Annual Amount of Reading



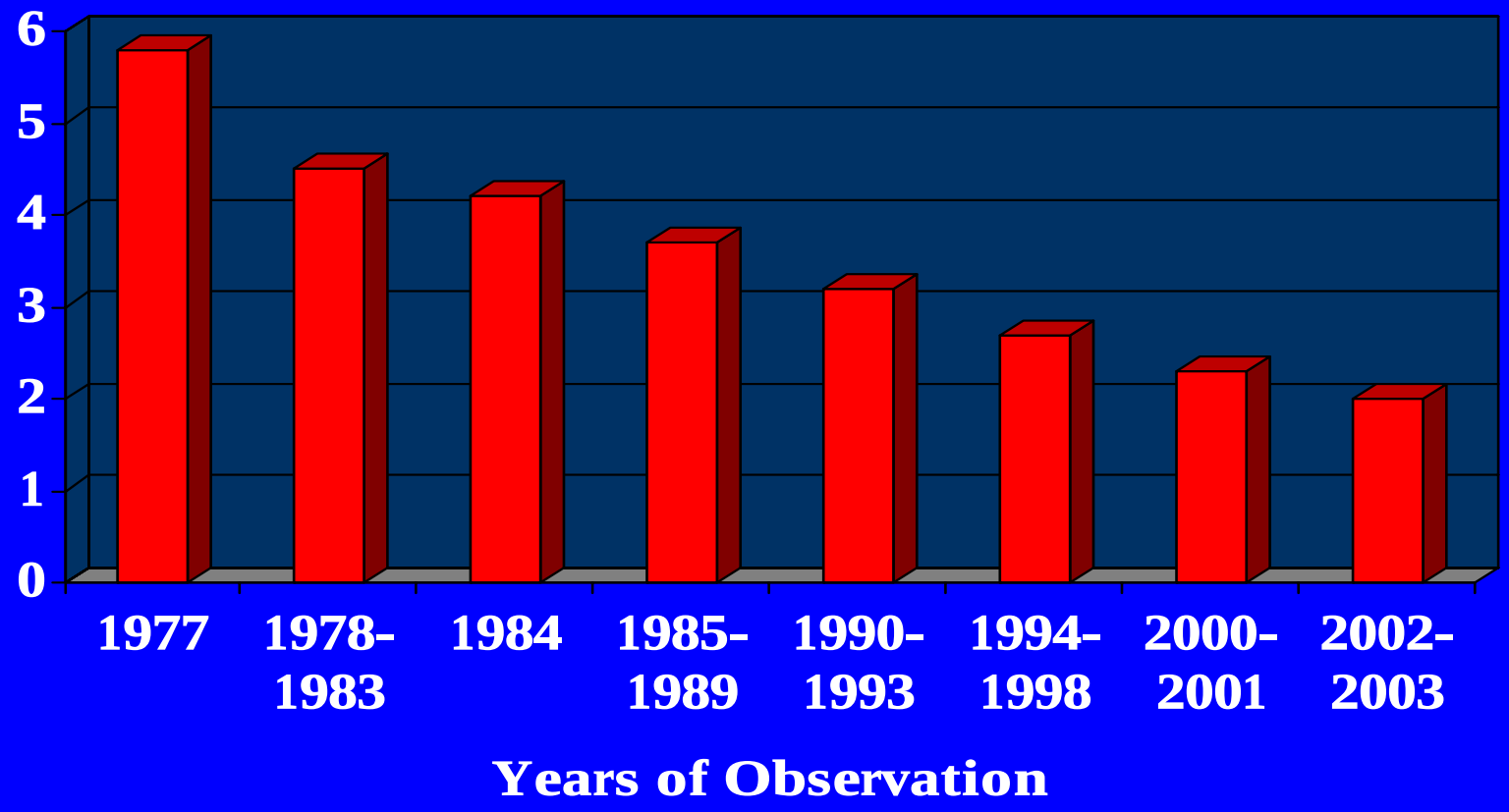
Average Annual Amount of Time (Hours) Spent Reading



Purpose and Ranking of Importance: University Medical

#3	Primary Research	29.9%
#5	Current Awareness	22.1%
#4	Teaching	16.9%
#2	Writing	11.7%
#6	Other Purpose	9.0%
#7	Background	6.5%
#1	Consulting / Advising	3.9%

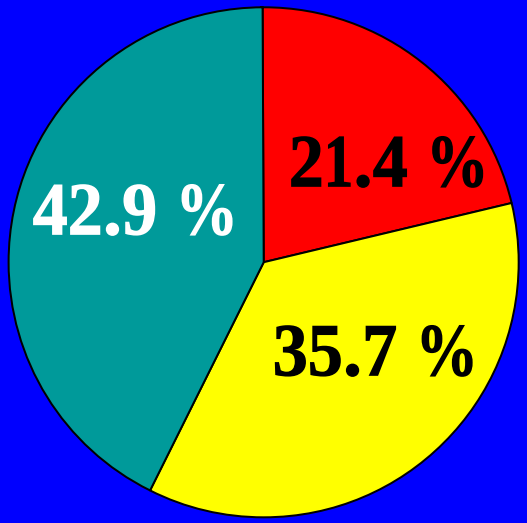
Average Number of Personal Subscriptions to Scholarly Journals



Personal Subscriptions

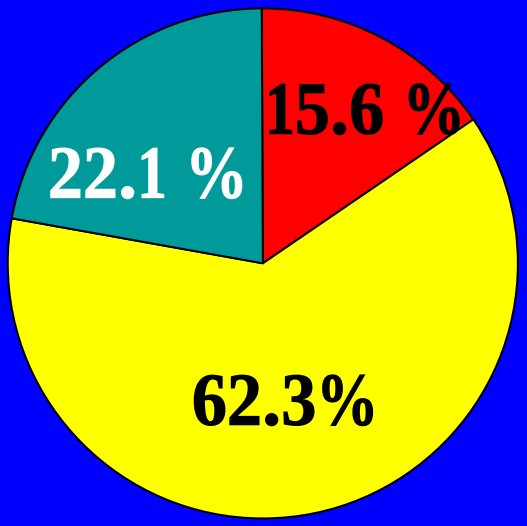
- All studies average 2.2
- All UT science faculty average 3.8
- Medical faculty average 6.3

Sources of Readings

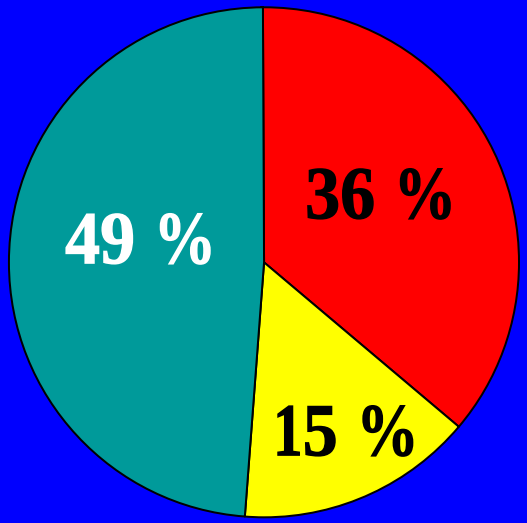


Universities

Separate
Personal
Library

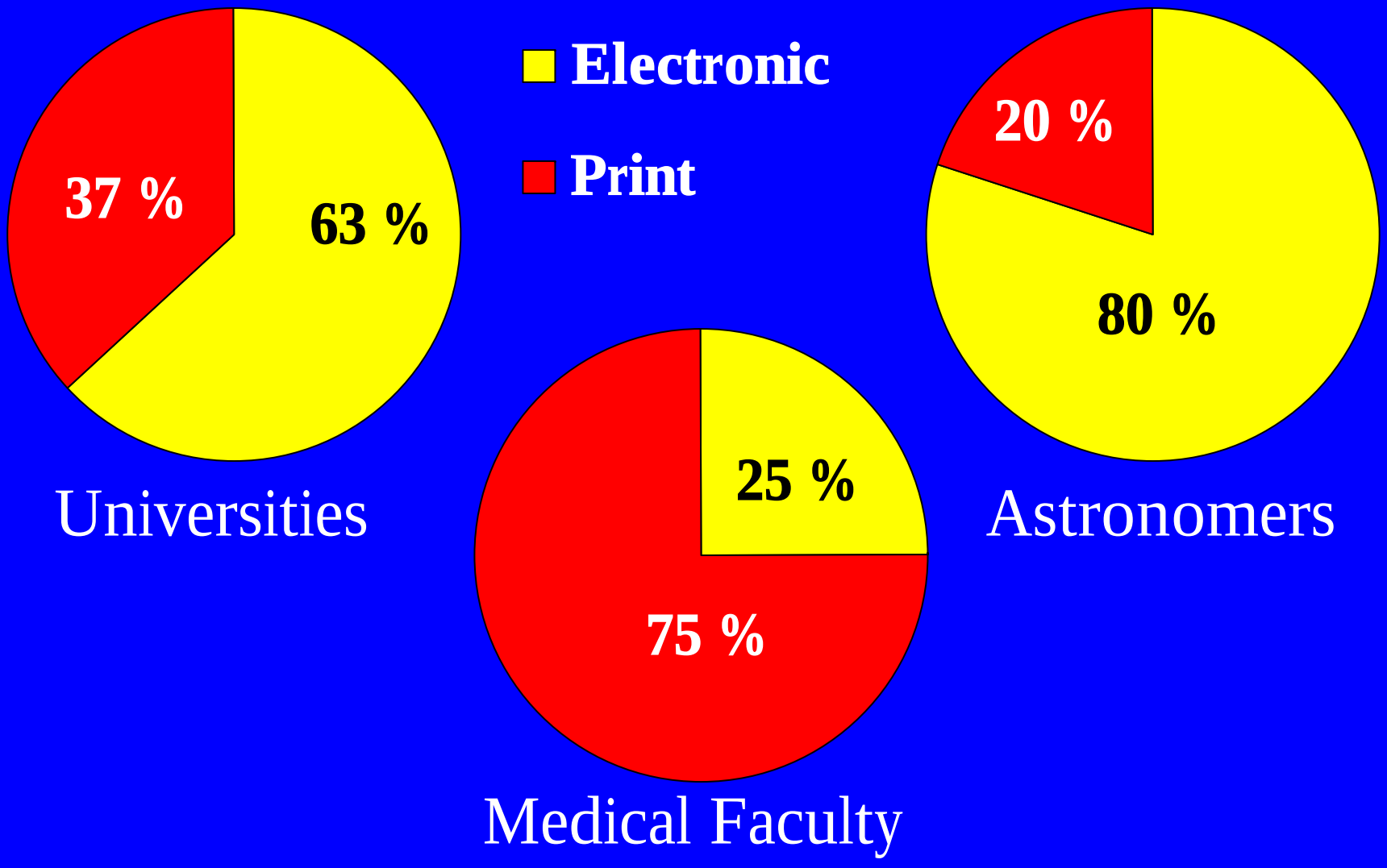


Medical Faculty

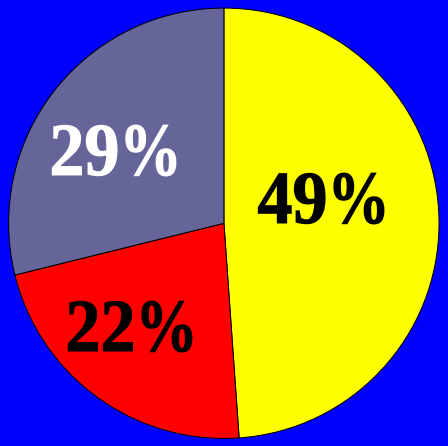


Astronomers

Print or Electronic

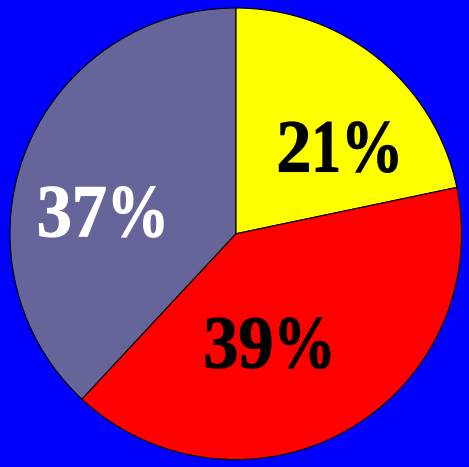


Means of Learning About Articles Read

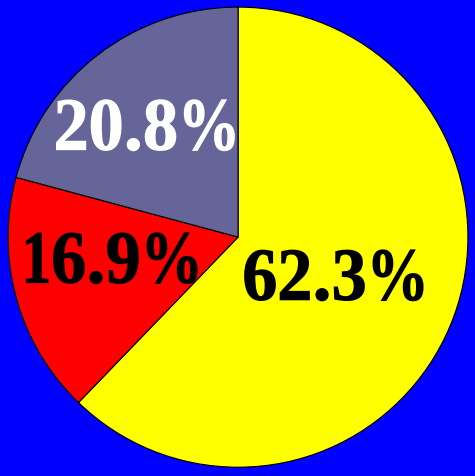


Universities

Browse
Search
Other



Astronomers

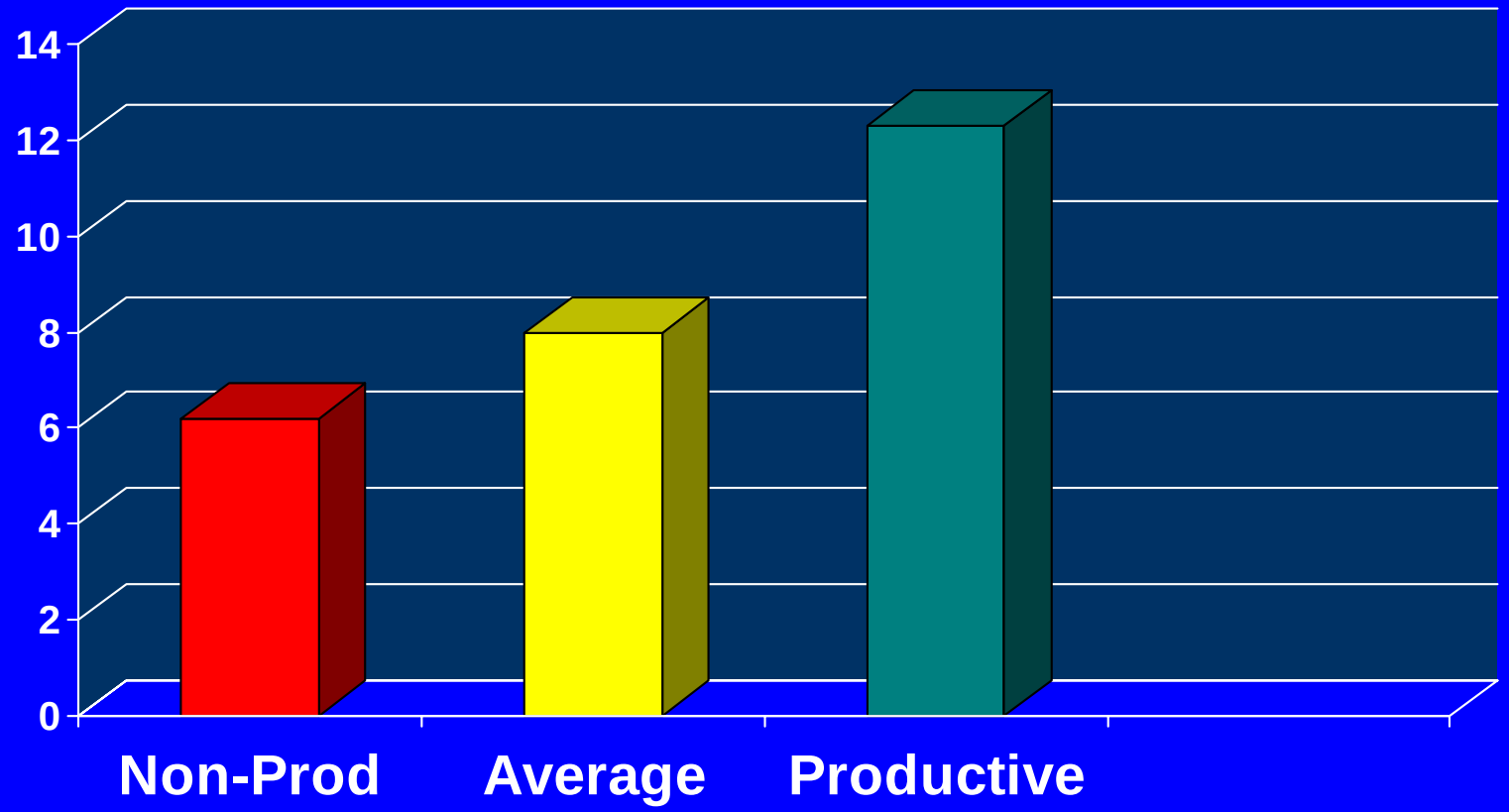


Medical Faculty

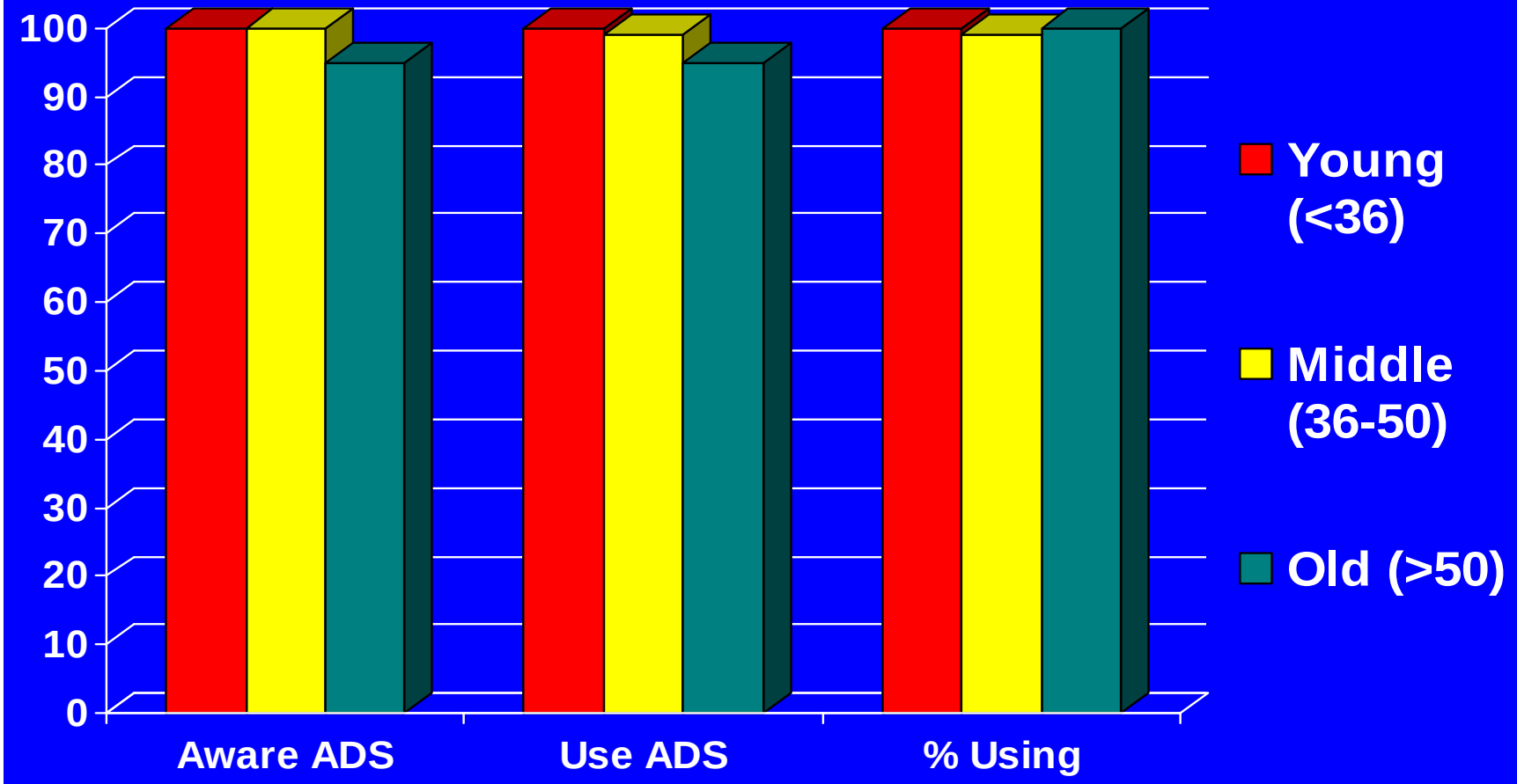
Format of Reading

Educational Degree	Print	Electronic
M.D., only	33	1
Ph.D., only	18	17
Both M.D. and Ph.D.	1	0
Neither degree	4	0
Total	56	18

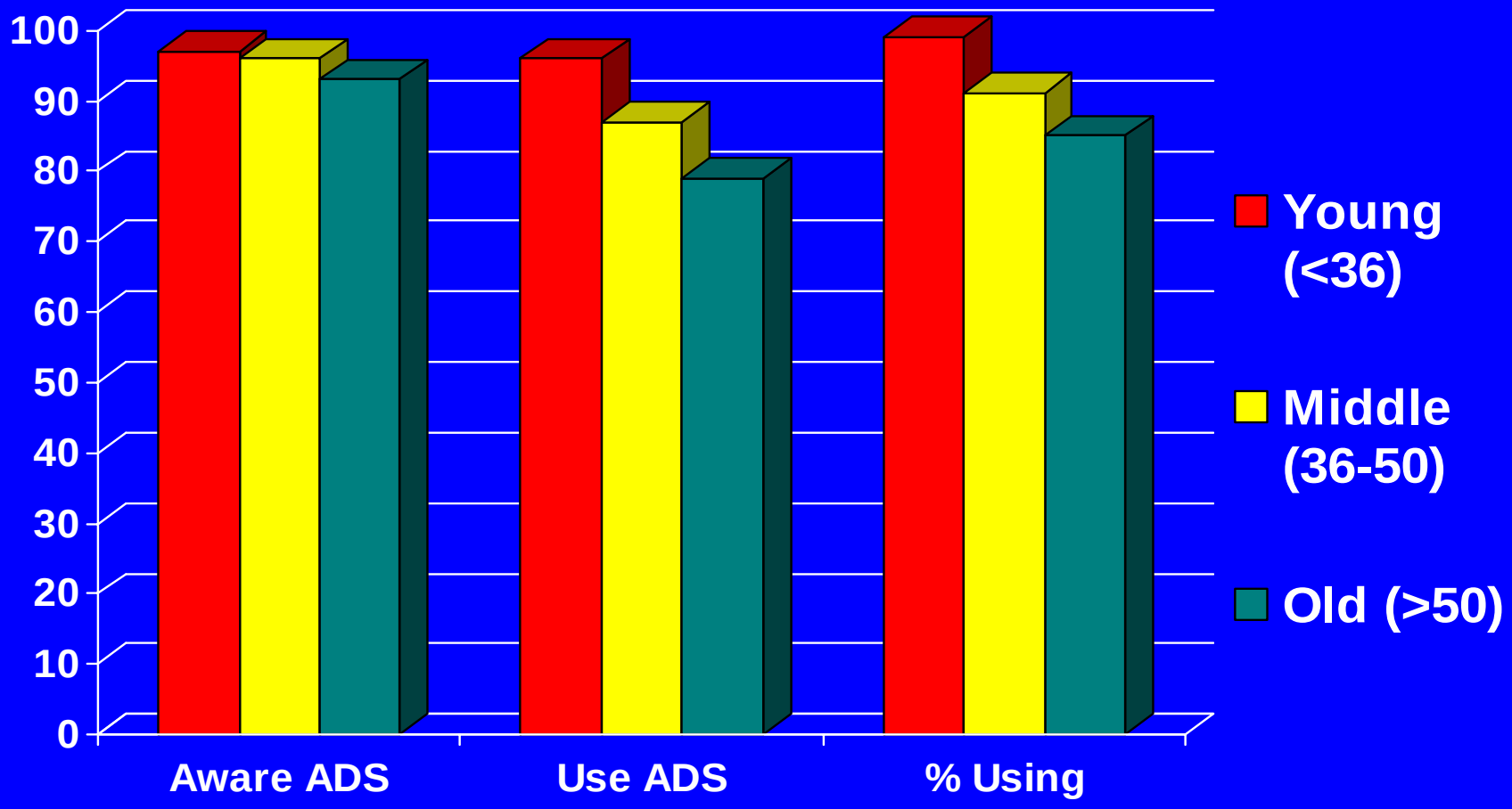
Astronomy Articles Read per Month vs. Productivity



Awareness and Use of ADS by Productive PhD Astronomers



Awareness and Use of ADS by not-Productive PhD Astronomers



Average Time Spent Reading Per Article by Astronomers

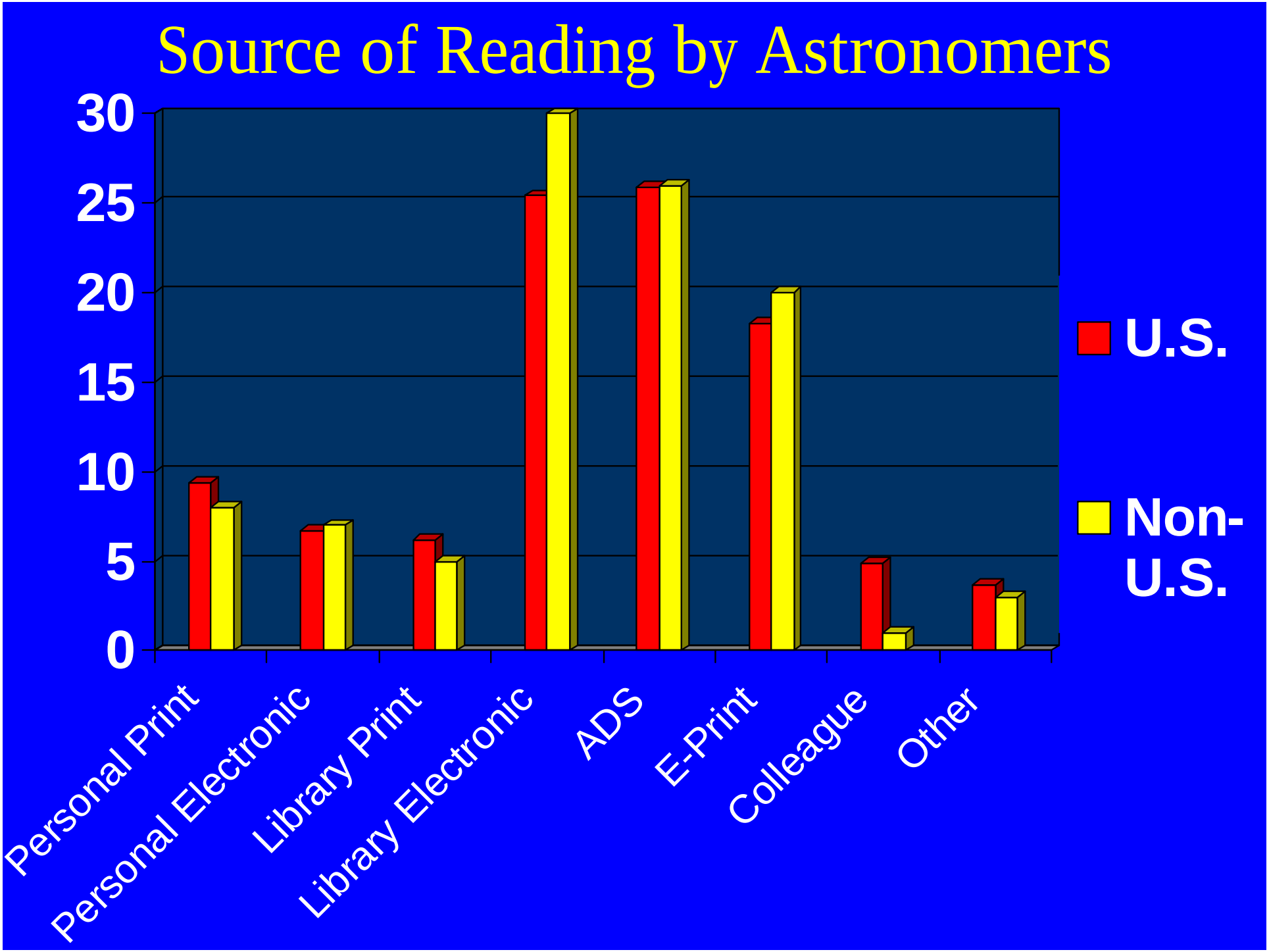
- U.S. astronomers (n=306)

average 36 minutes

- Non-U.S. astronomers (n=83)

average 43 minutes

Source of Reading by Astronomers



Tenopir and King, Communication Patterns of Engineers, NY: IEEE/Wiley, 2004

Use and Users of Electronic Library Resources: An Overview and Analysis of Recent Research Studies
www.clir.org/pub/reports/pub120/pub120.pdf

Patterns of Journal Use by Faculty at Three Diverse Universities. October 2003
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october03/king/10king.html

Future Studies

- Pediatricians
- University faculty and students in Australia
- University faculty and students in Finland
- Scientists in Chile and Brazil
- Tenopir & King surveys also being replicated in Cuba and Argentina