

January 2007

Human dimensions research and the Karst Information Portal

Todd A. Chavez

Patricia E. Seiser

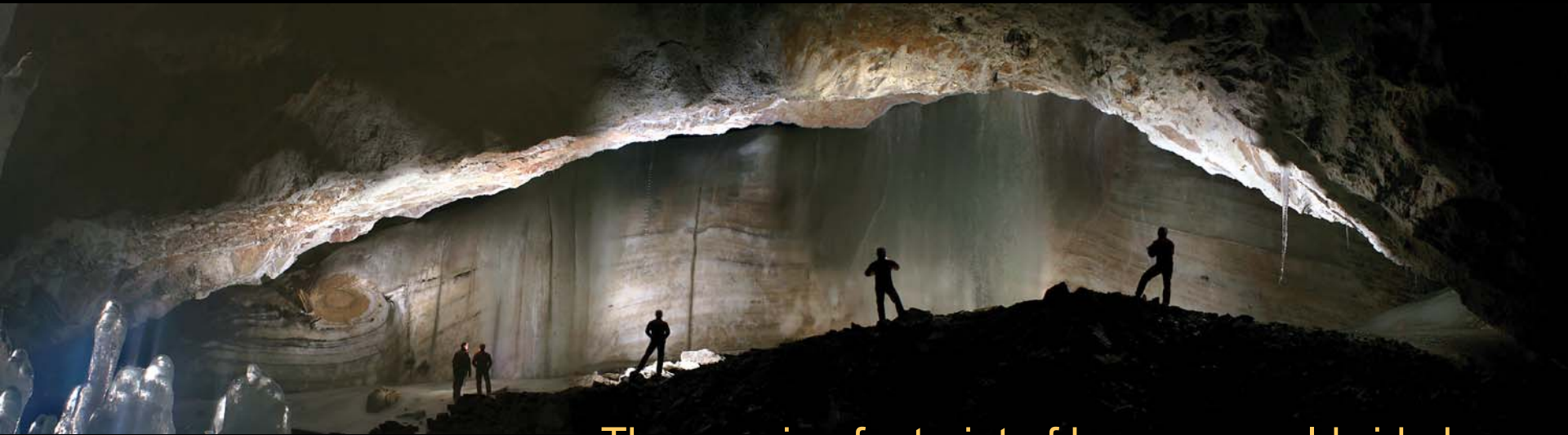
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Chavez, Todd A. and Seiser, Patricia E., "Human dimensions research and the Karst Information Portal" (2007). *KIP Talks and Conferences*. 65.
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Human Dimensions Research and the Karst Information Portal

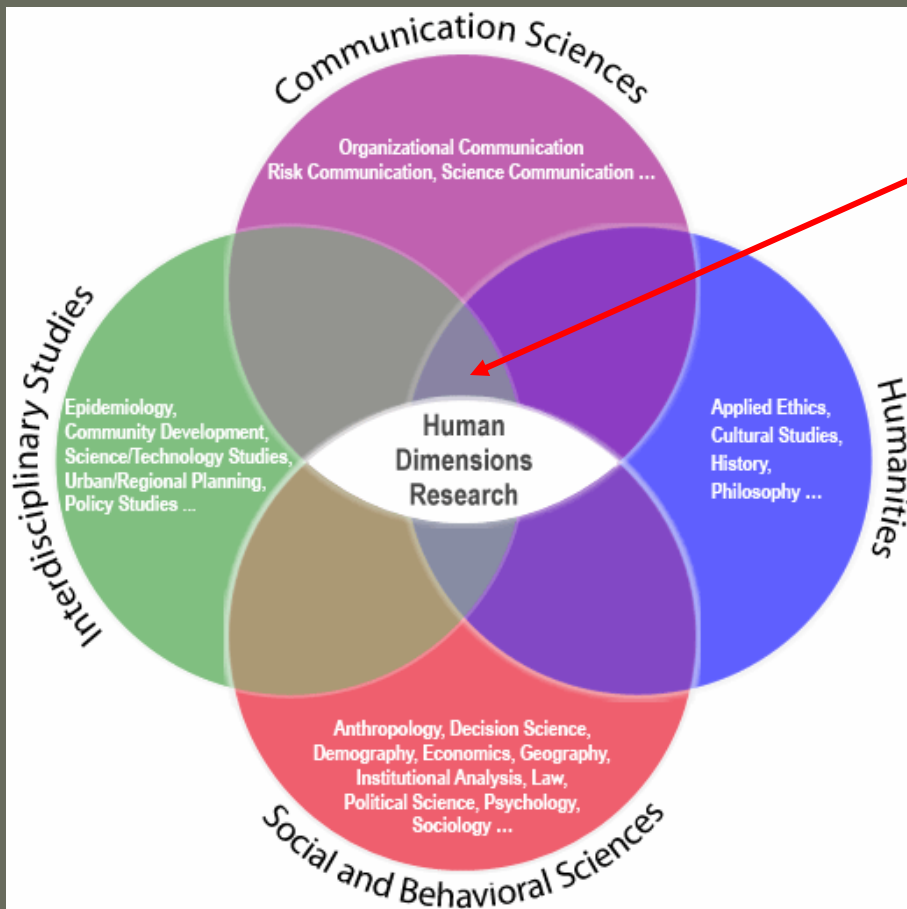


KARST
INFORMATION
PORTAL

The growing footprint of humans worldwide has serious adverse effects on karst, an understudied natural environment that is crucial to the health and well-being of one out of every four people on Earth.

www.karstportal.org

Todd Chavez, University of South Florida Libraries
Patricia Seiser, National Cave & Karst Research Institute
2007 National Speleological Society Convention, Marengo, Indiana, July 23-27



Portal Design Grey Information Repositories

Human Dimensions Research

The scientific investigation of the physical, biological, sociological, psychological, cultural and economic aspects of natural resource utilization at the individual and community levels.

-- Alan Ewert

*Natural Resource Management:
The Human Dimension, 1996*



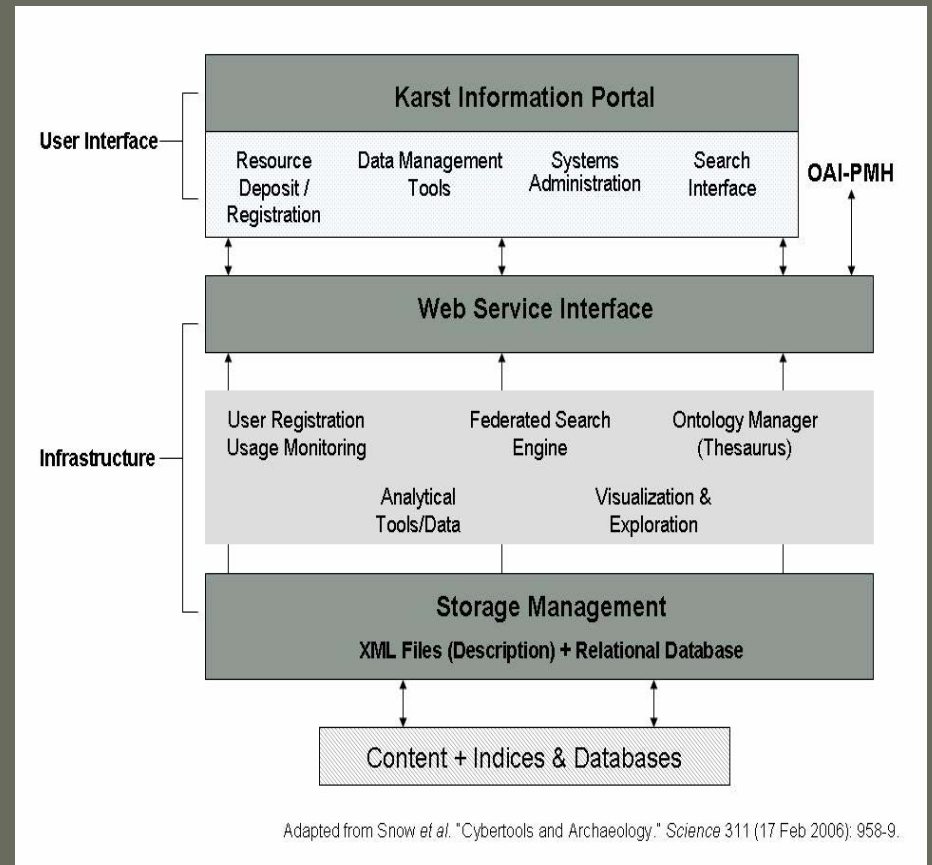
The Challenge

The karst research community and its knowledge base are fragmented, globally distributed, and highly interdisciplinary.

The Solution

The Karst Information Portal (KIP) is a growing international community seeking to create an open system for karst-related information.

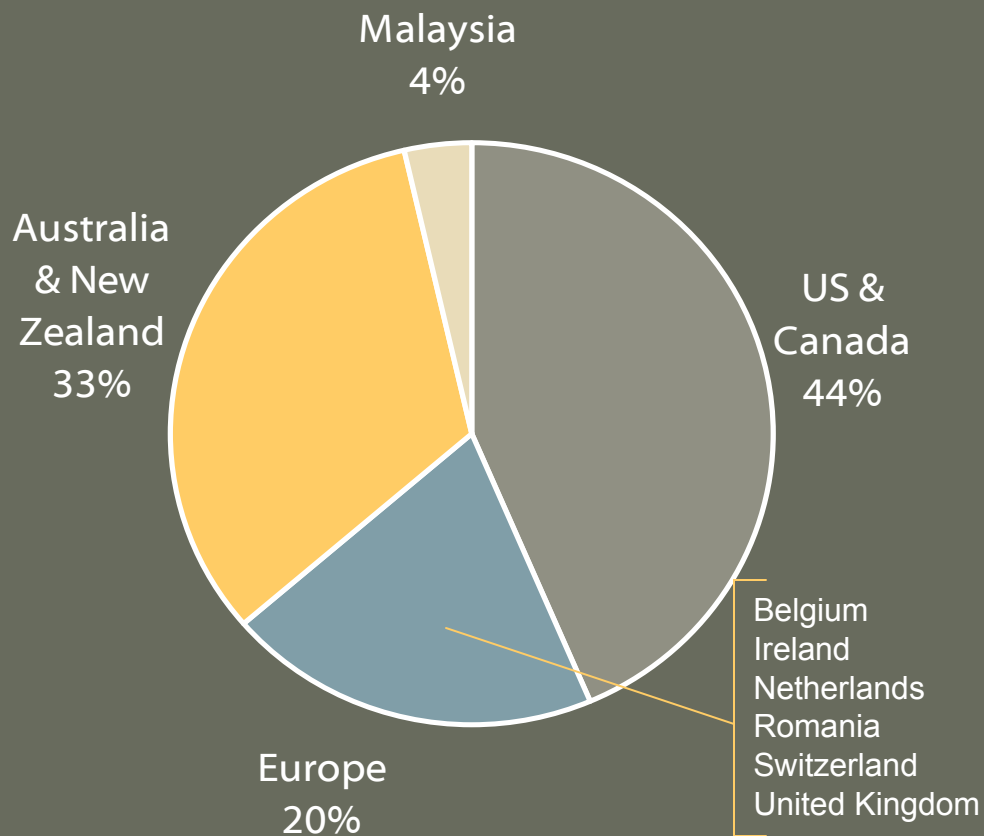
The goal is a freely accessible web-based information network to inform research, to enhance collaboration, and to address policy decisions in karst environments.





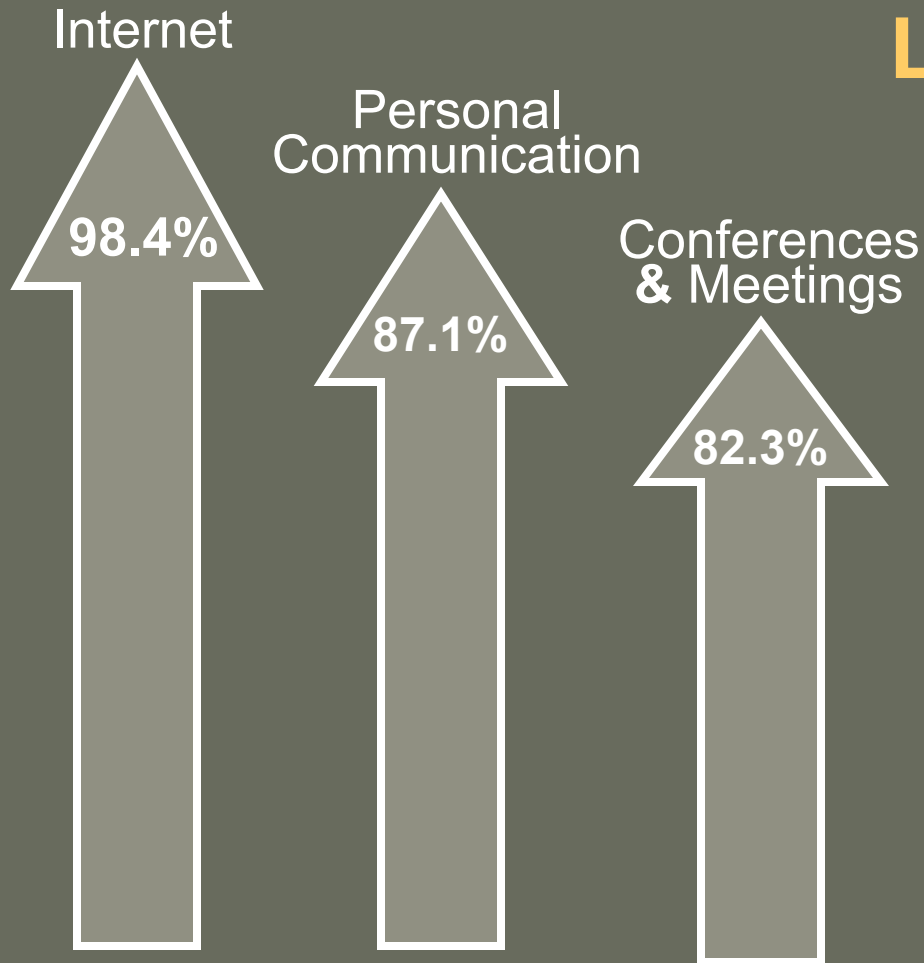
Respondents	No.
Researcher	29
Caver	13
Resource Manager	6
College Student	6
Government Agency	4
Industry Researcher / Consultant	3
Museum / Institute	2
Librarian / Information Professional	2
Activist	1
TOTAL	66

Grey Literature & Karst Research



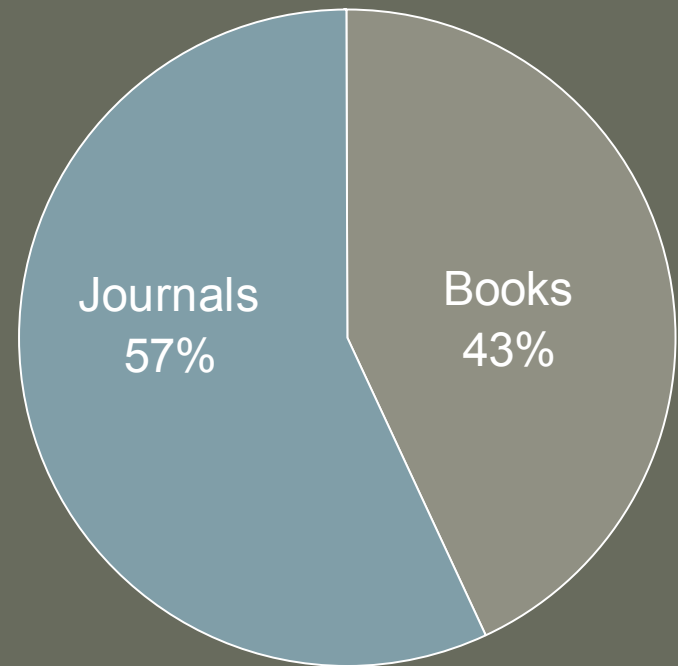


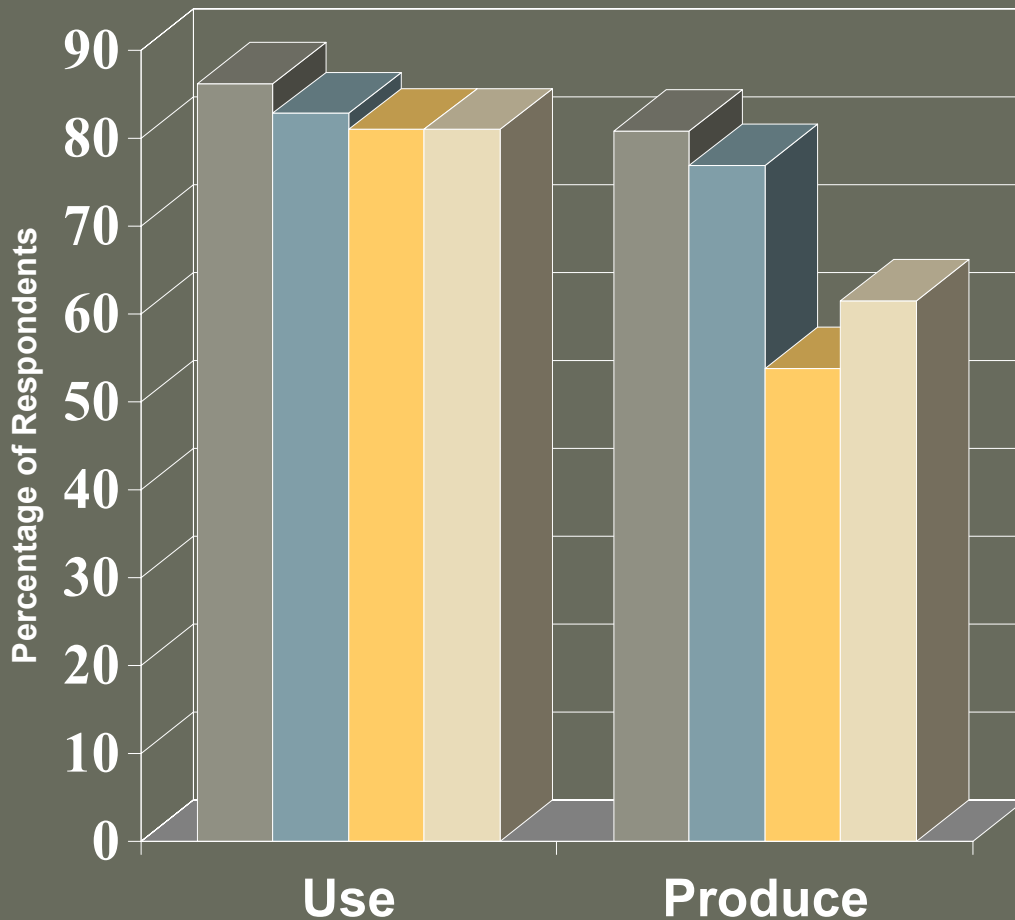
Locating Information



“Grey Channels”

Traditional Channels





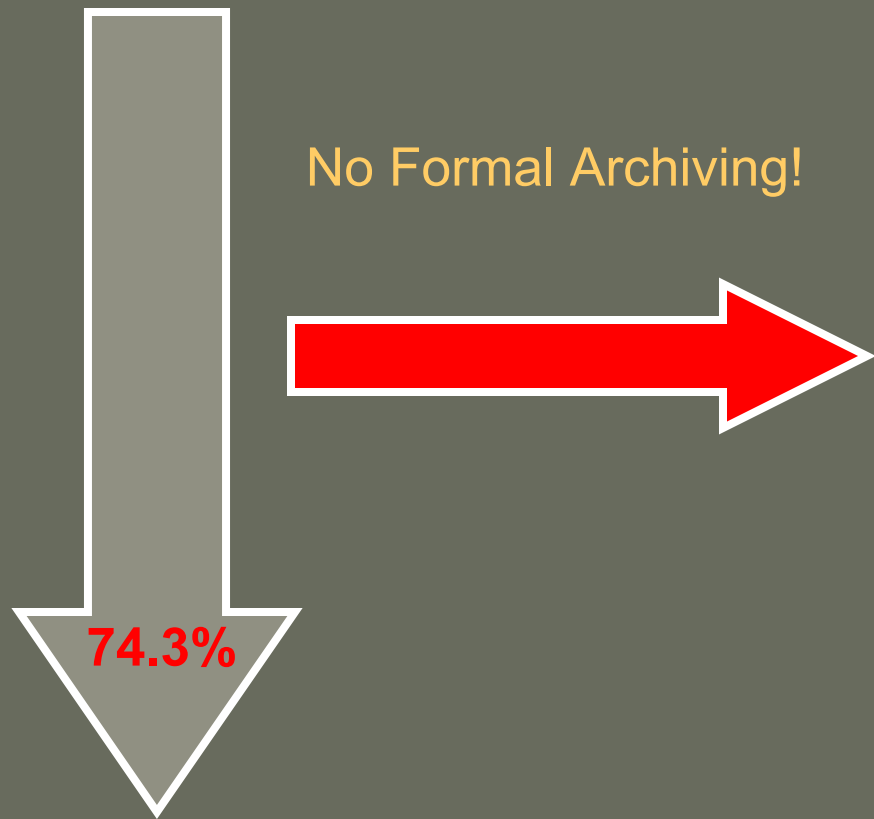
**96.6% Use
Grey Information**

**89.3% Produce
Grey Information**

- Proceedings
- Trip/Cave Reports
- Theses/Dissertations
- Maps



Where do you archive the grey information that you produce?



Most Difficult Grey Information Types to Access

Information Type	%
Theses/Dissertations	51.0
Conference Proceedings/Papers	46.9
Governmental Reports	42.9
Non-Governmental Reports	40.8
Cave Entrance Databases	36.7
Trip & Cave Reports	32.7
Foreign-Language Translations	28.6
Association/Organization Publications	28.6
Maps	26.5
Pre-1923 Karst Papers	26.5

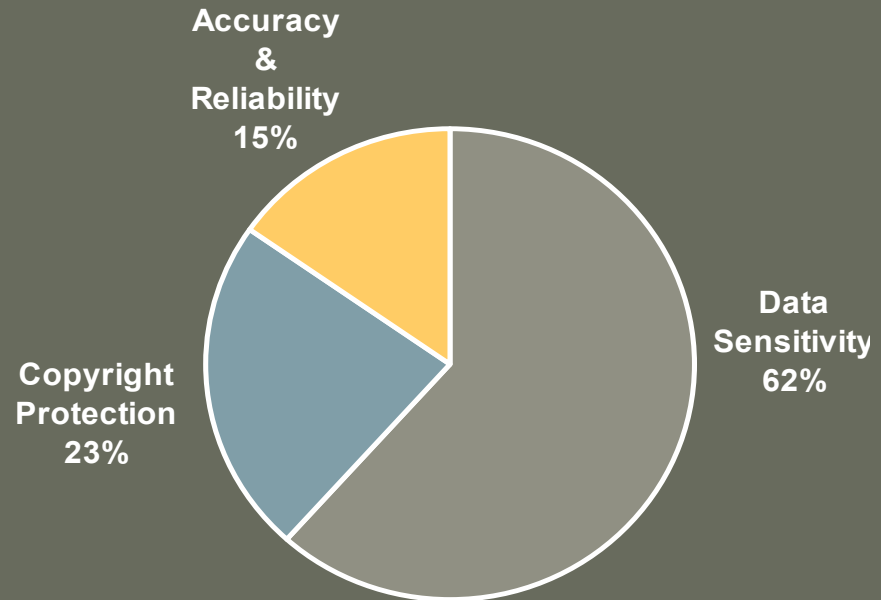


Would you use the KIP as a personal digital repository?

Yes 47.3 %

No 20.0%

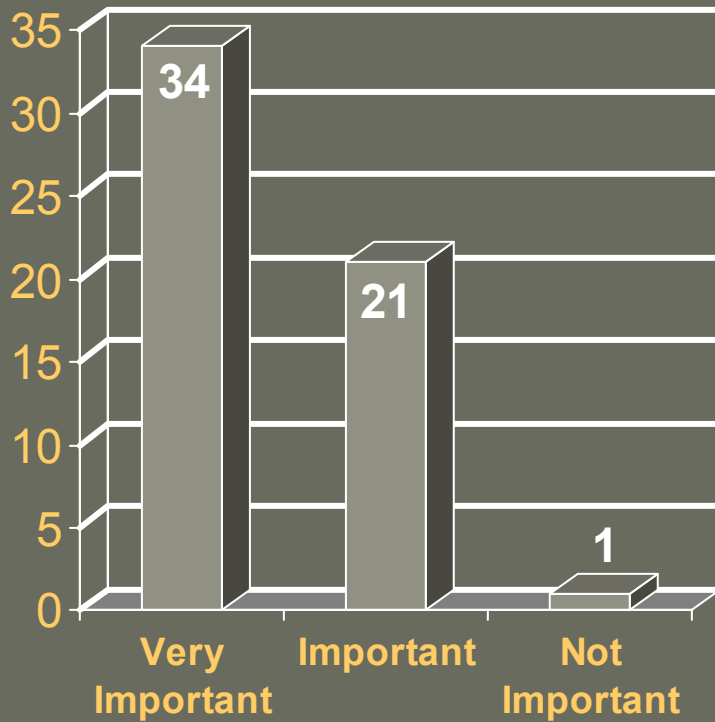
Maybe



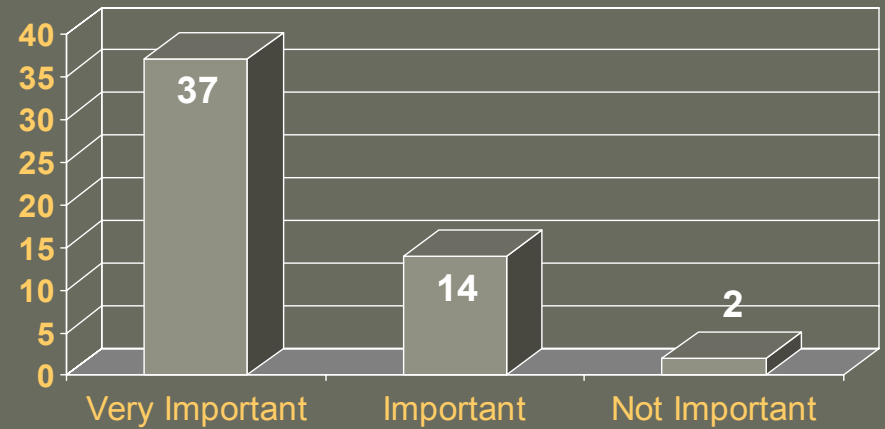
Respondents expressing conditions ... 32.7%



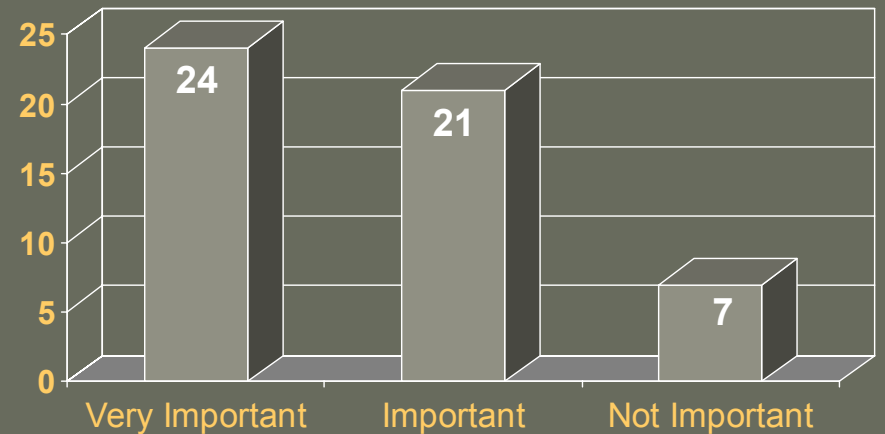
Include Grey Content?



Digitize Key Grey Resources?



Evaluate Grey Resources?



KARST INFORMATION PORTAL



SEARCH

[SIGN IN / REGISTER](#)

Type

Karst Information Portal

Keywords

Search

→ HOME

→ RESOURCES

→ COMMUNITY

→ ABOUT

→ NEWS

 **CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTION**

Register

Anyone may visit KIP but registered users ...

- Contribute data and information
- Communicate about important karst issues
- Stay current on events, new research and publications and more
- Join the community meeting this information challenge

KIP's success depends on contributions of data and information from the karst community from recreational cavers to professional scientists.

Contributors can upload content that will be shared globally and archived for the future. Contributors have input regarding access to their content.

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTION

Site Overview

The Karst Information Portal (KIP) includes four main content areas ...

Home

Quick access to ...

- Current news & events
- Research updates
- Important announcements

Resources

The "information core"

- Topics
- Research tools
 - Publications
 - Reports
 - More ...
- Links

Community

Connect with issues & people ...

- Organizations
- Contacts (directory)
- Discussion forums

News

Stay current on karst developments ...

- Announcements
- Events
- New publications
- Research updates

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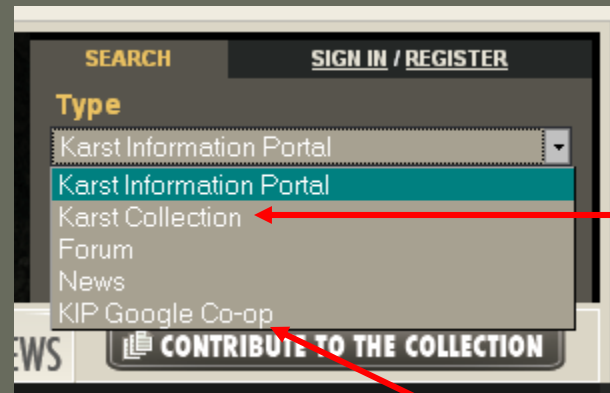
NEWS

CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTION

Search

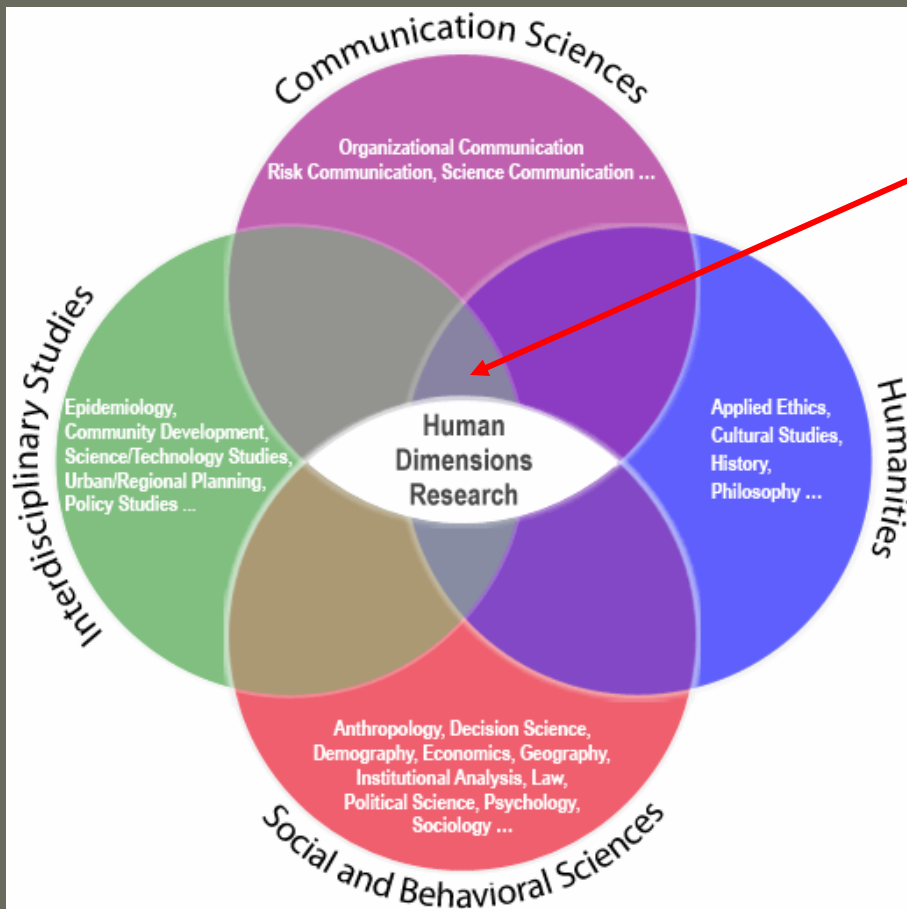
Five options tailor search targets ...

- Karst Information Portal (comprehensive)
- Karst Collection
- Forums
 - Posts/comments
- News
 - Announcements
 - Events
 - New publications
 - Research updates
- KIP Google Co-op



Nearly 4,000 bibliographic references for karst-related data and information sources forms the core of the collection.

Queries a Google-powered customized search engine leveraging participant expertise with Google's search technologies.



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The KIP Project Partners Thank You

NATIONAL CAVE & KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

<http://www.nckri.org/>

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA LIBRARIES

<http://www.lib.usf.edu/>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

<http://elibrary.unm.edu/>

UNION INTERNATIONALE de SPÉLÉOLOGIE (UIS)

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>