Partners in digitisation: networking preferences of memory institutions

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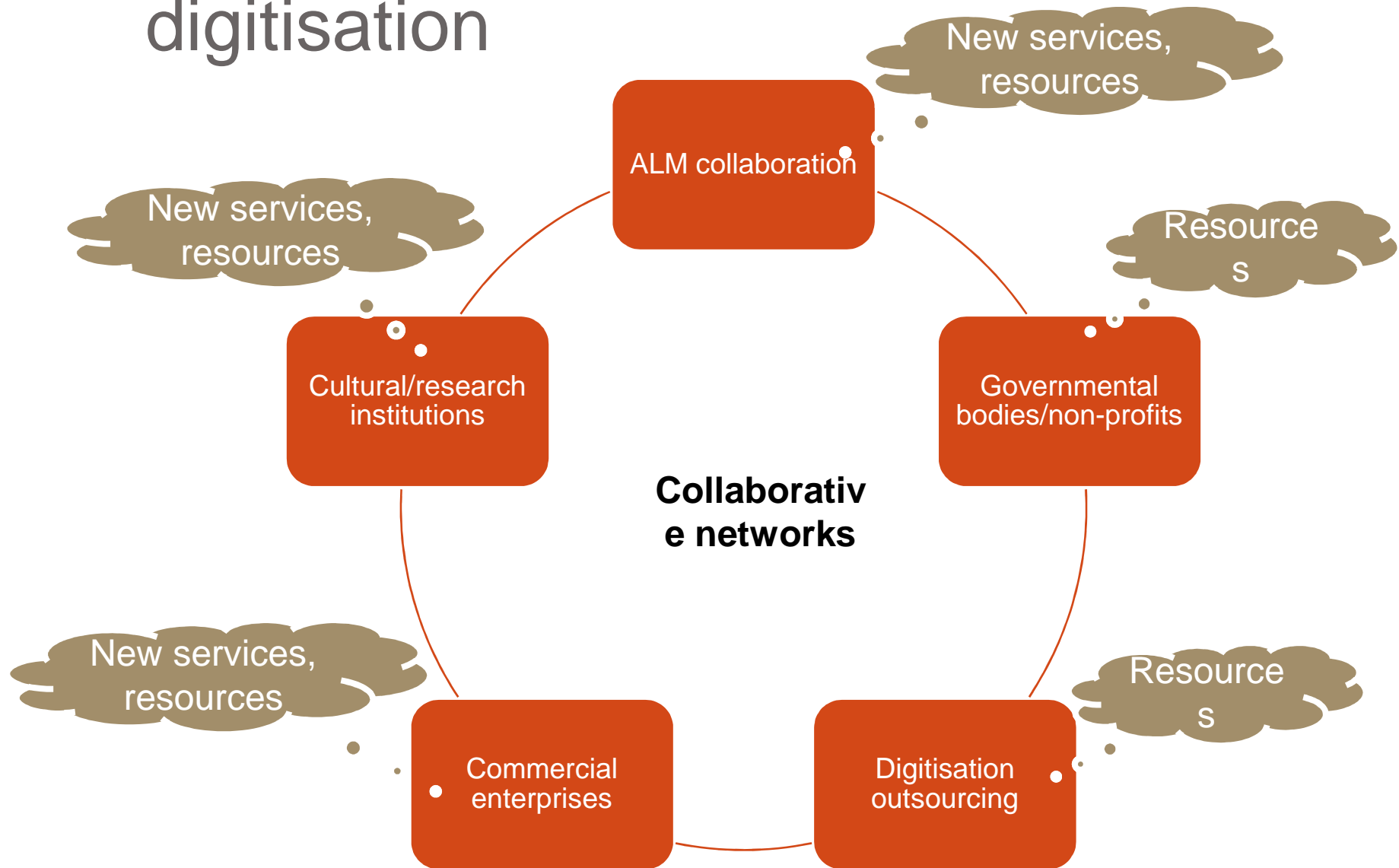Vilnius University

Outline

- **Aim** – to analyse collaborative networks developed by memory institutions and determine collaboration patterns

- **Presentation contents:**
  - Collaboration: concept and demand
  - Collaboration type
  - Collaborative networks research design
  - Research findings
  - Conclusions

- This presentation is based on the research carried out in NUMERIC project (http://www.numeric.ws/)

What is networking and why should we care?

- Collaborative networks – interorganisational relationships aimed at solving complex tasks
- Network society
- Digitisation as a "complex task"
  - Large-scale initiatives
  - The challenge of developing quality services
  - Inability to accumulate all resources in one institution
  - Long-term responsibility
- Collaboration objectives:
  - Improvement of organisation's internal processes/existent services (resource sharing approach)
  - Re-inventing products/services to meet external demands

Types of collaborative networks in digitisation

New services, resources

New services, resources

ALM collaboration

Resources

Cultural/research institutions

Collaborativ e networks

Governmental bodies/non-profits

New services, resources

Resources

Commercial enterprises

Digitisation outsourcing

Analysis of collaborative networks

- **Research questions:**
  - To what extent archives, libraries and museums engage in collaborative networks?
  - What types of partners/contractors archives, libraries and museums tend to collaborate with the most?
  - What are the differences between collaborative networks of archives, libraries and museums?
- Distinction between partners and contractors (outsourcing)
- **Data source:** NUMERIC survey early answers (587 respondents)
- **Method:** content analysis of comments
- **Respondents:**
  - 134 (24% of all respondents) institutions commented on partners
  - 200 (34% of all respondents) institutions commented on contractors
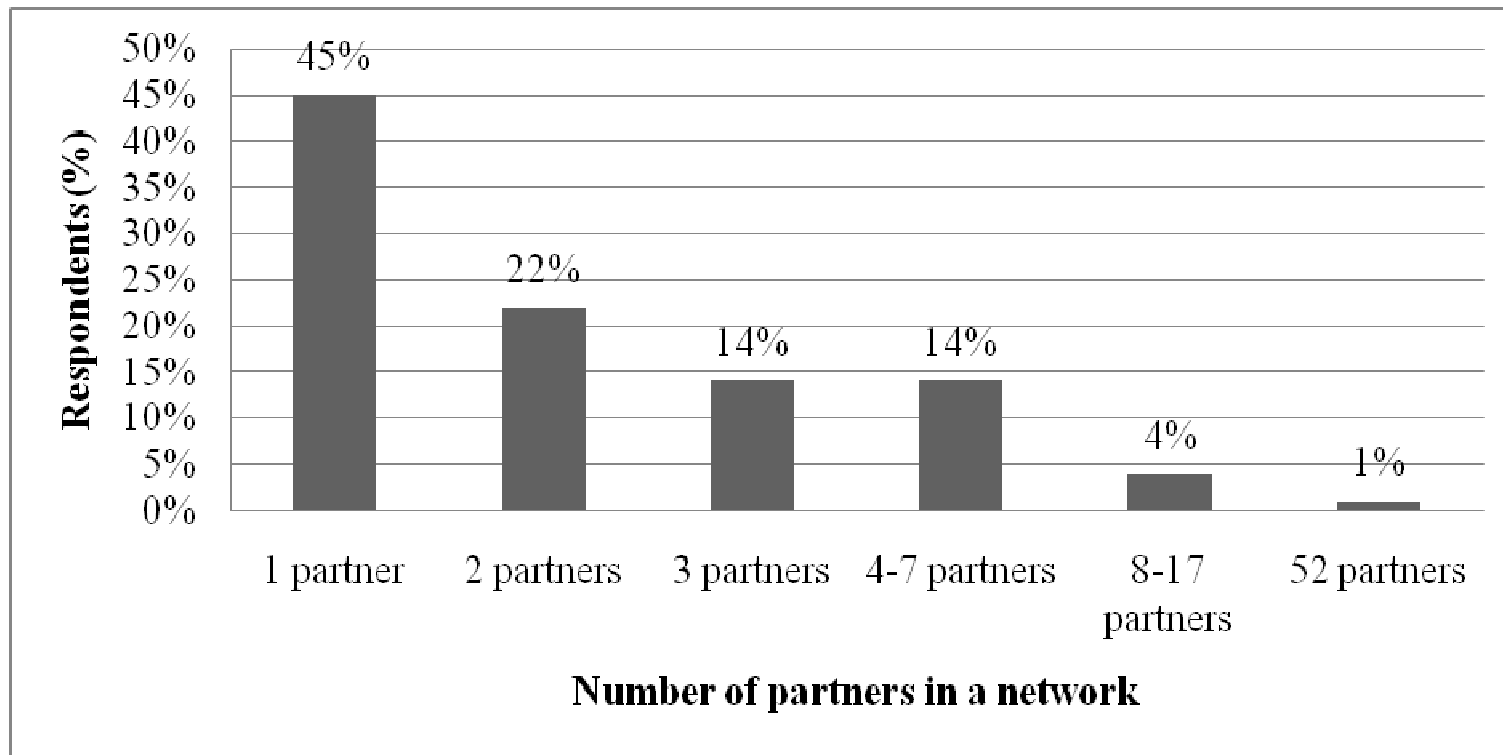
Findings of research

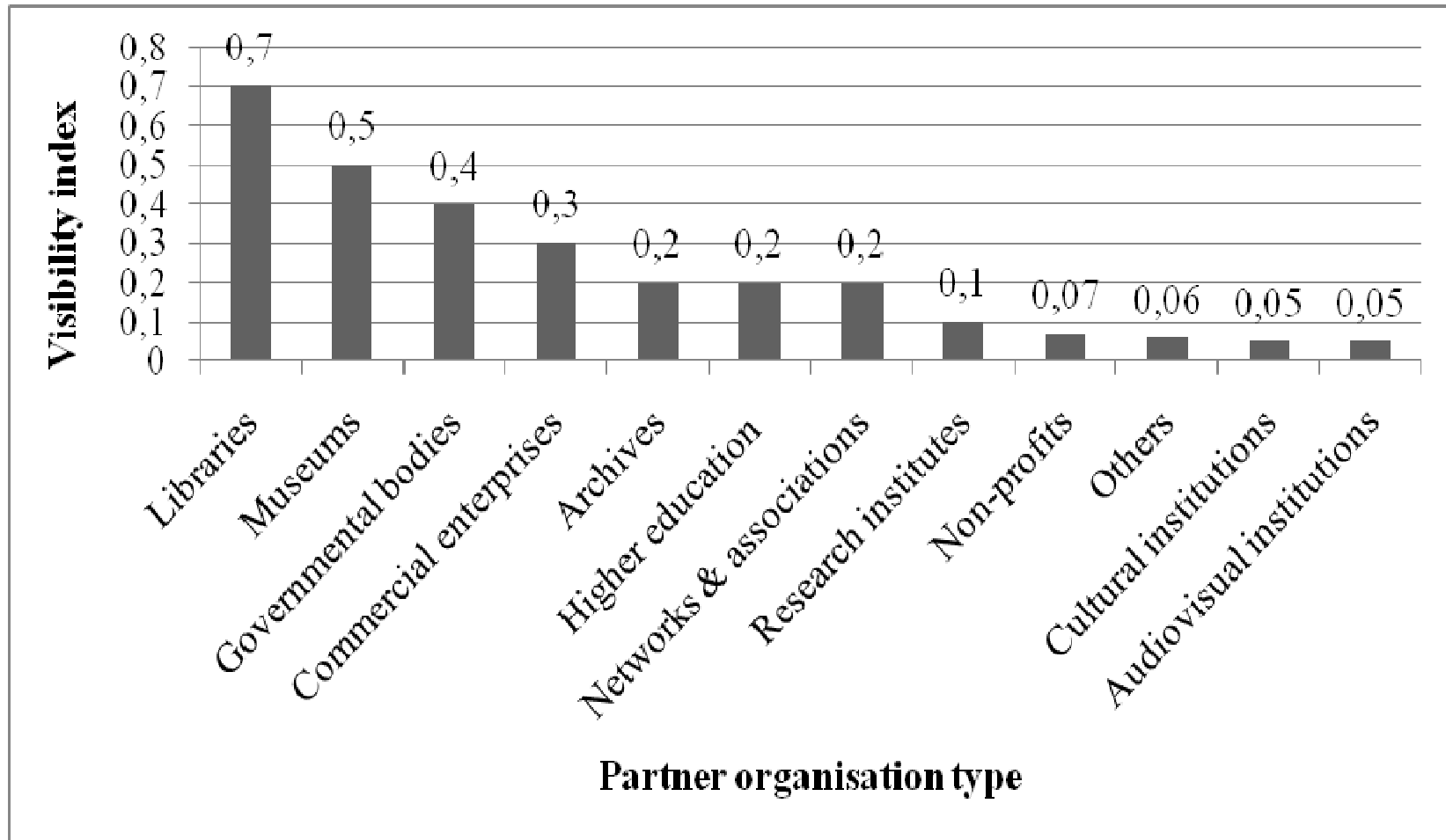Networks of partners: size, composition & partner visibility

Comparative view on ALM partner networks

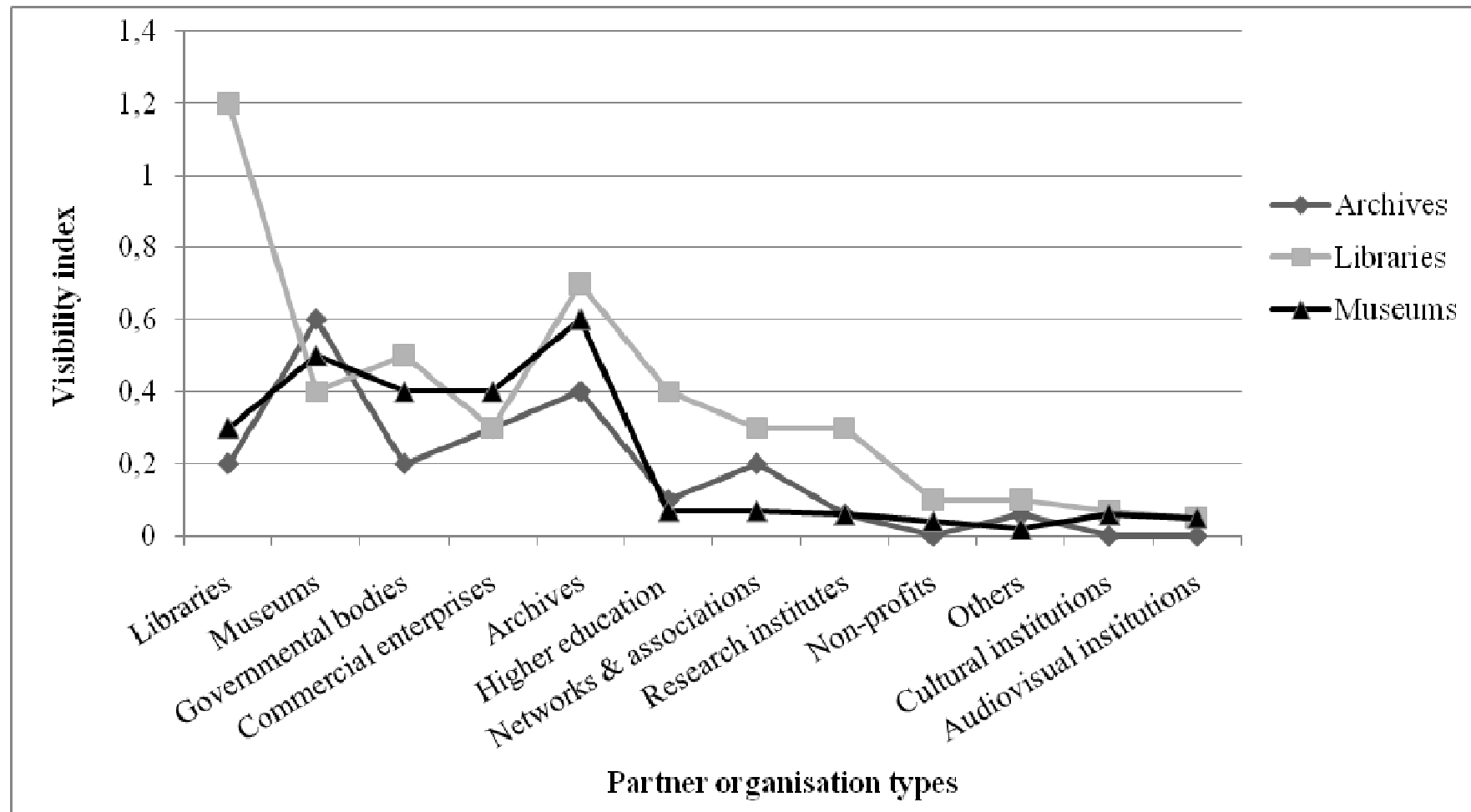Networks of contractors: size, composition & partner visibility
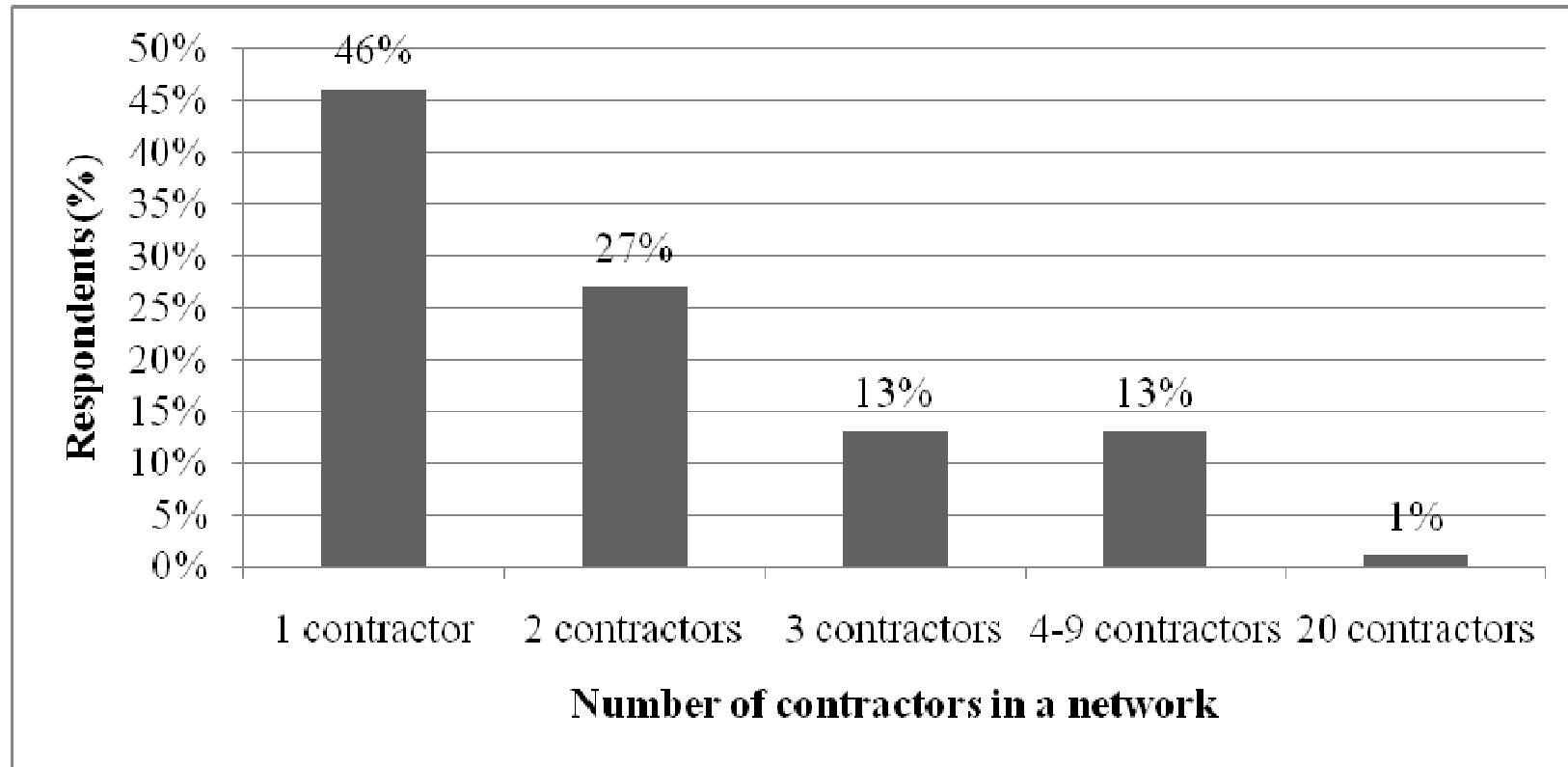
Networks of partners: size

Networks of partners: composition & visibility

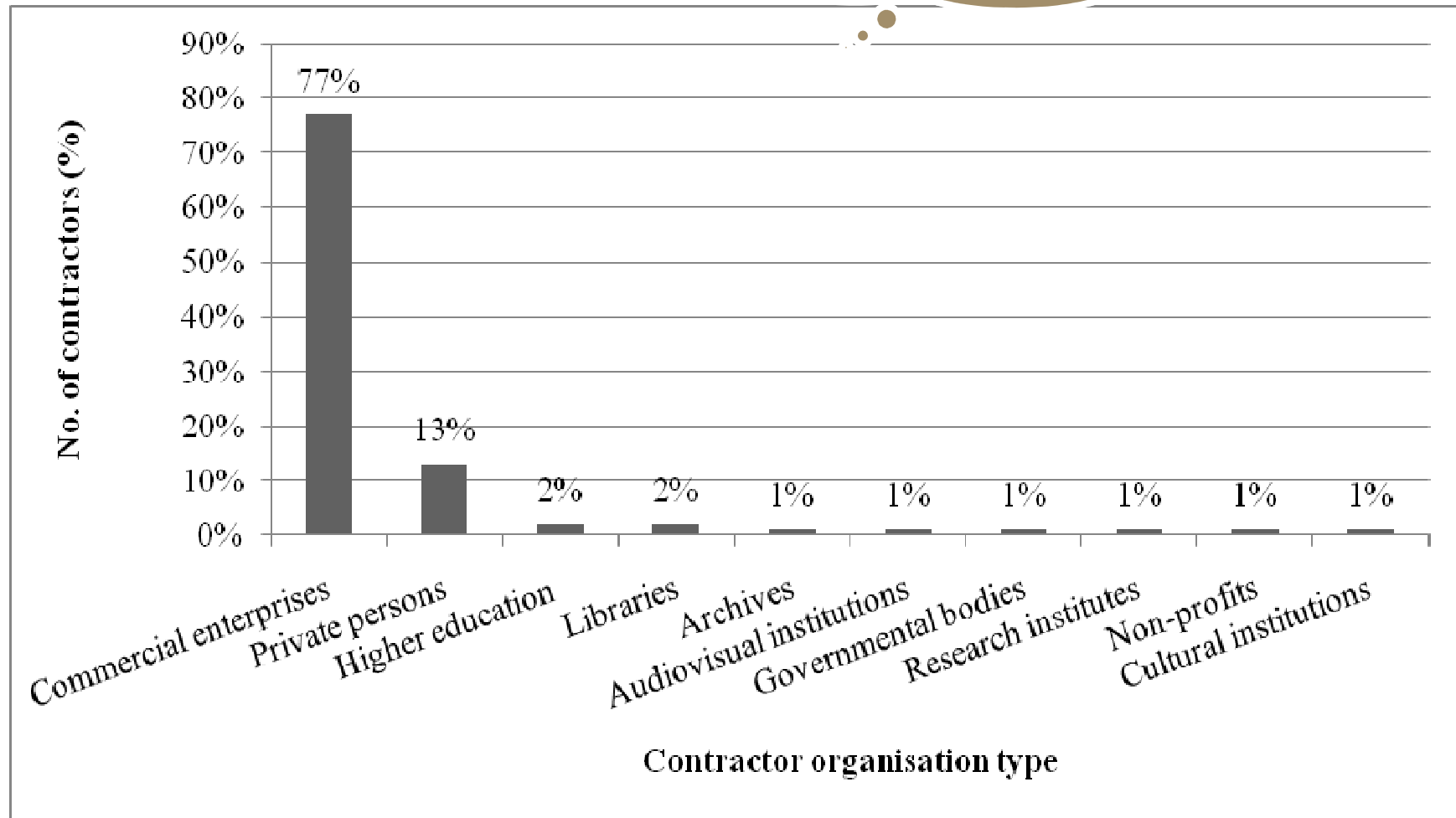# Networks of partners: ALM comparison

Networks of contractors: size

Networks of contractors: composition & visibility

No significant differences between ALM networks

Conclusions

- Low engagement into collaboration practices
- Preferences for safe and well-known collaboration types
- Orientation at resource sharing but less at developing new services
- Libraries – the most active collaborators
- Archives & museums – more open to networking with institutions of other type
- The need for further research and qualitative data:
  - What are the goals and expected outcomes of collaboration?
  - What are the relationships with current partners/contractors?

Thank you for attention!

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