



Trends and Challenges in Research on LIS

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Outline

- Characterising science and research
- Trends in LIS research 1965-2015
- How are European LIS Schools doing in research in an international comparison?
- Conclusions



Introduction

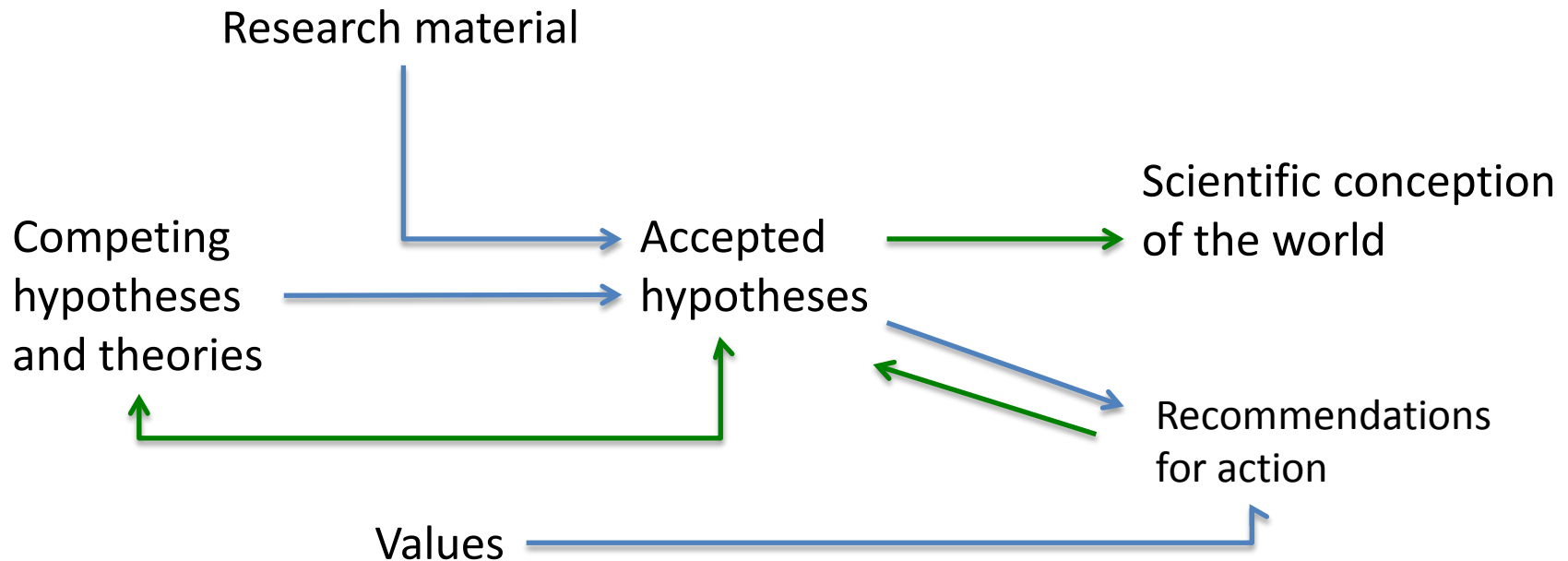
- My presentation is based on
 - Tuomaala & Järvelin & Vakkari (2014)
 - Analysis of articles in the 2nd issue of 24 LIS core research journals in 2015
- The analysis reveals various characteristics of research in LIS in 1965, 1985, 2005, and 2015
 - A classification in Järvelin & Vakkari (1990)
 - E.g. topic, the social level of analysis, research strategy, data collection methods, the type of analysis
 - New sub-classes for 2005+ data



The aim of science is the growth of knowledge

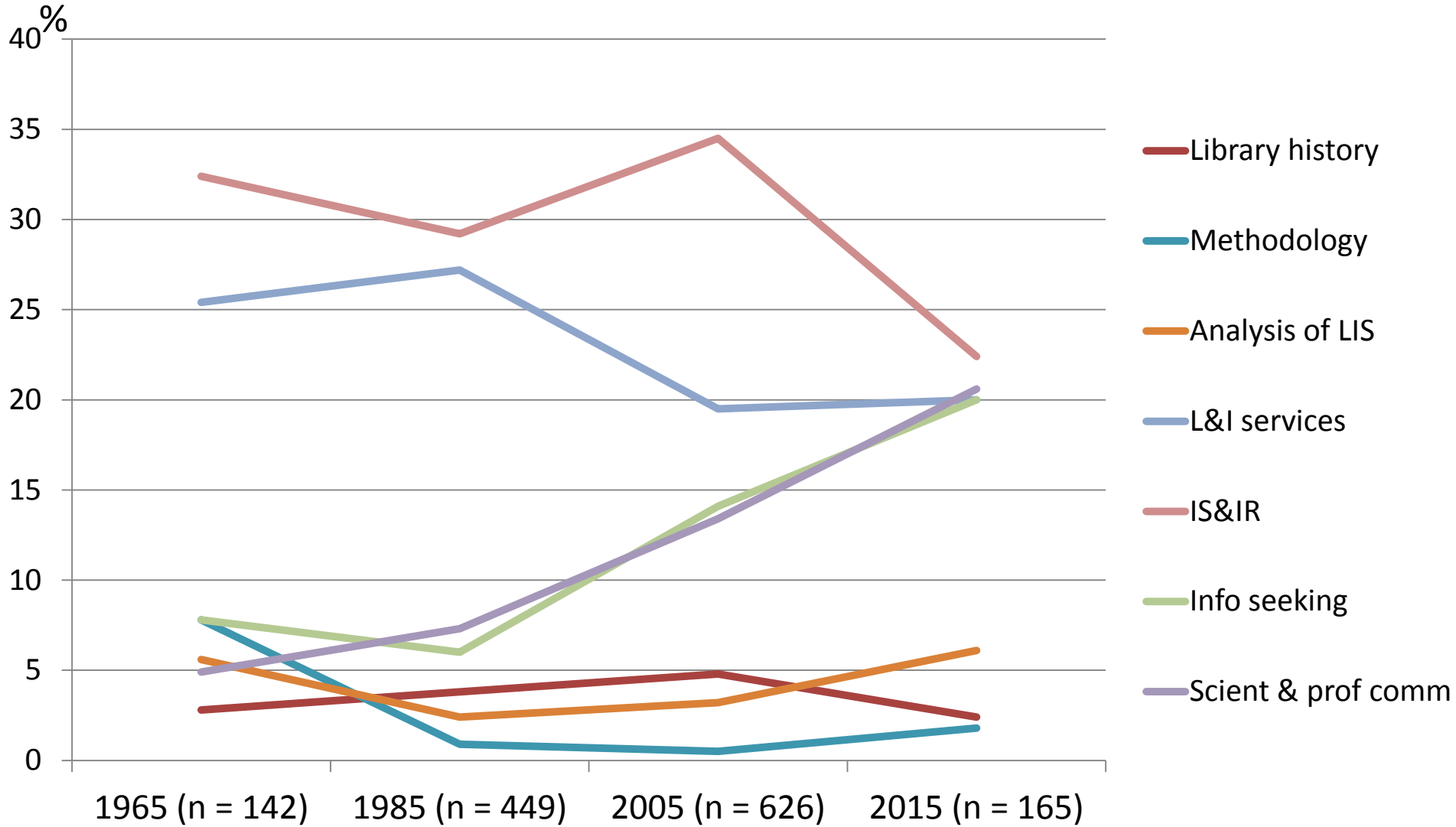
- Theoretical growth
 - A theory = a set of interrelated concepts
 - Theories are more comprehensive and accurate
 - Greater analytical power (e.g. formalization)
 - The number and variety of new, fruitful hypotheses
- Empirical growth
 - The number and variety of the empirical consequences supported
- The type of contribution?

Behavioralistic and Cognitivist concept of science (Levi 1967, Vakkari 1989)



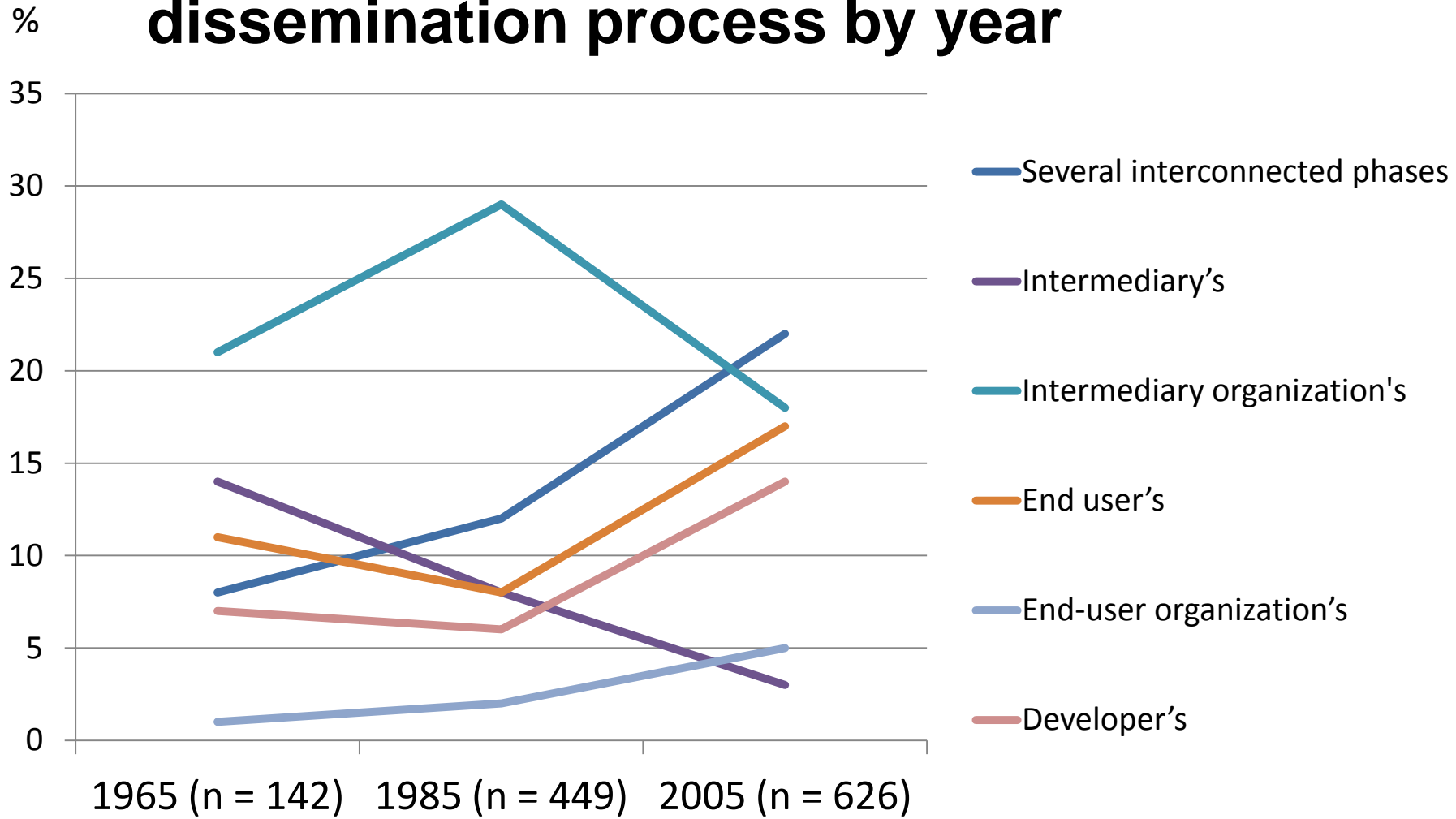


% of research topics by year

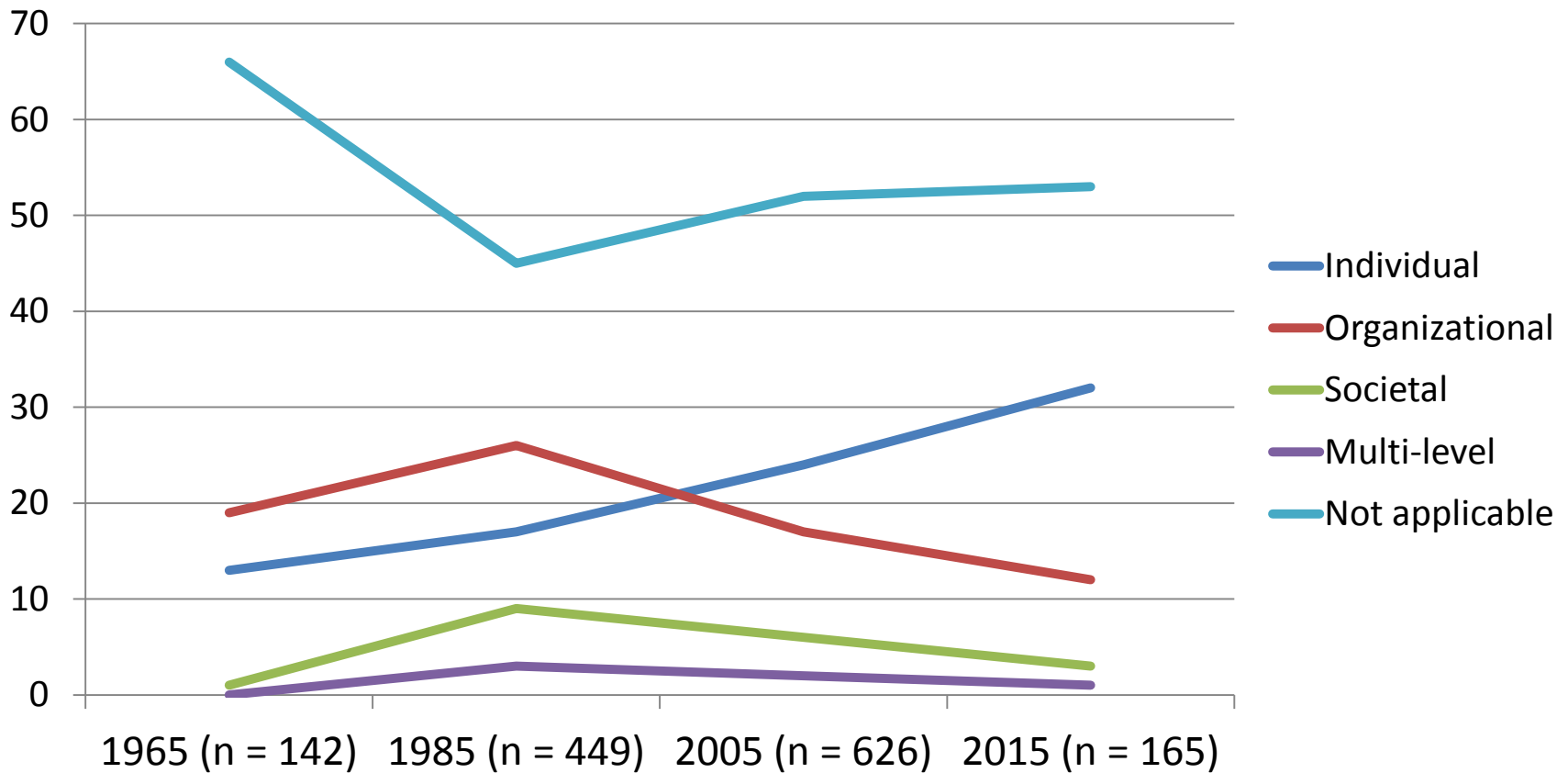




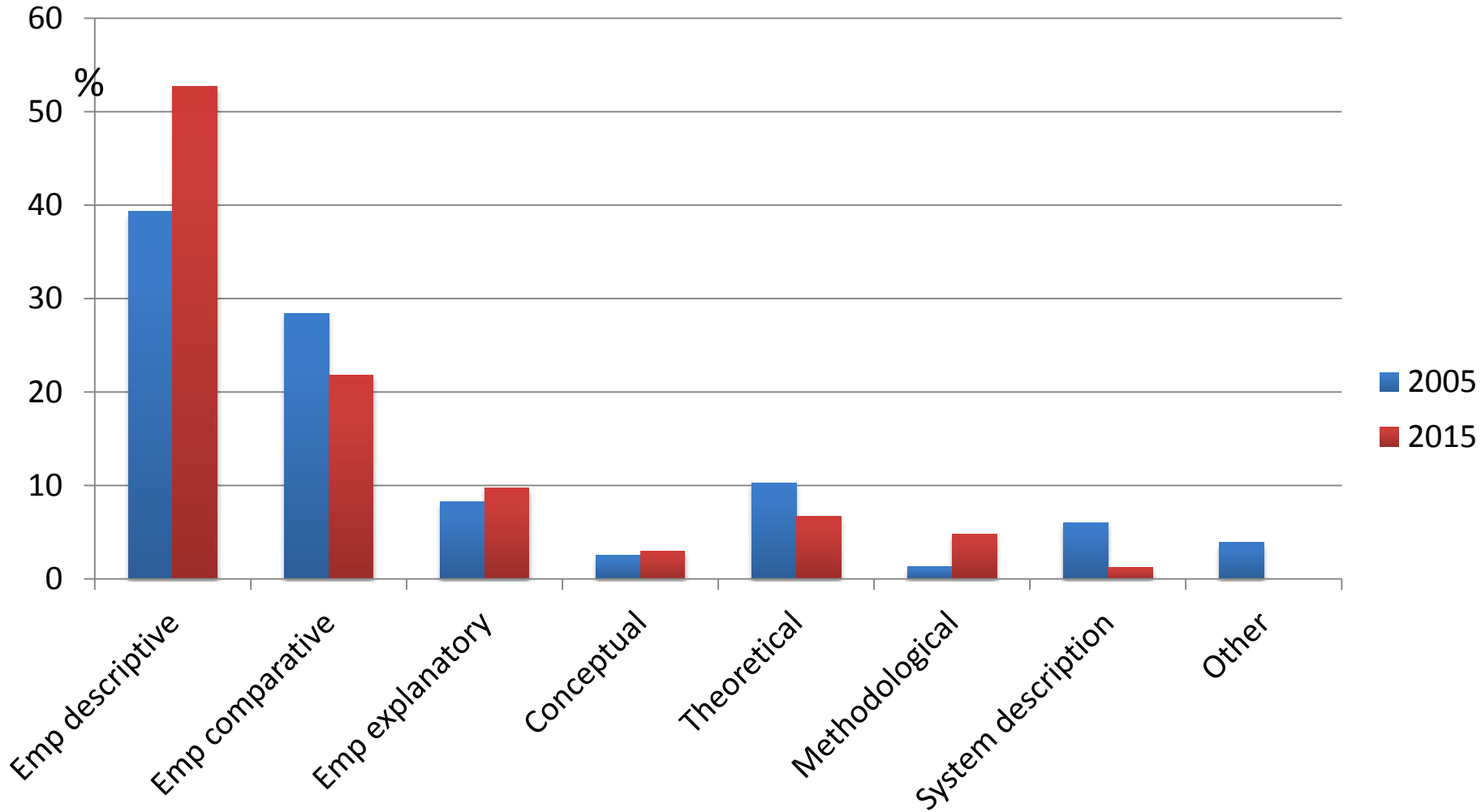
% of viewpoints on the information dissemination process by year



% the social level of the unit of analysis



% Investigation type



Departmental contribution to LIS literature 2007-2012 (Walters & Wilder 2015)

Rank	Department	Contribution
1	Indiana U., Bloomington—LIS	97.0
2	Nanyang Technological U.—LIS	63.5
3	Tampereen Yliopisto—LIS	59.5
4	U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee—LIS	54.6
5	Florida State U.—LIS	52.9
6	U. of Maryland, College Park—LIS	51.8
7	U. of Sheffield—LIS	51.5
8	Royal School of Lib. & Inf. Sci.—LIS	49.1
9	UCL—LIS	48.6
10	Universiteit Leiden—Soc. sci.	48.5
11	Bar-Ilan U.—LIS	47.3
12	U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill—LIS	46.9
13	Drexel U.—LIS	46.2
14	Loughborough U.—LIS	45.2
15	U. of Texas, Austin—LIS	44.7
16	U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign—LIS	42.6
17	Universidad de Granada—LIS	42.5
18	Universiteit van Amsterdam—Comm.	41.0
19	U. of Wolverhampton—Nat. sci.	40.8
20	U. of Western Ontario—LIS	40.4



- The major aim of science is the growth of knowledge, which may produce practical applications
- Information retrieval, information seeking, LIS services, and scientific and professional communication are the most popular areas of research
- There is a lack of studies in LIS
 - Using other than individual level approach to phenomena
 - With explanatory research design

References

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- Walters, W. & Wilder, E. (To appear) Disciplinary, national, and departmental contributions to the literature of Library and Information Science, 2007–2012. *JASIST* early view