

Rethinking Library and Information Studies in Spain: Crossing the boundaries



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3. **How is interdisciplinary perceived in Spain?**
4. **Job market**
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6. **New laws ... more changes**
7. **Conclusions and debate**

**Information Science is the crossroads of Information,
Technology and People**

Spanish LIS education: origin

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Spain does have a certain tradition:

- Barcelona School was founded in 1915 (it was the second in Europe next after Leipzig, 1914). But it was not linked to the university. It was basically a professional activity.
- The School of Technical training for Archivists, Librarians and Archeologists which was founded by the Spanish National Library in 1953.

LIS university studies: 1982

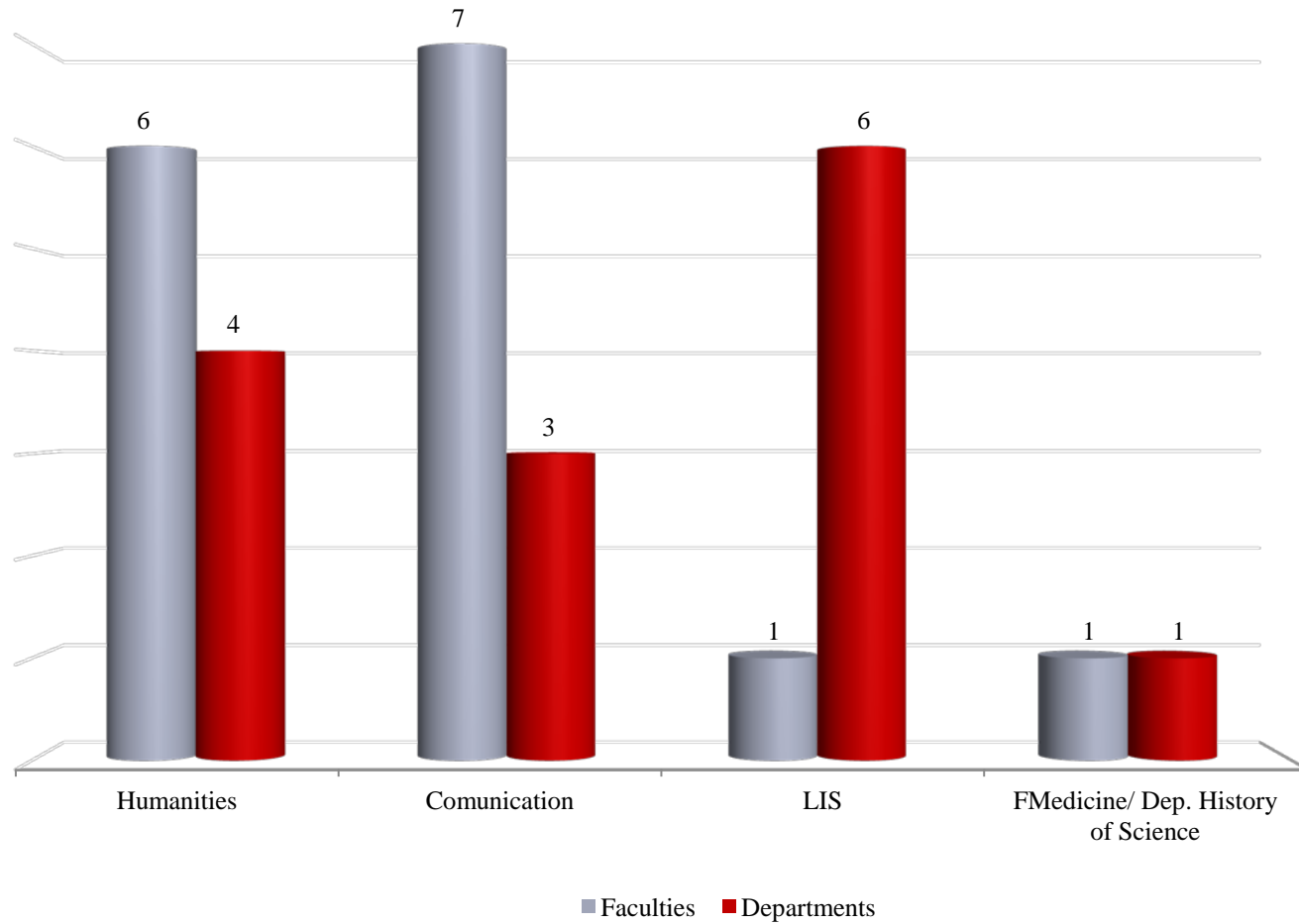
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- Undergraduate programs (before Bologna)
- Today:
 - Bologna undergraduate
 - Master
 - PhD

15 Centers

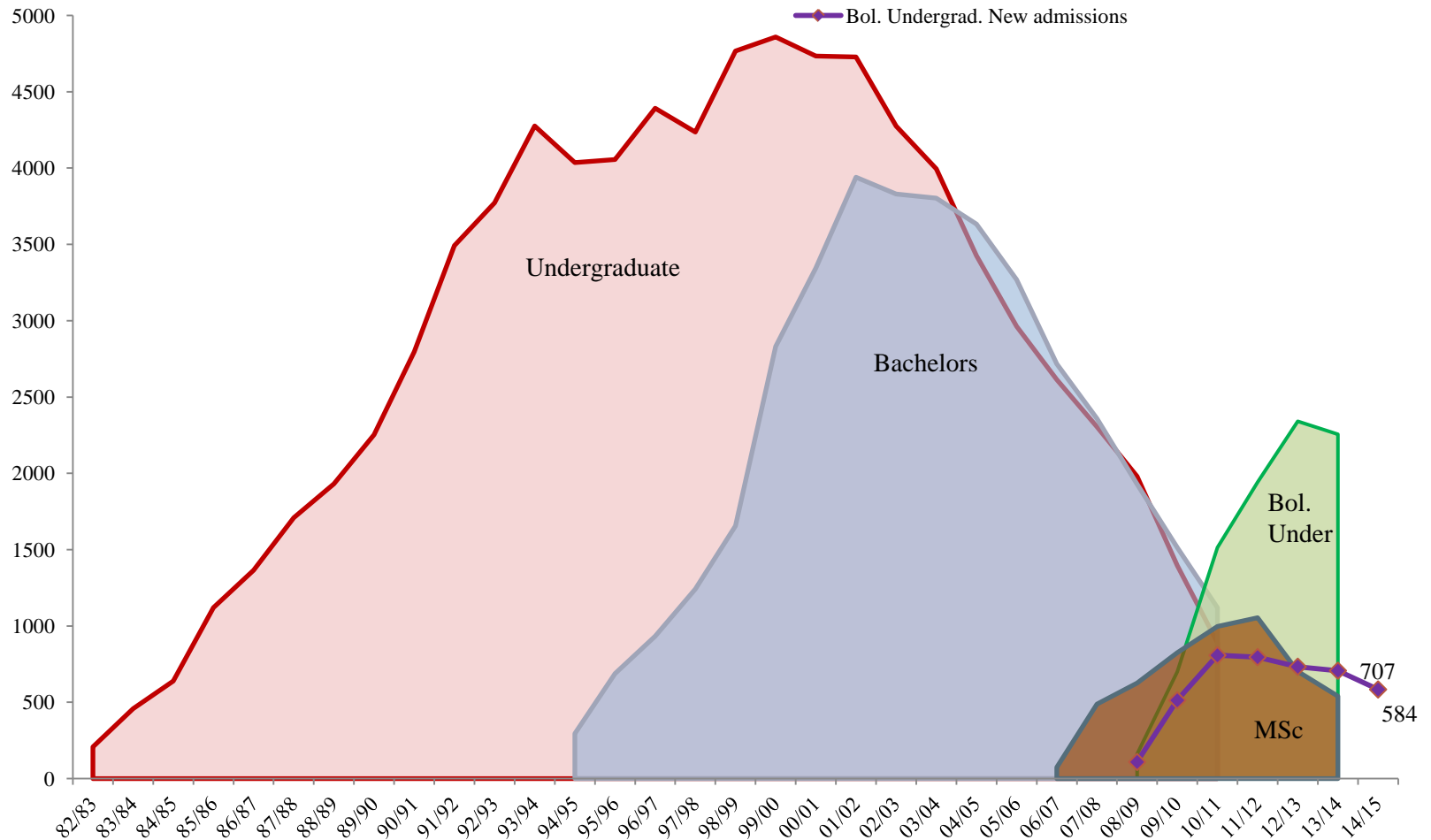
LIS is affiliated with other disciplines

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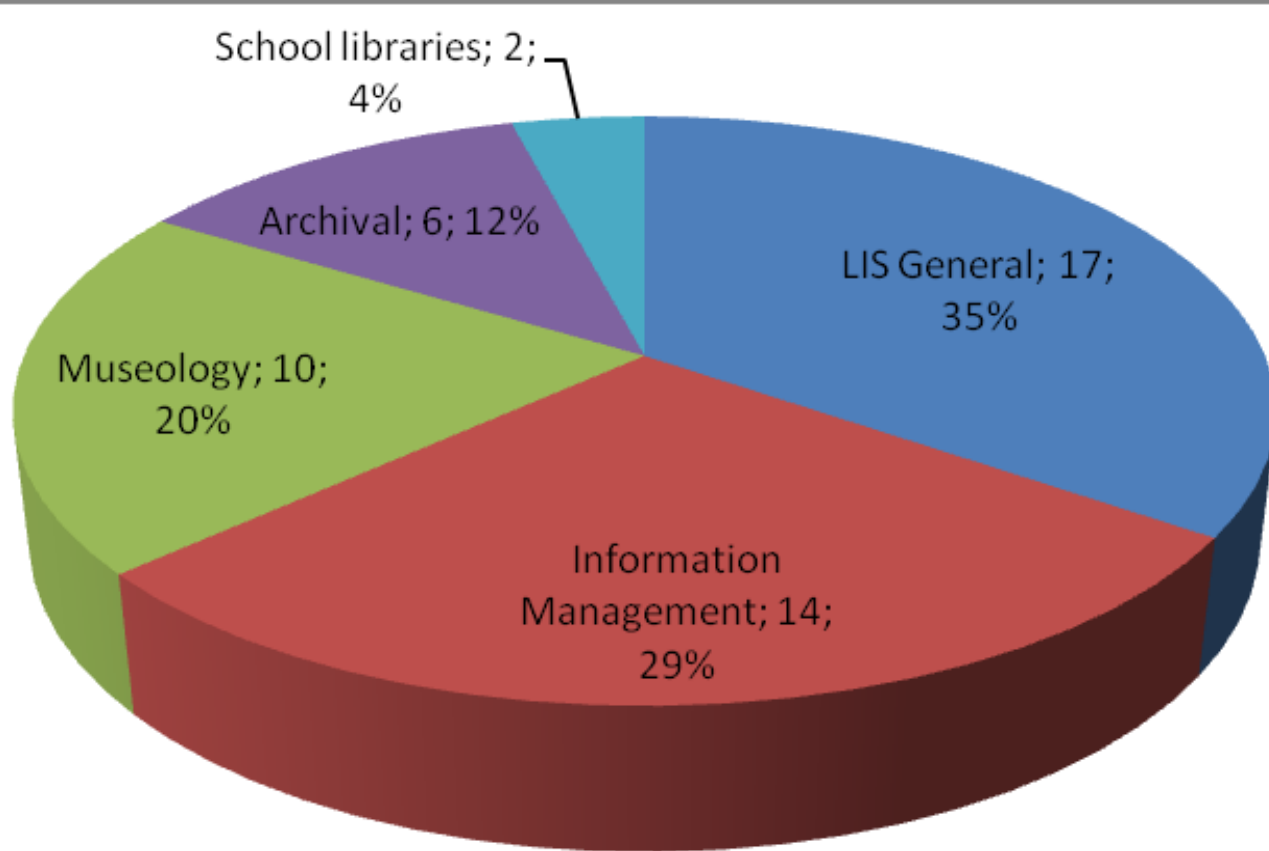
The evolution of University studies (1982-2014)

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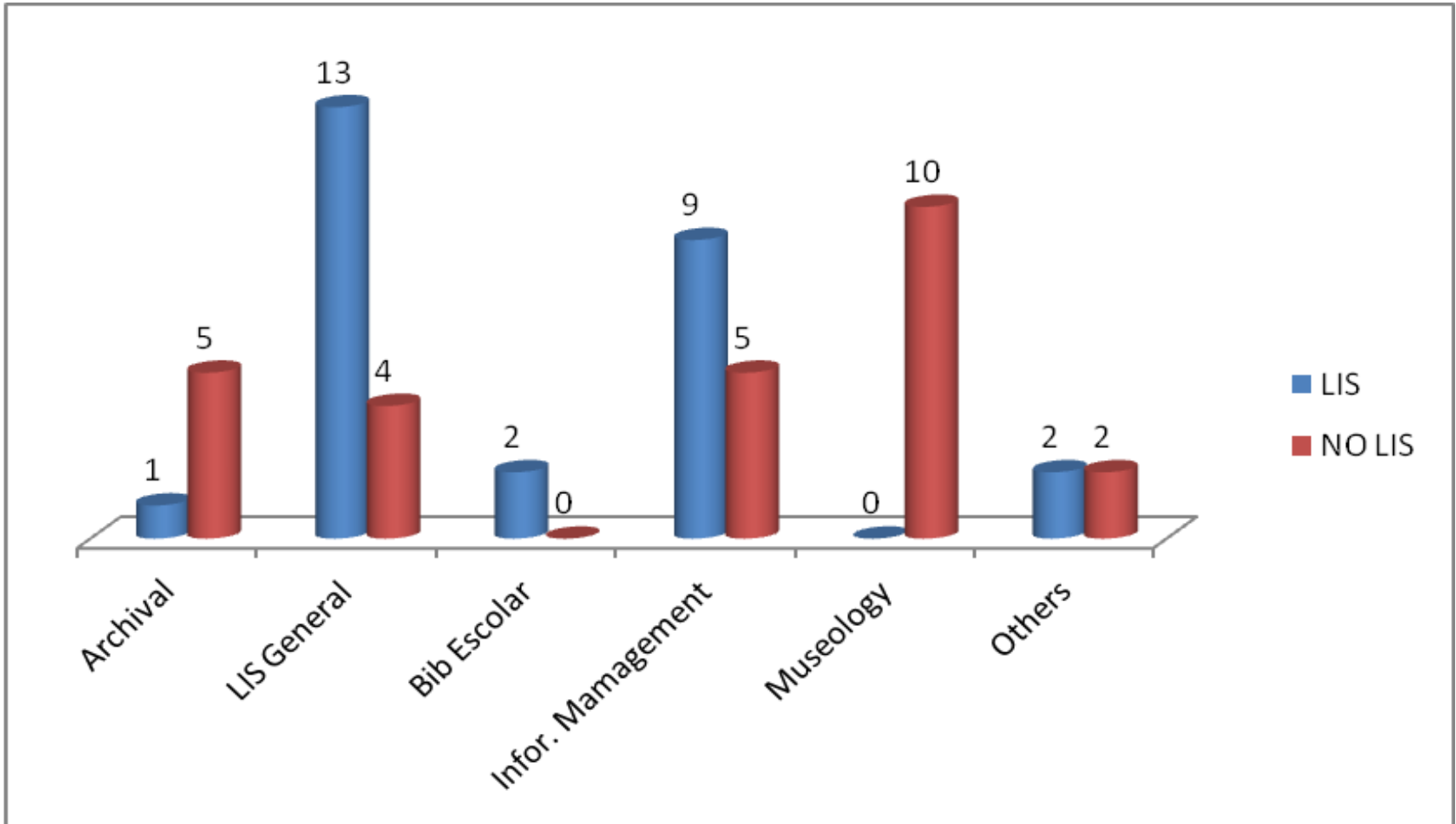


Masters by subject (55 titles)

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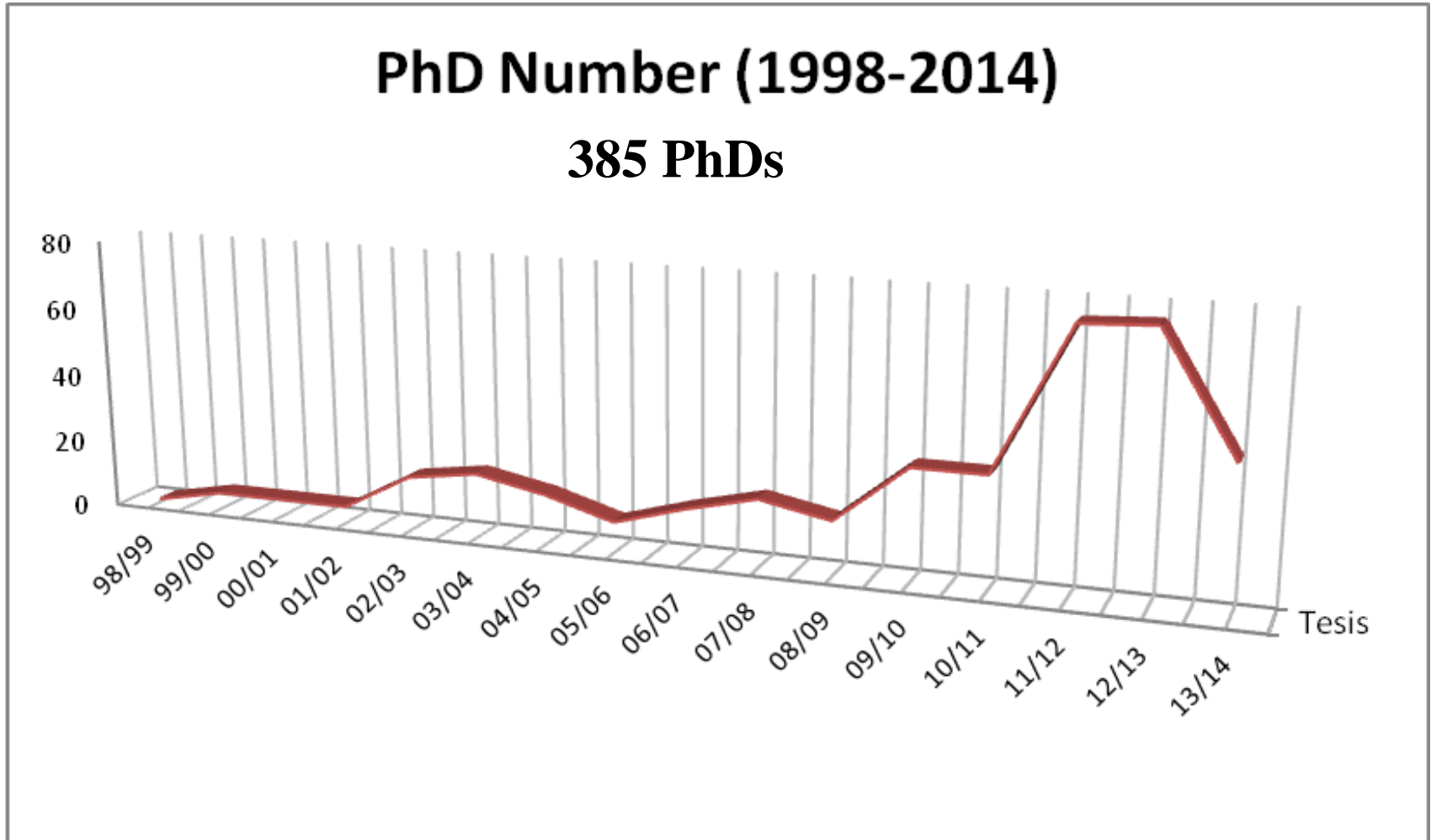
LIS Masters Studies in Spain



PhD Dissertations and research

PhD Number (1998-2014)

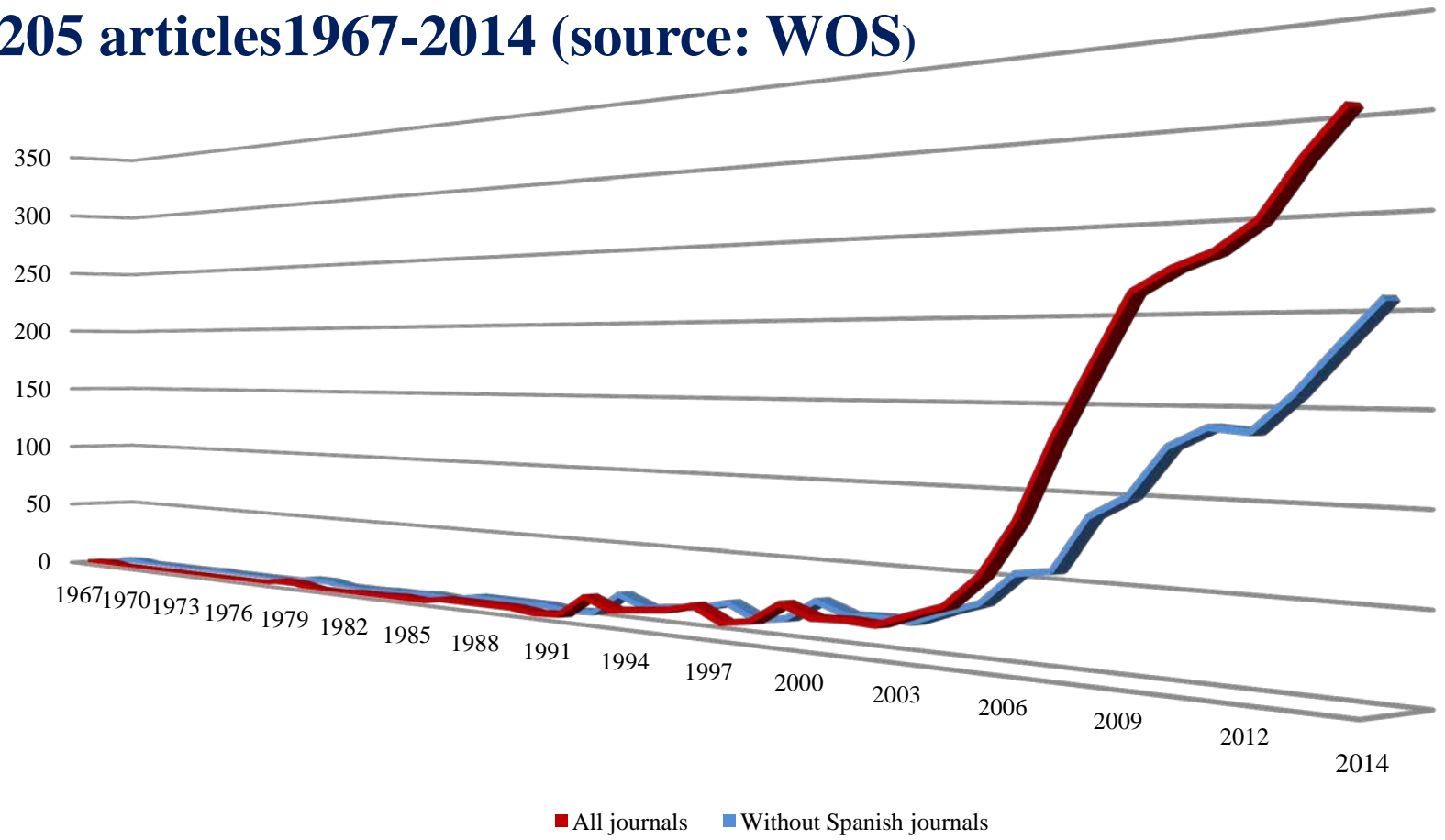
385 PhDs



Tesis

Spanish works at an international level

2.205 articles 1967-2014 (source: WOS)



Spain has a good position internationally

WOS (2000-2014)

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Position	Country	N. articles	% of 42061
1	USA	17677	42,0
2	England	3483	8,3
3	Spain	2049	4,9
4	Canada	1915	4,5
5	Peoples R. China	1913	4,5
6	Australia	1412	3,37
7	Germany	1393	3,3
8	Netherlands	1147	2,7
9	Taiwan	1036	2,5
10	South Korea	884	2,1
11	Brazil	808	2,0
12	France	691	1,6
13	Belgium	602	1,4
14	Italy	591	1,4
15	Singapore	532	1,3

Position	Country	N. articles	% of 12567
1	England	3483	27,7
2	Spain	2049	16,3
3	Germany	1393	11,1
4	Netherlands	1147	9,1
5	France	691	5,5
6	Belgium	602	4,8
7	Italy	591	4,7
8	Finland	506	4,0
9	Sweden	441	3,5
10	Scotland	438	3,5
11	Denmark	373	3,0
12	Switzerland	355	2,8
13	Greece	229	1,9
14	Hungary	225	1,8
15	Ireland	216	1,7

How is interdisciplinary perceived in Spain?

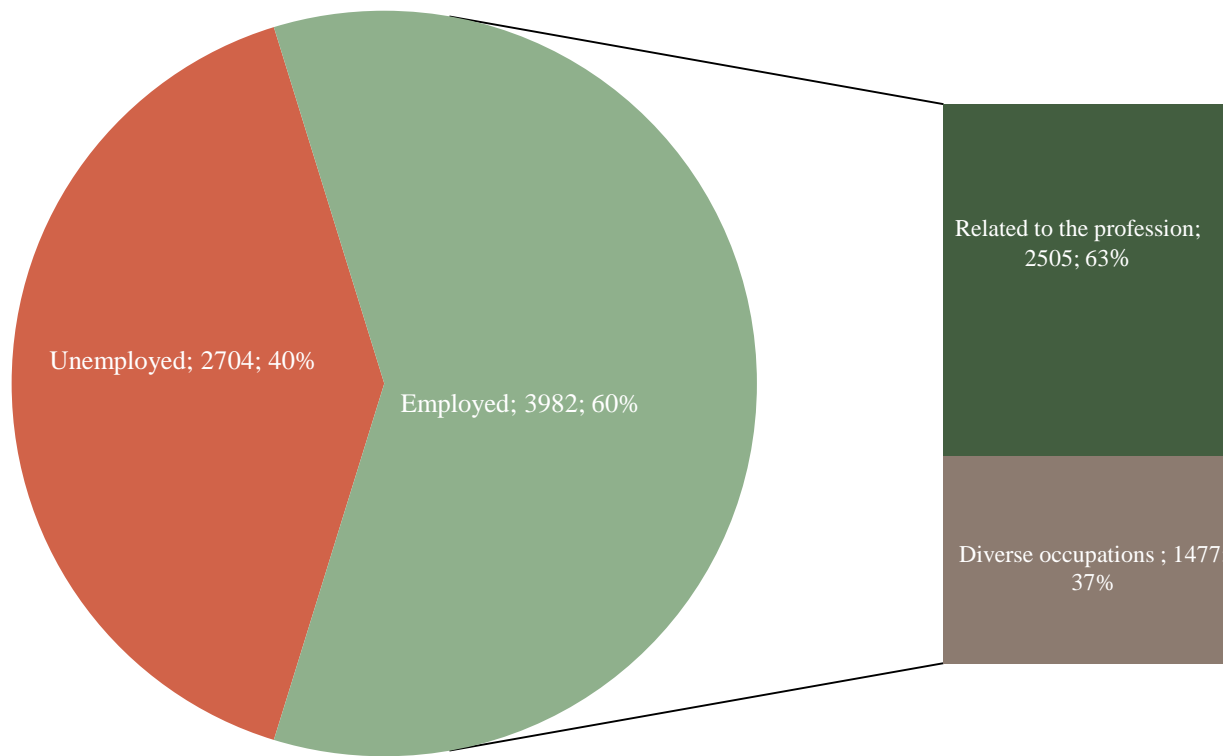
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LIS is naturally interdisciplinary but sometimes it is hard to see.

Two points of view:

- Study plans. Undergraduate 34% (Moneda,2014)
- Scientific publications.

Observatory of Occupations of Public State Employment Service (2014)



Numerous studies have been undertaken from

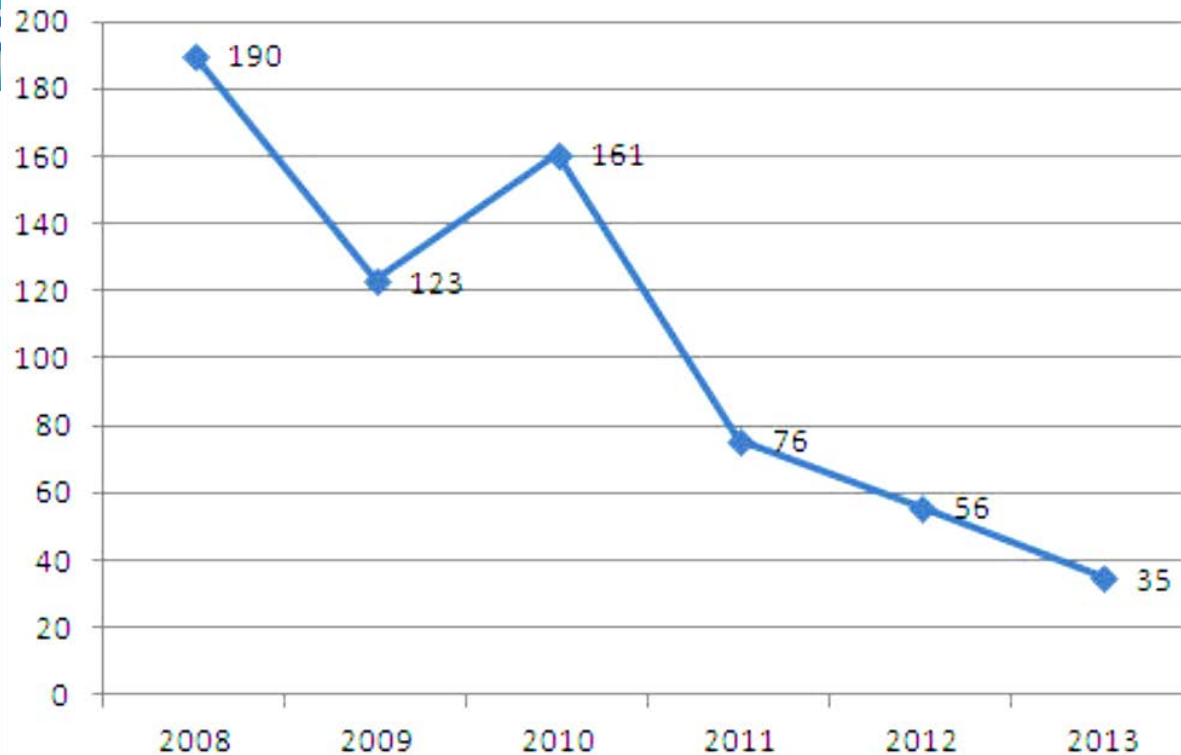
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different perspectives,
analyzing the state of the art
and most have reached similar
results.

Evolution of the number of job postings per year: 2008-2013 Iwetel (641 offers). Source: Tejada et al. (2014)

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International
Seminar on LIS
Education and Research
(LIS-ER) BiD



Profile types and Center Characteristics

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- Employment is primarily found within the traditional sectors,
- but a new sector within the digital field is also rapidly emerging: portals, digital libraries, management, etc.
- The decline of government job offers can be seen in all the studies.

Profile types and Center Characteristics (II)

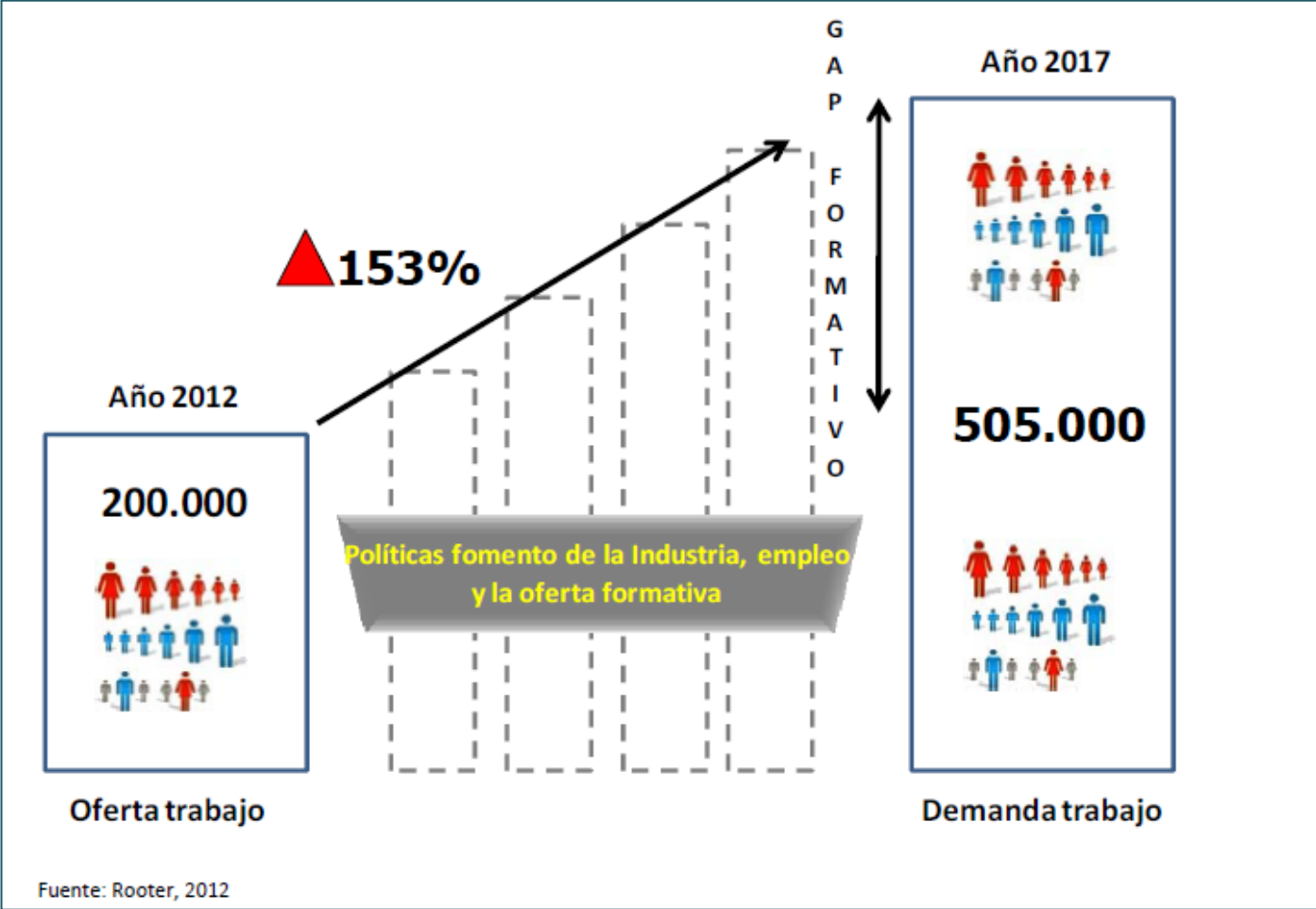
- The professional profile which is demanded is undergoing a change.
- The basic characteristics are:
 - The offers are not directed only to LIS graduates.
 - Internet and social networks: one of the fields where recruitment continues, sometimes in competition with other degrees. The job offers are becoming ever more specific and high specialization is requested.

Profile types and Center Characteristics (III)

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- Training courses are offered by associations, universities and training centers:
 - Mobile devices
 - Social networks
 - Content Curator
 - Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
 - Marketing online
 - Social Media y Community Management
 - Cloud Computing
 - Content Marketing
 - Marketplaces de Servicios Freelance
 - Information Architects
 - ...

Mining New Jobs



New laws ... more changes

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Conclusions and Debate (I)

- In Spain not everything is wine and roses.
- It seems that we are again on a downhill slide in the number of university students like the one we experienced before the economical crisis.
- In LIS, the number of students is decreasing more than in other areas.
- The main reasons for this are to be found in the current economic crisis, government policies and an endemic lack of social recognition of our profession.

Conclusions and Debate (II)

- Excellent results in international publications are achieved
- and yet the number of students decreases... employment is unstable and precarious: it seems that there is a contradiction.
- We have formed good researchers and professionals, but we do not succeed in increasing the visibility of what we do.
- The cost of studies at state universities varies from region to region with some very significant differences. Spanish citizens have to pay different rates simply because of the geography.

Conclusions and Debate (III)

- One of the main objectives of the implementation of undergraduate studies was to adapt to the labor market and to a new reality for our profession. From the data analyzed, we may conclude that this objective has not been fully achieved.
- Although a certain increase was on its way, now new enrolment is generally speaking on a downward path and the ratio of students who leave the studies before they graduate is higher than we would like.

Conclusions and Debate (IV)

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- The low social visibility of the studies and the profession, which now has become endemic, is one of the most important weaknesses.
- It is somewhat paradoxical that our studies are not more in demand in a society dominated by information and new job profiles.

Conclusions and Debate (V)

- Reviewing and updating of curricula. Many national and international experts emphasize the necessity of this (Cobarsí; Bustelo; Connaway; García Marco; Marchionini; Moreiro; Ortiz-Repiso; Taladriz; Partridge).
- Reviewing of offers for specialized masters.
- Establishment of strategic alliances with other areas: curricular and international collaborations, etc.
- Professional marketing in companies: actions aimed at increasing the sensitivity of companies to our profession.
- Actions to develop the image of the profession in society as a whole: increased visibility in the media, participation in events, articles, interviews, etc.
- Development of joint promotional actions between universities / professional associations: information portal, videos, etc.

Conclusions and Debate (VI)

- The current situation should worry (and occupy) not only the academic environment, but the profession as a whole.
- It is obvious that without graduates, there will be no professionals.
- This means that the posts, even more often than is the case today, in the future will be occupied by people with inadequate profiles.



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Questions?

