

# **Global Scholarly Communication: Two-Way Scholarly Communication between the United States and China (A Survey & Research Project Summary)\***

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Global scholarly communication is transforming the library and information service field with the rapid expansion of the Internet. International access to academic resources has become a routine practice to scholars in most academic fields. Choosing the scholarly communication between the United States and China as example, my research is to discover the emerging issues through surveys and face-to-face interviews, and to further explore the possible solutions to the issues raised thereafter.

## **Progress of the Survey & Research Project**

- ***Have Conducted a Series of Surveys on Global Scholarly Communication***

The survey, which includes 18 questions (the 18<sup>th</sup> question is for comments), got 80 replies in the United States and 162 replies in China from October 2007 to May 2008. The participating scholars in the United States are in the academic fields related to China or Asia, and the Chinese scholars are in the fields of American Studies.

- ***Have Conducted a Series of Face-to-Face Interviews on Global Scholarly Communication***

The interviews were conducted in the United States and China from November 2007 to April 2008.

- ***Have Organized a Series of Panels & Presentations on Global Scholarly Communication***

I organized a series of conference panels on Global Scholarly Communication at the ALA Annual Conference 2008 and ARL National Diversity Conference in October 2008. My research paper on Global Scholarly Communication is planned to be presented at Shanghai International Library Forum, an international Conference in China.

## **Findings of the Survey & Research Project**

- ***Fundamental Changes in Global Scholarly Communication***

As network based information technology became available to academic researchers, scholarly communication was fundamentally changed since then. My survey and interview showed that researchers in different countries may access to the current and updated resources at the same time. Furthermore, in comparing with the pre-Internet period, the most significant change of the global scholarly communication is transforming from one-way to two-way, and even to multi-directional traffic, which includes both formal and informal avenues. The development of information technology certainly makes researchers in all international study fields rely more on the global scholarly communication.

- ***Key Issues Affecting Global Scholarly Communication***

According to the surveys and interviews, the scholars in international studies of the United States and China widely accept some new concepts of the global scholarly communication, such as international publishing, borderless service, cyberianship, etc. Scholars support the concept of open access, a key element of scholarly communication, as well. However, there are a few concerns over the actual practice, such as concerns over the tenure/promotion of faculty status and the role of professional associations, which are main issues we have to consider in promoting global scholarly communication.

- ***Commons and Differences towards Global Scholarly Communication***

The surveys and interviews discovered that the Internet and related information technology make scholars in international studies share many common thoughts; however, notable differences still exist. It seems that Chinese researchers are more actively favor of global scholarly communication than American scholars; on the other hand, American librarians are aware of global scholarly communication more than Chinese counterparts. To explain such phenomenon, different social and cultural environment might be a key factor.

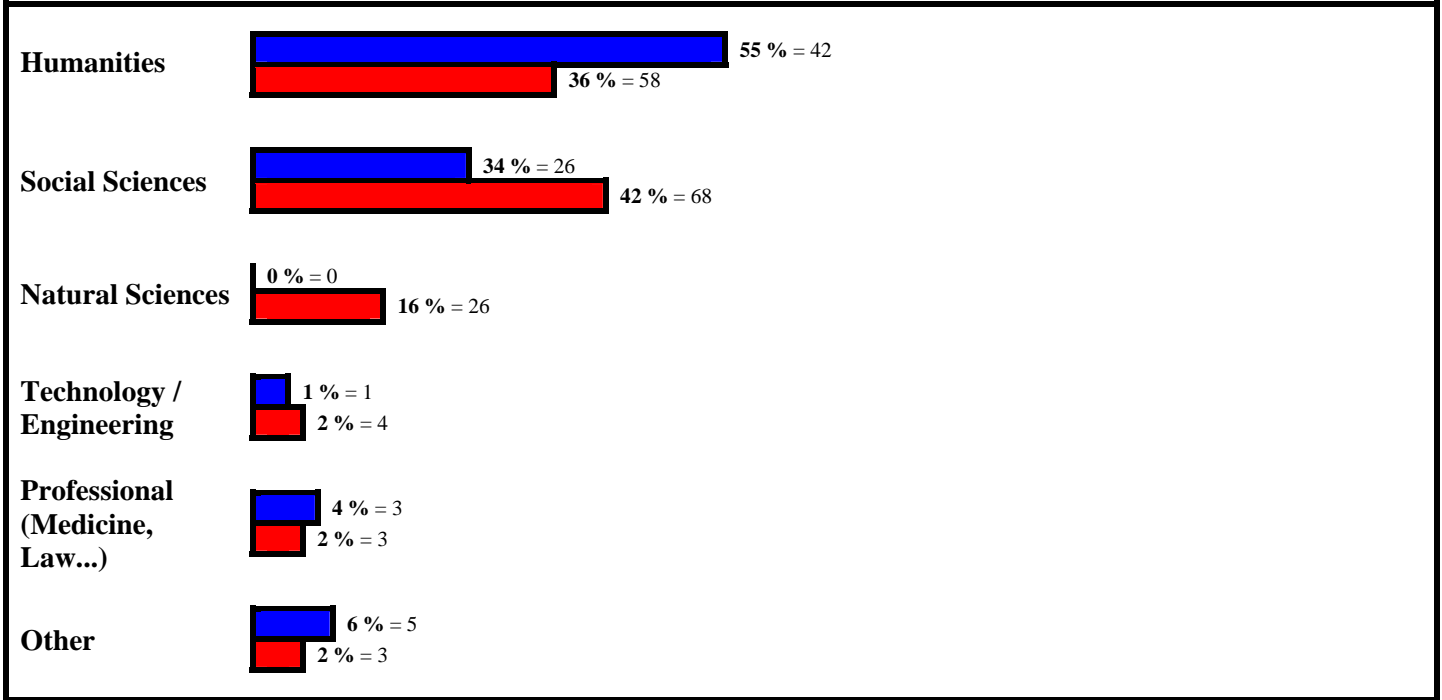
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\* This summary is to be presented at the Closing Ceremony of the ARL Leadership & Career Development Program on June 27, 2008, and at ACRL/AAMES program the ALA Annual Conference on June 28, 2008.

# Summary of the Survey

## Question 1

Your main academic/research field is in ...

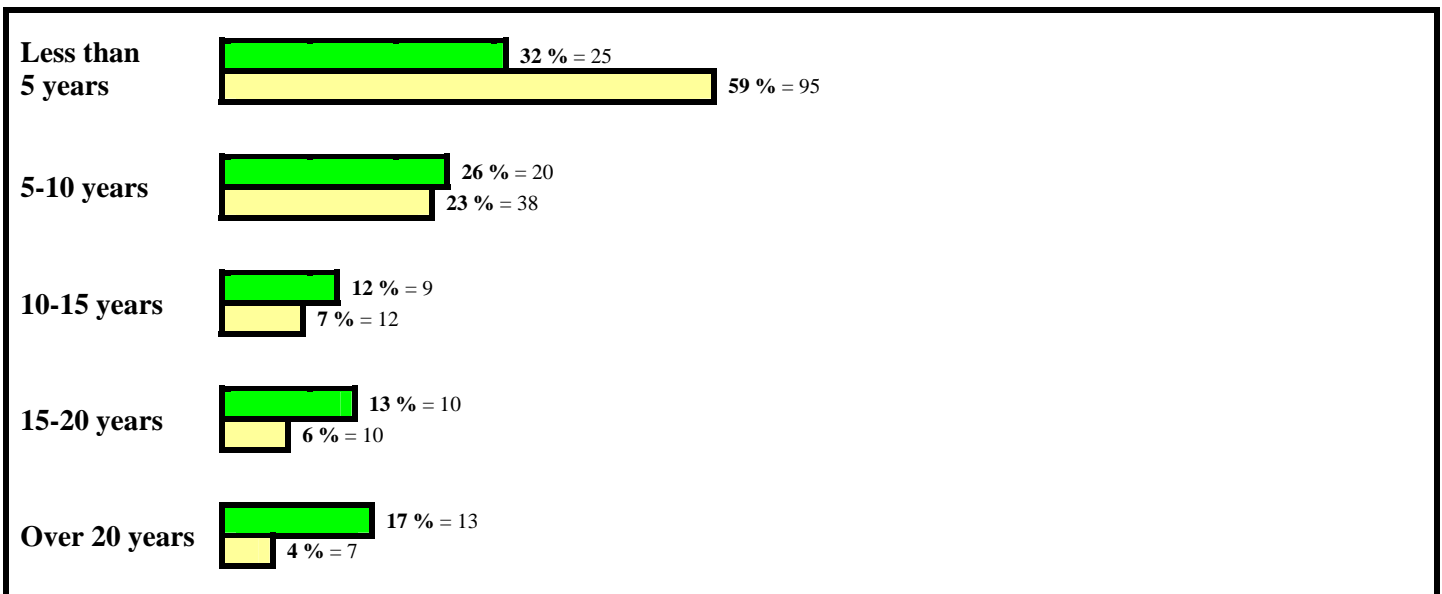


 American Scholars (77 responses)

 Chinese Scholars (162 responses)

## Question 2

You have been in the current academic / research field for ...

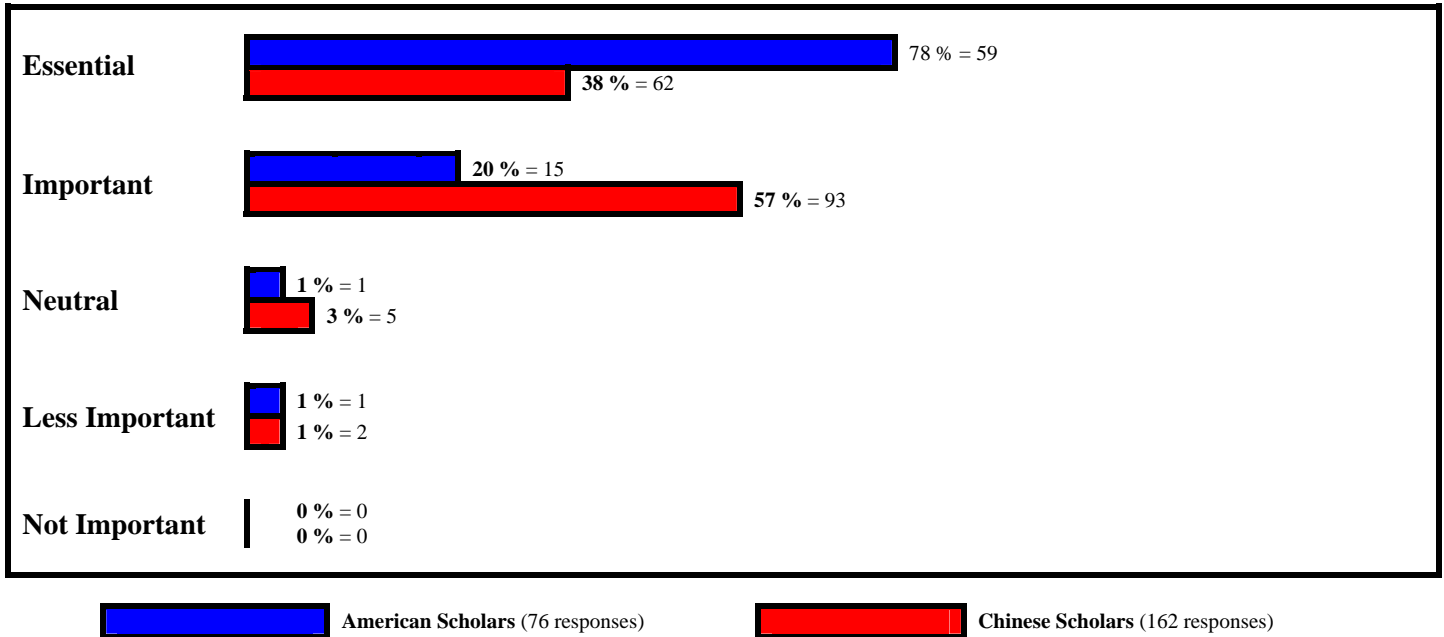


 American Scholars (77 responses)

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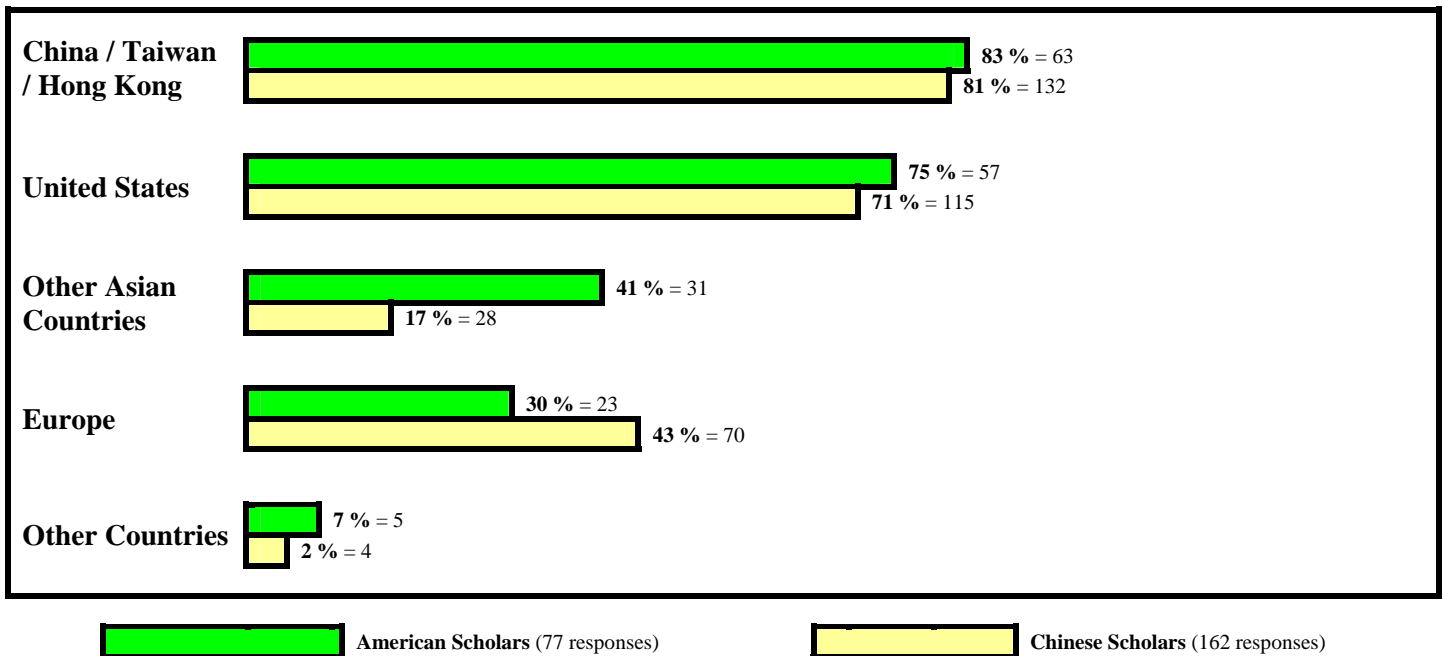
### Question 3

In your academic / research field, you think getting information and resources from other countries is ...



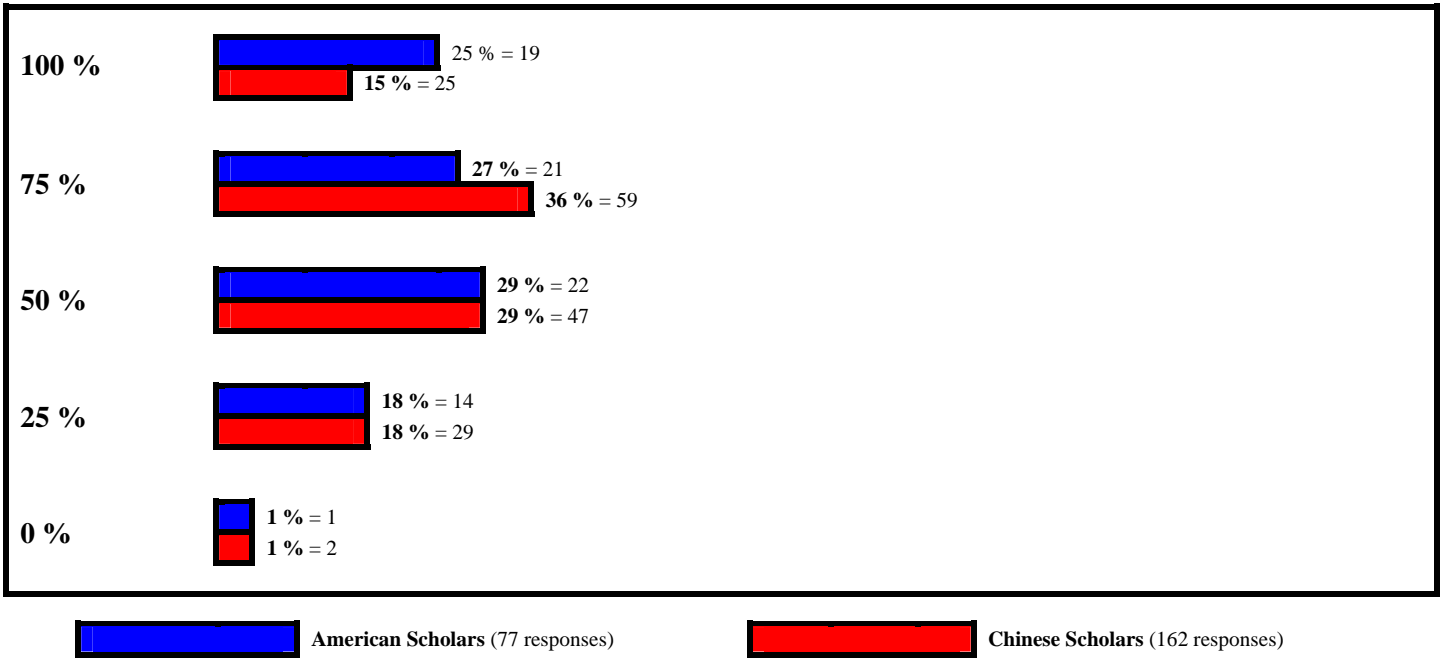
### Question 4

More specifically, in your academic field, your main information/resources are from the country/countries ... (check all applied)



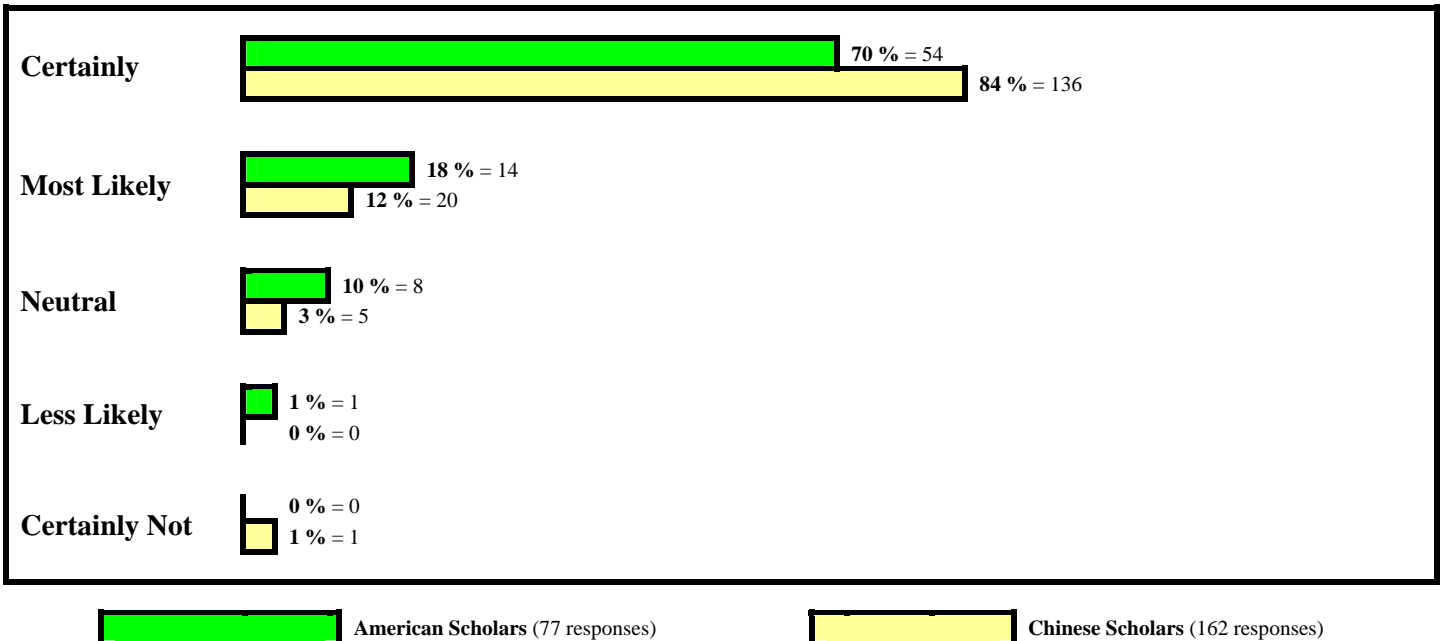
**Question 5**

In your research, at what degree are you paying attention to scholarly publications in other countries ...



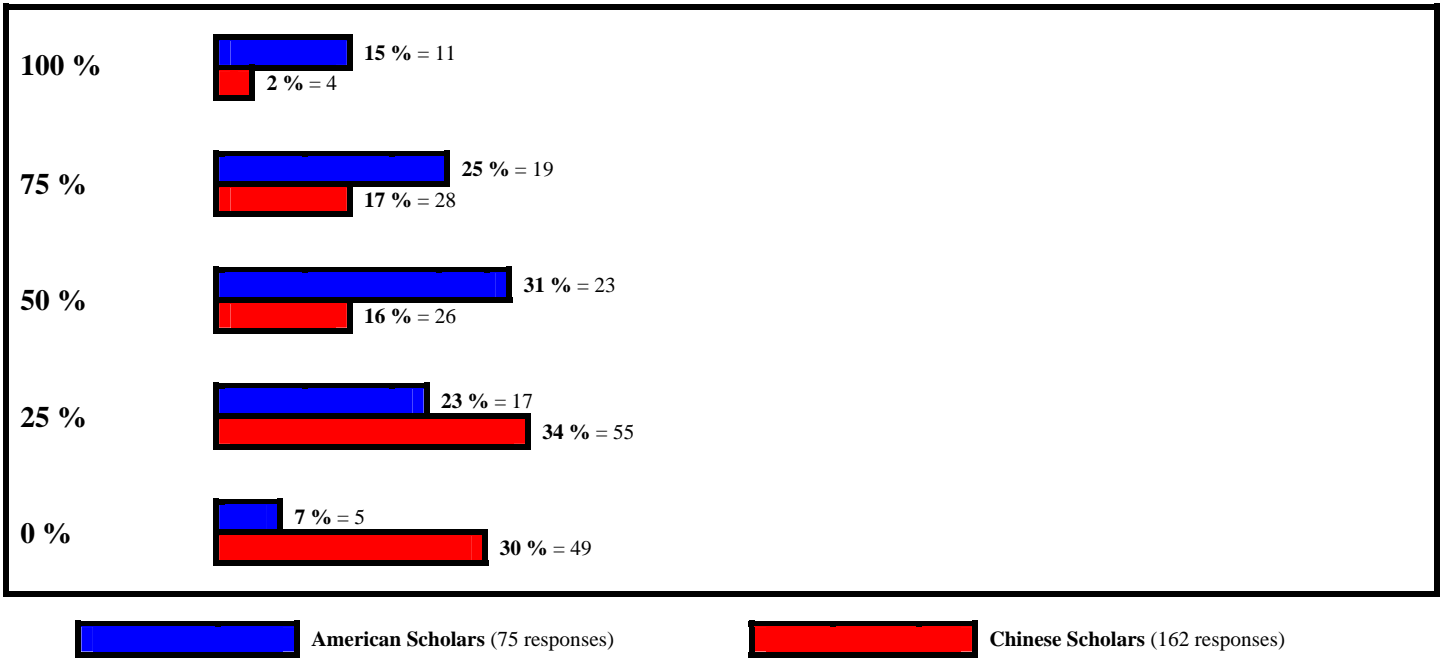
**Question 6**

Do you cite these international scholarly publications in your academic works?



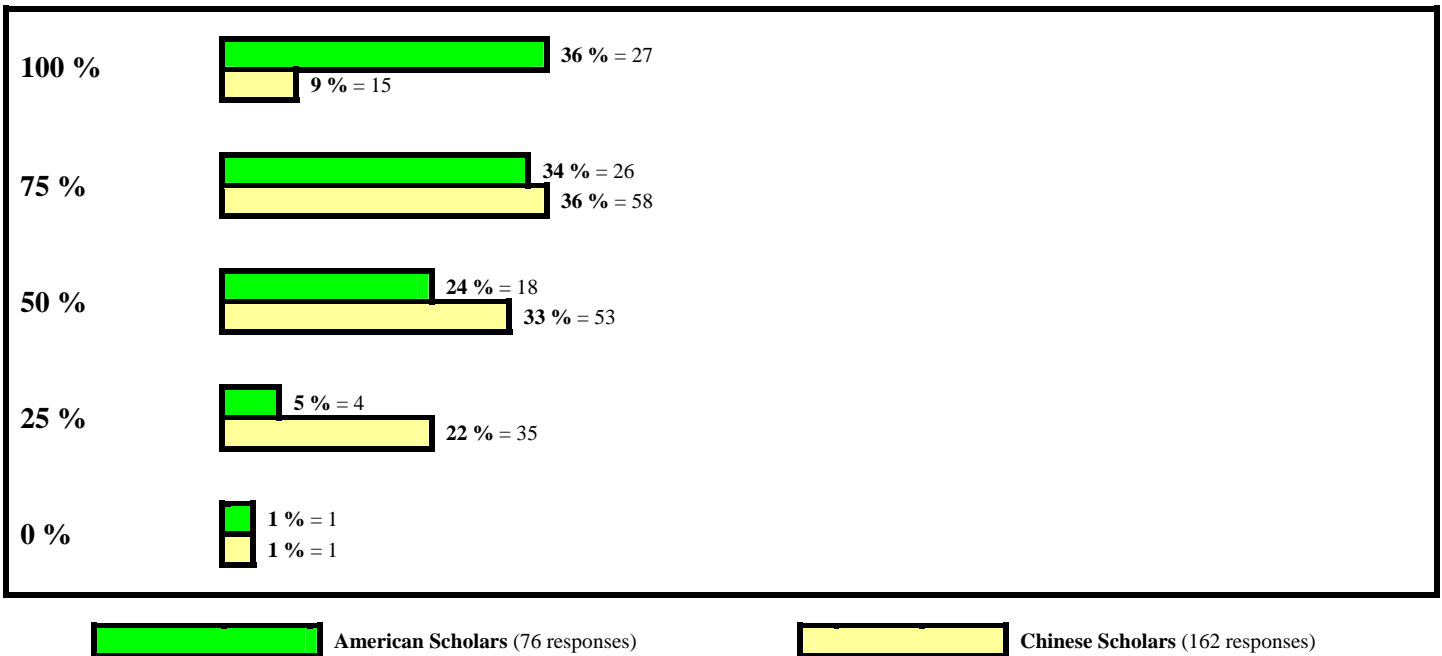
**Question 7**

In your research, at what degree are you communicating with scholar in other countries (via meetings, phone calls, emails, etc.)?



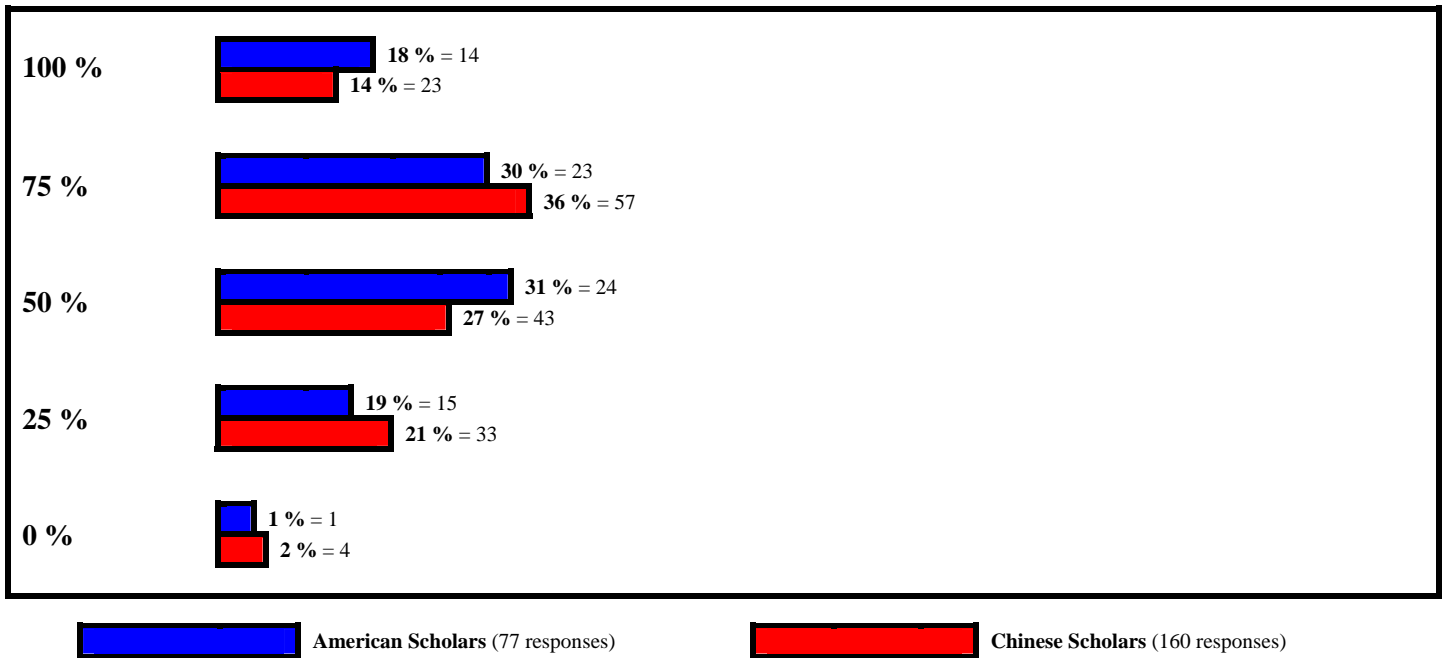
**Question 8**

In your research, at what degree you would use source materials from other countries (including printed and digital materials)?



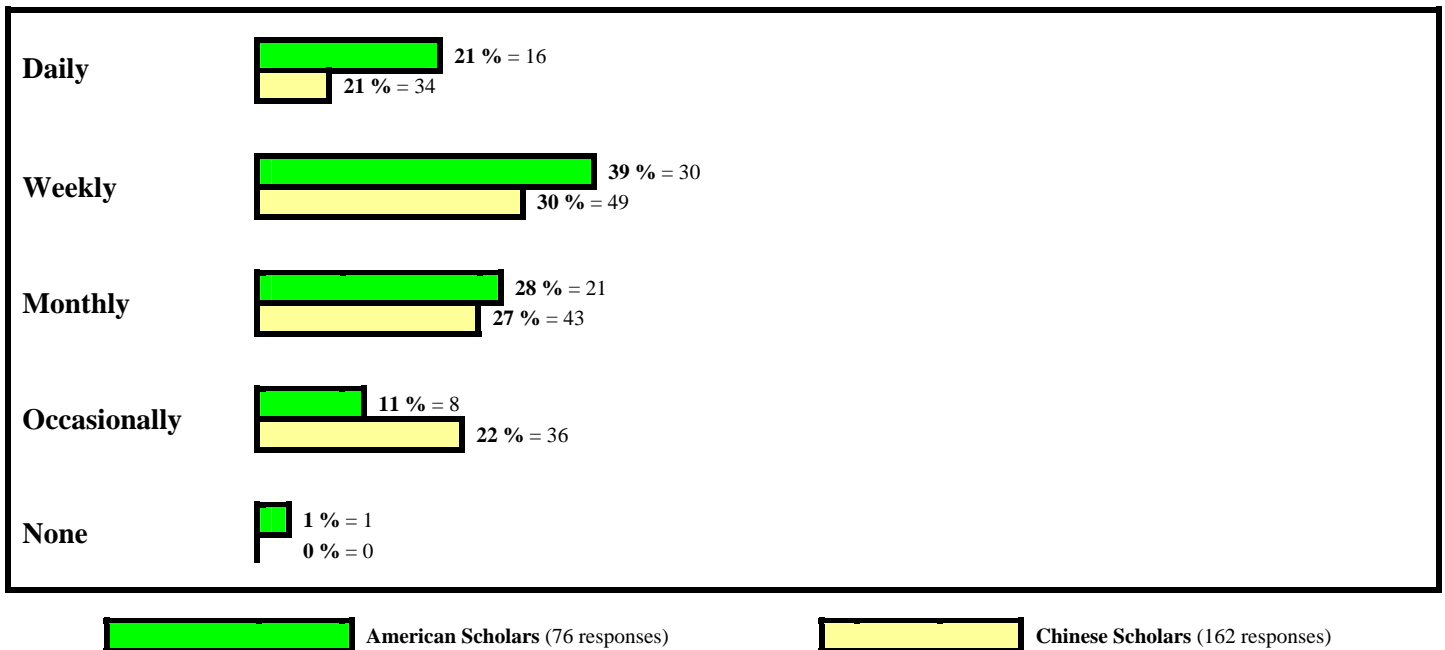
### Question 9

In your research, at what degree are you remotely accessing to source materials from other countries via the Internet and / or online databases?



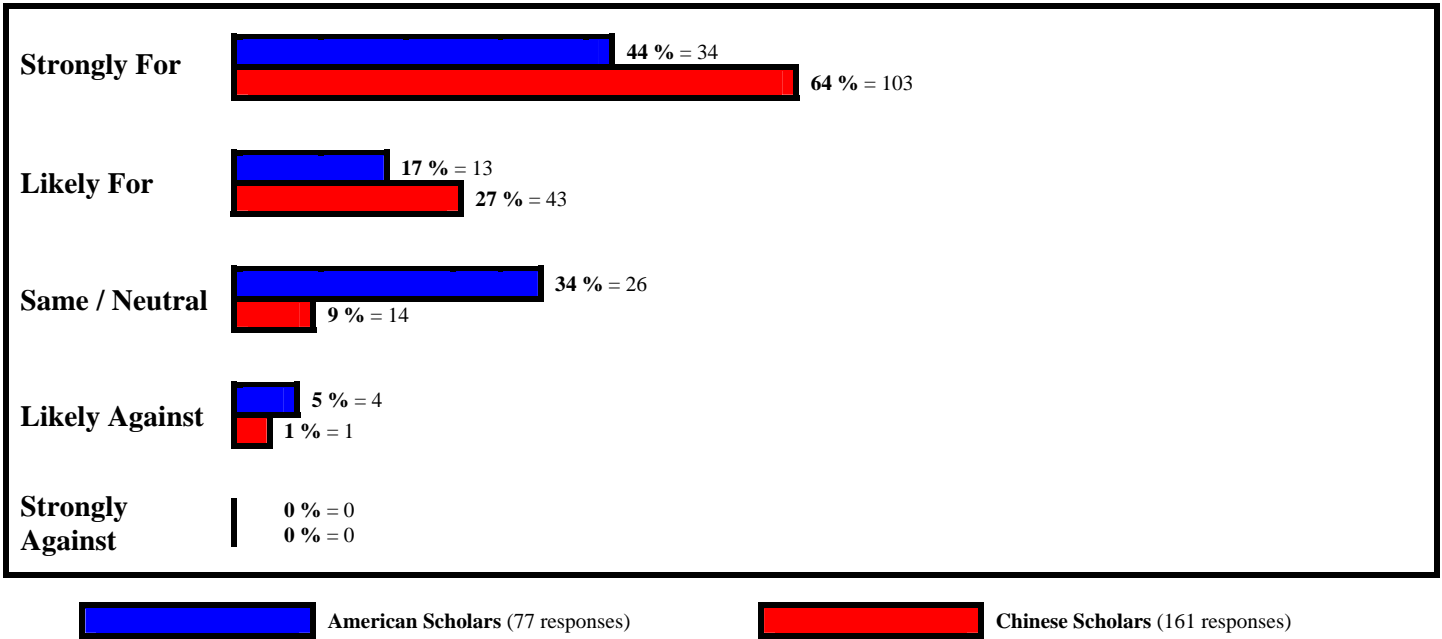
### Question 10

How often do you access to scholarly works and/or source materials in other countries?



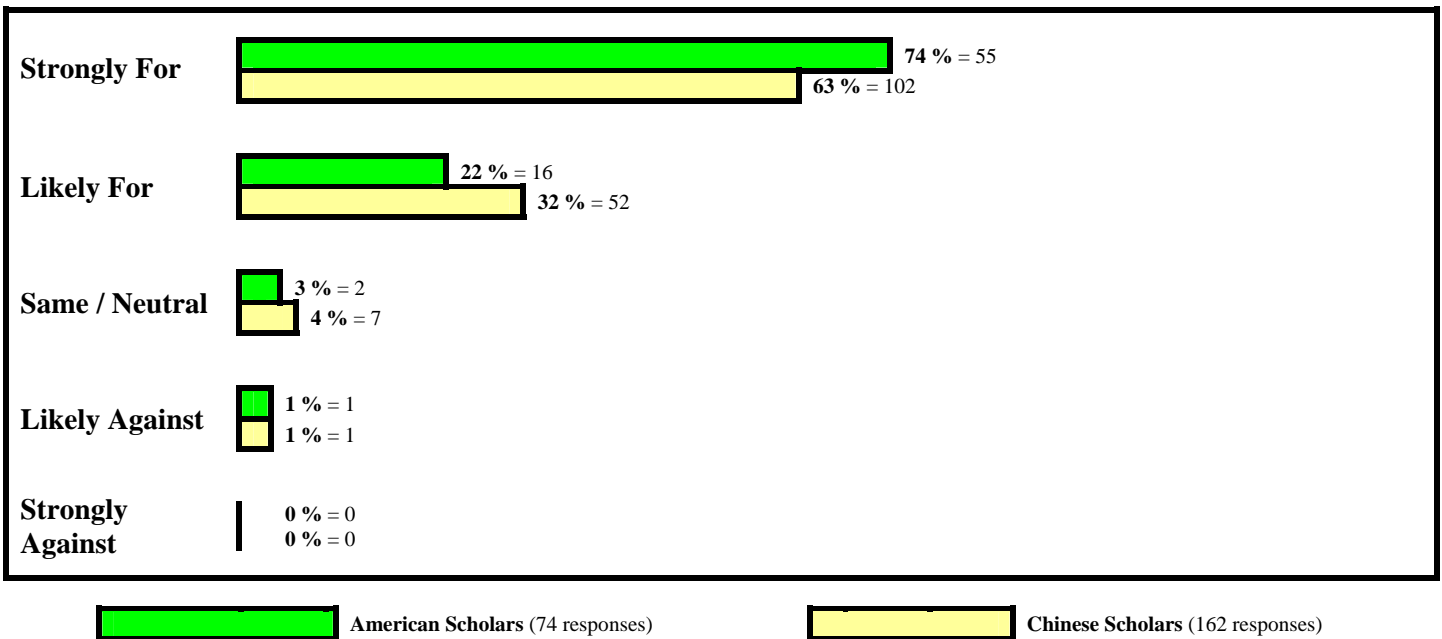
**Question 11**

**Regarding international resources, do you prefer online access over printed materials?**



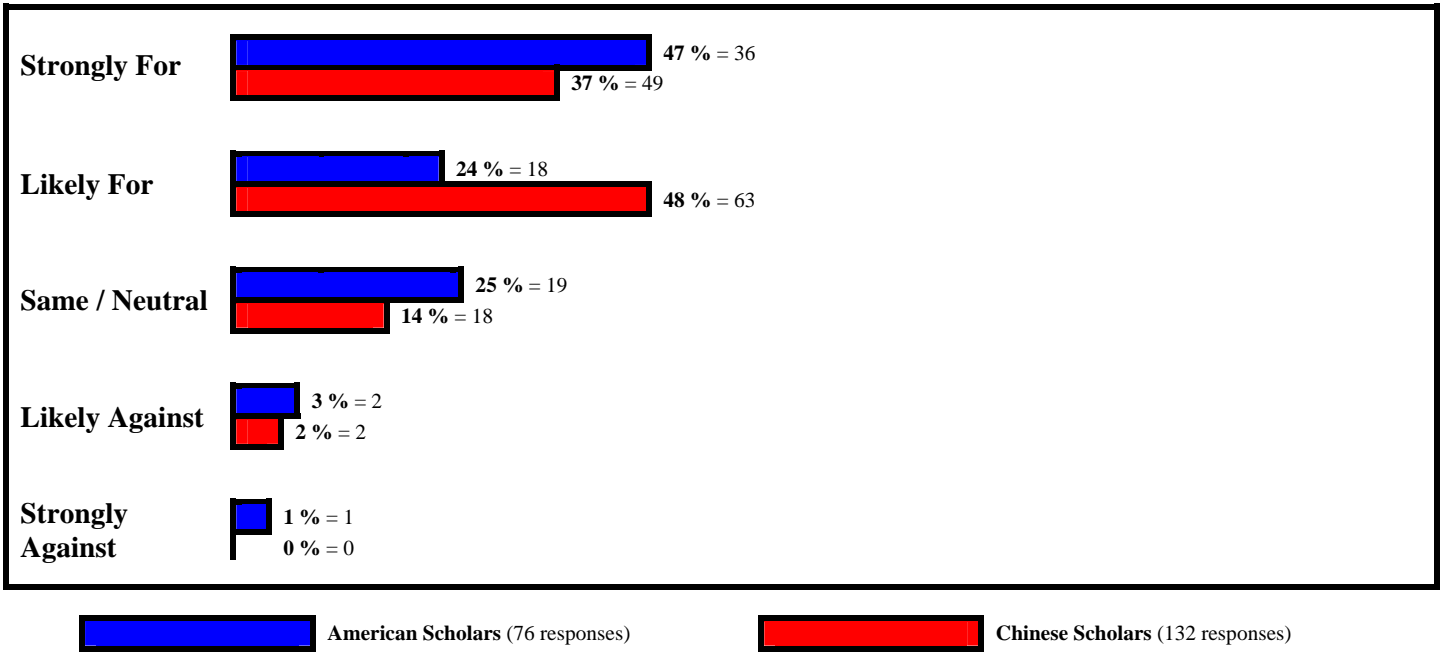
**Question 12**

**Open access means immediate, free and unrestricted online access to digital scholarly resources, mainly peer-reviewed research articles in scholarly journals. Open access is favored by library professional, but opposed by many commercial publishers. What is your opinion on open access?**



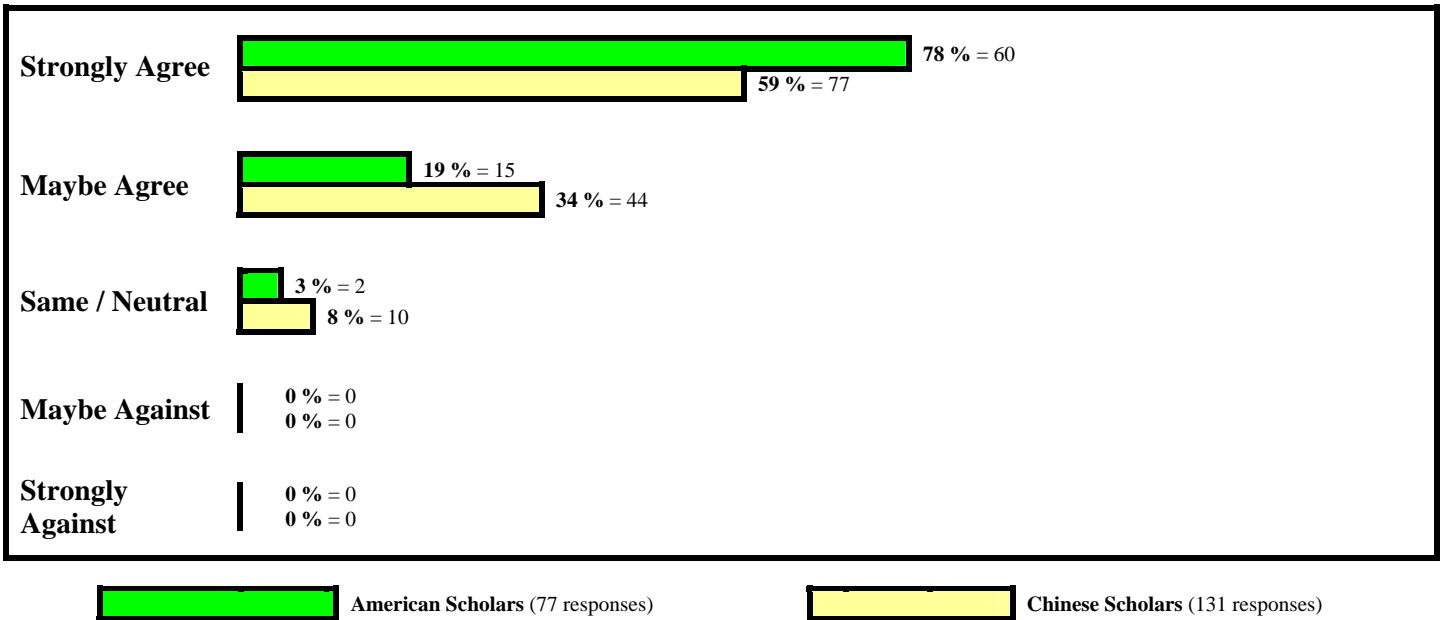
**Question 13**

**Do you prefer publishing your academic works with a university / academic press with open access over with a commercial press?**



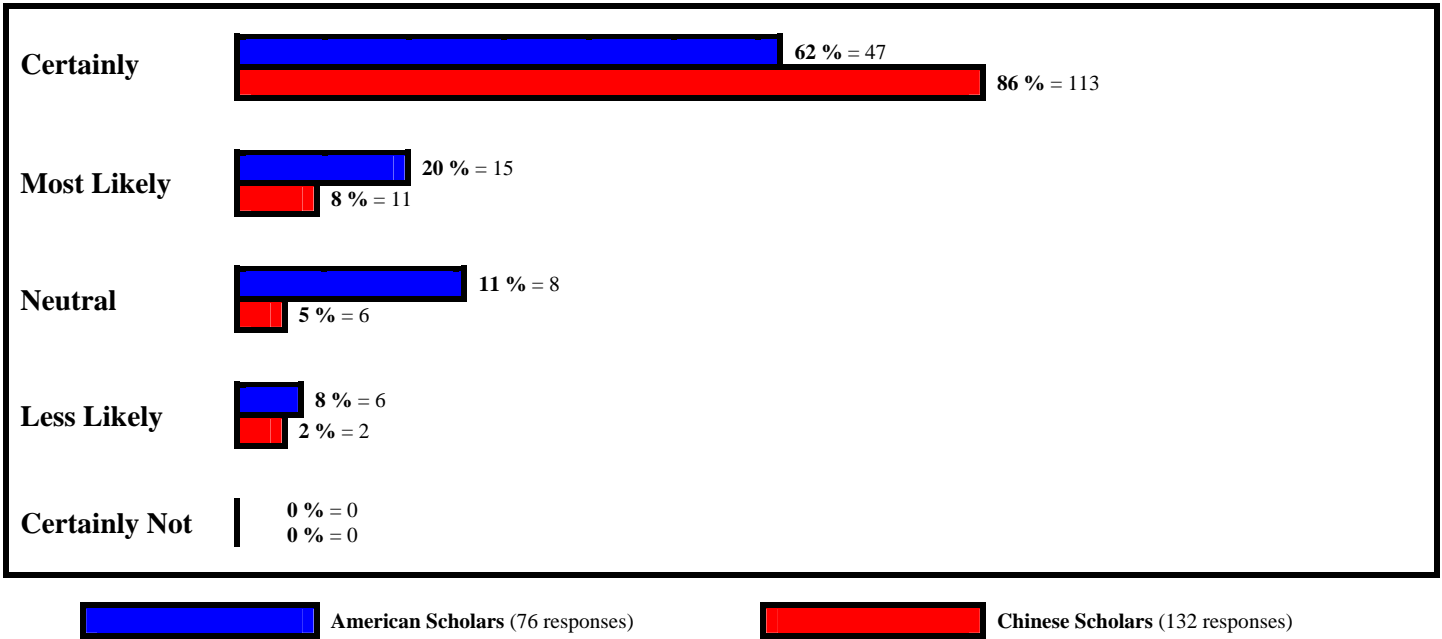
**Question 14**

**Do you think open access should be available internationally?**



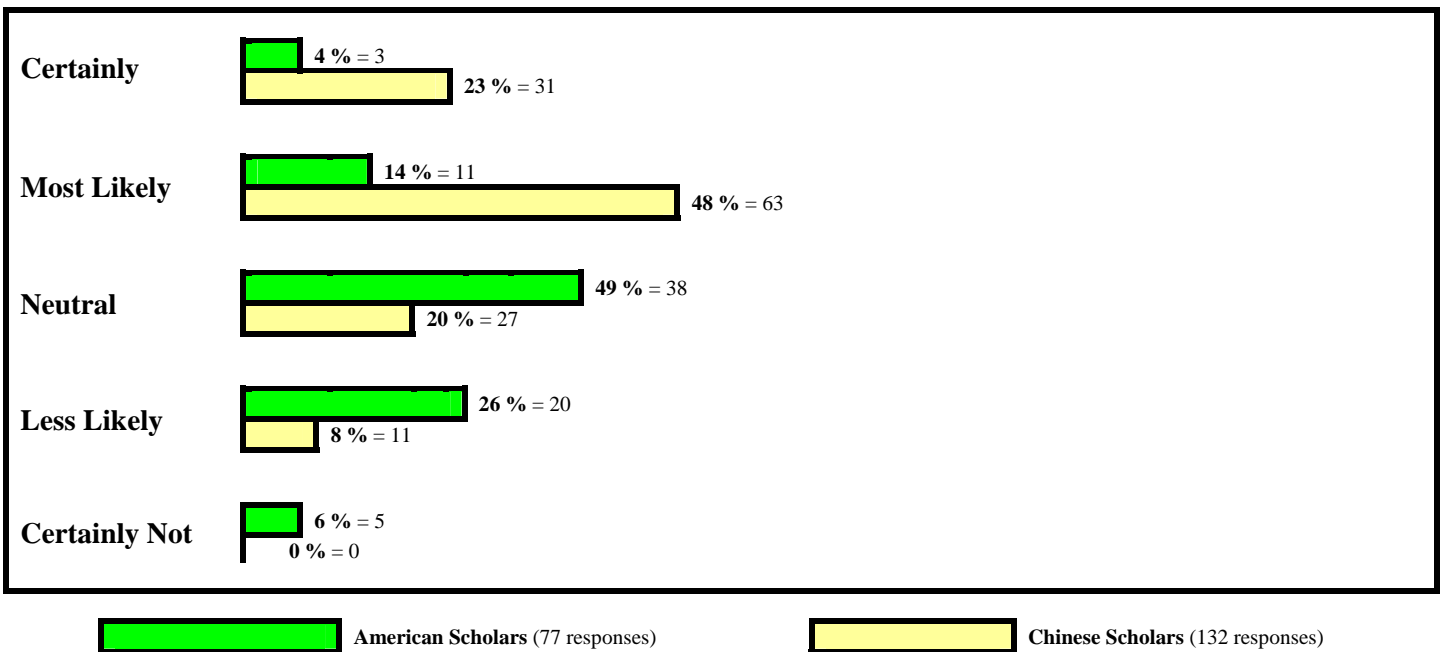
**Question 15**

**Would you publish your academic works in other countries?**



**Question 16**

**Would you publish your academic works in other countries as primary option?**



**Question 17**

**Would you publish your academic works on the Internet, such as in personal websites, blogs, wikis, or emails?**

