

# A Feather in Our Research Cap: Implementing REDCap in the Library

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## Objectives

The PCOM Library works to facilitate and support research across all disciplines. One method in which the Library incorporates this concept is by implementing, promoting, and teaching REDCap, a tool for data capture and building and managing online surveys and databases. This poster presents the PCOM Library's experiences with planning and implementing REDCap, along with lessons learned and future steps.

## Methods

After several requests from researchers and students, the Library adopted REDCap in August 2017. In December 2017, we did a soft launch for faculty who had previous REDCap experience to volunteer as beta testers. Over the next few months, librarians adapted and updated REDCap videos and tutorials from the University of Colorado Denver to fit the needs of PCOM. Additionally, feedback from beta testers helped develop a LibGuide. This guide contains best practices, FAQ's, and tutorials and videos. REDCap officially launched in September 2018.

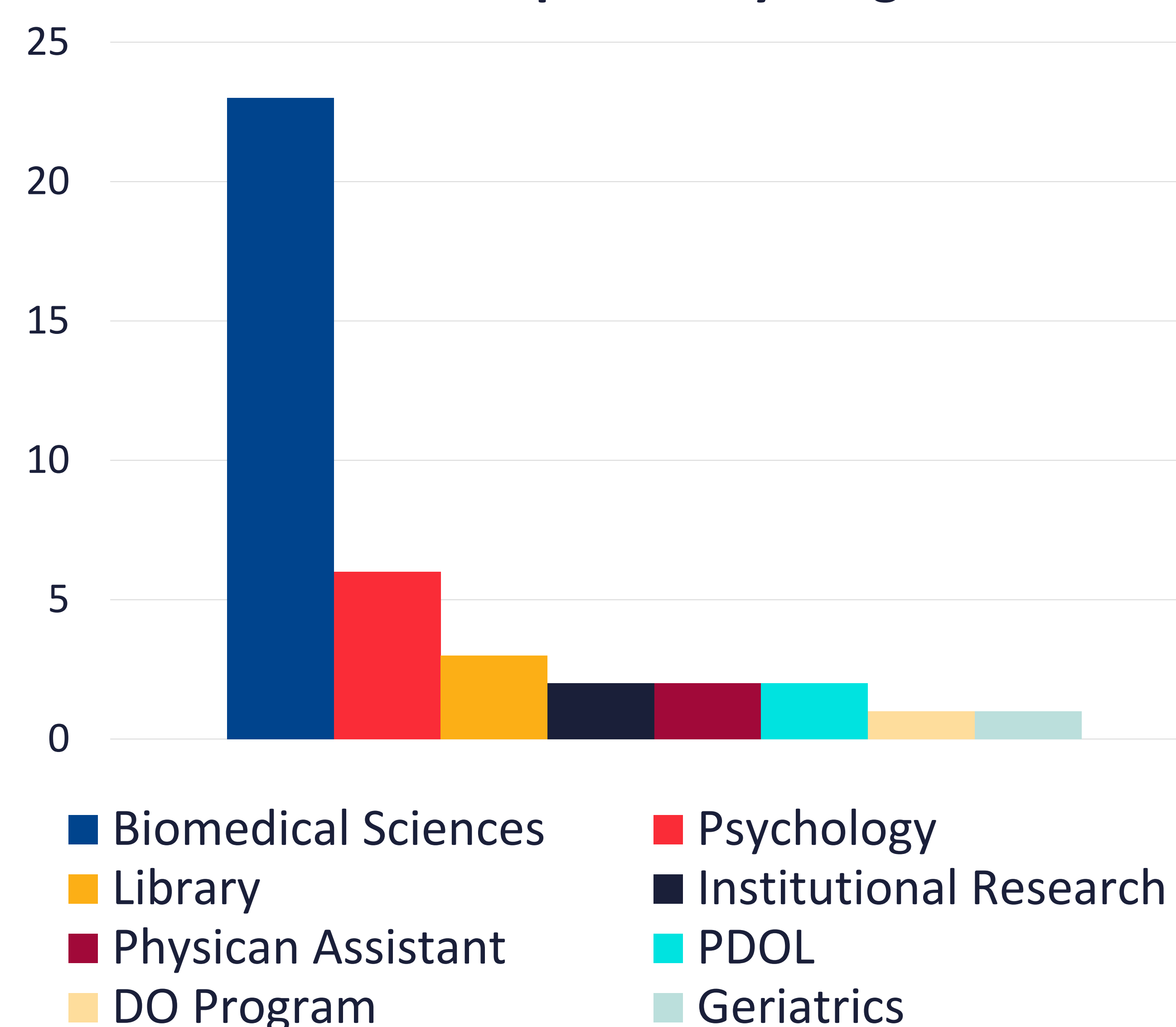
## Results

Since its official launch, Library staff continue to increase awareness and use of REDCap by offering support and assistance to users, as well as teach standalone and curriculum-based REDCap sessions. As of March 26, 2019, we have 59 users, 27 projects in production, and 40 projects in development. Librarians have held eight REDCap instructional sessions, covering beginning to advanced use, attended by 122 people. In addition, the Biomedical Sciences Department invited the Library to speak about REDCap in class and assigned REDCap account creation as homework, leading to an additional 13 student accounts. Librarians also held 23 one-on-one REDCap consultations.

## Lessons Learned

One problem encountered was resistance from some faculty to adopt REDCap. As we saw in user feedback, REDCap has a high learning curve. This is partially because of the length of time training takes. Faculty are reluctant to watch 90 minutes of tutorial videos. Faculty were also reluctant to adopt REDCap because they want to use survey programs they already know such as Google Forms, Survey Monkey, or Qualtrics. We found the best way to get buy-in is by having faculty champions advocate for using REDCap.

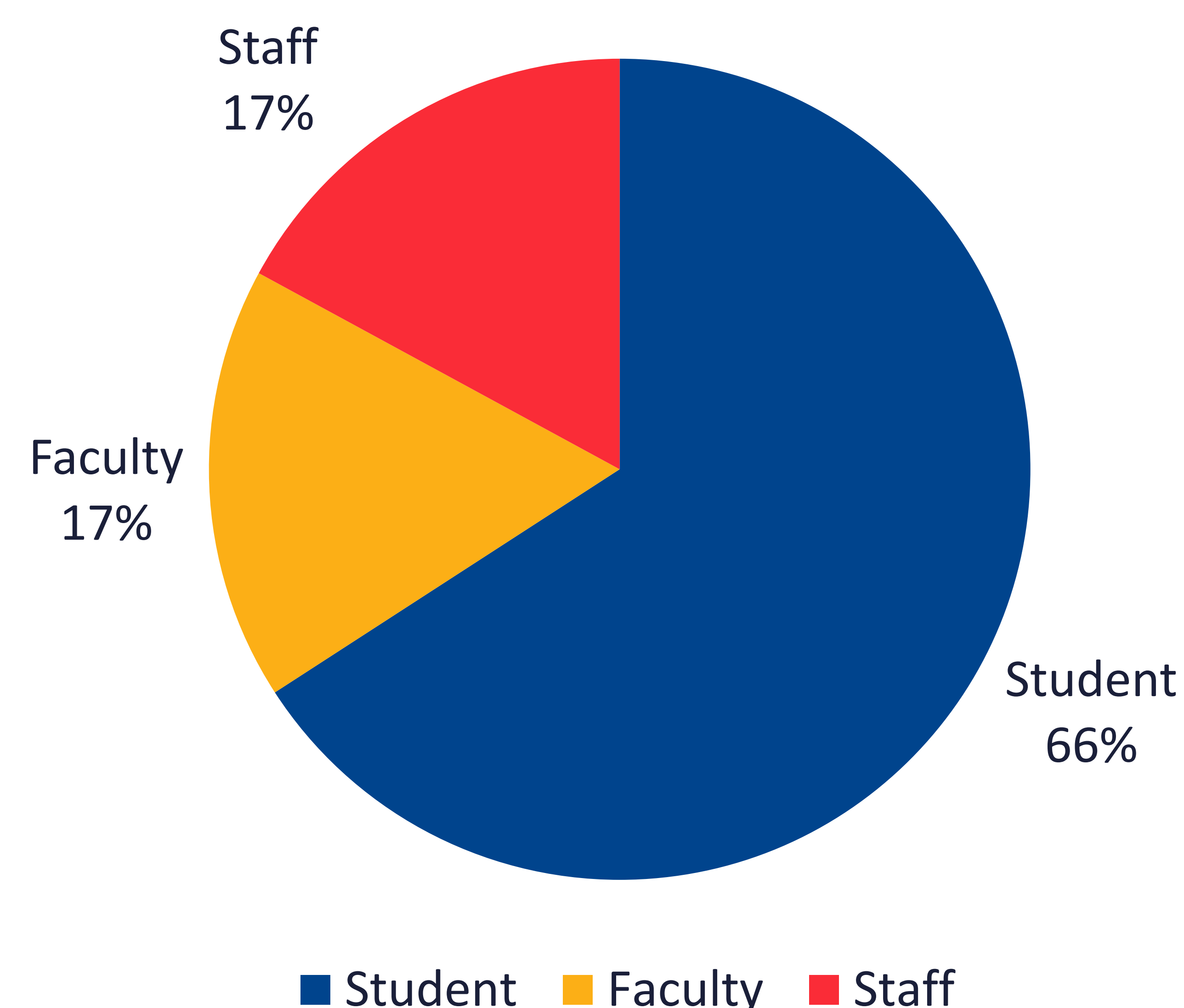
## Tutorial Completion by Program



## REDCap Training Session



## Tutorial Completion by Position



## Feedback from Users

User response to REDCap has been good, particularly from faculty and students working on longitudinal studies. The PCOM Library interviewed four early adopters about their experiences with REDCap; most of them had heard of REDCap through another institution or publications. Users took full advantage of online help such as the REDCap FAQ, along with contacting librarians for assistance. Their challenges using REDCap have varied, with several describing REDCap as being "slightly overwhelming" to learn and difficult to remember features they're not regularly using. When asked what one thing people should know about REDCap, all four identified useful features that could lead researchers to choose REDCap: privacy and HIPAA compliance options, multi-site projects, and multiple users with shared duties.

## Conclusion and Future Directions

REDCap is a useful tool for PCOM researchers and library users. Libraries seeking new ways to support research might benefit from adopting REDCap due to its utility and connection to statistical services such as data management. Future directions include expanding REDCap usage and streamlining troubleshooting and assistance. To better fit patron needs, the Library is working to update the modality of our training. Future training will include targeted training packages, including training focused on data capture and, possibly, MyCap. The Library will continue to expand the REDCap LibGuide, addressing common issues and new questions from users. Finally, we will survey users and review their requests to determine which features and topics are most useful or require the most training. These methods will help us determine which features and topics should remain in our tutorials and which can be removed to lessen the time commitment for training.

## References and Resources

PCOM Library REDCap Guide - <https://libguides.pcom.edu/redcap>  
PCOM REDCap - <https://redcap.pcom.edu/>  
REDCap - <https://www.project-redcap.org/>

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