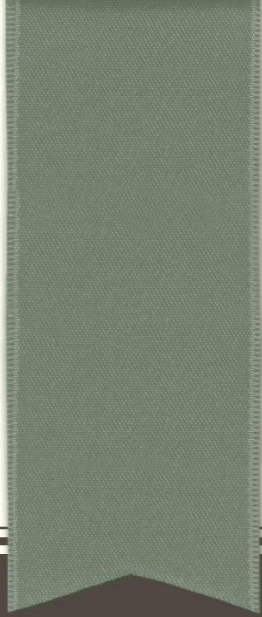


Writing Centers' Support of Multilingual Writers: A Survey on Writing Center Administrators

Jialei Jiang
Indiana University of Pennsylvania





Background

Background

- Support for multilingual students (Bruce & Rafoth, 2009, 2016; Cox, 2016; Rafoth 2015)
- Tutoring strategies
 - Tutors' attitudes towards language difference
- Tutor education
 - Proactive about diversity

Representation of multilingual writers

- Terms identifying multilingual writers:

Problematized for their implications (Cox, 2016; Canagarajah, 2002)

- For example:

ESL

L2

NNES

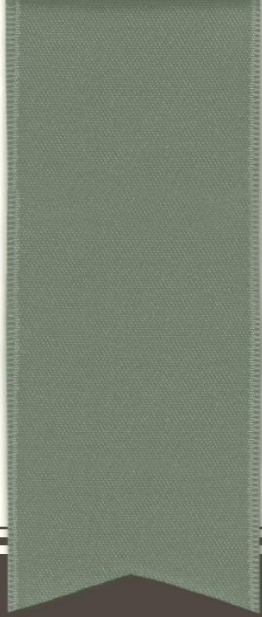
Multilingual

Research gap

- Implications for writing centers:
- Explore their representations of multilingual writers (Cox, 2016)
- A lack of empirical research:
- Writing center administrators' (WCAs') perceptions of and practices in supporting multilingual writers

Research questions

- What are WCAs' perceptions of multilingual writers who seek help from writing centers?
- In what kind of practices do WCAs currently engage to support multilingual writers?
- How do WCAs perceive research on multilingual writers?
- What challenges, if any, do WCAs encounter in supporting multilingual writers?



Method

Survey

- A virtual survey designed using Qualtrics software
- Participants: WCAs who subscribe to WPA-L and WCenter Listservs.
- Conducted descriptive statistical analysis using tools within Qualtrics
- Coded qualitative data using Nvivo software

Survey

What is the nature of your institution?

- Community College
- Two-year Technical College
- Four-year Private Institution
- Four-year Public Institution
- Doctoral/Research Private Institution
- Doctoral/Research Public Institution
- Others (Please Specify)

How many tutorials does your writing center serve per year? (Please enter a number)

What term or terms do you use to address multilingual writers, specifically those whose first language is not English?

How do you define "multilingual writers"?

Survey

How many multilingual writers whose first language is not English do you usually see in your writing center?
(Please enter a number)

Has that number changed during the last five years in your writing center?

- Yes
 No

If Yes, what is the nature of that change?

Does your writing center provide services specific to multilingual writers? If so, what are they?

- Yes (Please specify)

 No

What kind of professional support do you provide for tutors to work with multilingual writers?

Survey

Do you employ any multilingual consultants in your writing center?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

What challenges, if any, do you encounter in supporting multilingual writers?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how familiar are you with research on multilingual writers?

Not at all familiar

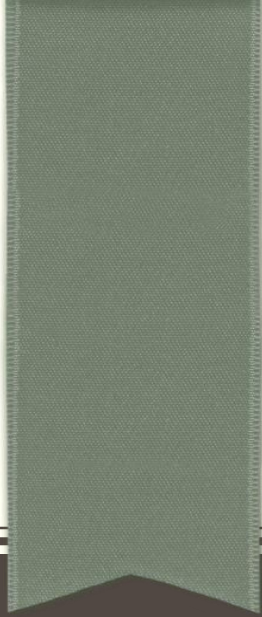
Very familiar

- 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
 - 8
 - 9
 - 10
-

What kind of research would you like to see on multilingual writers that would better support your writing center practices?

Limitations of the study

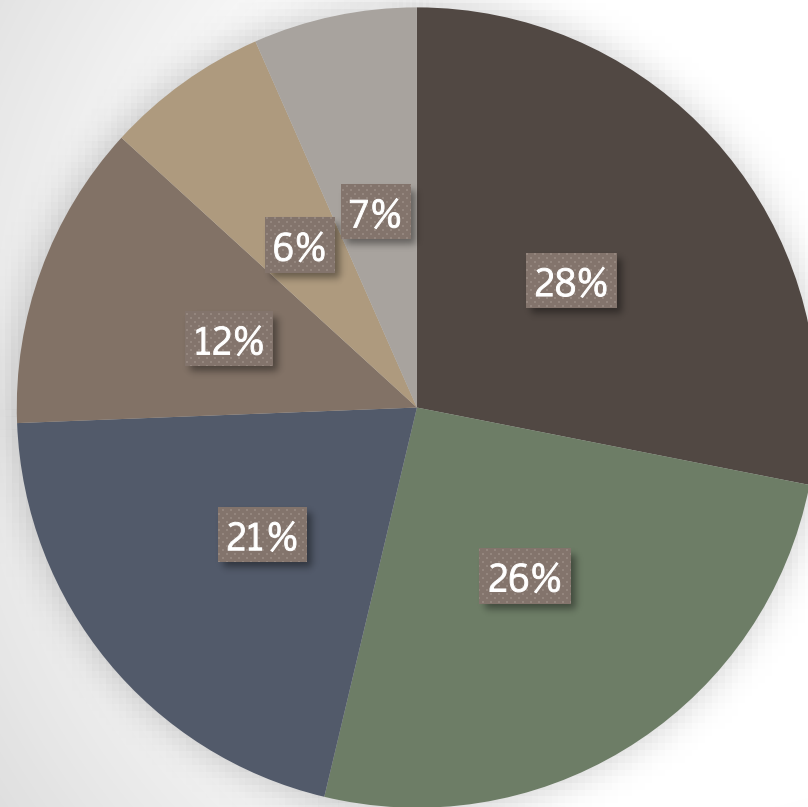
- The survey is limited to WCAs who have subscribed to WPA-L and Wcenter listservs
- Other methods including interviews would have added more depth to the survey data
- Research questions should have been refined to garner more specific results such as WCAs' perception on the types of scaffolding for multilingual writers.



Findings

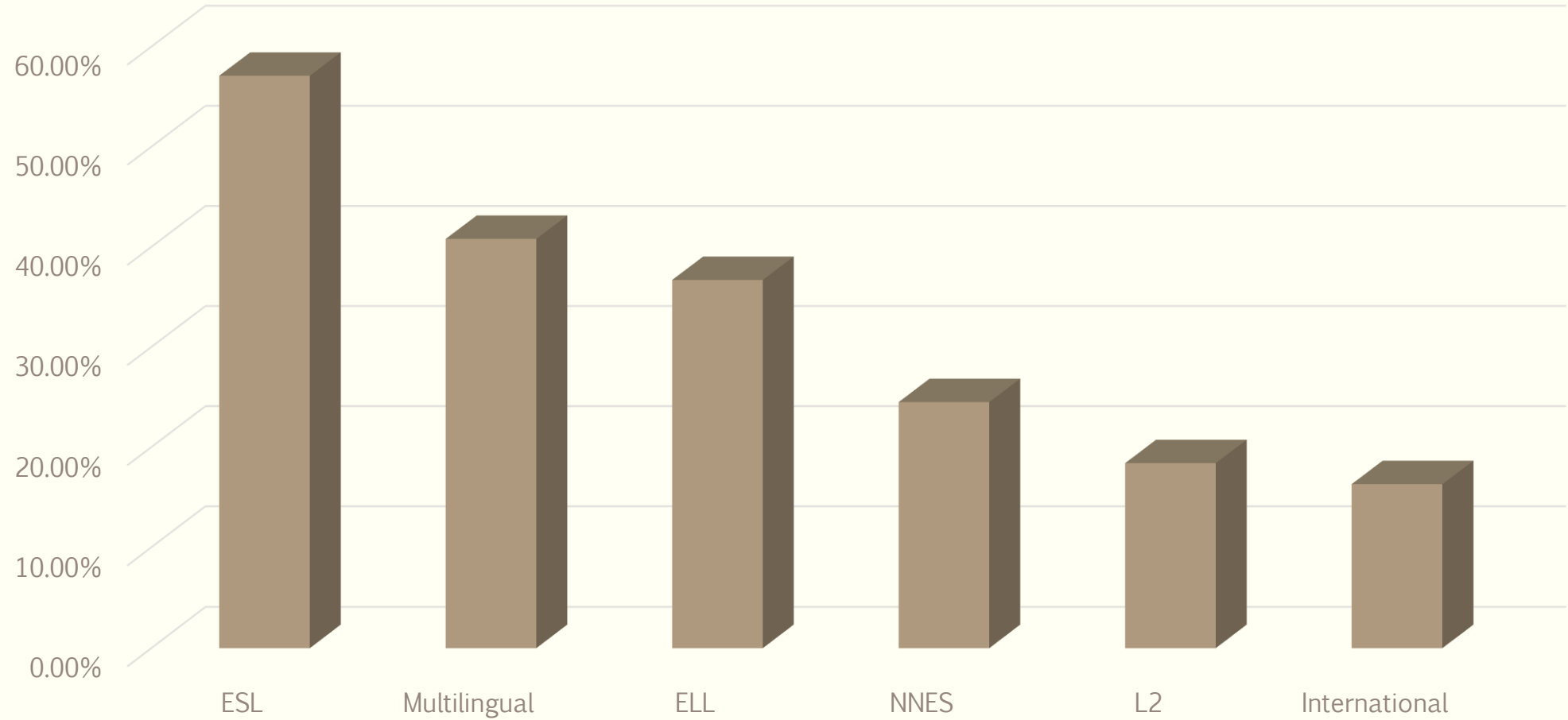
Demographics

75 Participants

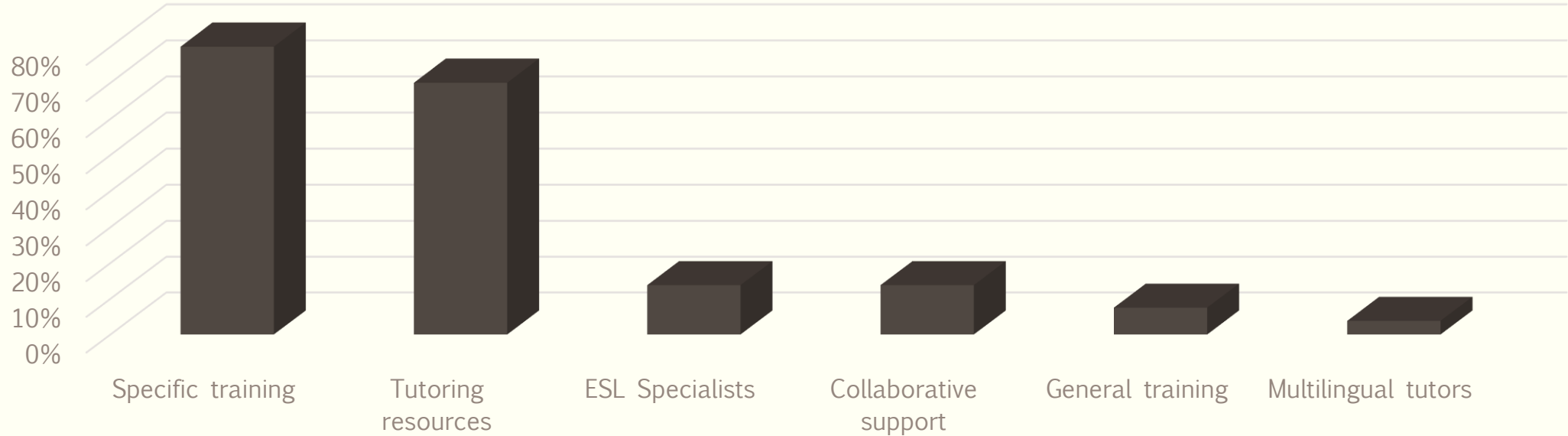


- 4-year Public Institution
- Doctoral Research Institution
- 4-year Private Institution
- Community College
- Doctoral Private Institution
- Others







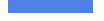




Finding 1 Linguistic Framing



Finding 2 Types of professional support for tutors

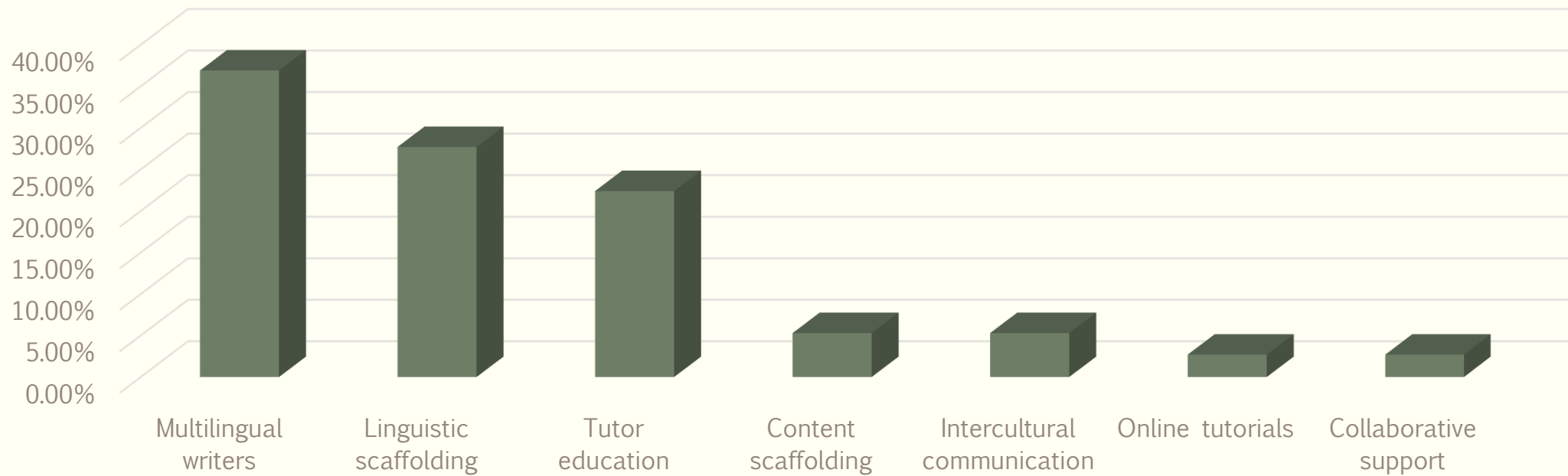


Finding 3 Level of familiarity with research

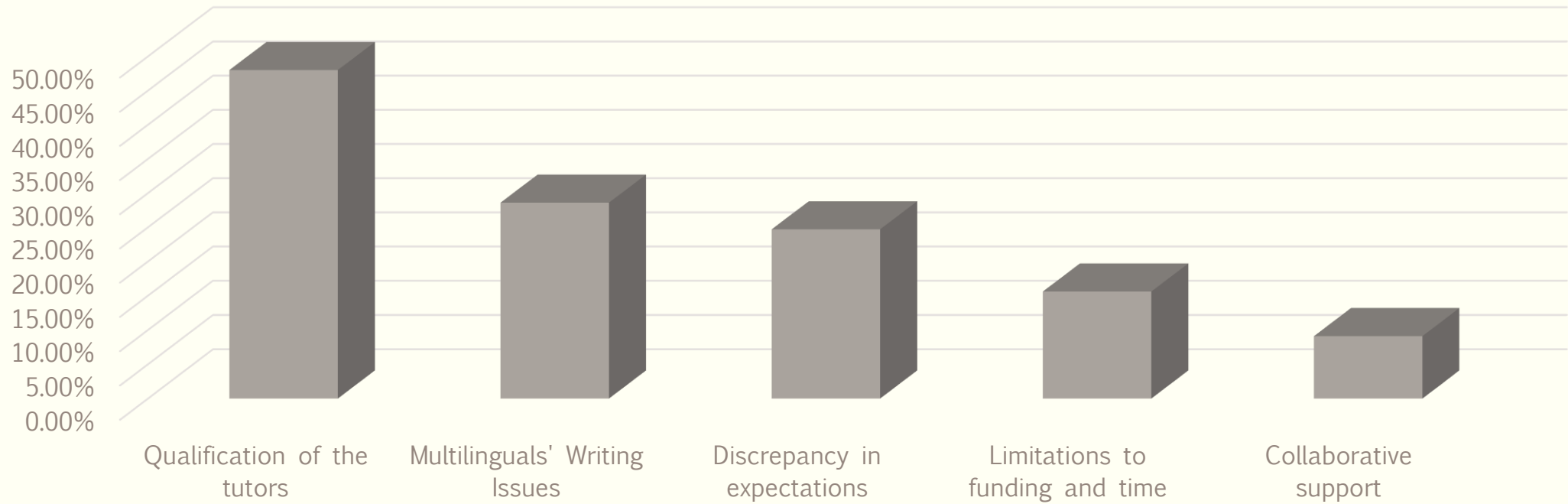
Scale				
<u>Number</u>	<u>Answers</u>	<u>Chart</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
0	0		1	1%
1	1		0	0%
2	2		1	1%
3	3		4	5%
4	4		6	8%
5	5		10	13%
6	6		11	14%
7	7		16	21%
8	8		15	19%
9	9		7	9%
10	10		6	8%
	Total		77	100%

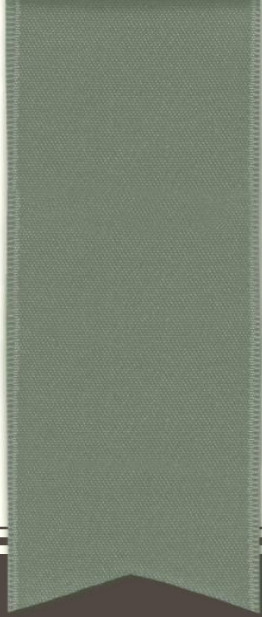
Statistic	Value
Min Value	0
Max Value	10
Mean	6.61
Variance	4.32
Standard Deviation	2.08

Finding 3 Types of research to see in the future



Finding 4 Challenges





Implications

Implications

- Writing centers have recognized the needs for supporting multilingual writers, heeded research on multilingual writers, and provided specific resources to support these students.
- Multilingual writers' and tutors' presence in writing centers await being further contested in writing center practices.
- Constraints in training, funding, time, and collaboration complicate writing centers in providing best services to multilingual writers

Thank you!

My contact information:

Jialei Jiang

j.jiang2@iup.edu

jiangjialeicn@gmail.com