

**Measuring the Importance of Information  
Literacy Education in Academic Libraries  
from Students' Perspective**

**A Comparative Study among the  
University of Tsukuba, Fudan University and  
the National Taiwan Normal University**

**Qianxiu LIU**

**Hiroshi Itsumura**

**Patrick Lo**

**University of Tsukuba, Japan**

# Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Aim of the Study**
- **Research Methodology**
- **Research Results**
- **Discussion**
- **Conclusion & Further Study**

# Introduction

# Introduction

- Inquiry-based learning
- Ever-increasing growth of information



# Introduction

- Information literacy education (ILE) in Asian academic libraries is influenced by the policy of ALA:
  1. Guidelines for Instruction Programs in Academic Libraries (ACRL, 2003)
  2. Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (ACRL, 2000)
  3. Model Statement of Objectives for Academic Bibliographic Instruction (ACRL, 1987)
  4. Guidelines for Bibliographic Instruction in Academic Libraries (ACRL, 1977)

# Statement of Problem

- Are there any differences in Asian academic libraries' IL education?
- How about the students' attitudes and perceptions towards the IL education—will there be any differences?

# Information of the three universities

|                        | UT        | FDU       | NTNU      |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Establishment year     | 1973      | 1922      | 1946      |
| Books Holdings         | 2,643,346 | 5,287,000 | 1,571,854 |
| Undergraduate students | 9,795     | 14,100    | 6,651     |
| Graduate students      | 6,681     | 14,800    | 4,242     |
| Faculty members        | 3,984     | 2,700     | 1,334     |
| Academic disciplines   | 11        | 33        | 11        |
| Libraries              | 5         | 5         | 3         |
| Librarians             | 59        | 193       | 61        |

# Aim of the Study



# Aim of the Study

- To highlight the similarities and differences in students' attitudes and perceptions towards the IL education;
- To find out the relevance of IL education in academic libraries to the students' overall learning process.

# Definition of IL education

- Information literacy education (ILE) is used to teach students the skills, concepts and habits of mind needed to find information, understand how it is produced and valued and use it ethically to create new knowledge by focusing on two areas: library instruction and research assistance.

# Research Methodology

Website surveys  
& Interviews  
with librarians

- To clarify the implementation of IL education in each university library

Questionnaire  
surveys with  
students

- To clarify the similarities and differences in students' attitudes and perceptions towards the IL education programs

# Website Survey Result & Interview Result

# Similarities in IL education Programs

- Use the ALA guidance as reference
- Have mail service, social media promotion service and library website for reaching out to library users

# Differences in IL education Program

## ① Different focus point

- UT : attract more students come to use library
- FDU : research support (web-based instructions)
- NTNU : learning support (subject-oriented databases)

## ② Different future plan

- UT : to expand the range of the contents through combine instructions with practice
- FDU : using games in library instruction online courses
- NTNU : cooperate with teacher assistants

## ③ Different ways to use the SNS tool

- NTNU Library : not only the main library but also each of the branch library has their SNS account.

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# Questionnaire Survey Results

# Questionnaire Survey

- 3 parts & 15 questions, 1 to 5 Likert scale

The perceptions towards the...

library IL  
education

score &  
contents

quality,  
importance  
& usefulness

library promotion  
strategies

effectiveness

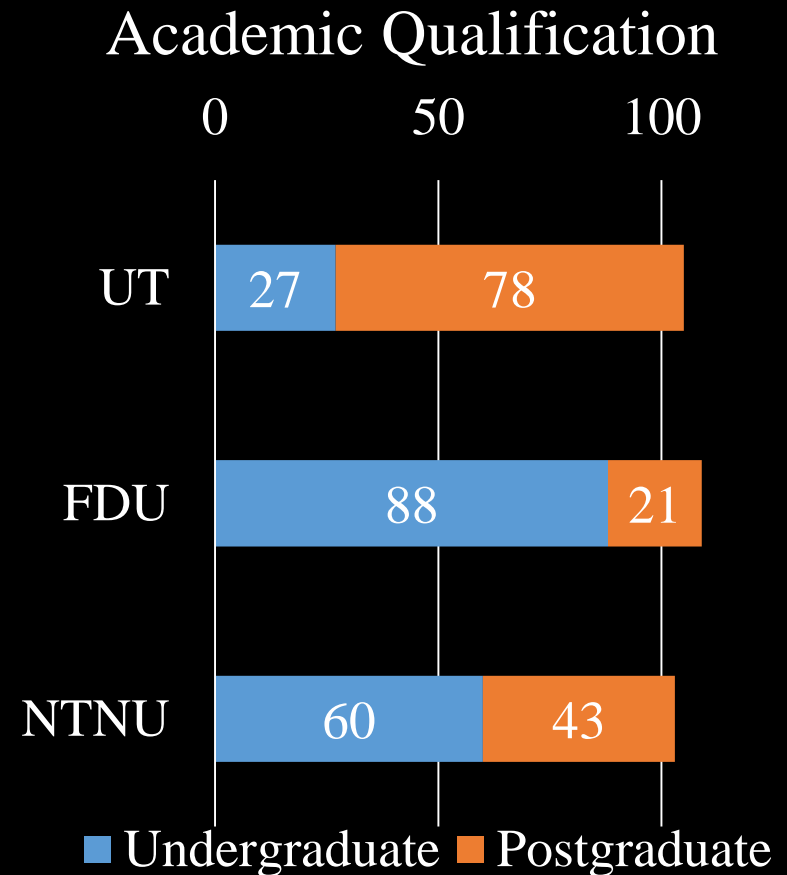
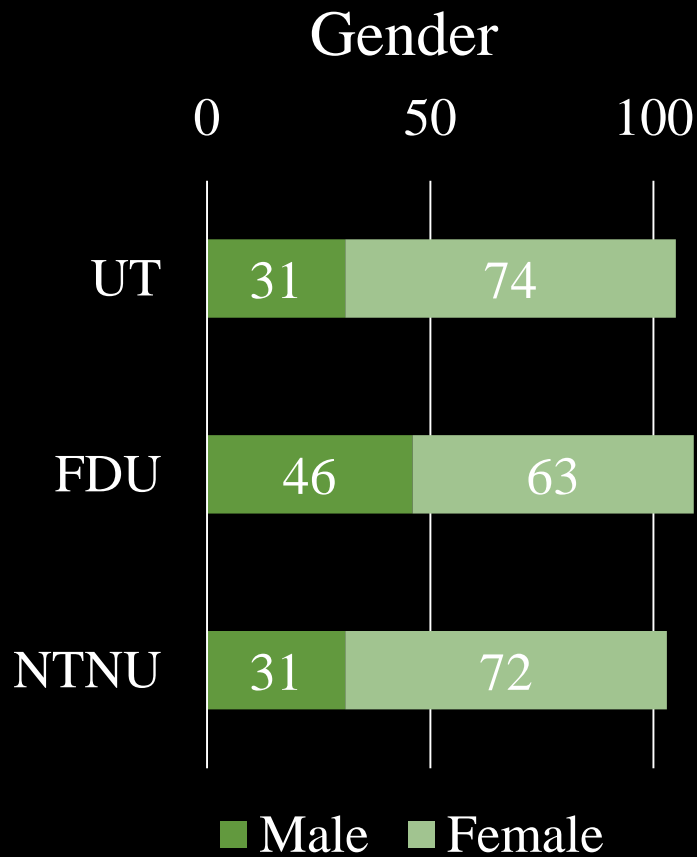
reference  
librarians

professional  
competence

service  
attitudes

# Respondent Profile

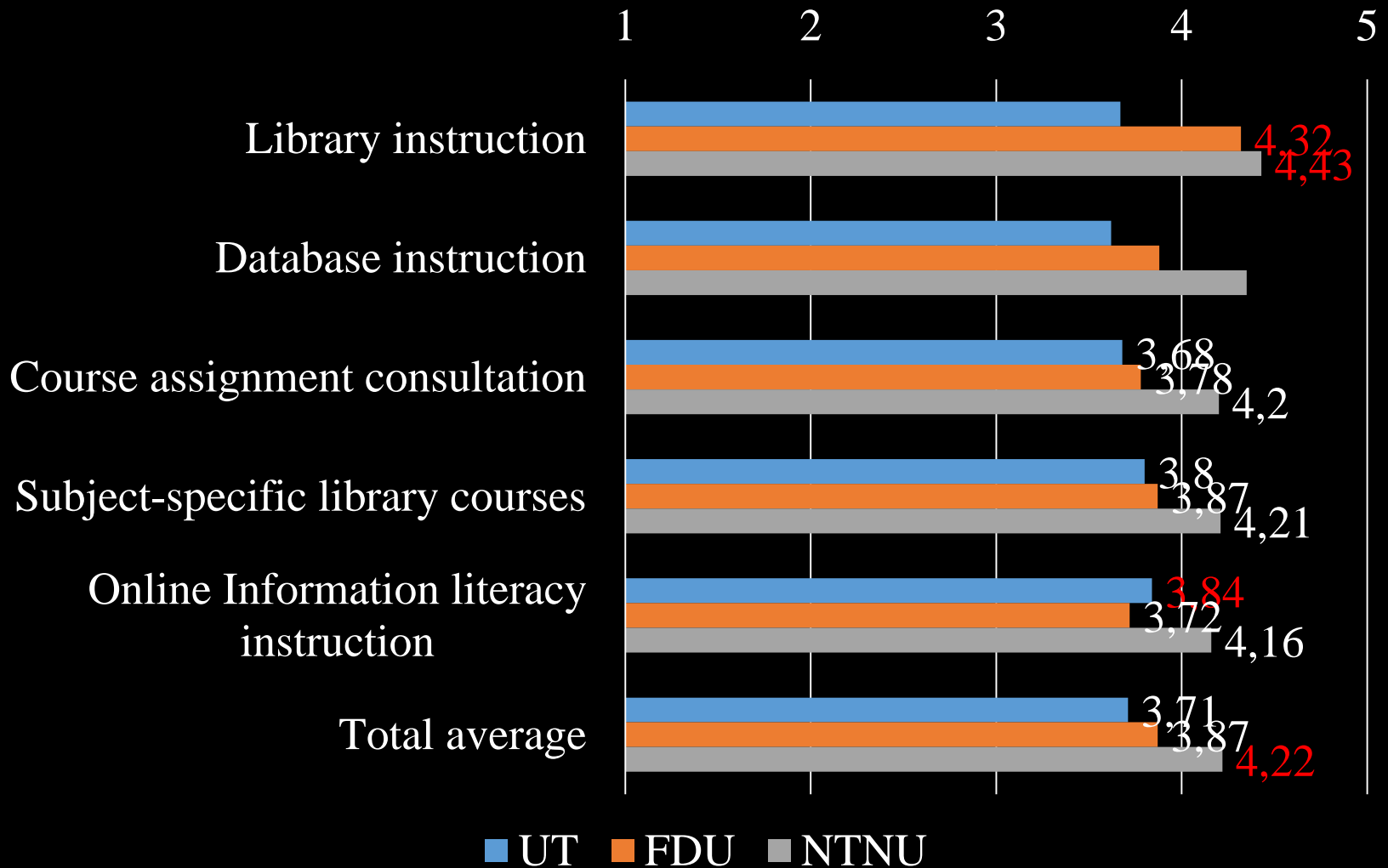
Total Number: 317 responses



# Respondent profile

|                        | UT  | FDU | NTNU | Total |
|------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| LIS                    | 38  | 5   | 22   | 65    |
| Social sciences        | 26  | 7   | 20   | 53    |
| Language               | 4   | 21  | 14   | 39    |
| Education              | 10  | 10  | 12   | 32    |
| Information technology | 13  | 10  | 6    | 29    |
| Science                | 2   | 14  | 12   | 28    |
| Medicine               | 1   | 10  | 5    | 16    |
| Arts                   | 6   | 5   | 6    | 17    |
| Engineering            | 2   | 9   | 1    | 12    |
| Total                  | 105 | 109 | 103  | 317   |

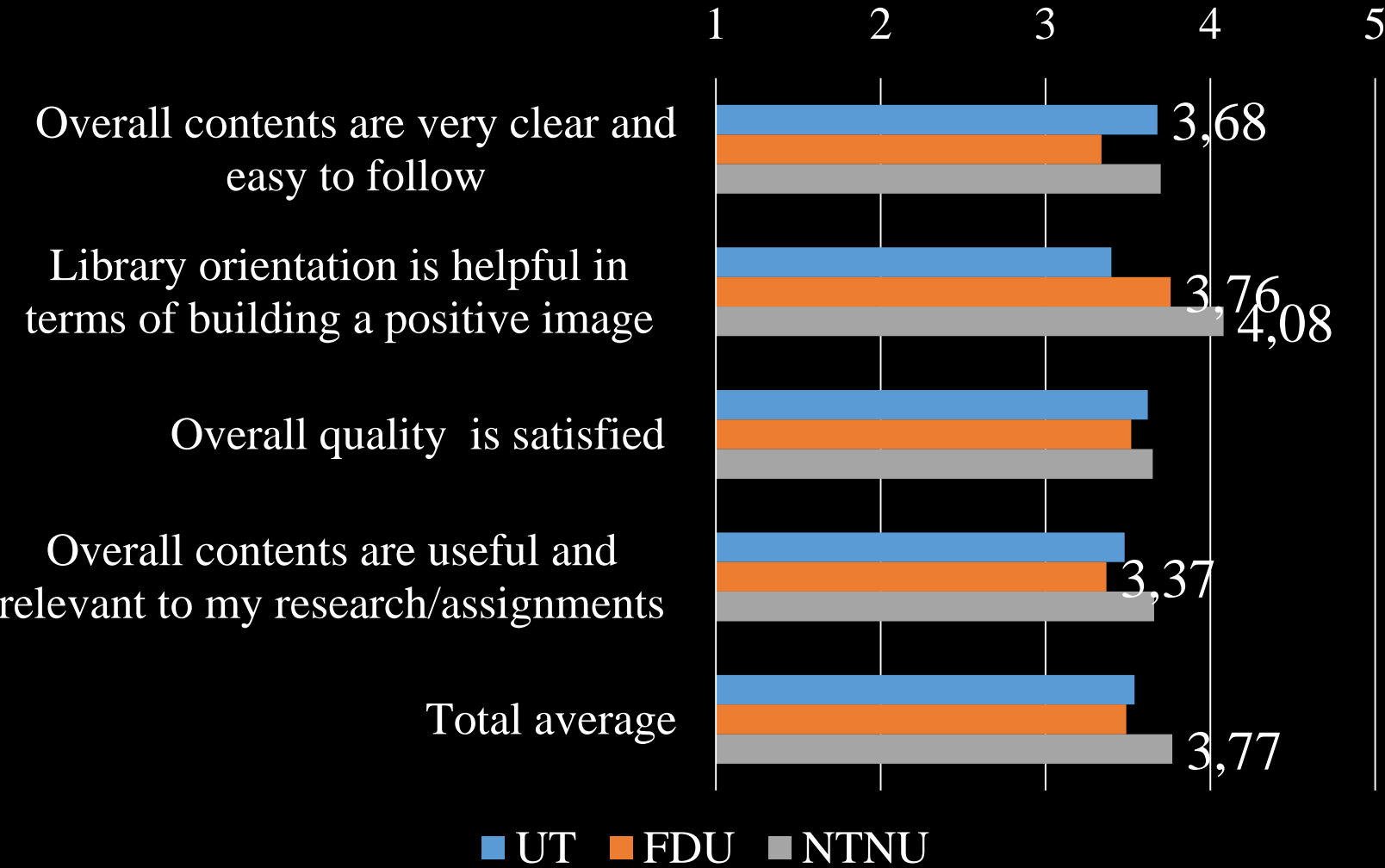
# Range of ILE programs and their perceived importance



# Range of ILE programs and their perceived importance

- NTNU & FDU
  - workshops catered for e-resources
- UT students
  - online IL instruction
- Students from NTNU showed the highest perception towards the importance of library IL education, compare to FDU and UT.

# Satisfaction toward the overall scope and contents of ILE



# How much students value the importance of ILE

- High score

- UT & FDU

- IL education is one of the important parts of students' overall learning in the university.

- NTNU

- All students should understand what library IL education is before the graduation.

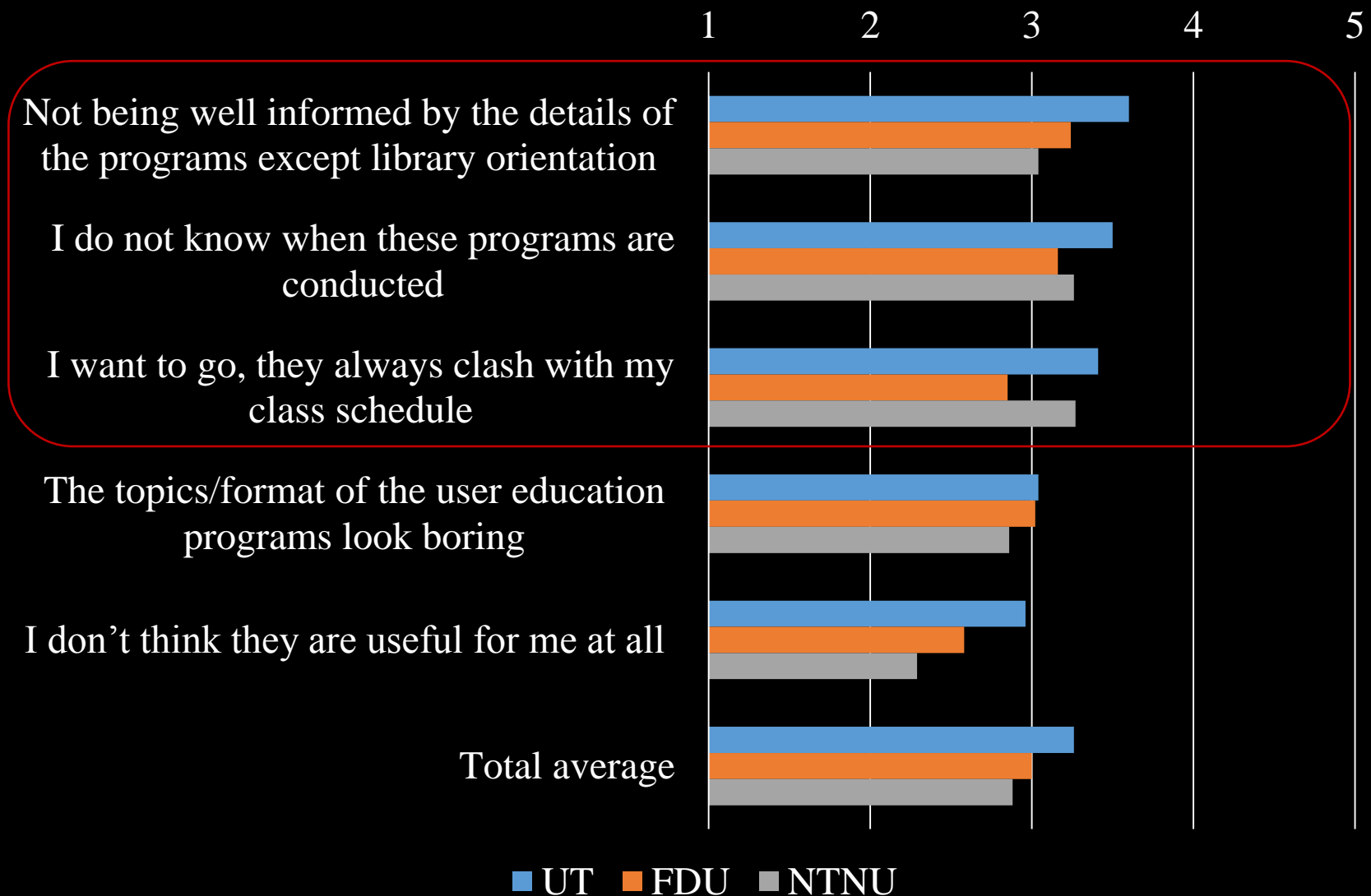
- Low score

- IL education workshops should be made mandatory for students to attend by the faculty member.

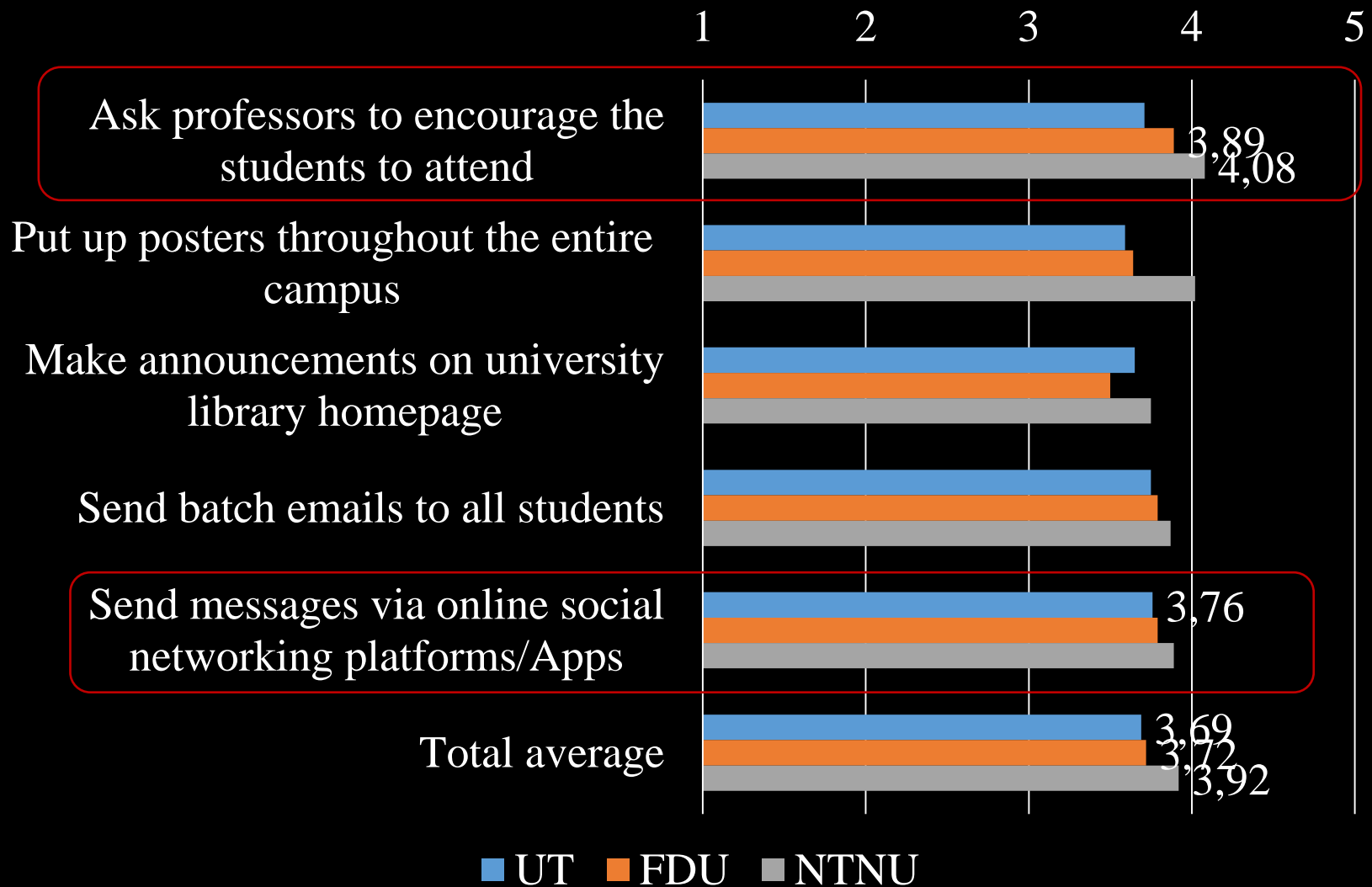
- NTNU students gave highest score than the other two universities.



# Reasons why students did not participate in ILE



# Marketing strategies for promoting ILE



# Different marketing strategies for promoting ILE

- FDU & NTNU students

Involving their professors to 'encourage' them to attend the library IL education programs

- UT students



Sending messages via online social networking service.

- UT librarians



Sending batch emails to all students



# Students' perceptions towards professional competence of reference librarians

- High scores in the following three areas:
  - ① Service-orientation
  - ② Friendliness
  - ③ Helpfulness
- Low scores in the following three areas:
  - ① Engaging
  - ② Interesting
  - ③ Creative
- The average total score of NTNU librarians is the highest amongst all three university libraries.

# Discussion

# Students' ratings towards the importance of ILE

- A majority of students at UT, NTNU and FDU thought IL education is important.
- Especially for the respondents at NTNU&FDU, both student groups felt that IL education is slightly more important than compared with the UT counterparts.

# Librarians' professional competence

- Librarianship in Japan is more about being a generalist than a subject specialist
- Position, qualification and rank is different

## The number of librarians

|                             | <b>UT</b> | <b>FDU</b> | <b>NTNU</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Librarians</b>           | 59        | 193        | 61          |
| <b>Reference Librarians</b> | 5         | 15         | 24          |
| <b>Subject Librarians</b>   | 0         | 12         | 16          |

# Teaching style and learning modes

- The inquiry based learning among East Asian is not so active and integrated deeply into curriculum.



- Outdated image of library
- No true understanding in the role of librarians



# Conclusion & Further Study

# Conclusion

- Although it is safe to say that the IL education related activities are quite homogeneous in most contents, **the roles of librarians and organizational structures** of academic libraries that support the ILE related services are not necessarily the same.

# Recommendation

- Not only be held universally but rather depending on the needs of individual faculties and classes.
- To demonstrate that the IL education are not only essential, but also effective.

# Recommendation

- Expected professional competence of IL education librarians under the digital age
  - Librarians should endeavor to act as
    - IL specialists
    - IL education leaders
    - curriculum leaders
    - effective partners with faculties

# Further Study

- Faculty members' perceptions towards library IL education

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