

# Academic Libraries in a digital, global world

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# About Lancaster University

Top 10 in the UK (6th, 9th and 8th)

135 QS, 150 THE

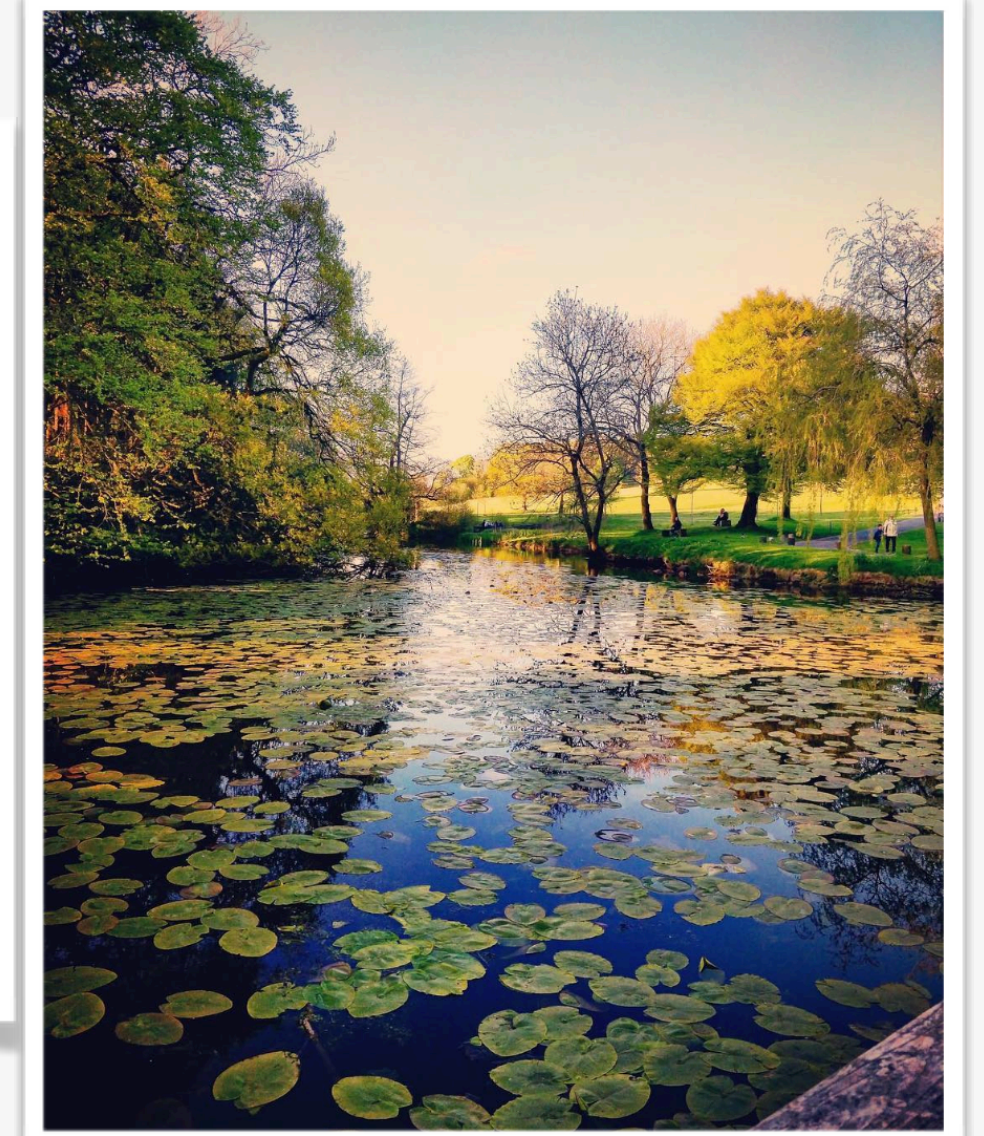
TEF Gold Award

The Times and The Sunday Times  
University of the Year 2018

Top University in the North West

13000 students

Campuses in Ghana and China



# About Lancaster University Library

Joint top position in THE Student Experience Survey 2017 and 2018

92% NSS score

Learning Zone for informal study and  
Ruskin Research Centre and Library

Four main staff teams: Academic Services, Digital Innovation & Research Services, Operations & User Services, and Learning Development

Libraries in Ghana and China



Digital disruption and leadership

Bridging the digital skills gap

Libraries as incubators of scholarly development

Tackling the challenges

# Digital Disruption and Leadership

Digital disruption and academia:  
Are we ready for uberversities in 10 years? \*

Data, Technology, and the Great Unbundling of Higher Education \*\*

\* Prof. Linda Kristjanson - VC Swinburne University - [Article available here](#) - 2015

\*\* Ryan Craig and Allison Williams - [Article available here](#) - 2015

Users' behaviours have changed - iGen project \*

Transition from *“User in the life of the Library”* to  
*“Library in the life of the user”* \*\*

\* The iGen Language project - Stanford - Michigan - Lancaster - Website [available here](#)  
Lancaster University Library news [available here](#)

\*\* The Library in the Life of the User: Engaging with People Where They Live and Learn  
Report [available here](#)

# Mapping the Future of Academic Libraries - SCONUL

*there is no equivalent venue to the physical library online, only signposting to disparate resources.*

## Digital Equivalence of Experience?

Library as a *service-provider, partner and leader*



# Reshaping Scholarship - RLUK Strategic Plan 2018-2021

*Open Scholarship - Creating a new environment for the transformation of research*

*A Collective Approach - Reshaping modern research library collections*

# NMC Horizon Report - 2017 HE Edition

## Consumer Technologies

- > Drones
- > Real-Time Communication Tools
- > Robotics
- > Wearable Technology

## Digital Strategies

- > Location Intelligence
- > Makerspaces
- > Preservation & Conservation Technologies

## Internet Technologies

- > Blockchain
- > Digital Scholarship
- > Internet of Things
- > Syndication Tools

## Learning Technologies

- > Adaptive Learning Technologies
- > Microlearning Technologies
- > Mobile Learning
- > Next-Generation LMS
- > Virtual & Remote Laboratories

## Social Media Technologies

- > Crowdsourcing
- > Online Identity
- > Social Networks
- > Virtual Worlds

## Visualization Technologies

- > 3D Printing
- > Information Visualization
- > Mixed Reality
- > Virtual Reality

## Enabling Technologies

- > Affective Computing
- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Big Data
- > Electrovibration
- > Flexible Displays
- > Mesh Networks
- > Mobile Broadband
- > Natural User Interfaces
- > Near Field Communication
- > Next-Generation Batteries
- > Open Hardware
- > Speech-to-Speech Translation
- > Virtual Assistants
- > Wireless Power

# NMC Horizon Report > 2017 Library Edition

Advancing innovative services and operations requires a reimagining of organizational structures

Enabled by digital scholarship technologies, the research landscape is evolving

Artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things are poised to amplify the utility and reach of library services.

NMC Horizon Report > 2017 Library Edition [available here](#)

# Gartner Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2018

## **INTELLIGENT**

AI Foundations

Intelligent Things

Intelligent Apps and Analytics

## **DIGITAL**

Digital Twins

Conversational Platforms

Cloud to the Edge

Immersive Experience

## **MESH**

Blockchain

Event-Driven

Continuous Adaptive Risk and Trust

# Library towards 2020

We will facilitate excellence for all of our users through the physical and virtual environments we manage, as well as the resources we provide, to stimulate creativity, spark new knowledge and encourage scholarship to flourish.

We will develop a comprehensive digital library experience for the University's off campus users.

Digital seems to be the common denominator  
but...

is the digital/technology hype real?

# Gartner Hype Cycle - 2010

Gesture Recognition

Microblogging

3D Flat panel TVs and displays

Social Analytics

Private cloud computing

Media tablet

Biometric authentication methods

Virtual assistants

Cloud Computing

Ebook readers

3D Printing

Wireless charging

Augmented Reality

Location aware applications

Mobile application stores

All elements are less than 5 year realisation time.

# Gartner Hype Cycle - 2017

Serverless PaaS

Augmented Data Discovery

Edge Computing

IoT platform

Software defined security

Deep Learning

Machine Learning

Drones

Cognitive Expert Advisors

Virtual Reality

All elements are less than 5 year realisation time.



Let's add data to the mix

# 2010

5.2 billion internet connected devices

0.9 Zettabytes

Content is king

Academic Leadership

**2017**

28.4 billion internet connected devices

17 Zettabytes

Context is kingdom

Academic (with elements of Digital) Leadership

# 2025

80 -100 billion internet connected devices

180 Zettabytes

Cognitive load reduction & context brokering

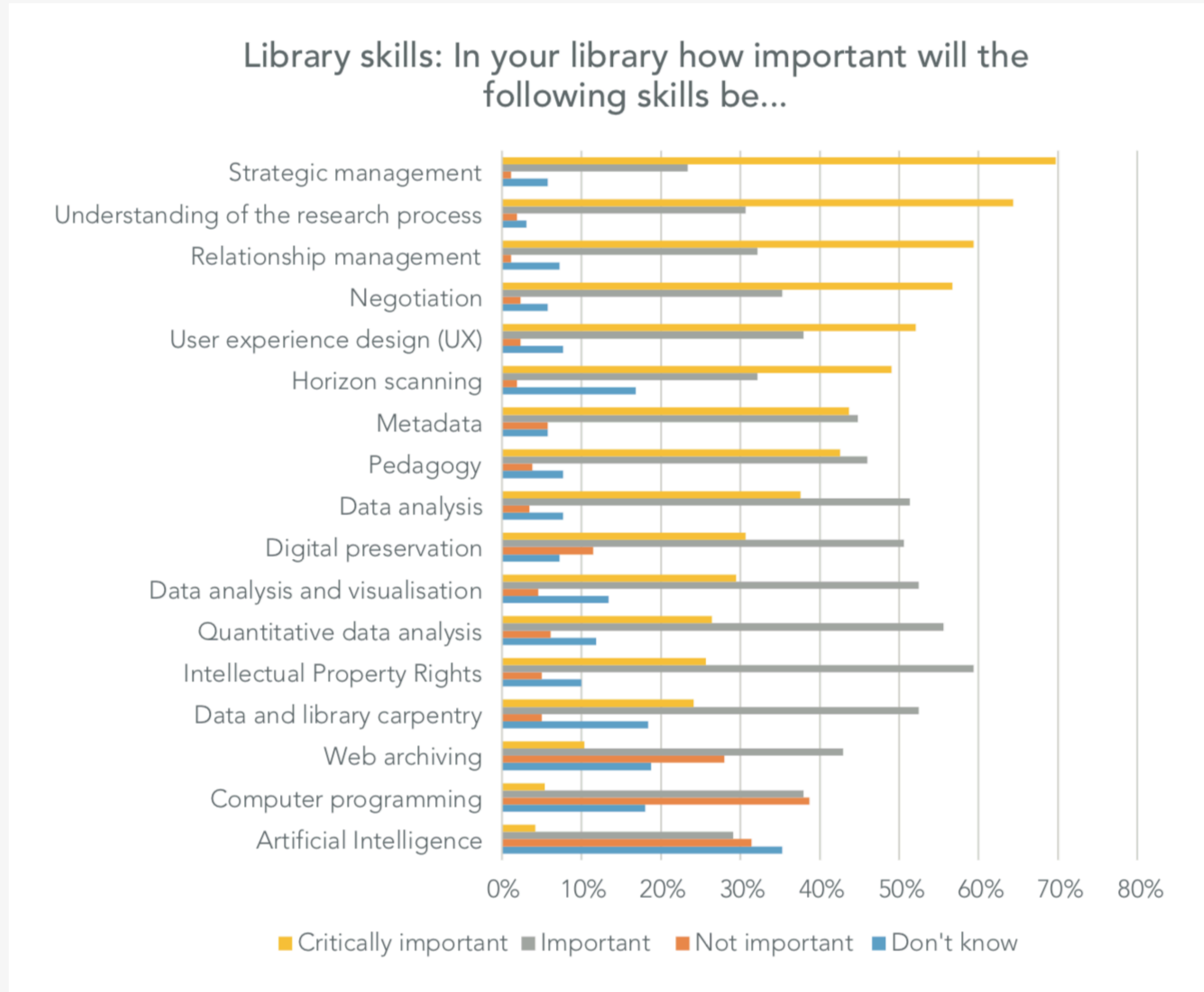
Digital Leadership\*

\* but not on its own

The scale and pace of change is mind-boggling  
Do our staff have the relevant digital skills to cope?

# Bridging the Gap of Digital Skills

# SCONUL report - Library skills importance

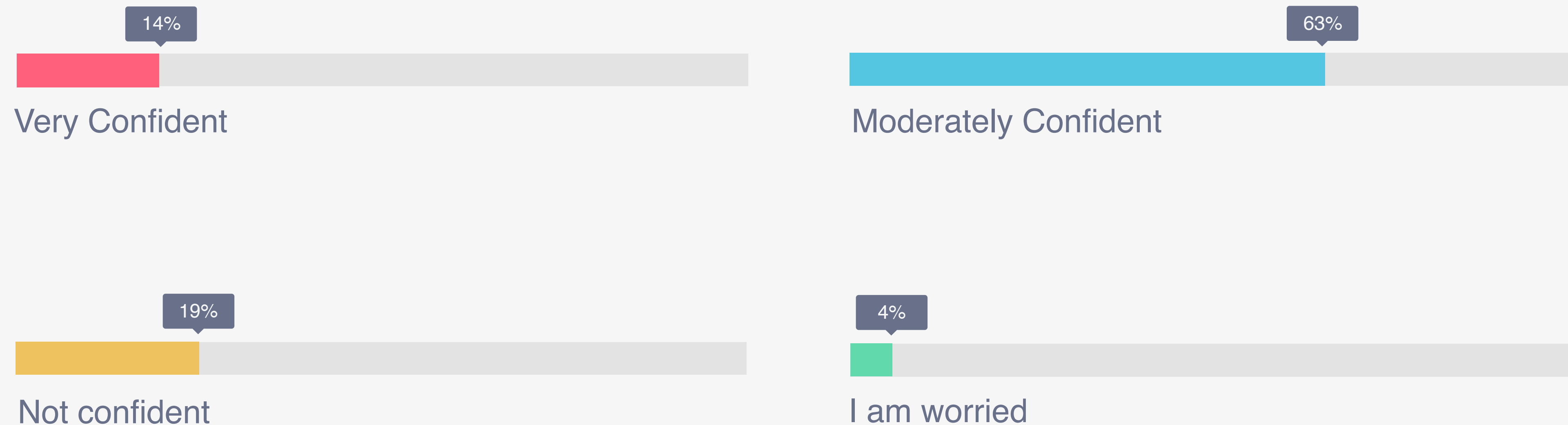


## Demographics

- 18-25 - 1%
- 26-35 - 14%
- 36-45 - 26%
- 46-55 - 38%
- 55-65 - 19%
- 65+ - 0%
- Prefer not to say - 1%

# Survey results (1/3)

How confident are you that you have the skills that would be relevant to the needs of research libraries in 2025?

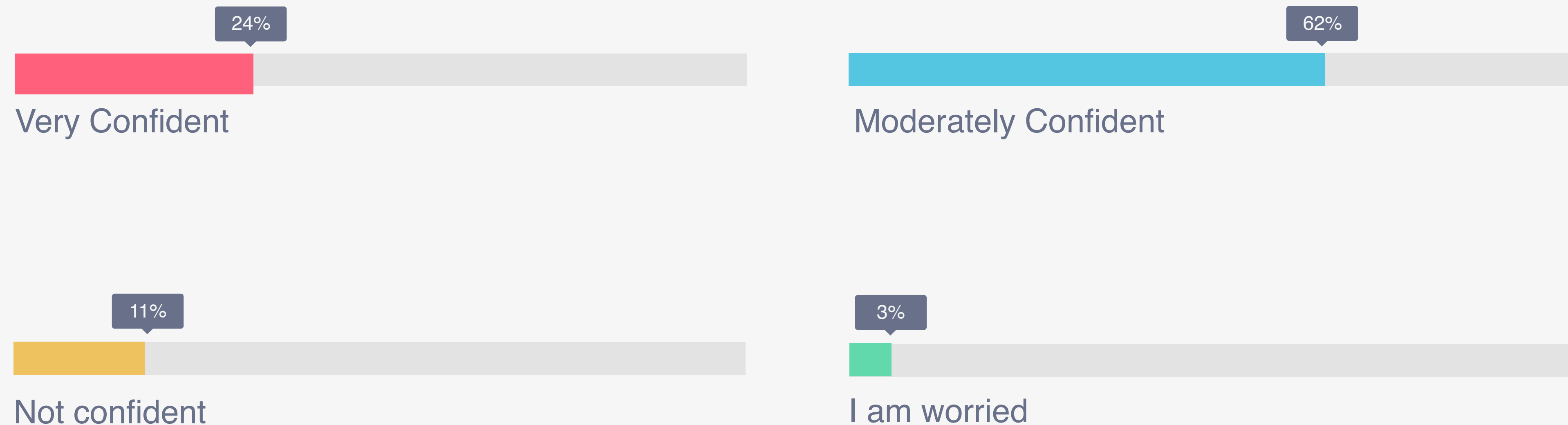


Dataset from survey - staff readiness in research libraries for a technological future  
Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17635/lancaster/researchdata/141>



# Survey results (2/3)

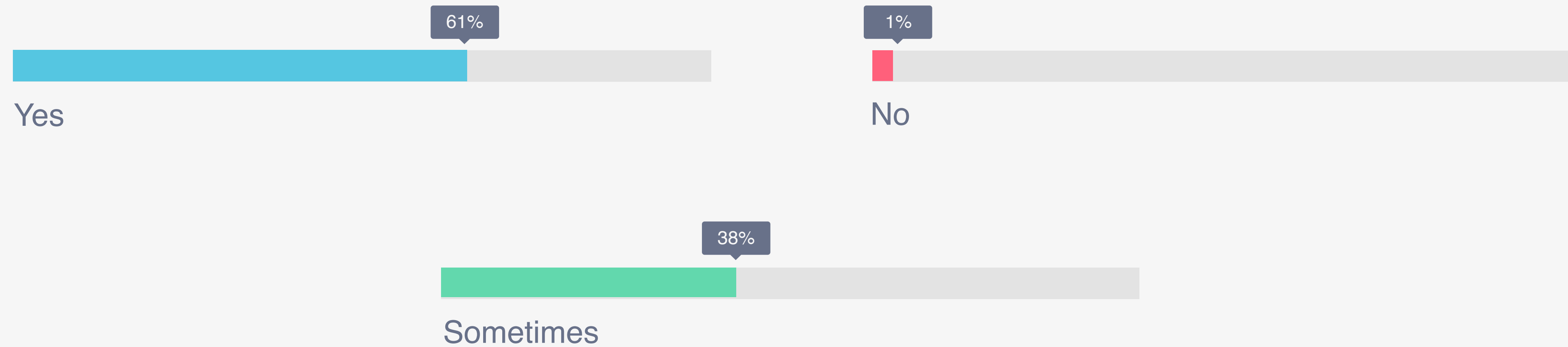
How confident are you to be able to cope with technological changes that would be coming our way by 2025?



Dataset from survey - staff readiness in research libraries for a technological future  
Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17635/lancaster/researchdata/141>

# Survey results (3/3)

In your own view, do you think that you can learn new technologies quickly?



Dataset from survey - staff readiness in research libraries for a technological future  
Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17635/lancaster/researchdata/141>

Are we really ready or is this an example of dunning-kruger effect?

# Digital Skills Development

Digital Leadership

01

02

Confidence Building

Digital Skills and Code Clubs

03

04

Micro-Learning

Libraries as incubators of  
scholarly development

# Mapping the Future of Academic Libraries

Carry out investigation and development of services in the areas of artificial intelligence, machine learning, internet of things, digital humanities, and other areas of datafied scholarship

Investigate the possibilities of developing collaborations to create meaningful online scholarly venues to complement library physical spaces.

# Future of Libraries

... that MIT establish an Initiative for Research in Information Science and Scholarly Communication, based in the MIT Libraries, to enable **bold experimentation** and to serve as a hub for best-in-class research on the great challenges in information science and scholarly communication.

...the Libraries should generate open, interoperable content platforms that explore **new ways** of producing, using, sharing, and preserving knowledge and that promote **revolutionary new methodologies** for the discovery and organization of information, people, ideas, and networks.

# Risk and Innovation

Take (calculated) risks and accept failure as a learning endeavour

Students are digital natives. They learn and work in different ways \*

Promote more student-led innovation

*bold experimentation, new ways, revolutionary new methodologies*

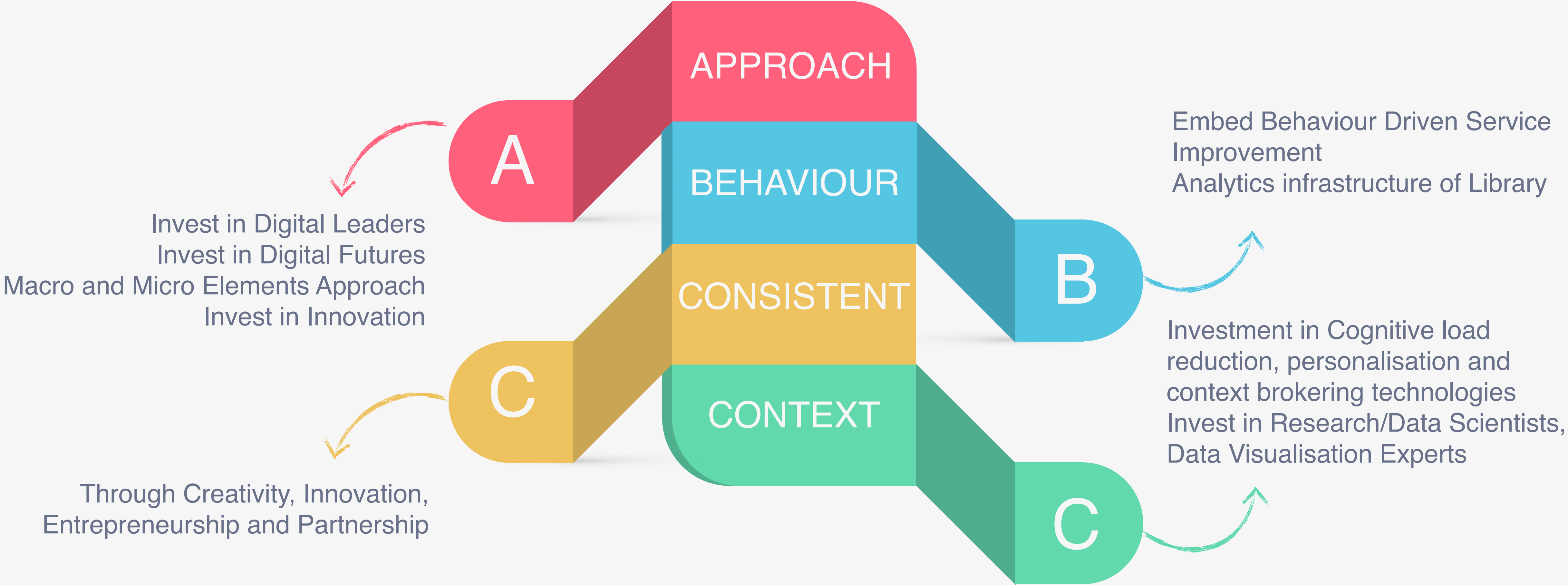
Potential of AI, Machine Learning, Blockchain, Mixed Reality

\* Counter argument [available here](#)

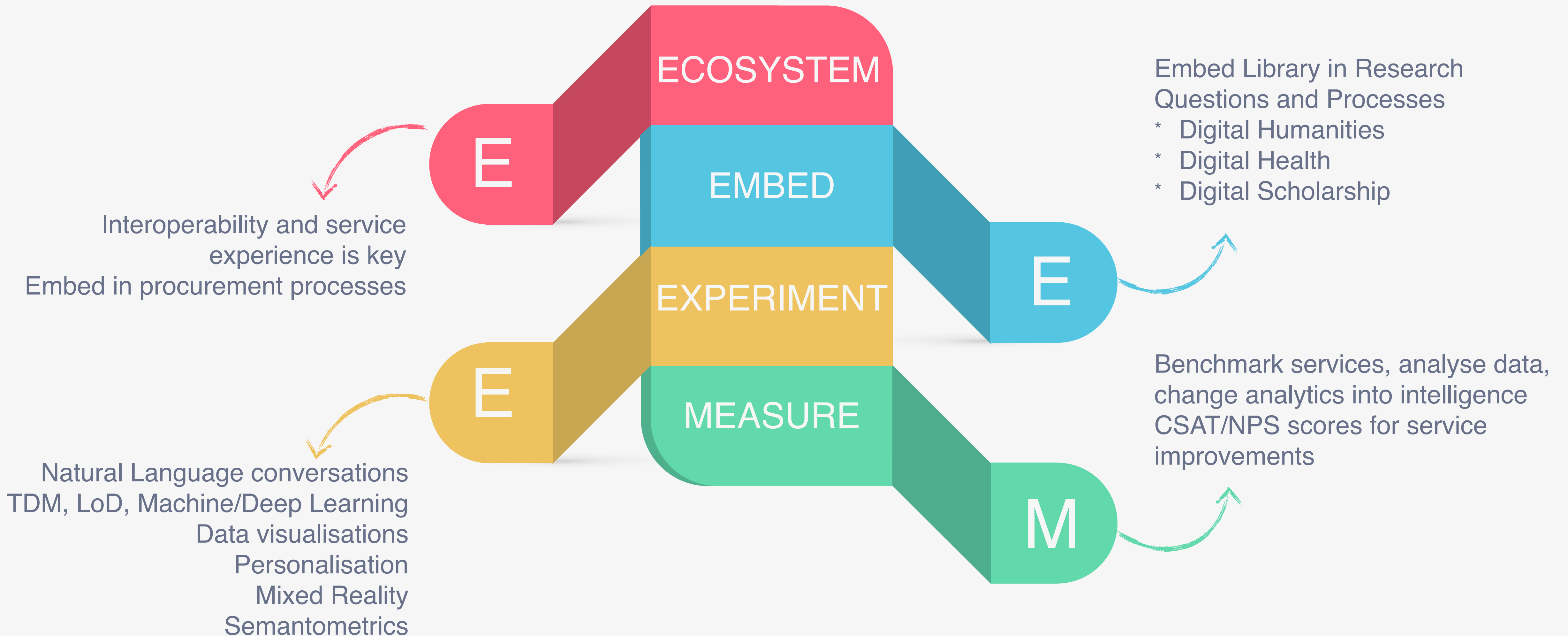


Tackling the challenges

# Tackling the challenges (1/2)

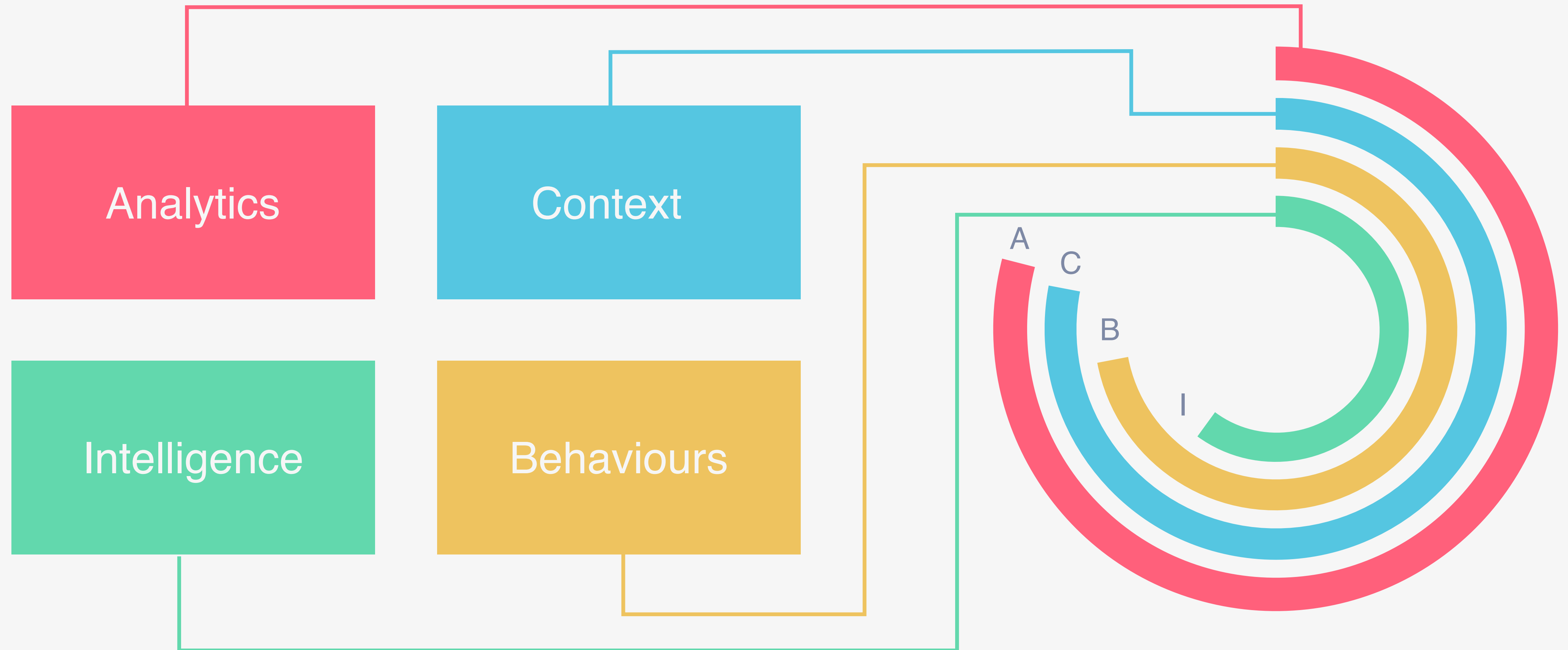


# Tackling the challenges (2/2)



# From Analytics to Intelligence

The Data to Information journey for smart decisions



# Digital Futures



Study space  
occupancy



UX and Library  
Journeys



Mixed Reality



Natural Language  
Touch points



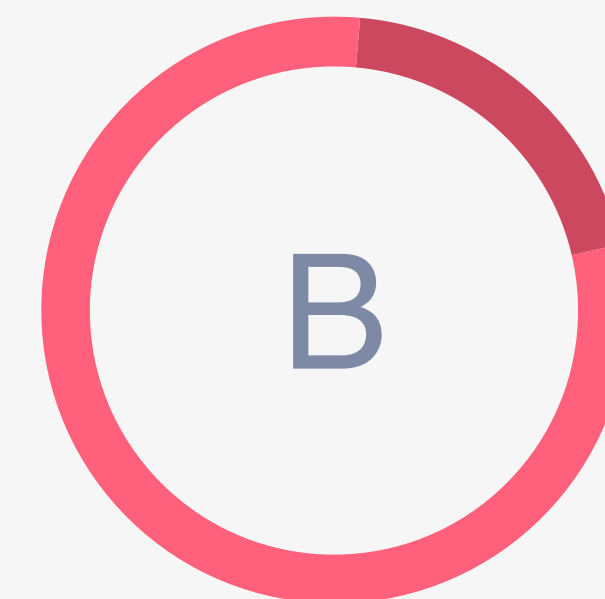
Gesture Control



Mood aware  
spaces



Personalisation



Blockchain

# Areas of investment for scholarly development

*Smart data discovery approaches*

*Intelligent digital humanities*

*Text and data mining for machine learning*

*Personalised services for cognitive load reduction*

*Enabling global digital citizenship \**

*Mixed Reality \*\**

\* Becoming a Digital Citizen: an introduction to the digital society - [available here](#)

\*\* Mixed Reality and Library Spaces - Lancaster University - NoWAL - [available here](#)

# Global challenges

These developments are not limited to UK, Australia or another country

We face global sectoral challenges, some of them are wicked in their nature

We may not be able to solve all problems, but we can make significant progress towards that

We need to develop partnerships for innovation in libraries

Library as a *service-provider*, ***partner*** and ***leader***

“There is no turning back from digital in HE.  
The digital demand is real, and HE  
institutions must start making the grade or  
risk irrelevance in the digital era.” \*

The question is not of an if but of when!

\* Mike Byrne - Managing Director - Accenture - September 2016 - [Available here](#)



# Thank you for listening. Questions?

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