

# Dispelling Myths About Library Collections and Accreditation Requirements

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## Our Question

- College libraries cite regional accreditation as the reason to keep specific journal titles.
- Do accreditation agencies actually care about journal subscriptions?

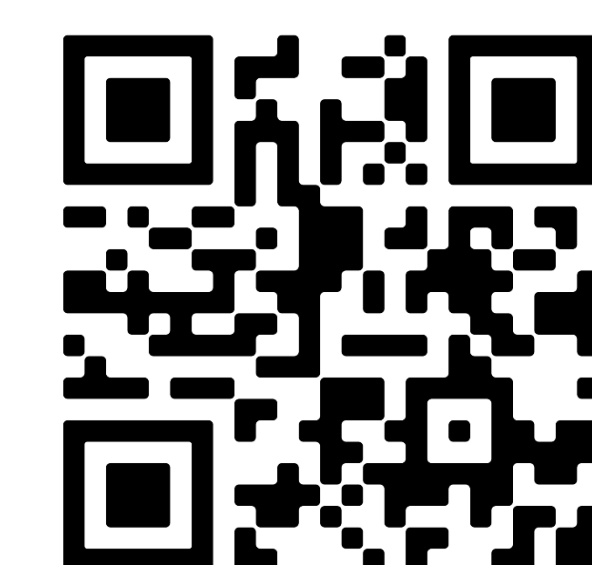
## What we did

- Reviewed the standards & guidelines of over 90 accrediting bodies.
- Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/2Wy554r](https://bit.ly/2Wy554r) for the full list of the accreditation standards reviewed in this study.

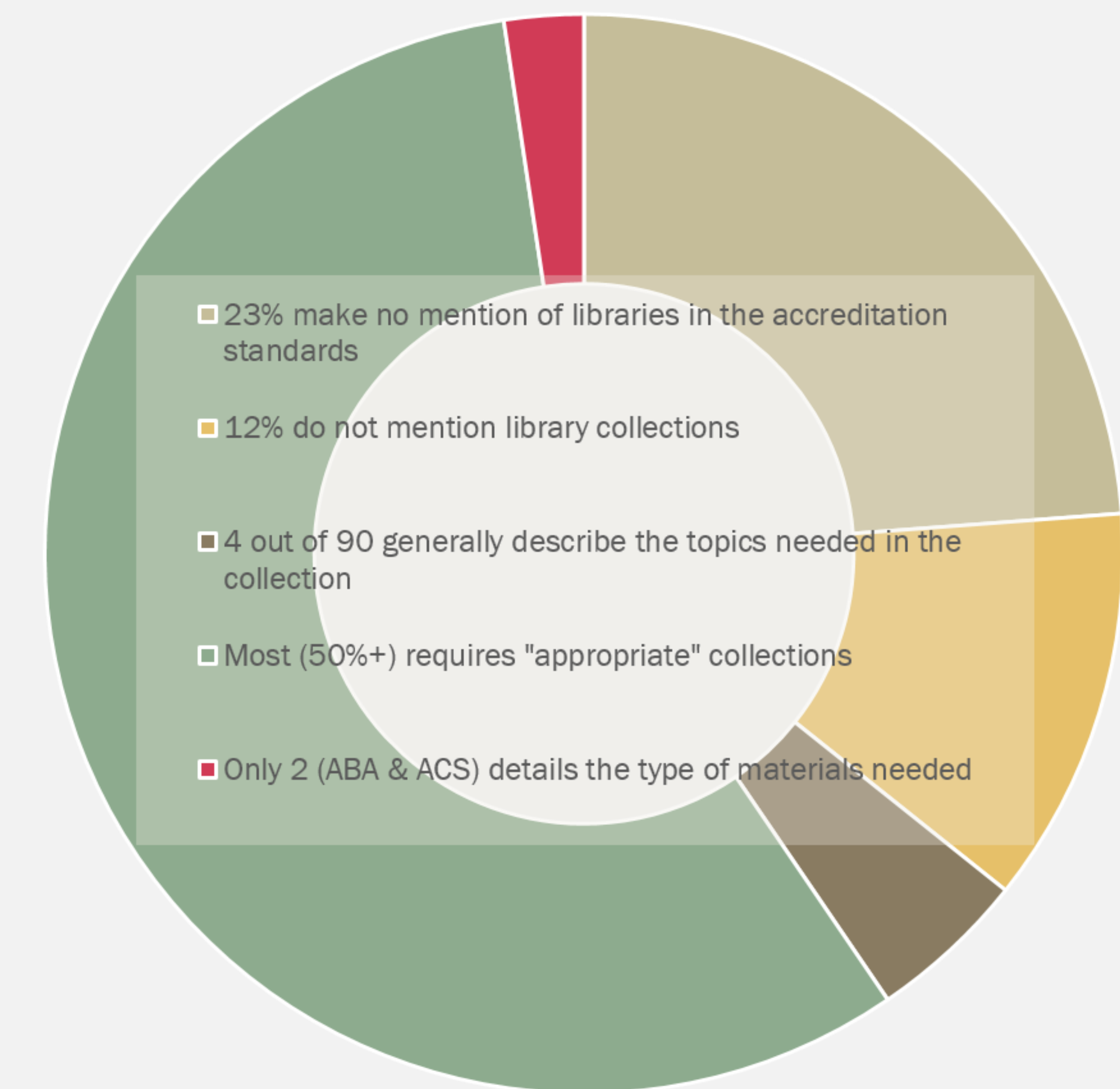
## What we found

- Only two accrediting bodies (American Chemical Society and American Bar Association) give a ratio/guidance on the type of journal subscriptions libraries need.
- Even those two don't list exact titles – only a broad scope of the topics & resources needed.

Do you need  
to keep that  
journal for  
accreditation?  
**No.**



SCAN ME



## Takeaways

- Accrediting bodies are increasingly emphasizing outcomes, not inputs.
- There are still myriad factors to weigh in journal selection and retention, but accreditation shouldn't be a factor.
- Libraries must be involved in the development of accreditation standards. **20% of the accrediting bodies reviewed do not even mention libraries.** In the past we've used accreditation to advocate for increased funding/staffing. We don't advocate for a return to quotas, but we're concerned that that if standards don't mention libraries it could undermine the argument to fund and support them seriously.