

Students' Perceptions of Skills Acquisition in the Undergraduate Curriculum

School of Biological Sciences

University of Leicester.

Background

- Acquisition of Key Skills is a core element of the University's Learning & Teaching Strategy
- Key Skills are significantly valued by prospective employers alongside subject specific skills
- Provision of Key Skills training has undergone significant change in recent years in Schools and HEIs

Background

- Key Skills have always been implicit within the Biological Sciences programme:

Written Reports & Essays

Data Handling & Analysis

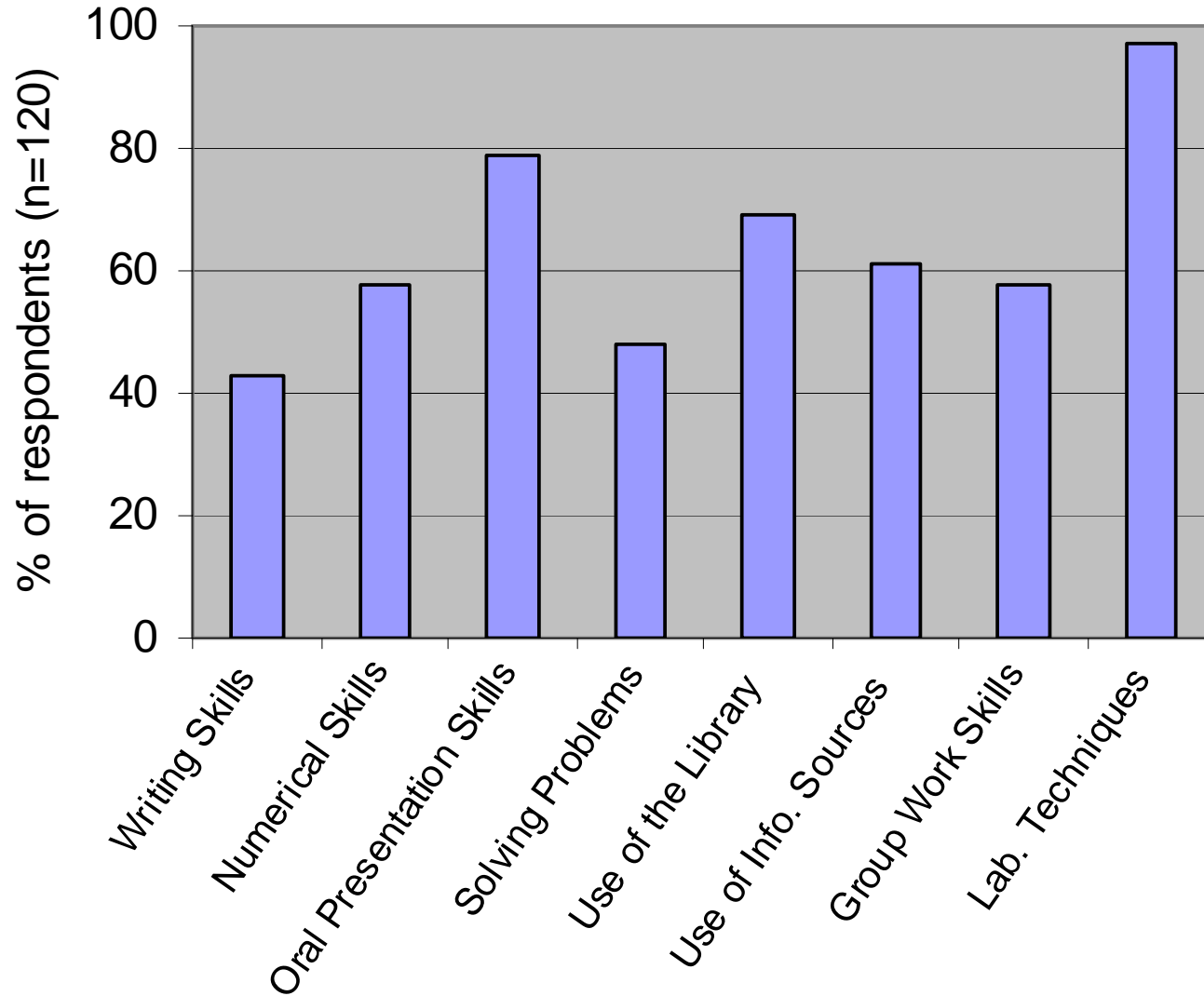
Group Working

Problem Solving

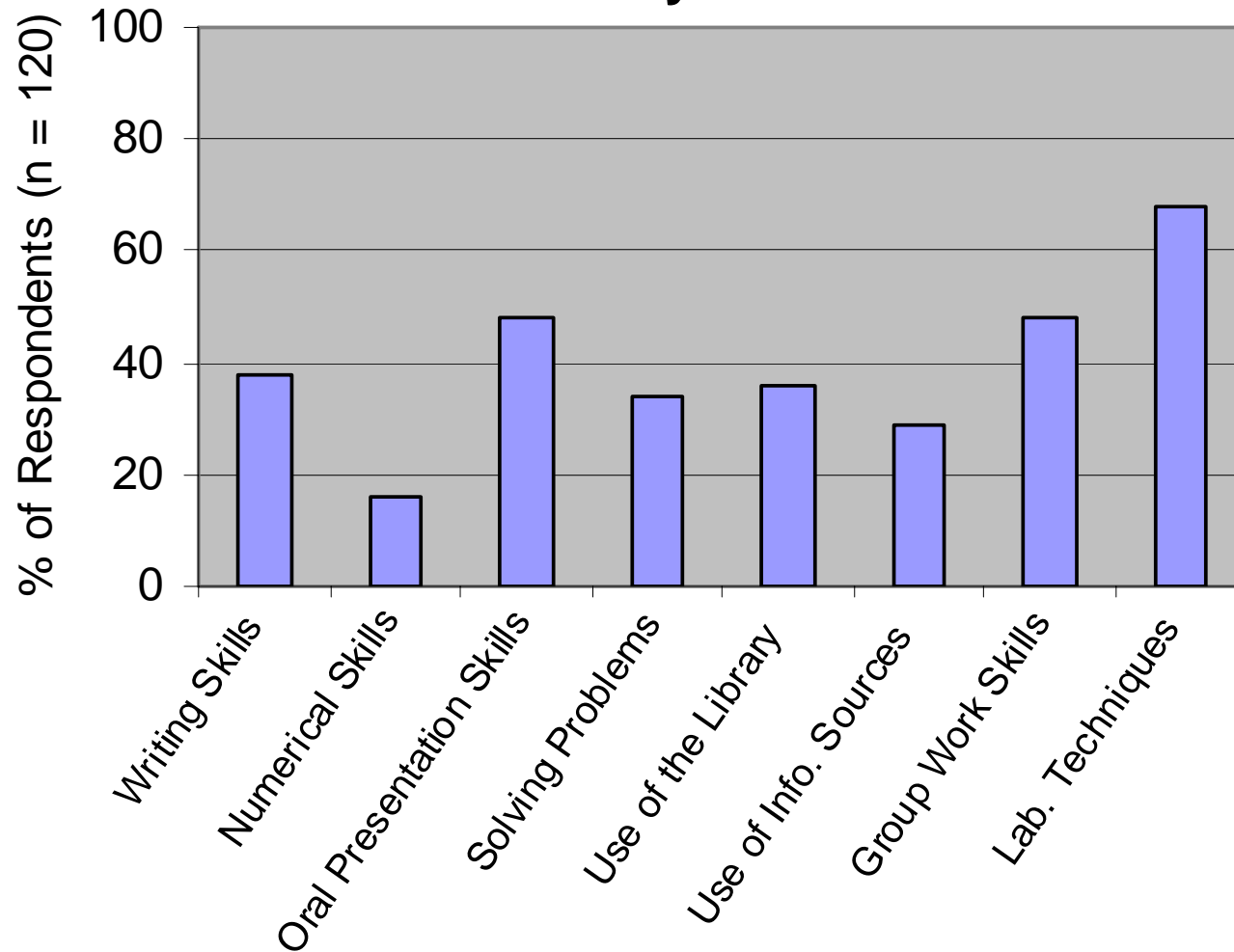
Oral Presentations

ICT

Students' Perceptions of Skills Training Provision. Graduate Survey 1998-99.



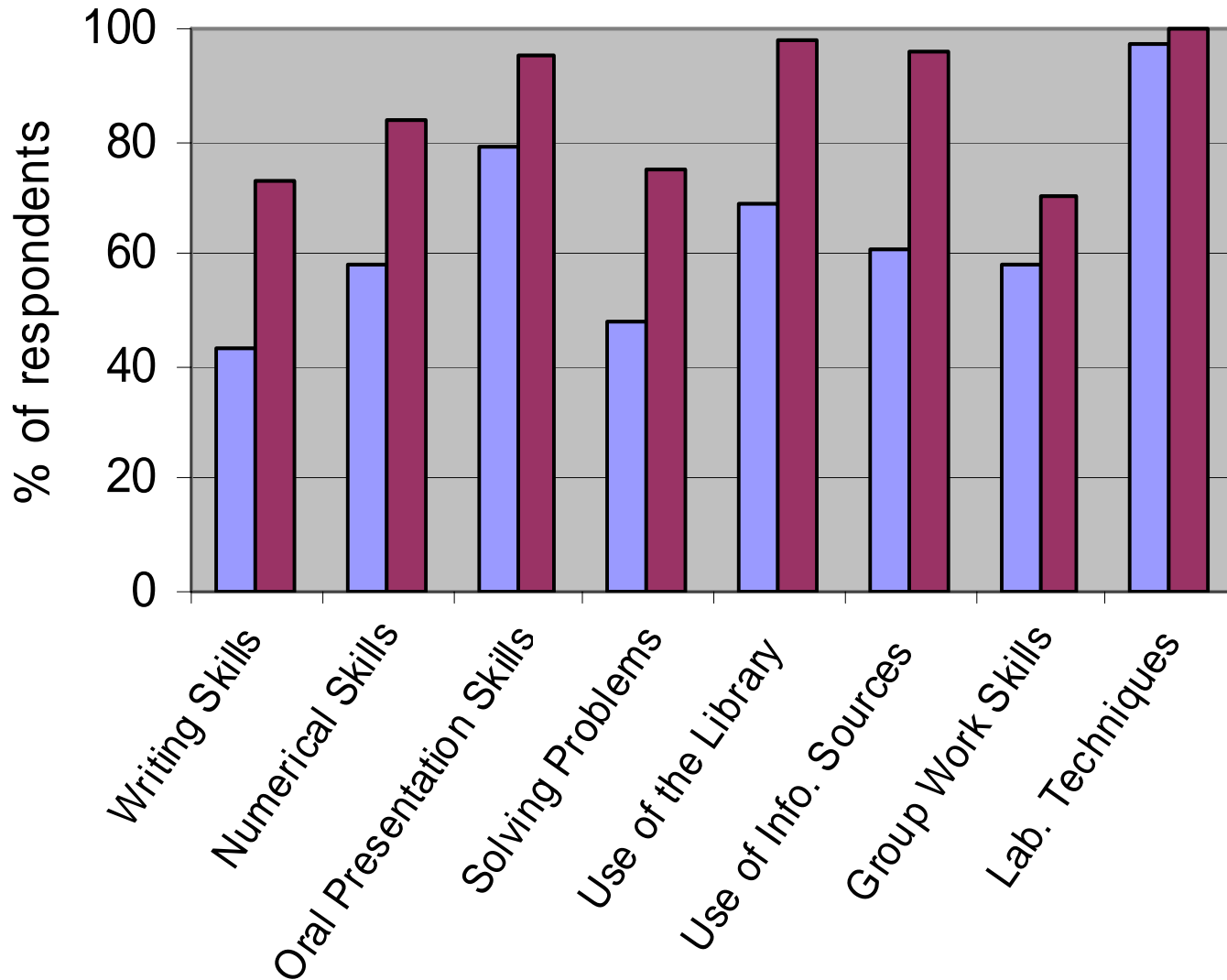
Proportions of Students Reporting Skills Training as Good or Excellent. Graduate Survey 1998-99



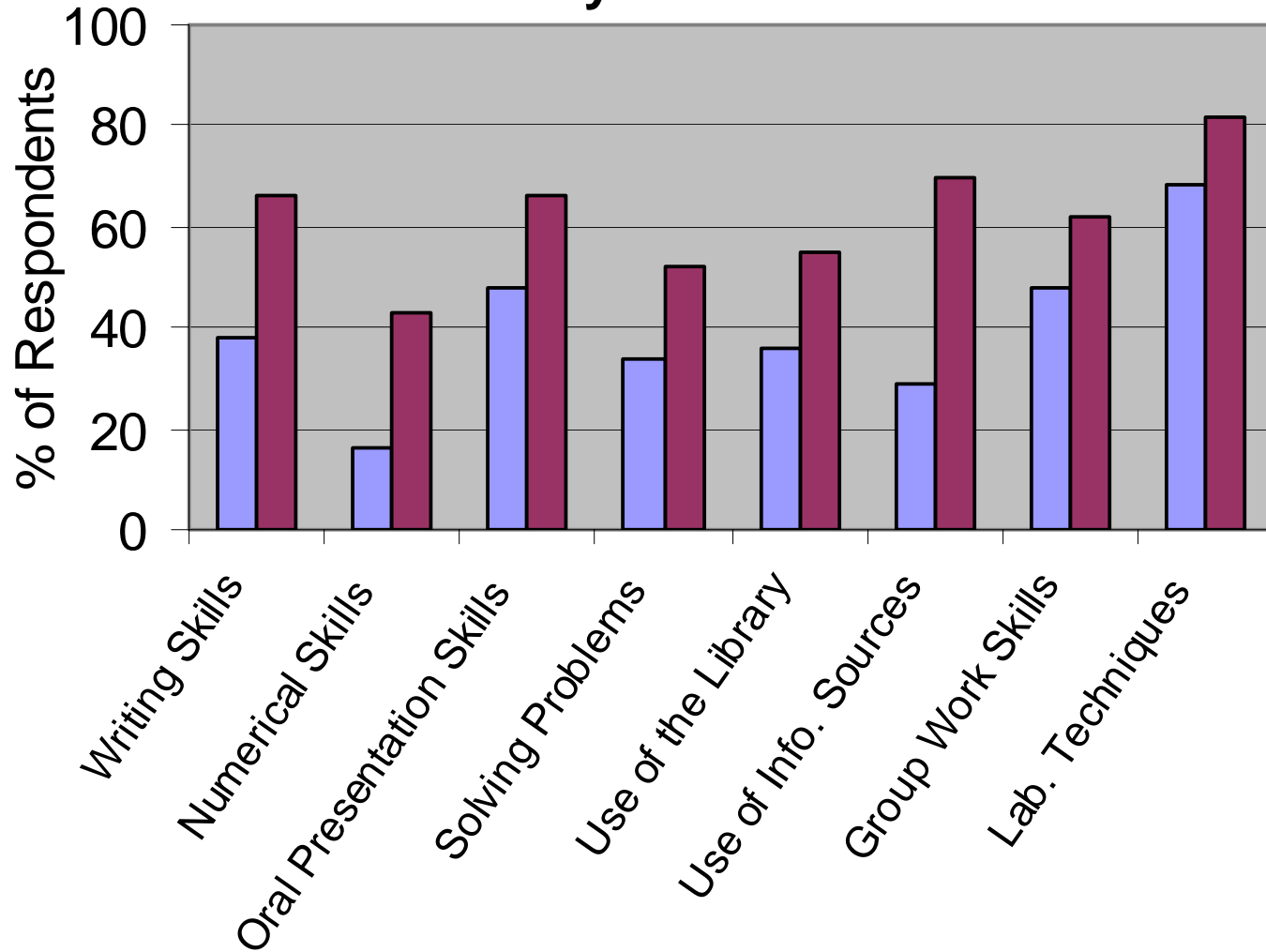
1st Year Curriculum Revisions 1999-2000

- Introduction of a new 1st semester module:
Study & Communication Skills
- Revision of numeracy and IT teaching:
IT & Numeracy Skills for Biologists

Students' Perceptions of Skills Training Provision. Graduate Surveys 1998-99 vs 2002



Proportions of Students Reporting Skills Training as Good or Excellent. Graduate Surveys 1998-99 vs 2002



Conclusions

- Students often failed to recognise implicit skills acquisition
- Explicit skills courses raised students' awareness of skills training
- Explicit skills courses raised students appreciation of the quality of the training – even when this had not been changed