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### Do the Best Hospitals Have Librarians?

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# Do the best hospitals have librarians?

Brenda Pfannenstiel, MALS, MA, AHIP

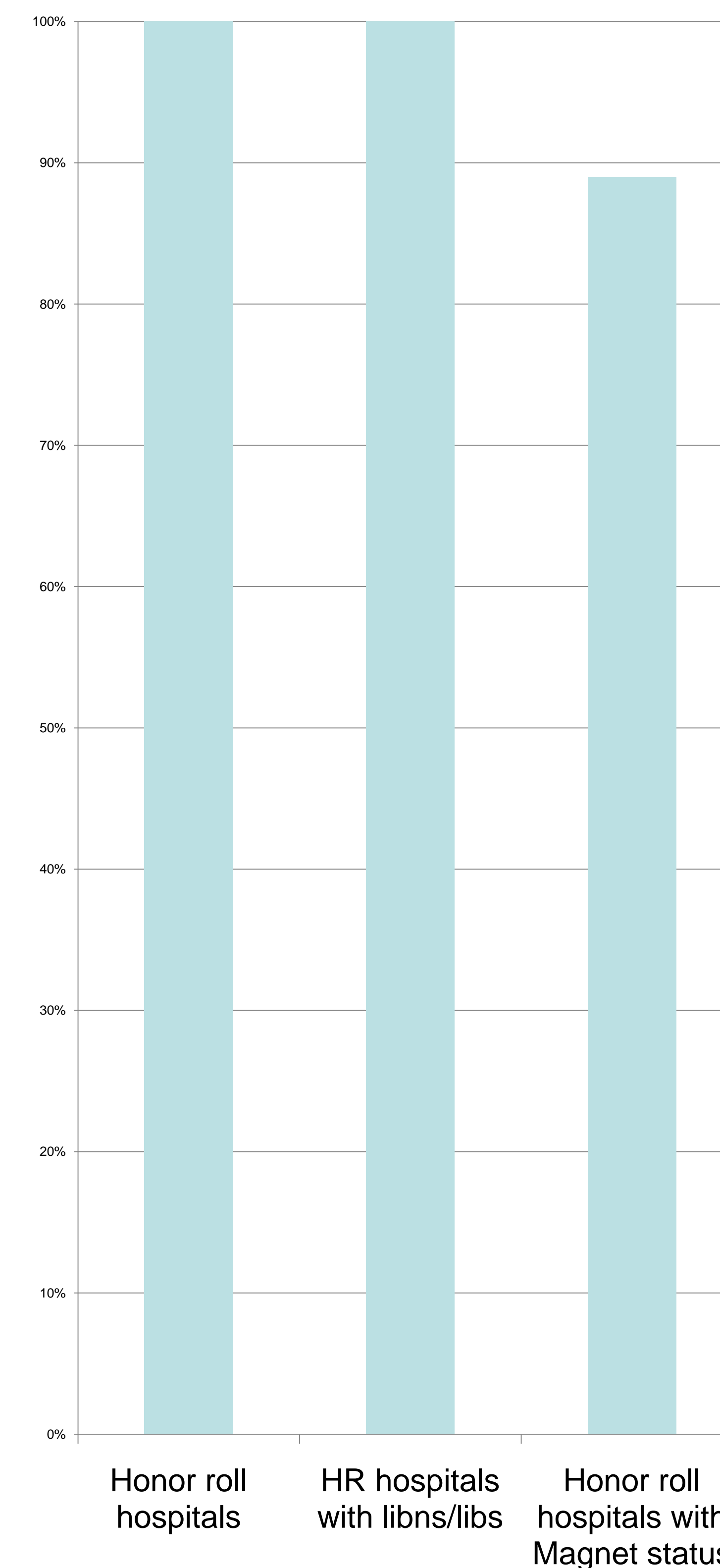
Children's Mercy, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

**Objective:**

Determine how the presence of medical librarians correlates with hospital ranking on the U.S. News & World Report best hospitals list.

**Method:**

2014 U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll list was compared with medical librarian directories, web data mining, and personal contacts. Hospitals in Kansas and Missouri listed in the HQI-HOSP database were identified by Docline membership and queried for availability of librarians. A sample of Kansas hospitals without Docline membership was contacted by phone and queried about knowledge-based information resources.



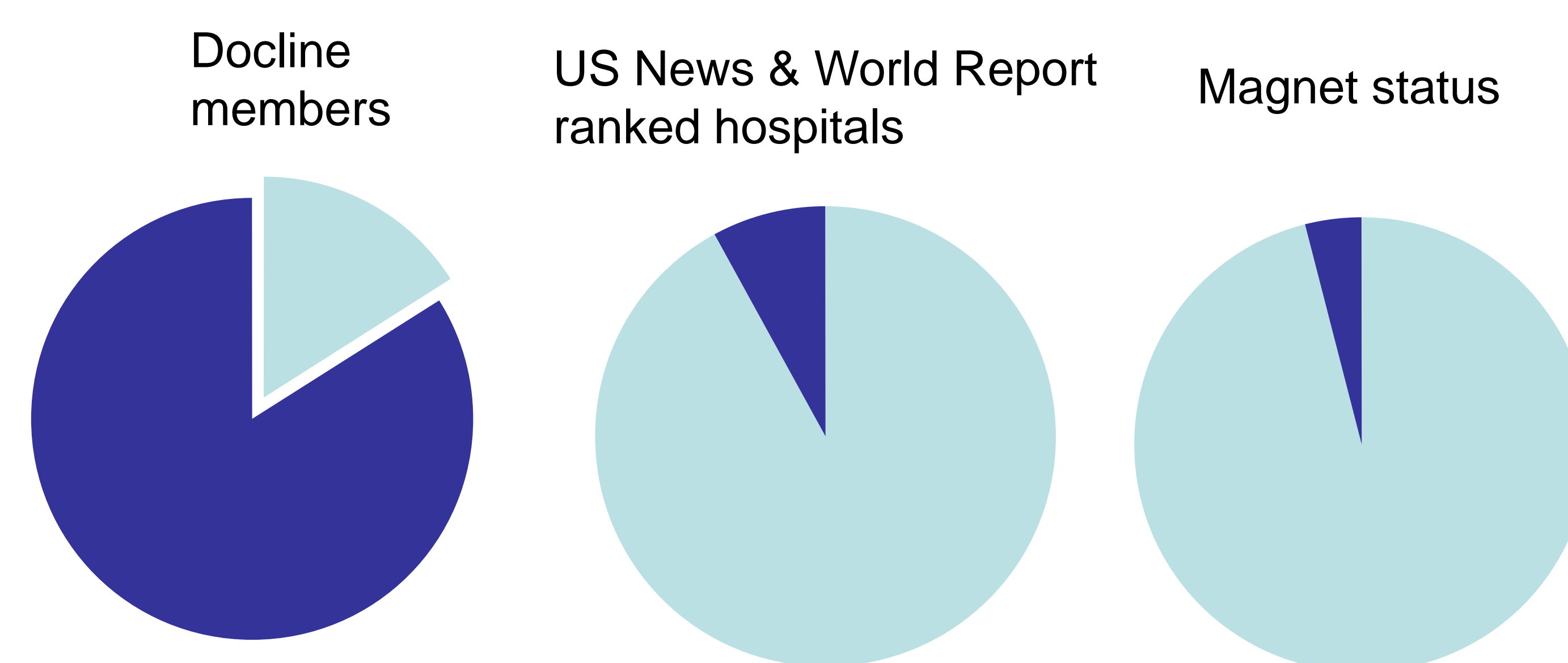
**Results:**

Honor Roll hospitals are teaching/research hospitals with access to librarians and extensive library collections. The ratio of librarians to potential users is 1:1,000-3,000. In Kansas and Missouri, 241 hospitals are Medicare-approved. Of those, 16 percent are Docline members, 8 percent are ranked on the U.S. News & World Report, 4% have Magnet status. At least 84 percent of the ranked hospitals have the services of one or more medical librarians.

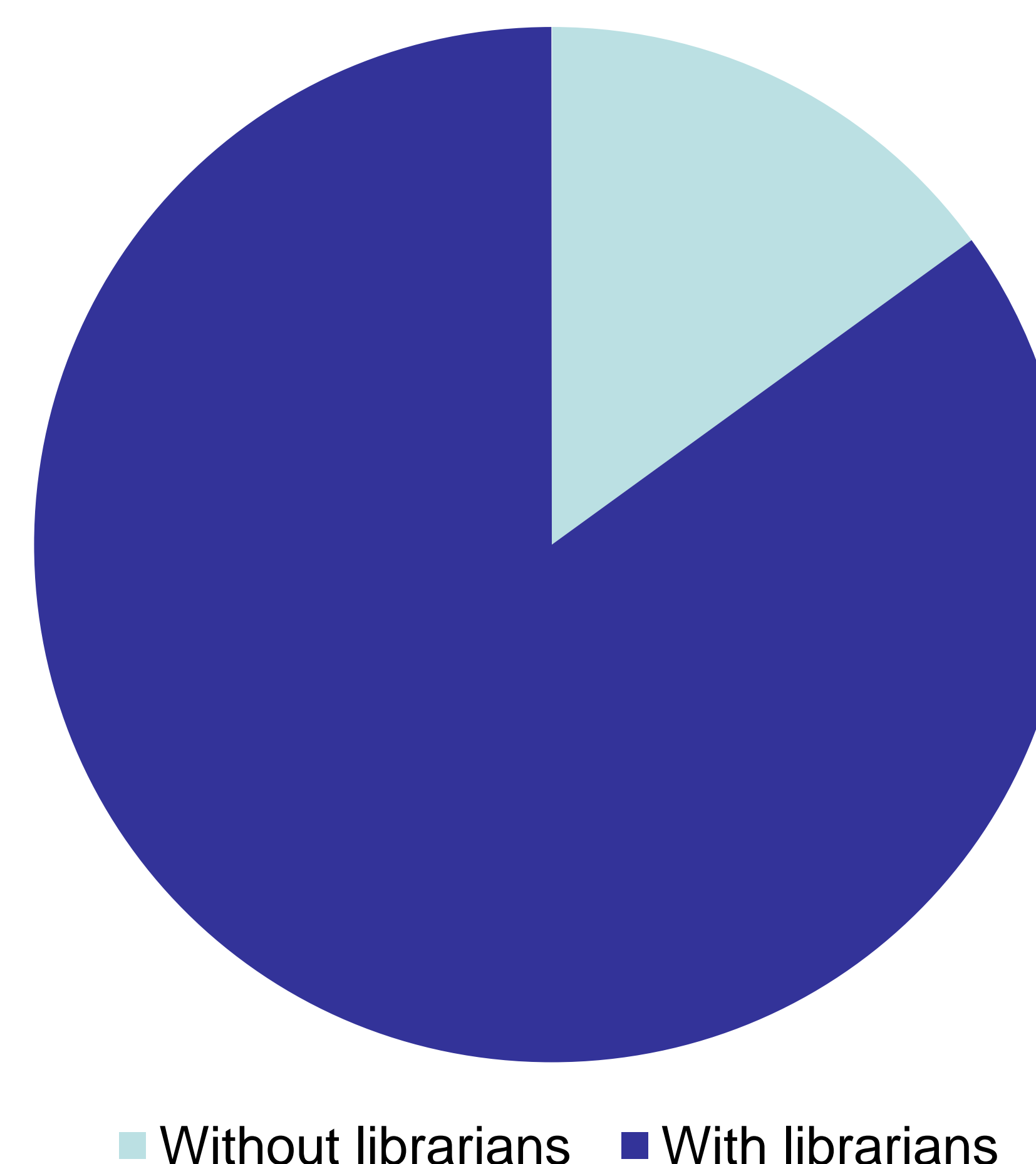
**Conclusion:**

The best hospitals do have librarians, but there are many hospitals that do not have librarians, library resources, or the means to pursue Honor Roll status, Magnet status, or other measures of excellence. The ratio of librarians to users is wide even in the best hospitals.

Kansas and Missouri Medicare-approved hospitals (HQI-HOSP)



Kansas and Missouri hospitals ranked in US News & World Report



- University of Kansas Hospital
- Via Christi Hospital St. Francis
- Saint Luke's South Hospital
- Shawnee Mission Medical Center
- Barnes-Jewish Hospital/WashU
- St. Luke's Hospital (KCMO)
- Missouri Baptist Medical Center
- Boone Hospital
- University of Missouri Health Care
- Mercy Hospital (St. Louis)
- Children's Mercy Kansas City
- North Kansas City Hospital
- St. Luke's Hospital (Chesterfield MO)
- Cox Health Hospital (Springfield MO)
- Freeman Hospital (Joplin MO)
- SSM St. Joseph Hospital West
- Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital
- St. Louis University Hospital
- Heartland Regional Medical Center
- Mercy Hospital Springfield
- St. Louis Children's Hospital/WashU
- SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Med Ctr

Without librarians With librarians