

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Office of Patent Quality Assurance search feedback pilot

Patricia Bianco

November 14, 2019

Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

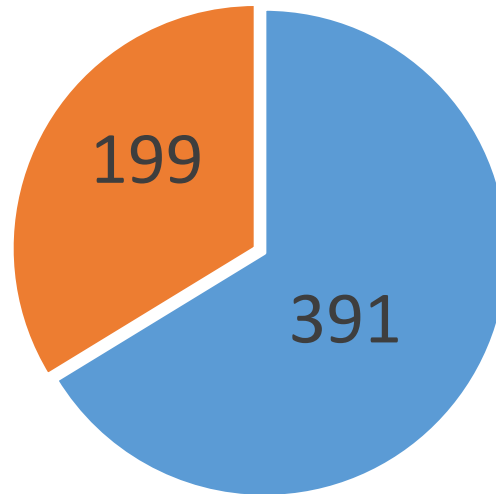


General premise

- For a set of randomly selected mailed cases, Review Quality Assurance Specialists (RQASes) conducted their own search of the case and evaluated the examiner's recorded search strategy and history.
- Each RQAS completed a feedback form which they shared with the examiner via email that included the RQAS's search strategy.
- The examiner had the option to request a meeting with the RQAS to discuss the search feedback and share best practices on search in general.

Meeting distribution

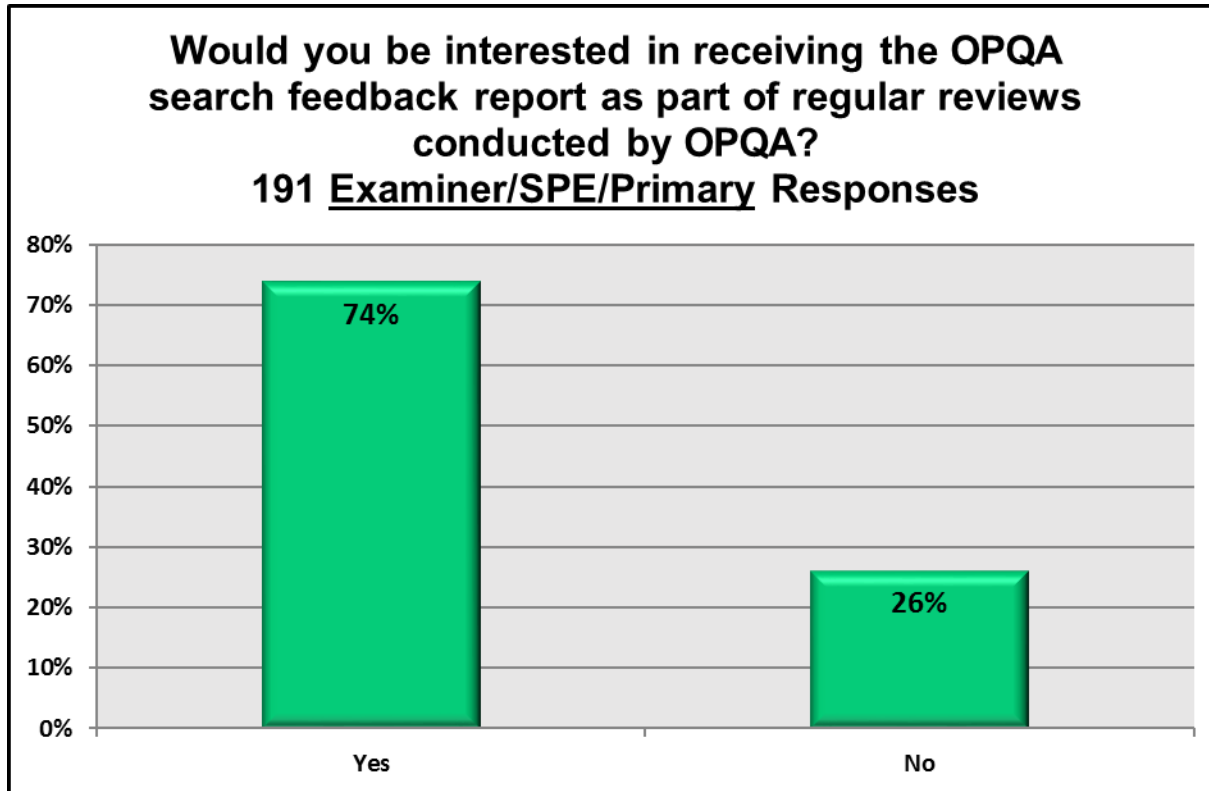
590 reviews



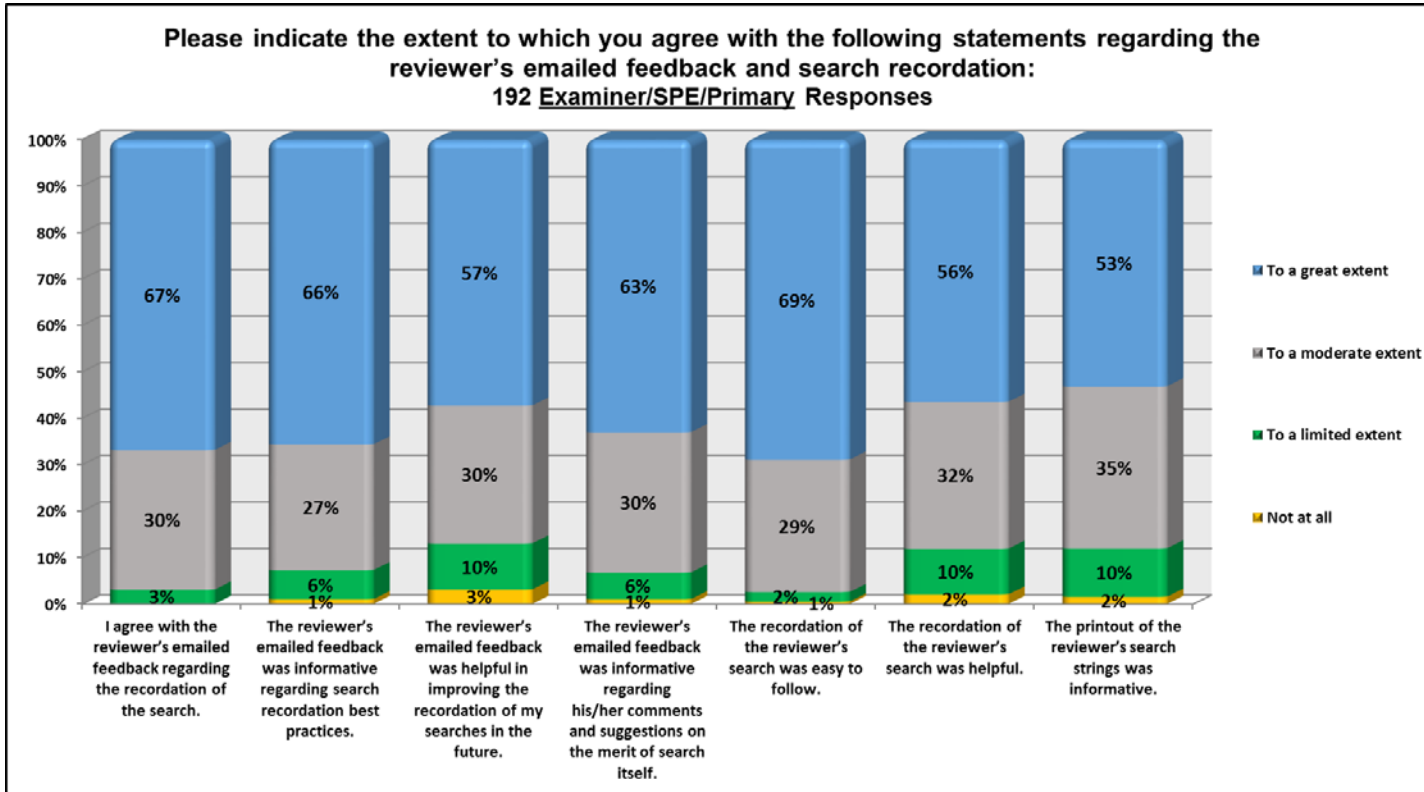
■ No meeting ■ Meeting held



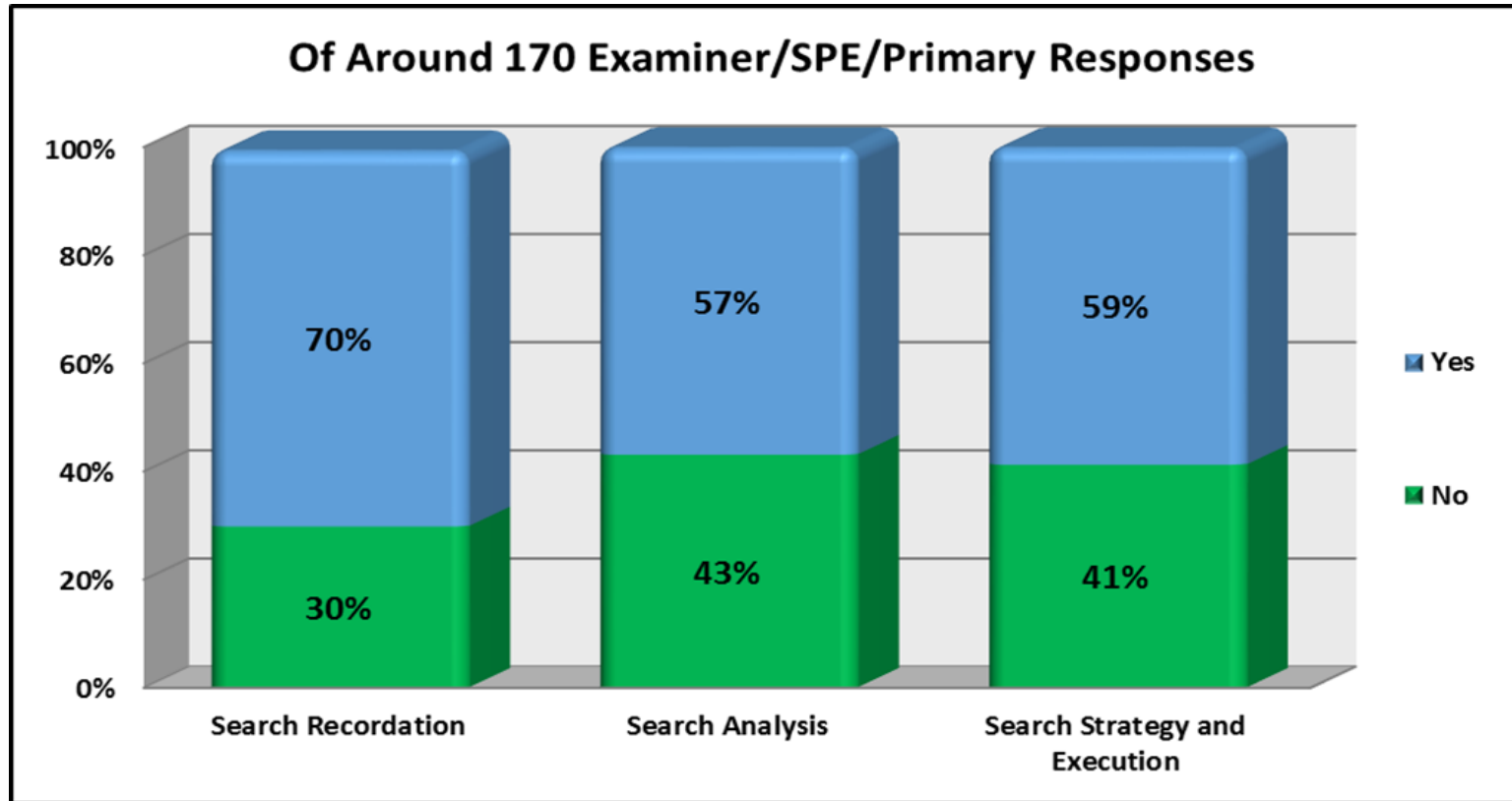
Survey data



Survey data cont.

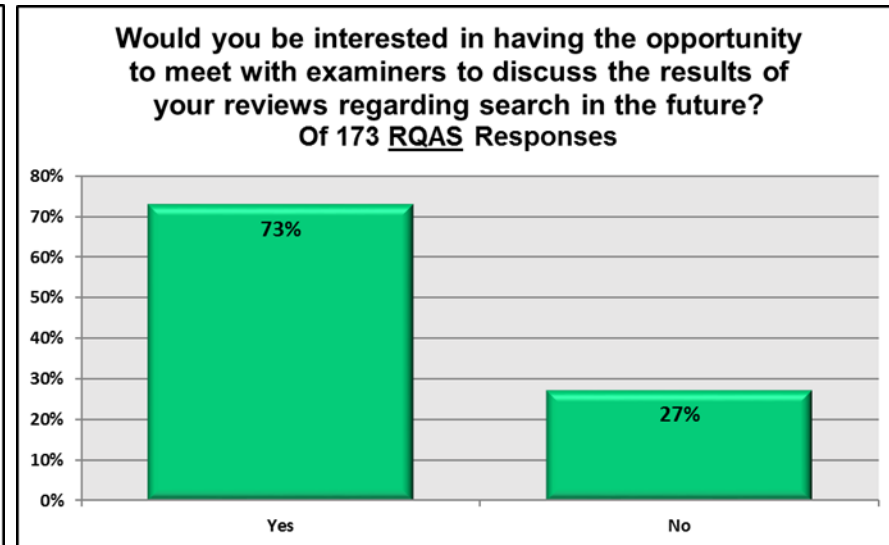
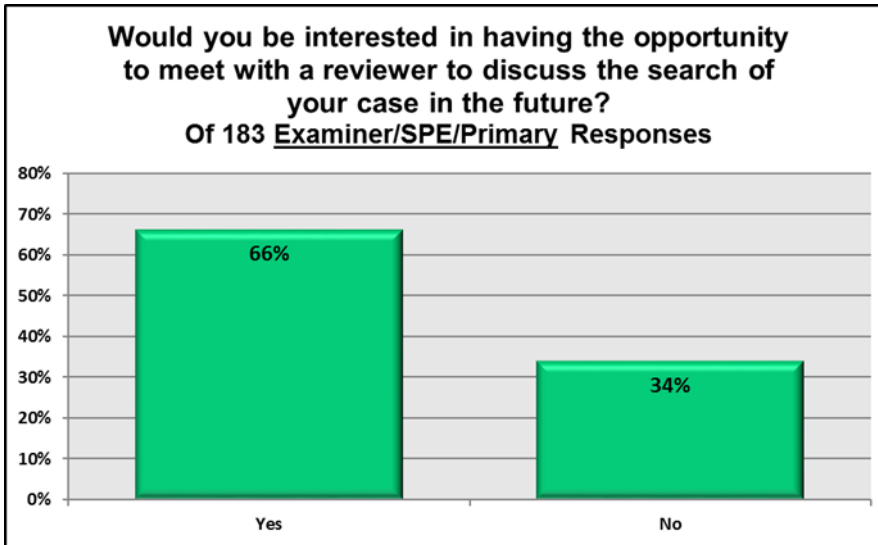


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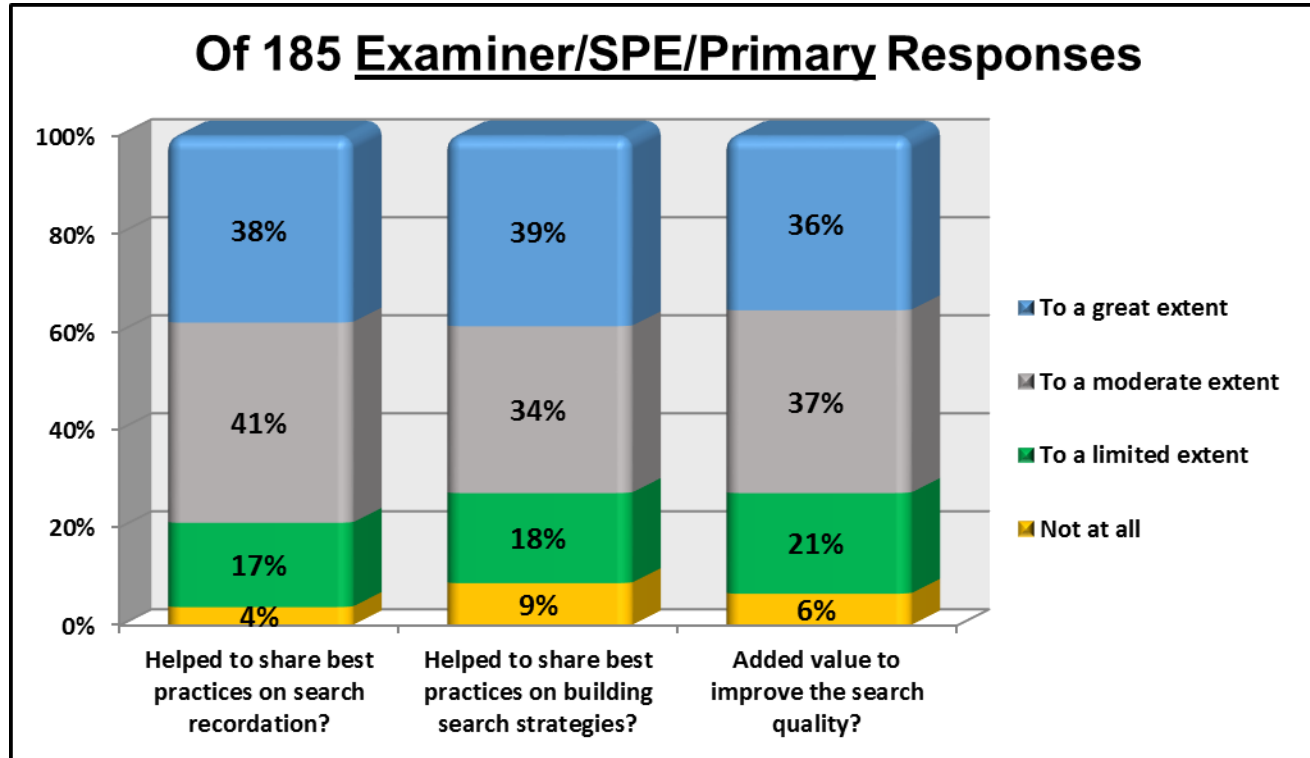


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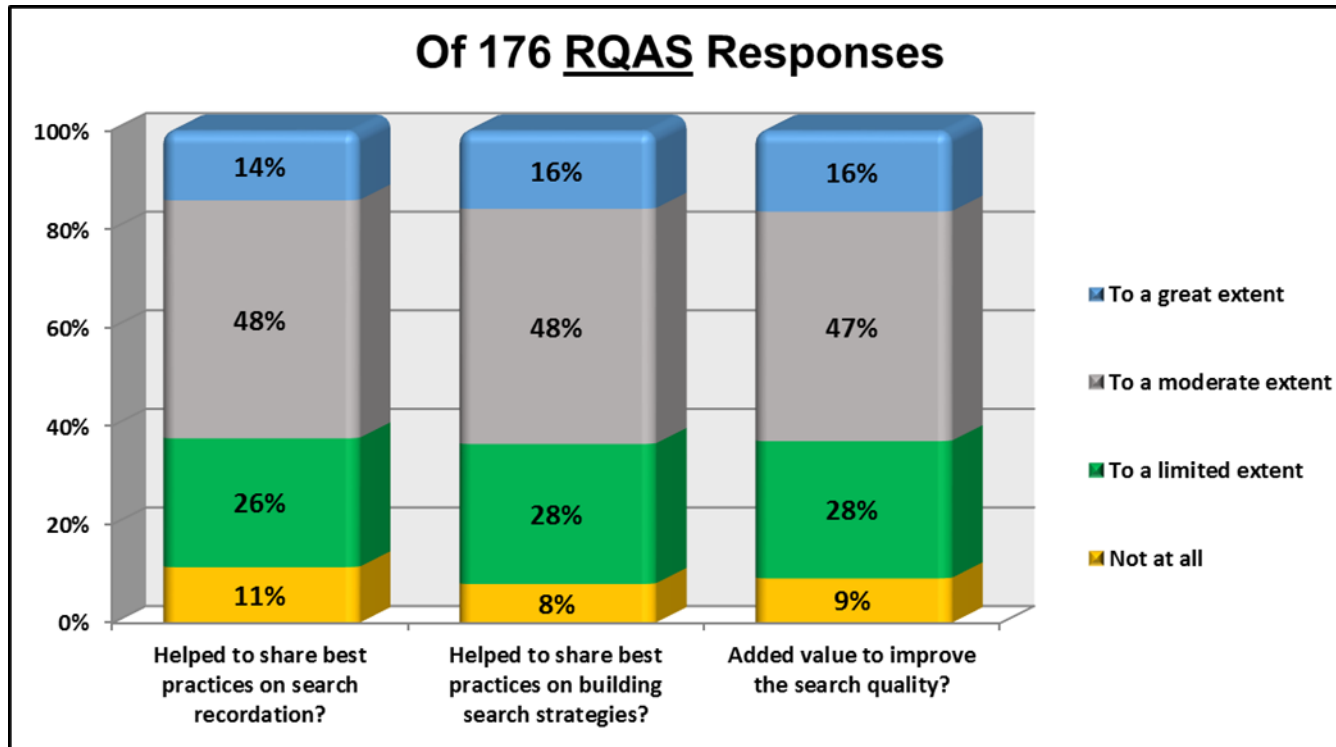
- Interest in future meetings:



Survey data cont.

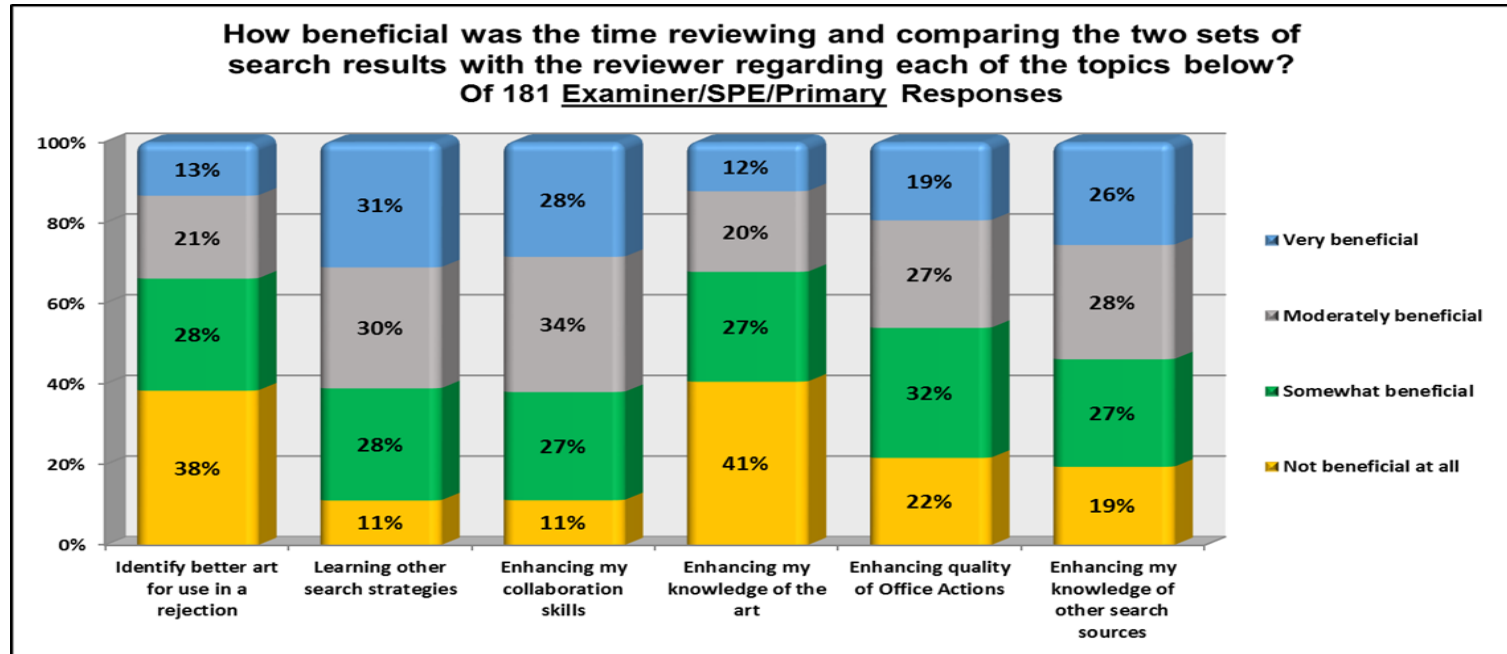


Survey data cont.



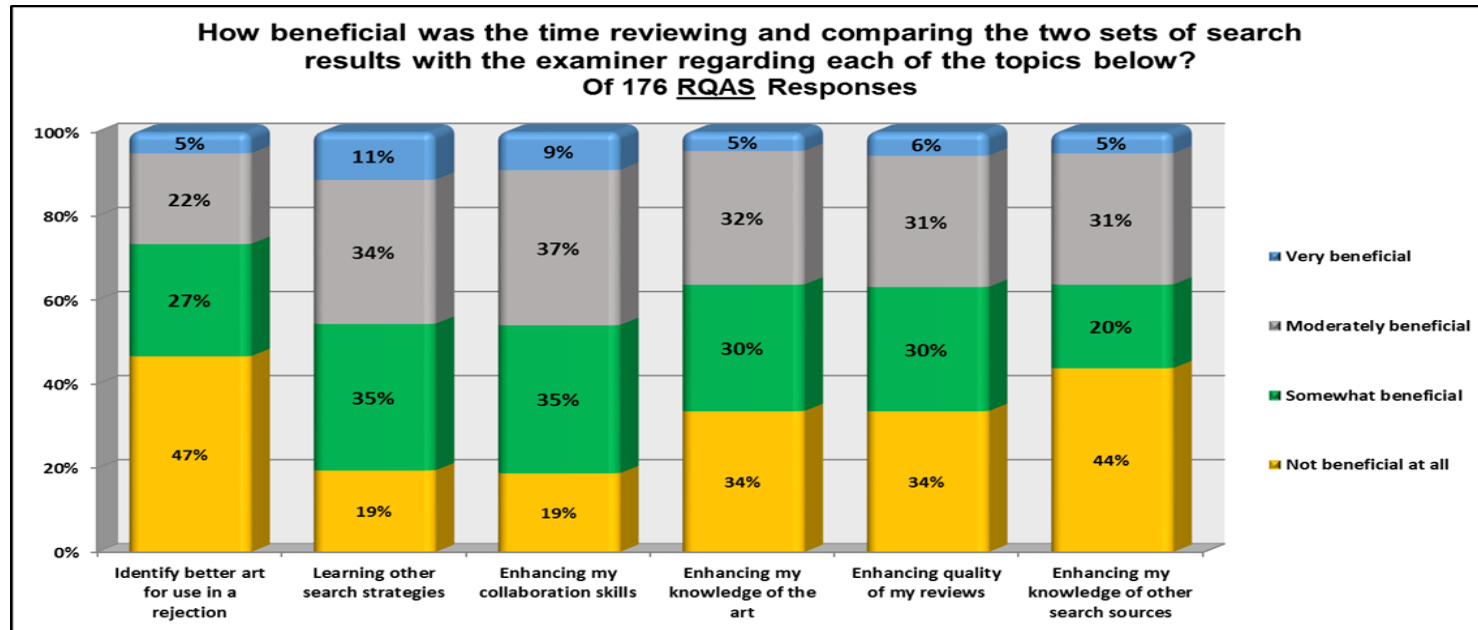
Survey data cont.

- The survey asked questions that focused on the overall impact of the pilot on examination.

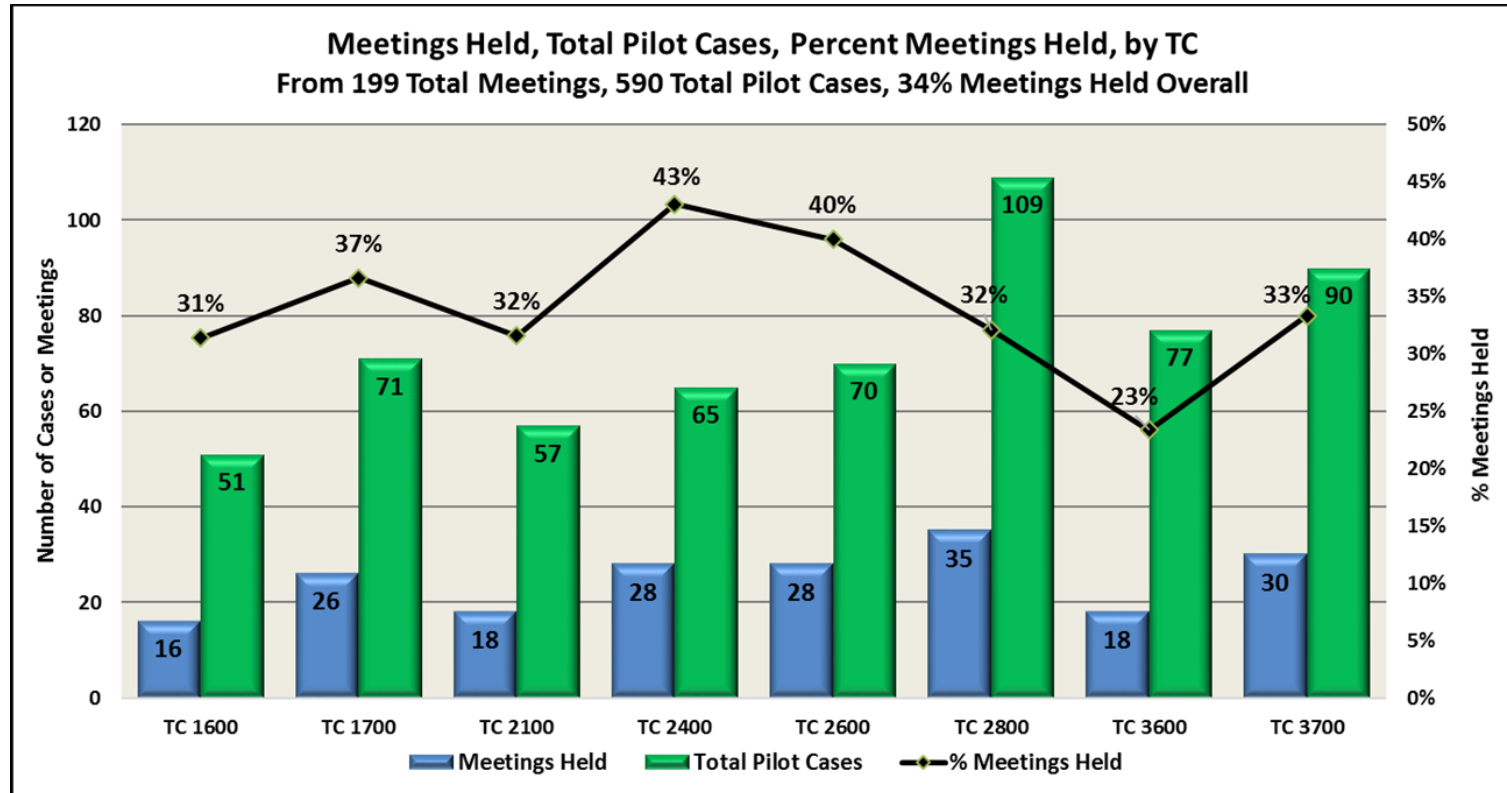


Survey data cont.

- The survey asked questions that focused on the overall impact of the pilot on examination.



Pilot demographics



Focus sessions

- Held focus sessions with three groups:
 - Examiners who participated in a pilot meeting
 - Examiners who did not participate in a pilot meeting
 - RQASes
- Examiners, those who did and did not participate in a meeting, and the RQASes are in favor of more opportunities to collaborate

Next steps

- Working with other search initiative groups to compare results to a path forward
 - Best practices
 - Lessons learned
- Considering updating the search questions in the master review form



Thank you!

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