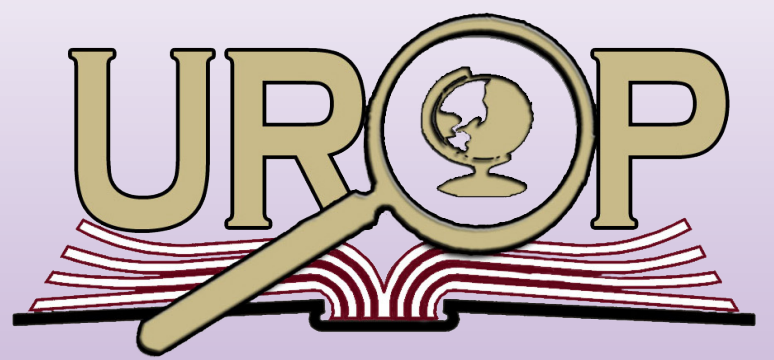




# Data Feminism in the Numbers: A Qualitative Analysis of Where Women Pedagogues Are Documented



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## Abstract & Introduction

The Linked Women Pedagogues (LWP) Project aims to **trace the intellectual influence of underrepresented women** in the broad field of **rhetorical studies** from roughly 1870-1970. The LWP Project works to promote **data feminism**, a term feminist scholars D'Ignazio and Klein (2019) define as "a way of thinking about data, both their uses and their limits, that is informed by direct experience, by a commitment to action, and by intersectional feminist thought" (D'Ignazio & Klein 8). The LWP project, created by Dr. Graban, documents underrepresented women whose "...intellectual influence is **tracked through the migration of people, motives, texts, curriculum, and ephemera**—all as reflected in institutional and archival metadata and in the ways that researchers take up or historicize that metadata" ("Linked Women Pedagogues"). Researchers working on the LWP Project keep track of women's names, roles, affiliations, publications, and archival locations in a "master dataset" that also records which online databases do or do not store information about their careers. To support the LWP Project in this goal, this project conducted a **macro-level examination** of all the collected data in "master datasets" thus far, calculating the average percentages of LWP women represented in different online datasets such as WorldCat, VIAF, DBpedia, Wikipedia, etc. This project exemplifies why data feminism is essential for archival metadata research; women are grossly underrepresented. This project also supports the goal of the Linked Women Pedagogues (LWP) which is to eventually create a **data discovery tool** that specifically maps information and connections between women that are underrepresented in standardized databases on the internet. This analytical project works to illustrate why a resource like this is so important, and why there is a significant need to use the principles of data feminism to combat the hegemonic forces that get repeated and amplified in certain branches of information sciences.

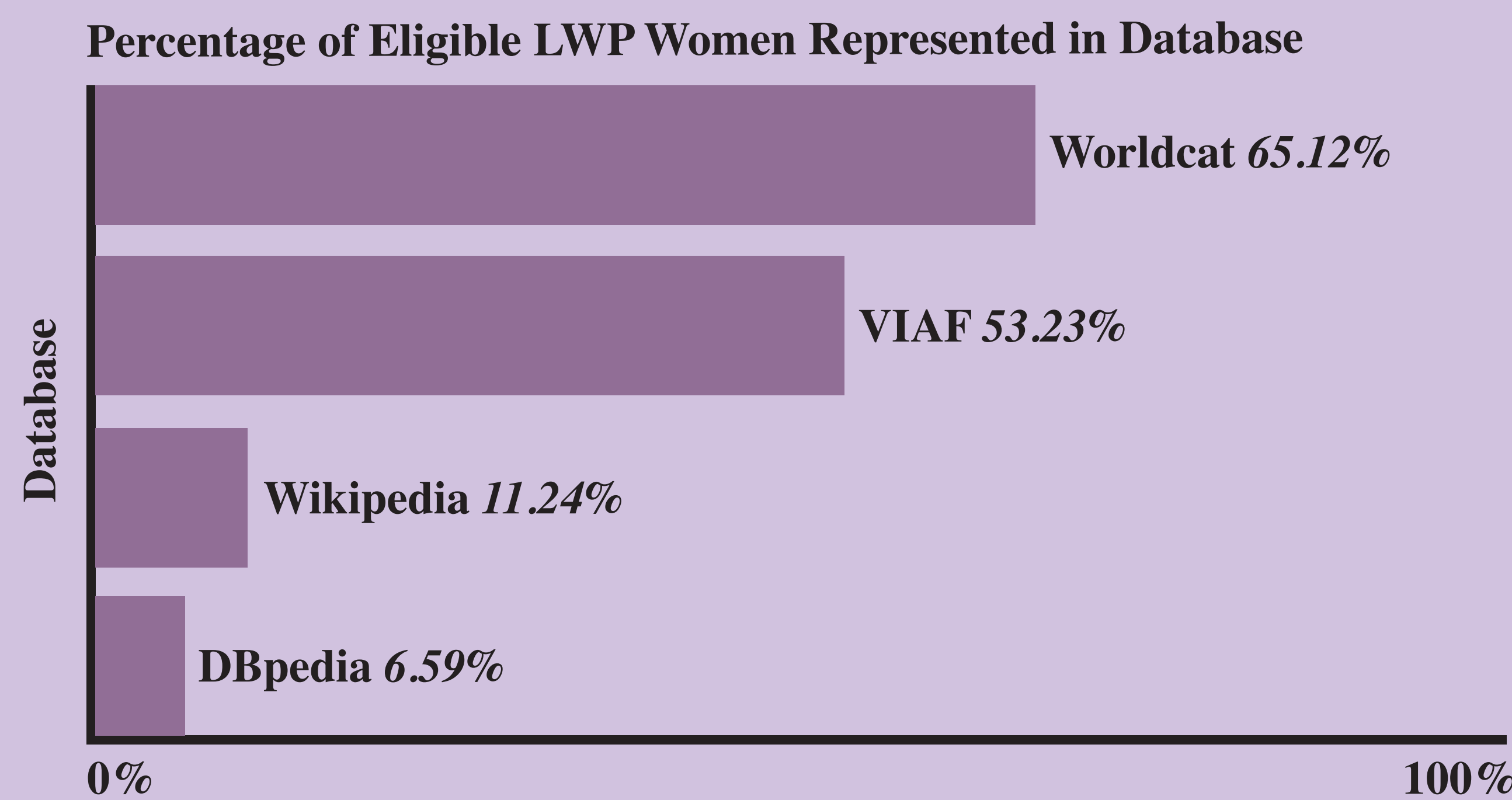
## Methods

- The Linked Women Pedagogues Project employs a vast "**master dataset**" in the form of a categorized Google Sheet to keep track of all of the women the research team has documented and approved for the LWP Project.
- This "master dataset" breaks down each woman according to their different roles, with each role (e.g. professor, author, organization leader) constituting its own row.
- The columns in the "master dataset" work to categorize known information about the Pedagogue (e.g. if they are listed in a certain database).
- For this project, the data in the "master dataset" has been employed to display which online databases (that are mined as a part of the LWP Project) are the most inclusive of the contributions of women in the field of rhetorical studies.
- Four prominent databases have been examined through this project: The Virtual International Authority File (VIAF), Worldcat, DBpedia, and Wikipedia.
- For the percentage of LWP Project women represented in each database was calculated to demonstrate which resources are best documenting women.
- The percentage of women that are listed in an online archive different from one of the four most prominent databases used for the project was also calculated.



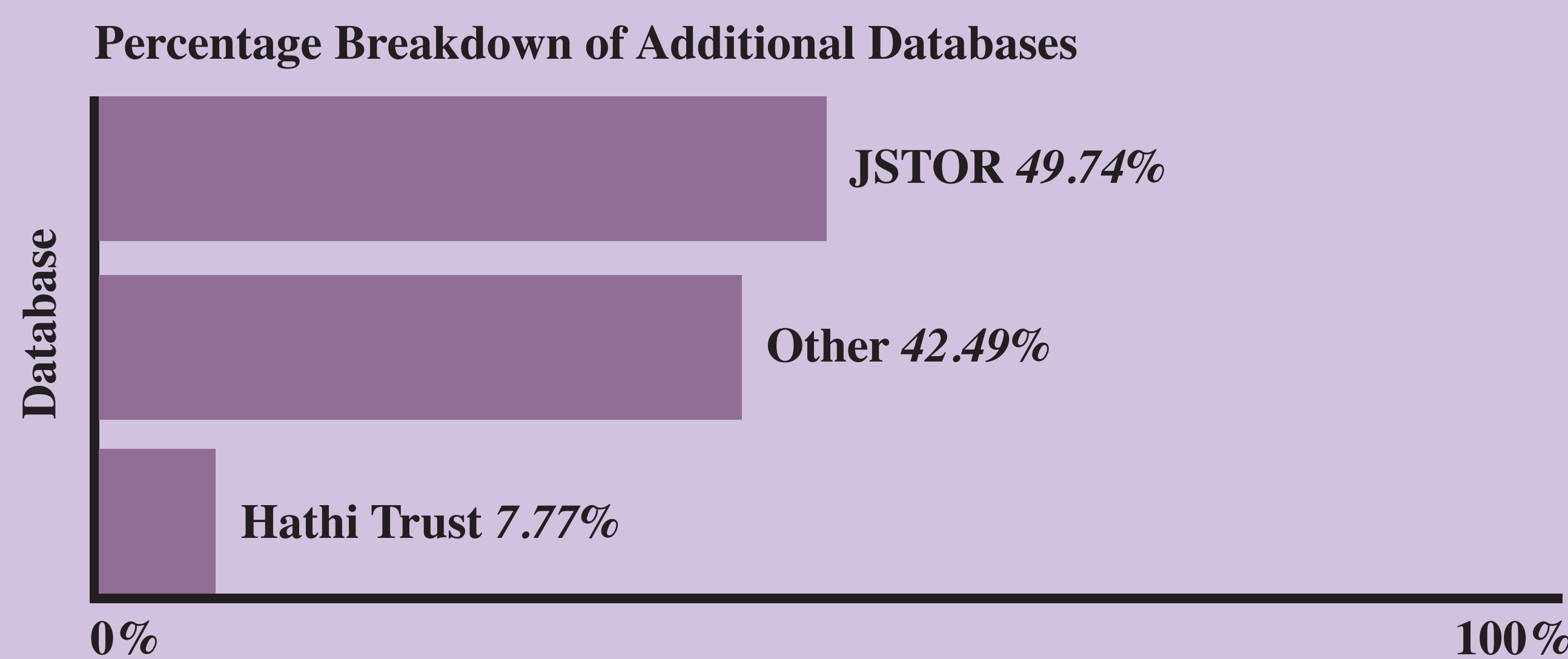
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## Results

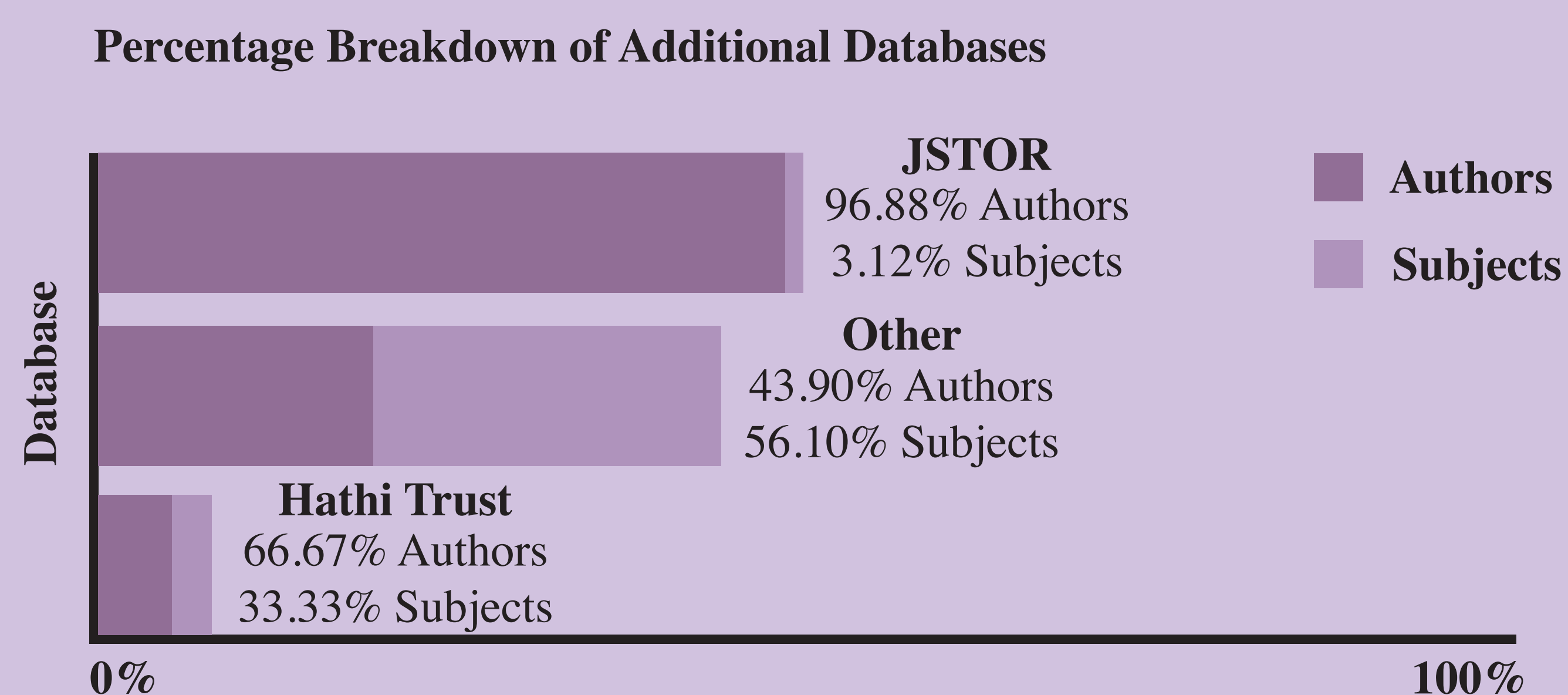


This graph demonstrates what percentage of women documented in the LWP Project are documented in **4 prominent databases**. Only LWP women eligible for each database were factored into the percentage.

Additionally, **58.91%** of women documented in the LWP Project were represented in an online archive excluding the VIAF, Worldcat, DBpedia, and Wikipedia\*:



The bar graph below breaks down in more detail the percentage of the 58.91% who appeared in databases as either **authors or as subjects**. The fact that women appear as subjects more often than authors in the "Other" category offers some insight into why their careers are **difficult to trace when they have not published scholarly work**.



\*some women were represented in multiple additional archive locations

## Discussion & Conclusion

A clear underrepresentation of women is demonstrated. The results from this project demonstrate why a resource like this the one being created by the Linked Women Pedagogues Project is so important, and why there is a significant need to use the principles of data feminism to combat the hegemonic forces that get repeated and amplified in certain branches of information sciences. One of the goals of this project is to raise awareness surrounding this issue and inspire others to help combat manifestations of the patriarchy in digital spaces.

### Analysis Through Lens of Data Feminism Tenets

\*Data Feminism Tenets Sourced via D'Ignazio and Klein

#### Examine Power

- This principle of data feminism demands that the hegemonic forces that impact data retrieval and privilege particular forms of information be analyzed.
- This project supports this principle through its demonstration of where women are excluded in the documentation of their historical contributions.

#### Challenge Power

- This principle of data feminism demands that effort is made to combat data bias that results in differentiated visibility.
- The LWP Project is working to challenge power directly by intentionally documenting the histories of underrepresented women. This project shows the importance of this mission.

#### Consider Context

- This principle of data feminism demands that the bias and subjectivity that exists within the practice data feminism be considered.
- This project works to consider this subjectivity by only factoring women with roles eligible to a specific database into the representation percentage.
- The LWP project also recognizes that even its documentation is subject to the bias of the digital spaces it gathers data from.

#### Make Labour Visible

- This principle of data feminism demands that the labor and work of all people be made visible and accessible.
- This purpose of the LWP Project at large is to increase visibility of women underrepresented in digital spaces.

## References

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