

Occupational safety and health risks in Greek libraries

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The library is a place where information services are provided to the public. However, this is the working place for the librarians and information scientists. Similarly to other workers, they are exposed to work-related harmful factors that can cause occupational accidents, diseases and health problems. The current research aimed to study the Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) hazards in the sector. The sample of the field study was 124 librarians and information scientists from different types of libraries.

EMERGENCY AWARENESS

48% use of the fire extinguisher

68% emergency exits

55% emergency preparedness

PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS

53% rumors of changes at work

35% risk of job loss

39% risk of changes at job or tasks

SAFETY ISSUES reported occasionally to very often

35% falling objects

27% sharp objects

25% fire risk

20% slips

17% falls

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY and HEALTH AWARENESS

55% for OSH risks

54% for safety engineer

53% for occupational physician

ERGONOMIC FACTORS reported almost every day

90% repetitive movements (hand/arms)

25% prolonged standing

86% manual handling of loads

HEALTH RISKS reported occasionally to very often

47% noise,
67% dust,
48% lighting,

Indoor air quality
44% humidity during winter
60% air conditioning
55% temperature during winter
65% temperature during summer

The musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) were positively associated to the manual handling of loads, to several working posts in the library and to the consecutive years of work (over 15 years).

The visual fatigue is positively associated to work with VDUs and inadequate lighting

Work related stress was positively associated to the work experience, the number of library's visitors, the work overload and job insecurity.

10,5% had an OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT

SYMPTOMS reported

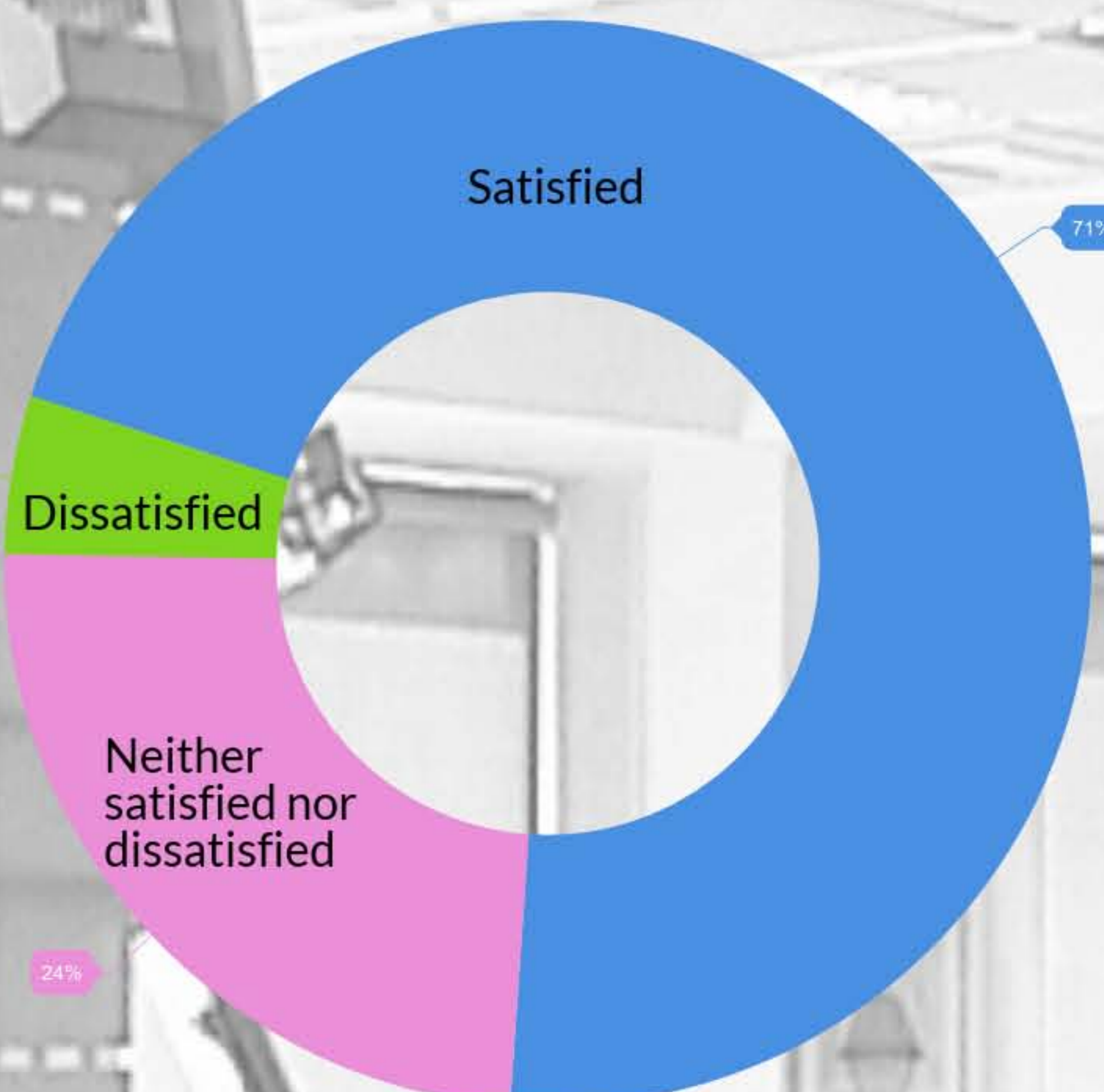
32% musculoskeletal disorders

30% spine disorders

30% visual fatigue

19% headaches

Job satisfaction



Work related stress

