Summary of Comments on Quality Metrics

From the Patent Quality Summit (March, 2015) and related Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI) events

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Proposal 4 from the Patent Quality Summit

- Review of and Improvements to Quality Metrics
  - The USPTO is considering the Quality Composite Metric it currently uses to evaluate quality - to reassess its effectiveness as well as consider ways to improve it. Moreover, methods for measuring the impact of training provided to examiners will be reevaluated to enhance the effectiveness of examiner training.
- Concepts discussed at the Summit included:
  - Overall value of the quality composite
  - Perception/definition of patent quality
  - Effectiveness of the quality composite as an accurate depiction of patent quality
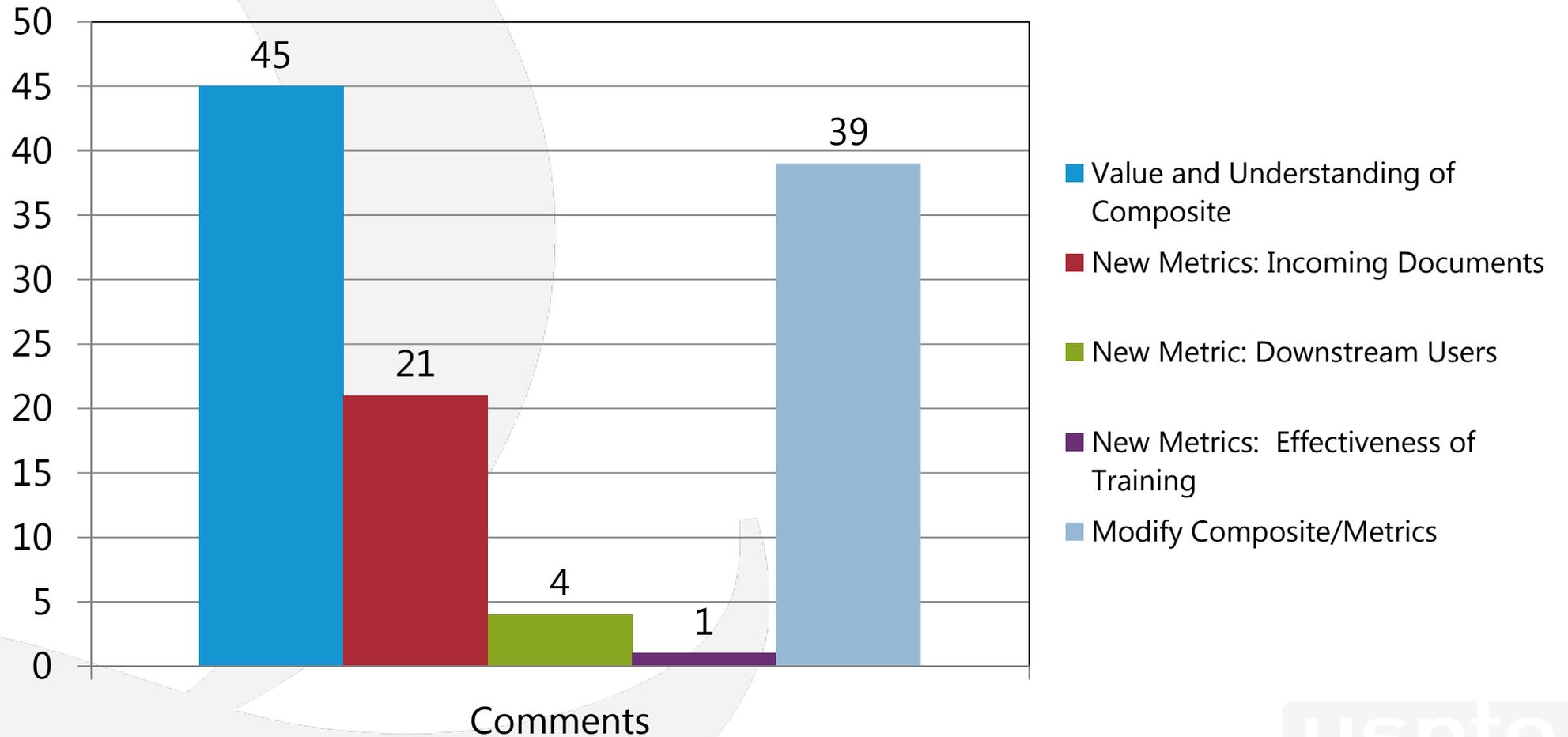
Quality Metrics Topics Distribution

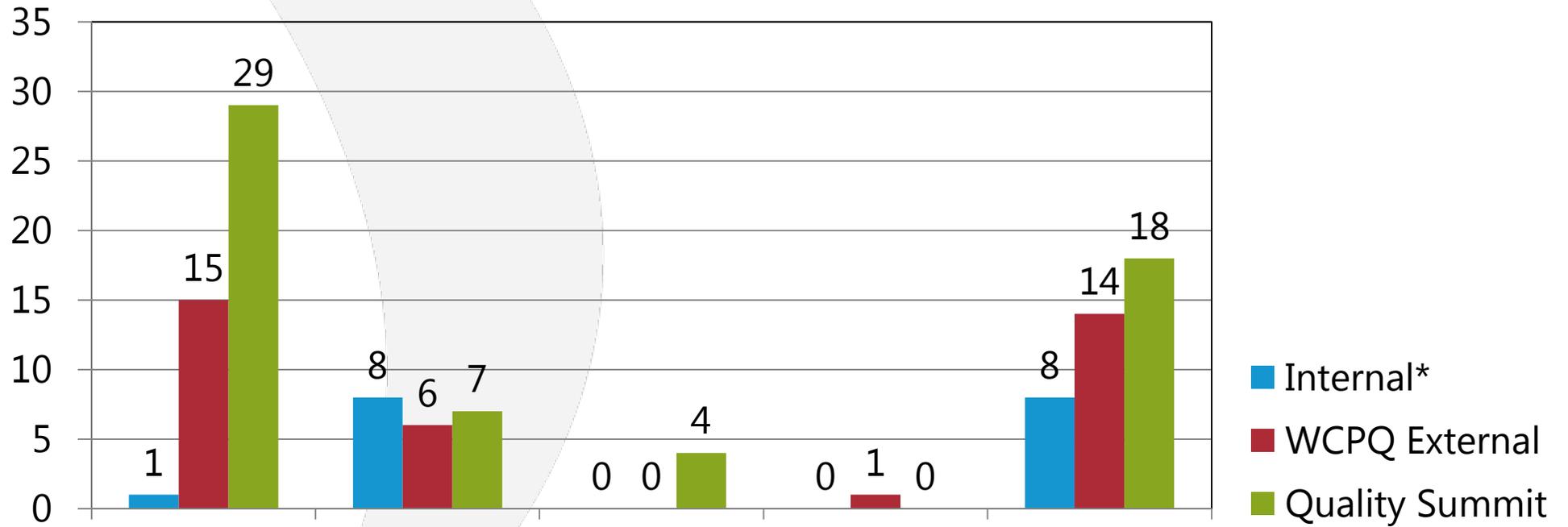All comments related to the quality metrics were considered and could be categorized into the following areas:

- Value and Understanding of Composite
- New Measures
    - Incoming Documents
    - Downstream Users
    - Effectiveness of Training
- Modify Composite

Quality Metrics Topics Distribution Graph

Legend:
- Value and Understanding of Composite
- New Metrics: Incoming Documents
- New Metric: Downstream Users
- New Metrics: Effectiveness of Training
- Modify Composite/Metrics

Bar values: 45, 21, 4, 1, 39 (Comments)

Quality Metrics Topics Distribution by Source

Legend:
- Internal*
- WCPQ External
- Quality Summit

Categories:
- Use and Understanding: Internal 1, WCPQ External 15, Quality Summit 29
- New Metric: Incoming Papers: Internal 8, WCPQ External 6, Quality Summit 7
- New Metric: Downstream Users: Internal 0, WCPQ External 0, Quality Summit 4
- New Metric: Training Effectiveness: Internal 0, WCPQ External 1, Quality Summit 0
- Modify Composite/Metric: Internal 8, WCPQ External 14, Quality Summit 18

* Includes Examiner Forum/Feedback and WCPQ Internal

A Metric to Reflect End Product Quality over Process Efficiency

- All metrics in the current Quality Composite are valuable to USPTO and will be monitored in their present way or via a new metric that might be developed
  - Identify training needs
  - Monitor trends of examiner practice
  - Identify drivers of examiner performance
- Public wants simpler measure of quality that focuses on end product quality
  - Eliminate the current composite; simplify
  - Reformulate the metrics used, particularly QIR, to better reflect end product quality
  - Leverage as many reviews, as many ways, as possible

A New Quality Metric - Goals

- Update the transactional (quality of process) components of the QIR metric based on stakeholder feedback

- Establish clarity metrics while maintaining correctness metrics (quality of work product)

- Eliminate the weighted combination of the quality metrics to enhance understandability