



First results from the FP7 SOAP project

Study of Open Access Publishing

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BMC, CERN, MPDL, SAGE, Springer and STFC

Presented by
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5th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar: “Find it, Get it, Use it, Store it”
Lisbon, 9 November 2010



project-soap.eu

- About the project
- Highlights from a study of OA journals today
- Results from a large-scale survey of researchers

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SOAP

Study of Open Access Publishing

- Funded by the European Commission
- Framework Program 7 – Science and Society
- Scheduled to run from March 2009 to February 2011
- Compare and contrast supply/demand for OA publishing
- “Gold” OA journal publishing
- Publishers, Libraries, Funding Agencies



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



Science & Technology
Facilities Council



BioMed Central
The Open Access Publisher



Springer

science+business media



Outline

- About the project
- Highlights from a study of OA journals today
- Results from a large-scale survey

A study of OA journals today

- Assess the supply of OA publishing outlets today
- Start from the DOAJ
- Collect additional information
 - SCOPUS, ISI-JCR, EZB, SCImago, ask friends and colleagues
 - Trawl through thousands of web pages
- Answer key questions
 - How many articles, journals, publishers?
 - In which discipline, with which license?
 - Where does the money come from?
 - ...
- Some highlights in the following pages

How many? About 8-10% !

Journals/Publisher	Publishers		Total journals		Total articles/year	
1	1,621	90 %	1,621	57 %	63,887	55 %
2 to 9	171	9 %	491	17 %	25,442	22 %
10 to 49	12	1 %	190	7 %	12,623	11 %
≥ 50	5	<1 %	536	19 %	14,931	13 %
Total	1,809		2,838		116,883	

- English language journals only
- 90% of publishers <100 articles/year and 1/3 of total
- 10% of publishers publish 2/3 of the total
- 14 “large publishers”:
 - 40K articles/year in 616 journals, 30% of the total
 - 6 commercial, 6 no-profit, 2 N/A

About what?

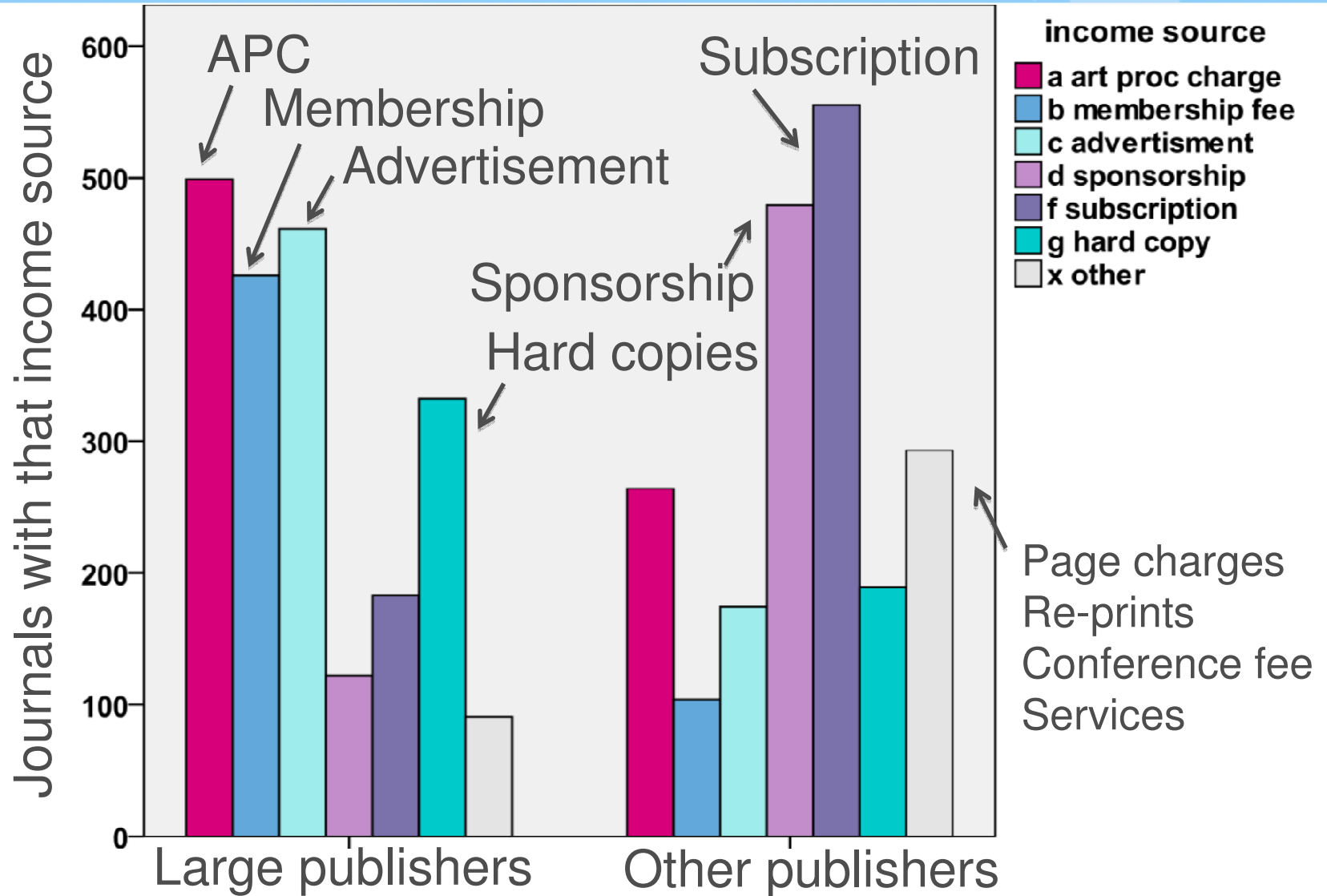
Subject category	Publishers		Journals		Articles/year	
cpt – Chemistry, Physics and Technology (includes Mathematics and Astronomy)	360	20%	549	19%	33,158	28%
bio – Biology and Life Sciences	355	20%	533	19%	24,767	21%
med – Medicine and Health Sciences	406	22%	806	28%	32,879	28%
soc – Social Sciences	533	29%	611	22%	13,506	12%
hum – Humanities	258	14%	276	10%	5,030	4%
gen – General works	63	3%	63	2%	7,543	6%
Total	1,809		2,838		116,883	

- 2/3 of journals in STM; 1/3 in SSH
- 3/4 of articles in STM; 1/4 in SSH
- “Large publisher” almost exclusively STM

- Half of “large” publishers use Creative Commons
 - 82% CC-by, 18% CC-by-nc
 - 72% of journals, 71% of articles
- “Other” publishers
 - 73% have license information on their web pages
 - 21% use some CC version
 - 10% state “authors retains copyright”

Presence of income sources

NB – No information on income amount

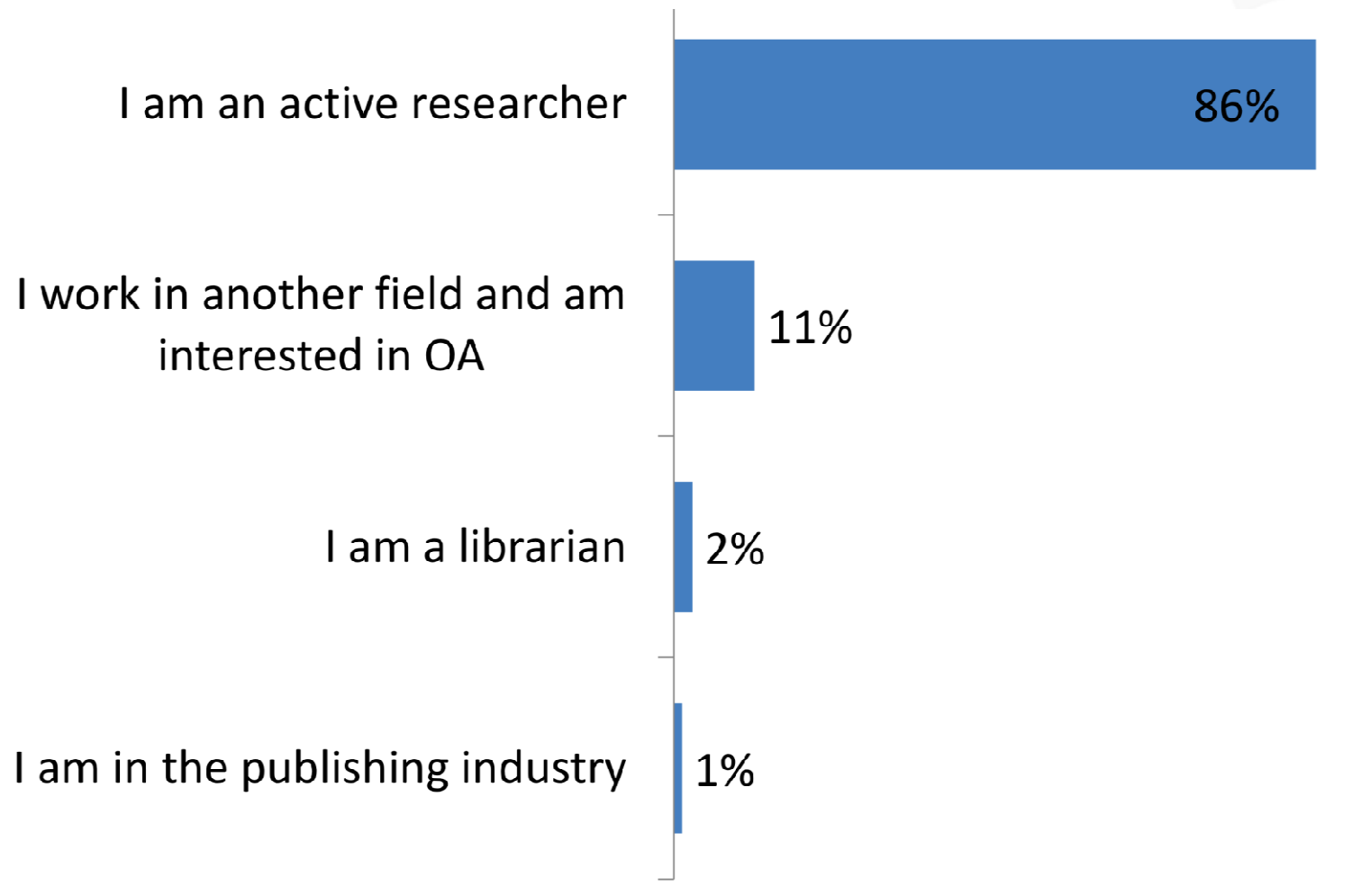


- About the project
- Highlights from a study of OA journals today
- **Results from a large-scale survey of researchers**

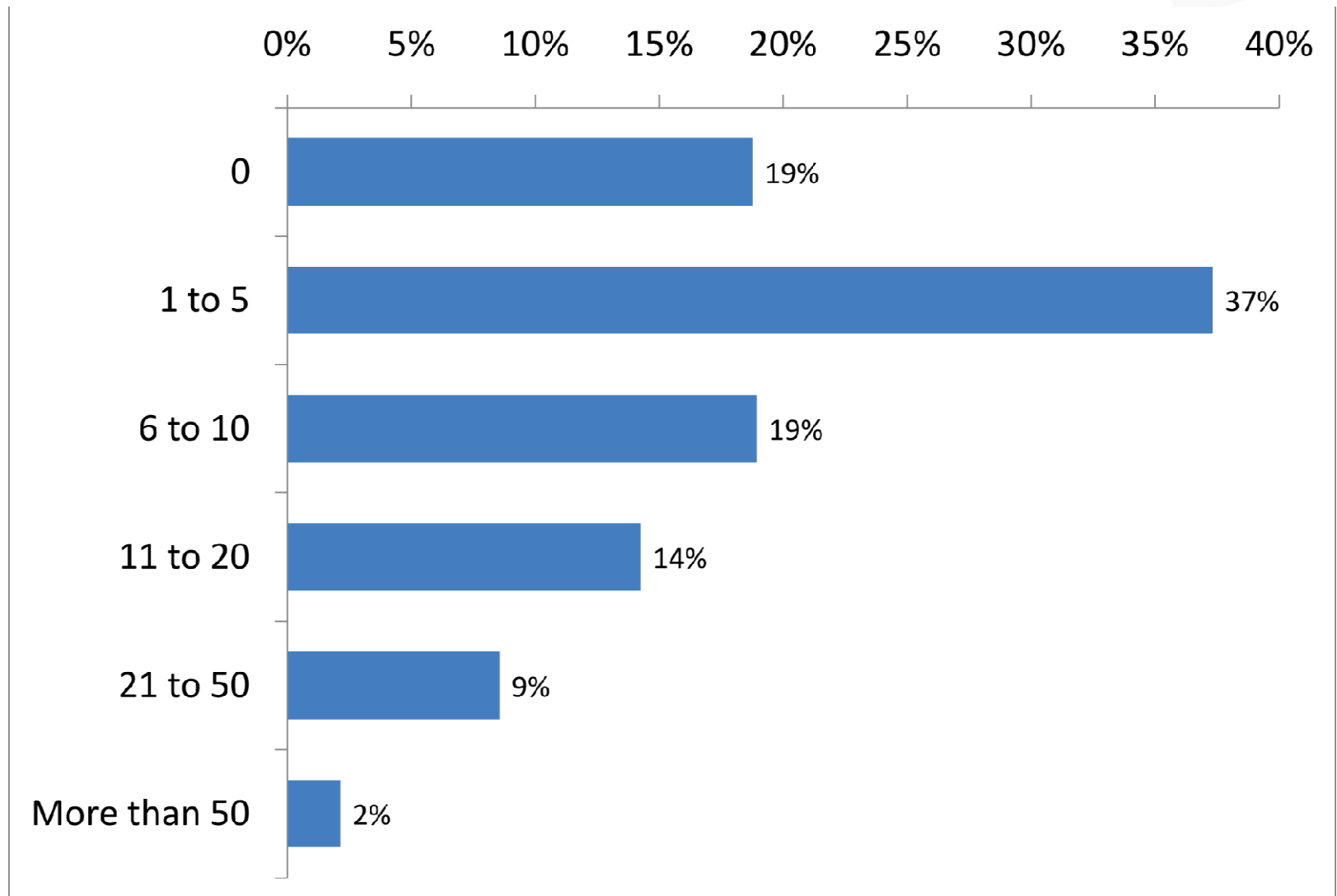
The SOAP survey

- 23 questions
- Available at http://surveymonkey.com/soap_survey_g
- Analysis of the first 3 months of data
- Dissemination through:
 - SOAP partners
 - Publishers mailing lists
 - Library and Open Access mailing lists
- Estimate dissemination to >1.5 million people

Are you involved in research?



How many articles have you published ?



Focus on: published researchers



Preliminary results

Who ?
Beliefs
Behaviours

Who ?

- Demographics

Beliefs

- Likes OA? Why? Why not?

Behaviours

- Publishes OA? Why not?
- Who pays? How? How easy?

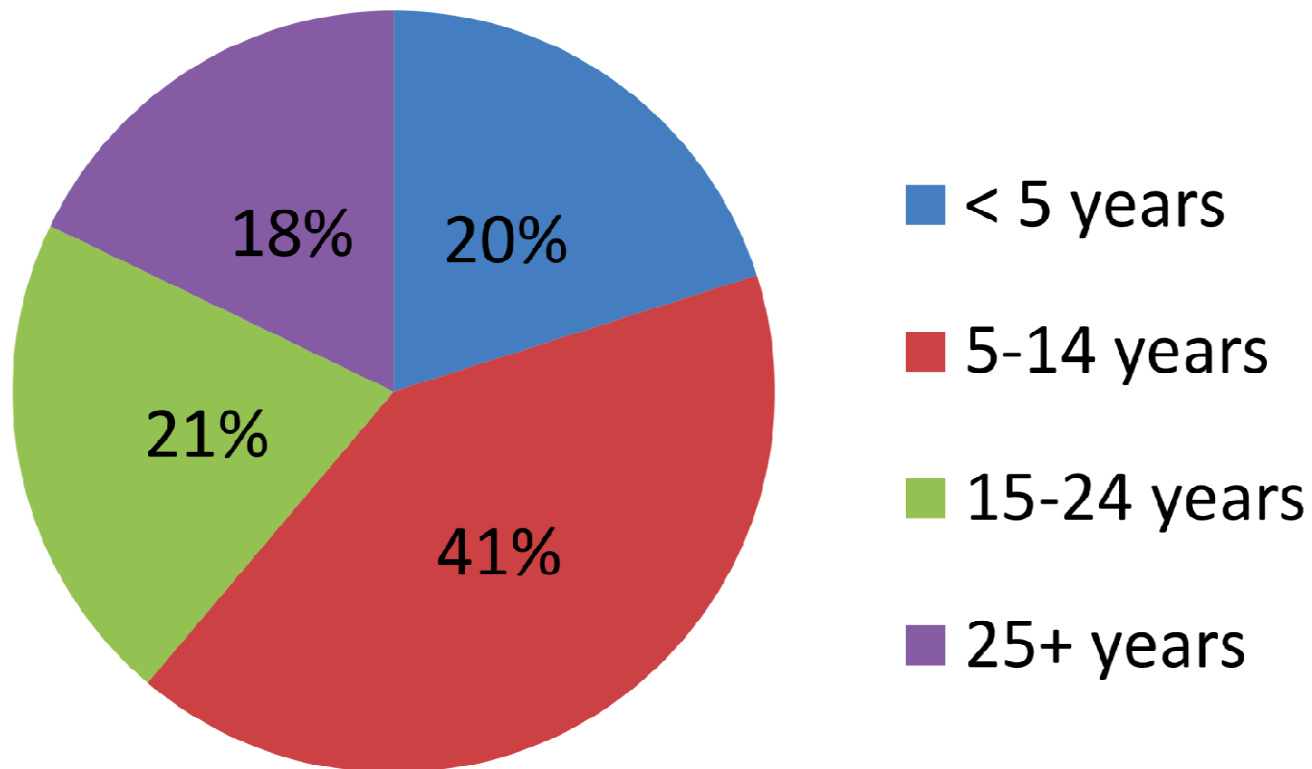
Preliminary results

Who ?

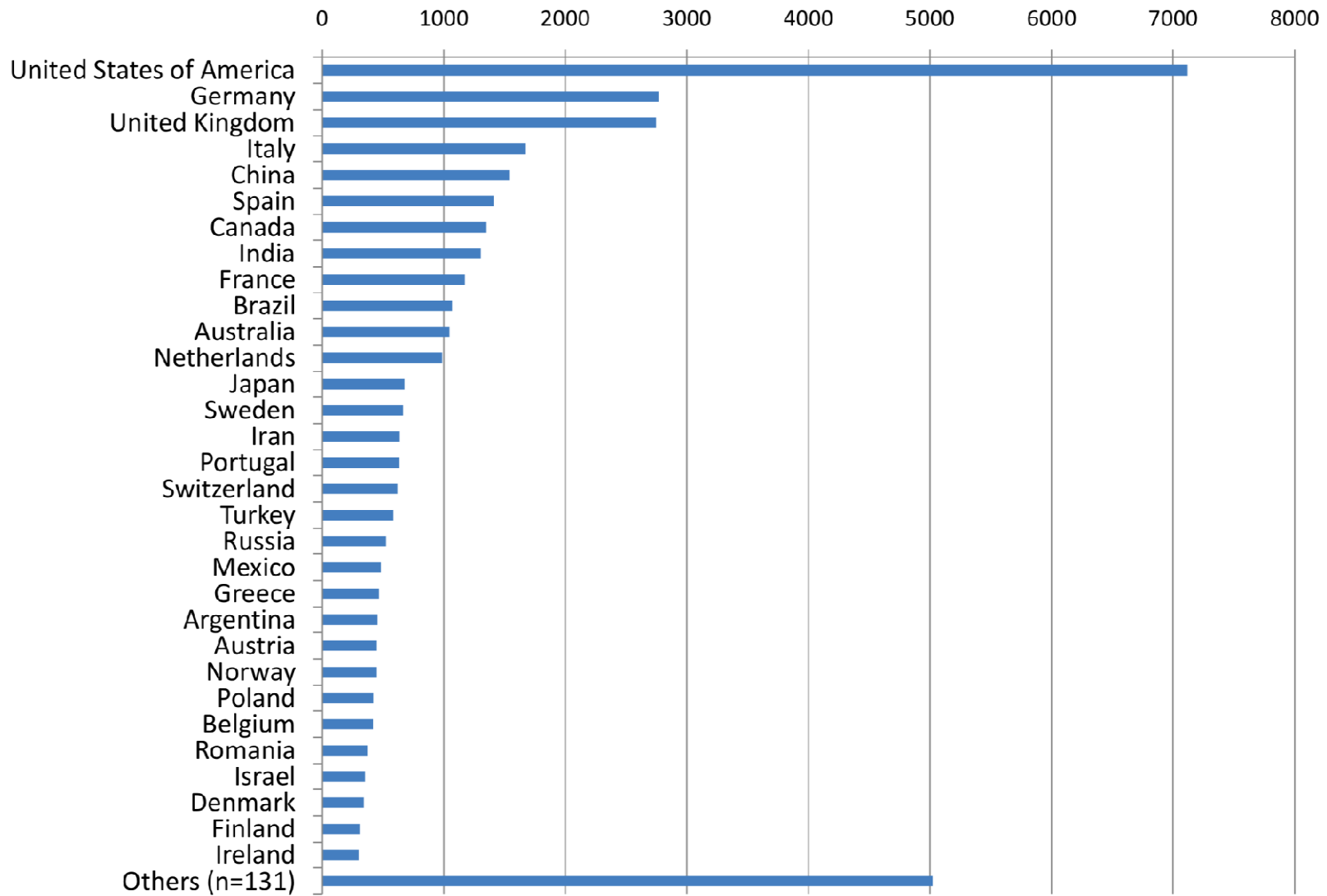
Beliefs

Behaviours

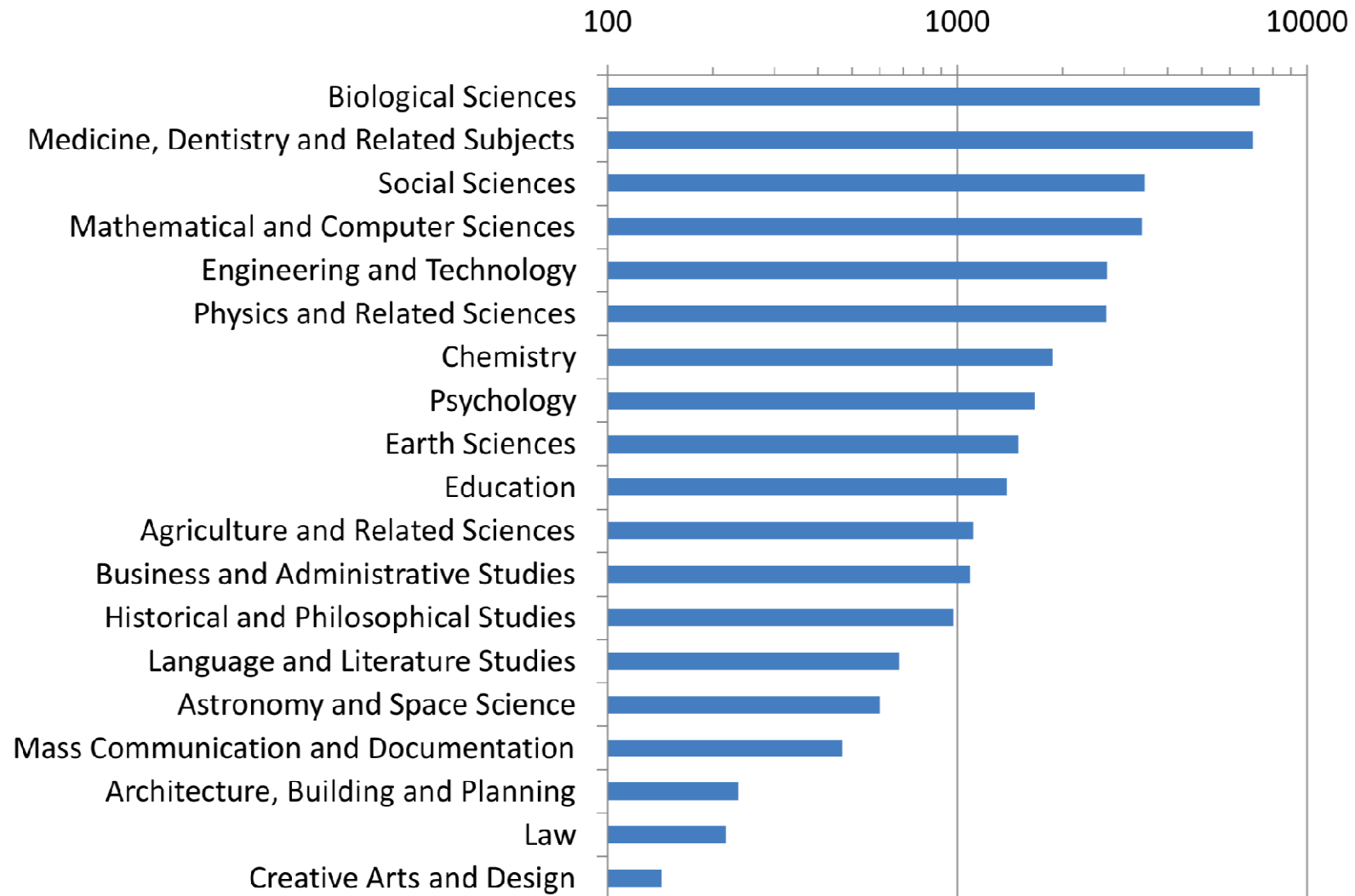
Years employed in research



Distribution by country



Distribution by disciplines



Preliminary results

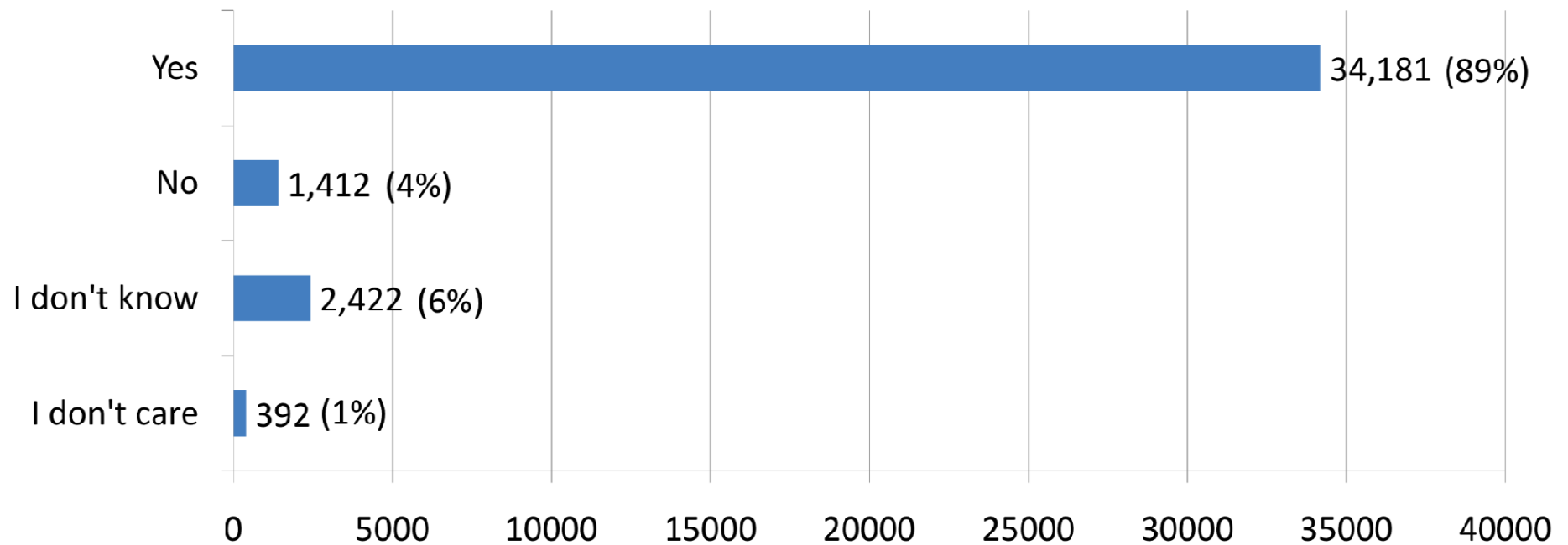
Who ?

Beliefs

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Would OA journals be beneficial for your field?

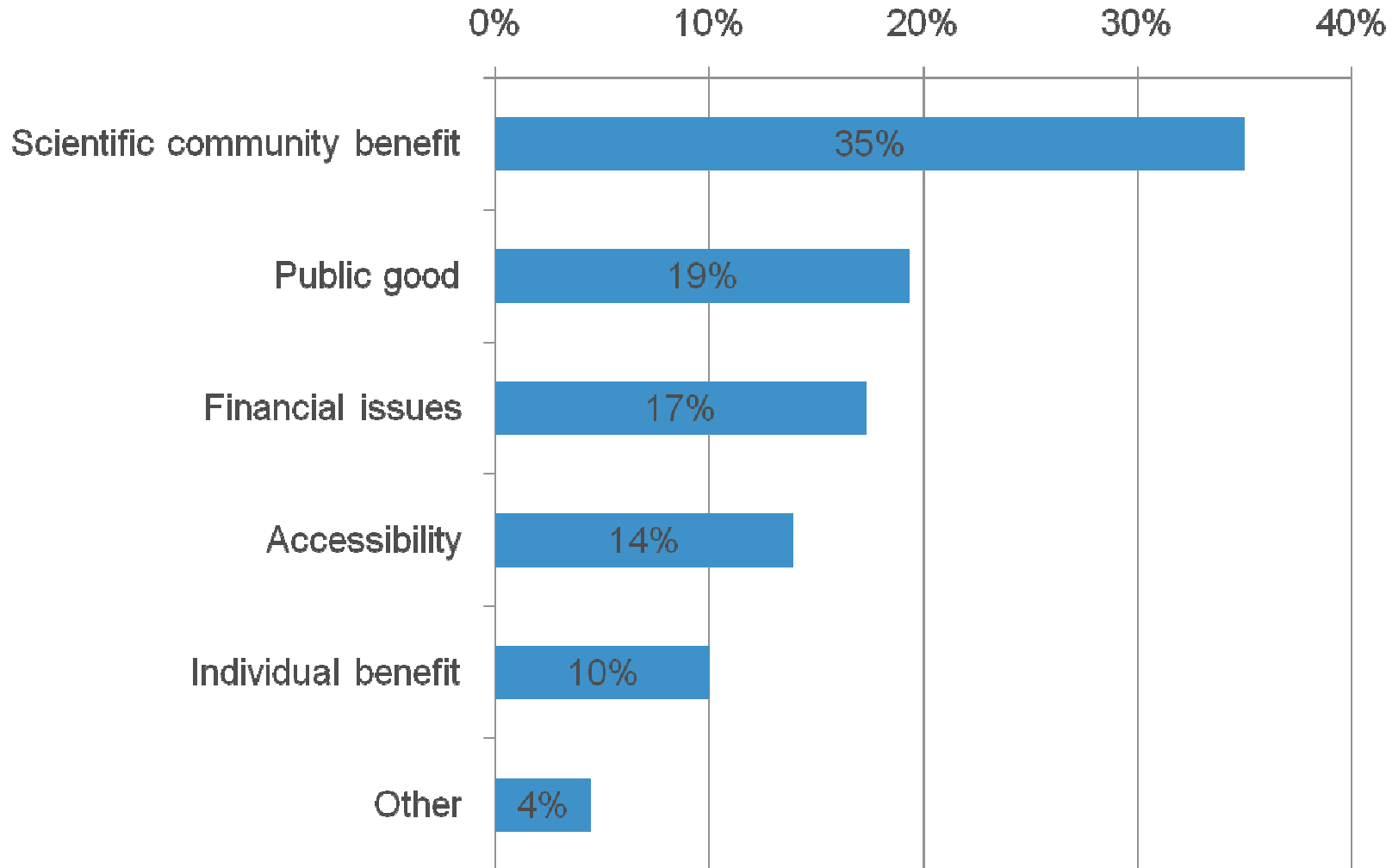


No large differences according to seniority and number of articles

Why?

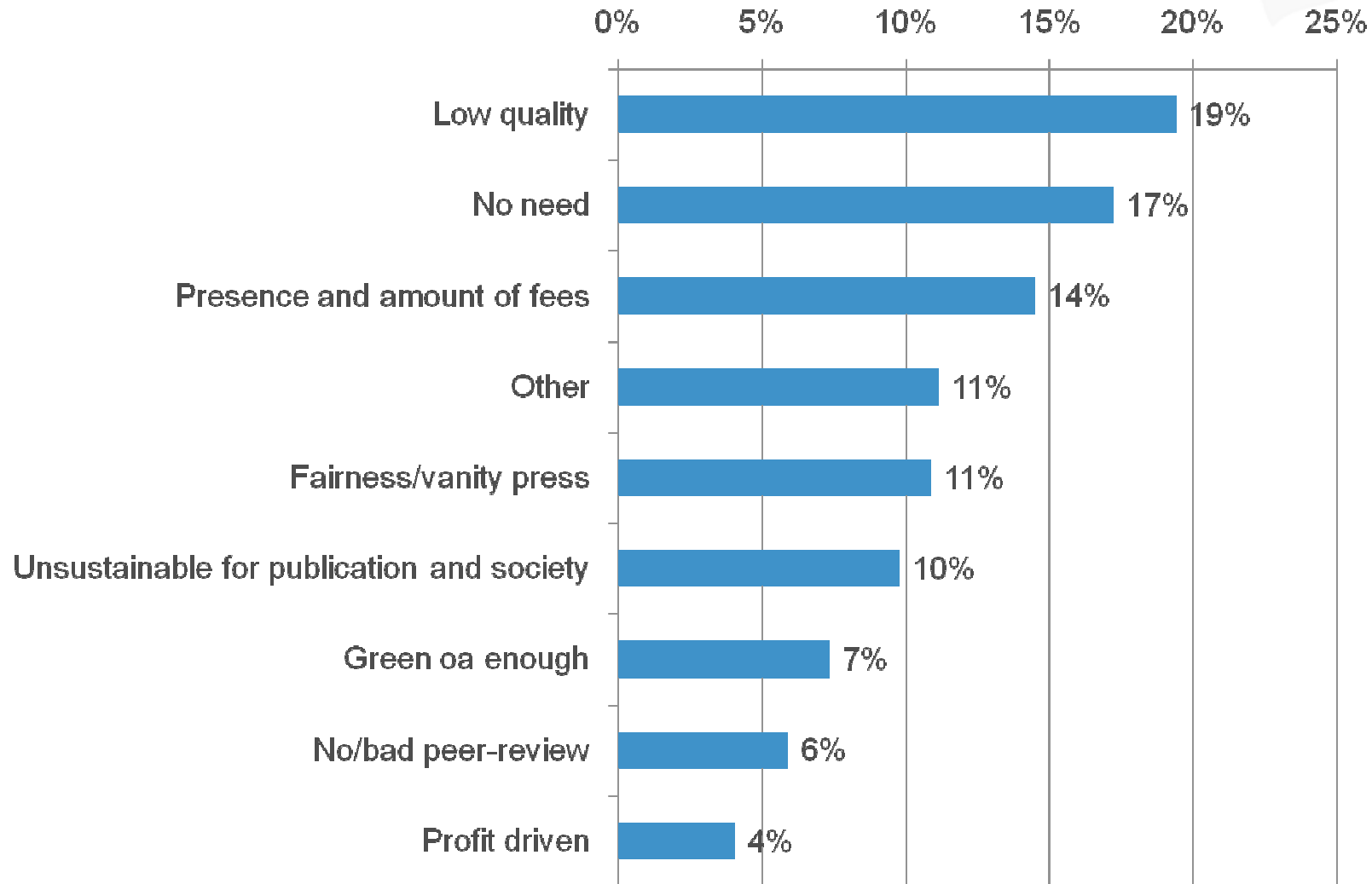
>22'000 answers, 1/2 million words

Why yes? (n=6984)



Preliminary

Why not? (n=1611)





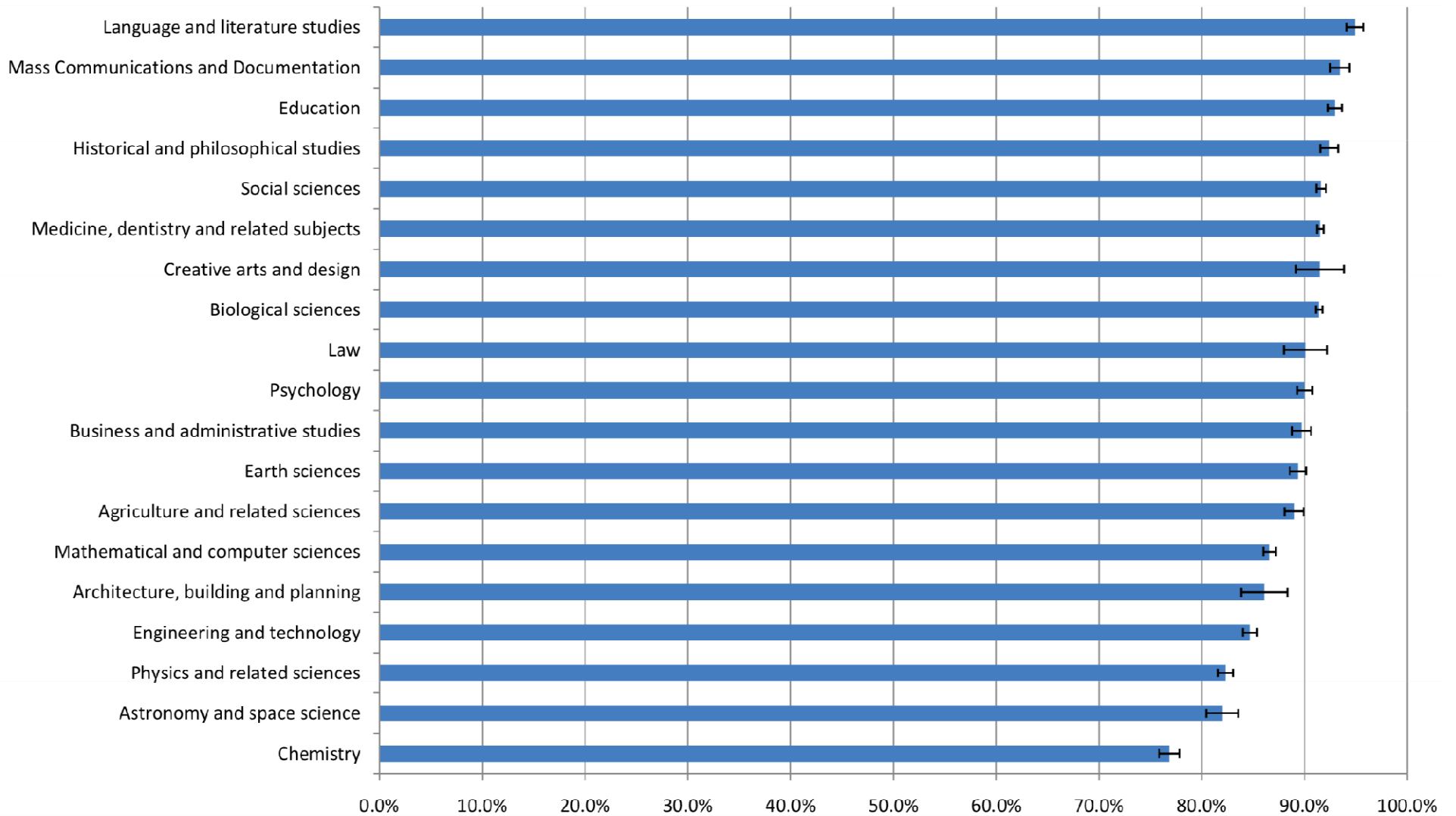
Would OA journals be beneficial for your field?

By field



Would OA journals be beneficial for your field?

Yes



Beliefs about OA – positive

1 Strongly agree; 2 Neutral; 3 Disagree; 4 Strongly disagree

Publicly-funded research should be made available to be read and used without access barrier



Researchers should retain the rights to their published work and allow it to be used by others



Articles that are available by OA are likely to be read and cited more often than those not OA





Beliefs about OA – neutral

1 Strongly agree; 2 Neutral; 3 Disagree; 4 Strongly disagree

Open Access publishing is more cost-effective than subscriptions and will benefit public investment in research



If authors pay OA publication fees there will be less money available for research



OA unfairly penalises research-intensive institutions with large publication output by making them pay high costs for publication



Beliefs about OA – negative

1 Strongly agree; 2 Neutral; 3 Disagree; 4 Strongly disagree

Open Access publishing leads to an increase in the publication of poor quality research



Open Access publishing undermines the system of peer review



It is not beneficial for the general public to have access to published scientific and medical articles

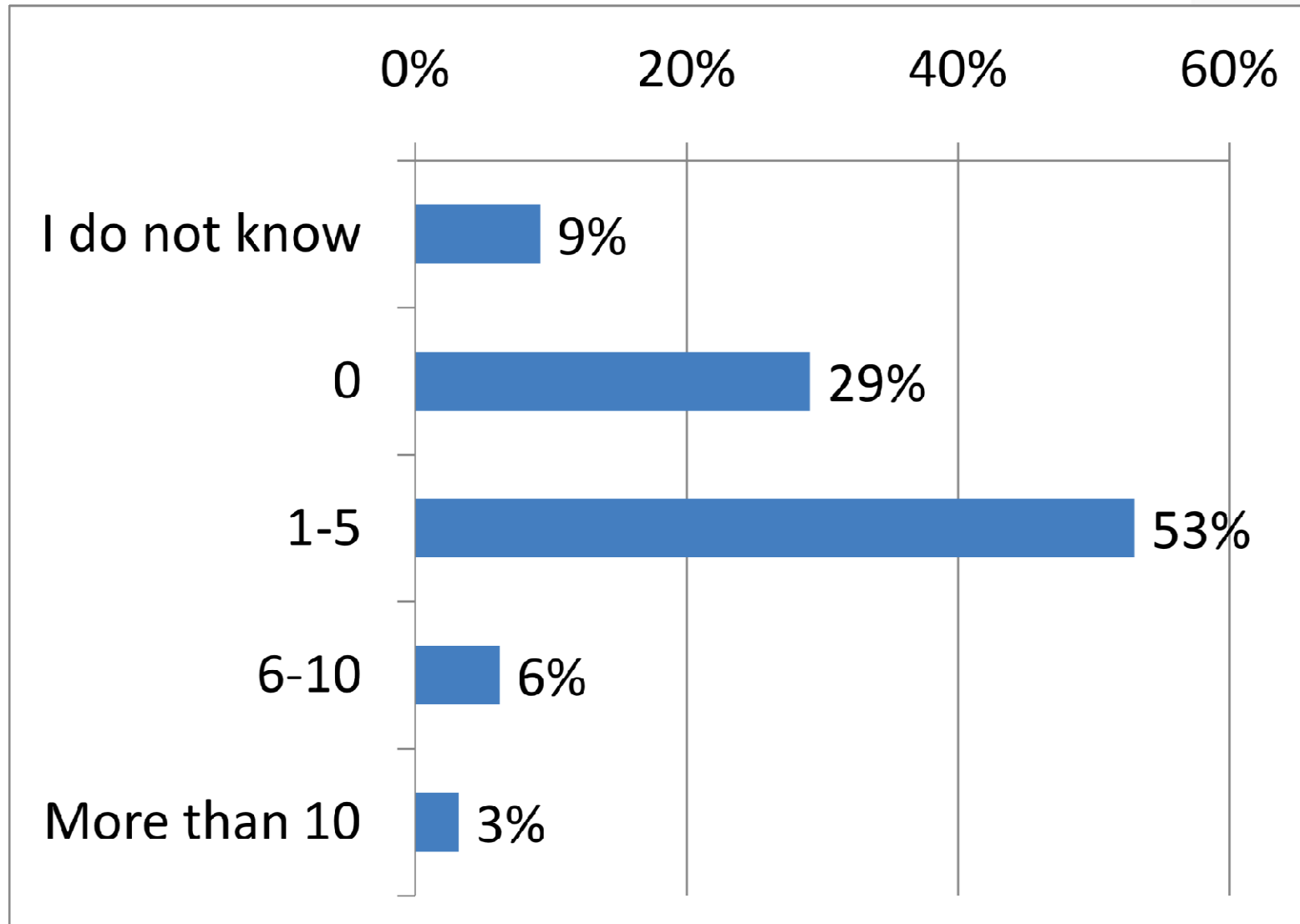


Preliminary results

Who ?
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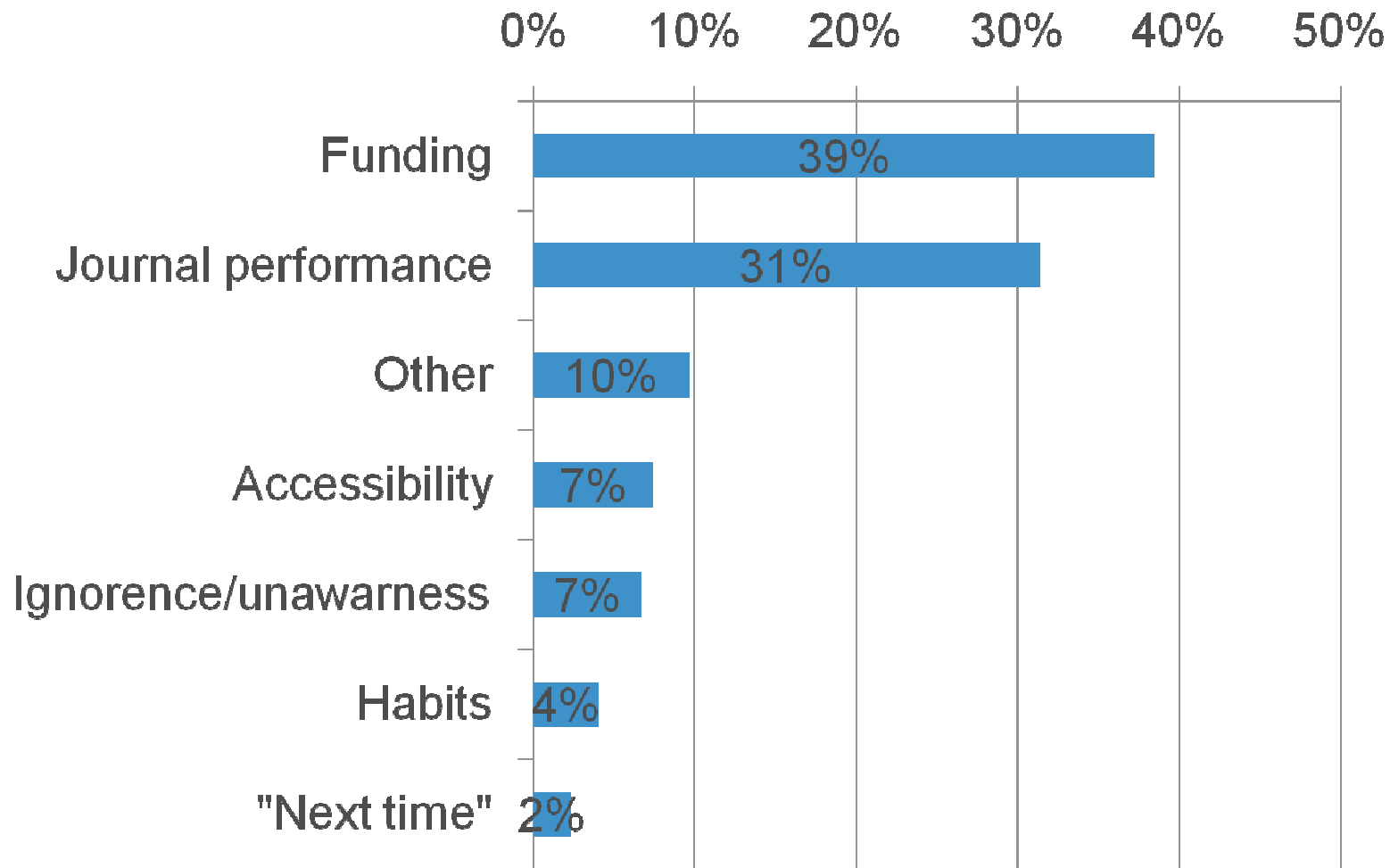
How many OA articles have you published in the last 5 years?



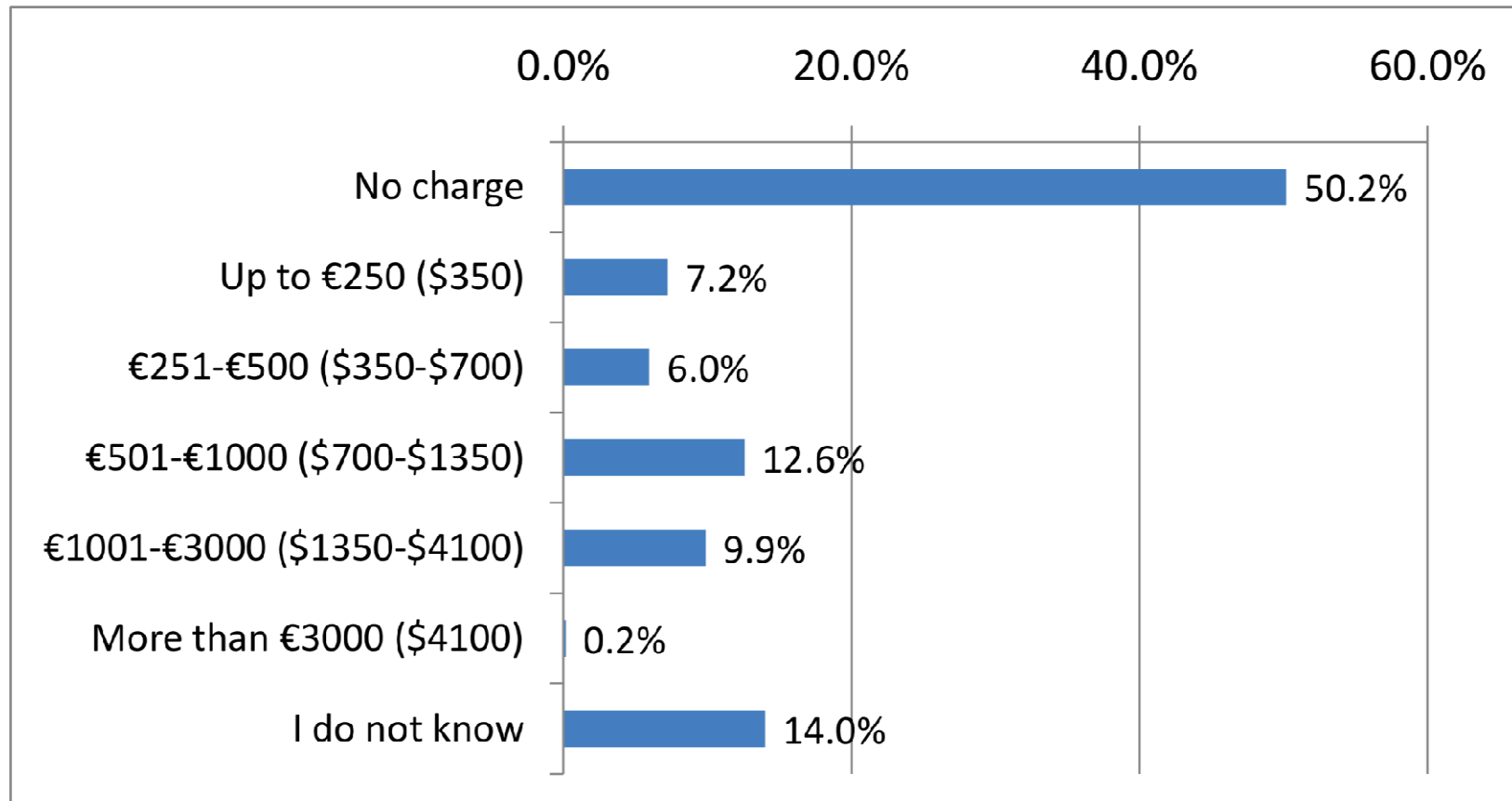


Was there a reason not to publish OA?

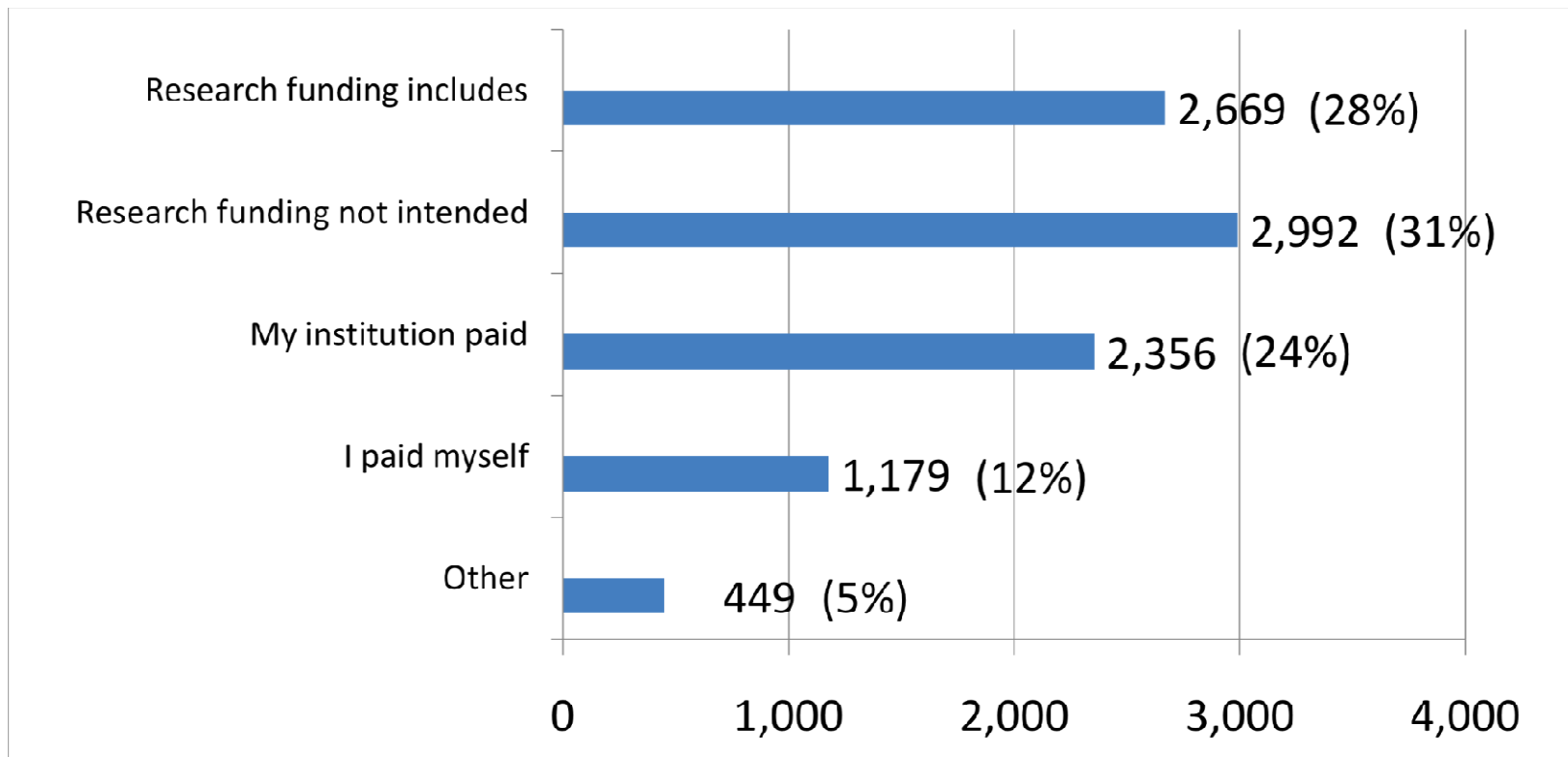
42% gave a reason; >4000 answers; 60'000 words



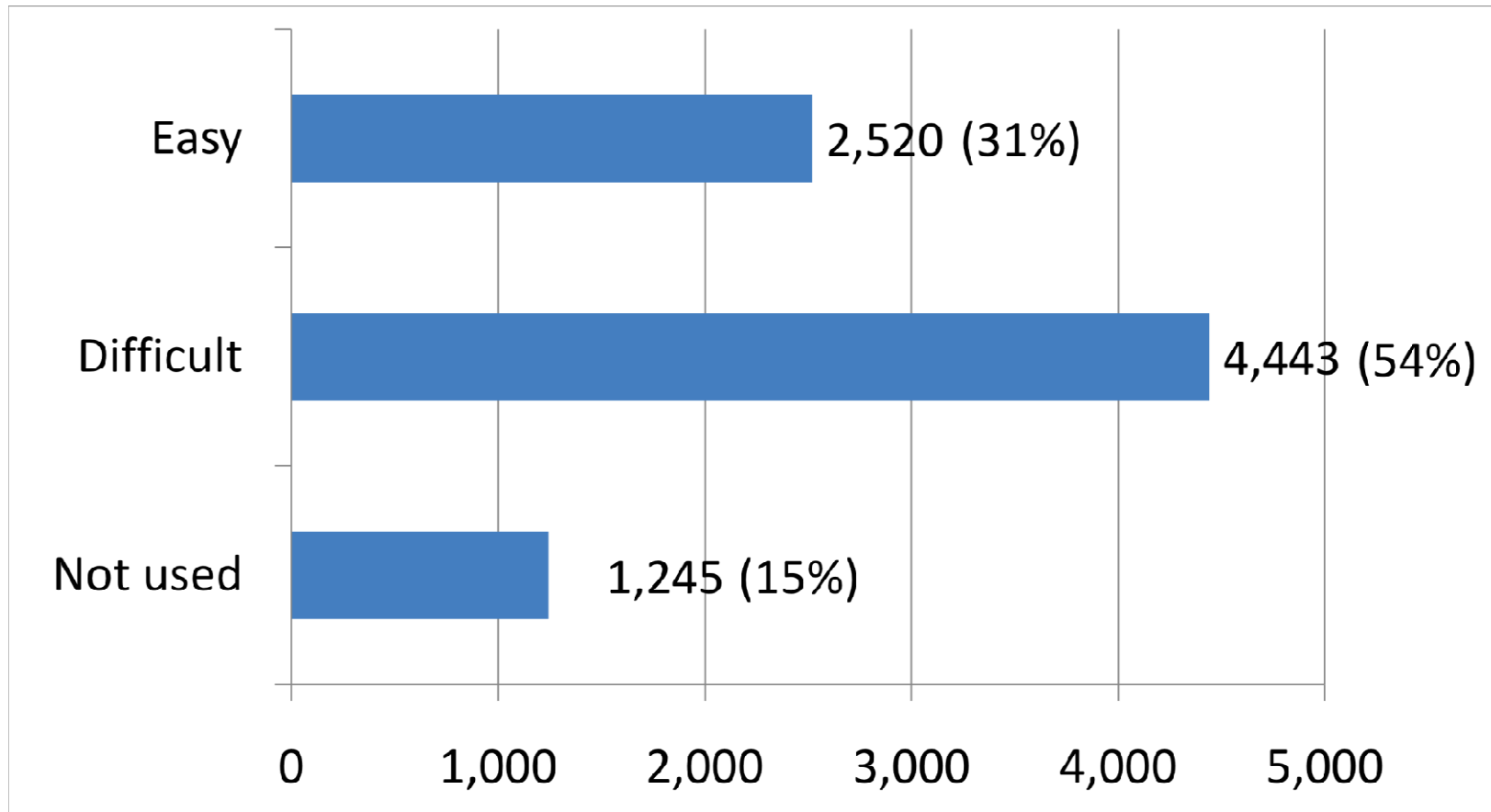
Which fee did you pay for your last OA article?



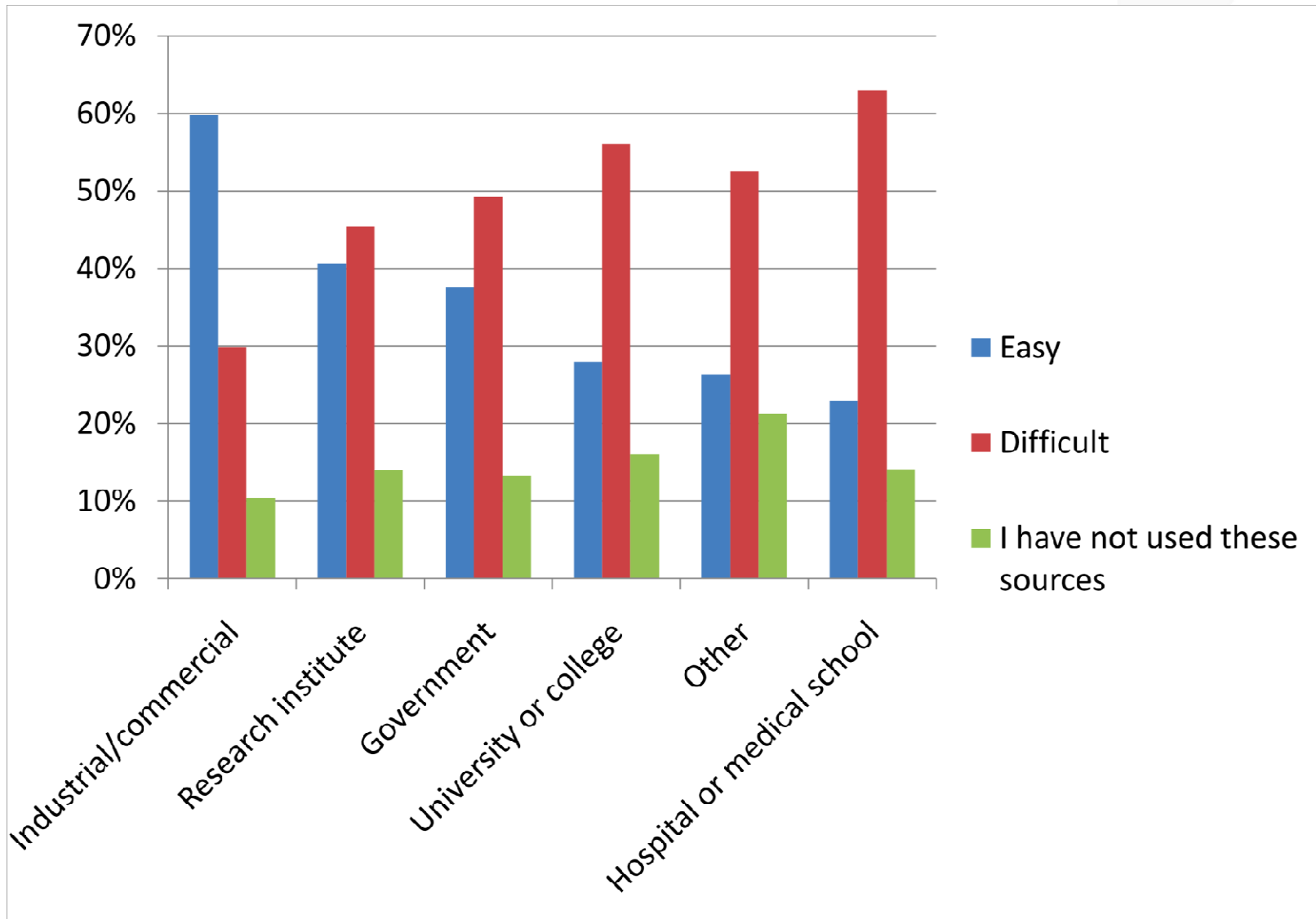
How was this fee covered?



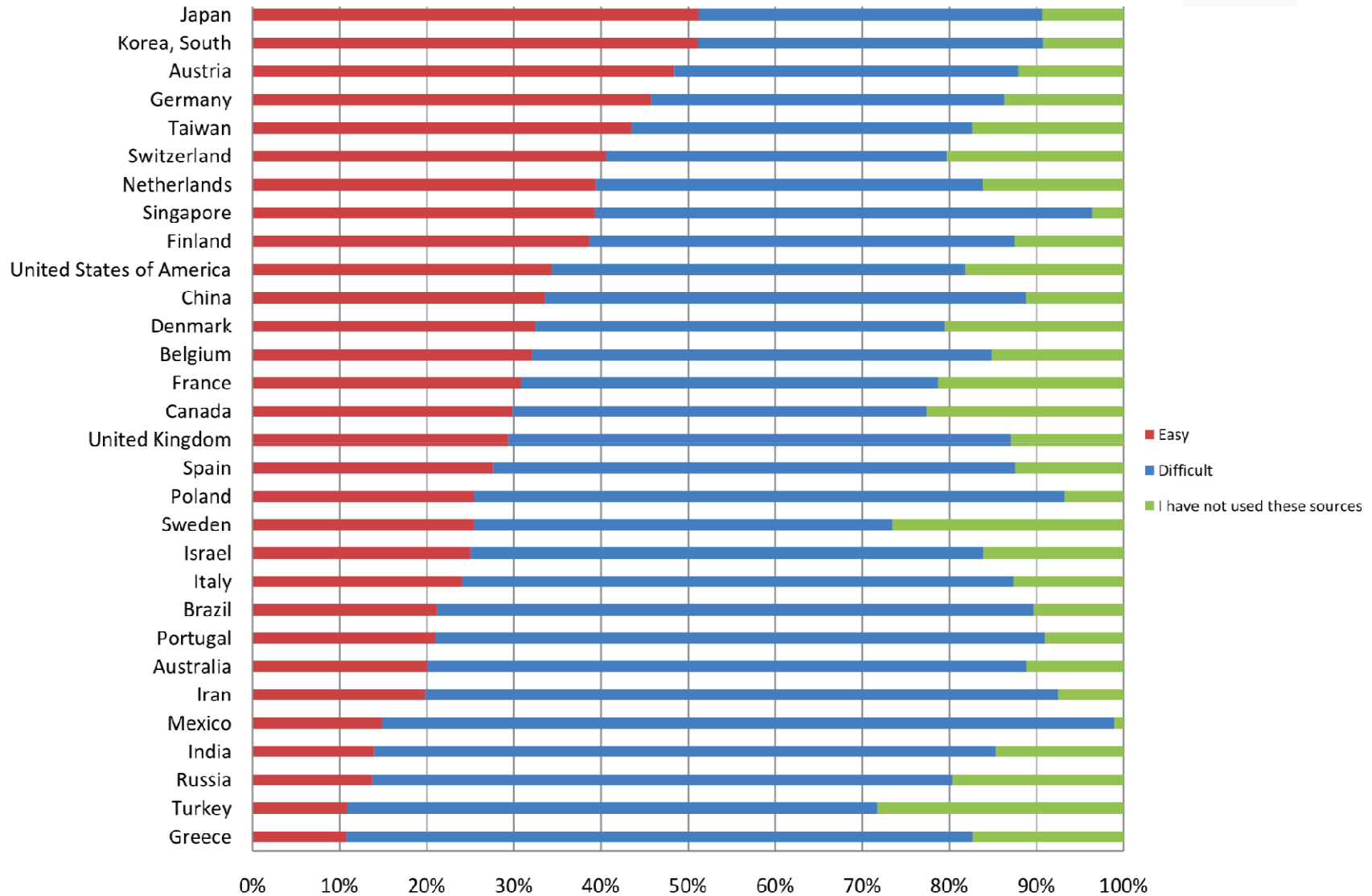
How easy was it to obtain funds?



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How easy was it to obtain funds?



- Strive to provide **facts** on which to base decisions
(EC, publishers, libraries, funding agencies)
- Key findings so far:
 - 90% scientists think OA journals are a good thing
 - BUT only 8-10% of articles is in OA journals
 - main barriers are lack of funds (40%) and journal quality/prestige (30%)
- Further analysis of the data ongoing
Data to be OPEN in a few months



Thank you!

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Website: <http://soap-fp7.eu>

Final results to be presented in

Berlin, January 13th, 2011 (after APE2011)

<http://soap-fp7.eu/soap-symposium>

Including hands-on session on using the data

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