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## OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Informal Learners

### Other

How to cite:

de los Arcos, Beatriz; Farrow, Robert; Pitt, Rebecca; Perryman, Leigh-Anne; Weller, Martin and McAndrew, Patrick (2015). OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Informal Learners. Open Education Research Hub.

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Version: Version of Record

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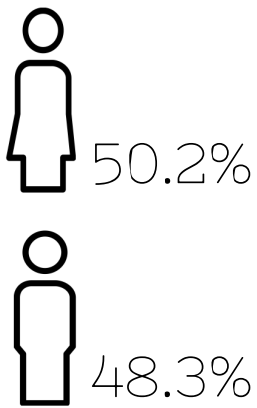
[oro.open.ac.uk](http://oro.open.ac.uk)



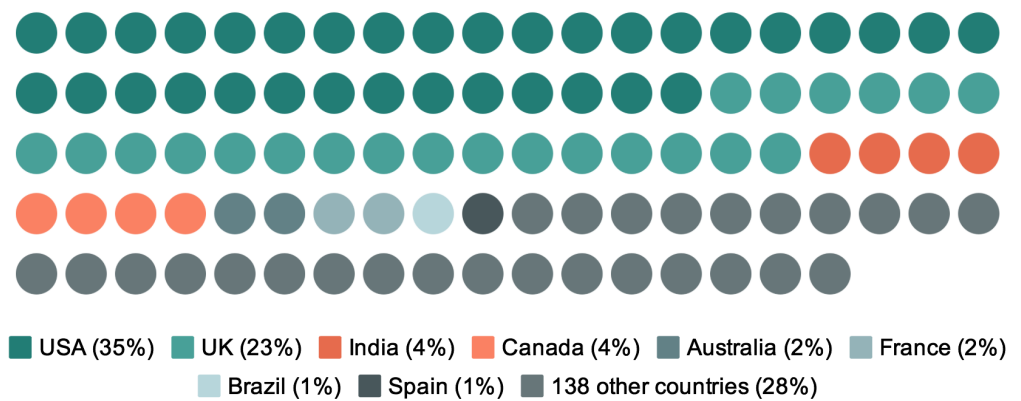
The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from INFORMAL LEARNERS (i.e. learners who are not registered for a course at an educational institution).

Dataset available for download at [http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH\\_Survey\\_Data\\_2013\\_2015/1528263](http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263)

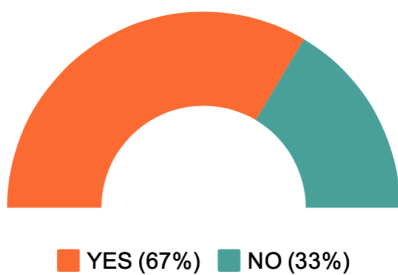
## Sample



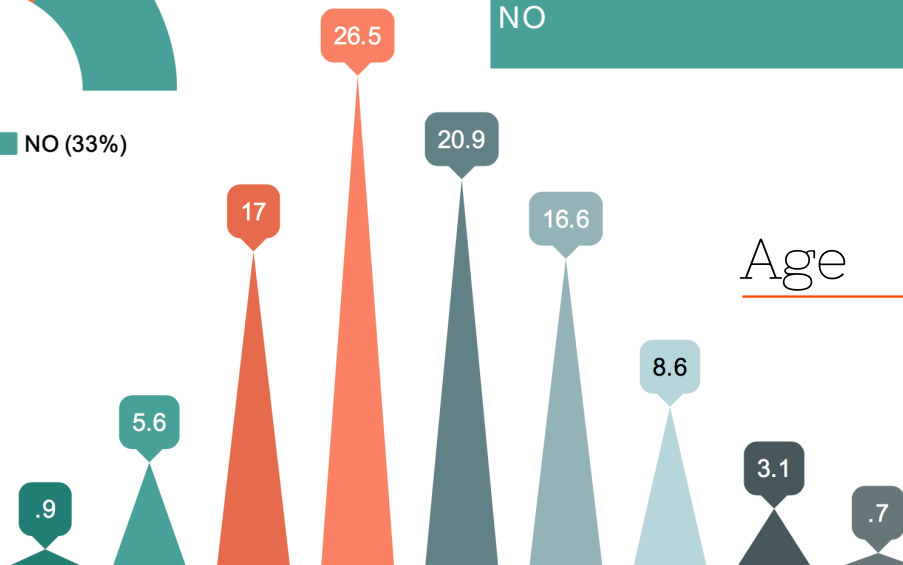
## Country of residence



## English as first language?



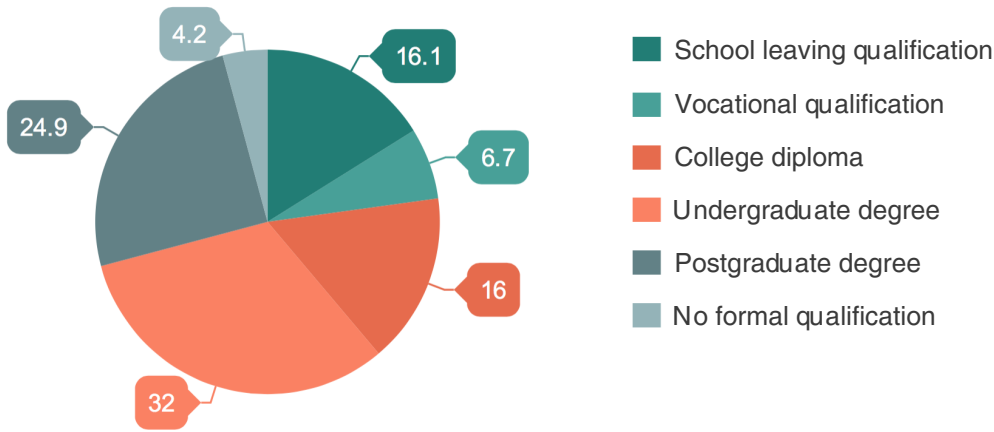
## Disability?



## Age

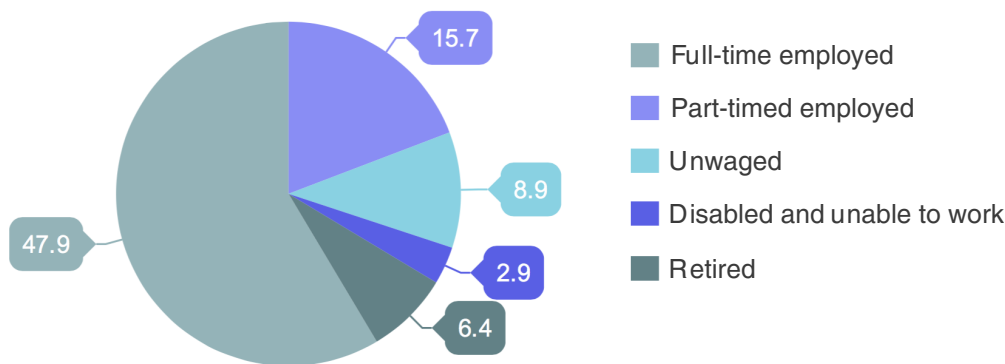


What is your highest educational qualification? N=3203



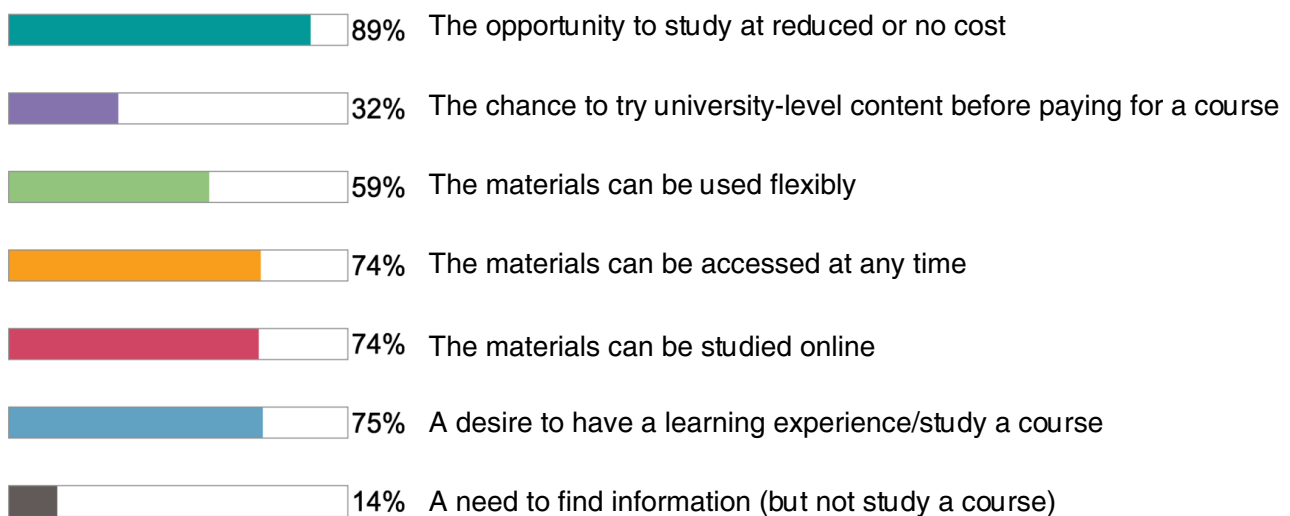
A majority of informal learners using OER are full-time employed and already hold a degree

What is your employment status? N=3290



# Decision to use OER

Which of the following factors influenced your decision to use OER? N=3147



Cost remains the biggest factor driving OER adoption



# Use of OER

In what subject(s) do you normally use OER? N=2401



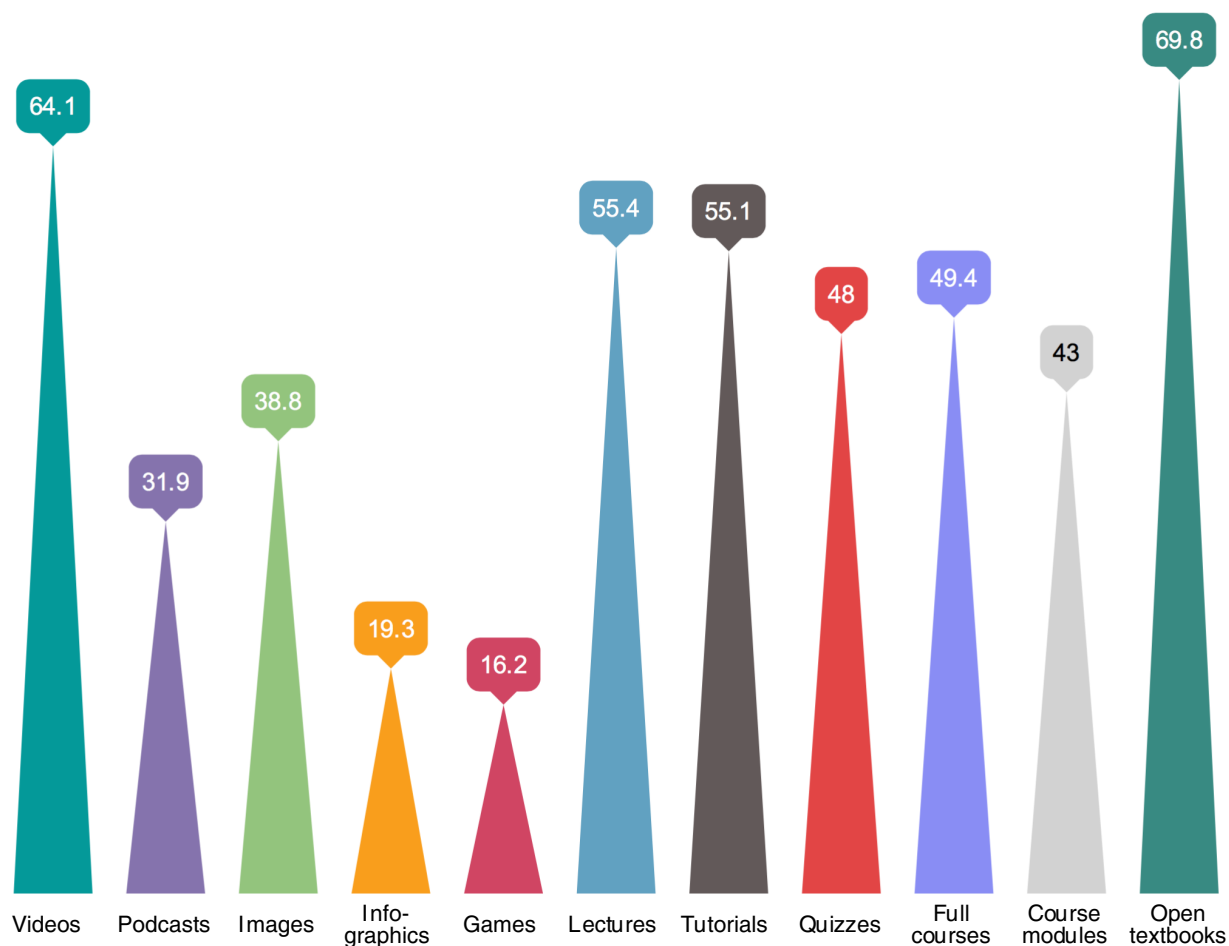
Economics and Computer Science top wide subject coverage of OER used by informal learners

# Types of OER

Which of the following types of OER have you used for studying? N=2232



Broad variety of OER types used by informal learners

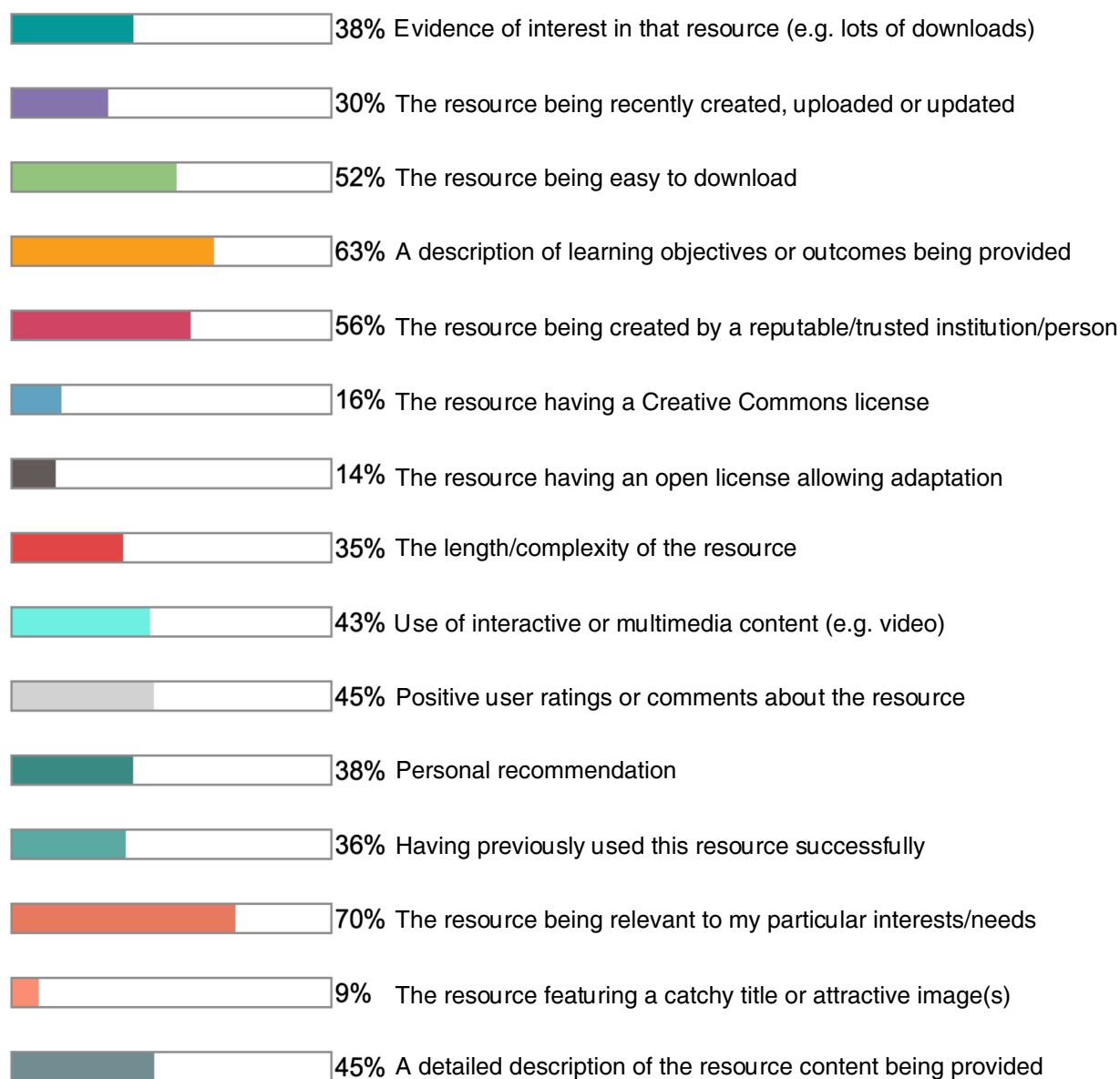


A smaller number of respondents (N=101) were asked about their use of lesson plans (32.7%), data sets (22.8%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (34.7%).

# Selecting OER

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=3012

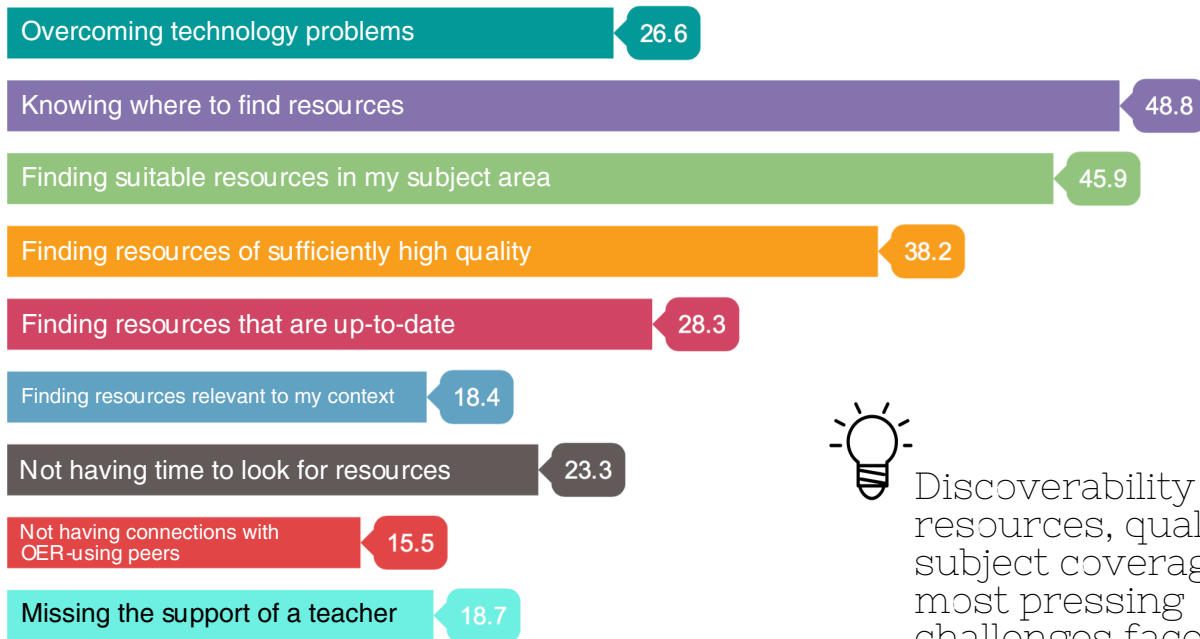
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Relevance to one's particular needs and clear learning objectives guide informal learners' selection of open content. Few mindful of open licenses allowing adaptation.

# Challenges of using OER

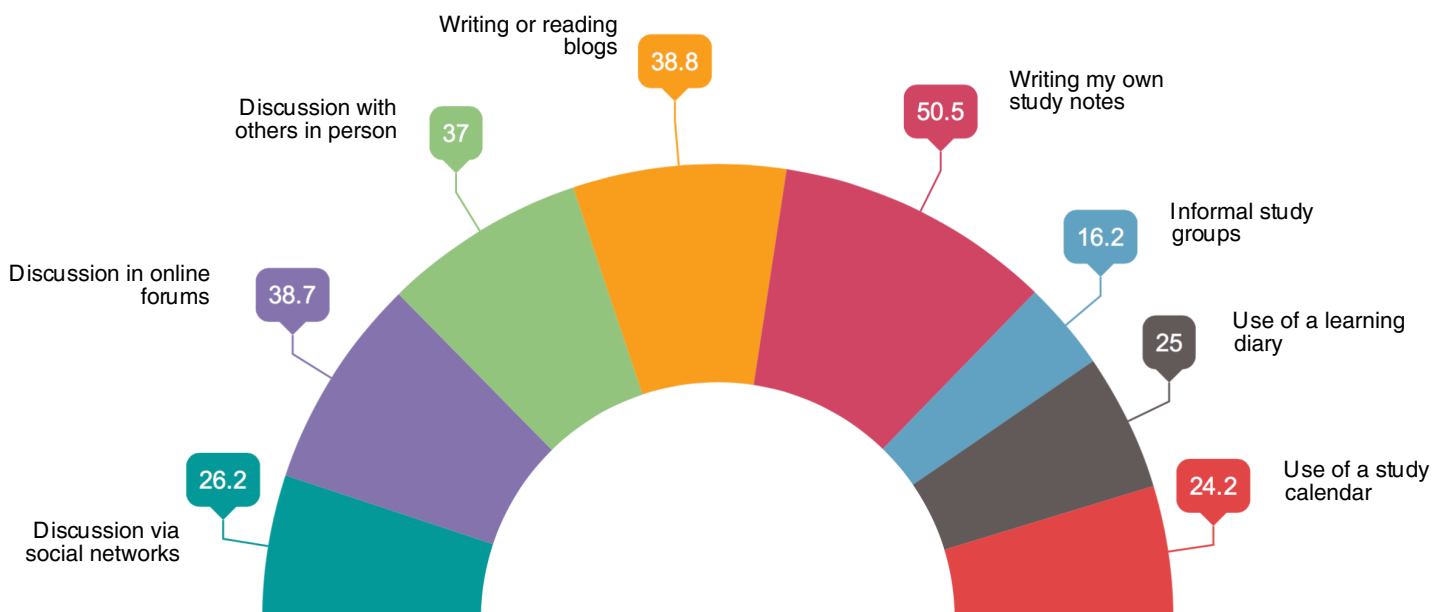
Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=1723



Discoverability of resources, quality and subject coverage are the most pressing challenges faced by informal learners using OER

# Support techniques

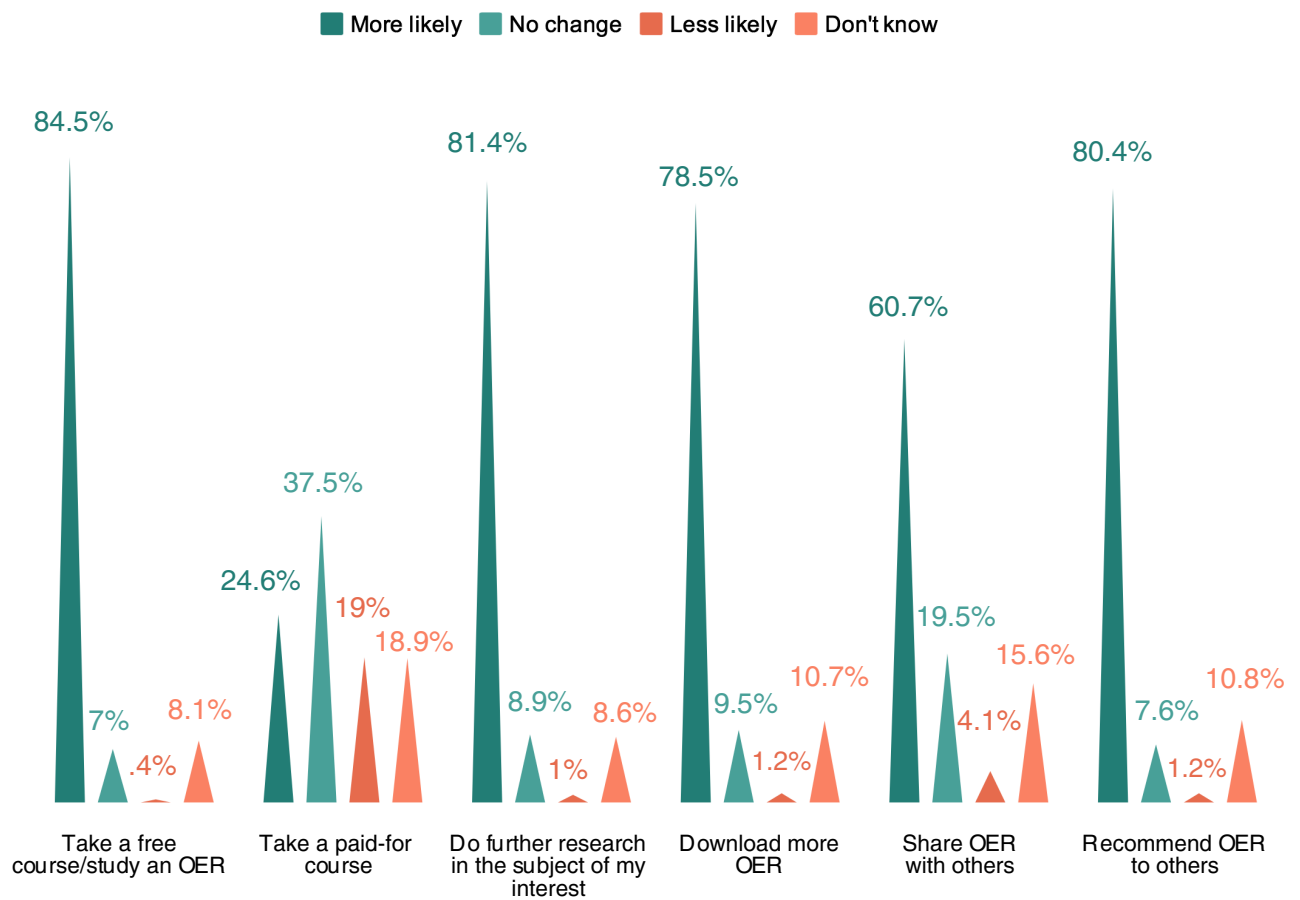
Which of these techniques have you used to support your learning with OER? N=1921



Informal learners use a variety of techniques to support their study with OER

# Future behaviour

As a result of using [OpenLearn] resources, how likely are you to do any of the following? N=2701



High percentages of informal learners likely to continue using OER. A quarter of respondents inclined to go into formal education.