Results of the SOAP Project

Open Access facts: What German researchers want

Suenje Dallmeier-Tiessen, Bettina Goerner, Robert Darby, Jenni Hyppoelae, Peter Igo-Kemenes, Deborah Kahn, Simon Lambert, Anja Lengenfelder, Chris Leonard, Salvatore Mele, Panayiota Polydoratou, David Ross, Sergio Ruiz-Perez, Ralf Schimmer, Mark Swaisland and Wim van der Stelt

BMC, CERN, MPDL, SAGE, Springer and STFC

Presented by
Deborah Kahn, BioMed Central

Economy and Acceptance of Open Access Strategies, Frankfurt Book Fair
October 2011

SOAP
Study of Open Access Publishing

- (Co-)Funded by the European Commission
- Framework Program 7 – Science and Society
- From March 2009 to February 2011
- Compare and contrast supply/demand for OA publishing
- Publishers, Libraries, Funding Agencies

Why SOAP ?

Why "Study Open Access Publishing" ?

Open Access: opportunities and challenges across the scholarly-communication value chain: scholars, publishers, libraries, funding agencies and the EC

Decisions need to be made

SOAP is about finding facts on which to base decisions about Open Access publishing

Some of the SOAP questions

What is the landscape of OA journals?
What do scholar want?
What do scholars do?
What are the gaps, barriers, limitations?

Surveying the landscape

- Assess the supply of OA publishing outlets
- Start from the DOAJ (07/2009)
- Collect additional information (09/2009-01/2010)
  - SCOPUS, ISI-JCR, EZB, SCImago, ask friends and colleagues
  - Article information as of 2007/2008
  - Trawl through thousands of web pages
- Answer key questions

How many?

a) Fully Open Access

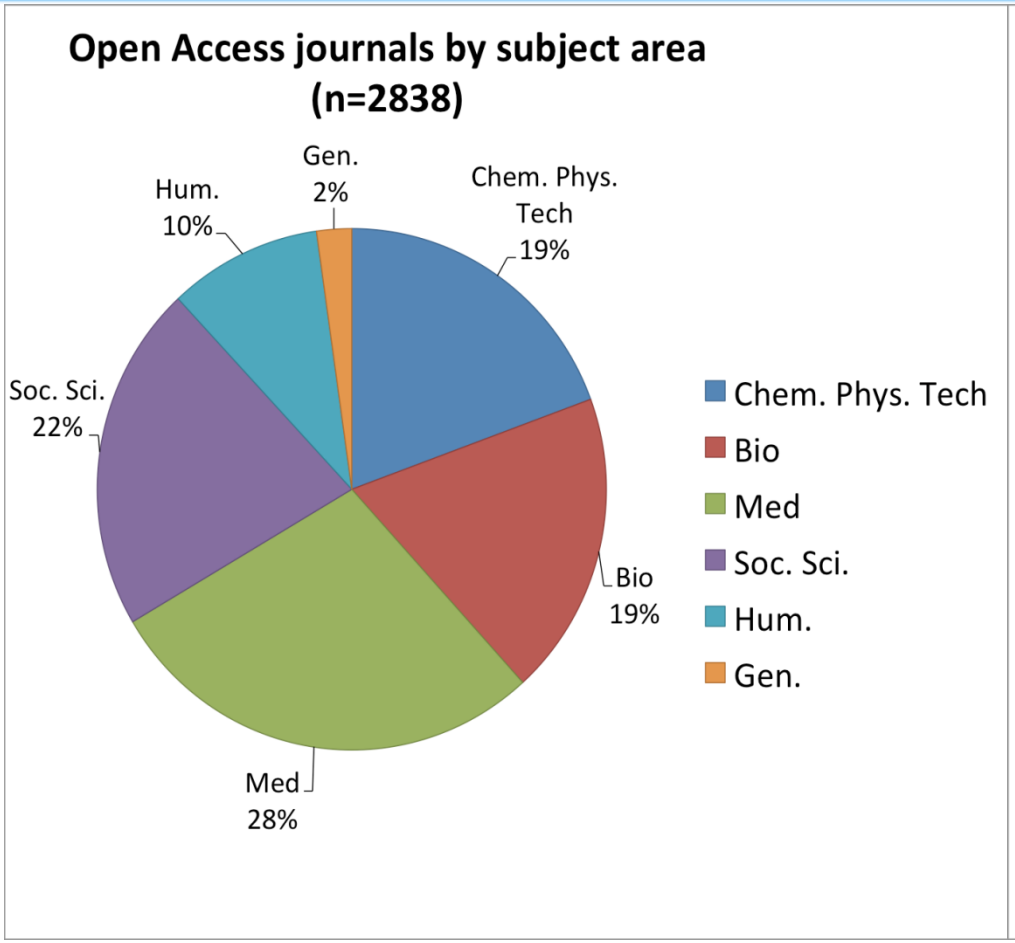
- English language journals only (4,032 → 2,838)
- 90% of publishers <100 articles/year and 1/3 of total
- 10% of publishers publish 2/3 of the total

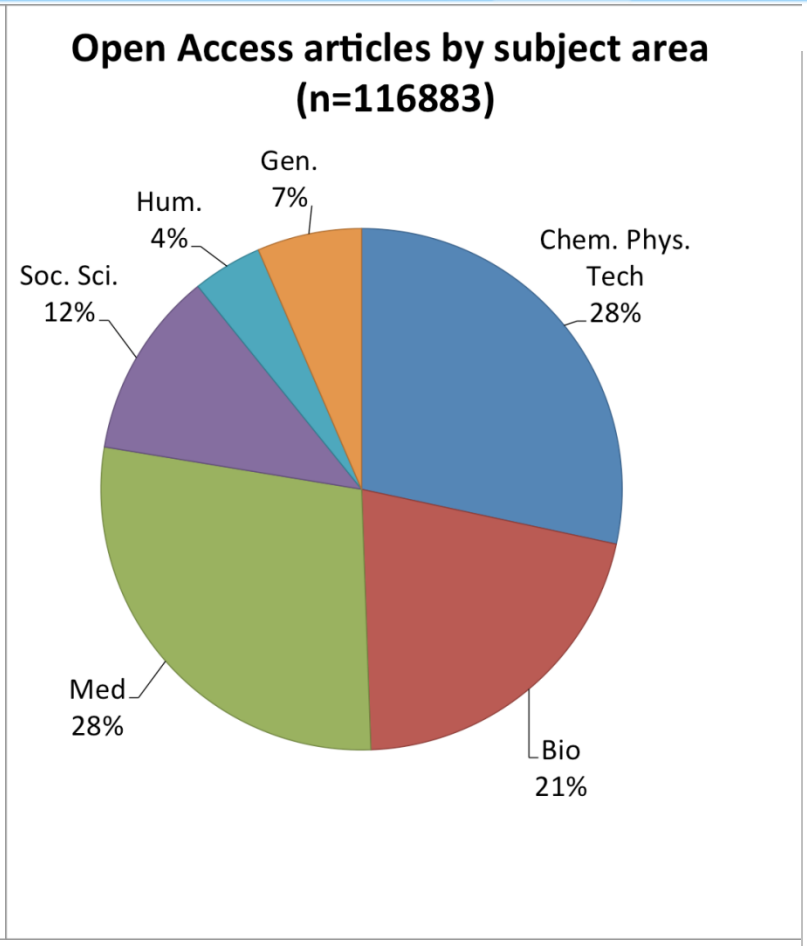
b) Hybrid: 22% of journals, 2% of articles within hybrids

How many?

About 8-10% of articles/year are published in fully and hybrid OA journals

Which subjects?



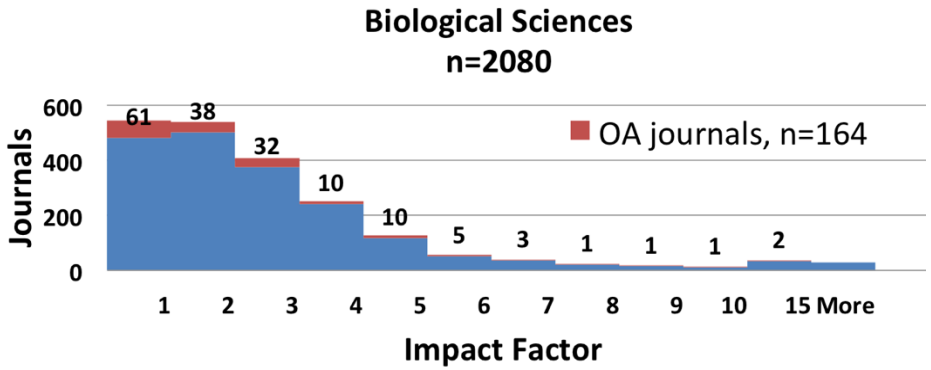


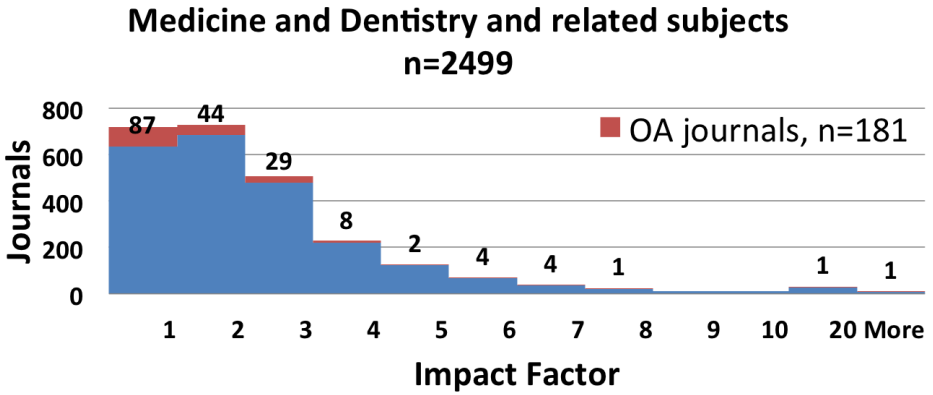
2/3 of journals in STM - 1/3 in SSH

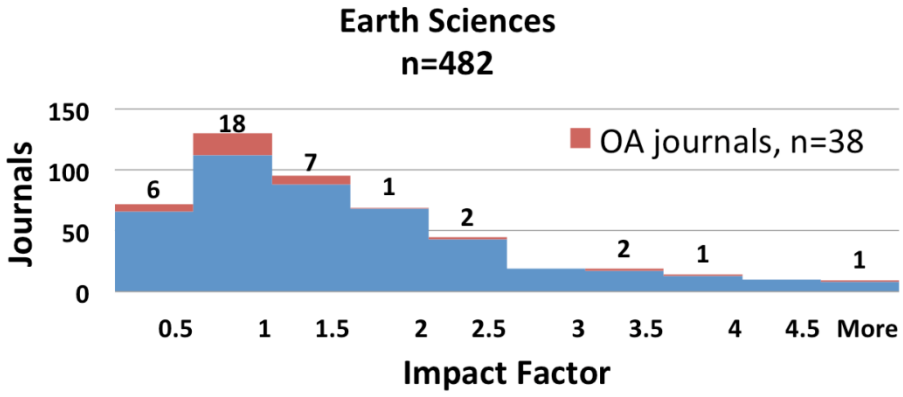
3/4 of articles in STM - 1/4 in SSH

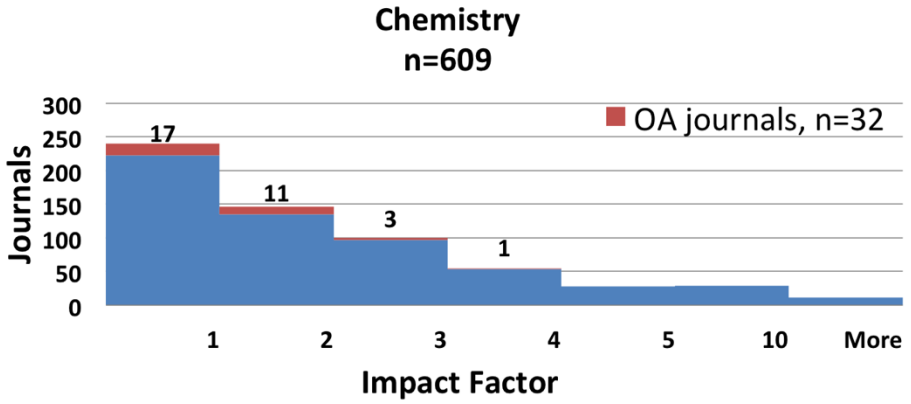
Impact

Of the 2,838 OA journals, 313 (11%) are referenced in ISI-JCR (2008), and 1,176 (41%) can be found in Scopus (2009)









Design of the survey

- Online survey with 23 questions
- Characteristics of the respondents themselves ("demographics"), then attitudes, beliefs and practices
- Multiple choice
- Two questions also with optional free text boxes for amplification of answers

Distribution of the survey

Mailing list	Approximate number of individuals reached
Springer authors	249,000
Sage authors	813,000
BioMed Central authors	170,500
Library and research mailing list	30,000–60,000
Thompson Reuters	68,000
OASPA mailing lists	Around 10,000
NASA Astrophysics Data System mailing list	8,500
STFC internal mailing list	2,000
MPG internal mailing lists	3,000–7,000
EC project co-ordinators and Marie Curie alumni	13,000

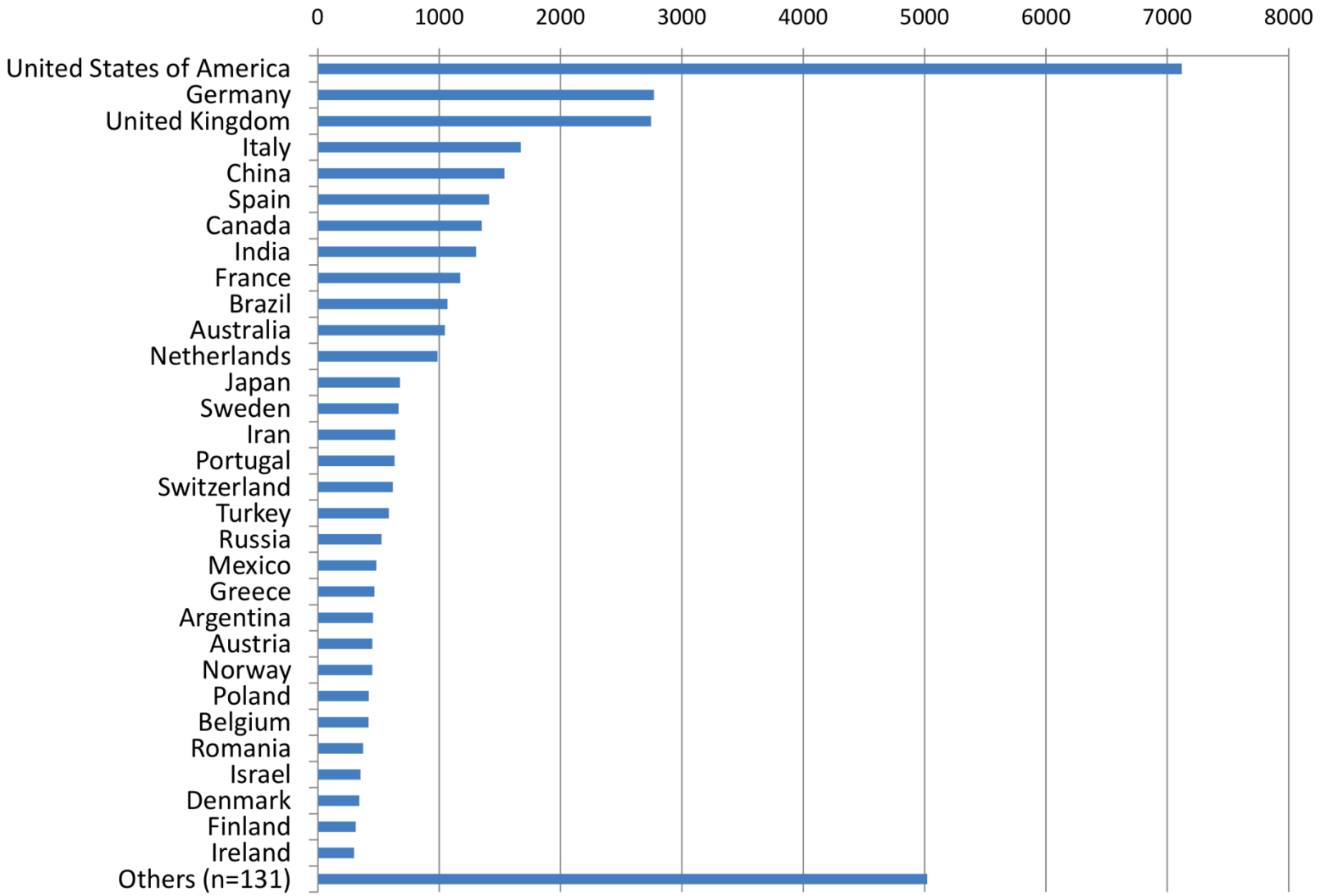
Response to the survey

- 53,890 responses by 10 August 2010
  - Snapshot for analysis on this date
- 85.7% active researchers
- 162 countries

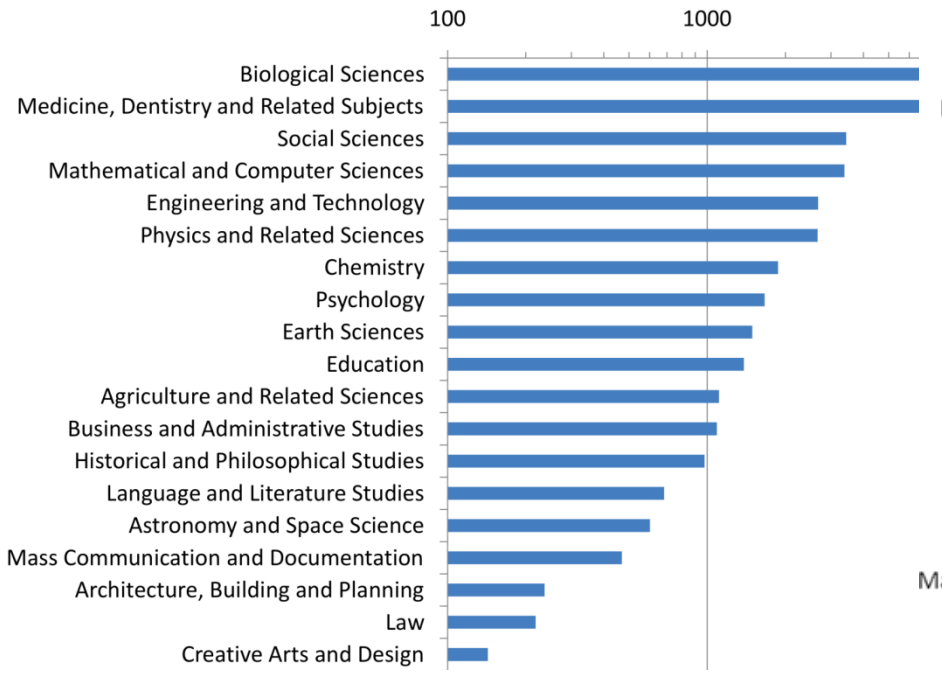
- The “golden subset”:
  - Researchers
  - At least one article published in last five years
  - Answered question whether OA beneficial to their field

Response to the survey

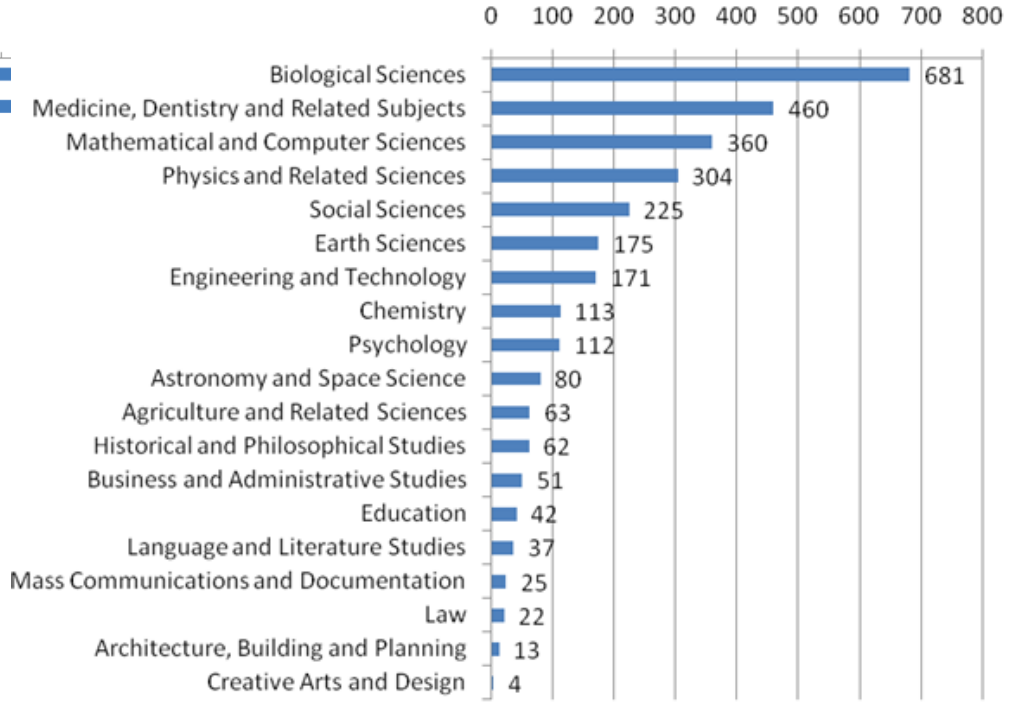
Distribution by country



Distribution by disciplines

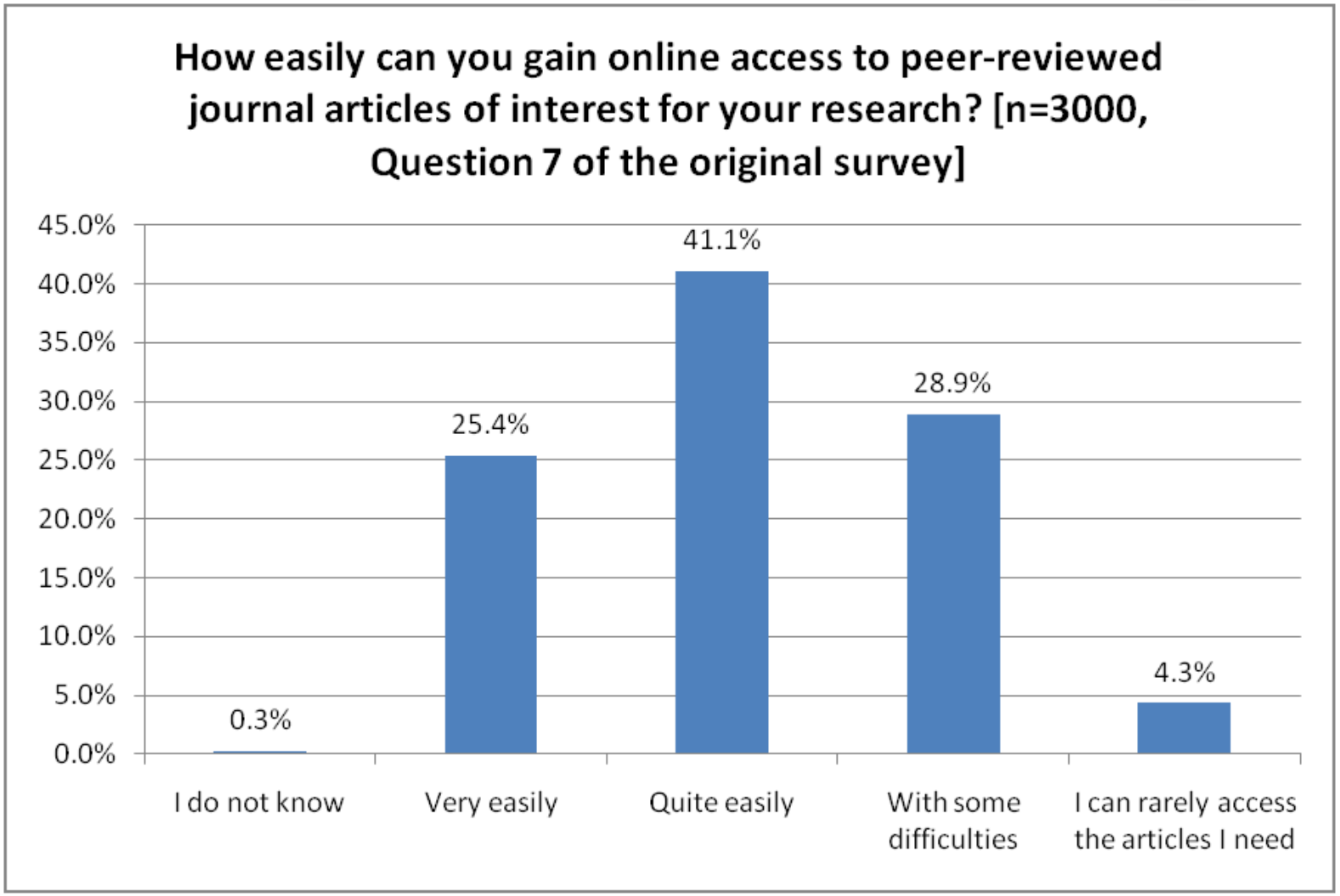


Whole survey

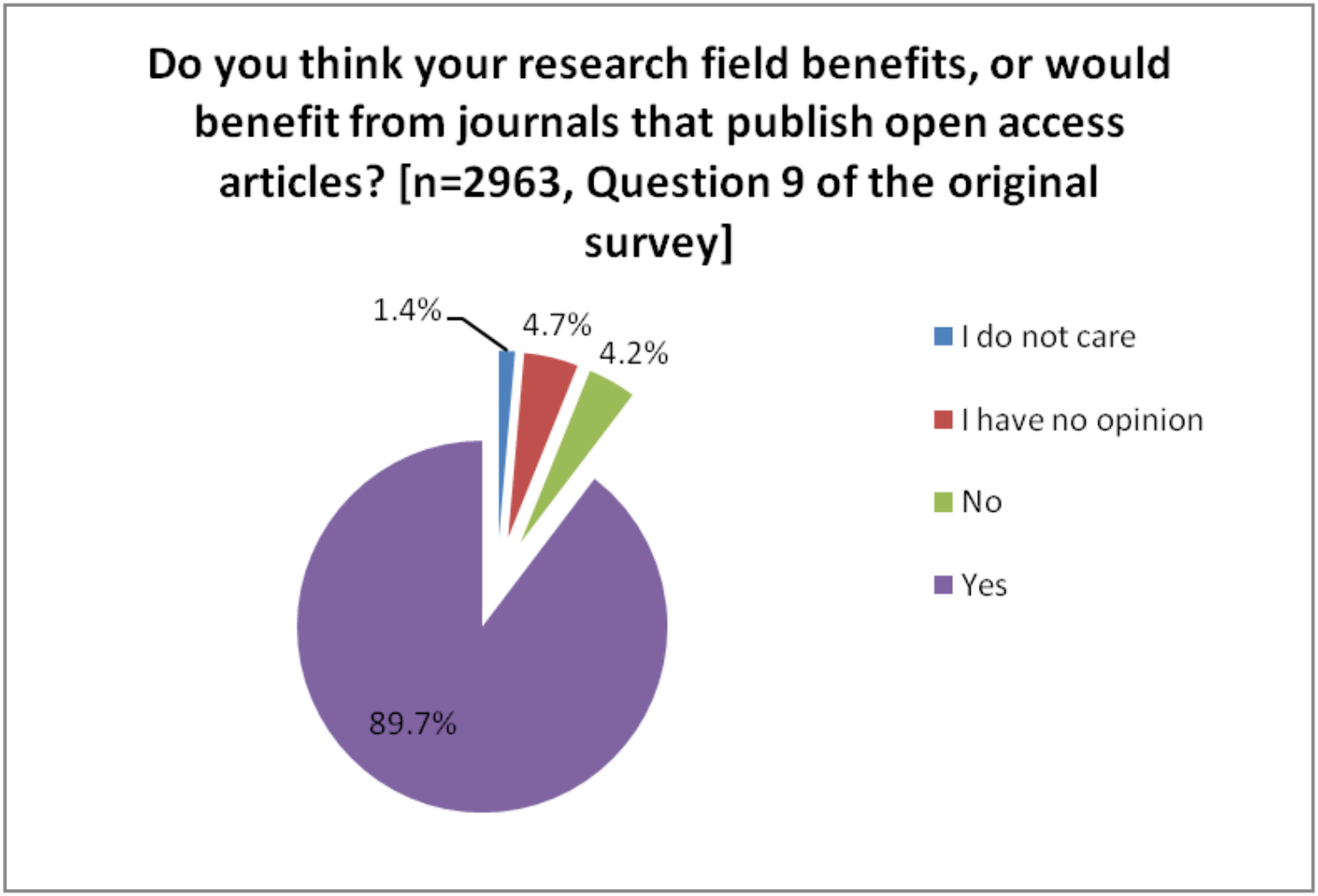


Germany

Ease of access to journal articles



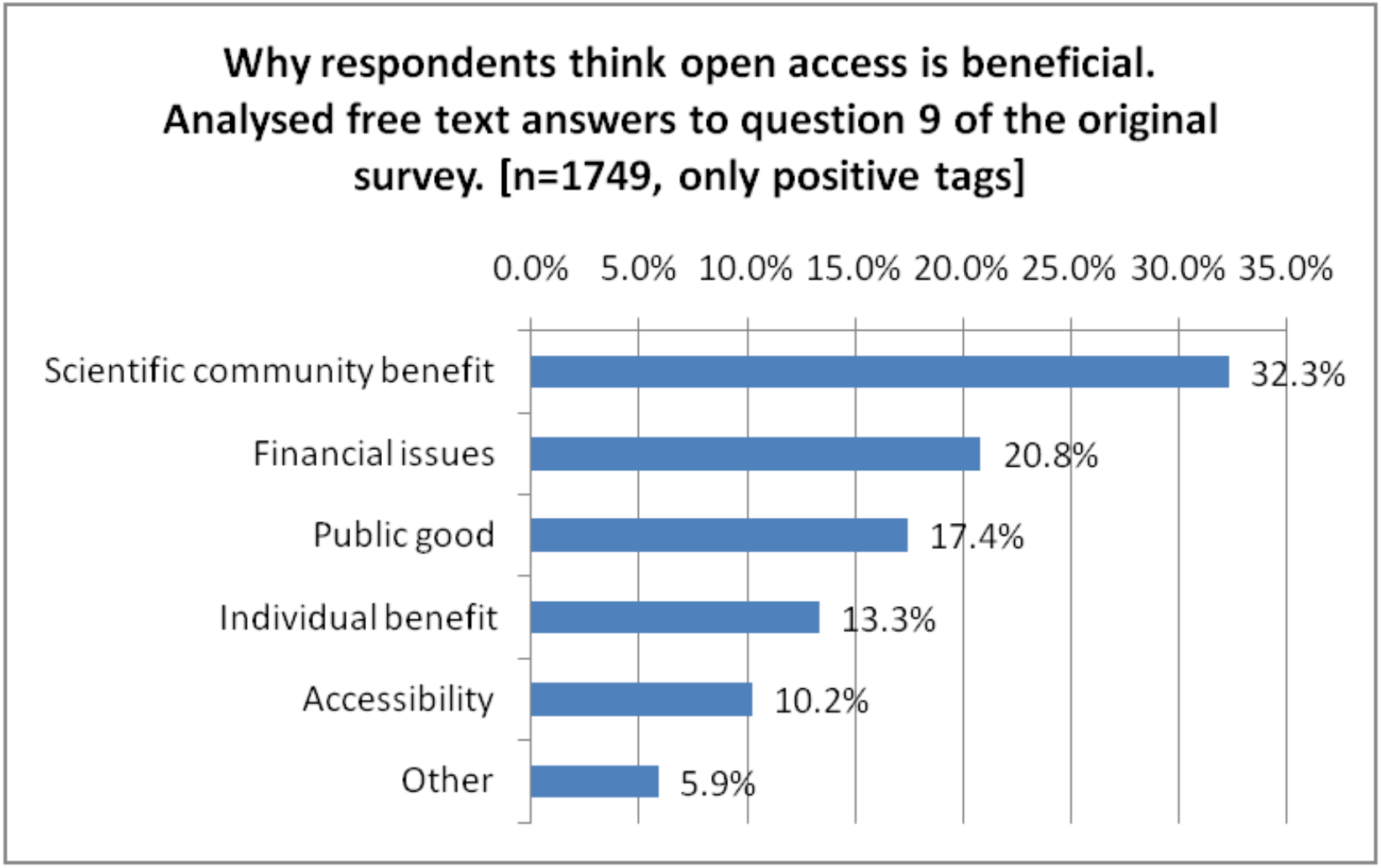
Would OA journals benefit your field?



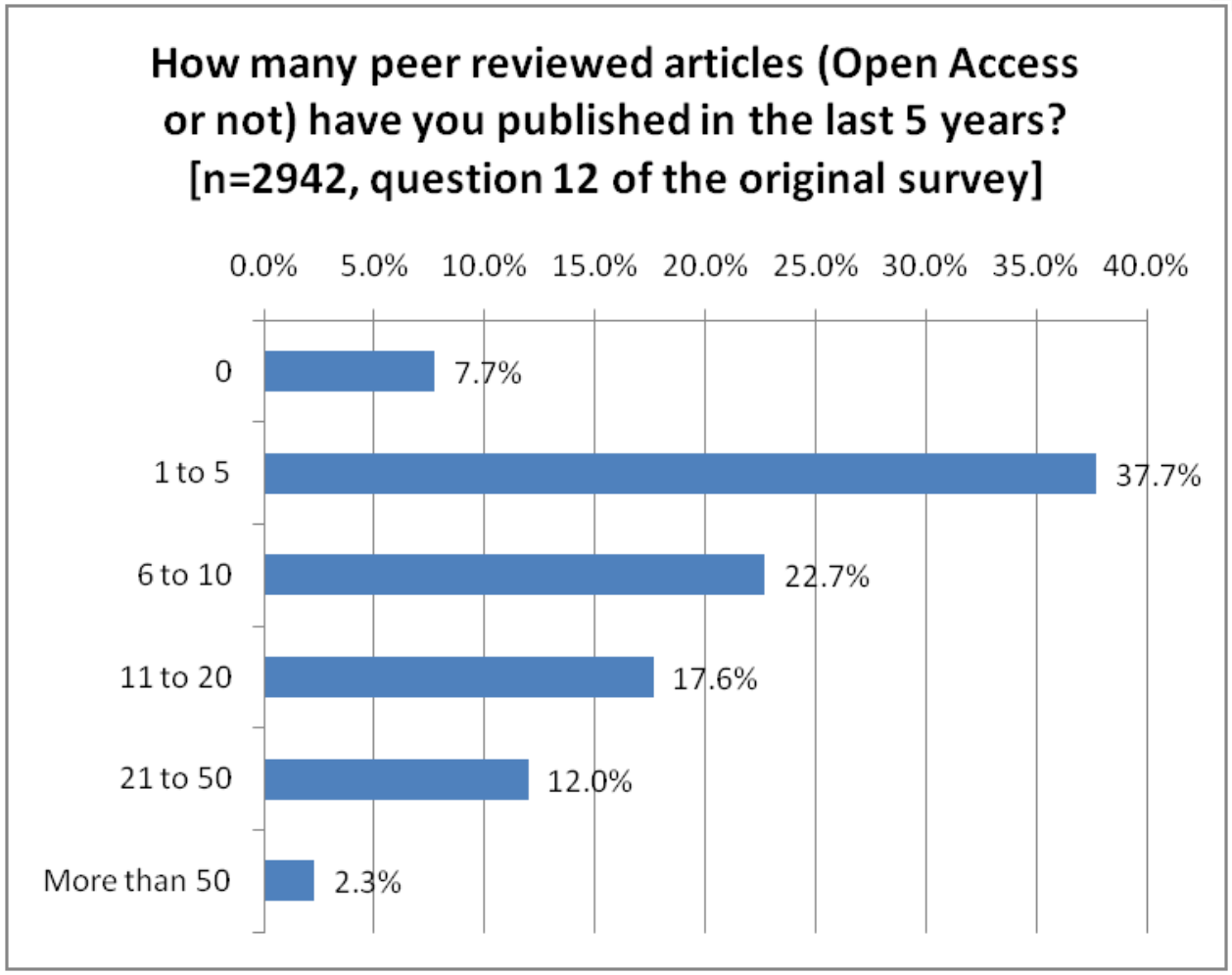
Would OA journals benefit your field?

Discipline	*I do not care*	*I have no opinion*	*No*	*Yes*	Absolute count of answers
Biological Sciences	0.7%	3.9%	1.6%	93.8%	675
Chemistry	1.8%	8.2%	9.1%	80.9%	110
Earth Sciences	0.6%	3.5%	1.2%	94.8%	173
Engineering and Technology	3.0%	6.6%	6.0%	84.5%	168
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	2.0%	3.9%	5.9%	88.2%	356
Medicine, Dentistry and Related Subjects	0.9%	4.0%	3.3%	91.9%	455
Physics and Related Sciences	1.3%	6.7%	9.4%	82.6%	298
Psychology	1.8%	2.7%	5.5%	90.0%	110
Social Sciences	1.8%	5.8%	2.7%	89.7%	223

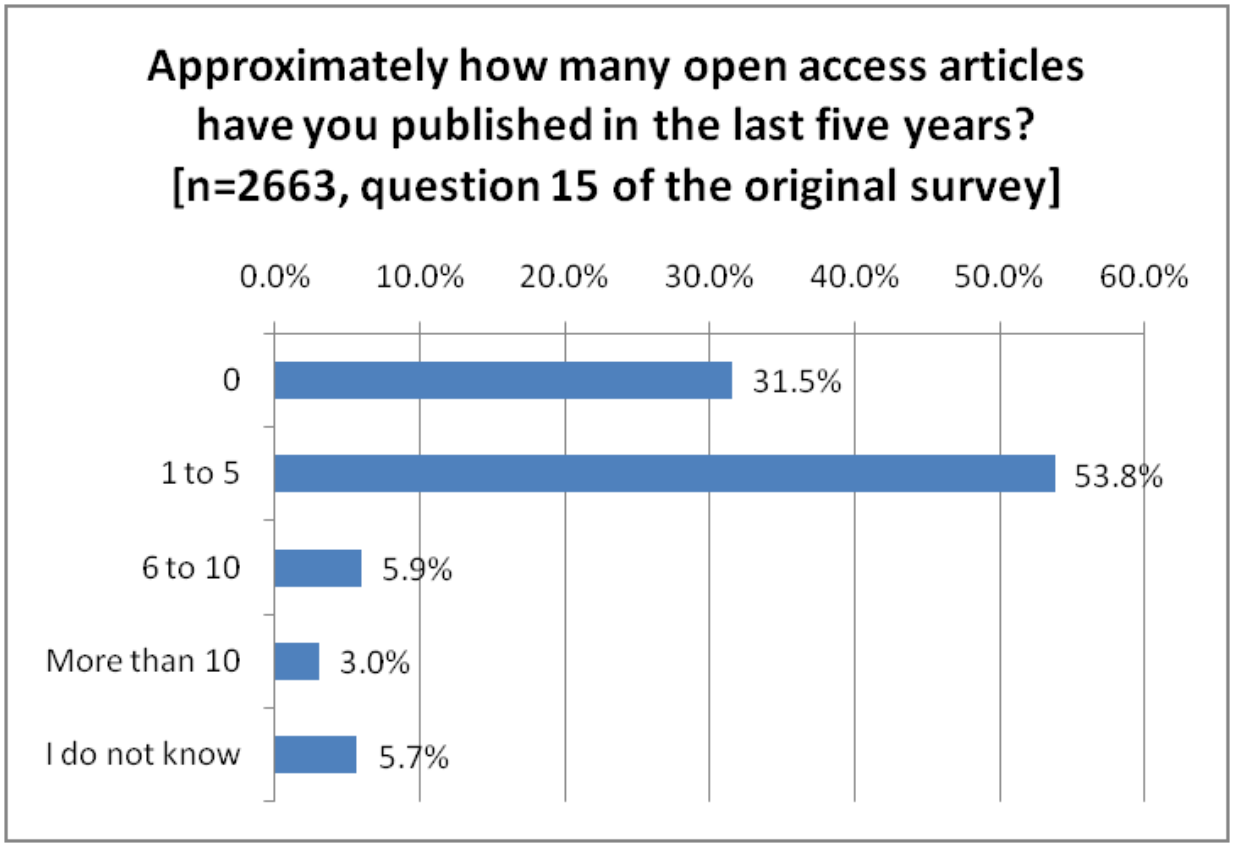
Why?


Why respondents think open access is beneficial. Analysed free text answers to question 9 of the original survey. [n=1749, only positive tags]
0.0%
5.0%
10.0%
15.0%
20.0%
25.0%
30.0%
35.0%
Scientific community benefit
32.3%
Financial issues
20.8%
Public good
17.4%
Individual benefit
13.3%
Accessibility
10.2%
Other
5.9%

Number of articles published



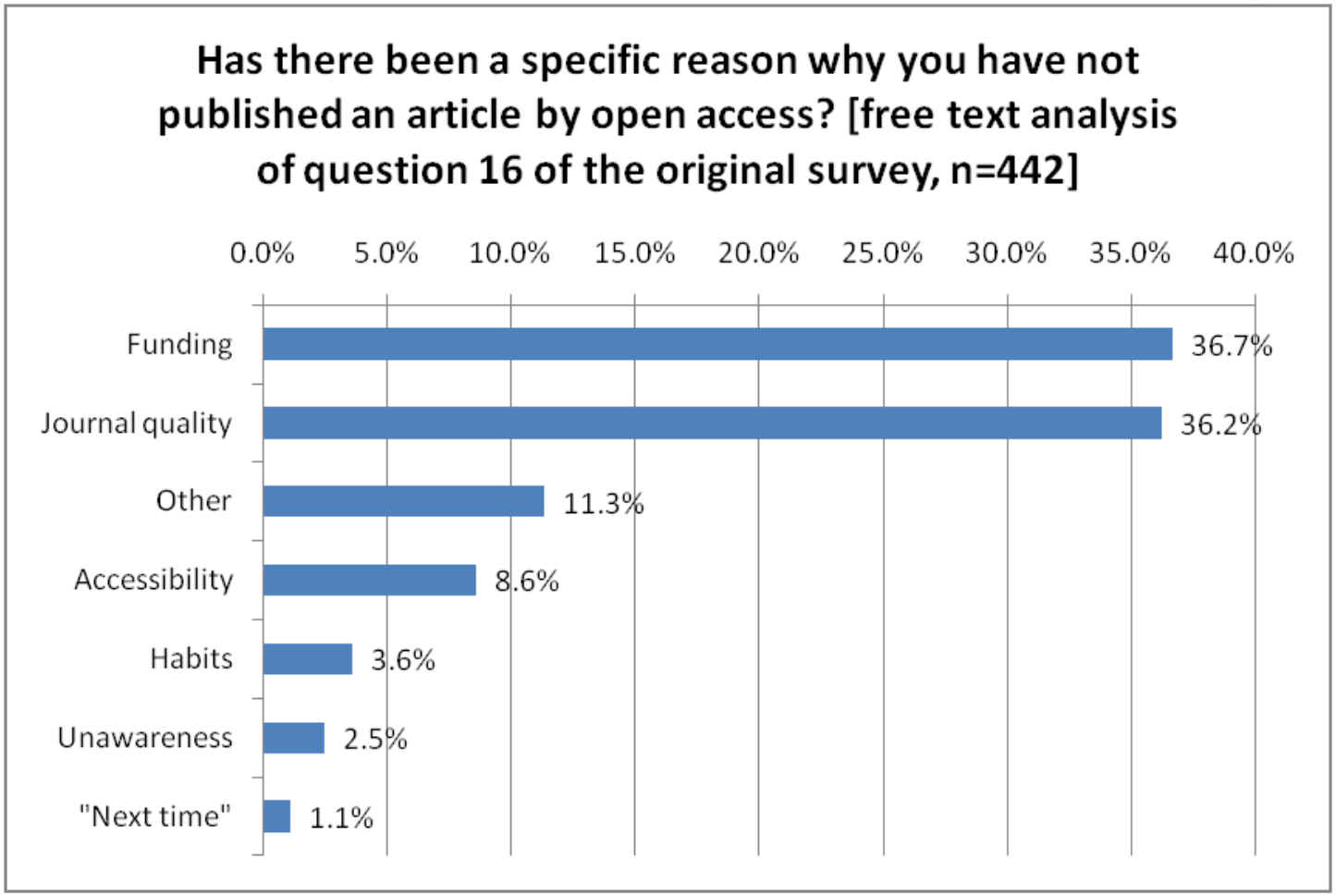
Number of OA articles published



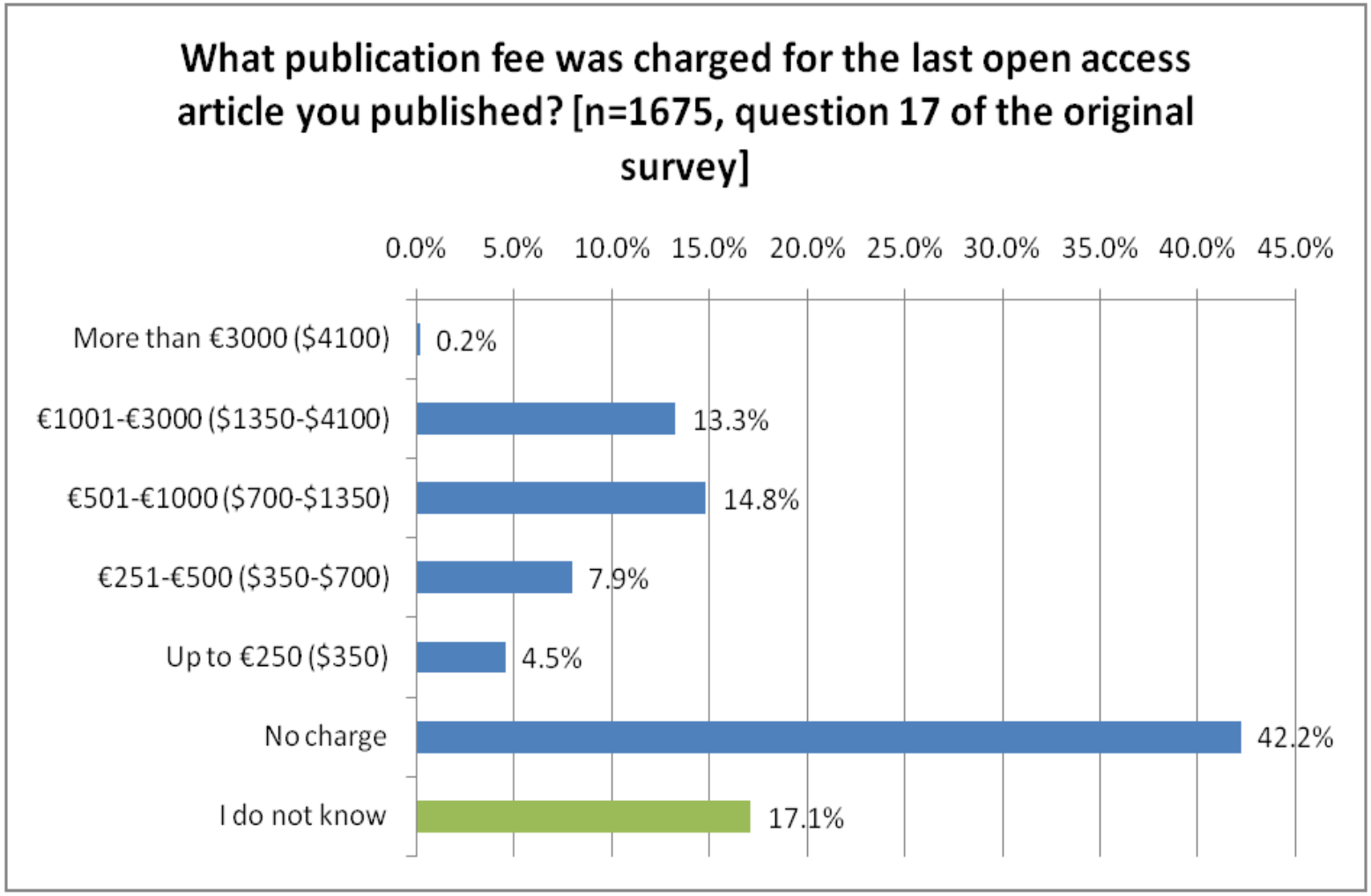
No of OA articles published

Discipline	0	1 to 5	6 to 10	I do not know	More than 10	Absolute count of answers
Biological Sciences	20.1%	65.0%	8.6%	2.7%	3.6%	638
Earth Sciences	28.8%	56.2%	5.9%	2.0%	7.2%	153
Engineering and Technology	48.7%	38.5%	2.6%	10.3%	0.0%	156
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	34.4%	50.4%	3.9%	8.9%	2.4%	337
Medicine, Dentistry and Related Subjects	23.1%	62.1%	6.9%	5.3%	2.5%	433
Physics and Related Sciences	38.4%	42.1%	8.9%	7.0%	3.7%	271
Social Sciences	33.3%	57.6%	2.3%	3.4%	3.4%	177

Reasons for not publishing OA



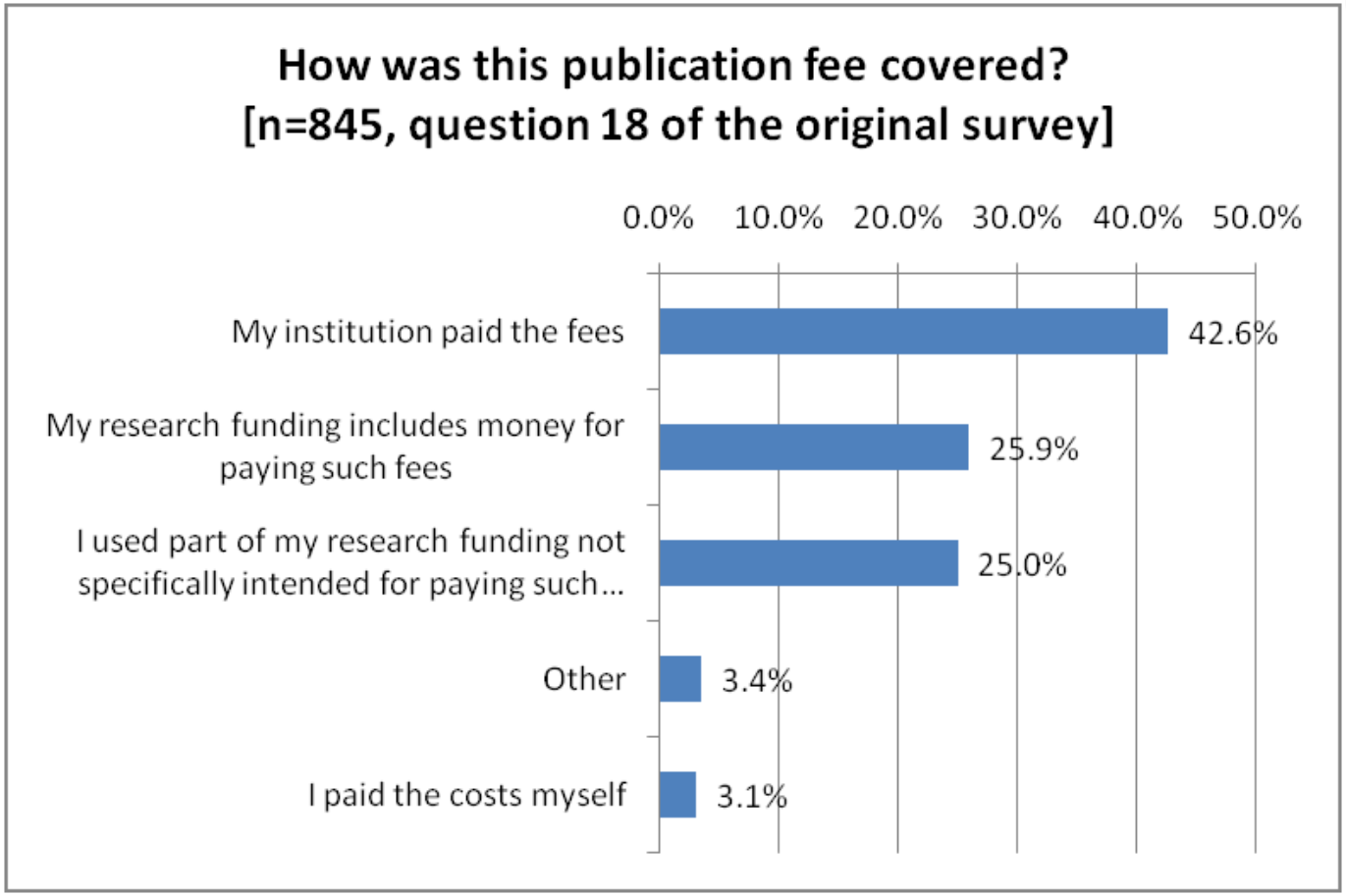
Publication fee charged

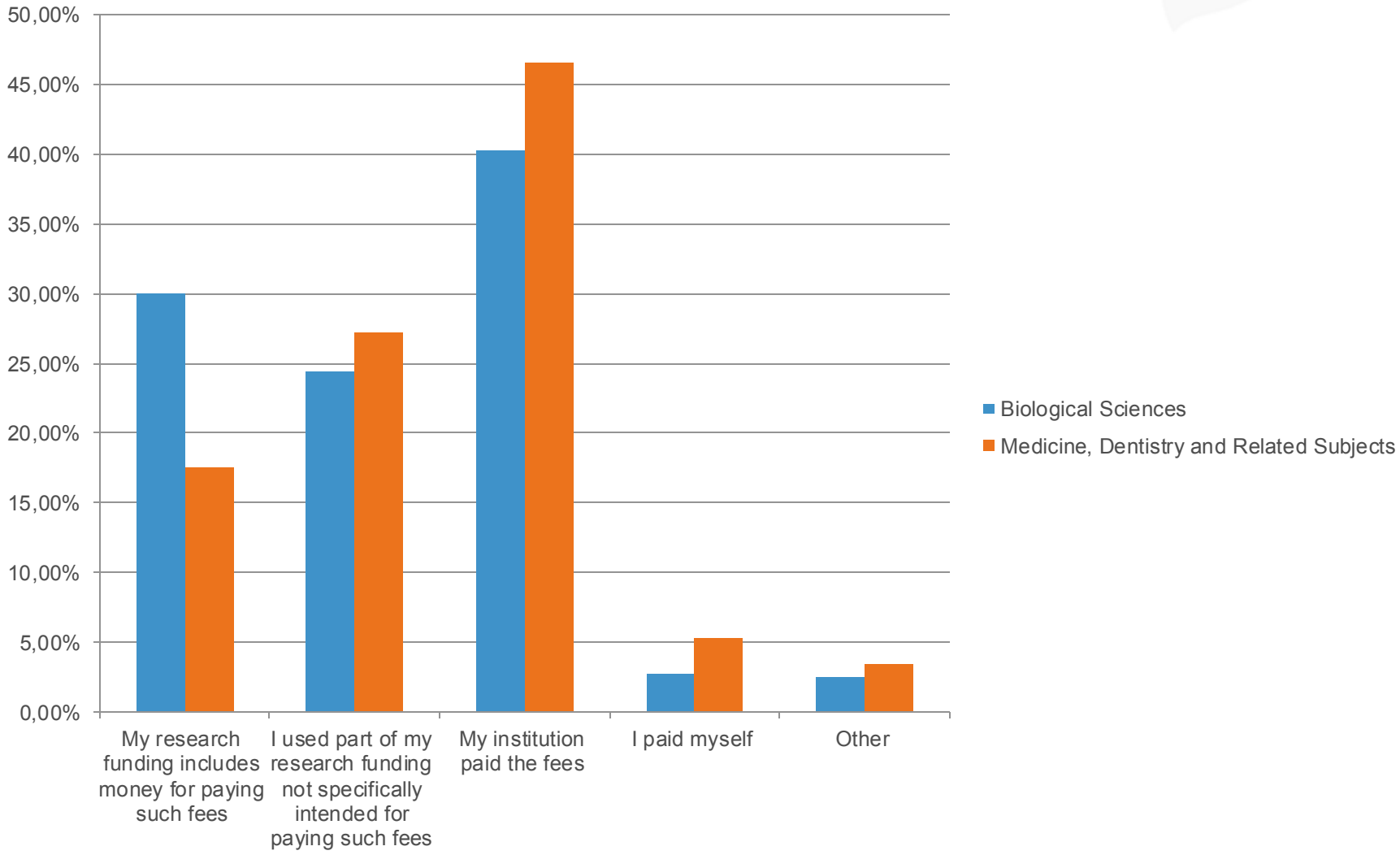


Publication fee charged

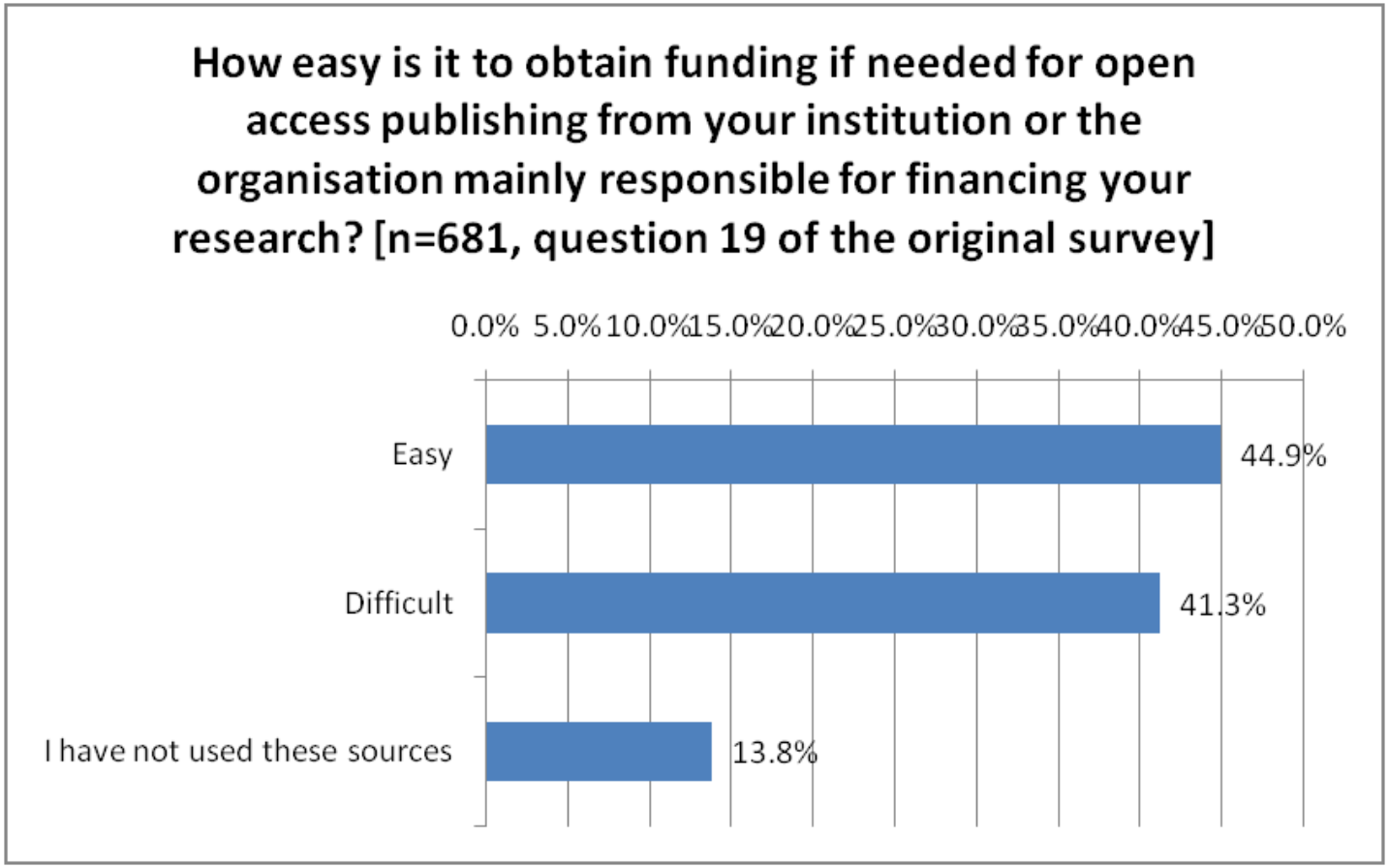
Discipline	More than €3000 ($4100)	€1001-€3000 ($1350-$4100)	€501-€1000 ($700-$1350)	€251-€500 ($350-$700)	Up to €250 ($350)	I do not know	No charge	Absolute count of answers
Biological Sciences	0.6%	21.7%	20.5%	7.3%	4.7%	24.5%	20.7%	493
Earth Sciences	0.0%	12.3%	18.9%	15.1%	6.6%	16.0%	31.1%	106
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	0.0%	6.8%	5.2%	6.8%	2.6%	8.9%	69.8%	192
Medicine, Dentistry and Related Subjects	0.0%	18.7%	21.6%	9.0%	6.5%	13.2%	31.0%	310
Physics and Related Sciences	0.0%	7.4%	12.8%	12.8%	2.0%	21.6%	43.2%	148
Social Sciences	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	0.9%	1.8%	10.6%	79.6%	113

How publication fees are covered

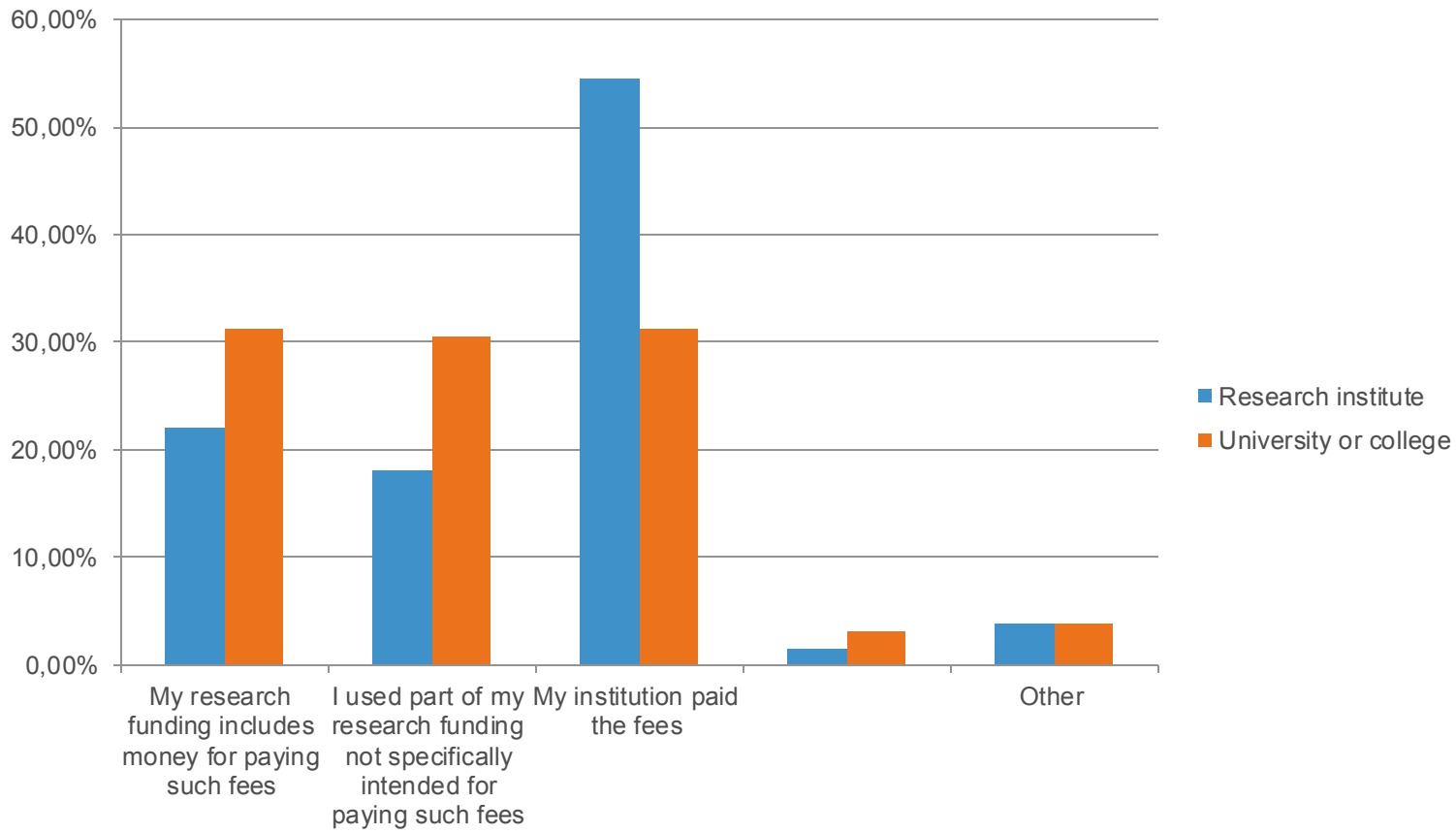



50,00%
45,00%
40,00%
35,00%
30,00%
25,00%
20,00%
15,00%
10,00%
5,00%
0,00%
My research funding includes money for paying such fees
I used part of my research funding not specifically intended for paying such fees
My institution paid the fees
I paid myself
Other
Biological Sciences
Medicine, Dentistry and Related Subjects

Ease of obtaining funding



How was the publication fee covered?



Conclusions

- Overall the results of the SOAP survey showed that generally researchers are positive about OA, with the factors that inhibit them being availability of funding and quality OA journals in their fields.
- German mirror these attitudes. Many have had experience with OA publications, though many did not have to find the fee themselves
- 42.6% (more than the global average) of OA fees were paid through institutional funds. 25-25.9% of researchers used other sources to pay for the APC.
- 44.9% found it easy to find funding, with 41.3% finding it difficult.