

The SOAP Symposium – II

What scientists think about Open Access Publishing

*Suenje Dallmeier-Tiessen, Bettina Goerner, Robert Darby, Jenni Hyppoelae,
Peter Igo-Kemenes, Deborah Kahn, Simon Lambert, Anja Lengenfelder,
Chris Leonard, Salvatore Mele, Malgorzata Nowicka, 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
Simon Lambert, STFC

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project-soap.eu



- An opportunity to conduct a comprehensive survey of scientists with respect to Open Access journal publishing
 - All academic disciplines, not only “hard” sciences
- Attitudes
- Beliefs
- Practices
 - The next session: how scientists really behave with respect to OA publishing

- 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

***15. Approximately how many *Open Access* articles have you published in the last five years?**

- 0
- 1-5
- 6-10
- More than 10
- I do not know

***16. Has there been a specific reason why you have not published an article by Open Access? If so, please give your reason(s) in the textbox provided.**

- Yes
- No

Reason(s) for not publishing by Open Access

Distribution of the survey

Mailing list	Approximate number of individuals reached
Springer authors	249,000
Sage authors	813,000
<u>BioMed Central</u> 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

- 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

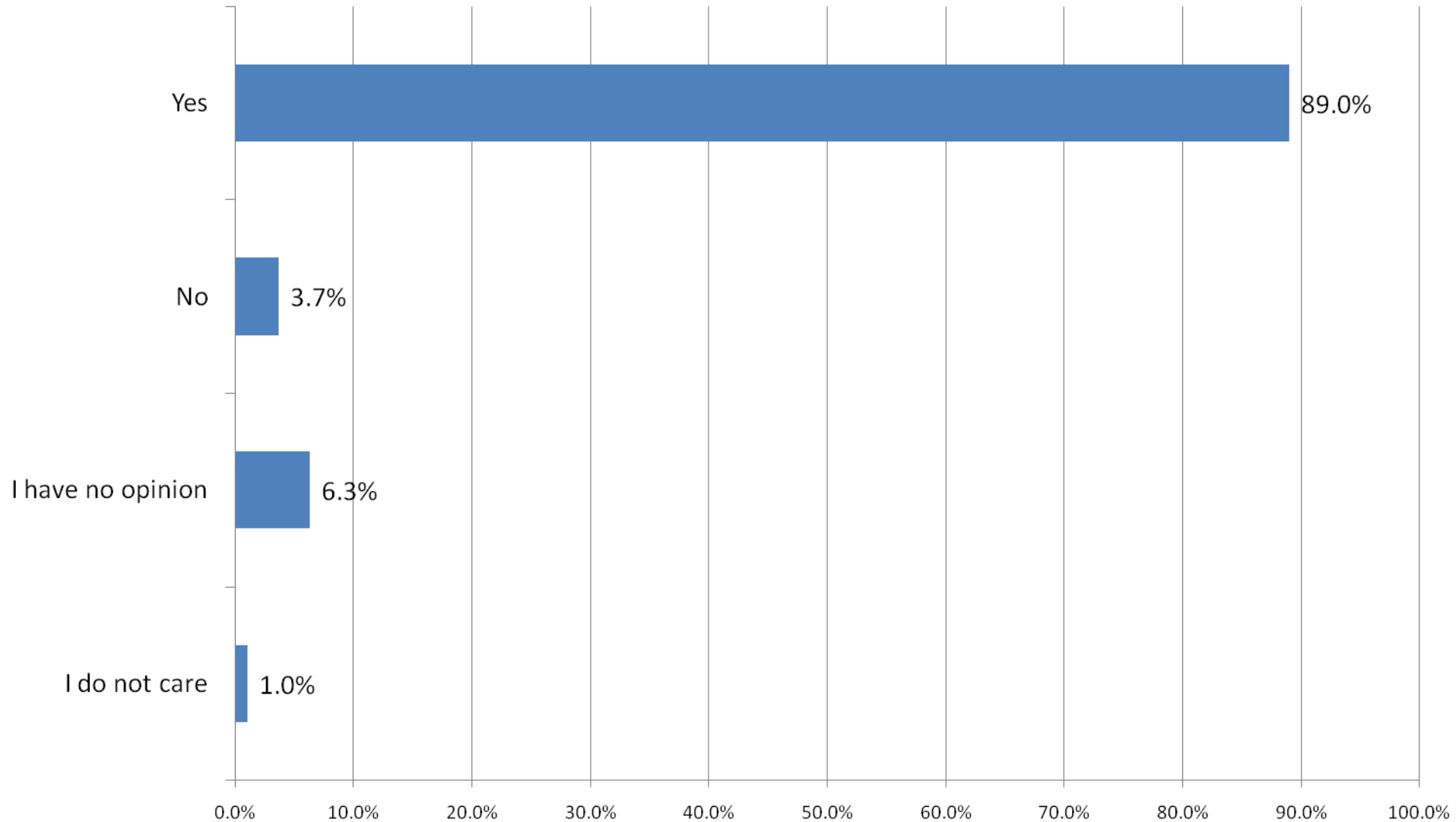


The key attitudes (1)

- Q9: Do you think your research field benefits, or would benefit from journals that publish Open Access articles?
 - Yes / No / I have no opinion / I do not care

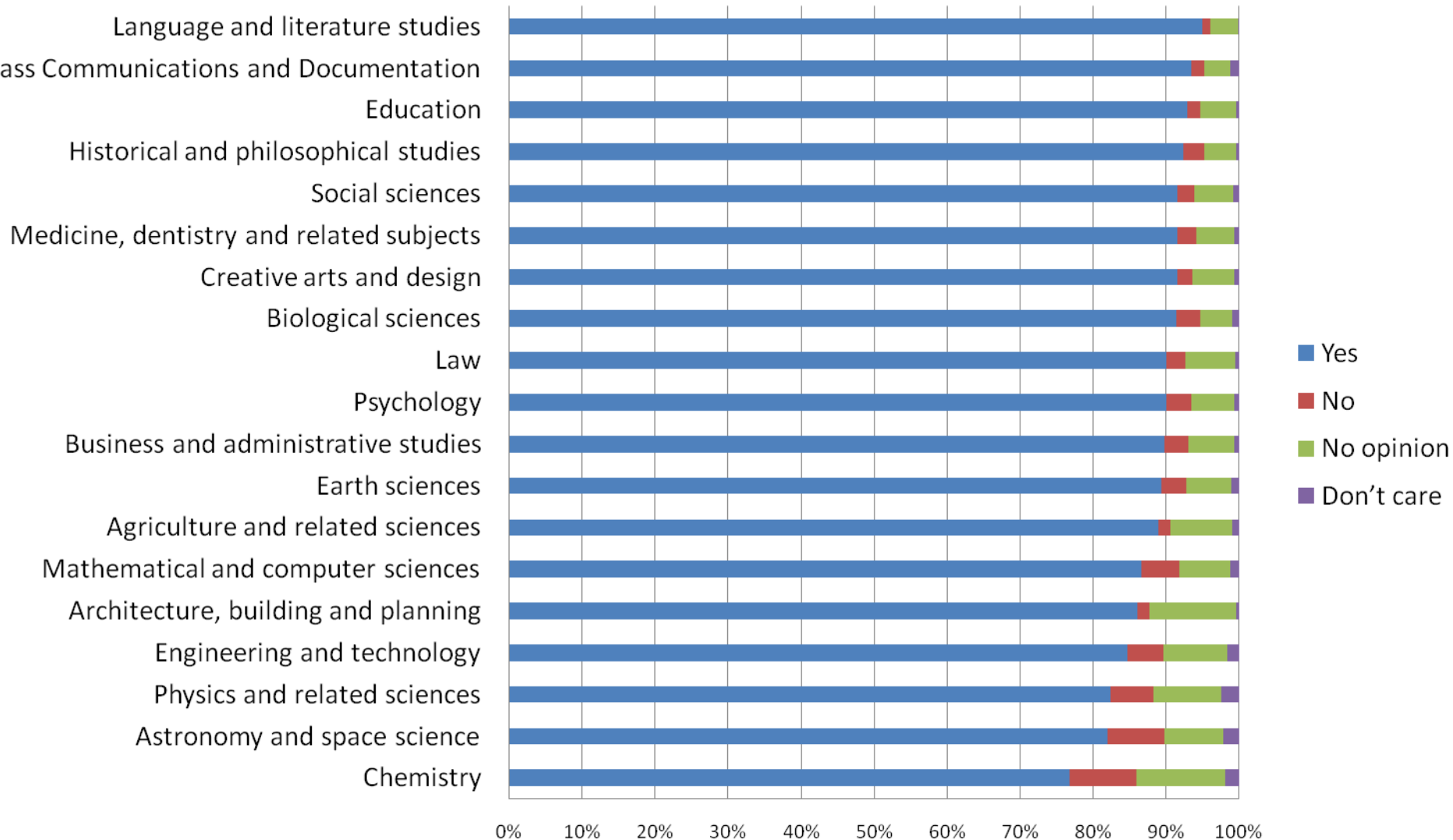
Is OA seen as beneficial?

9. Do you think your research field benefits, or would benefit from journals that publish Open Access articles? (n=38,358)



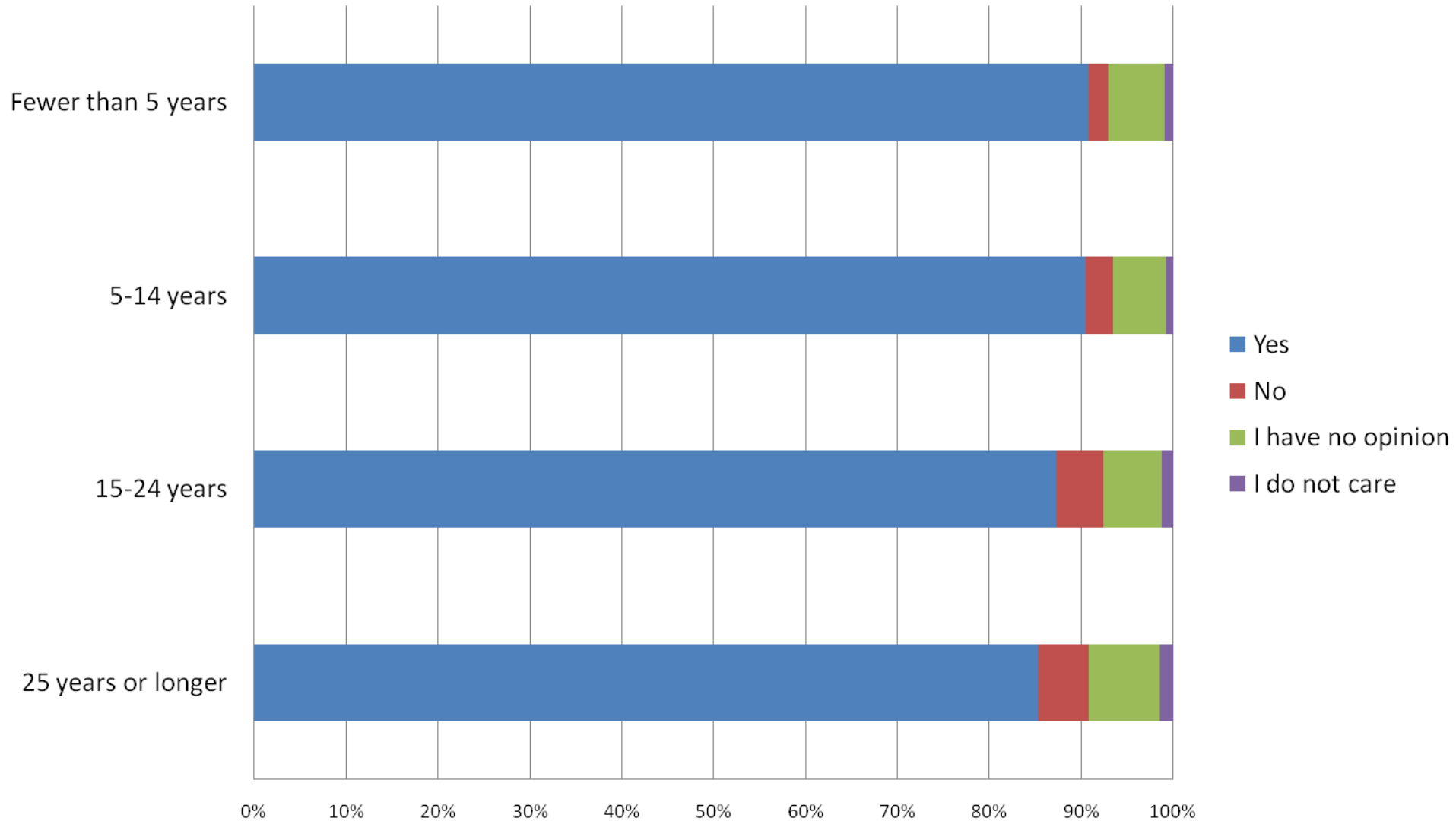
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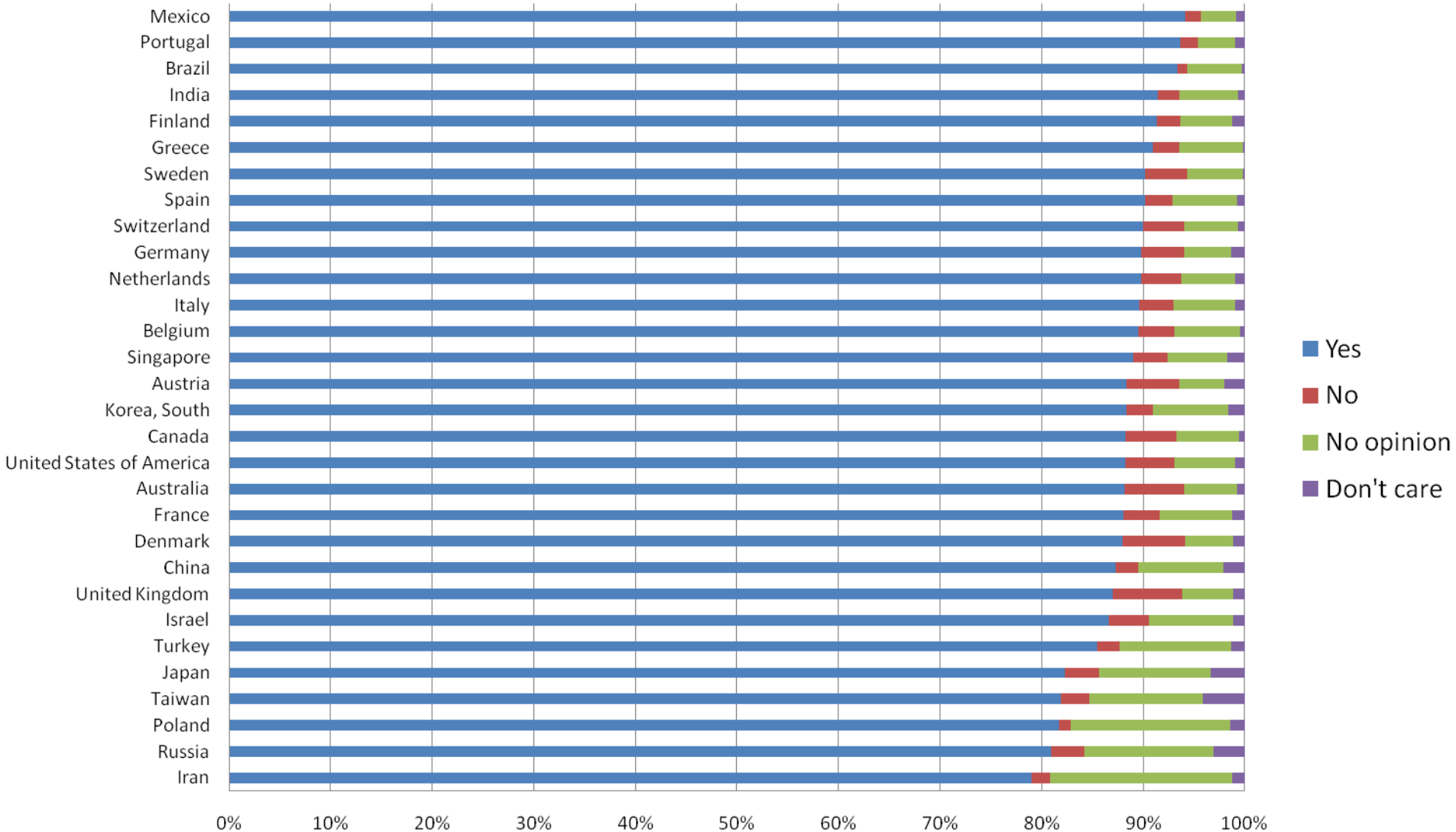
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Is OA seen as beneficial?

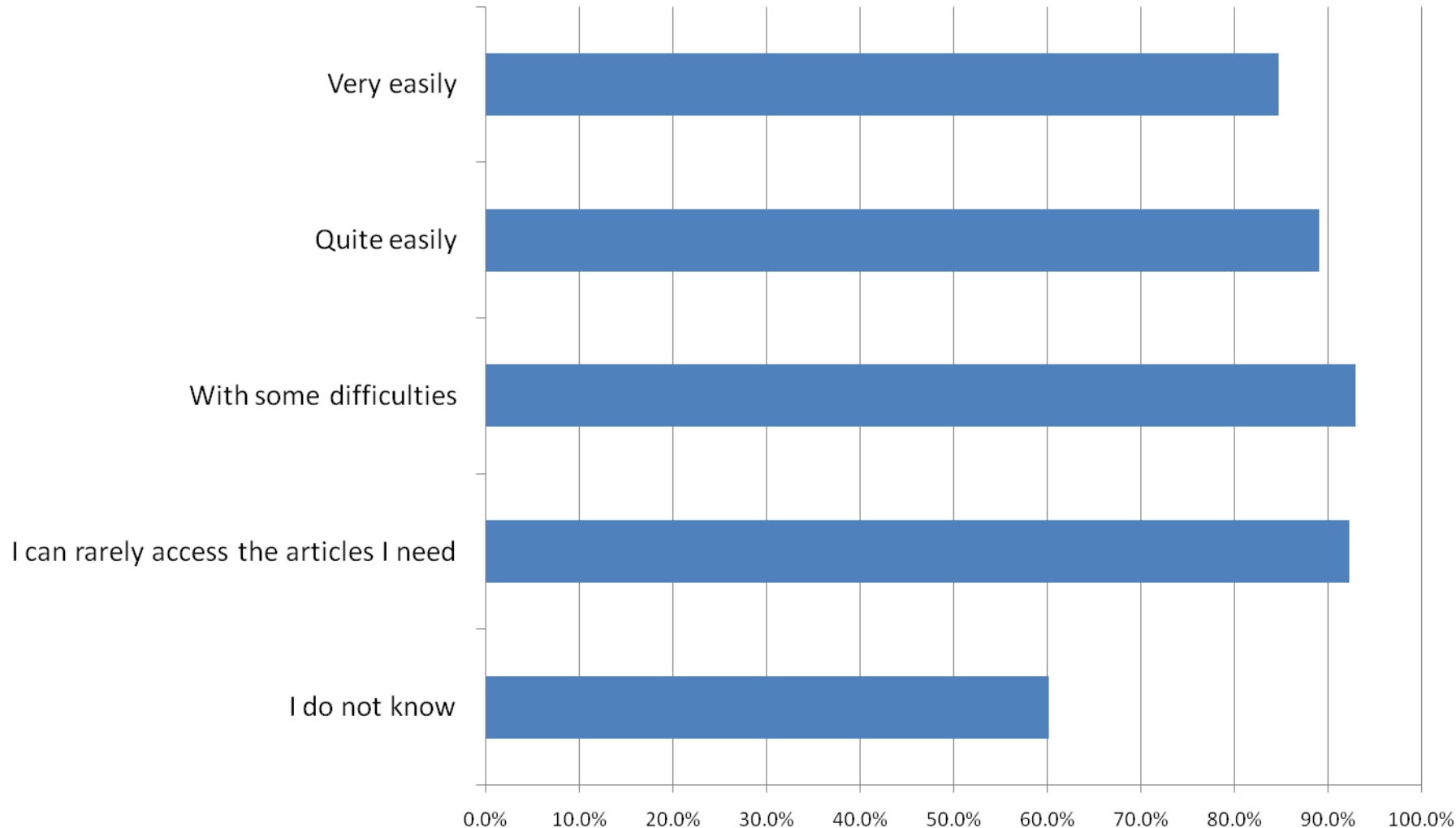
9. Do you think your research field benefits, or would benefit from journals that publish Open Access articles? Top 30 research countries (n=32,144)



Is OA seen as beneficial?

9. Do you think your research field benefits, or would benefit from journals that publish Open Access articles? Yes. By how easily respondents can access the articles they need for their research (n=38,358)

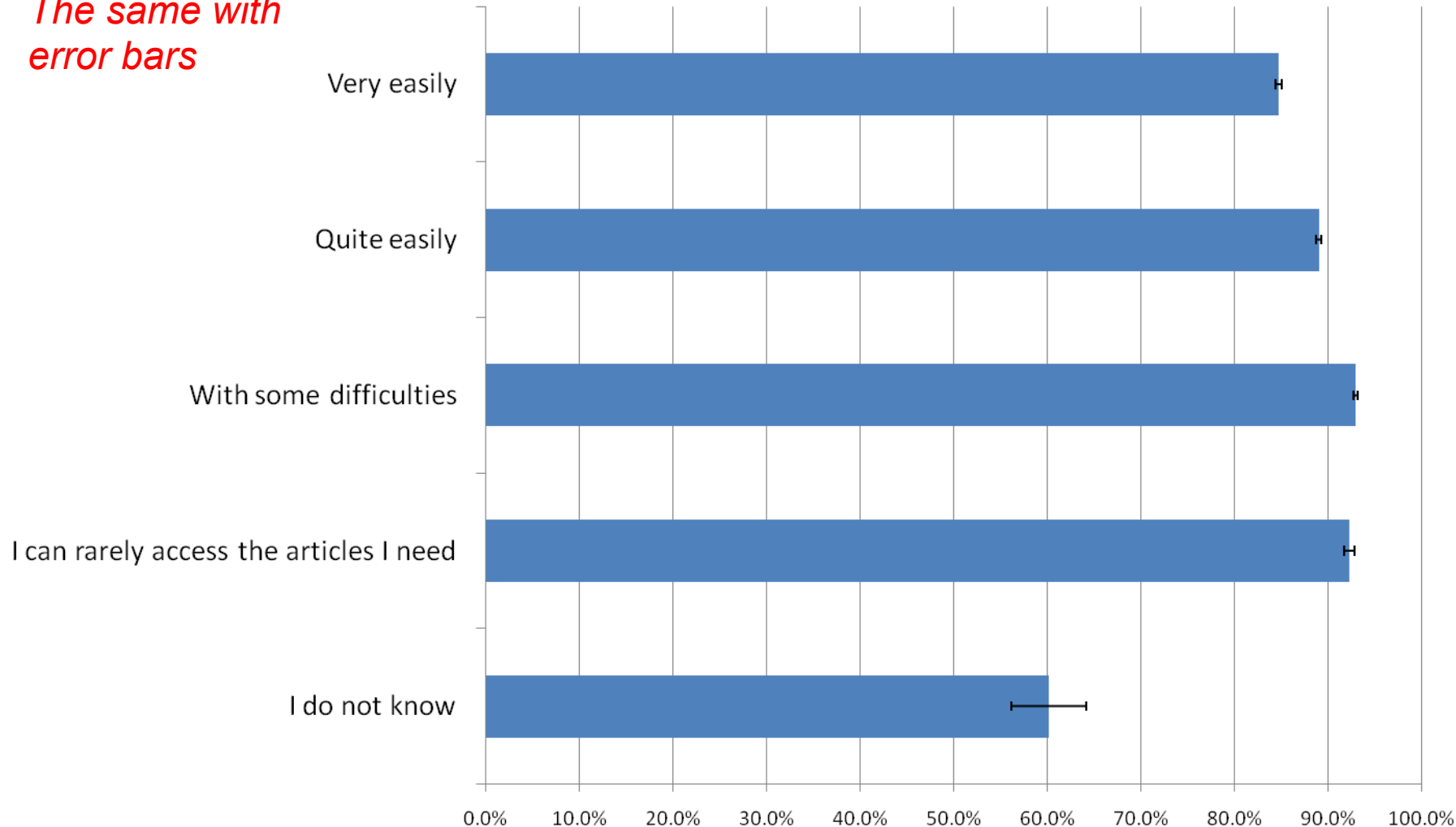
7. How easily can you gain online access to peer-reviewed journal articles of interest for your research?



Is OA seen as beneficial?

9. Do you think your research field benefits, or would benefit from journals that publish Open Access articles? Yes. By how easily respondents can access the articles they need for their research (n=38,358)

The same with error bars



Free text answers: why (not) beneficial

- All free text answers were read and tagged by the essence of their content
- 17,852 respondents!

Positive tags (22,312 tags):

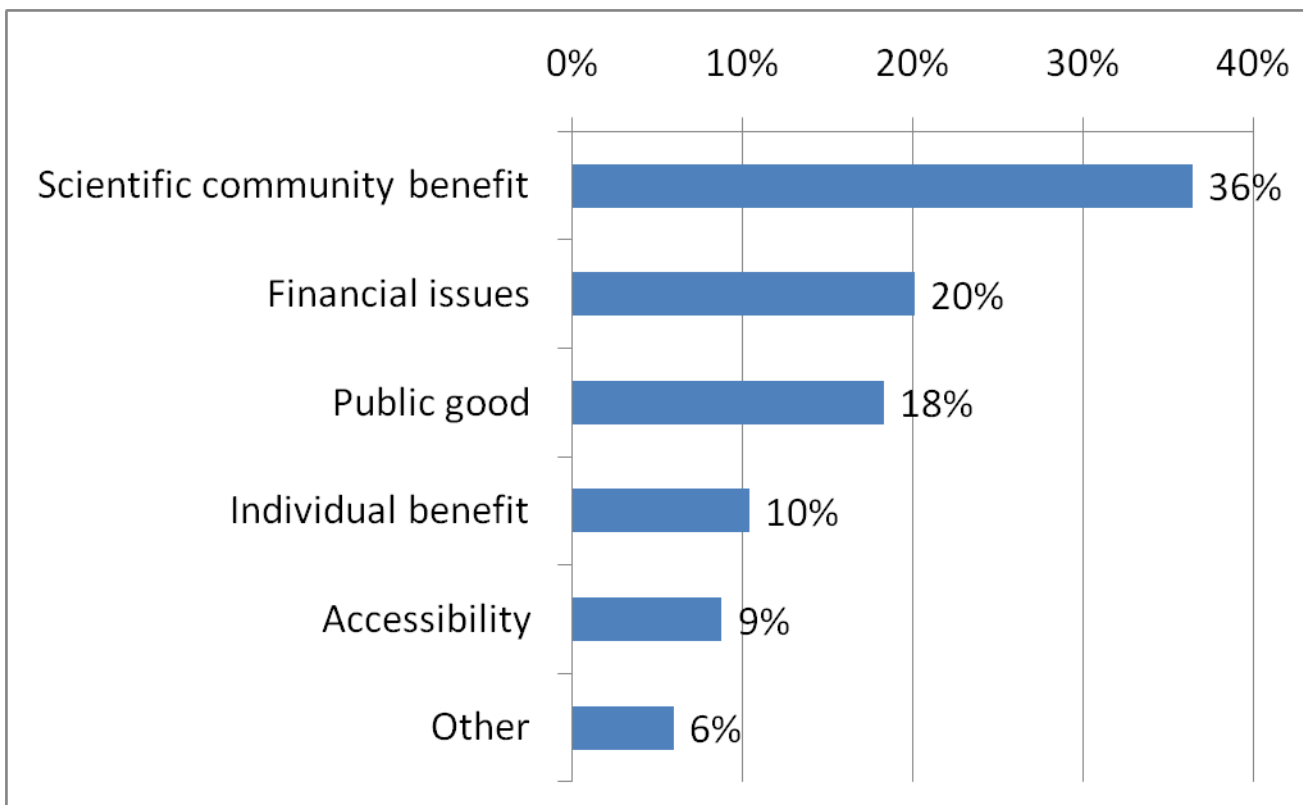
Accessibility
Financial issues
Individual benefit
Scientific community benefit
Public good
Other

Negative tags (1,825 tags):

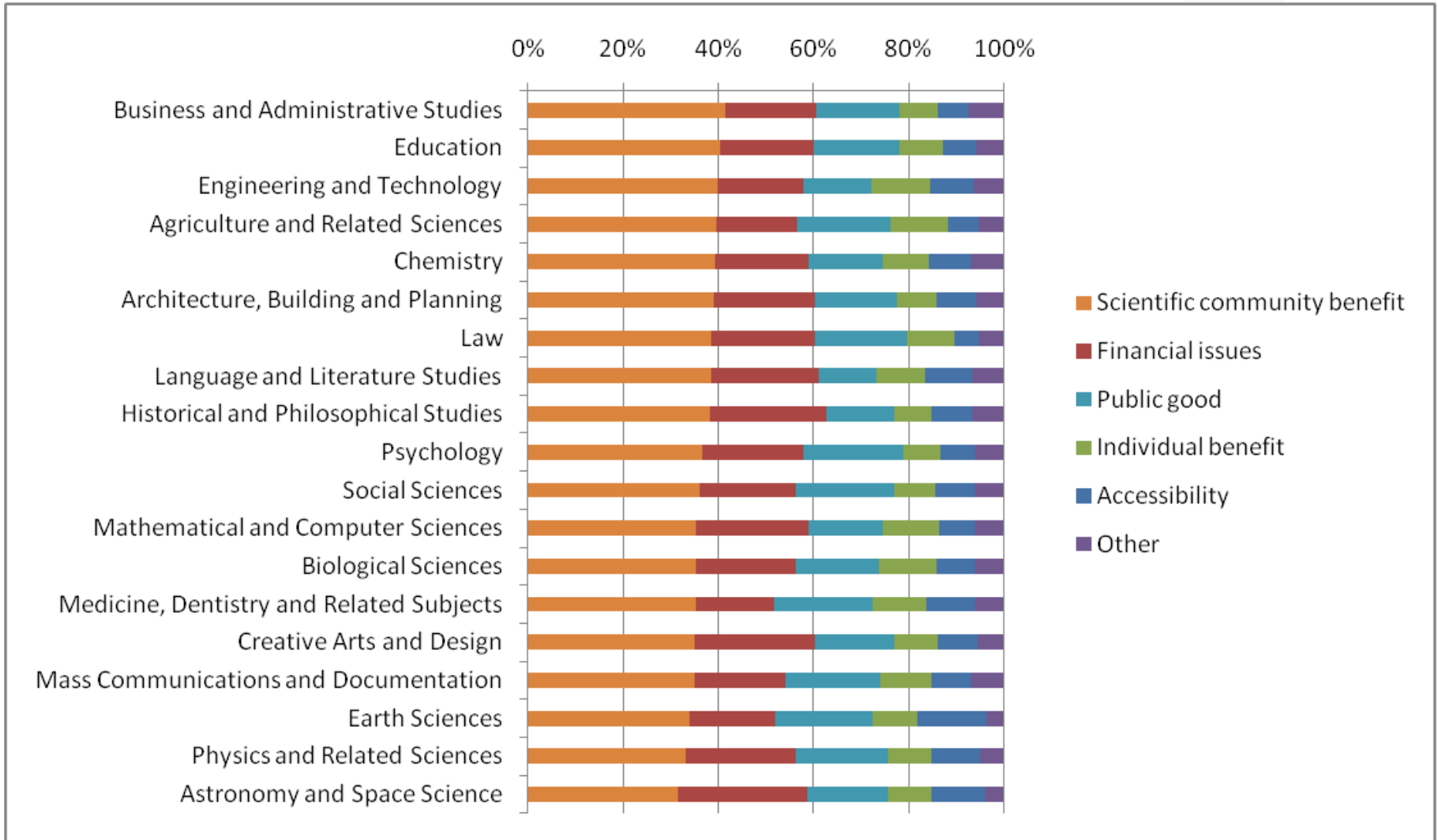
Green OA enough
Fairness/vanity press
Low quality
No or bad peer review
Not needed
Presence or amount of fees
Profit-driven
Unsustainable
Other

Why is OA beneficial?

16,734 respondents

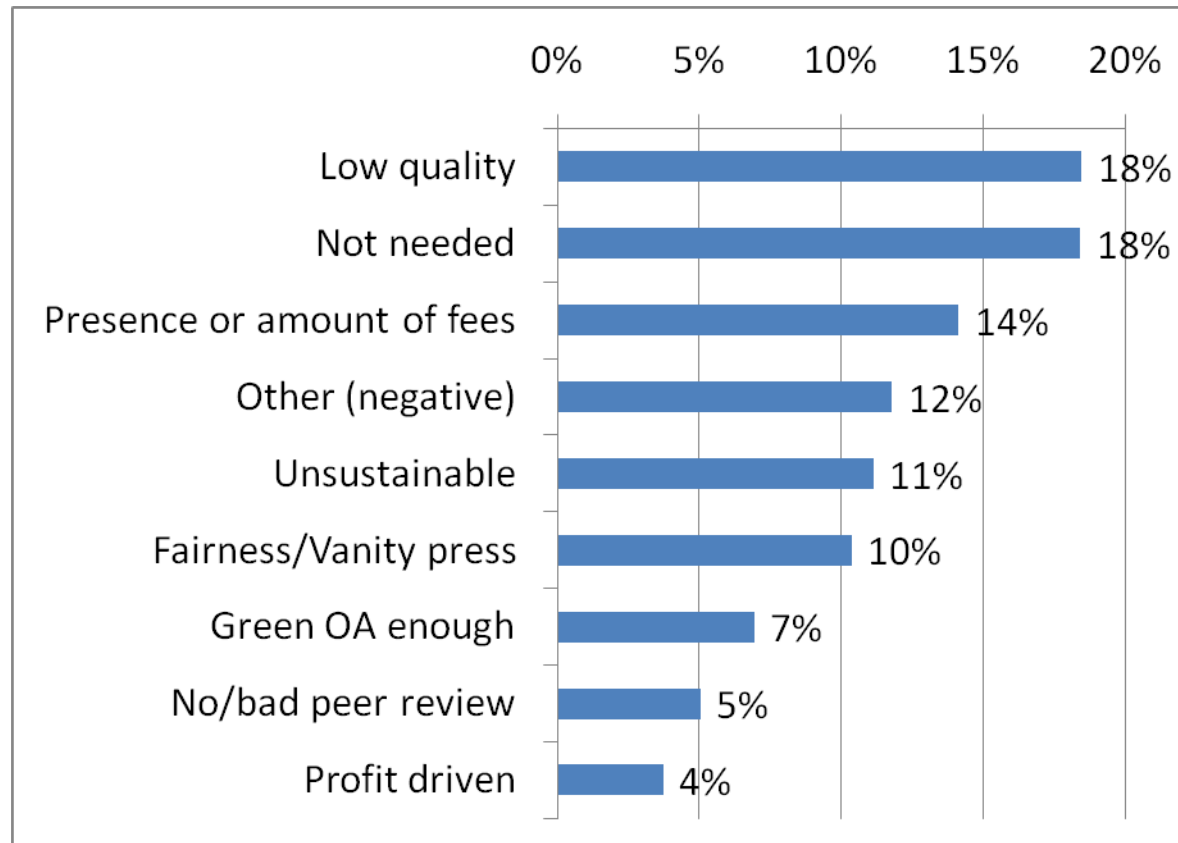


Why is OA beneficial?



Why is OA not beneficial?

1,118 respondents



The key attitudes (2)

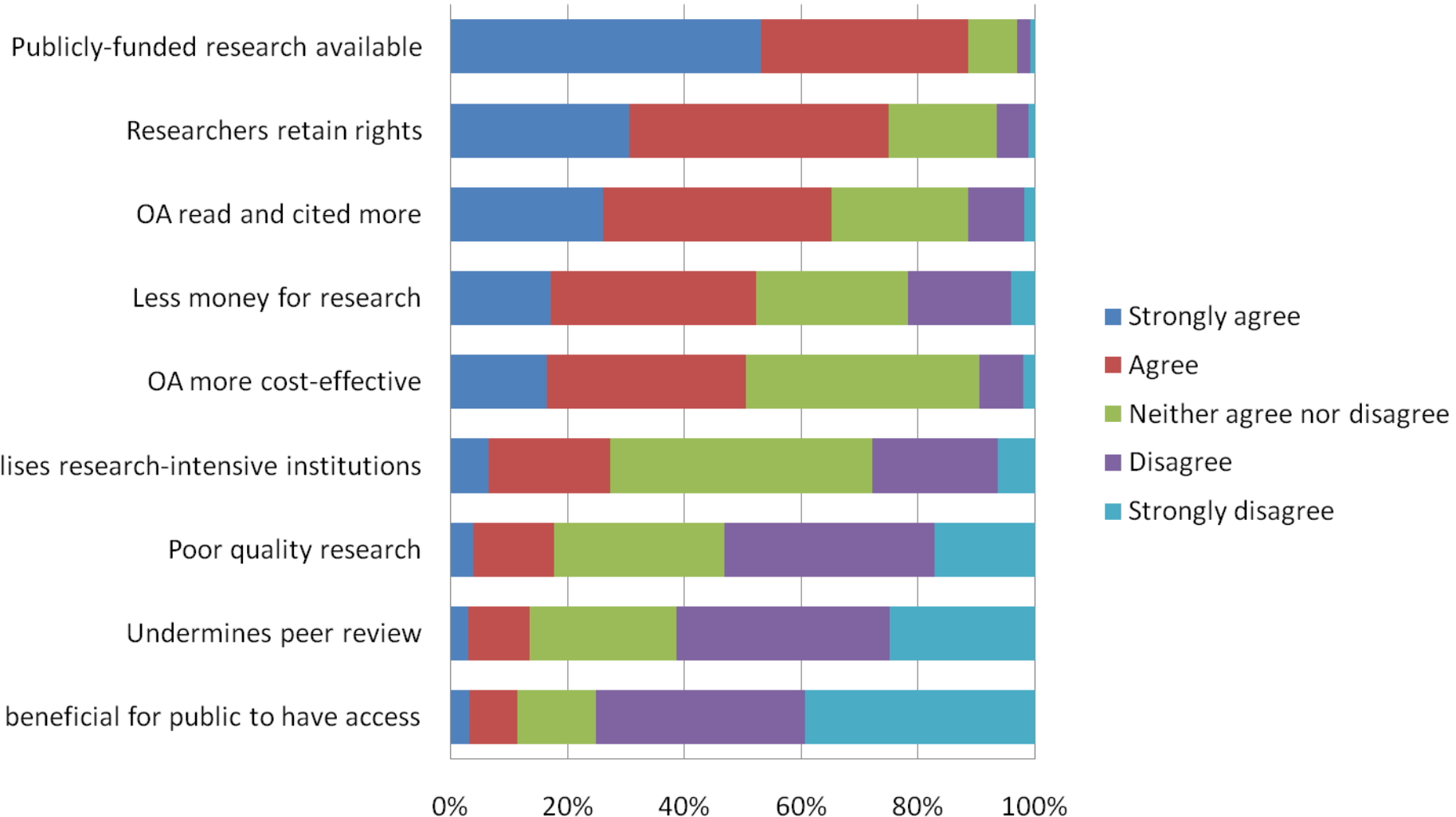
- Q23: Listed below are a series of statements, both positive and negative, concerning Open Access publishing. Please indicate how strongly you agree/disagree with each statement.
 - Researchers should retain **the rights to their published work** and allow it to be used by others
 - Open Access publishing undermines the system of **peer review**
 - Open Access publishing leads to an increase in the publication of **poor quality research**
 - If authors pay publication fees to make their articles Open Access, there will be **less money available for research**
 - It is **not beneficial for the general public** to have access to published scientific and medical articles

The key attitudes (2)

- Q23: Listed below are a series of statements, both positive and negative, concerning Open Access publishing. Please indicate how strongly you agree/disagree with each statement.
 - Open Access **unfairly penalises research-intensive institutions** with large publication output by making them pay high costs for publication
 - **Publicly-funded research** should be made available to be read and used without access barrier
 - Open Access publishing is **more cost-effective** than subscription-based publishing and so will benefit public investment in research
 - Articles that are available by Open Access are **likely to be read and cited more often** than those not Open Access

What is believed about OA publishing?

23. Listed below are a series of statements, both positive and negative, concerning Open Access publishing. Please indicate how strongly you agree/disagree with each statement (n=36,507)



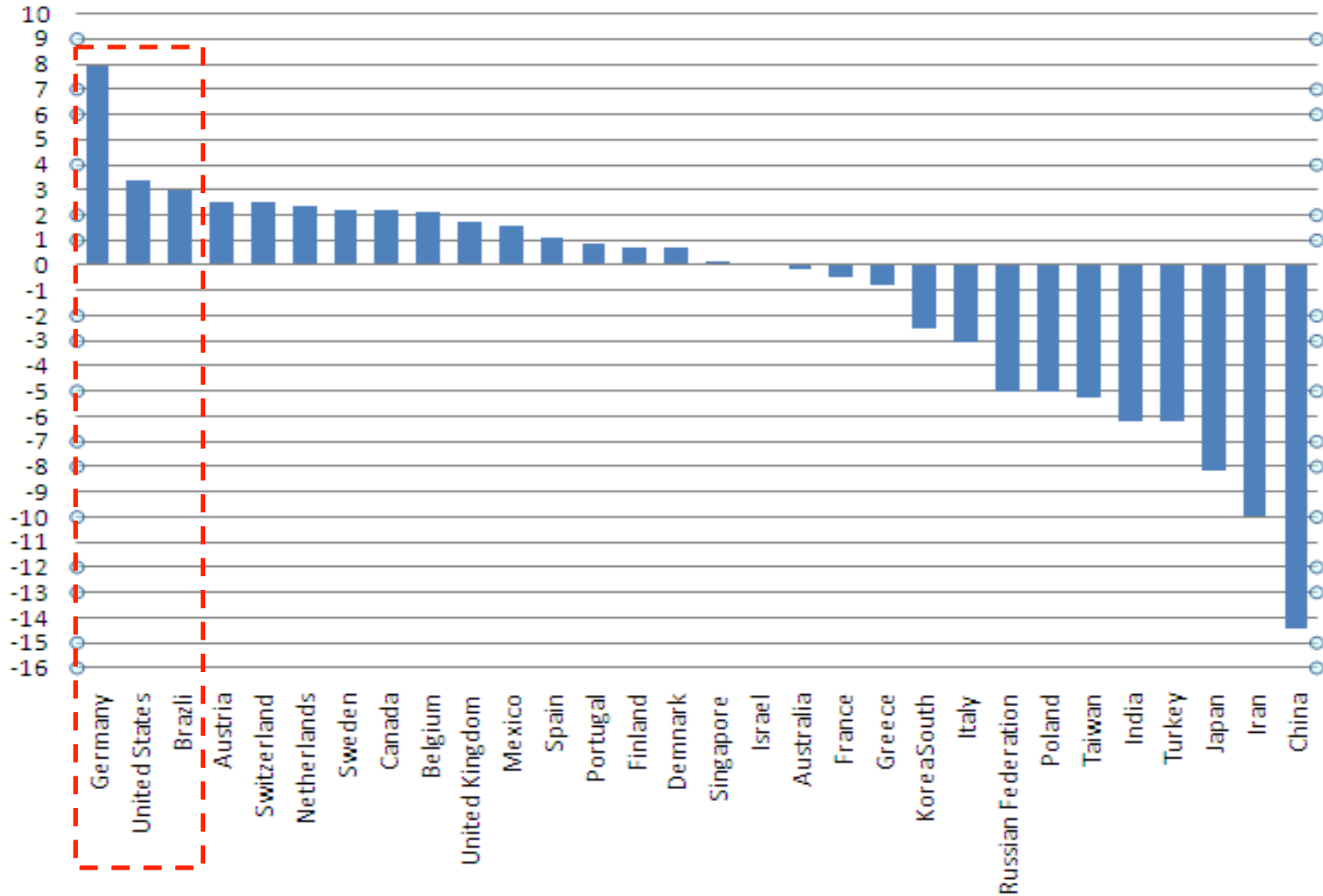
What is believed about OA publishing?

- Degrees of agreement can be expressed on ordinal scale ...
- ... which enables identification of groups (clusters) of respondents with similar beliefs.

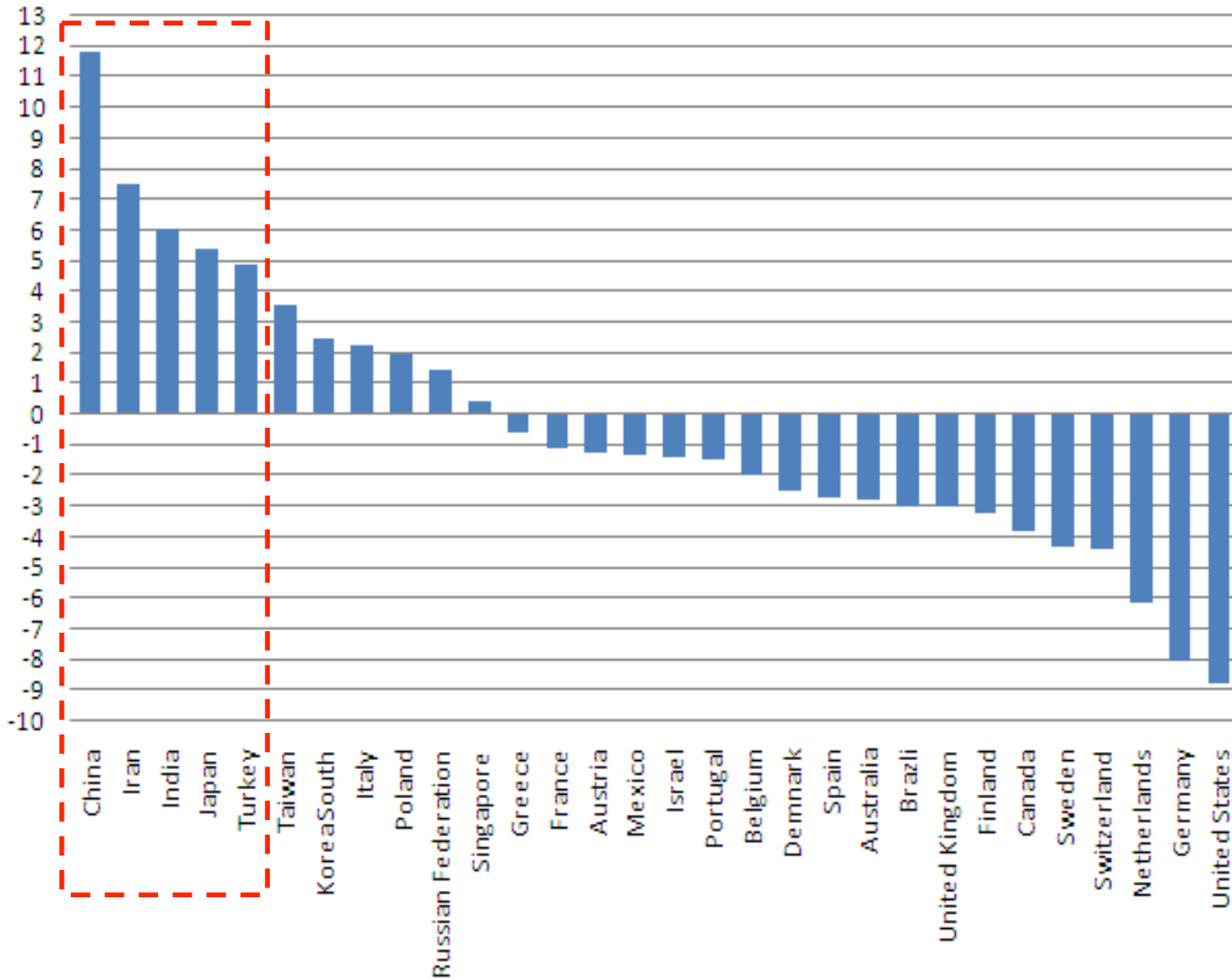
What is believed about OA publishing?

	Cluster 1	Cluster 6
<i>Those who agree or strongly agree with the following statement:</i>		
Q23-a: ... Researchers should retain the rights to their published work and allow it to be used by others	78%	75%
Q23-b: ... Open Access unfairly penalises research-intensive institutions with large publication output by making them pay high costs for publication	27%	97%
Q23-c: ... Publicly-funded research should be made available to be read and used without access barrier	97%	73%
Q23-d: ... It is not beneficial for the general public to have access to published scientific and medical articles	3%	86%
Q23-e: ... Articles that are available by Open Access are likely to be read and cited more often than those not Open Access	77%	55%
Q23-f: ... Open Access publishing undermines the system of peer review	8%	96%
Q23-g: ... Open Access publishing leads to an increase in the publication of poor quality research	18%	98%

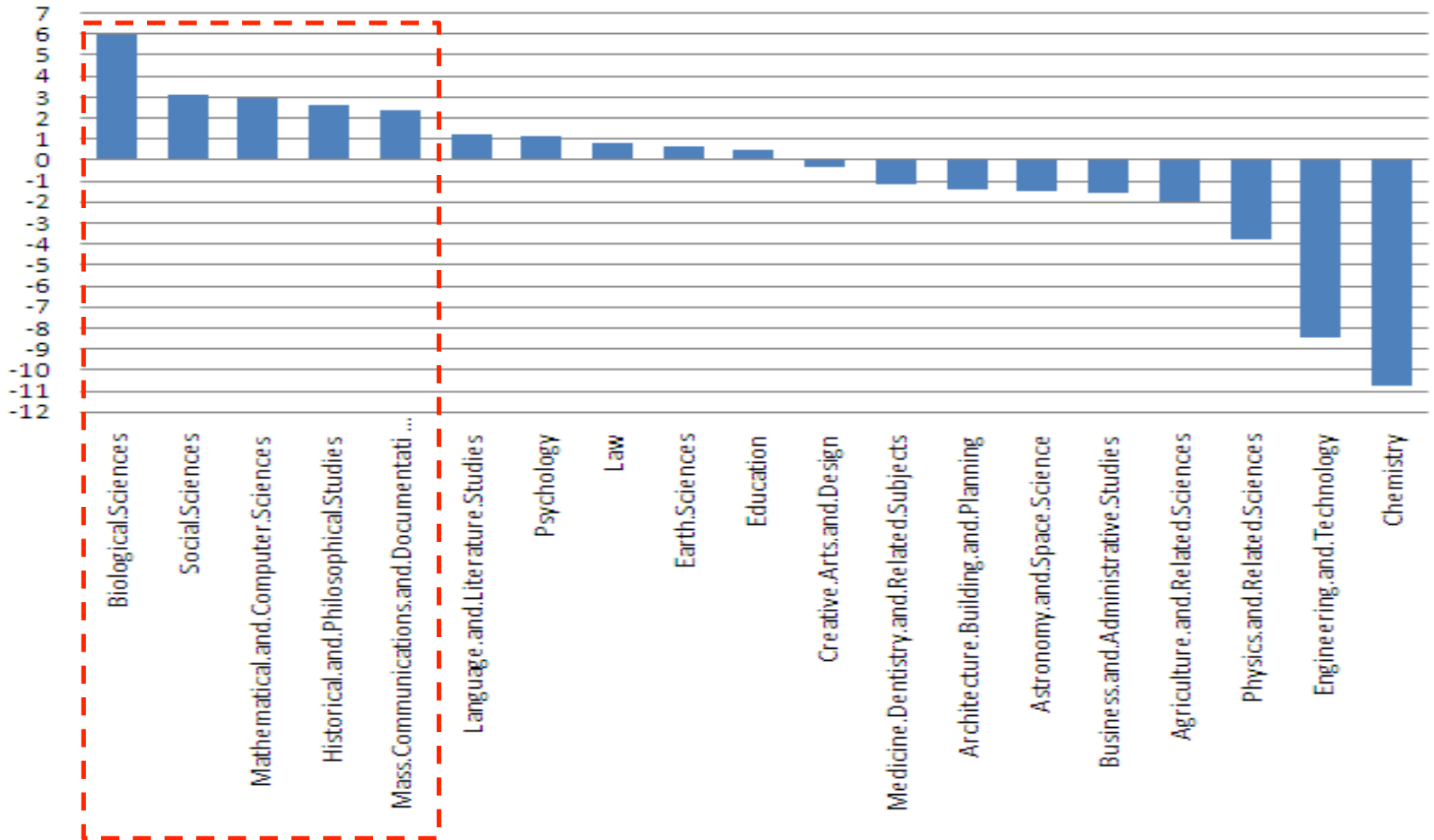
Clustering of beliefs: the OA-positive cluster



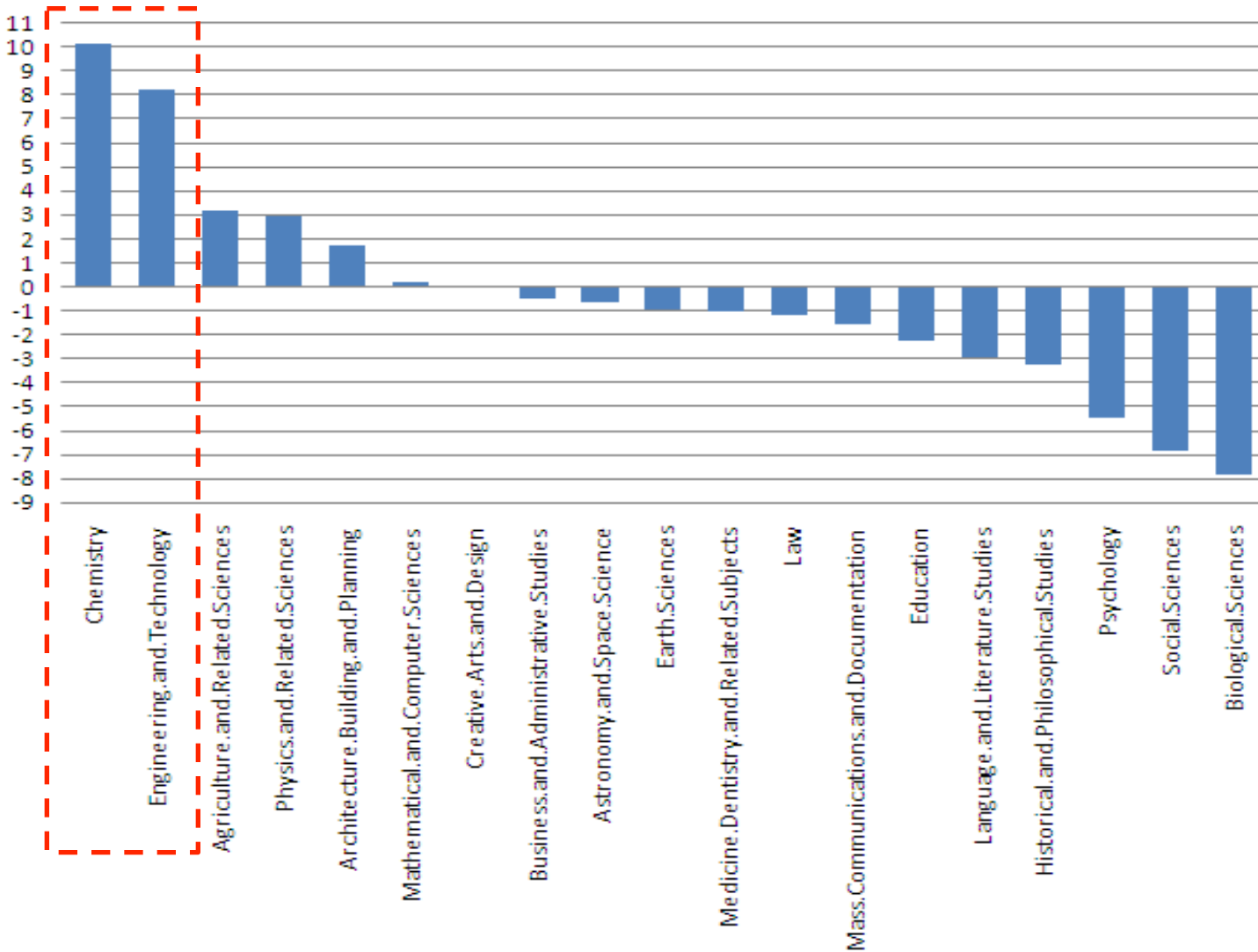
Clustering of beliefs: the OA-sceptical cluster



Clustering of beliefs: the OA-positive cluster



Clustering of beliefs: the OA-sceptical cluster



- The SOAP survey is considerably more comprehensive than any comparable survey.
- It sheds light on subject areas and countries that have hitherto received little attention.
- The data will be made public ... the questions are waiting to answered!

Thank you!

Project team: info@project-soap.eu

Presenter: simon.lambert@stfc.ac.uk

Project co-ordinator: Salvatore.Mele@cern.ch

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

project-soap.eu