

# First results of the SOAP Project

## Open Access facts:

### What publishers offer, What researchers want

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BMC, CERN, MPDL, SAGE, Springer and STFC

Presented by  
Wim van der Stelt (Springer)

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project-soap.eu



- About the project
- Highlights: Gold OA journals today
- Results from the large-scale survey of researchers

- 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 gold OA publishing
- Publishers, Libraries, Funding Agencies



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



Science & Technology  
Facilities Council



**BioMed** Central  
The Open Access Publisher



Springer

science+business media

- 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% !

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 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,809</b>		<b>2,838</b>		<b>116,883</b>	

- 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

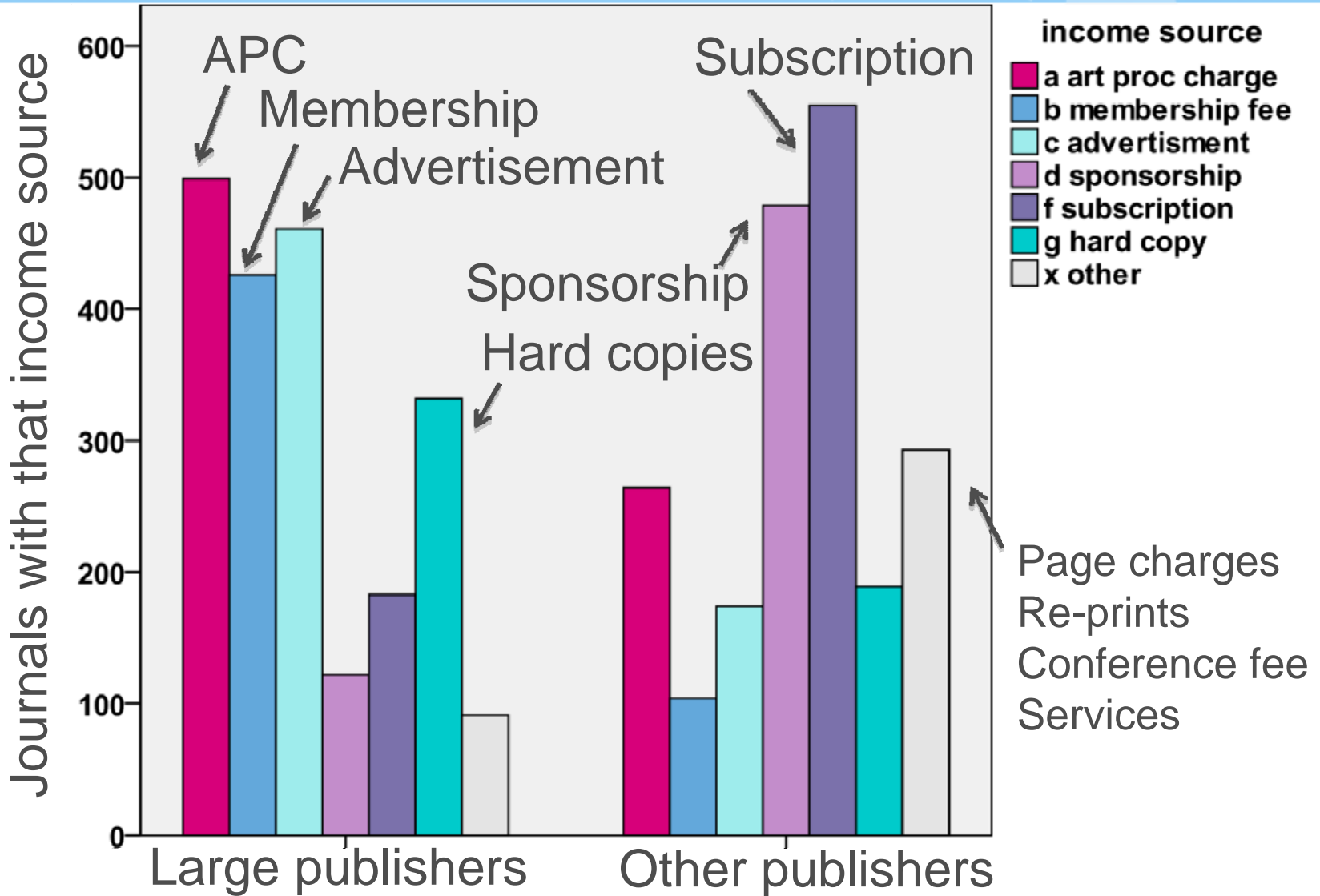
# About what?

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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,809</b>		<b>2,838</b>		<b>116,883</b>	

- 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

# Presence of income sources

NB – No information on income amount



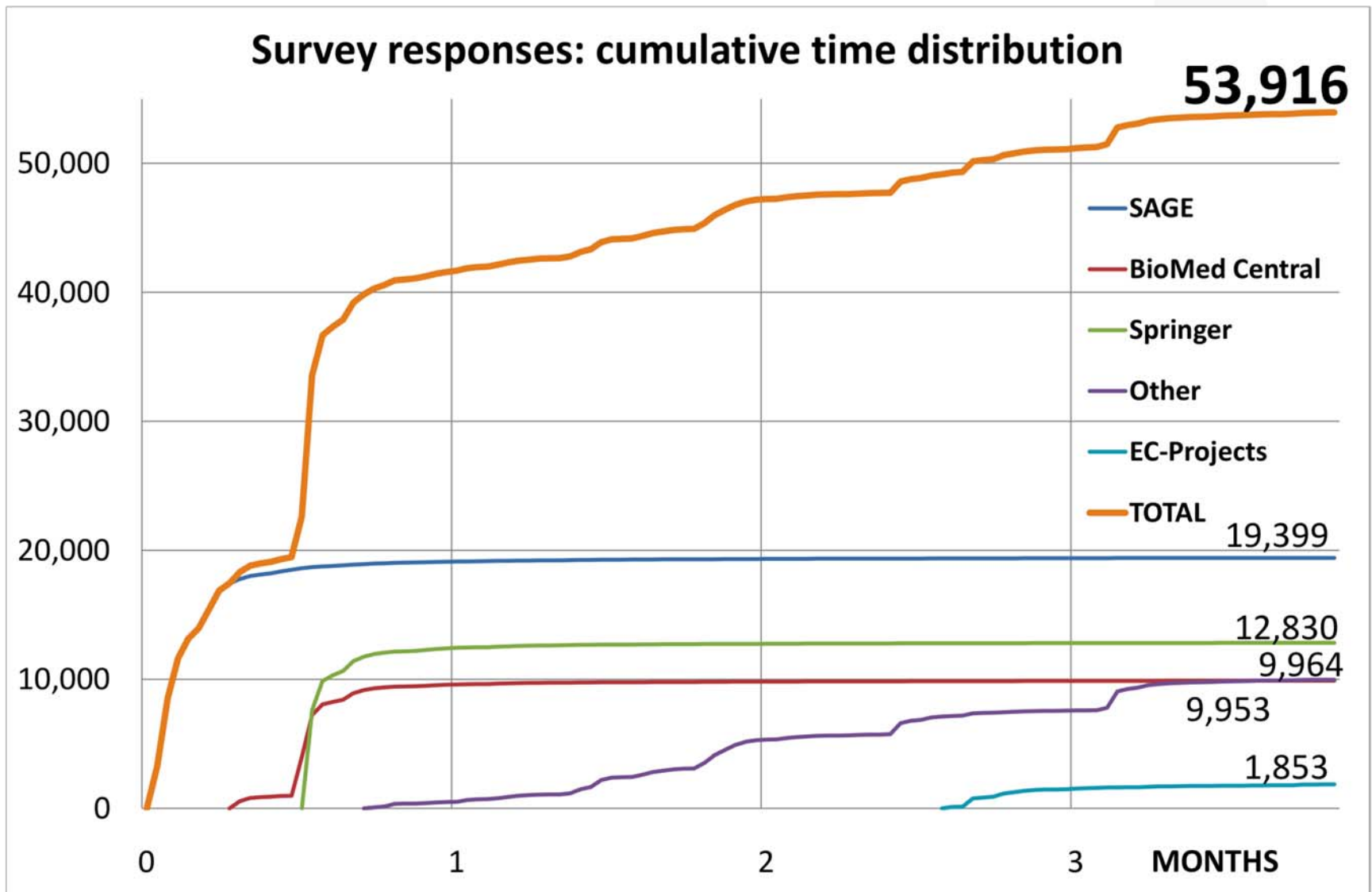


- About the project
- Highlights from a study of OA journals today
- **Results from the large-scale survey**

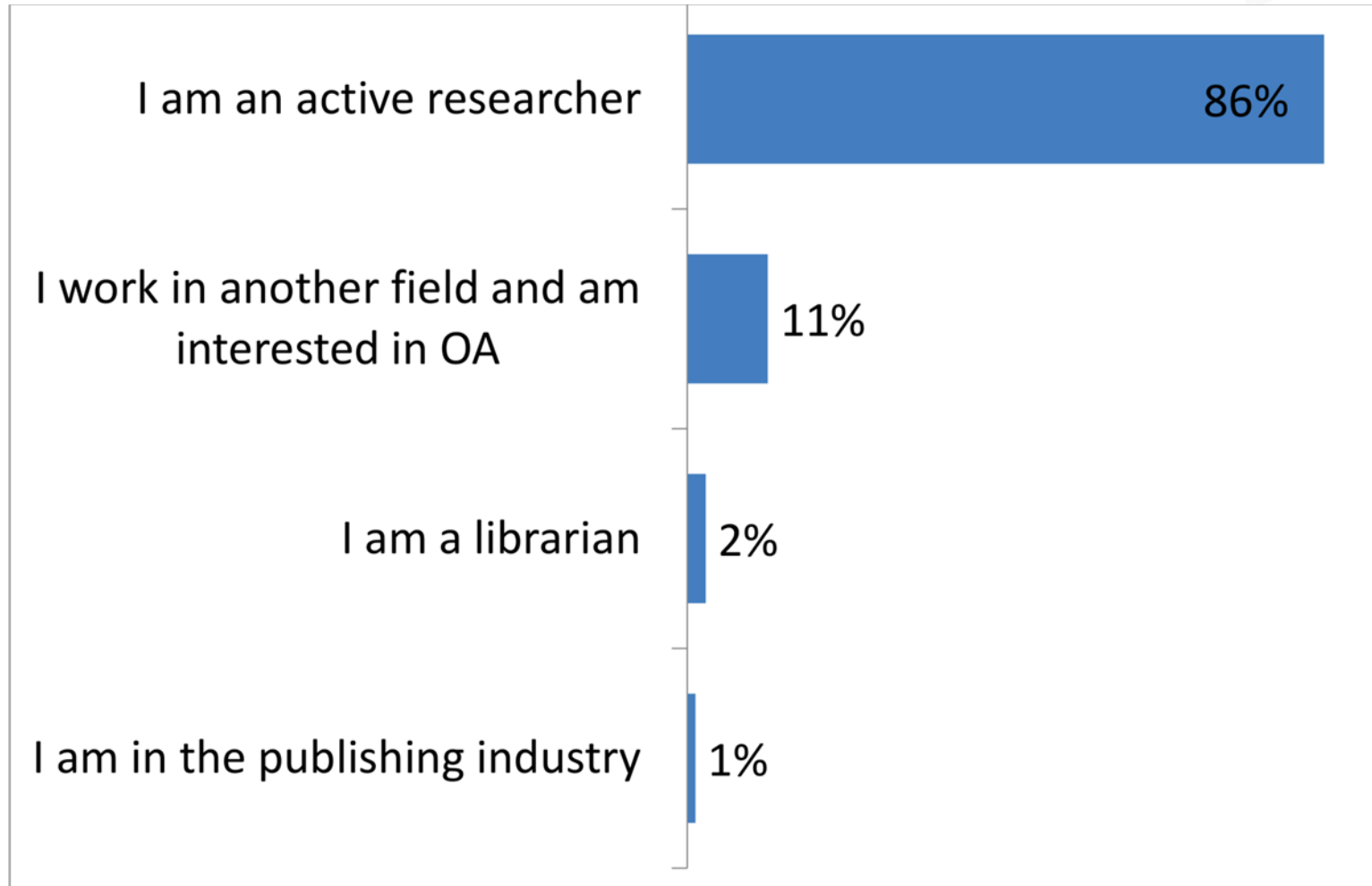
# The SOAP survey

- 23 Questions
- Available at [http://surveymonkey.com/soap\\_survey\\_g](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

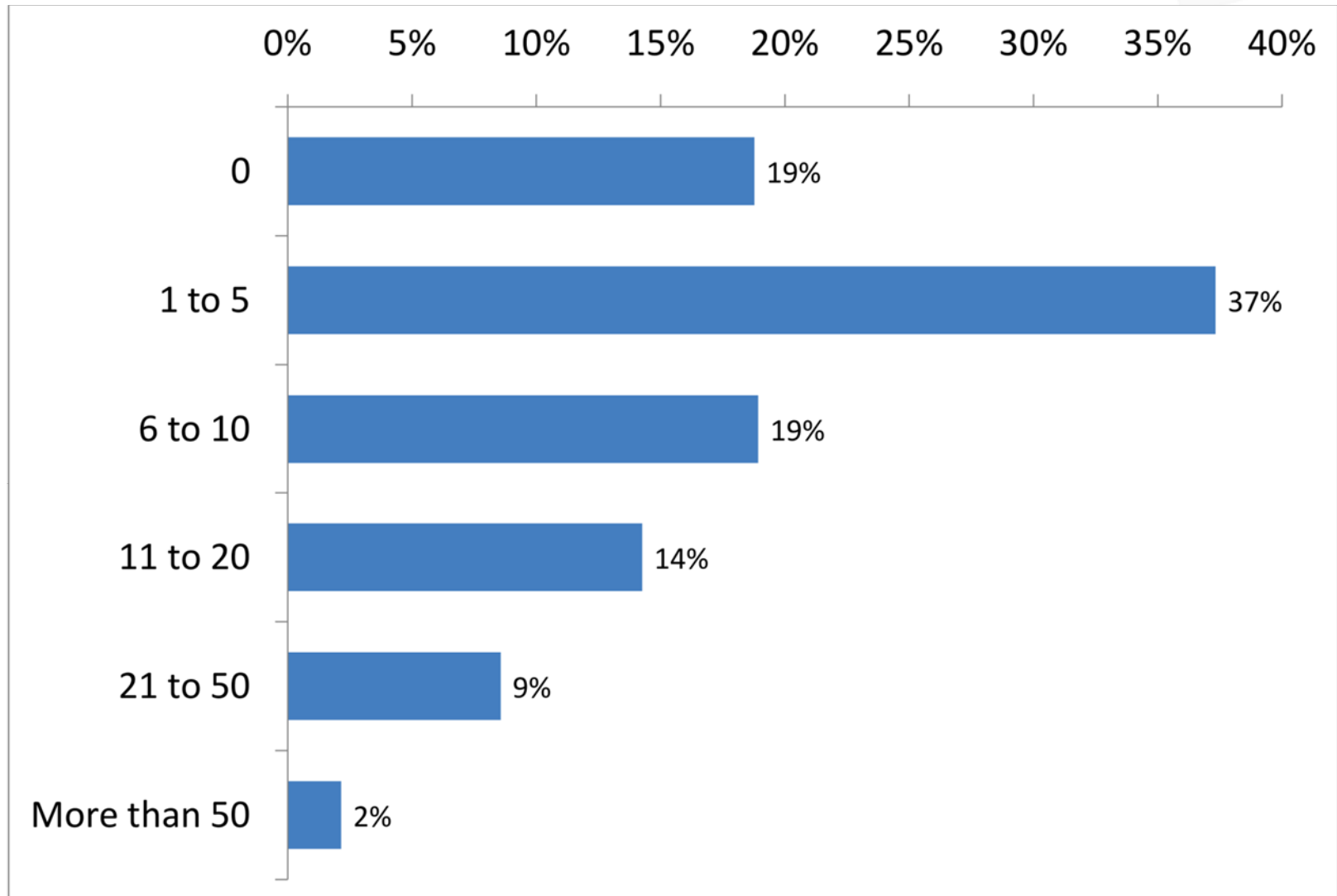
# The SOAP survey



# Are you involved in research?



# How many articles have you published ?

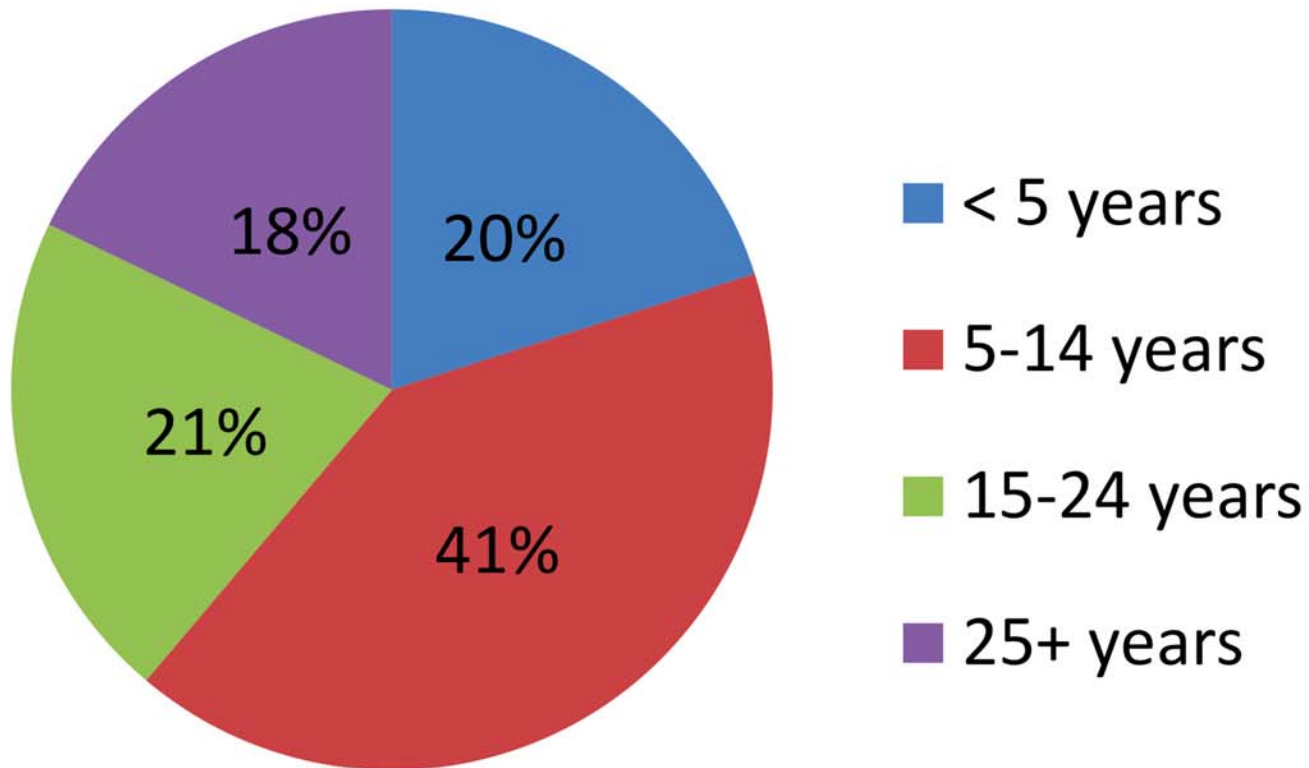




# Preliminary results

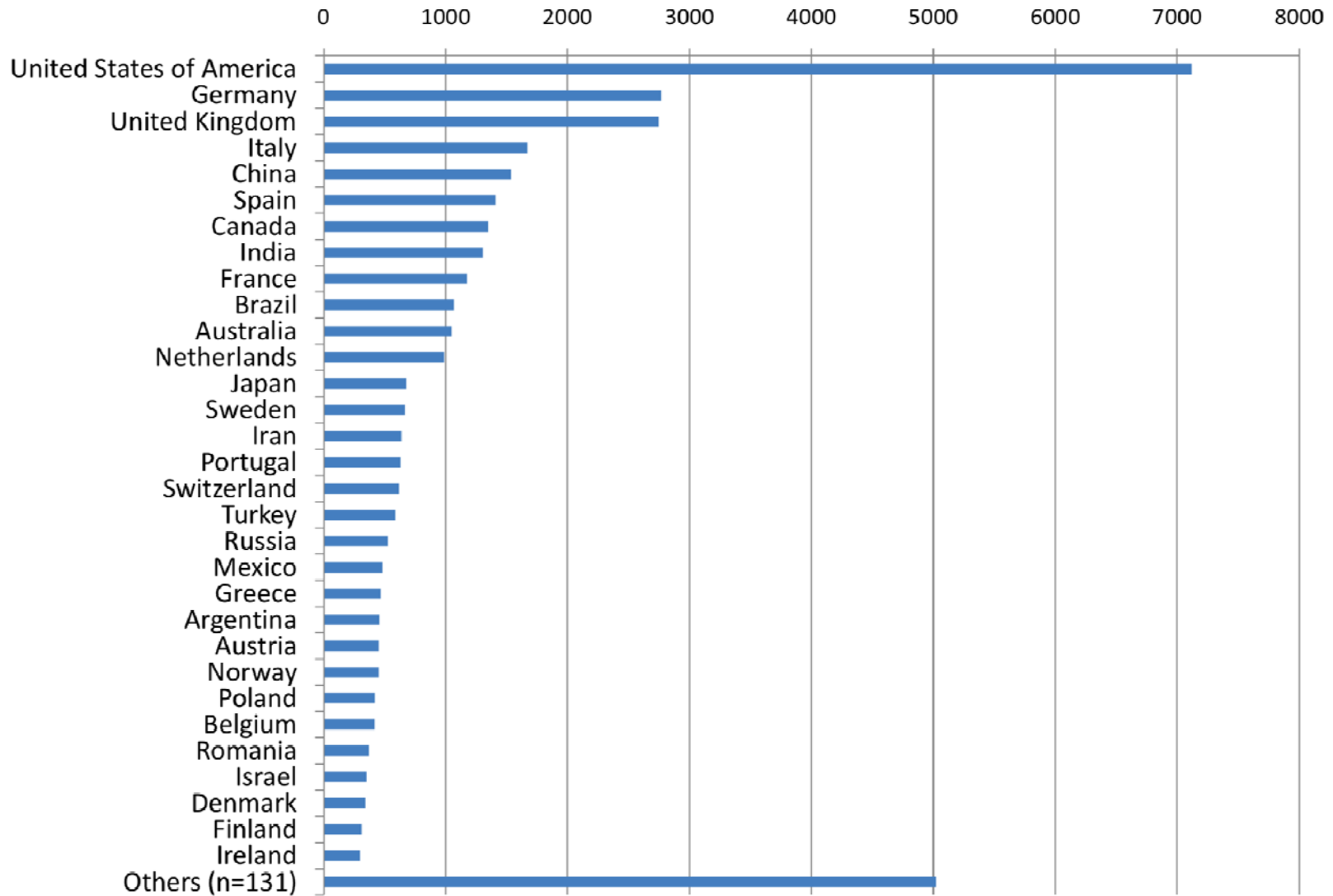
- Demographics
- Opinions about OA
- Behavior
- Who pays? How easy?

## Years employed in research

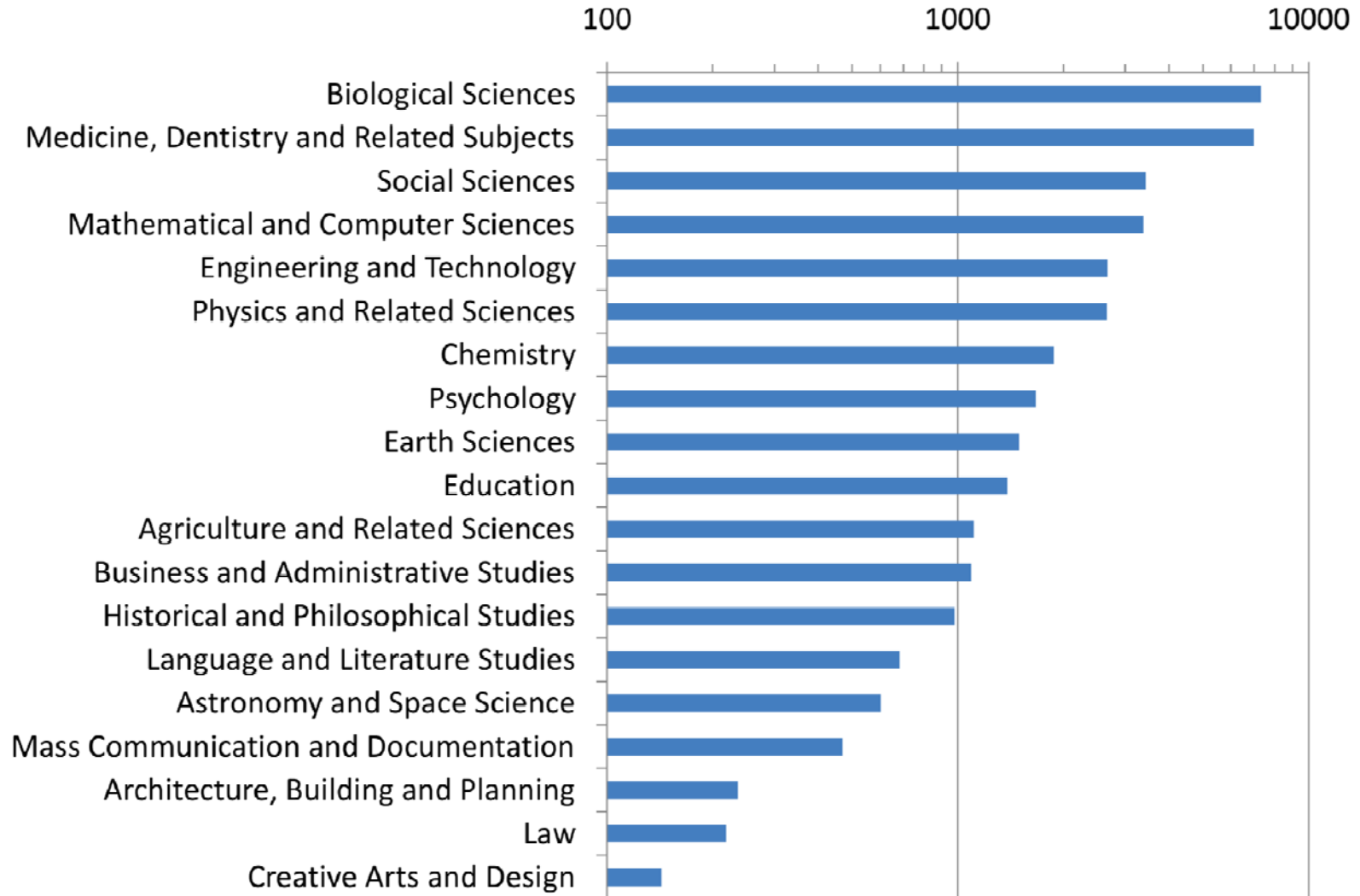




# Distribution by country



# Distribution by disciplines

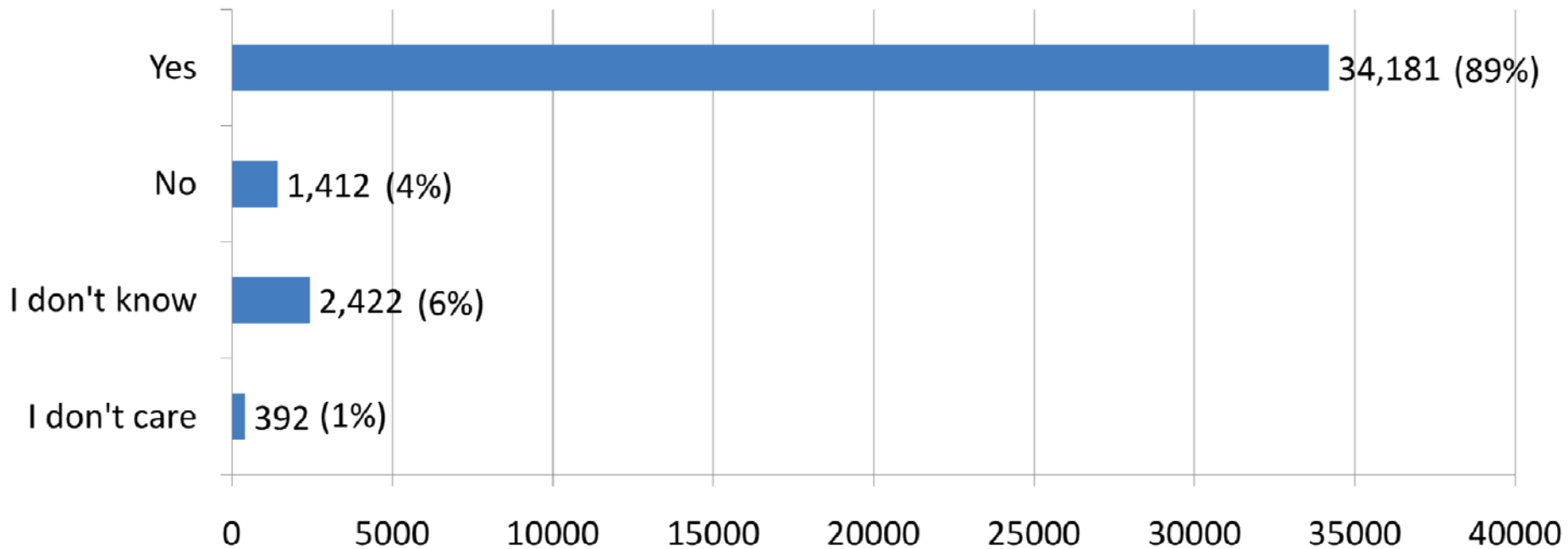


Who ?

**Beliefs**

Actions

# Would OA journals be beneficial for your field?

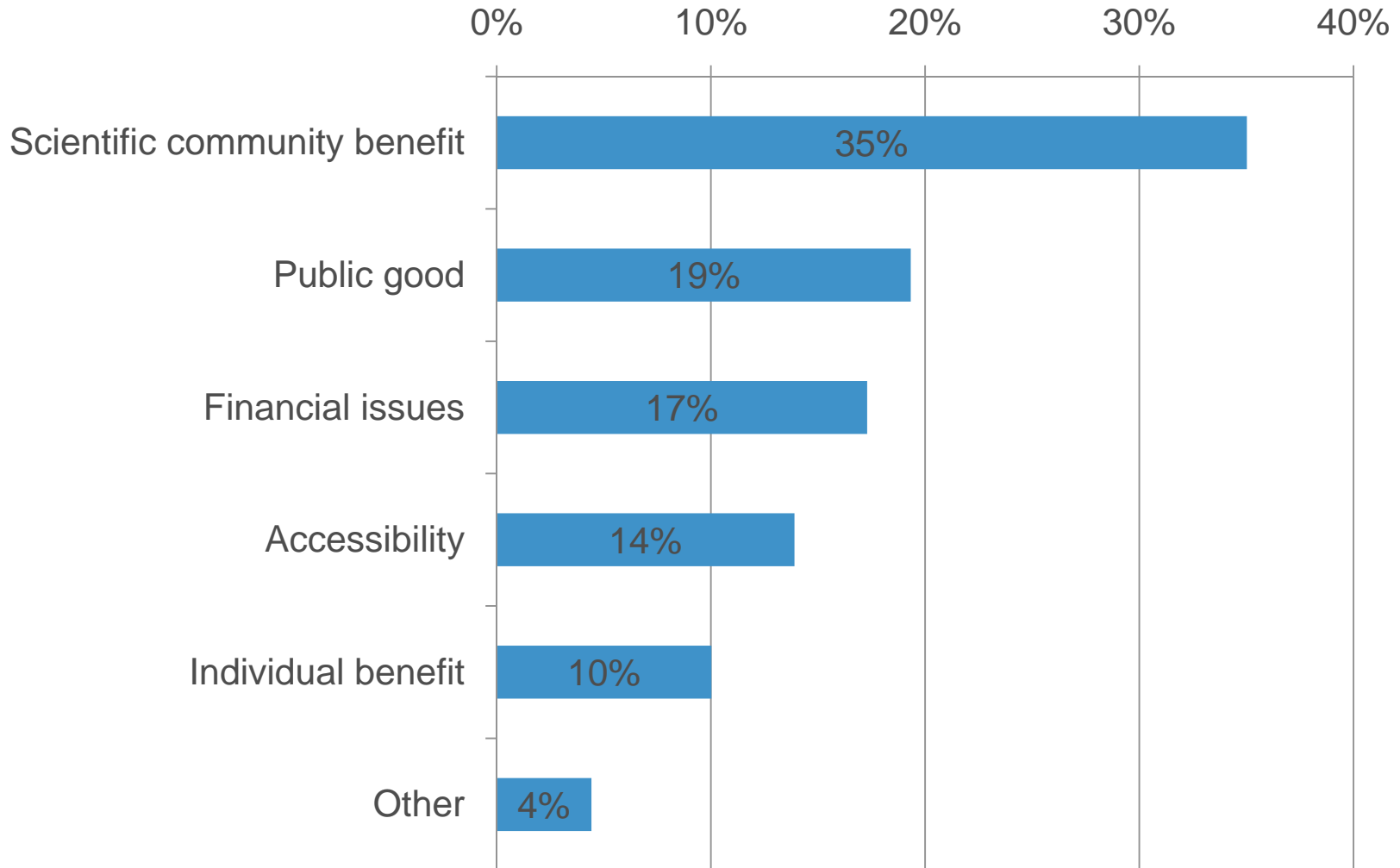


No large differences according to seniority and number of articles

# Why?

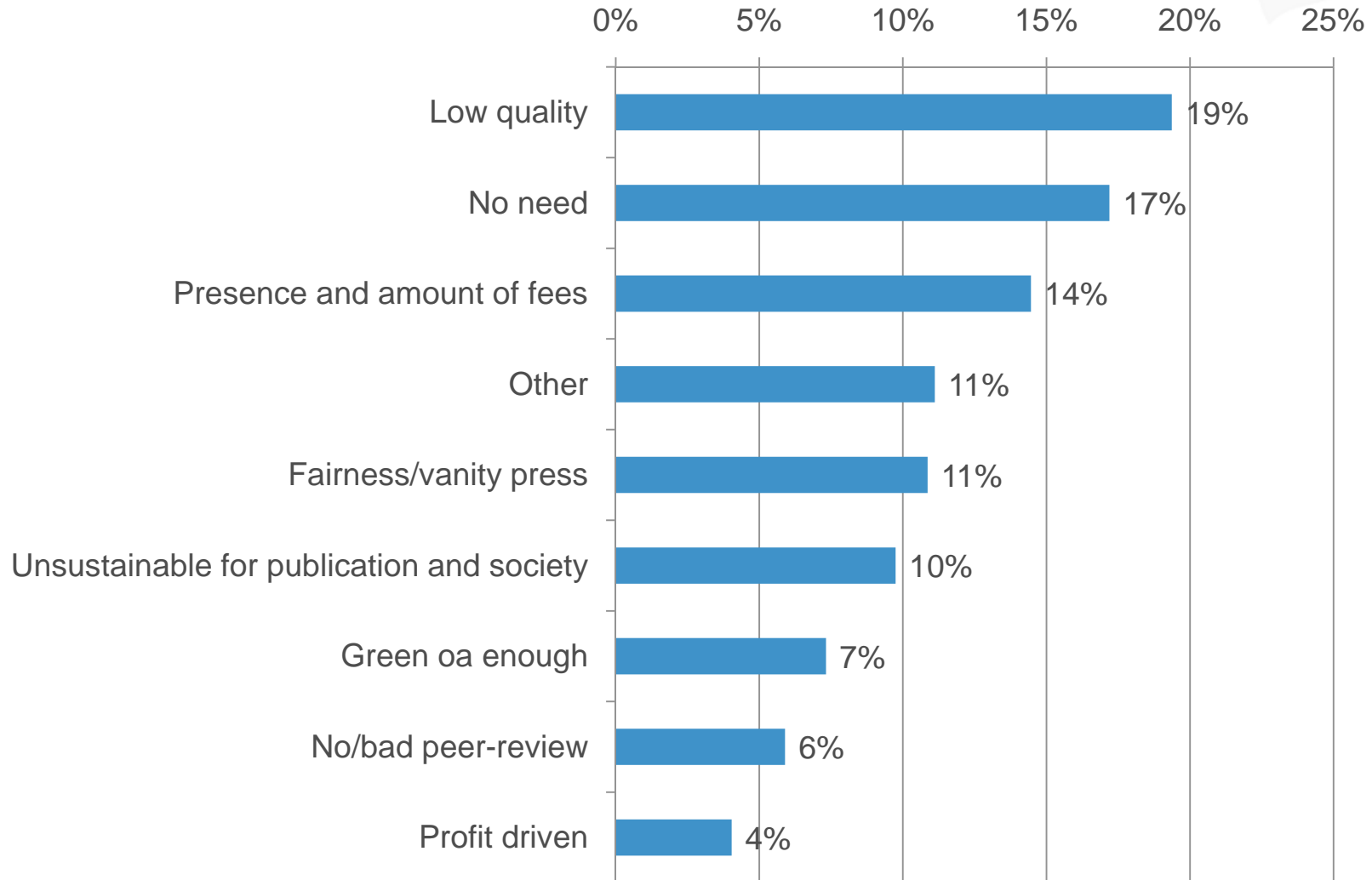
>22'000 answers, 1/2 million words

# Why yes? (n=6984)



Preliminary

# Why not? (n=1611)



# Preliminary results

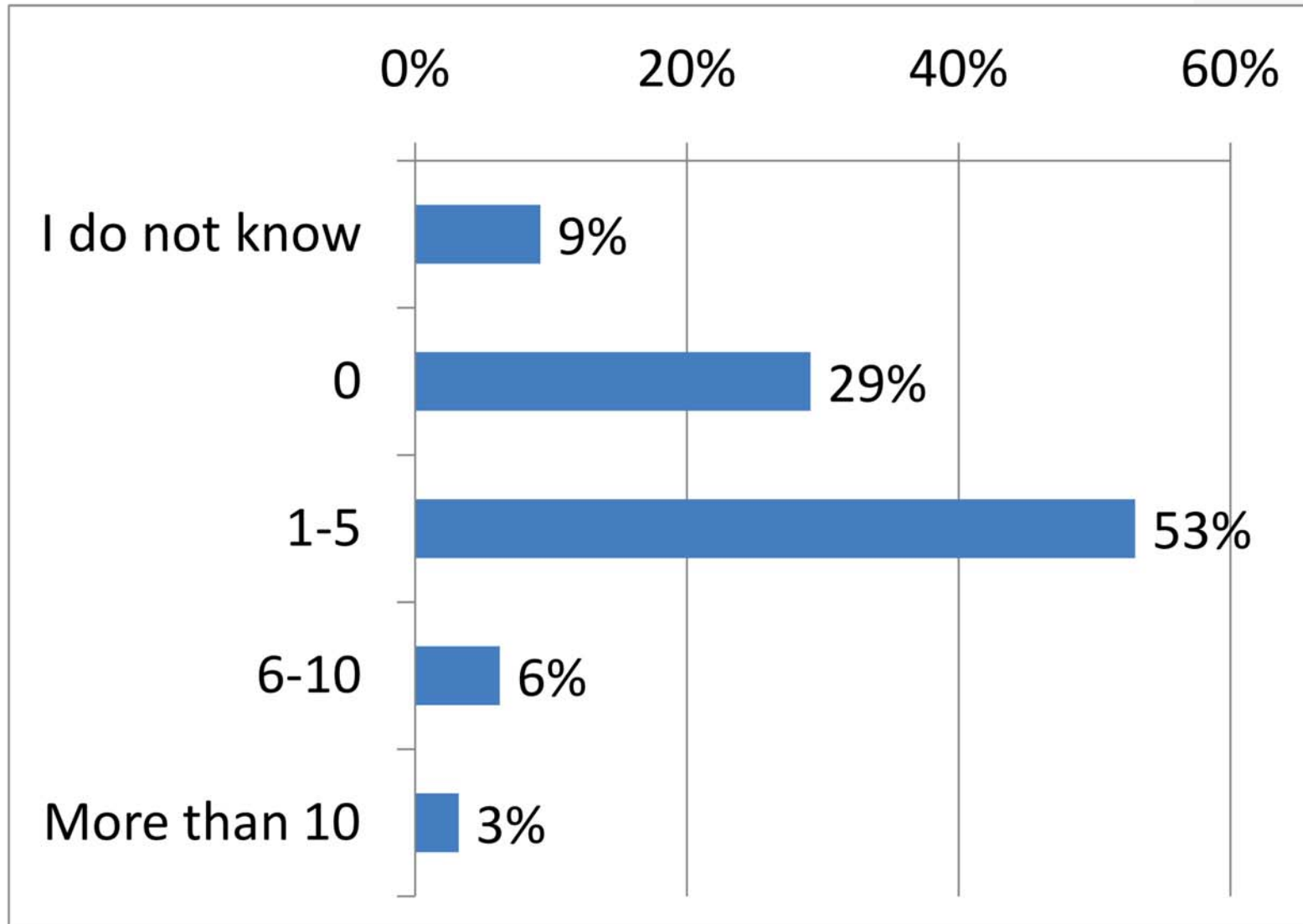
Who ?

Beliefs

**Behavior**

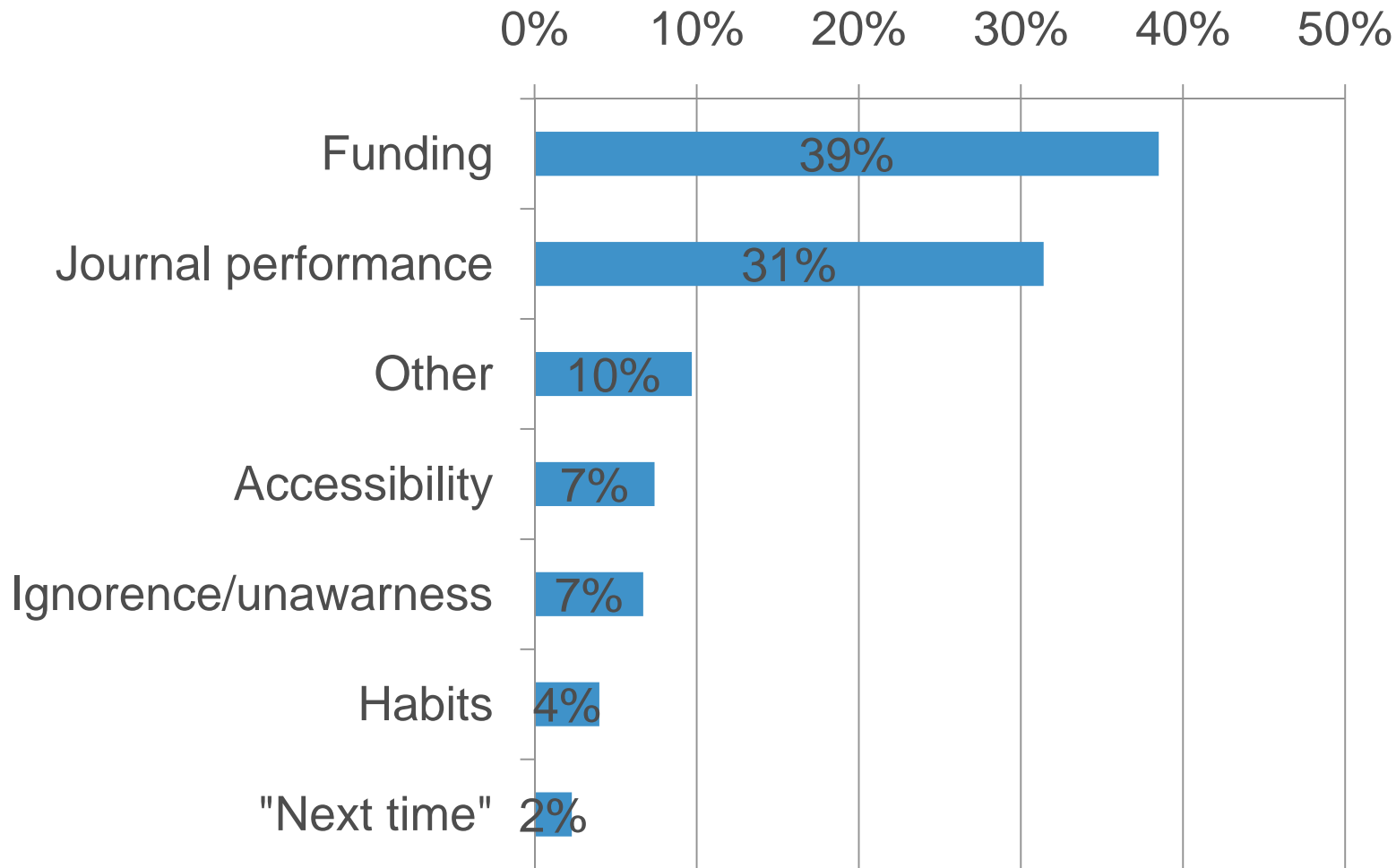


# How many OA articles have you published in the last 5 years?

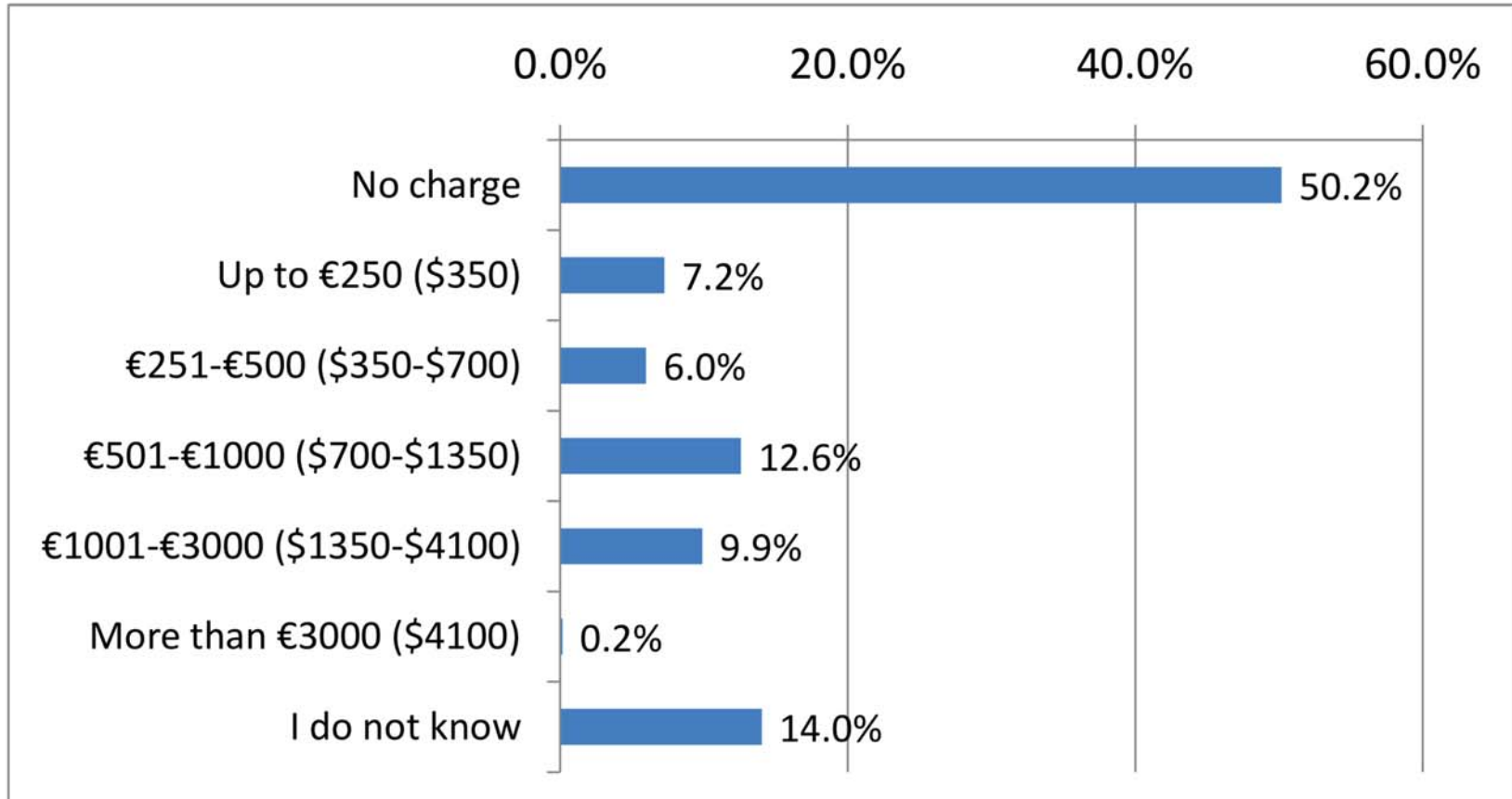


# Was there a reason not to publish OA?

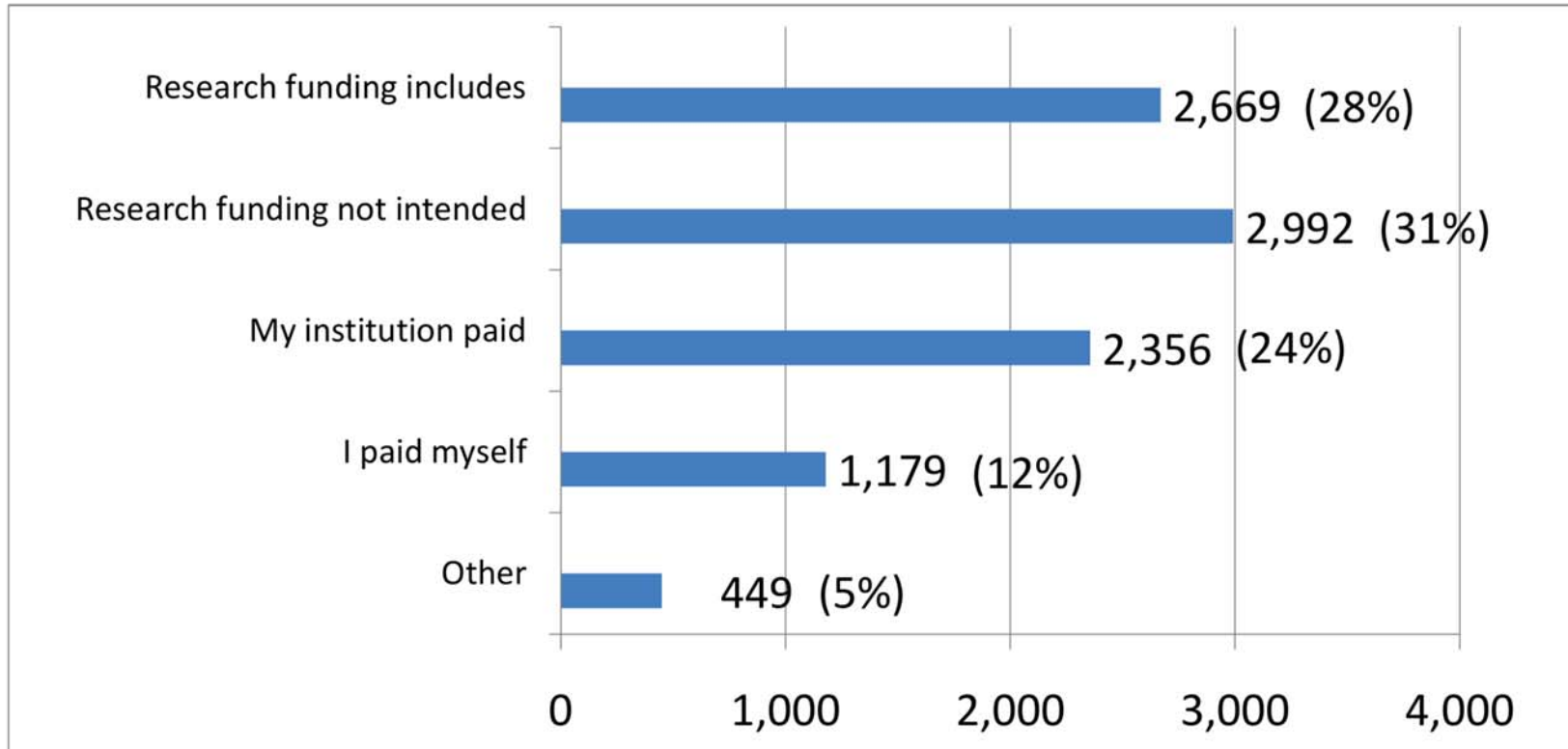
42% gave a reason; >4000 answers; 60'000 words



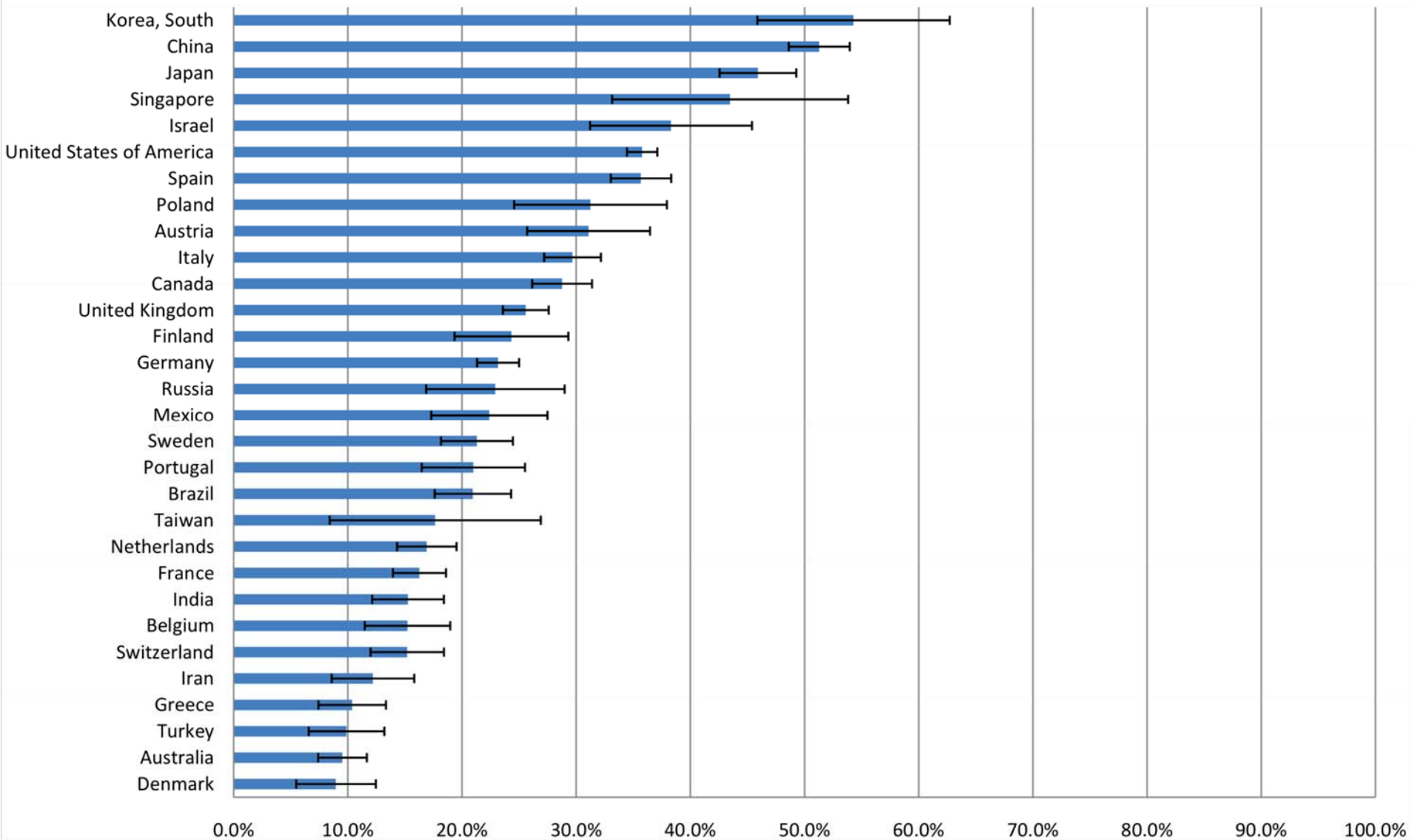
# Which fee did you pay for your last OA article?



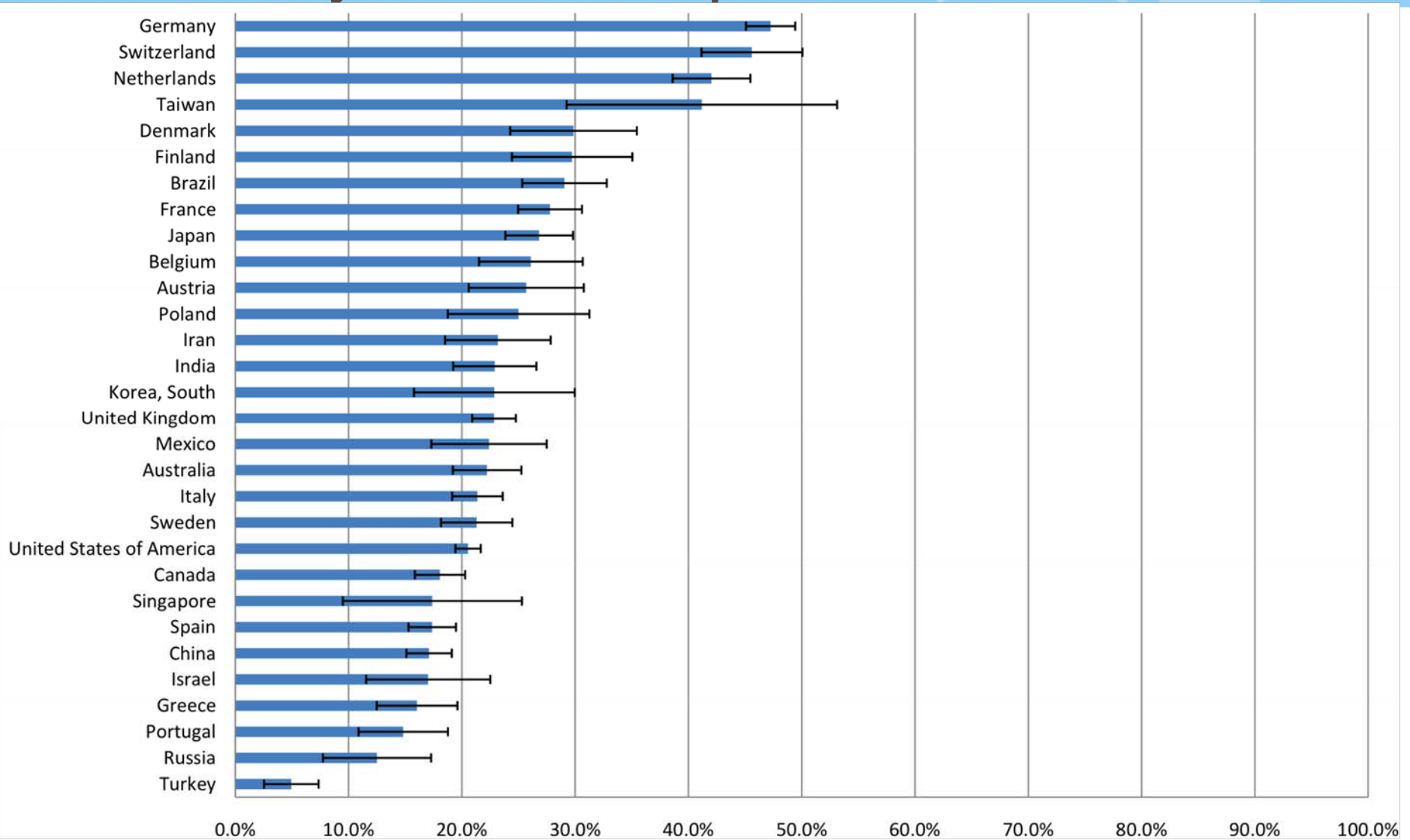
# How was this fee covered?



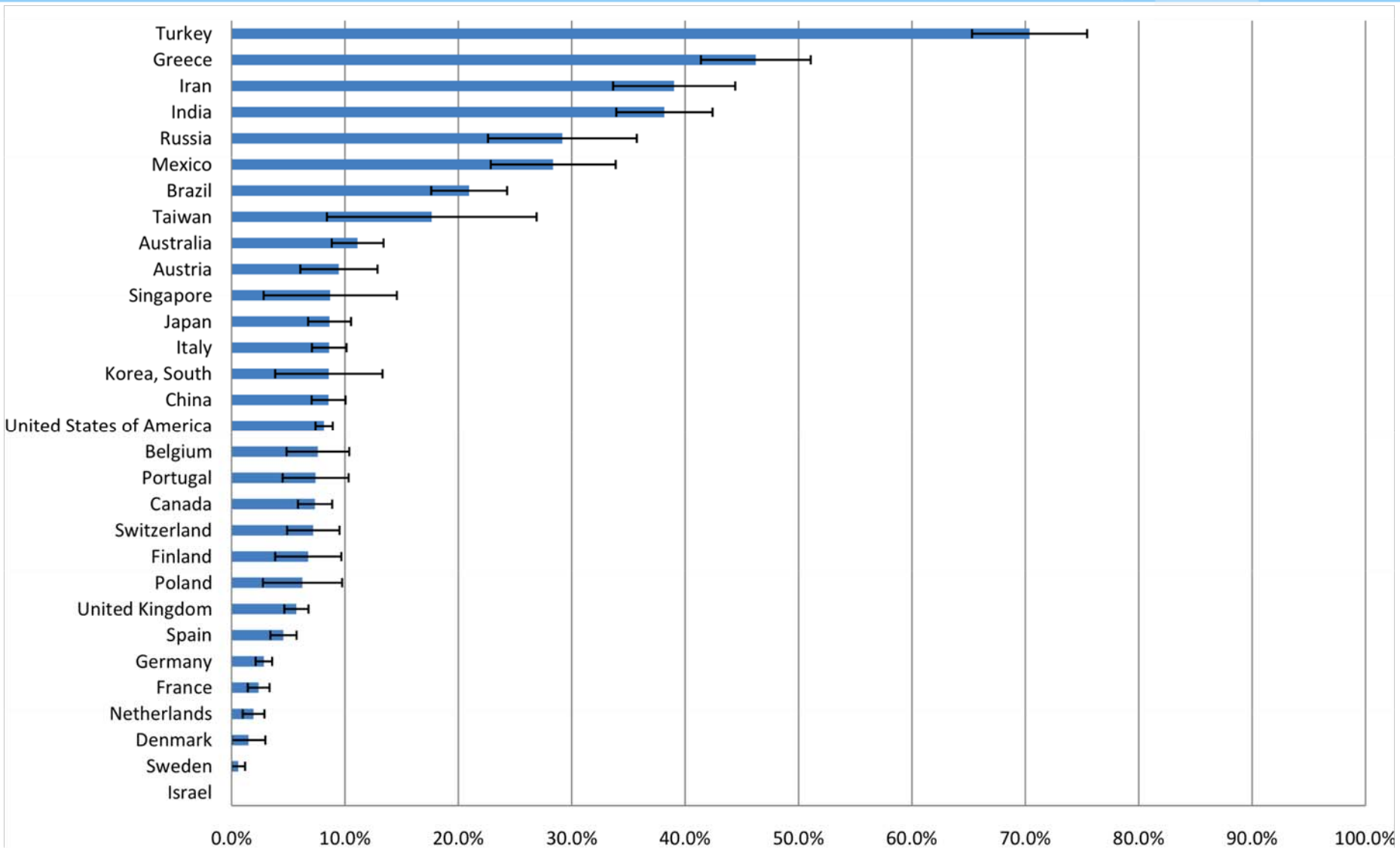
# How was this fee covered? Included in research funds



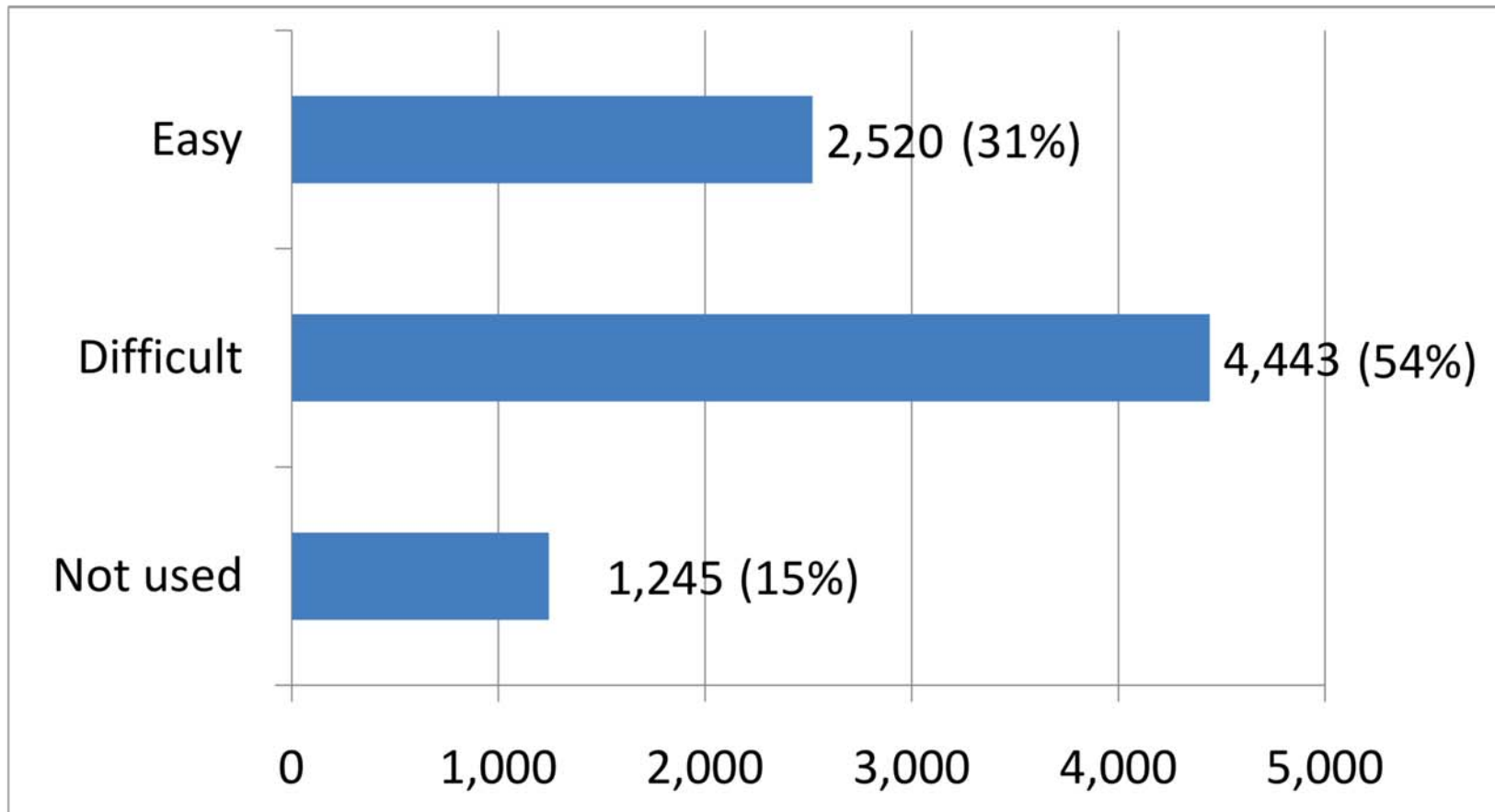
# How was this fee covered? My institution paid



# How was this fee covered? I paid myself

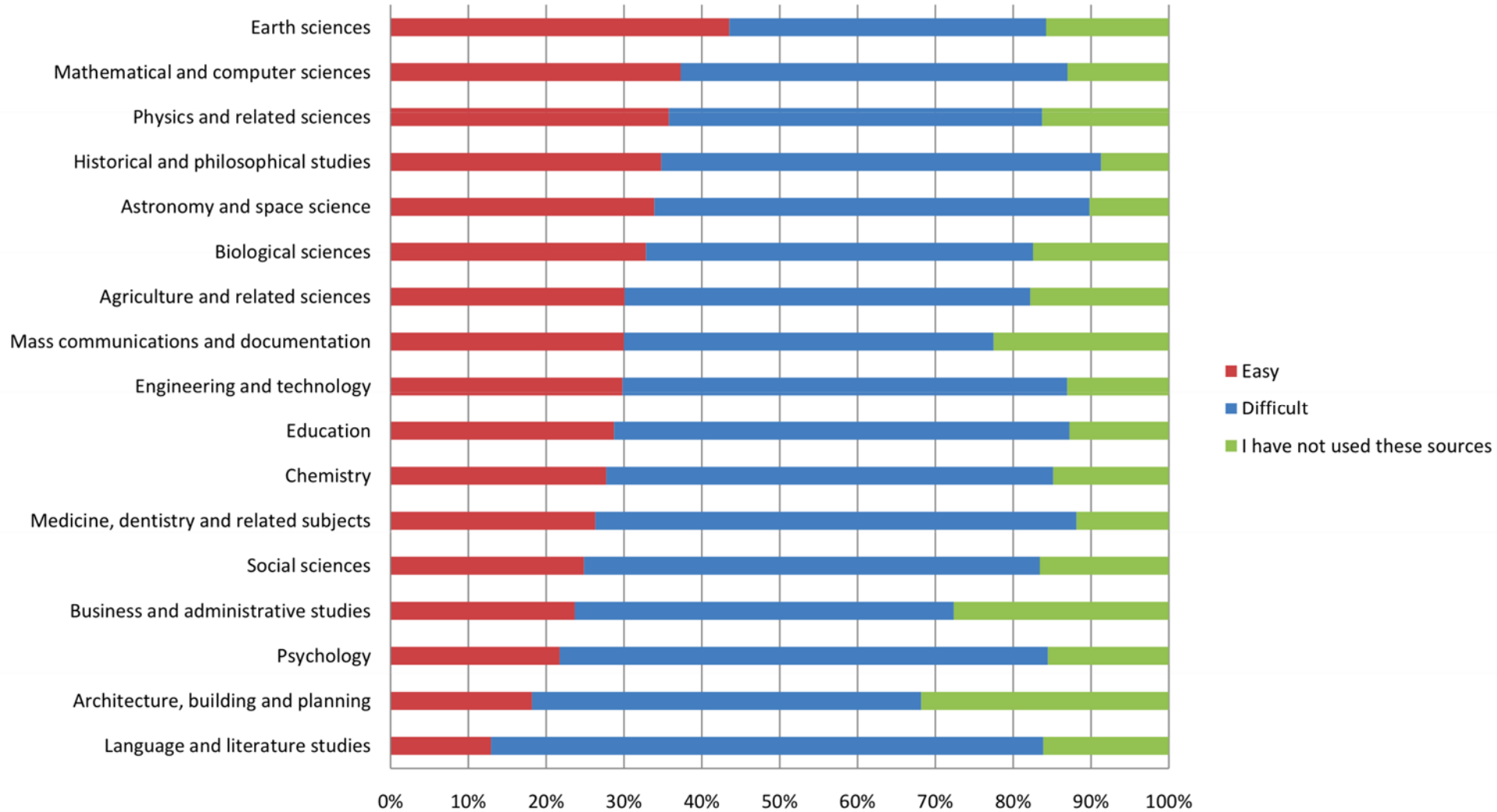


# How easy was it to obtain funds?

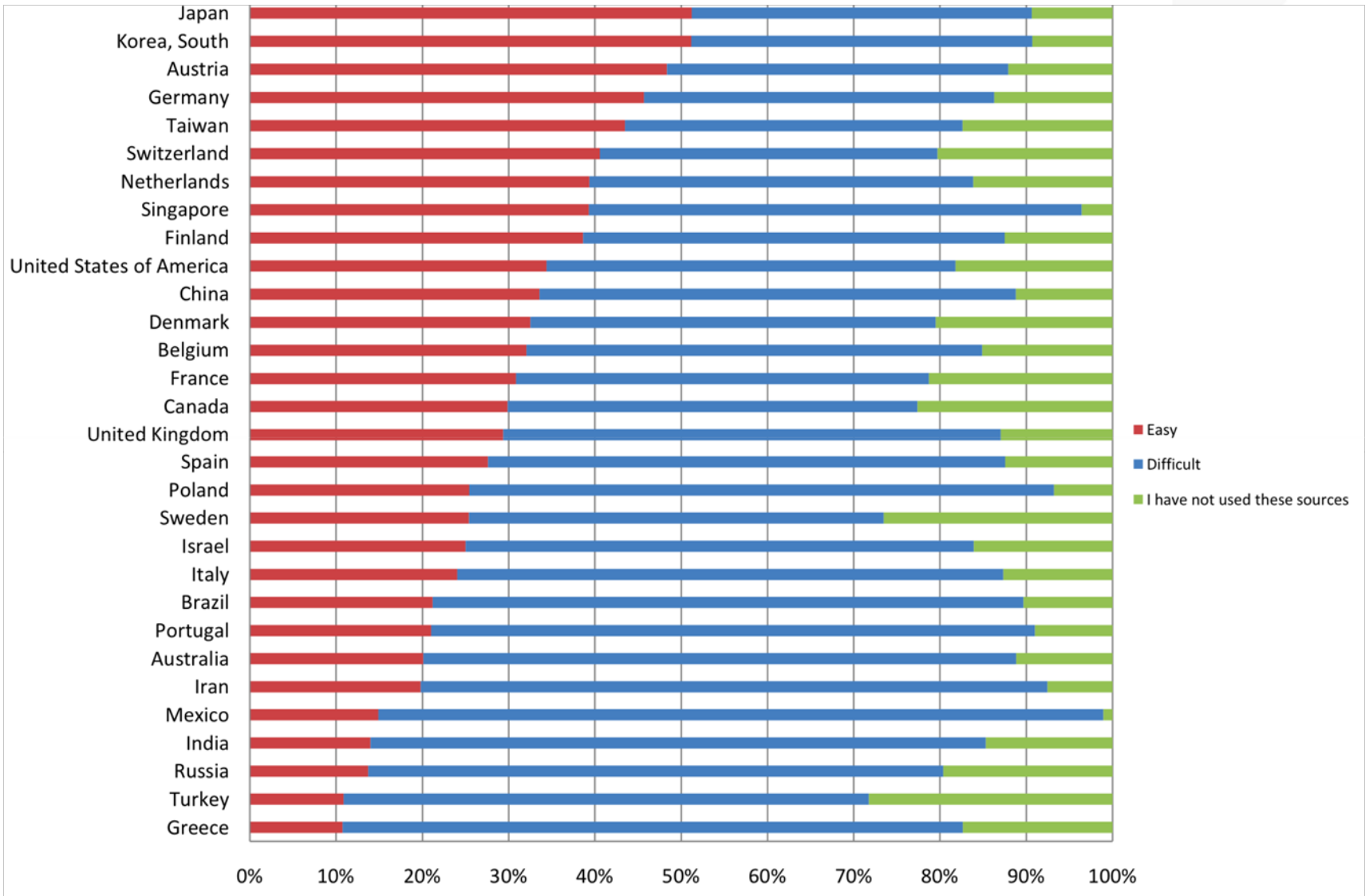




# How easy was it to obtain funds?



# 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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Final results to be presented in

Berlin, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (after APE2011)

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

Including hands-on session on using the data