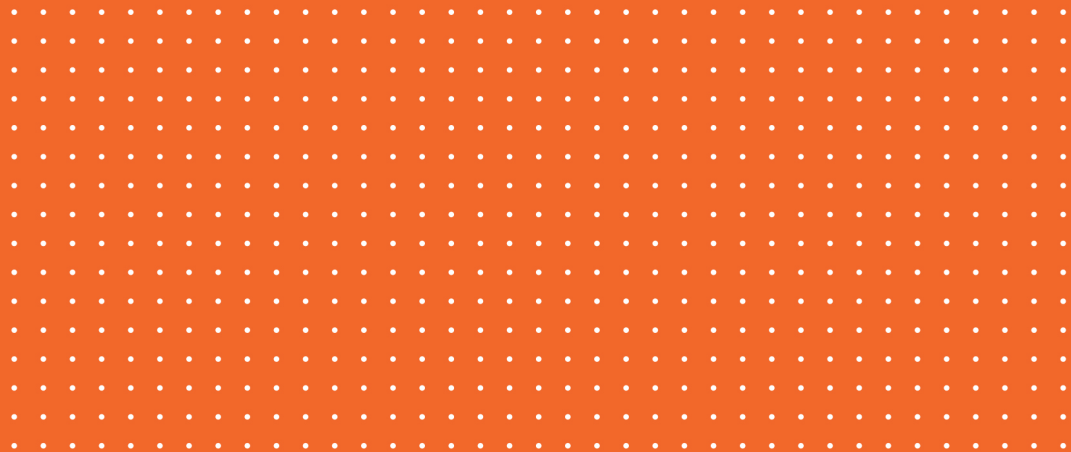


GLOBAL OPEN ACCESS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

THE CONTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN AND
NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?



ACCESS, TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST ARE KEY

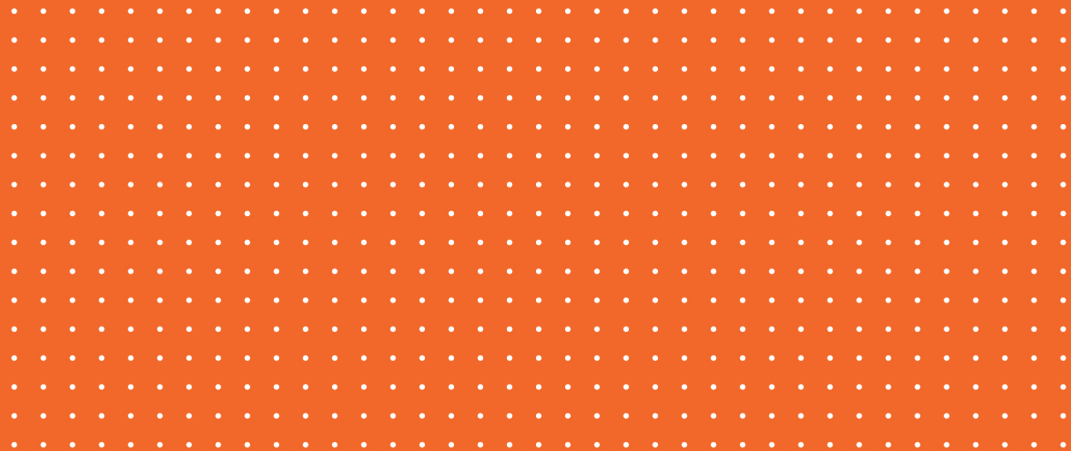
- Much greater sharing and speed of research than in any previous crisis
- A massive collaborative effort to enable global systems to cope with the speed, volume and challenges of these research efforts
- Serious issues and challenges associated with moving *too fast*
- These systems (as well as many aspects of our societal information flow) are susceptible to misinformation, error and deliberate manipulation

WE FACE DIFFICULT CHOICES

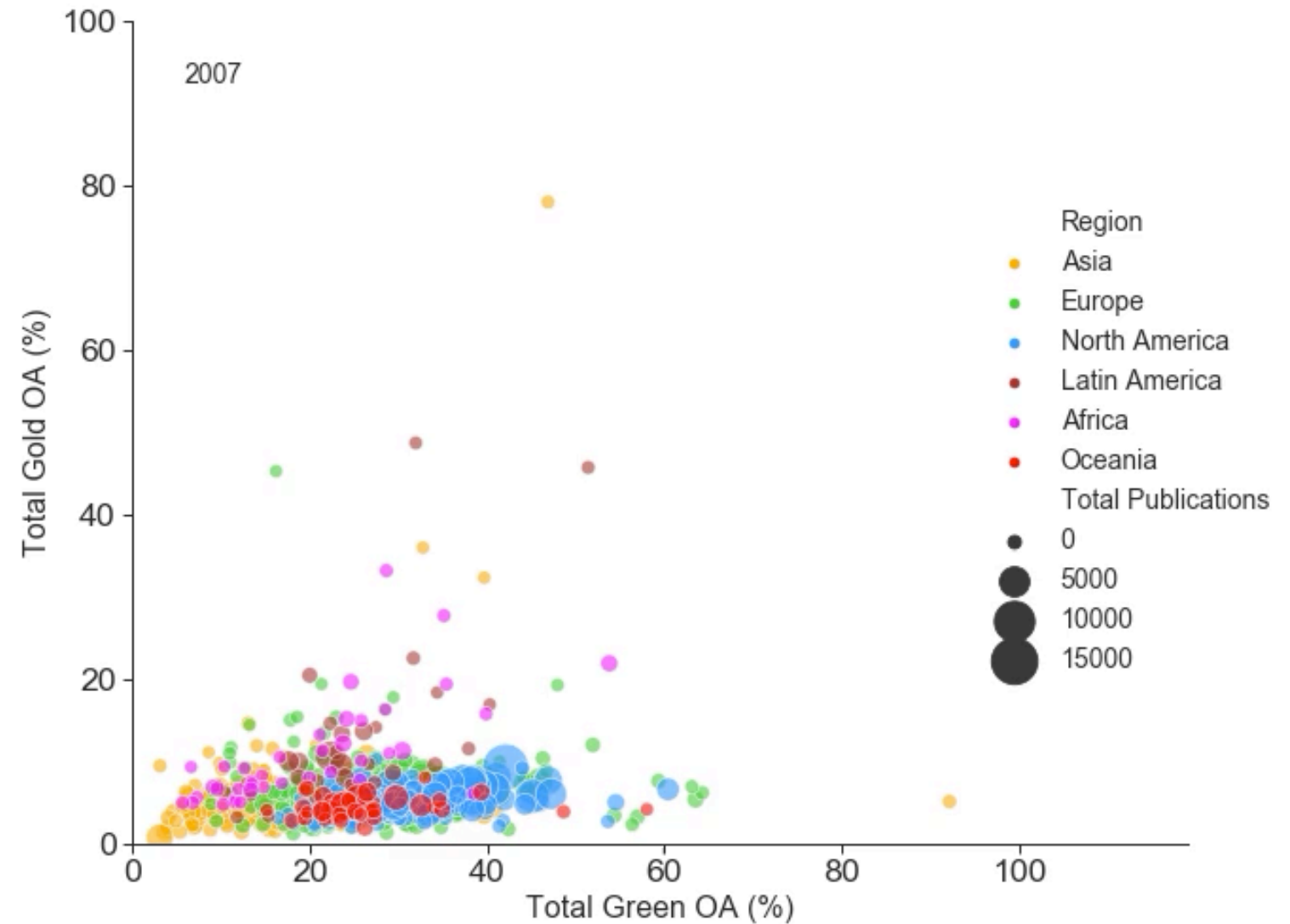
- What is the balance between opening up for transparency and contributions and closing down to prevent the flow of misinformation?

OPEN ACCESS

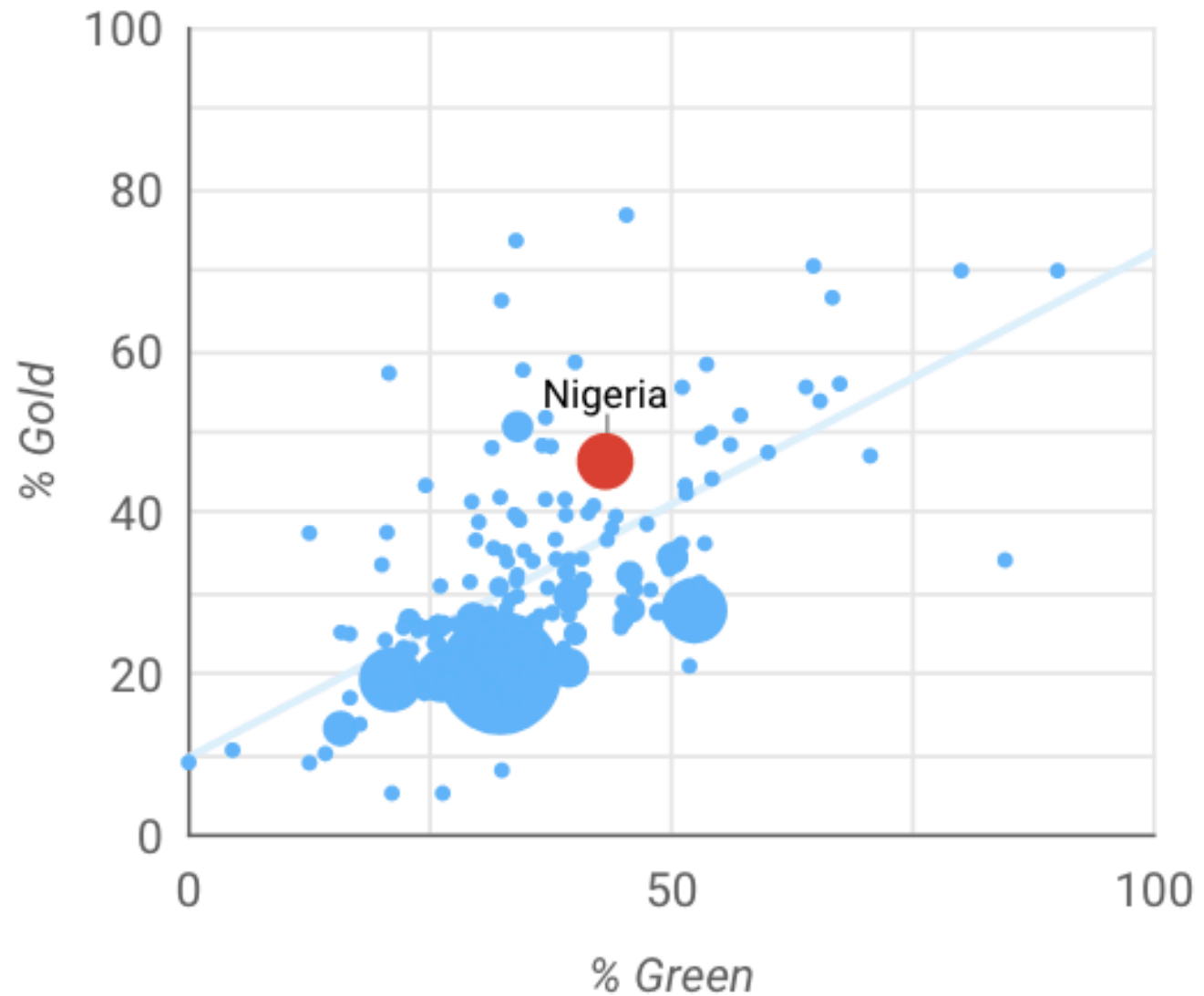
SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THE LAST DECADE



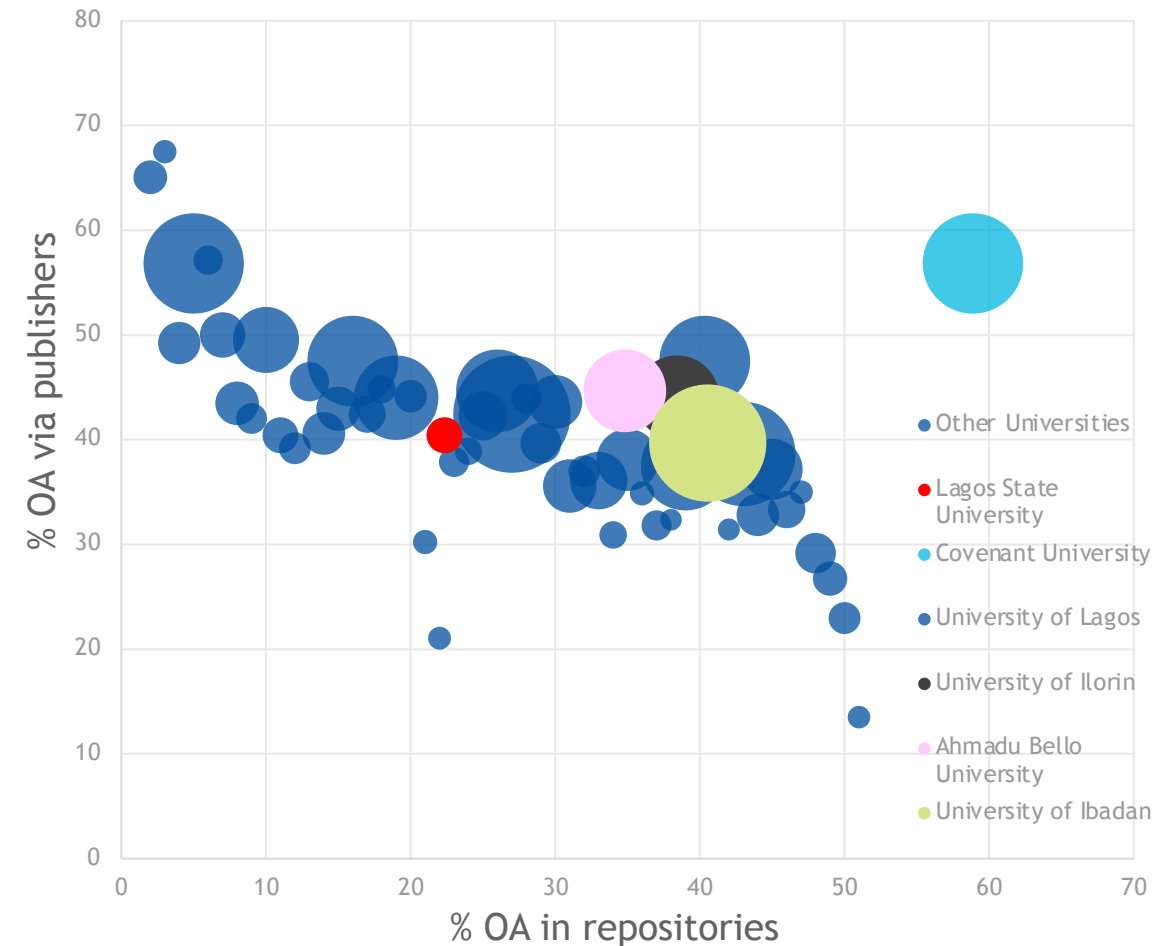
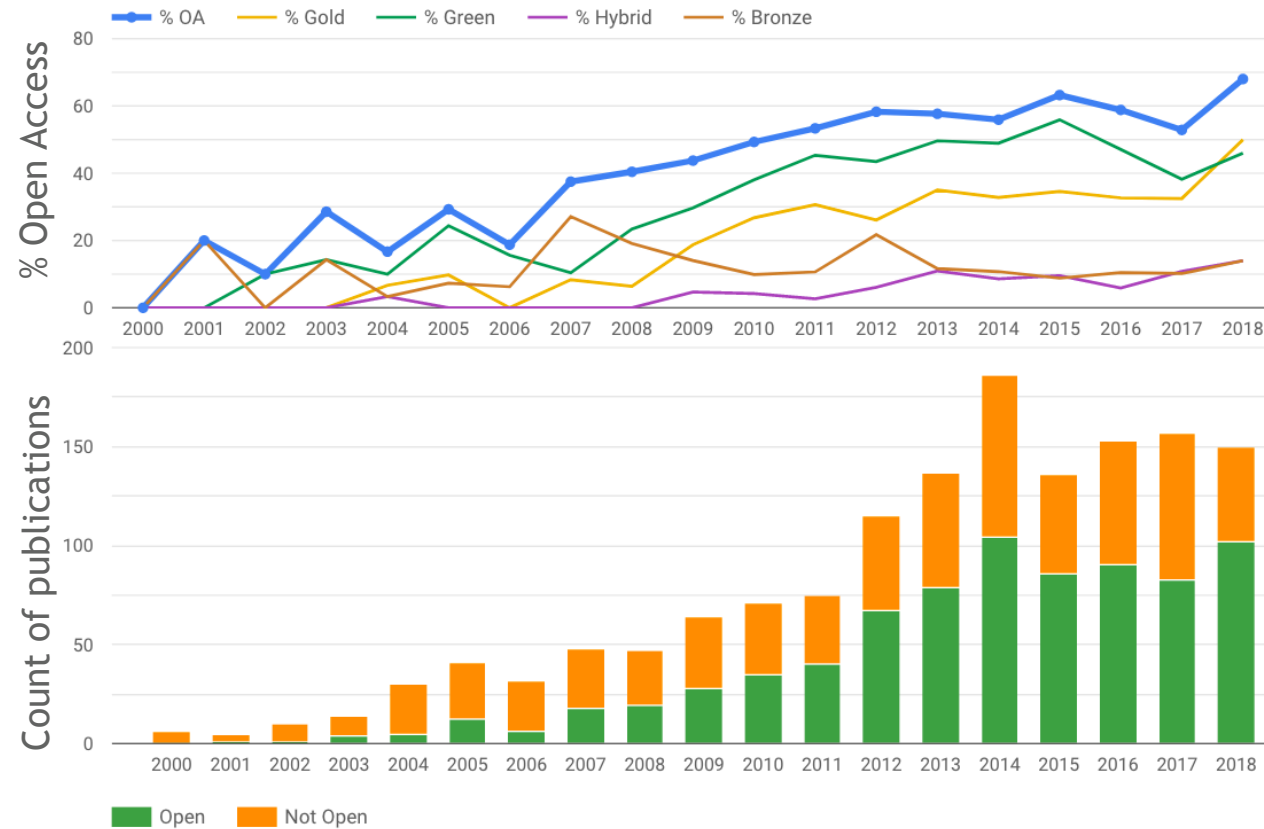
PROGRESS ON OPEN ACCESS



OPEN ACCESS: NIGERIA IS A GLOBAL LEADER



OPEN ACCESS: LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY HAS HIGH LEVELS OF OA

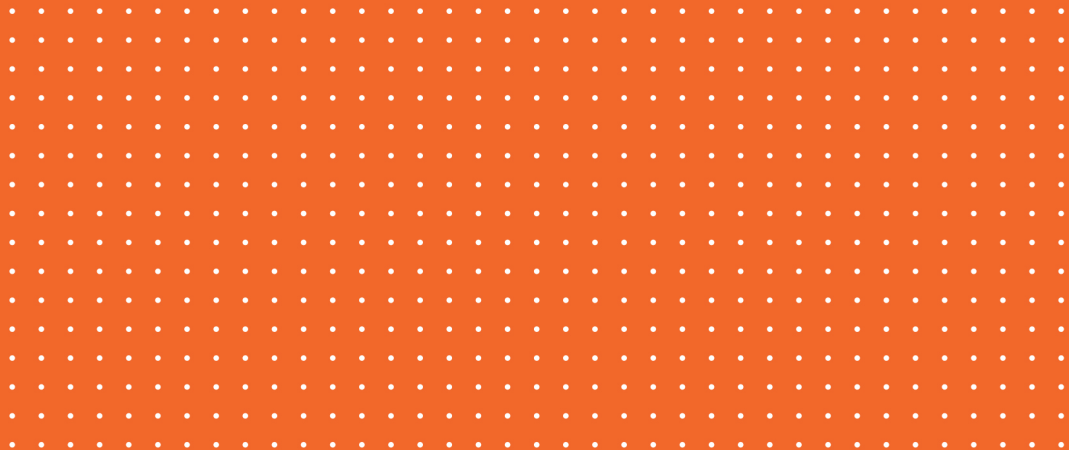


LIMITATIONS

- We have a limited view of research outputs from Africa due to the bias of Northern information systems that we use for data
- We only currently track open access for objects with DOIs
- Our results are biased towards work funded by US philanthropies with strong open access policies which are a significant component of funding in Africa.
- See more at our recent paper: <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.57067>

CONCLUSIONS

THE FUTURE FOR RESEARCH AFTER COVID-19



ACCESS, TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST ARE KEY

- The current crisis is only preparation for the future
- Information systems need to be rapid and open and will need to evolve to manage scale for future challenges whether they are pandemics or climate crisis related
- African and Nigerian institutions are already leading on aspects of access to research
- How can this leadership be used to support a central future for African researchers?