

# Consequences of Sweden cancelling Elsevier

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# Bibsam demanded

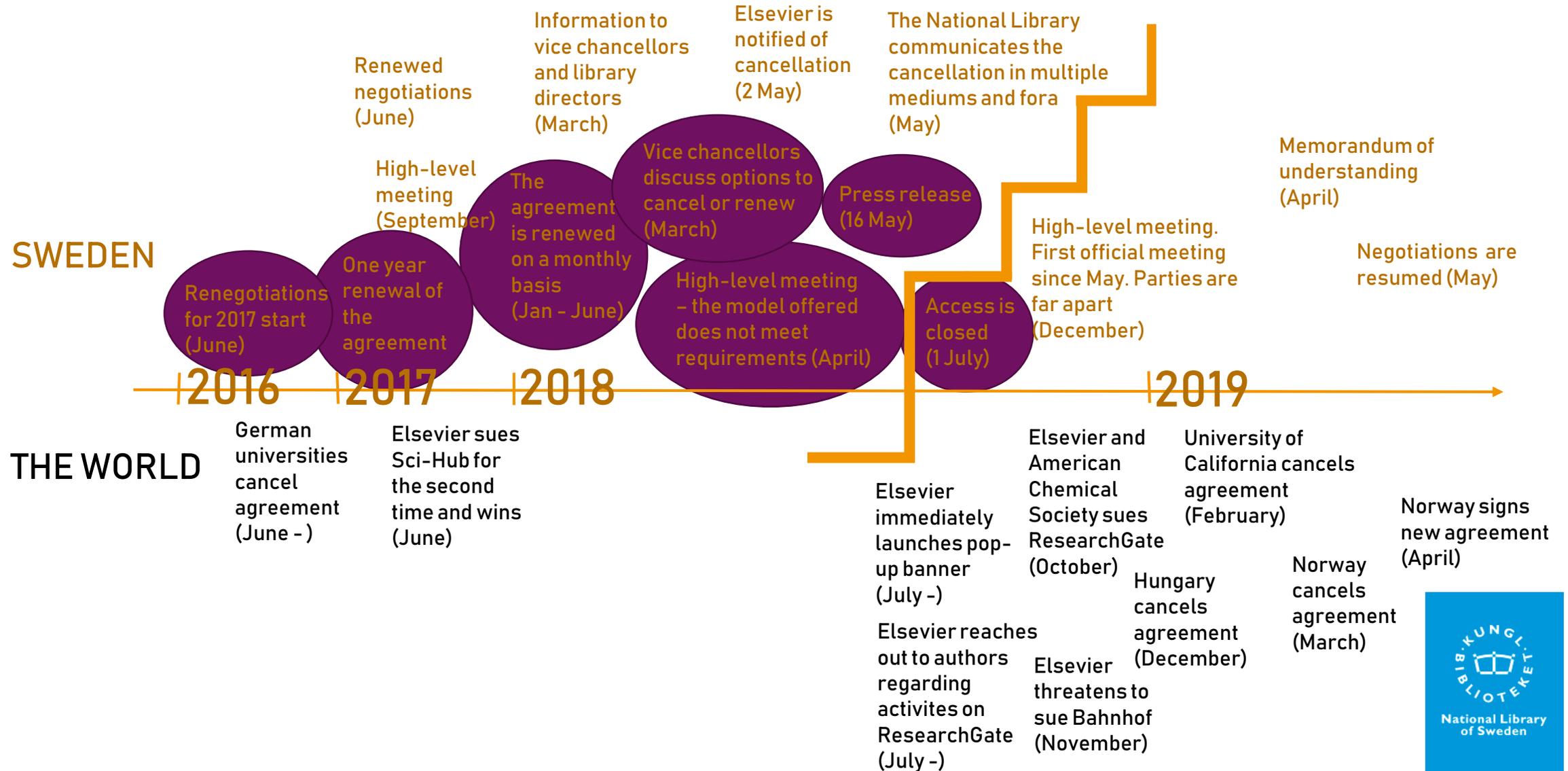
- A three year agreement: 2018-2020
- Immediate open access to all articles published with Elsevier
- Reading rights to Elsevier's Science Direct Freedom Collection including Lancet + Cell Press
- A sustainable price model that enables the transition to open access



Photo by [eberhard grossgasteiger](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Negotiation process and termination

Agreement is terminated per the 30th of June 2018





# Assignment

**Evaluate how the Swedish Elsevier cancellation affected:**

- **end users**
- **participating institutions (29 HEIs and 15 government agencies)**
- **consortium**

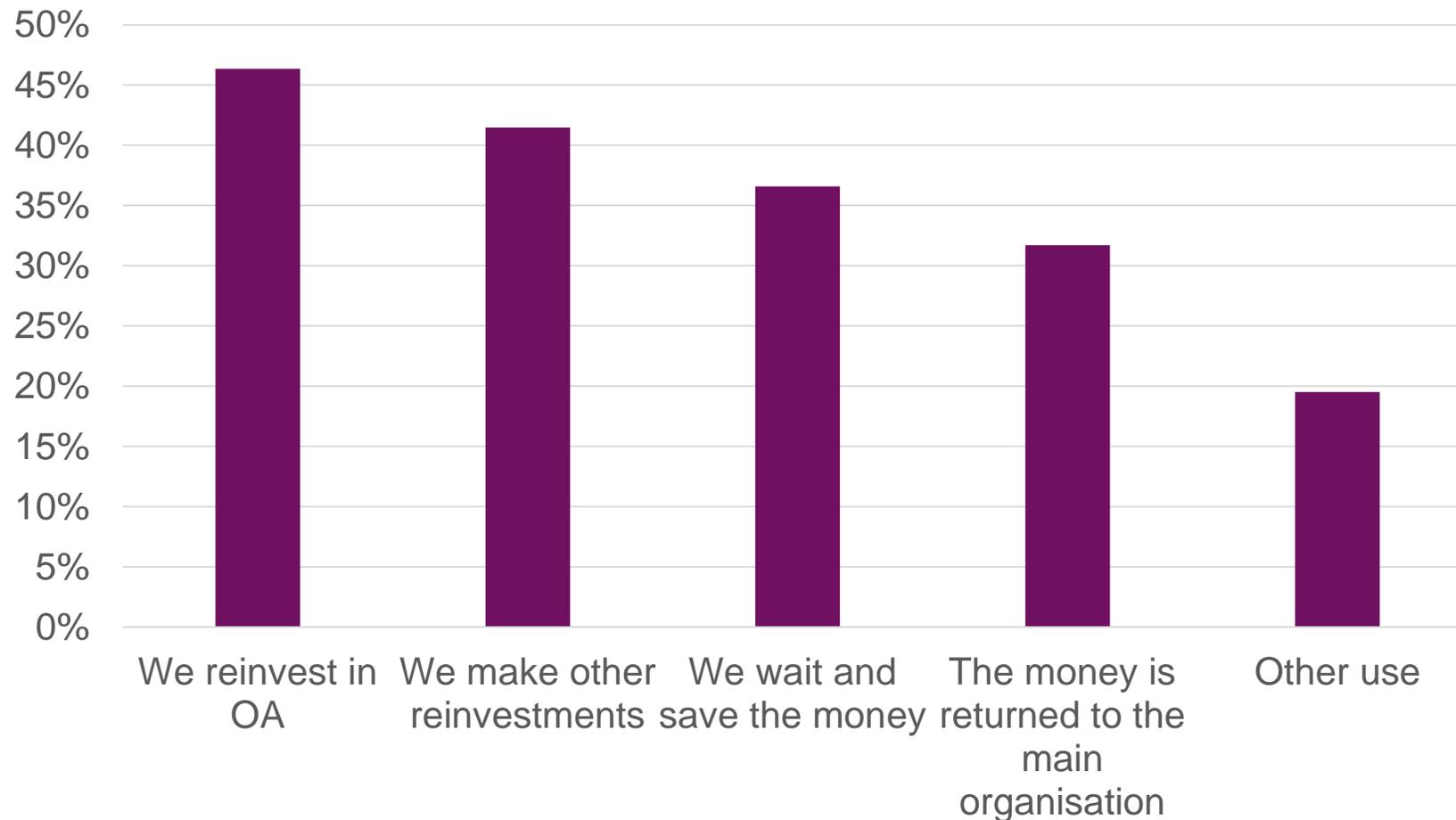
# Method

- Two surveys
  - E-resource managers at participating institutions
  - End users (researchers, research students, users at government agencies)

# Institutions – summary of results

- 41 of 44 replied
- 56 % reported (minor) alterations in internal work processes
- 32 provided information on alternative access
- Surprisingly few comments from end users
- 18 had services for alternative access
- No increase in inter-library loans
- How have libraries coped with cancellation?

# How has your organisation chosen to spend the “saved” money? *(Multiple responses possible)*



**13 million  
€ (2017)**

# End users

4221 respondents

- 85 % researchers/research students at HEI
- 7 % government agency users
- 5 % students

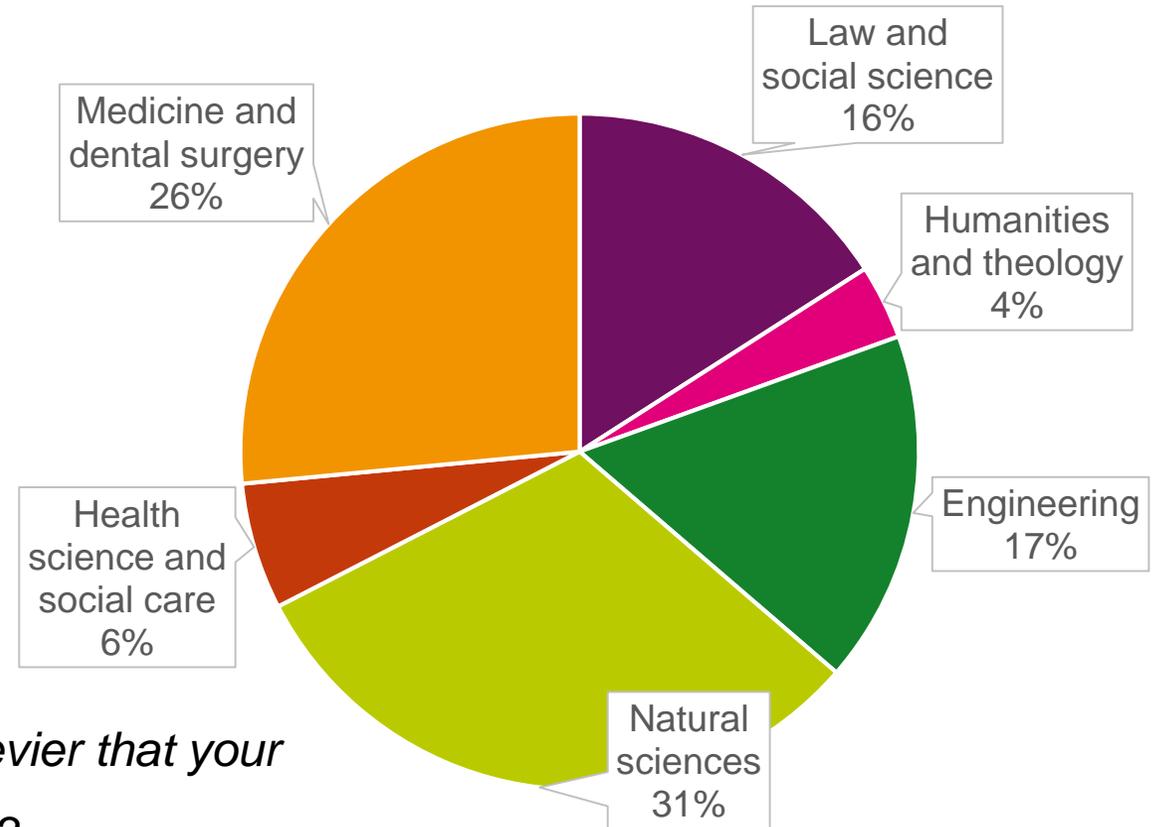
91% knew of the cancellation

*Have you needed access to articles published by Elsevier that your institution didn't have access to since the cancellation?*

YES 81 % (1-5 art 29 %; 6-10 art 23 %; 10< art 28 %)

NO 15 %

What is your subject area?



# Strategies to access articles

*If you lacked access: Did you access the article(s) in some other way? (Multiple answers were allowed, the incident below had occurred at least once)*

- No (42 %)
- Online (42 %)
- Library (inter-library loan, get it now, or other library service) (23 %)
- Contacted author (22 %)
- Contacted colleague (22 %)
- Other (10 %)

Based on the 3 574 respondents who reported having been denied access to at least one Elsevier-article they needed access to. XX % represents the percentage of individuals reporting the incident having occurred at least once.

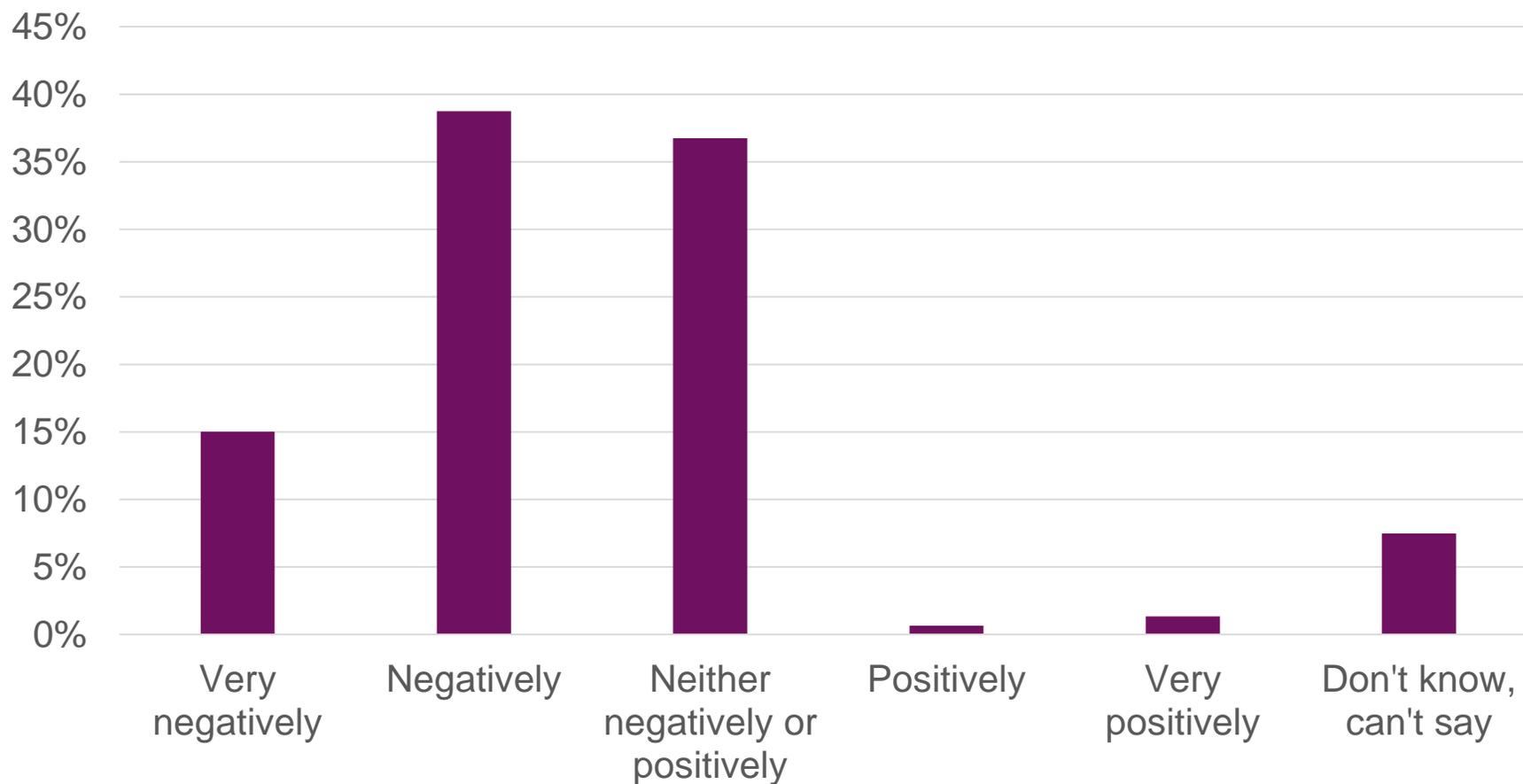
*If you replied "online": Where online did you access the article(s)? (Multiple answers were allowed, the incident below had occurred at least once.)*

- ResearchGate (45 %)
- Sci-Hub (24 %)
- Don't remember (21 %)
- Author web page (15 %)
- Other options...

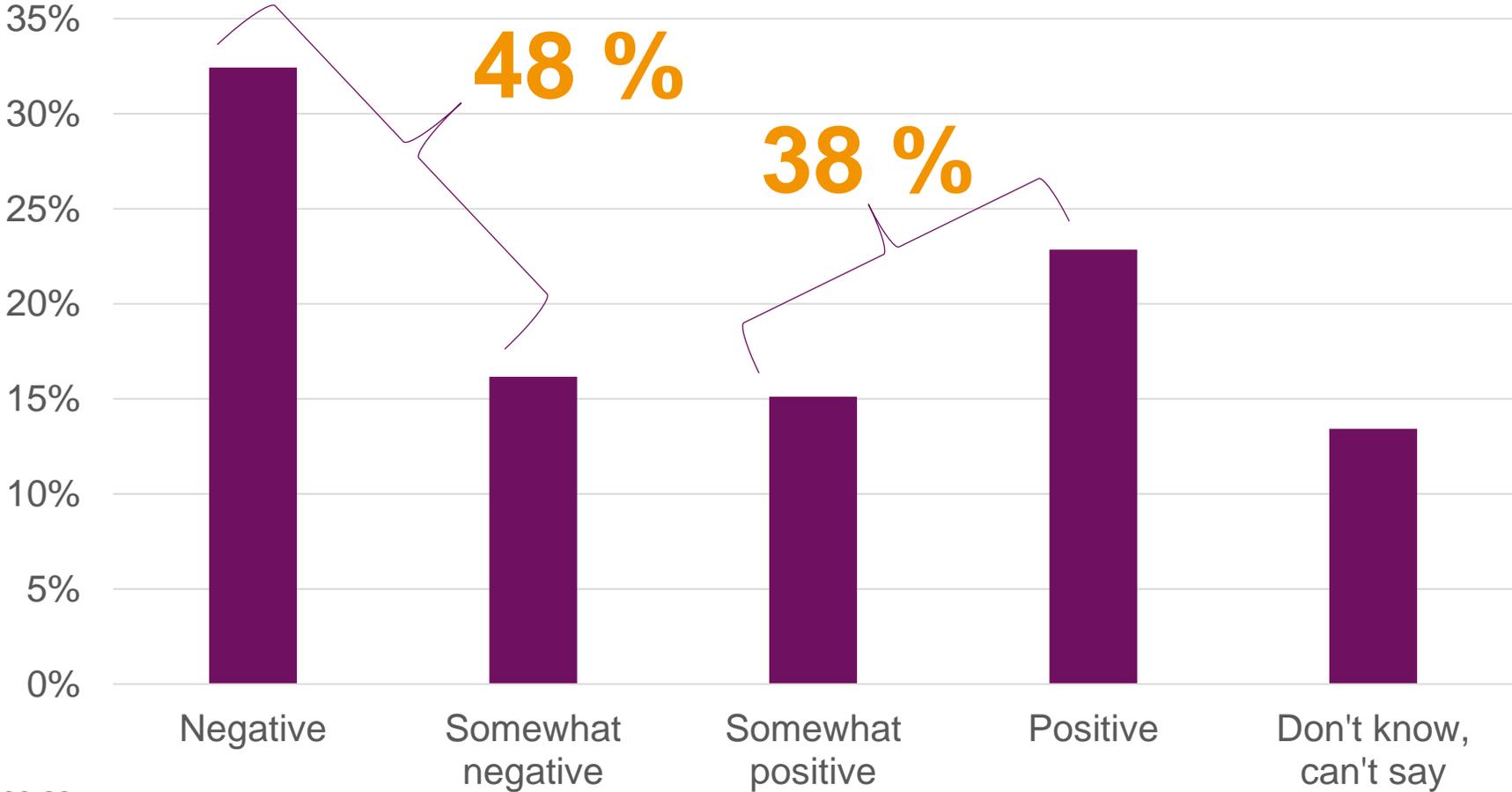
Based on the 2 084 respondents who reported having found access online. XX % represents the percentage of individuals reporting having found access by these means at least once.

75 % did not have a plug-in to find OA installed

# How has the cancellation affected your research/work/studies?

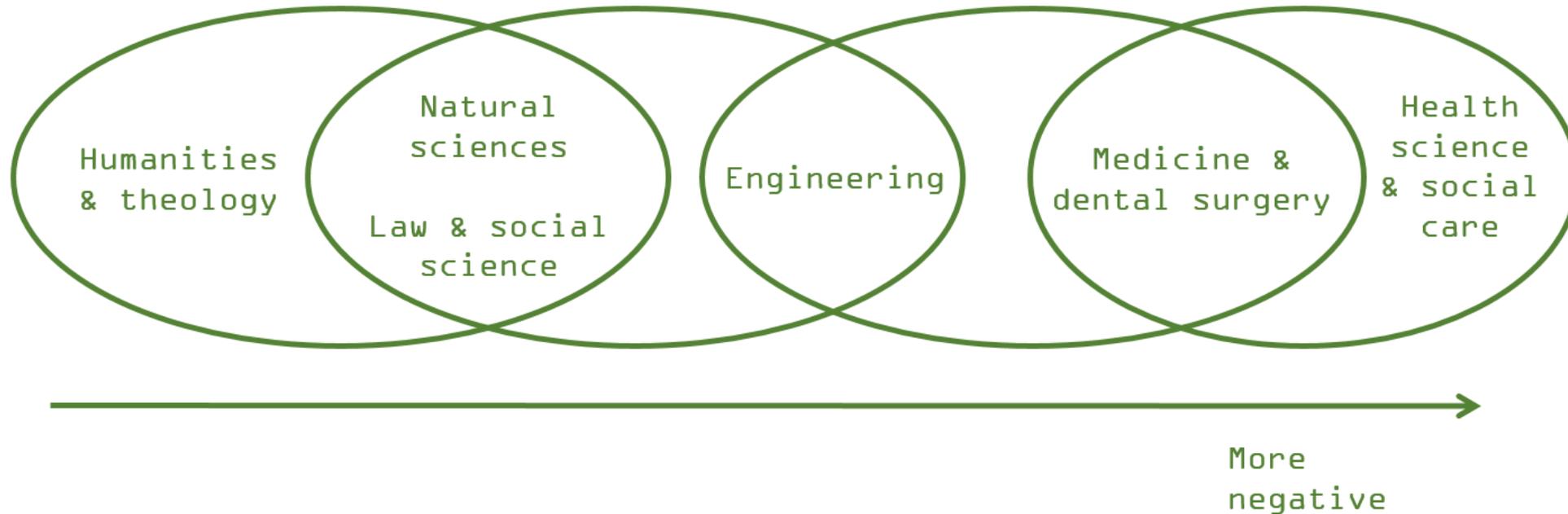


# What is your stance on the cancellation of the Elsevier agreement?



# Differences in research areas

What is your stance on the cancellation of the Elsevier agreement?



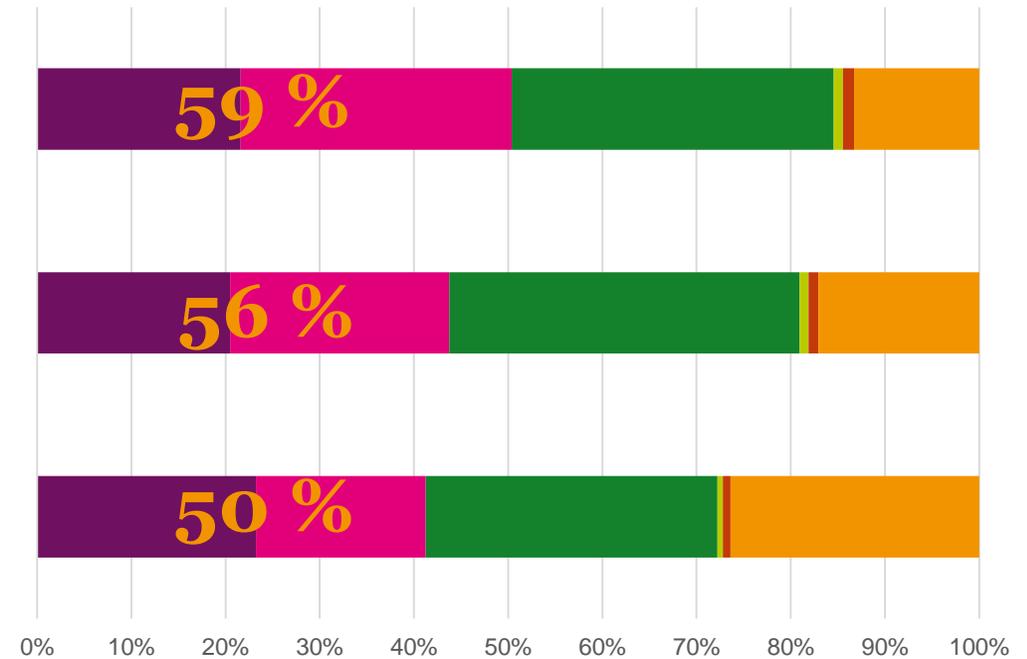
# Changes in researcher behaviors?

How has the cancellation affected your will to...

...publish in E journals?

... do peer-review for E journals?

...do editorial work for E journals?



- Very negatively
- Negatively
- Neither negatively or positively
- Positively
- Very positively
- Don't know, can't say

Previously...

60 % had published

44 % had peer-reviewed

4 % had been editors

...for Elsevier

# End users – summary of results

- What do users do when they lack access? X % have at least once:
  - 42 % given up, 42 % found the article online, 23 % used library, 22 % contacted author/colleague
- What do users think?
  - 54 % say it affected their work negatively, 37% were not affected
  - 48 % are negative to cancellation, 38 % are positive and 13 % do not know.
- Who is negatively affected ?
  - Users in more research intensive subject areas
- Who opposes cancellation?
  - Mainly those that are negatively affected but there is ambivalence.

# Overall conclusions

1. Cancellation has affected users, but they disagree on the extent of its consequences.
2. Cancellation has affected participating institutions, but to a smaller extent than anticipated.
3. Cancellation has forced a discussion on OA on many levels in academia.

# Thank you!

Lovisa Österlund,  
Linköping University

Frida Jakobsson,  
Karolinska Institute

Camilla Lindelöw,  
National Library

Lisa Olsson,  
Stockholm University  
and National Library

**THE**

**END**

2019-06-28



# Qualitative analysis

| Theme  | Category  | Units       |
|--|---|-------------|
| <b>1. Arguments in support of cancellation</b>           |   | <b>1022</b> |
|  | a) Support of principle                                   | 661         |
|  | b) Expressed support                                      | 170         |
|  | c) Cancellation has caused less problems than expected    | 100         |
|  | d) Unspecified criticism of Elsevier and other publishers | 91          |
| <b>2. Arguments against cancellation</b>                 |   | <b>864</b>  |
|  | a) Cancellation obstructs research                        | 621         |
|  | b) Elsevier's benefits                                    | 205         |
|  | c) User sees issues with OA                               | 38          |
| <b>3. User behaviors</b>                                 |   | <b>432</b>  |
|  | a) User suggestions to improve the publishing system      | 153         |
|  | b) Altered behaviors                                      | 141         |
|  | c) User strategies for access                             | 121         |
|  | d) Unaltered behaviors                                    | 17          |
| <b>4. Difficulties taking a stance</b>                   |   | <b>164</b>  |
|  | a) Ambivalence  | 107         |
|  | b) Lack of knowledge and misunderstandings                | 57          |
| <b>5. Criticism of research policies and bureaucracy</b> |   | <b>157</b>  |
|  | a) Criticism of negotiators and negotiation process       | 102         |
|  | b) Criticism of research policy and HEI bureaucracy       | 38          |
|  | c) Criticism of current meriteringssystem                 | 17          |
| <b>6. The conflict needs solution</b>                    |   | <b>145</b>  |
|  | a) Resume agreement                                       | 81          |
|  | b) Wish for solution                                      | 64          |
| <b>7. Survey issues</b>                                  |   | <b>36</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |   | <b>2820</b> |

# Qualitative analysis

| <i>Themes</i>                                     | <i>Meaningful units</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Arguments in support of cancellation           | 1022                    |
| 2. Arguments against cancellation                 | 864                     |
| 3. User behaviors                                 | 432                     |
| 4. Difficulties taking a stance                   | 164                     |
| 5. Criticism of research policies and bureaucracy | 157                     |
| 6. The conflict needs solution                    | 145                     |
| 7. Survey issues                                  | 36                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>2820</b>             |