Towards Responsible Publishing: results from the global consultation

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Agenda

- Highlight the problems with the current scholarly communication ecosystem

- Discuss the key concepts of the "Towards Responsible Publishing" proposal

- Provide summary of the results of the researcher consultation we have undertaken

- Discuss other external developments that will likely impact a future strategy for cOAlition S

- Highlight some key actions stakeholders can take to support responsible publishing

- Provide a high-level timeline for determining a new strategy for cOAlition S

Key challenges with the current scholarly publishing ecosystem

The dominant publishing models are highly inequitable.

The sharing of research outputs is needlessly delayed.

The full potential of peer review is not realised.

The coupling of editorial gatekeeping with academic career incentives is damaging science.

To address these challenges – and to help inform a revised strategy for cOAlition S, post 2025 – we published the "*Towards Responsible Publishing*" proposal (October 2023).

Through an independent consultation, we sought to determine if there is appetite within the research community for the type of change envisaged in this proposal. The consultation was carried out by Research Consulting and CWTS (Leiden University).

Overarching concepts

Preprints:
Authors can use their rights to share their work at any point of the research cycle

Open peer review:
The scholarly record includes publications (all versions) and peer review reports

Researcher survey: demographics

Survey sample

Using ORCID as source, we received 9,991 responses to our questionnaire (plus 1,154 from the anonymous survey)

Sampling results

Continent	Region	Emails sent	Responses needed	RateNeeded	Number of responses	Rate	How many to goal
Africa	Northern Africa	4,753	383	8,1%	240	5,0%	143
	Sub-Saharan Africa	4,666	383	8,2%	341	7,3%	42
Americas	Central America and the Caribbean	7,847	381	4,9%	346	4,4%	35
	Northern America	12,800	384	3,0%	758	5,9%	0
	South America	12,800	384	3,0%	792	6,2%	0
Asia	Eastern and Central Asia	13,830	384	2,8%	416	3,0%	0
	South-eastern Asia	10,325	384	3,7%	538	5,2%	0
	Southern Asia	12,800	384	3,0%	851	6,6%	0
	Western Asia	12,800	384	3,0%	640	5,0%	0
Europe	Eastern Europe	12,800	384	3,0%	863	6,7%	0
	Northern Europe	12,800	384	3,0%	808	6,3%	0
	Southern Europe	12,800	384	3,0%	1,203	9,4%	0
	Western Europe	12,800	384	3,0%	1,318	10,3%	0
Oceania	Oceania	6,013	383	6,4%	224	3,7%	159
Null	Null				653		
Grand Total		149,834	5,370		9,991		379

Distribution of responses per country
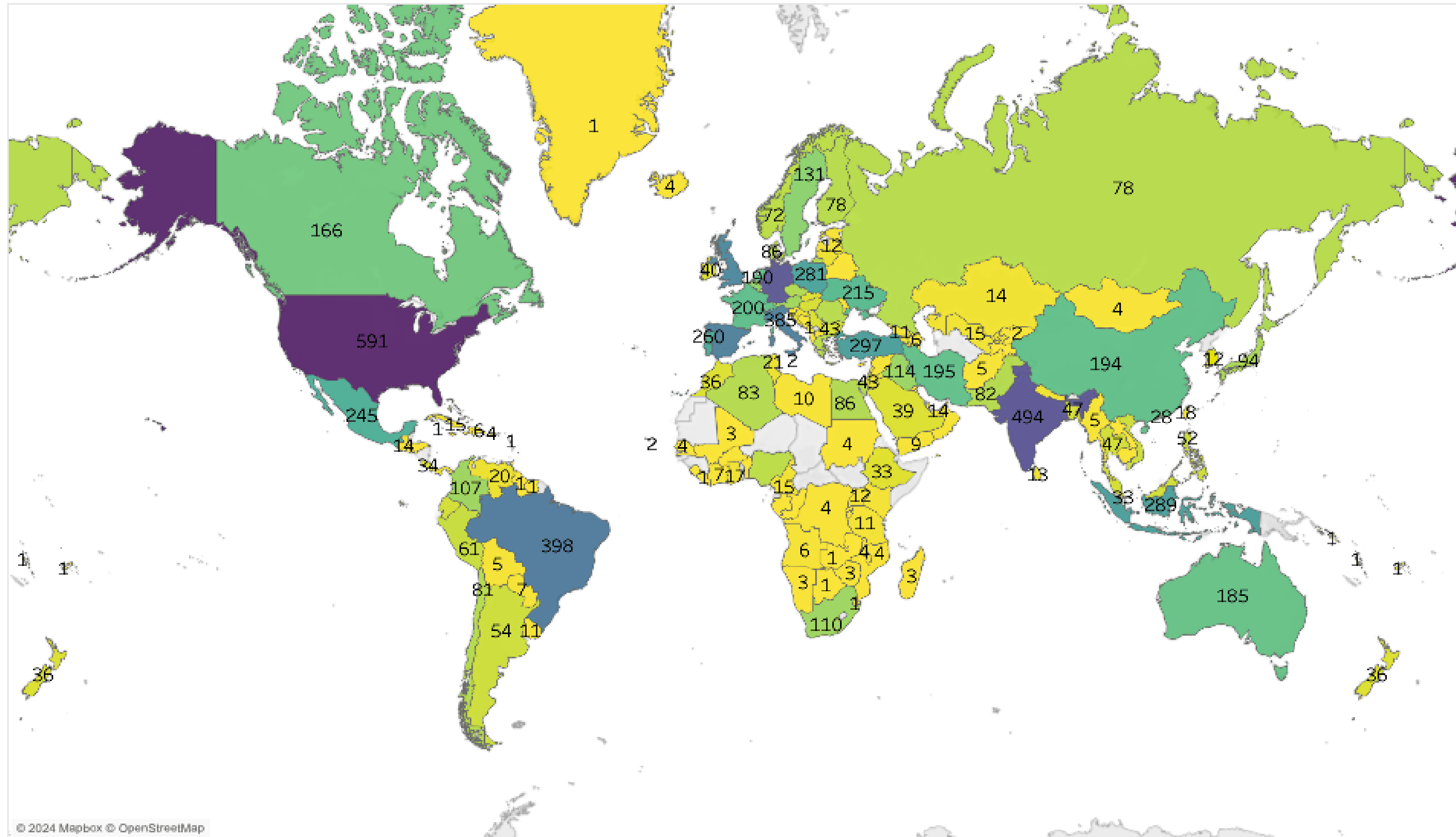
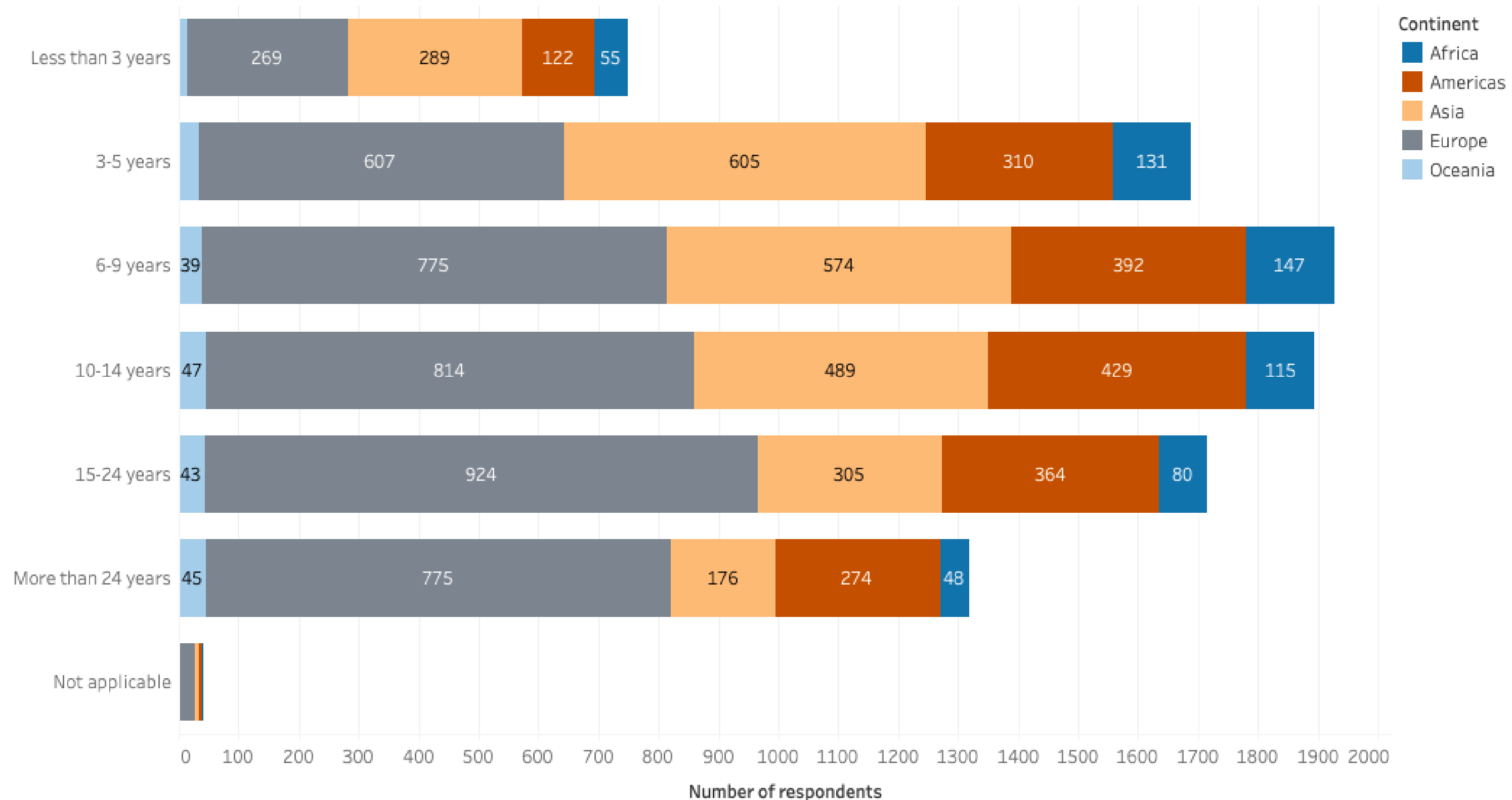**Distribution of responses by discipline**
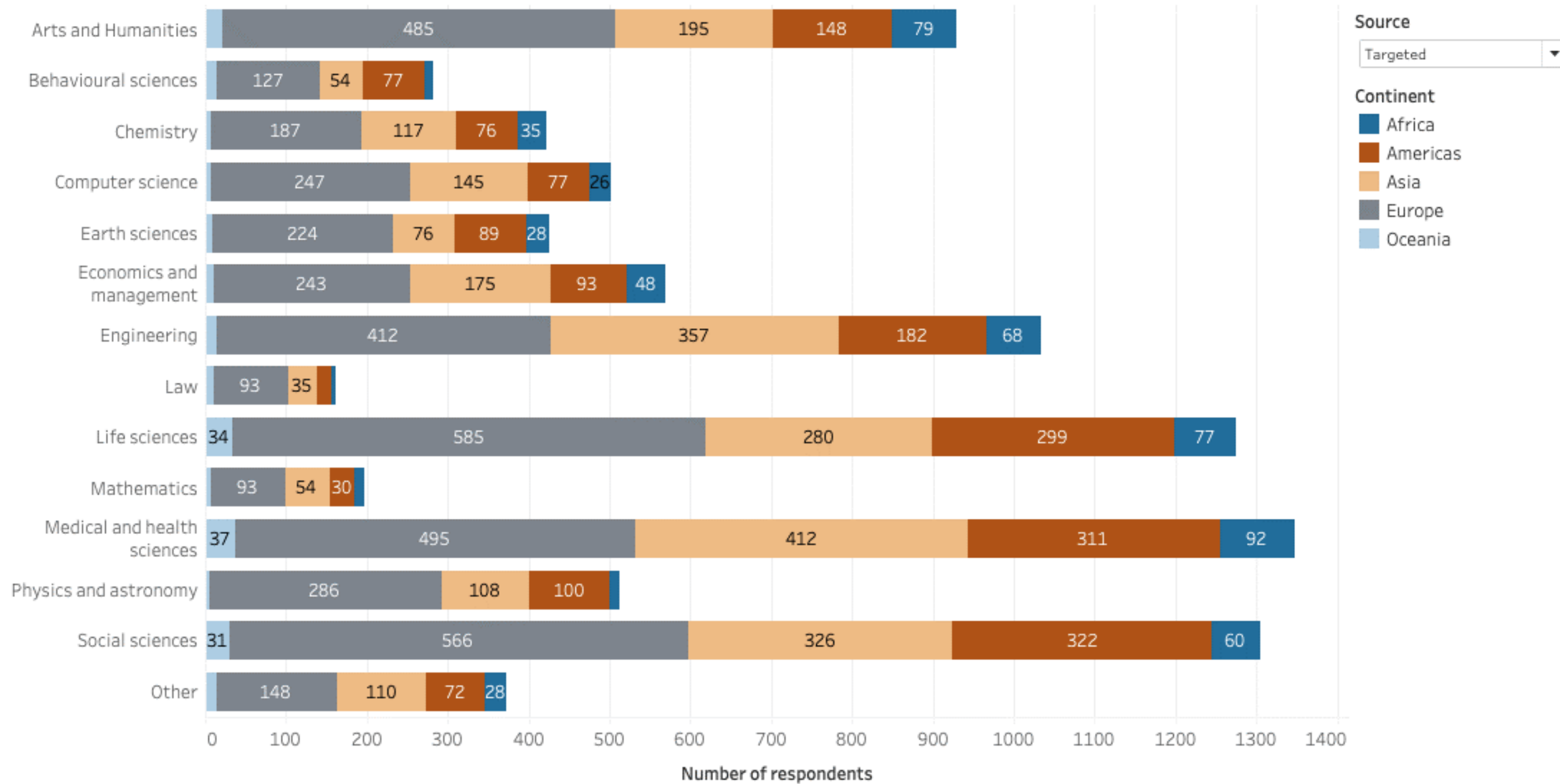
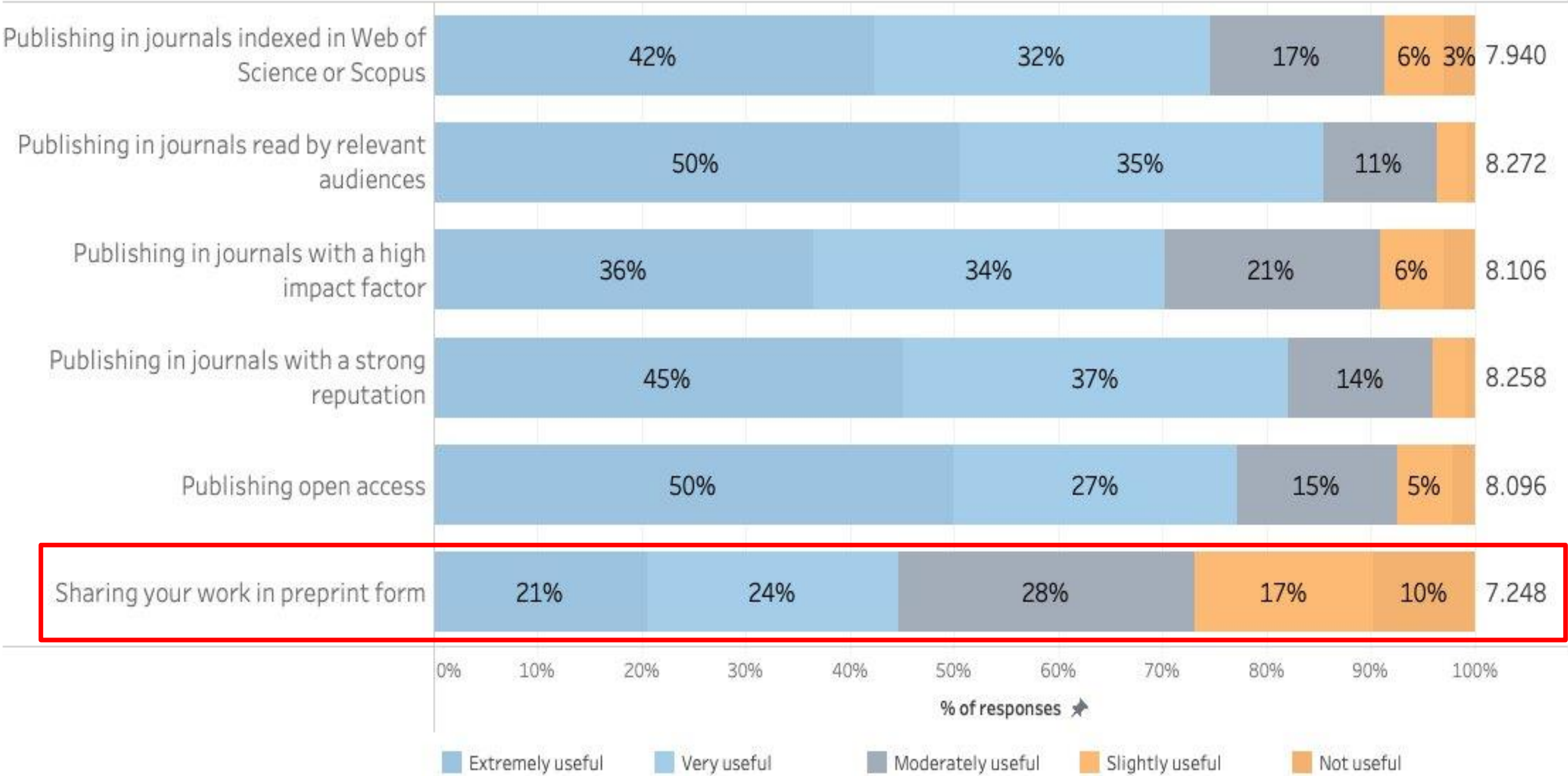**Distribution of responses by research experience**

Researcher survey: key findings

Attitudes to preprints (1 of 2)

Although **preprinting** is **not** seen as important as the existing journal ecosystem to authors in helping them reach their intended audience, some **45%** still consider the sharing of preprints to be "**extremely useful" or "very useful"**

How useful are the following methods in helping your research reach its intended audience?

Method	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not useful	Score
Publishing in journals indexed in Web of Science or Scopus	42%	32%	17%	6%	3%	7.940
Publishing in journals read by relevant audiences	50%	35%	11%			8.272
Publishing in journals with a high impact factor	36%	34%	21%	6%		8.106
Publishing in journals with a strong reputation	45%	37%	14%			8.258
Publishing open access	50%	27%	15%	5%		8.096
Sharing your work in preprint form	21%	24%	28%	17%	10%	7.248

% of responses

Legend: ■ Extremely useful ■ Very useful ■ Moderately useful ■ Slightly useful ■ Not useful

Attitudes to preprints (2 of 2)

The survey, however, also shows that the **benefits** of preprinting are widely understood.

How effective do you think preprints are in the following areas?

	Extremely effective	Very effective	Moderately effective	Slightly effective	Not effective	
Enhancing research accessibility and visibility	27%	37%	23%	10%	4%	7.743
Providing early access to new research	28%	34%	24%	10%	4%	7.733
Increasing research transparency	26%	32%	24%	12%	7%	7.482
Accelerating academic discourse	21%	33%	28%	12%	5%	7.492
Receiving early feedback on new research	19%	33%	27%	14%	7%	7.631

% of responses

Legend: Extremely effective, Very effective, Moderately effective, Slightly effective, Not effective

Attitudes to sharing peer review reports

- Making peer review reports open will help build trust in the research and the review process
- If such reports were unsigned, some **65%** of researchers would support the publication of peer review reports.
- Despite preference for **anonymous** peer review reports, only 30% have negative views around non-anonymous peer review.

Would you support the publication of your peer review reports?

As anonymous peer review reports: 31% | 34% | 18% | 10% | 7% | 7.760

As non-anonymous/attributed peer review reports: 19% | 28% | 23% | 17% | 13% | 7.631

Legend: Definitely yes | Probably yes | Might or might not | Probably not | Definitely not

% of responses

If the value of preprinting and the sharing of open peer review reports is widely understood by the research community, why is it not happening at scale?

These behaviours are not currently recognised or rewarded: preprinting

75% of respondents (n=8054) felt that they "never" or only "sometimes" rewarded for sharing a preprint.
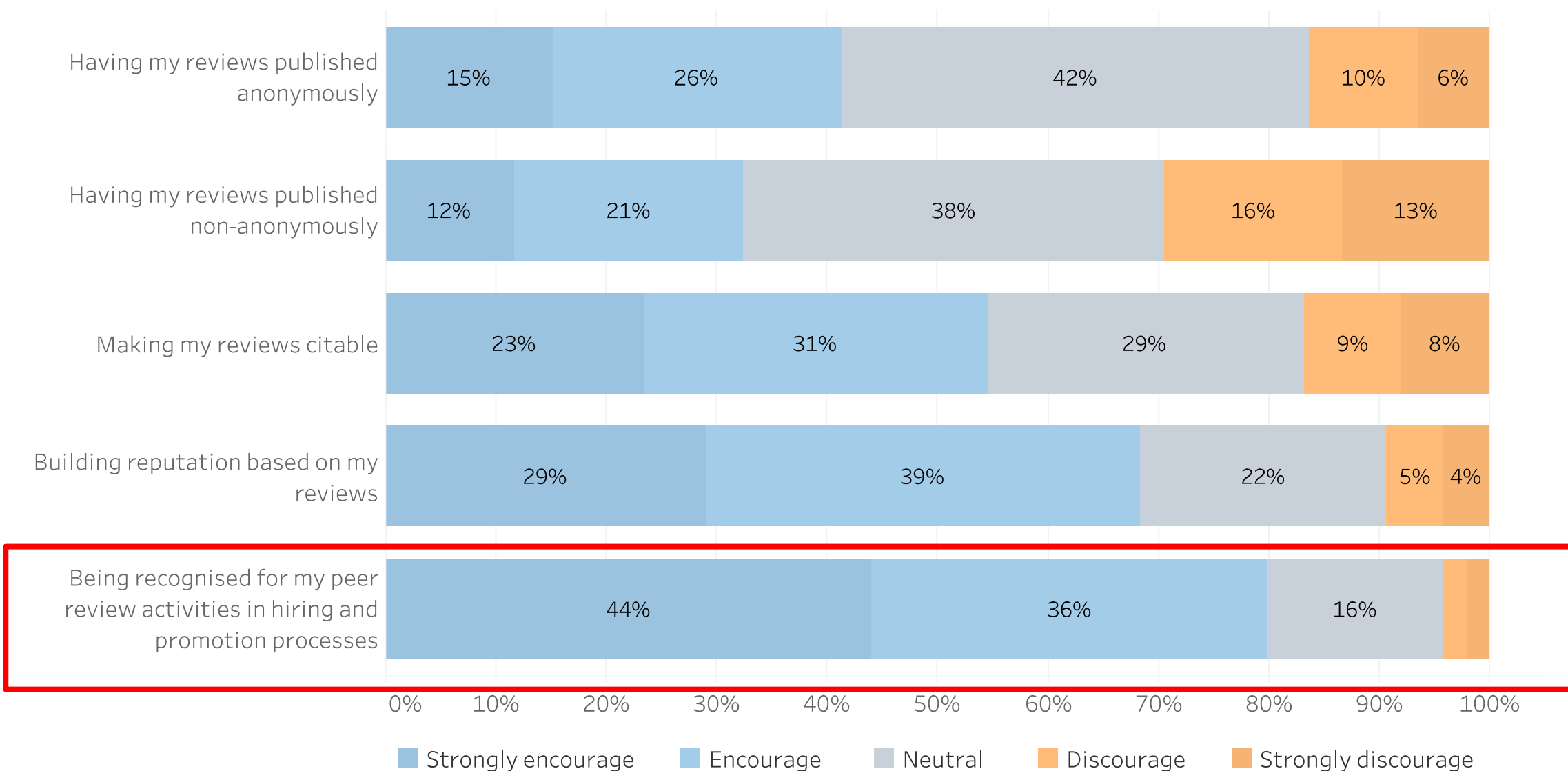
Do you feel that the researcher recognition and reward mechanisms take into account emerging
publishing methods, like preprints?
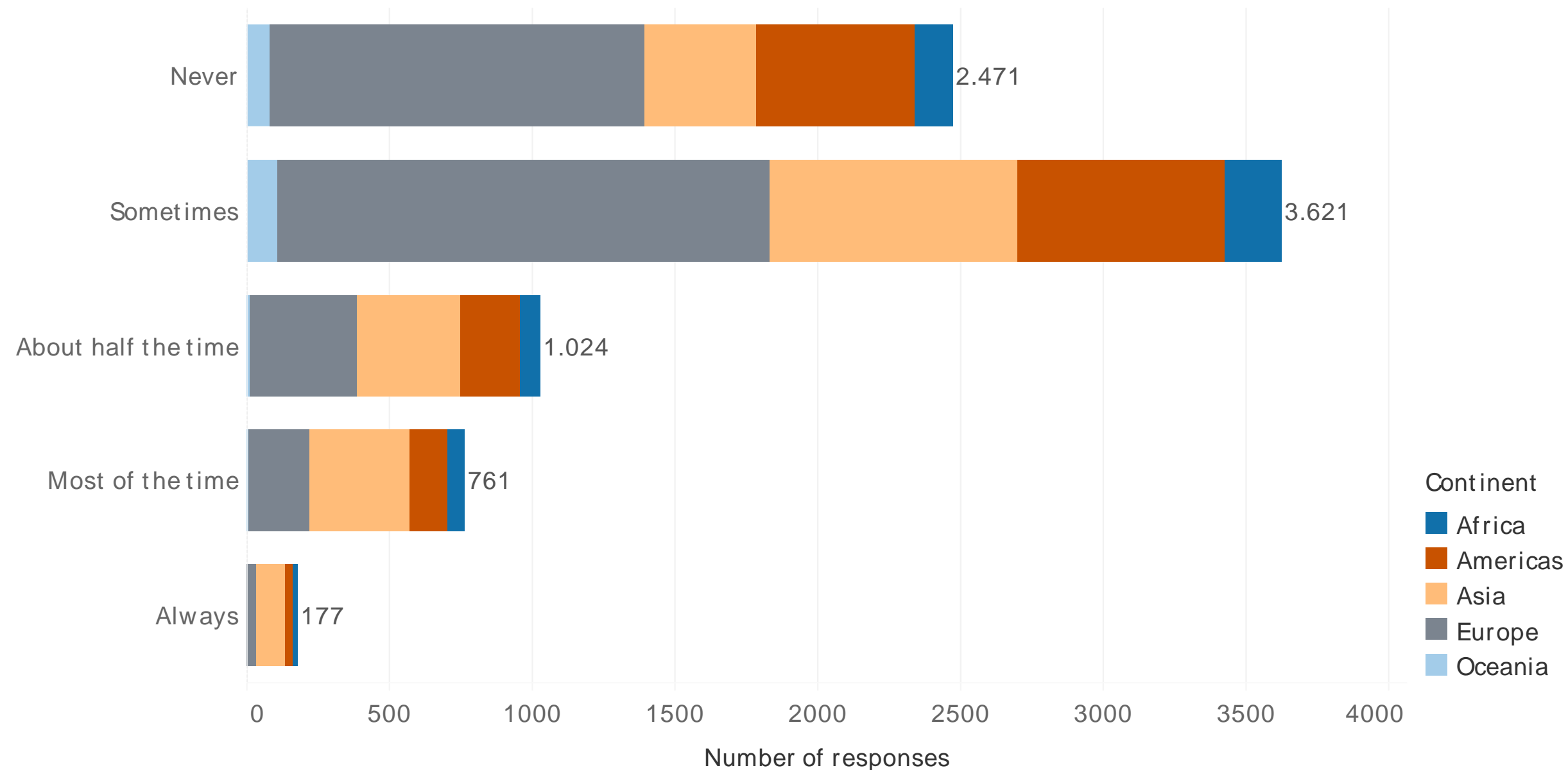
These behaviours are not currently recognised or rewarded: peer review

- Respondents confirm the need to improve recognition and reward mechanisms to encourage researchers to participate more actively in peer review

- **80%** "encourage" or "strongly encourage" peer review activities to be recognized in hiring/promotion committees.

To what extent would the following practices encourage you to participate more actively in peer review.
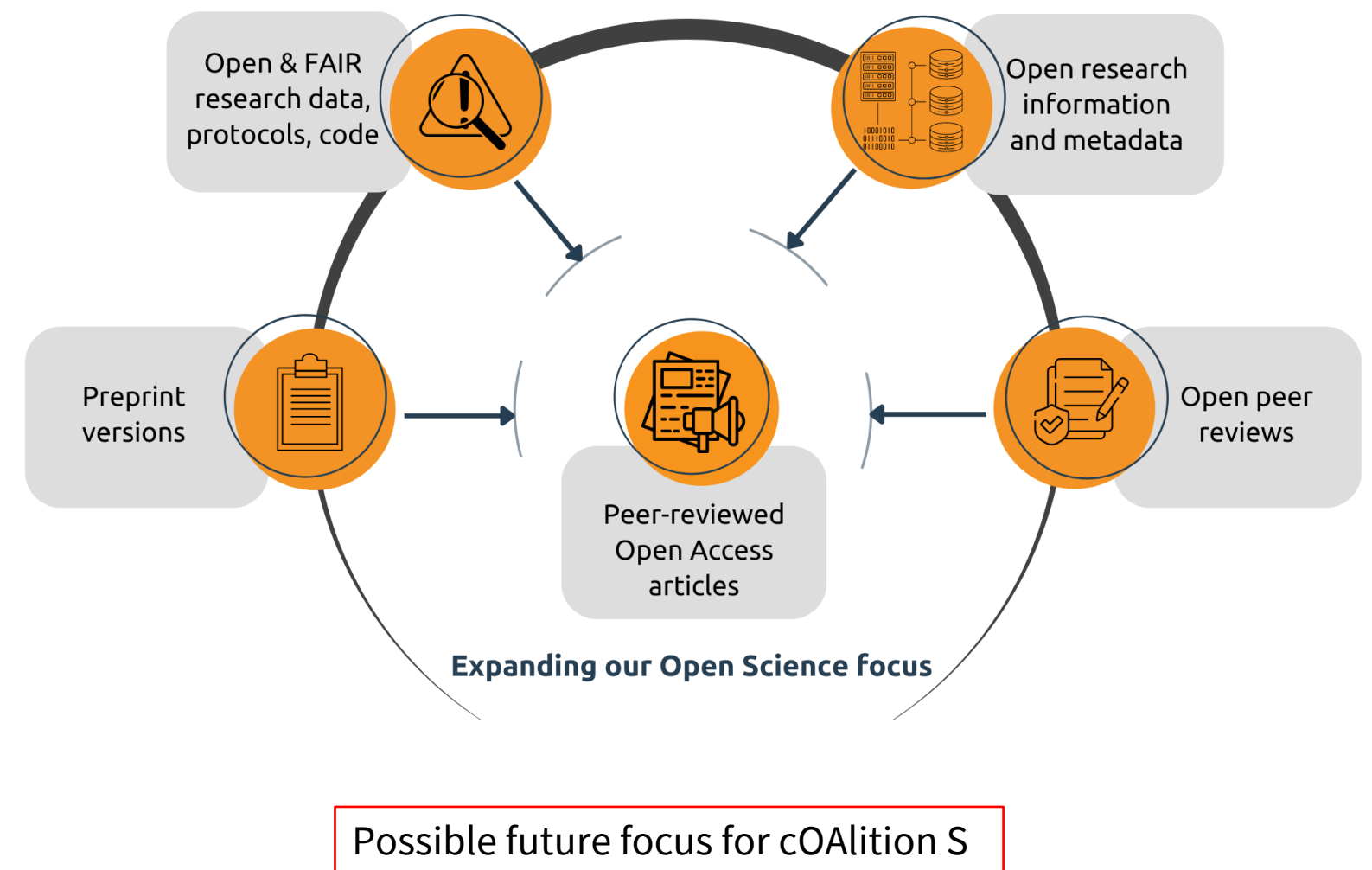

	Strongly encourage	Encourage	Neutral	Discourage	Strongly discourage
Having my reviews published anonymously	15%	26%	42%	10%	6%
Having my reviews published non-anonymously	12%	21%	38%	16%	13%
Making my reviews citable	23%	31%	29%	9%	8%
Building reputation based on my reviews	29%	39%	22%	5%	4%
Being recognised for my peer review activities in hiring and promotion processes	44%	36%	16%		

Other developments that will impact on a future strategy for cOAlition S

Other key developments that will influence a future strategy for cOAlition S

- **Increasing recognition that open science needs more than the Version of Record to be made OA**

  - Statements from UNESCO, G7 and others are calling for **all** research outputs to be made open, not just the Version of Record

  - Open Access to the peer reviewed article will likely remain our North Star, but will increasingly work to ensure that the outputs which underpin this are also made OA

- **Increasing recognition of the need for alternative, not-for-profit, publishing infrastructure**

  - Growing attention for Diamond OA, as seen in establishment of the Global Alliance for Diamond OA and the planned launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub

  - Plans to establish Open Research Europe (ORE) as a collective, non-profit, open access publishing service for the public good

Open & FAIR research data, protocols, code

Open research information and metadata

Preprint versions

Peer-reviewed Open Access articles

Open peer reviews

Expanding our Open Science focus

Possible future focus for cOAlition S

Supporting "Responsible Publishing"

How to support "Responsible Publishing"

Develop policies to encourage and reward the sharing of research outputs

- Consider developing and implementing a policy mandating the sharing of preprints

- Provide guidance to assessors indicating that journal metrics will not be used in researcher assessment

- Encourage/mandate researchers to list their published peer review reports as research outputs in their assessment materials

Support shared infrastructure

- To recognise and elevate open research outputs associated with the peer-reviewed articles, we need a distributed, interoperable infrastructure that can surface and connect these outputs.

Engaging the community

- Work with other stakeholders to help bring about a scholarly communication ecosystem that enables rapid, open, transparent, and equitable sharing of trustworthy scientific knowledge.

How to support "Responsible Publishing"?

- **Treat peer review as a scholarly activity**

  I.   Assign a DOI to every peer review report

  II. Make it clear to your reviewers that their efforts should focus exclusively on the science of the article they are reviewing and how the work could be improved etc.

  Questions about suitability for publishing should be the exclusive domain of editors (not reviewers).

  III. Consider making **all** peer review reports open, including those which relate to "rejected" articles. (controversial)

  Keeping some peer review reports confidential (for example those of rejected papers) is problematic because it promotes a 'getting into journals' game that can undermine scientific rigor

How to support "Responsible Publishing"?

- **Consider piloting the "Publish, Review and Curate" model at a journal/ publisher**

    I.   Require all submissions to that journal to be published on a **preprint** server

    II. Decide which articles were in scope and worthy of peer review

    III. Expose those articles to various scientific integrity checks (plagiarism, data availability, ethical considerations etc.)

    IV. Manage the **peer review process** for all in-scope articles which pass the integrity tests.

    All peer review reports would be published and linked to the preprint. The preprint is now designated as a "reviewed preprint" and will have likely been updated to reflect comments from peer reviewers.

    V.   Decide which of the reviewed preprints are suitable for inclusion in your journal.

    Rather than publishing the article per se (remember it has already been published as a preprint) the "article" in the journal could simply link to the reviewed preprint AND include an editorial validation, perhaps summarising the findings and explaining why they was selected for publication etc.
    *This is the **curation** layer.*

How to support "Responsible Publishing"?

- **Consider submitting your papers to Publish, Review, Curate venues:**

Open Research Europe

Open Research Europe is an open access publishing venue for European Commission-funded researchers across all disciplines, with no author fees.

Accelerate the impact of your research with rapid publication, open peer review, and indexing in databases such as Scopus and PubMed.
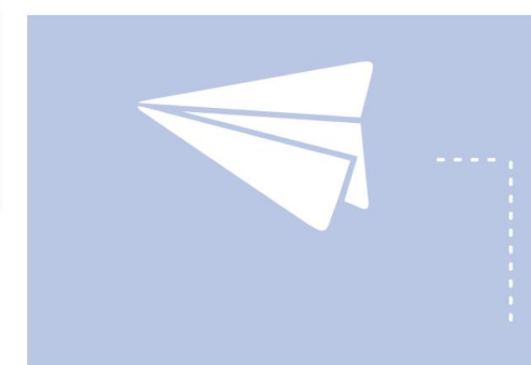
eLIFE

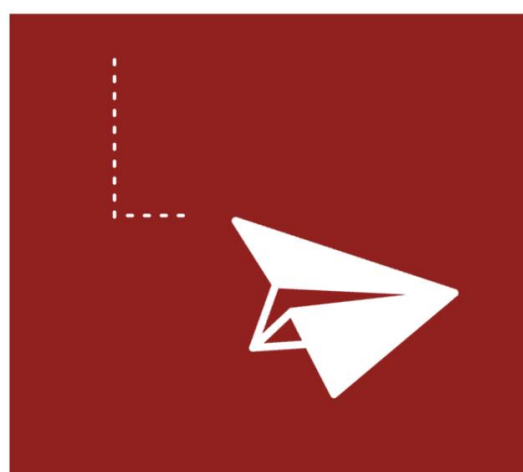NON-APC **SUSTAIN**ABLE MODEL EMPOWERING **OUR** COMMUNITY OA PUBLISHING **SERVICES**

#SustainOurServices

Sci|Post

CSIC, Peer Community In, and COAR advance innovative publishing model

DIGITAL.CSIC
OPEN SCIENCE

notify
COAR

PCI
Peer Community in

Peer Community in

PCI, a free recommendation process of scientific preprints based on peer reviews and a journal

Timeline & next steps

OCTOBER 2024

cOAlition S members will discuss a "Beyond 2025" strategy

JANUARY 2025

Decision taken on the future of cOAlition S

SPRING 2025

Future direction of cOAlition S published