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TOWARDS A MORE OPEN AND EQUITABLE PUBLISHING FUTURE

DR ANDREA CHIARELLI

OPEN PUBLISHING

Open publishing

- Research outputs are freely available to read, download, and reuse without financial, legal or technical barriers
- Authors retain copyright of their work with clear licensing terms (typically Creative Commons licenses)
- Immediate access upon publication without embargo periods
- Permanent archiving and preservation of scholarly works
- Transparency in peer review and editorial processes

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Equitable publishing

- Fair participation opportunities for authors regardless of geographic location, affiliation, language, career stage or economic resources
- Balanced representation in editorial boards and peer review processes
- Financial models that don't shift barriers from readers to authors (addressing Article Processing Charges/APCs)
- Support for multilingual publishing
- Recognition of diverse forms of knowledge and research methodologies

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Technology and infrastructure

Support for multiple file formats and data types

Version control and transparent correction workflows

Metadata standards and interoperability requirements

Machine-readable formats and semantic enrichment

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Use of persistent identifiers for content and contributors

Integration with open science infrastructure

Adherence to accessibility standards

Digital preservation strategies and infrastructure

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Policy landscape

Licensing mandates that protect author rights while enabling reuse

Guidelines for responsible metrics and impact assessment

Research integrity and reproducibility expectations

Policies supporting preprint sharing and early research outputs

Data sovereignty policies to address indigenous data rights and governance (e.g. CARE Principles)

Technology and infrastructure

Support for multiple file formats and data types

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Machine-readable formats and semantic enrichment

Inclusive and transparent peer review policies

Use of narrative CVs for hiring and promotions

Use of persistent identifiers for content and contributors

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Integration with open science infrastructure

Adherence to accessibility standards

Digital preservation strategies and infrastructure

Clear ethics guidelines and conflict of interest policies

Research data sharing policies and requirements

Incentive structures for open research practices

'TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE PUBLISHING'

A global stakeholder consultation to explore innovation in scholarly communication.

- 11,145 researchers (online survey)
- 72 attendees from a comprehensive set of stakeholder groups (focus groups)
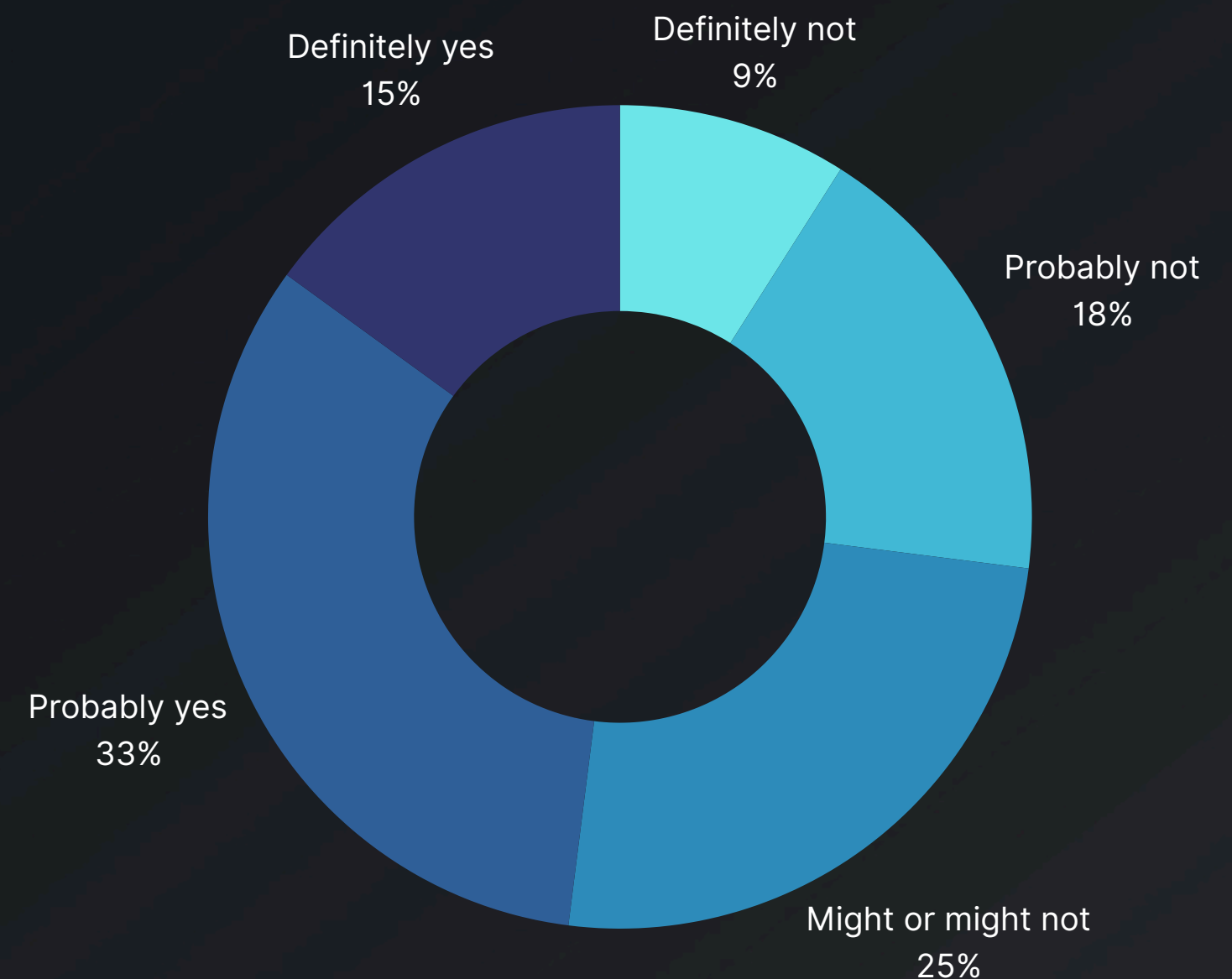- 10 organisations based in low- and middle-income countries (feedback letters)

PREPRINT POSTING

48% of respondents were supportive of preprint posting as part of publishing workflows.

Of the 7,412 respondents who shared their publishing output in the last three years, 53% had not posted a preprint, 39% had posted between 1 and 5 preprints, and 8% had posted a larger number of preprints.

Survey findings challenged the notion that preprints are significantly more supported by less experienced academics.

Would you support the posting of preprints and subsequent revised versions as a way of accelerating the dissemination of research?
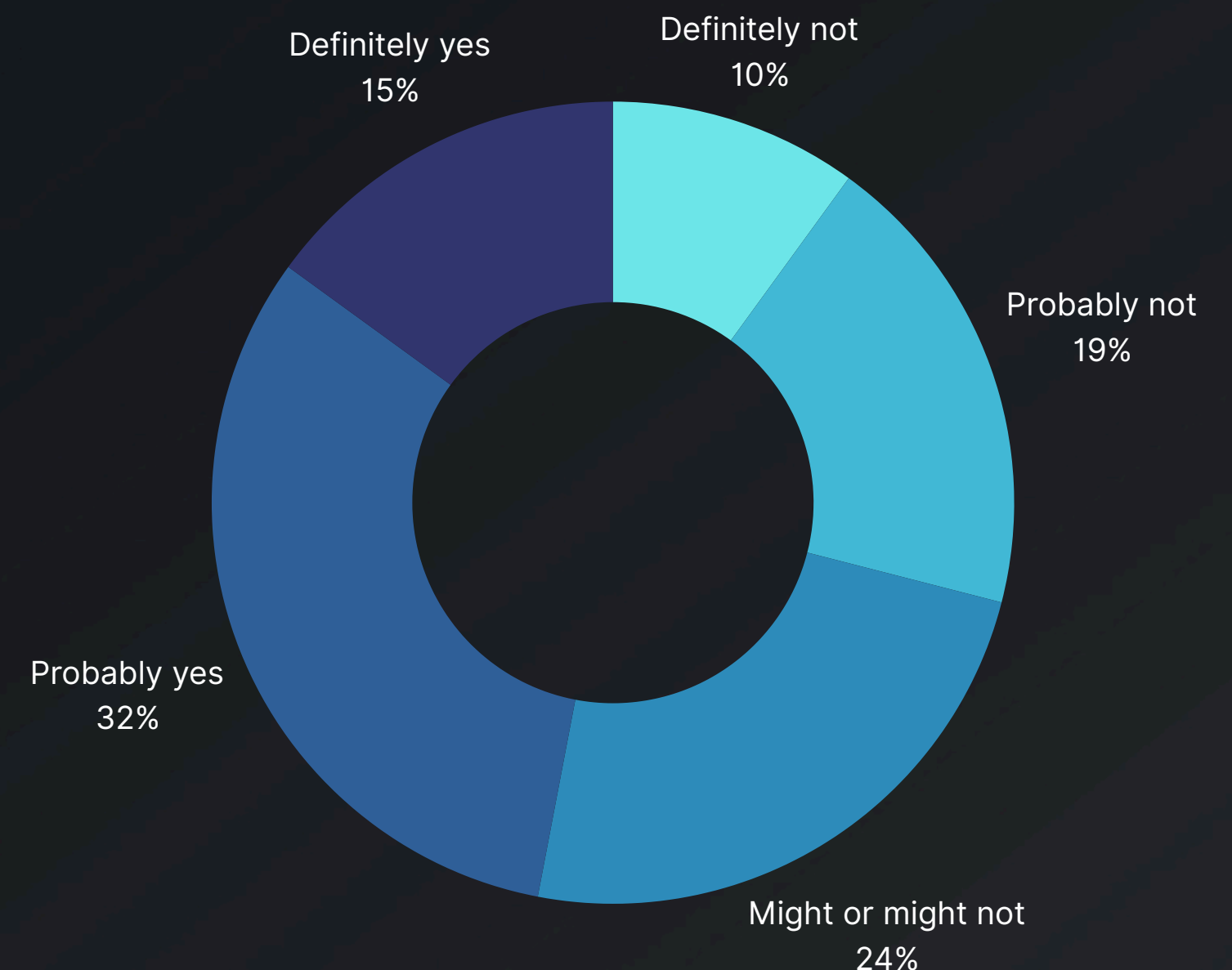

Definitely yes
15%

Definitely not
9%

Probably not
18%

Might or might not
25%

Probably yes
33%

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OPEN PEER REVIEW

47% of respondents were supportive of open peer review as part of publishing workflows.

Respondents preferred open but anonymous peer review reports (65% responded that they would definitely or probably support this practice) over attributed ones (47%).

Only 30% of respondents shared negative views regarding attributed peer review reports.

Would you support the publication of peer review reports for submitted manuscripts and revised versions as a way of informing readers?

Definitely yes
15%

Definitely not
10%

Probably not
19%

Might or might not
24%

Probably yes
32%

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SUPPORT DOES NOT EQUAL ADOPTION

Researchers are supportive of preprint posting and open peer review as part of publishing workflows. However, the average researcher is not (yet?) actively taking up or asking for preprint posting and open peer review.

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CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

Power imbalances

Some changes in publishing are seen by low- and middle-income countries as an imposition from wealthier nations.

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Preprints give rise to concerns about quality, as peer review is seen as an essential element of publishing.

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Current infrastructures lack mechanisms to sufficiently support the screening of an even greater number of publications.

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Public use of research

A more complex system with preprints, open peer review and articles may be harder to navigate for the public.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI is reshaping scholarly publishing, promising significant opportunities while raising critical questions about research quality and integrity.
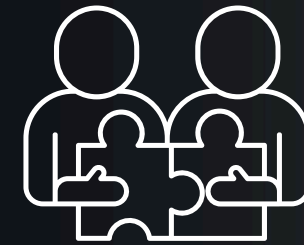
Accessibility

Translated contents. Summarisation. Improved communications and writing.
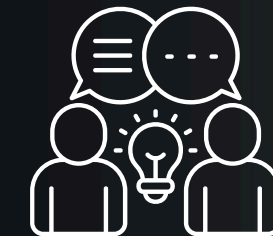
Efficiency

Accelerated research synthesis. AI manuscript screening. AI search and categorisation.

Exploitation

Information overload from AI-assisted mass submissions. Growth of paper mills.

"Meh" factor

Vague, superficial claims. Generic discussions. Loss of specialism and specificity.

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IMPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARIES

Short term

- Build basic literacy around preprints and open peer review, as well as experimental publishing models
- Develop guidance materials and training programmes for researchers
- Pilot small-scale support services
- Explore how the institution can help researchers navigate growing amounts of published materials
- Develop incentives and rewards for early adopters

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Medium term

- Expand services based on demonstrated researcher needs
- Consider institutional investment if adoption increases
- Develop deeper expertise to support specific disciplinary customs
- Build a network of departmental champions and advocates based on demand across the institution
- Verify consideration of emerging practices in career progression discussions

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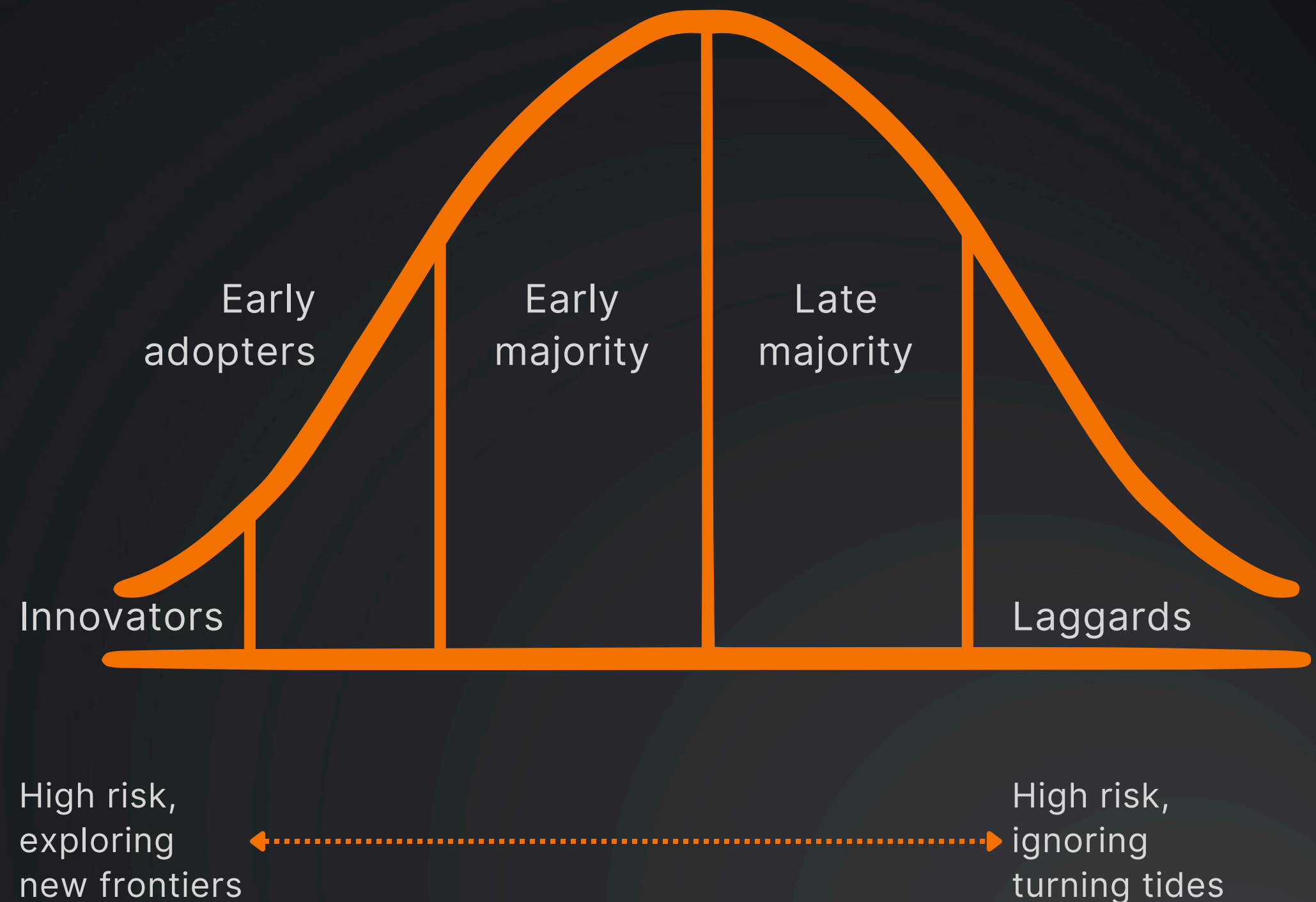- Verify consideration of emerging practices in career progression discussions

Long term

- Scale up successful support services and training, potentially within specific disciplines
- Adjust long-term strategy based on further evolution of scholarly communication landscape
- Adjust institutional policies on open research to formally reflect newly established practices

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HOW FAST SHOULD I MOVE?

Available resources and appetite for publishing innovation will likely determine what's feasible.

- Innovation diffusion theory helps in exploring different strategic choices (Rogers, 2003).
- Not everybody has to be an 'innovator' or 'early adopter', but being a 'laggard' can be as risky.

Early adopters

Early majority

Late majority

Innovators

Laggards

High risk, exploring new frontiers

High risk, ignoring turning tides

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THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?

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