



Curtin University

‘Is the library open?’: Correlating public access to academic libraries with open access support

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A global university

Western Australia | Dubai | Malaysia | Mauritius | Singapore



Acknowledgements



Introductions

● ● ● | Introductions – COKI



- COKI: The Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative
- Housed within the Centre for Culture and Technology
- In collaboration with the Curtin Institute for Computation
- Strategic funding from Curtin University
- Multidisciplinary team



● ● ● | Introductions - COKI

- What does it mean for a university to be an 'Open Knowledge Institution'?
- What kind of information might universities need to understand how they are tracking?
- Can publicly available data help?



Introductions – The COKI Team



Curtin University



Cameron Neylon, Professor of Research Communications

Lucy Montgomery, Associate Professor, Internet Studies

John Hartley, Professor of Cultural Science

Chun-Kai (Karl) Huang, Data Scientist

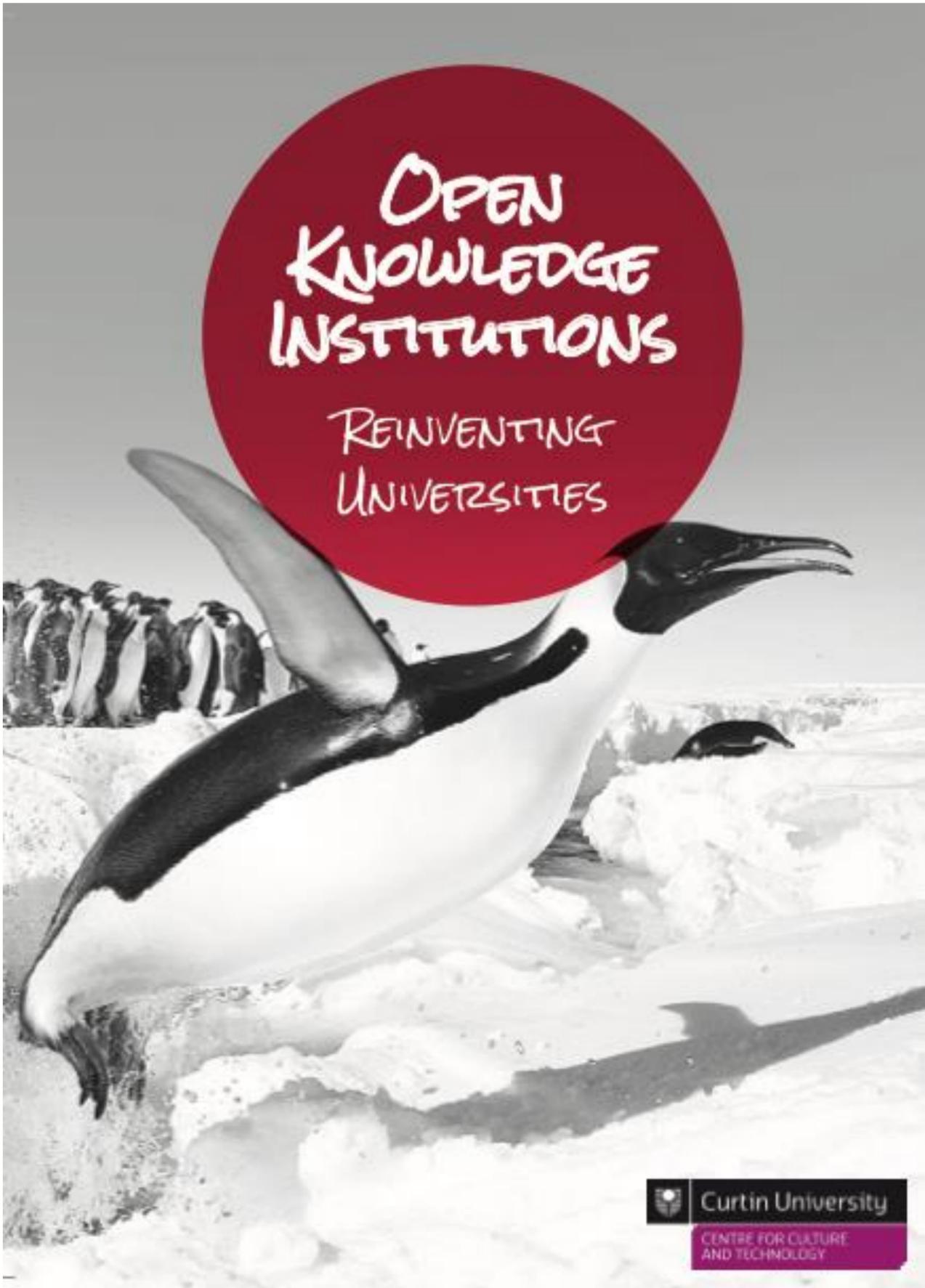
Katie Wilson, Research Fellow

Richard Hosking, Data Scientist

Alkim Ozaygen, Data Scientist

Chloe Brookes-Kenworthy, Data Wrangler

Emma de Francisco, Project Coordinator



OPEN
KNOWLEDGE
INSTITUTIONS
REINVENTING
UNIVERSITIES

‘This book advocates for universities to become Open Knowledge Institutions which institutionalise our world’s creative diversity to contribute to the stock of human knowledge’

<https://bookbook.pub/pub.org/uki/>

Lucy Montgomery, John Hartley,
Cameron Neylon, Malcolm Gillies, Eve
Gray, Carsten Herrman-Pillath, Chun-Kai
(Karl) Huang, Joan Leach, Jason Potts,
Xiang Ren, Katherine Skinner, Cassidy
Sugimoto, Katie Wilson



● ● ● | Introductions - COKI

- Open Access and open data are important elements of vibrant knowledge systems
- But they are not enough

Successful OKIs also involve

- Diversity – who gets to make knowledge?
- Cross boundary collaboration: disciplines + university/wider community

● ● ● | Can Publicly Available Data Help?



Publicly available data can help us to begin mapping:

- Intentions – Institutional policy documents, stated aspirations
- Effort – Investment and resource allocation
- Outcomes - Evaluation

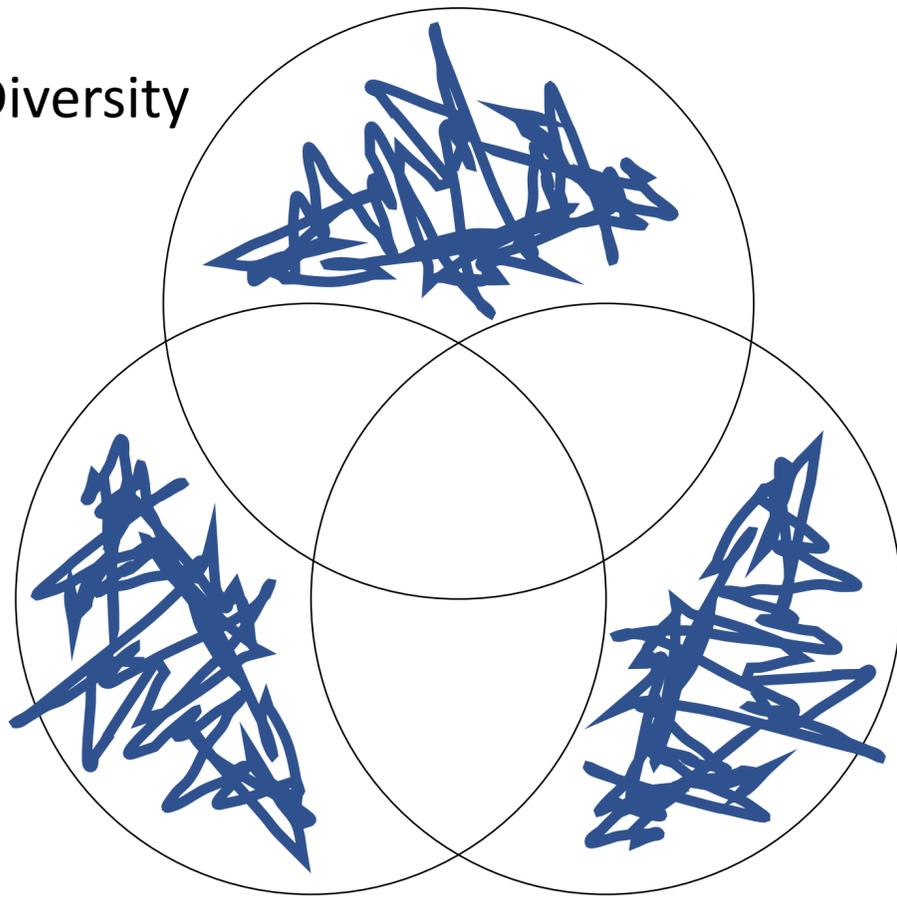


What aren't we doing?
What are our comparators doing?

Where do we choose to invest?
Can we find synergies?

What do we do well?
How are we different?

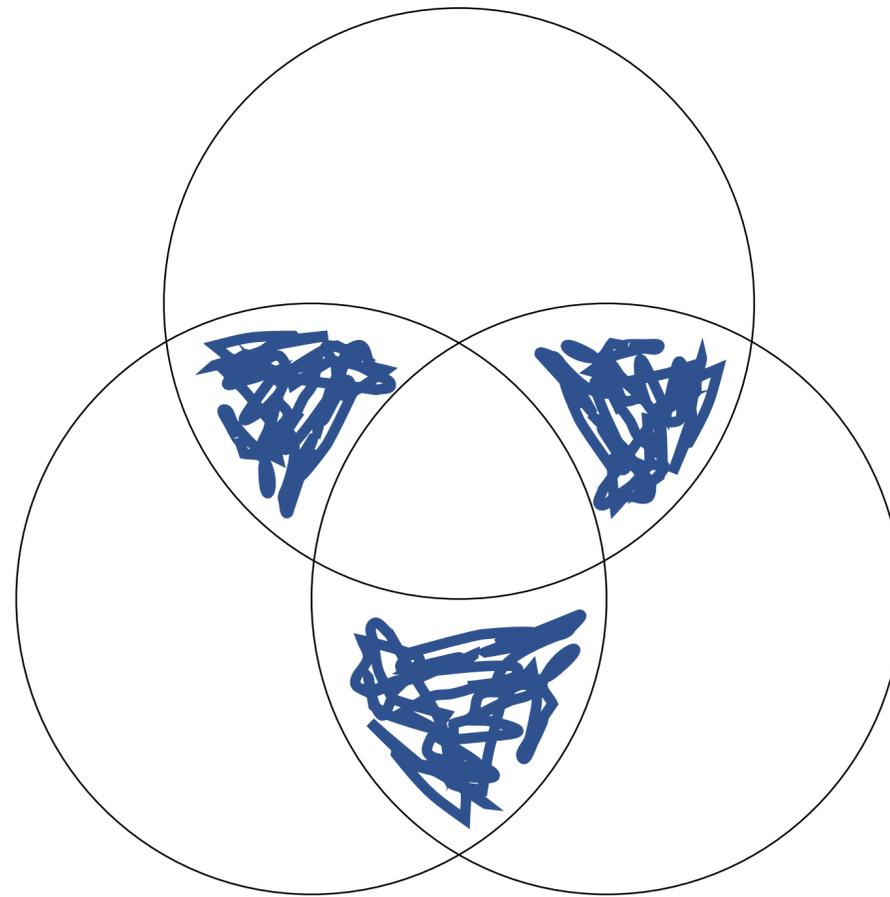
Diversity



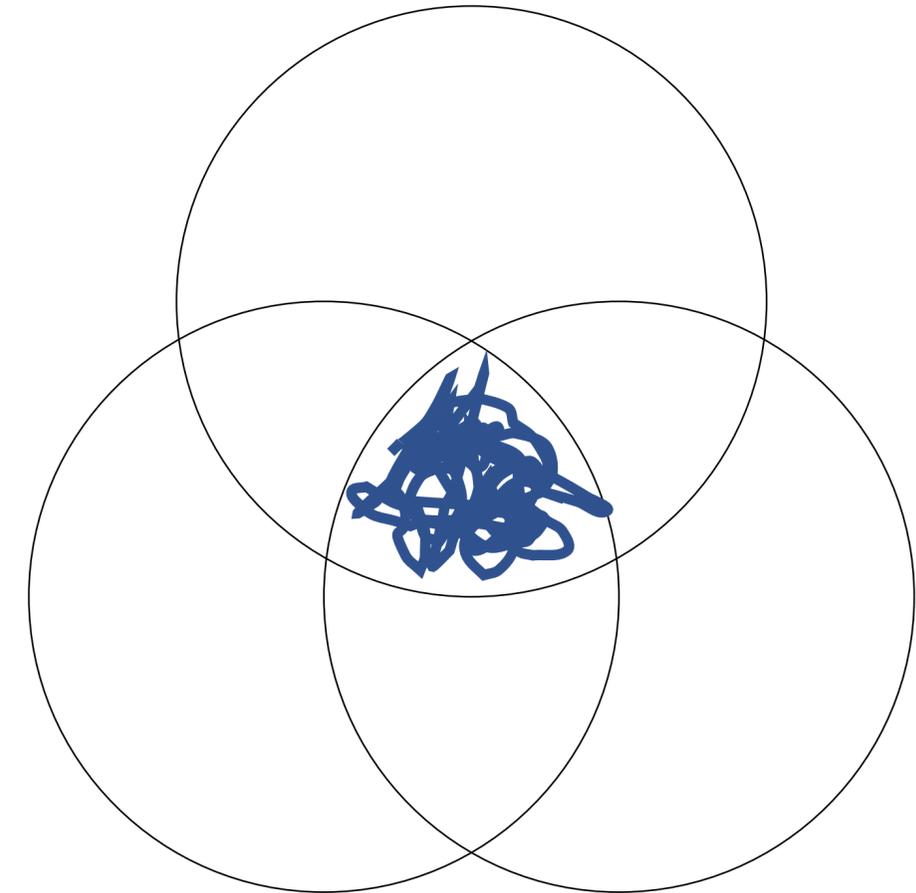
Communication

Coordination

Deficit Models



Investment/Priority Models



Capacity Models



How 'open' are campuses?

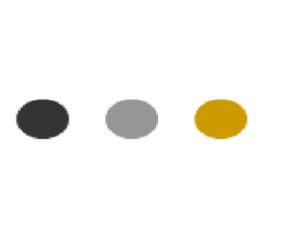
● ● ● | The study: Access to academic libraries



Library access as an indicator or proxy for institutional openness

Research questions:

- How do academic library access policies reflect their institutions' positions on open knowledge?
- Do academic library access or use policies specify conditions of access for external, unaffiliated members of the public?
- How do academic library access policies correlate with institutional open access policies and open access publishing practices?
- What do academic library access policies suggest to the wider community about institutional openness?



Access to academic libraries



Methodology – pilot study

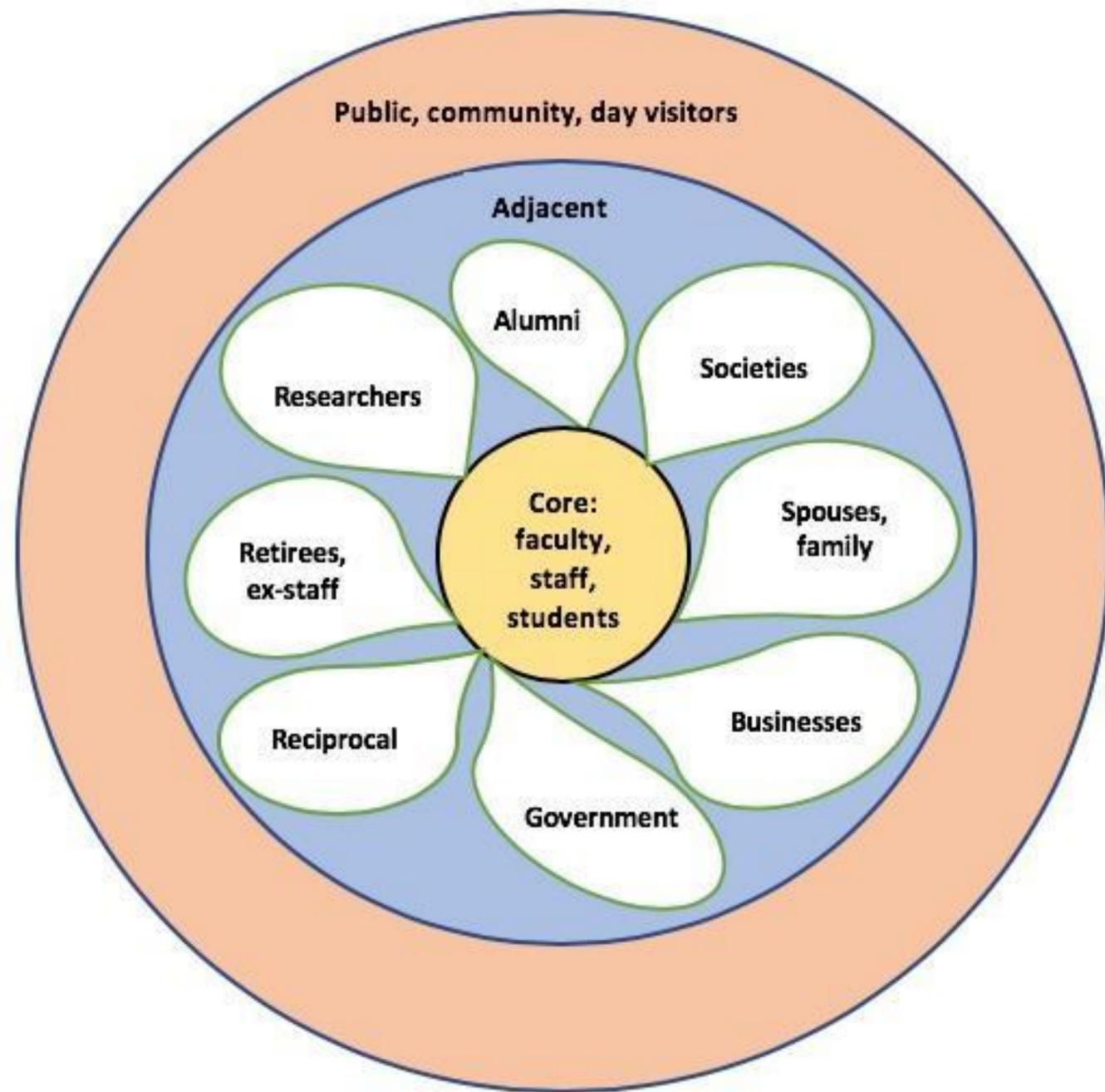
- 20 institutions from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, UK
- library, open access policy documents, websites, directories: DOAR, ROARMAP, MELIBEA
- analysed and cross-tabulated public data to identify points of difference

Tools

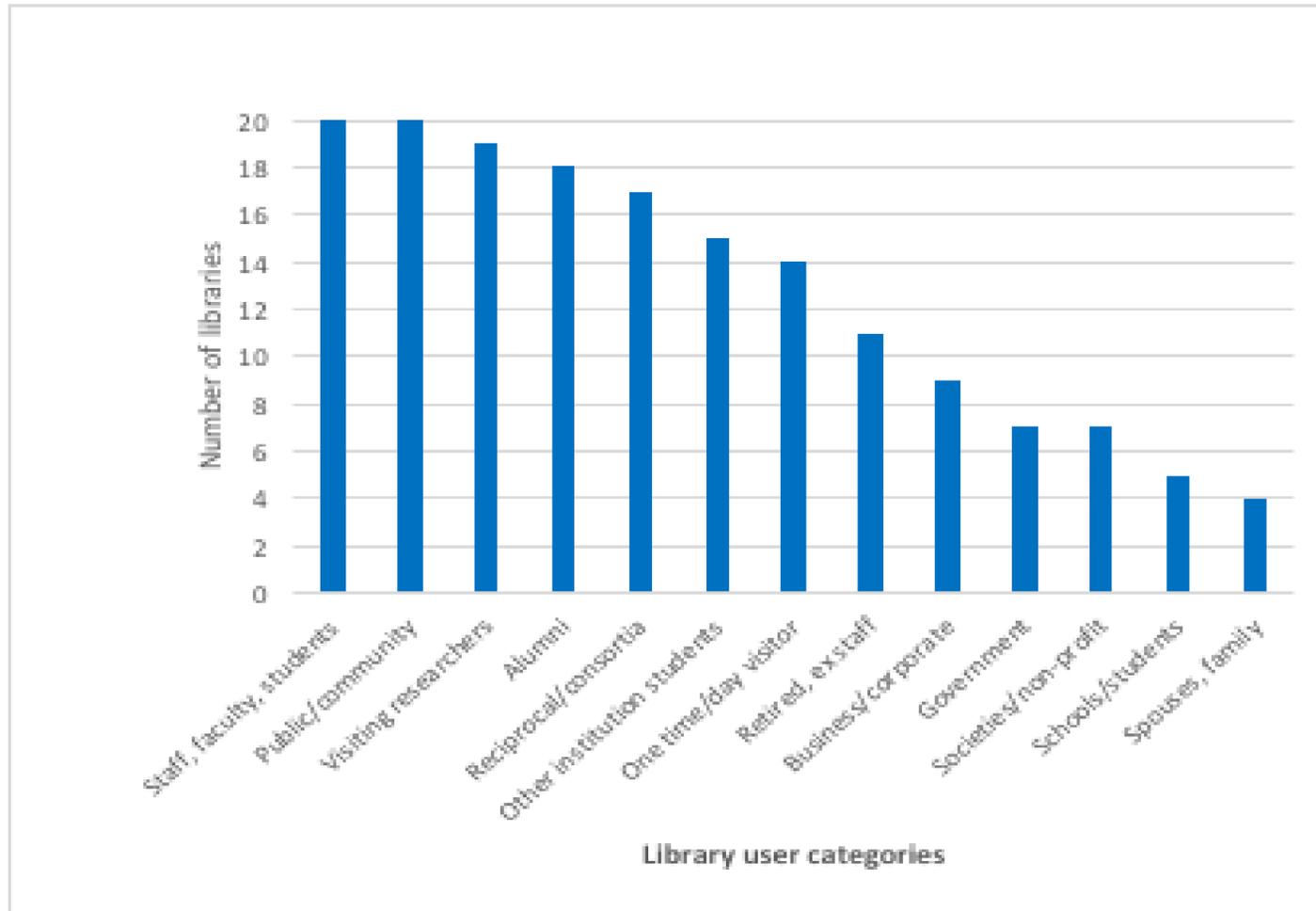
- Jupyter notebook, Python
- multilingual scholarly communication lexicon
- Manual searching

Academic Libraries

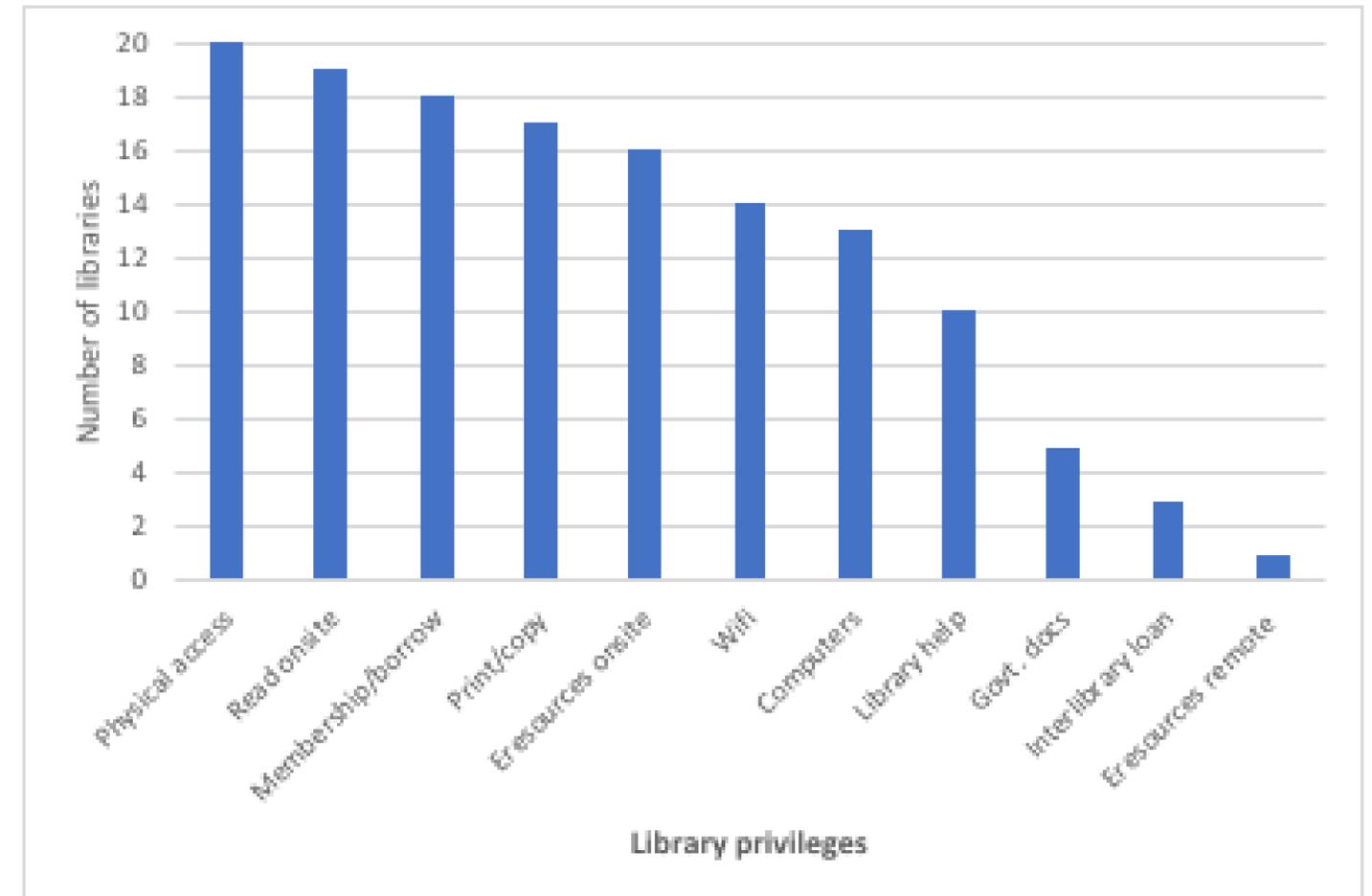
- Library access/use policies and practices
- Identified three levels of library users
- Adjacent categories vary geographically
- General public, community, unaffiliated least likely to have access



Library user categories



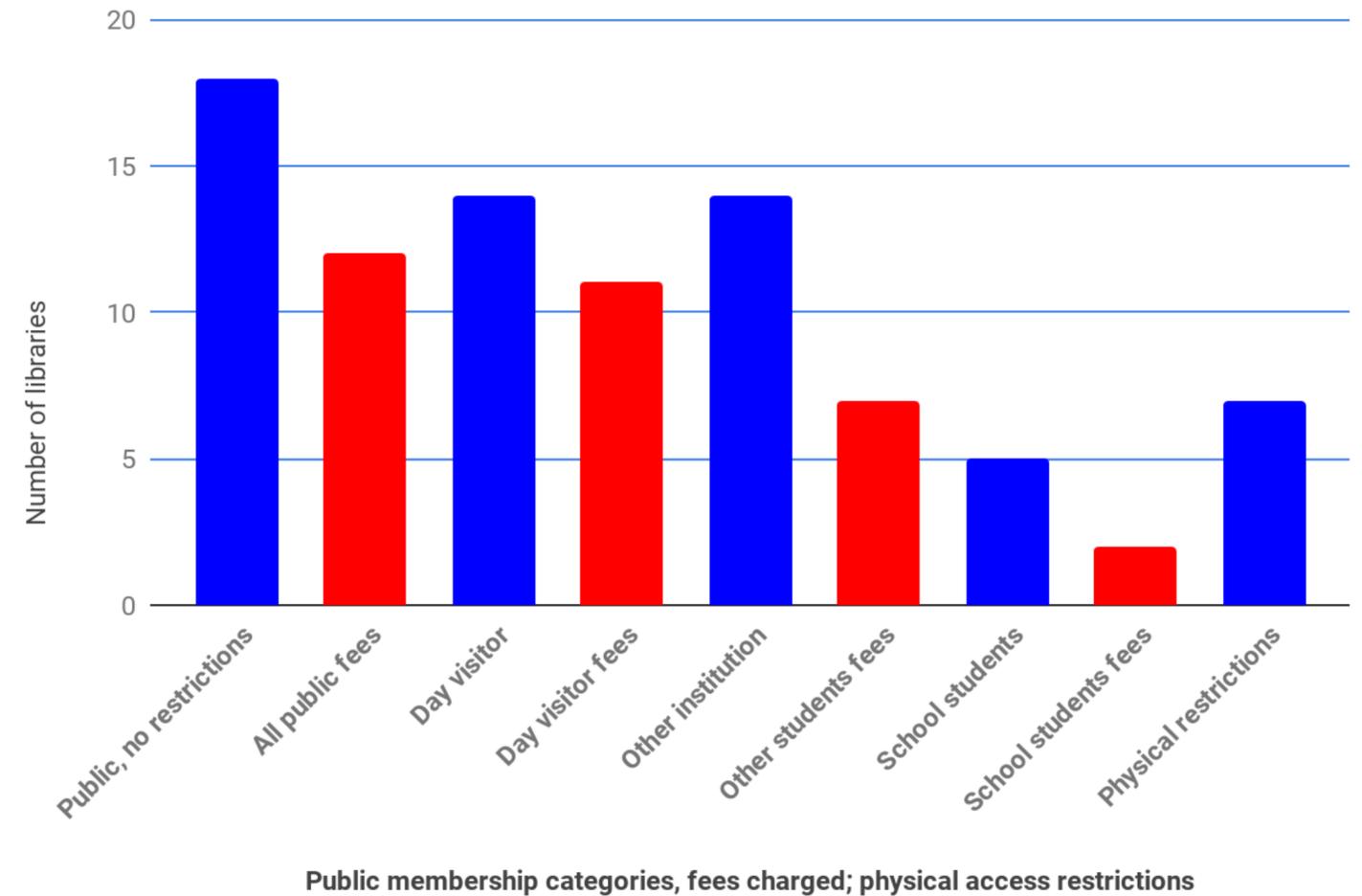
Privileges for external, unaffiliated users

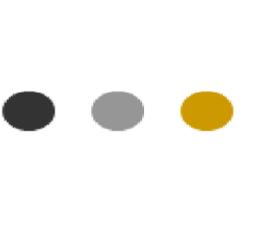


Multiple categories indicate range of needs and demands. Not all have access

Digging deeper: Fees and access restrictions for unaffiliated public

- Are fees charged to all unaffiliated persons?
- Are any members of the public excluded from access?
- Do restrictions on physical access to libraries exist?





Costs of open library access



- Fees for access a key differential
- Costs vary by geography and within countries
- Free open access in some countries
- Limited evaluation, cost analysis shows minimal impact

Reasons for fees

- To offset costs?
- To raise funds?
- To manage demand?
- Where open access to public is free are academic libraries better funded?

Three differential points of openness

- access or membership is available for the general public or community
- membership is provided free of charge to the general public or community
- physical access to library buildings and/or collections is not restricted
- Scored each library from 0-3



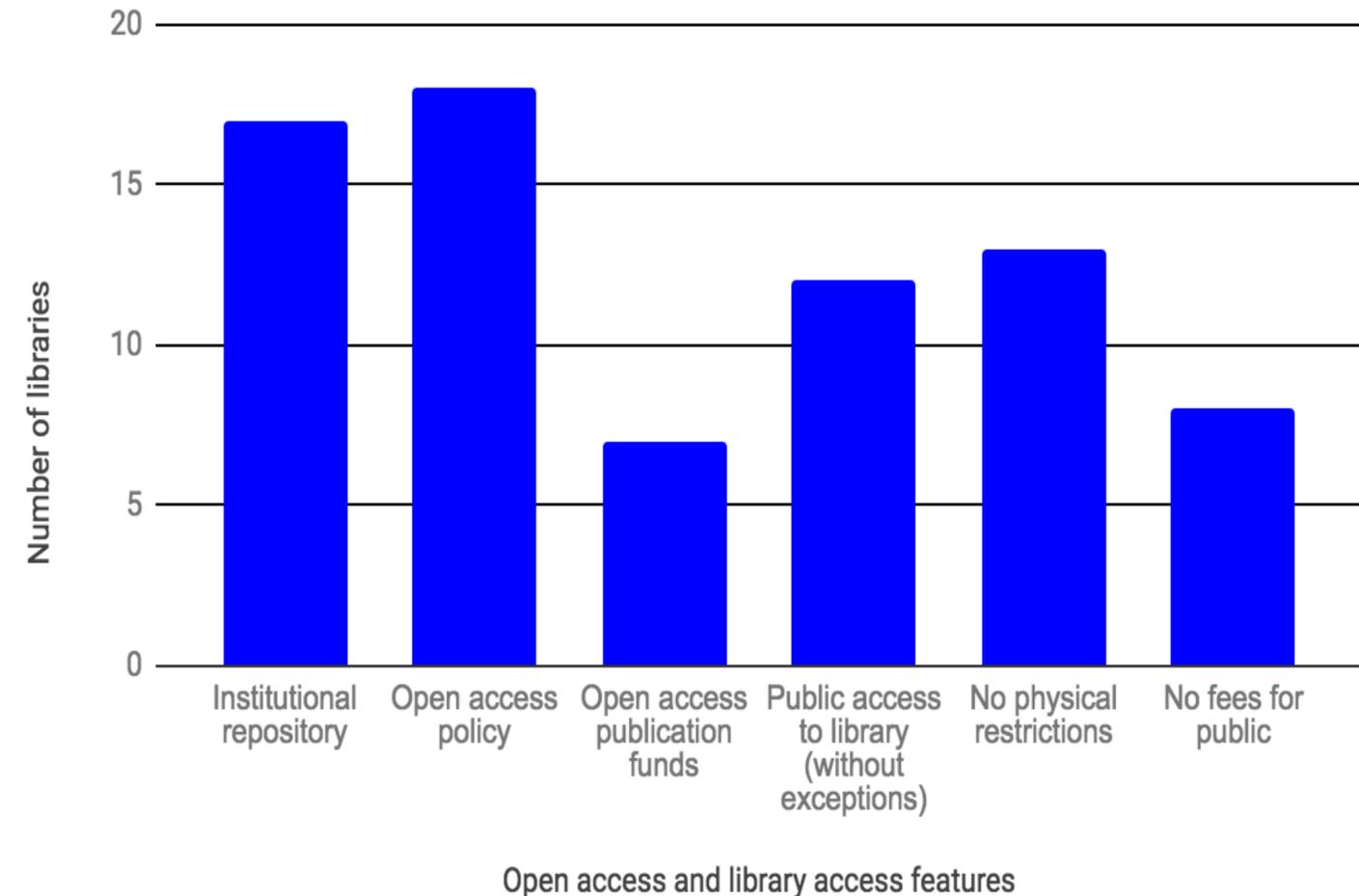
Correlate library access with positions on OA publishing

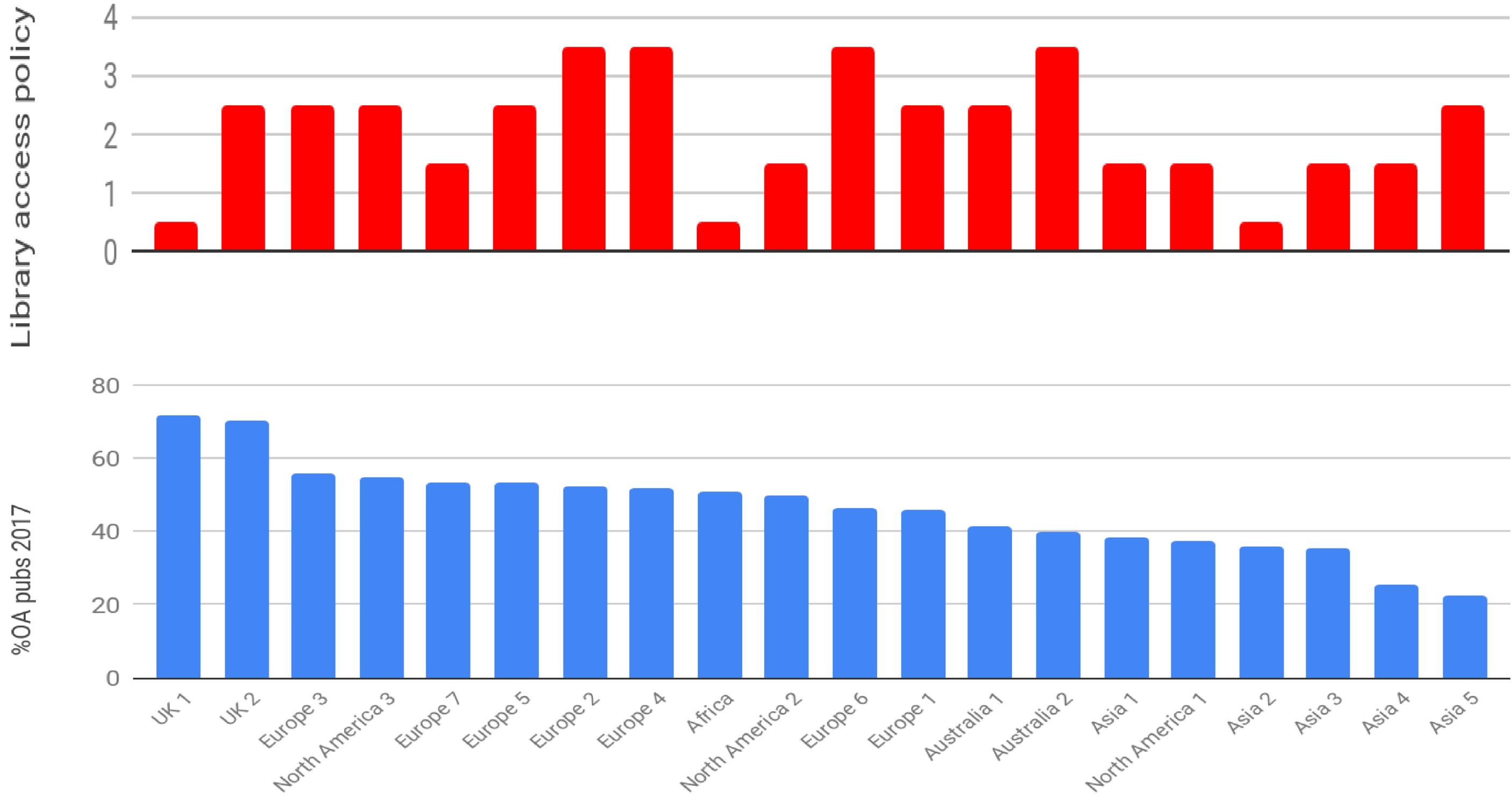
- . OA policy
- . Institutional repository
- . OA funds

- . Public access to library
- . No physical restrictions
- . No fees for public access

- . Counted and scored each institution for the two sets of features (0-3)

- . Added % OA output for 2017





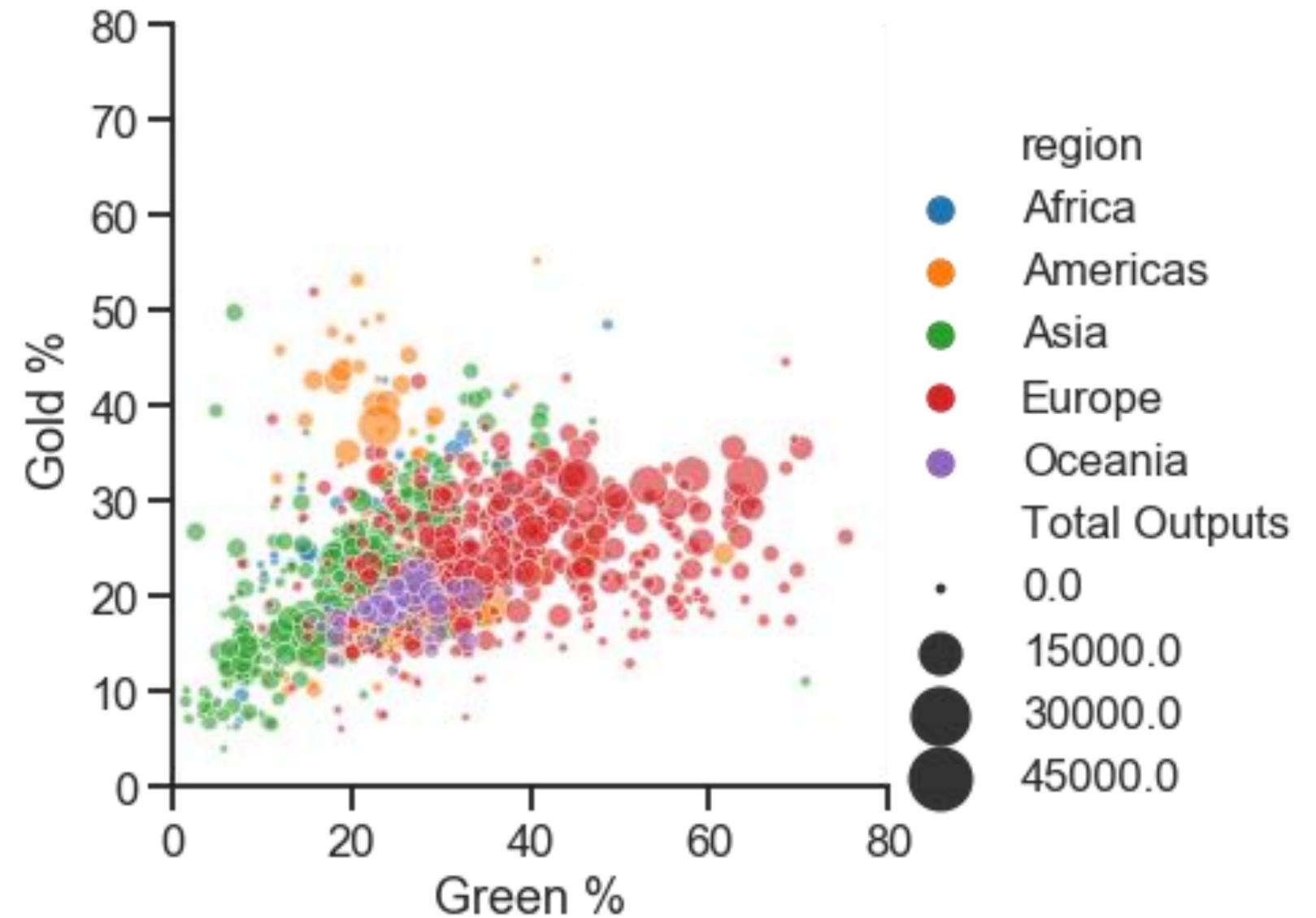
Spearman rank correlation:

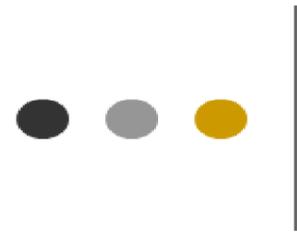
% OA vs OA policy $\rho = 0.76$

% OA vs library access policy $\rho =$

Regional OA performance 2017 - Green and Gold

- Australia, New Zealand (Oceania) and Asia grouped in the lower to middle ranges
- Europe, Americas higher green/gold





What does the research tell us?



- Many reasons for variant access restrictions
- Disparities between the two access dimensions
- Importance of clear communication of policy intentions and detail

- Extend library access and OA policies analysis worldwide
- Invite libraries to review their own data
- Collaboration and coalition building

- Validation workshop:
 - Key players in open science and scientometrics from Europe, South America, Africa, the US and Australia
 - Stress-test our approach and methodology

Thank you

Questions?

