

Consequences of Sweden cancelling Elsevier

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Bibsam demanded

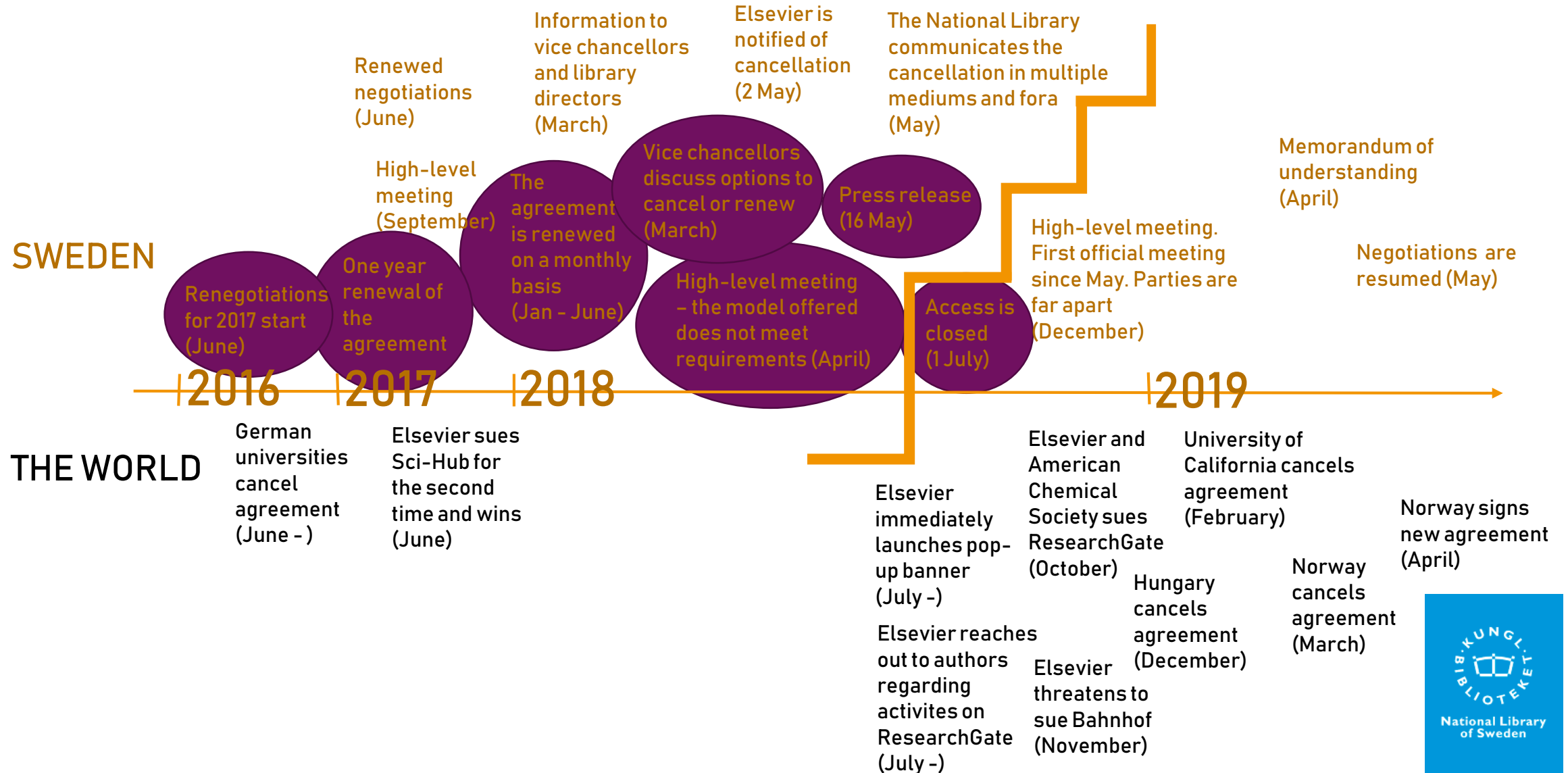
- A three year agreement: 2018-2020
- Immediate open access to all articles published with Elsevier
- Reading rights to Elsevier's Science Direct Freedom Collection including Lancet + Cell Press
- A sustainable price model that enables the transition to open access



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

Negotiation process and termination

Agreement is terminated per the 30th of June 2018



Cancellation



Press release 16 May, 2018:

https://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/kungliga_biblioteket/pressreleases/sweden-stands-up-for-open-access-cancels-agreement-with-elsevier-2508242

What did it mean?

Who was affected?

Assignment

Evaluate how the Swedish Elsevier cancellation affected:

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

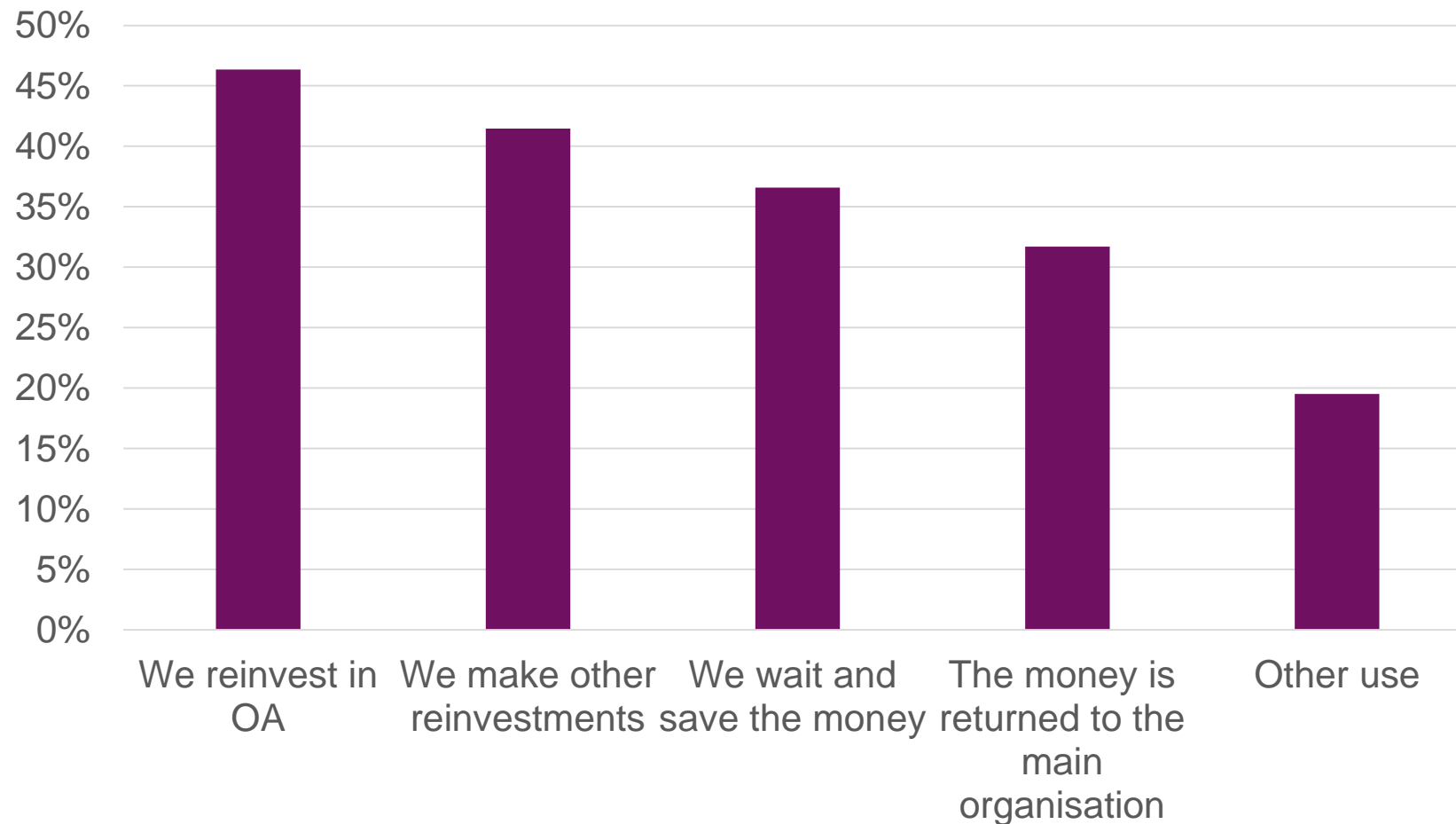
Method

- 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

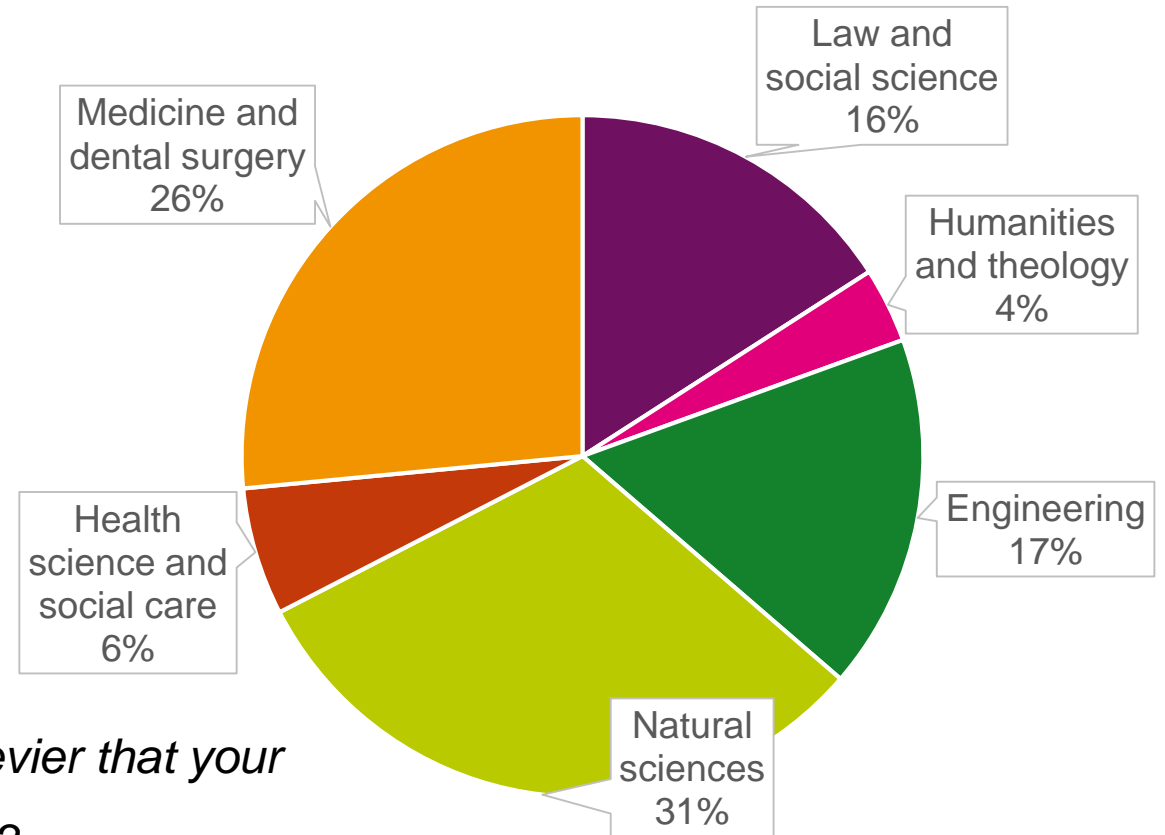
91% knew of the cancellation

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.

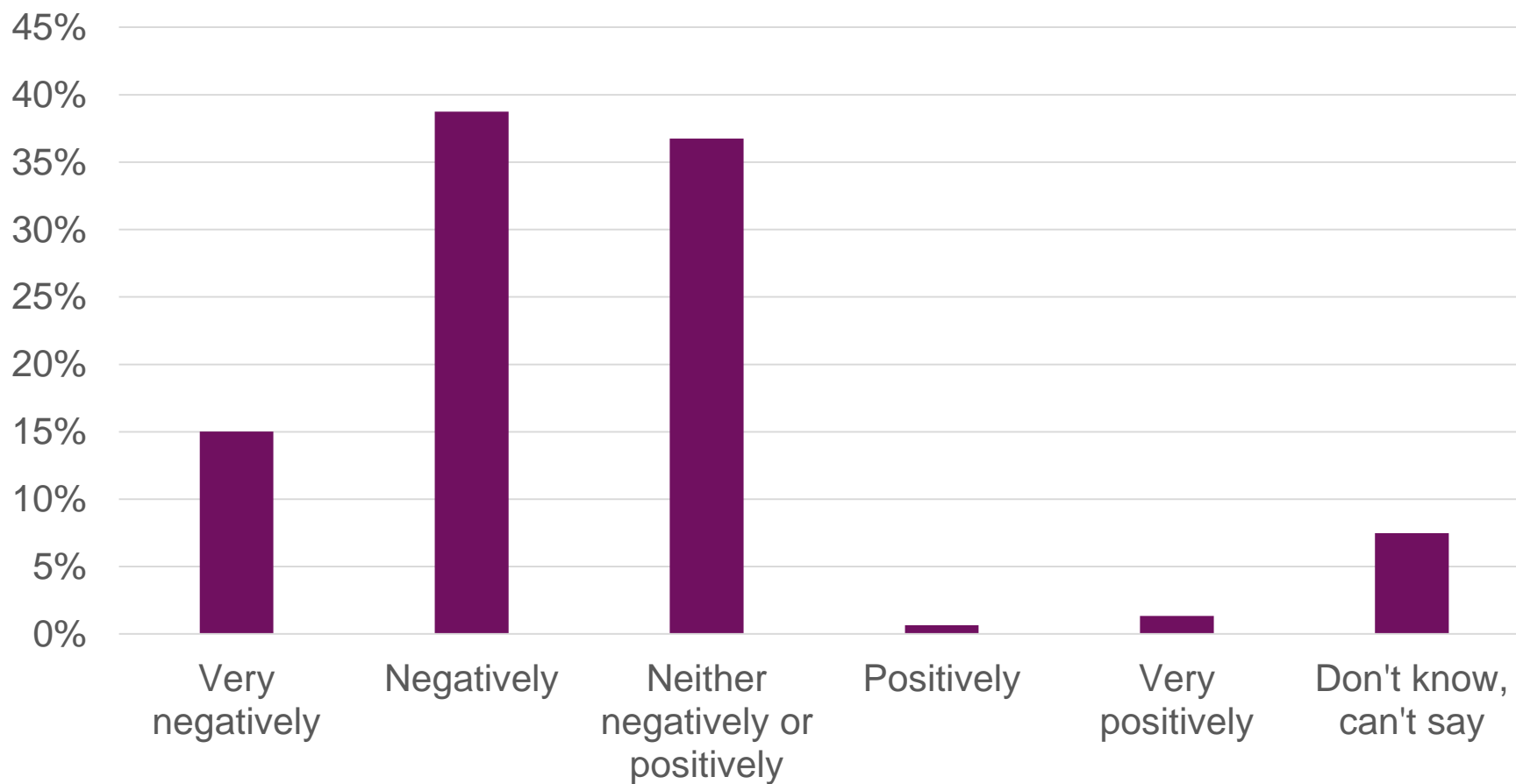
If you replied "online": Where online did you access the article(s)? (Multiple answers were allowed, the incident below had occurred at least once.)

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

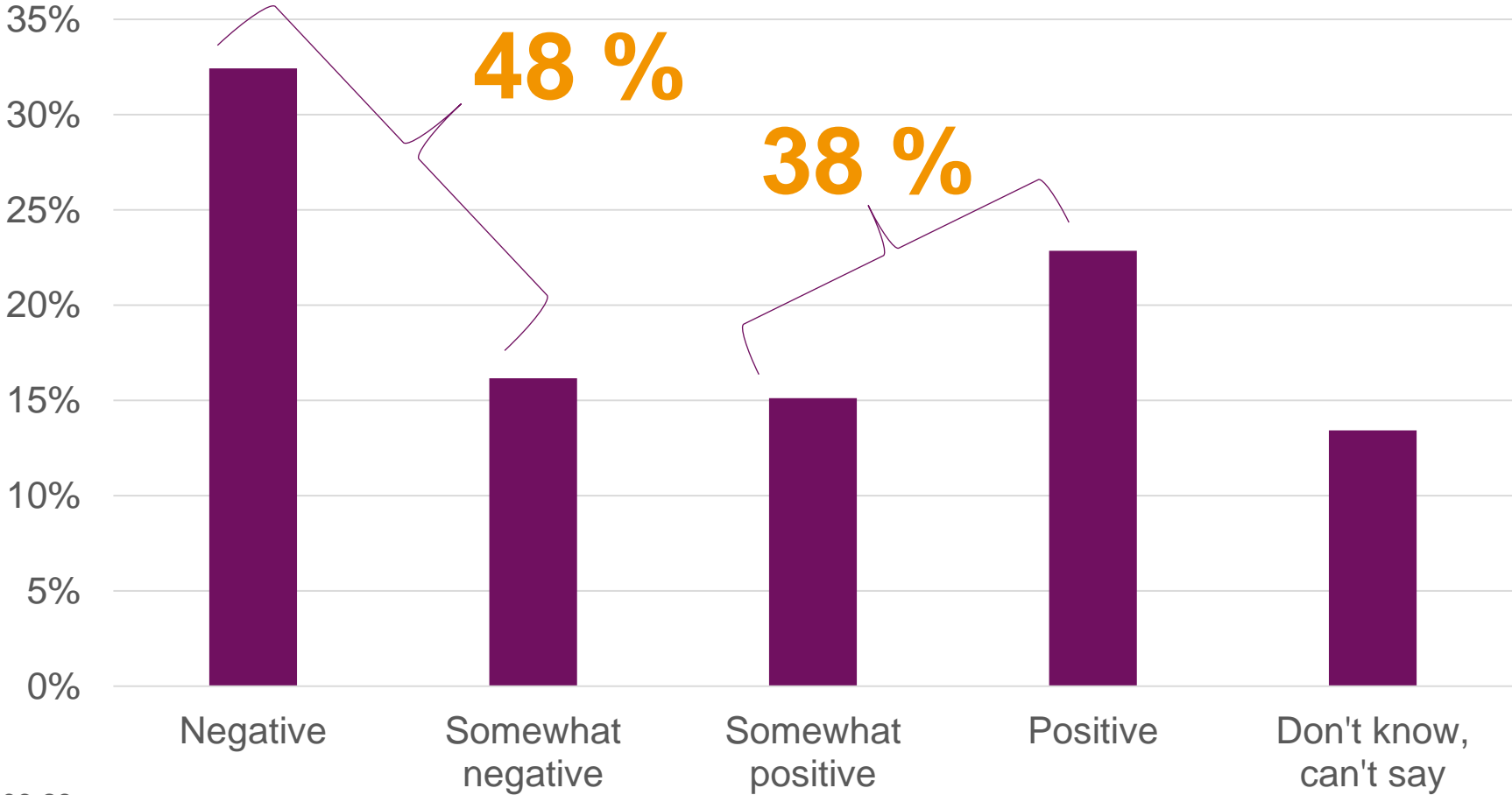
Based on the 2 084 respondents who reported having found access online. XX % represents the percentage of individuals reporting having found access by these means at least once.

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

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

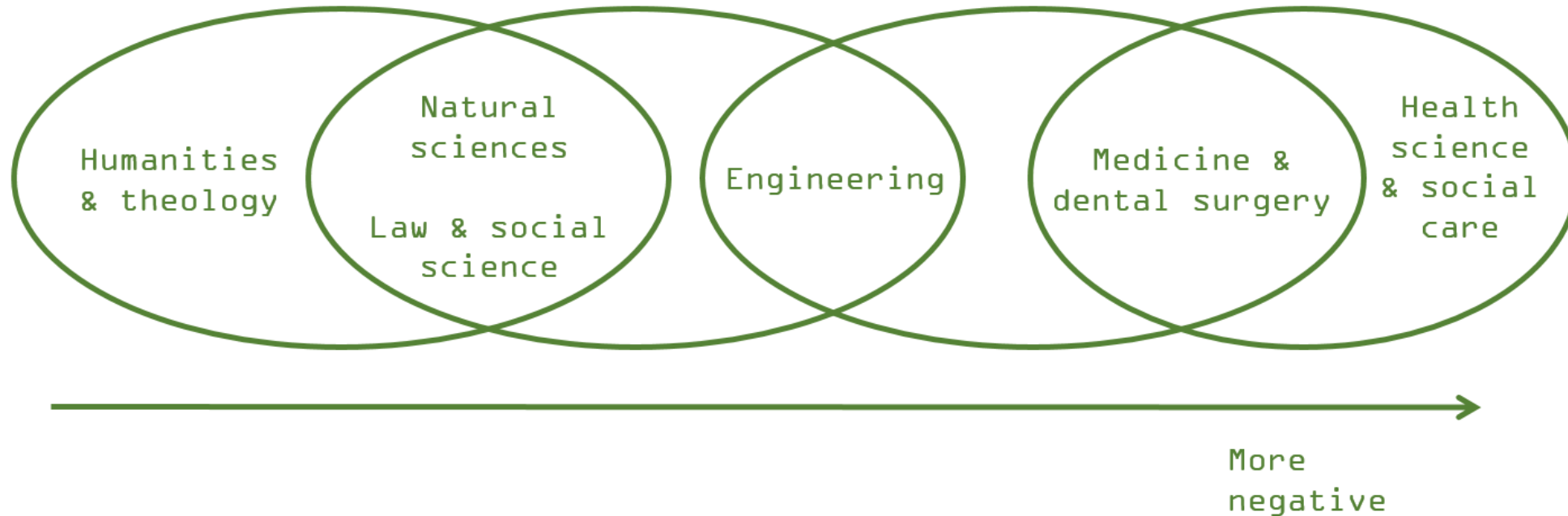


What is your stance on the cancellation of the Elsevier agreement?



Differences in research areas

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



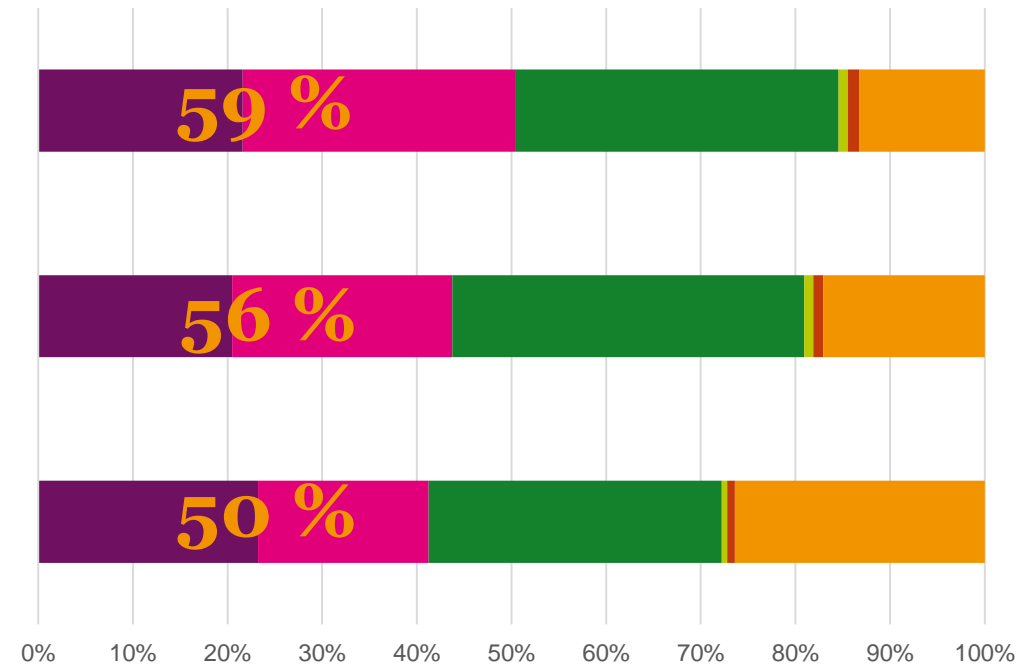
Changes in researcher behaviors?

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

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END

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Qualitative analysis

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

Qualitative analysis

<i>Themes</i>	<i>Meaningful units</i>
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2. Arguments against cancellation	864
3. User behaviors	432
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