Beyond Open Access mandates:

institutional repositories as building blocks in open scholarly communication

Biljana Kosanović & Milica Ševkušić

Repository Development Team
University of Belgrade Computer Centre (TRAP-RCUB)

Do (and can) repositories in Serbia have a major role in scholarly communication?
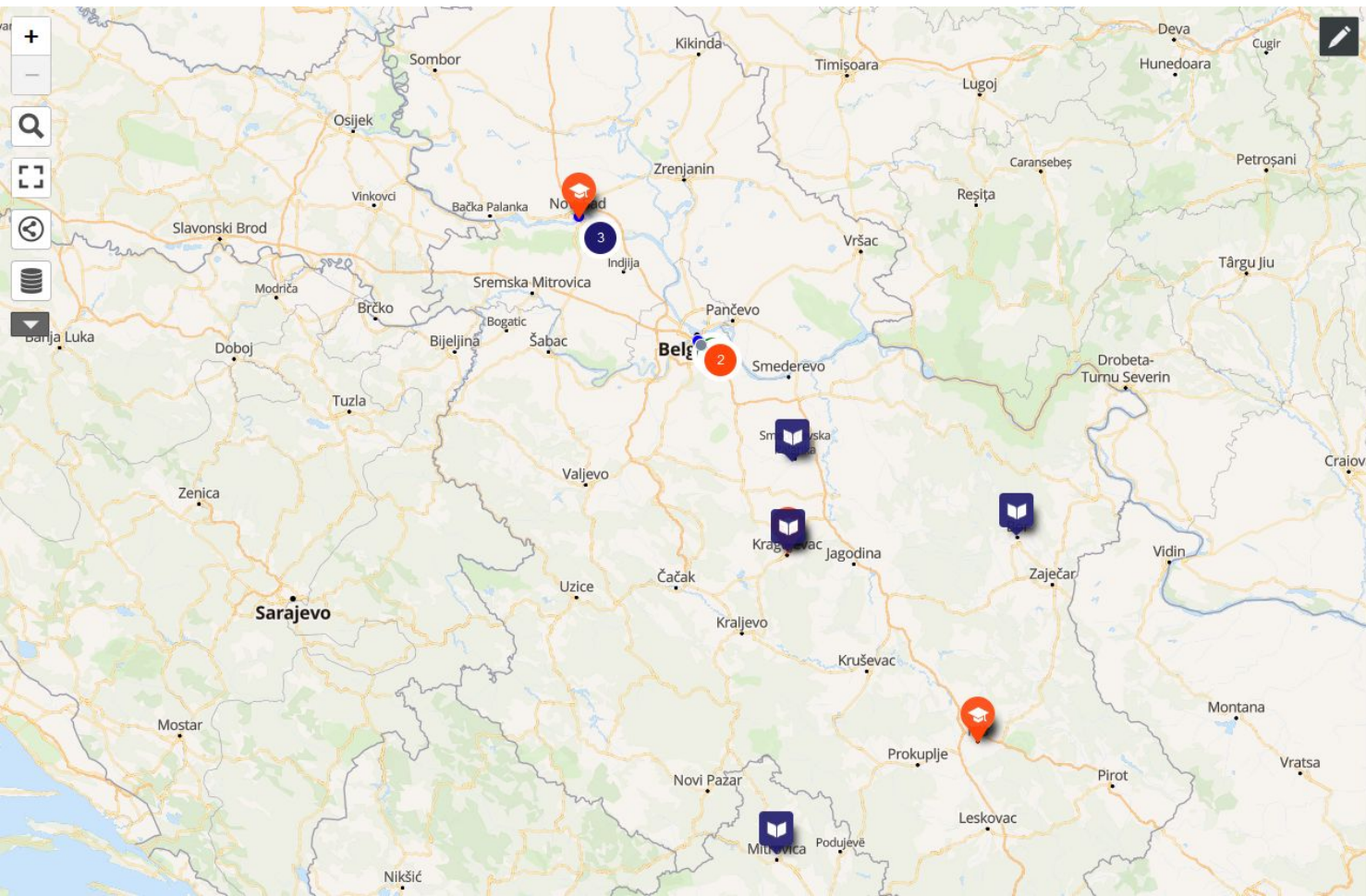
INDICATORS

Reasons for establishing an institutional repository

Sustainability of institutional repositories: Who provides funding?

Current and emerging purposes of institutional repositories in Serbia (based on content analysis and user feedback)

Repositories in Serbia

Repozitorijumi u Srbiji

Filter...

Institucionalni repozitorijumi

- AgroSpace – Repozitorijum Poljoprivrednog fakulteta...
- BIORepository – Repozitorijum Biološkog fakulteta U...
- CER - Centralni repozitorijum Instituta za hemiju, teh...
- Cherry - Repozitorijum Hemijskog fakulteta Univerzit...
- DAIS - Balkanološki institut SANU
- DAIS - Digitalni arhiv izdanja SANU
- DAIS - Etnografski institut SANU
- DAIS - Geografski institut "Jovan Cvijić" SANU
- DAIS - Institut tehničkih nauka SANU
- DAIS - Institut za srpski jezik SANU
- DAIS - Muzikološki institut SANU
- DAIS - Vizantološki institut SANU
- DIRIKUM – Repozitorijum Instituta za književnost i u...
- Dr RGF – Repozitorijum Rudarsko-geološkog fakultet...
- FarFar – Repozitorijum Farmaceutskog fakulteta Univ...
- FiVeR – Repozitorijum instituta za ratarstvo i povrtar...
- GraFar – Repozitorijum Građevinskog fakulteta Unive...
- InTor – Repozitorijum Instituta za virusologiju, vakcin...
- IPIR – Repozitorijum Instituta za pedagoška istraživa...
- IRIES - Repozitorijum Instituta ekonomskih nauka
- IRIScience – Repozitorijum IRITEL-a
- IRISS - Repozitorijum Instituta društvenih nauka
- Jakov - Repozitorijum Kriminalističko-policijskog uni...
- OPEN arts.bg.ac.rs – Repozitorijum Univerziteta umet...

Institutional repositories in Serbia

5 university repositories
14 belong to faculties (University of Belgrade)
23 belong to research institutes
1 multi-institutional (SASA + 7 institutes)

69.8% (30) use DSpace (other software:
EPrints -6; DSpace CRIS - 5; Islandora - 1;
Omeka - 1)

Most have OAI-PMH (not always properly set)

33 repositories (76.8%) have a transparent
repository policy.

Total records: 119,807
Metadata only / less than 1% of records with
data files: 5 repositories

Records with data files: 20-100%
OA content: 20-95%
Percentage of OA content and records with
data files is the highest in SSH and the lowest
in biology and chemistry.
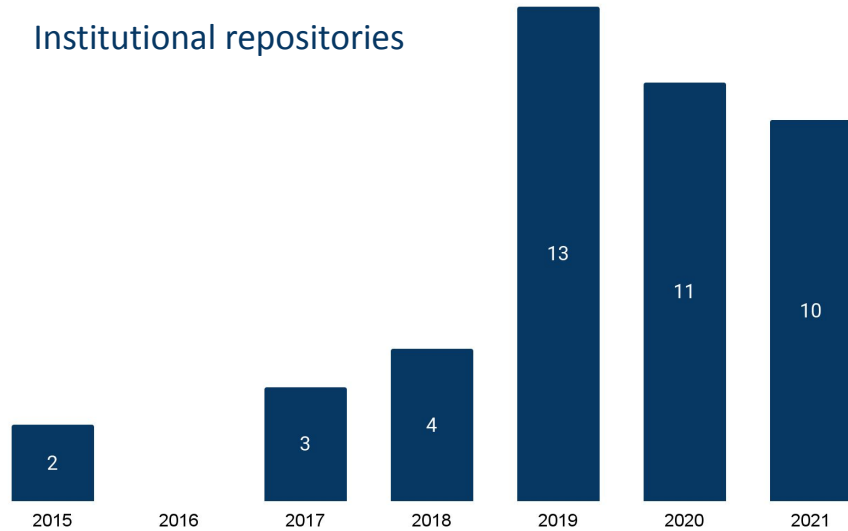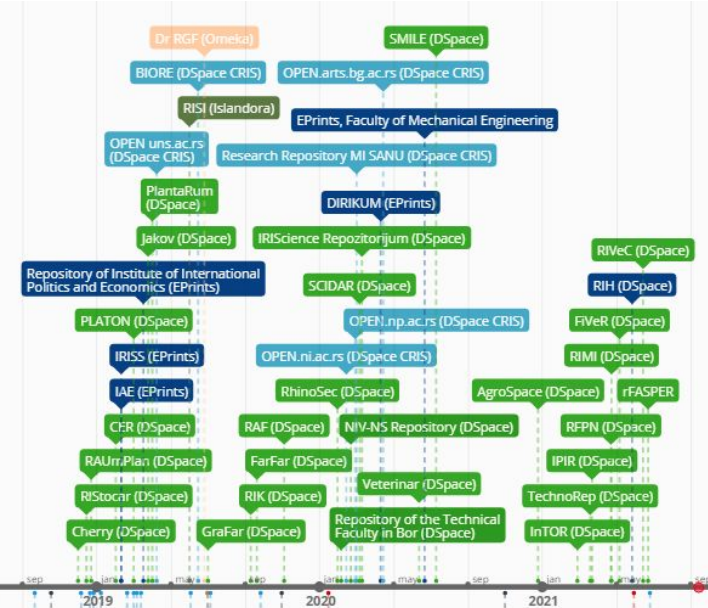

Size (no. of records)

Registries & aggregators
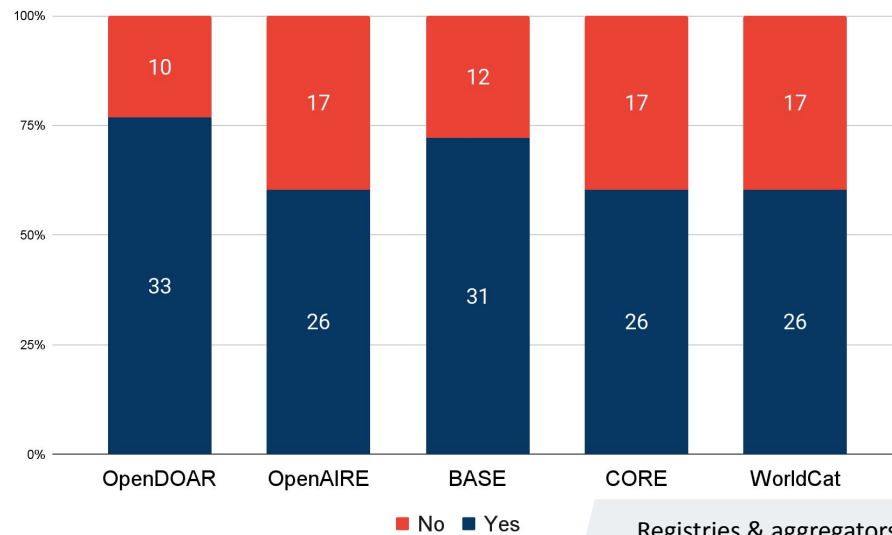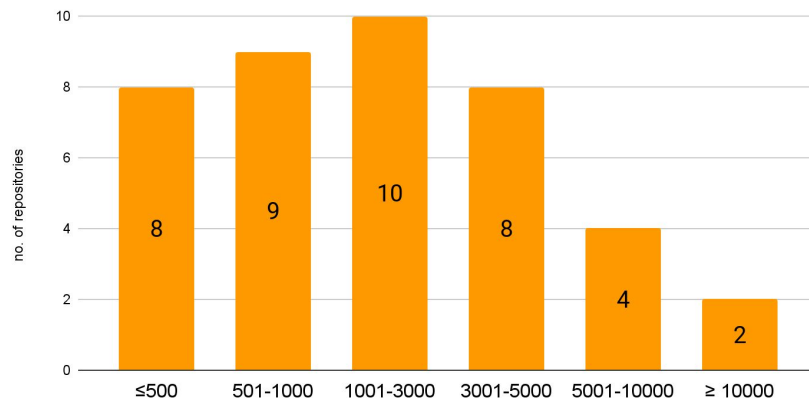
July 2018: Open Science Platform

The rise is apparent, but the role of the national OA mandate still needs to be revisited.

Institutional repositories

Institutional and thematic repositories

Methodology

Survey data

Anonymous Survey for repository managers (1-31 August 2021)

43 invited / 27 responded (62.8%)

- Motivation to establish the repository;
- Roles;
- Repository content;
- Content types not covered by the OA mandate (i.e. the content they deposit because they wish and not because they have to, hereinafter referred to as OTHER).

Our own experience

Negotiations with institutional decision-makers (directors, deans, vice-deans) & user feedback.

Repository data

Analysis of institutional repositories in Serbia (10-12 September 2021)

43 institutional repositories (sources: registries, Internet searching);

6 repositories were excluded from further analysis: metadata only or less than 1% of records with data files (5); poor metadata quality (1);

- Number of records per content type
- Temporal coverage;
- Materials classified as "other" were checked; manually for greater granularity;
- Where applicable, data types were normalized.

Reasons for establishing an institutional repository
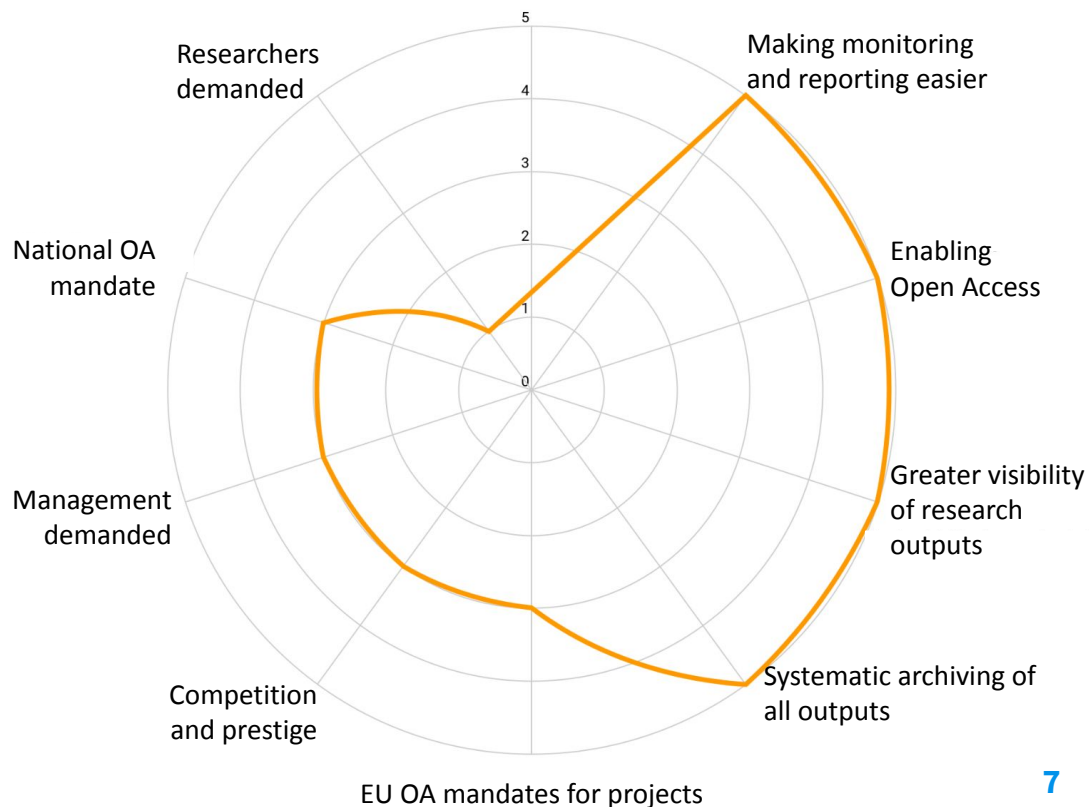
Perspective of institutional decision-makers

- Easier monitoring and reporting
- Competition and prestige
- Responding to the OA mandate
- However, OA is often not a priority
- As many metadata records as possible

Perspective of researchers

- Easier monitoring and reporting
- As many metadata records as possible
- Depends on discipline (see below)

Radar chart axes: Making monitoring and reporting easier, Enabling Open Access, Greater visibility of research outputs, Systematic archiving of all outputs, EU OA mandates for projects, Competition and prestige, Management demanded, National OA mandate, Researchers demanded

The role of the national OA mandate

No policy compliance monitoring mechanism:
- many institutions don't have an OA policy;
- nobody checks whether institutions deposit publications and enable OA.

14 institutional OA policies have been adopted (including all public universities):
http://roarmap.eprints.org/view/country/688.html

MESTD doesn't provide financial and technical support for repositories.
Institutions struggle to provide funds for infrastructure (reallocated project funds, savings, unspent travel money, etc.).

Minimum technical standards for repositories have been defined:
- compliance with the international; metadata harvesting protocol OAI-PMH
- metadata expressed in the Dublin Core format.

https://open.ac.rs/images/doc/Open-Science-Policy-Serbia.pdf

Sustainability ensured by institutions

Current purposes of institutional repositories in Serbia

- Depositing materials covered by the OA mandate (but not necessarily enabling OA!);
- Archiving research outputs not covered by the OA mandate but relevant for research assessment;
- Pooling together research outputs from earlier periods;
- Enabling access to institutions' publishing outputs (journal backfiles, books, etc.);
- Archiving all sorts of materials relevant for the institution (posters, presentations, reports, etc.) - heritage aspect (more often OA than publications).

INSTITUTIONS

- Depositing outputs necessary for promotion;
- Creating a complete personal bibliography (not necessarily with full text and/or OA);
- Increasing the visibility of outputs not indexed by citation indexes (esp. STEM);
- Making print-only publications visible (esp. SSH);
- Access to the literature – publications as data (esp. SSH);
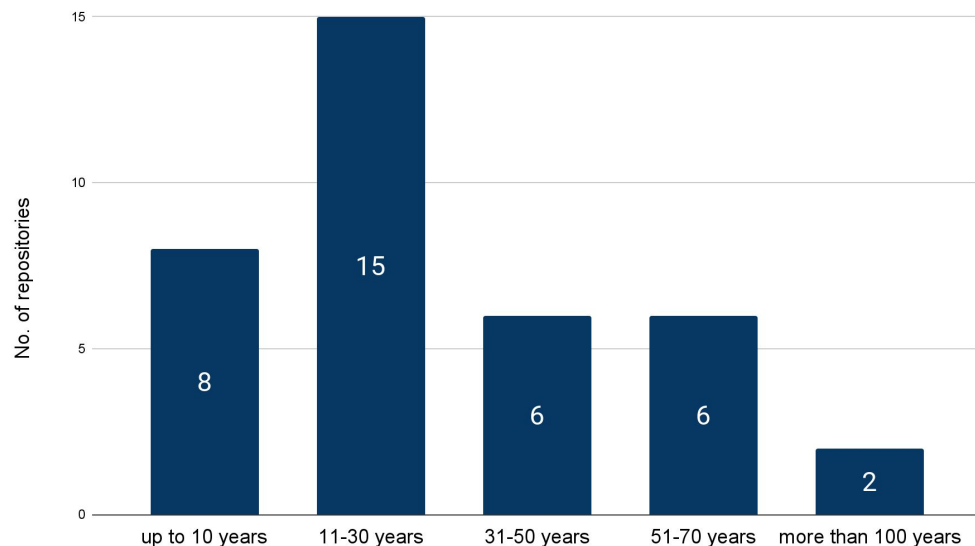- Complying with RDM mandates.

RESEARCHERS

Content that doesn't have to be deposited

◎ Publications before the adoption of the OA policy (2018);

◎ OTHER (publications not covered by the OA mandate, non-publication content, research data, images, multimedia, etc.)

"Scholarly publications include articles published in scholarly journals, chapters in edited volumes, conference papers and conference abstracts, PhD theses, monographs, etc."

Open Science Platform

Coverage of the content created before the OA mandate (no. of years before 2018) in 37 institutional repositories

No. of repositories

| up to 10 years | 11-30 years | 31-50 years | 51-70 years | more than 100 years |
| 8 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 2 |

OTHER - Content types not covered by the OA mandate
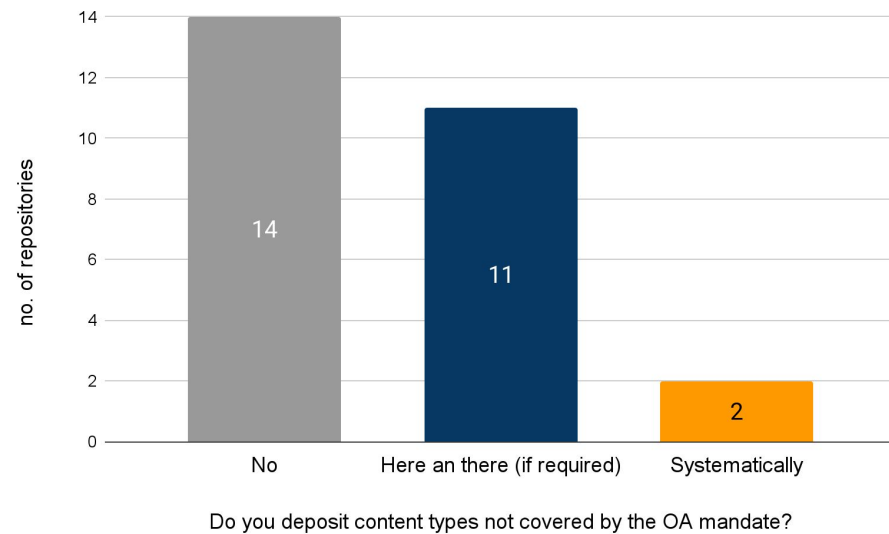
Repository data:

34.1% - not deposited

78.3% - less than 1% od content

However, 5 out of 13 repositories with 0% have been established over the past 4 months.
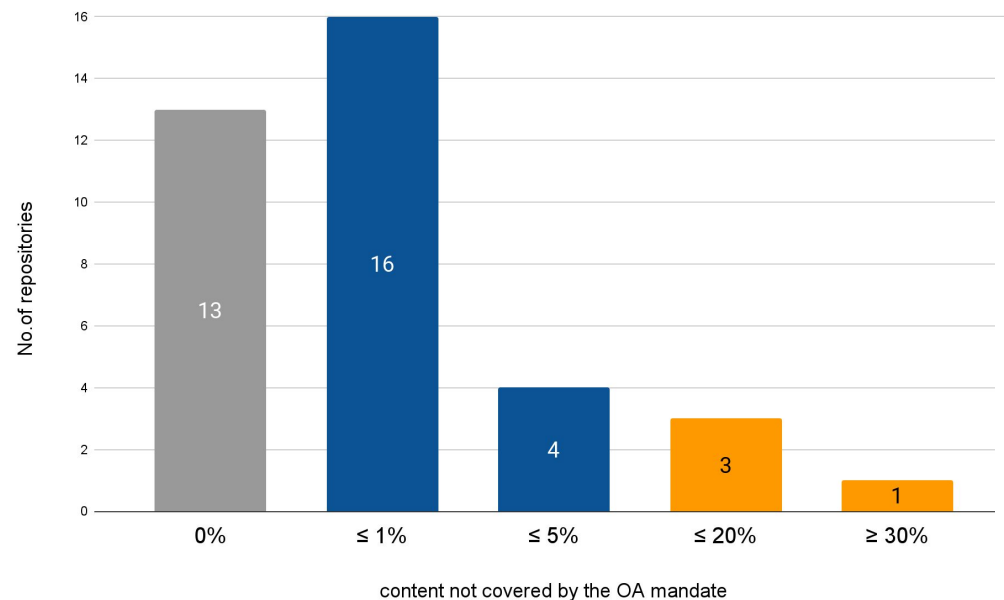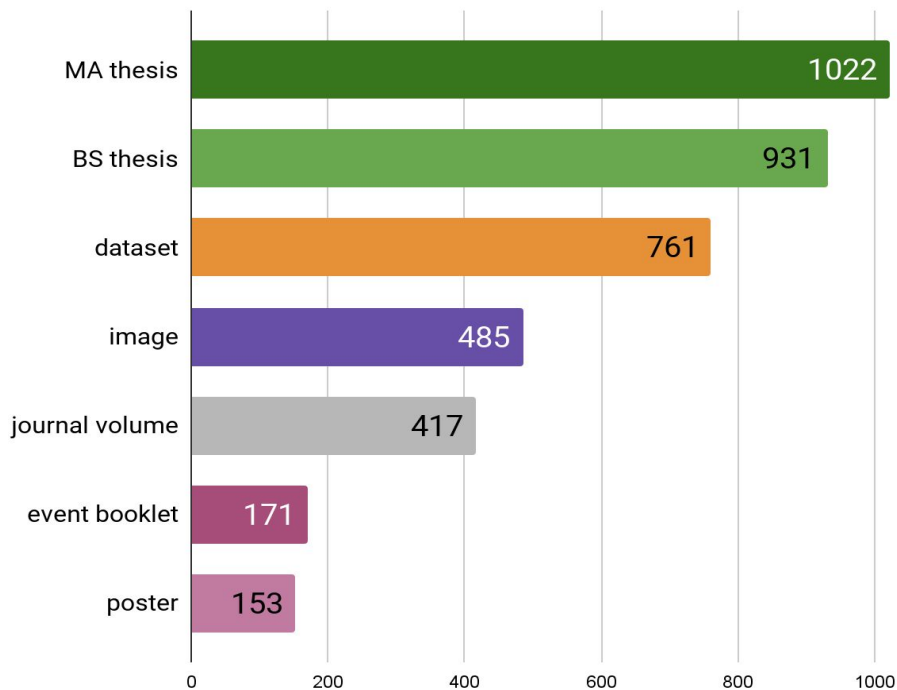
Survey data:

51.8% - not deposited

No. of repositories

content not covered by the OA mandate

no. of repositories

Do you deposit content types not covered by the OA mandate?

OTHER - Content types not covered by the OA mandate

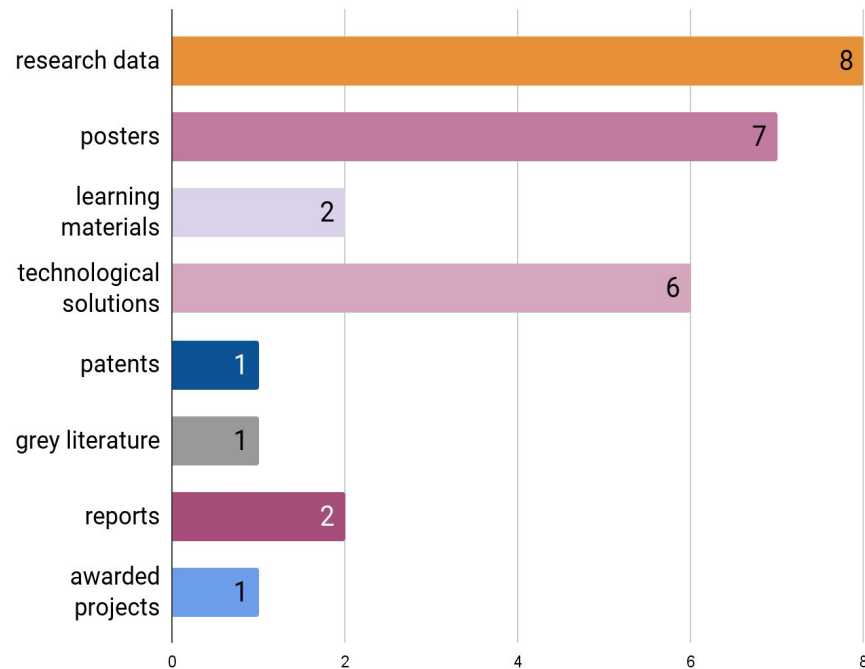**Repository data:**
The most common OTHER content types (number of records in 37 institutional repositories)

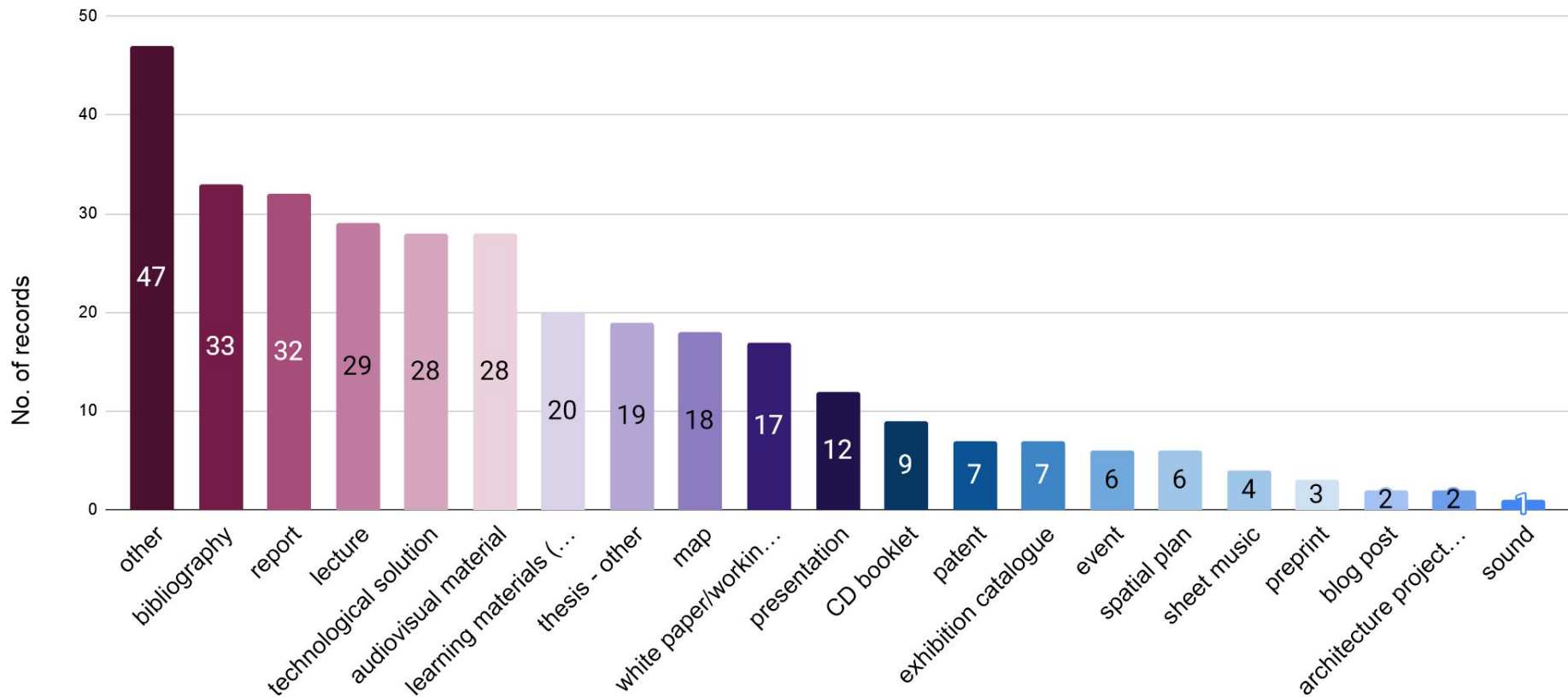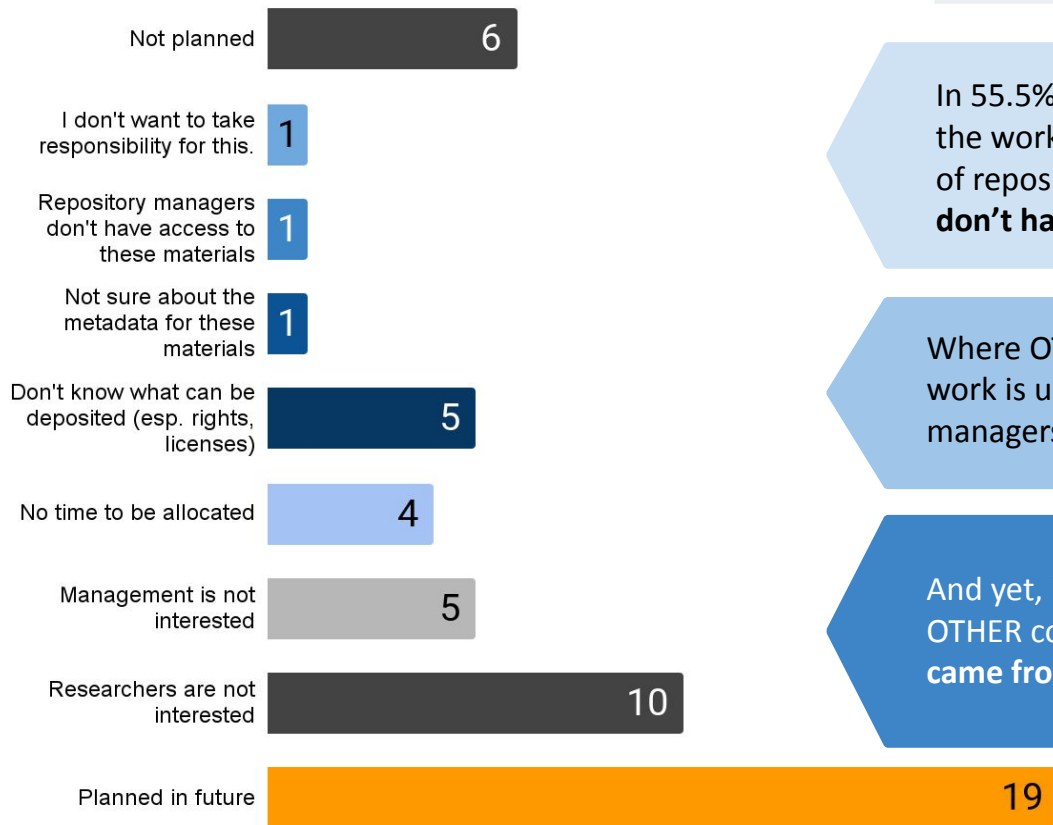| Content type	Records
MA thesis	1022
BS thesis	931
dataset	761
image	485
journal volume	417
event booklet	171
poster	153

Survey data:
Prioritized content types (apart from publications) according to 13 repository managers who already deposit OTHER materials. Each individual could choose multiple options and add new.

Content type	Count
research data	8
posters	7
learning materials	2
technological solutions	6
patents	1
grey literature	1
reports	2
awarded projects	1

The long tail

OTHER - Why not more?

Not planned	6
I don't want to take responsibility for this.	1
Repository managers don't have access to these materials	1
Not sure about the metadata for these materials	1
Don't know what can be deposited (esp. rights, licenses)	5
No time to be allocated	4
Management is not interested	5
Researchers are not interested	10
Planned in future	19

In 55.5% of repositories, repository managers do all the work (depositing, quality control); in less than 20% of repositories they only verify submissions. **They don't have the time for OTHER content types.**

Where OTHER content types are deposited, all the work is usually (in 69.2% cases) done by repository managers. **Perhaps they can't do more.**

And yet, in more than 50% of the institutions where OTHER content types are deposited, **the initiative came from repository managers**.

14

Answer

Repositories in Serbia have a great potential to serve as a major channel for open scholarly communication.

INDICATORS

OA mandate is far from being the only reason for establishing institutional repositories in Serbia. There is an intrinsic interest among research institutions to have, use and maintain institutional repositories.

Repositories are funded by institutions, without support from MESTD. Major effort is invested in providing funds. The institutions that have ventured into this are not likely to abandon repositories.

Considerable content diversity indicates various emerging roles for institutional repositories. Their role in the dissemination of research outputs has been recognized among researchers.

Questions?

Biljana Kosanović

University of Belgrade Computer Centre,
TRAP-RCUB

Belgrade, Serbia

biljana@rcub.bg.ac.rs

@BikiOA

Milica Ševkušić

Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA
& TRAP-RCUB

Belgrade, Serbia

biblioteka@itn.sanu.ac.rs

@lessormore4