

GREEN OPEN ACCESS

DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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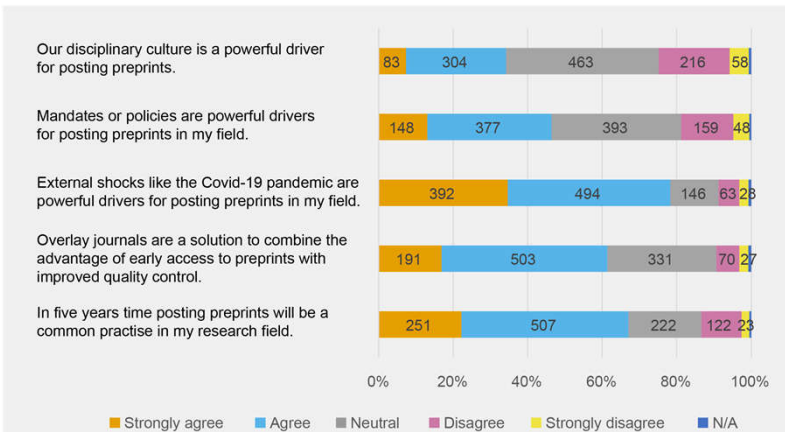
"Save the world" feeling:
immediate dissemination of preliminary research results more relevant

COVID-19 as a turning point:
circumventing lengthy publication procedures for journal articles by posting preprints

Objective:
temporary phenomenon or the beginning of a cultural change in publishing behaviour

(1) Survey results: Sustainability of posting preprints in the future

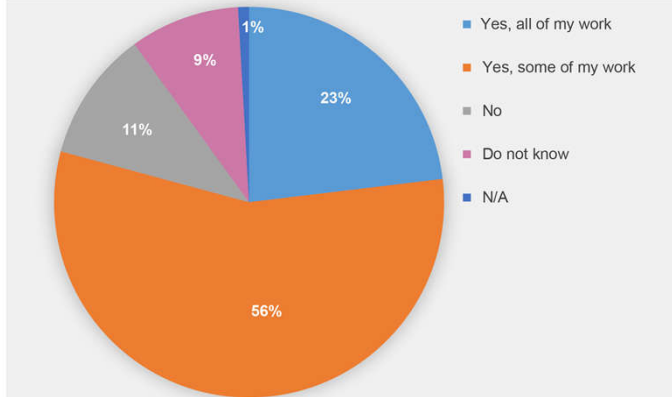
Figure 1: „What do you think of the following statements?“ (n = 1,131)



First results:

- 78% (strongly) agreed that **external shocks** are powerful drivers
- 67% (strongly) agreed that posting preprints will be a **common practise**
- 61% (strongly) agreed that **overlay journals** could be a solution to combine the advantage of early access with improved quality control
- 46% (strongly) agreed that **mandates or policies** are powerful drivers
- 34% (strongly) agreed that the **disciplinary culture** is a powerful driver

Figure 2: “Do you intend to post your scholarly work on preprint servers in the future?“



First results:

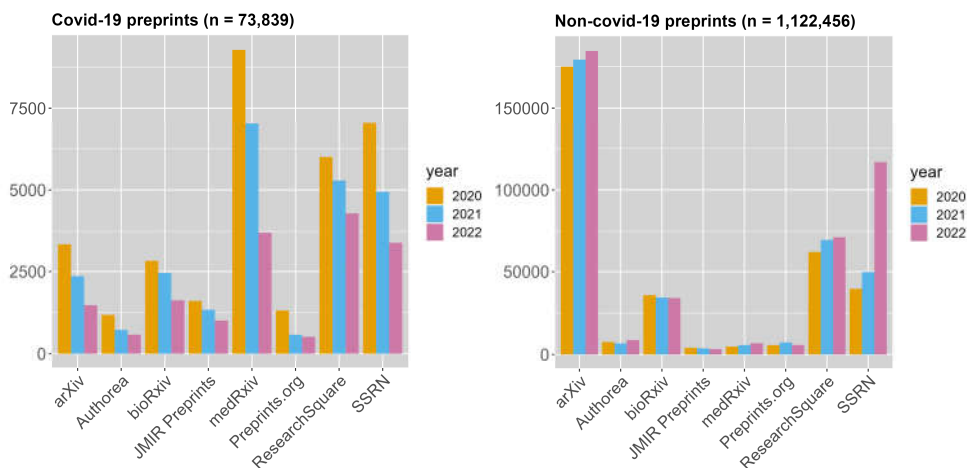
- 23% responded that they intend to post **all** their scholarly work on preprint servers/repositories in the future
- 56% intend to post **some** of their future work

Data and method:

- Survey among authors of COVID-19 related preprints from bioRxiv, medRxiv and Research Square
- 1,131 completed responses (response rate: 4.9%)

(2) Results from the bibliometric analysis

Figure 3: Preprints count 2020-2022



Data and method:

- data source: Dimensions
- 8 repositories: 4 scholar-led, 4 by publisher
- selection criterion: repositories containing largest amounts of COVID-19 preprints
- 3 years: 2020-2022
- data count: 1,196,261 preprints

First results:

- number of COVID-19 papers on preprint servers decreased from 2020 to 2022
- number of Non-COVID-19 preprints increased in almost all repositories in the same time period
- first sign that preprints will continue to play an important role in the dissemination of research results beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has led to a significant increase in the number of preprints and appears to be permanently changing the publishing behaviour of scientists.

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For further information: More information on this and related projects can be obtained at <https://www.zbw.eu/en/research/web-science/open-access-effects>.

Open Data: The data, the questionnaire and the method report of our survey are available at GESIS Archiving BASIS: <https://doi.org/10.7802/2552>