

HeFDI Data Talk

Date	Topic	Presenter(s)
08 September 2023	RDM at Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany - Awareness, Activities and Demands	Robert Werth (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)



Abstract:

Contributing to our understanding of Research Data Management (RDM) awareness, application and the corresponding needs of researchers, the EVER_FDM project is the first to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of RDM at Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany. In our HeFDI Data Talk, Robert Werth (FUAS) is going to present its main findings and offer an evaluation of promising measures to support the change in research culture and practice towards more open and FAIR handling of research data.

About the HeFDI Data Talks:

The HeFDI Data Talks are a bi-weekly open information and discussion event focused on data management in the context of science, in which relevant NFDI consortia as well as research data management services present themselves. The series discusses current topics and presents numerous – including local and regional – tools and services. The HeFDI Data Talks are an offer of the HeFDI Initiative (Landesinitiative HeFDI), which is funded by Hesse's Ministry for Science and Arts (HMWK).

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RDM at Universities of Applied Sciences in Germany

Findings from the EVER_FDM project

HeFDI Data Talk, September 8th, 2023

Project director:

Prof. Dr. Andreas Klocke

Project team:

Robert Werth, Arnela Balic



Research Centre
of Demographic
Change



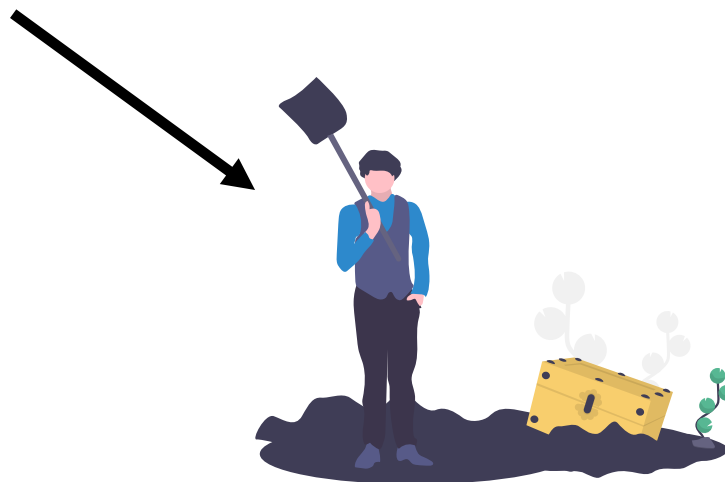


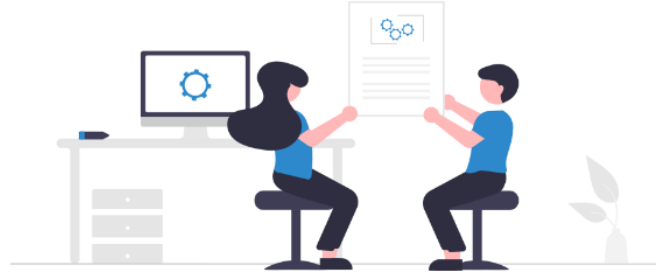
Context

- Research Data Management (RDM) increasingly important in the science system
 - Numerous supporting services are being created (NFDI, state initiatives, data competence centers etc.)
 - *But:* Hardly any reliable insights on the needs and problems of researchers at German Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)
 - Only isolated surveys with few participants
 - Special situation of UAS not taken in to account
- Funding program: [Reuse and Management of Research Data at UAS](#)

Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

- Focus on teaching (18 professorial teaching hours per week compared to 9 h at other universities)
- Receive less than one % of the research funds granted by the DFG
- Have hardly any academic mid-level staff
- *But:* Carry out many joint projects with non-academic institutions (businesses, municipal government etc.)





Goals

- 1. Paint a comprehensive picture of RDM at UAS in Germany for the first time**
 - Do researcher even know what RDM is?
 - What are their current practices concerning RDM?
 - What kind of support do they need to improve their RDM?
 - Which problems exist and which approaches seem suited to solve them?
- 2. Provide university-specific result reports**
- 3. Produce nationally comparable statistics**

Methods

- **Online-Questionnaire**

- **Sample:** Full population survey at (ideally) all 210 non-private UAS in Germany
- **Target group:** Researchers (professors, research assistants)
- **Responses:** 2,456 questionnaires (2,154 researchers, 1,882 completed) from 109 UAS, including **214 researchers from Hesse**

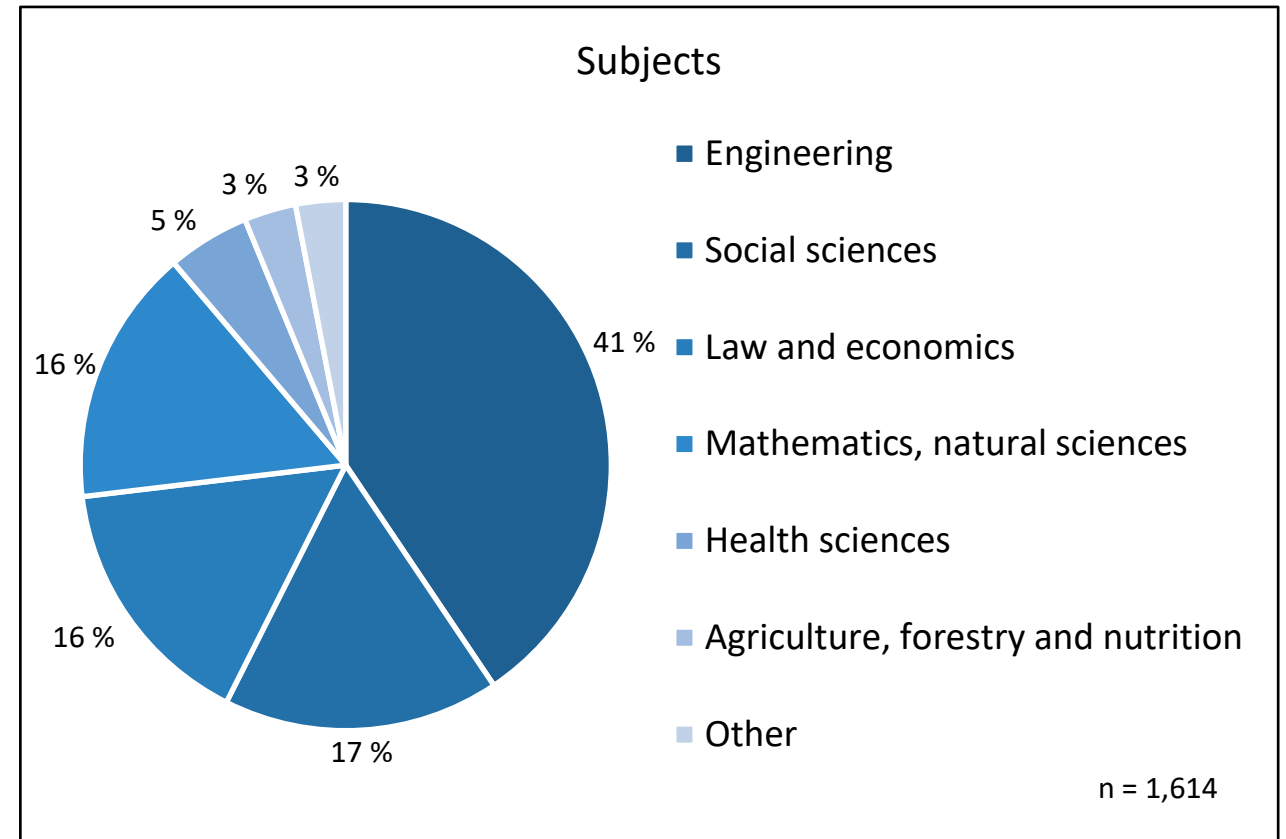
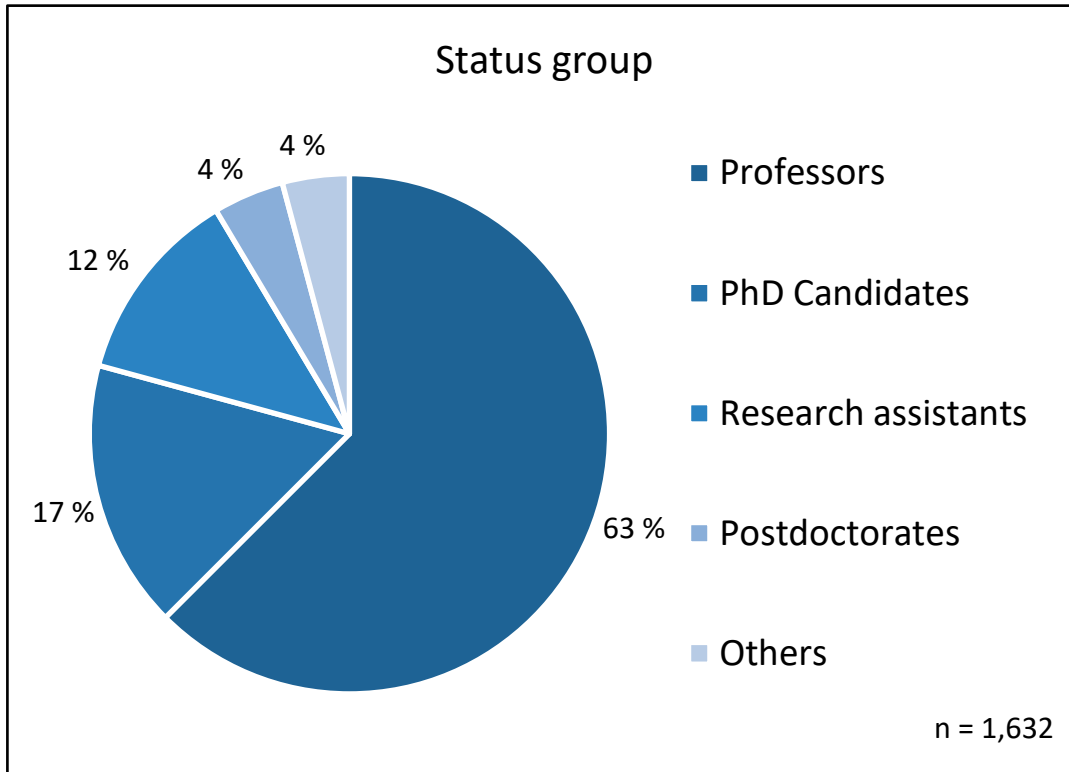


- **Discussion rounds**

- **Extent:** five discussion rounds with four to seven participants
- **Participants:** RDM professionals from the university administration, the NFDI, state initiatives and further RDM-institutions



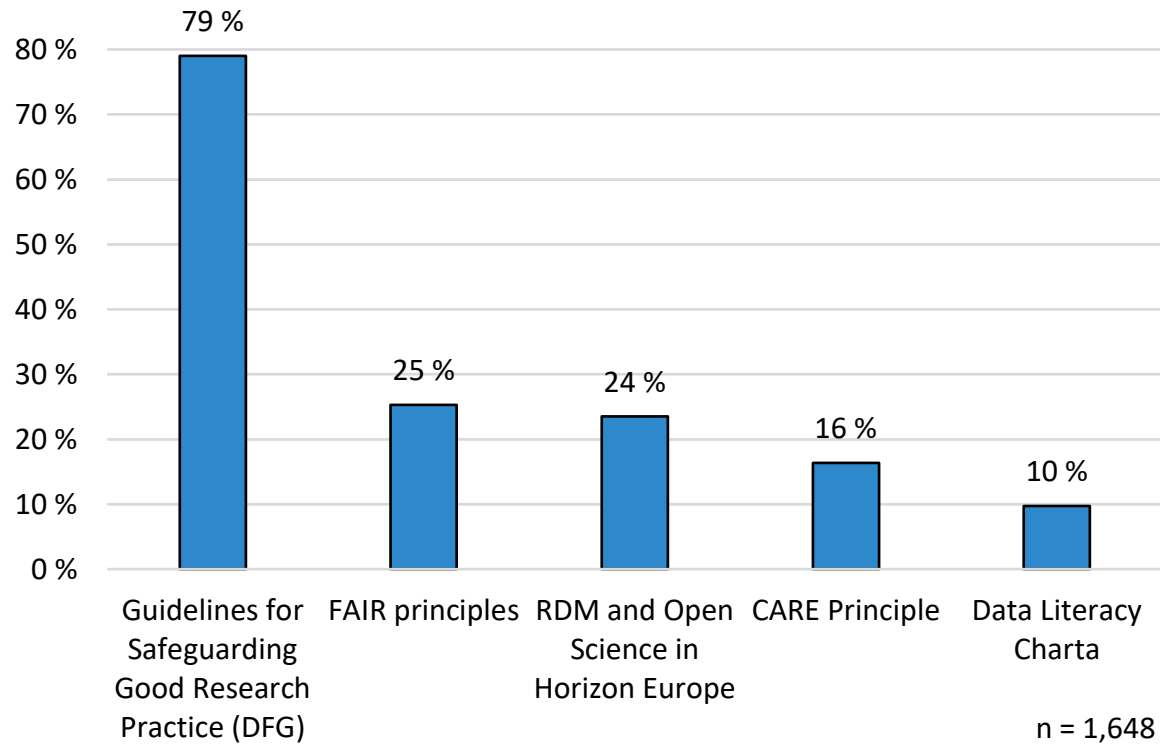
Sample (researchers only)



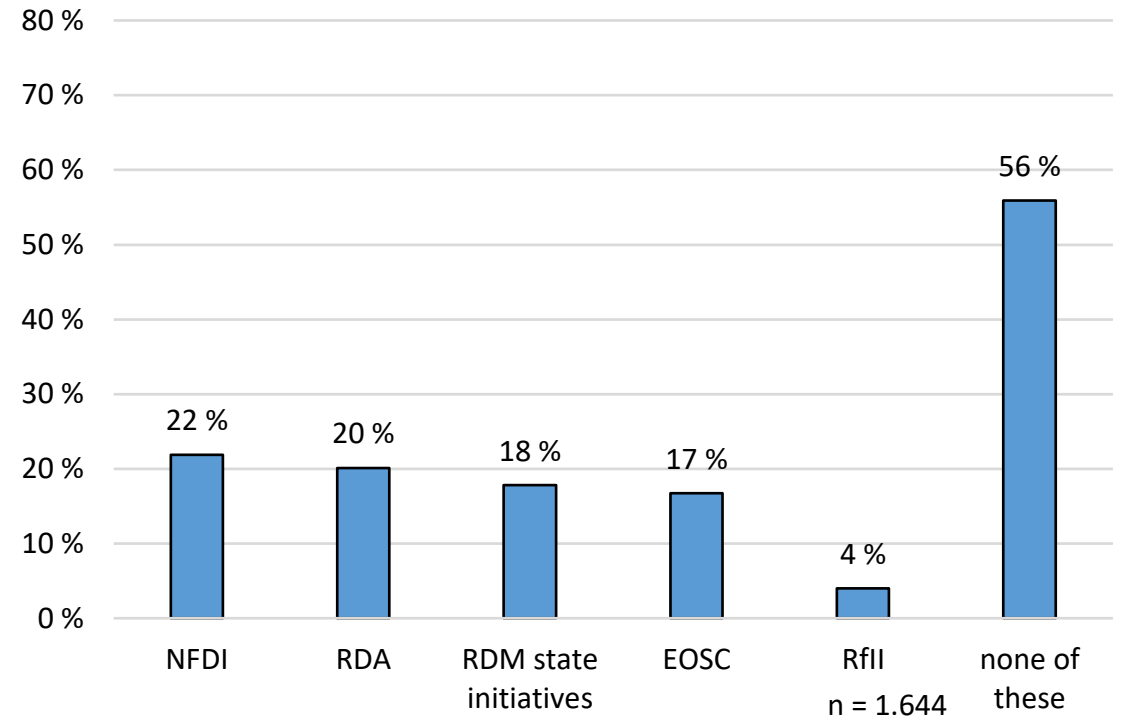
❖ **Please note:** Questions and answer texts were translated into English for this presentation.

RDM Awareness (1/2)

Have you ever heard of the following guidelines?



Have you ever heard of the following institutions?



RDM Awareness (1/2)

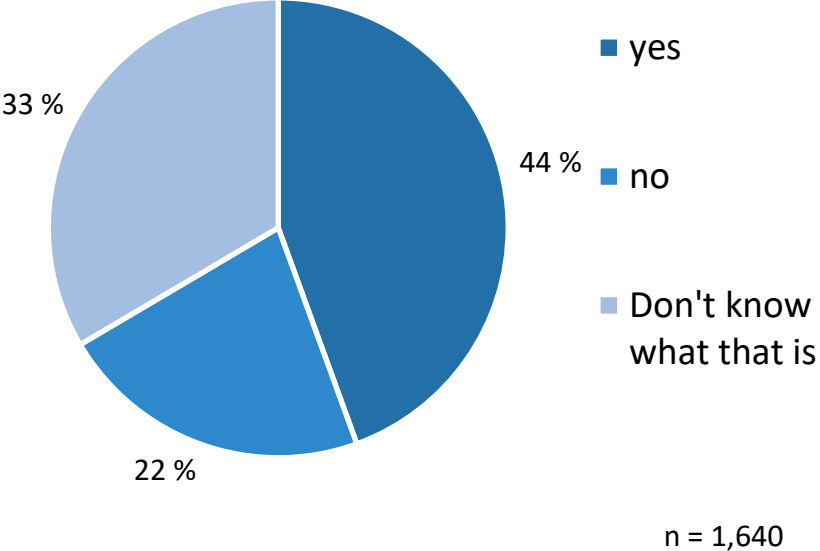
*“You also really try to sensitize and raise awareness. That is the be-all and end-all for now.”
– RDM staff at UAS*

*“It's first of all necessary to sensitize the university management to this topic. It's not really known at all.” –
RDM staff at UAS*

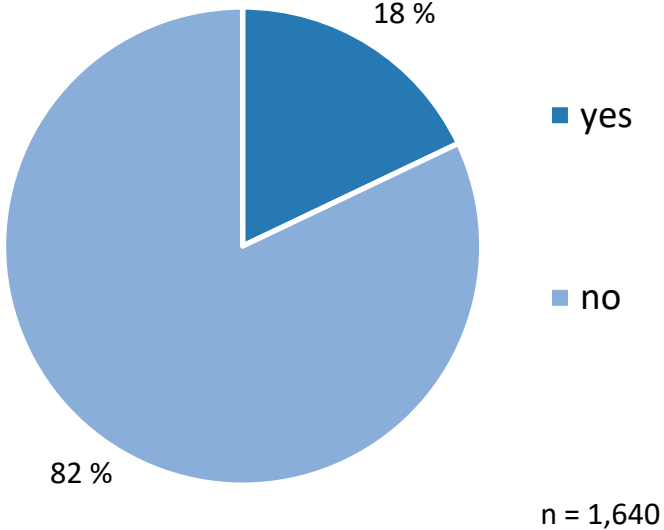
“What I see as difficult or as a challenge is actually raising awareness. This is also something that will take longer to get everybody paying attention.”
– RDM staff at UAS

RDM Awareness (2/2)

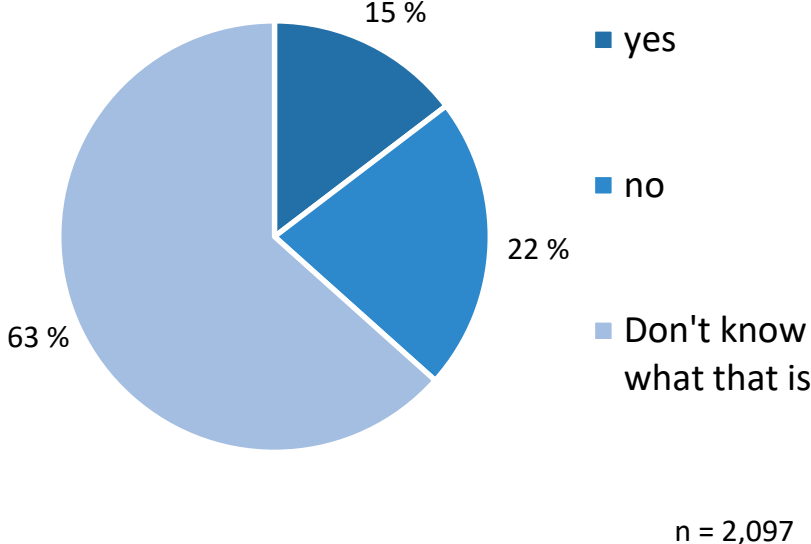
Do you have an ORCID-iD?



Did you know that you can get additional funding for RDM?



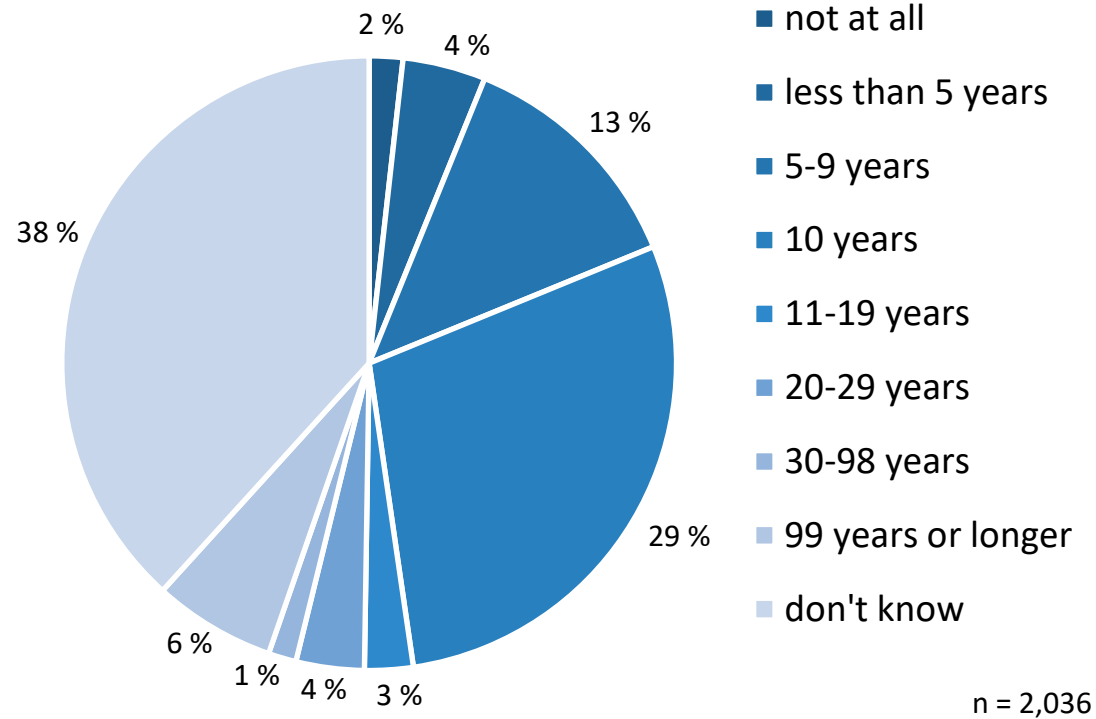
Do you use data management plans?



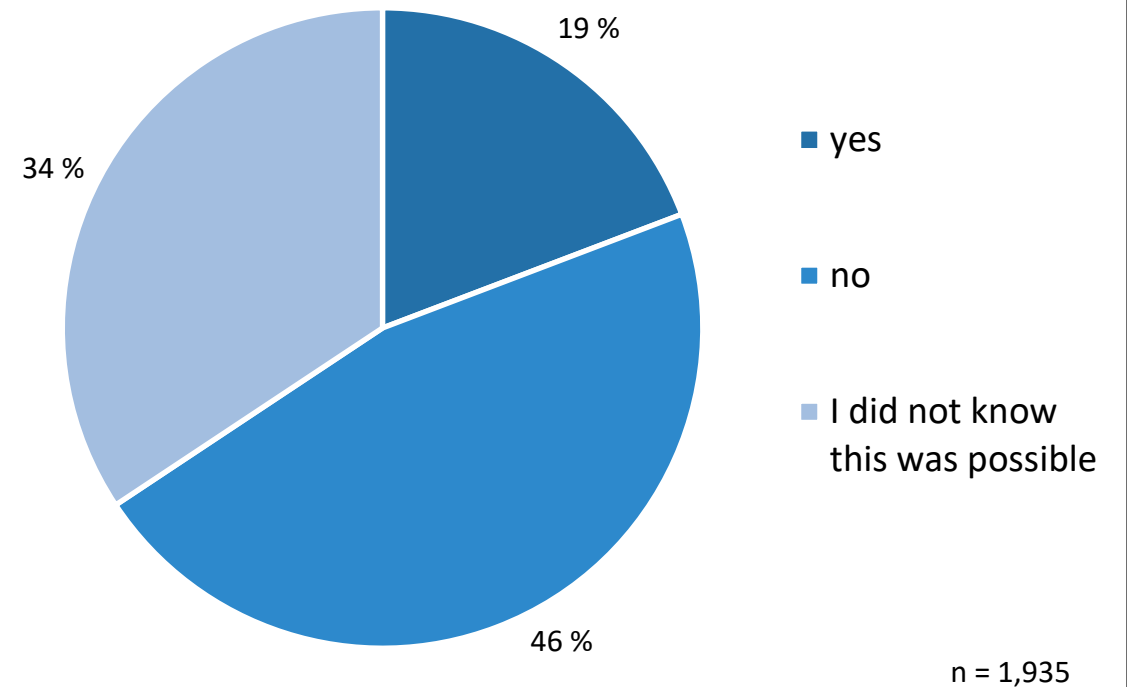
RDM Activities (1/2)

“Research data management has always been practiced, it just wasn't explicitly called that.”
– repository staff

How long do you keep your research data after a project has finished?

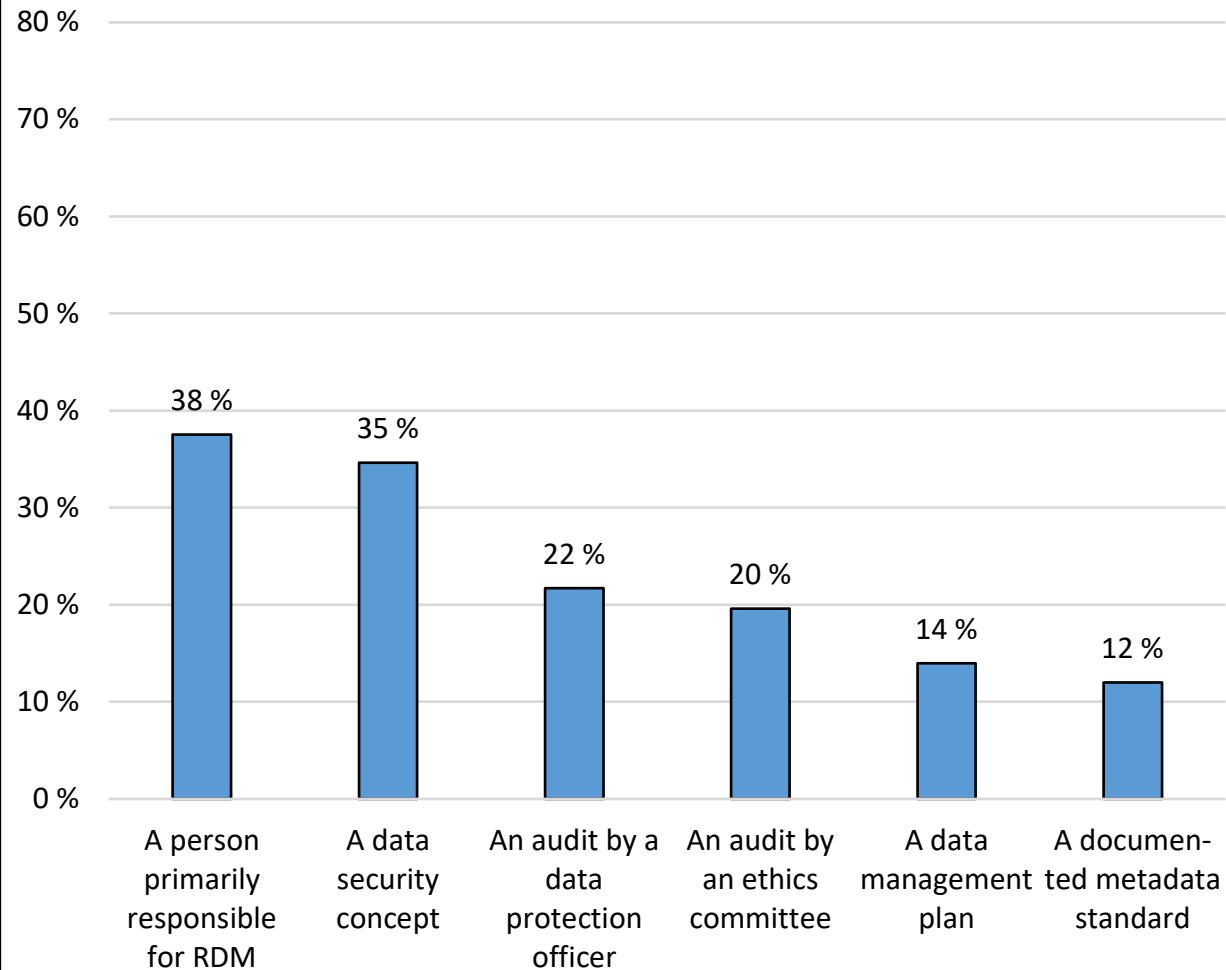


Have you ever put your research data in a data archive/repository?

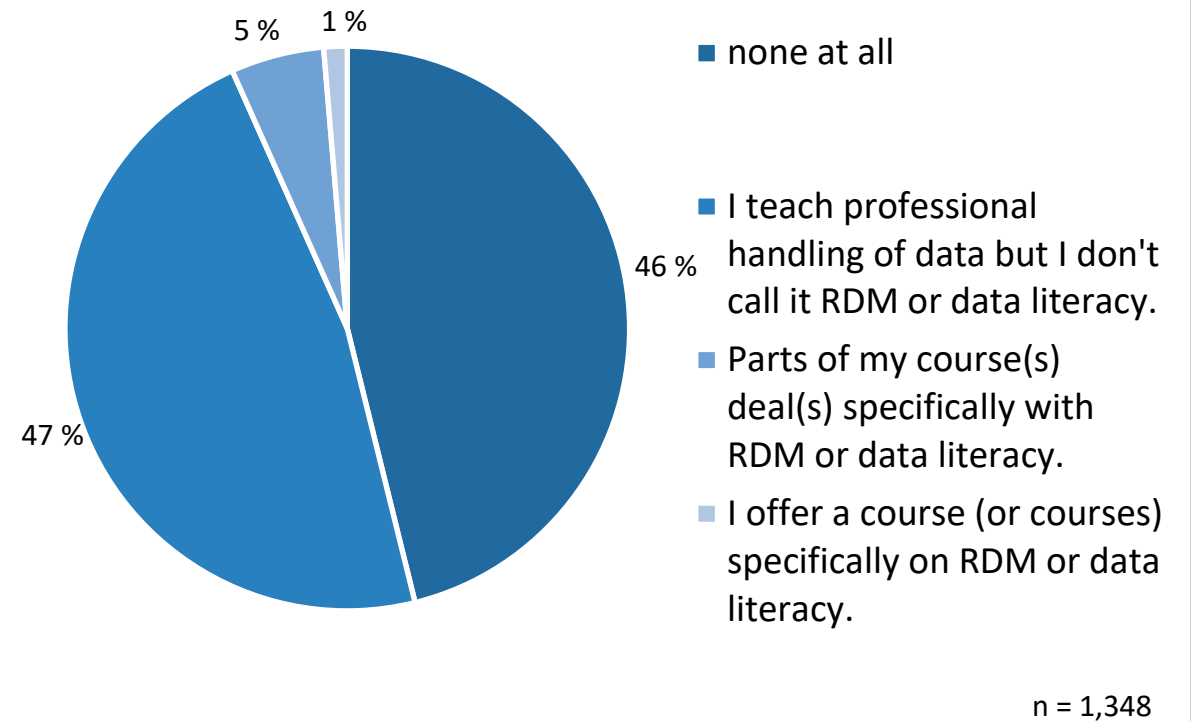


RDM Activities (2/2)

In my current/last research project, there is/was...



To what extent do RDM or data literacy play a role in your teaching?



RDM Activities (2/2)

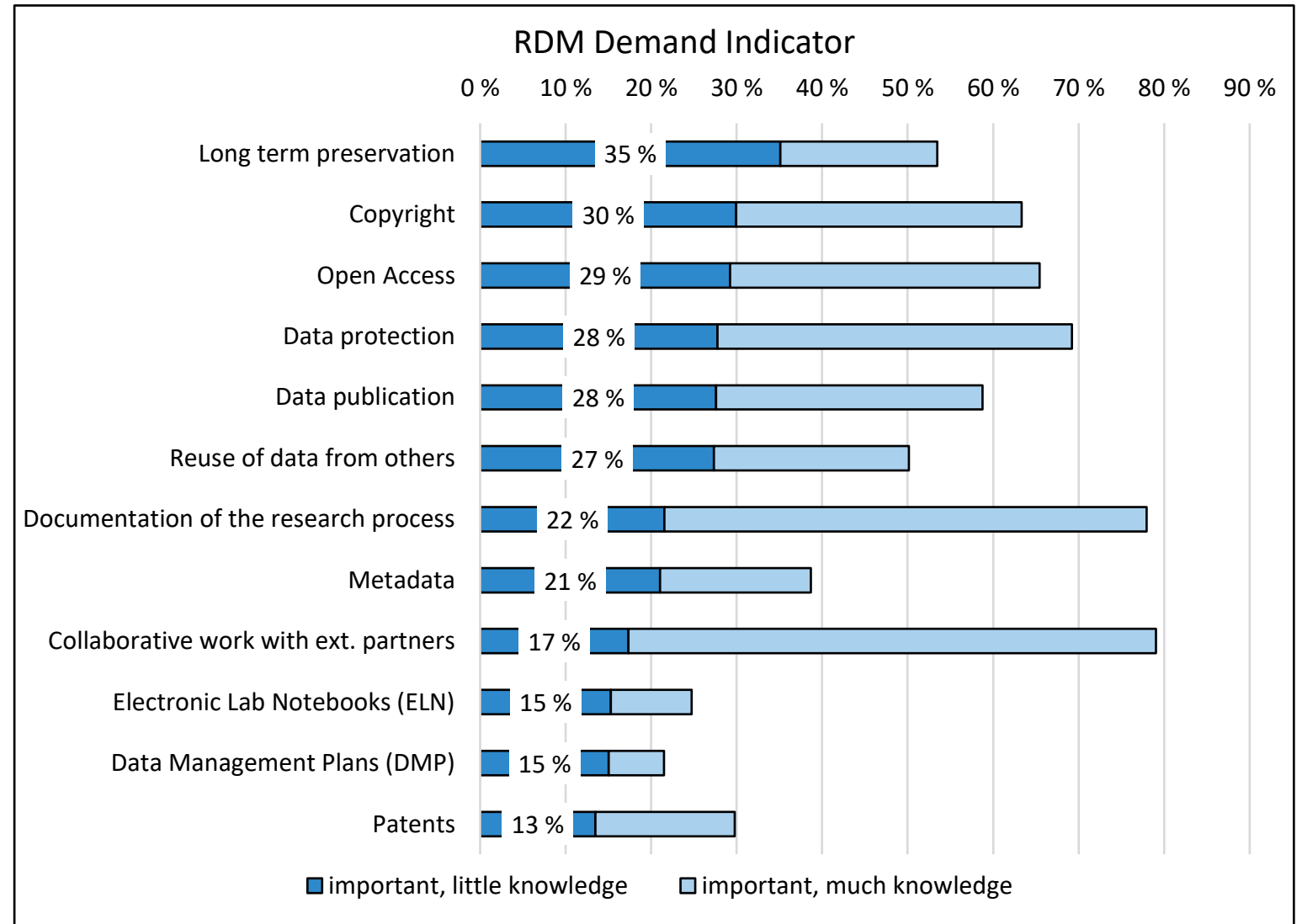
*“The aversion to do additional work is very, very high.”
– RDM staff at UAS*

“So if you succeed in getting that into teaching, then you have a very sustainable new generation.” – NFDI

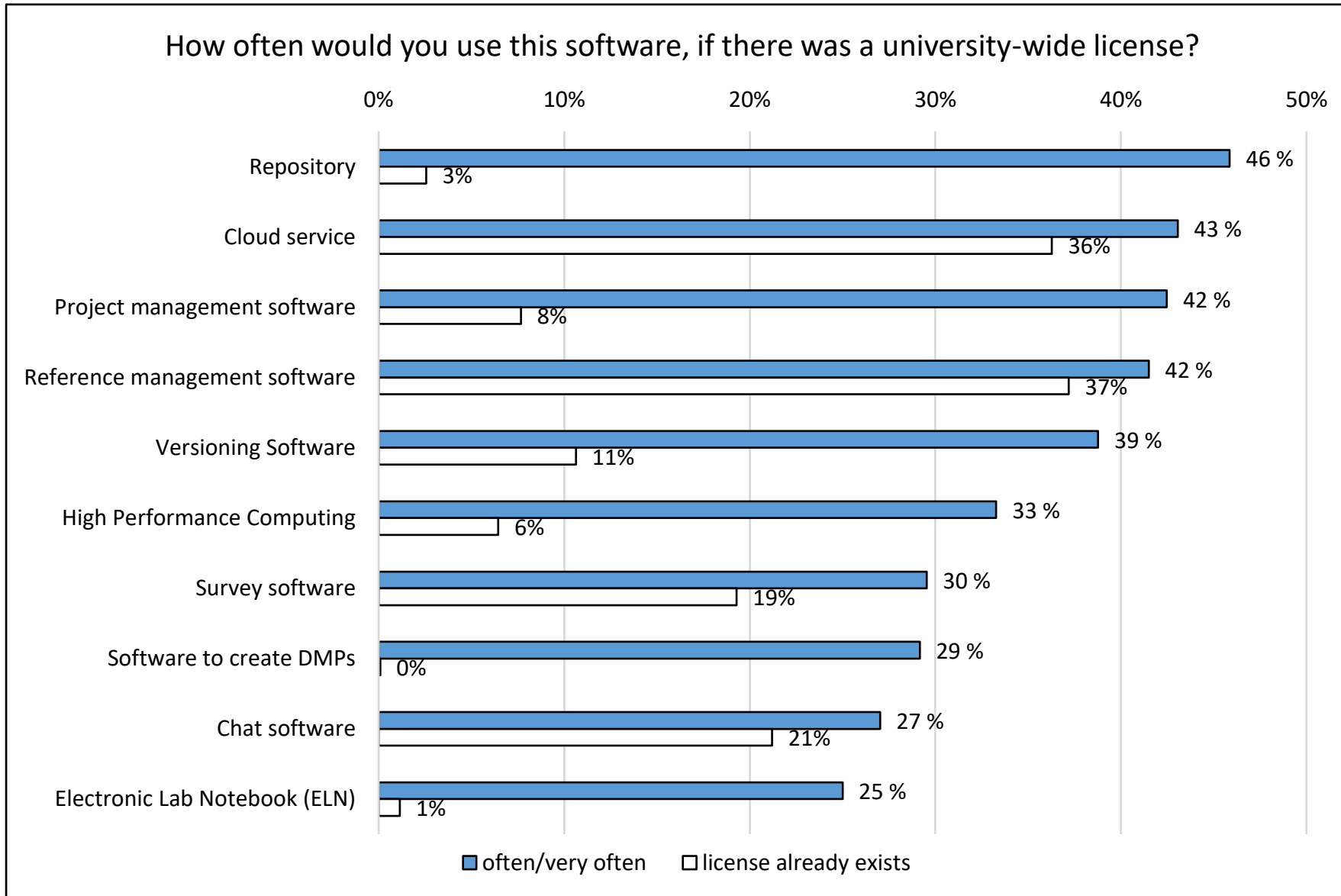
RDM Demands (1/2)

Demands (coded)	Percent
Training and/or consultation	26%
Resources (employees, money, time)	19%
Standards, templates, best practices	16%

“Researchers want consultation above all. So they are still a long way from wishing for any tools.”
– RDM staff at UAS



RDM Demands (2/2)



RDM has a low priority for most researchers ☹️

Summary

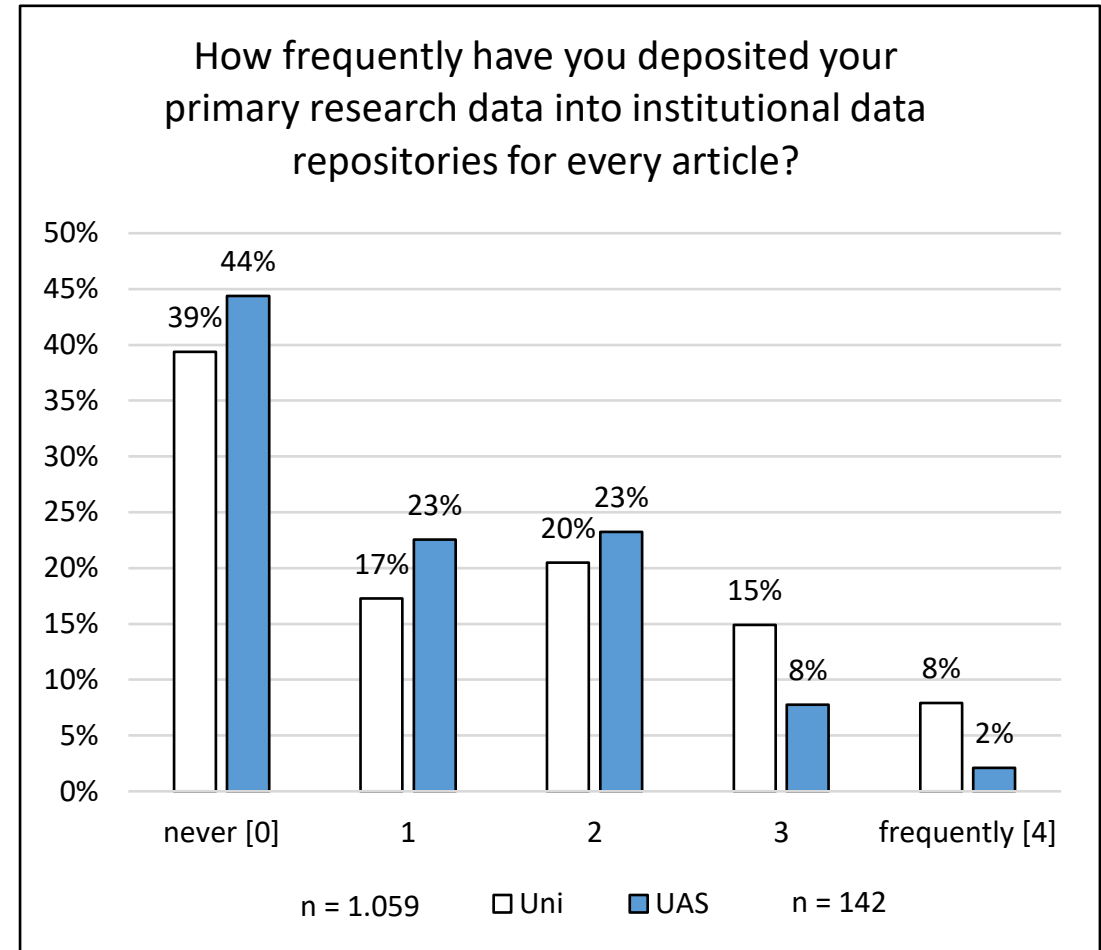
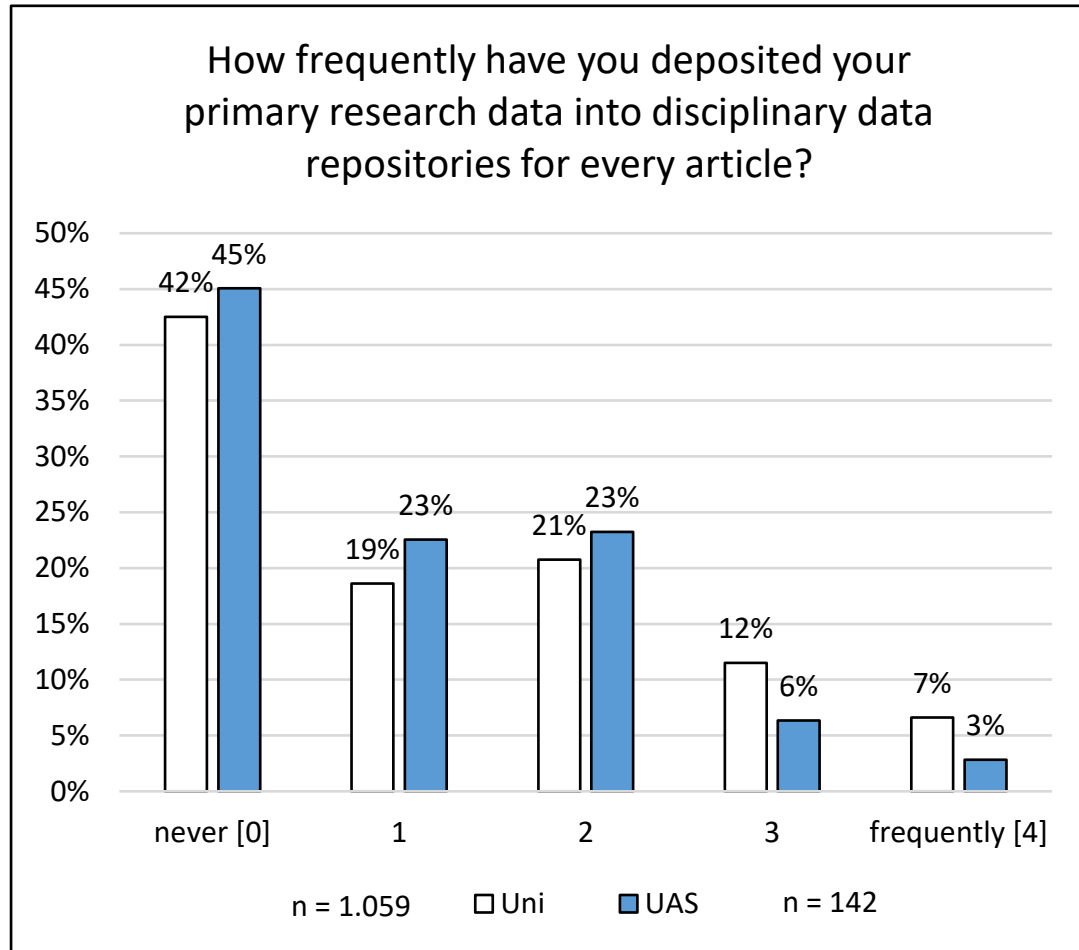
1. Raise **awareness**, communicate advantages!
2. Offer **trainings and consultation**: especially concerning legal issues
3. Build **infrastructure**: repositories, cloud services, project management software
4. Integrate into **curricula**

„At the end of the day, researchers want a contact person at their institution, who also knows the institution.“ – RDM staff at UAS

Thanks for your attention!



Comparison: Universities and UAS



Source: Wilms, K., Brenger, B., Lopéz, A., Rehwald, S. & Stieglitz, S. (2020). UNEKE - Umfrage zur Speicherpraxis und Speicherbedarfen für Forschungsdaten. *GESIS Datenarchiv, Köln. ZA6981 Datenfile Version 2.0.0*, <https://doi.org/10.4232/1.13327>. Own calculations