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A transnational view of library support for open research

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RLP

**The OCLC Research
Library Partnership**





RLP

OCLC Research Library Partnership



A unique
transnational
network of
research libraries



Supports
engagement and
research activities



Provides a way for
libraries to engage
directly with
OCLC Research



Skilled "art of
hosting" conveners
Spirit of caring



[oclc.org/rp](https://oclc.org/research-library-partnership)



Programmatic areas




Research support

Unique and distinctive collections



Learning Together



Resource sharing /
Collective collections

Next generation metadata





Activities led by an energetic team working with member institutions to develop programming for senior library leaders and staff.





RLP Research Support Leadership Roundtables

- Informal convenings of library leaders from RLP institutions
- Meet 3x/year on research support topics
- Strategic-level discussions offered in multiple sessions
- Discussions shared on the OCLC Research blog, <https://hangingtogether.org/tag/RLP-roundtables/>
- RLP offers parallel leadership networks in our other 3 programmatic areas

Open research as a strategic priority

Insights from an OCLC RLP
leadership roundtable

Open Research roundtable discussion

- March 2025
- 50 library library leaders
- 33 institutions
- 4 countries
- 4 sessions



ChodHound, CC BY-SA 2.0 Lewis Chessmen , via Wikimedia Commons

Aston University	Stony Brook University	University of Maryland
British Library	Syracuse University	University of Miami
Carnegie Mellon University	Temple University	University of Nevada, Reno
Clemson University	Tufts University	University of Oxford
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	University of Arizona	University of Southern California
Colorado State University	University of Calgary	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
London School of Economics & Political Science	University of California, Irvine	University of Texas at Austin
Monash University	University of California, Riverside	University of Waterloo
New York University	University of California, San Diego	Virginia Tech
Ohio State University	University of Glasgow	Yale University
Penn State	University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	
Rutgers University	University of Manchester	

Discussion questions

1. **Is open research a cohesive institutional and/or library strategic priority?**

And is the institution/library tracking progress toward open research goals? If so, how?

2. **How is open research being implemented at your institution?**

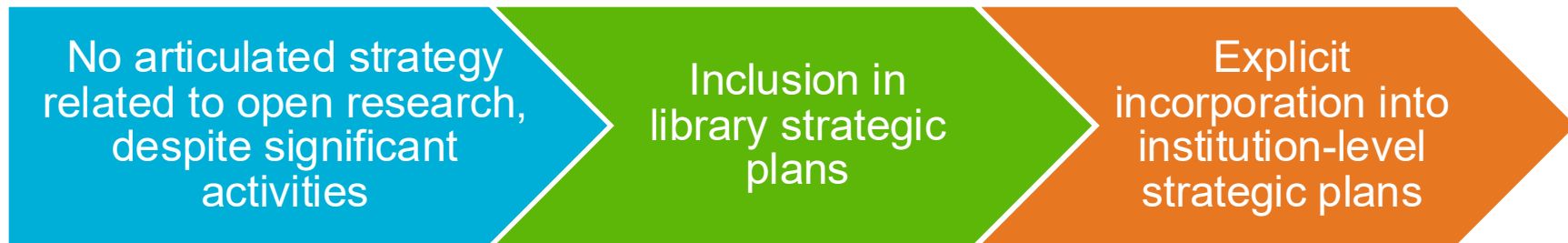
That is, is it a centralized effort coordinated by the library (or another unit) or is it highly distributed? How are stakeholders collaborating?

3. **How are external factors impacting your institution's open research goals and activities?**

This might include things like cybersecurity, national security, scrutiny of international collaborations, reputation and prestige, AI, etc.

Open research as a strategic priority

The roundtable discussion revealed a spectrum of institutional practices related to open research strategy, ranging from:



Open research as a strategic priority

The roundtable discussion revealed a spectrum of institutional practices related to open research strategy, ranging from:



Libraries support open research (but usually not in a coordinated service bundle)

Open publishing

- Repositories
- Library publishing programs
- Transformative/read & publish agreements
- OA publishing funds

Library-provisioned infrastructure

- Repositories
- Publishing platforms
- DMP platforms
- Research information management systems (RIMS/CRIS)

Services & expertise

- Research data management
- Scholarly communications
- Research impact metrics
- Open Educational Resources (OERs)



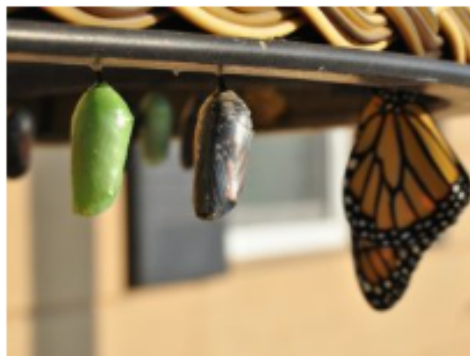
Photo by [Robert Ruggiero](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Example: University of Manchester

Institutional “Our Future” plan prioritizes the development of an open and responsible research environment



The University of Manchester



RESEARCH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT / RESEARCH LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP / RESEARCH SUPPORT / SOCIAL INTEROPERABILITY

Supporting open research at the University of Manchester Libraries

February 1, 2024 - by Rebecca Bryant

The University of Manchester Library serves as the home for a new Office for Open Research, in support of enterprise open research goals.

<https://hangingtogether.org/supporting-open-research-at-the-university-of-manchester-libraries/>

Priority three

An open and responsible research environment

We will complete our strategic investment in transforming our research environment to support open research and a modernised responsible research framework for how we organise, resource, conduct and share our research to meet the highest standards of conduct and integrity; environmental sustainability; equality, diversity and inclusion; and positive economic and social impact.

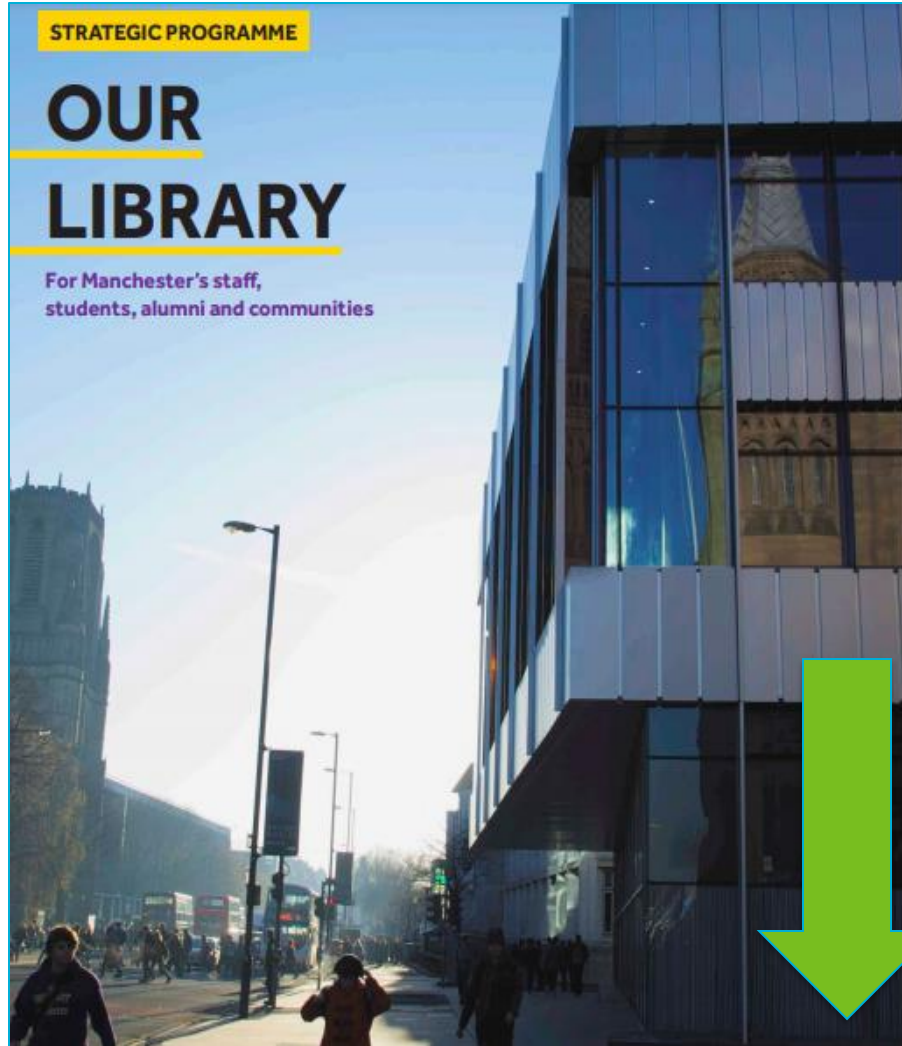


<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/vision/>



OUR LIBRARY

For Manchester's staff,
students, alumni and communities



PROGRAMME MISSION

The Our Library programme will deliver on the legacy and potential of The University of Manchester Library to provide memorable, rich and dynamic services to our staff, students, alumni and communities. The Library also plays a key role in the University's social responsibility activity.

LEAD PRIORITY AREAS

Main Library Redefined

The University aims to either refurbish or rebuild the Main Library in order to deliver world-leading environments for research, learning, student development and engagement with our print and digital collections. The project will allow us to consider the total student and research experience of our Library, learning spaces and supporting services in line with scholarship, new technologies, shared service cultures, the importance of wellbeing on campus and social responsibility.

Our Students

Manchester provides world-leading depth of content for students via its eTextbook portfolio. Our award-winning teaching and learning programmes support students, PhD candidates and researchers on campus and through digital delivery with rich curricular engagement to ensure that anyone studying at Manchester is working in a great learning environment. Imagine2030 will continue to deliver a great taught student experience and will also focus on developing a new partnership with our postgraduate research community.

Digital Manchester

Through multiple partnerships across the University, the Library shares in the development of The University of Manchester Digital Futures and digital innovation initiatives. This is a programme of activity reaching into every part of academic and administrative work at the University, and will prepare our University for a digital future that enables blended ways of working, research, education and the projection of The University of Manchester globally.

Spirit of Manchester

The University of Manchester Library is as much a part of life in the city as it is in the University. Over 20,000 people from our local communities are members of our Library and we welcome over 350,000 visitors every year at The John Rylands Library. Imagine2030 will aim to increase our involvement in the cultural and educational life of our city through our tradition of radical innovation.

The University of Manchester Office for Open Research

The University of Manchester Office for Open Research brings together our world-leading existing work in open scholarship for all disciplines with new bodies of work in open data, citizen science and open access. It will be one of the most significant investments in the future of publishing, data and open knowledge by any UK university, reaching across all humanities and science disciplines.

Office of Open Research

- Launched 2022
- Strategically coordinates the University's response to the Open Research agenda
- Creates a single point of contact with OR expertise across the institution
- Supports OR communities within the university & beyond
- Champions Open Research & shares updates

Office of Open Research

Offerings

- Open research skills
- Open publishing
- Open data & code
- Citizen science
- Responsible metrics
-

Stakeholders

- Library
- Research IT
- Data governance
- University press
- Comms & marketing
-

Factors shaping open research

Mandates are a key driver of open research

Fragmented services hinder researcher access

Researcher engagement remains low

Misconceptions about research security create hesitancy

Resource constraints



GenAI implications

Opportunities

- Repositories: metadata enrichment, workflows
- New AI research librarian and data scientist roles
- AI may support research impact and measuring open research

Concerns

- Researcher concerns re: use of open publications in LLMs
- AI bots are straining repository infrastructure



RLP AI in Metadata Working Group

- 17 members from US, UK, Canada, and Australia
- Examining metadata workflows related to
 - Cataloging
 - Repositories
 - Archives and special collections
- Repositories: self-deposit workflows, legacy metadata cleanup and enrichment
- Results later in 2025 on OCLC Research blog
- <https://www.oclc.org/research/partnership/working-groups/managing-ai-metadata-managers-wg.html>

Evolving library roles & value proposition

Role of library often unrecognized

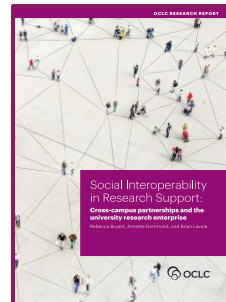


Photo by [Majestic Lukas](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- North American university
- Library providing expertise & services
- Office of Research launches new Open Science initiative
 - Unaware of library offerings
- Now relies upon library for programming

Other stakeholders often fail to recognize the library's evolving value proposition

Thought leadership on research support



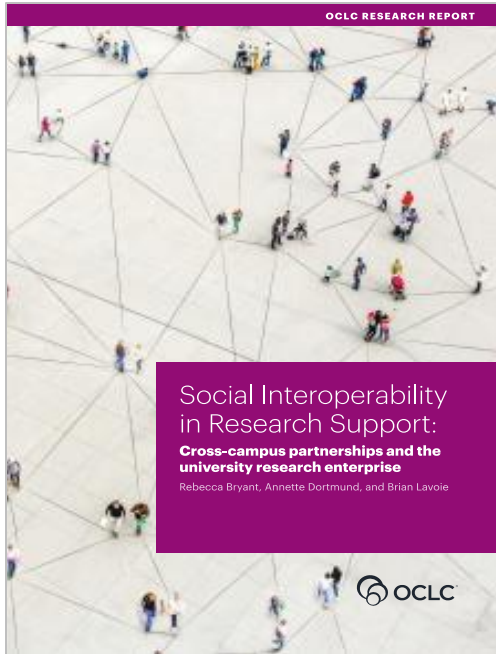
2014

2020

2025



The Library
Beyond the
Library



Social Interoperability in Research Support: Cross-campus Partnerships and the University Research Enterprise

<https://doi.org/10.25333/wyrd-n586>

Social interoperability



Photo by [Anna Samoylova](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Social interoperability is the creation and maintenance of working relationships across individuals and organizational units that promote collaboration, communication, and mutual understanding.

Universities are complex adaptive systems

Self-organized

Independent agents

Conflicting goals

Non-linear & dynamic

No single point of control



Example: Montana State University



Photo by [Quino AI](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- Established a central Research Alliance
- Unites 5 campus units providing research support within the library
 - Library research support
 - Research development
 - Undergrad research
 - Research cyberinfrastructure
 - Center for faculty excellence

MSU Research Alliance

Benefits

- Improved services for researchers & students
- Improved collaboration between units
- Increased interaction with campus leaders
- > visible library value proposition

Challenges

- Turnover in executive leadership
- Ill-defined scope
- Poorly defined leadership roles & decision-making structure
- Internal pushback

Extending the Library Beyond the Library



- Increasing library provision of research support services & expertise in support of institutional priorities
- Libraries extend & combine their expertise beyond the library through collaborations
- Libraries must communicate an increasingly complex value proposition

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MUTCD-OH_W4-H1a.svg

<https://www.oclc.org/research/areas/research-collections/library-beyond-the-library.html>

Thought leadership on OA and academic discovery

RDM challenges echo history of green OA



2018

Container Collapse and the Information Remix: Students' Evaluations of Scientific Research Recast in Scholarly vs. Popular Sources

Amy G. Buhler, Ichel M. Faniel, Brittany Brannon, Christopher Cy, Tara Tobin Cataldo, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, Joyce Kaaman Valencia, Rachael Ernst, Randy A. Graff, Samuel R. Putnam, Erin M. Hood, and Kailay Langer

Introduction

The scientific communication lifecycle relies on recasting information through a variety of genres, from scholarly to popular, as scientific findings are translated for different audiences. In the past several years, this has become increasingly important as scientists recognize the need to broadly communicate their findings in order to disseminate the broader impact of their research and gain public trust. When students turn to search engines to locate resources for a science project, this means they often encounter similar information in a variety of containers, formats, and genres. This variety requires them to make nuanced judgments about which resources will help them as they begin their research, which to cite and incorporate into their project, and which are the most credible. Although a significant body of research addresses how scholars communicate with one another and how scientific information becomes news, little research examines how information containers are used and compare different iterations of the same information across the scientific communication lifecycle. This paper compares and contrasts 118 students' point-of-selection judgments of three resources recasting the same scientific content as original research article, a news piece about the article in a scientific journal, and a news piece about the article in a popular magazine.

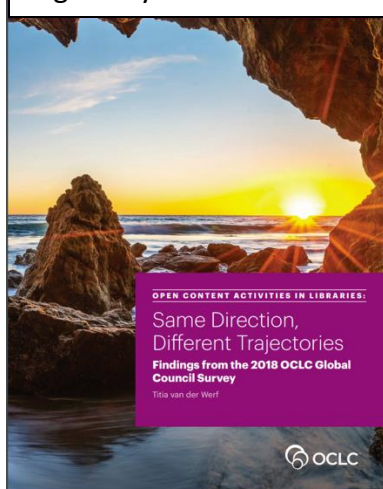
Background: The Lifecycle of Scientific Communication

Liverno's model of the scientific communication lifecycle incorporated three stages of scientific activity: conceptualization, documentation, and popularization.¹ In this model, conceptualization and documentation encompass scholarly communication, and popularization is the stage in which scientific information enters general public awareness and discourse. Liverno pointed out that most academic research tends to focus on either

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Prioritization and progress of OA diverging regionally



2020

Students' Perceptions of Preprints Discovered in Google: A Window into Recognition And Evaluation

Tara Tobin Cataldo, Ichel M. Faniel, Amy G. Buhler, Brittany Brannon, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, and Samuel Putnam

Preprints play an important role in scholarly conversation. This paper examines perceptions of preprints through the lens of students using a simulated Google environment. Data were collected from 116 high school, community college, undergraduate, and graduate students with attention toward the helpfulness, credibility, and identification of preprints. Findings show preprint and peer-reviewed cues play little to no role in judging helpfulness or credibility, but peer-review does when judging credibility. Further, most students did not recognize these resources as preprints, implications and recommendations are discussed surrounding awareness and use of these openly available sources of scientific information.

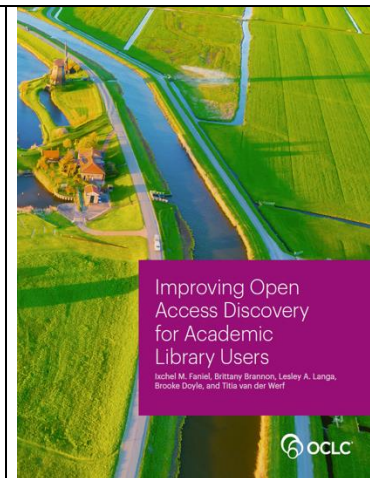
Introduction

Preprints can be described as scholarly manuscripts "posted by the author(s) in an openly accessible platform, usually before or in parallel with the peer review process."¹ Preprints have been a part of scholarly communication for decades. *bioRxiv*, a preprint server that primarily archives research in physics, mathematics, and computer science, was created in 1991. Other preprint servers such as *bioRxiv* for the life sciences and *ChemRxiv* for the chemical sciences, were created in the past decade. Fraser (2021) surmised that the growth of preprints could be disruptive to the online information environment, and this came to fruition during the COVID-19 pandemic.² The easy access to and enormous output of preprints has sparked debates about their positives and negatives,³ their use in journalism,⁴ and journal policies and guidelines.⁵ The publishing world is by no means united in its view of preprints. Journals such as *Annals* prohibit references to non-peer-reviewed scientific articles.⁶ Others, such as *eLife*, require authors to submit their manuscripts to a preprint server.⁷ Kiebel (2020) details the ambiguity of

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2023

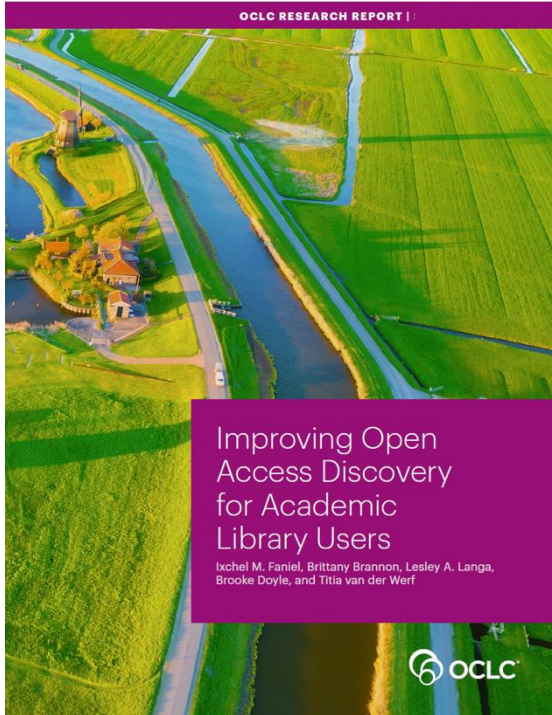
Librarians prize OA discovery; users prize seamless access



2024

Publication formats shape perceptions of credibility

Nuances of OA publication types confound undergrads



Improving Open Access Discovery for Academic Library Users

<https://doi.org/10.25333/3q7x-5722>

Conceptualized and conducted in partnership with two Dutch library consortia.



Seven academic libraries

Four universities, three universities of applied sciences (UASs)

Library efforts to improve discoverability of OA publications

- Library survey (n=7)
 - 2-hour group interviews with 4-6 people at each institution (n=37)
-

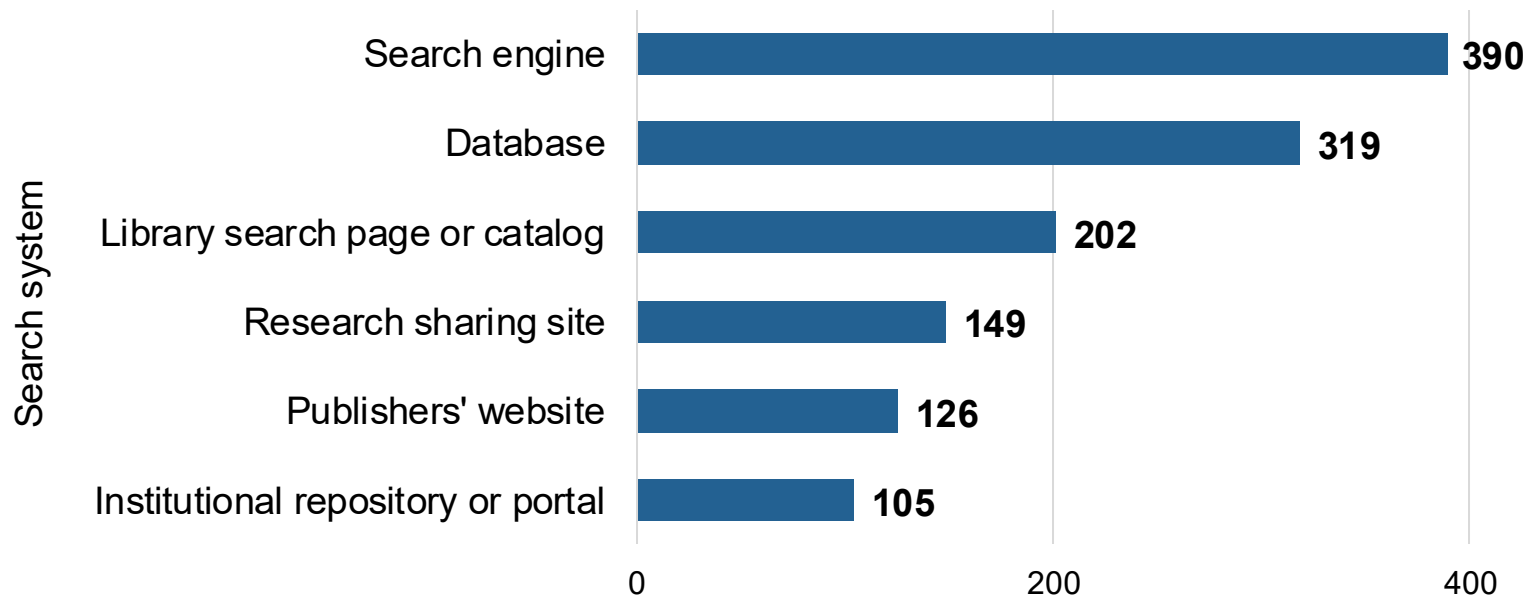
User experiences with scholarly, peer-reviewed publications and open access

- User survey (n=461)

Selecting and adding OA publications to library collections

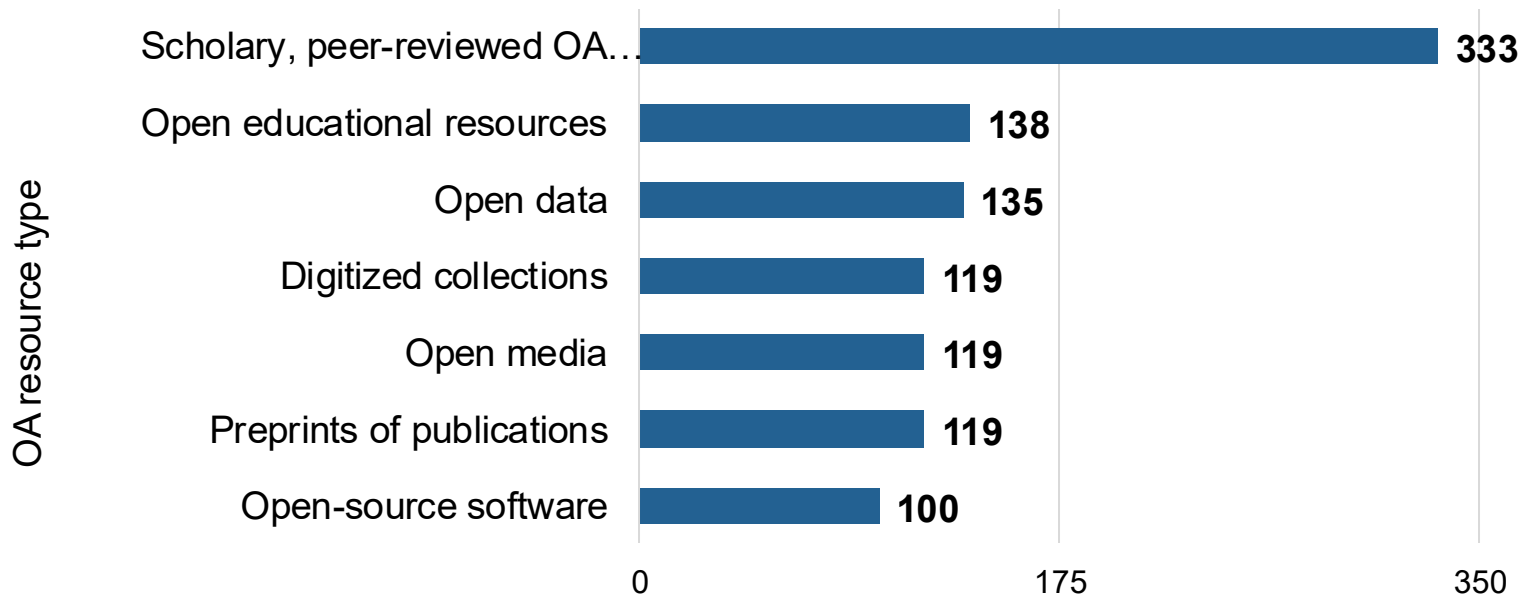
- Used common selection criteria
 - relevant, trustworthy, with good representation of Dutch research
- Added OA publications from various sources
 - publishers, OA platforms, own institution, and national aggregations of other Dutch institutions were added
- Wanted to put OA publications in user workflows
 - teaching and learning, general discovery, student life

Where users normally search for scholarly peer-review publications



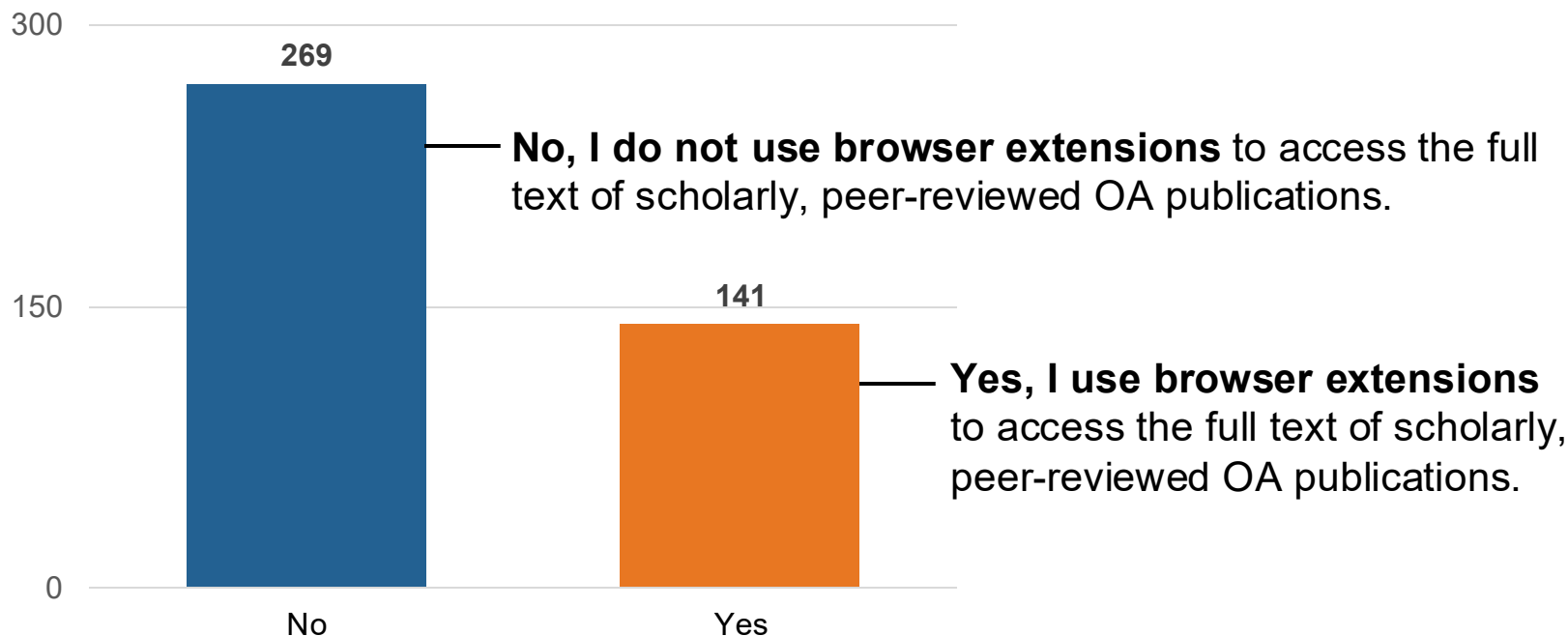
The total number of respondents was 450. Users could select all categories that applied. Categories with fewer 50 responses were not reported in the figure.

Types of OA resources users searched for



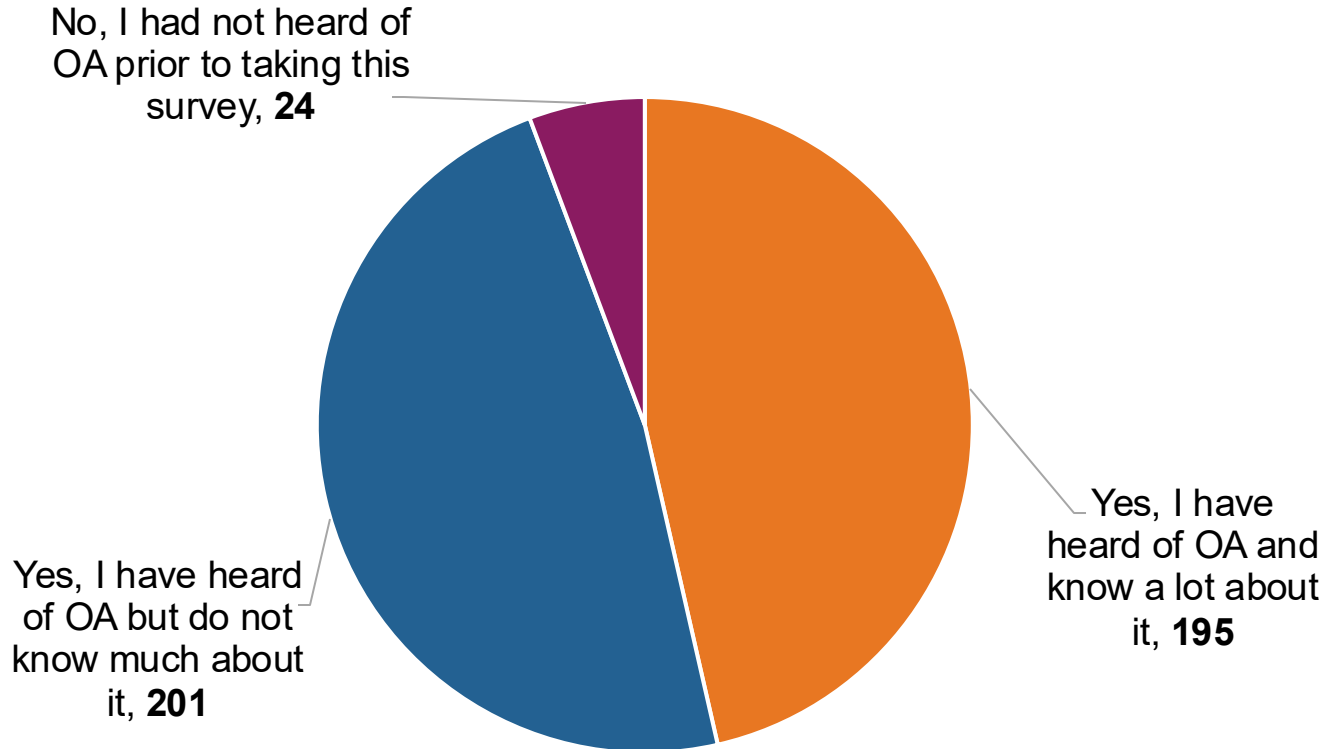
The total number of respondents was 420. Users could select all categories that applied. Categories with fewer 50 responses were not reported in the figure.

Use of browser extensions to access OA publications



The total number of respondents was 410. Users could select all browser extensions that applied.

User awareness of OA



The total number of respondents was 420.

Increasing OA awareness, knowledge, and engagement

“So, I think a lot is being done on getting them [users]... aware of publishing open access, but not that much on how open access is discovered, which I think is kind of a bit my task, [laughter] to maybe have workshops or presentations on that.”

- Open access librarian, U4

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Discussion

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