

# Analysis of the Diamond Open Access survey

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# 1 Background of the survey

This survey was compiled for a Diamond Open Access workshop during the WSL Research Day on 24. June 2025. The workshop was organized by Arthur Gessler and Eckehard Brockhoff ([WSL](#)) together with Lothar Nunnenmacher and Jochen Bihn ([Lib4RI](#)).

The survey was open between 26. May and 13. June 2025. In total, **92 questionnaires** were submitted.

## 2 Results

### 2.1 How important are the following factors for you when you decide where to publish?

Visibility- and quality-related factors stood out as most important factors for choosing a journal to publish in (Figure 1). In the free text field for “Other”, financial considerations were mentioned most often (Table 1).

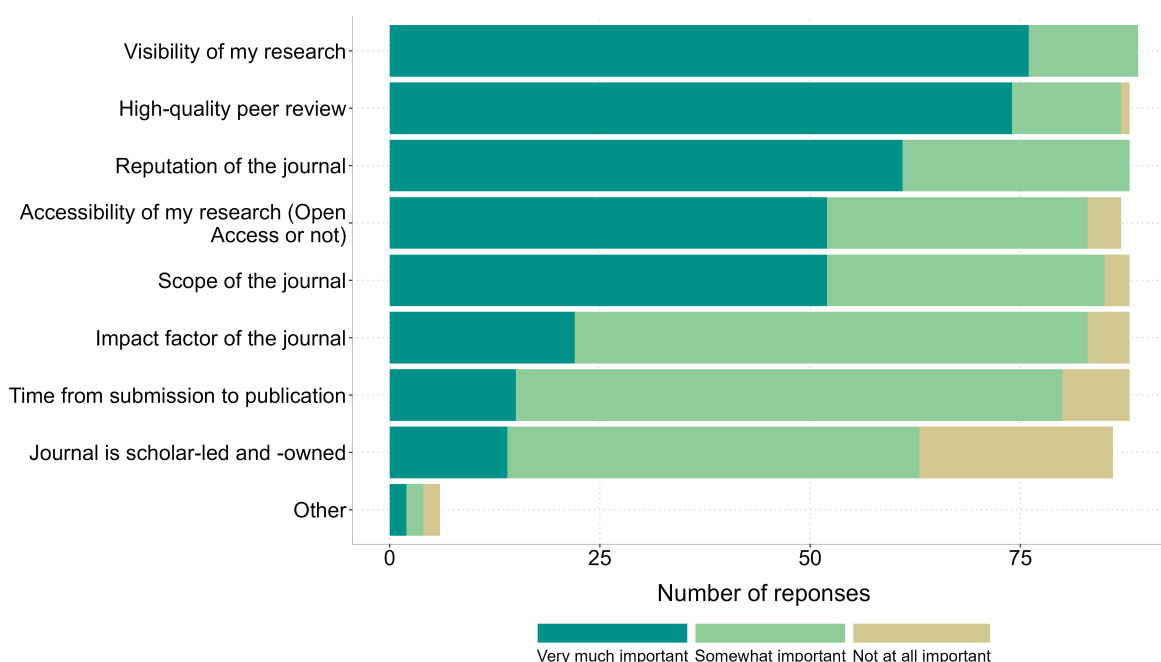


Figure 1: Participants could indicate importance of factors from a list, but also specify other factors.

Table 1: Participants could specify other important factors for choosing where to publish.

Other factors
APC, and whether this is covered by funder/WSL/group
fair charges for publication
financial contribution
Format required (length of the text, number of figures etc)
matching topic for respective peer group
no scam
Price obviously

## 2.2 How familiar are you with the following Open Access (OA) models?

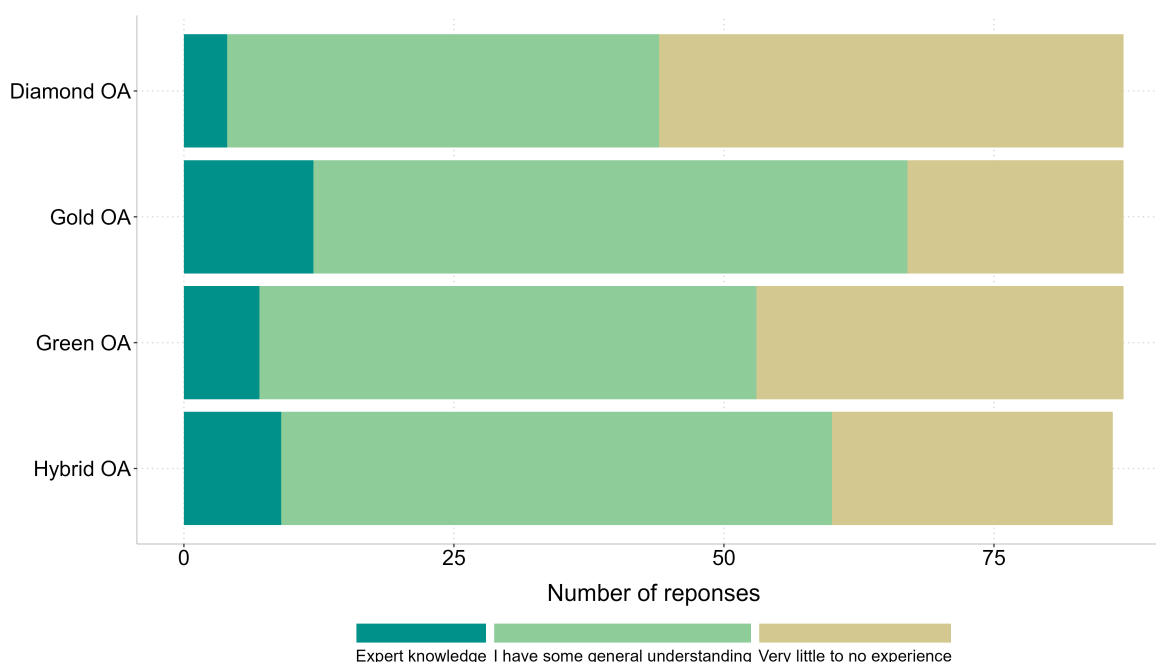
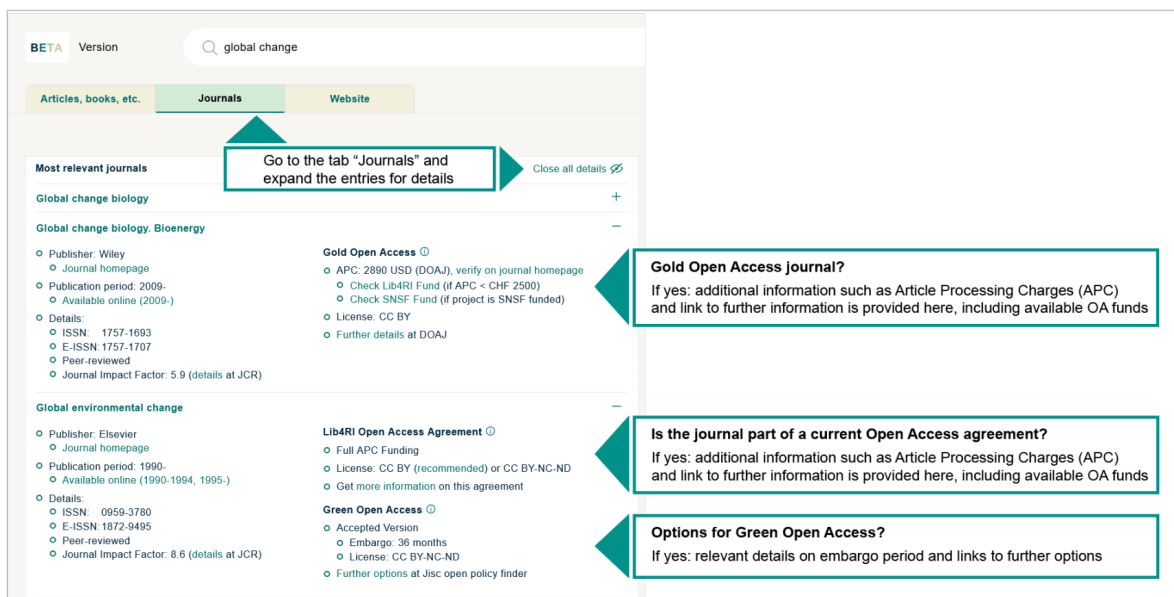


Figure 2: Participants rated their familiarity with different Open Access models.

Expert knowledge was low for all Open Access models, but most users indicated a general understanding. Participants were most familiar with the Gold OA model. For Diamond Open Access, the rate of little to no knowledge was highest among all models.

## 2.3 Do you use the Lib4RI search tool?

Analysis for internal use, not included in this report. But refer to [the Search Tool project page](#) to learn how to use it for finding Open Access information on the level of individual journals.



The screenshot shows the Lib4RI Search Tool interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'global change'. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Articles, books, etc.', 'Journals', and 'Website'. The 'Journals' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a section titled 'Most relevant journals'. The first journal listed is 'Global change biology'. To the right of the journal name, there is a button that says 'Go to the tab "Journals" and expand the entries for details'. Below the journal name, there is a list of details for 'Global change biology, Bioenergy'. The details include: Publisher: Wiley, Journal homepage, Publication period: 2009-, Available online (2009-), Details: ISSN: 1757-1693, E-ISSN: 1757-1707, Peer-reviewed, Journal Impact Factor: 5.9 (details at JCR). To the right of the details, there is a section titled 'Gold Open Access'. The details include: APC: 2890 USD (DOAJ), verify on journal homepage, Check Lib4RI Fund (if APC < CHF 2500), Check SNSF Fund (if project is SNSF funded), License: CC BY, Further details at DOAJ. To the right of the 'Gold Open Access' section, there is a callout box that says 'Gold Open Access journal? If yes: additional information such as Article Processing Charges (APC) and link to further information is provided here, including available OA funds'. Below the first journal, there is another journal listed: 'Global environmental change'. To the right of the journal name, there is a button that says 'Go to the tab "Journals" and expand the entries for details'. Below the journal name, there is a list of details for 'Global environmental change'. The details include: Publisher: Elsevier, Journal homepage, Publication period: 1990-, Available online (1990-1994, 1995-), Details: ISSN: 0959-3780, E-ISSN: 1872-9495, Peer-reviewed, Journal Impact Factor: 8.6 (details at JCR). To the right of the details, there is a section titled 'Lib4RI Open Access Agreement'. The details include: Full APC Funding, License: CC BY (recommended) or CC BY-NC-ND, Get more information on this agreement. To the right of the 'Lib4RI Open Access Agreement' section, there is a callout box that says 'Is the journal part of a current Open Access agreement? If yes: additional information such as Article Processing Charges (APC) and link to further information is provided here, including available OA funds'. Below the 'Lib4RI Open Access Agreement' section, there is a section titled 'Green Open Access'. The details include: Accepted Version, Embargo: 36 months, License: CC BY-NC-ND, Further options at Jisc open policy finder. To the right of the 'Green Open Access' section, there is a callout box that says 'Options for Green Open Access? If yes: relevant details on embargo period and links to further options'.

Figure 3: The Lib4RI Search Tool gives you the relevant information for your institution.

## 2.4 Do you know any Diamond OA journals relevant to your field?

Table 2: This table includes only named journals. Other answers were "No" or "Not in my scope" and similar.

### Named journals

#### Only ARC Geophysical Research

yes, Mires & Peat (published jointly by the International Peatland Society IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group IMCG) and Meylania (published by the Swiss Association for Bryology and Lichenology), which, however, is a very small, journal without peer-review

New Phytologist, PCI Evolutionary Biology

Botanica Serbica But I would like to know more

[https://joss.theoj.org/about#content\\_license](https://joss.theoj.org/about#content_license), <https://proceedings.juliacon.org/>

Web Ecology

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## Named journals

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web ecology

Sure, I founded iForest in the late 2000s.

New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science

Landscape Online

Tuexenia

Annals of forest science and Journal of Plants Hydraulics

New Zealand Journal of Forestry, Works of the Faculty of Forestry University of Sarajevo

Italian Journal of Ornithology, Acta Herpetologica

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One participant responded: *“I’m not interested in diamond, gold, platinum etc. To me all that simply sounds like marketing. The two questions are: is it open-access to readers ? How much is the publication fee ?”*

PhD students or BSc/MSc students did not name any Diamond OA journals.

## 2.5 Have you been actively involved in publishing Diamond Open Access or other?

Several participants have actively engaged in Diamond Open Access journals, five of them even as editors in one or more journals. Still, active engagement in each role was lower for Diamond Open Access journals than other journals (Figure 4).

## 2.6 What was your motivation to engage in Diamond Open Access? If you did not, what hindered you to engage?

**Costs were the main motivation** for engaging or preferring Diamond OA journals - six comments explicitly mention costs or payment.

As obstacle, these are the most often raised points:

- Little awareness of the model
- Low impact of the journals
- Lack of suitable journals
- Lack of time to engage

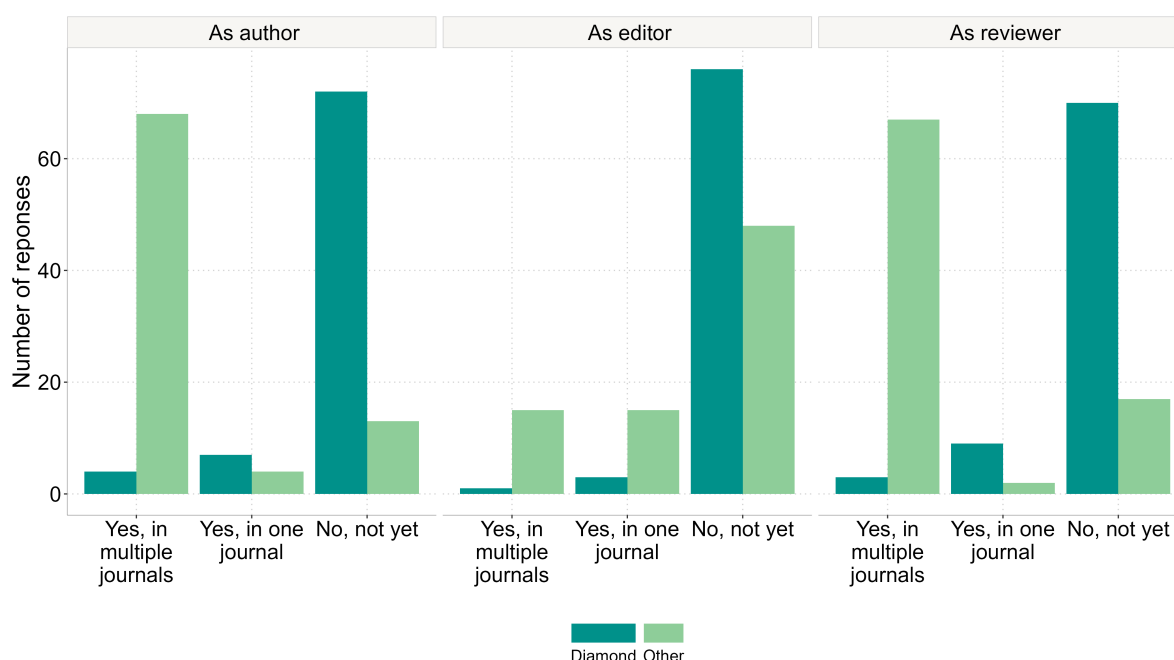


Figure 4: Engagement in Diamond Open Access journals vs. other journals as author, editor or reviewer.

Table 3: Responses are grouped according to whether or not the participants had engaged with Diamond Open Access as indicated in question 5.

Motivation or obstacle	
<b>Did engage before</b>	<p>If there is the opportunity to review for a DOA journal or to publish in an DOA journal, then I'm very open to it, but there are not so many possibilities</p> <p>When I got to requests to review manuscripts, I chose the request from a Diamond open access journal because I really believe that it should not be so expensive to publish an article. This is an important step to a fair scientific landscape. Also, I cannot really believe that the high prices many journals ask are necessary. And I think it is not fair that the "better" the journal (Nature, Science etc.) the higher the price. This is also not fair.</p> <p>Was on-topic. Experience was good.</p> <p>time constraint, no specification in job</p>

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## Motivation or obstacle

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You don't pay to publish nor to read.

Free open access publishing. Best solution for authors and readers. Possibly needs a association in the background for financing article costs and some engaged people in the editorial.

The motivation is to make research available to everyone to read while not simply lining the publishers' pockets.

I believe in the model, and because I have been associated with one DOA journal as co-editor-in-chief for 6 years

## Did not engage before

Lack of reputation and impact factor of journals.

It has no sense to pay the open access

Not aware of a good diamond open access in my field.

I never heard of it

I think scientific publishing is a bit broken, at least in part because many traditional publishers are motivated by profit rather than by advancing science. Diamond Open Access seems like an opportunity to redress this balance. A major challenge re engagement is that much of the research ecosystem is centred around publication records, and the Diamond Open Access journals I know do not yet have the visibility/reputation of their more traditional counterparts.

Money should be primarily used for research, though I understand that people from related sectors are also critical to promoting high-quality research. But, yet such balance has not achieved - too money goes to Journals while researchers suffer from funding cut.

Still quite unknown to me, not sure which journals are Diamond OA in my field.

Lack of information about available journals.

I'm happy to switch if diamond journals become well-known enough so that my research will be visible

I am not familiar with it

Motivation or obstacle
<p>Saving money and spending money on scientific research are my motivation to engage in Diamond Open Access.</p> <p>I am not aware of any (reputable) DOA journal in my field.</p> <p>I was too junior a researcher to have this be relevant to me before.</p> <p>did not engage so far</p> <p>It hinders me because of this marketing-like name.</p> <p>Until some months ago the concept of diamond open access was unknown to me. But actually, I would be very motivated to support and publish that way.</p> <p>I did not find a suitable journal for my research (yet).</p> <p>Time and opportunity.</p> <p>I was not approached, yet.</p> <p>It is not very well known, and does not publish high quality research</p> <p>Need for fair publishing</p> <p>1) I am not familiar with diamond open access journals in my field. 2) Fund were available to publish with other open access models.</p> <p>I was not as there are no journals</p> <p>Do not know about the journals</p> <p>i didn't know what it is</p> <p>did not know any Diamond Open Access journals in my field (ecological modelling)now I've found one journal and I doubt that it has a large visibility</p> <p>Probably, because there are not enough Diamond Open Access journals in my field. Also, I tend to favour "prestigious" well-known journals in the field.</p> <p>Diamond Open Access is not something I have focused on so far</p> <p>No opportunity for engagement.</p>



Motivation or obstacle
journals in the field, with high impact factors, are still not diamond open Access
no relevant journal in my field of research
-
no experience yet, but I find the format very appealing

### 3 Participation

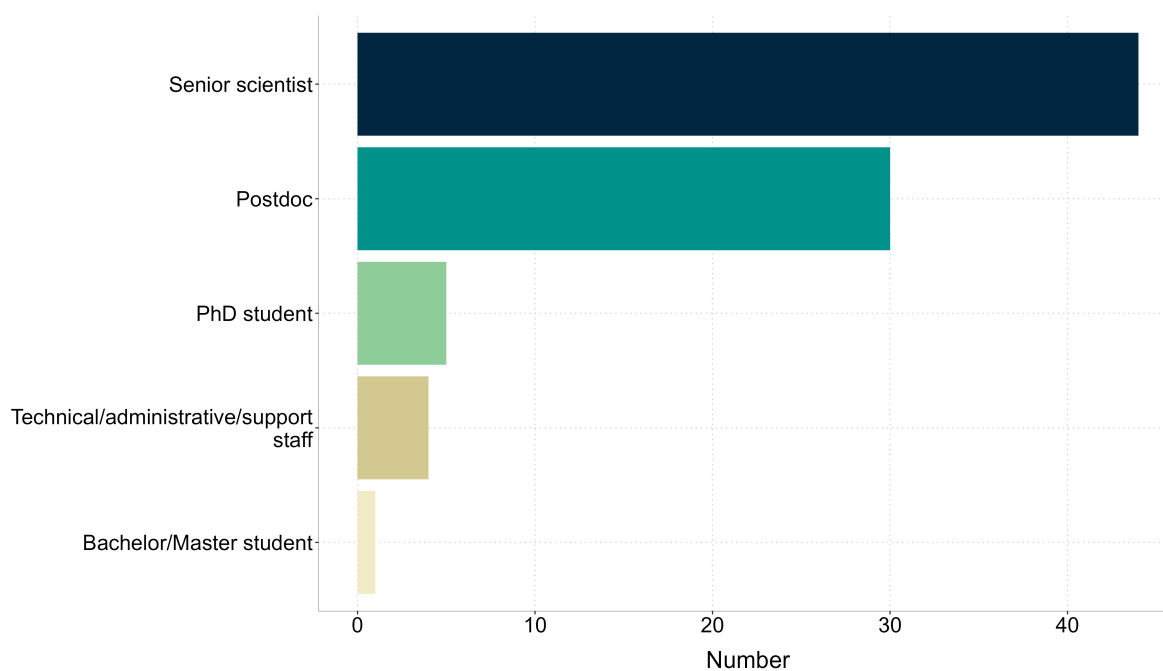


Figure 5: Career level

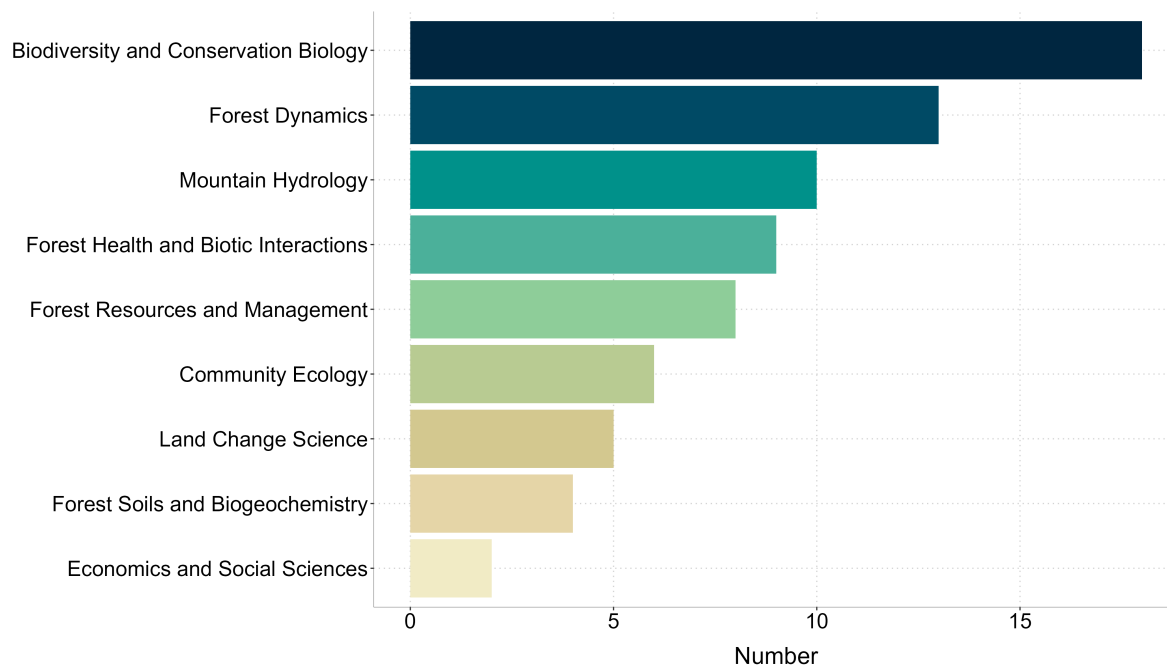


Figure 6: Research fields