

# SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION

...some years ago in a galaxy not very far away



## What a bright new world will come with OA

- **Accessibility**
  - Unrestricted access to research - no paywalls
  - Removes financial, legal, and technological barriers
  - Democratizes knowledge transmission globally
  - Increases visibility and discoverability of research
- **Costs & Economics**
  - No subscription fees for readers/institutions
  - Can accelerate scientific progress through rapid sharing
- **Scientific Benefits**
  - Facilitates collaboration among researchers
  - Supports open science practices and transparency
  - Enables immediate publication after acceptance

...maybe the things are not so bright....

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## Disadvantages



Dall-E/ChatGPT

- **Costs for Authors**
    - Article Processing Charges (APCs) range to many thousands of dollars
    - Financial burden shifts from readers to authors
    - This excludes researchers who cannot afford publication fees mainly from the Global South
  - **Quality & Sustainability**
    - Concerns about quality control in some OA journals
    - Risk of predatory journals charging fees without proper editorial services
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NEWS | 16 February 2022 | Correction [22 February 2022](#)

# Open-access publishing fees deter researchers in the global south

**Authors in low-income countries rarely published free-to-read papers, even when they qualified for publication-fee waivers.**

«APCs distort research, they exclude authors»

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# SPRINGER NATURE COPIES MDPI'S PROBLEMATIC MODEL

- Springer Nature launched 66 "Discover" journals - 25 have identical names to MDPI journals, 11 differ by one letter

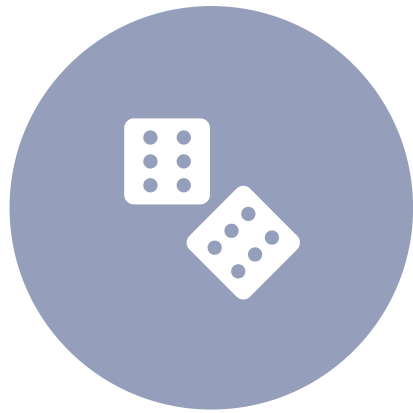
- Mimics MDPI's "pay-to-publish" model - Promises to publish "all research" with "speed of submission and review" for thousands of dollars

- Explosive growth through aggressive tactics - 324% growth (2023-2024), with 1,255 open special issues averaging 19 per journal

- Lack of transparency - Unlike MDPI, Discover journals hide rejection rates and review times

- Will likely succeed due to Springer Nature's brand - Scientists seeking "reputable" open access will choose Discover despite problematic practices





ELSEVIER'S PROFIT  
MARGIN **APPROACHES 40%**



APPLE HAS APPROX..24%



FROM AN APC OF 5000 \$, 2000 \$  
(WHICH IS ALL PUBLIC MONEY) GOES TO  
THE SHAREHOLDERS

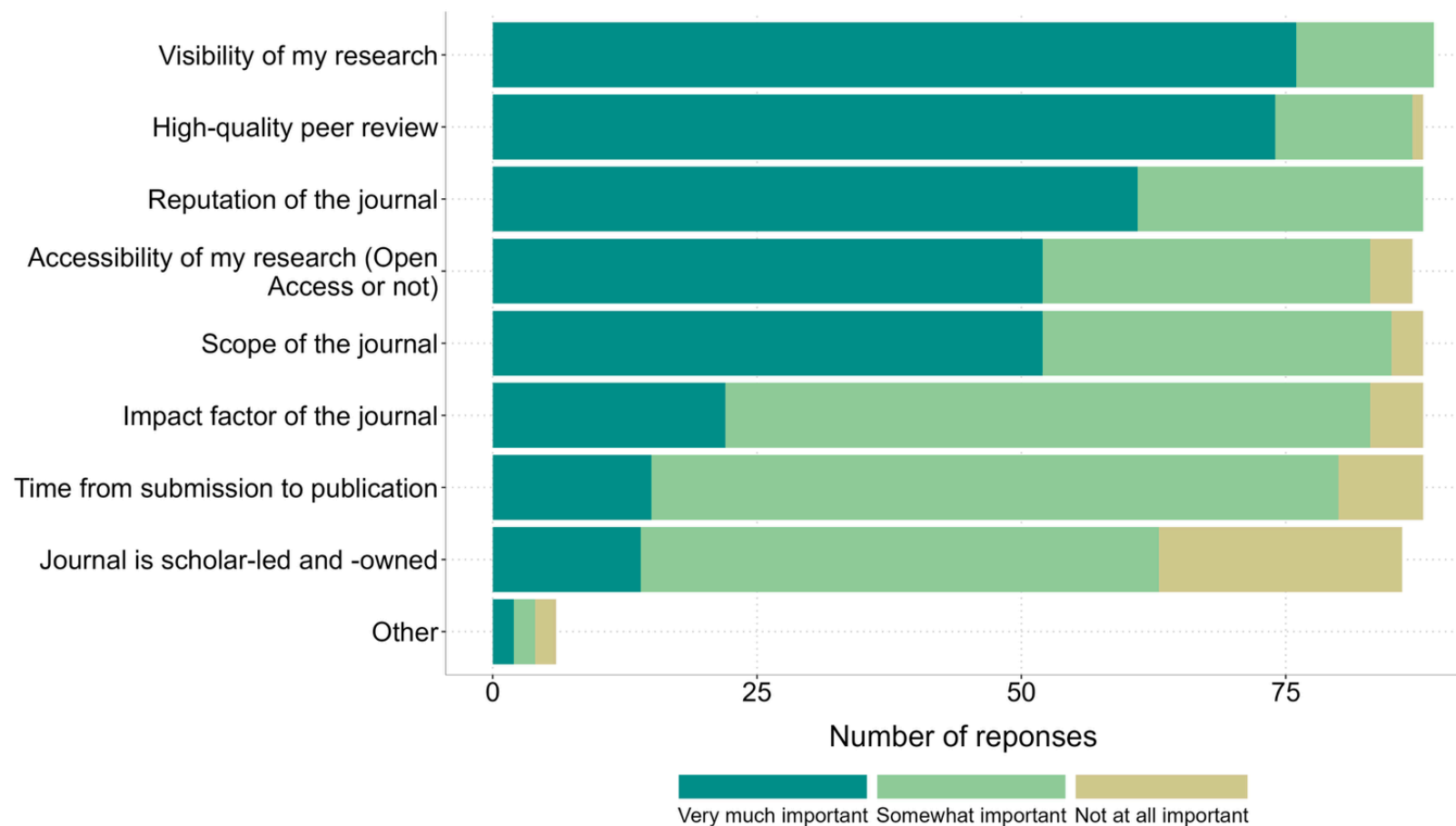
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# 1 How important are the following factors for you when you decide where to publish:

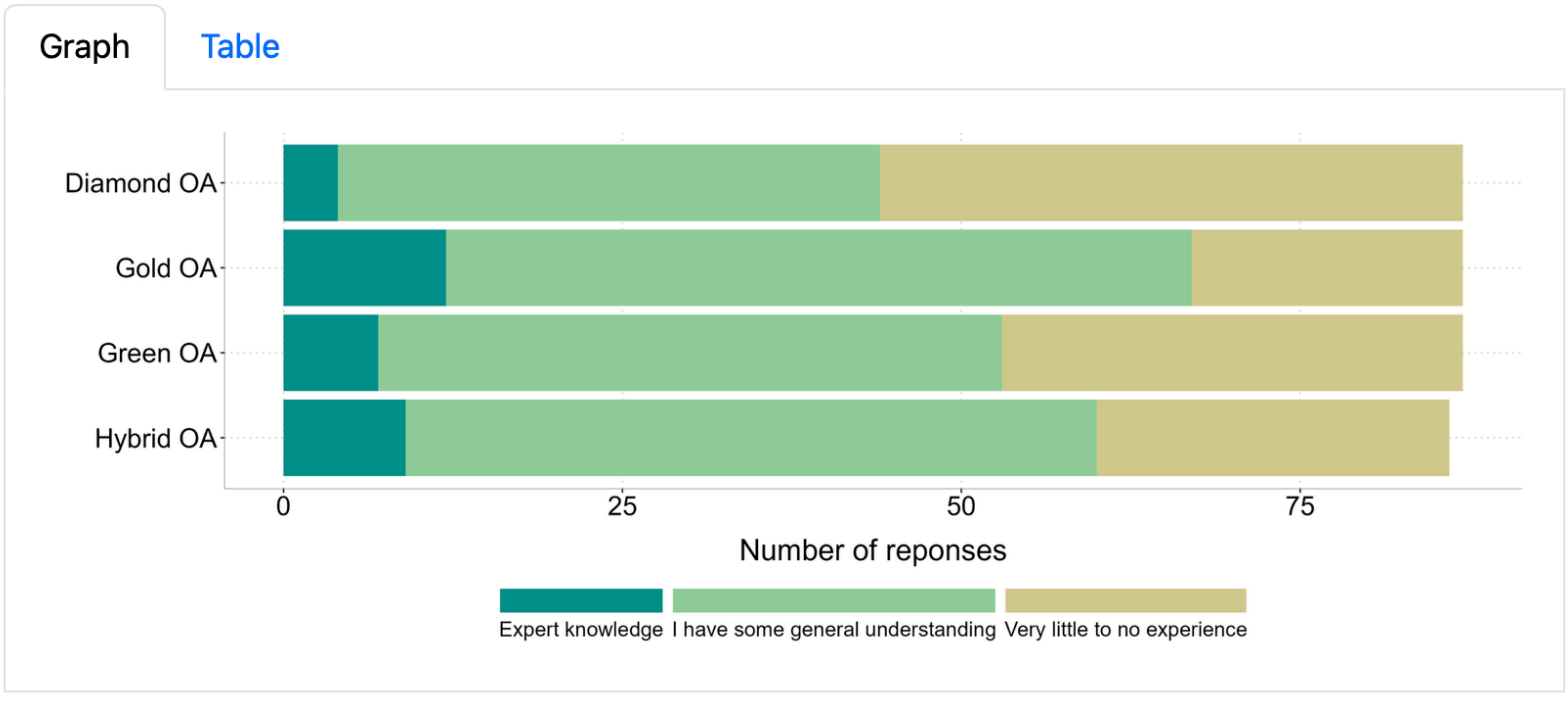
Graph

Table

Answers "Other"



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



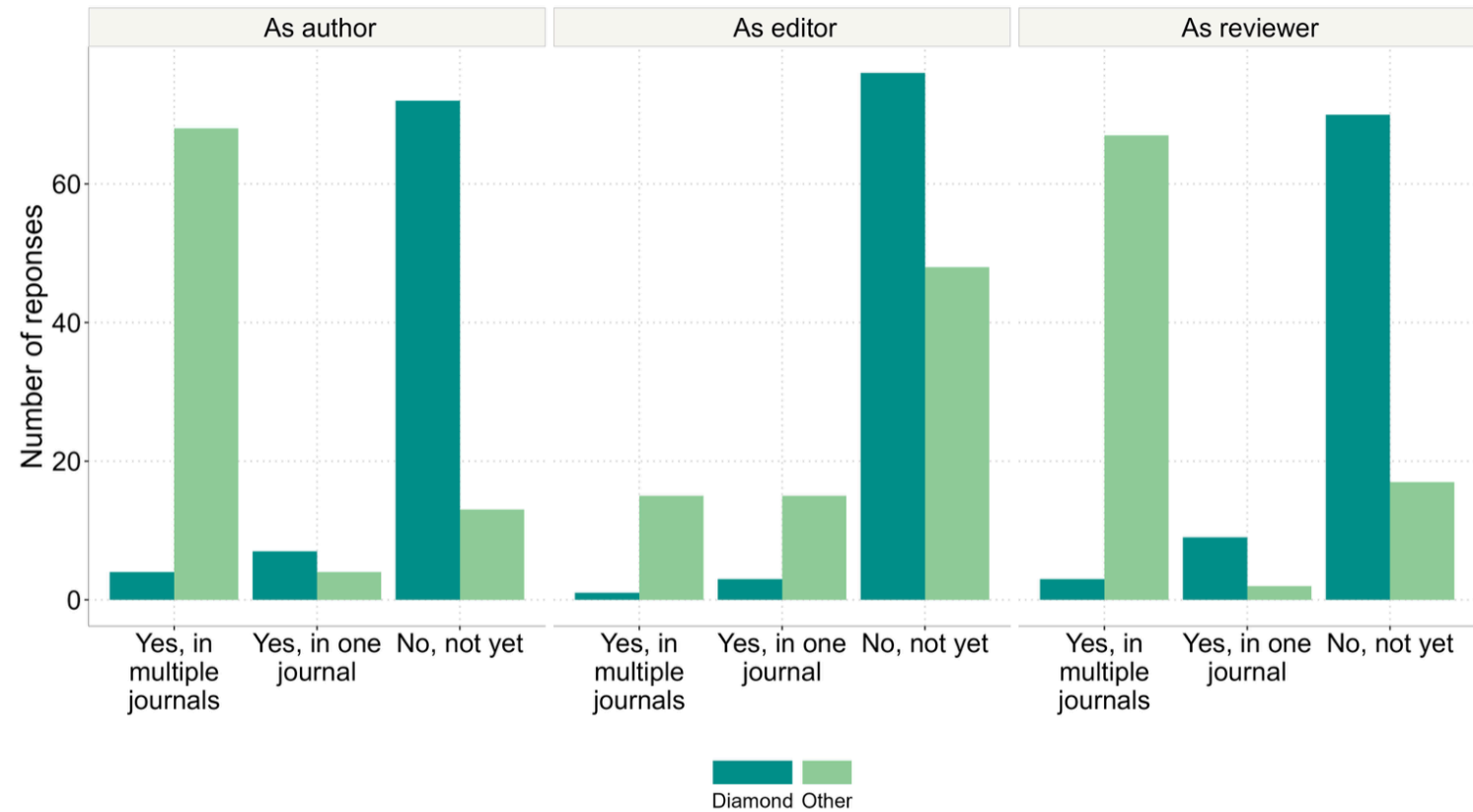


## 5 Have you been actively involved in...

Graph 5a

[Graph 5b](#)

[Table](#)



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

Again, **costs were the main motivation** for engaging or preferring Diamond OA journals- six comments, mostly in the group that had engaged, 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

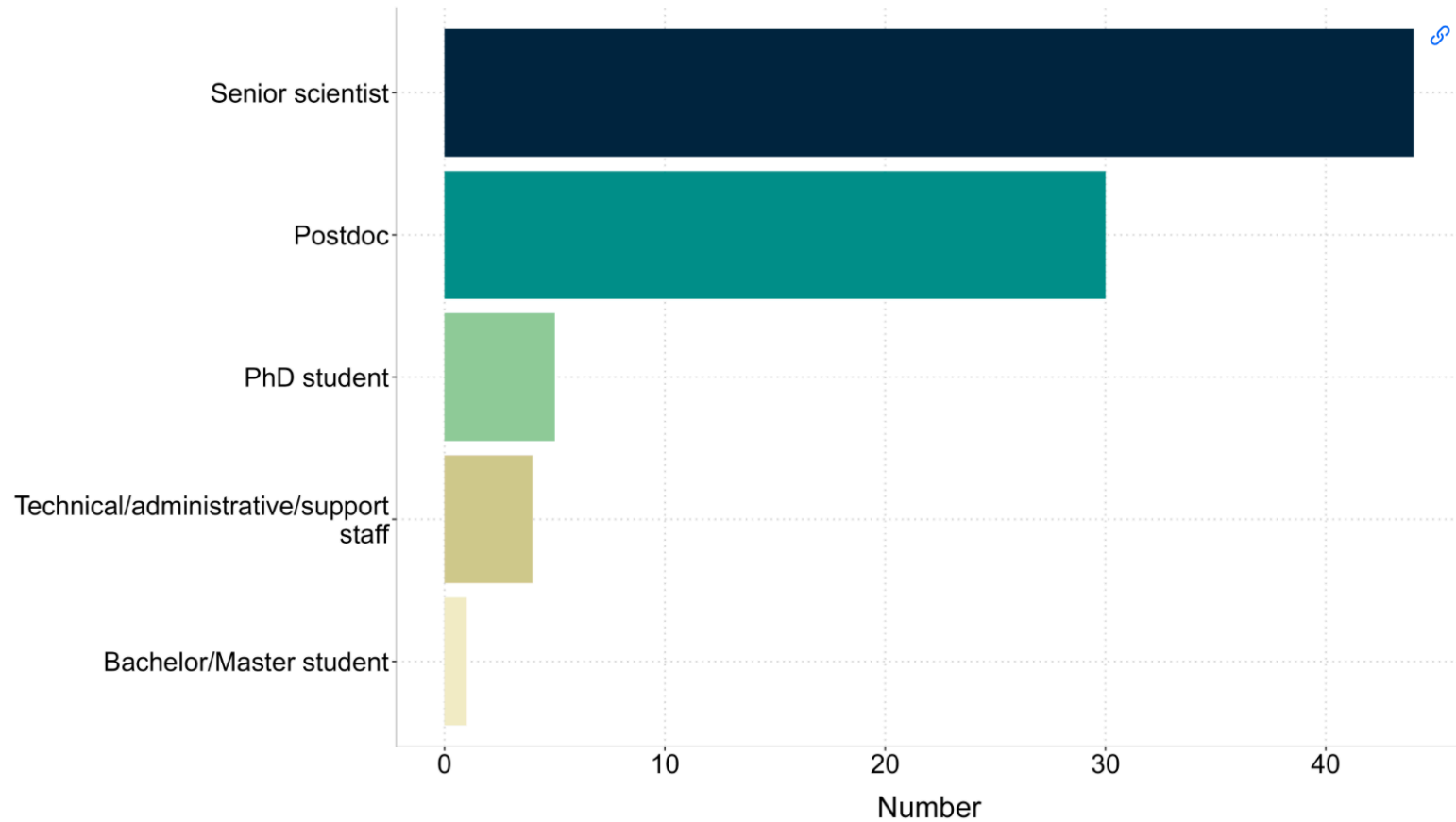


When I got to requests to review manuscripts, I chose the request from a Diamond open access journal because I really believe that it should not be so expensive to publish an article. This is an important step to a fair scientific landscape. Also, I cannot really believe that the high prices many journals 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.

[I did not publish, yet,] 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.

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.

## Demography



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# DIAMOND OA

- What if research institutions + funders (SNF, DFG, EC, ANR) invest what they spend on the profit of publishers in setting up publishing structures?
  - Do we really need journals in the time of full-text search? Why not adopt the “PLOS” approach to make a “public library of science” with a consistent reviewing process for all disciplines?
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