Investigating the scholarly communications needs of faculty at the University of Saskatchewan:

Is there a role for the University Library?

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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
University Library

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"Scholarly communication can be defined as …

the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use…"

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/scholarly-communication

Scholarly communication is changing fast:
Technology

Scholarly communication is changing fast: *Environment*

- New publishing formats and economic models for journal publishing
- Funder & institutional mandates on access and archiving
- New forms of peer review and impact metrics
- Rise of social media; scholarly networking sites
- **OPEN ACCESS (OA)**

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Role of Academic Libraries

- 2012 ARL survey[1]
  - 93% involved in scholarly communications services
  - Libraries "overwhelmingly" the leaders in the institutions on this topic

- 2009 survey of CARL libraries[2]
  - Majority of libraries involved in OA-related educational activities

Role of Academic Libraries

- Examples of services to support researchers:
  - Institutional repositories (IRs)
  - E-publication hosting and support
  - OA publication funds; memberships
  - Education/awareness-raising on OA tools/resources and author rights issues
- Many libraries have dedicated full-time librarians and staff to this
  - Scholarly Communications Librarians
  - IR managers

Objectives
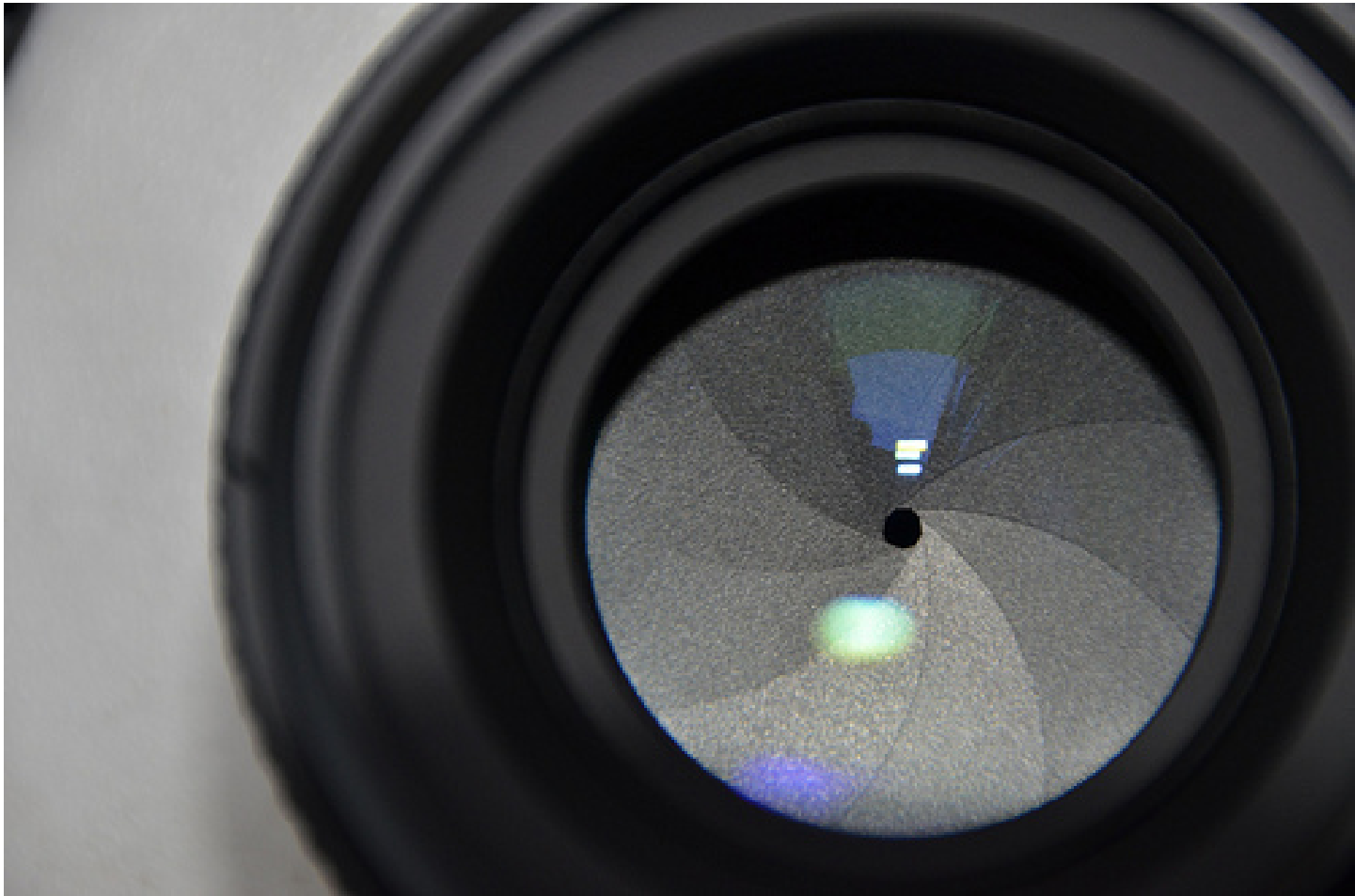
Objectives

- To discover the current and emerging needs of U of S researchers in order to determine if scholarly communications services are in demand here

  - To provide an evidence-based foundation for the potential future development of such a program of services

Objectives

• To understand the current publishing behaviours and attitudes of faculty, across all disciplines, at the U of S in response to the growing significance of OA publishing and archiving
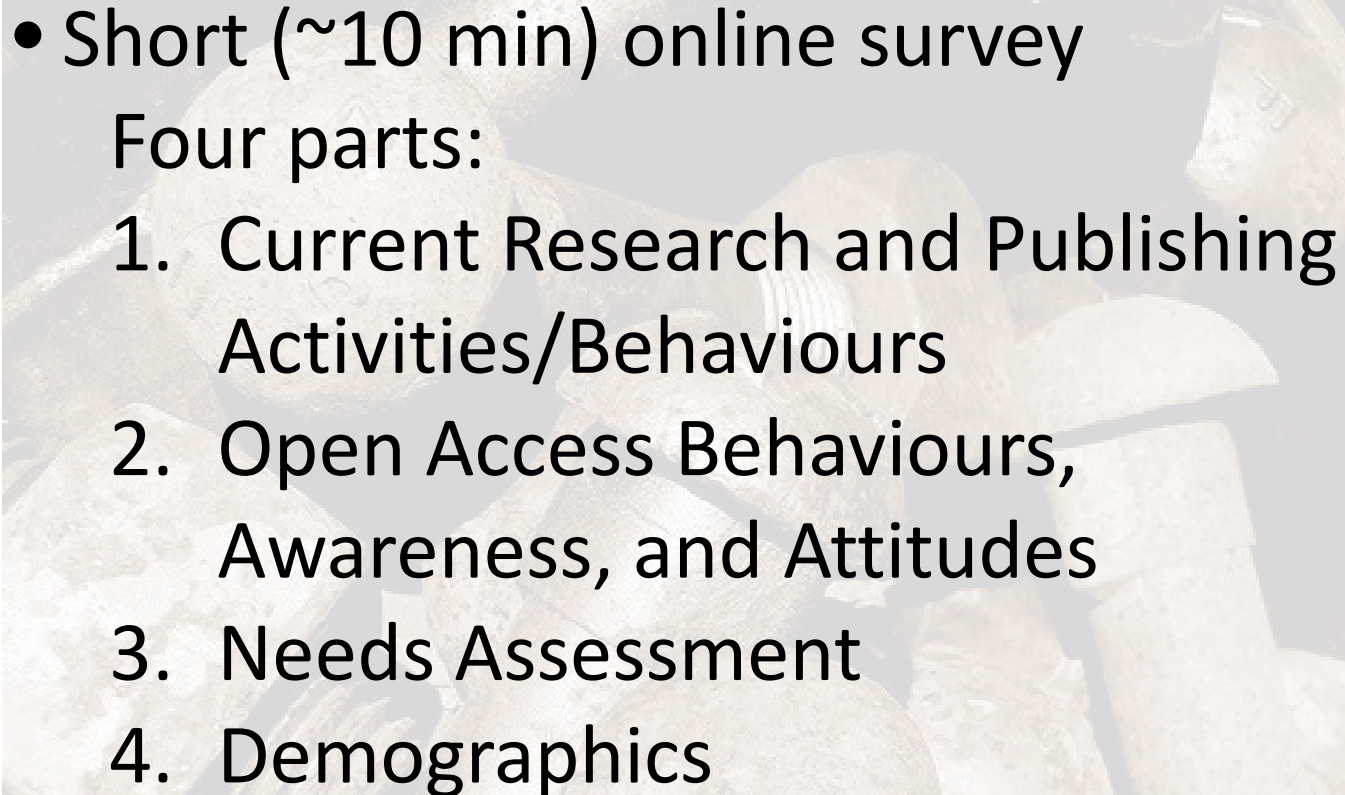
Exploratory study

Methods

Methods

- Short (~10 min) online survey
  Four parts:
  1. Current Research and Publishing Activities/Behaviours
  2. Open Access Behaviours, Awareness, and Attitudes
  3. Needs Assessment
  4. Demographics

Methods

- Personal email invite to all faculty in all disciplines
  - 1327 invitations sent

- Survey open for entire month Nov 2012

- Two reminders sent
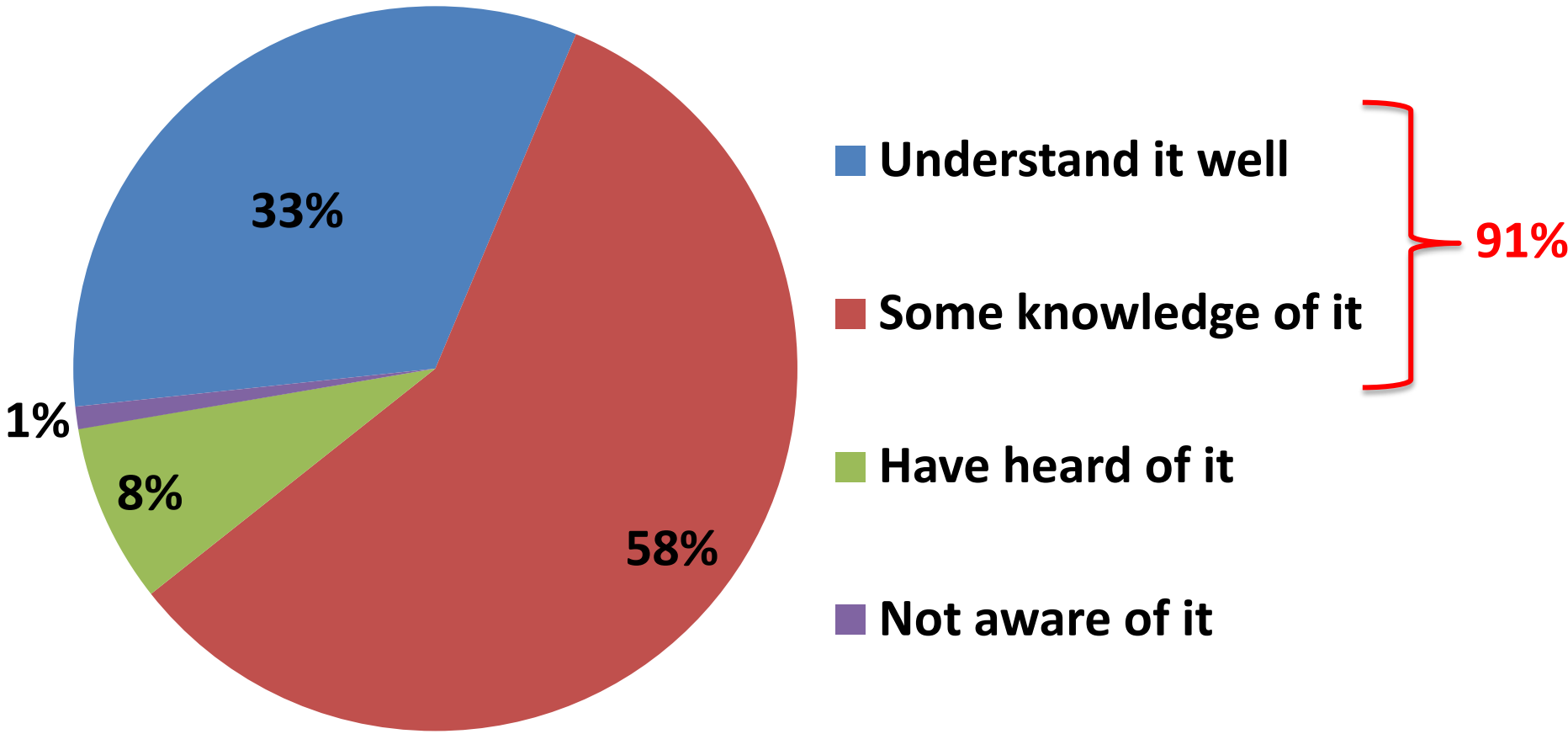
- Results analyzed in SPSS

Results

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Results

- 291 complete responses
  = 22% response rate

Awareness & Support for OA:

Self-assessed level of understanding of OA

- 33%
- 58%
- 8%
- 1%

91%

- Understand it well
- Some knowledge of it
- Have heard of it
- Not aware of it

Awareness & Support for OA:

Level of support for "philosophy" of OA ([BOAI paragraph 1](#))
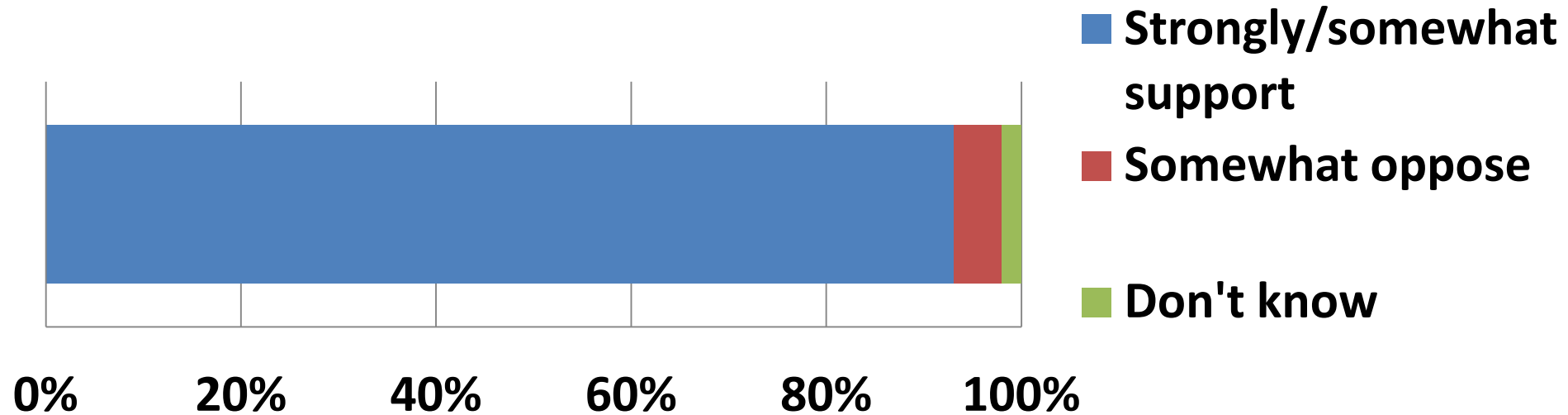
Awareness & Support for OA:

Have you made your publications OA? How? (Check all that apply)

	OA Journal/Book	Self-archive	Hybrid Journal	Not Sure How	
Yes	128	74	46	27	= 275
No	105				
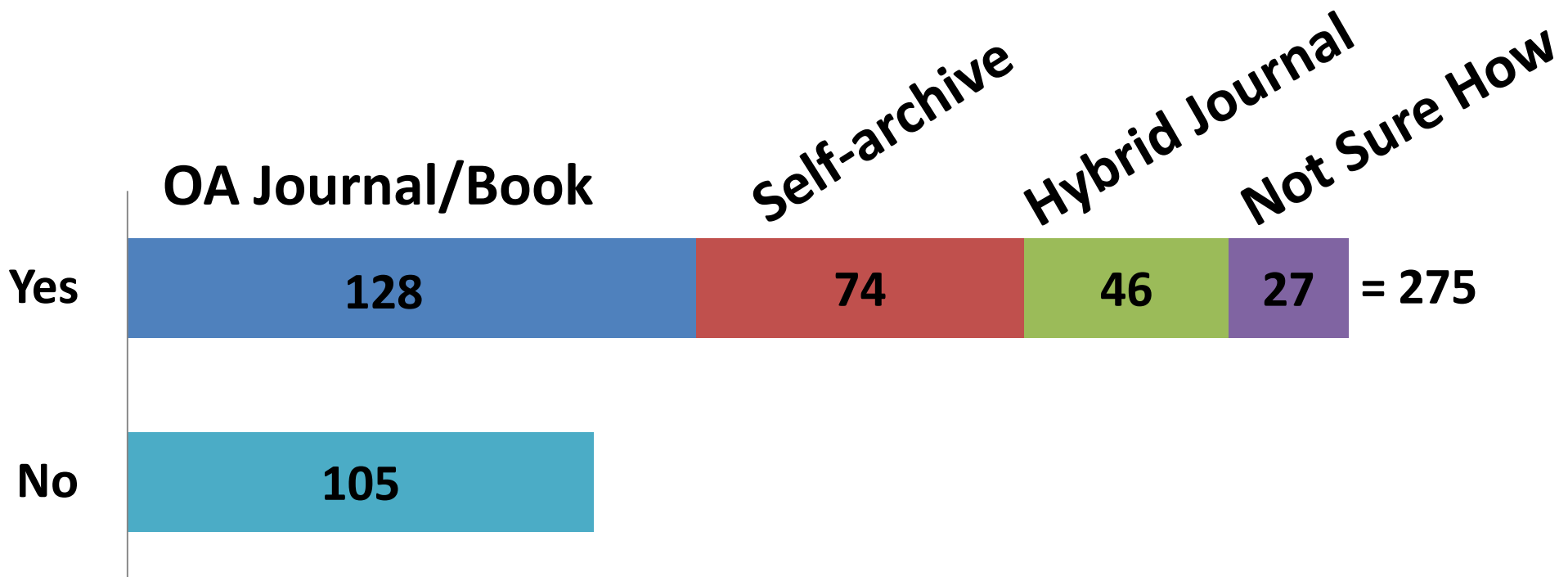
Awareness & Support for OA:

Publicly-funded research should be OA

- ■ Strongly agree/agree
- ■ Strongly disagree/disagree
- ■ Don't know
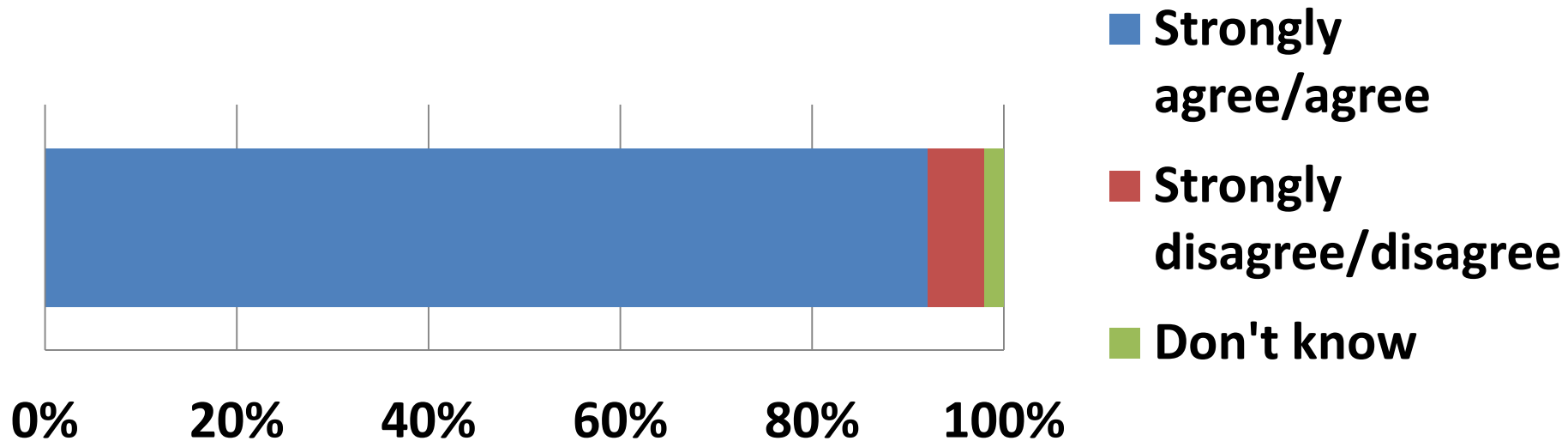
Awareness & Support for OA:

I do not want to spend my grant funds on publishing fees
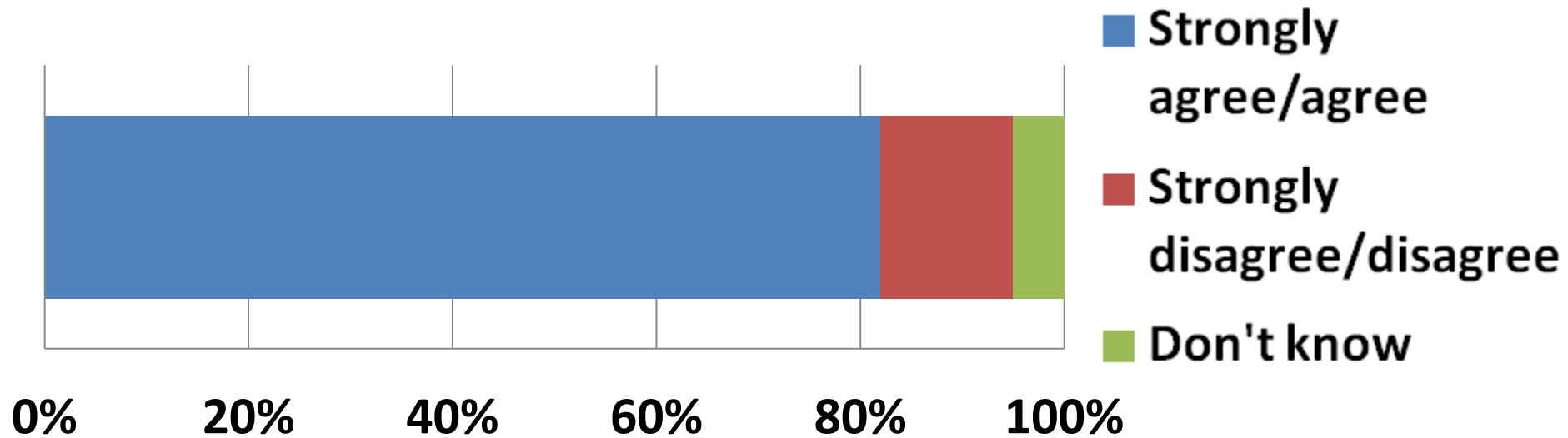
Awareness & Support for OA:

Are you aware of a subject repository in your discipline?

Not Sure
13%

Yes
33%

No
54%

67%
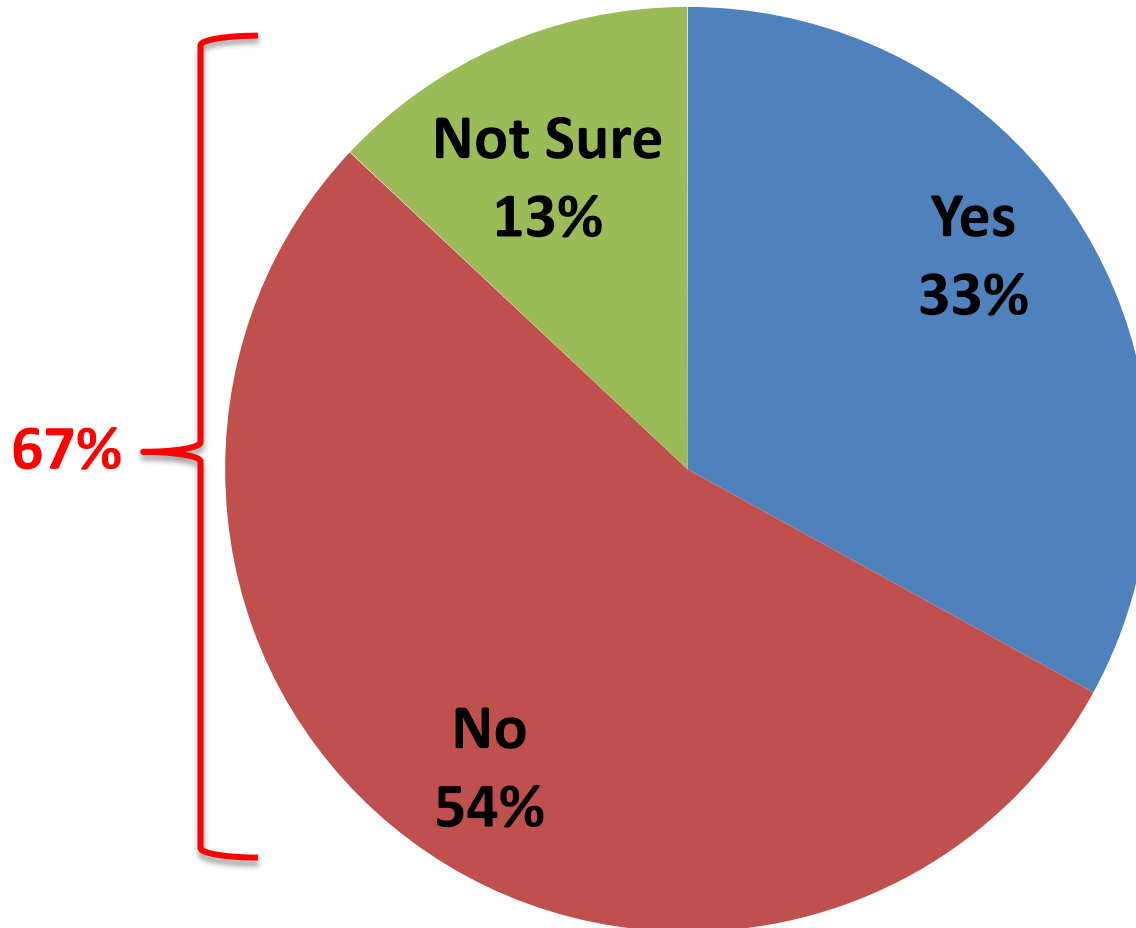
Awareness & Support for OA:

Conclusions

= Already a high level of participation, awareness, and support for OA

...*but* resistance to allocating any grant funds to OA author's fees

...and low awareness of where to archive (repositories)

Author Copyright Issues:

Researchers should retain their copyright
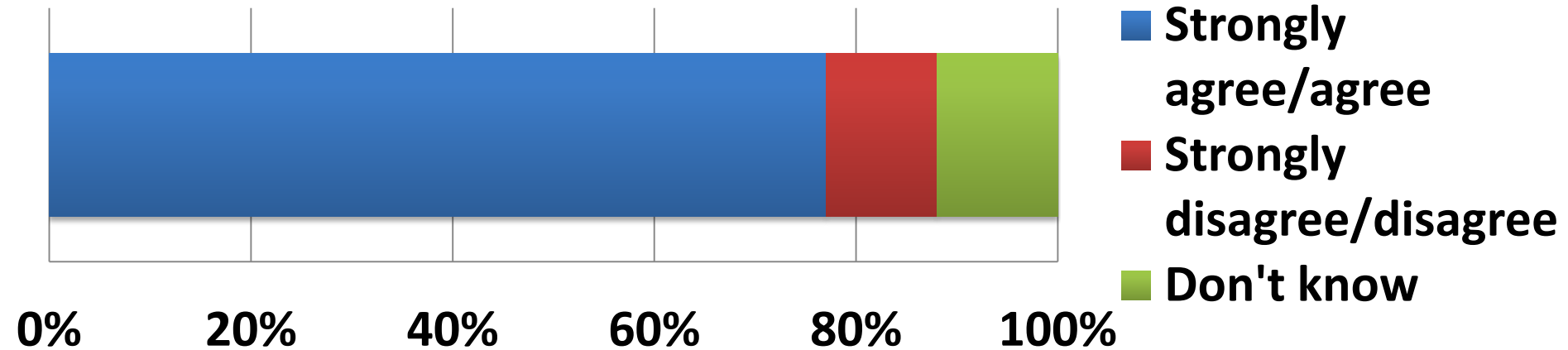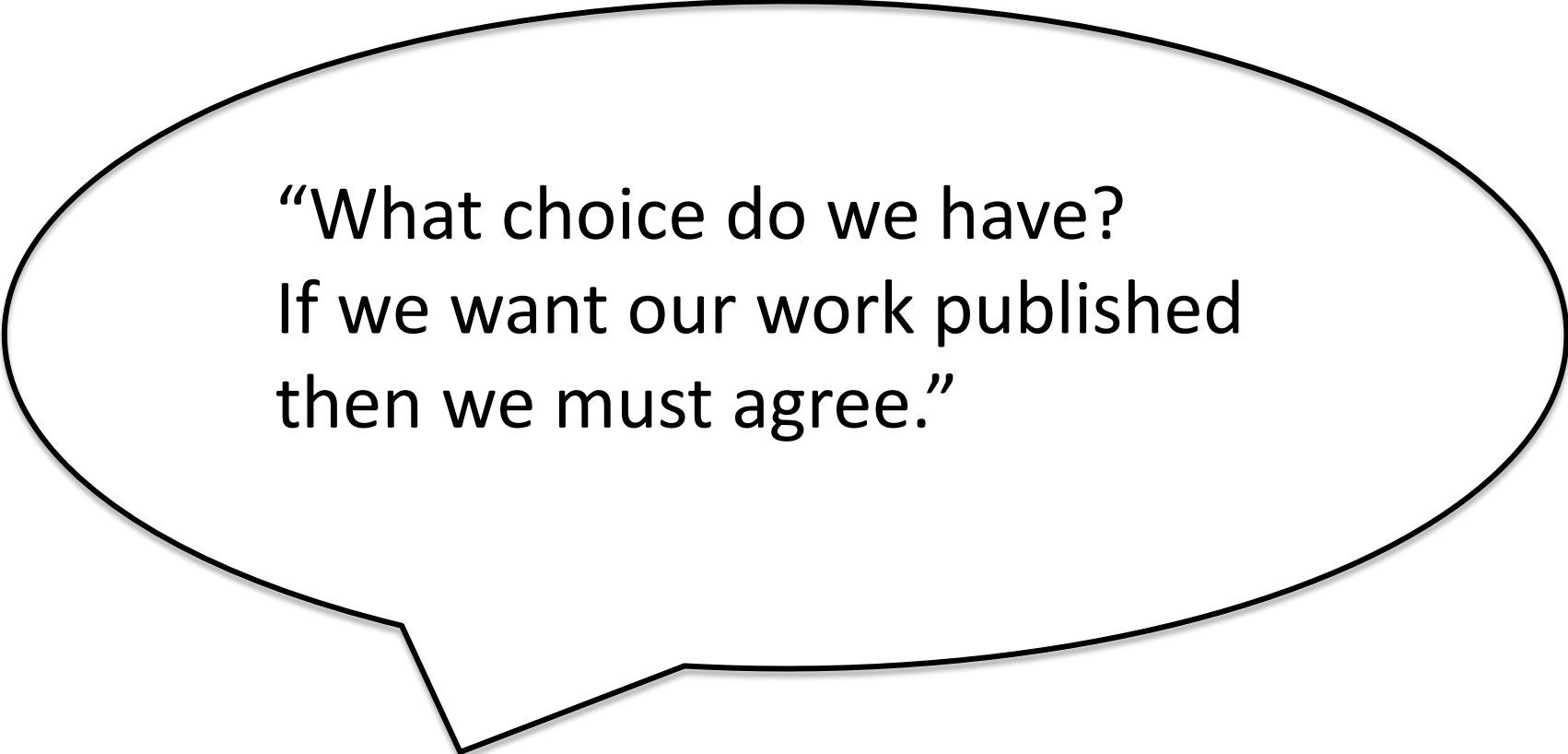
- Strongly agree/agree
- Strongly disagree/disagree
- Don't know

Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

1%

99%

■ Sign it as is

■ Modify terms
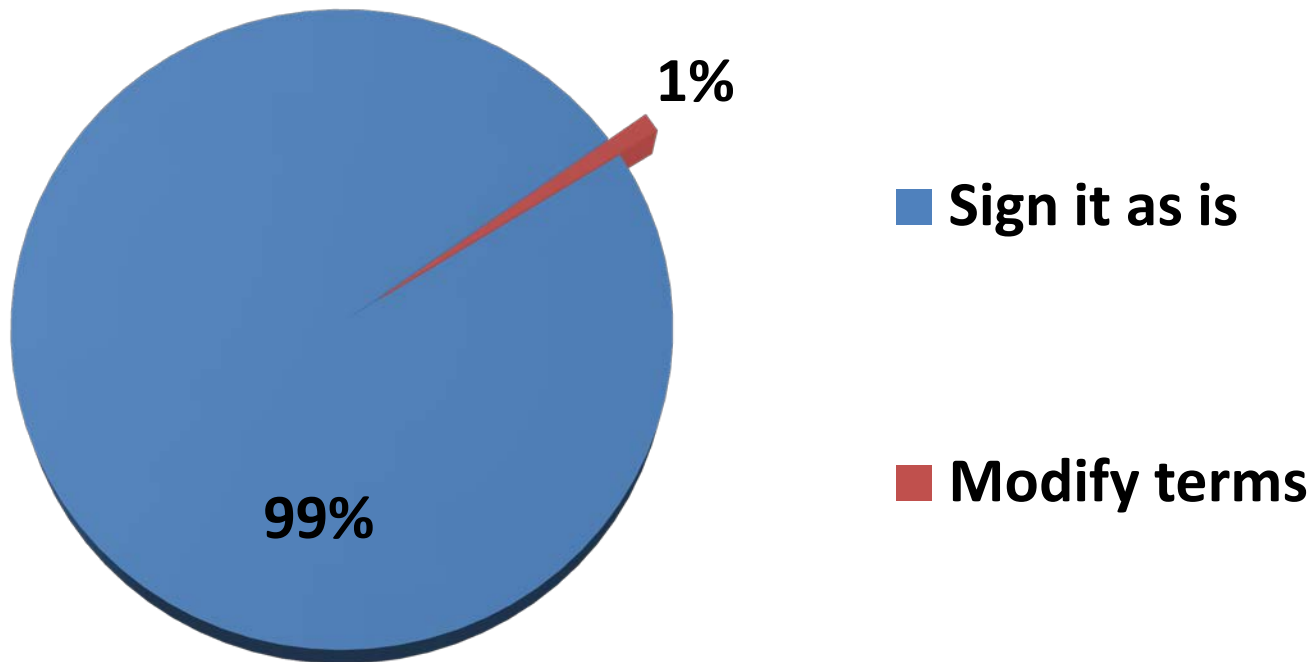
Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

"What choice do we have?
If we want our work published
then we must agree."

Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

"I pay as little attention to them [copyright terms] as possible."

Author Copyright Issues:

I do not have the time/interest/expertise to negotiate copyright terms

- Strongly agree/agree
- Strongly disagree/disagree
- Don't know

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%
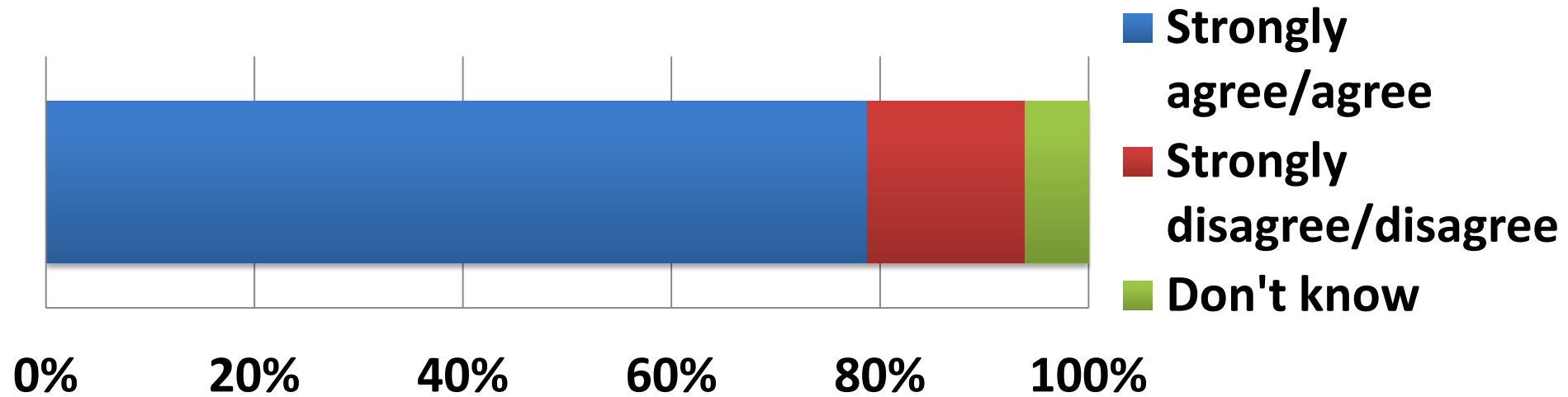
Author Copyright Issues:

Conclusions

= Highly supportive of authors retaining their copyright

...*but* in practical terms many are not fully aware of their rights

...and very few follow through on retaining their copyright

Support for Possible Library Initiatives:

Possible Major Library Initiatives

Bar chart showing support for possible library initiatives:
- Hosting/support for OA journals
- Fund for OA Author's Fees
- Repository for Research Data
- Repository for Publications

X-axis: 0% to 100% in 10% increments.
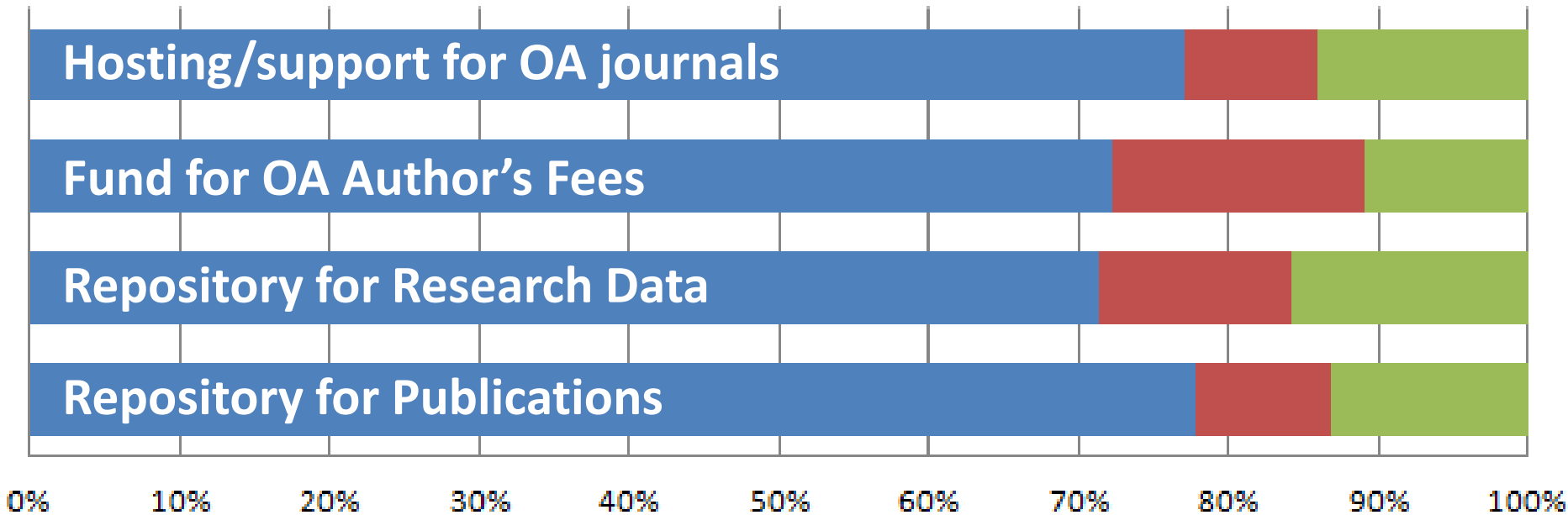
Legend:
- Strongly/Somewhat support (blue)
- Strongly/Somewhat oppose (red)
- Don't Know (green)

Support for Possible Library Initiatives:
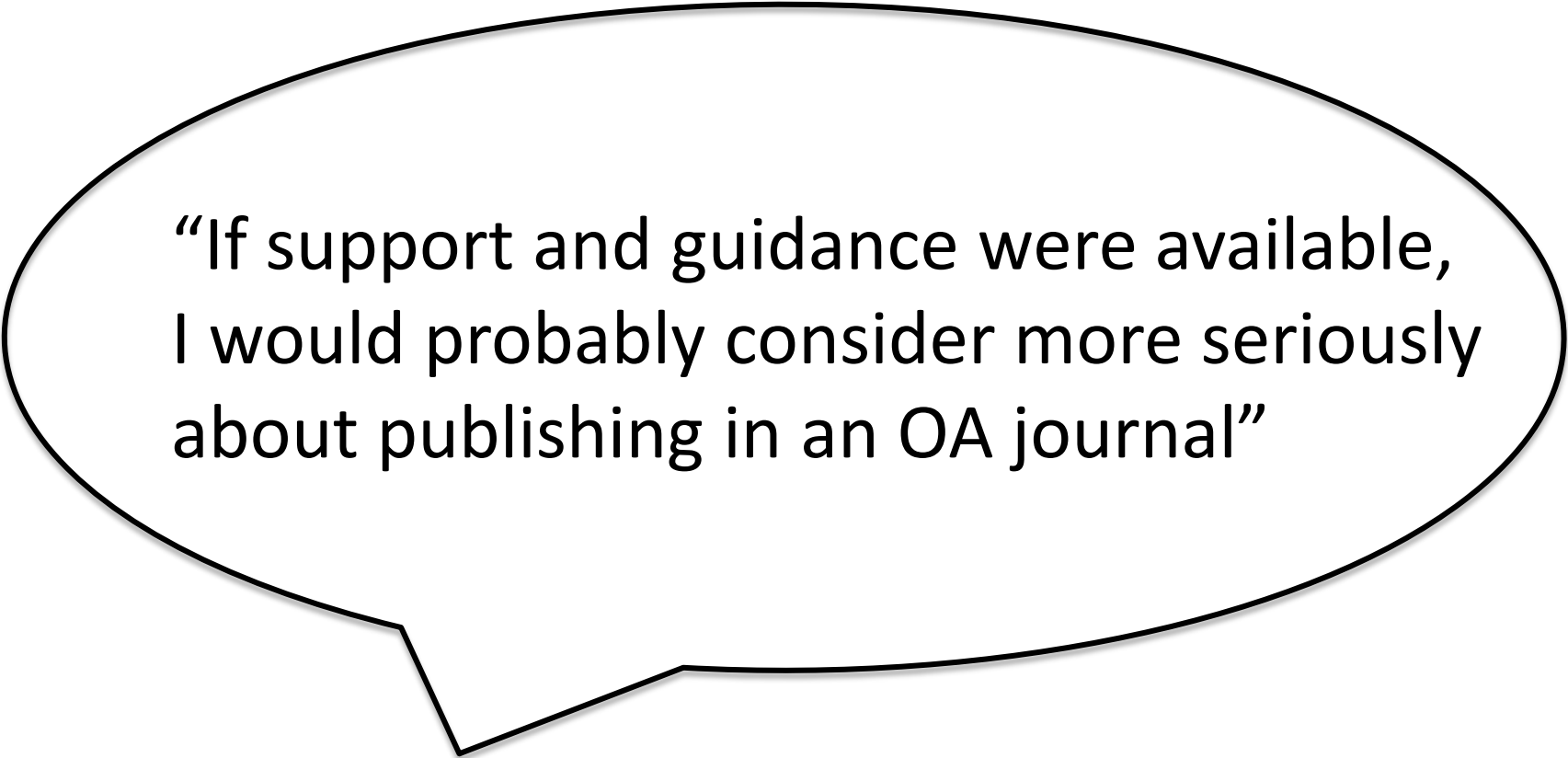
Possible Educational/Awareness-raising Library Initiatives

Online guide
Seminars for depts
Newsletters
Consults with librarian
Seminars open to all
Blog postings
Discussion group
All of the above

0   50   100   150   200
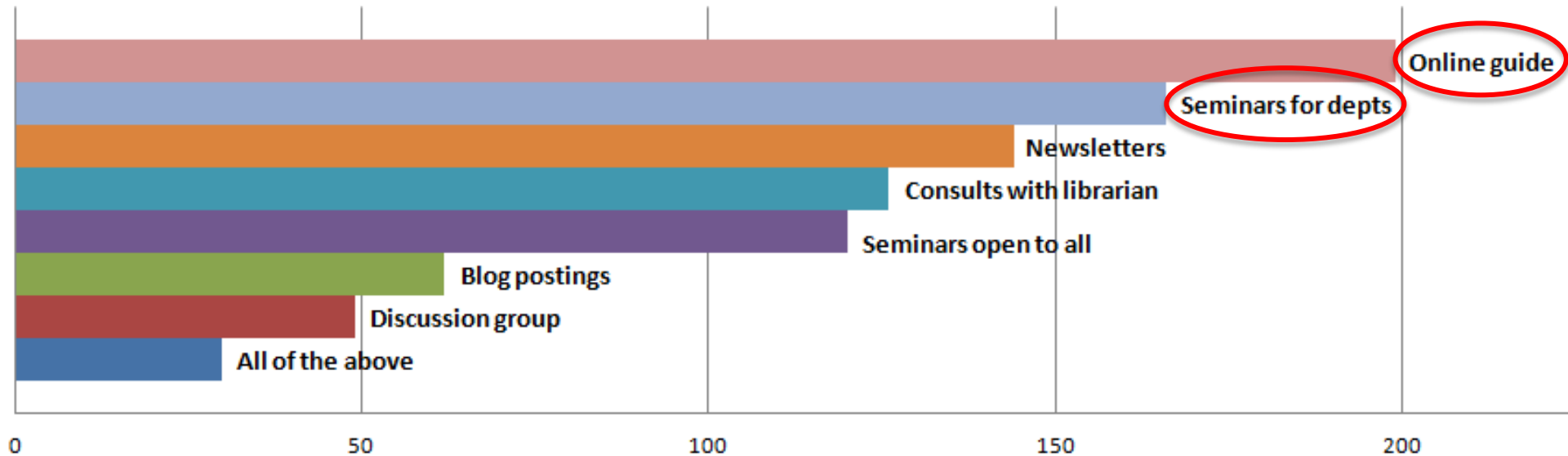
Top two:
1. **Online guide**
2. **Seminars tailored to dept/discipline**

Support for Possible Library Initiatives:

"If support and guidance were available, I would probably consider more seriously about publishing in an OA journal"

Limitations

Limitations

- Possible "***non-response bias***"

  = those who responded to the survey were already OA supporters

  = non-responders could have different views

Role for the Library

Role for the Library

- Already a high level of <u>general</u> awareness and support for OA
- *BUT* researchers need more education and practical assistance with:
  - Author's rights issues (e.g. retaining copyright)
  - Repository awareness and facilitation
  - Assistance with author's fees

Role for the Library

- Relatively high response rate
- High number of comments
(80 comments made on one question!)

   = possible indication of engagement
   with these issues, and a desire for a
   forum to discuss them in

Role for the Library

- *Short Term Recommendation*:
  - Online guides
  - Departmental workshops facilitated by librarians

- *Longer Term Recommendation*:
  - Advocate for partnerships with other units on campus to tackle some of the major initiatives

References

1. Radom, R., Feltner-Reichert, M., & Stringer-Stanback, K. (2012). *SPEC Kit 332: Organization of Scholarly Communication Services* (p. 173). Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries.

2. Greyson, D., Vezina, K., Morrison, H., Taylor, D., & Black, C. (2009). University Supports for Open Access: A Canadian National Survey. *Canadian Journal of Higher Education*, *39*(3), 1–32.