

PEER Behavioural Research: **Authors and Users vis-à-vis Journals and Repositories**

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Background

- The published journal article is the predominant mode of scholarly communication
- Levels of awareness of the concept of OA are growing
- Readers are often unaware that they are accessing an OA version of an article
- Association of OA with self-archiving generally not strong
- Quality of stage-two manuscripts 'good enough' for most purposes
- Public funder mandates likely to be enforced more stringently in the near future

Aim

- To develop an understanding of the perceptions, motivations and behaviours of authors and readers with respect to the deposit and use of authors' final peer-reviewed and accepted manuscripts (stage-two manuscripts) in Open Access Repositories (OAR)

Methods: Phase 1

- **April 2009 – August 2009**
 - Electronic survey of European journal article authors - June and August 2009
 - 3,139 valid responses were received
 - Four focus groups (London, Berlin, Rome and Budapest) were conducted in parallel to the survey
 - Findings published in:
Creaser, C. *et al.* Authors' awareness and attitudes towards open access repositories. *New Review of Academic Librarianship* 16, S1, 2010, pp. 145-161.

Methods: Phase 2

- **November 2010 – August 2011**
 - Electronic survey of European journal article authors - January and March 2011
 - 1,427 valid responses were received
 - A small-scale repository exit survey
 - 34 valid responses, which is disappointing
 - Participatory workshop
 - To develop a detailed understanding of author/user (reader) attitudes and behaviours towards open access repositories
 - Including validation and deeper exploration of specific findings from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 surveys

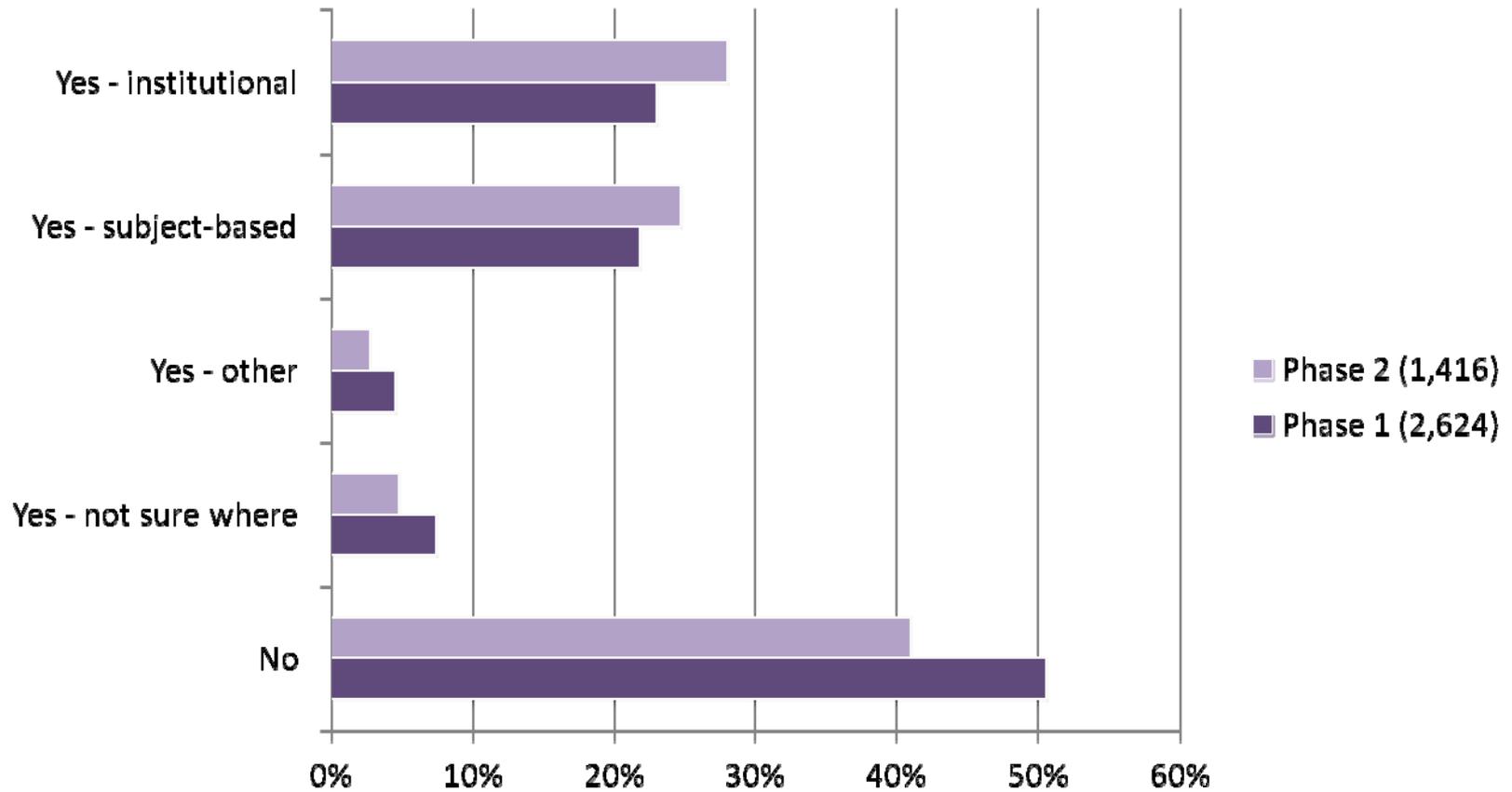
Demographics of Phase 2 survey respondents

Broad disciplinary grouping	Respondents
Medical sciences	194 (258)*
Life sciences	311 (257)
Physical sciences & mathematics	454 (424)
Social sciences, humanities & arts	167 (172)
Interdisciplinary	300 (306)
Total*	1,426 (1,416)

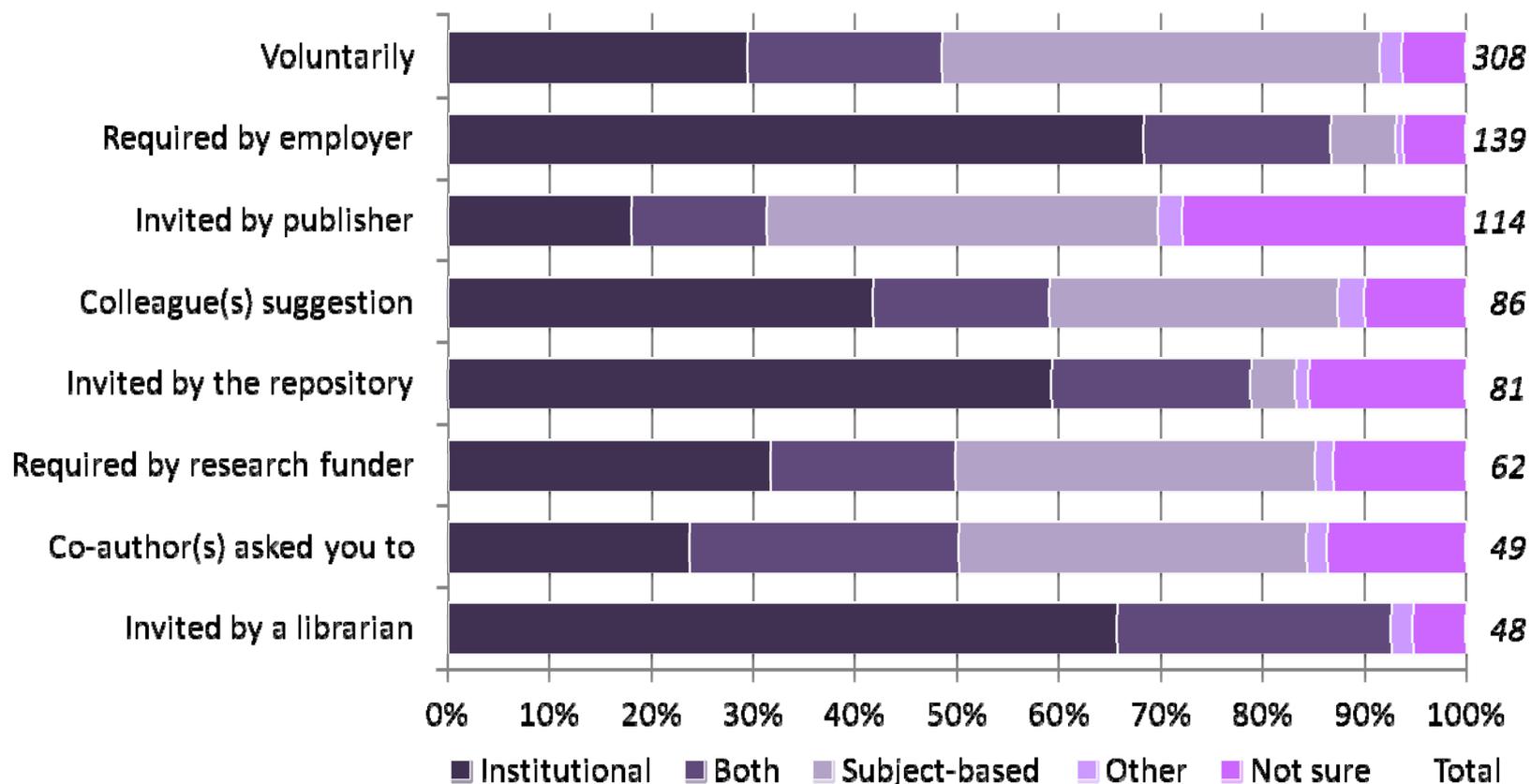
*weighted number of respondents shown in brackets

*one respondent did not provide discipline information

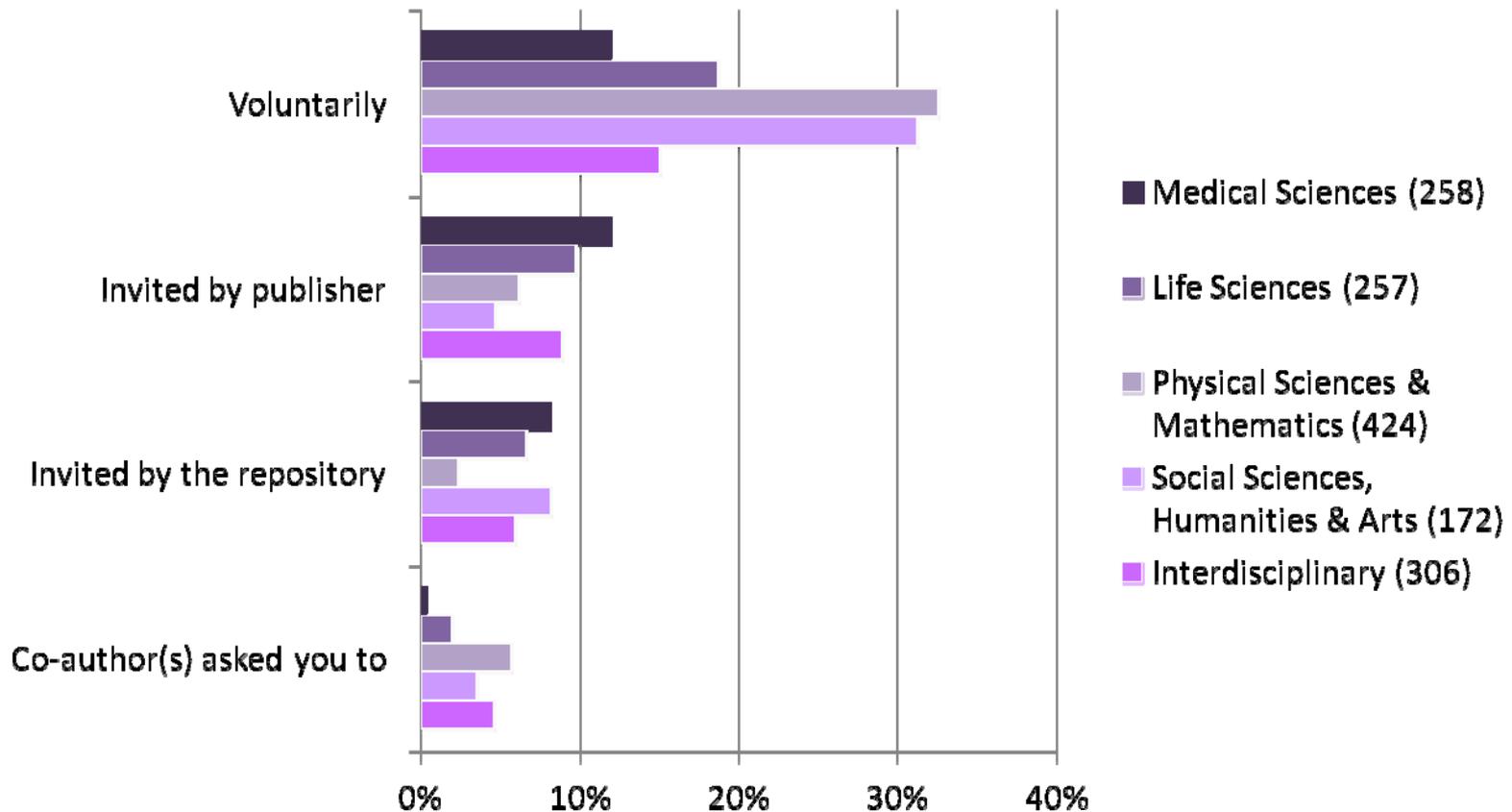
Self-archiving behaviour



Motivations by repository type



Motivations by discipline



Method of deposit

Placed themselves

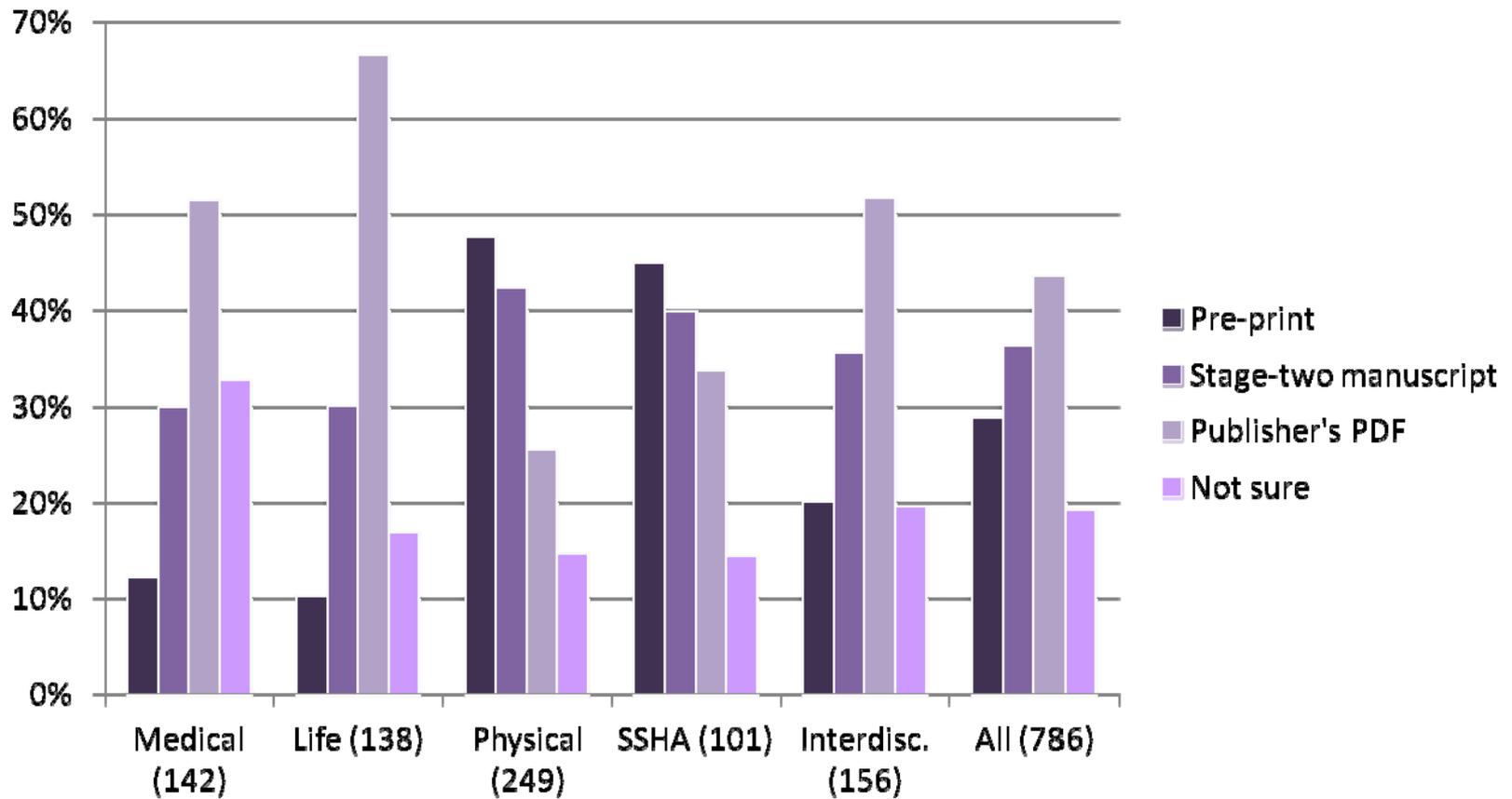
- Physical sciences & mathematics
- Life sciences

Placed by somebody else

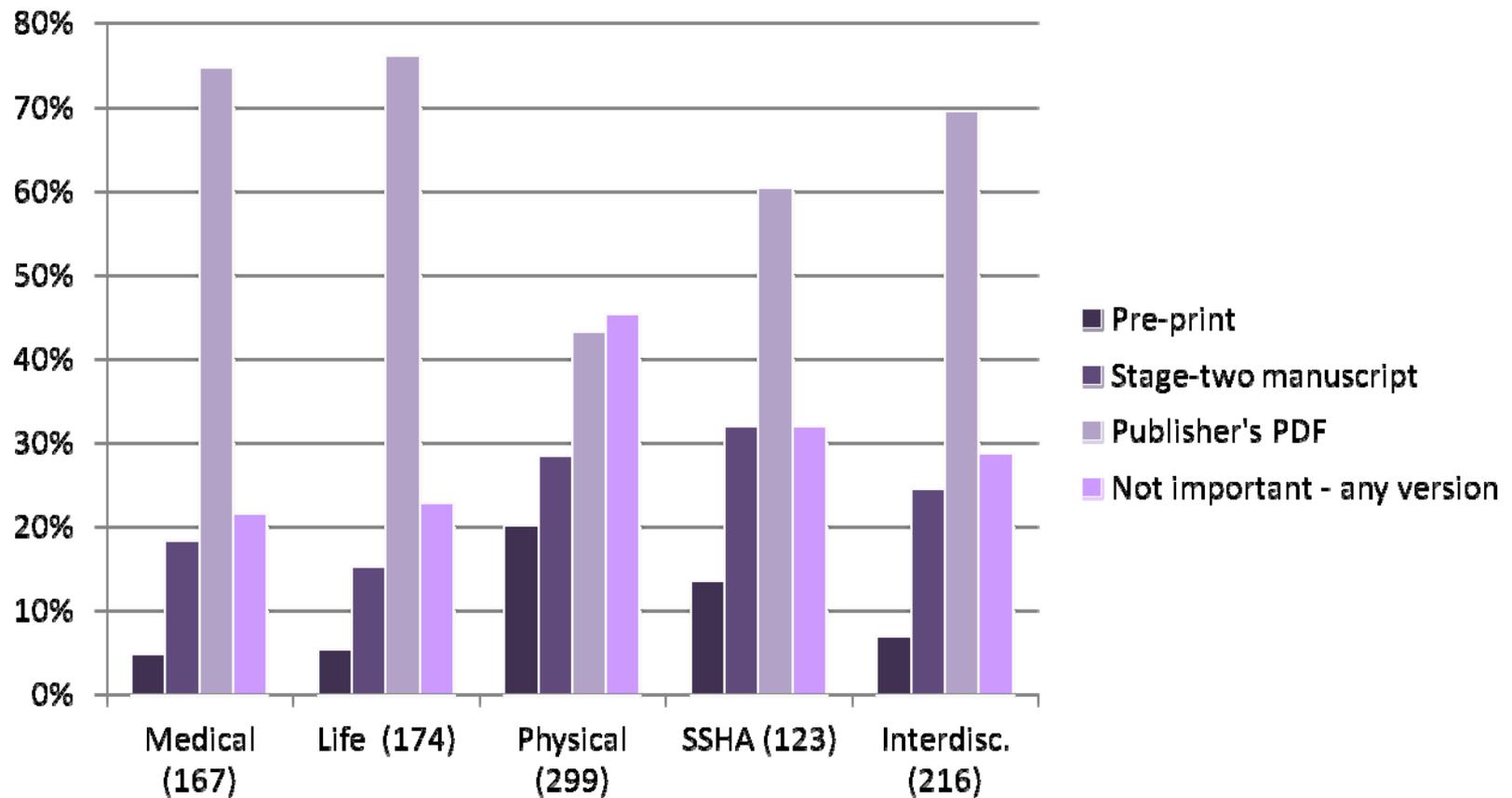
- Medical sciences
- Social sciences, humanities & arts

Type of repository has only a marginal influence on the deposit process

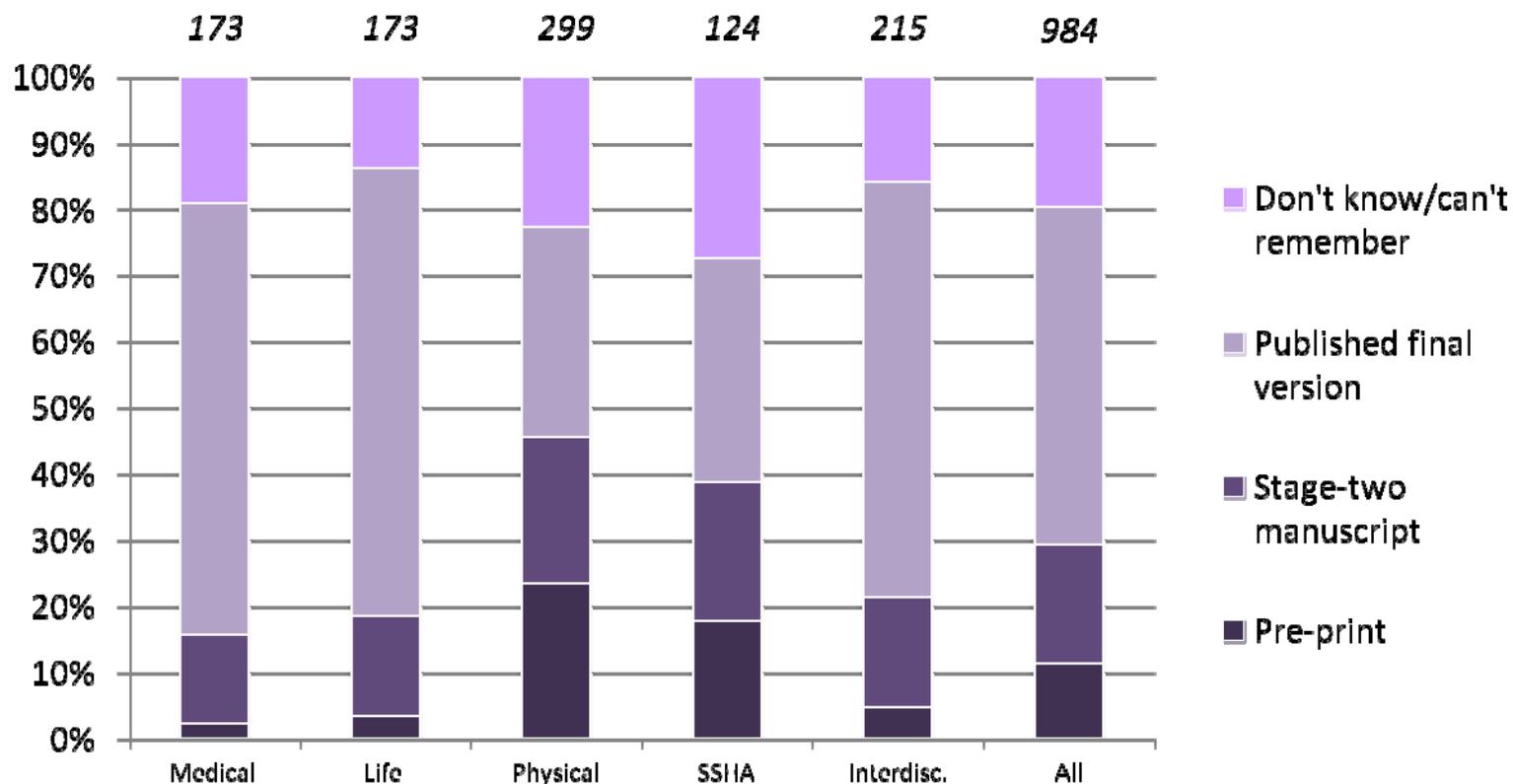
Version of article deposited



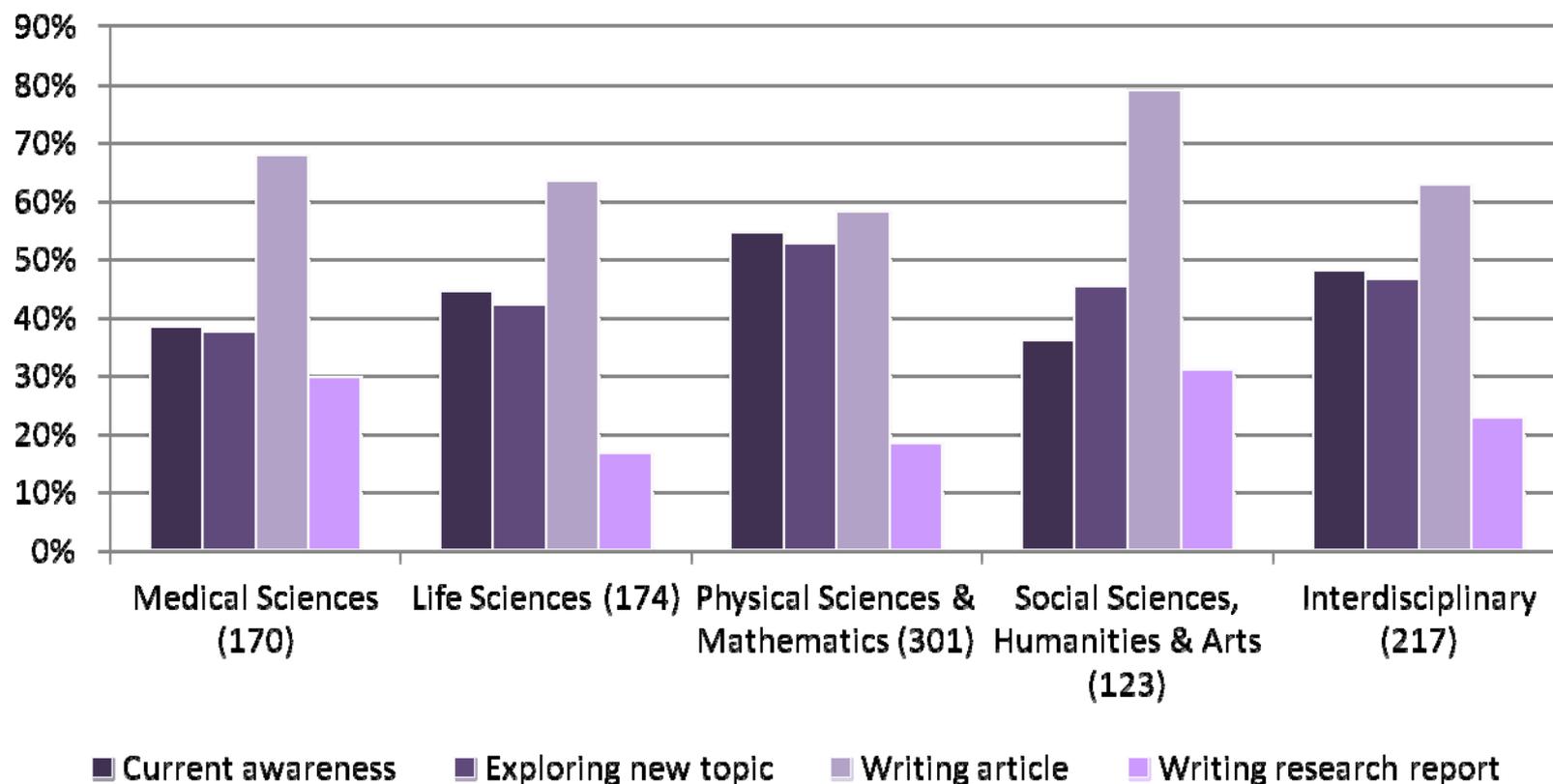
Version of article sought



Version of article found



Purpose of repository visit



Conclusions

- Identifiable patterns of similarity and difference at the course-grained level of broad disciplinary groupings
- Disciplinary patterns tend to vary depending on whether researchers are in 'author' or 'reader' mode
- The distinction between 'author' and 'reader' repository behaviours is most notable amongst Medical and Life sciences researchers; whereas,
- Physical sciences & mathematics researchers demonstrated a closer alignment between their behaviours as 'authors' or 'readers'
- Further analysis at the finer-grained level of specific disciplines is expected to further contribute to our understanding of repository behaviours

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