

Balancing Principles and Practices

Disciplinary Differences in Croatian Researchers' Perspectives on Open Access Publishing

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AIM

- to analyze the current attitudes of Croatian authors toward Open Access (OA) publishing
- to explore differences in OA publishing attitudes and practices between researchers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM) and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) area

METHODOLOGY

- an online questionnaire consisting of 17 questions
- researchers from Croatian universities and research institutes, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and librarians
 - 1,041 responses collected; 763 fully completed responses
- statistical analysis to identify differences in attitudes and practices between STEM and SSH authors

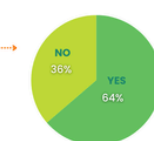
RESULTS

Key Factors in Choosing a Journal for Publishing Research Results

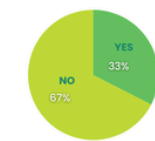


STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine



Authors' Willingness to Publish in OA Journals with Article Processing Charges (APC)



SSH

Social Sciences and Humanities

The most common reasons why scientists **would** submit a manuscript for publication in an OA journal that publishes exclusively with APCs

- I value the reputation of the journal regardless of whether it is OA or subscription-based. **241**
- I support the principles of OA and prefer to publish in OA journals. **162**
- I have no issues with covering publication costs, as these are covered by project or institutional funds. **131**
- The institution or research funder requires publication in OA. **64**

The most common reasons why scientists **would not** submit a manuscript for publication in an OA journal that publishes exclusively with APCs

- I believe that for such journals, profit is more important than the quality of the published articles. **201**
- I do not want to cover publication costs (even if my institution or project funds could cover them) because I do not support placing any barriers to the dissemination of scientific results. **184**
- I do not have the funds for publication expenses. **171**
- I use the option of self-archiving in a digital repository, thus ensuring OA and greater visibility of my work for free. **64**

CONCLUSION

- there is no statistically significant difference in overall attitudes on the right to decide how research results are published between STEM and SSH authors
 - both groups believe that authors should have more control over where to publish their results, rather than funders or the author's institution
- there is a statistically significant difference in the attitudes of STEM and SSH authors toward OA publishing
 - STEM authors have a less favorable attitude toward OA publishing compared to SSH authors
 - majority of authors in the journal selection process are motivated by journal prestige rather than its OA status
 - STEM authors prioritize journal reputation and impact; SSH authors value strict disciplinary orientation more than journals' bibliometric indicators
 - statistically significant differences between STEM and SSH authors in attitudes toward pay-to-publish models
 - STEM authors: more likely to submit to pay-to-publish journals; motivated by the journal's reputation
 - SSH authors: more opposed to paying publication fees; concerns over the quality of such journals and financial barriers

REFERENCES

Macan, B., Škorić, L. & Petrak, J. (2020). David among Goliaths: Open access publishing in scientific (semi-)periphery. *Learned Publishing*, 33: 410-417. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1320>
Macan, B., Škorić, L. & Petrak, J. (2024). Otvorenost, ali pod koju cijenu – stavovi i praksa hrvatskih autora. *Kemija u industriji*, 73 (1-2), 45-56. <https://doi.org/10.15255/KUI.2023.023>



WANT TO KNOW MORE? Scan the QR code.

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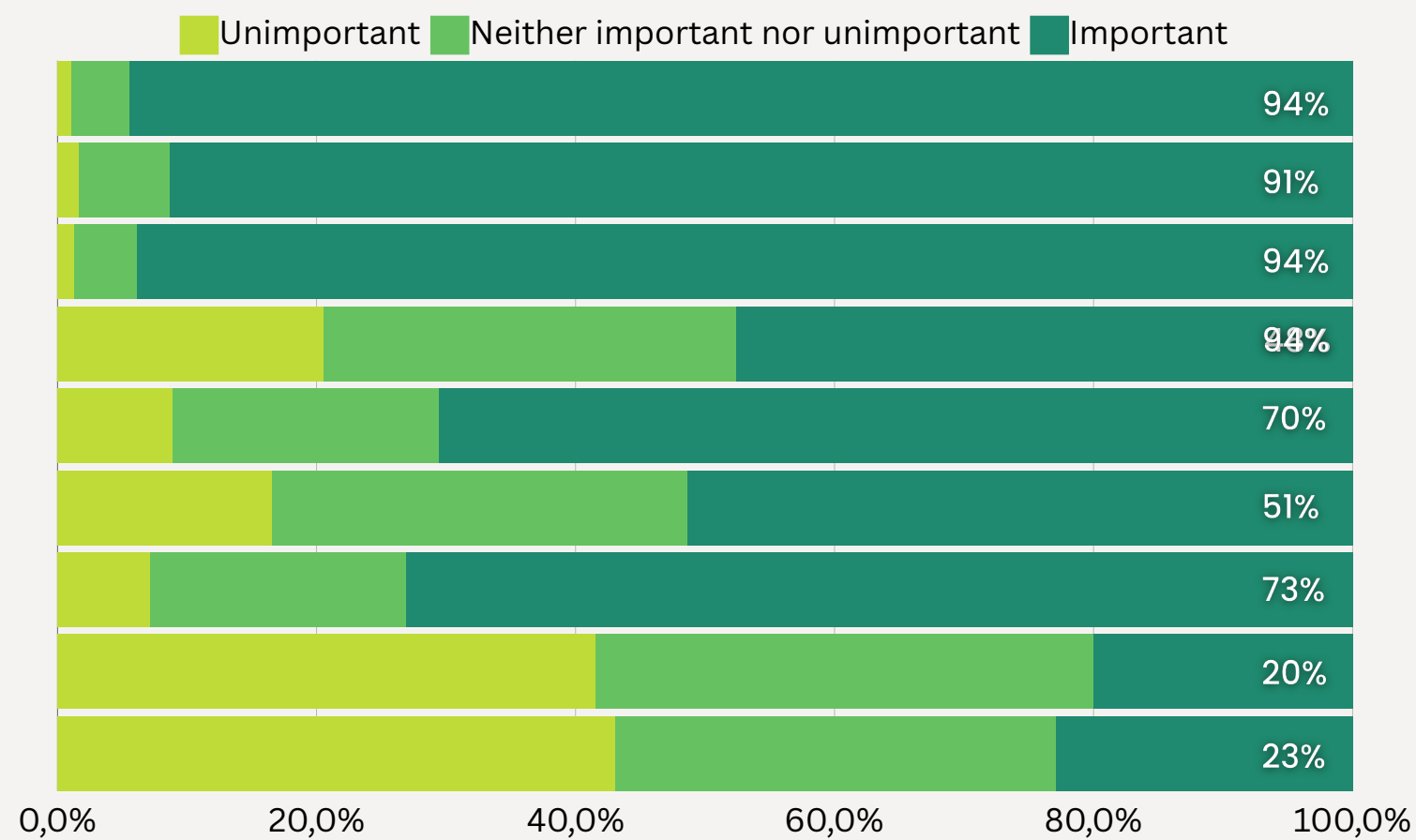
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SELECTED RESULTS

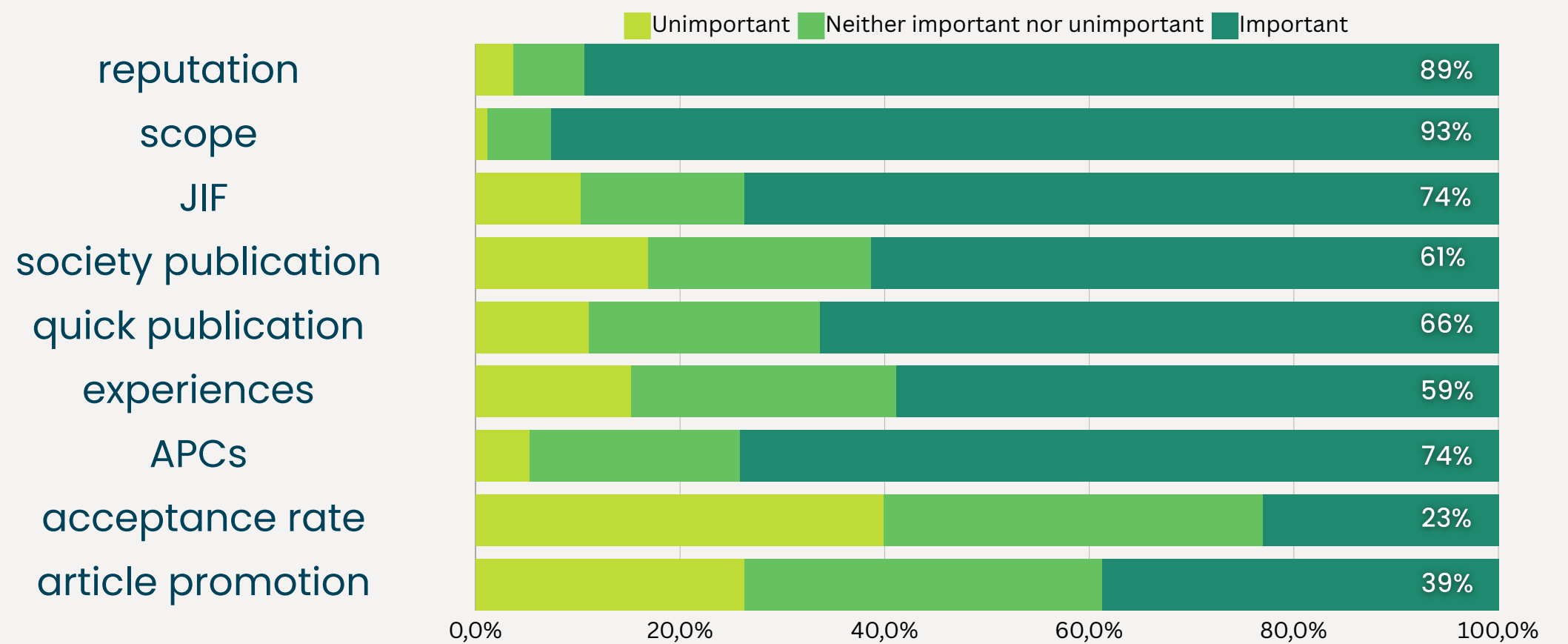
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STEM



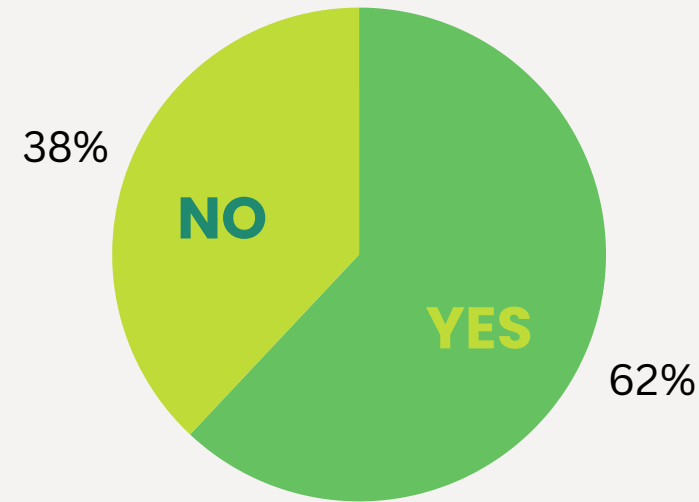
Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine

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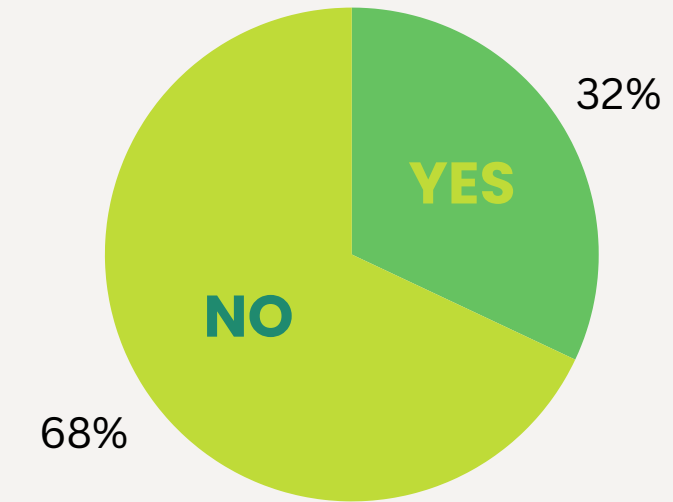
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why YES

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ALL

why NOT

- I believe that for such journals, profit is more important than the quality of the published articles
- I do not want to cover APCs because I do not support placing barriers to the dissemination of scientific results
- I do not have the funds for publication expenses.
- I use the option of self-archiving in a digital repository, thus ensuring OA and greater visibility of my work for free.

C O N C L U S I O N S

- majority of respondents (75 %) expressed support for OA publishing and acknowledged its benefits in scientific research and education
- STEM authors have a less favorable attitude toward OA publishing compared to SSH authors
- both groups believe that authors should have more control over publishing modalities, rather than funders or the author's institution
- authors are predominantly motivated by journal prestige (reputation, impact, disciplinary alignment) rather than its OA status
- differences in attitudes toward pay-to-publish models:
 - STEM authors: more likely to submit to pay-to-publish journals; motivated by the journal's reputation
 - SSH authors: more opposed to paying publication fees; concerns over the quality of such journals and financial barriers

See you at the poster stand!

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