

Introduction

Changes in research communication mean new grant requirements for institutions. Many research support offices are being asked to assist academics in complying with Open Access (OA)¹ grant conditions. These conditions require academics to make research outputs online and freely available to access. Some institutions have OA mandates for staff and all of the RCUK² and many major biomedical funders³ now have grant requirements that work is made OA – and yet many institutions are failing to comply. Wellcome Trust reported only 50% compliance with their OA mandate in early 2010.⁴

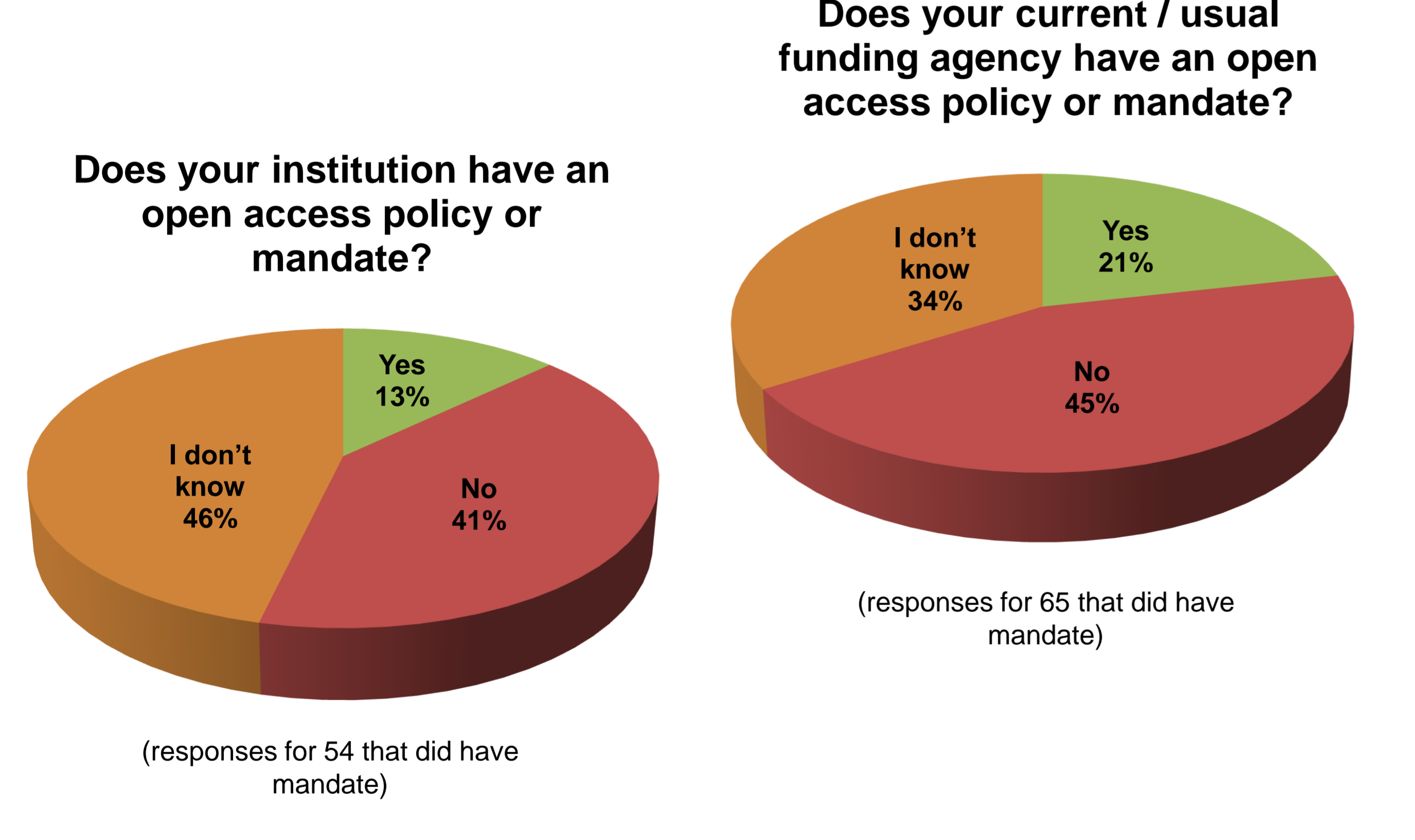
OA is at the forefront of discussions about change to the current system of research dissemination because of concerns about access, impact, copyright, peer-review, preservation, assessment, and journal subscription costs.

- Are academics aware of existing institutional and funder mandates?
- What is deterring academics from making their work OA?
- What would encourage academics to make their work OA in the future?

Methods

We created a web survey that asked about opinions and behaviours related to OA. This was sent to 374 Chemists and 366 Economists, and responses were received from 82 and 48 respectively. This was a total response rate of 17.7%. Eleven institutions, drawn from Russell Group, 1994 Group and Post-1992 Universities, were surveyed.

Results

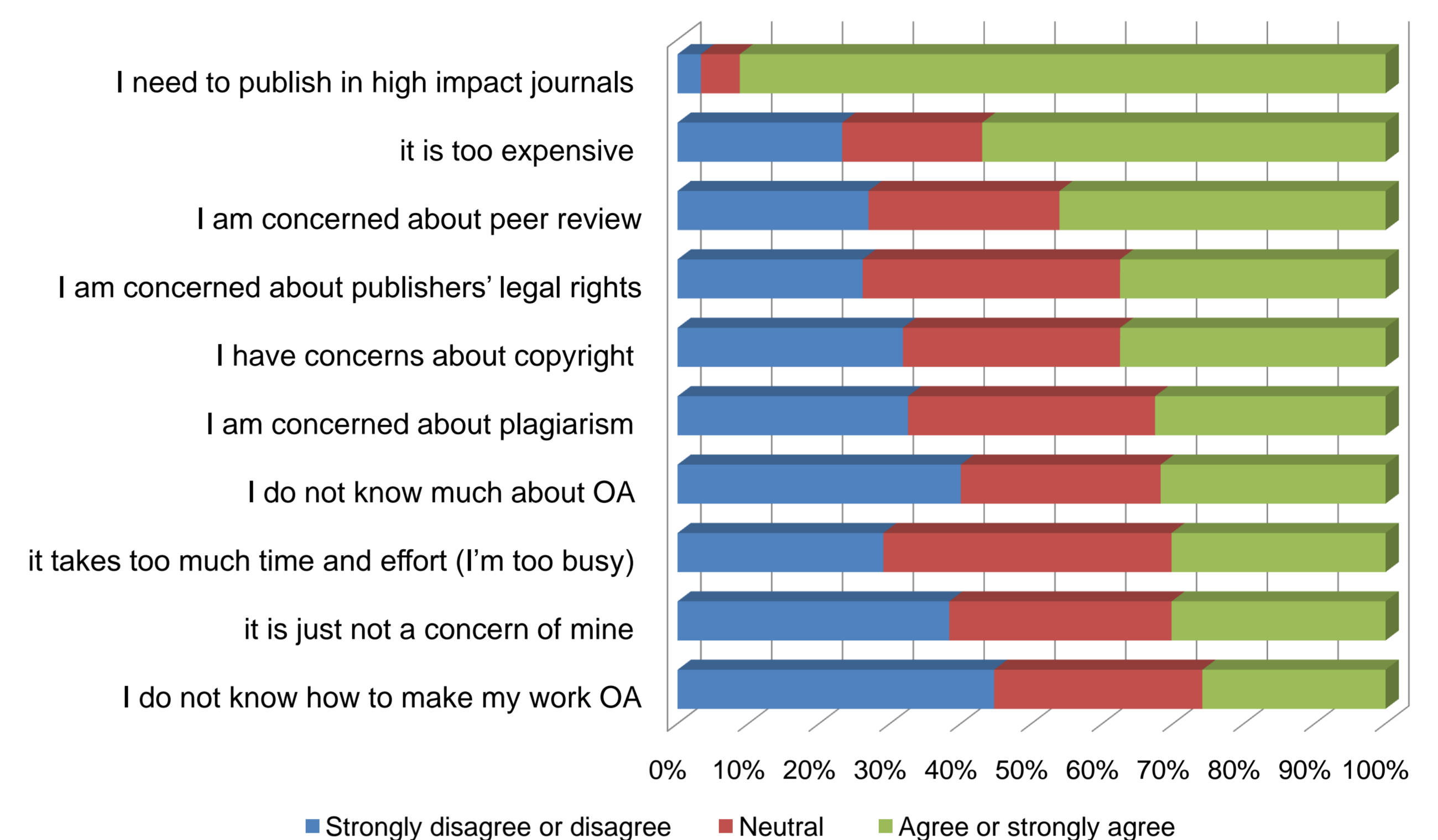


Conclusions

Many academics do not yet make their work OA even though they may be required to do so by their institution or funder. Our results show that a large percentage simply do not know about these requirements. Efforts to inform academics about these requirements must be made, while concerns about prestige and cost should also be addressed. Improved communication between departments may aid in these efforts.

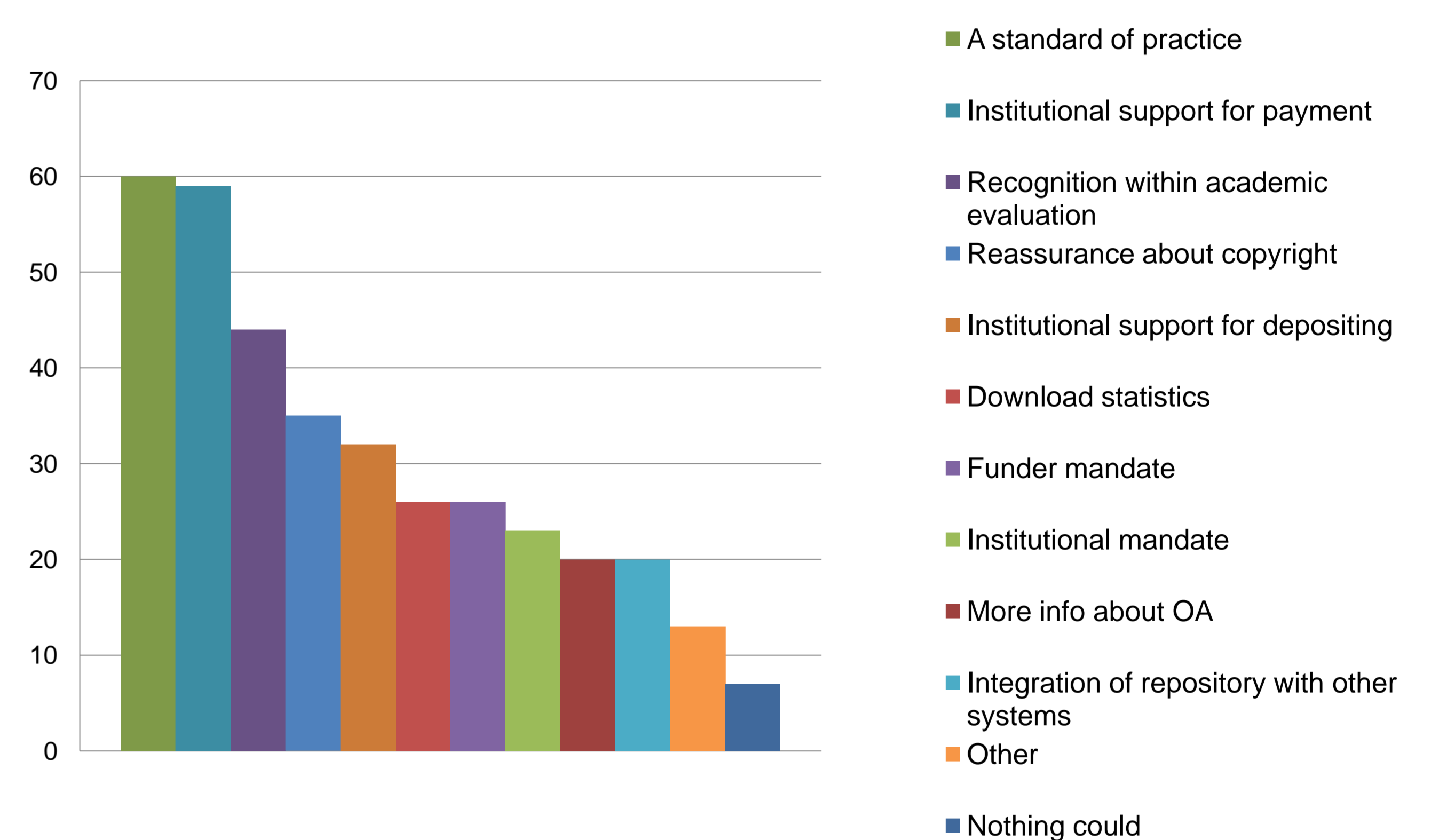
Results

When I DO NOT make my work open access (OA) it is because:



Most of these concerns could be resolved quickly if academics had accurate information – can they get this from their research support office?

What, if anything, would encourage you to make your work openly accessible in the future?



Many of these could be easily supported from within the institution – is your institution supporting these ideals or working against them?

What you can do

Research Managers and Administrators play an essential role in this area, supporting researchers in complying with grant conditions and ensuring research outputs are made OA.

- *Learn* about institutional and funder policies and think about how they might affect your work
- *Find out* how your research grant workflow fits with your institutional repository
- *Inform* academics about IP and copyright issues
- *Tell* your colleagues about Open Access and the requirements that your institution needs to meet
- *Manage* research outputs in accordance with institutional policies while considering OA opportunities
- *Link* your research management system with your OA repository
- *Support* “gold” OA with an institutional OA publishing fund

References

- 1 Suber, P. (2004). *Open Access Overview*. <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>
- 2 Research Councils UK. *Open Access*. <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/outputs.aspx>
- 3 See *JULIET* for a list of funder OA policies <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php>
- 4 Kiley, R. (2011). *Open access - a funders perspective (or "What we want from institutions")* <http://crc.nottingham.ac.uk/events/index.php?page=Researchmanagement-2011-01-27/index.php>