

# Recognition of scholarly publications from the researchers' perspective

## Results of a survey in Austria



### What's it all about?

Research output is published in an ever-growing variety of forms.

In our **online survey**, we investigated what **types** of work researchers from different fields consider scholarly publications and what they consider to be the defining **criteria**. We also enquired about **authors** and **target groups**, about who **decides** on the recognition of scholarly publications, and which types of work should receive greater recognition in the **future**.

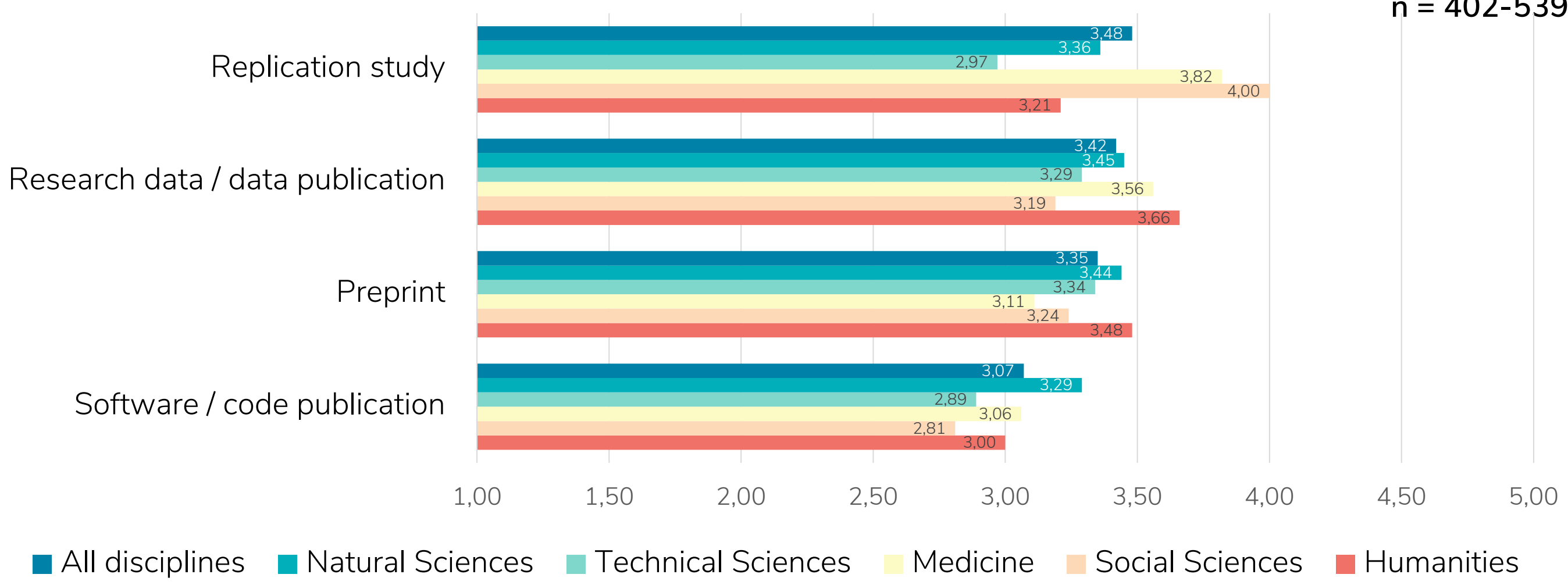
The results provide information on current practices and possible future developments in scholarly communication that may feed into the current debate on **alternative research assessment**.

### Types of publication

(selection from a total of 53 types)

Are the following types of work considered scholarly publications in your field?

1 = "no" to 5 = "yes"



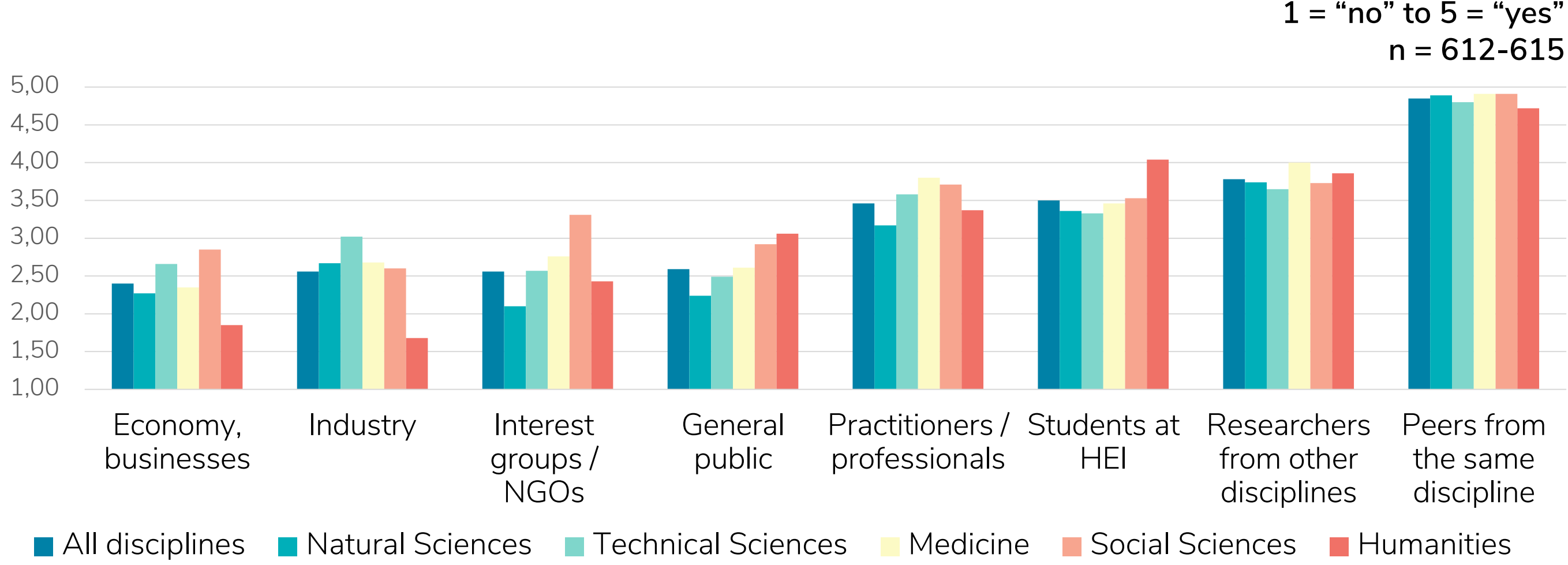
### According to Austrian researchers:

- ✓ transparent methodology, good scientific practice, identifiable authors and comprehensible argumentation are the most important **criteria** for scholarly publications.
- 📄 some "novel" or innovative **types** of work, such as replication studies, research data / data publications, and preprints, are, to some extent, already recognised as scholarly publications.
- 🧠 typically, **authors** of scholarly publications are members of academic institutions or staff of corporate research departments.
- 🎯 scholarly publications are primarily aimed at the research community. The general public is not a particularly relevant **target group**.
- 🔍 the research community **determines** what is considered a scholarly publication. In the field of medicine, publication databases like Web of Science and Scopus matter even more.
- 🔭 regarding the **future** recognition of additional types of scholarly publications such as research data, replication studies, and software / code, pre-docs and post-docs are more open-minded than professors.

### Target groups

Do scholarly publications in your field address the following audiences?

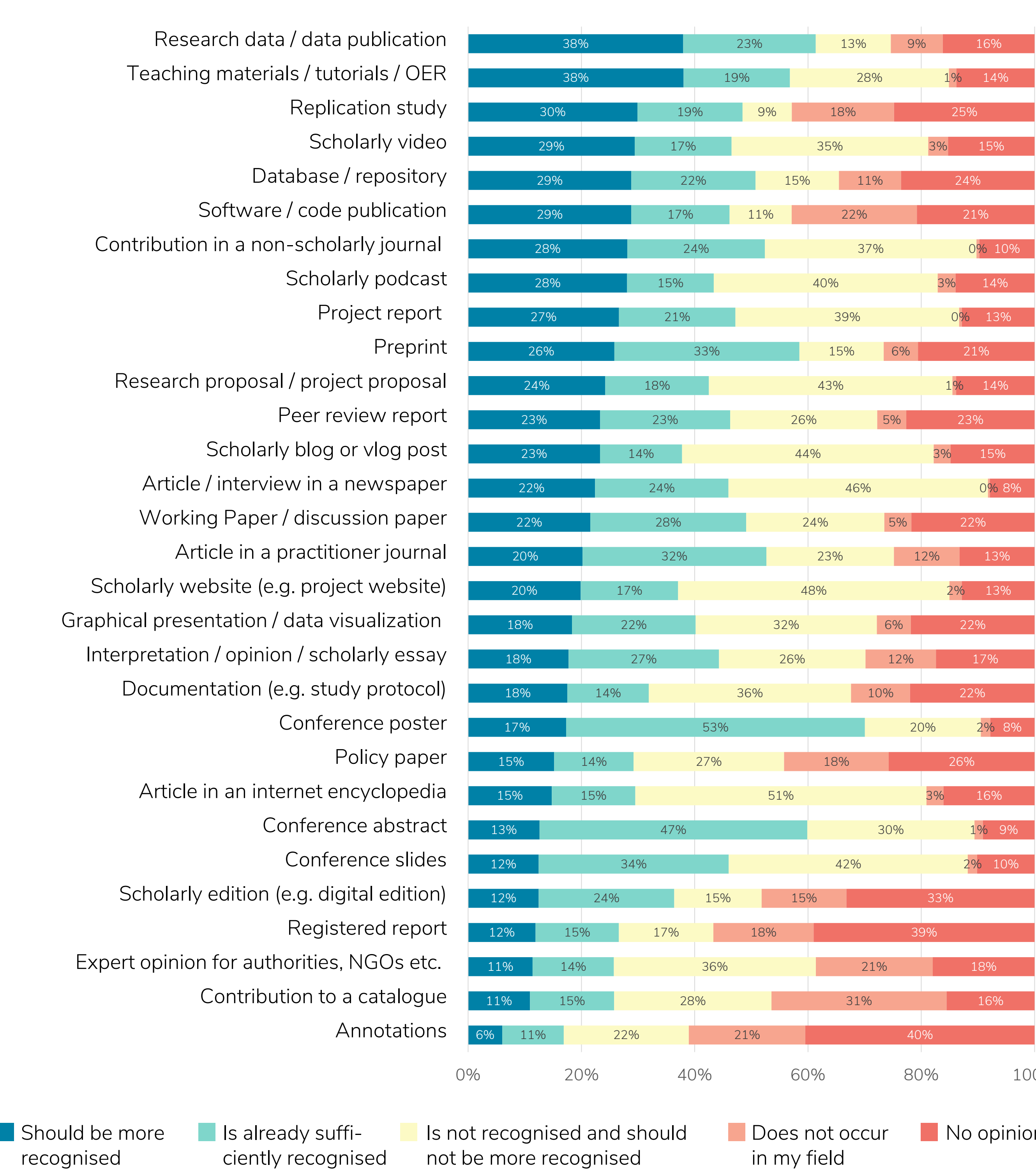
1 = "no" to 5 = "yes"



### Future recognition

Do you think that the following types of publications should become more recognised as scholarly publications in your field?

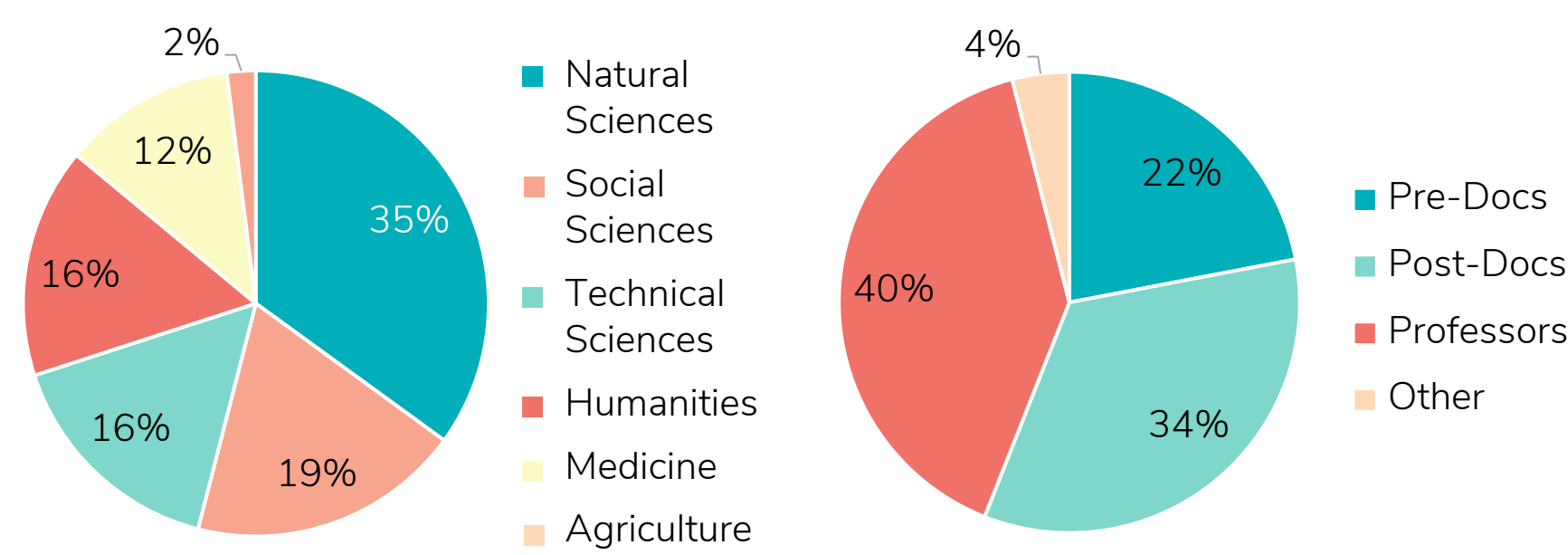
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In the future, research data and teaching materials should receive greater recognition as scholarly publications.

### Who responded?

**616 researchers** from all universities in Austria completed our survey.



### Why should research libraries care?

**Open Access transformation:** If 100% of all scholarly publications should be Open Access, what exactly should count as a scholarly publication?

**Publication funding through library budgets:** For which types of scholarly output could a library be expected to pay publication costs?

**Researcher support:** For which publication types might researchers need assistance from the library?

**Collection development:** Which types of work are relevant enough to be collected, systematically described and preserved in the long term?

### Methodology

We set up an online study in LimeSurvey. The question blocks were based on a pre-study and represented the following aspects of scholarly publications: "criteria" (rating scale: 1 = "not important" to 5 = "very important"), "authors", "target groups", "types" (1 = "no" to 5 = "yes", 6 = "does not occur in my field"), "decision", and "future types" (1 = "is not recognised and should not be more recognised", 2 = "is already sufficiently recognised", 3 = "should be more recognised", 4 = "does not occur in my field", 5 = "no opinion").

For "criteria" and "types", we calculated the mean rating across participants and evaluated its location on the scale. As "future types" did not contain a rating scale, we counted the approval ratings across all participants (i.e., whether participants indicated that a type of scholarly publication should become more important in the future or not). That way, we analysed group effects across scholarly disciplines and academic career statuses.