

The future of OA books: Findings from a global survey of academic book authors

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ADVANCING
DISCOVERY

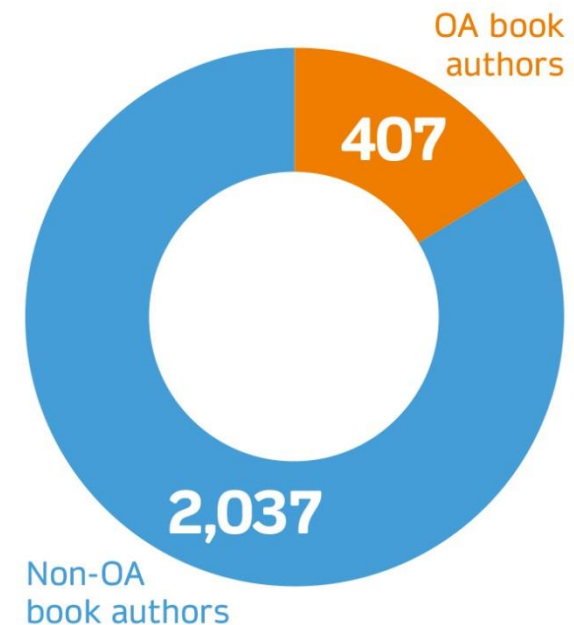
The future of OA books: Findings from a global survey of academic book authors



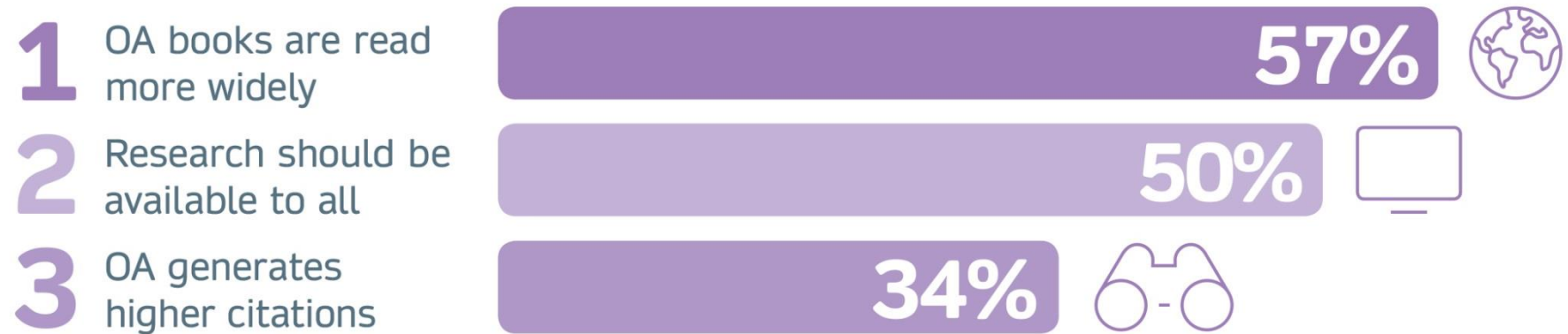
- Download the white paper:
<https://www.springernature.com/futureofbooks>
- Access the anonymised data:
<https://figshare.com/s/aed46050e7cd12b09cae>

Methodology

- Survey was live 18th February to 3rd March 2019.
- Survey link was shared and promoted by Palgrave Macmillan/Springer, OAPEN, HIRMEOS, UKSG, OASPA, Brill and Routledge.
- 2,542 book authors completed the survey; only book authors' responses were analysed.



Reasons for choosing OA for books



Barriers to publishing an OA book



Inability to find funds

60%

of non-OA book authors said that no OA book funding was available from their main funder or institution



Low awareness

41%

of non-OA book authors were not familiar with OA



Perceptions of quality

46%

of non-OA book authors thought OA books are likely to be perceived of lower quality



Lack of willingness to pay

37%

of non-OA book authors were not willing to pay

What OA policy would you prefer your funder to adopt?

Immediate OA on the publisher's platform is authors' preferred policy



Gold OA:

Immediate open access to the published version of record (VoR) for all research outputs

32% 42%



Both gold and green OA:

Version of record of all books available via immediate (gold) OA, and books also archived in a repository (green)

16% 22%



Mixed gold and green OA

A combination of immediate (gold) OA for published versions of some books, and access to archived versions of all other book manuscripts in repositories (green)

16% 16%



Green OA:

A version of every manuscript is made openly accessible in a repository, in most cases after an embargo period

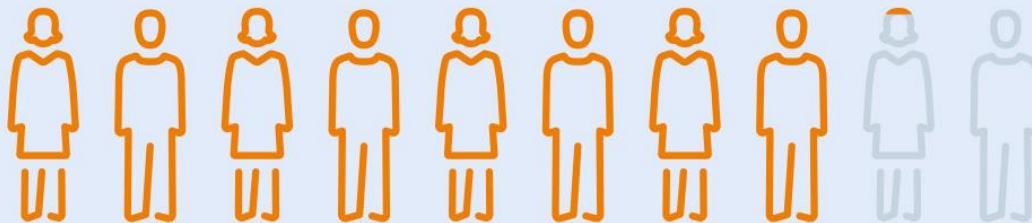
26% 15%

■ Non-OA book authors n=1,514

■ OA book authors n=331

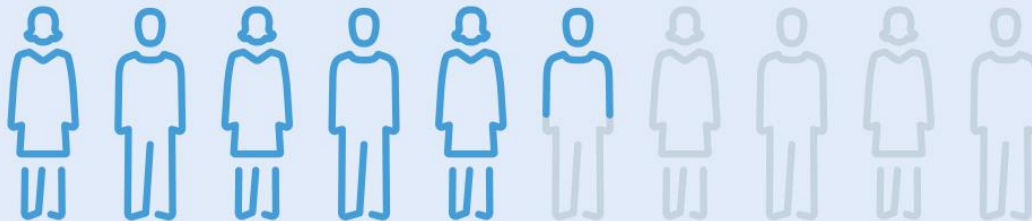
Should all books be OA?

The majority of authors agree or strongly agree that all future scholarly books should be OA



81%

OA book authors



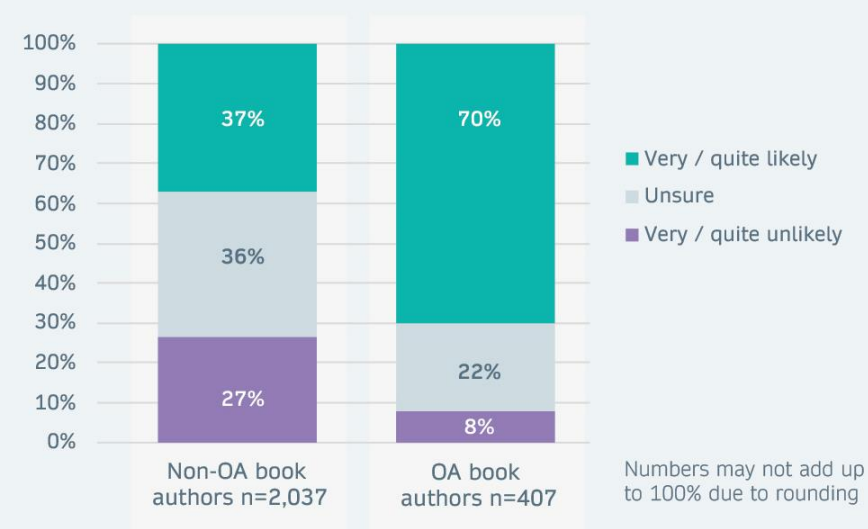
55%

Non-OA book authors

How likely are you to publish your next book OA?

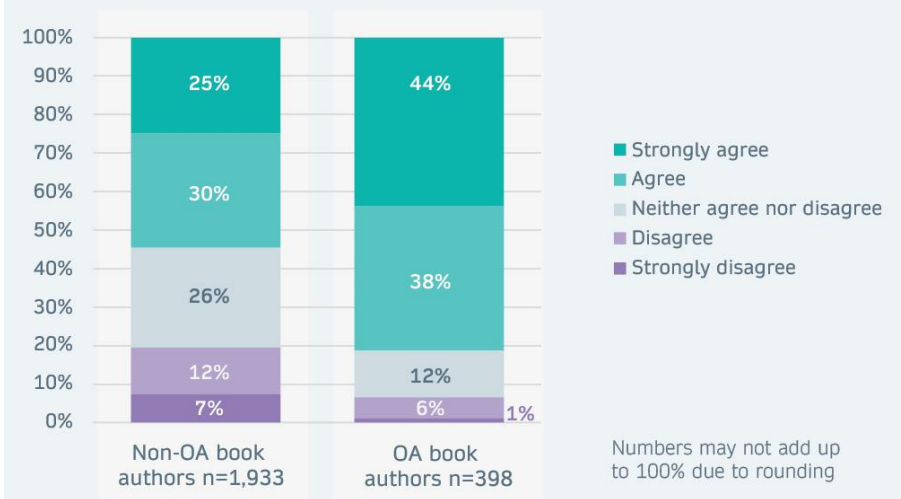
70% of OA book authors and 37% of non-OA authors are very or quite likely to publish their next book OA (lower than the number that want all books OA)

Publish my book via immediate open access on a publisher's platform



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All future scholarly books (monographs, edited collections) should be made accessible via open access.



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Author views: in summary

- **The future of OA books:** All future scholarly books should be OA.
- **Preferred policy:** Immediate open access to the version of record (“gold”).
- **Top reasons for choosing OA:** Ethical considerations and reaching a larger audience.
- **Barriers to take-up OA for books:** Lack of awareness, concerns about perceptions of quality, lack of funding.
- **Funding:** The majority of authors want more financial support from funders for open access book publication.

Author views: other highlights

- **Motivations for publishing books:** To reach a large audience, to increase interdisciplinary discussion and use of their work, and to reach students.
- **Choice of publisher:** Reputation of publishers matters less to open access authors but is still the deciding factor for publication.
- **Print:** Print options are still highly valued by authors.
- **Re-use:** Commercial re-use and modifications to their books are not acceptable to the majority of authors.
- **Self-archiving:** Still uncommon for books, though take-up is higher amongst authors who have published an open access book.
- **Trends in OA support:** Pro-open access attitudes are stronger among junior researchers, researchers based in Europe and Asia, and previous open access book authors.

Recommendations

- Increase awareness and understanding of OA
- Convince influential senior scholars of the value of OA for books
- Allay areas of concern regarding quality & print availability
- For publishers, demonstrate the value that they add
- For funders, increase support for OA books
- Provide a wider variety of routes to OA book publication

Download the full report

<https://www.springernature.com/futureofbooks>



Also includes

- Motivations for publishing a book and for choosing a publisher
- Views on: importance of print, OA licensing, self-archiving, funding, chapter OA
- Analysis based on region, subject, and experience level
- Conclusions and recommendations
- Full demographics and methodology

Thank you

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Questions about our OA books programme:

OAbooks@springernature.com

Find out more:

<https://www.springernature.com/oabooks>

The story behind the image



Alfred Nobel (1833–1896)

Alfred Nobel was a Swedish chemist, engineer and inventor of dynamite. Dynamite made him very wealthy but partly in response to concerns about its negative uses, he decided to give the vast majority of his estate to establish the four Nobel Prizes with a fifth awarded in his memory, to people or organisations who promote peace around the world.

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