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The Role of Editors in a Changing World: What Editors Need to Know

– Author Perceptions of the Academic Publishing Process –

Presented by:

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Helping Authors Get Published
www.Editage.co.kr

editage
by CACTUS



Let's begin with some facts for perspective...

EVERY YEAR



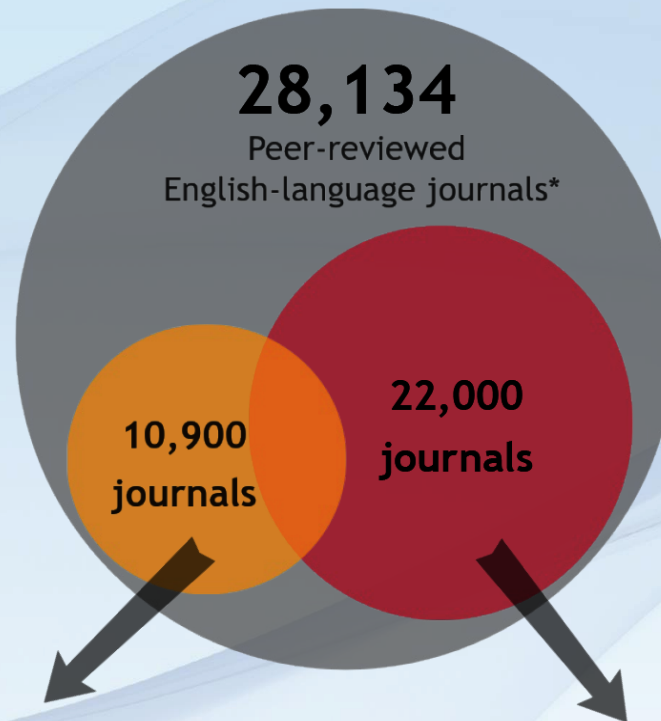
ABOUT **8 MILLION** RESEARCHERS
8,000,000



PUBLISH 

2,500,000
2.5 MILLION ARTICLES

Let's begin with some facts for perspective...

2.5 MILLION ARTICLES
IN



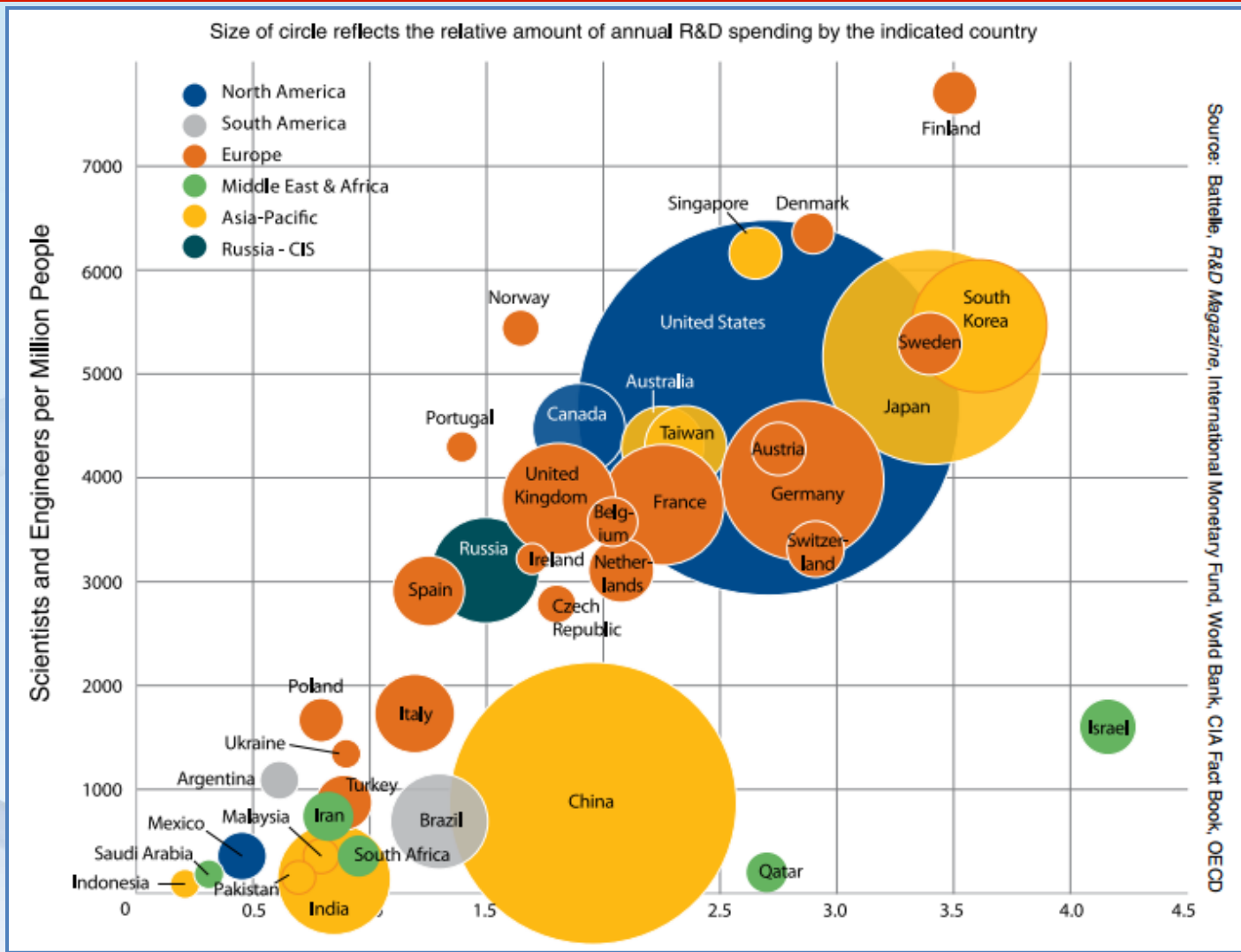
Included in Thomson Reuters'
Journal Citation Reports

Included in Scopus

* As of 2014 - Ulrich's database

Note: Venn diagram not to scale

More research output from ESL countries



This causes a lot of pressure...

For authors



And for journal editors



Previously identified gap in perspectives between authors and editors

Authors think...

- They understand publication ethics and do the best they can to adhere to standard guidelines
- They address and respond carefully to all peer reviewer comments
- Journal instructions for authors are often incomplete and unclear



Editors think...

- Authors don't realize the importance of publication ethics
- Authors only address the peer reviewer comments they find agreeable
- Journal instructions for authors are generally clear and complete



Previous survey of ~300 East Asian authors and ~100 international journal editors

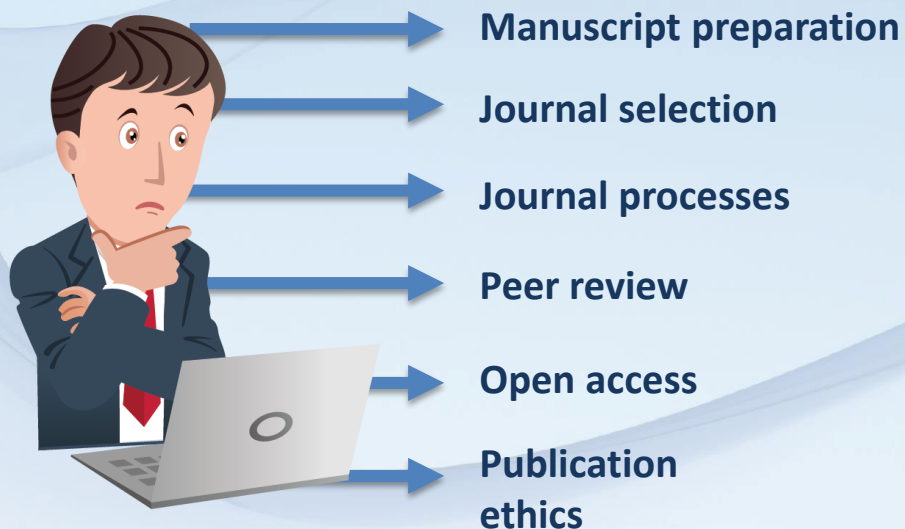
Please mind the gap!



So we asked authors globally for their opinions

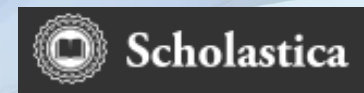
- Ongoing survey by **Editage Insights**, a global learning and resource platform for researchers
- Survey being run in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Portuguese

Seeking authors' opinions on all aspects of the journal publication process



Supported by the industry

editage Insights™

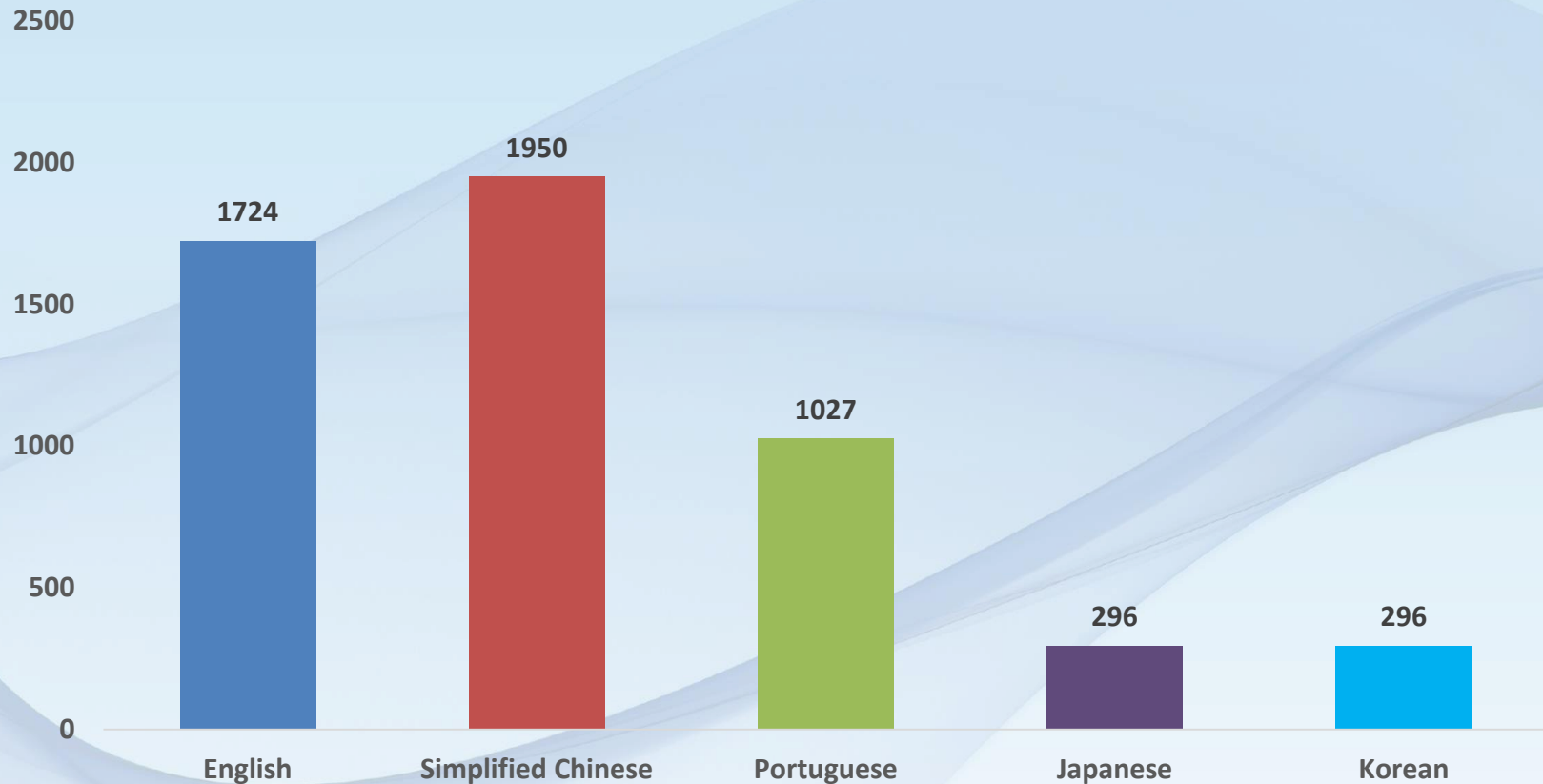


Interim results: 5293 respondents

Respondent demographics



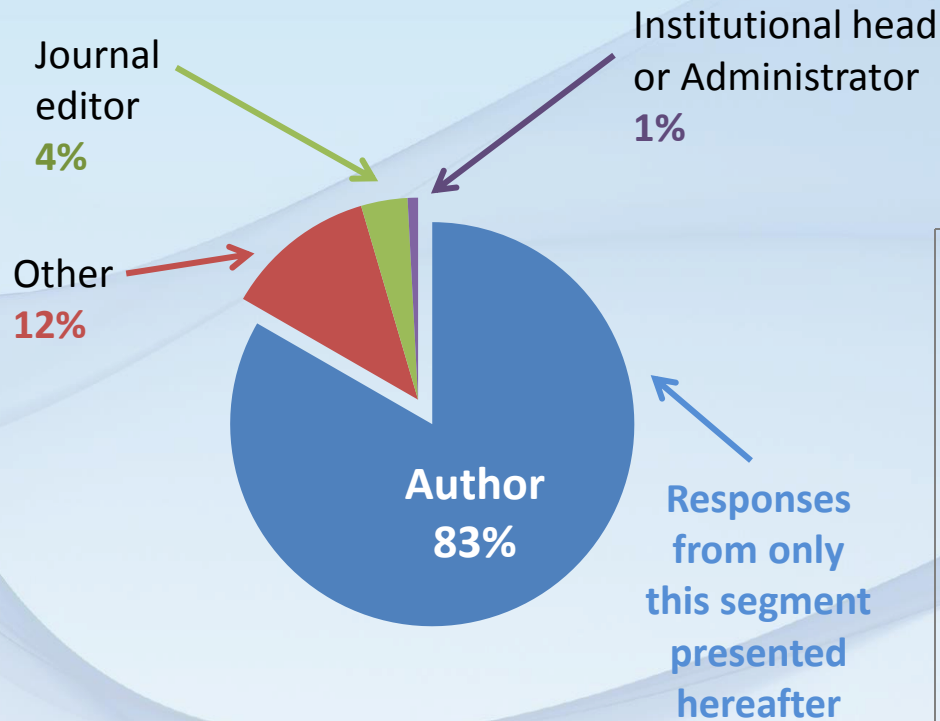
Total number of respondents for each survey language



$n = 5293$

Respondent profile

Which of these primary roles do you identify yourself with as a researcher?



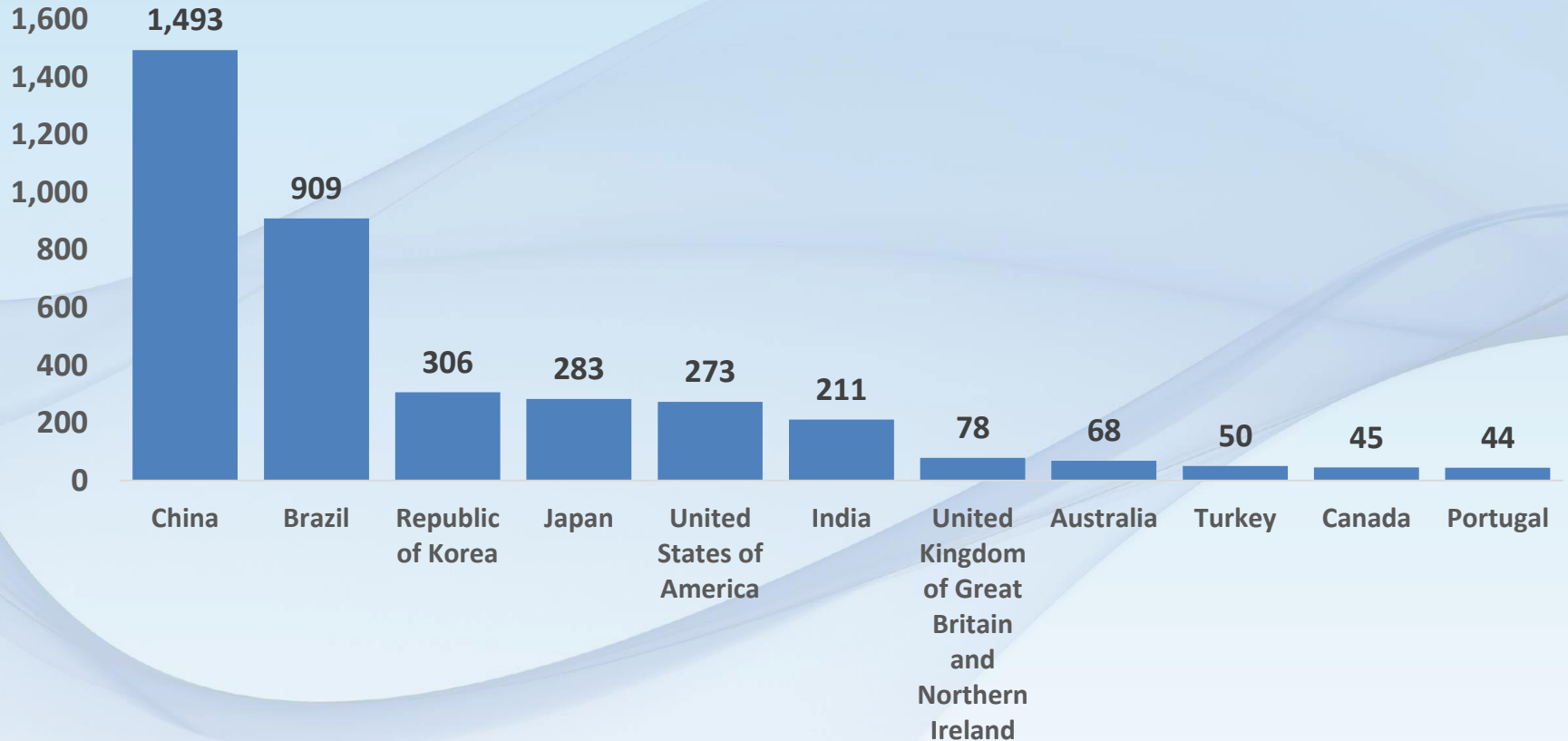
Roles identified when selecting “other”

Consultant^{Writing} Professor^{Fellow}
Independent^{Lead} Scholar^{Science}
Student Researcher
Medical Writer Editor Published Author
Academician and Clinician Librarian Doctor
Lecturer^{Content} Reviewer^{Assistant} Retired
Postdoctoral Teacher

$n = 5259$

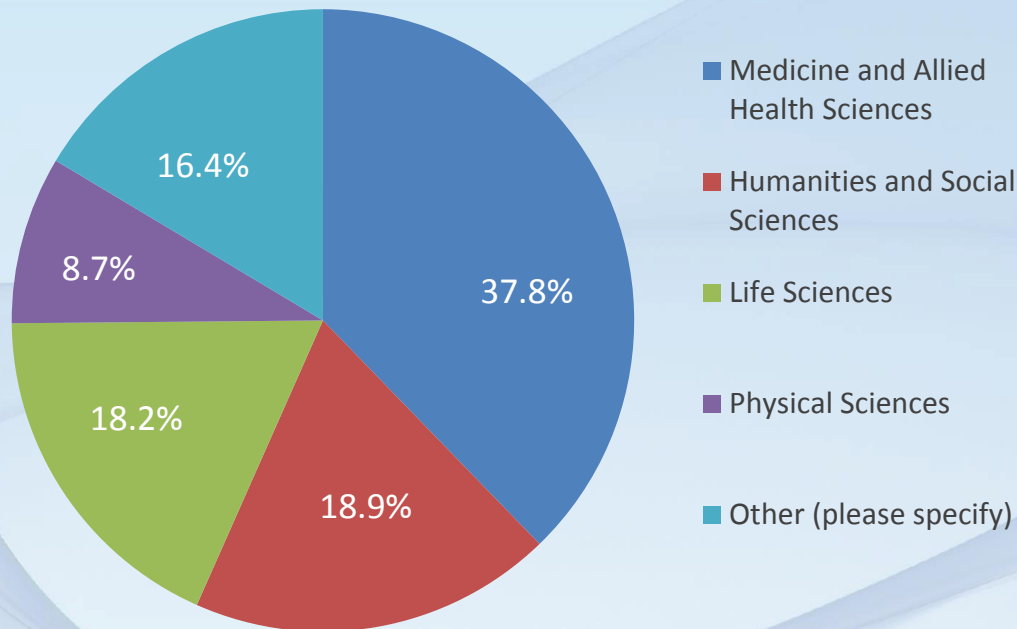
Top 10 countries represented (current location)

Number of authors currently working in these countries



$n = 4299$

Author respondents by field of study



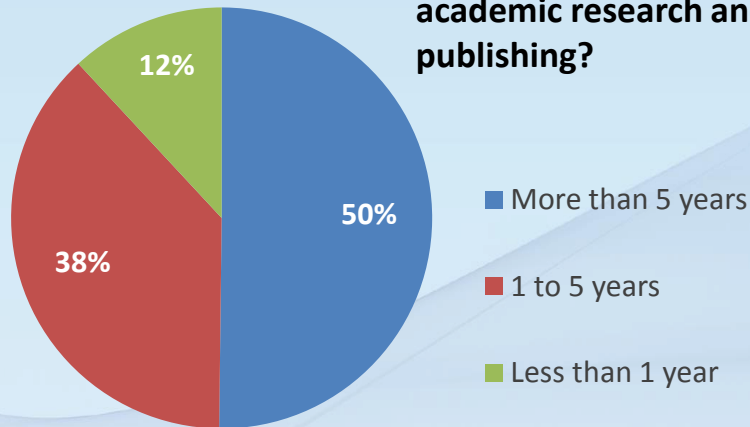
Fields identified when selecting "other"

Architecture Information Technology Development
Human Business Law Mathematics Teaching
Chemistry Research Engineering
Interdisciplinary Science Public Health
Education Arts Management Psychology
Applied Test Economics Veterinary Medicine Nursing
Energy

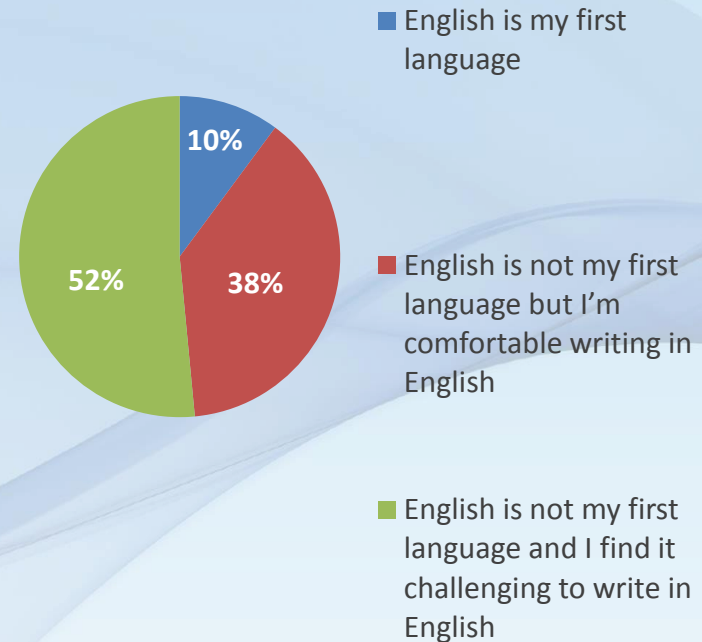
$n = 4299$

Experience and English proficiency of author respondents

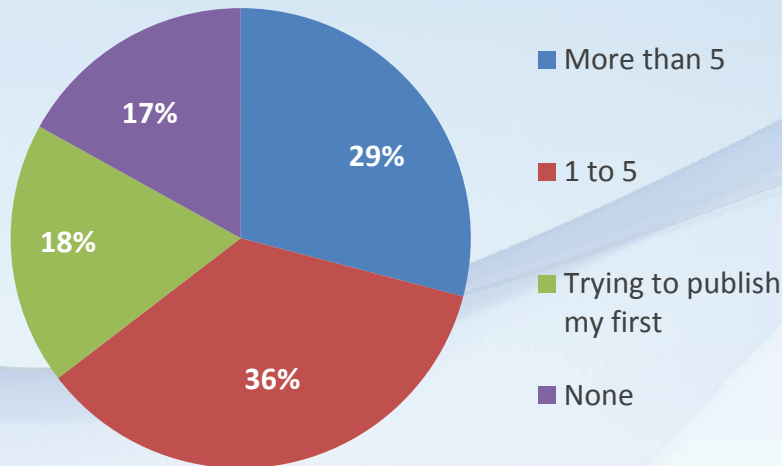
How long have you been involved in academic research and/or journal publishing?



What is your written English proficiency?



How many papers have you published in an international English-language journal?



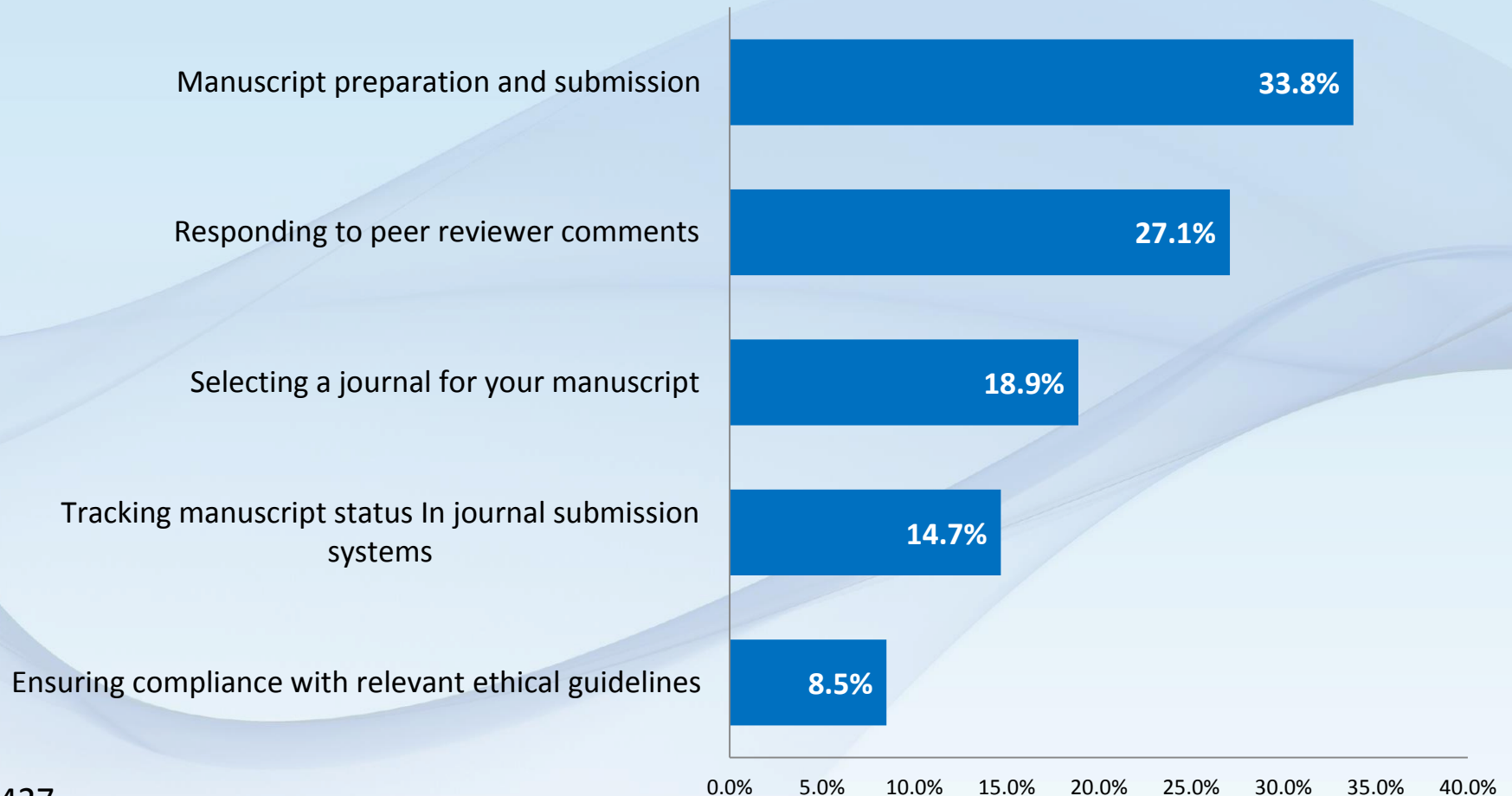
$n = 4298$

Publication-related challenges authors face



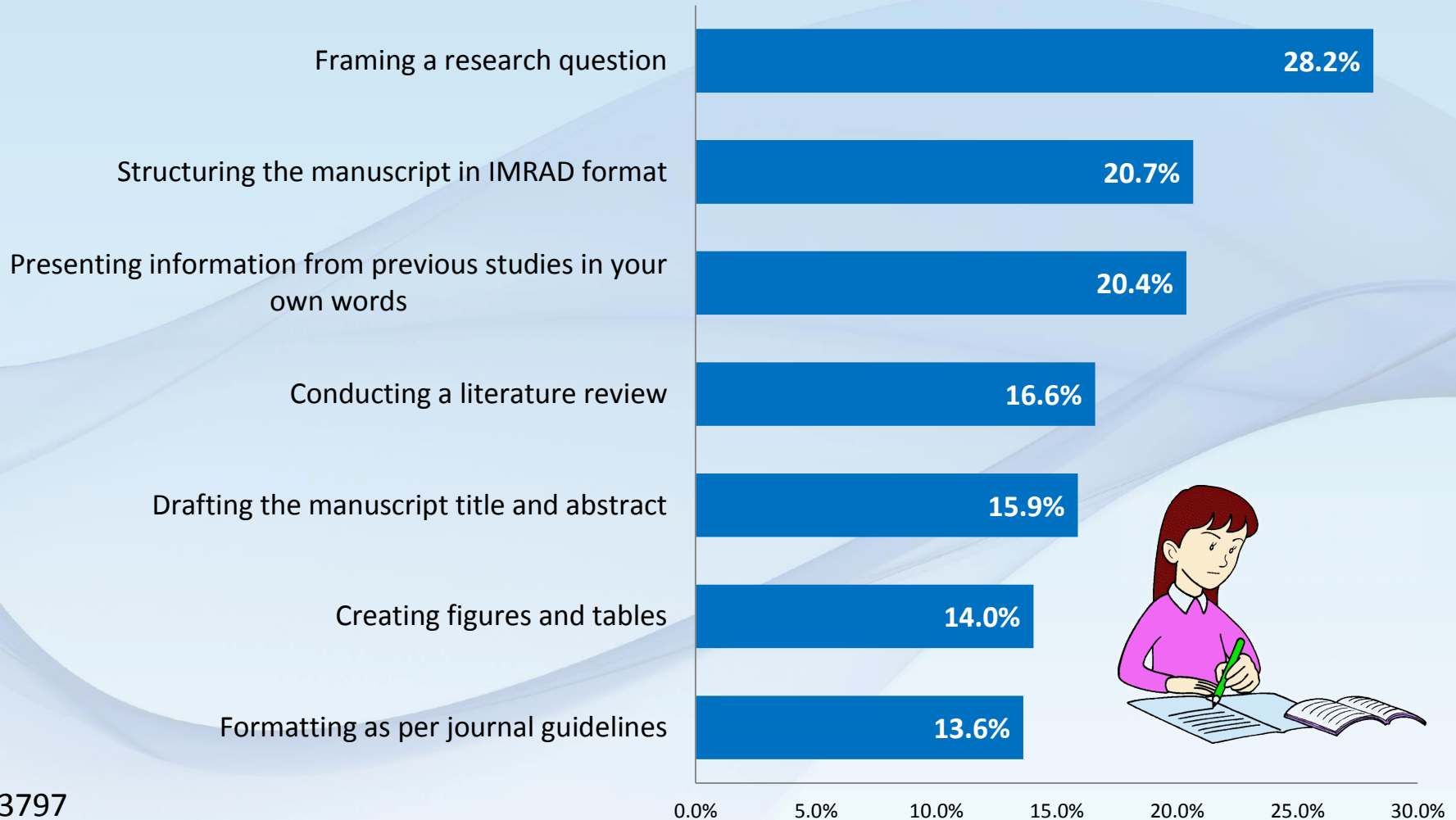
What do authors struggle with most in the whole process?

Percent authors who find specific stages of the publishing process “VERY DIFFICULT”?

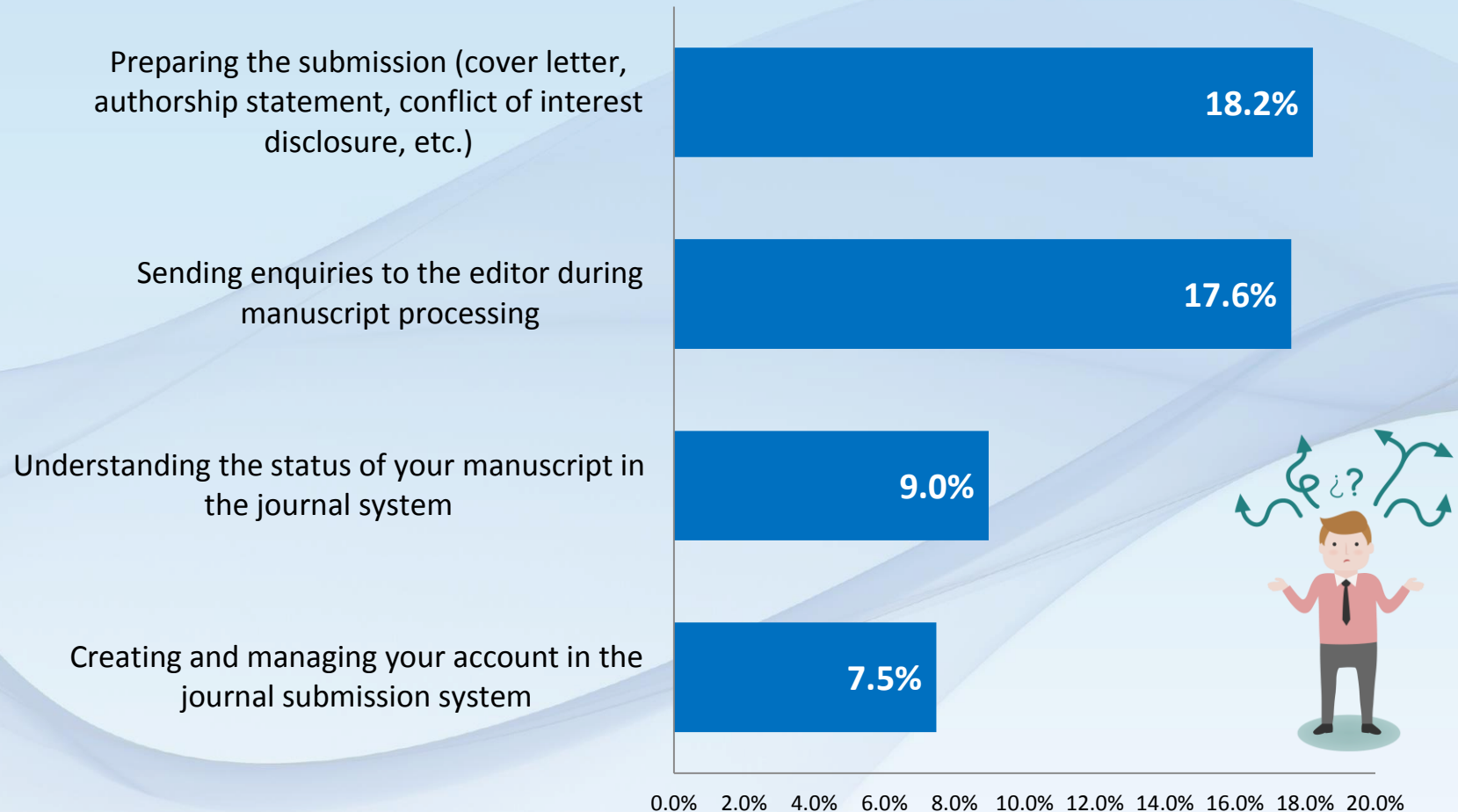


n = 4427

What aspects of manuscript preparation are “VERY DIFFICULT”?

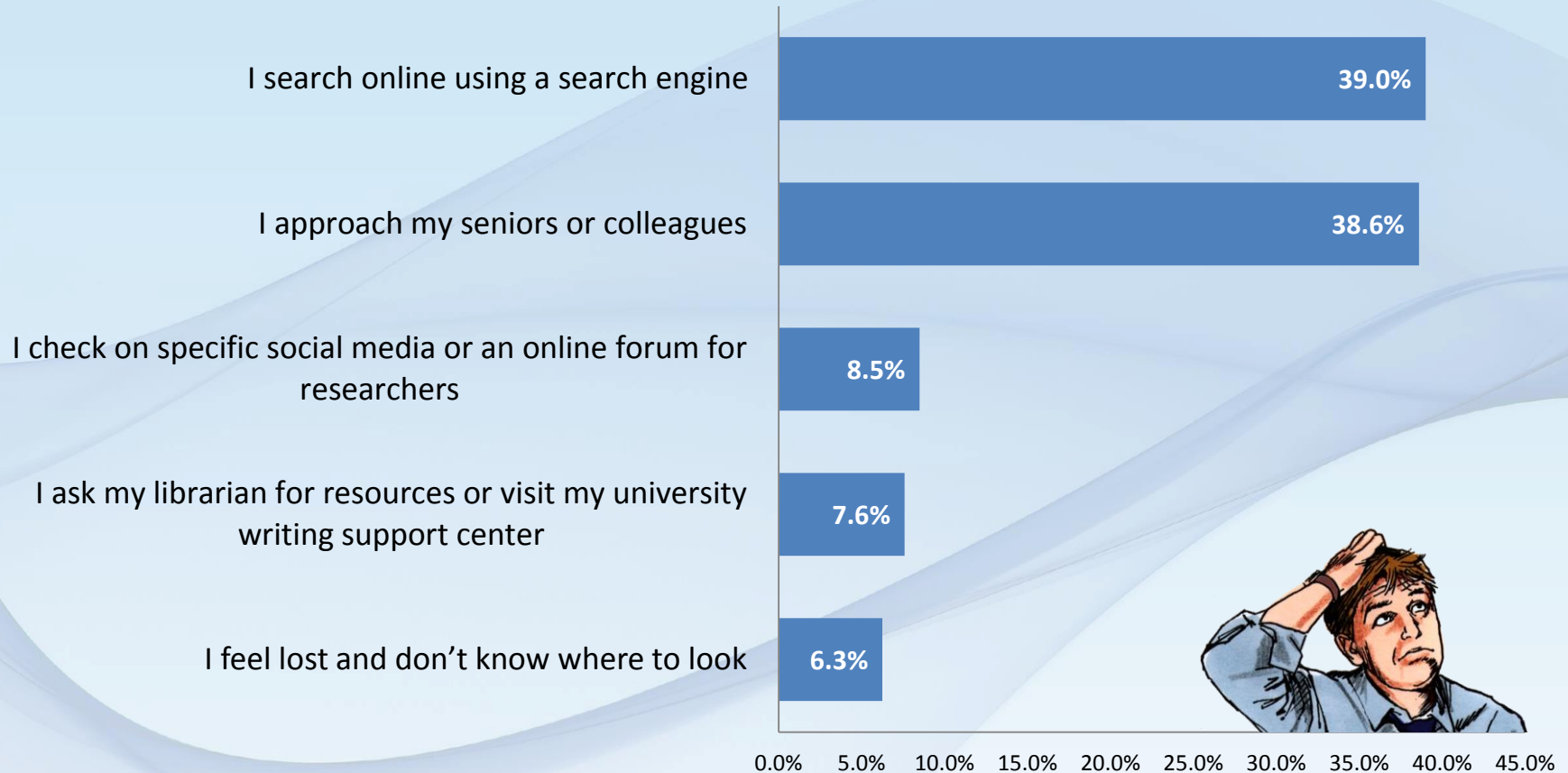


What aspects of manuscript submission are “VERY DIFFICULT”?



$n = 3743$

Where do authors seek help when in doubt during the publishing process?



n = 4277

*Multiple selections allowed

Perspective-based questions for authors

I think...



How do authors choose a journal for their manuscript?

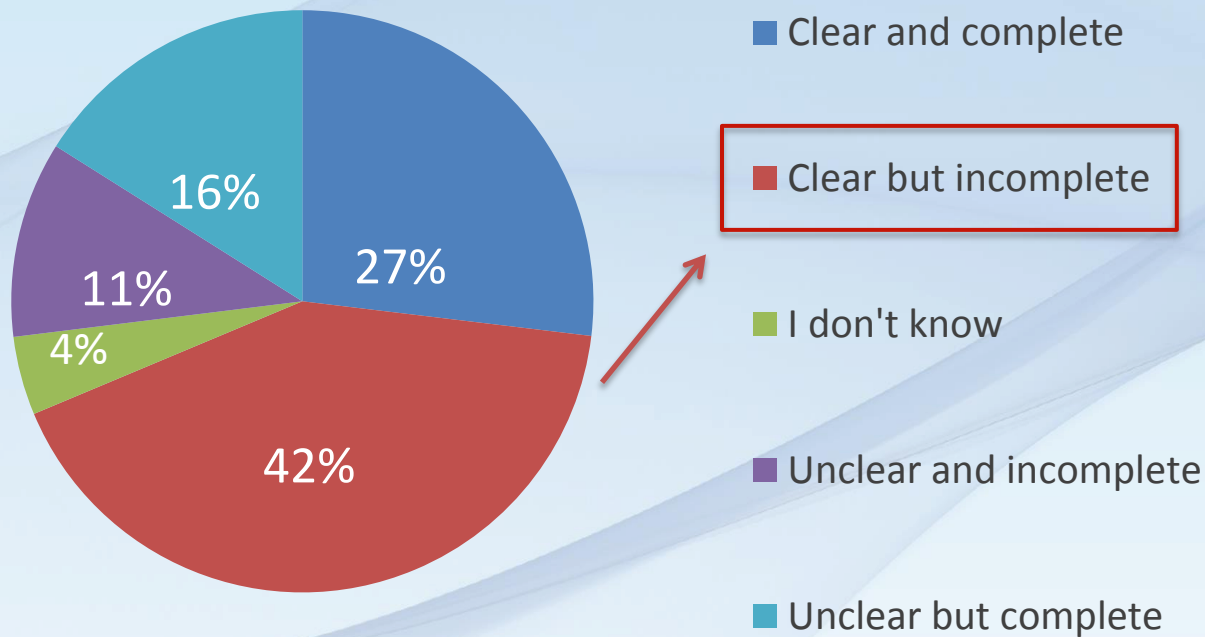
Factors considered, ranked from most important (1) to least important (7)

- 1 The journal should have a high impact factor for my field
- 2 The journal should have published similar papers
- 3 The journal should offer a short time-to-publication or have a rapid publication option
- 4 My colleagues and seniors should be reading the journal regularly
- 5 The journal should have a clear and professional-looking website
- 6 The journal should be open access or have an open access publishing option
- 7 The journal's submission process and charges should be clearly mentioned on its website

$n = 3876$

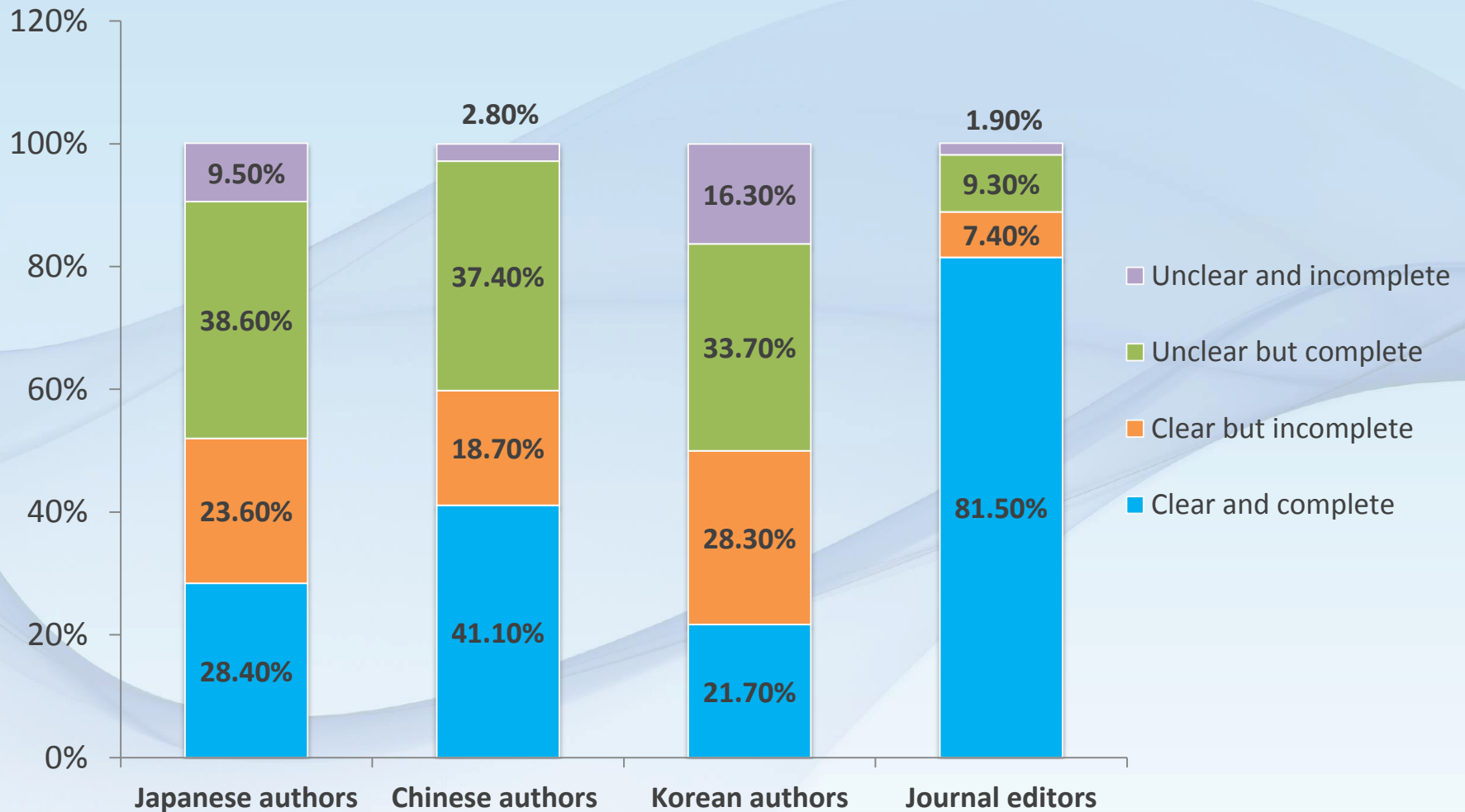
Perspectives on journal instructions for authors

In general, how well do you think journal guidelines for authors are framed?



$n = 3799$

Similar findings as our previous study...

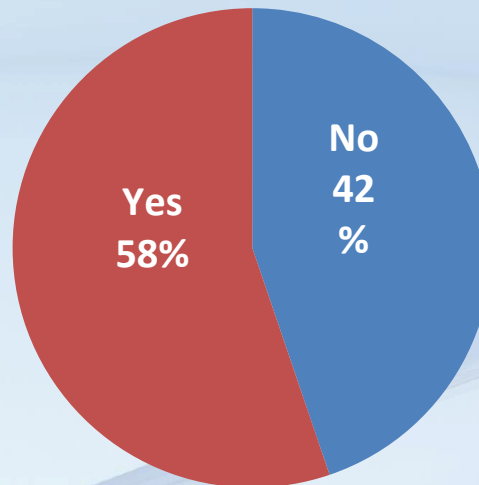


Perspectives on open access publication

Have you ever published in an open access journal, or chosen to make your paper open access in a subscription-based journal?

Reasons for publishing open access (% respondents)*

- Increase research reach **(34.3%)**
- Coincidence **(29.5%)**
- Preference for OA **(15.3%)**
- Publication guarantee by the journal **(13.6%)**
- Institutional/funding body mandate **(7.3%)**



Reasons for not publishing open access (% respondents)*

- Coincidence **(34.3%)**
- Affordability **(29.5%)**
- Lack of understanding **(15.3%)**
- Mistrust in quality of OA journals **(13.6%)**
- No adequate benefits of OA seen **(7.3%)**

$n = 3875$

*Multiple selections allowed

Author-Journal communication

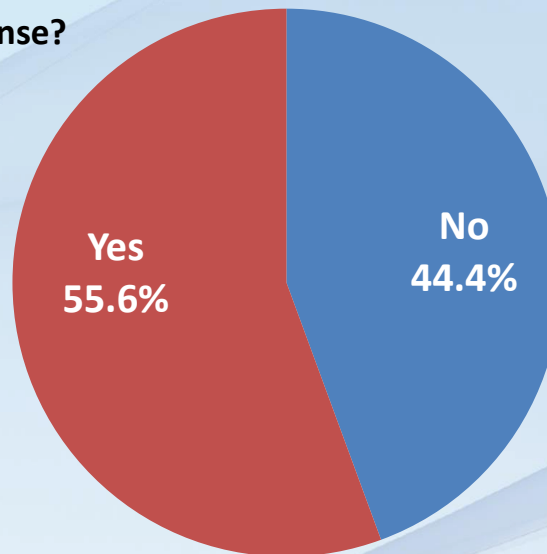


Do authors approach journals without hesitation?

Have you ever written to the journal for queries or clarifications during the publication process?

If yes, how did you find their response?

- Prompt and clear **(42.7%)**
- Delayed but clear when it came **(28.4%)**
- Prompt but not clear **(17.7%)**
- I didn't get any reply **(7.8%)**



If no, why not?

- I didn't have a query **(51.1%)**
- I didn't know how to contact the journal **(14.8%)**
- I didn't know I was allowed to contact the journal **(16.6%)**
- I was scared to contact the journal **(17.4%)**

$n = 3760$

Time to publication



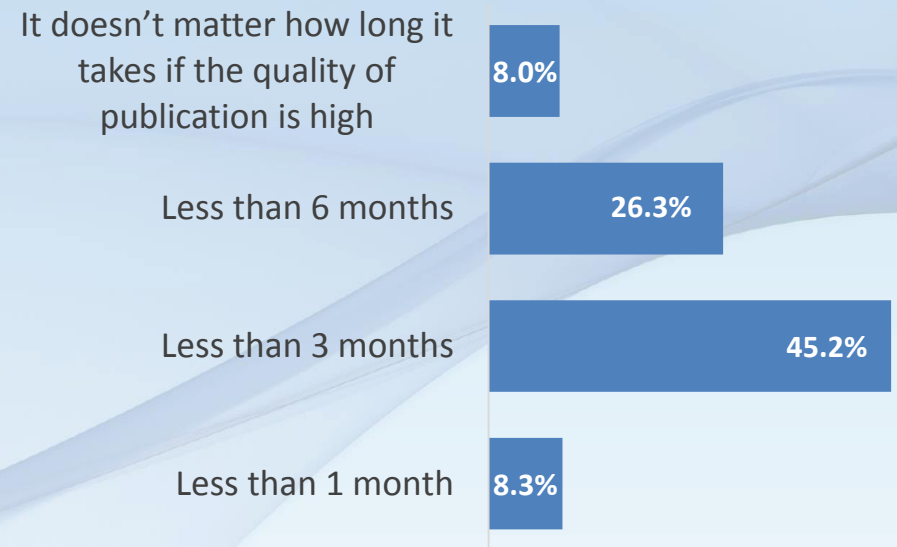
Perspectives on time to publication

What is the shortest time in which you've had a paper published (from submission)



n = 3775

How long do you think it should ideally take to publish a paper in a journal (from submission)?

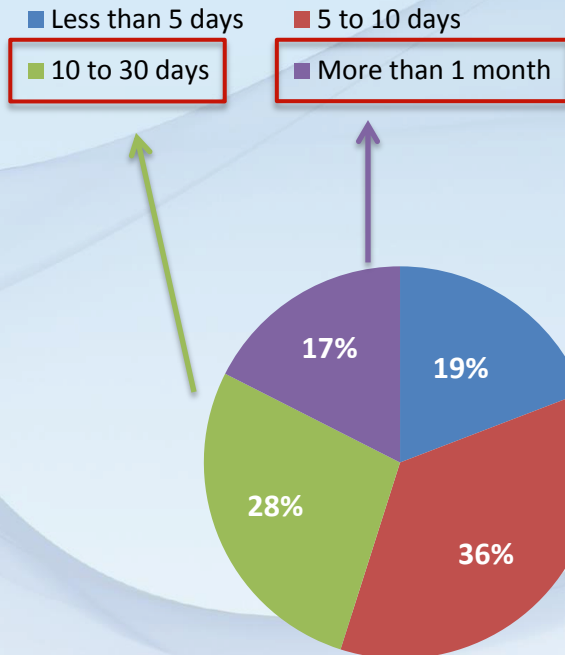


n = 3775

Duration of manuscripts at different stages in the journal workflow

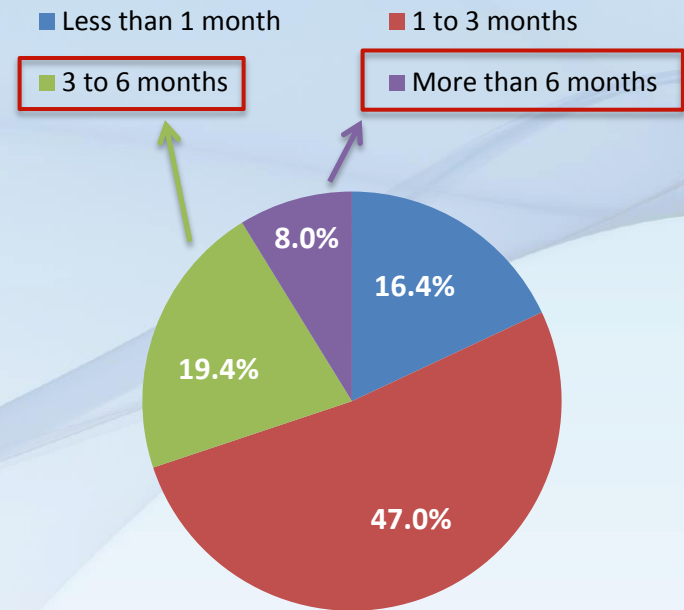
“In your experience, how long does a manuscript remain at the following status points on the journal submission system?”

“WITH EDITOR”



$n = 3764$

“UNDER REVIEW”

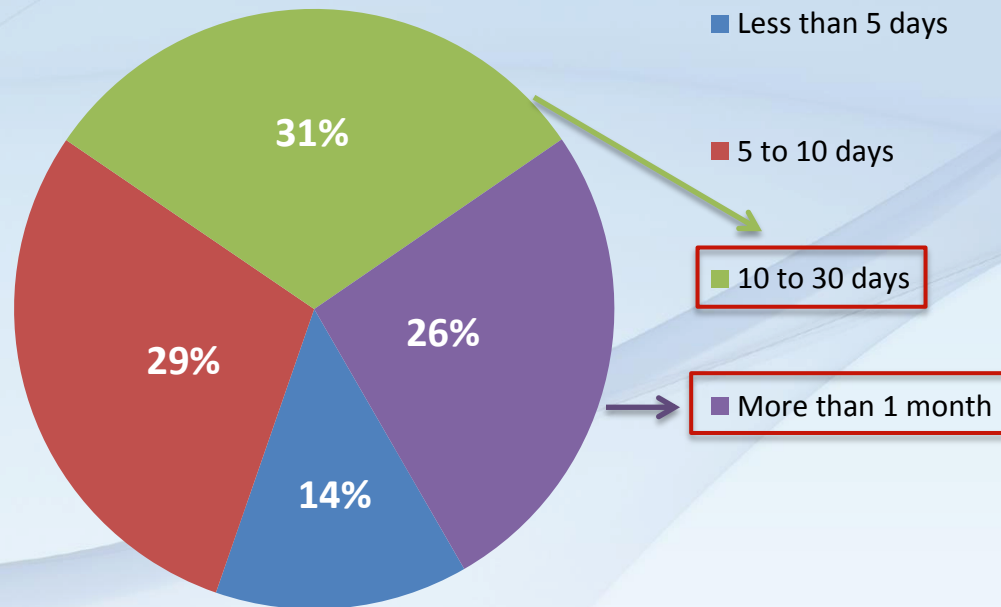


$n = 3766$

Duration of manuscripts at different stages in the journal workflow

“In your experience, how long does a manuscript remain at the following status points on the journal submission system?”

“DECISION IN PROCESS” OR “AWAITING DECISION”



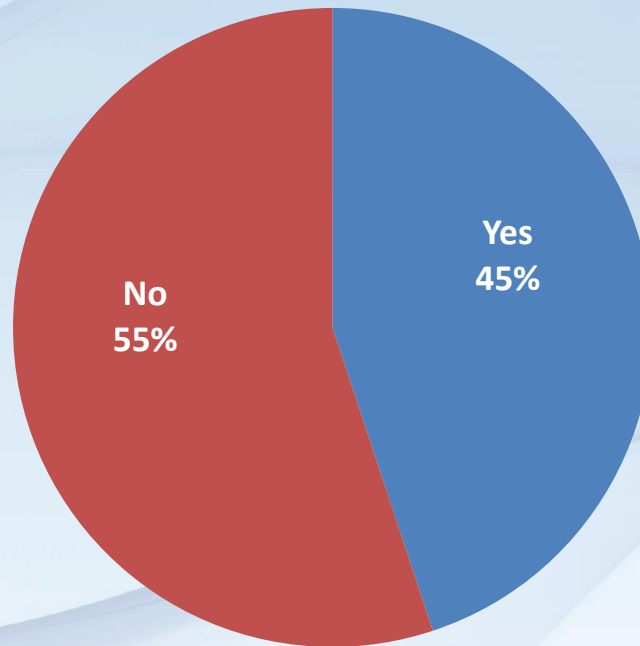
$n = 3766$

Authors' understanding of ethical issues and best publication practices



Authors' awareness of potentially predatory journals

Has a journal ever contacted you guaranteeing publication or promising rapid publication?



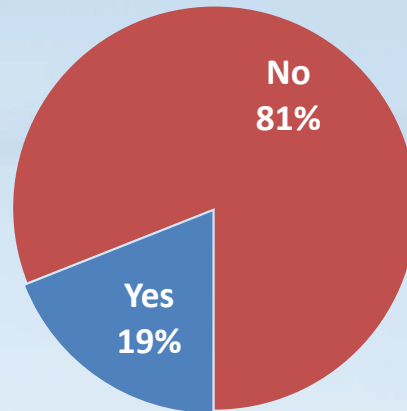
$n = 3875$

Experience with potentially predatory publishers

If yes, have you ever submitted to such a journal?

If yes, what was the outcome?

- My manuscript was accepted and published as promised (68.3%)
- The journal demanded unexpected article processing charges (14.4%)
- The journal stopped responding to my queries after I submitted my manuscript (6.6%)
- Other (11.3%)



If no, why not?*

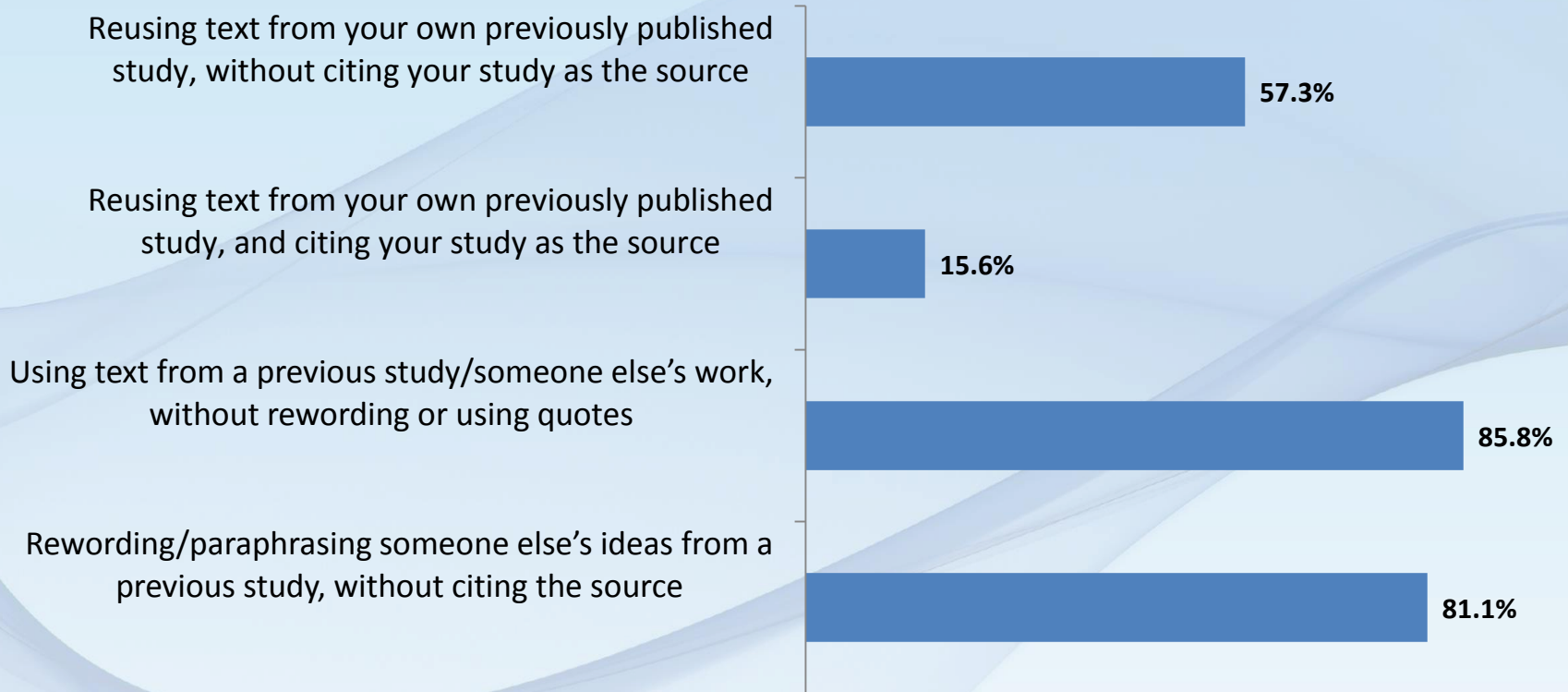
- I didn't trust the journal (67.8%)
- I didn't recognize the journal (40.4%)
- I already had another journal in mind for my paper (21.8%)
- I'm not sure (4.8%)
- Other (0.1%)

$n = 1726$

*Multiple selections allowed

How do authors define plagiarism?

Which of the following, in your opinion, constitutes plagiarism?*

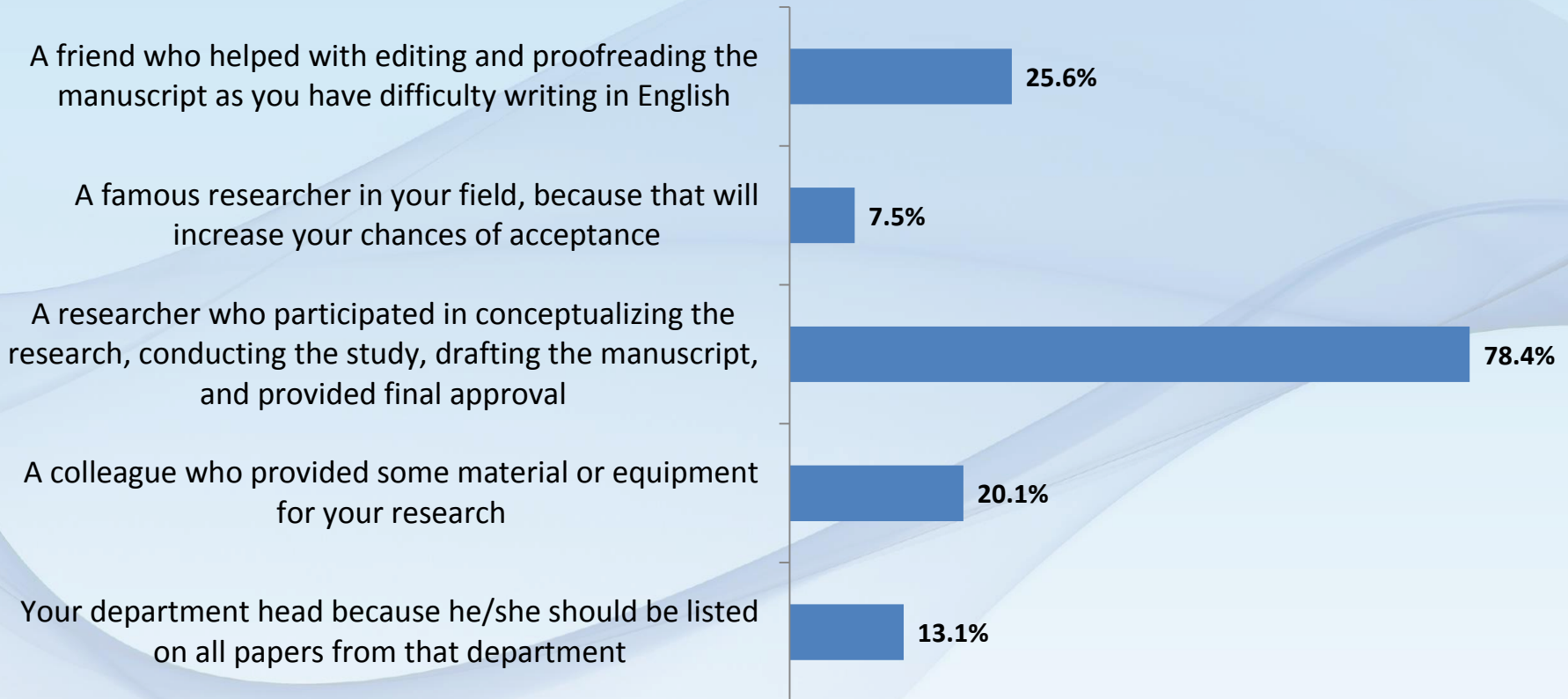


n = 3637

*Multiple selections allowed

How well do authors understand authorship criteria?

Which of the following, in your opinion, should be named a co-author on your paper?*

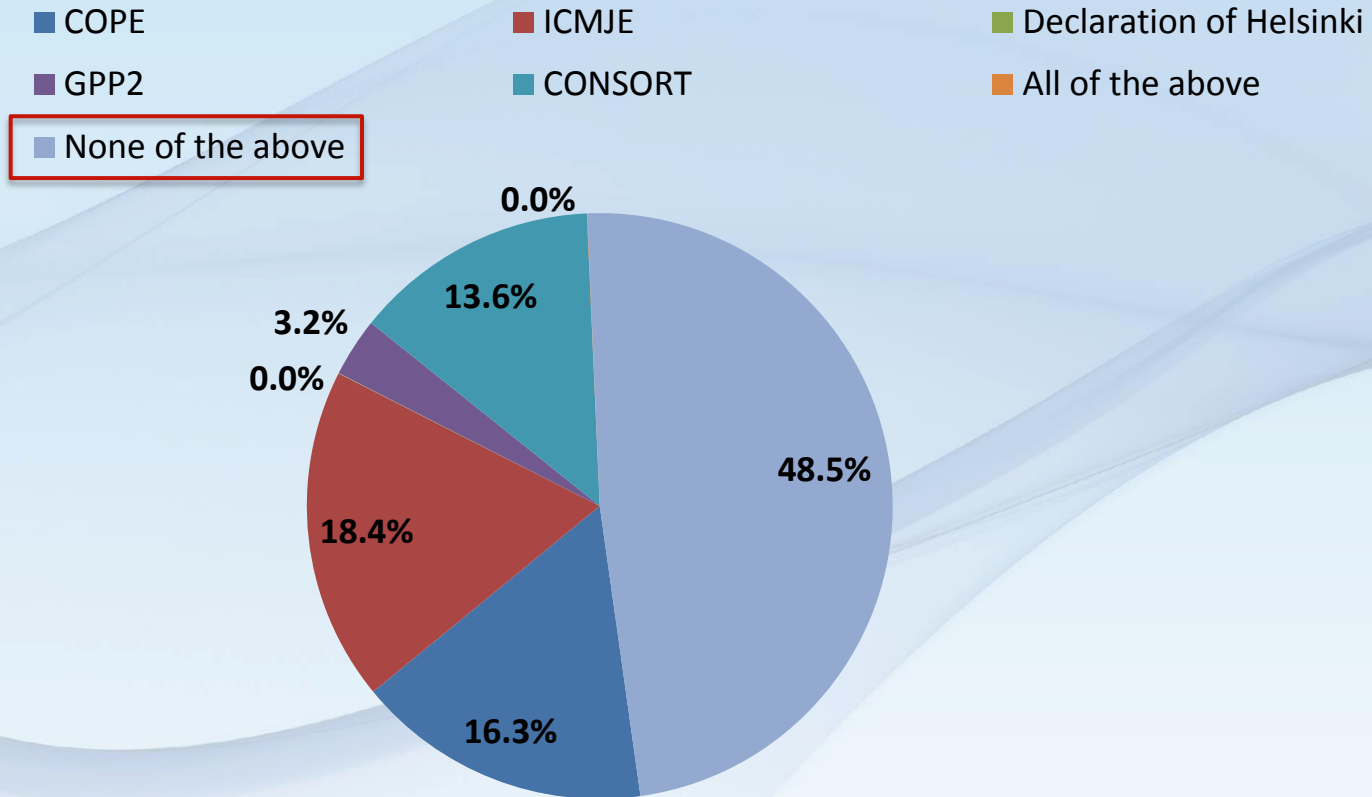


$n = 2708$

*Multiple selections allowed

Familiarity with good publication standards

Which of the following bodies/guidelines are you familiar with?



$n = 3733$

**What would authors
like to change
in the system?**

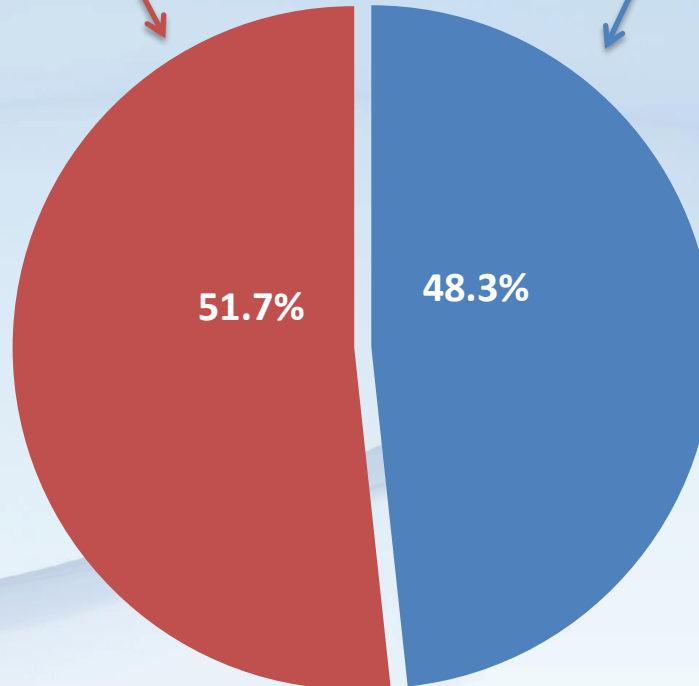


What aspects of journal publishing do authors want changed?

Would you like to change something in the publishing system?

Yes (check my comments below)

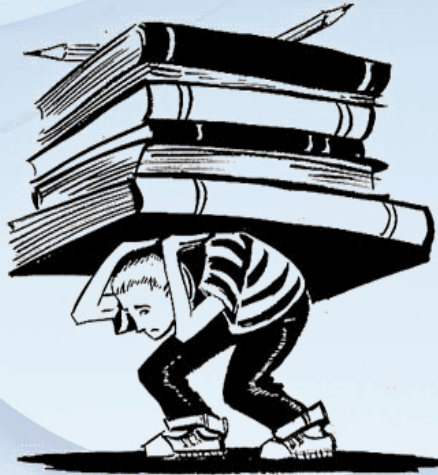
No. I am satisfied with the system



$n = 3712$

What aspects of journal publishing do authors want changed?

Main pain points and author-suggested areas of improvement



- 1 Time to publication
- 2 Peer review process/quality
- 3 Fairness/objectivity/bias
- 4 Affordability (costs/charges)
- 5 Pressure to publish
- 6 Process standardization

$n = 3712$

Key takeaway... There's a lot that's broken!

Let's begin by fixing the basics!

1. Understand author perspectives
2. Reduce time to publication
3. Increase transparency in peer review
4. Eliminate bias
5. Communicate effectively with authors
6. Create new opportunities for young researchers
7. Offer learning resources on good publication practices



Get involved!

Participate in the Editage Insights survey and share it with your authors!



<https://www.editage.com/survey-author-perspectives-on-academic-publishing>

ISMTE 2018 Asian-Pacific Conference

The International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE)
Singapore (March 27-28, 2018)

2018 Asian-Pacific Conference
27 - 28 March
Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay



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<http://www.ismte.org/page/2018AsianConference>

I look forward to seeing you there!

Question period / Open discussion



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