

The impact of open access on authors: *Nucleic Acids Research*

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History of *NAR*'s open access experiment

- 2004: Database & Web Server issues 'author-pays' open access
- 2004 survey:
 - >1000 responses; ~14% response rate
 - 63% would *support* full open access model
 - 54% would *prefer* full open access model
 - 22% would *prefer* optional open access model
- 2005: Launch of full open access model
- 2006 survey



Author charges:

Year	Non-member	Member
2005	£900 / \$1500	£300 / \$500
2006	£1000 / \$1900 / €1500	£500 / \$950 / €750

Plus:

- Special rates/waivers (£0–350) for developing countries
- Waiver requests considered from those in financial hardship.
- No charge for commissioned Survey and Summary papers
- Editorial board members – free print or one free publication per year.



NAR author open access payments 2005/2006

Period	% Requesting waiver	% Paying appropriate charge	% Accessing member form	% Accessing non-member form
2005	~8% (inc. 3% funded by JISC)	92%	71%	29%
2006 projection*	Est. 15%	Est. 85%	Est. 20%	Est. 80%

Notes:

~1200 papers accepted per year (~90% form completion rate in 2005; authors who do not complete form after chasing several times and ultimately invoiced at full rate)

*Estimates as at present ~20% open access forms not yet completed by authors.



2006 *NAR* survey: Methodology

- Survey sent to *NAR*'s online submission/peer review database
- 13,396 emails sent, containing link to online survey
- Survey 'open' online for approx. 1 month
- 1144 respondents completed survey (~9% response rate)



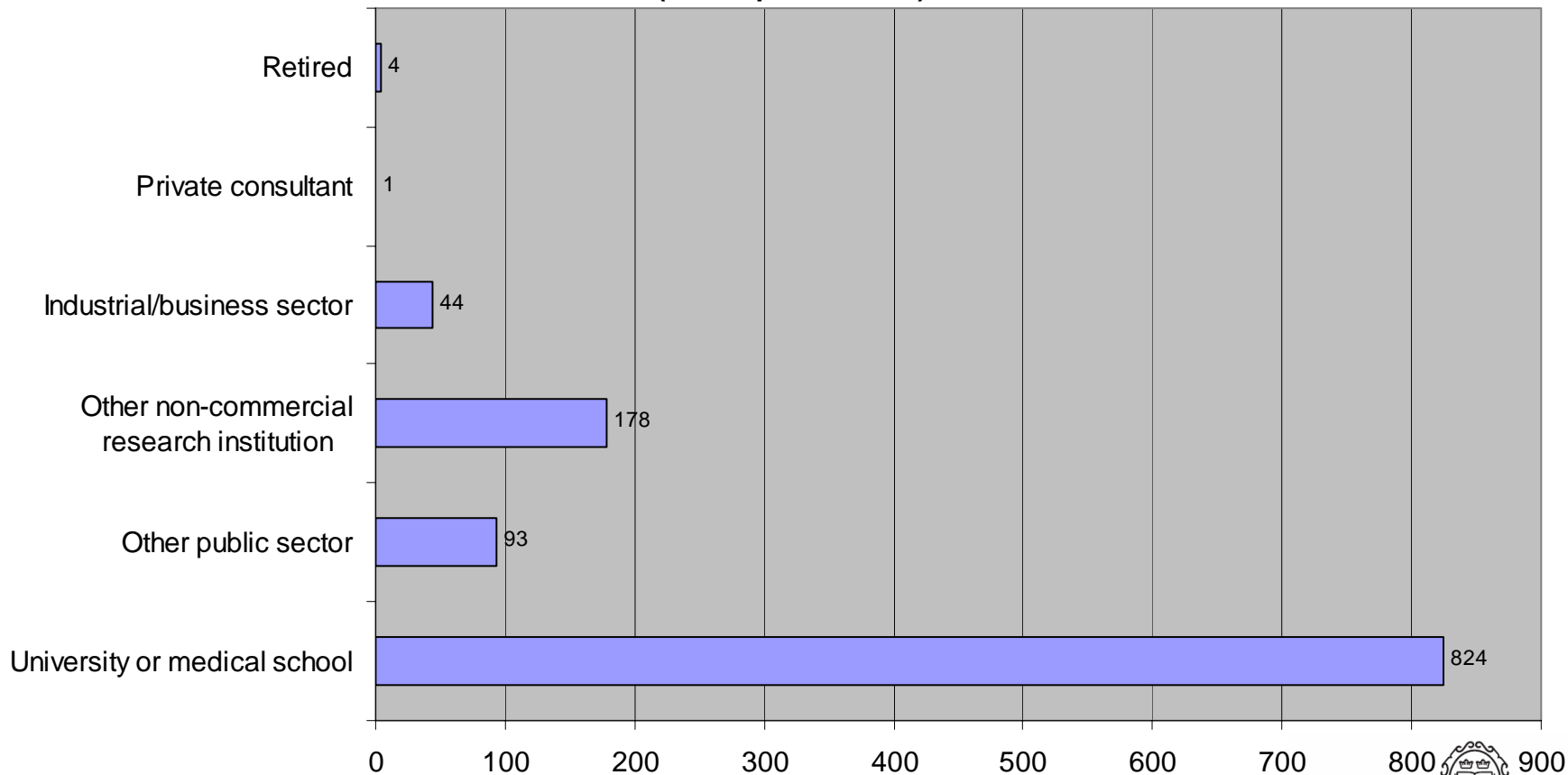
2006 *NAR* survey: Overview

- Demographics
- Frequency of publication in *NAR*
- Reasons for publishing and author satisfaction
- Payment of open access charges
- Position of author's institution and funding agency
- Self-archiving behaviour
- [Reader behaviour]



2006 NAR survey: Demographics

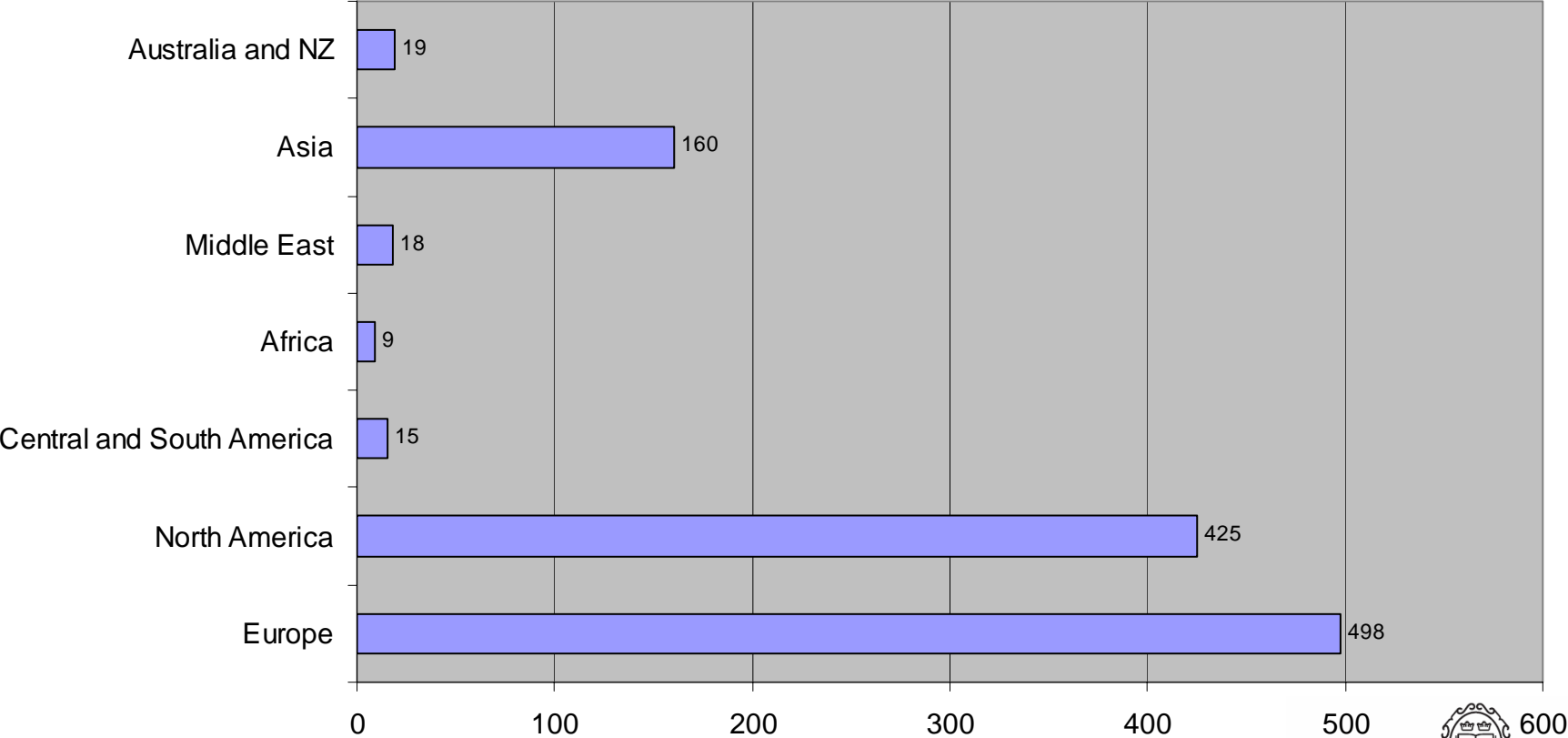
Survey respondents by sector (Q1)
(full respondent set)



2006 NAR survey: Demographics

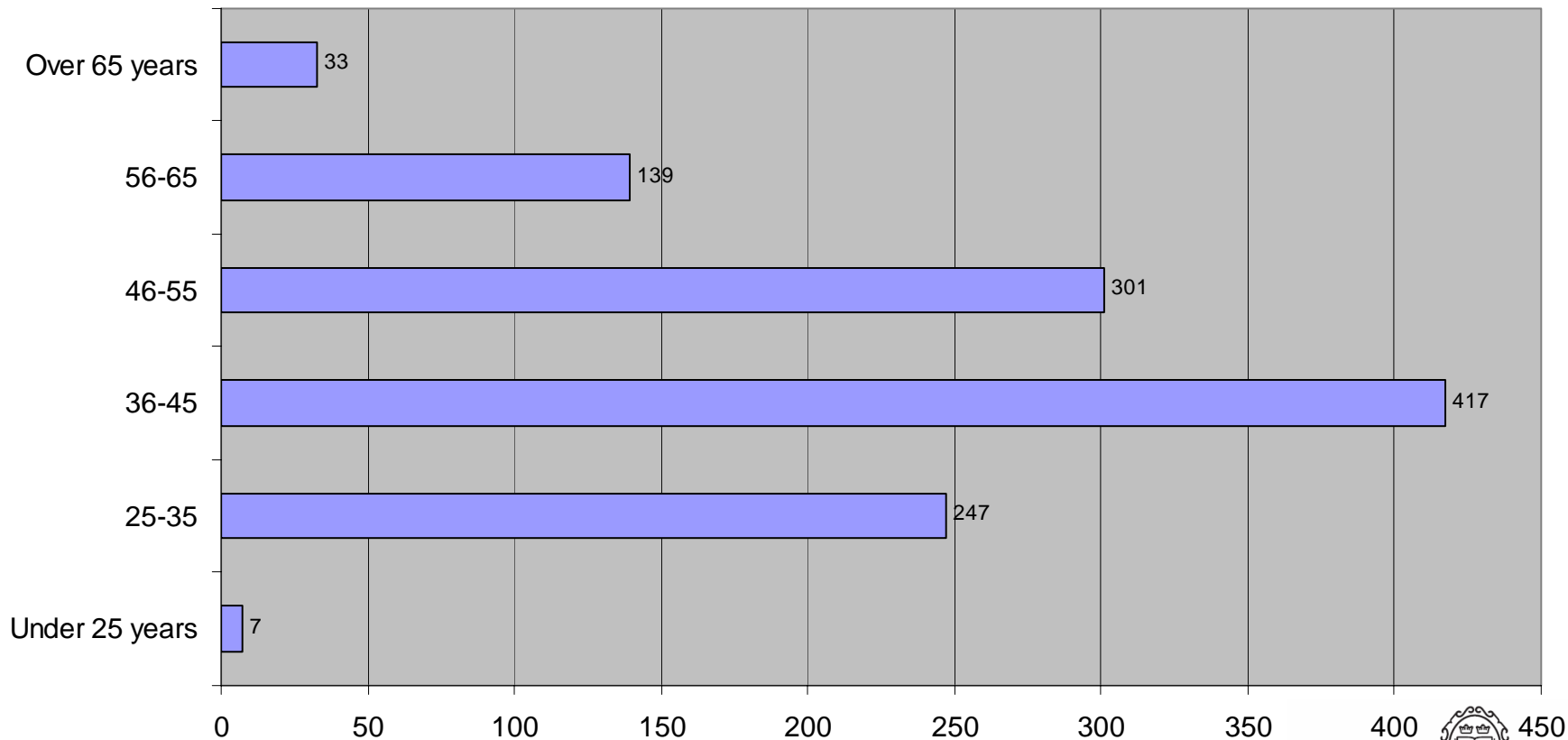


Survey respondents by broad geographic region (Q2)
(full respondent set)



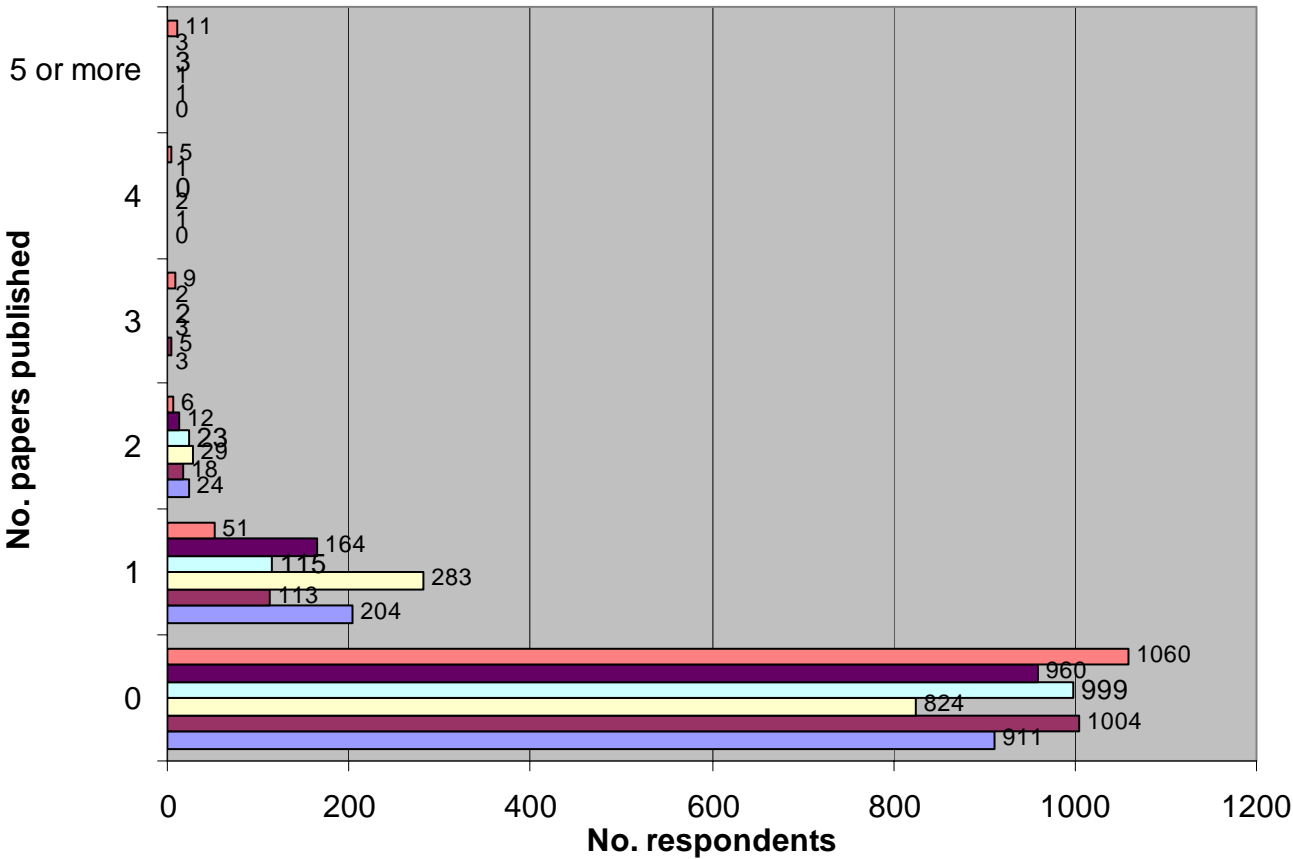
2006 NAR survey: Demographics

Survey respondents by age (Q4)
(full respondent set)



2006 NAR survey: Frequency of publication in NAR

Frequency of publication in NAR(Q5)
(full respondent set)

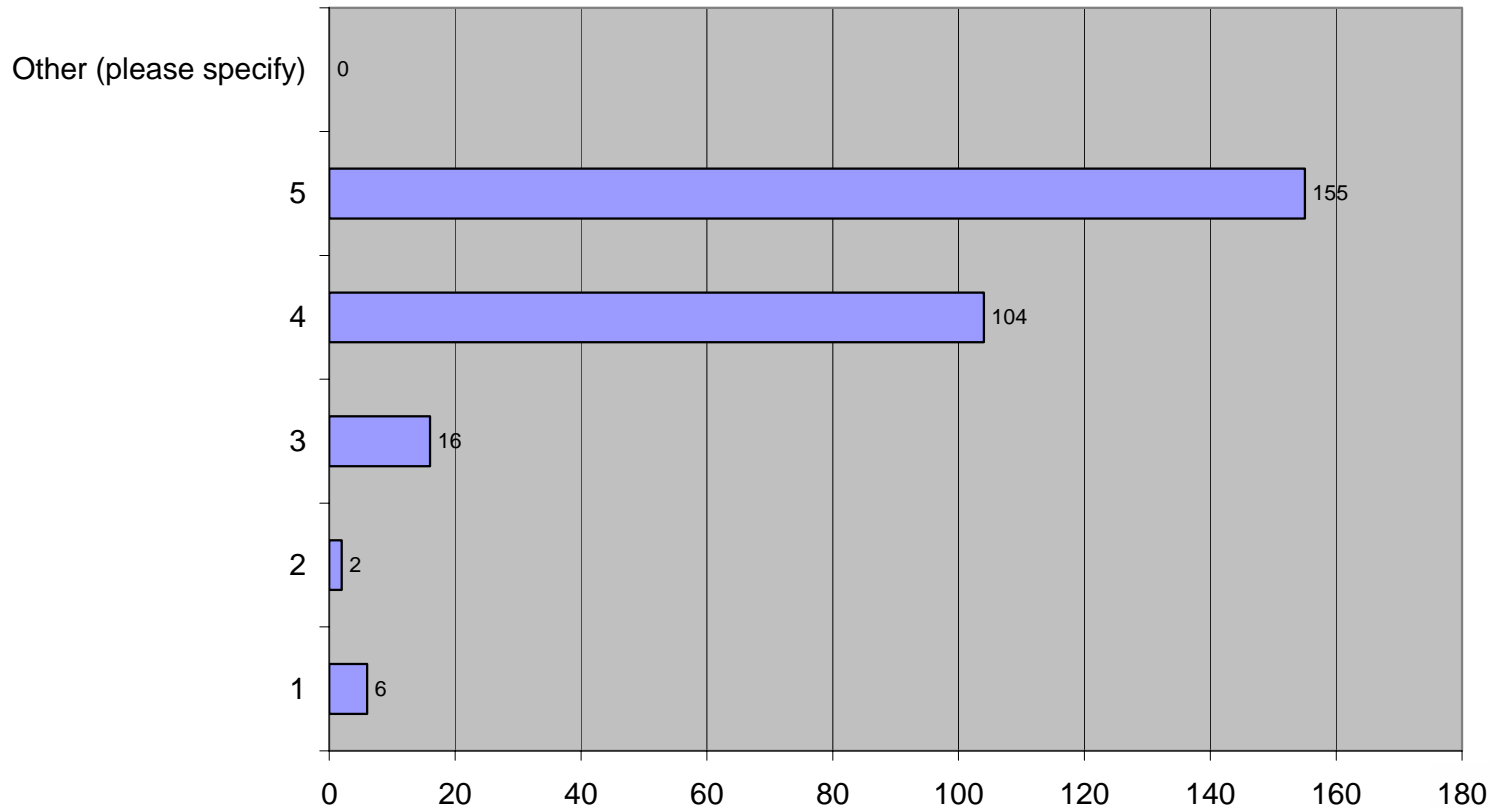


- 2006 ytd As a co-author
- 2006 ytd As main/corresponding author
- 2005 As a co-author
- 2005 As main/corresponding author
- 2004 As a co-author
- 2004 As main/corresponding author



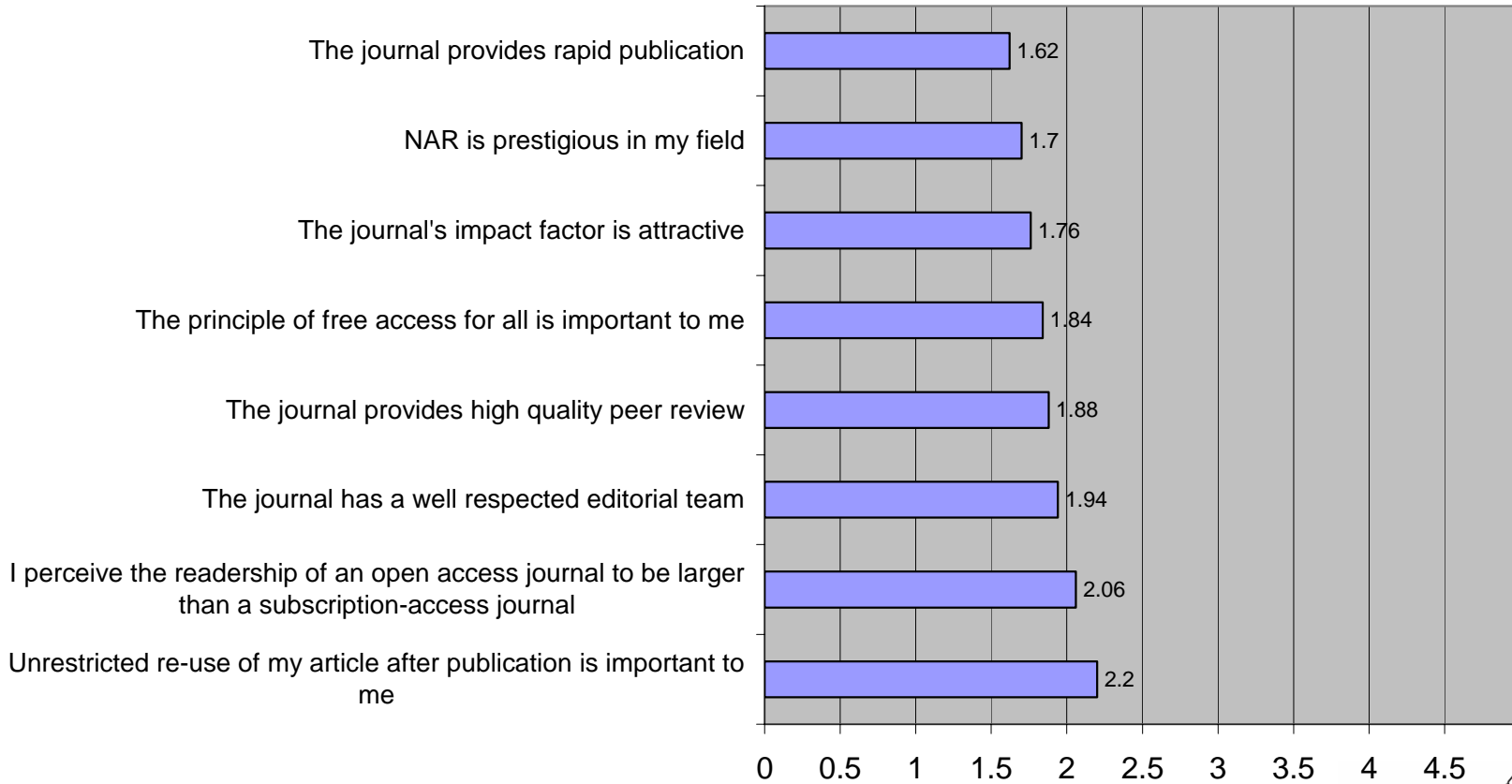
2006 NAR survey: Author satisfaction with NAR

Author satisfaction with NAR publishing experience (Q6)
(5 = very satisfied; 1 = not satisfied)
(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 NAR survey: Author perceptions of NAR

Author perceptions of NAR (Q8) Mean score (1 = strongly agree) (respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 *NAR* survey: Reasons for publishing in *NAR*

Would you have published your paper(s) in *NAR* if it had not offered open access? (Q9)

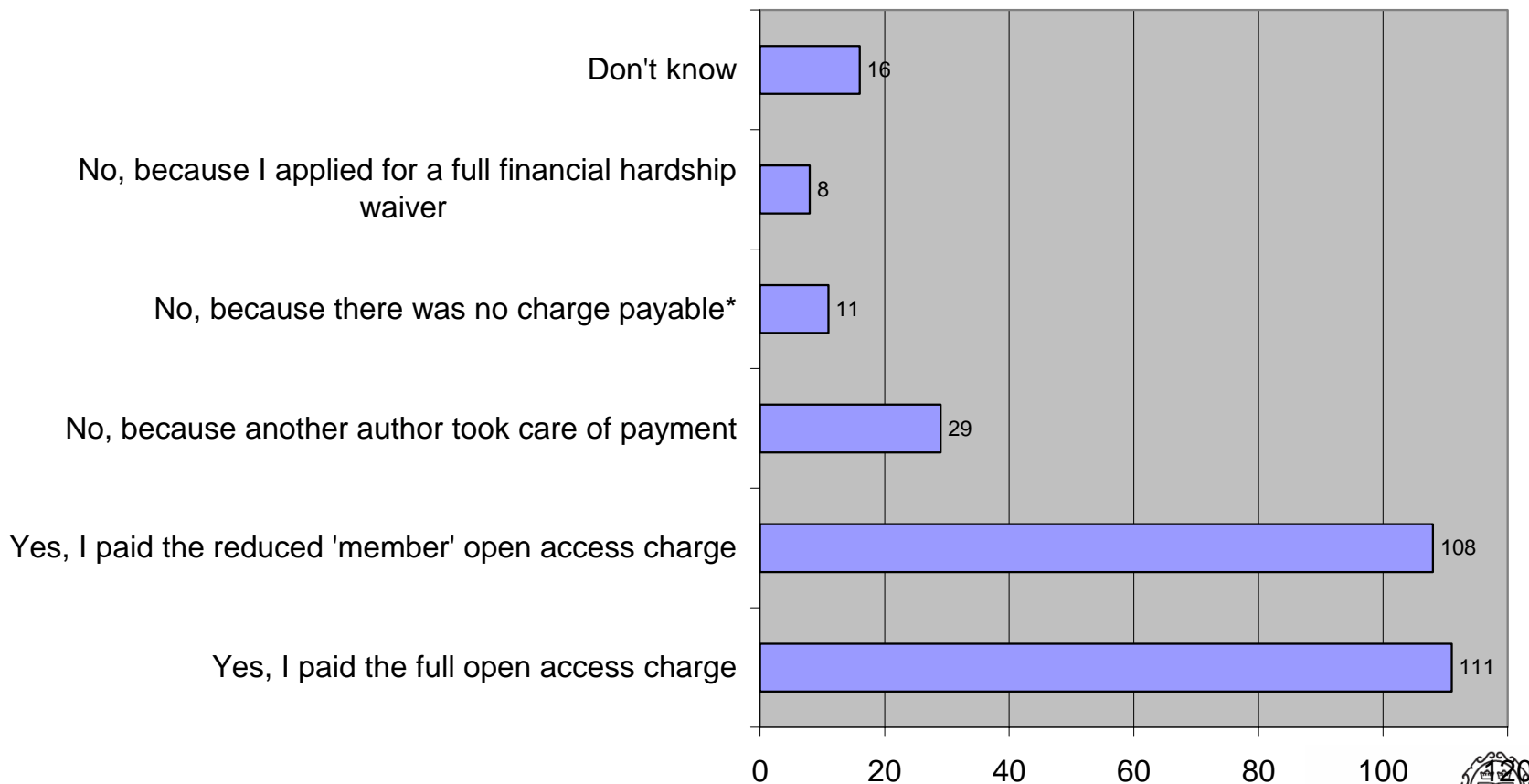
	Response %
Yes	79%
No	7%
Don't know	14%

(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 NAR survey: Payment of open access charges

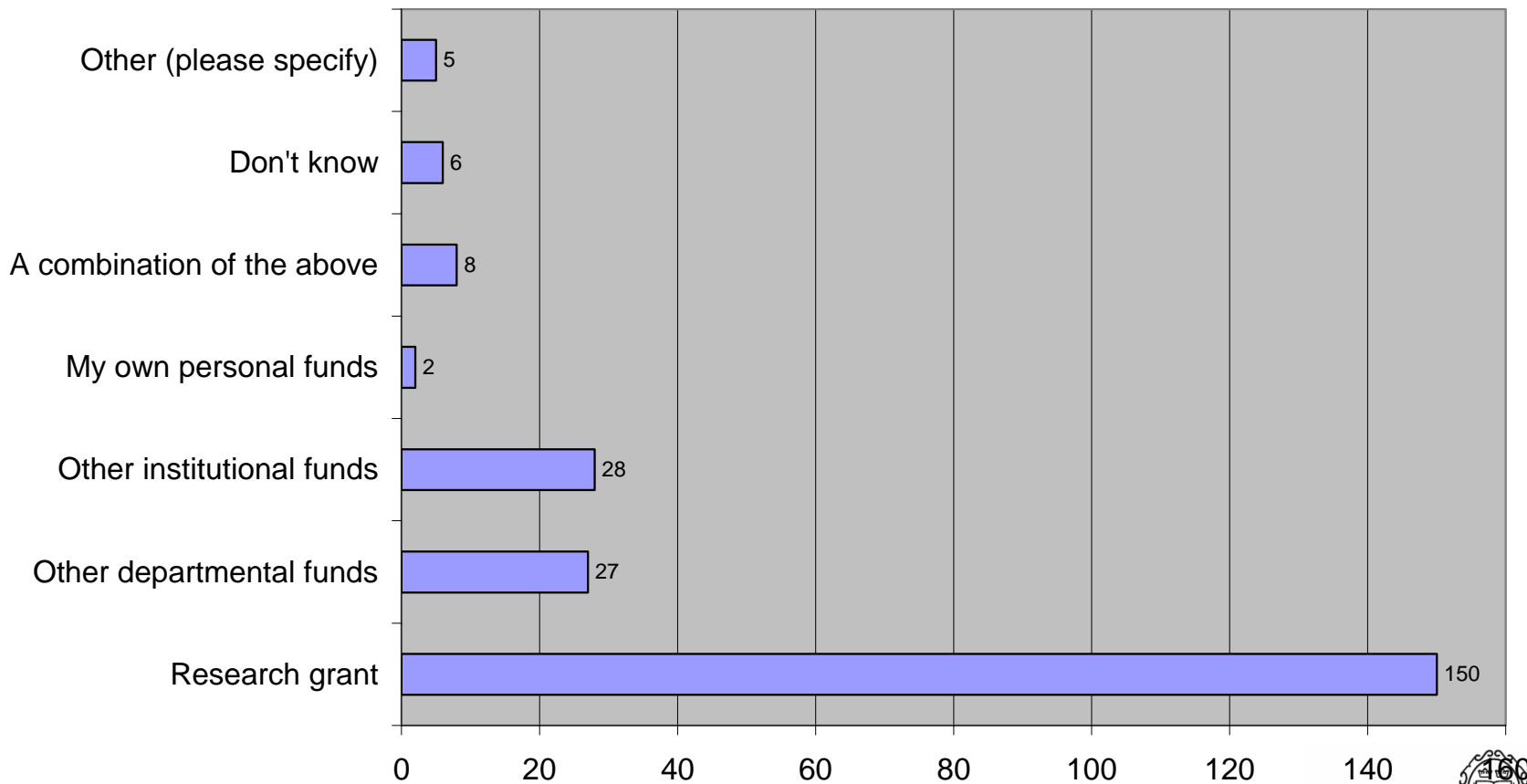
Did respondent pay the open access charge for their last NAR paper? (Q10)
(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



*Due to full subsidy by JISC in 2005, developing country rate, commissioned review paper waiver, or editorial board waiver.

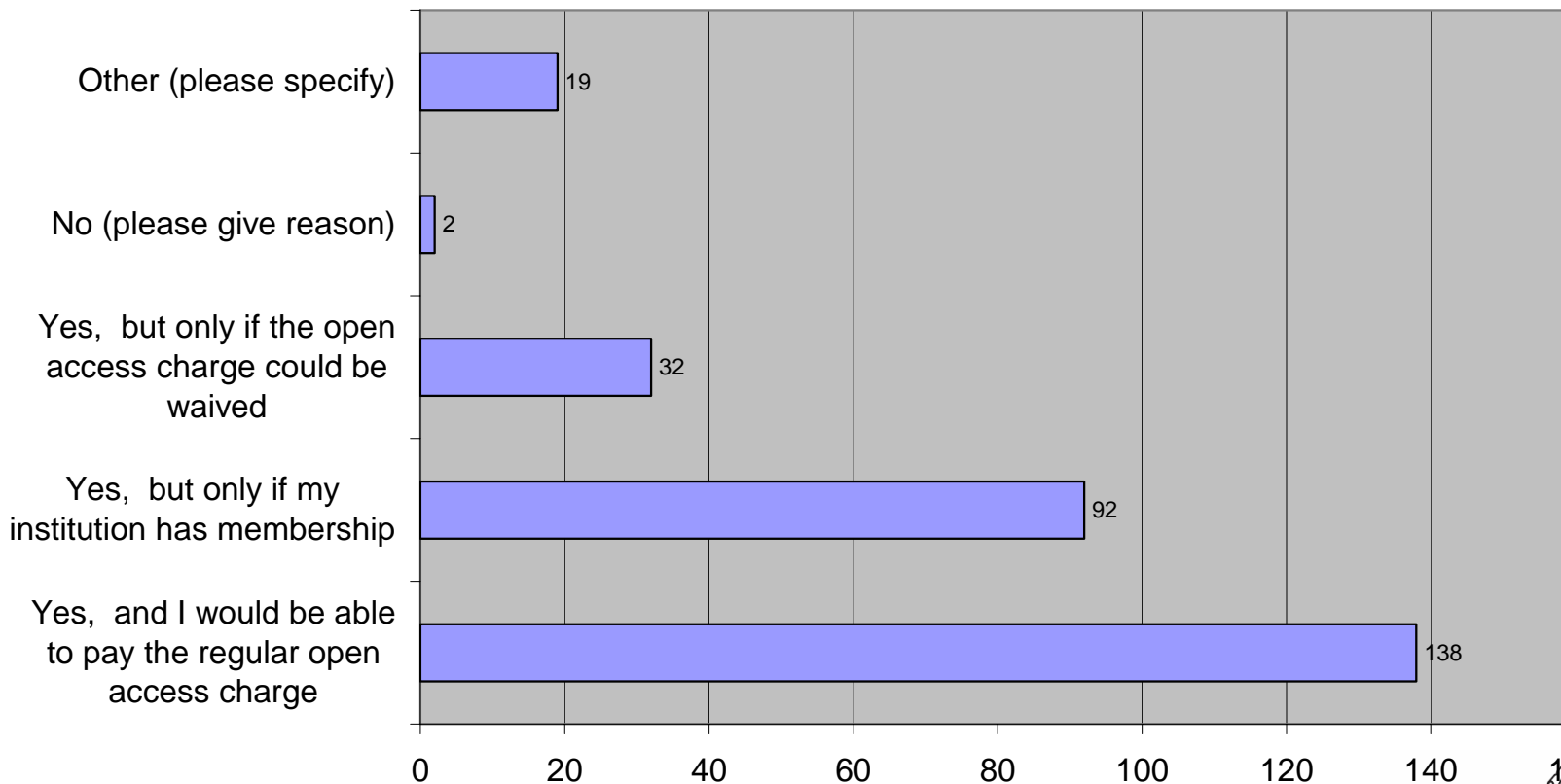
2006 NAR survey: Payment of open access charges

Source of funding used by respondent to pay open access charge (Q11)
(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 NAR survey: Payment of open access charges

Future behaviour: will respondent consider publishing again in NAR in 2006? (Q14) (respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 *NAR* survey: Payment of open access charges

Will you consider publishing an appropriate paper in *NAR* in 2006? (Q14)

“Definitely YES and will pay the open access charges depending on the available grant”

“Yes, but I worry about my current institution's ability/willingness to pay nearly \$2000. That is a lot of money for a small public institution to pay for one publication.”

“No, because our institution has cancelled its membership with *NAR* this year and I failed to convince them. I can't afford \$1900 per paper. I would rather publish it in other open access journals who do not charge or charge a reasonable amount like \$500.”

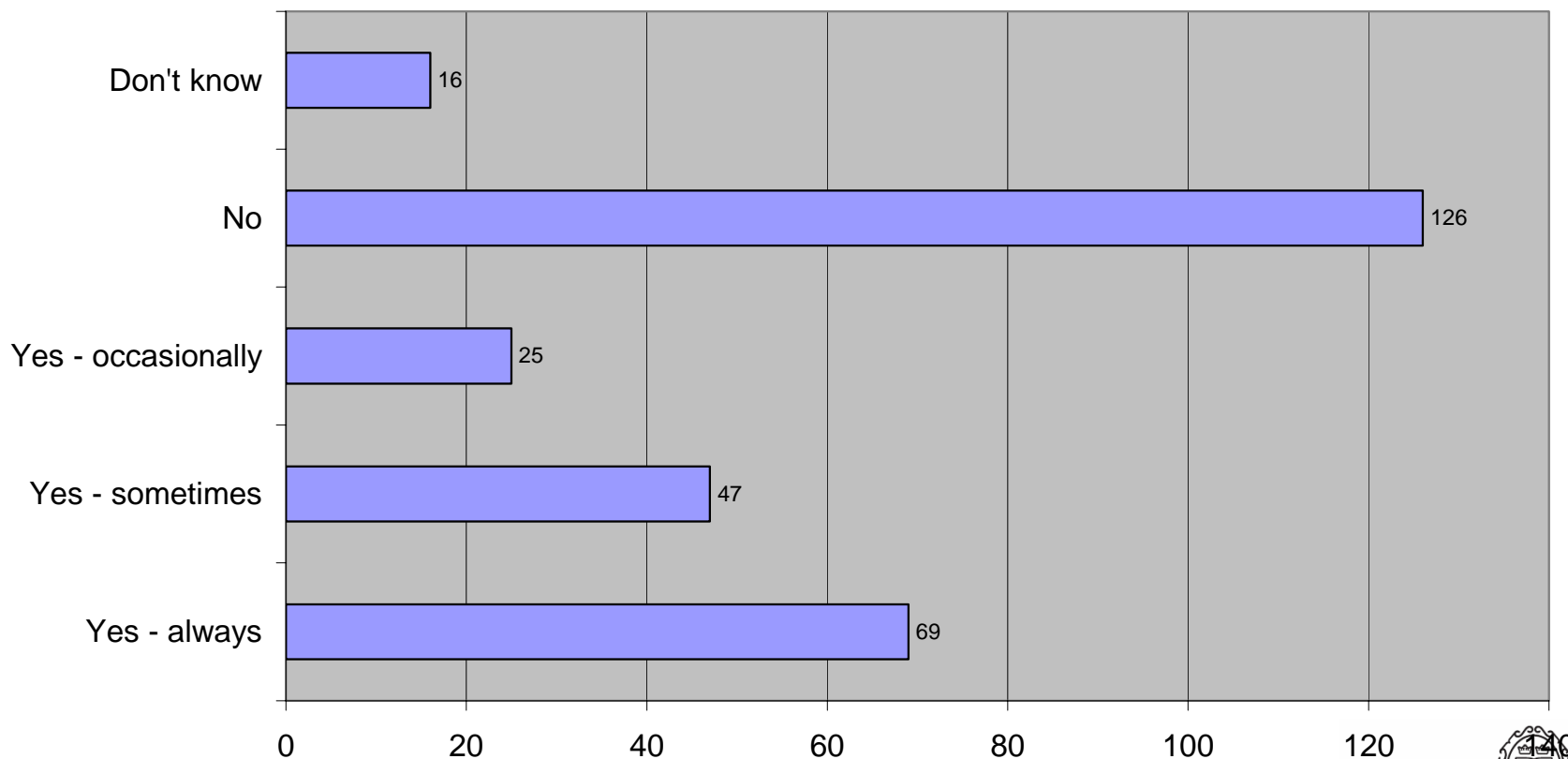
“The price of the publication is really a problem, since there are other journals, of the same quality and impact, which offer free publication.”



2006 NAR survey: Position of author's institution

Does the respondent's institution make funds available for publication charges? (Q15)

(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



Does your institution encourage you to publish your work under an open access model? (Q16)

	Response %
Yes	22%
No	37%
Don't know	40%

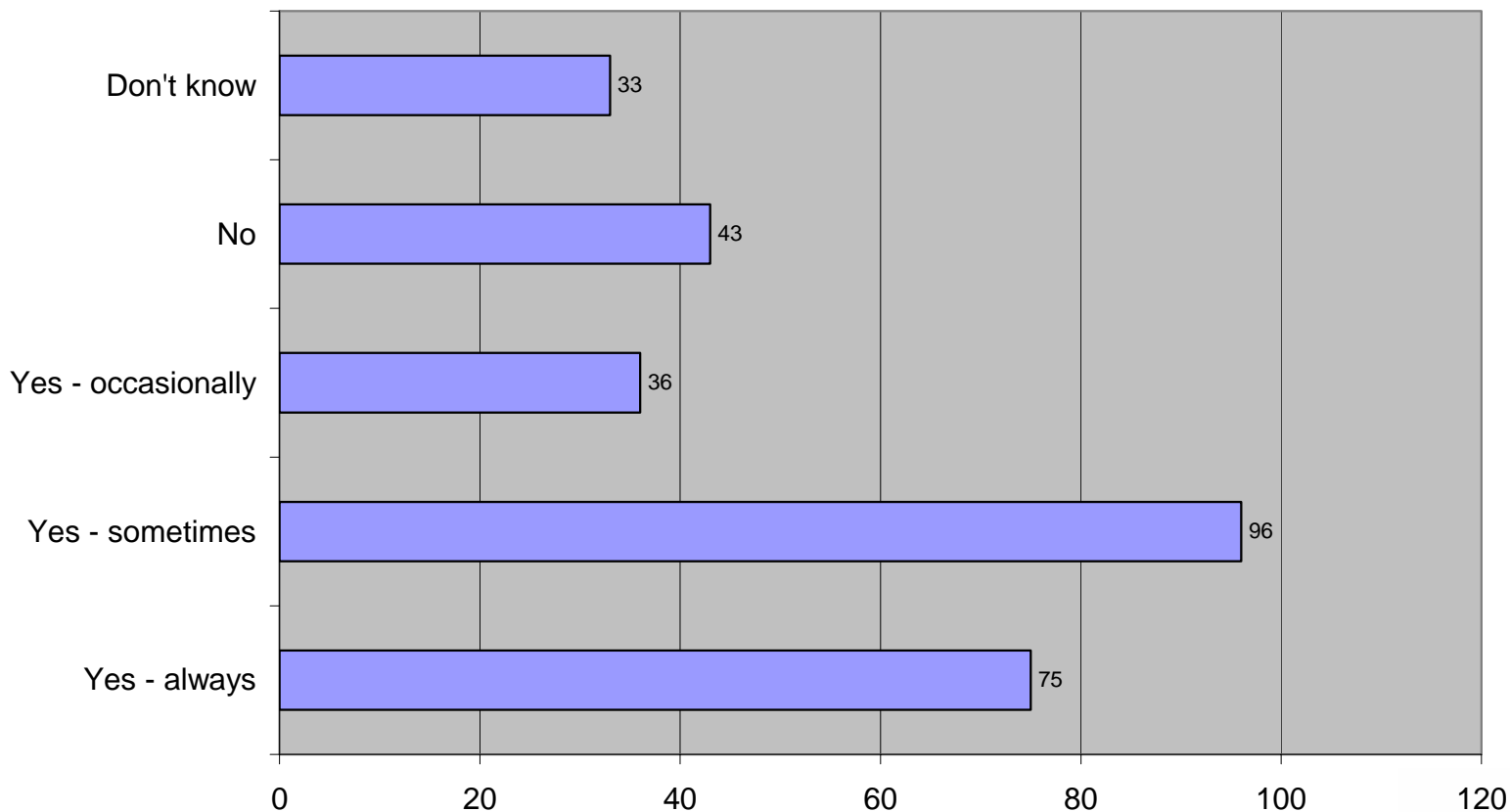
(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 NAR survey: Position of author's funding agency

Does the respondent's research grant provide funds for publication charges? (Q18)

(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



2006 NAR survey: Position of author's funding agency

If publication funds are available in your grant, what are they for?
(*tick all that apply*) (Q19)

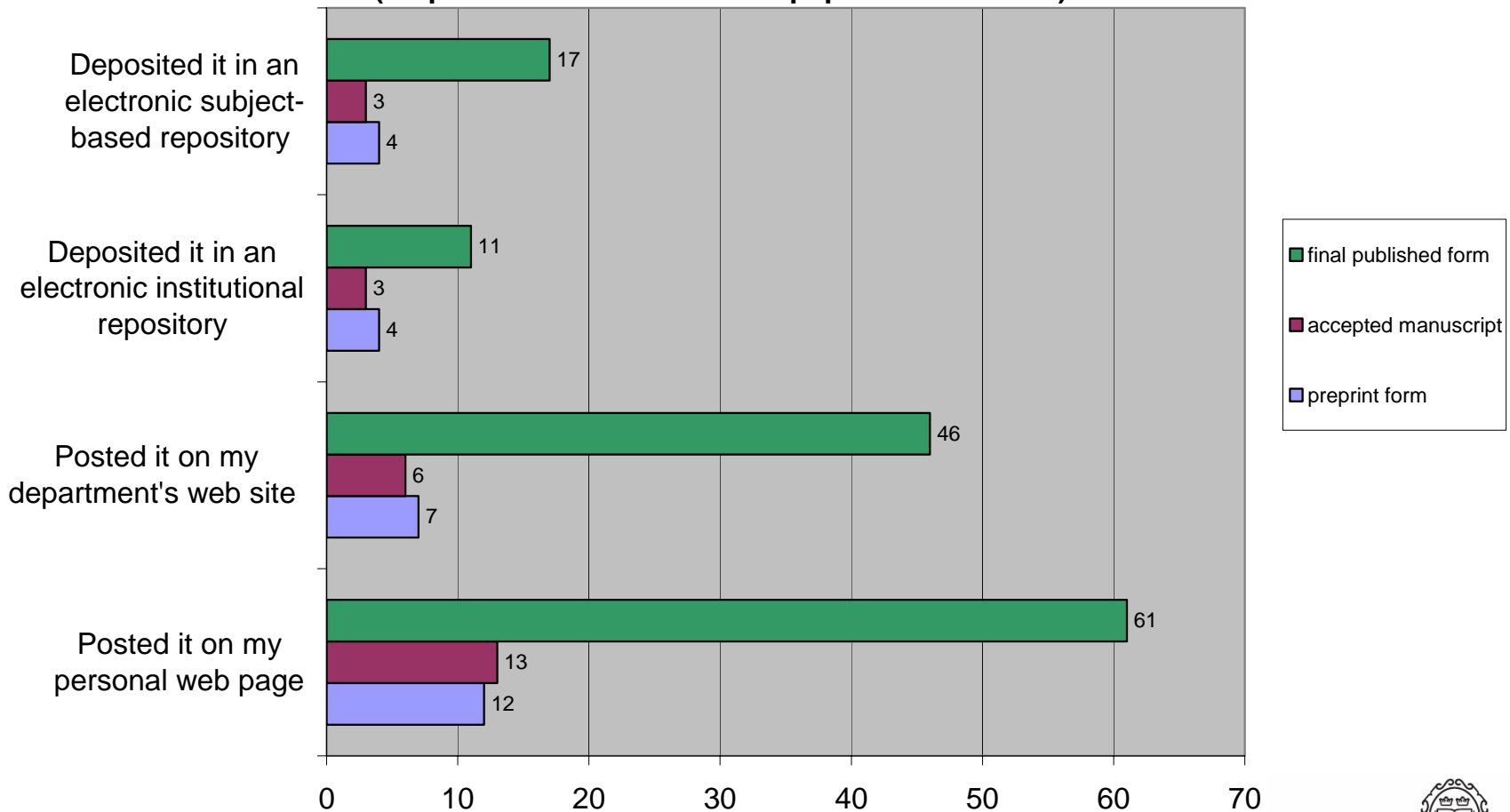
	Response %
Specifically for open access charges	4%
For unspecified 'publication costs'	61%
For misc. costs, which can include publication costs	41%
Don't know	6%

(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author; $n=205$)



2006 NAR survey: Self-archiving behaviour

Author self-archiving behaviour (Q20)
(respondent subset – 2005: 1 paper: main author)



n=111



Why do you access *NAR* through PubMed Central? (Q26)

“I search for articles via Pubmed and specifically click ~30% of the time on the Pubmed Central link and 70% of the time on the journal link in order to support both sites.”

“Sometimes I search within PubMed Central because my goal is to find only accessible articles.”

“Because of higher speed of access and downloads. Actually I have not compared PubMed Central and *NAR* Online, but in the most cases, publisher's sites are slower than PubMed Central.”

“When I do a search through Google.”

“For older volumes not [freely] available on the main site.”





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THANK YOU