OA Diamond

Universities investing in the future of scholar-led publishing

Universities and the promises of scholar-led publishing
EUA Webinar, 25 May 2021

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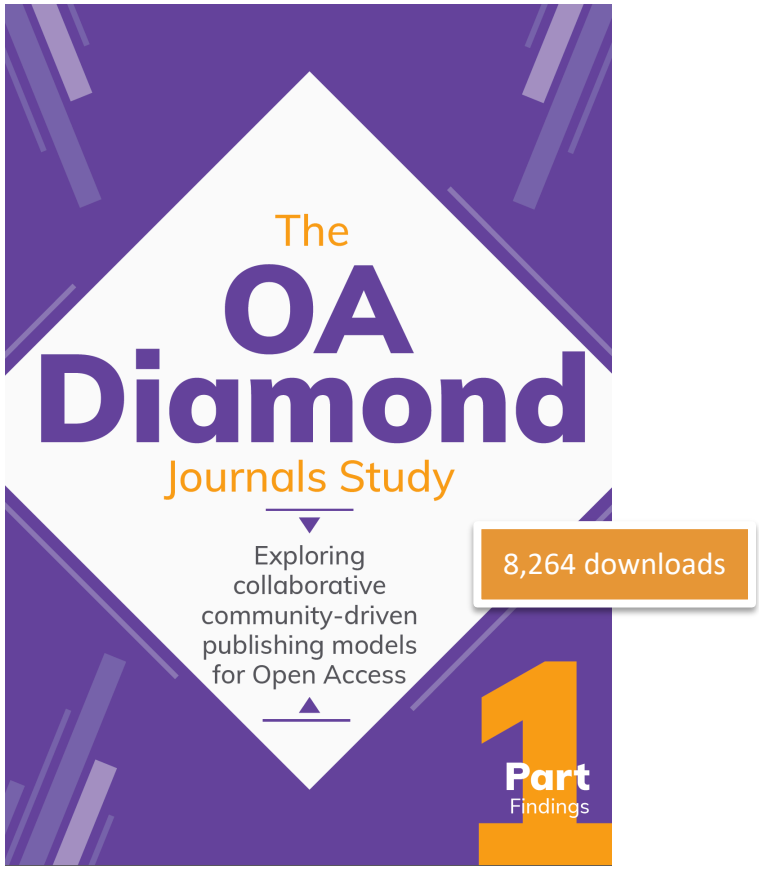
We need a thriving, equitable,
connected, innovative and
scholar-led publishing ecosystem

The Diamond OA Study

- Funded by Science Europe for cOAlition S
- Led by OPERAS
- Results published in early 2021
- *Thank you to my colleagues for some of today's slides*

OA diamond study

FINDINGS
https://zenodo.org/record/4558704



RECOMMENDATIONS
https://zenodo.org/record/4562790

Universities and the promises of scholar-led publishing, May 2021

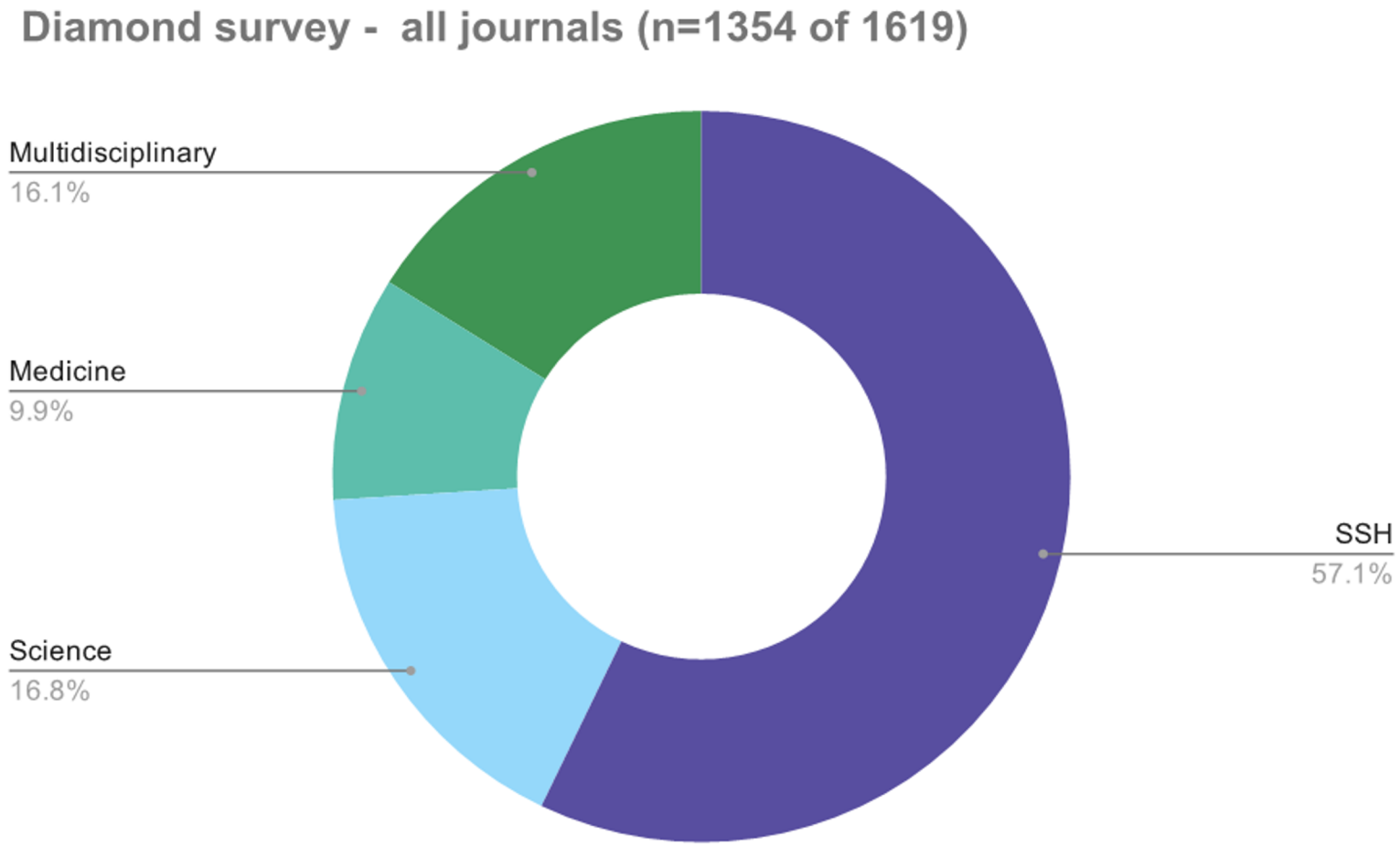
Landscape

In summary: we have a wide archipelago of relatively small journals serving diverse communities in numerous languages

ca. 29,000 worldwide

- Readership mainly outside journal's country
- OA diamond: 356k articles vs 453k APC-based
- 38% more multilingual than APC-based
- Respondents: F, ES, I, BR, USA, HR, UK, CO, P, DE

Demographics - disciplines



Who owns the journal?

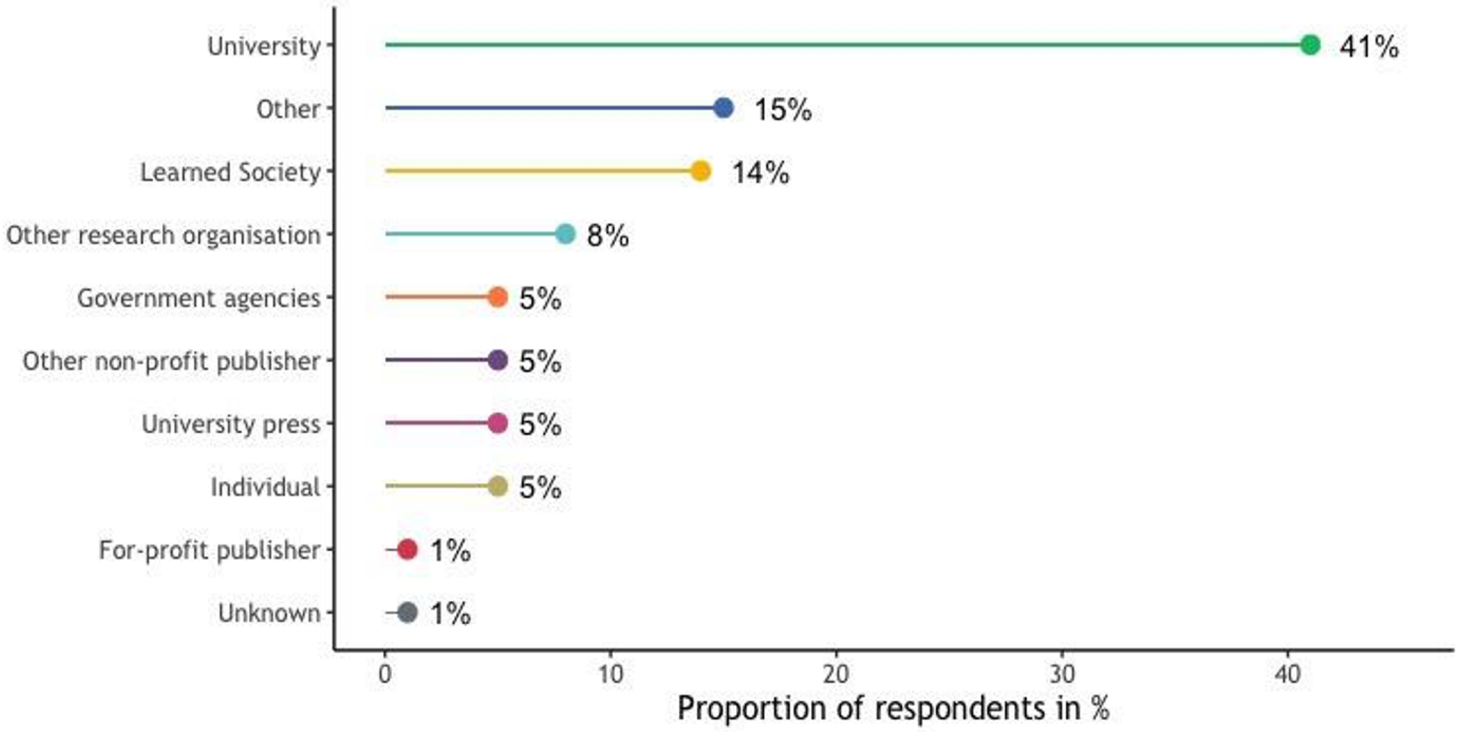


Figure 1. Who owns the journal in the survey? (Q34)

Do you consider moving away from it?

Almost all OA diamond since going online

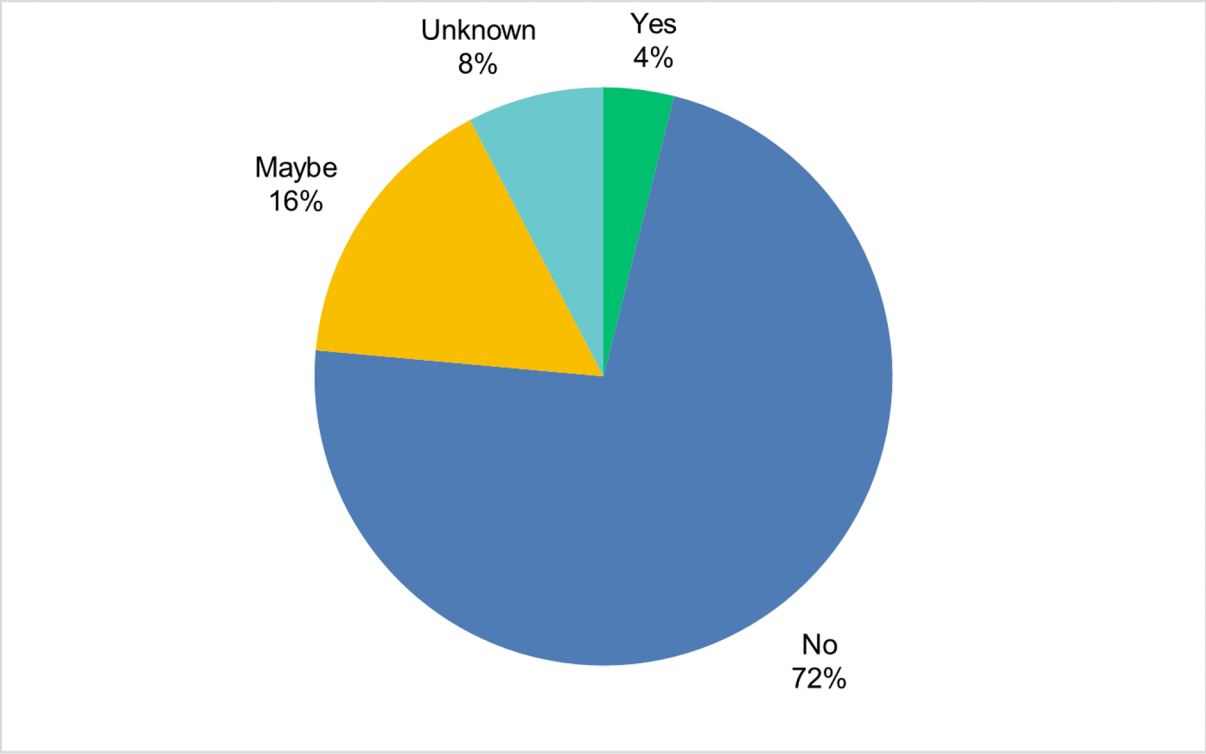


Figure 19. Journals that consider moving away from the OA diamond model (n=1,426); survey Q76

Challenges with operations

- For many ….
  - Strong dependence on **volunteers: 60/87%**
  - Lack of **coordination** and **shared services**:
    - E.g. Use similar software: run on range platforms
  - **Indexation** the biggest challenges
  - Lack of **preservation** facilities
- For some ….
  - **Peer review** processes
  - Lack of **anti-plagiarism software**

A few recommendations

- Institutions and societies develop more partnerships:
  Federate and collaboration; not centralisation
- Build technical, editorial and admin capacity
- Use and develop more shared services

- Reflect on role of volunteers, and reward

Annual costs

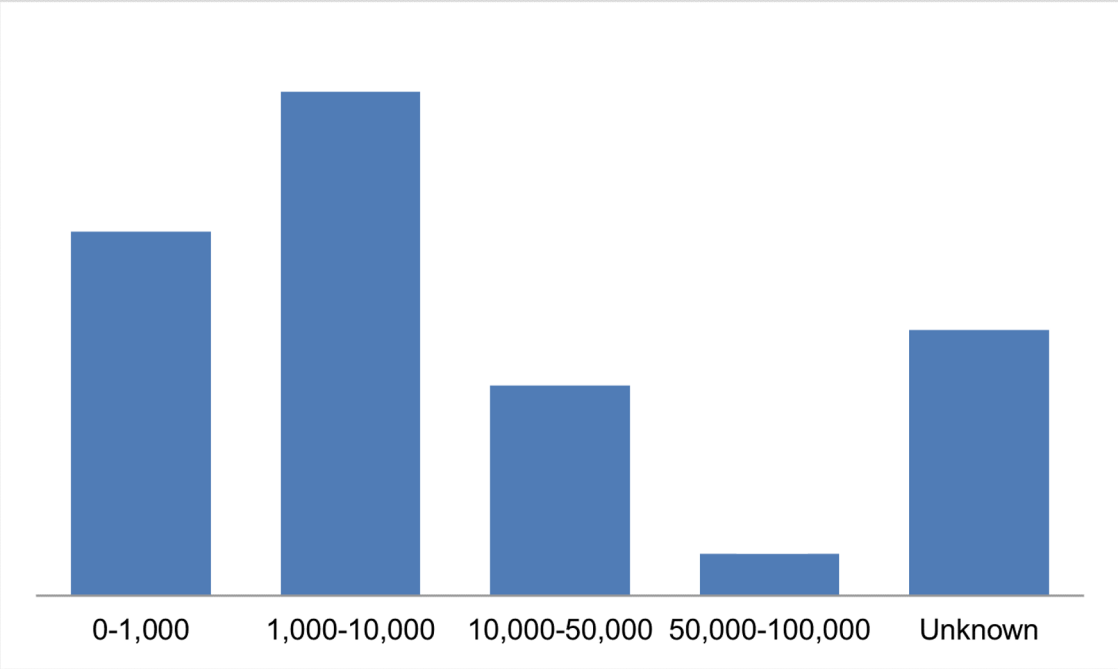


Figure 1. Previous year annual costs (US$/€) of journals, (n=1,370); survey Q66

Size of paid staff

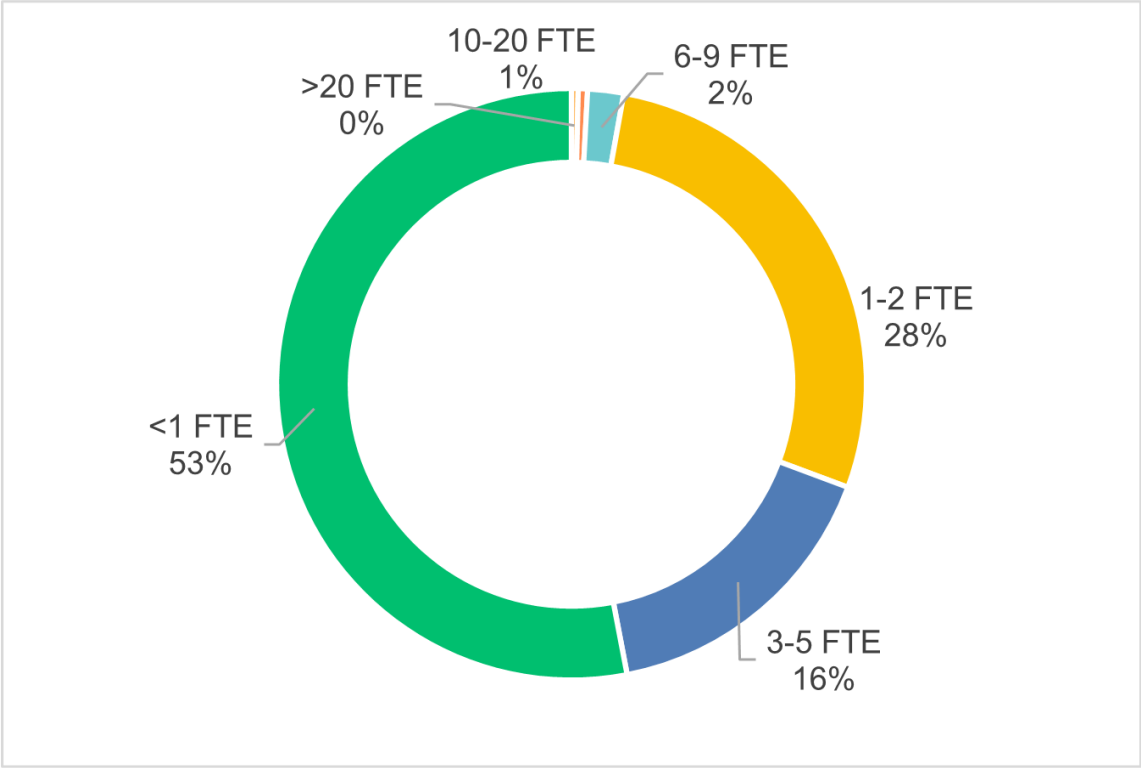


Figure 8. Size of paid staff for journal editing and operational work (n=1373); survey Q67

Financial status

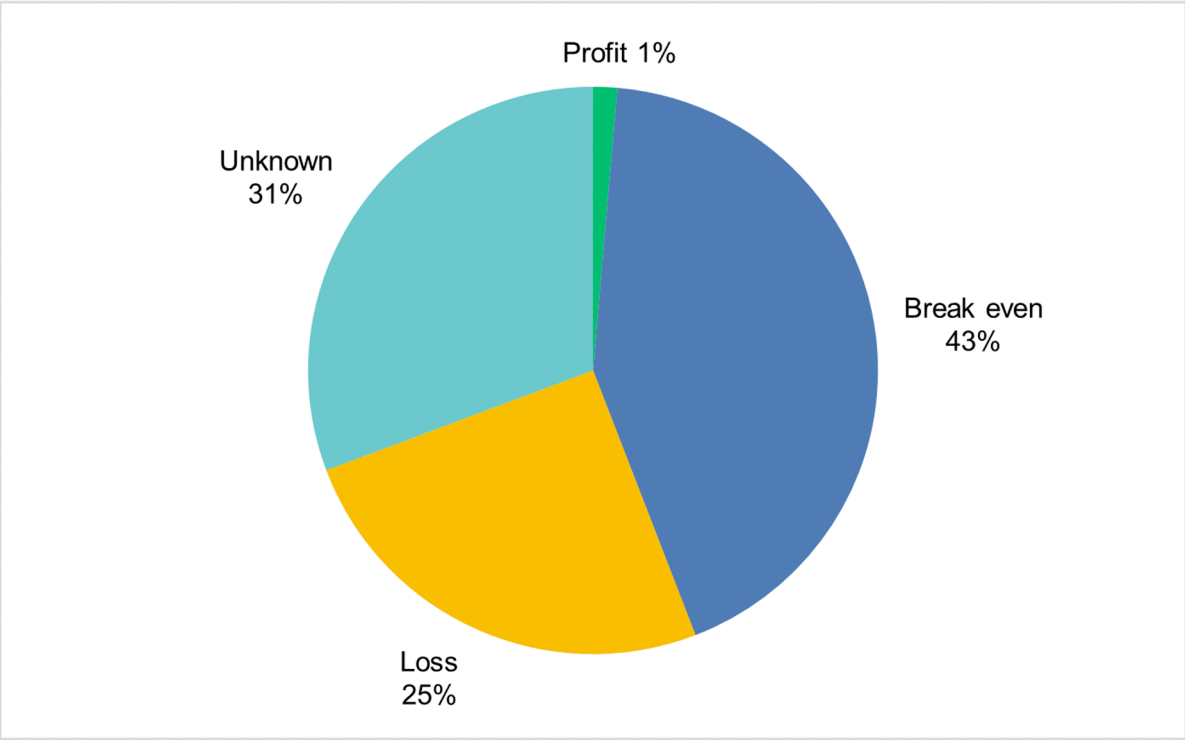


Figure 17. Current financial status of the journal (n=1,393); survey Q73

Collaborate on a funding strategy

- Collaborate on **national** and **international** funding **strategies** for the next 5 years
- **Operations** *and* **development**

- Agreeing on **funding principles** and **selection criteria** based on a range of goals and priorities
- Sharing lessons and ideas on **how to fund** what, and beyond grants

Consistently fund operations

- **Continue to fund journal and infra operations**, but more **consistently**
- Following a **funding strategy** to avoid the ad hoc funding of the good willing
- For shared services and infrastructure

Invest in the future

- Helping journals
  - **meet industry standards**
  - increasing the **visibility** and **tech quality** of OA diamond
  - **develop shared services or infra** that benefit ***many***

APC vs diamond journal articles

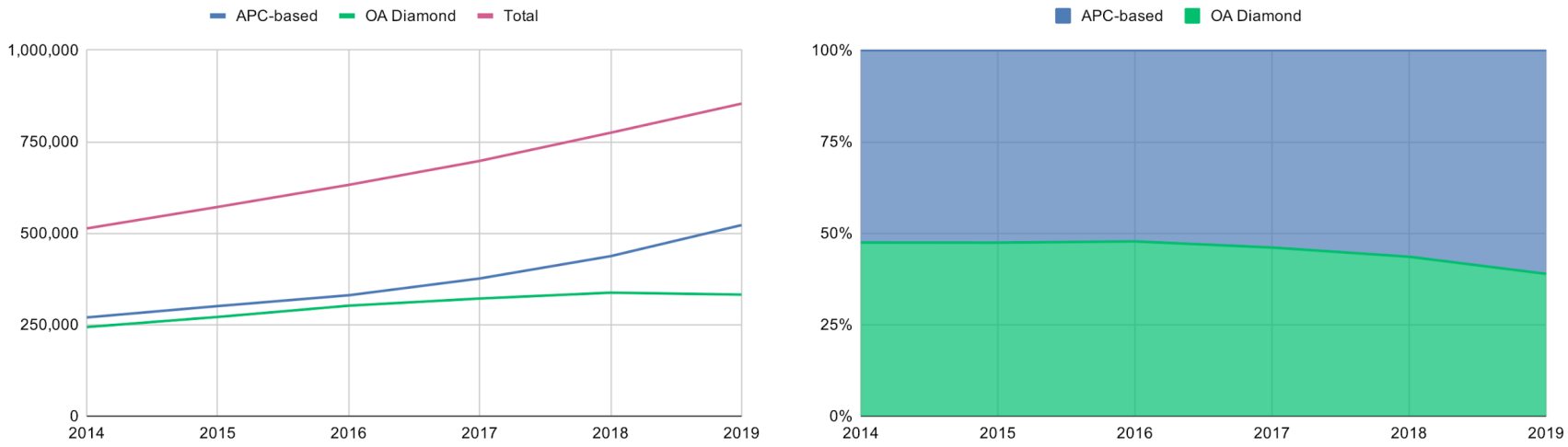


Figure 10. DOAJ article numbers from 2014-2019 by open access model, absolute (left) and as shares of DOAJ total (right). Source: GOA(5)

The ASK: To sustain and increase support for a healthier and thriving, connected, innovative and scholar-led publishing ecosystem