

Practical challenges in data sharing: a global survey of researchers

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Abstract:

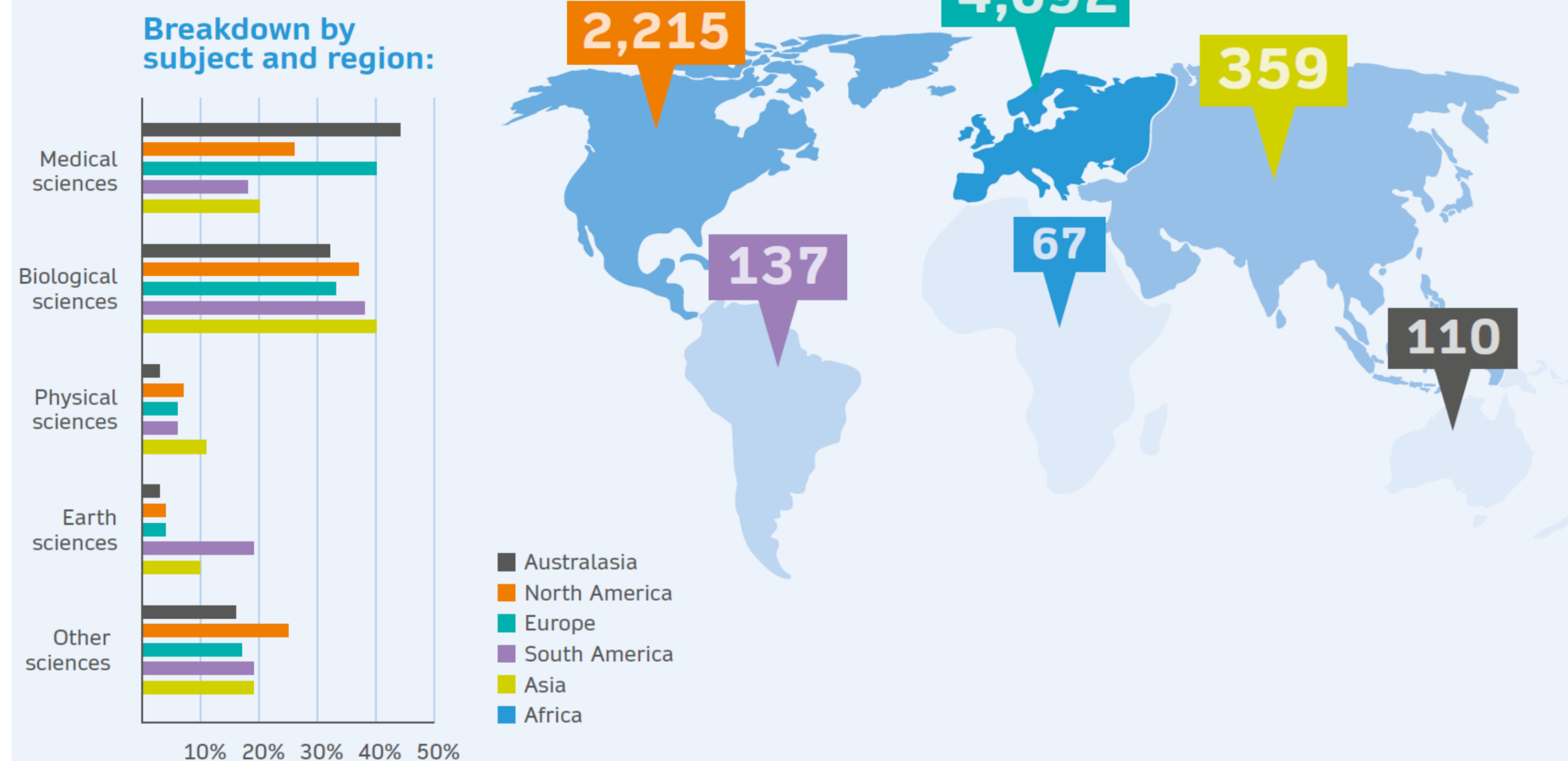
In one of the largest surveys of researchers about research data, we found widespread data sharing associated with published works, as well as a desire from researchers that their data be discoverable. The survey confirmed and extended recent findings on general data sharing attitudes and behaviour, including those published in the 2017 The State of Open Data Report from Digital Science, to which Springer Nature contributed. The research presented in this poster (and the corresponding whitepaper) also reinforces previous findings on the challenges faced by researchers in sharing their data. The size of the results (with over 7,700 responses from researchers) allowed us to also explore these behaviours from regional and subject perspectives.

Related:

Access the full survey dataset (available through CC-BY 4.0): <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.5971387>

Access the whitepaper based on the results of this survey (available through CC-BY 4.0): <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.5975011>

Survey respondents

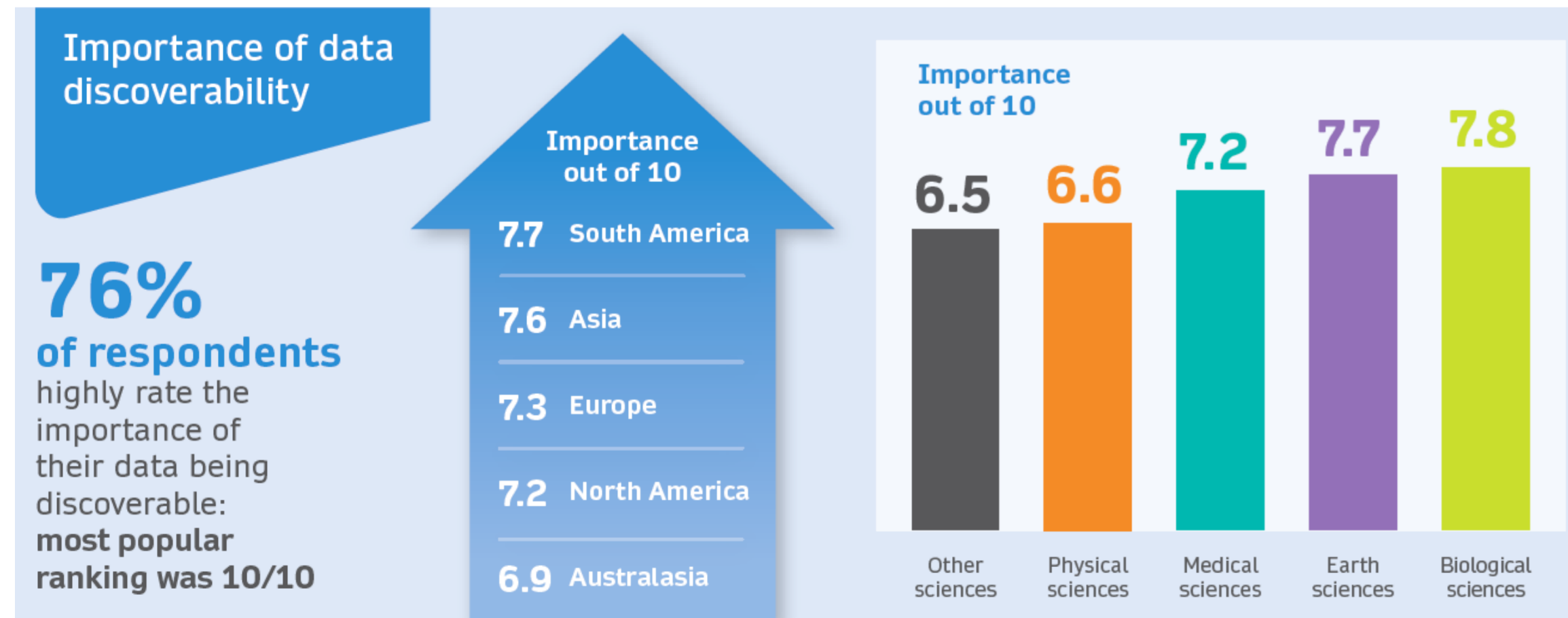
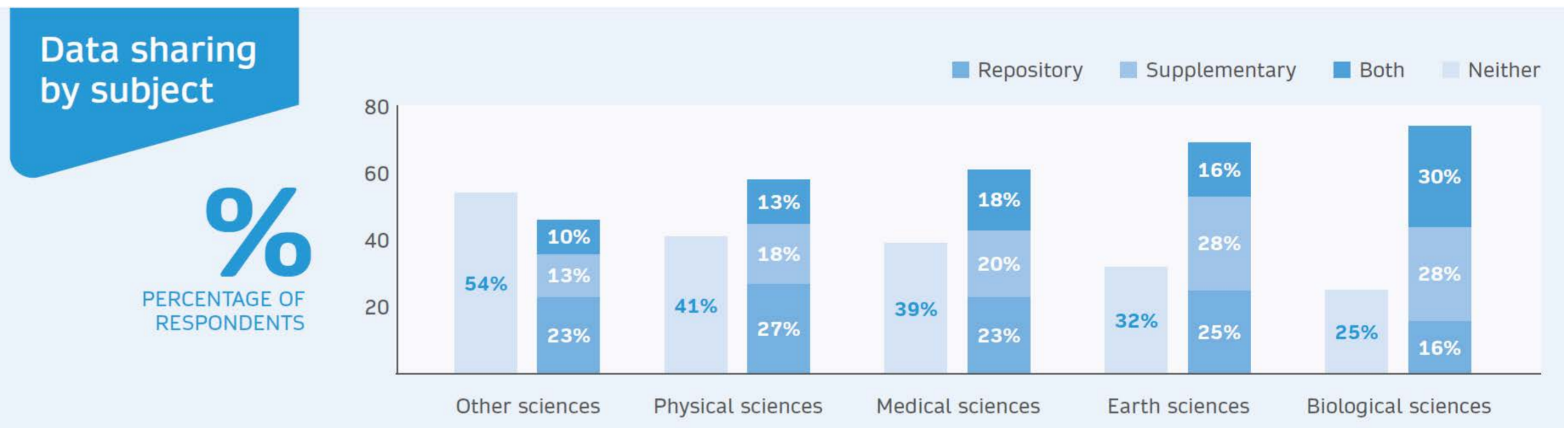


Main challenge to data sharing is organising data in a presentable and useful way

Almost half of all respondents (46%) said that **organising data** was a challenge, followed by **confusion around copyright** (37%) and **not knowing where to share data** (33%)

Small datasets are the least likely to be shared

Researchers that generated the smallest sized data files (<20MB; n = 2,036) had the **highest proportion of data** that were neither shared as supplementary information nor deposited in a repository (42%)



Majority of researchers share their data in some way

63% of respondents stated that they generally **submitted data files as supplementary information**, deposited the files in a **repository**, or both

What can be done to increase data sharing?

Improving education and support on good data management, particularly at early stages of researchers' careers

Creating faster, easier routes for sharing data - making data easily accessible and usable by researchers