

# Practical challenges for researchers in data sharing

Springer Nature have published the results of a survey of >7,700 researchers worldwide, looking at data sharing during publication



## 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%)

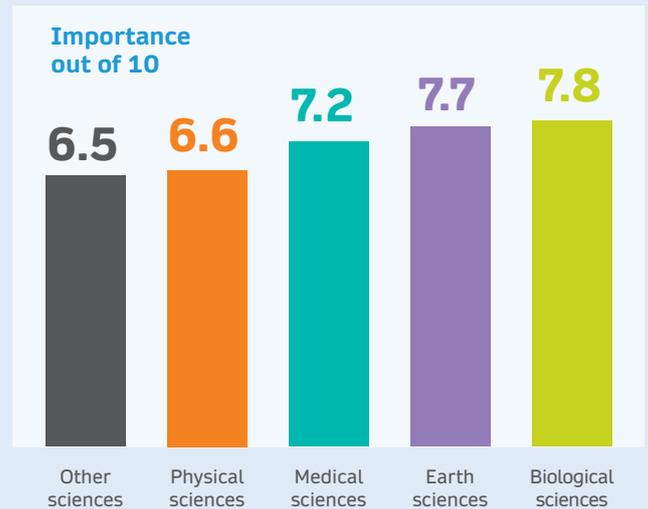


## Small datasets are the least likely to be shared

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%)

### Importance of data discoverability

**76%** of respondents highly rate the importance of their data being discoverable: **most popular ranking was 10/10**

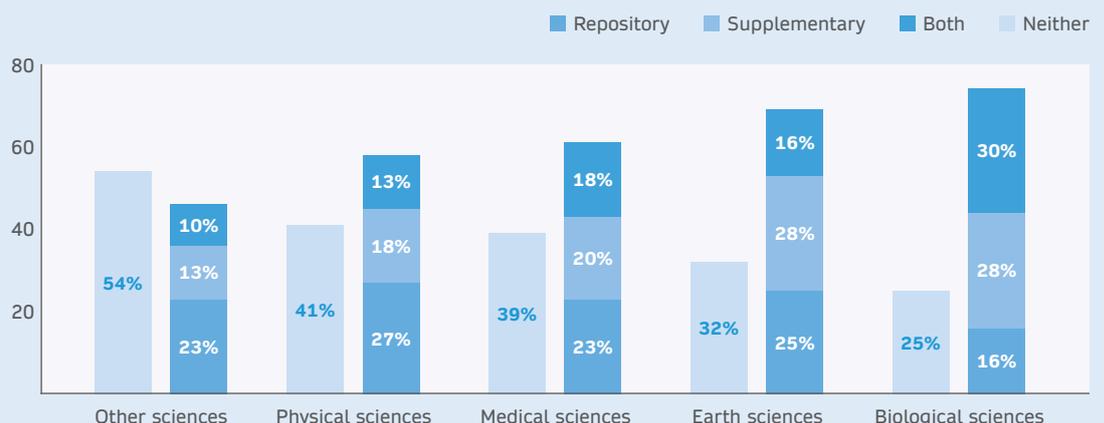


## Majority of researchers share their data in some way

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

### Data sharing by subject

**%**  
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS



## Trade-off between cost and time

Lack of time was a greater concern when sharing data to researchers in **Europe, North America and Australasia**, while costs of sharing data was recognised as more of a concern by those in **Asia and South America**:



% lack of time

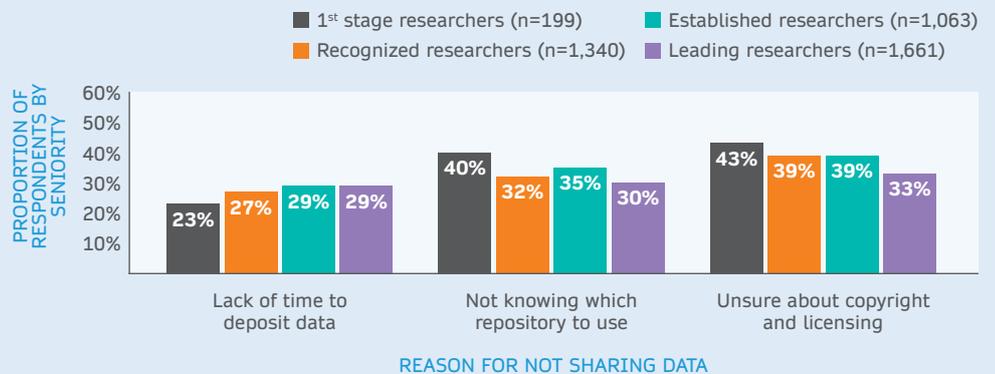


% cost

North America	28%	20%
Australasia	26%	18%
Europe	26%	17%
South America	22%	25%
Asia	20%	24%

## Lack of time VS. lack of knowledge

Time becomes more of an issue and knowledge less of an issue as **researchers become more senior**



## 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

## Survey respondents

Breakdown by subject and region:

