

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Due to increasing interest in Open Access (OA) at the University of Houston (UH), UH Librarians collaborated with members of the Faculty Senate Research & Scholarship Committee to develop and distribute a survey aimed at determining the extent of knowledge about and interest in scholarly communications on campus, including the need for a university-wide OA policy.

**Results:** The overall response rate matched the target exactly at 10%. Seven of the thirteen colleges surveyed met the 10% response rate target and were used for analysis purposes.

**Conclusions:** Approximately 50% of respondents feel that changes are needed in scholarly communication in their discipline, and 50% published in an OA format within 12 months of the survey, but traditional publication factors remain the primary consideration of faculty when publishing, and they remain confused about how and where to openly publish non-journal scholarly content and about repositories in general.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to determine the extent of scholarly communications perceptions and activities among UH faculty in order to prioritize scholarly communications services in the UH Libraries, as well as to help inform a possible university-wide OA Policy.

Research Questions:

What barriers exist that prevent UH faculty from:

1. Participating in alternative publishing models?
2. Depositing scholarly output into appropriate digital repositories?

### METHODS

25 Questions

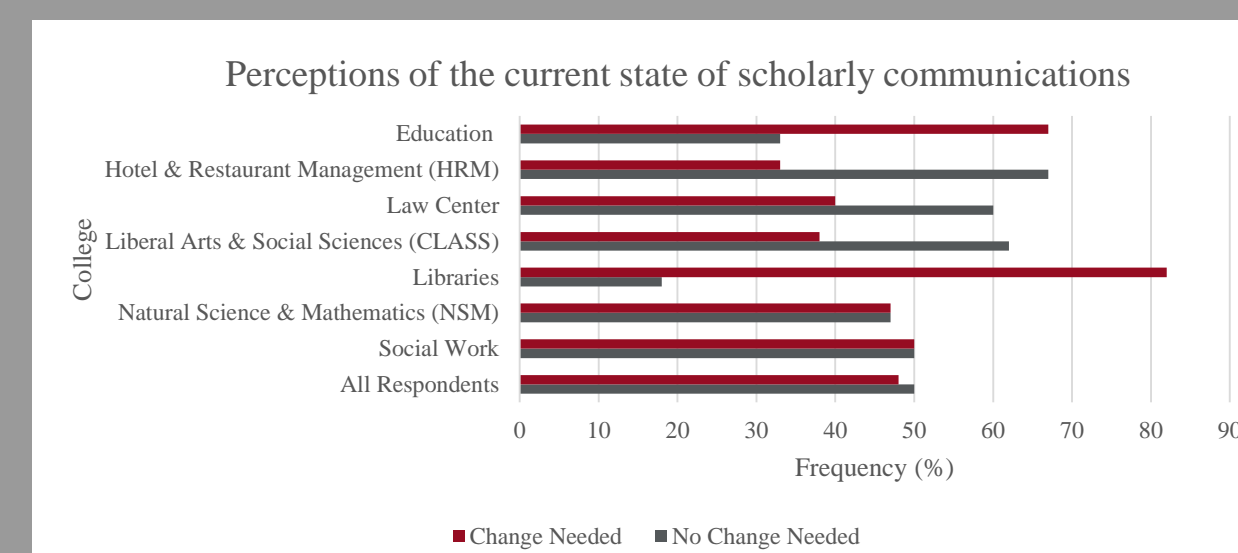
- Demographics
- Scholarly Communications
- Open Access
- Author Rights
- Data Management
- Repositories

Sample Information:

- 13 colleges sampled
- 810 faculty randomly selected
- 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error
- SurveyMonkey software
- Data analysis w/ SPSS

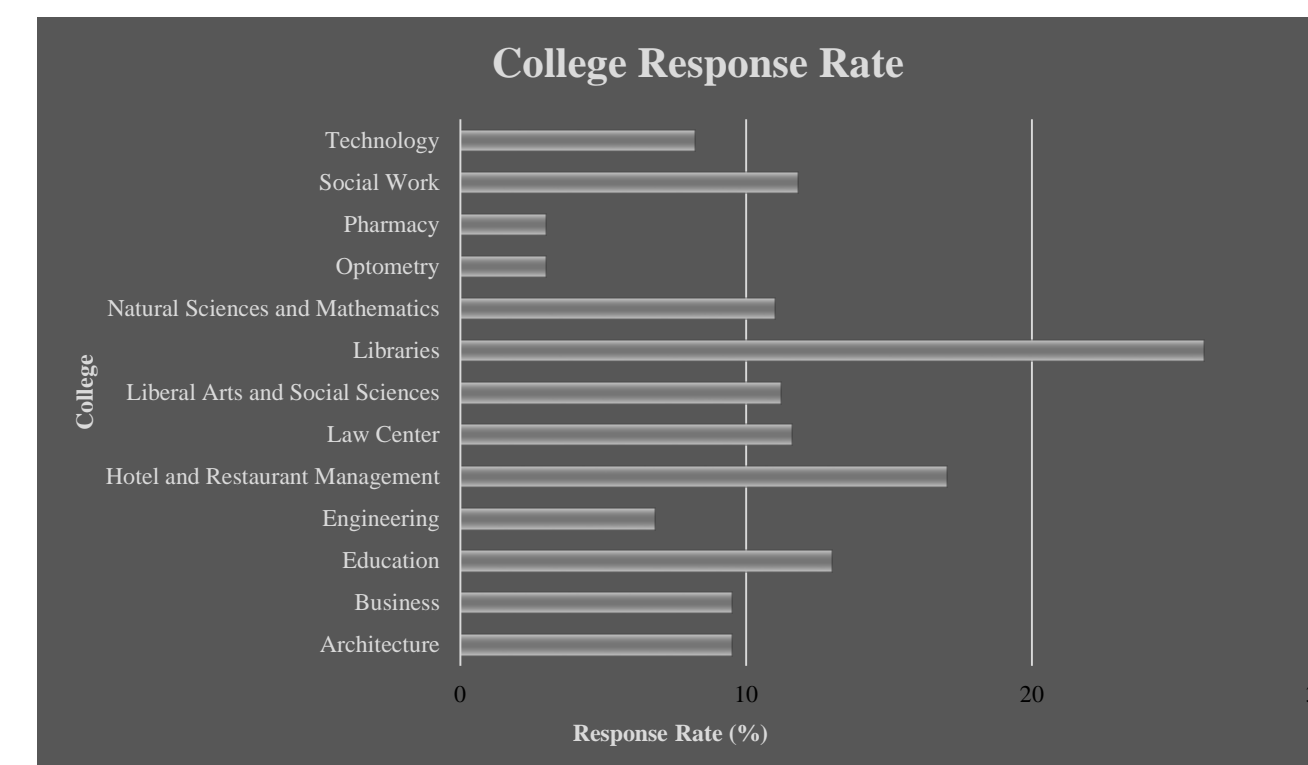
### RESULTS

#### Scholarly Communications

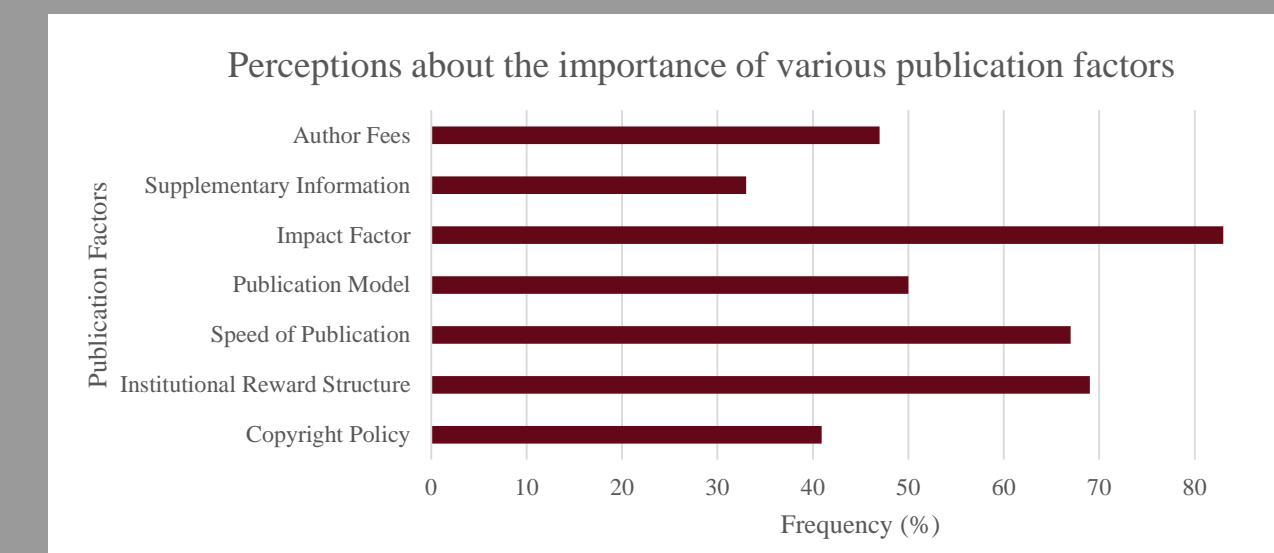


Perceptions are evenly divided across all respondents. In only two colleges (Libraries & Education) did more than 50% of respondents feel that changes need to be made in their discipline, while over 50% of respondents in three colleges (HRM, Law, and CLASS) went so far as to say that no changes are needed.

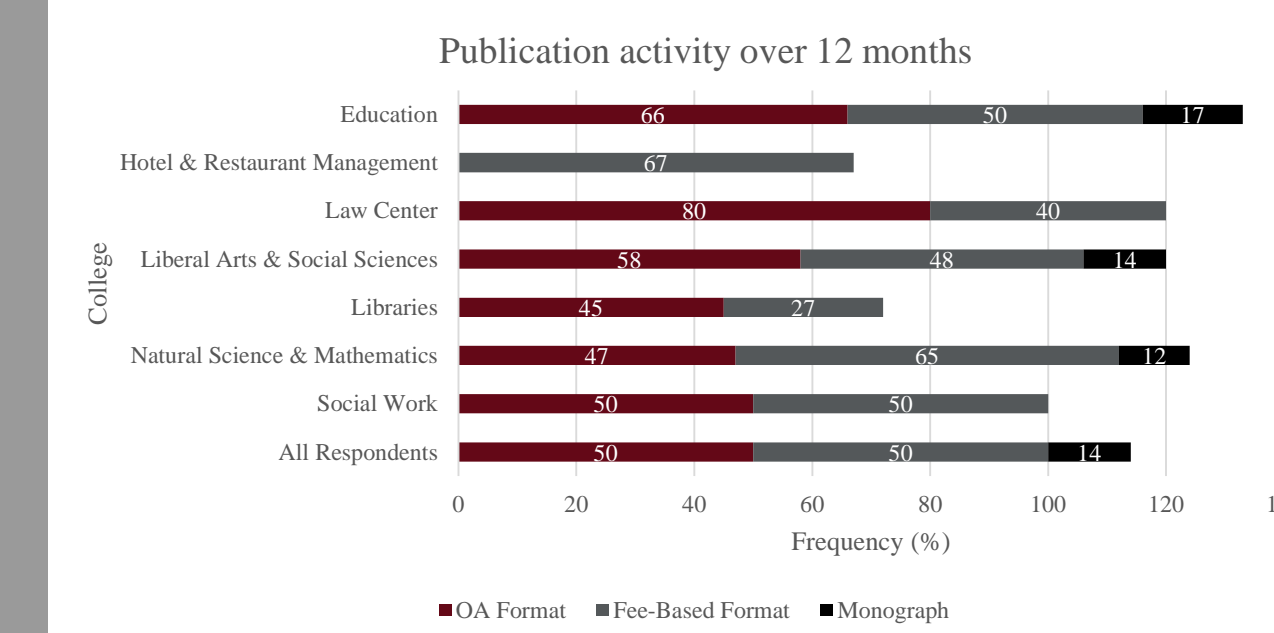
#### College Response Rate



#### Publication Factors

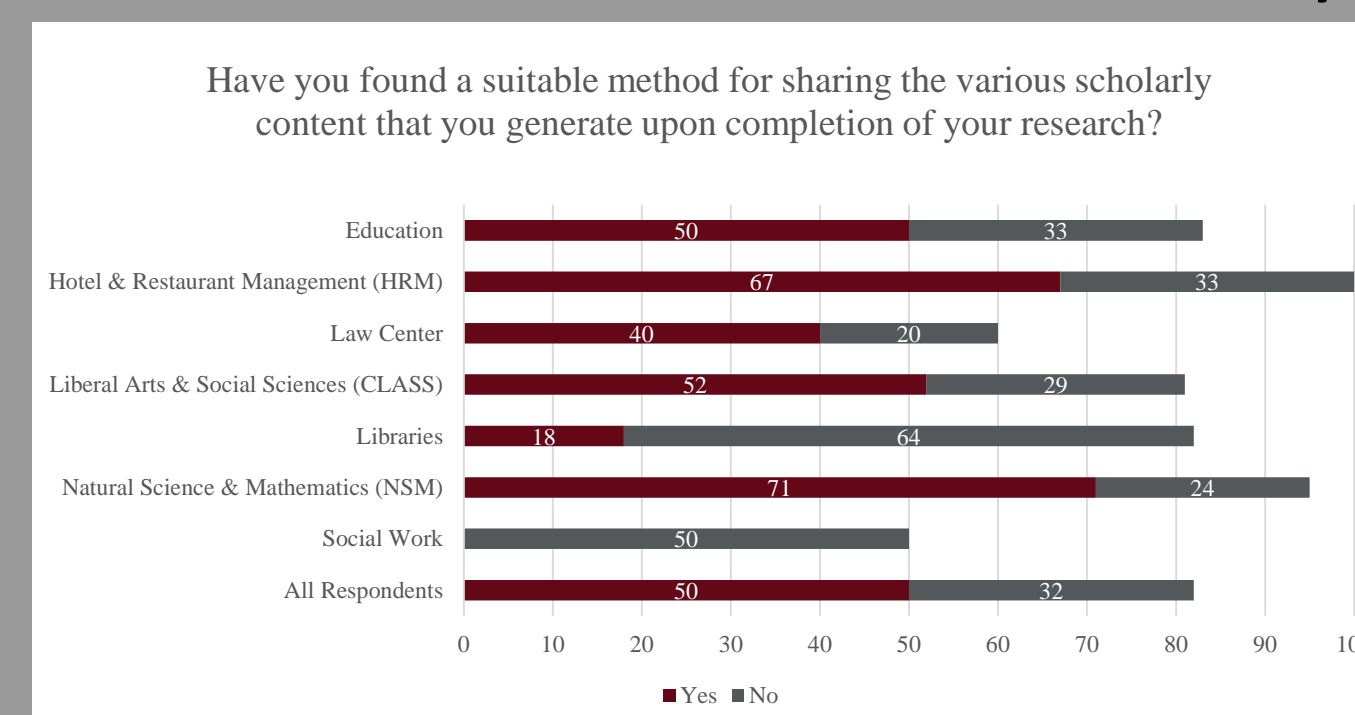
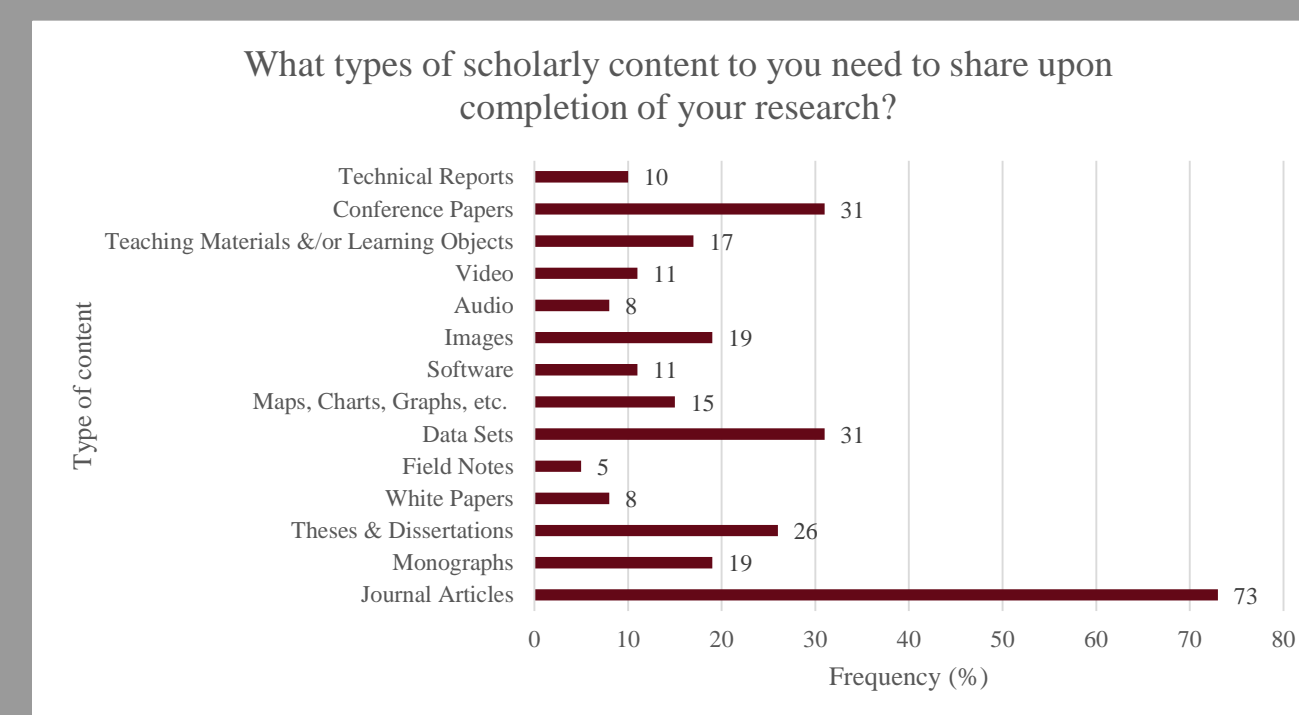


Traditional publication factors such as impact factor, publication model, & institutional reward structure remain the most important for faculty across disciplines, but in almost every college listed, open access publishing approaches, equals, or has overtaken fee-based publishing.

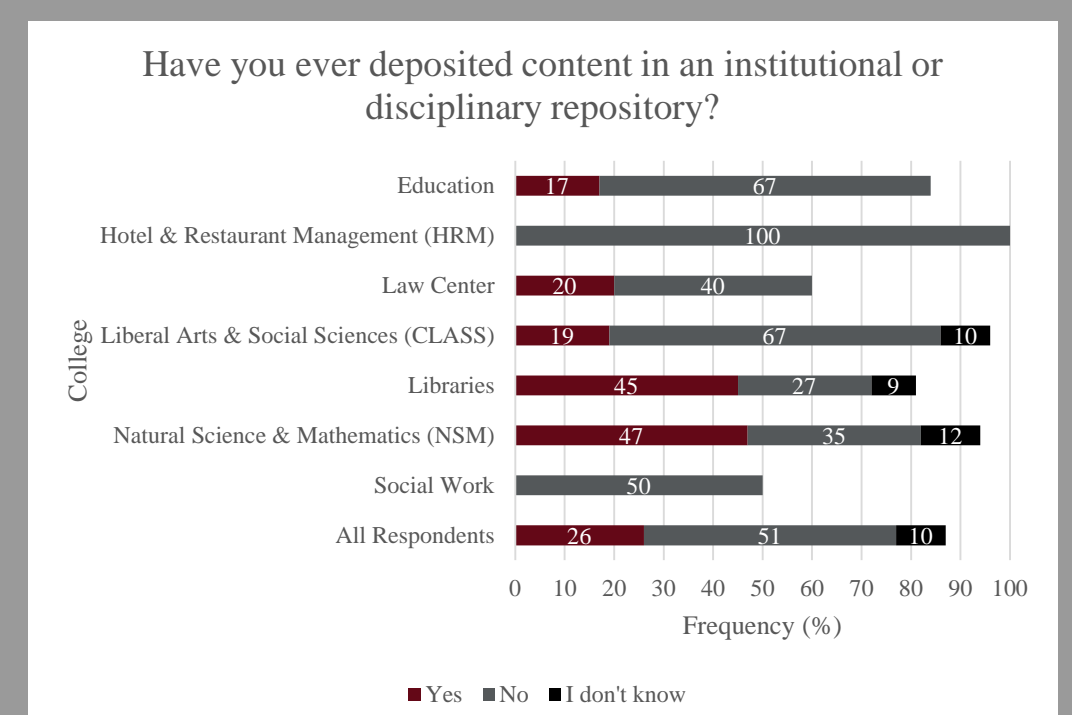


## Faculty Survey 2015

#### Dissemination of Scholarly Content



Journals remain the most common type of scholarly content that faculty generate from their research, but data sets and conference papers are also common. Confusion remains, however, about where to openly publish non-journal content, and experience using repositories remains low.



### CONCLUSIONS

Observations:

- Around open access, perception seems to match practice. 50% of respondents consider it important and approximately the same percentage are publishing at least some scholarly content in an open access format.
- Potential barriers to OA publishing
  - The continued importance of traditional publication factors
  - Lack of experience depositing content in repositories
  - Only 50% of respondents have found a suitable method for sharing scholarly content

Limitations:

- Our low response rate limited the impact of our survey.

### REFERENCES

The University of California Office of Scholarly Communication and California Digital Library eScholarship Program. (2007). *Faculty Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Scholarly Communication: Survey Findings from the University of California*. <http://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/responses/activities.html>.

Laughtin-Dunker, Kristin. (2014). "Assessing the Scholarly Communication Attitudes and Practices of Faculty: Lessons from a "Failed" Survey." *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* 2(3):

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