

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this survey, carried out in December 2005, was to investigate trends in Japanese researchers' research activities, their use of databases, their awareness of new Open Access (OA) possibilities such as open access journals (OAJ) and self-archiving, and their concerns about this form of publishing. 613 faculty members (researchers) at National University Corporations or Inter-University Research Institution Corporations responded to the queries. The results of the survey suggested that Japanese researchers are, in general, still hardly aware of or prepared to cope with OA, although their counterparts in developed countries are knowledgeable about OA.

29% replied that they were aware of OA, while according to A. Swan's JISC Report (2004), over 60% of those who have not published through OAJ were aware of the concept. This evidences that Japanese researchers do not have enough knowledge concerning OA.

Only 17% of the respondents answered they have plans to publish through an OAJ in the next three years. The primary reason for more than half of those respondents who choose an OAJ is a belief that the principle of free access to research information is important.

In contrast, those who answered that they do not plan to publish through an OAJ (21%) stated that the most important reason for not doing so is that they are not familiar enough with OAJs in their fields to be motivated to submit to them. These findings are consistent with the tendency reported in A. Swan's JISC Report (2004).

Most researchers feel that the author's fee should be subsidized by research grants. More than two thirds (69%) of the respondents said that, if publishing their work in an OAJ were a condition prescribed by the contract with grant-awarding bodies, they would accept the condition.

About 20% of the respondents expressed concern about the possible breakdown of the conventional scholarly communication system which the proliferation of OA might bring about, while over 40% stated they could not make any judgment concerning this subject. Importance of certain aspects of traditional journal publishing carried out by publishers, including peer review and quality control was pointed out.

Regarding researchers' self-archiving, only 20% of the respondents have self-archived at least one article during the last three years in one of three possible ways: by placing a copy of the article in an institutional (or departmental) repository, in a subject

repository, or on a personal or institutional website. A. Swan's 2nd report (2005) states that almost half (49%) of the author population has self-archived at least one article in the past three years. Most Japanese researchers are still unaware of the possibility of providing open access to their work by self-archiving.

Almost half (46%) of respondents would willingly comply with a mandate from their employer or research funder to deposit copies of their articles in an institutional or subject-based repository. Together with further 12% who replied that they would comply reluctantly, 58% of the whole population would comply with such mandates. According to A. Swan's 2nd report, 81% of authors said, in response to the same questions, they would willingly comply and 13% would comply reluctantly, which means that 94% of the total author population would comply with such mandates.

Concerns were expressed by a third of the respondents about copyright issues. For half of those had not deposited their articles in repositories, the greatest concern was that they were not informed well enough of self-archiving activities (41%).

Communicating their results to their colleagues remains the primary reason for scholars to publish their work; in other words, they publish in order to have an impact in their fields. Most researchers use Internet search engines (such as Google), bibliographic databases and/or e-journals to locate sources of scholarly information for their research. 58% of respondents replied that they were able to locate research and news articles they need on the web.

A. Swan's JISC Report:

Swan, Alma and Brown, Sheridan (2004) Report of the JISC/OSI open access journal authors survey.

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/JISCOAreport.pdf

<http://cogprints.org/4125/>

A. Swan's 2nd Report:

Swan, Alma and Brown, Sheridan (2005) Open access self-archiving : An author study May 2005

[http://www.keyperspectives.co.uk/openaccessarchive/reports/Open Access II \(author survey on self archiving\) 2005.pdf](http://www.keyperspectives.co.uk/openaccessarchive/reports/Open_Access_II_(author_survey_on_self_archiving)_2005.pdf)

<http://cogprints.org/4385/>