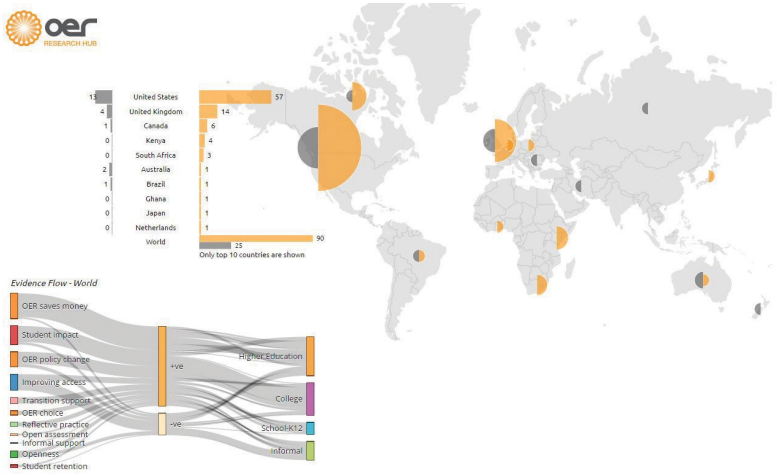
RESEARCH HUB

OER Data Report 2013-2015

Building Understanding of Open Education

OER Data Report 2013-2015

The OER Research Hub was a three year project funded by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and based in the Institute of Educational Technology at The Open University in the UK. The OER movement had just passed the decade mark when the project was initiated. There was a sense that although great work had been done in the implementation of OER globally during this period, research about their impact on teaching and learning was scarce. The aim of the project was to investigate many of the commonly held beliefs about the benefits of OER. It also had the intention of raising the profile of research in the OER community.



Working with 15 different collaborations around the world, the OER Research Hub investigated 11 hypotheses. These addressed issues such as performance, finance, educator reflection, improved access and the impact of openness. Four sectors were examined: K12, Community College, Higher Education and Informal Learning. In addition the attitudes of both learners and educators were surveyed. The full evidence report and academic publications arising from the project can be found at http://oerhub.net.

This summary report brings together three separate data reports, which highlighted some of the key findings for different groups of OER users: educators, formal learners and informal learners. The reports are presented in an easy to digest, infographic style layout which we hope you will find useful.

The OER Research Hub has also released all of the data underpinning these reports under an open license (CC-BY Attribution License 4.0). Researchers are already starting to work with our data, and we would love to hear if you use it to conduct any of your own investigations. You can access the data used to generate this report via http://bit.ly/oerhubdata. You are welcome to use this data as long as you provide attribution to us as the original authors.

The findings here indicate that OER have many different types of impact. For example, they are used widely by students to trial subjects before they enter formal education; educators use them to reflect and adapt their own practice; that they increased interest in the subject for learners, and so on. The challenge now is for OER researchers to further explore these findings, to produce a comprehensive evidence base. This will facilitate the mainstream adoption of OER, by focusing on solving specific problems.

Further context for understanding this data can be found in our accompanying *OER Evidence Report 2013-2014* which is available from http://oerhub.net/reports/.

– The OER Research Hub team, November 2015

FORMAL LEARNERS

The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from FORMAL LEARNERS.

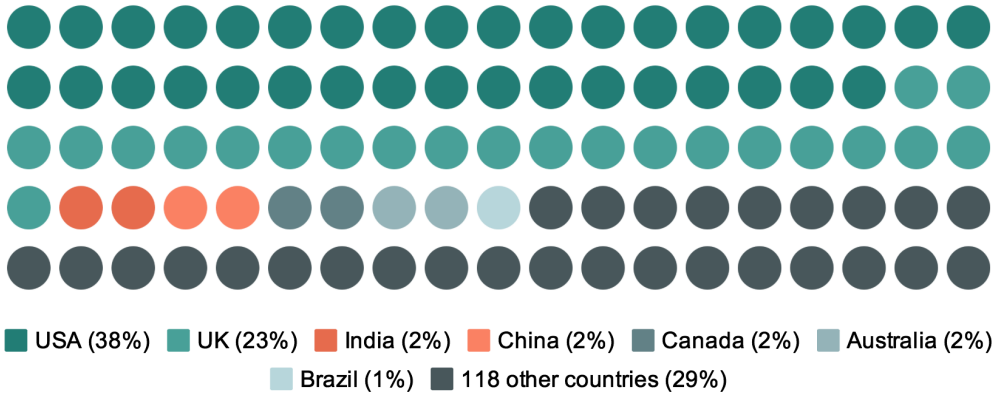
Dataset available for download at http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263

Sample

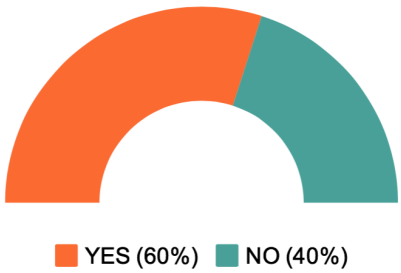
50.5%

48.8%

Country of residence

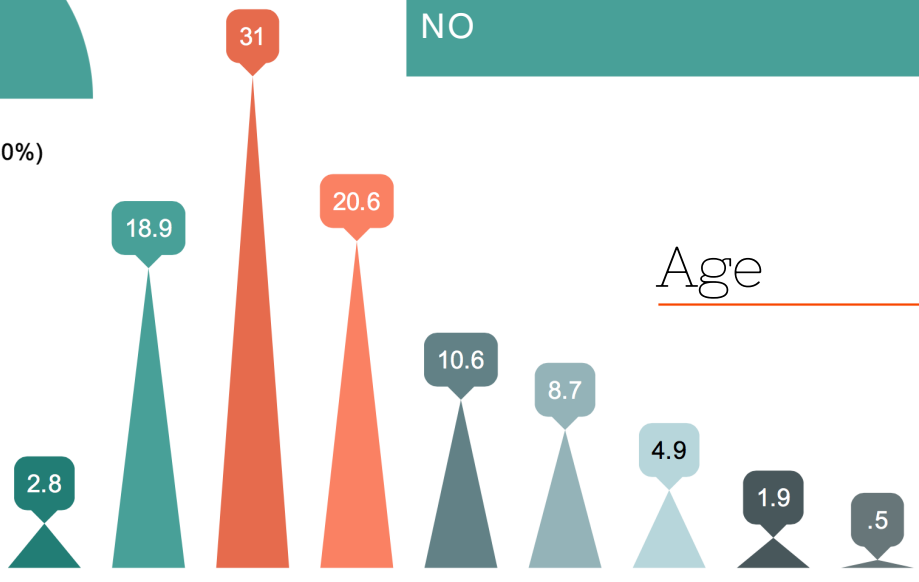


English as first language?



Disability?

Age



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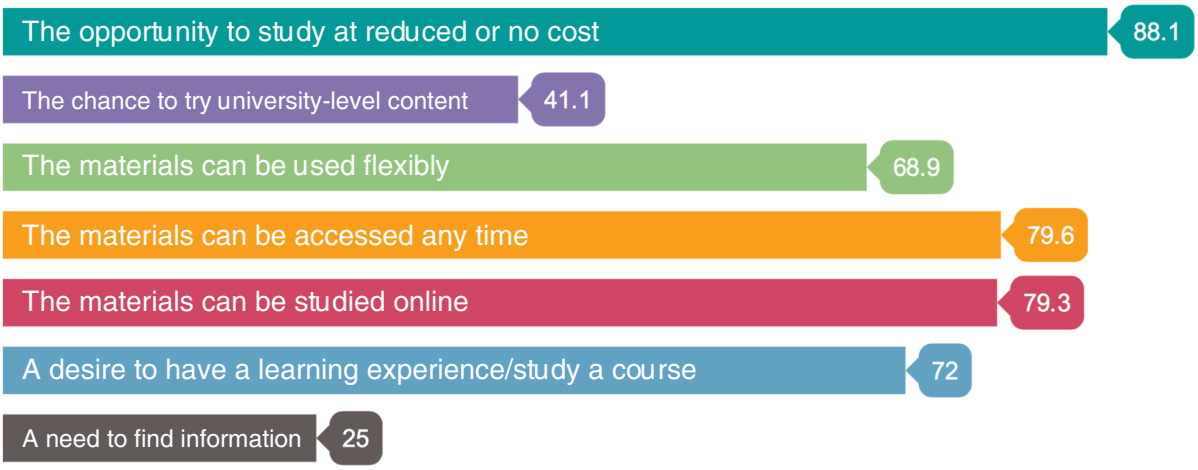
Decision to use OER

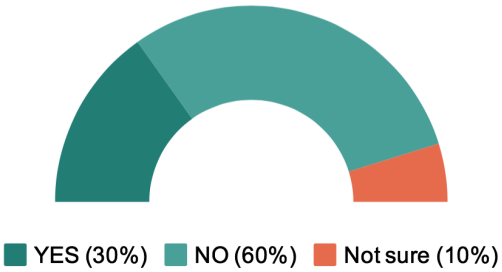
Which of the following factors influenced your decision to use OER? N=969



Cost and ease of access are the most important factors influencing formal learners' decision to use OER

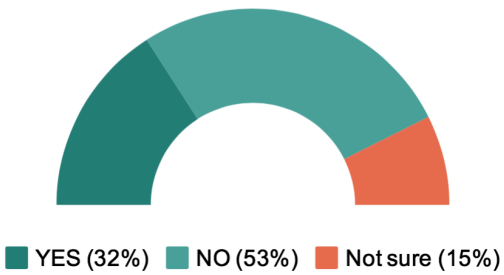
From informal to formal

Did you study your subject via [OpenLearn] before joining your course? N=955



The percentage of formal learners that report having used open content prior to registering for their course represents an underreported benefit of OER from which HE can potentially benefit

Did your use of [OpenLearn] influence your decision to register for your current course of study? N=934



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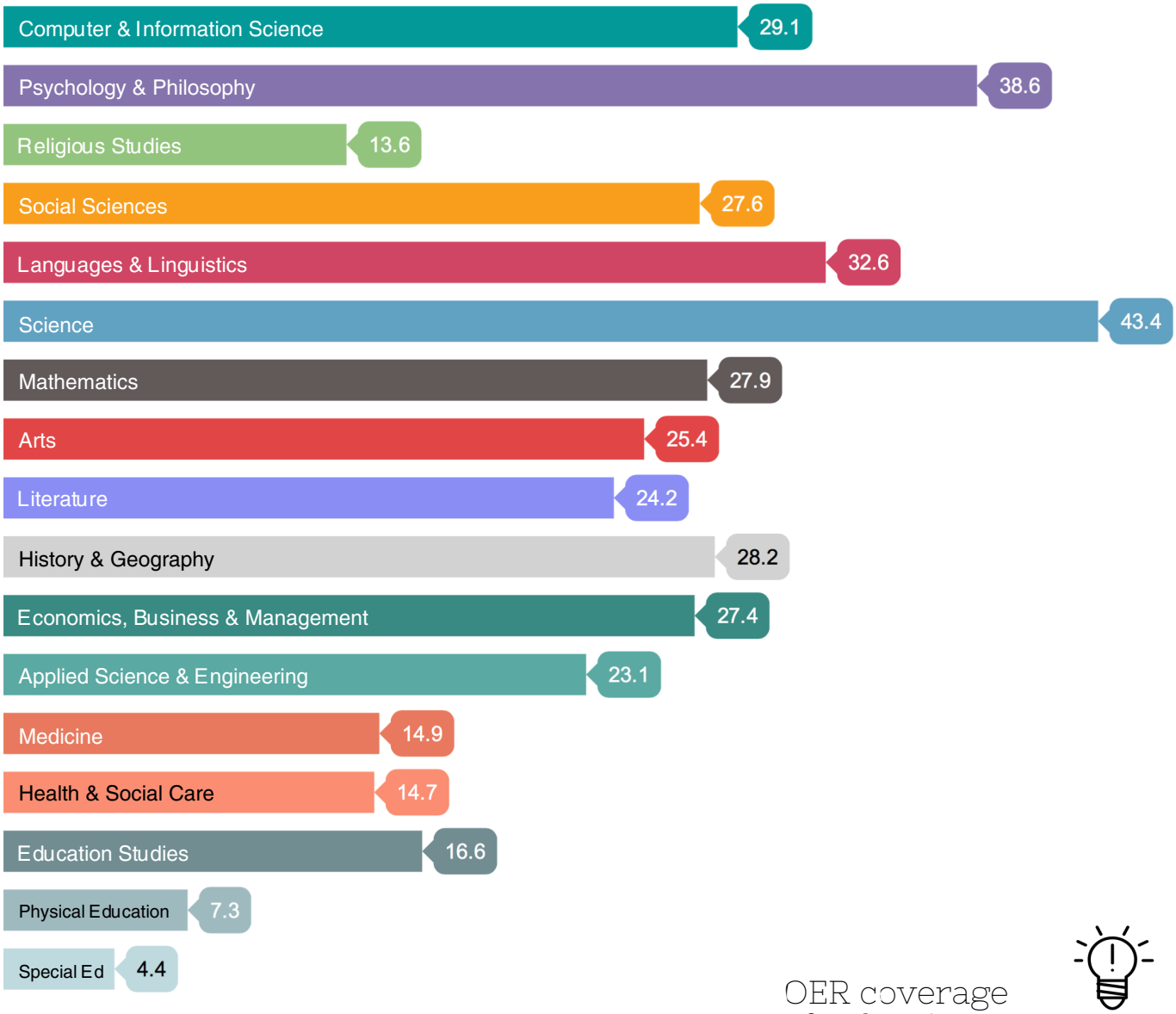
Use of OER

In what subject do you normally use OER? N=1199



OER coverage of subjects wider than STEM material

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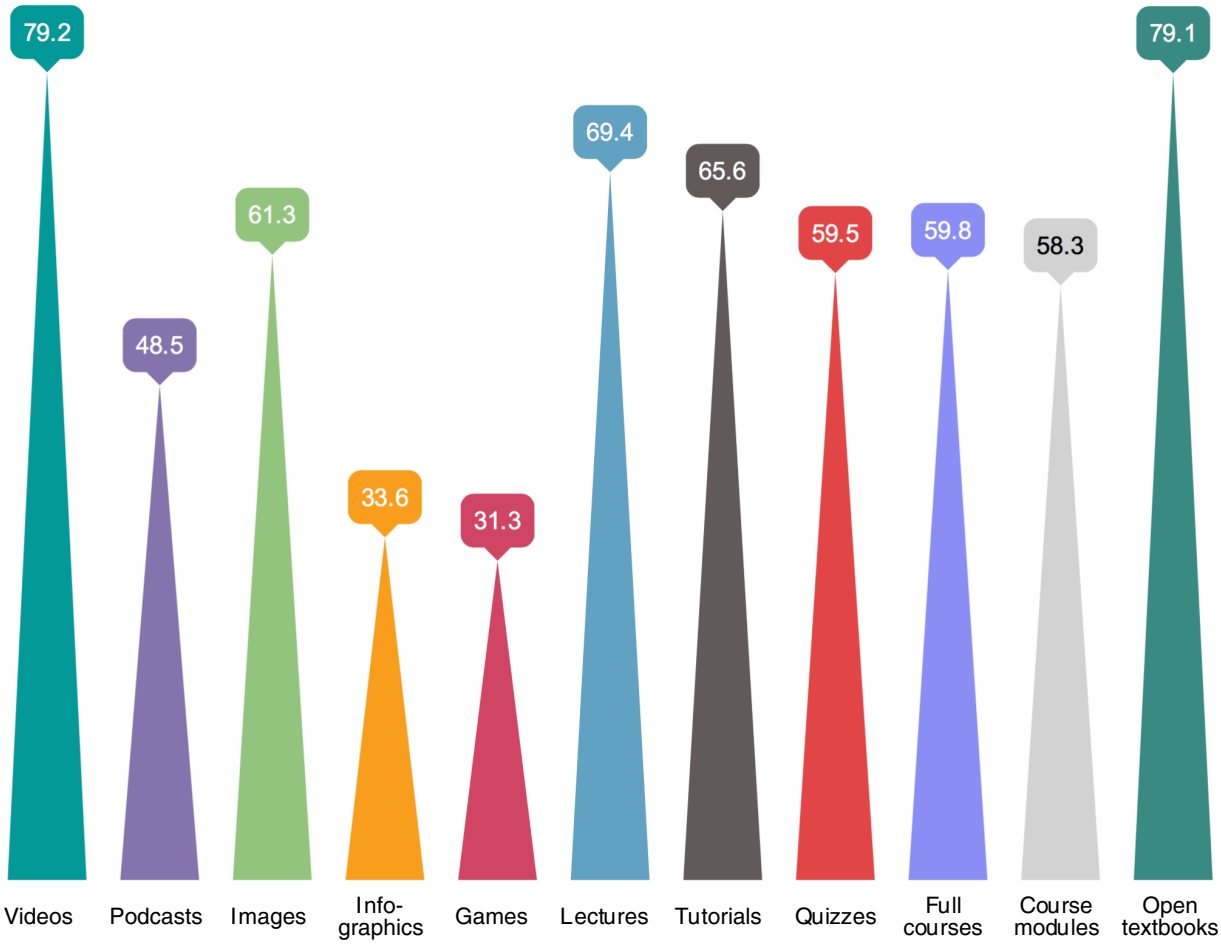
Types of OER

Which of the following types of OER have you used for studying? N=1887



A smaller number of respondents (N=583) were asked about their use of lesson plans (50.1%), data sets (38.5%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (43.9%).

Formal learners use a broad range of open educational resources

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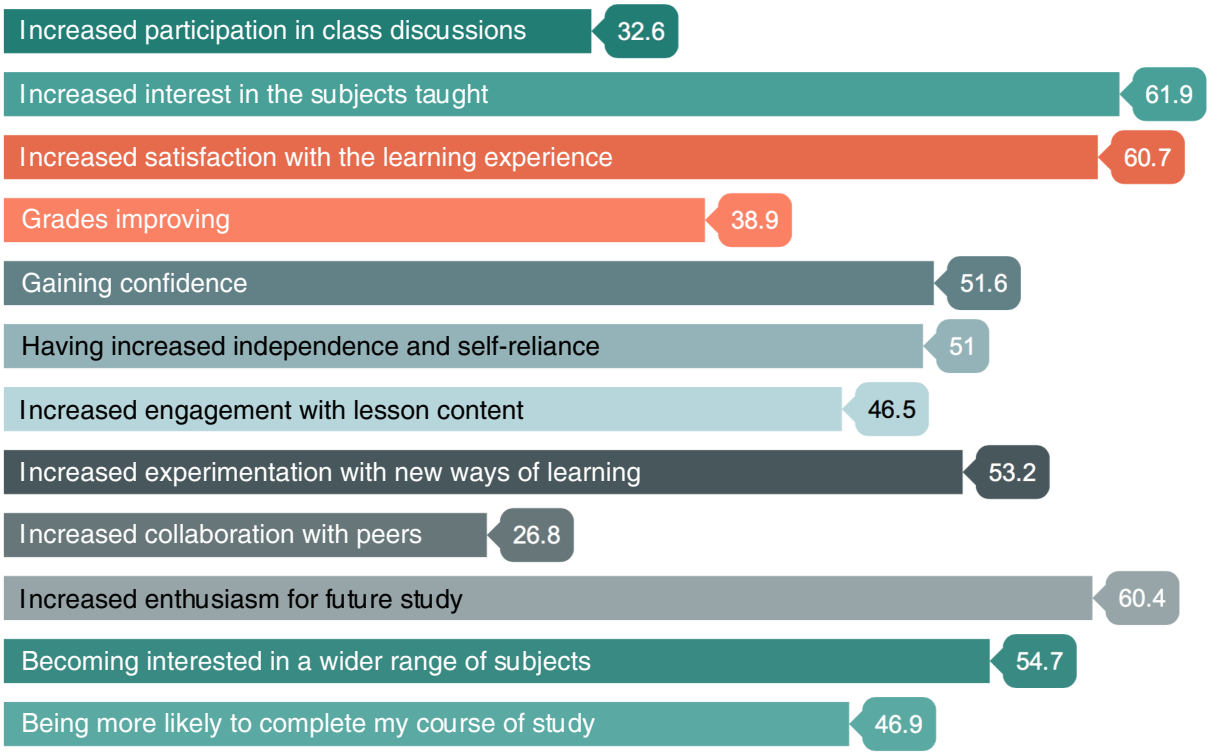
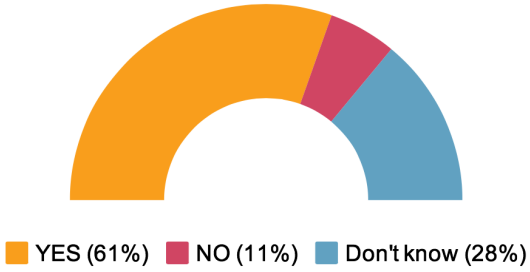
Impact of OER use

In which of these ways has your use of OER made an impact on your formal studies? N=1167

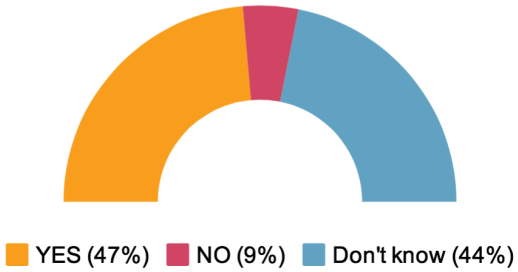


Biggest impact of OER use not on grades improving but on increased interest and enthusiasm for study

Do you believe you have saved money by using OER? N=322



Do you believe your institution benefits financially by using OER? N=309



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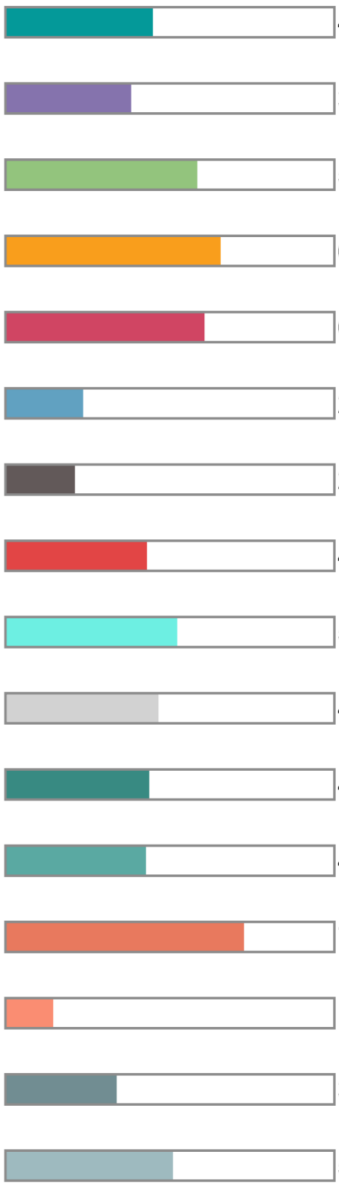
Selecting OER

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=802



45% Evidence of interest in that resource (e.g. lots of downloads)

38% The resource being recently created, uploaded or updated

58% The resource being easy to download

66% A description of learning objectives or outcomes being provided

61% The resource being created by a reputable/trusted institution/person

24% The resource having a Creative Commons license

21% The resource having an open license allowing adaptation

43% The length/complexity of the resource

52% Use of interactive or multimedia content (e.g. video)

47% Positive user ratings or comments about the resource

44% Personal recommendation

43% Having previously used this resource successfully

73% The resource being relevant to my particular interests/needs

15% The resource featuring a catchy title or attractive image(s)

34% Being required to use a resource for a project or study task

51% A detailed description of the resource content being provided

Relevance, reputation and clear learning objectives guide formal learners' selection of open content

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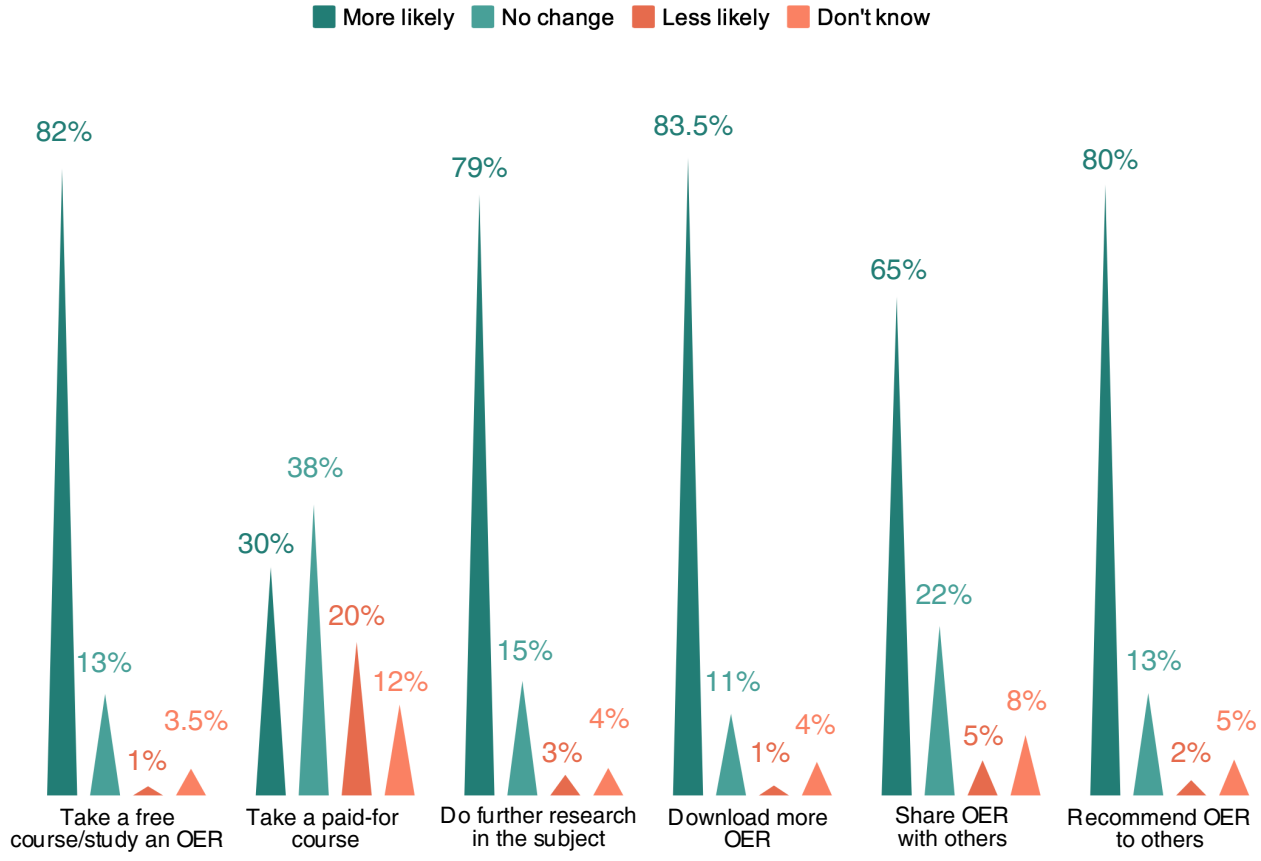
Challenges of using OER

Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=1479

Discoverability of resources remains biggest challenge to OER adoption

Future behaviour

As a result of using [OpenLearn], how likely are you to do any of the following? N=1464



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Suggested citation: de los Arcos, B., Farrow, R., Pitt, R., Perryman, L-A., Weller, M. & McAndrew, P. (2015). OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Formal Learners. OER Research Hub.

INFORMAL LEARNERS

OER RESEARCH HUB

The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from INFORMAL LEARNERS (i.e. learners who are not registered for a course at an educational institution).

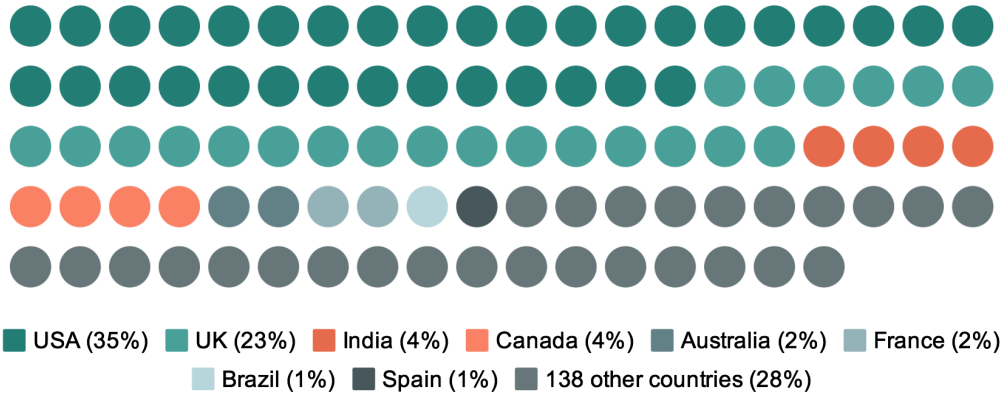
Dataset available for download at http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263

Sample

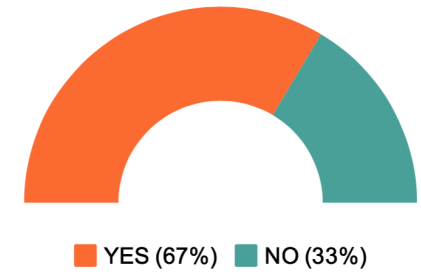
50.2%

48.3%

Country of residence

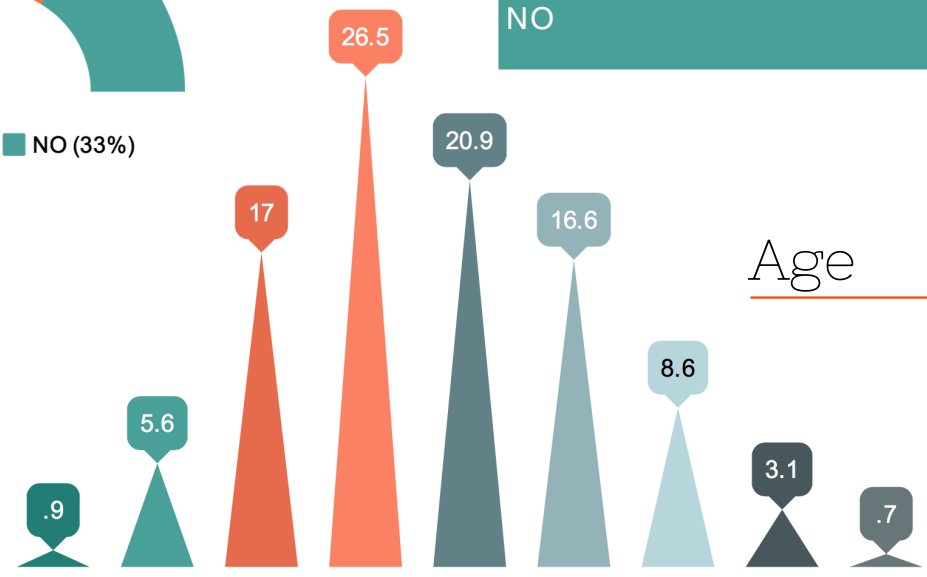


English as first language?



Disability?

Age



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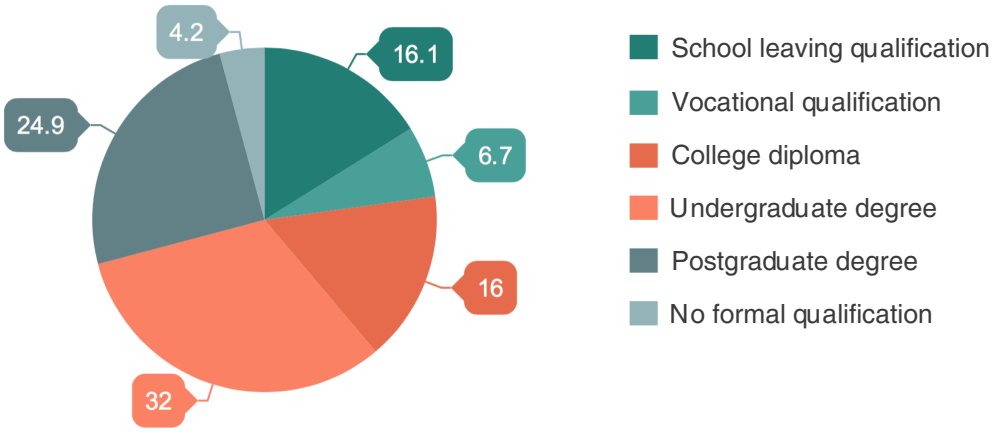
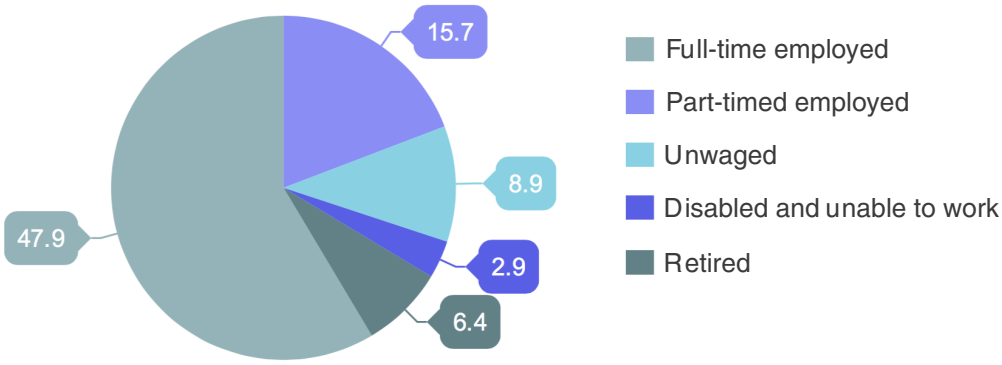
>15 years | 15-18 | 19-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | <75 years

What is your highest educational qualification? N=3203



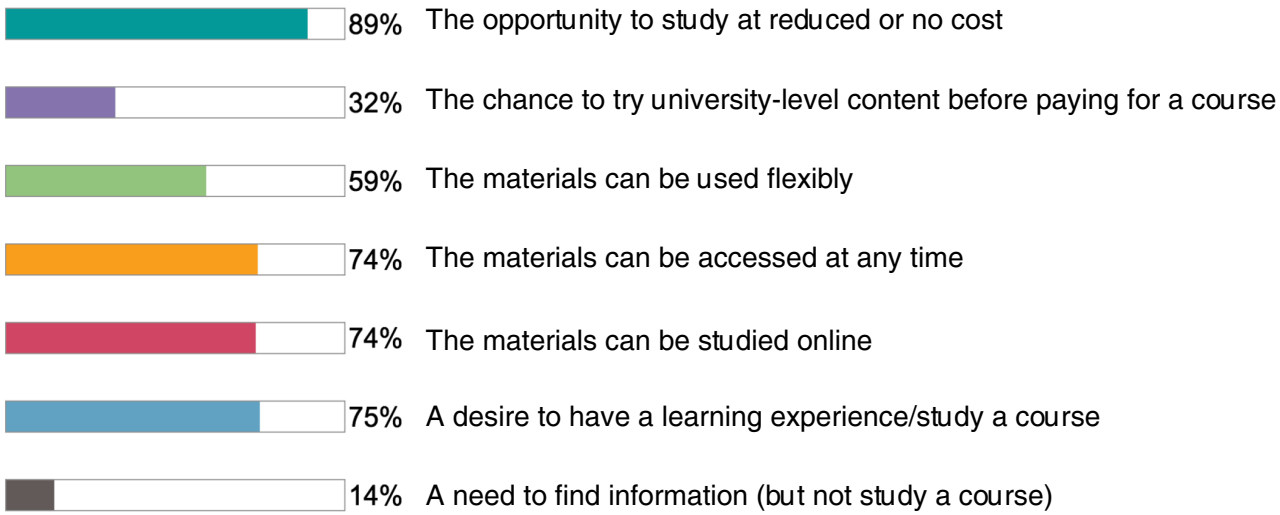
A majority of informal learners using OER are full-time employed and already hold a degree

What is your employment status? N=3290



Decision to use OER

Which of the following factors influenced your decision to use OER? N=3147



Cost remains the biggest factor driving OER adoption

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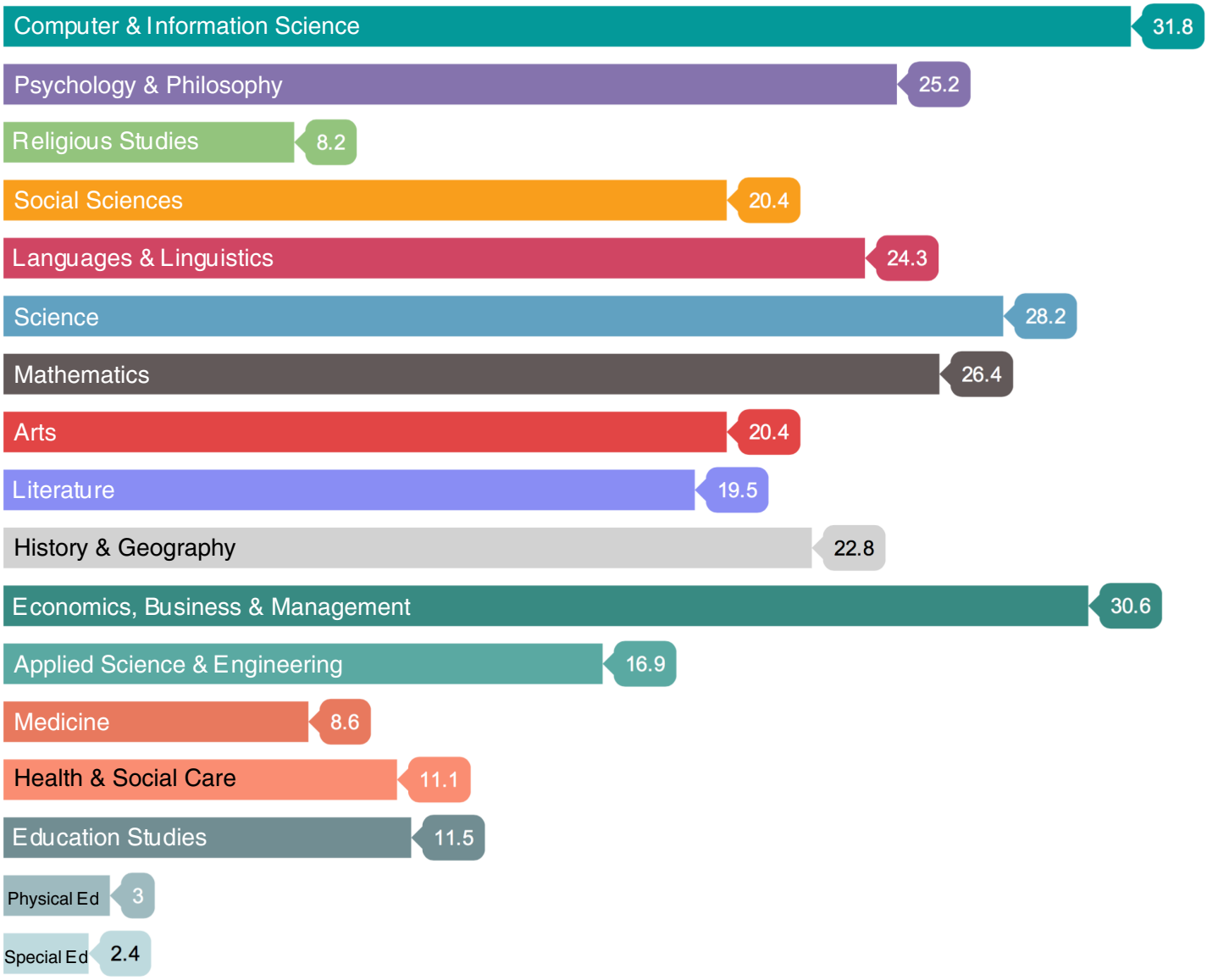
Use of OER

In what subject(s) do you normally use OER? N=2401



Economics and Computer Science top wide subject coverage of OER used by informal learners

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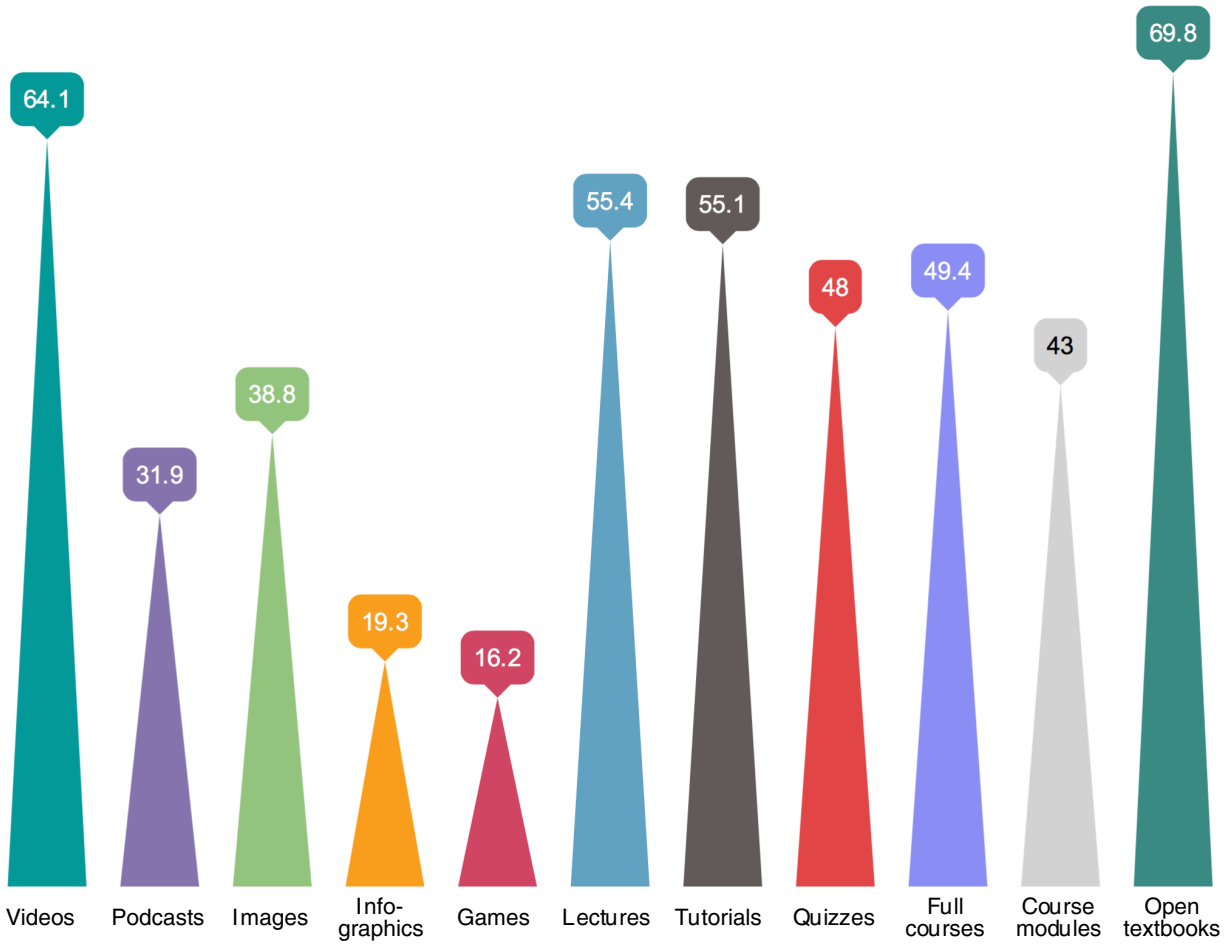
Types of OER

Which of the following types of OER have you used for studying? N=2232

Broad variety of OER types used by informal learners



A smaller number of respondents (N=101) were asked about their use of lesson plans (32.7%), data sets (22.8%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (34.7%).

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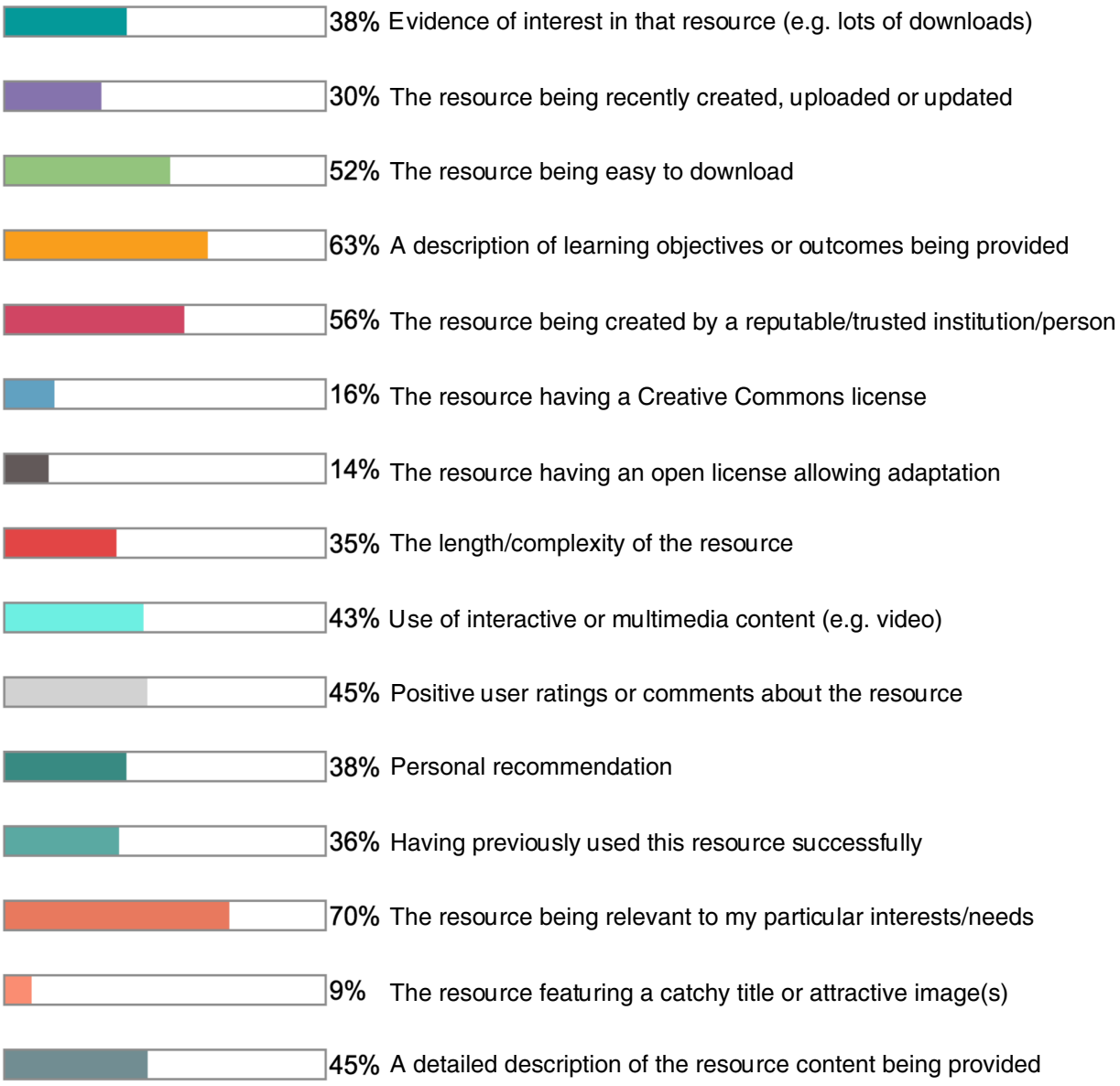
Selecting OER

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=3012



Relevance to one's particular needs and clear learning objectives guide informal learners' selection of open content. Few mindful of open licenses allowing adaptation.

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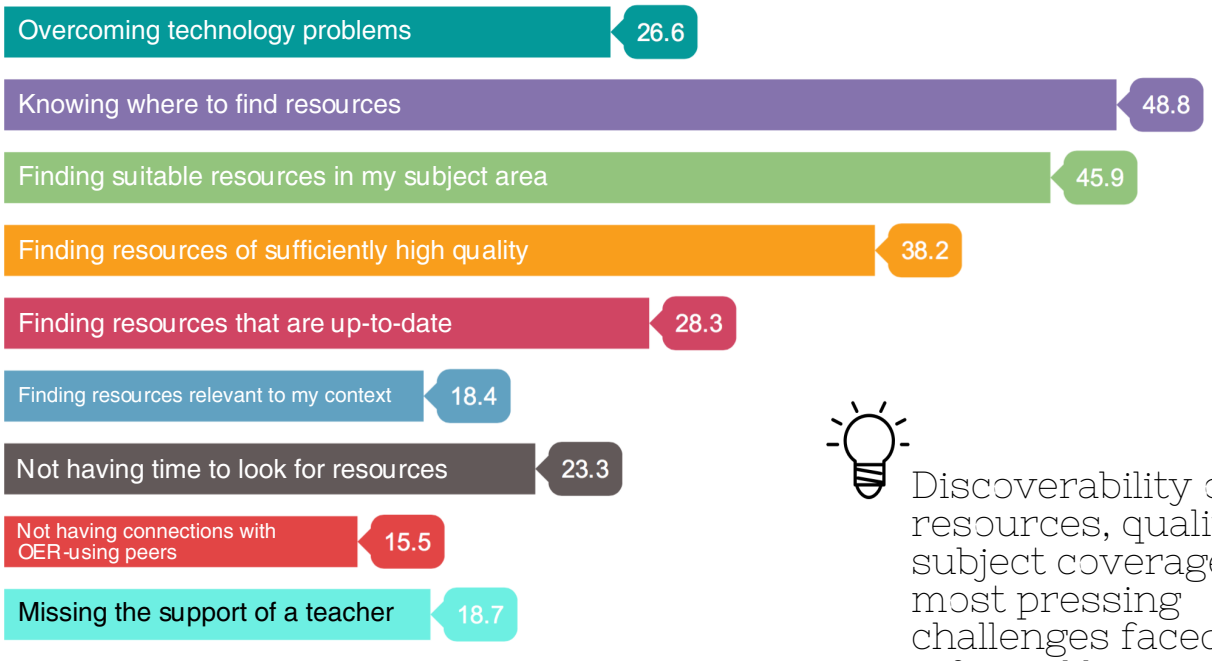
Challenges of using OER

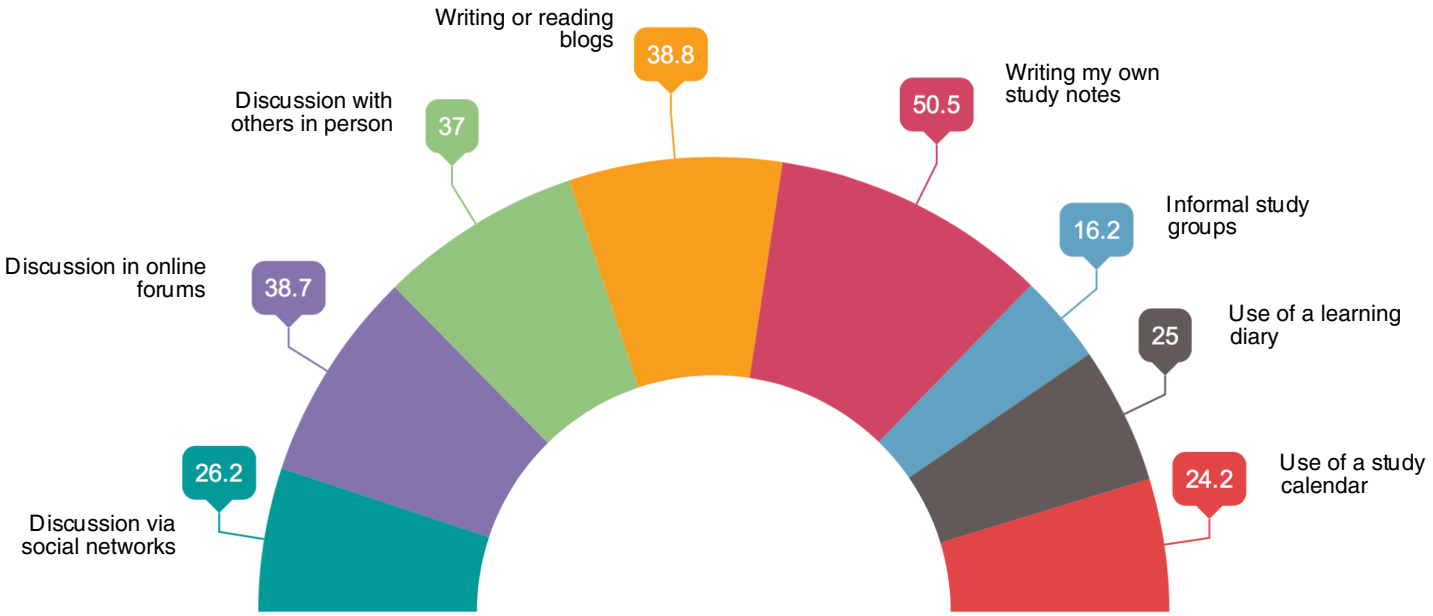
Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=1723



Discoverability of resources, quality and subject coverage are the most pressing challenges faced by informal learners using OER

Support techniques

Which of these techniques have you used to support your learning with OER? N=1921



Informal learners use a variety of techniques to support their study with OER

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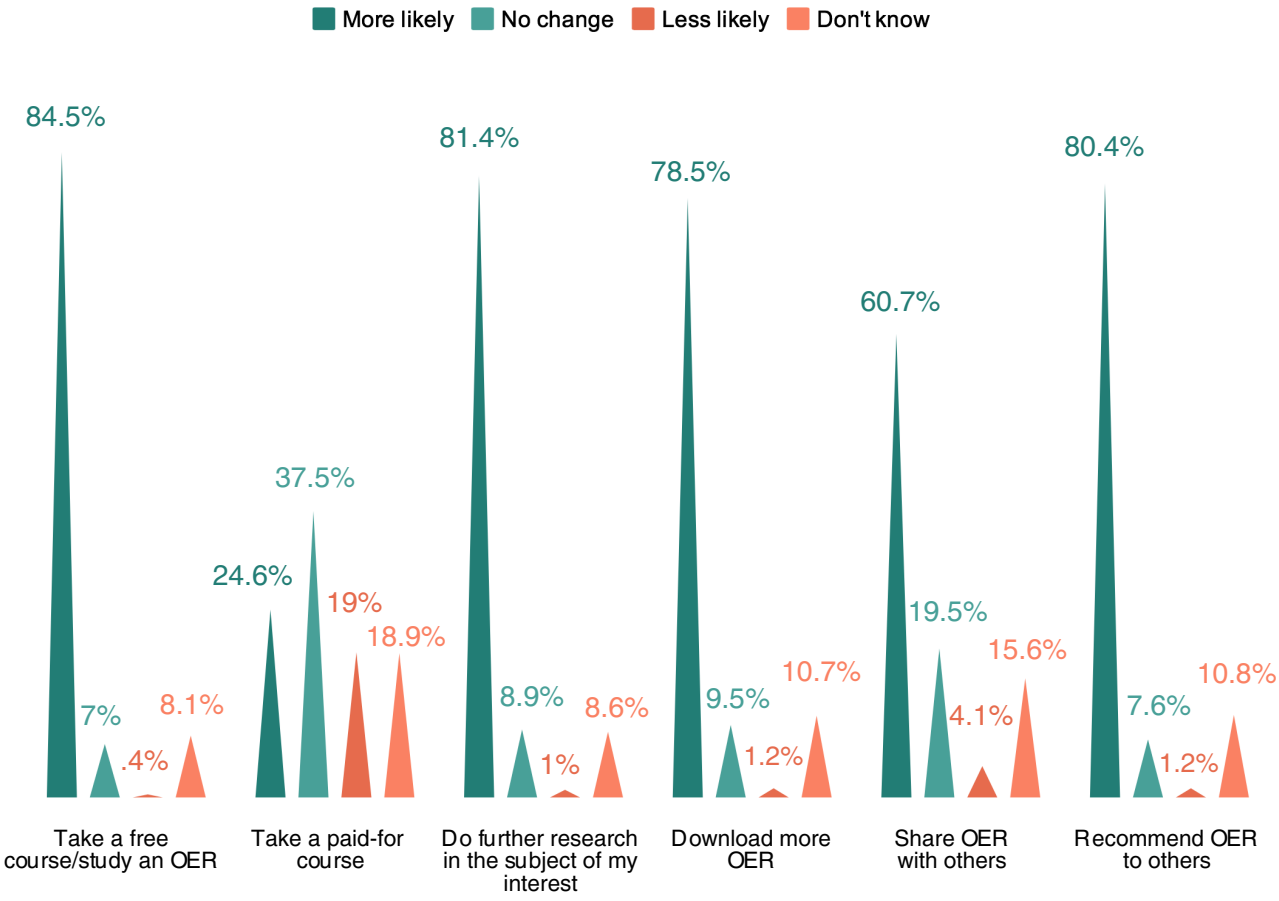
Future behaviour

As a result of using [OpenLearn] resources, how likely are you to do any of the following? N=2701



High percentages of informal learners likely to continue using OER. A quarter of respondents inclined to go into formal education.

Suggested citation: de los Arcos, B., Farrow, R., Pitt, R., Perryman, L-A., Weller, M. & McAndrew, P. (2015). OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Informal Learners. OER Research Hub.

EDUCATORS

The OER Research Hub is a project funded by the Hewlett Foundation to research the impact of open educational resources (OER) on teaching and learning. During 2013-2015 survey data were collected from approximately 7,500 users of OER around the globe. This report presents a frequencies analysis of responses obtained from EDUCATORS.

Dataset available for download at http://figshare.com/articles/OERRH_Survey_Data_2013_2015/1528263

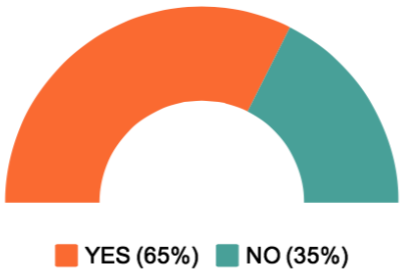
Sample

47.7%

52%

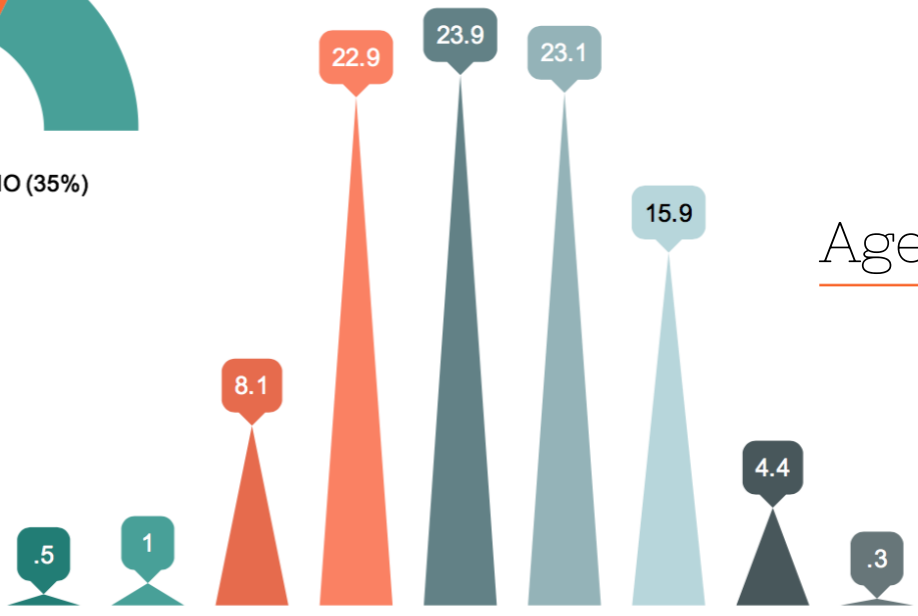
Country of residence

English as first language?



Disability?

Age



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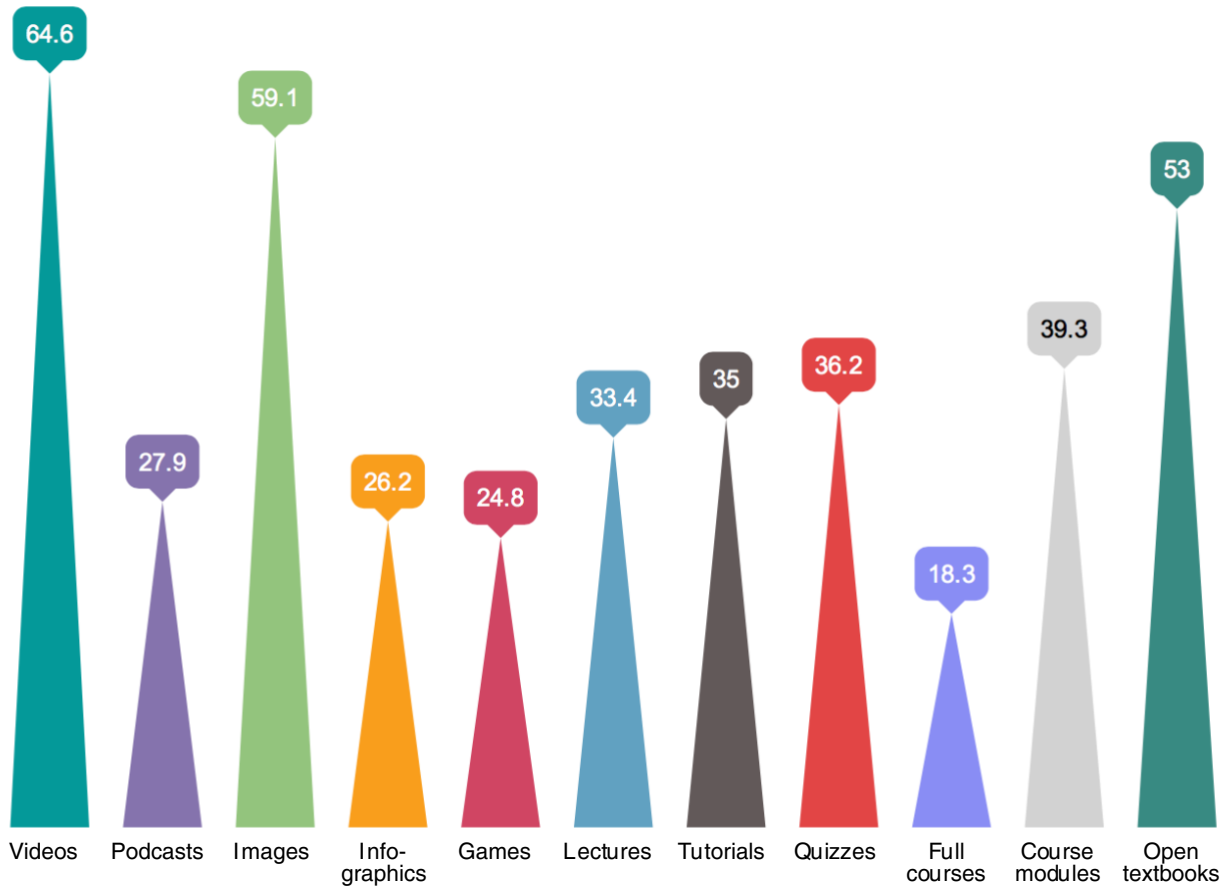
Types of OER

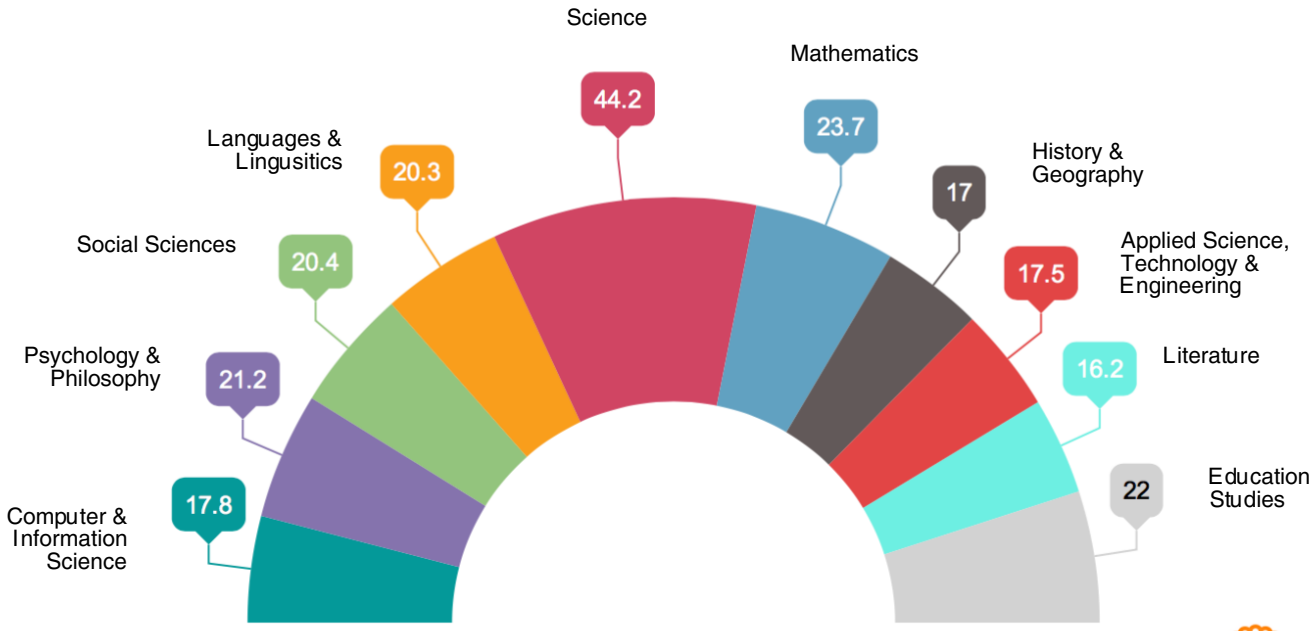
Which of the following types of OER have you used for teaching? N=1473



A smaller number of respondents (N=845) were asked about their use of lesson plans (36.2%), data sets (16.1%) and learning tools, instruments & software plugins (36%).

Subjects

In which subject(s) do you normally use OER? N=983



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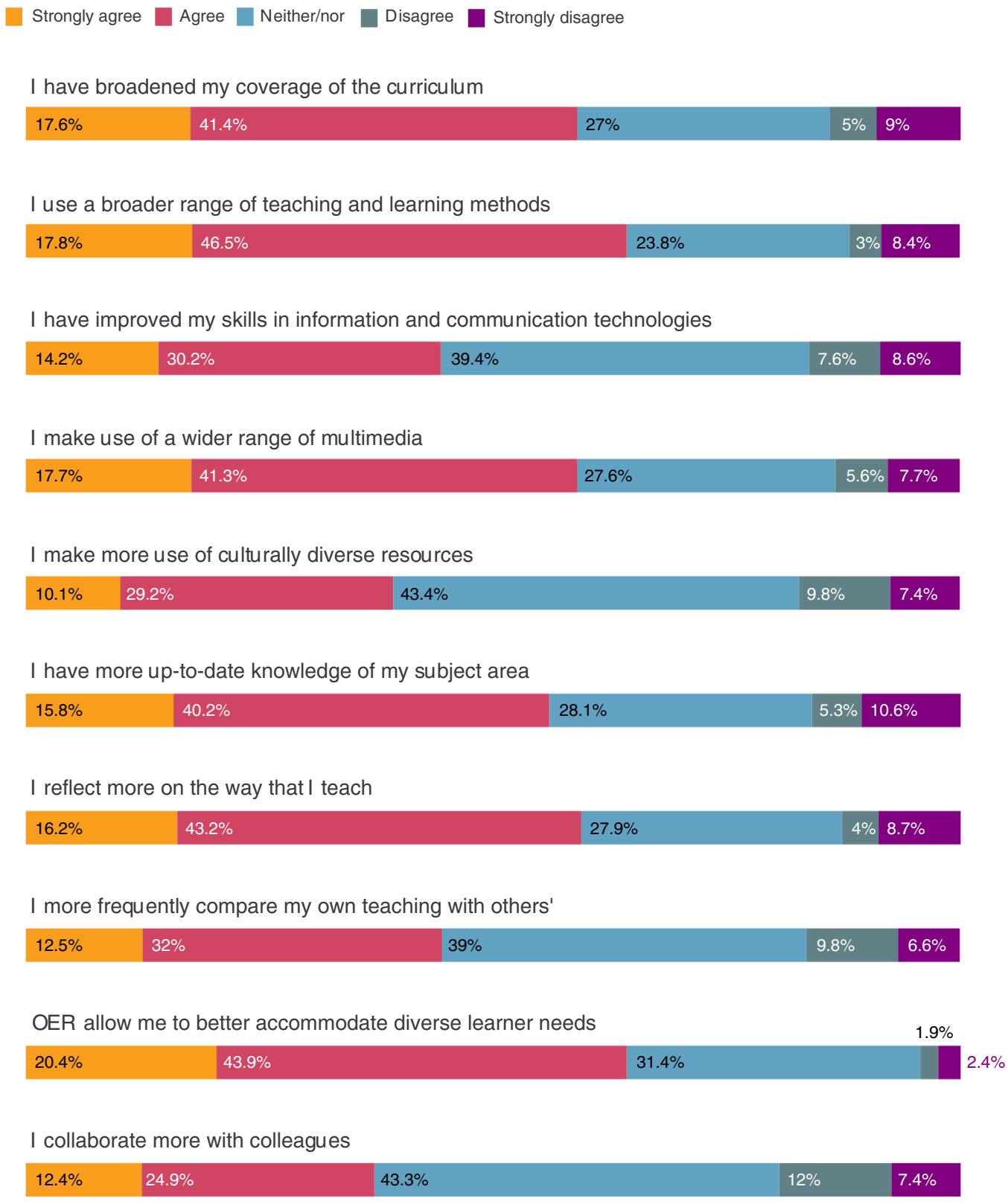
Impact of OER use on teaching

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact on your teaching practice of your using OER? N=977



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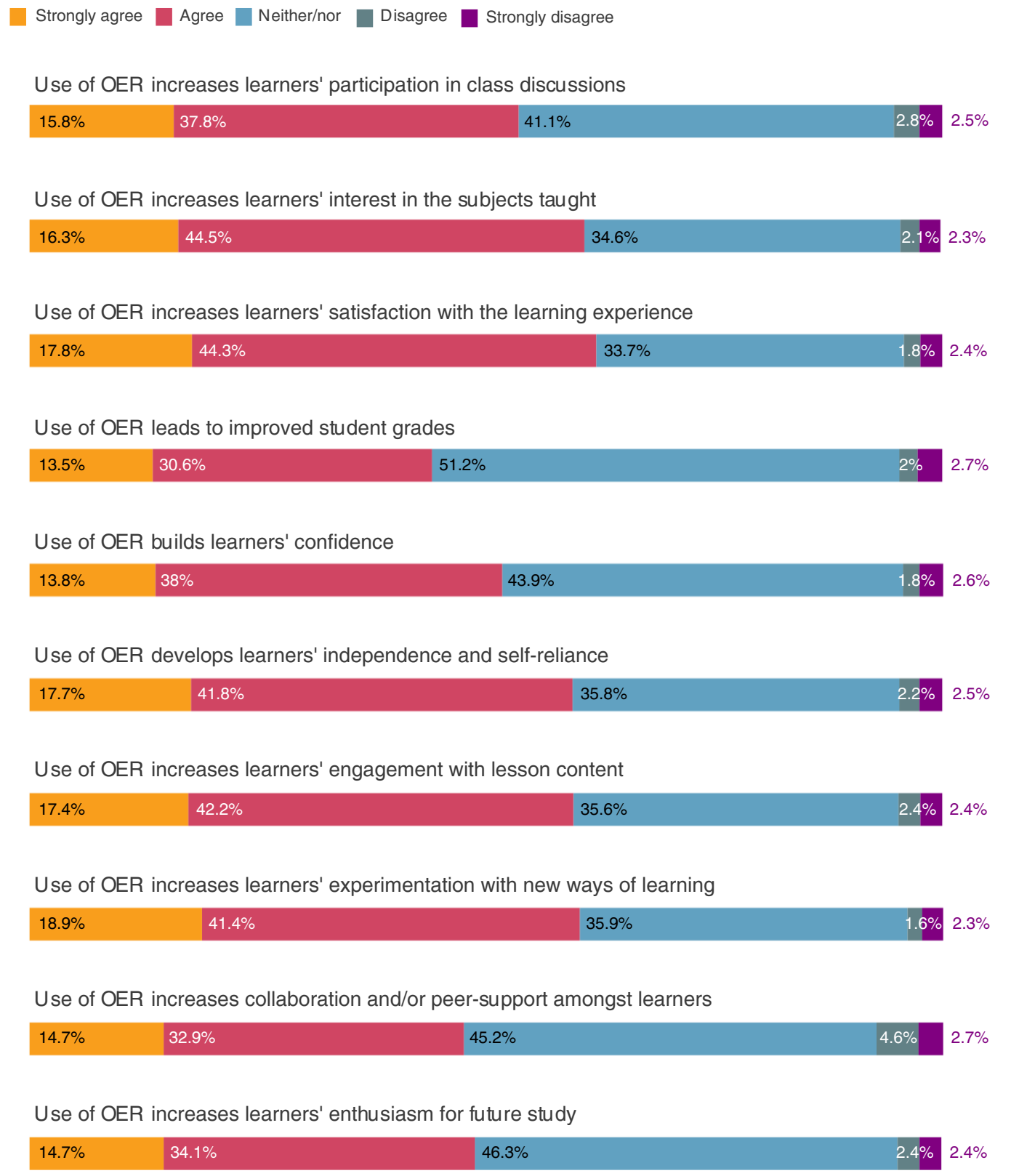
Impact of OER use on learning

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of using OER on students? N=868



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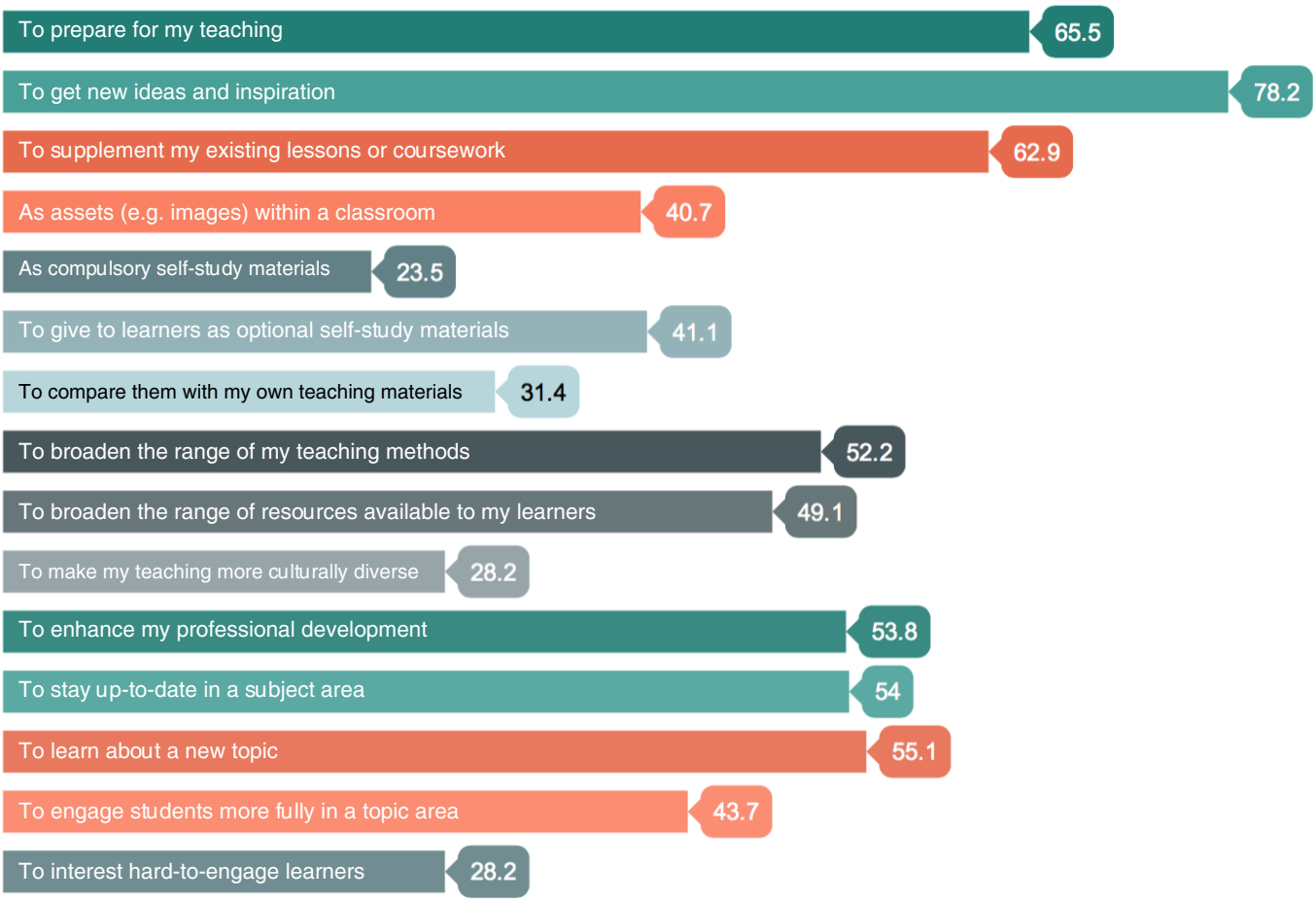
Purpose of using OER

For which of the following purposes have you used OER in the context of your teaching? N=1611



Educators use OER to broaden their teaching methods and the range of resources available to their students

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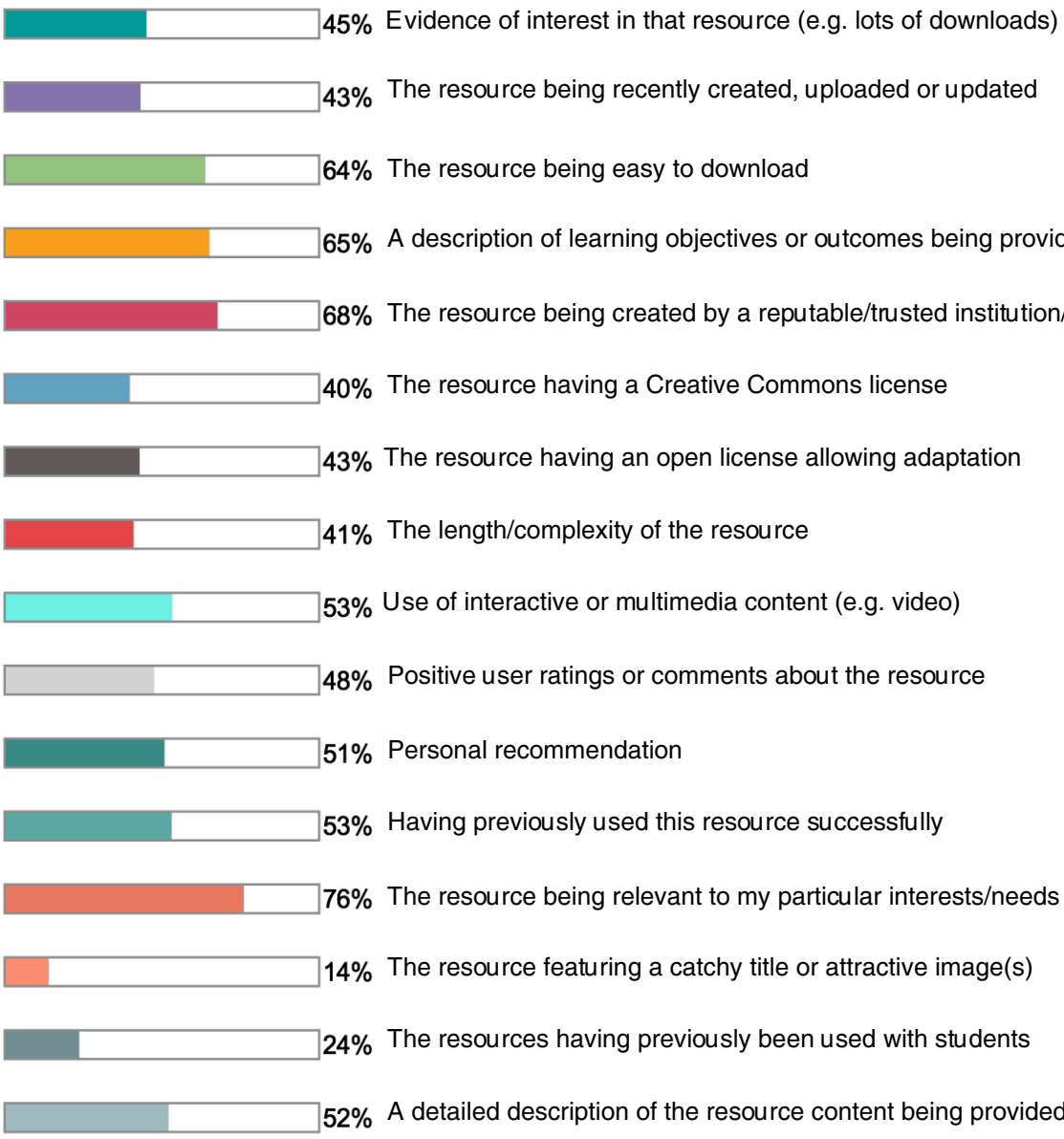
Selecting OER

Which of the following factors would make you more likely to select a particular resource when searching for open educational content? N=987



Relevance, reputation and clear learning objectives guide educators' selection of open content

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Challenges

Which challenges, if any, do you most often face in using OER? N=997

Open content needs to be relevant, high-quality and discoverable for educators to adopt OER

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Suggested citation: de los Arcos, B., Farrow, R., Pitt, R., Perryman, L-A., Weller, M. & McAndrew, P. (2015). OER Research Hub Data 2013-2015: Educators. OER Research Hub.

Credits

OER Research Hub

Beatriz de los Arcos
Gary Elliott Cirigottis
Natalie Egglestone
Robert Farrow
Patrick McAndrew
Leigh-Anne Perryman
Rebecca Pitt
Martin Weller

Acknowledgement

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