



# Chinese Scientists' Attitudes toward Open Access

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# Outline

**1. Background**

**2. Awareness of Open Access by Scientists**

**3. Scientists' Attitudes**

**4. Scientists' Reaction to Some proposals**


**5. Conclusions**



- **Open Access is something new to China**
- **Project from LCAS: The National and Institutional Policy Mechanism Supporting OA**
- **A survey to scientists (authors/consumers)**

- **Purposes of the survey:**

**To know the attitudes, opinions and suggestions of scientists on OA, hereby to make policy suggestions to the government and associated institutions to promote OA in China.**

- **Duration: March-May, 2005**
- **Pilot survey:6**
- **Questionnaires: sent 257, received 223, response rate:86.77%;**
- **Populations: scientists from 16 institutes in CAS,**  
     **subject range:** 
- **Questions: 28**
- **Interviews: 22 scientists**

<b>subjects</b>	<b>respondents</b>	<b>percent</b>
Space sciences	28	12.6
maths	20	9.0
physics	20	9.0
chemistry	50	22.4
engineering	64	28.7
Life sciences	41	18.4
<b>total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100</b>



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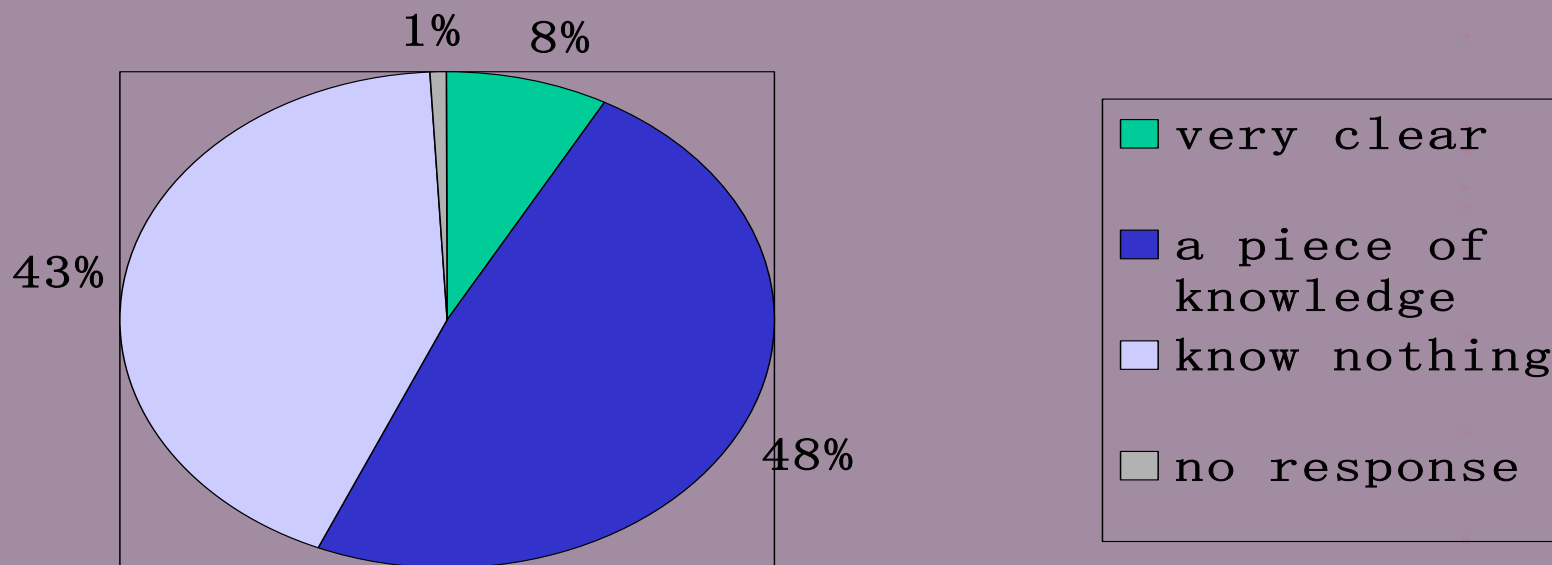
**2. Awareness of Open Access by Scientists**

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## 2.1 Awareness of the concept of OA



**JISC/OSI\*:62% Non-OA authors were aware of the concept of OA journals;  
37% were not.**

- **\*Alma P.Swan and Sheridan N.Brown.JISC/OSI Journal Authors Survey Report, February 2004**

- Knowing status varies with disciplines  
(correlation comparison):

**□ Very clear:**

- **Physics:15%**
- **Life sciences:14.6%**

**□ A piece of knowledge or know similar concept:**

- **Physics:60%**
- **Life sciences:58.5%**

**□ Know nothing:**

- **Maths(60%) → chemistry(54%) →  
engineering(45.3%) → space sciences(39.3%) →  
life sciences(26.8%) → physics(25%)**

## 2.2 Where the research were published?

Publications	Frequency	%	Rank
Traditional journals	198	88.8	1
Conferences	80	35.9	2
OA Journals	25	11.2	3
Non-OA networked journals	25	11.2	3
Personal websites	10	4.5	5
Listservs	3	1.3	6
Others	4	1.8	

## 2.3 Knowing about OA archives in China

archives	Know and use it(%)	Know but never use it(%)	Don't know it(%)
<b>Qiji eprint</b> <a href="http://www.qiji.cn/eprint/">www.qiji.cn/eprint/</a>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>83.4</b>
<b>Chinese Preprint System</b> <a href="http://www.prep.nstl.gov.cn/eprint/index.jsp">www.prep.nstl.gov.cn/eprint/index.jsp</a>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>87.9</b>
<b>Sciencepaper online</b> <a href="http://www.paper.edu.cn">www.paper.edu.cn</a>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>53</b>



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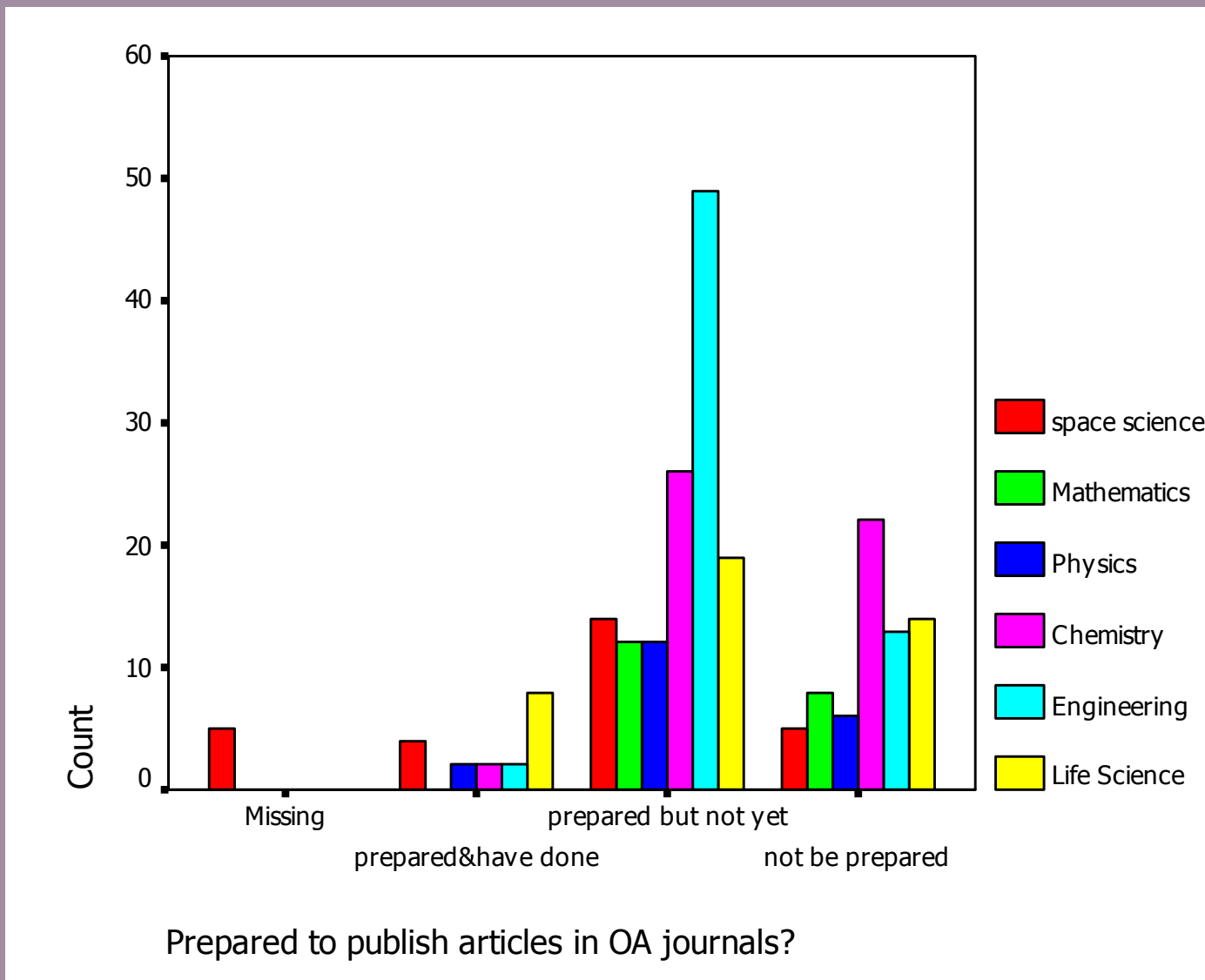
**4. Scientists' Reaction to Some proposals**

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- **Most of Chinese scientists know little about OA journals or archives, but their attitudes and tendencies will determine their future behaviors of contributions when they know more about OA.**

### 3.1 Likelihood of publishing in OA journals?



- **59.2% respondents are prepared to publish in OA journals, while 8.1% have published in OA; 30.5% are not prepared to publish in OA journals; 2.2% no responses.**
- **Among those who have published in OA, scientists from life sciences rank most(19.5%),scientists from physics rank second(10%)**
- **Among those who are prepared, researchers in engineering rank first(76.6%)**
- **Among those who are not prepared to publish in OA, researchers in chemistry rank most(44%),scientists from Mathematics rank second.**



**By contrast:**

**According to JISC/OSI\*:**

**71% would be *more likely* to choose to publish in an OA journals;**

**6% “would be *less likely*”**

**23% “don’t know”**

**\*Alma P.Swan and Sheridan N.Brown.JISC/OSI Journal Authors Survey Report, February 2004**

## 3.2 Your opinion of making your papers available via Internet?

Variables	Resp'	%	Rank
<b>If make unpublished paper available via Internet, no journals will publish it any more</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>If make a published paper available on the web, the copyright transfer agreement with publishers will be broken</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>My papers will be plagiarized?</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>I never think of this</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>My papers will be used for commercial purpose</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>The integrality of my paper may be affected</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>6</b>

### 3.3 Prepared to make your preprints or published papers available in IR?

For preprints	%
prepared	30.9
not prepared	60.1
no responses	9.0

For published papers	%
prepared	76.6
not prepared	6.3
not sure	16.6
no responses	4.0

## 3.4 Switch institutional journals into OA journals; developing institutional repositories ?

Switch institutional journals into OA journals	%
yes	82.5
no	3.1
Not sure	13.5
no responses	9.0

Develop institutional repositories	%
yes	83.4
no	4.0
Not sure	11.2
no responses	1.3

## 3.5 Will you use the resources from OA journals or institutional repositories?

item	Will, same as traditional journal papers	It depends, Don't refuse to use OA papers	Won't, only used for consultation in research	Never	No responses
%	45.7	43.5	8.5	1.3	2.2



**Another assumption: if some day your affiliation cancelled all or most of the subscription, and encouraged to use OA journals, 51.1% would agree, 25.1% have no idea/don't care, 22.9% would object.**

## 3.6 Prepared to archive published papers or preprints in?

	<b>respondents</b>	<b>percent</b>
<b>Personal website</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28.7</b>
<b>Institutional repositories</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>43.0</b>
<b>Subject archives</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24.3</b>

## 3.7 Reasons that prepared to publish in OA journals

Reason(rank)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Very imp.+ Imp(%)	60	58.3	45.3	26.9	26	25.1	8.5	7.6	6.7

1. Any user can read my papers without any limitations
2. OA journals are much faster than print journals in publication.
3. More citations published in OA journals
4. Enough research funds
5. Meet the evaluation criteria of the affiliation
6. Familiar with the OA journals in my field
7. Influenced by other colleagues
8. Dislike to publish in a commercial journal
9. Contributed journals are run by my affiliation

# JISC/OSI:

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Ranking position</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Very important plus important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Not very important</i>	<i>Not at all important plus not very important</i>
The principle of free access for all readers	71	1	21	92	1	4	6
I perceive OA journals to have faster publication times than other types of journal	44	2	43	87	1	8	9
I perceive the readership to be larger than for a subscription-based journal	35	3	36	71	4	22	27
I think my article will be more frequently cited	22	4	42	64	7	23	30
I am concerned about the cost to my institution of non-OA journals	20	5	36	56	15	25	39
The OA journal(s) I have published in have a high impact in my field	13	6	33	46	12	35	47
The OA journal(s) I have published in are prestigious in my field	11	7	38	49	9	34	43
My decision to publish in an OA journal was influenced by co-publishing colleagues	11	8=	23	34	42	18	60
I object to publishing with a commercial publisher	11	8=	17	27	29	39	68
I was attracted by the editor/ editorial board	9	10	35	44	21	31	52
The OA journal(s) I have published in are published from my own institution	1	11	5	6	64	21	85
My decision to publish in an OA journal was influenced by my grant-awarding body	0	12=	4	4	69	20	90
My decision to publish in an OA journal was influenced by my institution	1	12=	4	4	70	20	90

*Table 4: Authors' reasons for publishing in Open Access journals*

## 3.8 Reasons that NOT prepared to publish in OA journals

Reasons (rank)	1	2	3=	3=	5	6	7	8=	8=	10	11	12
Very imp.+ imp.%	18.4	17	16.6	16.6	16.1	15.7	13.9	11.6	11.6	10.3	9.8	8

1. Object to“author pay”
2. Authority of OA journal in my field is low
3. The impact of OA journal in my field is low
4. No funds to pay
5. Meet no evaluation criteria
6. Worry about copyright
7. Academic quality of OA journals is out of the question (in doubt)
8. Be used to publishing in print journals
9. My papers may be used for commercial purposes
10. Low citations of OA journal papers
11. Unfamiliar with OA journals, nowhere to contribute/submit
12. OA journals have Less readers

# JISC/OSI:

<i>Reason</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Ranking position</i>	<i>Important</i>	<i>Very important plus important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Not very important</i>	<i>Not at all important plus not very important</i>
I am not familiar enough with OA journals in my field to feel confident about submitting work	35	1	35	70	9	12	21
I perceive the OA journals in my field to have low impact	31	2	38	69	5	13	18
I perceive the OA journals in my field to have low prestige	29	3	40	69	6	13	19
I perceive the readership to be smaller than for a subscription-based journal	28	4	36	64	9	17	26
I could not identify any OA journals to publish in	25	5	31	56	9	20	29
I think articles published in OA journals may be less frequently cited	20	6=	27	59	8	16	24
I cannot find funds to pay the publication fee for OA journals	20	6=	22	43	20	22	42
I object in principle to paying a publication fee to publish in OA journals	19	8	26	45	18	30	48
I am concerned about the archiving of work published in OA journals	15	9	27	42	17	22	39
I perceive the OA journals in my field to have poor peer review procedures in place	9	10	29	37	14	25	39
My decision was influenced by my co-publishing colleagues	8	11	18	26	27	22	49
I always publish my work in the same journals and I am satisfied with this way of working	6	12=	35	41	22	27	49
My decision was influenced by my institution	6	12=	10	16	40	24	64
I was not attracted by the editor/editorial board	5	14=	15	20	22	31	53
My decision was influenced by my grant-awarding body	5	14=	12	18	35	23	58
I perceive the OA journals in my field to have slower publication times than traditional journals	1	16	12	14	27	37	64

*Table 5: Authors' reasons for not publishing in Open Access journals*

## 3.5 Publication Fees

**Percent of authors who paid to publish  
over the last 5 years:**

**1) Only paid to publish in traditional  
journals: 72.1%**

**2) Paid to publish in OA journals: 2.7%**

**3) Non: 26.5%**

## Authors who would be prepared to pay this level of fee to publish in a journal of their choice

<b>Fee (RMB)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1000-1999</b>	<b>500-999</b>	<b>300-499</b>	<b>100-299</b>	<b>&lt;100</b>	<b>No idea</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>30.9</b>

Note: 1 dollar=8.2 RMB

### JISC/OSI:

<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>OA AUTHOR</b>	<b>NON-OA AUTHOR</b>
<b>500</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>1000</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>1500</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

## 3.6 If prepared to publish in OA journals, where the fees would come from?

Sources	Respondents	Percent
My research grant	185	82.9
Institutional funds pay half, personal funds pay half	29	13
Personal funds	4	1.8

## 3.7 Opinions of OA Journal Quality

<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Same with traditional journals</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>50.2</b>
<b>Higher than traditional journals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Lower than traditional journals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>36.8</b>

## 3.8 Constrains with Use of the self archived publications

<b>Constrains</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rank</b>
If it is a preprint, it only can be used after formal publication	50.2	1
Number of usage	4.0	6
Only for personal use	13.5	5
Only for specific communities	22.9	2
Only originals can be used	20.6	3
No constrains	14.3	4

## 3.9 Requirements for users

Requirements	Percent	Rank
Pay for use	4.9	6
Only after registration	8.5	5
Some licenses	26.5	3
Cite the authors source	47.5	1
Make note when it is used in any form	38.6	2
No conditions	9.4	4

## 4.10 Ever claimed your own right? such as you could post your papers into the personal website or deposit them into IR

<b>Claim rights</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>yes</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>no</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22.0</b>
<b>Never thought of this</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>62.8</b>

## 4.11 How long do you expect your papers to be open access?

Duration	Respondents	Percent
When the paper is adopted	43	19.3
As soon as publication	101	45.3
Half a year after publication	31	13.9
1 year after publication	25	11.2
More than 1 year after publication	21	9.4



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# 4.1 Ways of Promoting OA in CAS?

<b>Suggestions</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>Make policies that encourage and support to publish in OA journals</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Allow scientists pay the publishing fee in OA journals with research grant</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Switch institutional journals into OA journals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Institutes develop their own repositories</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OA journals are included in the evaluation system of research results</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Your institute pay membership fee, so as that you need not to pay when you publish in a OA journal</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Scientists should claim their rights of their own or institute's, so the paper could be posted in personal website, IR, or something alike</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CAS should be the leader and model in OA in the nation.</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2.51</b>	<b>8</b>

## 4.2 Roles of LCAS play in OA

Suggestions	Freq.	%	rank
Make widely known of OA to scientists	96	43	2
Select, organize, analyze and expose OA resources	114	51.1	1
Guide and train users to use OA resources	80	35.9	5
Guide scientists to publish in OA journals	74	33.2	6
Help and guide institutes to develop their IR	58	26	7
On behalf of CAS to be membership of famous OA projects, so the scientists of CAS can use OA resources and publish in OA journals	87	39	3
To be involved in some leading OA projects	52	23.3	8
Publish OA journals	45	20.2	9
Promote institutes to develop their IR	71	31.3	6
Develop mirror sites of famous OA journals or subject archives	83	37.2	4 <sup>35</sup>

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# Conclusions

- **Chinese scientists are getting better and better understanding of OA;**
- **Most Chinese scientists are positive to and enthusiastic about OA;**
- **OA still has a long way to go in China;**
- **Alternative scholarly communication system will be in shape in near future!**



**Thank you!**

**Enjoy Yourselves in Beijing!**