



DINI-Symposium "Wissenschaftliches Publizieren der Zukunft – Open Access"

Breakout Session "Visibility and Relevance of Open Access"

The Art of "Doing" Open Access: some considerations about the impact of open access movement, self-archiving and publishing on the humanities and social sciences

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Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung /
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Breakout Session
"Visibility and Relevance of Open Access"
The Art of "Doing" Open Access in HSS



- Who we are
- What we like to discuss
- 1. **The impact of the open access movement on HSS is poor.**
- 2. **Most parts of HSS are not familiar with self-archiving as an open access practice.**
- 3. **Open access journals are of growing interest and impact, but without being necessarily linked by the authors and readers to the "open access" idea.**
- Consequences

Who we are



- Editors of the trilingual open access journal [FQS](#) (since 1999)
- Qualitative researchers

This made us part of different communities:

- the international qualitative research (sub-) communities
- relevant online and offline places of some HSS (Humanities and Social Sciences) disciplines
- the international open access movement and some of the national "bastions" of this movement

This is the background, important for our experiences and attitudes towards open access, which we try to summarize below.

English
Español

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FQS

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FQS ist eine seit 1999 bestehende, mehrsprachige Online-Zeitschrift für qualitative Sozialforschung, die – gefördert durch die [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) – zu einem internationalen und interdisziplinären Portal für qualitative Sozialforschung ausgebaut wird.

[FQS Schwerpunktausgaben](#) erscheinen dreimal jährlich und behandeln für qualitative Forschung wesentliche Themengebiete. Hinzu kommen ausgewählte Einzelbeiträge und Beiträge in den Rubriken [FQS Reviews](#), [FQS Debatten](#) und [FQS Tagungen](#). Alle Volltexte sind kostenlos als PDF- und als HTML-Dateien abrufbar.

Da es Ziel von FQS ist, die Diskussion und den Austausch zwischen Forschenden unterschiedlicher Nationalität und Disziplinen zu fördern, werden die besonderen Eigenschaften des Internet – Geschwindigkeit, Flexibilität, Interaktivität – so eingesetzt, dass verglichen mit traditionellen Print-Medien neue Diskursformen und Qualitätsstandards erreicht werden können. Der experimentelle Charakter von FQS beinhaltet, dass es sich um ein offenes Projekt handelt, dessen inhaltliche und formale Gestaltung gemeinsam mit allen an FQS Beteiligten – Leser(inne)n, Autor(inn)en, Mitgliedern des Wissenschaftlichen Beirates und der Online-Redaktion – weiter entwickelt wird.

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The Art of "Doing" Open Access



1. **The impact of the open access movement on HSS is rather insignificant.**

Centers of the open access movement

- Internationally: OA originates in (North American) sciences
- Germany:
 - library and information sciences
 - national centers, f.e. [Deutsches Institut für Internationale Pädagogische Forschung \(DIPF\)](#), [Informationszentrum Sozialwissenschaften](#), [Zentrum für Psychologische Information und Dokumentation \(ZPID\)](#)
 - Projects, f.e. [German Academic Publishers \(GAP\)](#) or [Digital Peer Publishing NRW \(DiPP\)](#)
 - journals like [FQS](#), [Zeitenblicke](#) and [Sehepunkte](#) or [German Medical Science \(GMS\)](#)

Most of these national agents received funding from the [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#).



Impact of the open access movement



Characteristics of HSS as reported in the "DFG Study of Author Experience of Open Access," comparing HSS, LS (Life Sciences), NS (Natural Sciences), and ENG (Engineering) (Dr. Johannes Fournier, DFG)

1. The open access movement is mainly concerned with the scientific journal literature, while in HSS monographs still play an important role.
2. Discourse about open access is most times English discourse about open access. HSS uses to a large amount national languages, as many research and communication in HSS takes place in (and needs) national contexts and languages.



Impact of the open access movement



3. Many arguments concerning the importance of open access rely on traditional quantitative impact measures. Such measures, for example Web of Science or Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), have biases, similar to the one's characterizing the open access movement itself: they are science (or in the case of SSCI: quantitatively) oriented and North America-centered.

Nevertheless, HSS also are concerned with questions of impact: following the DFG study, bibliographic accounts, the frequency of citations in traditional print media and long-term availability are even more important to them than to other researchers, and HSS researchers do not trust in open access as far as these topics are concerned.

Impact of the open access movement



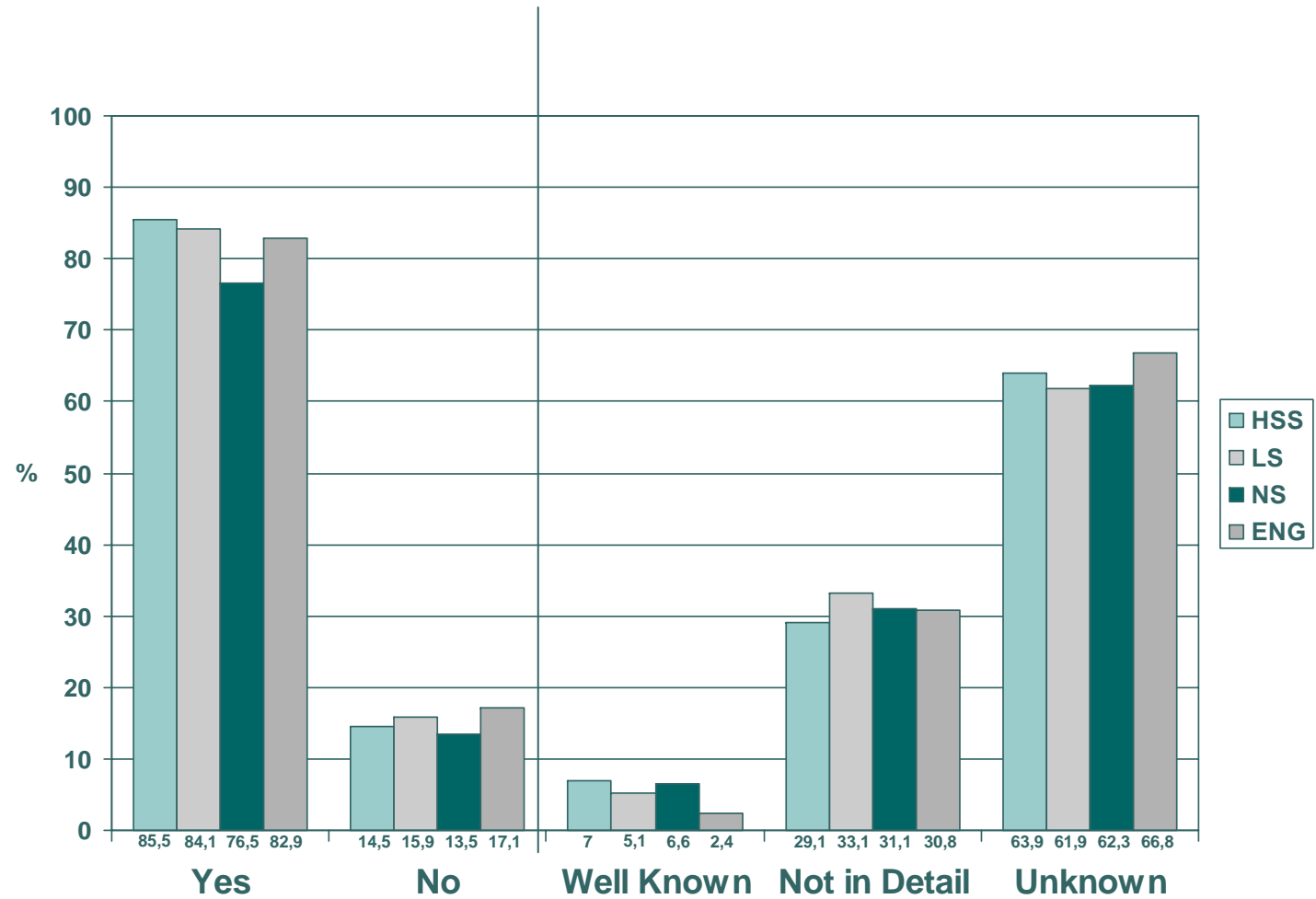
- Mistrust, missing information about open access and missing practice in open access archiving and publishing are parts of a feedback loop, HSS still is exposed to. There is some evidence from the DFG-study that these processes are in no way limited to HSS:

"DFG Study of Author Experience of Open Access"

Open Access Awareness

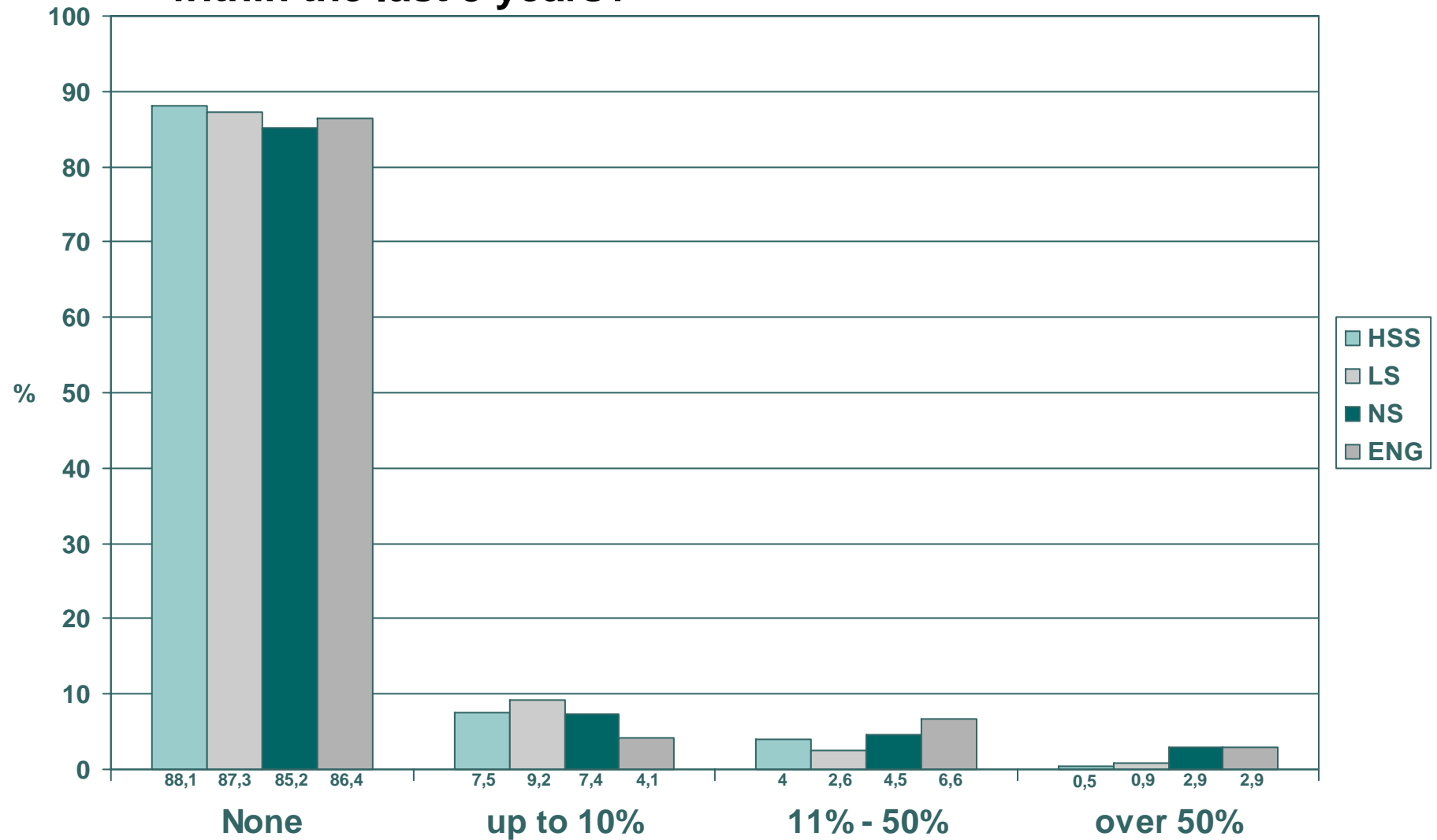
Is open access still unknown as means of publication?

How familiar are you with the *Berlin declaration*?



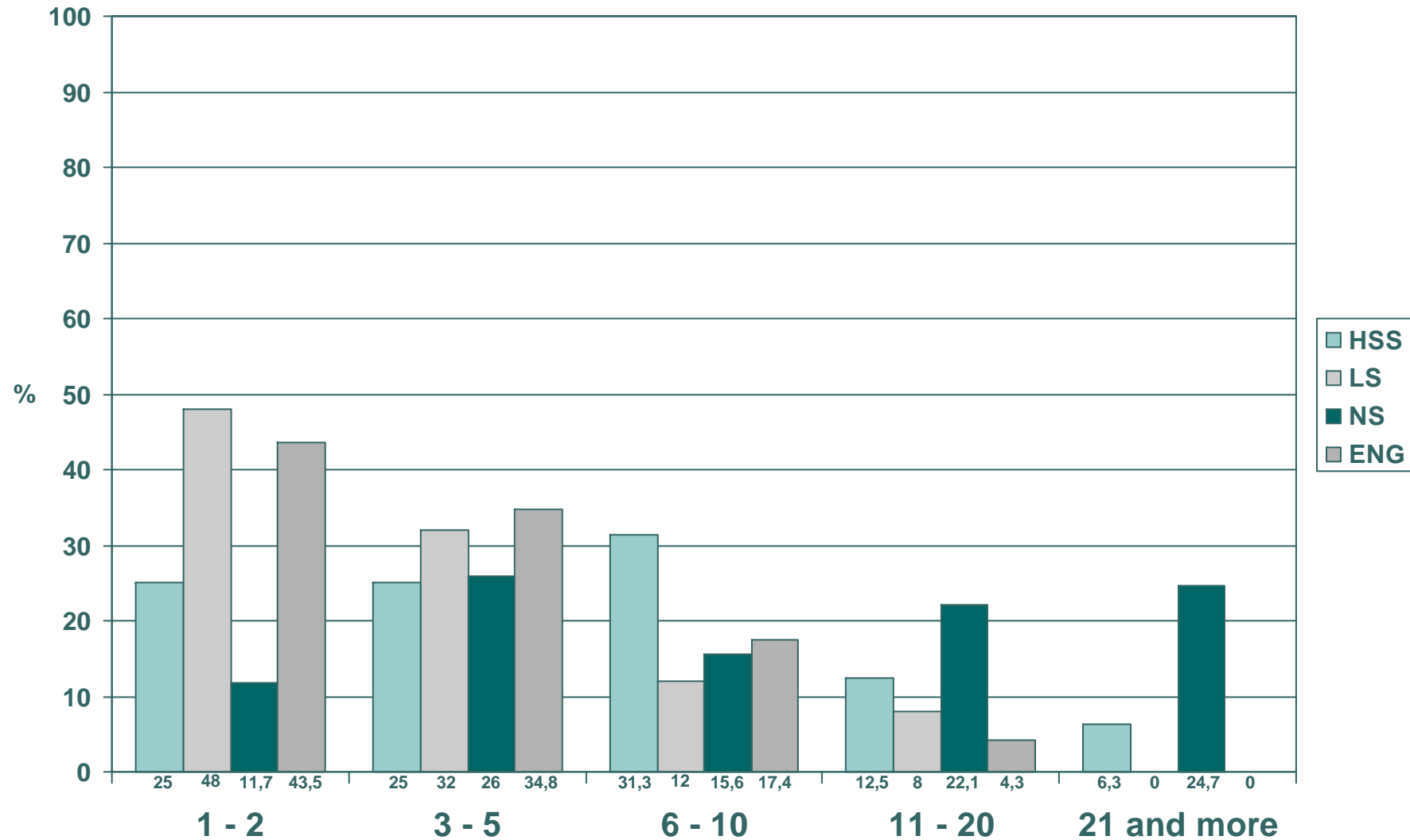
"DFG Study of Author Experience of Open Access"

How many articles did you publish in an open access journal within the last 5 years?



"DFG Study of Author Experience of Open Access"

Self-Archived Articles (Preprints) within the last 5 years





The Art of "Doing" Open Access



2. Self-archiving as an open access practice is not known in most parts of HSS

- With the spread of the Internet a growing number of researchers provide texts (journal literature, chapters from monographs, manuscripts etc) via their private or institutional web site.
- Genuine open access archiving practices (pre-/postprints of peer-reviewed journal literature) do not reach HSS at an institutional level:
 - Only a small number of institutions committed themselves to institutional self-archiving, and even within this small number the "old" bias worked: Most institutions belong to the sciences.
 - In the case of universities one might expect the whole disciplinary spectrum but either (in the case of the University of Hamburg) no input is recorded or (in the case for example of the University of Kansas) the input is still poor.



Self-archiving as an open access-practice



University of Kansas, state of self archiving in selected disciplines, May 2005

HSS		Science	
Anthropology	0	Biological Sciences	6
Education	4 (since Sept. 2000)	Chemistry	2
Linguistics	1 (Dec. 2002)	Engineering	14
Philosophy	2 (Dec 2001-June 2002)	Mathematics	9
Political Science	1 (March 2004)	Physics and Astronomy	4
Psychology	9 (1989-June 2004)		
Social Welfare	4 (2001-2004, 1 author)		
Sociology	3 (2000-2003)		
Theatre and Film	4 (1998-2002, 1 author)		



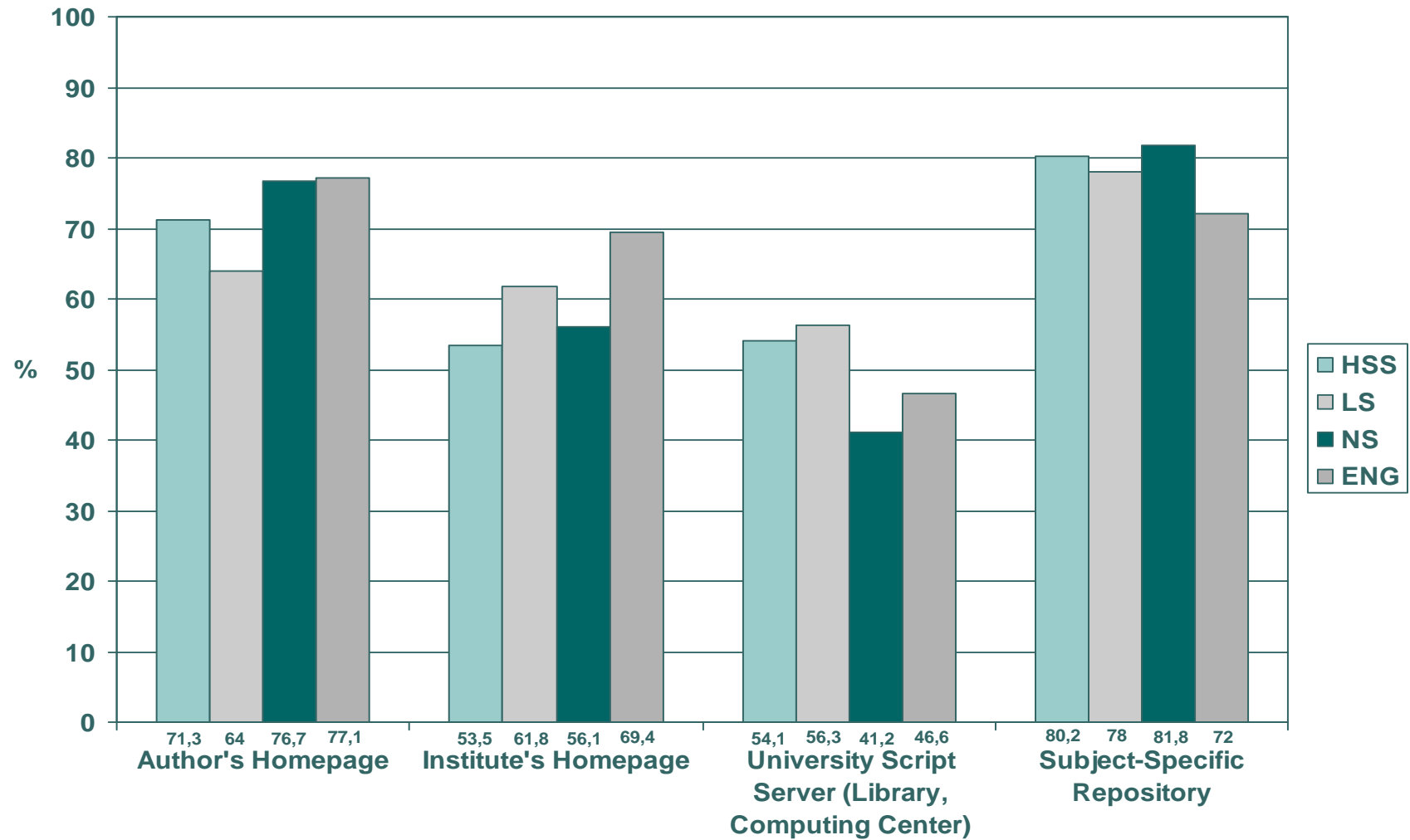
Self-archiving as an open access-practice



For sure: as top university administrators are not familiar with open access (this seems to be true not only for HSS) it is rather difficult to get university open access commitments, but it is far more difficult to get researchers to self-archive in the ways, suggested by the open access movement. Following the DFG study there is some evidence, at least for Germany, that institutional based archives are not the researchers' first choices, as can be seen in the following slide, taken again from the DFG-study:

"DFG Study of Author Experience of Open Access"

Most Reasonable Places for Depositing Self-Archived Articles





The Art of "Doing" Open Access



3. Open access journals are of growing interest and impact, but without being necessarily linked by the authors and readers to the "open access" idea.

When starting FQS we were interested in international and transdisciplinary networking and no one of us really cared about *measuring* impact, an attitude we shared with many qualitative researchers at least in Germany, who for a long time worked at the edge of the respective, quantitatively dominated disciplines. During the years, qualitative research received growing acknowledgement, and at FQS we also learned that managing an open access journal meant increasing visibility and impact. Others learned this too: Since 2003 four new open access journals have been launched or are on the way, explicitly dealing with or closely linked to qualitative research.

What are the lessons to learn from FQS, or -- referring to the name of this session: *What means Visibility and Relevance of Open Access in our area?*



Impact of open access journals



We try to respond to this empirically:

What are from the FQS perspective factors crucial for success?

- open access
- multilinguality
- peer review
- copy-editing by native speakers
- reputation: being grounded in the research communities, for example because prominent researchers are serving as board members etc.
- use of the Internet and off offline meetings like conferences to distribute information about the journal
- support (technological, financial, community building)



The Art of "Doing" Open Access

Impact of open access journals



What are indicators for successfully managing an open access journal?

1. **Usage data**: number of submissions, attributes of authors (discipline, nation, status), number of readers, number of accesses to articles, public (online/offline) awareness about the journal



Impact of open access journals



2. Kinds of internal feedback

As the [FQS newsletter](#) currently is distributed to about 5,200 colleagues every month, we are receiving an enormous amount of feedback from all over the world, concerning nearly every topic one might imagine.

- *Requests for information, support, networking etc.*
- *Requests to use FQS for the distribution of information.*
- *Feedback on the usefulness of articles for research and teaching*

I am a ph.d student doing research on the social environment of people living with hiv/aids in Nepal. **Till I found your journal I have hard time finding appropriate journals, materials etc. here in Nepal (they are mostly unavailable).** *PhD Student, Nepal*



Impact of open access journals



- *Feedback from authors, concerning experienced impact of articles, published in FQS*

Just one example from a well-known American colleague, stressing his interest in publishing a revised chapter from a former book in FQS:

The book has sold over 4000 copies world-wide ... and continues to sell very well, but **the reach is not nearly as wide as it needs to be, particularly internationally**. We believe that it is important to make this paper available to a wider audience and **we know that we can achieve this goal through your journal because of its readership and reach. This is why publication in FQS is so important. ... Just to illustrate the power of your journal's reach, (...) I continue to receive many emails from novice (...) researchers from literally every continent who have read the (...) paper that you published last May. (...)**. Some of these researchers do not have access to extensive academic libraries so journals like FQS are critical resources to their developing their research skills and knowledge.



Impact of open access journals



- *Interest to distribute information, using the FQS network*
- *Interest to support our work and to collaborate*

- **General support:** "(...) This is a great site and want to see it continued—please let me know how I can be of service in maintaining its continued presence on the web (...)" . *Director Public Health Institute, USA*
- **Translation:** "I receive your email letters about FQS and it's been very useful to me. Now that you have it in Spanish is going to be even better for my students. So I wanted to let you know that if there is any need of other translators I would be very pleased to help with this. My mother tongue is Spanish and I manage very well with English. I did a master's degree in England and a Ph. D. in USA, my field is developmental and sociocultural psychology, and I have been doing qualitative research for about 17 years and now I'm working with mixed methods. So if I could be of any help with translations to Spanish, please let me know. *Researcher, Psychology, Mexico*
- **Disciplinary distribution :** "(...) ich will in (...) am (...) auf der Jahrestagung der Kommission (...) zum Thema (...) teilnehmen. Gibt es ein aktuelles Handout von fqs, das ich da verteilen könnte? *Professor, Psychology, Germany*
- **National distribution:** "(...) you may like to register FQS with Australian Government Dept of Education. Registration is free, simple and can be done online at the above URL. It will encourage Australian academics to send papers to FQS since govt grants that Universities get require that papers are published in journals that are registered." *Researcher, Education, Australia*

Impact of open access journals



3. Acknowledgement in traditional areas

- *Serving as an example for other journals (publishers, editors)*
- *Cooperation with research societies, print journals etc.*
- *Receiving grants*
- *Invitations of editorial board members and editorial staff from other open access journals and traditional journals*
- *Invitations of authors who published in FQS to contribute to other journals/books*
- *Requests for reprints of articles originally published in FQS from print journals*
- *Increased offline activities (visitors, invitations, organizing conferences etc.)*
- *Inclusion in bibliographic records*

Requests from e-psyche (2001), from EBSCO Publishing (2003), from CSA (2003), from Elsevier (2004), from j-gate (2004), from the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (2005), from DIPF (2005); currently we are waiting for the request from SSCI to apply for inclusion ;-)



Consequences



- **How to improve the impact of open access movement on HSS?**
 - As long as open access activists debate in their own circles, organize their own online-communities and their own offline sessions, they will not meet (partly disciplinary, partly national organized) HSS.
 - Just visiting the "researchers places" is not sufficient, as we learnt from some former presentations for example during the annual conference of the German Sociological Association: being assigned to present in a group on information technology meant an audience of about ten persons, interested in information technology, while hundreds and hundreds of researchers visited other sessions.
- We once suggested a kind of "open access task force," visiting important disciplinary conferences like traditional publishers do, providing information and best practice examples, close to the focus of the respective meeting. Additionally, the continual exchange with research societies must be established.

Consequences



- **How to improve self-archiving practices?**
 - If so many researchers are interested in subject specific repositories we should successively organize and link them.
 - There are first initiatives for disciplinary self-archiving for example in the German Psychology -- due to the work of ZPID and the Saarländische Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek SULB, see <http://psydok.sulb.uni-saarland.de/>; similar efforts are on the way in the case of DIPF.
 - But the SULB example also shows that the amount of "genuine" open access data archived is rather limited. Additionally, the input is mainly in German and therefore of little interest for the international community; this will probably result in limited interest of many German psychologists to self-archive their work, as at least the German psychological mainstream is oriented to North American research output.
- It will not only make sense to collaborate on a national level ([vascoda](#) may be possible national places for such transdisciplinary links, DINI may serve as an organizing infrastructure), but also to collaborate on an international level with those, providing similar services in other countries.



➤ **How to improve the reputation and acceptance of open access journals?**

For successfully providing (international) open access journals the factors already mentioned are crucial: availability (open access, multilinguality), distribution to relevant online and offline agents, quality (peer review, copy-editing), reputation, support (human, technological, financial). Ignoring any factor means threatening the journal's impact and visibility and finally existence, in this way contributing to prejudices on missing long-term availability of open access publications and -- in the long run -- damaging open access as practice, resource and movement.

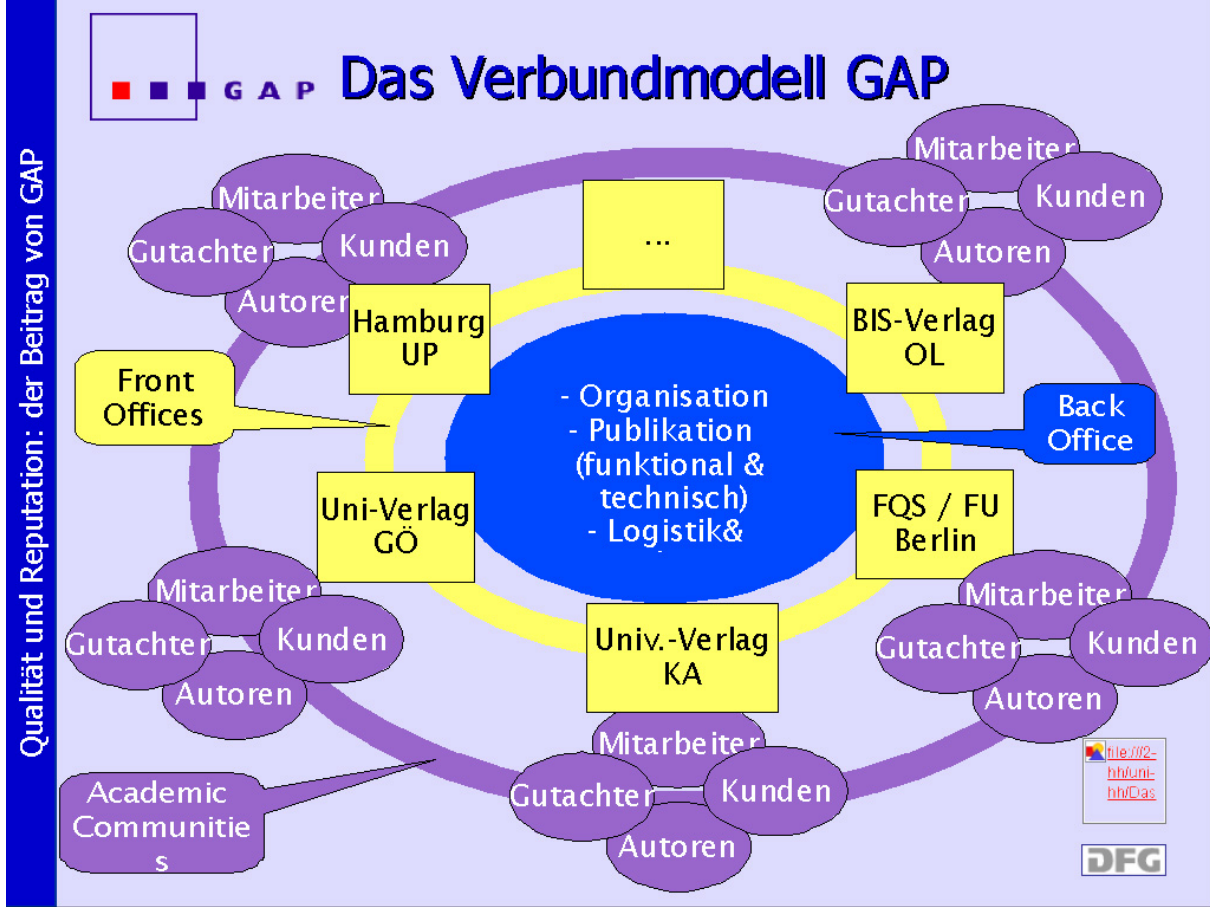


Consequences



Activities:

- On an international level, we currently started to organize a possible network for those, interested in open access in the HSS.
- On a national level, universities and institutions, already collaborating in GAP will provide an infrastructure for open access publishing in Germany during 2005.
- With DINI, supporting the green (self-archiving) and GAP, supporting the golden (publishing) road to open access we hopefully will have to report some progress while meeting again in 2006 ...





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