

Understanding Faculty Engagement with Transformative Publishing Agreements

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Background

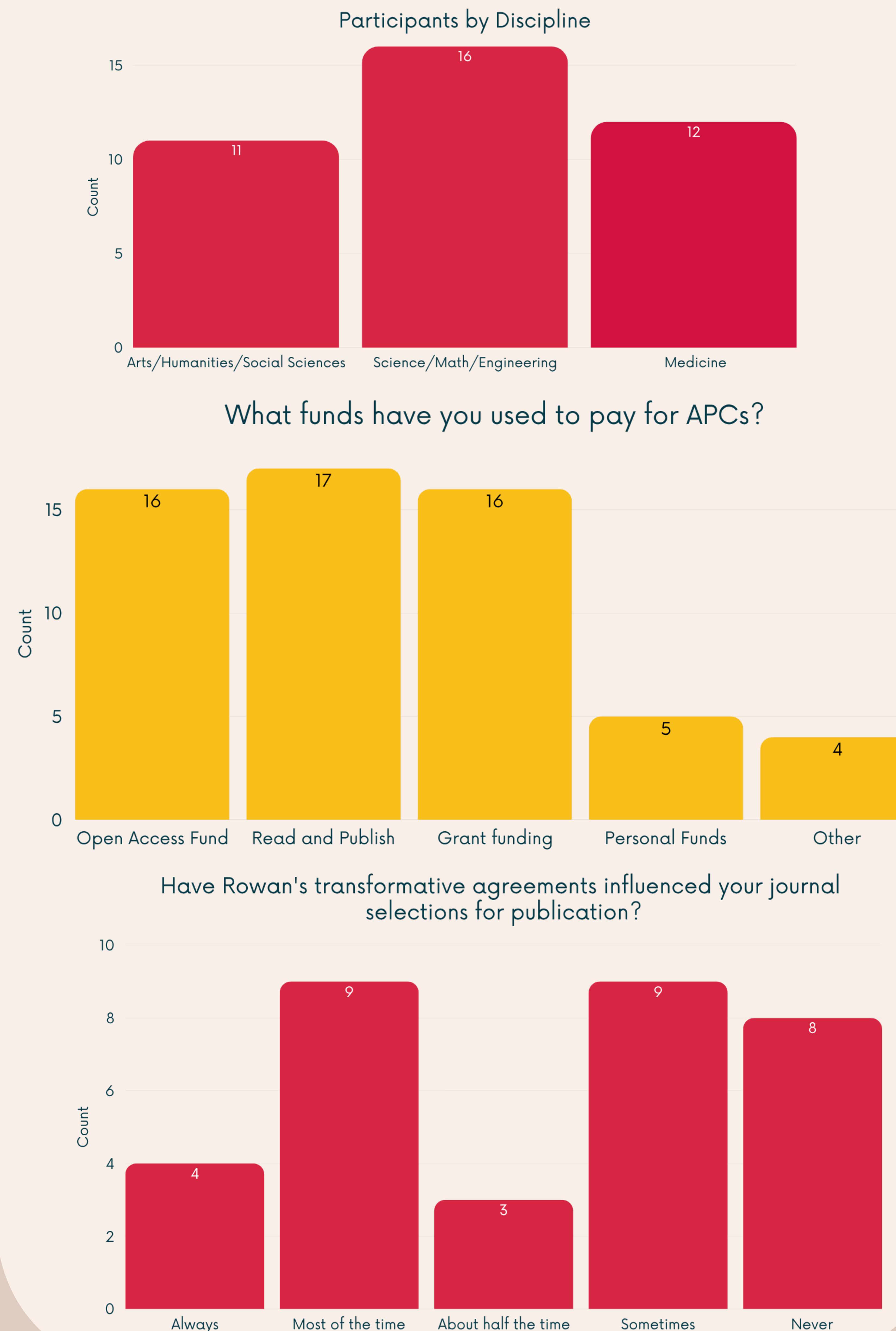
Transformative agreements, also known as read and publish agreements, are a journal subscription model used to facilitate both access to scholarly content and Open Access (OA) publishing for researchers. Rowan University Libraries (RUL) have adopted 17 of these agreements in addition to supporting an OA publishing fund. This research study aims to discover how use of these agreements has influenced perceptions of OA publishing and publishing decisions of faculty.

Methods

- 17-question survey sent to 189 Rowan faculty members across all schools and colleges who were listed as corresponding authors on papers published using a read and publish agreement or RUL Open Access Publishing Fund in 2024.
 - 39 researchers completed the survey
- Optional 30 minute follow-up interview
 - 7 researchers completed interviews



Results



Discussion

Faculty asserted that the overall prestige of the journal and cost (or lack of costs) were both extremely or very important factors in deciding where to submit their work for publication. The vast majority of respondents (81.6%) ranked the ability to publish Open Access as at least moderately important. Interviews supported survey results, indicating evolving views of OA publishing and strong appreciation of institutional support.

Conclusion

Faculty who have taken advantage of RUL funding continue to find journal prestige and cost are the most important factors in choosing where to publish. While some take Read and Publish Agreement availability into account when selecting a journal, this is not yet a major factor in faculty publishing decisions. Faculty strongly value library support for OA publishing, making this funding an investment in building closer ties between researchers and the Libraries.