

E-Infrastructure for Scientific Data

A Survey by PARSE.Insight

Introduction

The EU-project PARSE.Insight is concerned with the preservation of digital information in science. Its aim is to develop a roadmap and recommendations for developing the e-infrastructure in order to maintain the long-term accessibility and usability of scientific digital information in Europe.

PARSE.Insight is closely linked to the Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science (www.alliancepermanentaccess.org).

Surveys and Case Studies

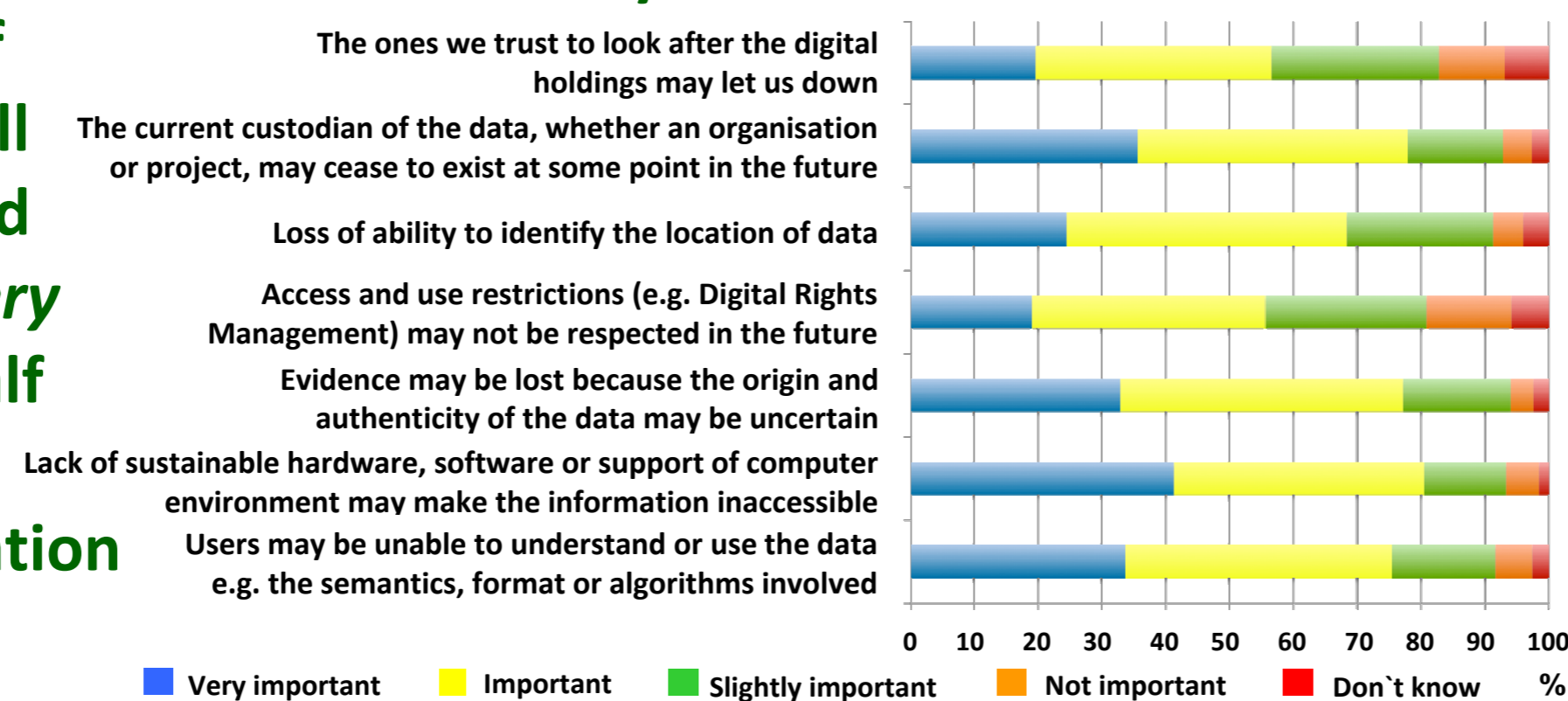
PARSE.Insight conducted surveys of different scientific disciplines and stakeholders to obtain insight into the attitudes and practices of a range of communities concerning digital preservation.

Three case studies in the areas of high-energy physics, geoscience and social science (psycholinguistics and book studies) are providing specific and complementary information.

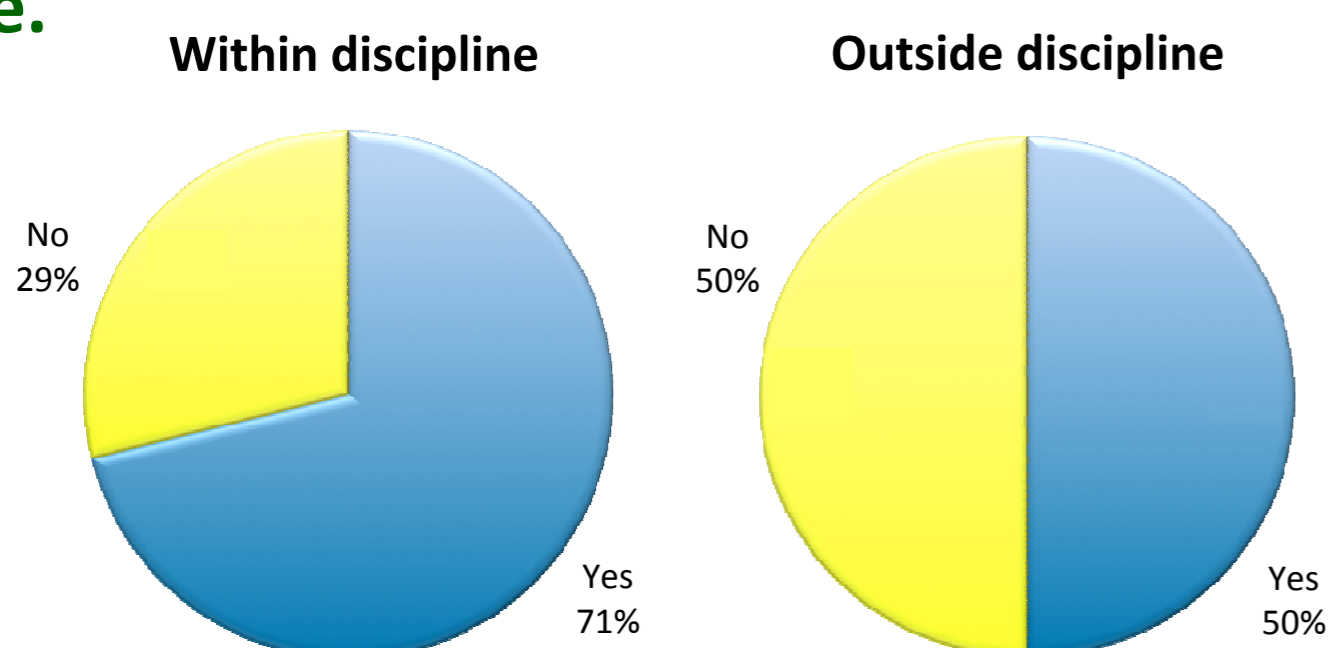
Results

One of the principles used to structure the survey was in terms of threats to the future accessibility and understandability of the data.

Between 50% and 70% of responses indicate that all the threats are recognized as either *Important* or *Very Important*, with about half supporting the need for an international preservation infrastructure.



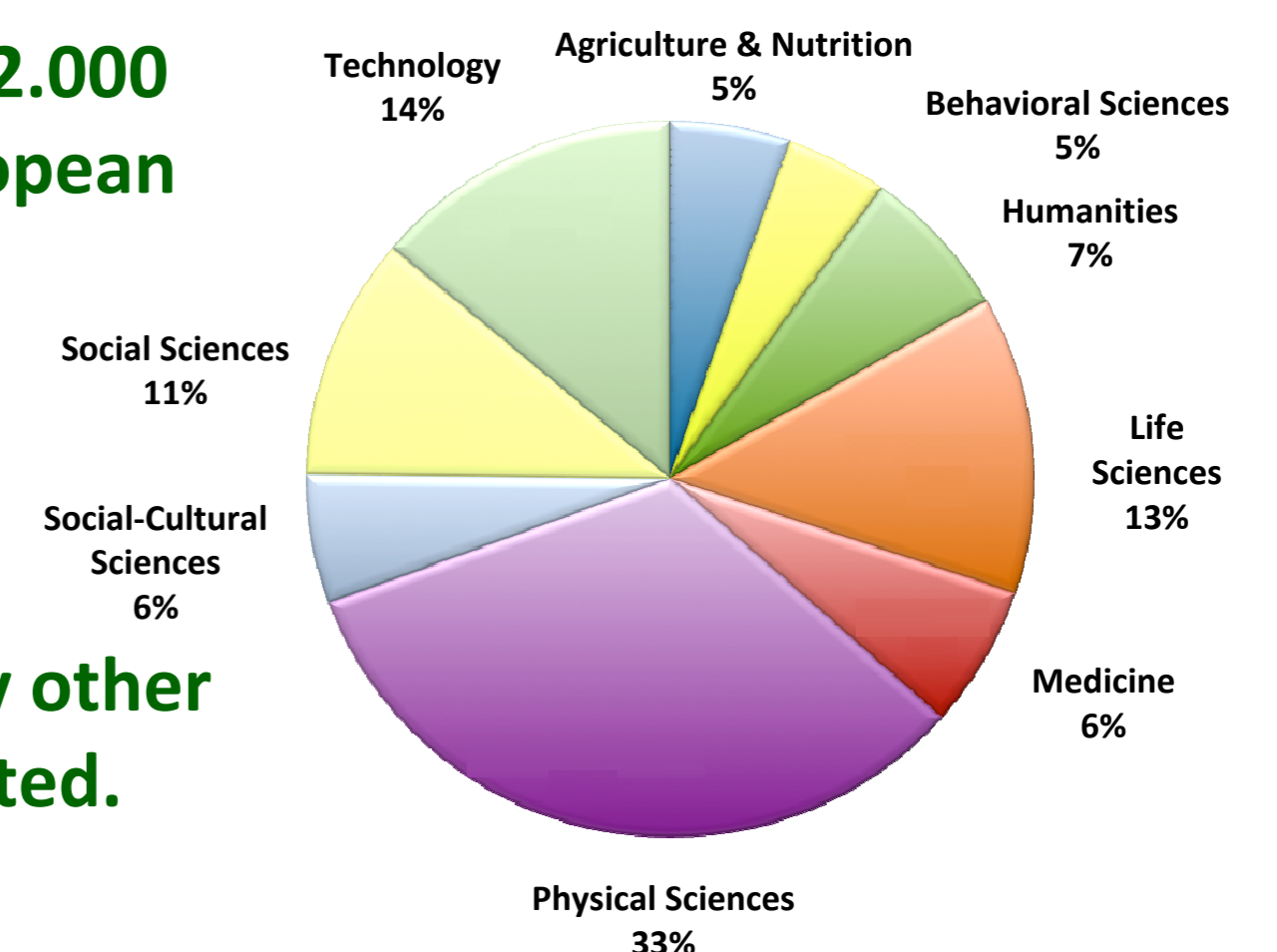
Researchers would like to (re-)use data from both their own and other disciplines, and it is suggested that this is likely to produce more and better science.



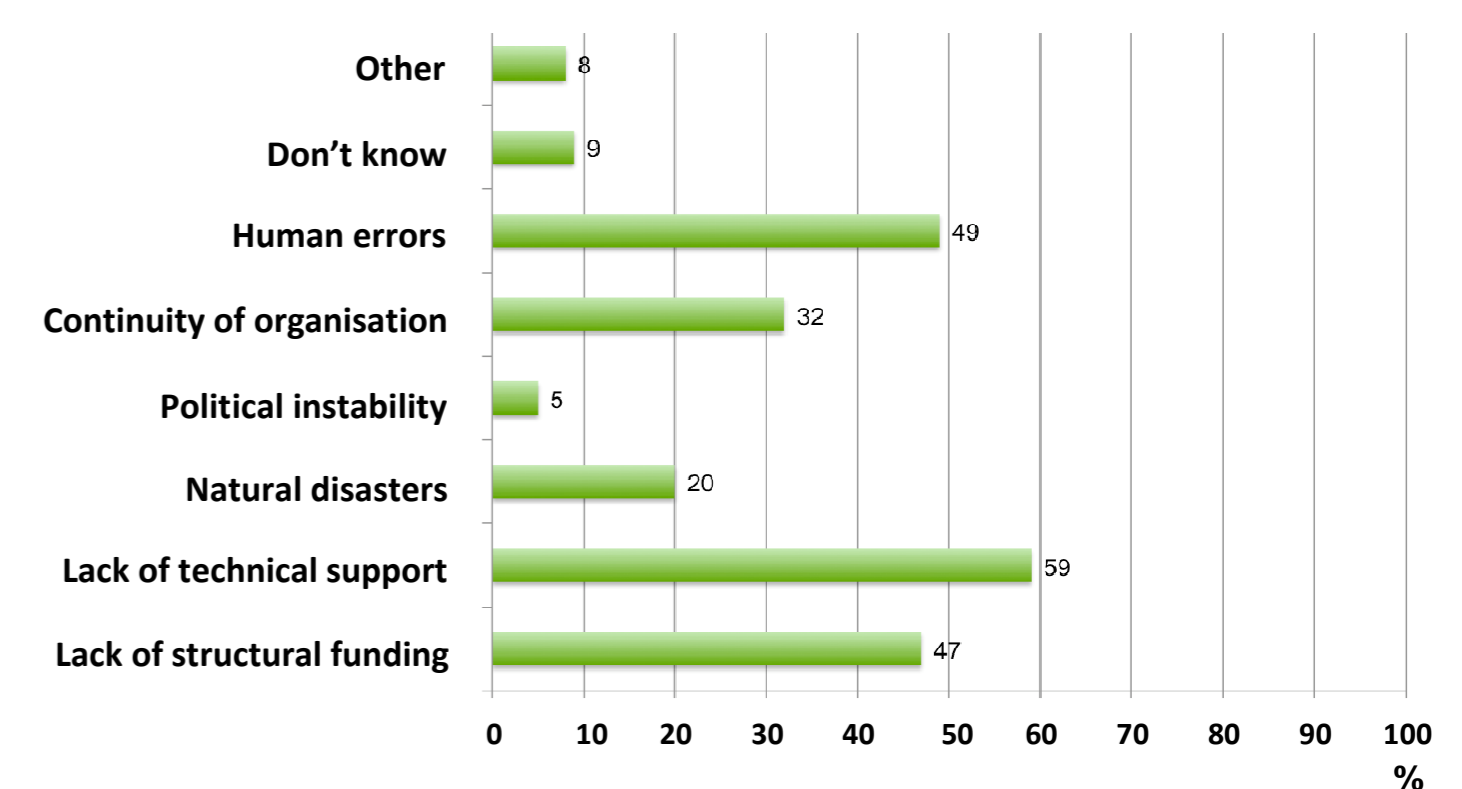
Responses

PARSE.Insight received about 2.000 answers, mostly from the European Union (44%) and the United States of America (33%).

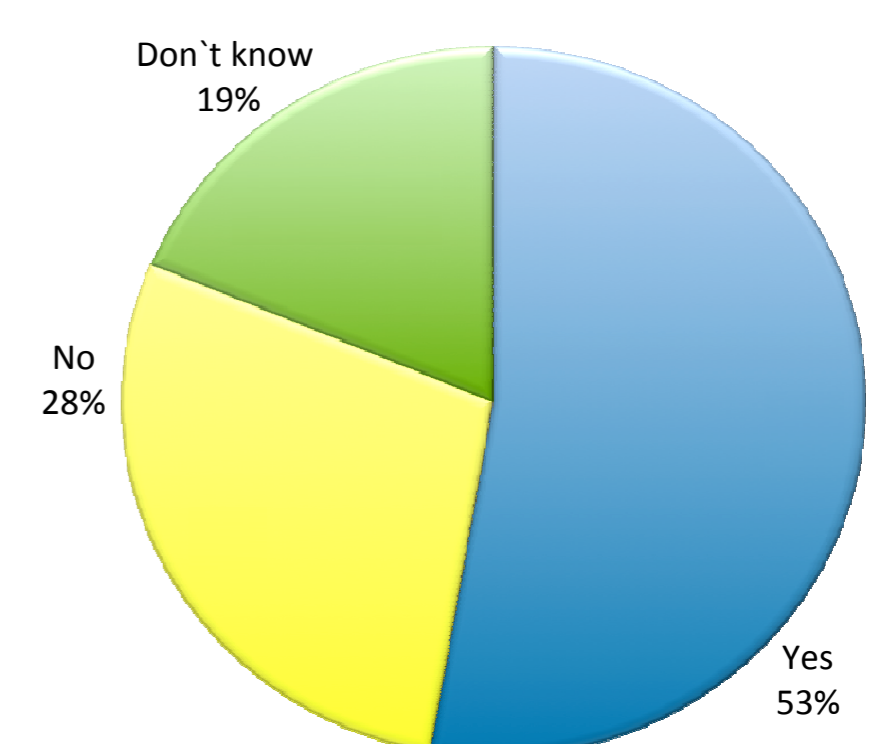
The responses to the survey predominantly came from the physical sciences though many other disciplines were also represented.



Lack of technical support is supposed to be the main threat:



However, more than 50% of respondents report that they would have liked to access digital research data gathered by other researchers which turned out to be unavailable.



How to Proceed?

The survey results will be used as a basis for plugging the gaps in the European e-infrastructure with regard to the long-term usability of raw scientific data. Thus, PARSE.Insight makes a major contribution to securing the underlying data on which research is based, storing it in a usable form and ensuring it remains accessible in the future.

You find all projects results on www.parse-insight.eu.