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Scaling Up: Assessing the Future of OA Monographs in the Humanities and Social Sciences

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SCALING UP: ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF OA MONOGRAPHS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



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SURVEYS OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS MONOGRAPHS

2013 KU Pre-Pilot Survey of Libraries

- **Responses:** 62 from U.S. & U.K.
- **Focus:** ideal platforms (HathiTrust, JSTOR, Project MUSE), selection (subject packages or individual titles), pricing, number of titles
- **51%** of US respondents were concerned or somewhat concerned about free riders.

2014 OAPEN-UK Librarian Survey

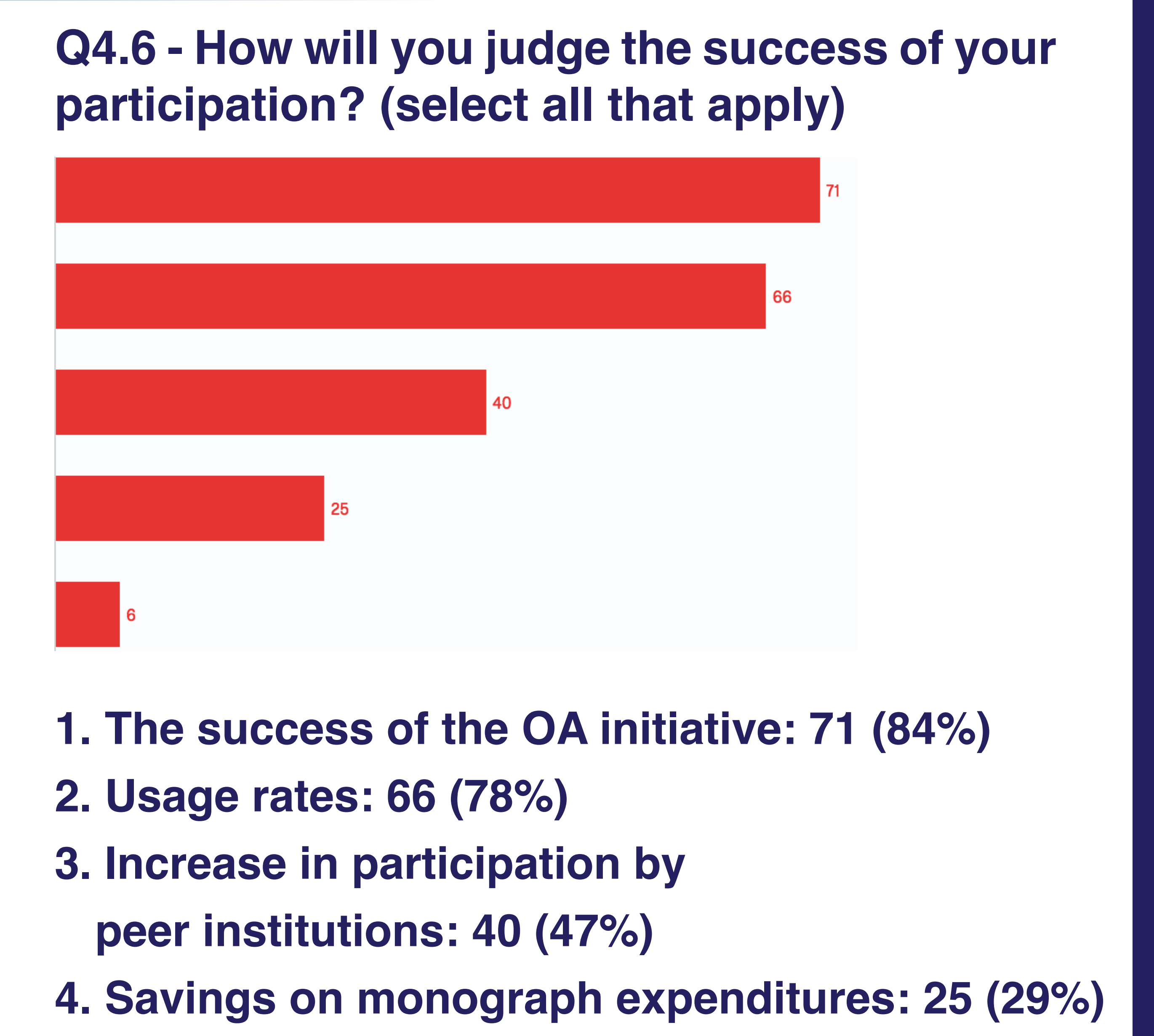
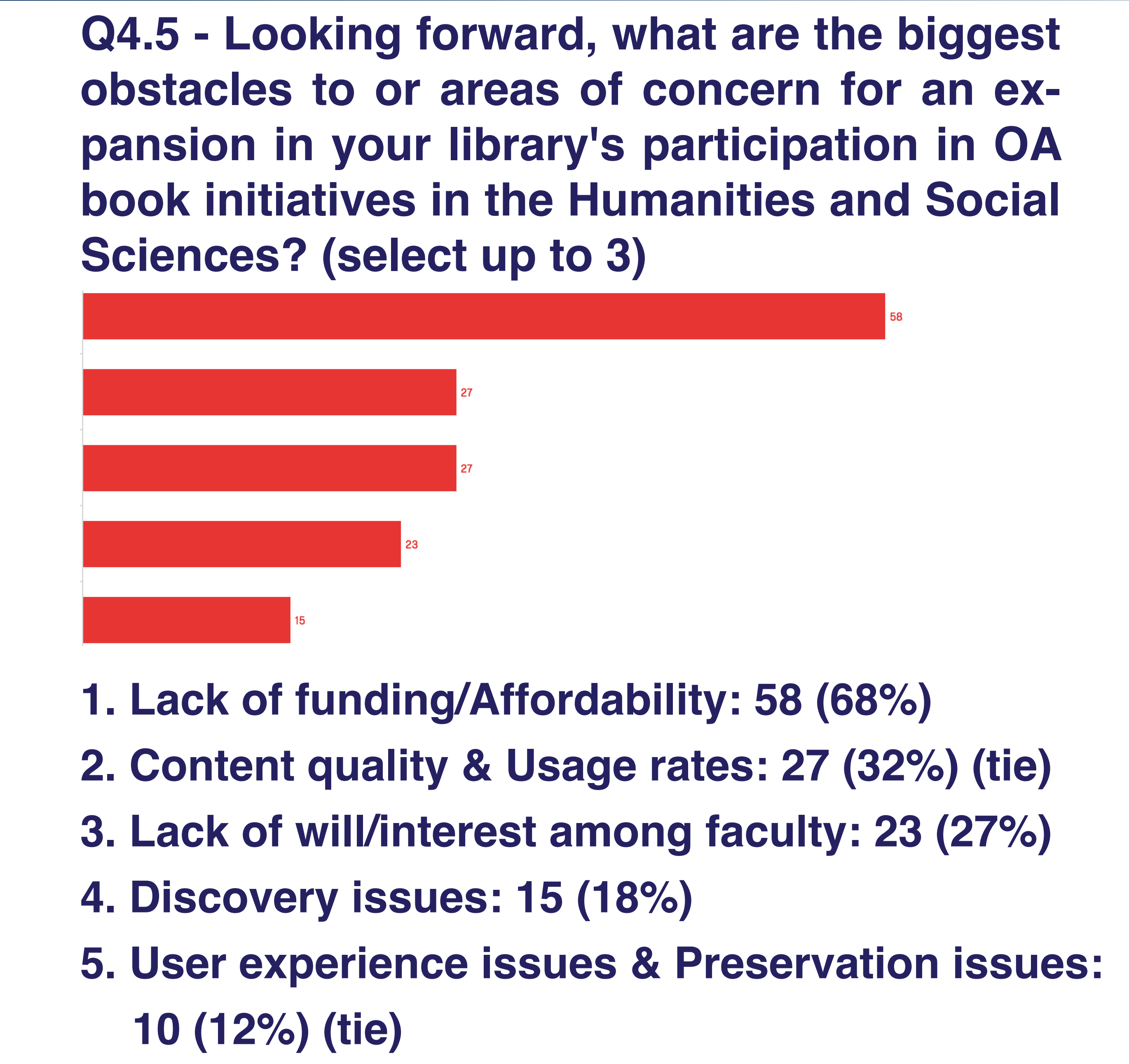
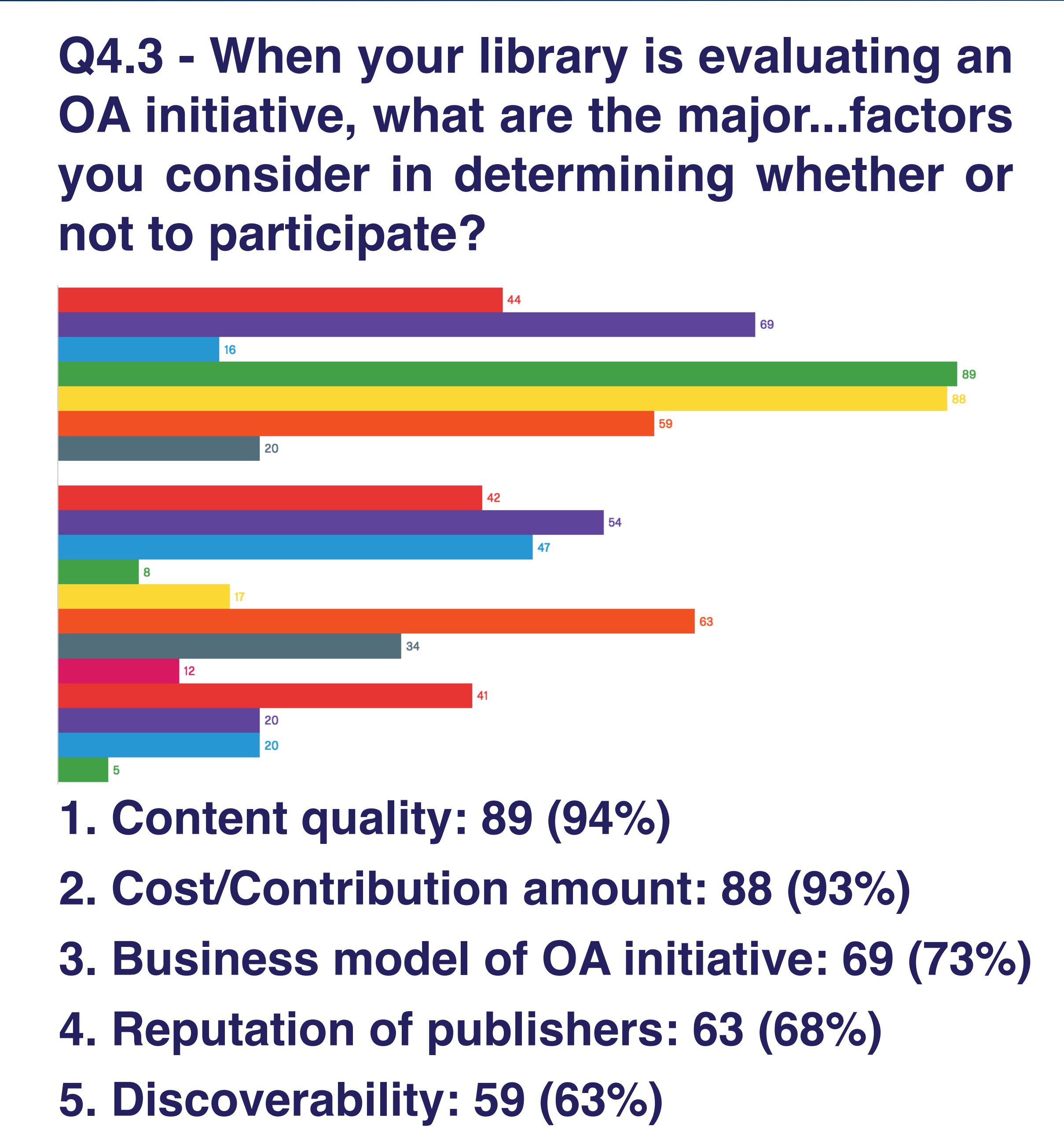
- **Responses:** 109 from U.K.
- **Focus:** acquisition, discovery, business models
- **43%** participate in OA monograph initiatives using library-funded, consortium-based business models.

2015 PCG OA Monographs Survey

- **Responses:** 152 from 34 countries; 78% librarians, 17% publishers, and 5% library staff member
- **Focus:** acquisition, discovery, funding, role of libraries
- **68%** of libraries decide to list OA books in their catalog based on relevance to the curriculum while **67%** do so by faculty request.

2016-17 OA MONOGRAPH SCALABILITY SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS UNITS AT ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN THE U.S.

•103 valid responses •1 authoritative response per library •37 states and D.C.



"We want to support **models** that seem sustainable and economical. OA initiatives that appear to perpetuate the status quo publishing model on the backs of libraries is not one we are likely to support."

"**Freeriders** are institutions who don't contribute to OA initiatives, for whatever reason (budgetary, philosophical, etc.). I'm not sure that I'm not worried about that, but I can't control their actions, I can only control my own. It doesn't make sense to me to use lack of support by others as a factor as to whether or not I contribute."

"We're needing to support more and more of our collection budget expenditures with **"metrics"** - and I'd hate to see OA initiatives collapse (with institutions not being able to continue support) because they missed that metrics train."

"The best **business model** is that which provides the best literature to the most people for the least cost. We would reject a business model that imposed fees on authors."

"I don't have time to worry about another institution who *can* afford it **"freeriding"** (besides, it's kind of their "bad karma" right?); and for the rest of the world -- individuals as well as institutions in the U.S. and globally that *don't* have many resources - it's all good!"

"Notifications to us from the OA initiative about the availability of **MARC records** is ideal (don't make us chase after the records, or have to enter reminders to check for records into our calendars, please); the earlier the better, esp for front list titles, to avoid ordering duplicates."

7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SCALABLE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OA MONOGRAPHS

1. Limit to highest quality **content** from trusted scholarly **publishers**
2. Implement scaled **pricing** to enable smaller schools to participate
3. Employ **business models** that are sustainable, i.e. straightforward and financially fair to libraries and pubs.
4. Gather reliable local **usage data**
5. Improve **discoverability** by standardizing workflows and best practices
6. Advocate for OA monographs among **faculty** and **school administrators**
7. Institute campus-wide **OA policies**

