

The growth of open access in the Arab world: Challenges and Perspectives

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The Arab world

-  Algeria (Arabic: *الجزائر al-Jazā'ir*) (Tamazight: National Language) (Darija: Vehicular Language)
-  Bahrain (Arabic: *البحرين al-Bahrayn*)
-  Comoros (Arabic: *Juzur al-Qamar*) (Comorian and French are the other official languages)
-  Djibouti (Arabic: *Djībūtī*) (French is the other official language)
-  Egypt (Arabic: *Miṣr*)
-  Iraq (Arabic: *العراق al-Irāq*) (Kurdish is the other official language (minority))
-  Jordan (Arabic: *الأردن al-'Urdun*)
-  Kuwait (Arabic: *الكويت al-Kuwayt*)
-  Lebanon (Arabic: *لبنان Lubnān*)
-  Libya (Arabic: *ليبيا Lībyā*)
-  Mauritania (Arabic: *موريتانيا Mōrītānyā*)
-  Morocco (Arabic: *المغرب al-Maġrib*) (Berber is the other official language)
-  Oman (Arabic: *عمان 'Umān*)
-  Palestine (Arabic: *Falastyn*)
-  Qatar (Arabic: *قطر Qaṭar*)
-  Saudi Arabia (Arabic: *الملكة العربية السعودية al-Mamlakah al-'Arabiyyah as-Sa'ūdiyyah*)
-  Somalia (Arabic: *الصومال aṣ-Šūmāl*) (Somali is the other official language)
-  Sudan (Arabic: *السودان as-Sūdān*) (English is the other official language (minority))
-  Syria (Arabic: *Sūryā*)
-  Tunisia (Arabic: *Tūnis Tūnis*)
-  United Arab Emirates (Arabic: *'Imārat al-'Arabiyyah al-Muttaḥidah*)
-  Yemen (Arabic: *اليمن al-Yaman*)

Countries: 22
 Population (Total): **369.8 million** 2013
 GDP (current US\$) : **\$2.851 trillion** 2013

Overview of presentation content

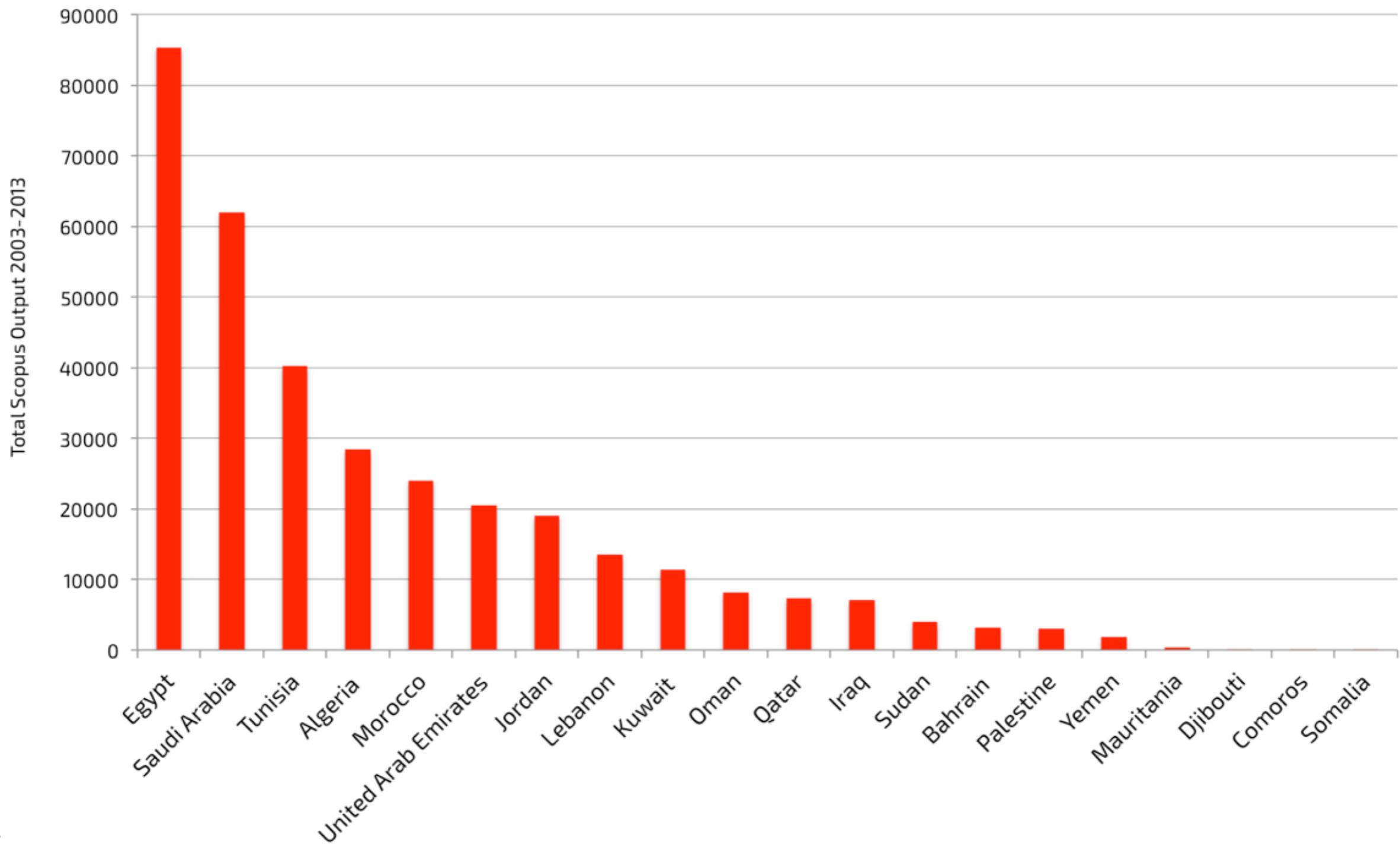
- Research output in the Arab world
- Landscape of open access publishing
- Challenges of open access publishing
- Perspectives....



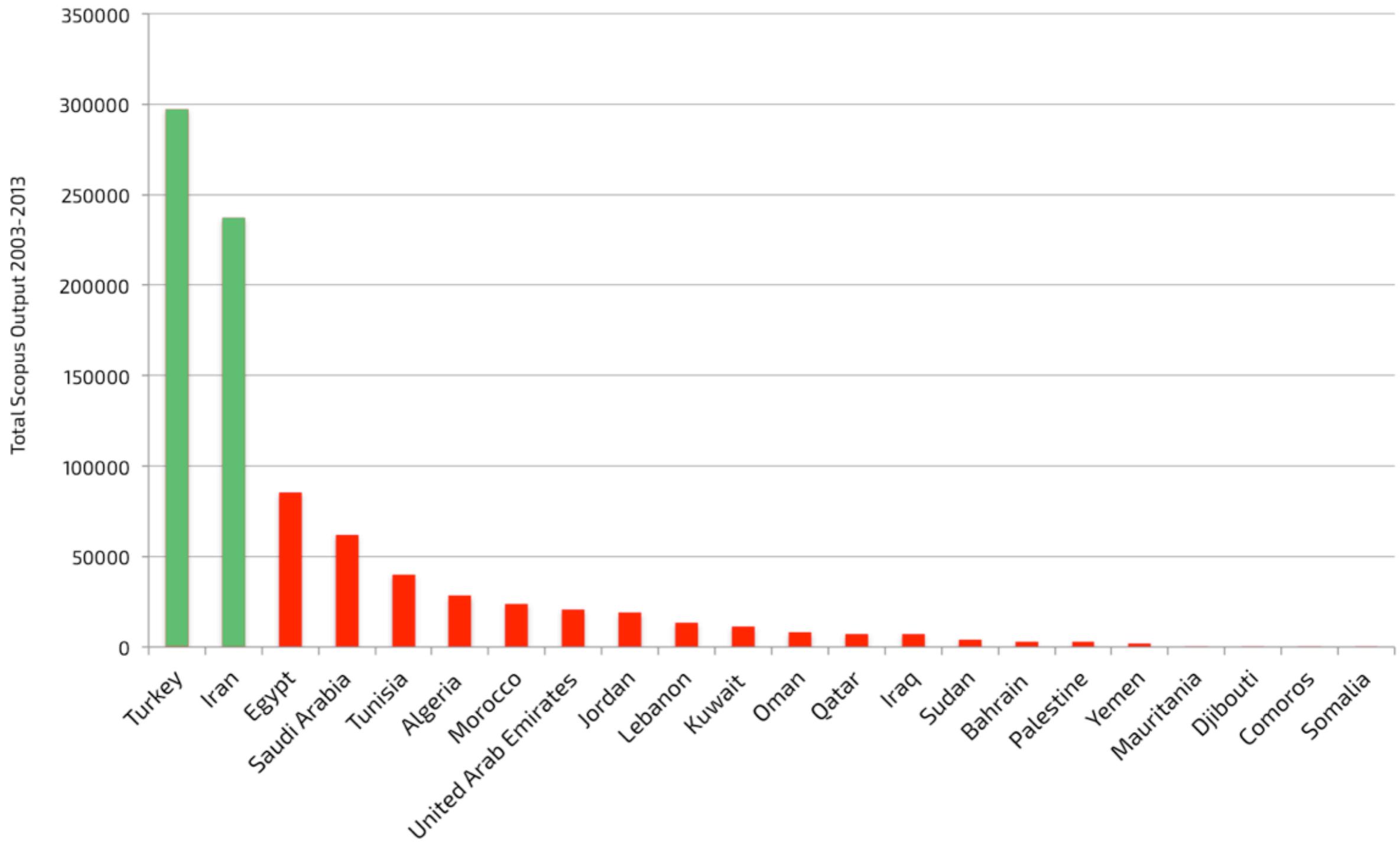
Research output in the Arab world



Total Scopus Output 2003-2013



Total Scopus Output 2003-2013





PPP = purchasing power parity.

NOTES: Foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars through PPPs. Some country figures are estimated. Countries are grouped according to the regions described by *The World Factbook*, available at www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, estimates (August 2013). Based on data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Main Science and Technology Indicators* (2013/1); and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics, <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/ReportFolders/ReportFolders.aspx>, table 25, accessed 2 August 2013.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2014

Landscape of open access publishing

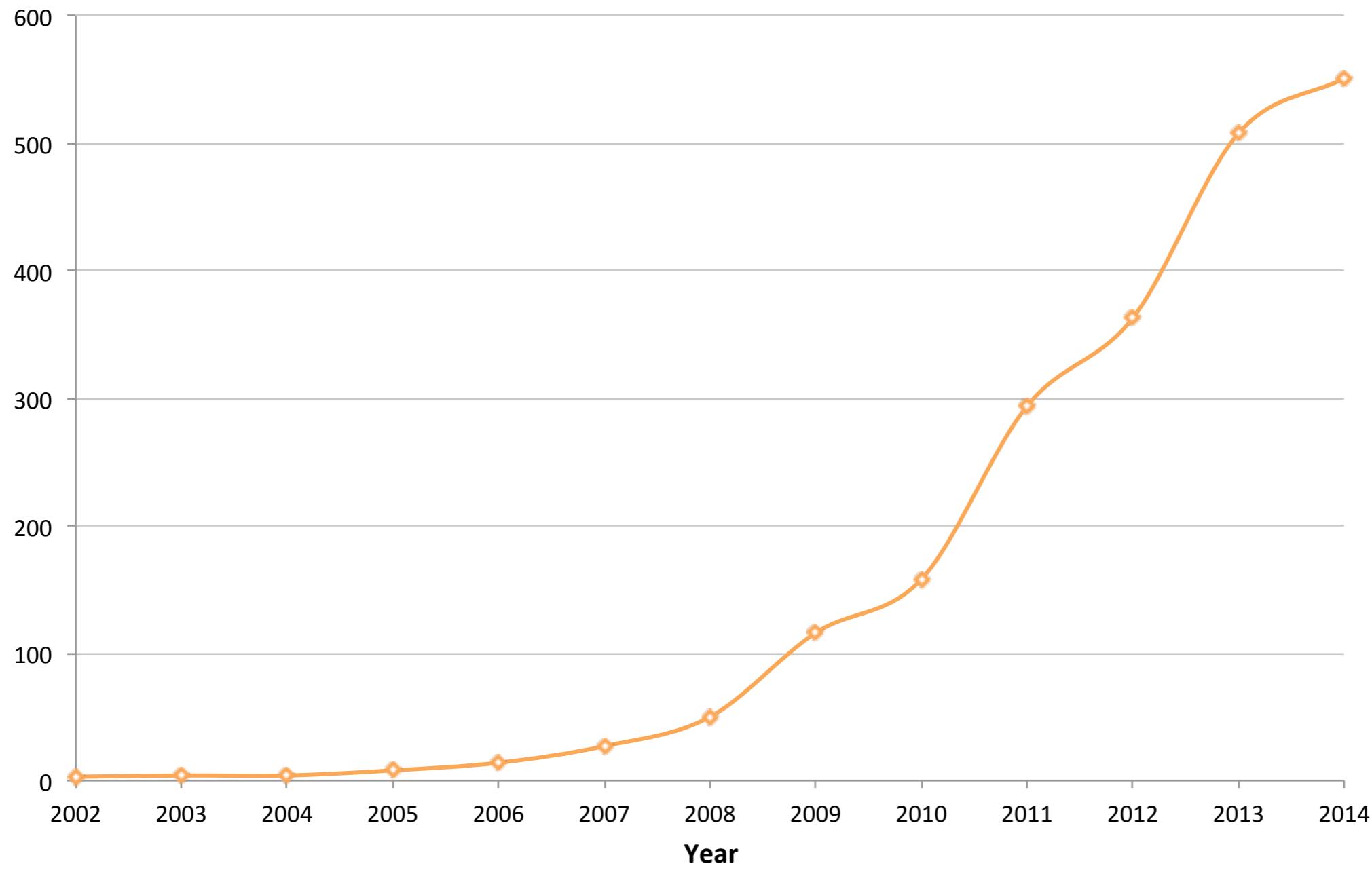


DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

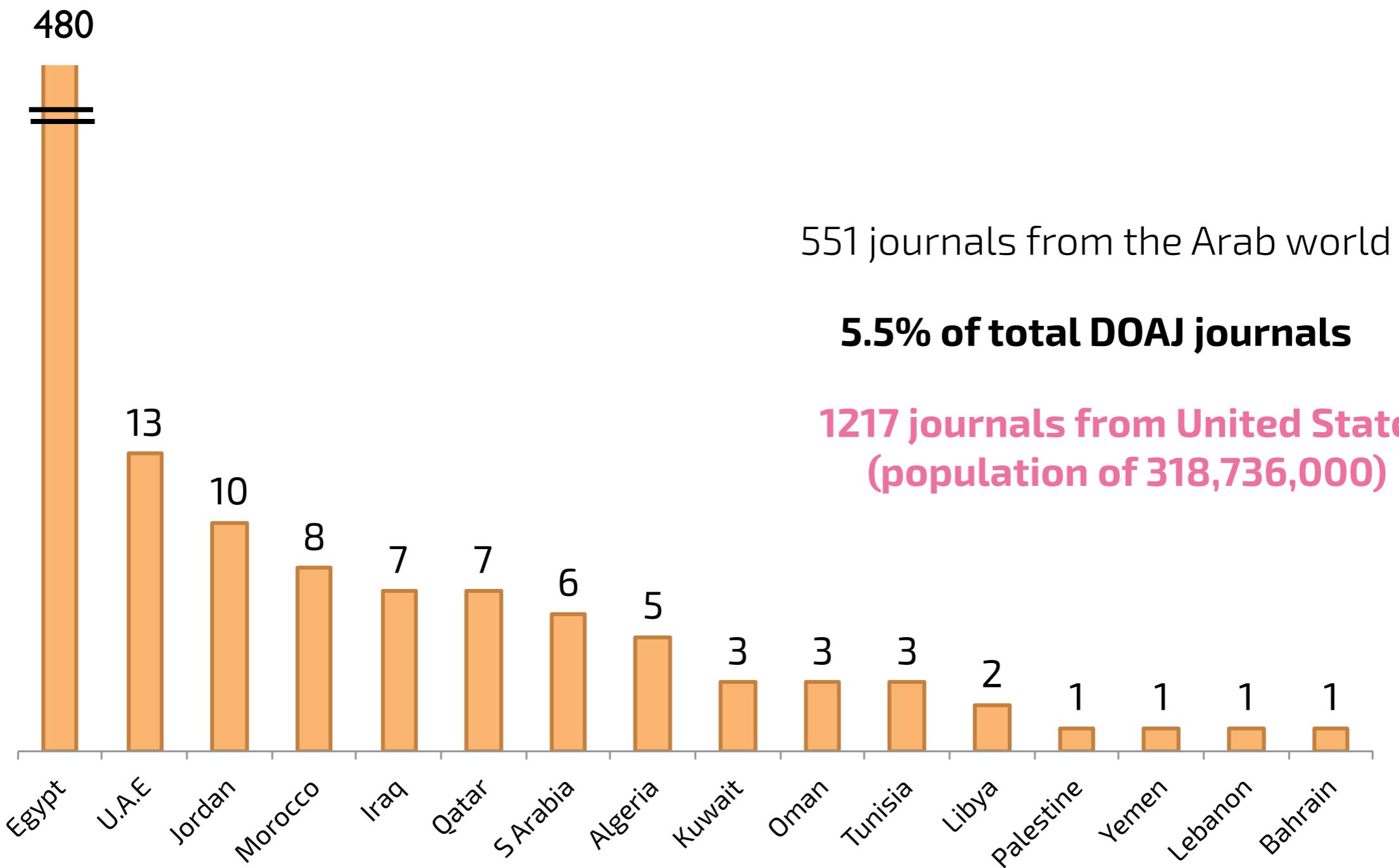
- DOAJ is an online directory that indexes and provides access to quality open access, peer-reviewed journals



Growth of open access journals from the Arab world in DOAJ



Number of open access journals from the Arab world in DOAJ



Number of (Arabic language) open access journals in DOAJ

- **1** Journal Arabic online (*Historical Kan Periodical*) - Egypt
- **10** Journals Arabic + English and/or French - Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia
- **21** Journals Arabic + other language(s) - India, Iran, Malaysia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom

0.3% of total DOAJ journals published in Arabic

12% of total DOAJ journals published in Portuguese



Number of open access repositories in Arab world

Registry of Open Access Repositories



Egypt	11	37 OA repositories in Arab world
Algeria	7	
Saudi Arabia	7	
Sudan	5	Belgium = 34
Morocco	3	Greece = 33
Tunisia	2	Malaysia =33
Lebanon	1	Mexico =33
Qatar	1	



Number of open access repositories in MENA



Data provided by: [ROAR](#) & [OpenDOAR](#)

Number of open access repositories in Europe



Data provided by: [ROAR](#) & [OpenDOAR](#)

Research funders' open access policies in the Arab world



Number of policies from **Arab World = 0**

Europe = 130

North America = 29

Asia = 4

Oceania = 3



Challenges of open access publishing



Challenges of open access publishing in the Arab world

- Low number of (Arabic) open access journals
- Low number of open access repositories
- Absence of research funders' open access policies



Survey (i)

Open access in Egypt

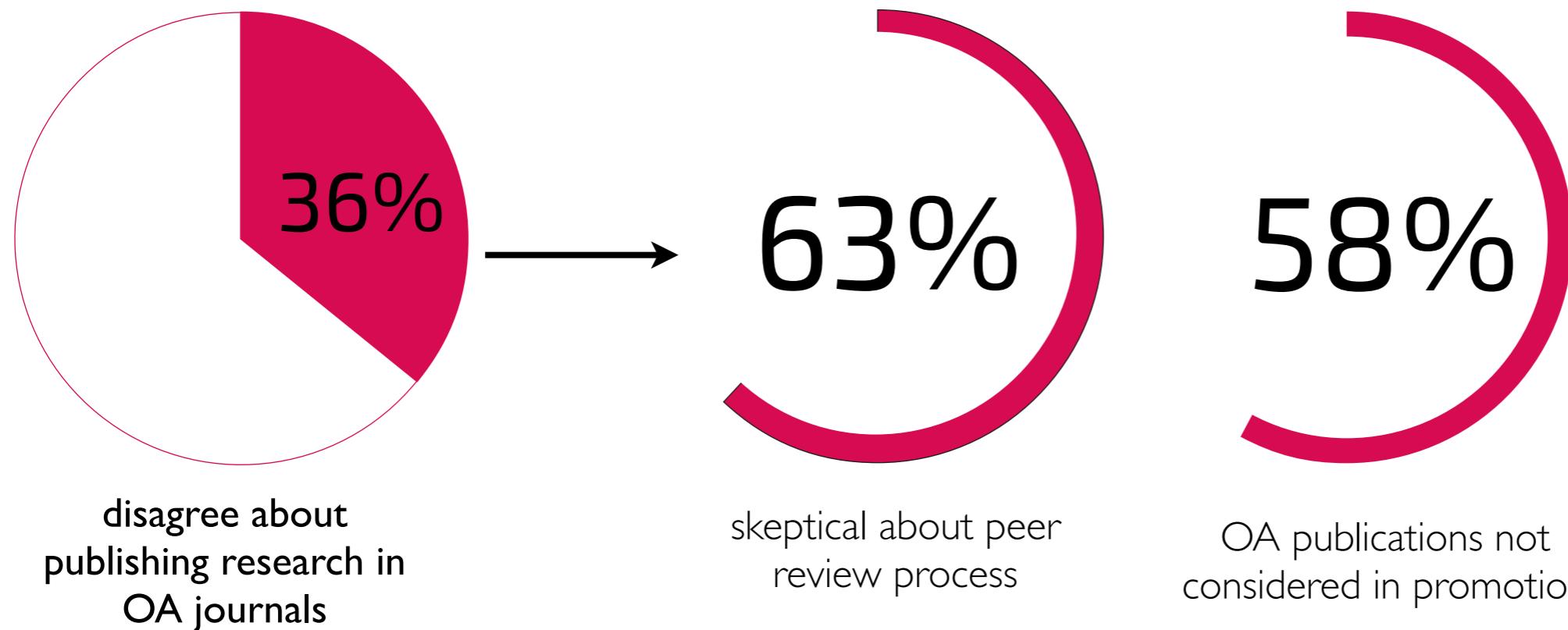
- Study: *Reality of open Access movement to information in Egyptian Universities: Cairo University model, Iman Hussein 2013**
 - Lack of faculty's OA awareness
 - OA articles not recognized in assessment for academic promotion
 - General fear of intellectual theft /copyright infringement
 - Lack of policies and/or mandates for OA publishing or self-archiving.

*10th Cairo University Scientific Conference for Libraries, Documents, and Information (Article in Arabic): <http://bit.ly/1xxklum>

Survey (ii)

Open access in Saudi Arabia

- Survey: 'Academic open access publishing and its role in Arabic online content enrichment' Abdullah Almubariz, Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University:



AFLI publication (Article in Arabic): imamur.com/files/12.doc (Word File)

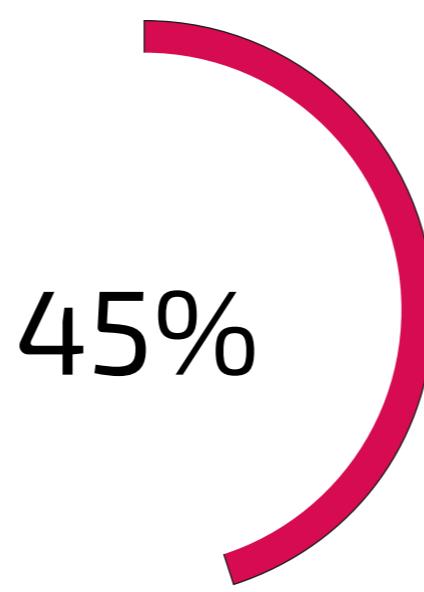
Survey (iii)

Open access in Iraq

- Study: *Study of the Views of a Sample of Faculty Members at the University of Mosul, Aldabbagh and Al Obidy 2012* (in Arabic)
 - Majority faculty surveyed reluctant to publish OA due to lack of awareness



unsure of quality of OA journal
editorial board members



fearful of intellectual theft /
copyright infringement



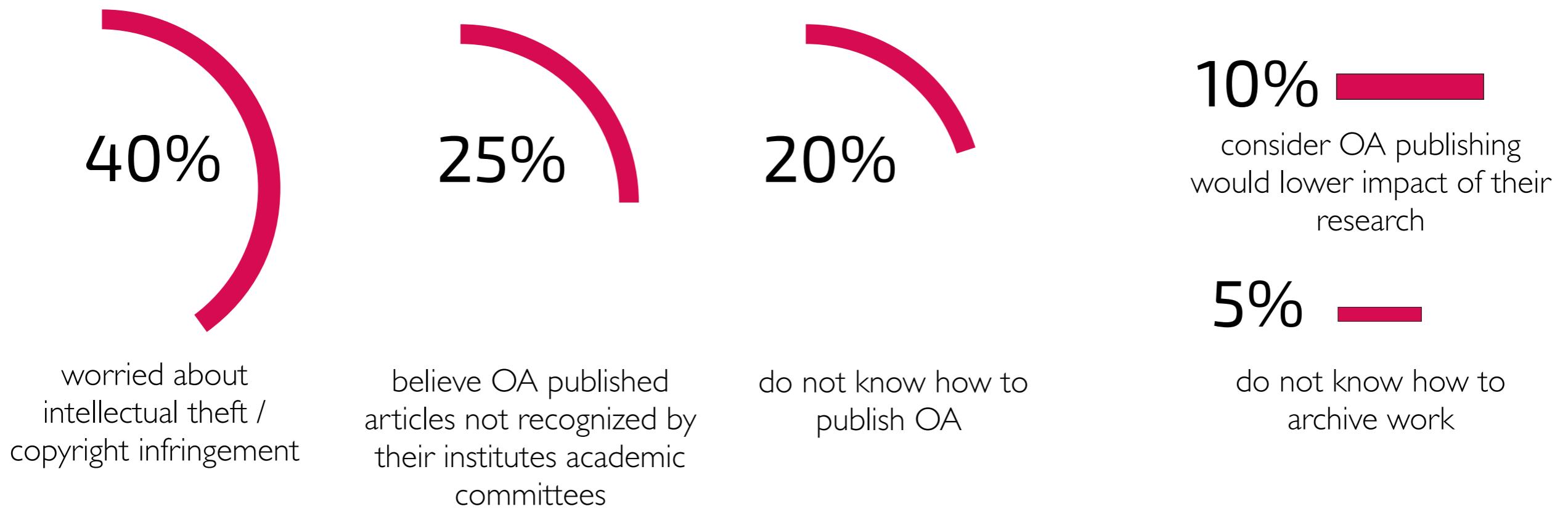
OA articles not recognized in
academic career promotion

Article in Arabic: <http://www.iasj.net/iasj?func=fulltext&aid=81807>

Survey (iv)

Open access in Syria

- Survey, Syrian Researcher's Views on Open Access to Information.
Damascus University Magazine.



<http://www.damascusuniversity.edu.sy/mag/human/images/stories/3-2013/>

Survey (iv) Others...



79%

Have not published in OA journals*



69%

Have not published in OA journals+



71%

Agree that more
efforts must be made by their institution to
spread the awareness of Open access #

Challenges of open access publishing in the Arab world

- Low number of (Arabic) open access journals
- Low number of open access repositories
- Absence of research funders' open access policies
- Lack of OA awareness
- Lack of institutional encouragement to OA
- Skepticism about quality/impact



Perspectives

An enabling environment for an
exciting future?



What does the Arab world need for open access to flourish?

- Improve OA awareness
- More OA journals for Arabic content
- Establishment of more institutional repositories
- Institutional support for OA - (policies, mandates)
- Research funder support for OA (policies, mandates, repositories)



Open Access Week 2014 events

- Open Access week Egypt
- Open Access week Saudi Arabia
- Open access week Qatar
- Open access week Tunisia



Rise of institutional mandates? 2014...

ROARMAP: Registry of Open Access
Repositories Mandatory Archiving
Policies



جامعة بومرداس
Université de Boumerdes
University of Boumerdes

Algeria
Institutional Mandate
Date Deposited: 29 Jun 2014



King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology

Saudi Arabia
Institutional Mandate
Date Deposited: 3 Sept 2014



Scientific boom in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries



King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology



King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology





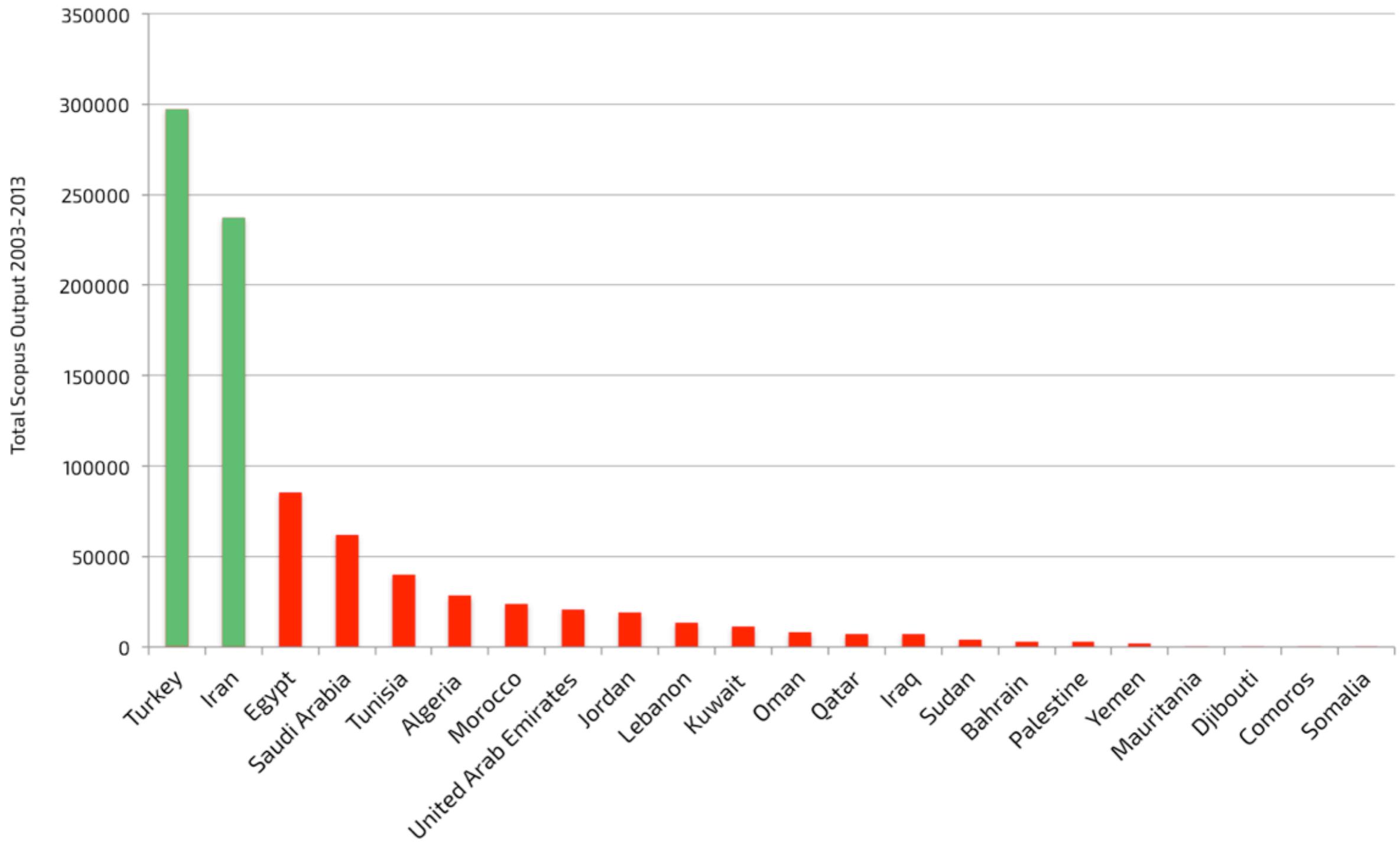
من مبادرات مؤسسة قطر

An Initiative of Qatar Foundation

14 OA journals in English / Arabic

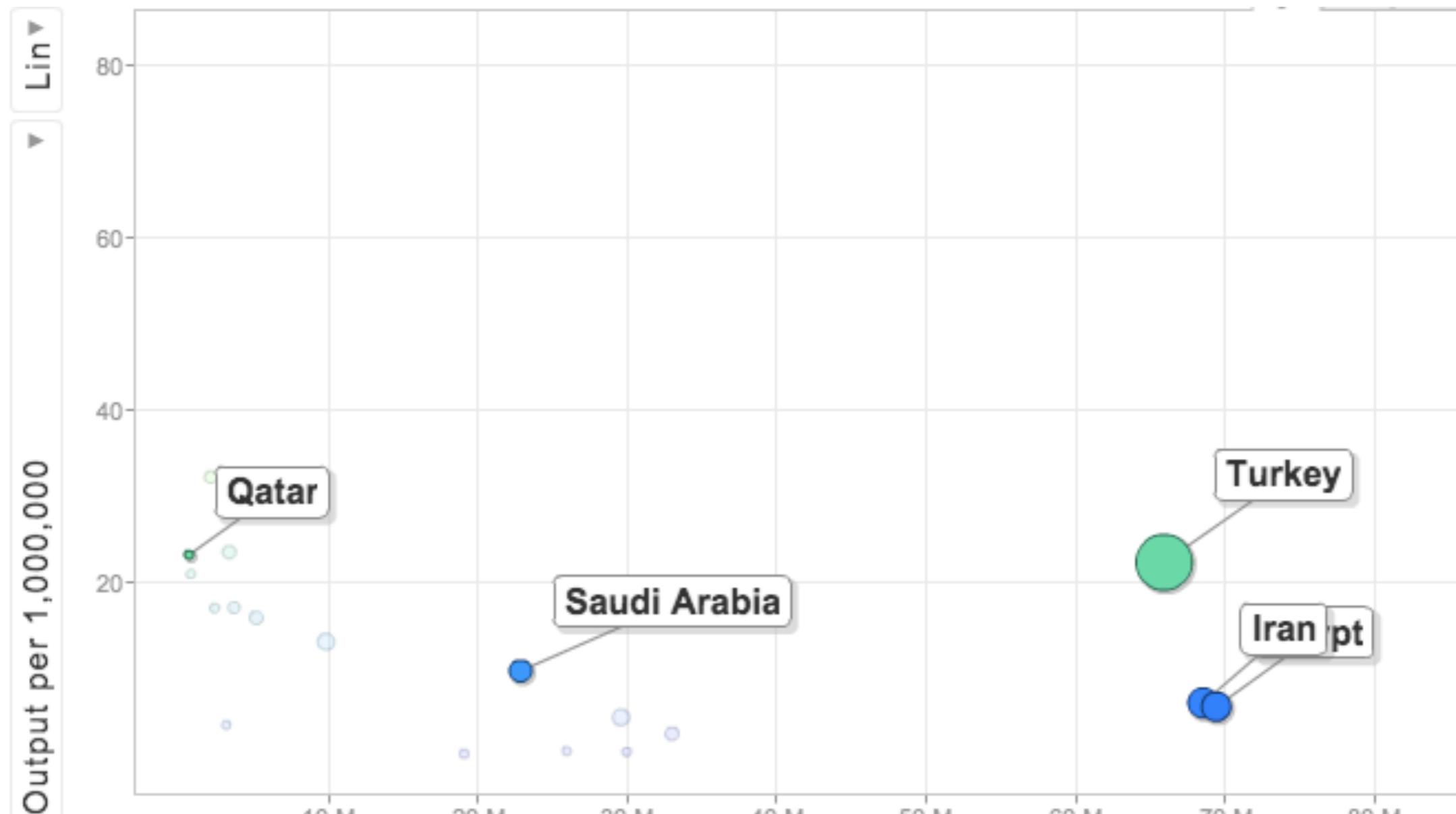


Total Scopus Output 2003-2013



Output / million

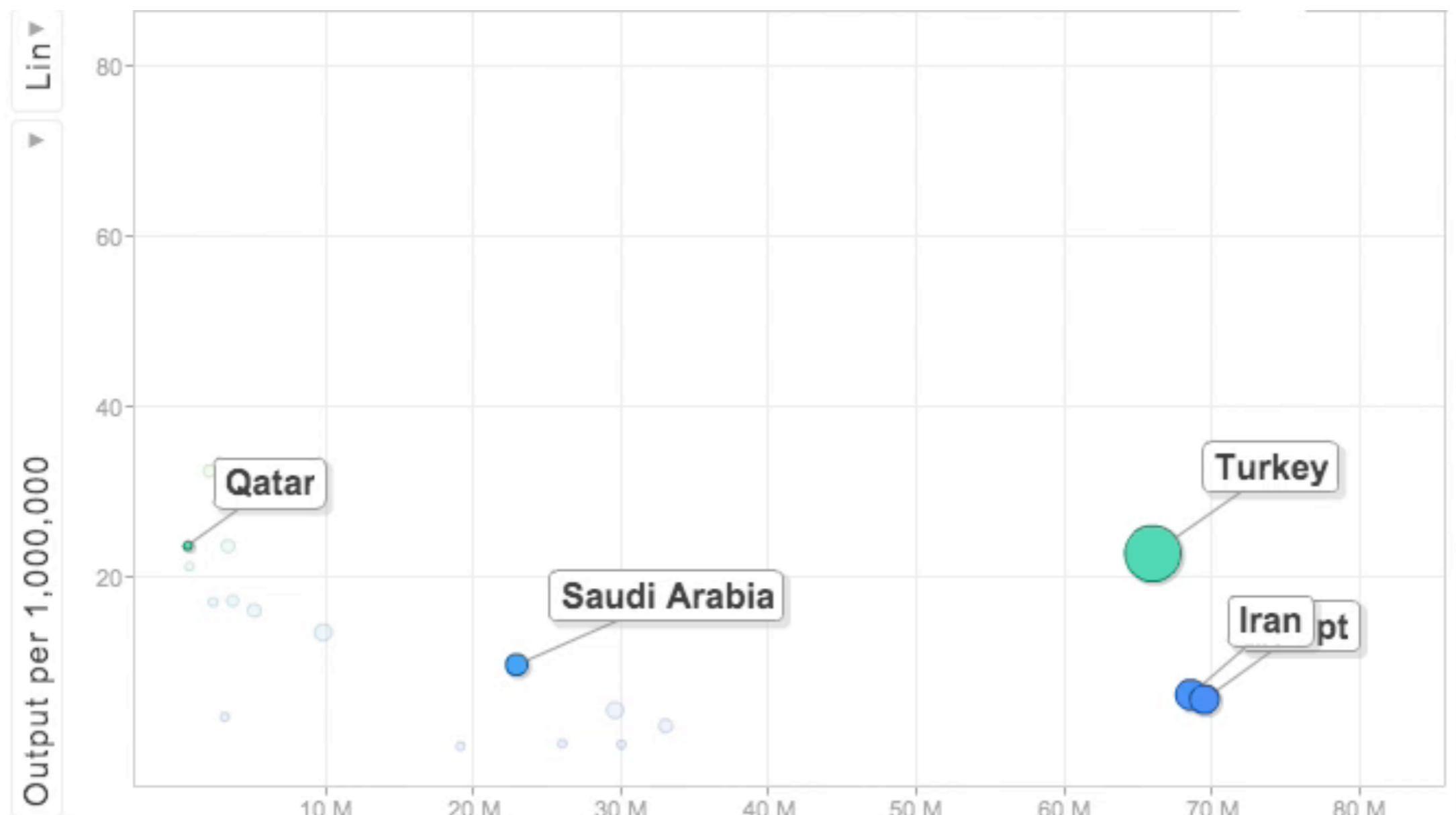




Population

2003







Summary

- Open access adoption in Arab states is weaker than other regions/nations
- Arab states face many challenges with respect to OA
- Arab world has witnessed various OA initiatives in the last couple of years
- Several countries are investing more in R&D therefore enabling a change in scientific landscape



Thank you for
your attention

