# bioRxiv preprints: a survey on motivations and selection strategies

Dear participant,

Thank you for visiting this survey. My name is Nicholas Fraser, I am a postdoctoral researcher in the field of bibliometrics at the Leibniz Information Center for Economics, Kiel, Germany (https://www.zbw.eu (https://www.zbw.eu)).

You have been contacted because your email address was listed as a corresponding email address for a preprint deposited on bioRxiv (https://www.biorxiv.org (https://www.biorxiv.org)). In the following survey, I will ask you some questions related to your strategies and motivations for selecting scientific articles to deposit as preprints. This study is being conducted as part of a wider project to understand the factors influencing the impact of making scientific papers openly accessible.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact me directly at n.fraser@zbw.eu (mailto:n.fraser@zbw.eu).

I appreciate your time and input.

Nicholas Fraser

#### **Privacy Policy**

You have received this survey because your email address is listed as the corresponding email address for a preprint deposited on bioRxiv (https://www.biorxiv.org (https://www.biorxiv.org)). Please note that myself and my collaborators in this study are independent researchers and that this survey is not affiliated with bioRxiv or its operator, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (https://www.cshl.edu (https://www.cshl.edu)). Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary, and you may leave at any time. The survey responses gathered here are completely anonymous. The response data will be stored on a server that is maintained by the University of Kiel, Germany. The survey questions and response data will subsequently be published (in fully anonymised form) on the open access research repository Zenodo (https://zenodo.org (https://zenodo.org)).

There are 28 questions in this survey

## Personal Information

[]Please select your current country of residence: \*

Choose one of the following answers

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Plea	ase choose only one of the following:
0	Albania
0	Algeria
0	Andorra
0	Angola
0	Antigua and Barbuda

BarbadosBelarusBelgiumBelizeBeninBhutan

Botswana

Brazil

Bulgaria

Burundi

Chad
Chile
China

ColombiaComorosCongo

Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire

Czech Republic

Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus

Burkina Faso

Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada

O Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Brunei Darussalam

O Central African Republic

0	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
0	Congo
0	Denmark
0	Djibouti
0	Dominica
0	Dominican Republic
0	Ecuador
0	Egypt
0	El Salvador
$\circ$	Equatorial Guinea
$\circ$	Eritrea
$\circ$	Estonia
0	Ethiopia
0	Fiji
0	Finland
0	France
0	Gabon
0	Gambia
0	Georgia
0	Germany
0	Ghana
0	Greece
0	Grenada
0	Guatemala
0	Guinea
$\circ$	Guinea-Bissau
$\circ$	Guyana
0	Haiti
$\circ$	Honduras
0	Hungary
0	Iceland
0	India
0	Indonesia
0	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
0	Iraq
0	Ireland
0	Israel
0	Italy
0	Jamaica

Japan

NamibiaNauruNepal

Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua

NigerNigeriaNiue

SingaporeSlovakiaSlovenia

Somalia

SpainSri Lanka

SudanSuriname

South AfricaSouth Sudan

Solomon Islands

LimeSurvey - bioRxiv preprints: a survey on motivations and selection ... https://tigereye.informatik.uni-kiel.de/limesurvey/index.php/admin/pri...

LimeSurvey - bioRxiv preprints: a survey on motivations and selection ... https://tigereye.informatik.uni-kiel.de/limesurvey/index.php/admin/pri...

Prefer not to say

LimeSurvey - bioRxiv preprints: a survey on motivations and selection ... https://tigereye.informatik.uni-kiel.de/limesurvey/index.php/admin/pri...

Corresponding authorships: articles and preprints
[]How many articles have you published in a scientific journal <b>as a corresponding author</b> in the past 5 years? *
Choose one of the following answers
Please choose <b>only one</b> of the following:
<ul> <li>0</li> <li>1-2</li> <li>3-5</li> <li>6-10</li> <li>11-20</li> <li>21+</li> </ul>
[]With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies: *
Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:  Answer was NOT '0' at question '6 [NPublishedCor]' (How many articles have you published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years?)
Choose one of the following answers
Please choose <b>only one</b> of the following:
All of these articles were also deposited as preprints*
Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints*
None of these articles were also deposited as preprints*
* Here we define a preprint as a version of a scientific article that is deposited to an open, online repository (not limited to bioRxiv) at any point prior to acceptance for publication in a scientific journal.

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## Corresponding authorships: preprint motivations

You indicated that you deposited preprints for **some** of the articles that you published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of agreement with the following statements:

\*

### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The articles that were deposited as preprints were of a higher scientific quality than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints contained more exciting/novel results than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints had a greater societal value/significance than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints were published in journals with higher impact factors than those not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I expected the articles that were deposited as preprints to receive more citations than those not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree		
I expected the articles that were deposited as preprints to be disseminated more widely online (e.g. on social media) than those not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0		
[](Optional) Were the the articles you chose those you did not dependent of the expections for how the your community?	e to dépo posit, or	osit as p differer	oreprin	ts vers your	sus		
Answer was 'Some of these articles were respect to articles that you have published	Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:  Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)						
Please write your answer here:							
Considering only the preprints, please sele following statements:	ct your						
*							
Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:  Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)							
Please choose the appropriate response	for each item:						
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree		
The decision to deposit articles as preprints was the free decision of the author(s)	0	0	0	0	0		

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with an institutional open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with a funding agency's open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my co-authors suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to increase awareness of my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to stake a priority claim on my/our findings	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to benefit the scientific enterprise	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to receive more feedback on my/our work	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to share my/our findings more quickly	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing preprints had positive benefits in terms of citations	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing preprints had positive benefits in terms of other forms of online dissemination (e.g. sharing on social media)	0	0	0	0	0

[] You indicated that you deposited preprints for <u>all</u> of the

articles that you published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of agreement with the following statements:

#### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'All of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The decision to deposit articles as preprints was the free decision of the author(s)	0	0	0	0	0
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with an institutional open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with a funding agency's open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my co-authors suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to increase awareness of my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to stake a priority claim on my/our findings	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to benefit the scientific enterprise	0	0	0	0	0

[](Optional) Were there any additional reasons that motivated you to deposit these articles as preprints?

### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' or 'All of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

[]Considering only the articles that **were not** deposited as preprints, please select your level of agreement with the following statements: \*

#### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Strongly Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree agree

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I was unaware of the option to deposit preprints at that time	0	0	0	0	0
The journal(s) I wanted to submit to did not allow prior posting of preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I was not allowed to deposit these articles as preprints (e.g. due to institutional or funding agency policies)	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want to deposit these articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I wanted to deposit these articles as preprints but my co-authors disagreed	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing a preprint would have had negative effects for my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want anyone else to see my/our preprint and publish before us	0	0	0	0	0
My/our findings were controversial and needed to be evaluated by peer-review before being published	0	0	0	0	0
My/our work did not fit within the scope of any preprint repository	0	0	0	0	0

You indicated that you deposited preprints for **none** of the articles that you published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of agreement with the following statements:

\*

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'None of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I was unaware of the option to deposit preprints at that time	0	0	0	0	0
The journal(s) I wanted to submit to did not allow prior posting of preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I was not allowed to deposit these articles as preprints (e.g. due to institutional or funding agency policies)	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want to deposit these articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I wanted to deposit these articles as preprints but my co-authors disagreed	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing a preprint would have had negative effects for my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want anyone else to see my/our preprint and publish before us	0	0	0	0	0
My/our findings were controversial and needed to be evaluated by peer-review before being published	0	0	0	0	0
My/our work did not fit within the scope of any preprint repository	0	0	0	0	0

## [](Optional) Were there any additional reasons that caused you to not deposit these articles as preprints?

## Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'None of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' or 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '7 [PDepositedCor]' (With respect to articles that you have published in

a scientific journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies.										
Please write your answer here:										

# Co- authorships: articles and preprints []How many articles have you published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years? \* Choose one of the following answers Please choose only one of the following: 0 0 1-2 3-5 6-10 11-20 21+ []With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies: \* Only answer this question if the following conditions are met: Answer was NOT '0' at question '16 [NPublishedCo]' (How many articles have you published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years?) Choose one of the following answers Please choose only one of the following: All of these articles were also deposited as preprints\* Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\* None of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*

\* Here we define a preprint as a version of a scientific article that is deposited to an open, online repository (not limited to bioRxiv) at any point prior to acceptance for publication in a scientific journal.

# Co-authorships: preprint motivations

You indicated that you deposited preprints for **some** of the articles that you published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of agreement with the following statements:

\*

### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '17 [PDepositedCo]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The articles that were deposited as preprints were of a higher scientific quality than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints contained more exciting/novel results than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints had a greater societal value/significance than those that were not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
The articles that were deposited as preprints were published in journals with higher impact factors than those not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I expected the articles that were deposited as preprints to receive more citations than those not deposited as preprints	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with a funding agency's open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my co-authors suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to increase awareness of my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to stake a priority claim on my/our findings	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to benefit the scientific enterprise	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to receive more feedback on my/our work	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to share my/our findings more quickly	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing preprints had positive benefits in terms of citations	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing preprints had positive benefits in terms of other forms of online dissemination (e.g. sharing on social media)	0	0	0	0	0

You indicated that you deposited preprints for <u>all</u> of the articles that you published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of

## agreement with the following statements:

\*

### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'All of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '17 [PDepositedCo]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The decision to deposit articles as preprints was the free decision of the author(s)	0	0	0	0	0
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with an institutional open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was necessary to deposit articles as preprints to comply with a funding agency's open access/preprint policy	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
It was usually my co-authors suggestion to deposit articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to increase awareness of my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to stake a priority claim on my/our findings	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to benefit the scientific enterprise	0	0	0	0	0
Preprints were deposited to receive more feedback on my/our work	0	0	0	0	0

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree agree

I was unaware of the option to deposit preprints at that time

Strongly Strongly agree

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	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The journal(s) I wanted to submit to did not allow prior posting of preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I was not allowed to deposit these articles as preprints (e.g. due to institutional or funding agency policies)	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want to deposit these articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I wanted to deposit these articles as preprints but my co-authors disagreed	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing a preprint would have had negative effects for my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want anyone else to see my/our preprint and publish before us	0	0	0	0	0
My/our findings were controversial and needed to be evaluated by peer-review before being published	0	0	0	0	0
My/our work did not fit within the scope of any preprint repository	0	0	0	0	0

You indicated that you deposited preprints for **none** of the articles that you published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years.

Considering these articles, please select your level of agreement with the following statements:

\*

### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'None of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '17 [PDepositedCo]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a

corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
I was unaware of the option to deposit preprints at that time	0	0	0	0	0
The journal(s) I wanted to submit to did not allow prior posting of preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I was not allowed to deposit these articles as preprints (e.g. due to institutional or funding agency policies)	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want to deposit these articles as preprints	0	0	0	0	0
I wanted to deposit these articles as preprints but my co-authors disagreed	0	0	0	0	0
Depositing a preprint would have had negative effects for my/our research	0	0	0	0	0
I did not want anyone else to see my/our preprint and publish before us	0	0	0	0	0
My/our findings were controversial and needed to be evaluated by peer-review before being published	0	0	0	0	0
My/our work did not fit within the scope of any preprint repository	0	0	0	0	0

## [](Optional) Were there any additional reasons that caused you to not deposit these articles as preprints?

#### Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'None of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' or 'Some of these articles were also deposited as preprints\*' at question '17 [PDepositedCo]' (With respect to articles that you have published in a scientific journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years, please select which statement applies:)

Please write your answer nere:

Additional Feedback
[](Optional) Please provide any additional feedback on this survey:
Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Scenario 1
Answer was NOT '0' at question '6 [NPublishedCor]' (How many articles have you published in a scientificial journal as a corresponding author in the past 5 years?) or Scenario 2
Answer was NOT '0' at question '16 [NPublishedCo]' (How many articles have you published in a scientification journal in any other position than as a corresponding author in the past 5 years?)
Please write your answer here:
[]Would you be like to be contacted to be notified of
eventual results of this study, or be interested in participating in future follow-up studies?  Check all that apply
Please choose <b>all</b> that apply:
Yes, please contact me to inform me when the study results are available Yes, I would be interested in participating in future follow-up studies
[]Please provide your email address below to be contacted. Email addresses will be treated confidentiall and removed from any published datasets resulting from this study.
Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
Scenario 1
Answer was at question '27 [FollowUpParticipant]' (Would you be like to be contacted to be notified of eventual results of this study, or be interested in participating in future follow-up studies?) or Scenario 2
Answer was at question '27 [FollowUpParticipant]' (Would you be like to be contacted to be notified of eventual results of this study, or be interested in participating in future follow-up studies?)
Please write your answer here:

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Thank you for participating. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this survey, please contact me directly at n.fraser@zbw.eu.

Nicholas Fraser

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.