

Spotter Poll Results

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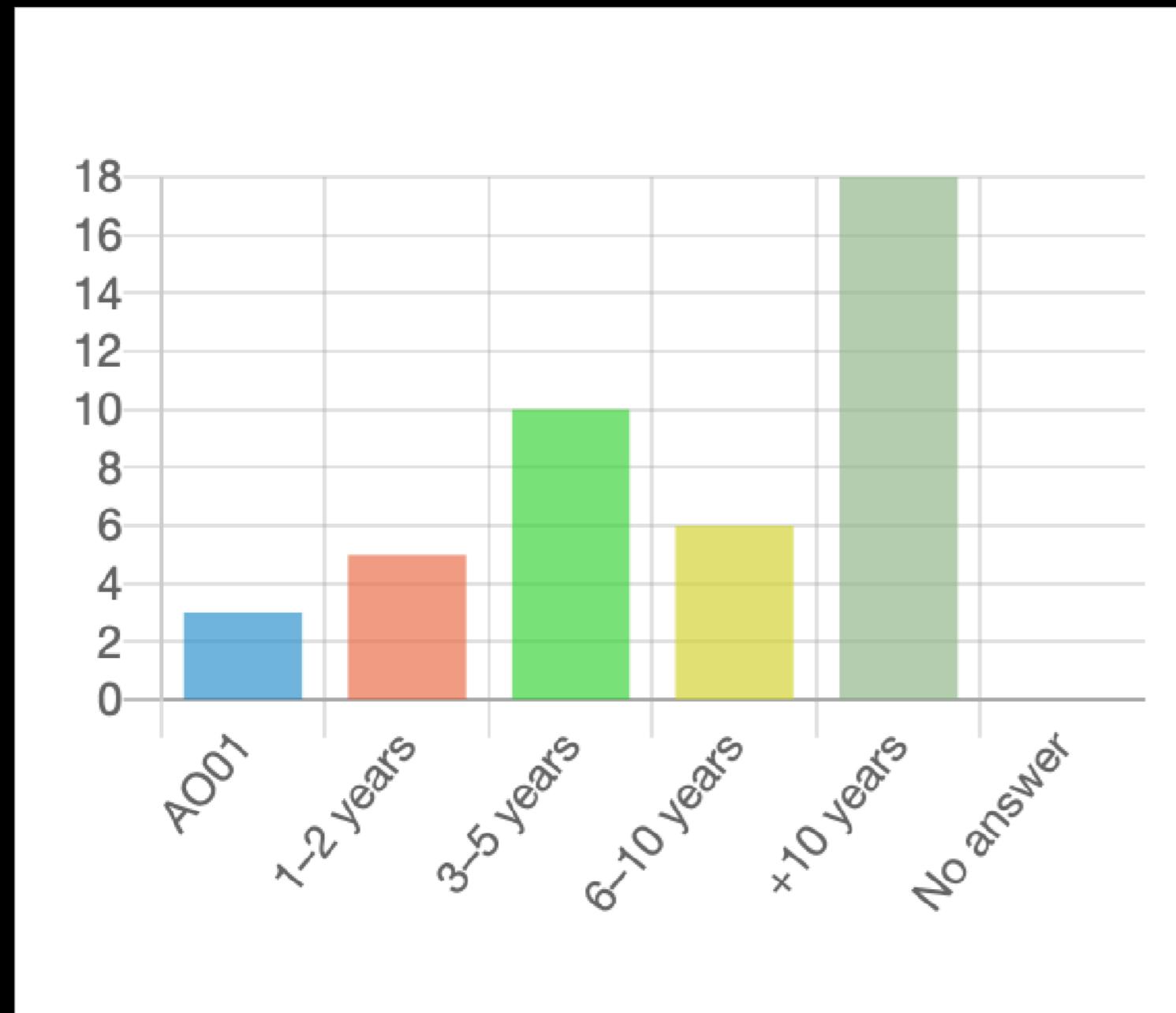
SURVEY RESULTS

01 - Demographics

42 Full Responses

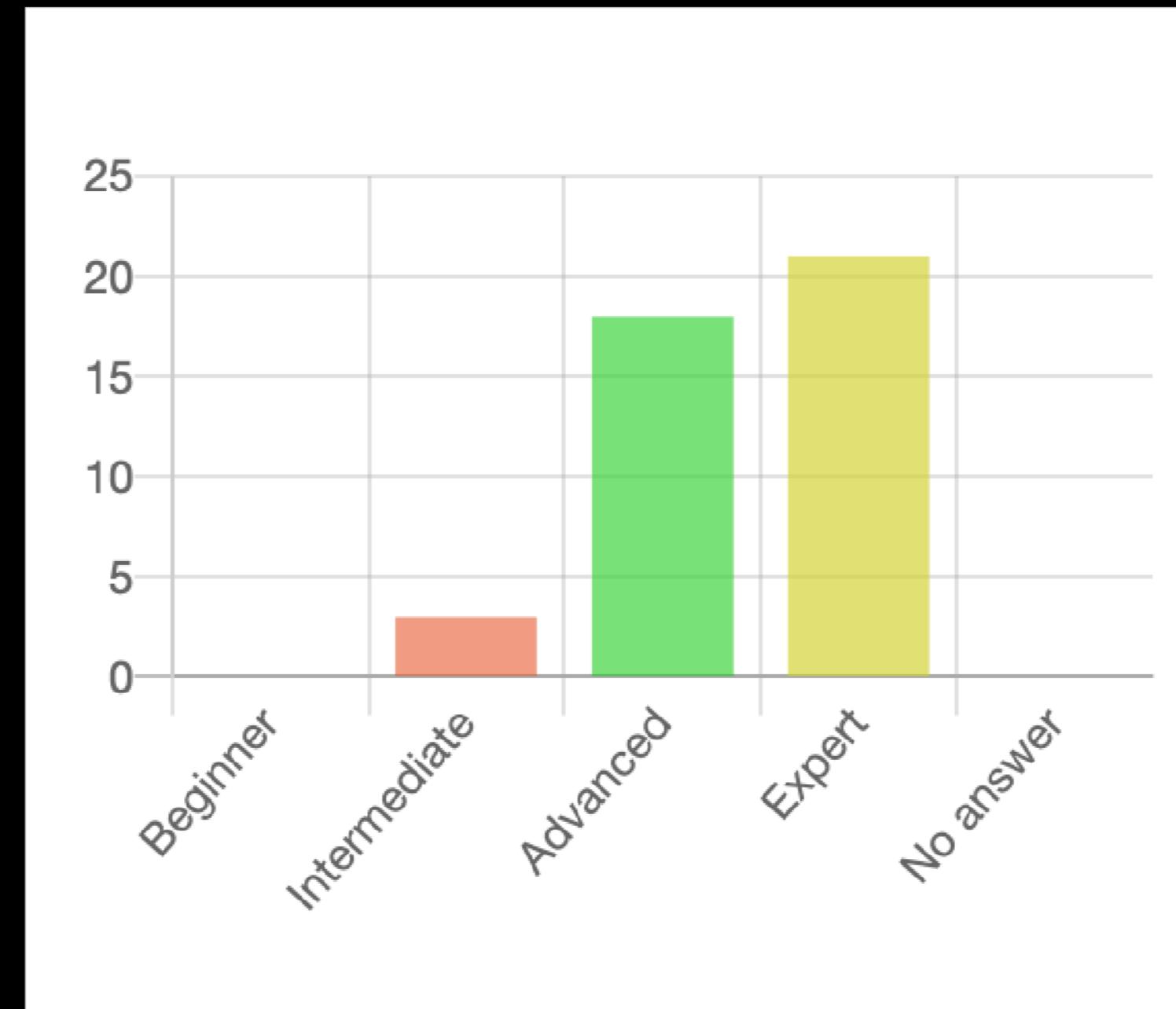
Years of Experience

Most participants have **10+ years of experience** programming in Pharo (43%)



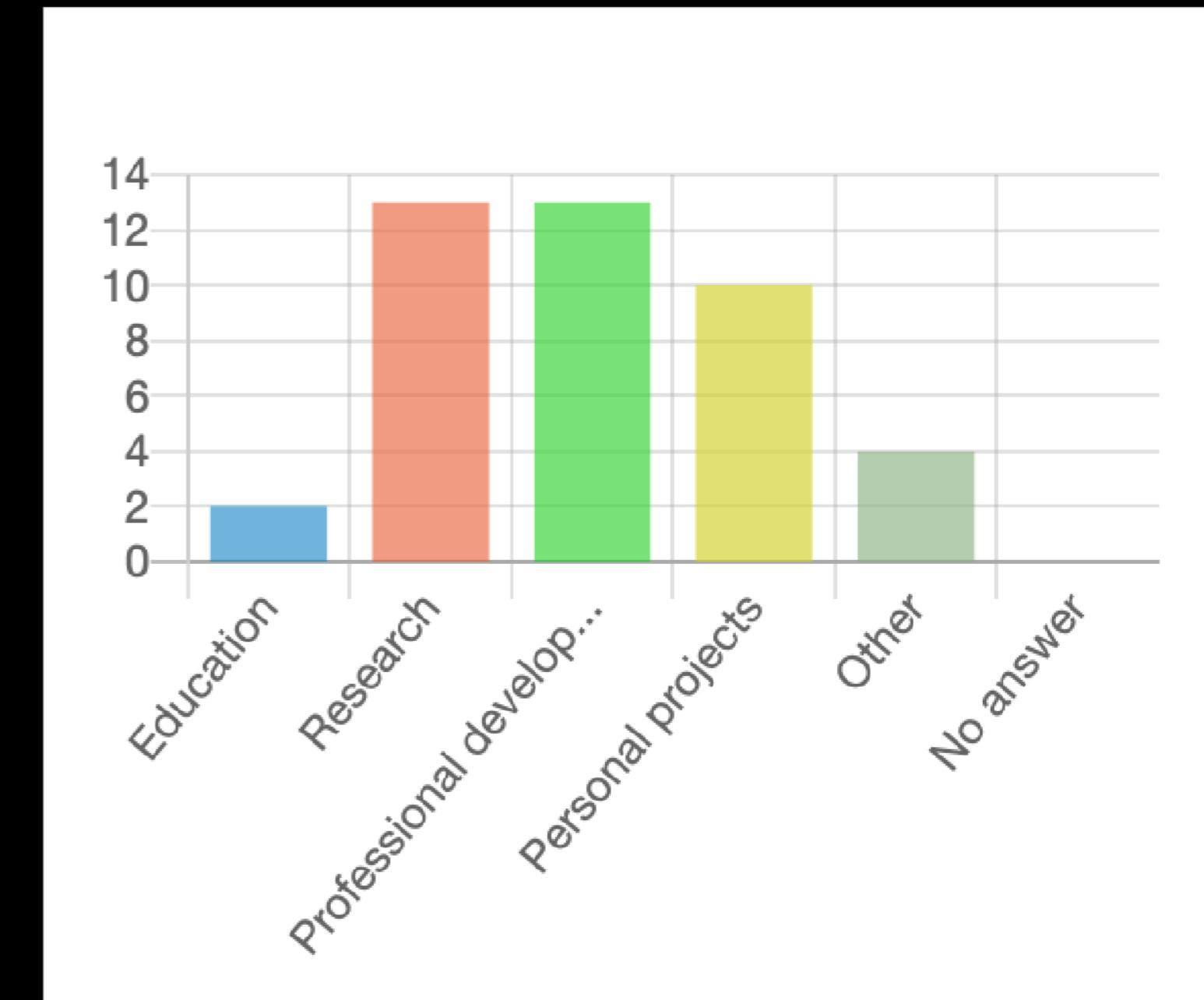
Experience Level

93% of participants rate their **programming level as advanced or higher**



Pharo Use

79% of participants use Pharo multiple times a week **across various use cases**



02 - Overview

Overall Satisfaction with the Spotter

Users have expressed that **while it is possible to find what they want, it could have improvements regarding speed and accuracy**, being outshined by other tools like the finder, code search or using shortcuts in the workspace

"It is "easy" but SLOW. That is why I don't use it."

"In the end I can find what I look for most of the time, but usually requires a mental effort. I often wonder why it shows me uninterested items first. If I look for a package it usually fails."

"Not sure why, but my searches are often unsuccessful "

"for methods, I use the finder, the spotter always have too many lines to choose the correct class and/or method name"

"The relevance of the results is not always the best"

"I don't use the spotter to find things I already know about, but to search for new things based on keywords."

INSIGHTS

86 %

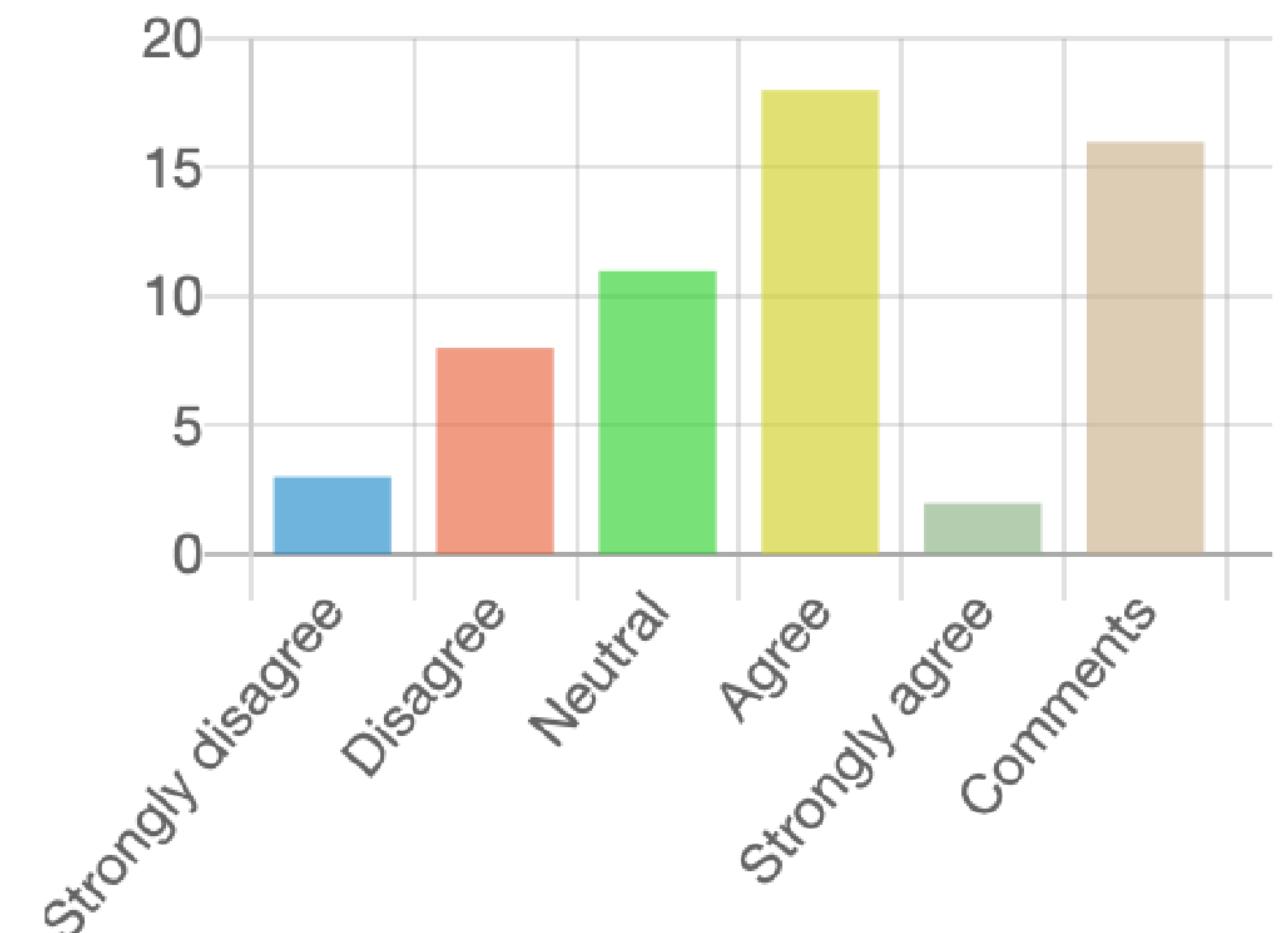
of users are familiar with the Spotter

75 %

of users have either a **neutral or positive impression** of the Spotter

Ease of Use

48% of users **can easily find what they want** using the spotter



03 - Functionality

How do participants use the Spotter?

The vast majority of people are using it to find **Classes and Methods**. Users generally don't have to click on the arrow to expand lists. While there are some participants that can find what they want without scrolling and typing a lot of characters, **there's about the same amount that can't**, due to the **list order** and the **lack of accuracy** regarding the search functionality

"does not find what I'm looking for. lag between typing and getting results. do not know how to filter/refine results ⇒ it's one shot: you search and close it. There is no way to manipulate the search result later"

"exact matches were not displayed first. too many results"

"methods are not grouped by name, so you've got a bunch of methods in classes starting by A on top, or a bunch of same name methods above the one you seek. (also similar issue in the new spec finder, methods are not sorted alphabetically)"

"There are too many results. I don't see the point of searching for Windows, neither for menus. "

BEHAVIOURS

Typing

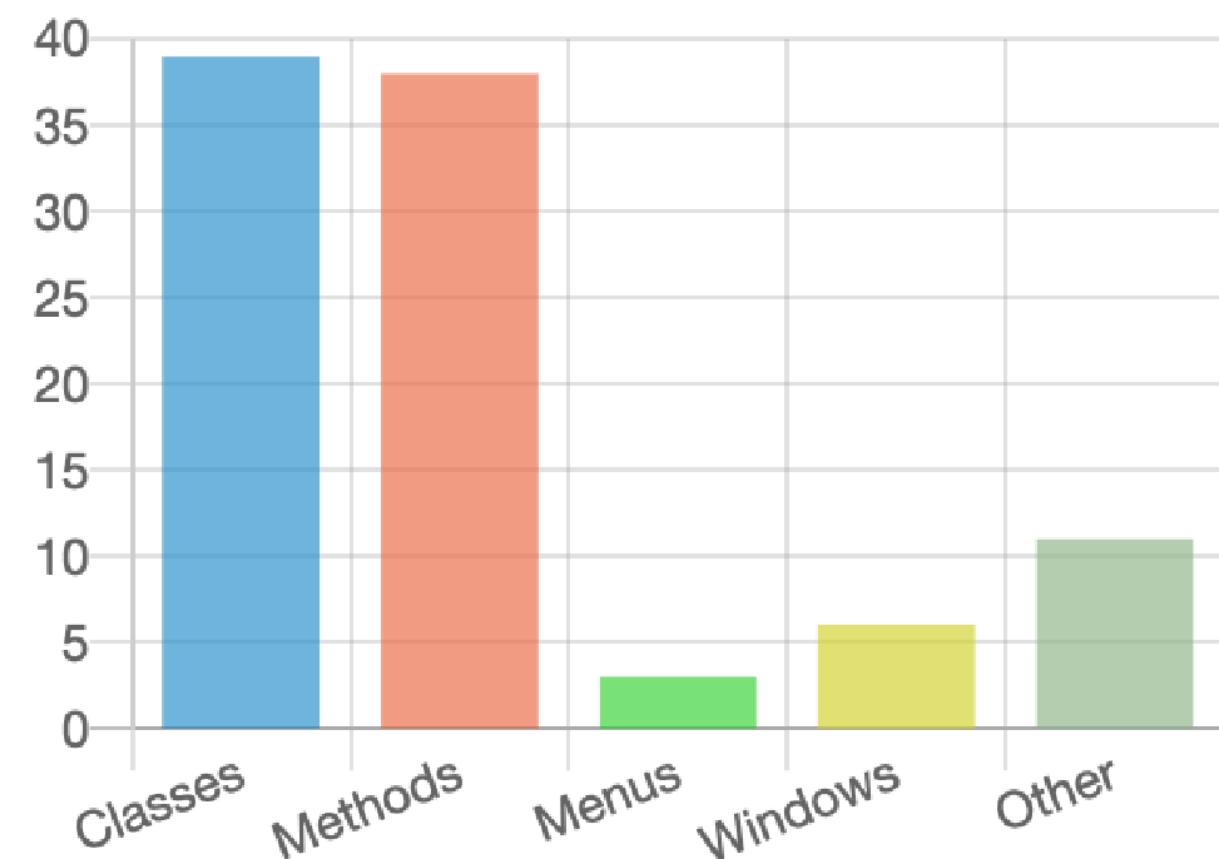
38% of users find what they want with just a few keystrokes

Scrolling

40% of users find what they want without scrolling

Classes & Methods

are the most searched lists in Spotter, used by 93% and 91% of users, respectively



04 - List Results Order & Size

How do participants feel about the List Results?

Most participants are content with the number of list results. While 31% are satisfied with the current order, the vast majority of users are open to reordering them.

Preferred top lists include **Classes and Methods, the most frequently searched categories, or those with the closest matching results.**

"I do not care about menu entries"

"exact matches. methods, classes that began with the searched strings. most used classes, methods. we should study how other IDE implement such search (ex; IDEA IntelliJ)"

"Classes list" "Most used ones" "not the windows"

"Class names and method names -- not open windows."

"classes with case insensitive filtering" "mine :)"

"Exact results should be first. Shorter results should have higher priority"

"windows should show less results"

"There is no single true answer to this because it is likely to differ between people. The next point is that if the different kinds of responses are visually distinguishable you have multiple top of the lists"

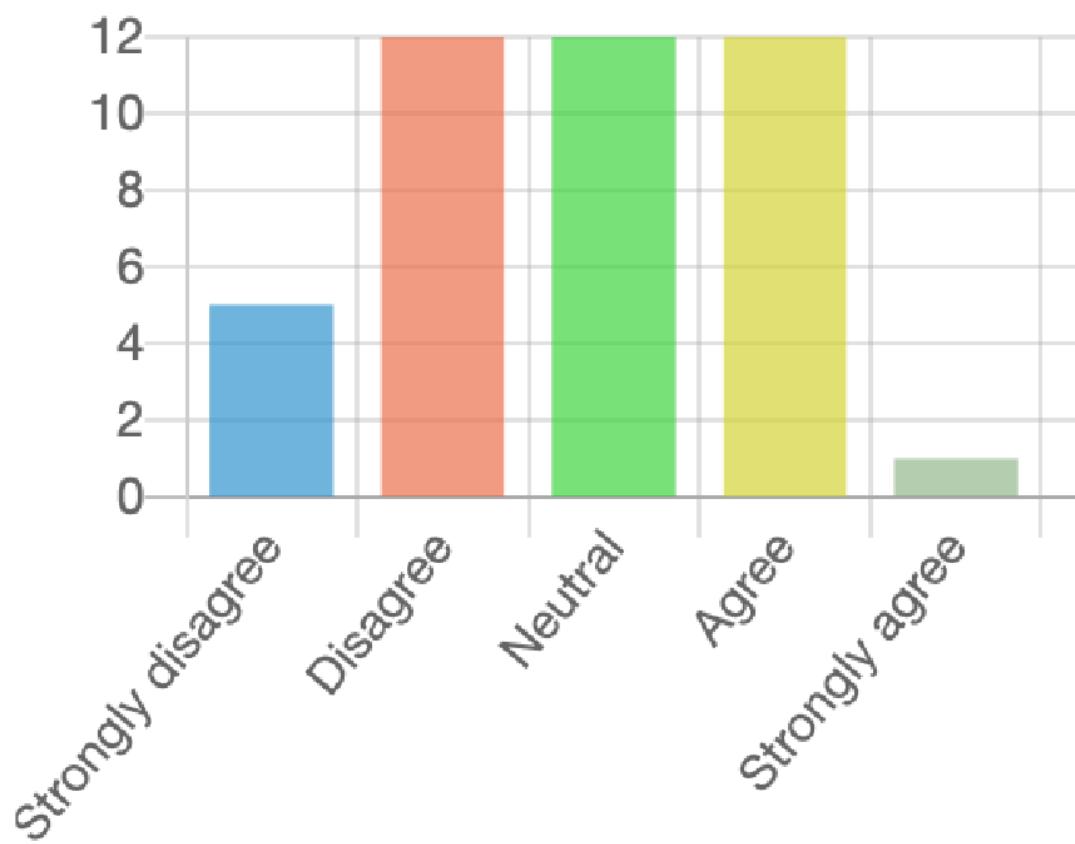
"Closest to the search string. When there are multiple similar option, results seem like they are shown at random and I almost always have to use arrows."

"First should come most relevant (most matching) results."

INSIGHTS

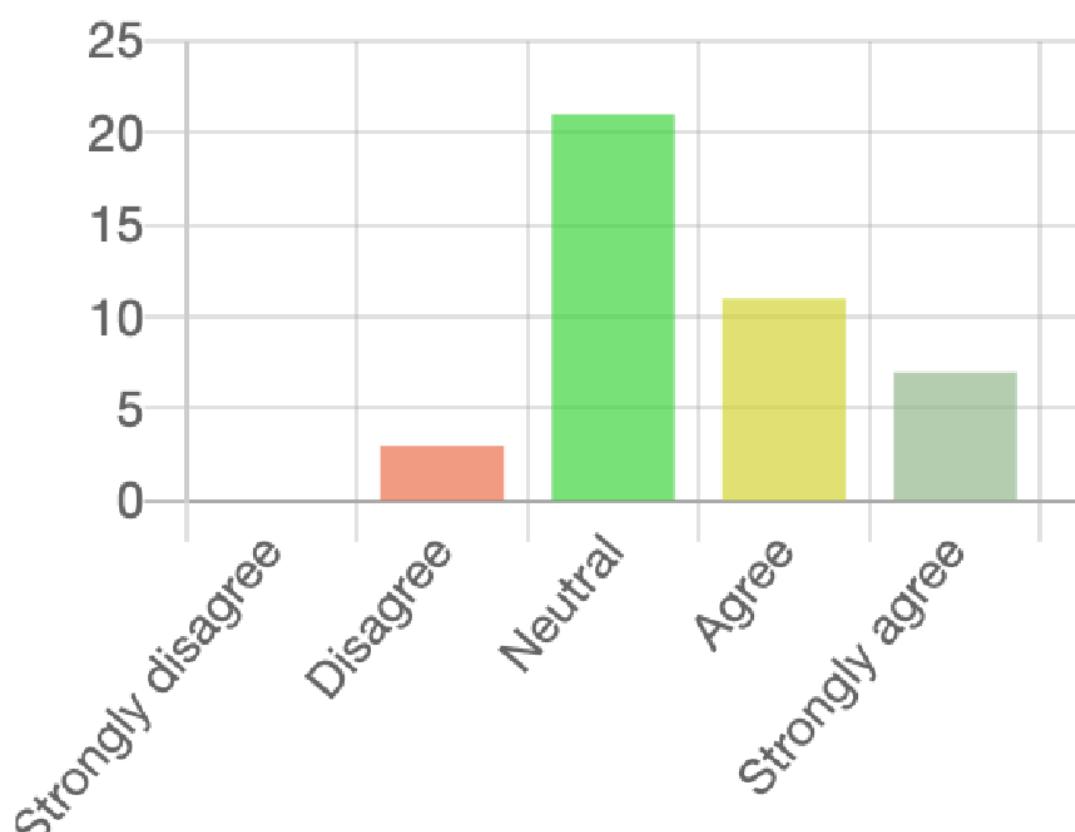
Satisfaction Level

40% of users are not satisfied with the order of the lists in the Spotter



Changing the Order

Only 7% of participants disagree on changing the order of the list results



05 - Tool Size

Overall satisfaction with the Spotter's size

While **some participants** have complained about the size of the window, **preferring the tool to have a larger height**, most of the users don't agree that it would have an impact on their productivity

"I would make the used screen estate bigger and concentrate on a vertical first list with clear separation about the types and locations things have been found. Individual items can be expanded within so to check e.g. if the window is the one I'm looking for etc."

"apart from the size of the window that is quite restraining"

"I feel that also the preview panel is useless so maybe I would remove it."

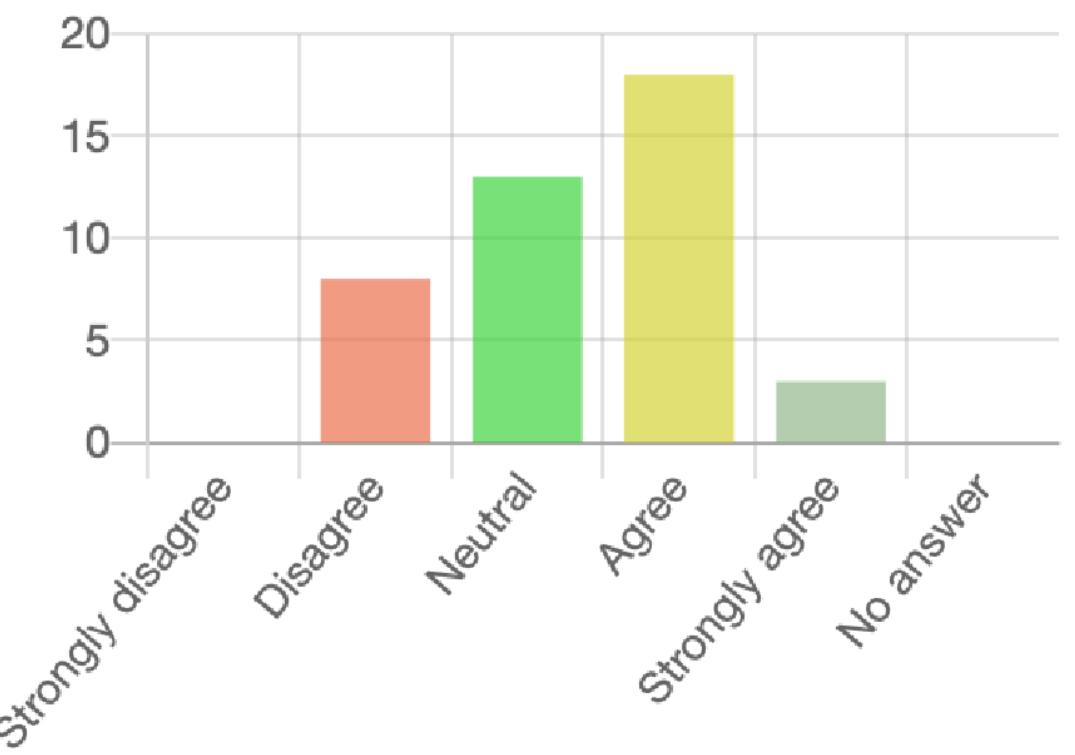
"Better size."

"increase the height of the tool"

INSIGHTS

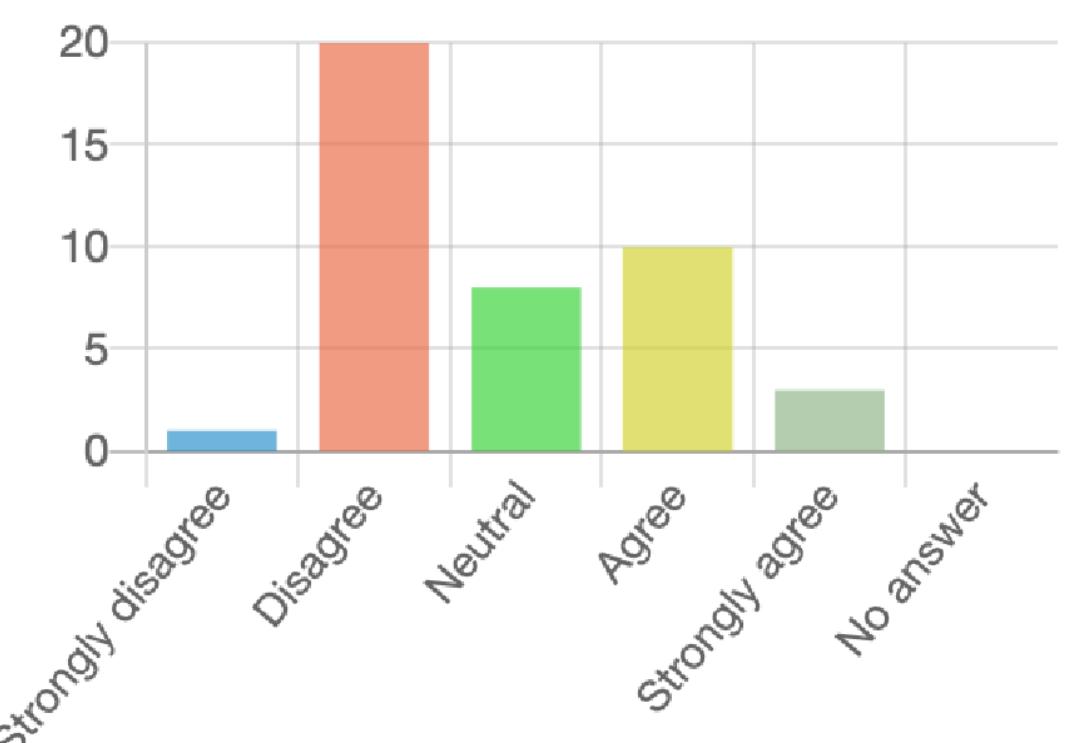
Satisfaction Level

50% of users are satisfied with the size of the Spotter tool.



Productivity

50% of participants **disagree** with the statement that they would be **more productive if the Spotter had a larger height**



06 - Other

Advanced Search (Finder) & The “x”

Most people don't go through the Spotter to get to the Finder, while some didn't even know the “advanced search” button was the Finder. There's mixed results on the perception of the “x”, half of the responses understand its purpose and have no problem with it, while the other half of participants would prefer to remove it

“remove useless x and advanced (or rename it finder)”

“Perhaps the ux was strange to me. Perhaps I never had the feeling that I need it.”

“I did not even know you could do that”

“I did not know that advanced search was finder so I never clicked on it.”

“Less moves to do to use the Finder”

“I'm used to the global world menu - so I think this is just laziness.”

“I have more control”

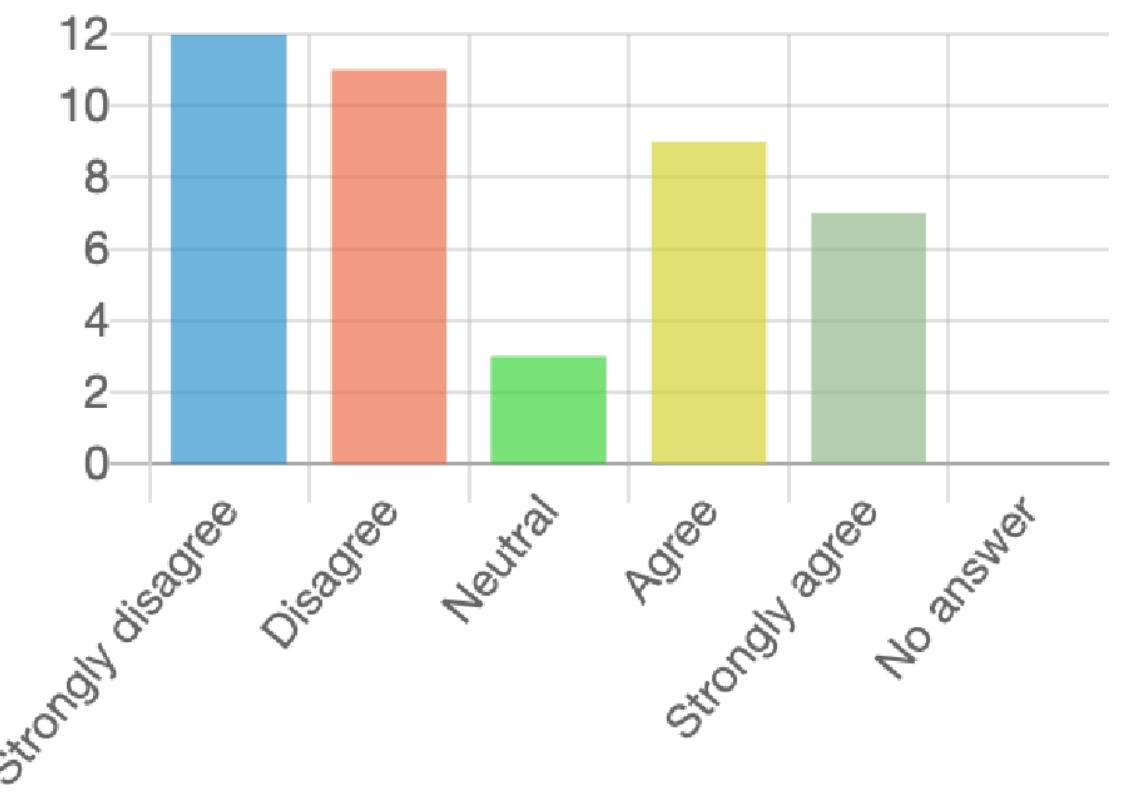
“Laziness”

“Enable to close the Spotter window by clicking on the x in the corner.”

INSIGHTS

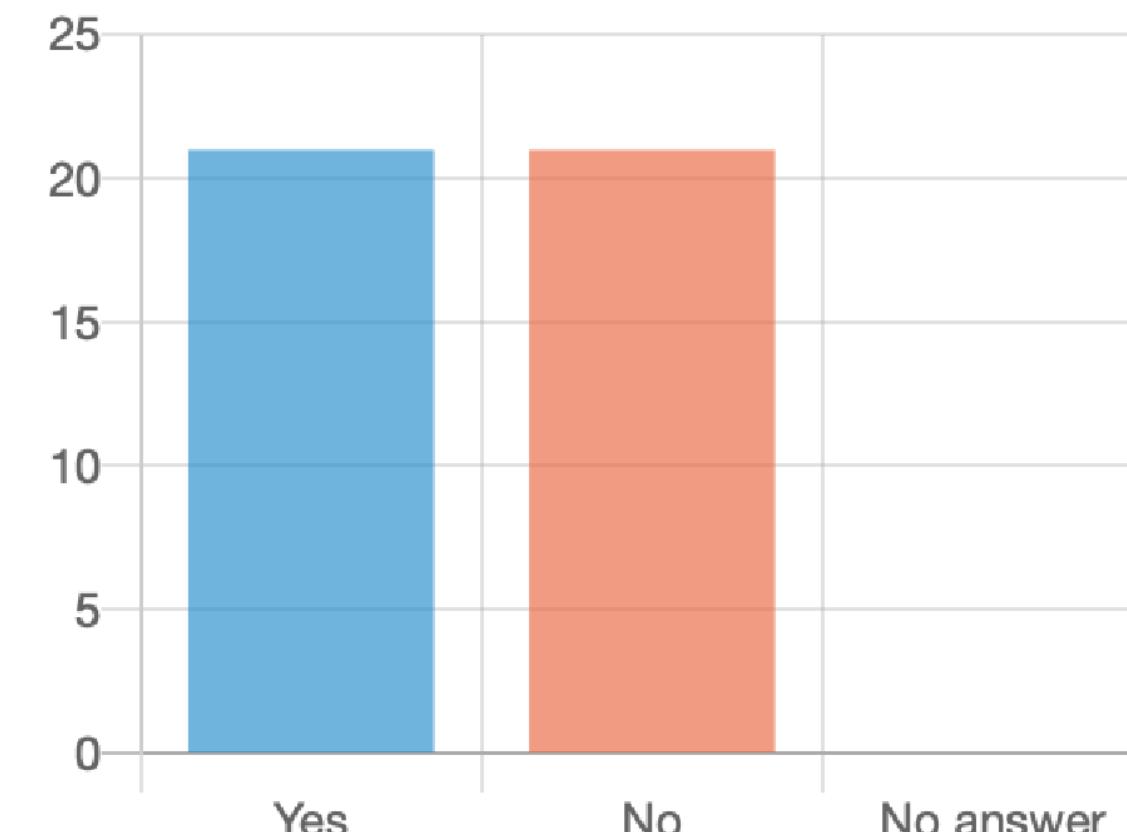
Advanced Search

55% of participants **don't use the “Advanced search” from the Spotter**



Removing the “X”

There is a 50/50% disagreement on keeping or removing the “x”



07 - Improvement Suggestions

What suggestions do participants have for improving the Spotter?

Speed & Performance

"Faster, or at least start listing classes"

"There's a delay in finding answers. If I press enter too quickly, Spotter may be closed or I go to the wrong window, or wrong window is opened. Took me forever to figure out how to expand the initial search results list."

"I often type faster than Spotter can list results. So I might enter "object" and expect the first entry to be the "Object" class and hit enter immediately. If Spotter isn't ready yet, I would expect it to stay open until it can accept the enter action meaningfully. Instead, Spotter closes and nothing happens because there were no results yet."

"Improving the speed and performance. For me there is a second (sometimes more) where I have to wait for the results to appear after I write something."

"I want the results to show up fast enough that I can just type and stop when I see what I want, and I won't have gotten more than a character or two further along than the minimum it would take to get that result"

"If I look for a package it usually fails. It also is a pain that there is an option by default that automatically puts the latest copied text directly in the spotter research field"

Advanced Search

"i think the advanced search should be somewhere more accessible and easy to spot, or reachable through a key combination."

"shift-enter in the spotter should open the finder with the same query"

"the "Advanced Search" could keep the already typed search text from Spotter and put it into the opened Finder tool"

"Rename it to finder"

List Results

"put class methods on top after a short history"

"When I open Spotter there is #History part, but I find that this part is not always useful, very often it has only one entry even though I performed several searches."

"And I would add quick filter toggle buttons to show just results of what I am looking for (classes, methods, windows, menu, all...)"

"One of the most annoying things for me is that the selection often isn't on the first element of the result list. I then have to use the up and down arrows to move the selection to the first entry."

"Should allow for "full source code search" as an option when not many results are found (even when full source search is slow) as a "dive deeper""

"The Spotter could have a kind of memory, showing first results related with my last used classes or methods"

"We could have shortcut that opens spotter with predefined filter? double ctrl would open with settings filter double shift only classes"

Other Comments

"Background could be darker when Spotter is open so it really is a "highlight" in front"

"should have a help menu linking to its docu"

"Can I edit code in Spotter? It is not clear to me if that works. Spotter should allow this line of search.
SystemNavigation default
browseMethodsWithSourceString: 'pGpq transpose'
matchCase: true."

"Enable to look for the examples and the source code (on some packages only eventually);"

"When opening Spotter it would be nice if there were for example by default list of opened windows so user can go through and switch windows like that. Other similar feature would be that opening Spotter there is a shortcut to go to previous search (when you open wrong item last time)."

"Many many times I type by mistake a key and boom no results. It doesn't tolerate a single wrong key. Another way of search that I sometimes would need is when I know the prefix and the suffix but don't remember well the middle, so in some way I would like help. Not sure if I want to write a regular expression, maybe just type prefix and suffix all together and the search algorithm find it anyway, or maybe leave a space or an asterisk."