

HOW DO RESEARCHERS FEEL ABOUT FAIR TODAY?



The FAIR principles* were published in 2016 – but what do they mean to researchers today?

What are the FAIR principles?



Findability



Accessibility



Interoperability



Reusability

We asked over **8,400 researchers** to share their thoughts on FAIR, as part of the 2019 State of Open Data survey.

Familiar with FAIR?

52% of respondents who are frequent data-sharers have never heard of the FAIR principles.

Overall, 2019 saw only a slight increase in familiarity with FAIR principles, compared to 2018.

Which of these principles do you think needs better definition?

Findability 9% Accessibility 14% Interoperability 35% Reusability 15%

Positive signs of data sharing

Despite the low awareness of FAIR principles, researchers are willing to reuse data and make data available.



60% of respondents who had never used open data in their research would be willing to do so.



47% of respondents think they make their data open in compliance with FAIR to some extent, an increase on 2018.

Survey respondents

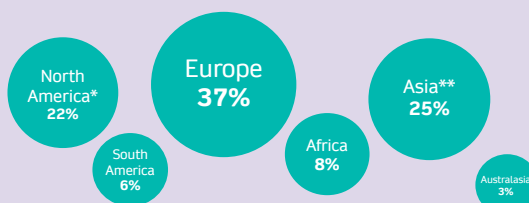
More than 8,400 participants in 190 countries/regions

38%
professors

41%
tenured (with a further **7%** on

36%

had first published a peer reviewed article during the current decade (2010's)



*inc. Central America & the Caribbean **inc. Middle East

Top 5 disciplines

- Medicine 19%**
- Biology 16%**
- Engineering 12%**
- Social Sciences 11%**
- Earth and Environmental Science 9%**

Learn more

Springer Nature partnered with Digital Science and figshare on the **State of Open Data report 2019**, the fourth annual report examining attitudes and experiences of researchers working with open data. Read the report on figshare: tinyurl.com/stateopendata19

For information about research data at Springer Nature visit: go.nature.com/researchdata

*FAIR Guiding Principles for Scientific Data Management and Stewardship' (Scientific Data, 2016: nature.com/articles/sdata201618)

