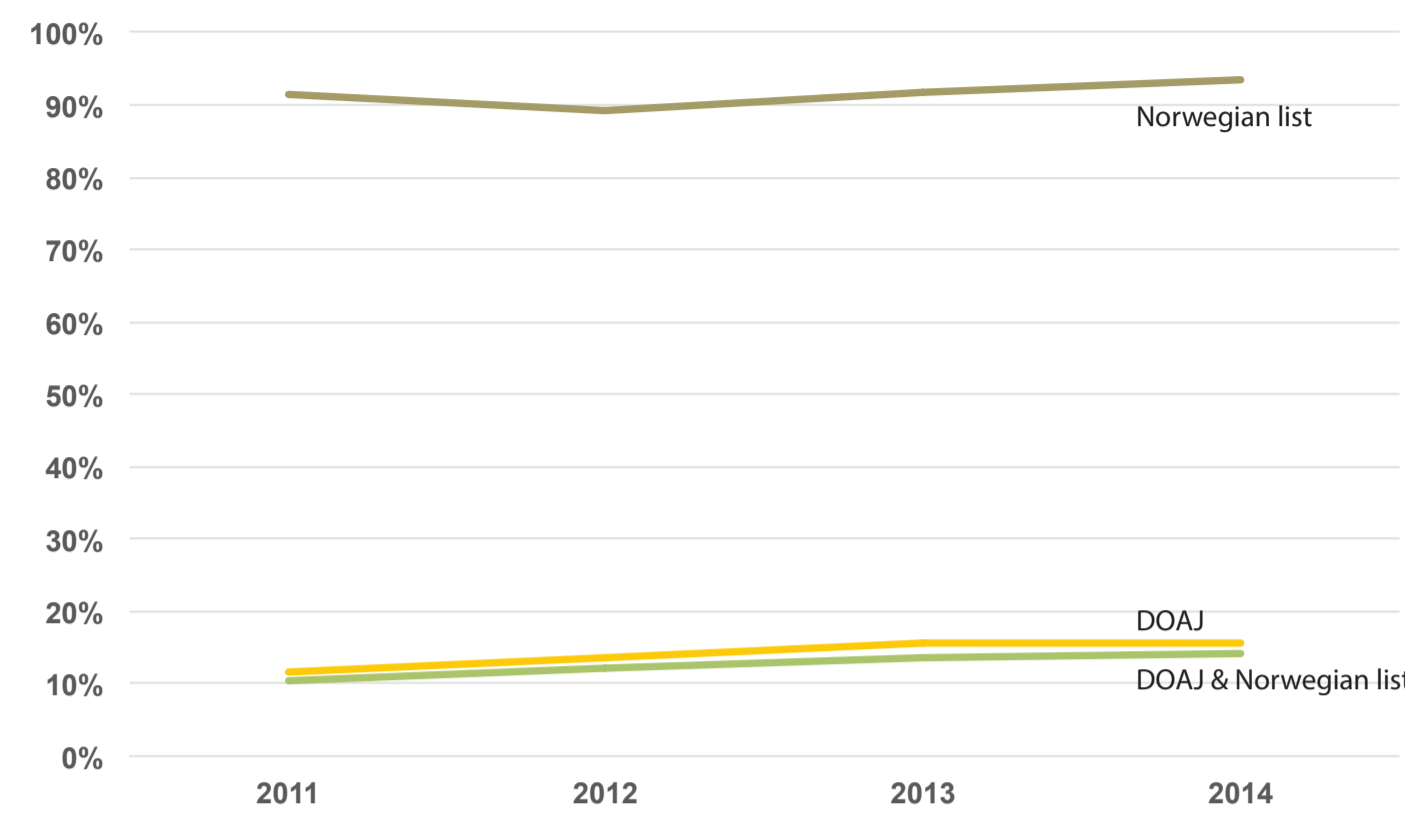
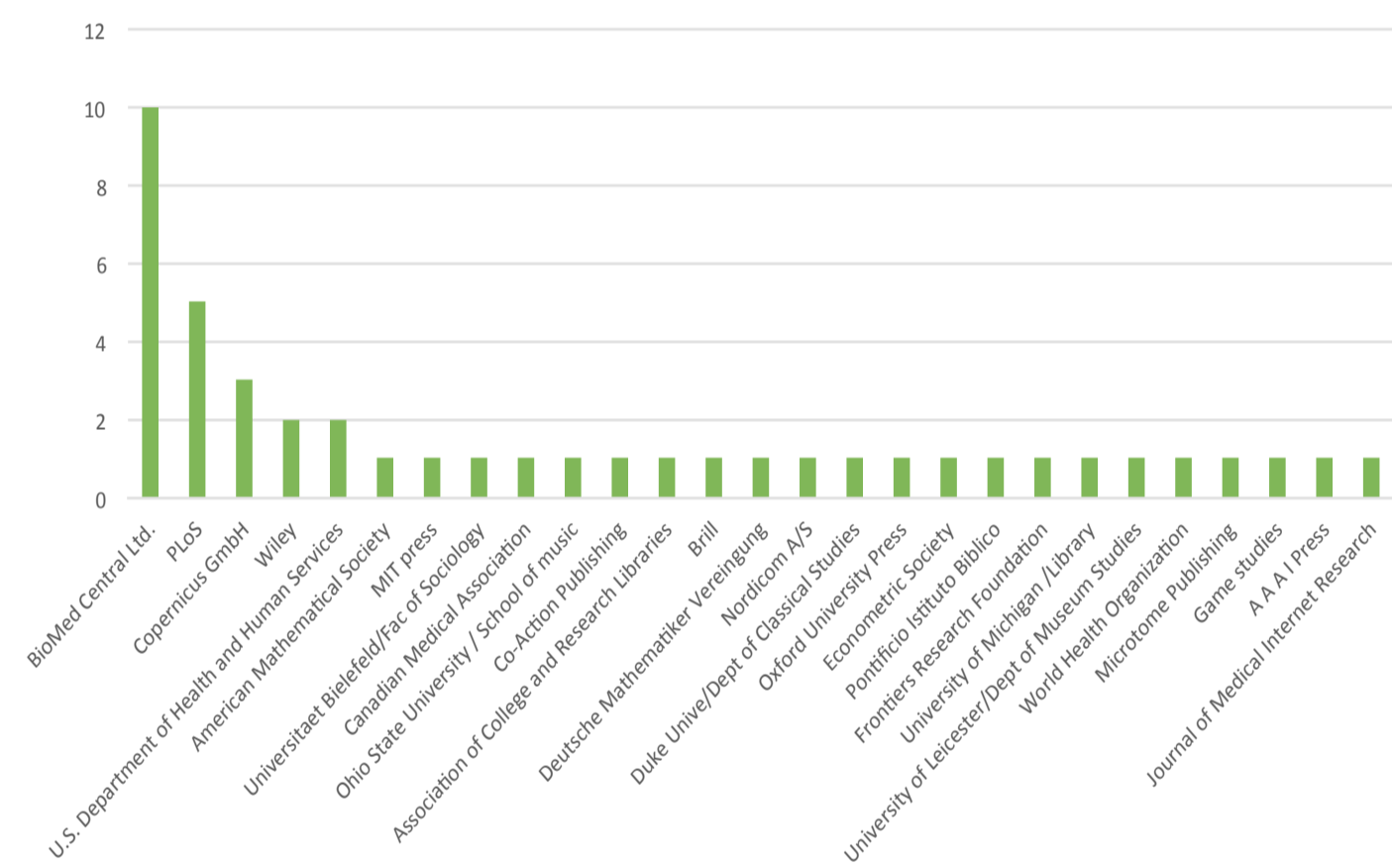


# What about prestige in Gold Open Access publishing - a survey investigating publication patterns of researchers at Swedish universities

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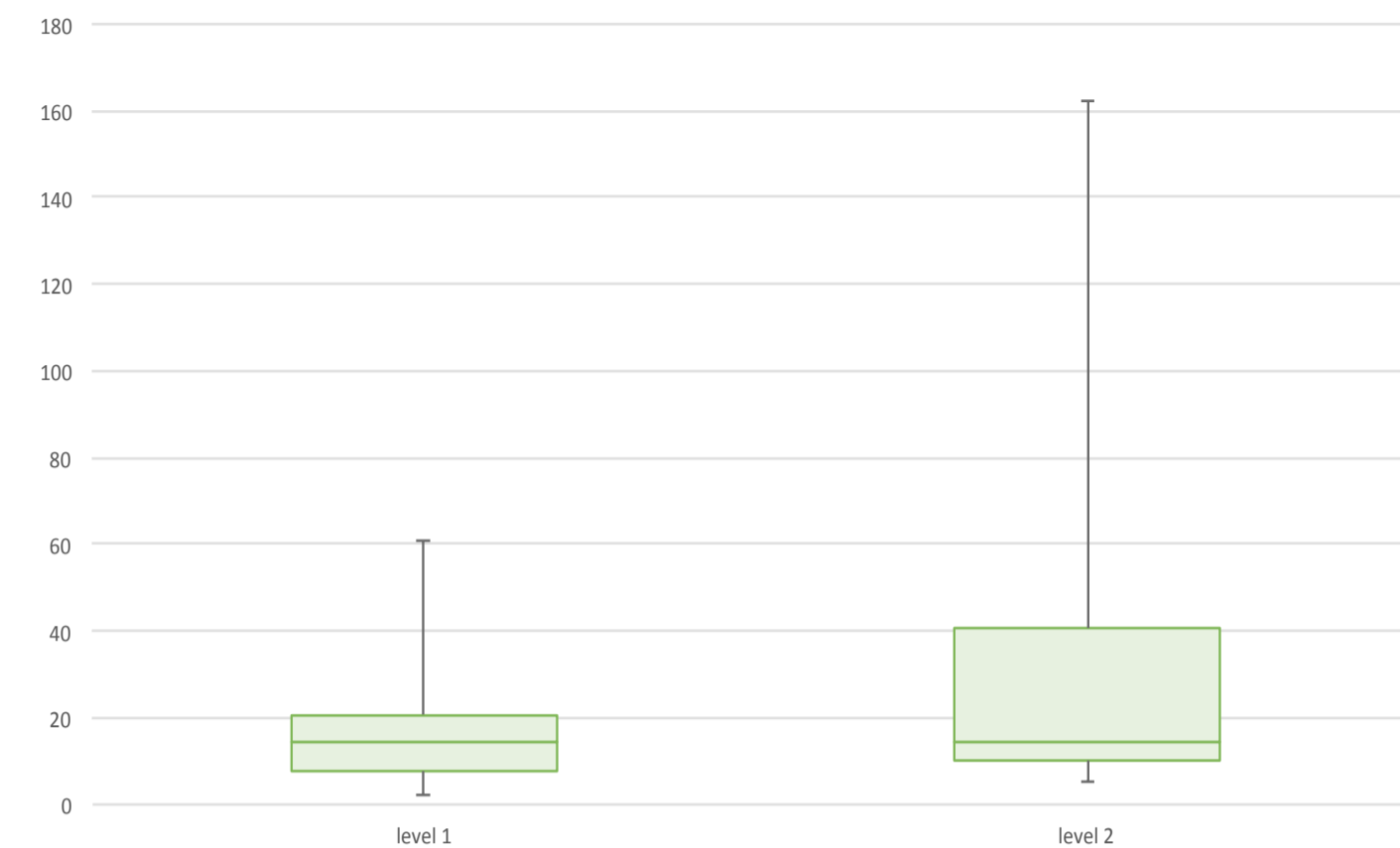
Articles published by researchers at Swedish universities 2011-2014. Data from DiVA. 30 % of the articles present in the Norwegian list are published in level 2 journals. The corresponding figure for DOAJ & Norwegian list is 7 %.



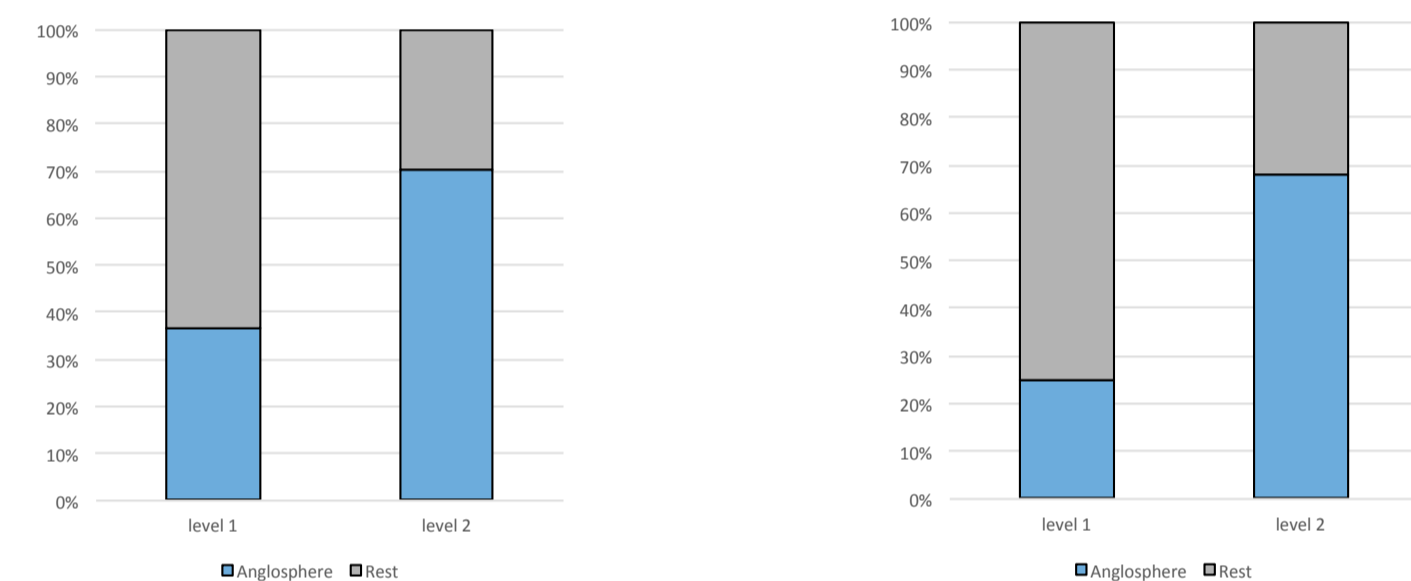
Number of journals per publisher at level 2 in the Norwegian list. Notice that Public Library of Science has 5 out of their 7 journals at level 2.

publisher full name	nr of journals	Articles / year
BioMed Central	176	8,993
International Union of Crystallography	1	5,165
Public Library of Science	7	4,368
Asian Network for Scientific Information	13	2,514
Hindawi Publishing Corporation	85	2,044
Copernicus Publications	18	2,012
Optical Society of America	1	1,961
World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology	18	1,960
Bentham Open	154	1,663
Medknow Publications	59	1,574
Indian Academy of Sciences	10	1,152
Oxford University Press	2	1,032
Academic Journals	10	1,001
Internet Scientific Publications	62	657

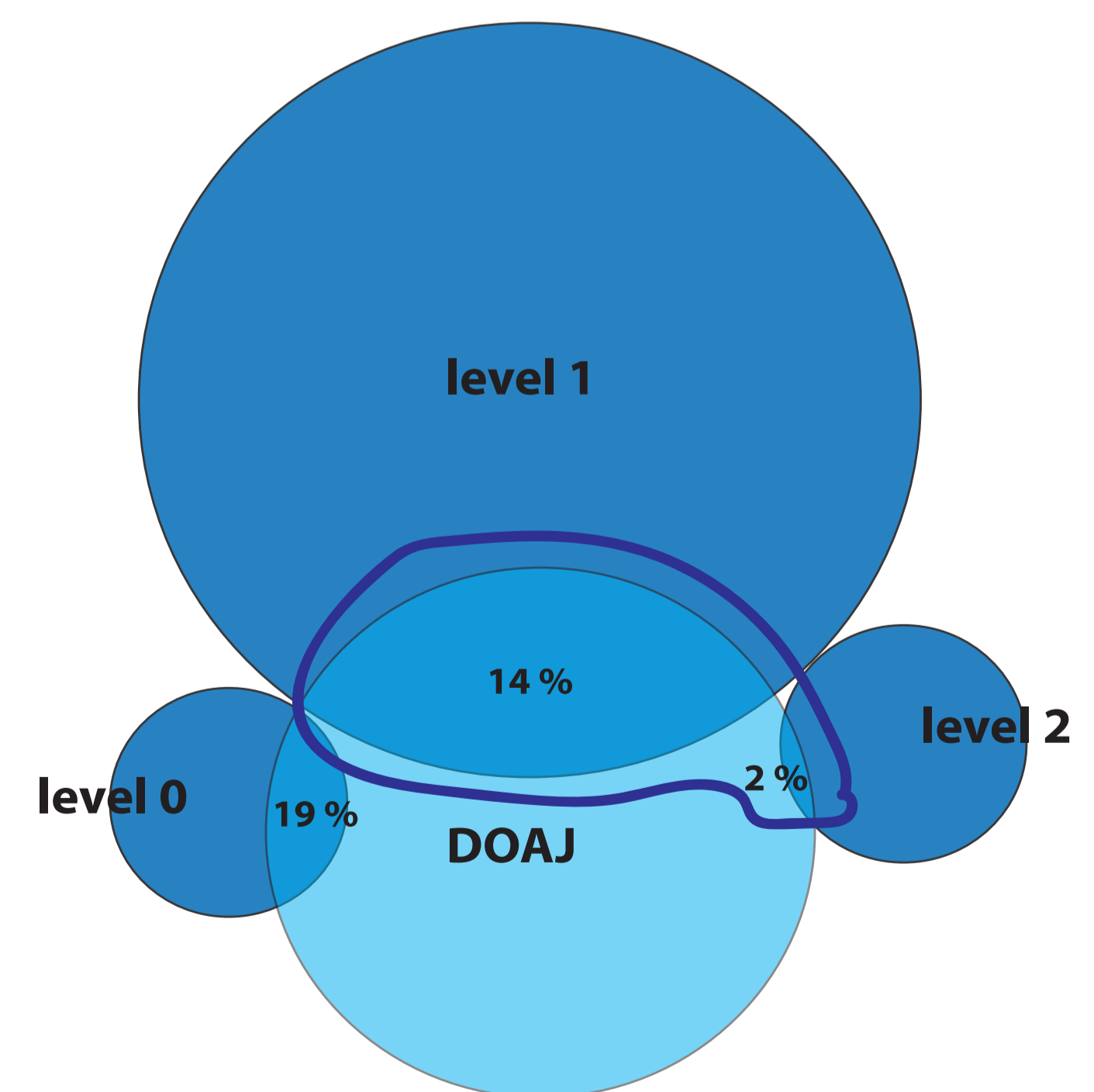
Gold OA-publishers sorted by the numbers of articles they produce per year. Notice ANSI and Hindawi, and their non-presence at level 2 in the Norwegian list. From: Dallmeier-Tiessen, S. et al., 2010, Open Access Publishing – Models and Attributes



Journal Age of gold OA journals categorized as level 1 (left plot) and level 2 (right plot) in the Norwegian list.



Left diagram: Gold OA journals categorized at level 1 and 2 for ALL gold OA-publishers present in my sample. Right diagram: Gold OA journals categorized at level 1 and 2 for NON-PROFIT gold OA-publishers present in my sample.



Overlap of DOAJ with Norwegian List. Percentage refers to share of DOAJ-journals at that level. Violet marking shows where researchers at Swedish universities publish.

## THEORY

**Prestige** refers to a good reputation or high esteem; in earlier usage, *prestige* meant “showiness” (19th c.). Wikipedia

## Sociology of Science

Robert K. Merton discusses several ways of allocating rewards and reaching recognition in Science. He points to eponymy (affixing the name of the researcher to what has been found) as the most prestigious kind of recognition. Other tokens are prizes, such as the Nobel prize, memberships and fellowships. Historians of science also play a part when emphasizing the importance of priority - the theory of evolution is generally ascribed to Darwin although it was presented at the Linnean Society in London 1858 by two researchers, Darwin and Wallace. How did Darwin become the sole inventor in today's tale of science?

The importance of recognition in the research system also leads to deviant behavior in the form of forgeries and plagiarism. Although existing, Merton deems these practices to be uncommon because of general morals and the current system where researchers check each other.

## Prestige and scholarly publishing

The thoughts of Merton regarding rewards for accomplishment may be applied to scholarly publishing as well. To present your research in a publication is to claim priority of your findings. At the same time, the publisher often wants to claim priority of your work, demanding that it is not presented elsewhere.

Today we commonly see the term “**prestigious journals**”. Although the term probably existed a long time ago, the use may have intensified as a result of developing research evaluation practices. Researchers depend on these prestigious publication channels, be it journals or publishing houses, in order to advance their careers. Usually this advancement depends on fellow researchers in the system of peer review, but it may also be in the form of numbers such as Impact Factor or similar measurements.

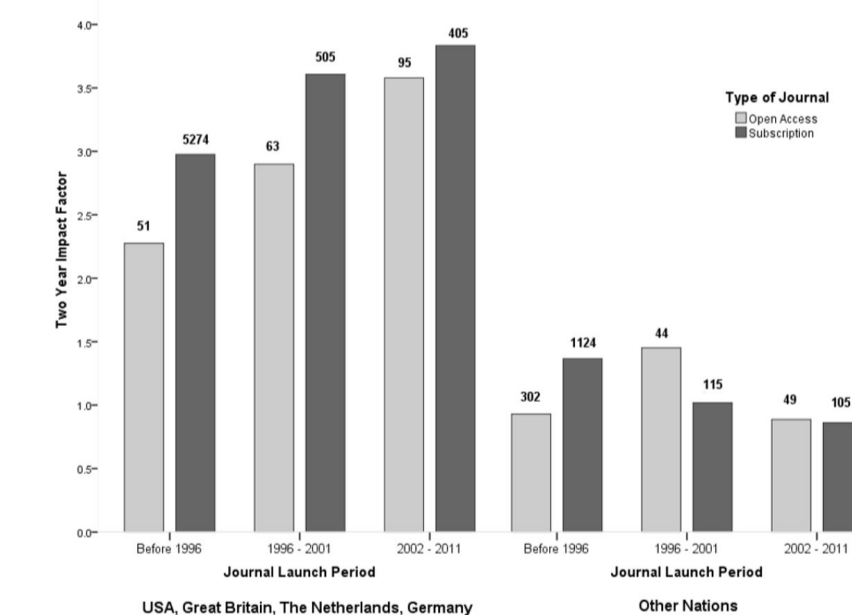
What are the parameters deciding prestige in publication channels? From what can be found in the literature, I propose the following:

- Age
- Rejection rate
- Editorial boards/Editors
- Founders
- Geographical origin
- Cost & Design

## Question to poster readers: What about Open Science and prestige? e.g. PLoS ONE

### DISCUSSION

1. Researchers of Swedish universities publish almost exclusively in OA-journals present in the Norwegian model. Are these the most known journals? Or does this mean that researchers make a balanced choice between publishing gold OA while at the same time taking care of career advancing publishing?
2. The age effect is not prominent, median age for both categories is 14,5 years with a longer tail for level 2 journals. When PLoS and BioMed Central journals are excluded, the median of level 2 journals is 19,5 years. Some of the older journals are earlier print journals switched to OA. Switching to gold OA seems not to be common, but will maybe increase in the future? What about the recent news about the journal Lingua turning into OA Glossa? Will the editorial board give the former prestige of Lingua to the newly started journal? Given the age statistics presented here, age per se seems to be a rather weak sign of prestige.
2. PLoS and BioMed Central score well in the Norwegian list. Is it because of their origin? Here origin means geographical origin, but it could also be the origin of editors/founders as prominent members of the research community.



### EARLIER STUDIES (selection)

- Study of Open Access Publishing (SOAP project) 2010
- Bo Christer Björk et al e.g. Björk & Solomon 2012, Open Access vs subscription journals (figure above)
- Impact factors and OA e.g. Giglia 2010
- Prestige and scholarly publishing e.g. Bergstrom 2007

### DATA & METHOD

Publication data from the largest Swedish publication repository DiVA, articles published during 2011-2014 retrieved.

Norwegian Model, journal data

DOAJ, journal data

Matching by ISSN

