

# UiT researchers' attitudes and practices towards Open Access



Msomphora Mbachi Ruth & Longva Leif



Research and Publishing Support - Department of Library services, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway.

## Background

Open access (OA) targets at enabling anyone who has access to the internet to have access, read and use scientific documents, such as articles. In line with Horizon 2020's new guidelines that open access publication of research results is an obligation, UiT The Arctic University of Norway aims to be an institution advancing free scholarly information and knowledge about how to find it, read it and use it. Through the open repository called Munin, UiT has since 2006 made, as much as possible, scholarly documents produced by its researchers and graduate students openly available. Free access to scholarly information is one of the university's strategic goals, and researchers are recommended to save the files of their research articles to be openly available.

## Objective

To find out researchers' attitudes at the UiT The Arctic University of Norway regarding OA of research articles, especially when it comes to archiving final drafts of their accepted manuscripts and or journal articles in Munin, including their practices towards OA publication.

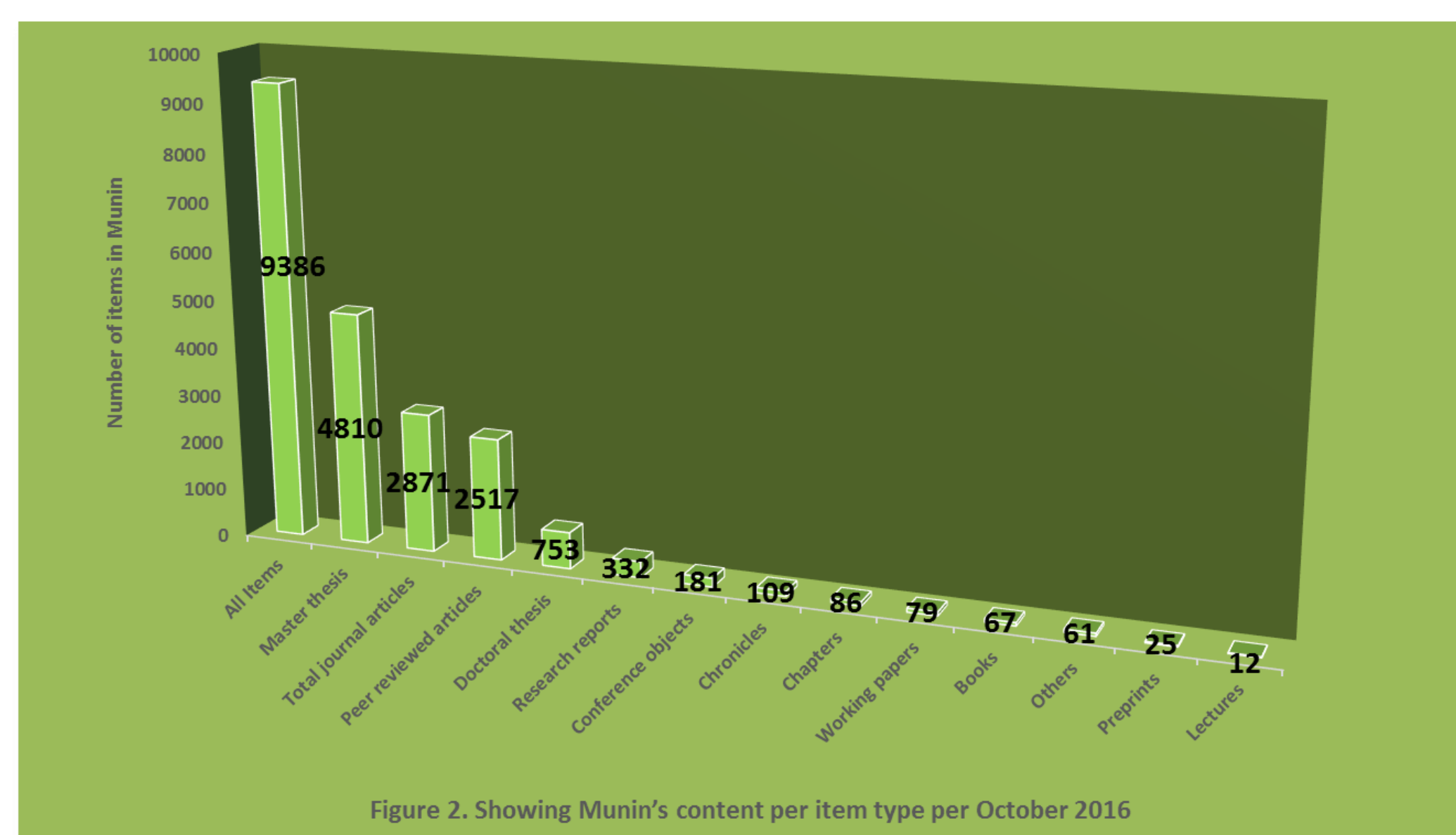
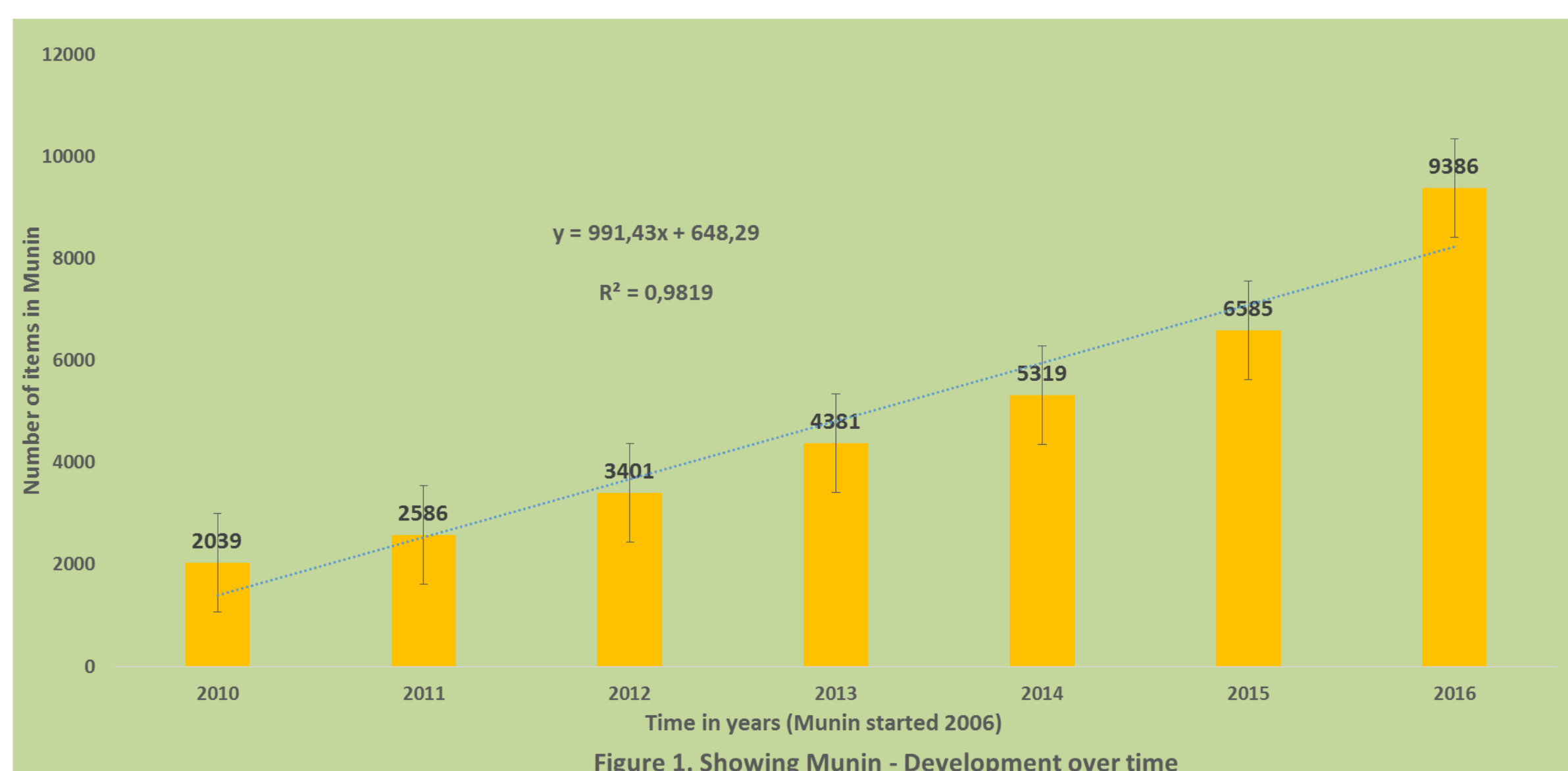


Fig. 1 shows a rise of 78.3% of content published in Munin since 2010. The documents are accessible 100% as OA, with embargo where necessary. To date (October 2016), 0.4% of the 9386 items in Munin have embargo. However, Fig. 2 shows that only 21% are journal articles, of which 88% are peer reviewed. As such, there is still work to do. In line with this, the current study comes up with the arguments for improving the manageability, visibility and accessibility of qualitative scholarly documents in Munin at UiT, and for the growing research community worldwide.

## Materials and methods

Information was mainly obtained through a survey questionnaire addressed to all researchers at UiT.

For triangulation purposes, literature archives, record, reports and other publication documents were also used.

SPSS statistical package was used for data analysis.

## Conclusion

93.5% of UiT researchers support OA publication principles

**But**  
Only 46% submit articles to Munin

**While**  
74.5% are positive to archive their final draft and 20.5% are not sure

**Therefore:**

We need to find the missing link

**Inform & clarify all UiT researchers:**

- What Munin is all about
- Who checks publishing permission
- 'Final draft' allowed in Munin

## Preliminary Results

### Researchers' Attitudes and Practices in % (n = 200)

Faculty*	Agreement to OA principles					Keeping final draft		Archived in Munin	
	Strongly agree	Mildly agree	Mildly against	Strongly against	Don't know	Yes	No	Yes	No
BFE	10.5	4.0	0	0	0	14.5	0	8.5	6.0
HSE	22.5	7.0	0	0	2.0	28.5	3.0	16.0	15.5
STS	2.0	0.5	0	0	0.5	3.0	0	1.0	2.0
EST	0.5	1.0	0	0.5	0	2.0	0	0	2.0
ST	12.5	3.0	0	0.5	0	15.0	1.0	7.5	8.5
HS	16.5	7.0	1.5	0.5	1.0	26.0	0.5	10.0	16.5
L	1.5	3.5	0	0	0	5.0	0	2.0	3.0
FA	1.5	0	0	0	0	1.5	0	1.0	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>
<b>Age</b>									
< 30 yrs	6.5	4.0	0	0.5	0	10.0	1.0	4.5	6.5
30-39 yrs	24.5	10.0	5.0	0.5	1.0	35.5	1.0	18.0	18.5
40-49 yrs	15.5	4.5	5.0	0	2.0	20.5	2.0	10.5	12.0
50-59 yrs	13.0	6.0	0	0	0.5	19.0	0.5	10.5	9.5
>60 yrs	8.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	0	10.5	0	3.0	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>
<b>Years of research experience</b>									
<5 yrs	23.5	9.5	1	0.5	2.5	35.0	2.0	17.0	20.0
5-15 yrs	25.5	9.5	0	0.5	0.5	35.0	1.0	17.0	19.0
>15 yrs	18.5	7.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	25.5	1.5	12.0	15.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>54.0</b>

\*Faculty belonging significantly affect the researchers' attitudes towards OA principles, i.e. p-value 0.048 (CI: 0.044-0.0525)