

# Supplementary Materials: Investigating Their Persistence and Exploring the Library's Role

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## Abstract

This poster presents the initial results of a study investigating the persistence of supplementary material on journal websites. I am reviewing select issues of 24 science journals for missing supplementary materials, and comparing existing journal policies and websites to the NISO-NFAIS "Recommended Practices for Online Supplemental Journal Article Materials" report guidelines. That report stated that a library's role related to supplementary materials might be as a repository, so this study explores when institutional repositories might be a good alternative to journal websites for supplementary materials. With this knowledge, librarians can provide better feedback on data management plans.

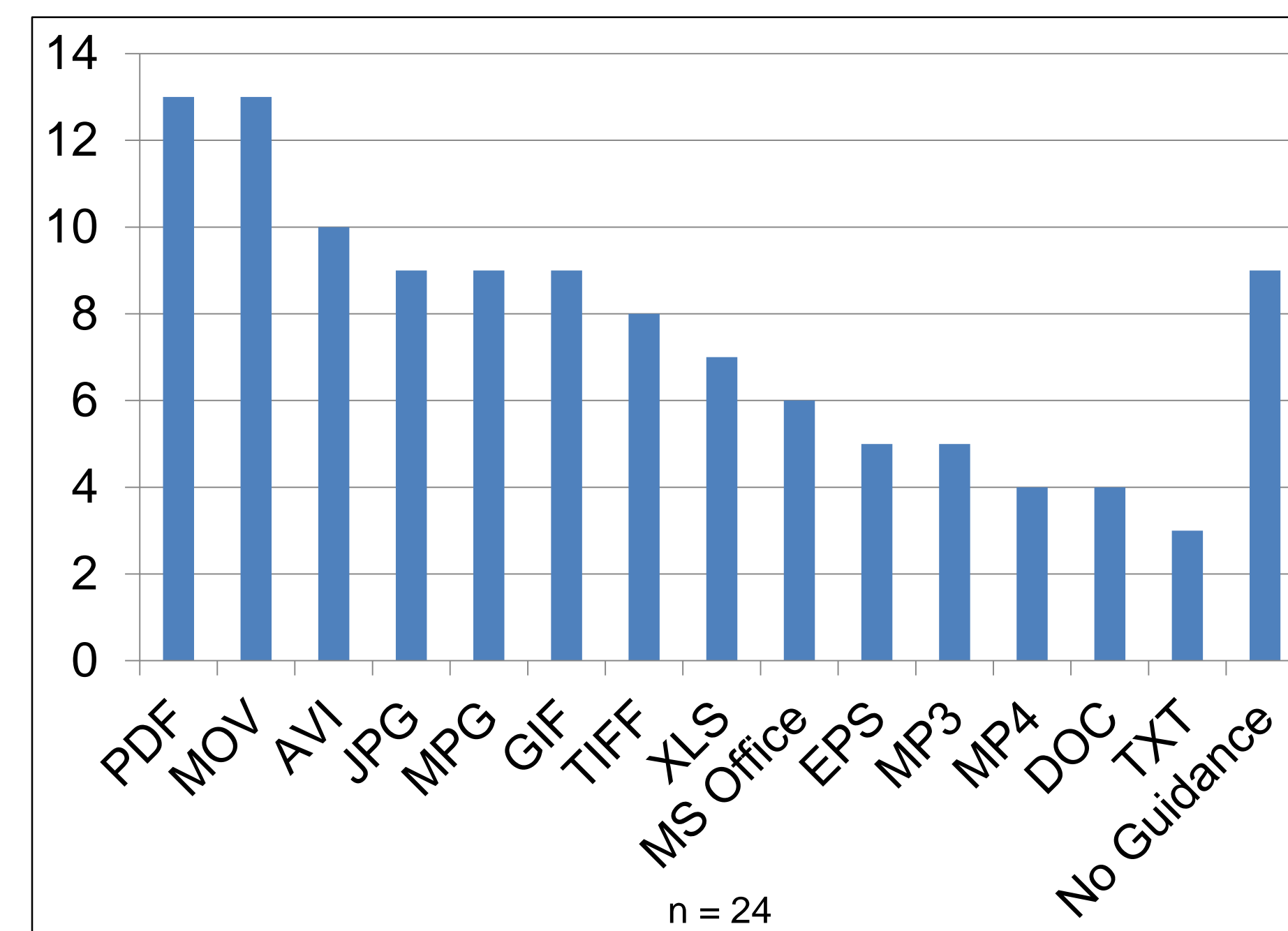
## Publishers

Publisher [Platform]	Num. of Journals
American Chemical Society	2
American Phytopathological Society	2
American Society for Horticultural Science [HighWire]	1
American Society of Agronomy (ASA)	1
ASA/CSSA/SSSA	1
American Society of Plant Biologists [HighWire]	1
BioMed Central	1
Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)	1
Elsevier	1
Entomological Society of America [BioOne]	1
International Assoc. for the Plant Protection Sciences [Elsevier]	1
Lippencott Williams & Wilkins	1
Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America [OJS]	1
PLOS	1
Society for Experimental Biology [Oxford]	1
Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution [Oxford]	1
Society of Chemical Industry [Wiley-Blackwell]	1
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)	1
Weed Science Society of America [BioOne]	2
Wiley-Blackwell	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>

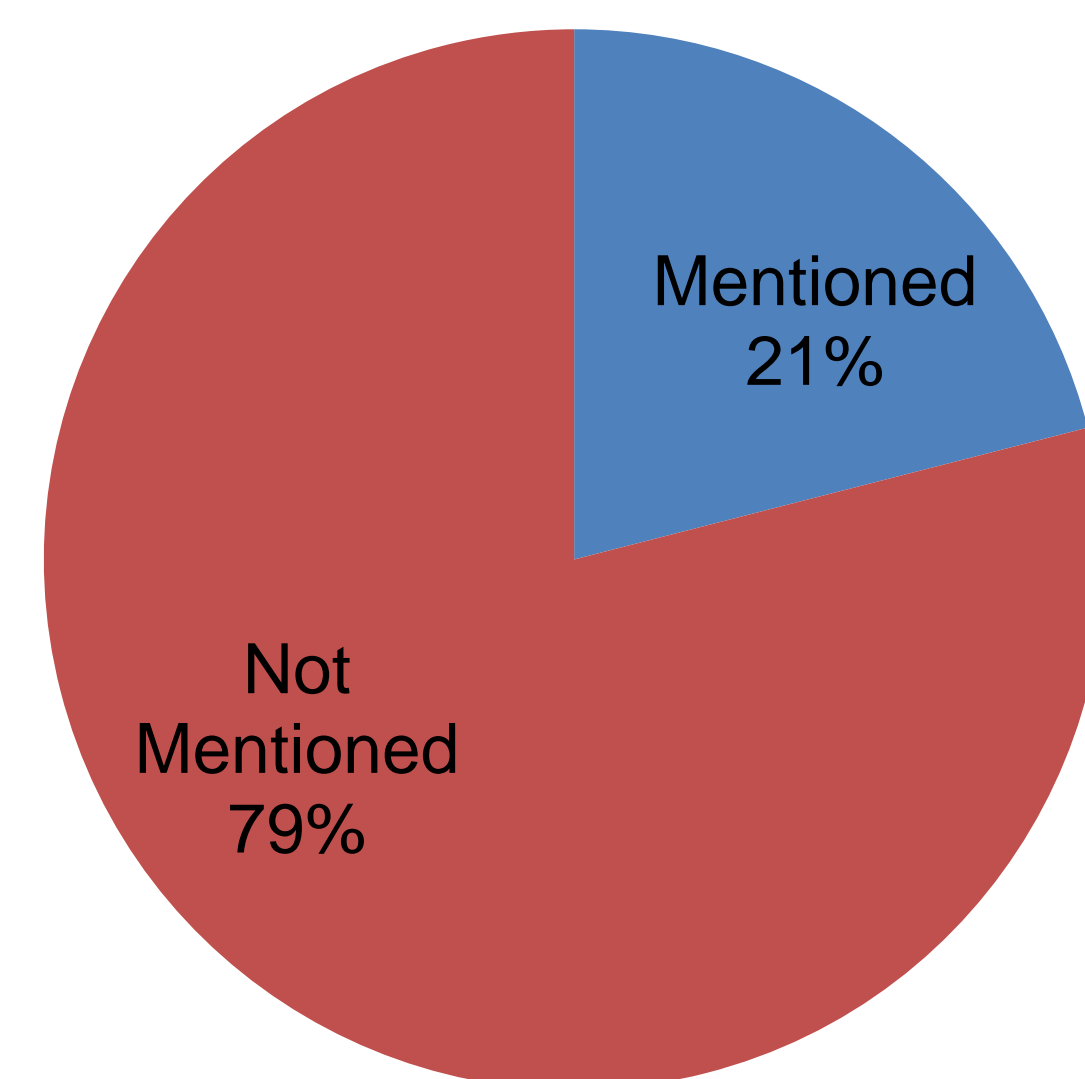
## Findings

### Most Commonly Recommended /Accepted File Formats

- 2 journals recommend only PDF and image/audio/video formats
- 1 journal recommends converting all non-audio/video files to PDF, but does accept other formats
- 2 journals recommend CSV or XLS for data

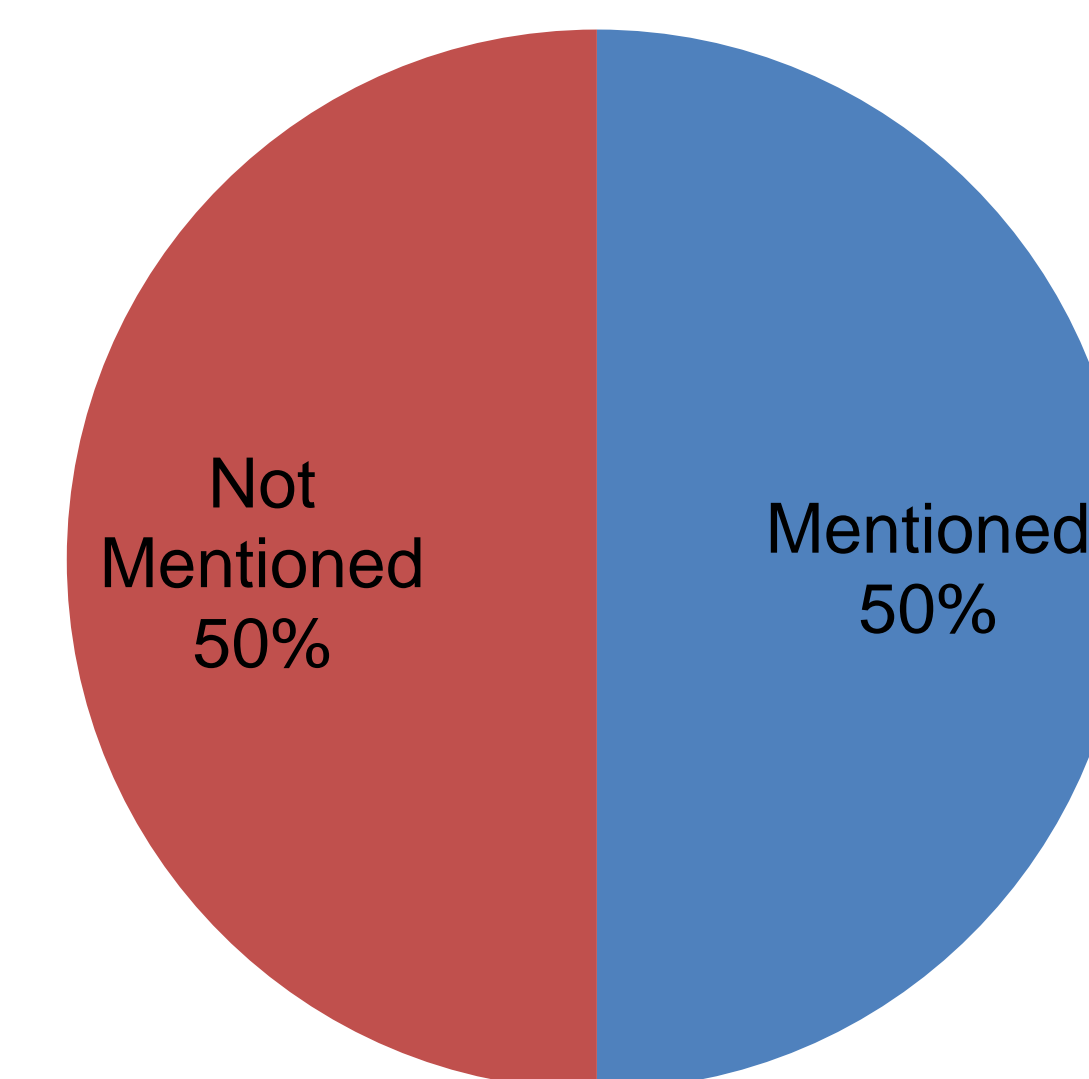


### Preservation of Supplementary Materials



- 14 journals (58%) indicate participation in CLOCKSS, LOCKSS, Portico, or independent archives, but do not specifically mention supplementary materials

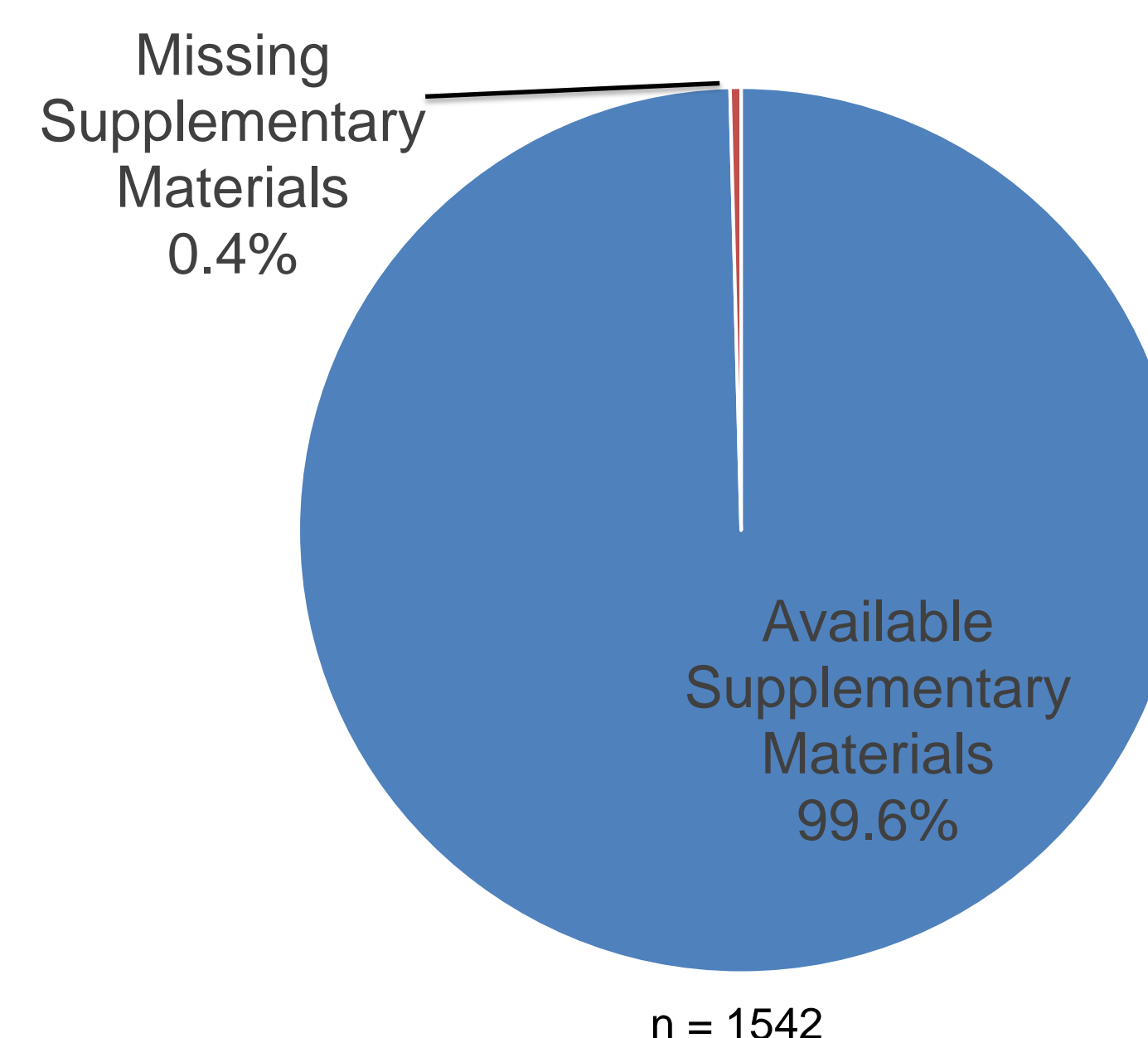
### Recommendations/Expectations of External Data Deposit



- 11 journals require/encourage data to be deposited in public repositories
- 4 journals do not allow links to supplementary materials on author sites

### Preliminary Data on Missing Supplementary Materials

The numbers so far:  
 8 journals  
 250 issues  
 6365 articles  
 1542 articles (24.2%) with supplementary materials  
 6 articles missing supplementary materials



## Potential Library Roles

- Librarians can provide guidance to researchers who include supplementary materials as part of their data management plans.
- Institutional repositories can accept file formats that are optimal for preservation or data reuse.
- Institutional repositories can provide persistent links to supplementary materials, unlike author sites.

## Acknowledgements

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