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## How European Libraries of Higher Education are supporting OE today



OE Global Conference  
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Vanessa Proudman, Director, SPARC Europe

# How are libraires supporting OE in Europe?

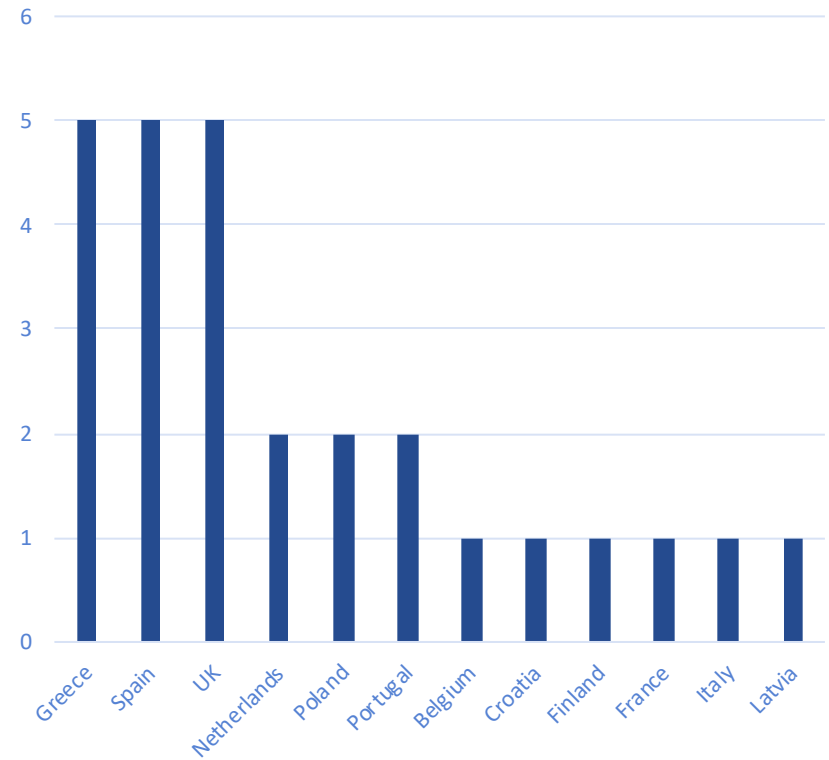
- \* To gain insights into Open Education practices within academic libraries in Higher Education in Europe
- \* To ultimately strengthen Open Education (OE) and increase Open Education Resources (OER) in higher education institutions and their libraries across Europe

# The survey

- \* Online survey open for 8 weeks:  
Nov 19 - Jan 2020
- \* 146 responses analysed
- \* 28 European countries:  
4 highest responses  
Spain, UK, Poland, and Greece

# Policy

- \* Trend: institutional policies part of larger overarching policies
- \* 27 reported OE policies
  - 11 libraries involved in conception
  - Libraries involved in 3/4 standalone policies



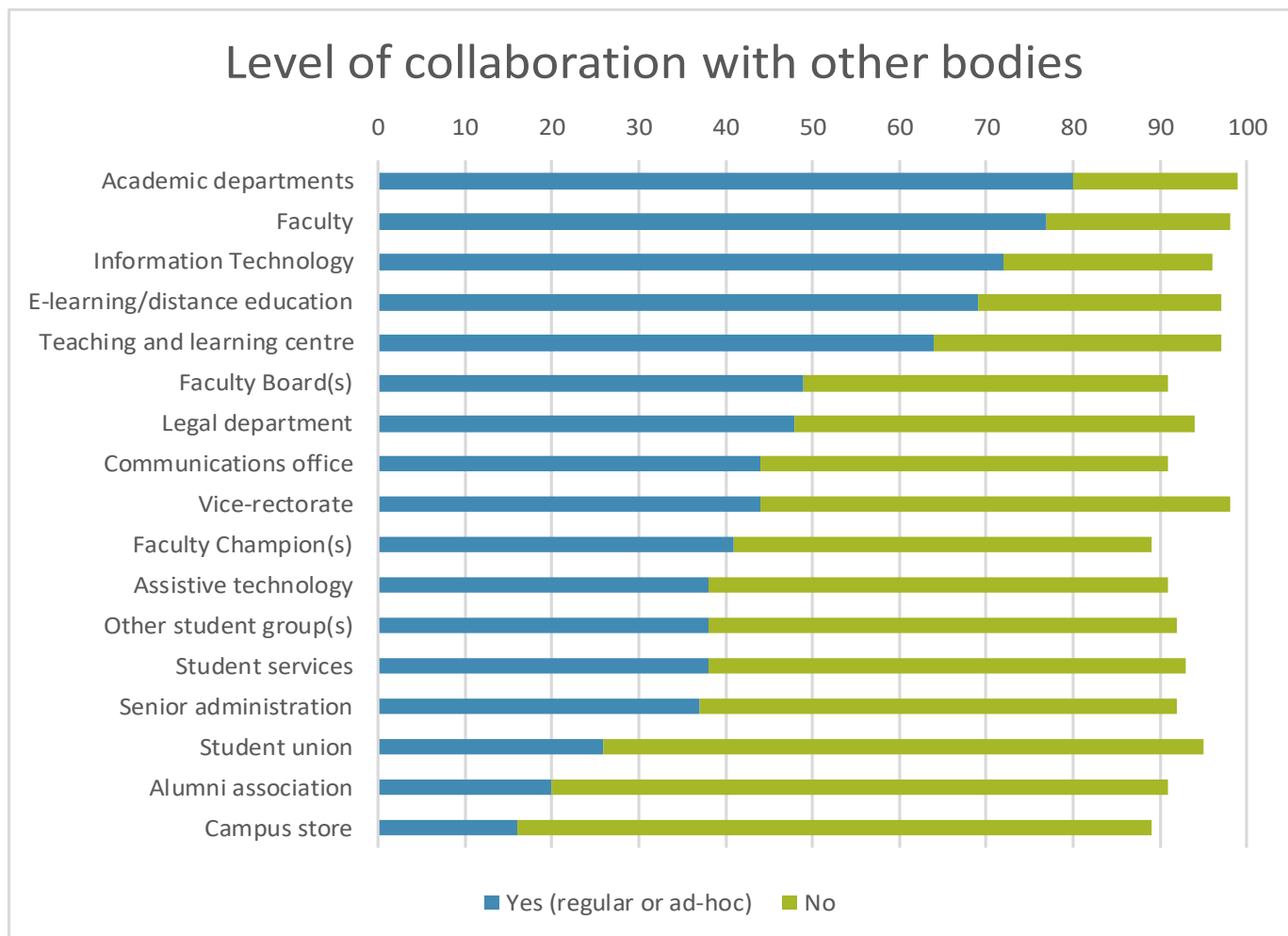
# The organisational context

- \* Only 20% had an internal task force / entity with an OE focus: and then more likely to have a policy
- \* A positive correlation between OE/OER services and # students
- \* A positive correlation between OE/OER advocacy activities and # students
- \* No correlation between services offered and FTE !

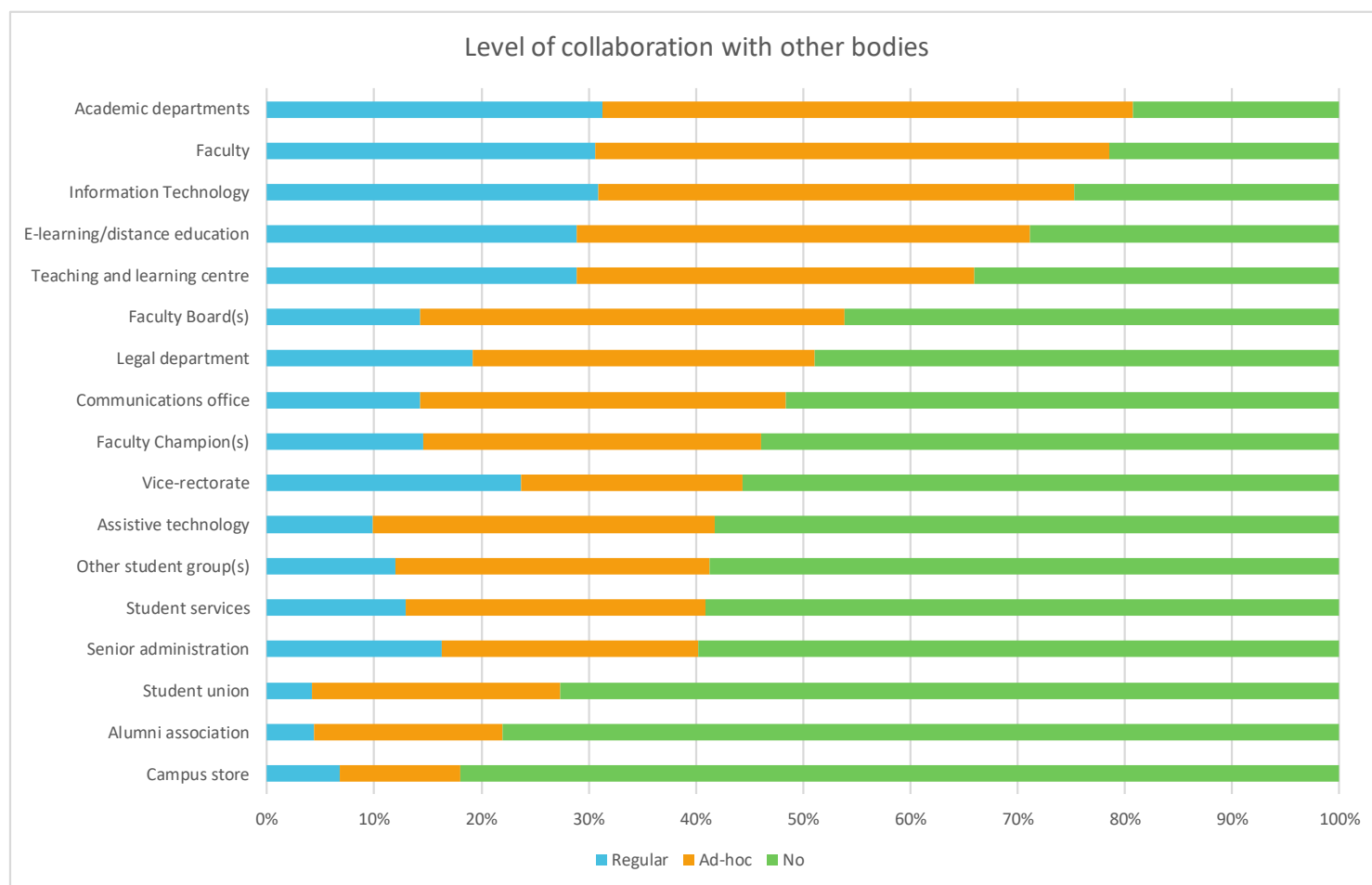
# Library leadership

- \* 50% take the lead in OE or OER in their institutions
- \* 7 of 9 libraries involved in conceiving OE policy,
  - taking lead in advancing OER
  - engage in more activities: 5.3 activities vs 3.3
- \* 40 of 101 lead from teaching and learning, 10 scholarly communications section

# Collaboration

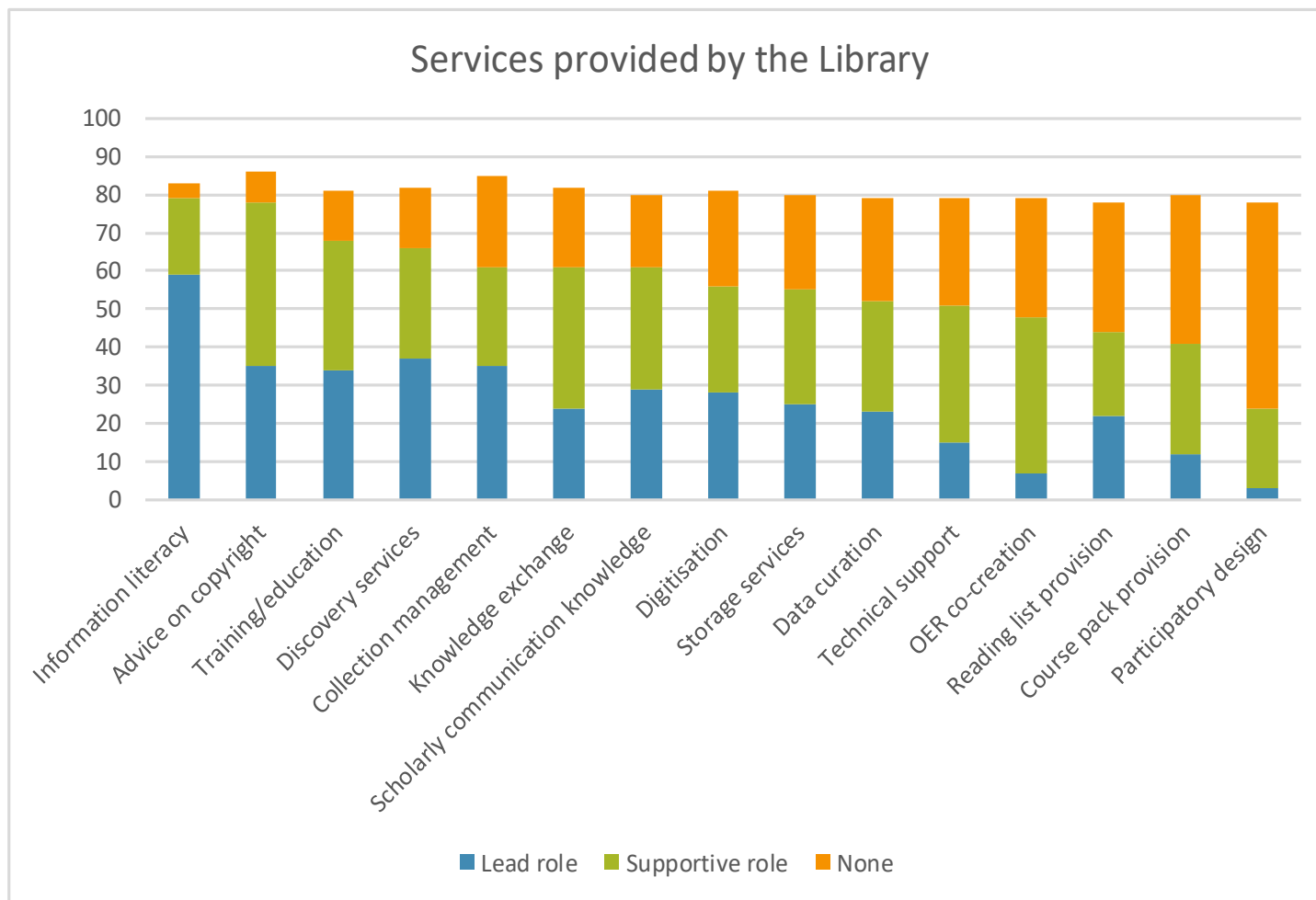


# Collaboration: regular vs ad hoc

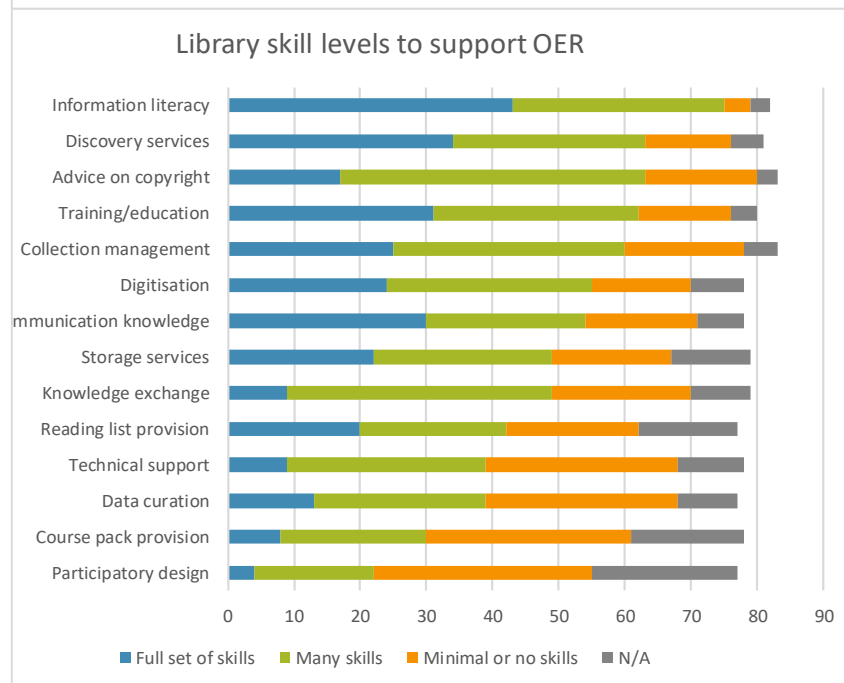
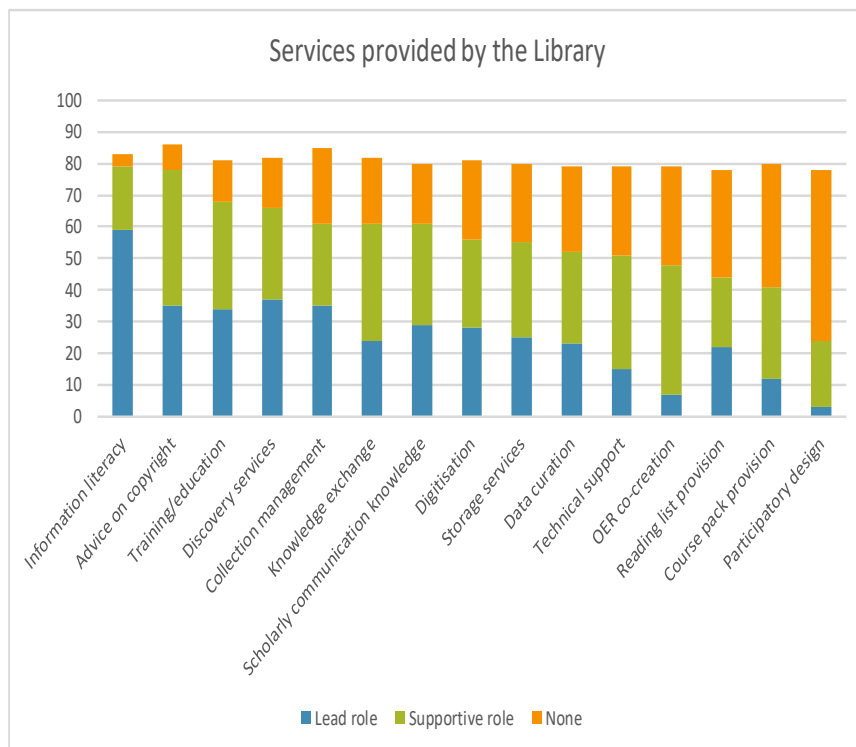




# Services



# Key results: Services vs skills



- The majority providing support in an area had full or many skills in that area
- Institutions **had higher skill levels** in areas where they **worked together with other departments** to provide OER services.
- **Lack of full set of skills:** Advice on copyright, and knowledge exchange
- **Lack of skills overall:** participatory design, course pack provision, data curation, technical support

# Opportunities / Benefits n=62

- \* Quality, access and re-use
  - **Eliminating barriers** to education: increasing **equity**
  - Improving **quality** of education and **access** to it
- \* Culture and environment
  - Creation of a **culture of openness**, incl. open policies
  - Rise of the **importance of the library**; leadership
  - **Deepening collaboration** with other depts
  - Engaging in **national policy** development
- \* Resources
  - Improving **skills development** in libraries

# Challenges

## \* Policy

- A **lack** of an institutional or national **policy**

## \* Resources

- Lack of staff capacity and **funding** for creation of OERs
- Insufficient **relevant skills** and **knowhow**

## \* Culture and environment

- The **speed of change** mindsets and institutional culture
- Lack of **institutional leadership**
- Lack of **understanding of benefits** by senior management
- Challenges in the ability to **influence teaching staff**
- Understanding of **interplay between profs internally**

# Challenges

- \* Quality, access and re-use
  - **Copyright and licensing** as a barrier to access and re-use
  - **Sharing good practices** internationally
  - **Improving the discovery** of OER
  - Selling the **quality** in OER

# 10 recommendations

## \* Fund:

1. Explore opportunities for **seed-funding projects** to kick-start OE efforts
2. Earmark some of your **library budget** for OE
3. Consider establishing a **grant programme** to support the creation of OER

## \* Collaborate:

4. Invest more in **understanding the interplay** between **professionals & stakeholders** locally and externally, e.g. **develop a stakeholder mangmt plan**

# 10 recommendations

## \* *Lead:*

5. If you haven't already, **consider taking a leadership role** to help drive OE at your institution/library;  
many of your peers already are doing so
6. Step up **advocacy efforts** with teaching staff and management;  
**identify** and **equip** your own internal **champions**
7. Help **initiate or develop an OE policy** (locally or nationally); there is still a shortage of such policies. Build on the policies of peers

# 10 recommendations

## \* *Create*

8. Engage in the **co-creation of Open Education Resources**; help grow what is available.
9. **Identify the skills** you need for OE/OER, and **upskill** by **partnering** more internally / externally

## \* *Monitor & Grow:*

10. Locate **where and what OERs are being created** within your institution; optimise accessibility and monitor growth of such resources over time.



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# SPARC Europe & implementing the UNESCO OER Rec

- ✱ Capacity-building amongst academic libraries in Europe:  
*European Network of OE Librarians*  
growth and engagement
- ✱ Policy development
- ✱ Research
- ✱ OER advocacy through champions
- ✱ Sustaining OE, a public good

# What you can do now

1. Join the European network [oer@sparceurope.org](mailto:oer@sparceurope.org)
2. Tell us how we can help you
3. Download the survey report here:  
<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3903175>

