

Croatian ETD repositories : ready for openness

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Conference presentation / Izlaganje na skupu

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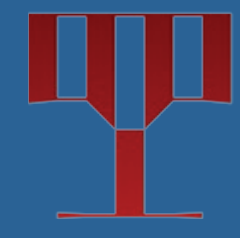
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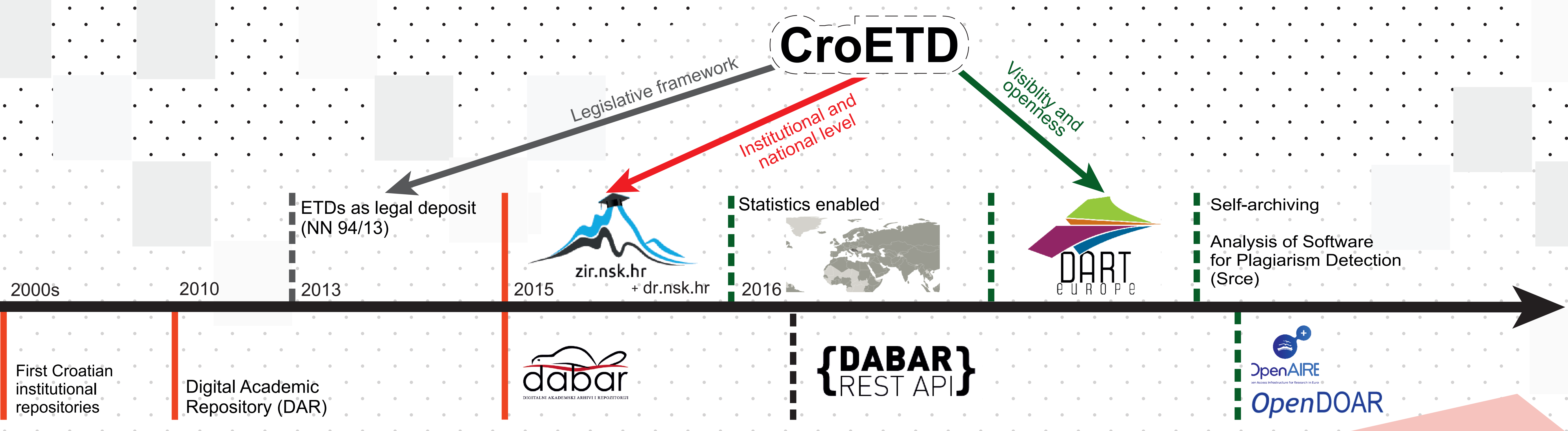
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IMPORTANCE AND INTEREST OF THE STUDY

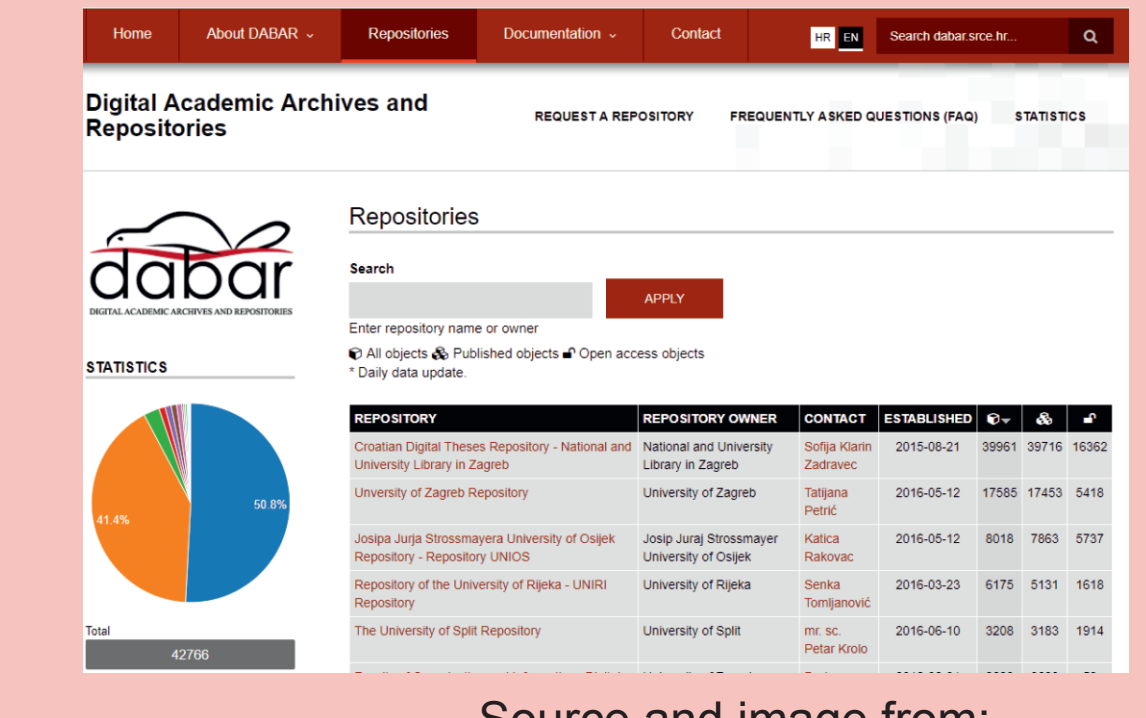
The purpose of repositories from their origin is the openness and visibility, which is why institutional repositories have an important role in the promotion of the open access to scientific works and productivity of institutions and scientists. **Development of collaborative ETD system** (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) of the Republic of Croatia, as a part of the **DABAR** (Digital Academic Archives and Repositories) – RESULTS:

- **development of national e-infrastructure** – a consistent approach to storing and publishing thesis of higher education institutions
- **unified metadata, increased number of repositories**
- **open access and visibility** of thesis and other scientific and professional papers, public availability.

In September 2017, **115 institutional repositories** (including 8 university and 2 national repositories) were established in the DABAR. 103 repositories are active (with stored objects) and 12 are inactive (empty). More than 42,000 digital objects have been stored, most of which are students' B.A. and M.A. theses and dissertations. The goal of this study is to determine, at the level of higher education institutions, whether the Croatian academic community supports open access to its theses, whether institutions respect authors' rights, and how they are harmonized when it comes to the legal obligation of public release.

Digital Academic Archives and Repositories DABAR

- key component of the Croatian e-infrastructure's data layer
- product of collaboration among a large number of institutions and individuals from the academic community
- facilitates establishment and maintenance of a large number of reliable and interoperable institutional and thematic digital repositories and archives, without any costs to the institutions
- it can store digital objects like preprint papers, reviewed articles, conference papers, research data, dissertations, theses, books, teaching materials, images, video and audio files, presentations, digitized materials...

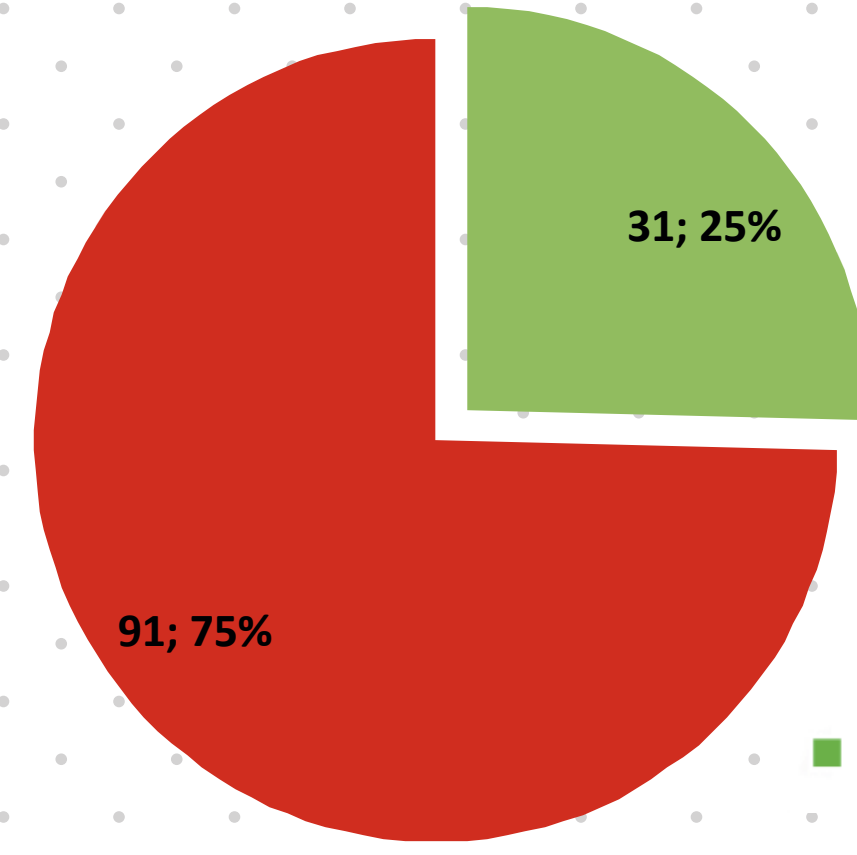


Source and image from: <https://dabar.srce.hr/en>

METHODS USED

This research focuses on **visibility and availability of the theses stored in DABAR repositories (open, closed, restricted and embargoed access)**. The obtained results were then compared with the previously conducted research about readiness of Croatian public and private higher education institutions for storage and publication of theses within the DABAR. Previous research, conducted in 2016, included the analysis of the online available documentation of higher education institutions, among others, on academic and scientific integrity (ethical and antiplagiarism statements), as well as statements of consent for public release of theses.

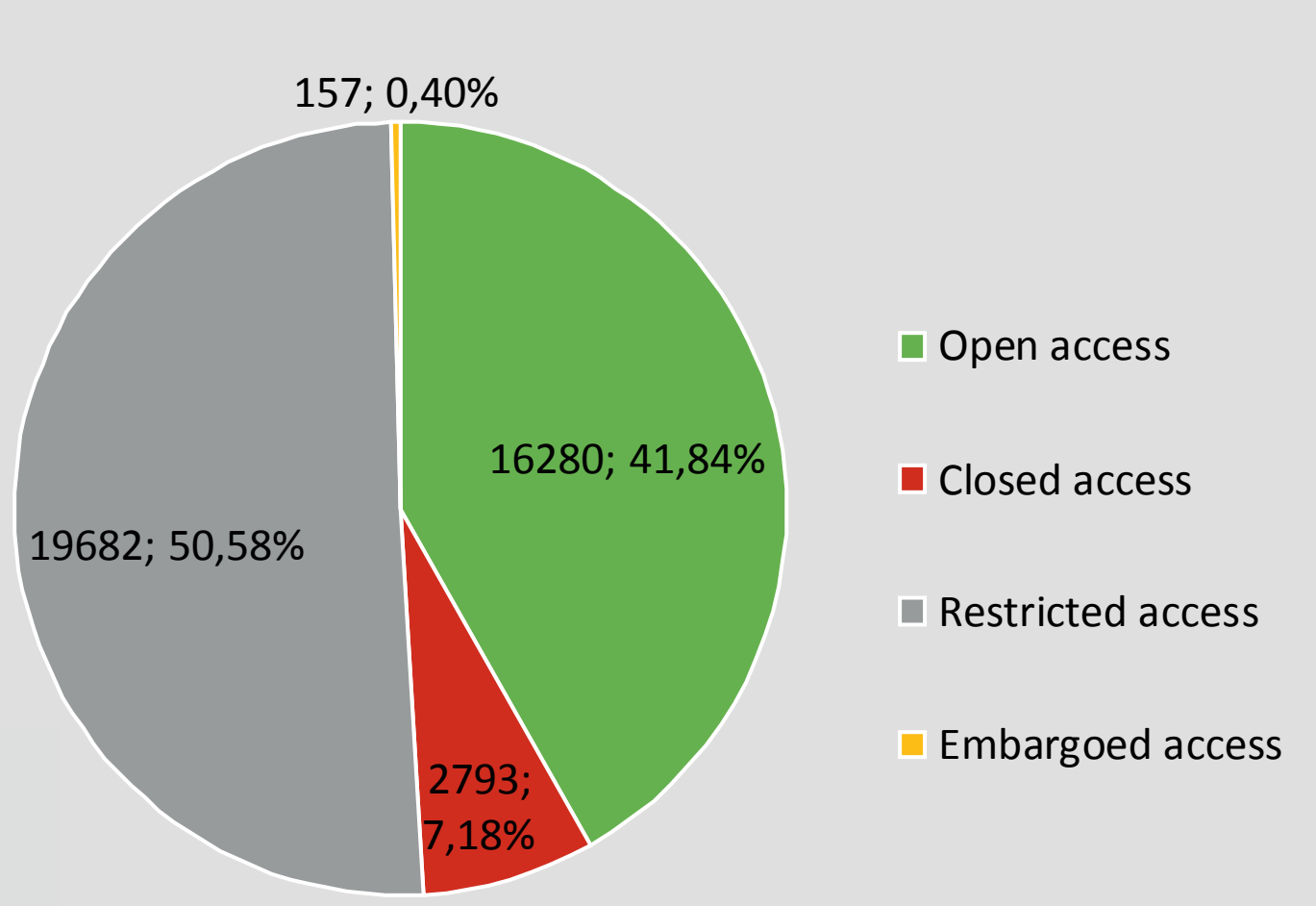
Analysis of documentation based on previous research



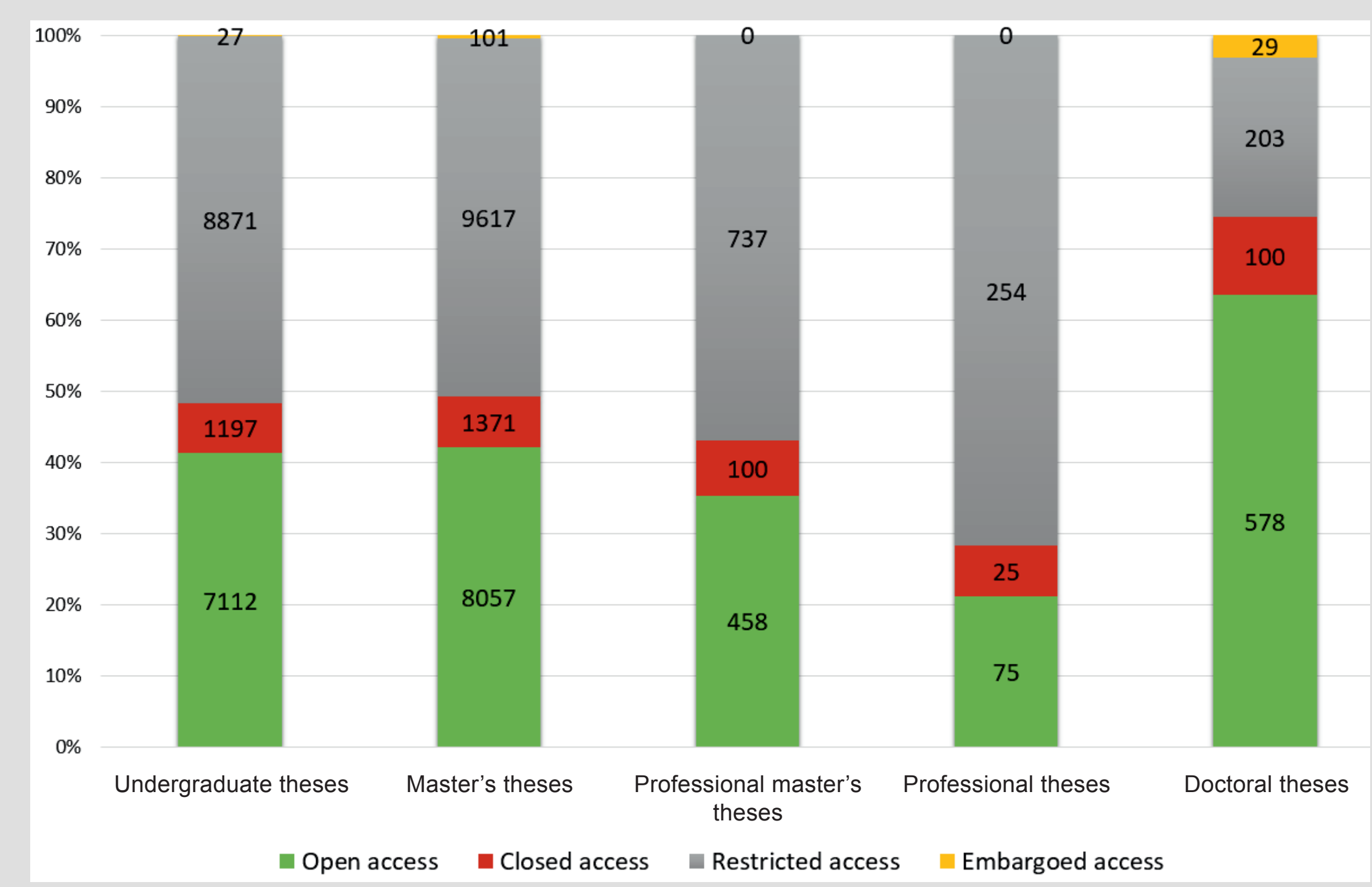
Higher education institutions that have publicly available statements of consent for public release of theses

RESEARCH

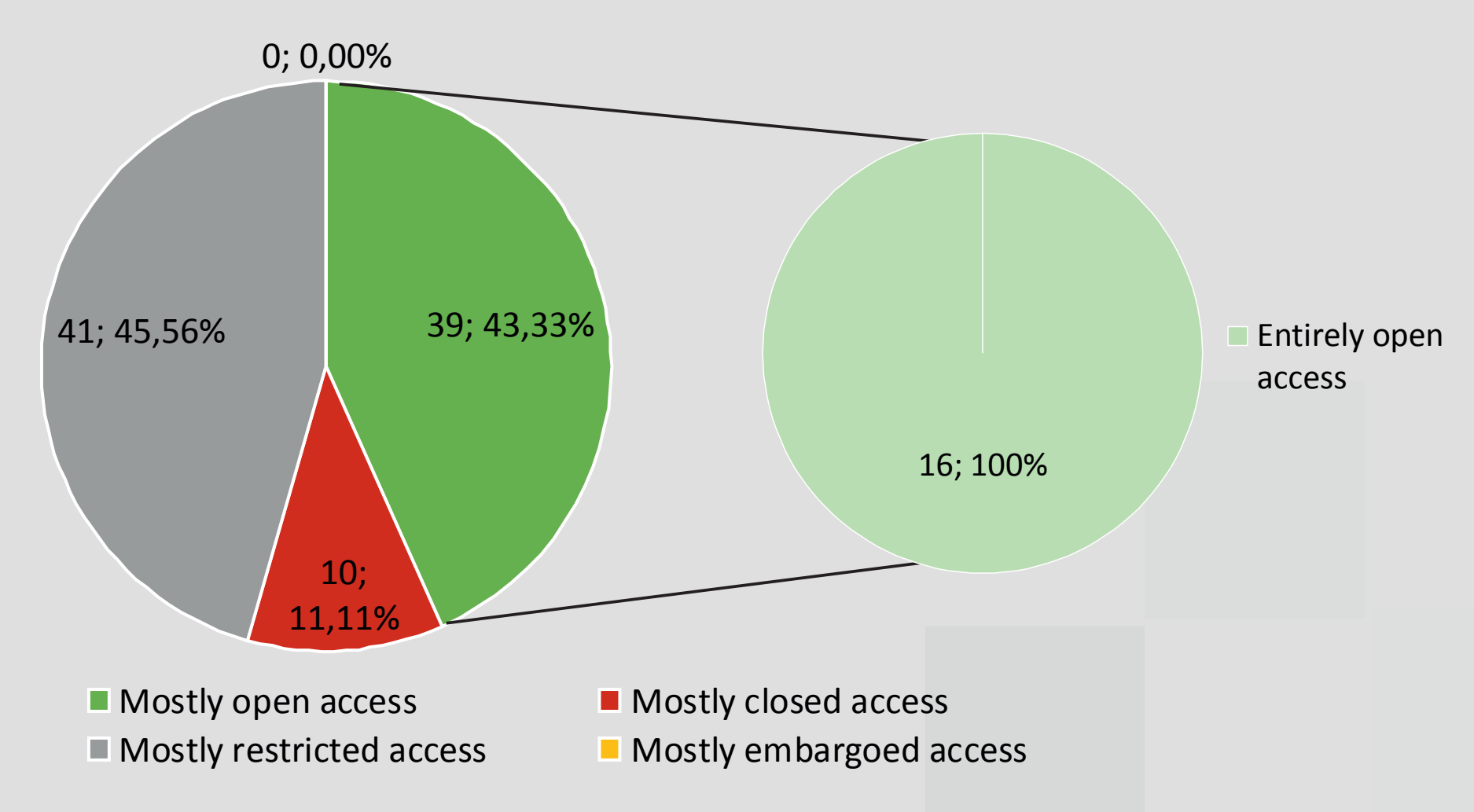
Total number of theses in repositories by access type



The ability to access different types of theses

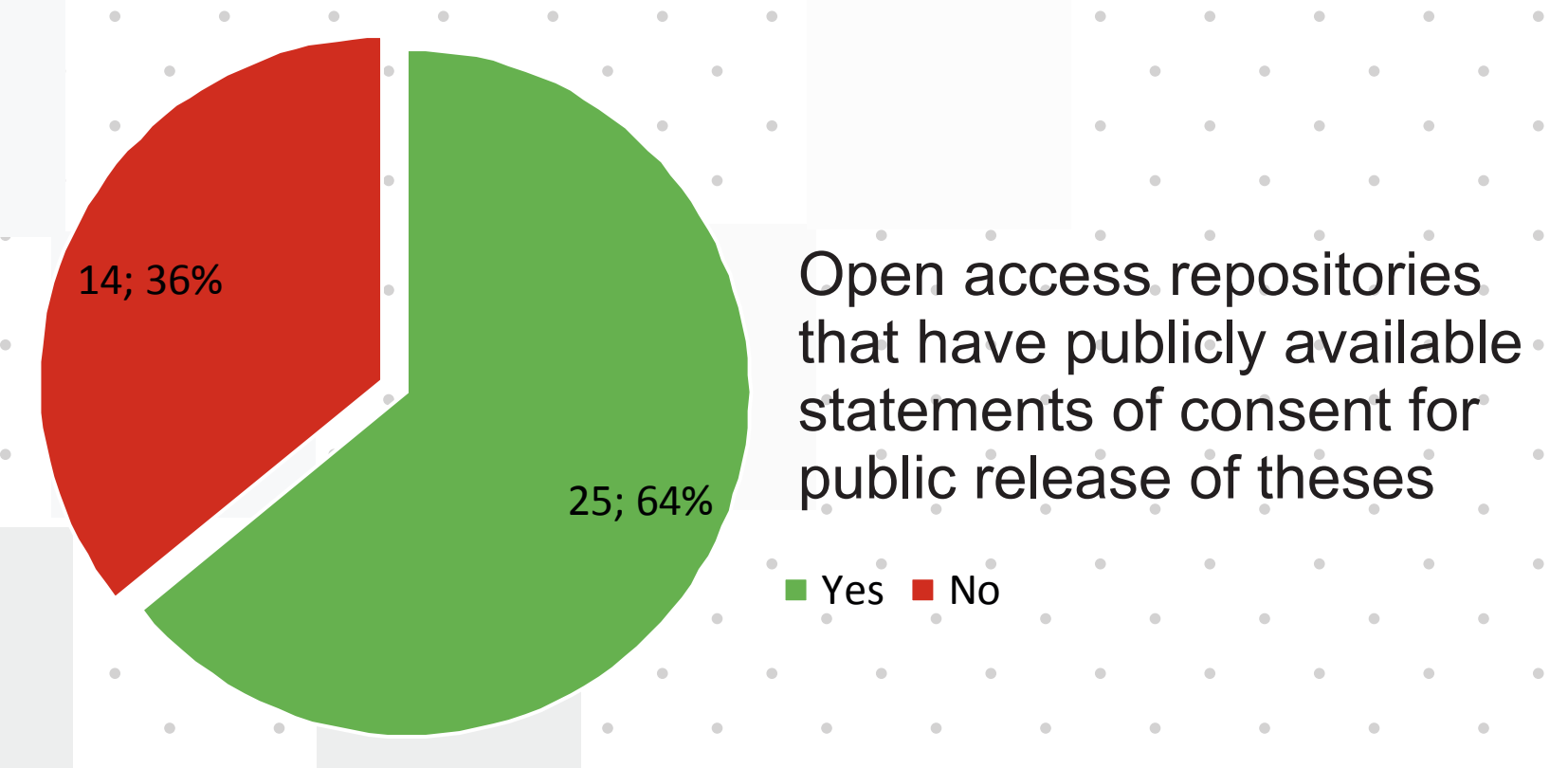


Total number of repositories by mostly used access type



RESULTS

1. Number of repositories that have open access (entirely or mostly) and don't have publicly available statement of consent for public release of theses - *is it a problem?*



2. Most repositories have restricted access - *a result of author's distrust or institution policy due to the unresolved legal issue of copyright?*

CONCLUSION - ARE WE READY?

Halfway there:

- **Need for standardization of practices** - documentation (guidelines, statements, regulations...)
- **Education** - authors (students, scientists, academic staff), higher education institutions, public
- **Open access promotion**

Is it a real repository if it's closed or restricted?

