

Dawning of a new age?

Recent developments of journals' data policies in economics



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Agenda

1) *A difficult relationship:*

Economics journals and data policies

2) *A new age?*

Results of a study on economics journals' data policies

3) *To be FAIR:*

What does this mean for research libraries?

1) Economics Journals and Data Policies

- Dewald, Thursby & Anderson (1986): Errors in published empirical articles are “*a commonplace rather than a rare occurrence*” (Dewald, Thursby & Anderson, 1986, 587f)
 - McCullough (2009): Since 1993, in total 17 (top-)journals with mandatory data policies with archives for data/code
 - Vlaeminck (2013): 40 out of 141 journals (28.4%) with data policy (29 DAP - 11 ARP)
 - Vlaeminck & Herrmann (2015): 71 out of 346 journals (20.5%) with data policy (49 DAP - 12 ARP)
 - Höffler (2017): 343 journals in study, 185 with a data policy (53.9%)
 - Chin & Dong (2019): Of 74 journals listed in the *Tilburg Top 100 Ranking*, 58 had a data availability policy (75.7%), 34 of these had a mandatory policy (58.6%).
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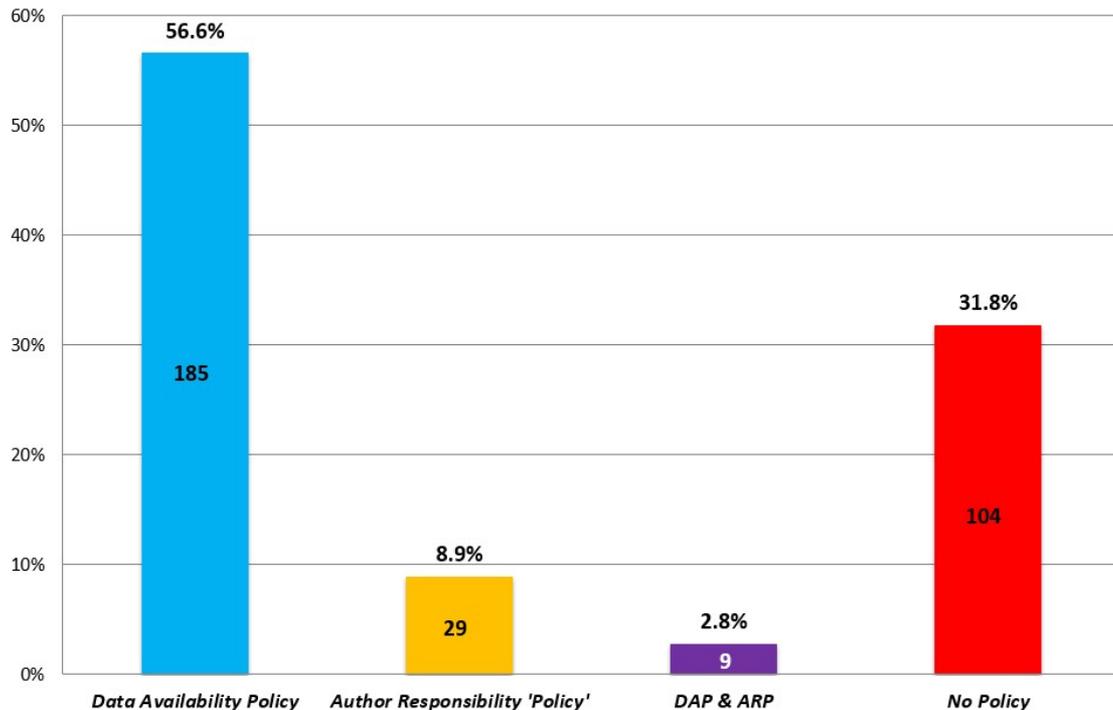
2) Study*: Current Data Policies of Economics Journals

*paper currently under review

- *Aims:*
 - Number of economics journals with data policies,
 - Types of data policies in use,
 - *Requirements of these policies (files, information, degree of obligation, restricted data...)*
 - *Ways to publish replication data,*
 - ...
- *Sample:* All 353 journals listed in the JCR Economics 2017
- *Year of Analysis:* 2019
- *Methodology:* Content analysis

Number and type of Journals' Data Policies (2019)

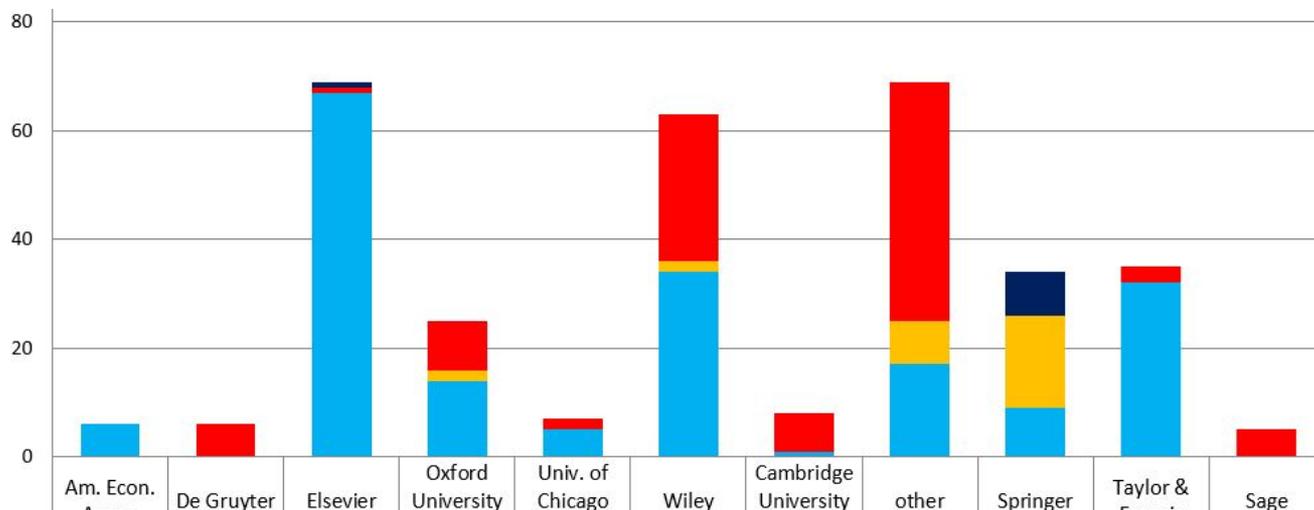
(n=327)



- 68.2% of all journals that publish empirical/data-based articles have a data policy
- The majority uses DAPs
- ARPs and a combination of both policy types are less relevant
- Almost a third of the journals does not yet have a policy



Publishers & Types of Data Policies (2019)

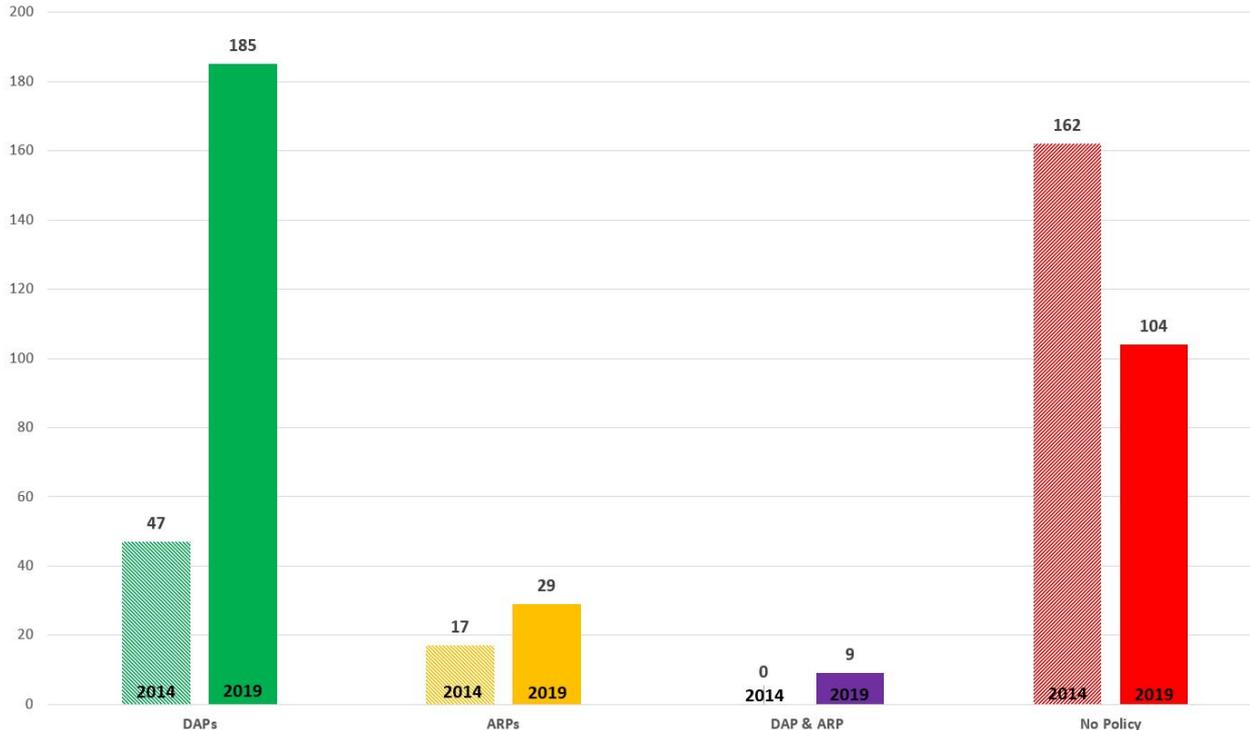


- Elsevier, T&F and the AEA with high rates of journals w. DAP
- Policies often identical for journals of one publisher

A comparison between 2019 and 2014

Types of Data Policies used by Economic Journals in 2014 and 2019 in comparison

(absolute numbers | n=327 [2019] | n=262 [2014])



- In recent years, there has been a massive increase in journals' data policies
- Publishers seem to be the drivers of this shift
- BUT: The average quality of these policies has not improved. Many are voluntary, not very precise and are not subject specific



3) What does this mean for research libraries?

- More and more researchers will seek support in meeting journals' requirements
- Research libraries can help by...
 - offering hands-on workshops (mainly for young researchers) on how to make their research reproducible
 - developing information materials on reproducibility and data policies' demands
 - supporting researchers in meeting the demands of the data policies (applied level!)
 - advising researchers in finding and using trustworthy data repositories
 - ...

Thank you for your attention!

➤ Any Questions?



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