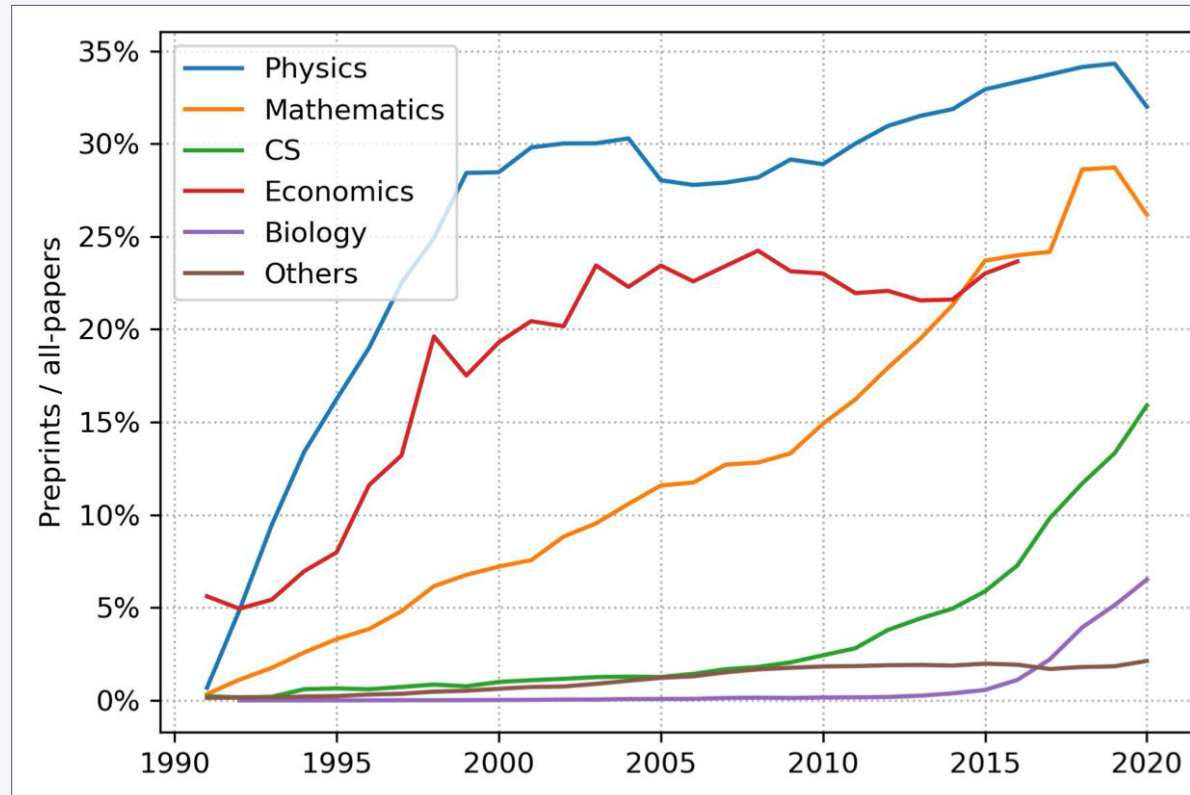


Building a preprint community as a scholarly society: a case study of APSA Preprints

Jon Gurstelle and Emily Marchant | American Political Science Association and Cambridge University Press

Growth in preprints over time

"The number of preprints uploaded online per year has been increasing steadily in the past decades, from 3k in 1991 to 227k in 2019."

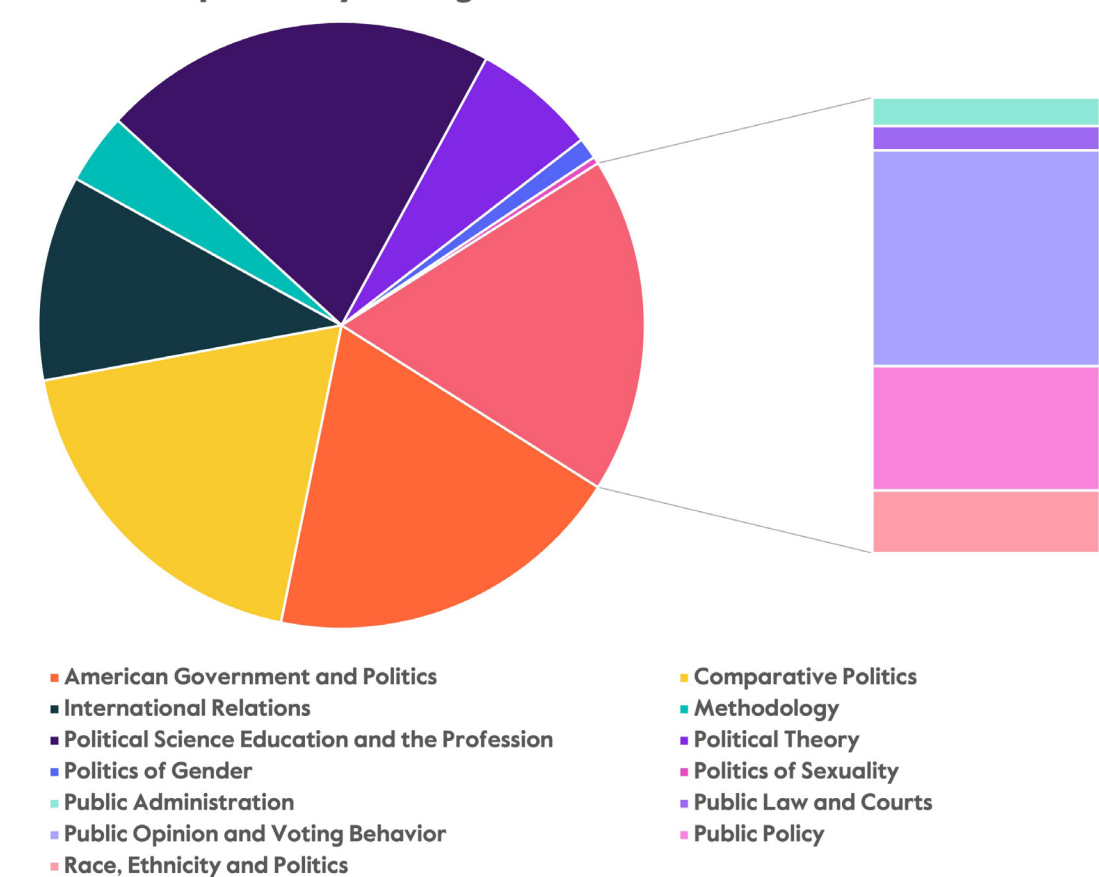


Boya Xie, Zhihong Shen, Kuansan Wang: "Is preprint the future of science? A thirty year journey of online preprint services", 2021; arXiv:2102.09066.

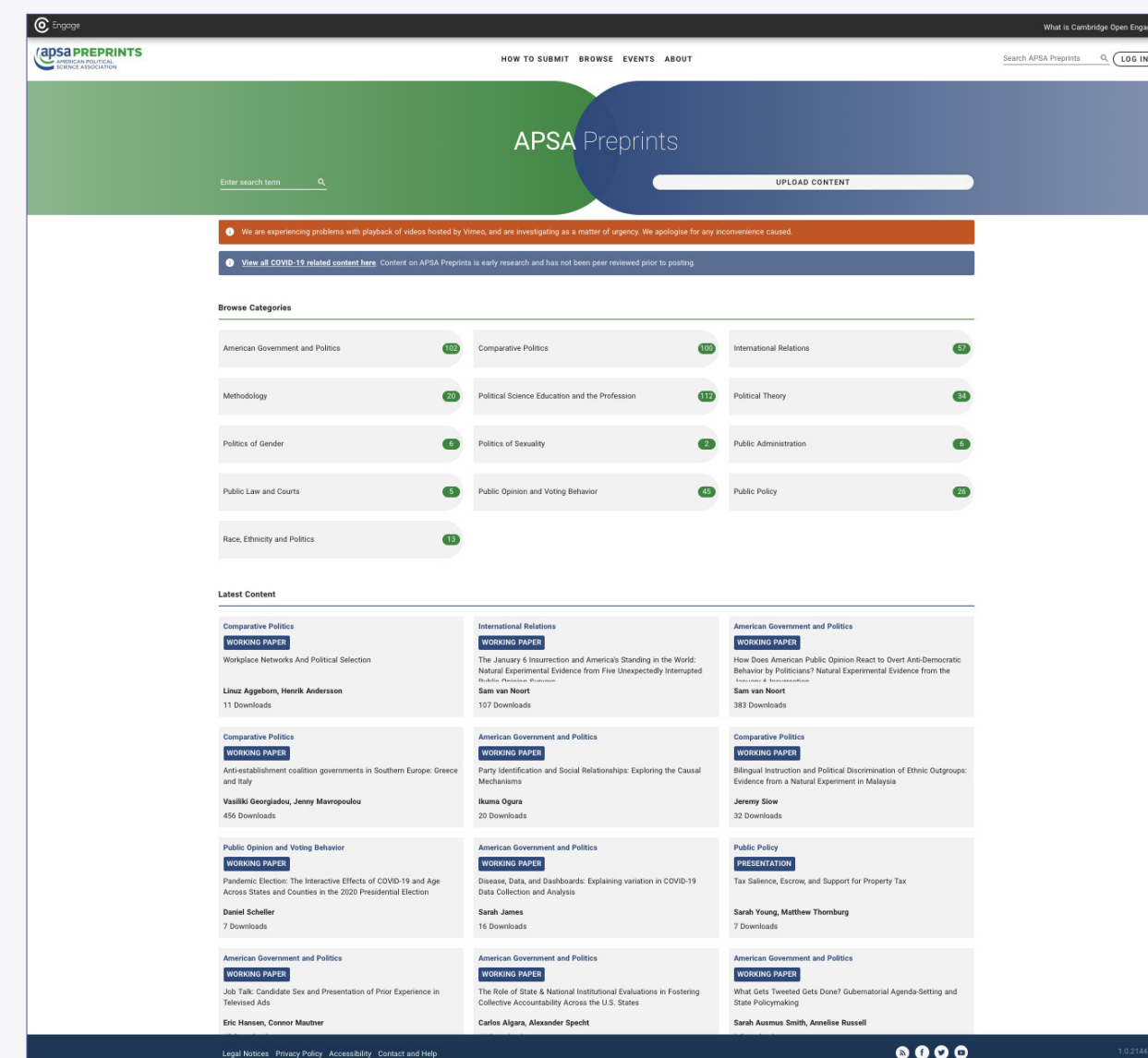
APSA Preprints by the numbers

- Over 530 pieces of original live content (not including new versions)
- Over 300,000 abstract views
- Over 190,000 content downloads
- 56 preprints (10.5%) now published in peer-reviewed journals including the top-ranked journals in the field
- Turnaround Time: 26.2 hours (including holidays/weekends)
- Highest Altmetric Score: Best, et al., "Do Restricting Commissions Avoid Partisan Gerrymanders?" (200)
- Platform for 5 APSA Events including 2020 Virtual Meeting, 2021 Annual Meeting, 2020 Teaching and Learning Conference, 2022 State Politics and Policy Conference
- Top Category: Political Science Education and the Profession
- 9% rejection rate. Most common reasons for rejection are copyright issues (38%) and non-scholarly submissions (17%)
- 117 new versions uploaded

APSA Preprints by categories



Discover APSA Preprints

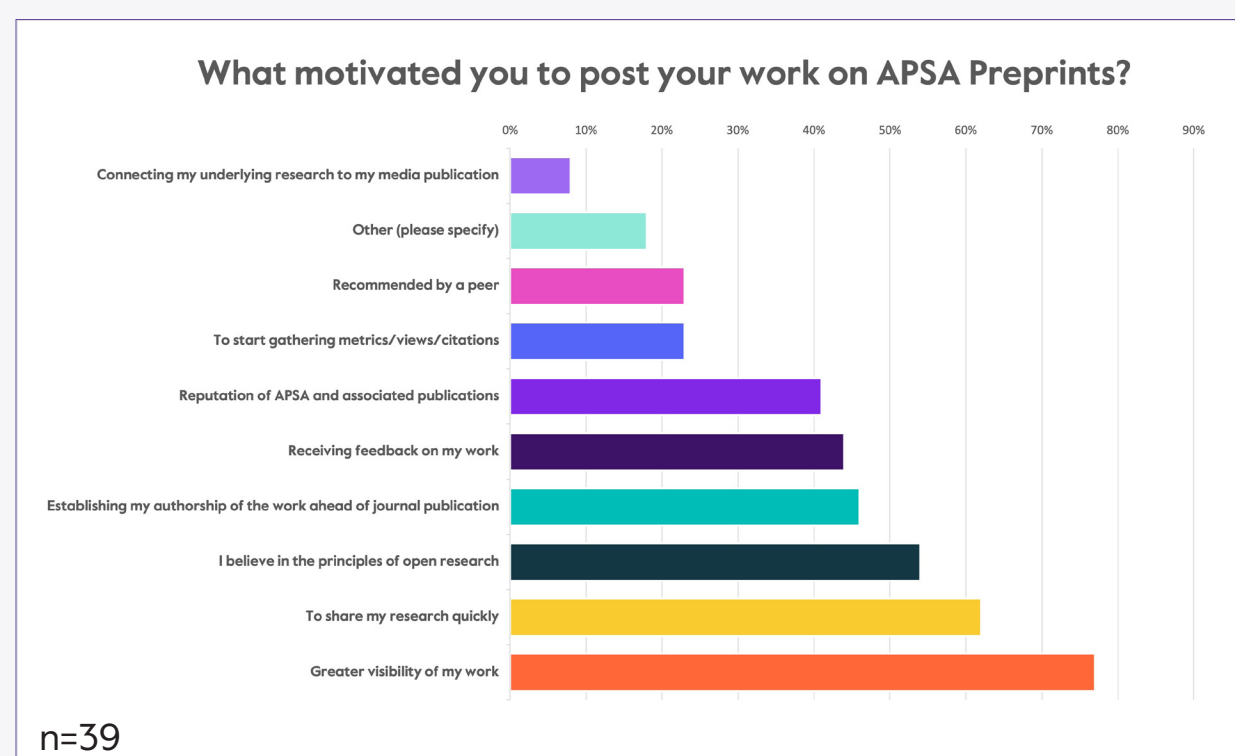


Case studies / success stories

- Over 100 COVID-19 related papers started their journey on APSA Preprints and it became a key platform for disseminating social science research on the pandemic in real-time.
- APSA Preprints have been cited in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *NBC News*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *San Antonio Express-News*, *The Conversation*, *KNPN Fox 26*, to name a few.
- 9 preprints have been published in flagship APSA journals.
- Clifford, Sheagley and Piston, "Increasing Precision in Survey Experiments Without Increasing Bias" was approved as a preprint on June 1, 2020.
 - It was submitted to the leading journal, the *American Political Science Review* on the same day.
 - The paper underwent peer review and was published April 12, 2021.
 - During those 10 months the preprint accumulated over 2,000 views, 1,000 downloads and 2 citations, and authors gained valuable feedback.



Author Survey – September 2021



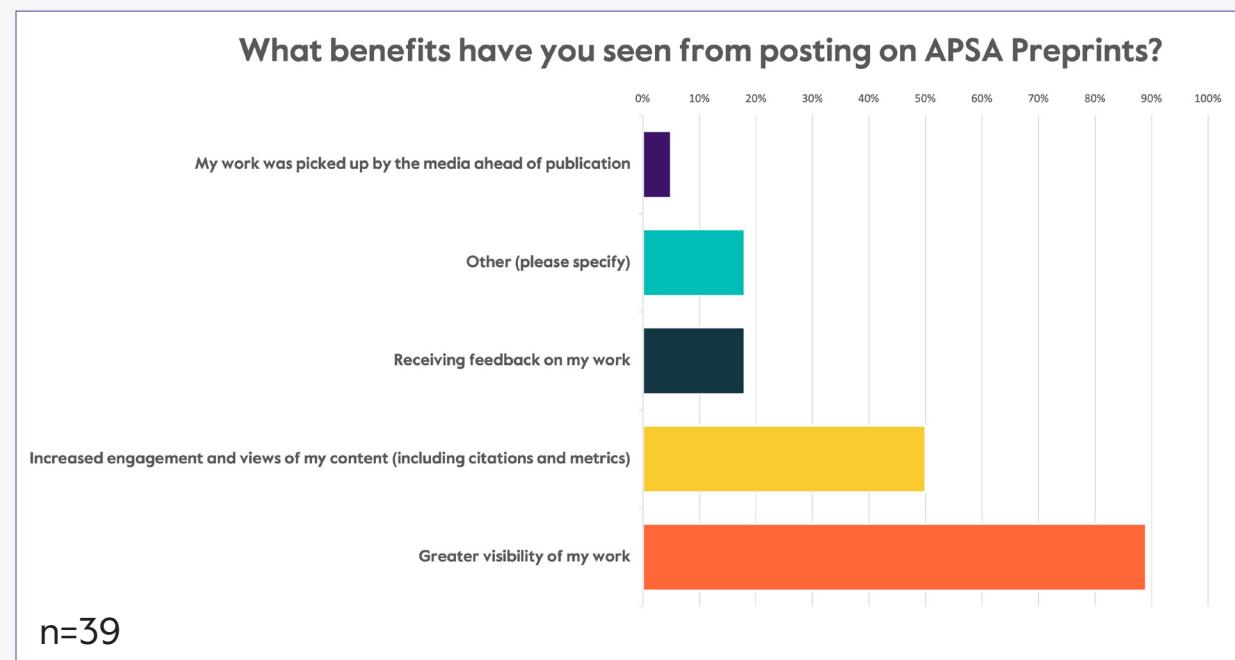
"It was very easy and I think an effective way to 'get out in front' on an idea."

"This experience has motivated me to use it again in the future."

"If medicine and the natural sciences can get quick publicity on current issues for pre-prints, why can't Political Science?"

"My work has been rejected by several journals. This made me convinced that my research was not relevant to them."

"I don't generally use pre-print servers, but I like the idea that APSA has a centralized one. It's easy enough to use, and my hope is that the discipline can coalesce around using the APSA server so that everything will be available in one place."



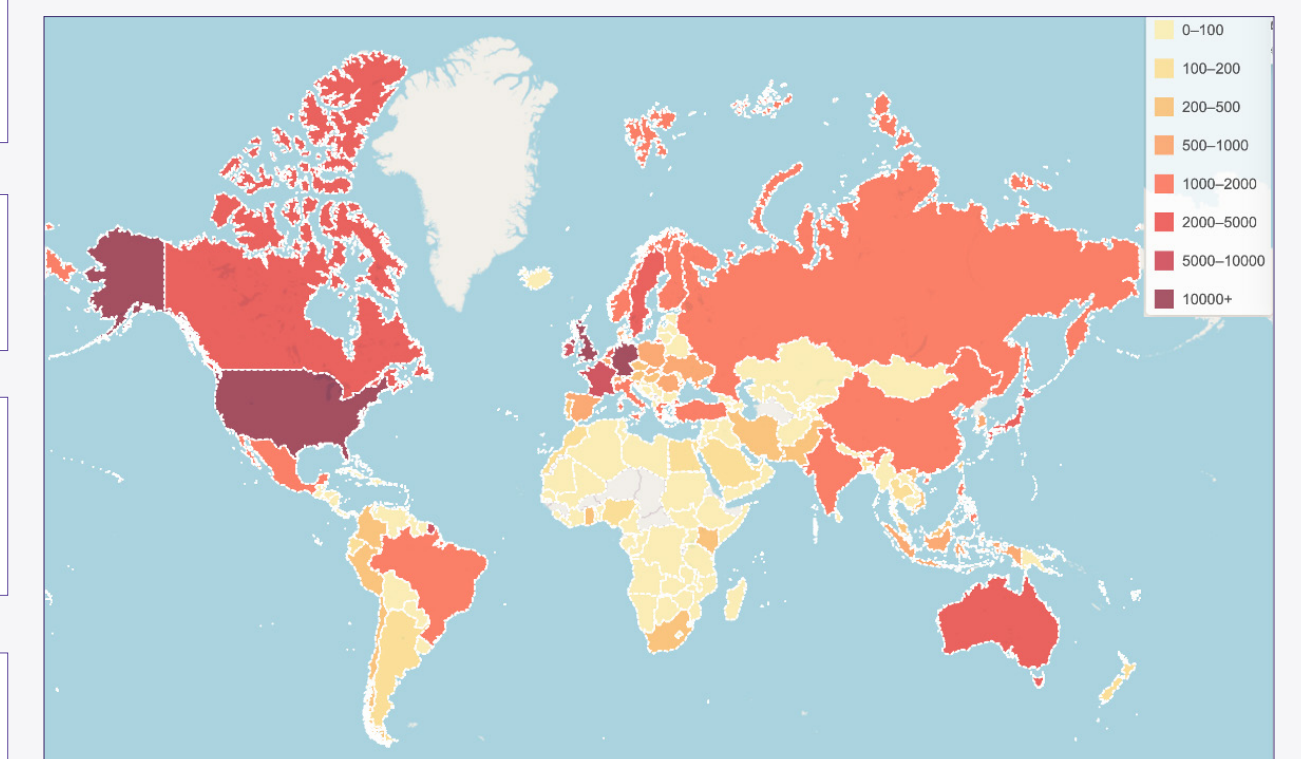
For more information about APSA Preprints, contact preprints@apsanet.org, or to enquire about building a preprint site using Cambridge Open Engage, please contact cambridgeopenengage@cambridge.org.

Geography of APSA Preprints

Geographic Distribution of Submissions:



Usage by Country:



Starting a preprint service

For scholarly societies starting a preprint service, you may wish to consider:

- Your community and preprints: How well-served is your community and how well do they understand and engage with preprints? What will the scope of the service be, and will you accept content beyond preprints, e.g. conference posters and presentations?
- Your strategic aims: Do you want to drive journal submissions, or increase the impact of conference outputs, or provide a preprint space where one is lacking in your community? This will guide the functionality you require: for example, APSA Preprints enables direct submission to APSA journals.
- Moderation: Most preprint servers check submissions for legal and ethical risks before posting, as well as ensuring they fit the scope of the site. These checks can take around 20-30 minutes per submission. Who will undertake your moderation tasks? What will your policies be?
- Log in and access: APSA Preprints uses APSA Member IDs for log-in, and some other services use ORCID IDs. How will your preprint service integrate with existing data structures to enable easy log-in?
- Metadata best practices: Given the proliferation of preprint platforms, it is essential to build in best practice to make sure your new service integrates with the scholarly communications ecosystem. Integrations with persistent identifiers are key, as is indexing in popular search engines.