

# Voluntary depositing and institutional open access culture

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The New Bulgarian University (NBU) Scholar Electronic Repository (SER) is the first open access institutional repository in Bulgaria. The project was endorsed by the NBU Library and realized with the financial support from the HESP Program of the OPEN SOCIETY Institute, Budapest, Hungary, in 2005. The main objectives were to stimulate the research activity of young University academic staff and post-graduates, on first place, and second

to urge Bulgarian universities, and in particular, university libraries, to share and disseminate research output, providing full-text access to the Bulgarian articles, reports, scientific data, monitoring in scientific fields, analyses, etc. First materials were submitted in 2007 and for a period of five years it has become the ultimate knowledge platform in the local academic network.

Following the "green route", the archive promotes self-archiving to authors as a robust alternative to long-term preservation, organization, visibility and wider impact of authors' materials. It has two unique features:

- 1.) Depositing is voluntary - authors can decide whether to deposit their research papers, articles and art works, etc. or not;
- 2.) Original content is submitted in different languages - the submitted materials, though, tend to be published originally in English, as authors are convinced that the accessibility and transparency of their output, thus increase.

The Repository team is challenged to train, assist and promote the benefits of open access among the University academic community.

Members of the Repository Support team acquire monitoring on all mandatory fields of the repository records and strict meta-data control, crucial for storing and back-up. A systematic approach to raising authors' awareness and continuous training is also a main objective of the Support team. Training is on a regular monthly base. Training sessions' topics focus on:

- Signing up to build a researcher NBU SER account with personalized and customized features
- Submitting diverse content, e.g. different types and formats
- Depositing of Dissertations and habilitated works in NBU SER and DART Europe portal

- Submitting of pictures, photos, exhibitions, music pieces and other creative artefacts
- Digital future for publications from the end of the 20th Century
- The NBU Scholar Electronic Repository - smart tool to track, analyse and visualize research
- Raising visibility of research and creativity through NBU SER. Impact on citation.

Apart from the ongoing training, 10 interactive guides have been launched through LibGuides Community Network for organizing online information. Guides suggest the best option to submit a specific item, most desirable file format and size, instructions on metadata level, amendment of records, etc. supported with training films. All members may post comments and queries to repository team. Each successive year the NBU Library hosts various events - conferences, training, interviews with authors, in the frame of the Open Access International Week.

Repository team works on improving depositing and self-archiving literacy. A six-month monitoring of submitted data and self-created records is performed to improve training, tracing typical mistakes.

In the period of November 2003 and April 2014, 155 e-prints have been deposited by 34 authors, lecturers and PhD students at the University. Data from 22 fields of the bibliographic record have been tracked. Mistakes were accounted, according to the corrections performed by the bibliographic editor. Five hundred and thirteen mistakes have been recorded or averages of 3.3 mistakes per record were estimated. The top 5 common mistakes are generally noted in the fields: Item Type, Creators, Title, Journal/Publication Title and Date Type.

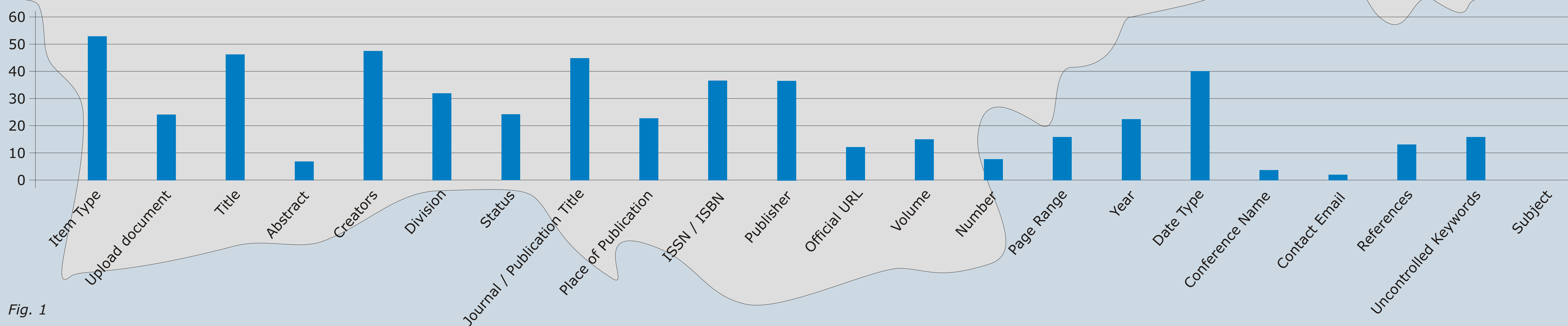


Fig. 1

## First group: authors, undergone training

Author group consist of 18 people, who have attended training sessions with 93 deposited materials. The estimated amount of mistakes is 140 or an average rate of 1.5 mistakes per record. The percentage ratio is shown in Fig. 2.

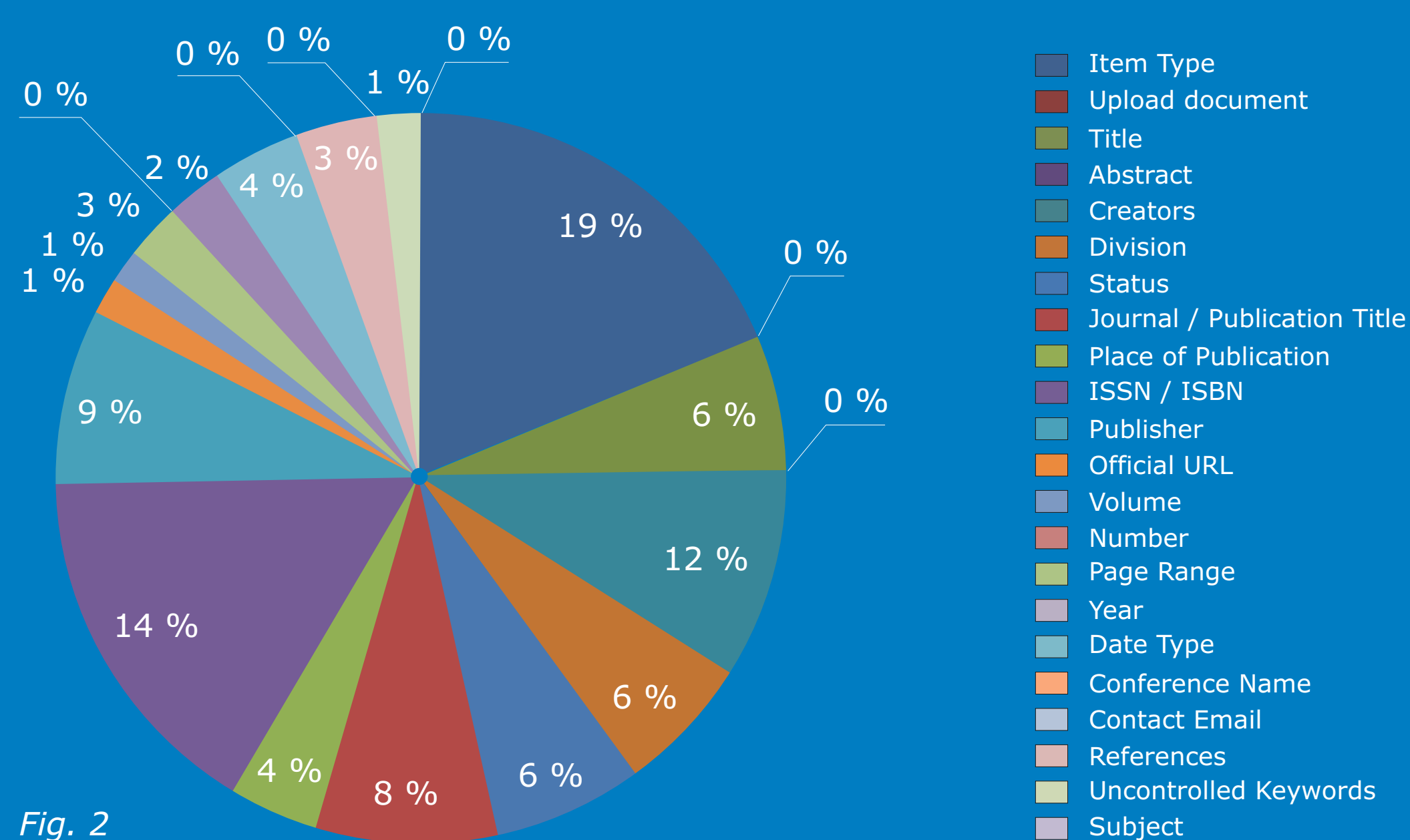


Fig. 2

## Second group: authors, without training

Sixteen authors have been interviewed, with 62 deposited materials. Around 373 common mistakes were accounted of an average of 6.0 errors per record. See Fig. 4 for percentage ratio.

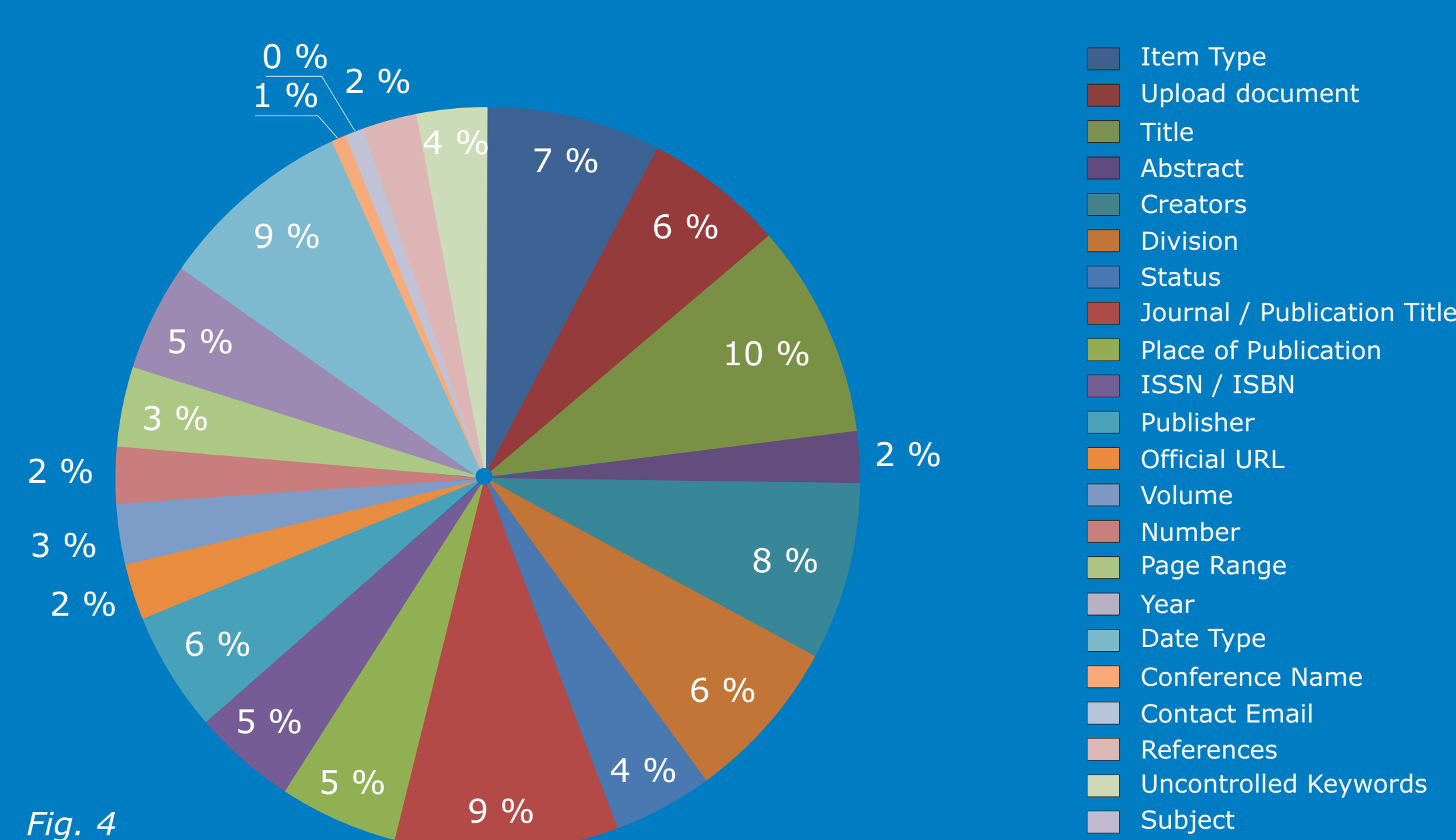


Fig. 4

Top 10 common mistakes are usually in the following fields: Item Type, ISSN/ISBN, Creators, Publisher and Journal/Publication Title.

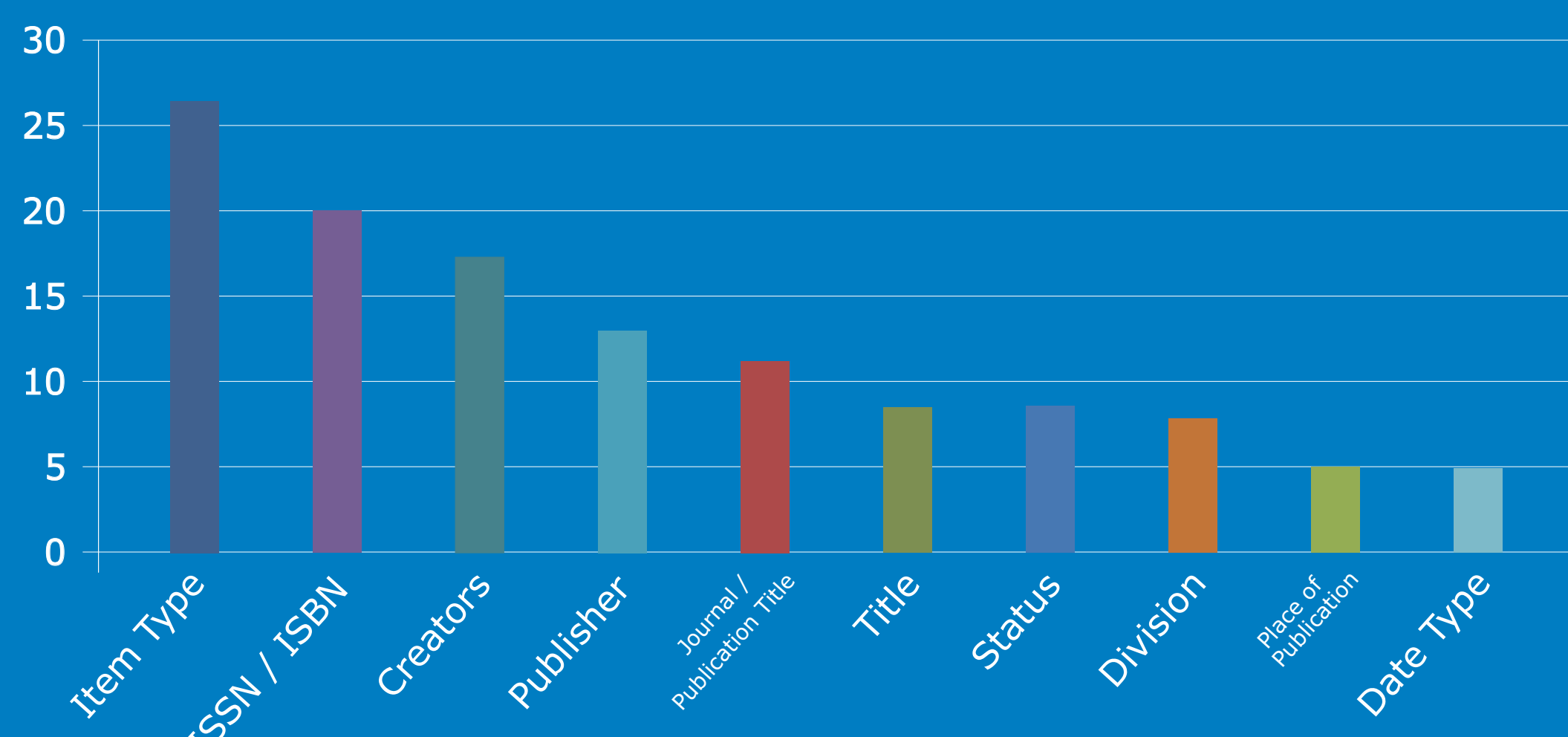


Fig. 3

Their top 10 common mistakes are likely to appear in the following fields: Title, Date Type, Journal/Publication Title, Creators and Item Type.

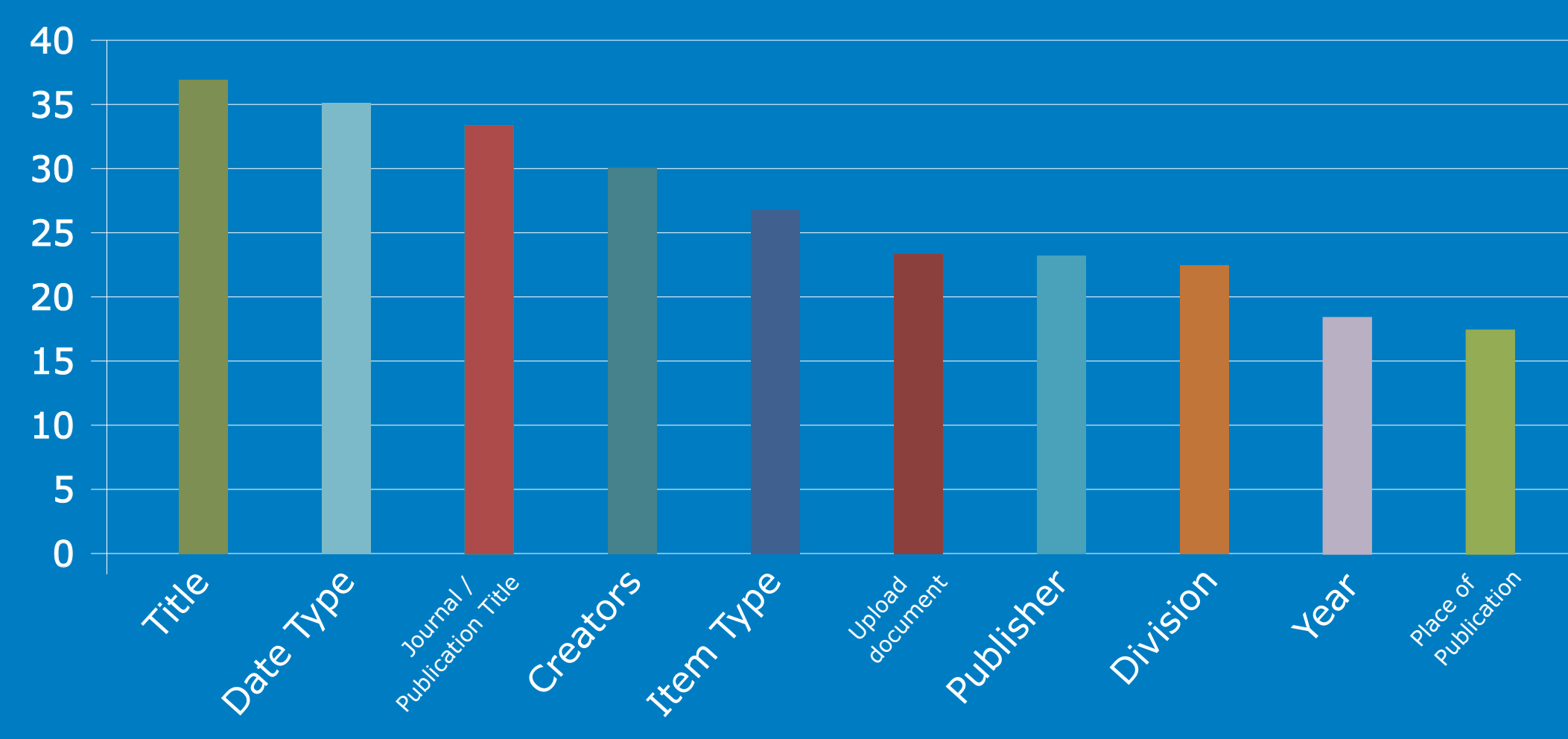


Fig. 5

A distinctive difference in approach and experience of authors, who have attended training and those, who have not, has been detected as expected. Trained authors are more likely to deposit and on a more regular base. In the period taken, each author has archived fairly 5.2 works, while, those, who have missed training - only 3.9. The group of non-trained authors makes three times more mistakes. Common mistakes in either group have been accounted (Fig. 3 and Fig. 5). The frequency of submitting an alternative abstract in a different language is also considered. Only 10% of the authors submit abstracts in a language, different from the original.

The practice shows that traditional methods of group (organizing seminars and presentations) and individual (consultations) training need to be enriched and re-designed to help develop self-archiving capabilities. The survey results would favour the re-design of the training programme. Group work would focus on new training

accents - in particular how to fill data in problematic fields of the record. Interactive training guides would be revised to answer the new training needs.

The Repository team would continue to encourage the depositing process by adding end-user services and raising awareness among academic community. Awareness and up-to-date feedback are easily achievable with Web 2.0 RSS facility - information about new titles is directly issued into the Library blog and the mobile version of the Library web site. Posts to the Library blog and the Facebook page increase the impact and stimulate the accessibility of archived items. Meta-data from the NBU Repository are transferred to the Bulgarian National Union Catalogue of Academic and Research Libraries and the DART Europe E-theses portal making them visible and accessible.