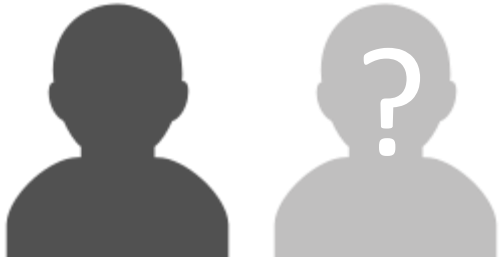
ASAPbio preprint preferences survey

2016.05.22

357 total responses

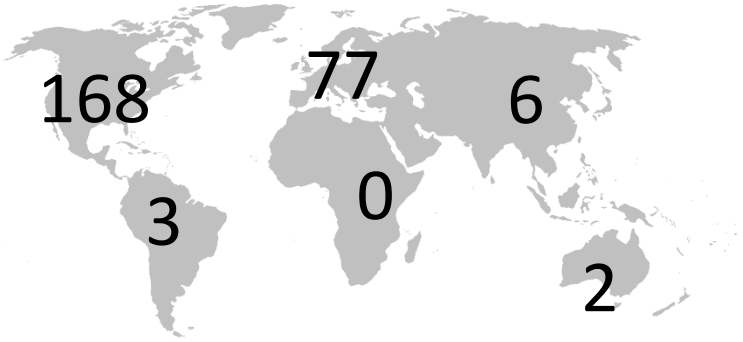
Each question was optional

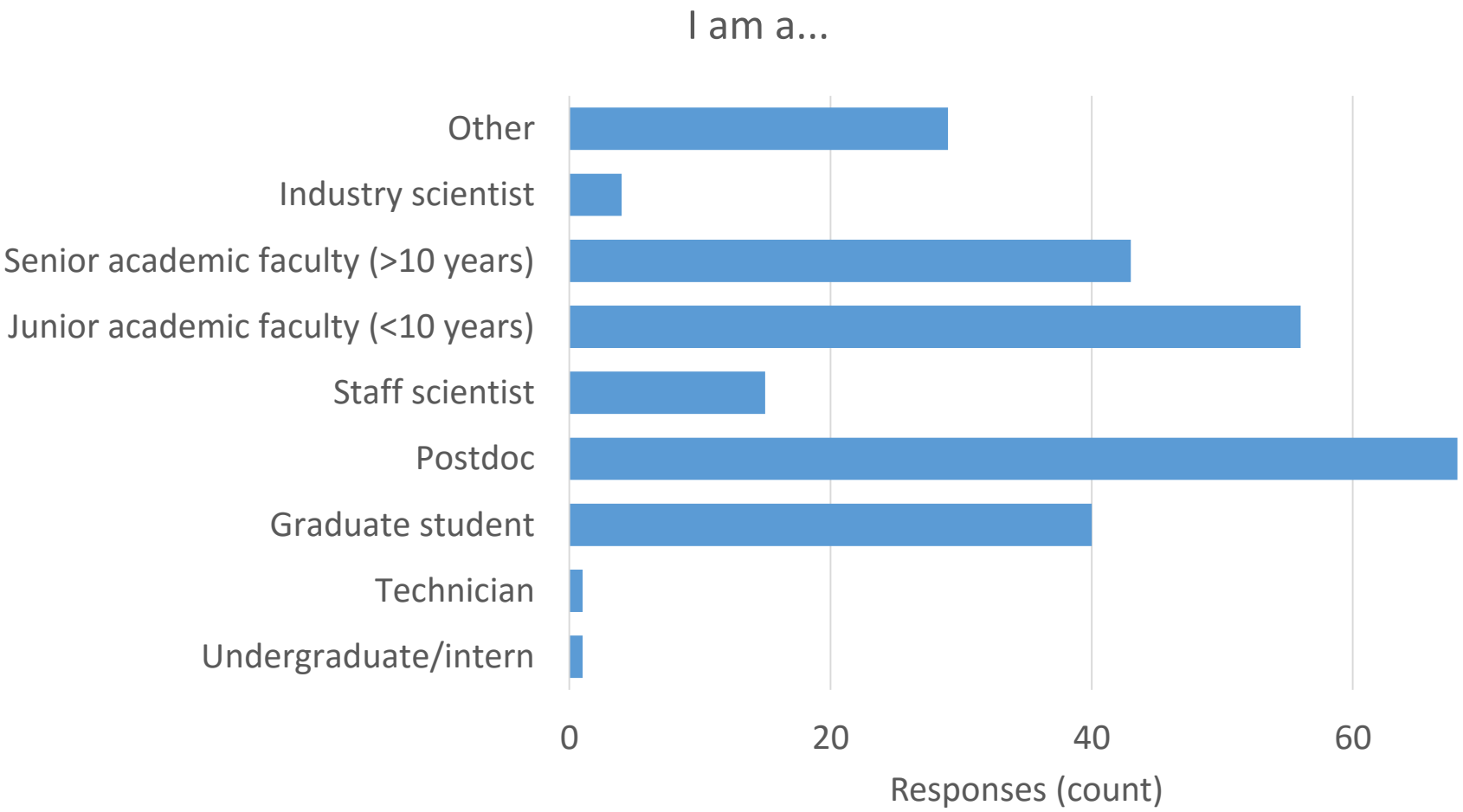


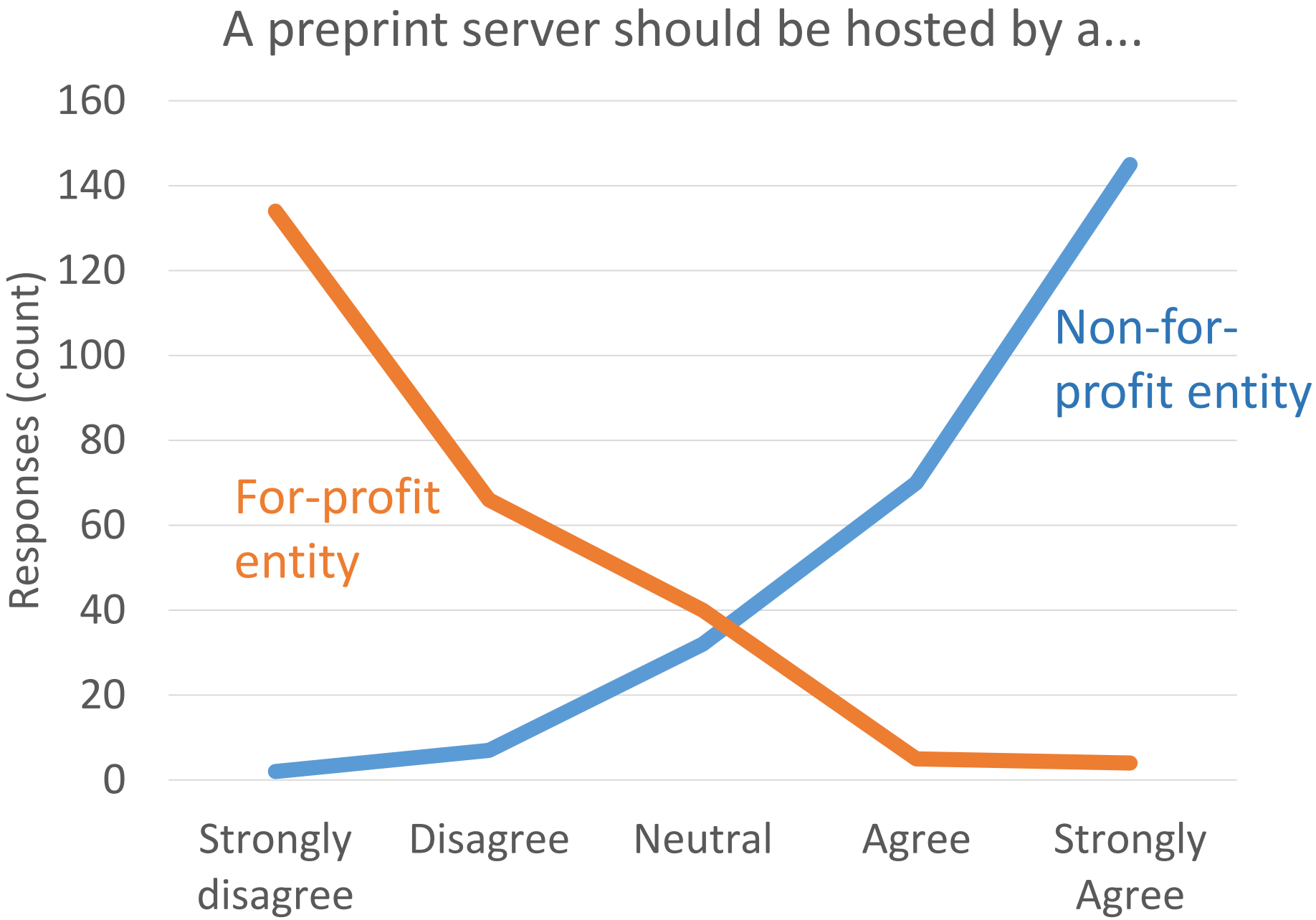
226
Provided valid email

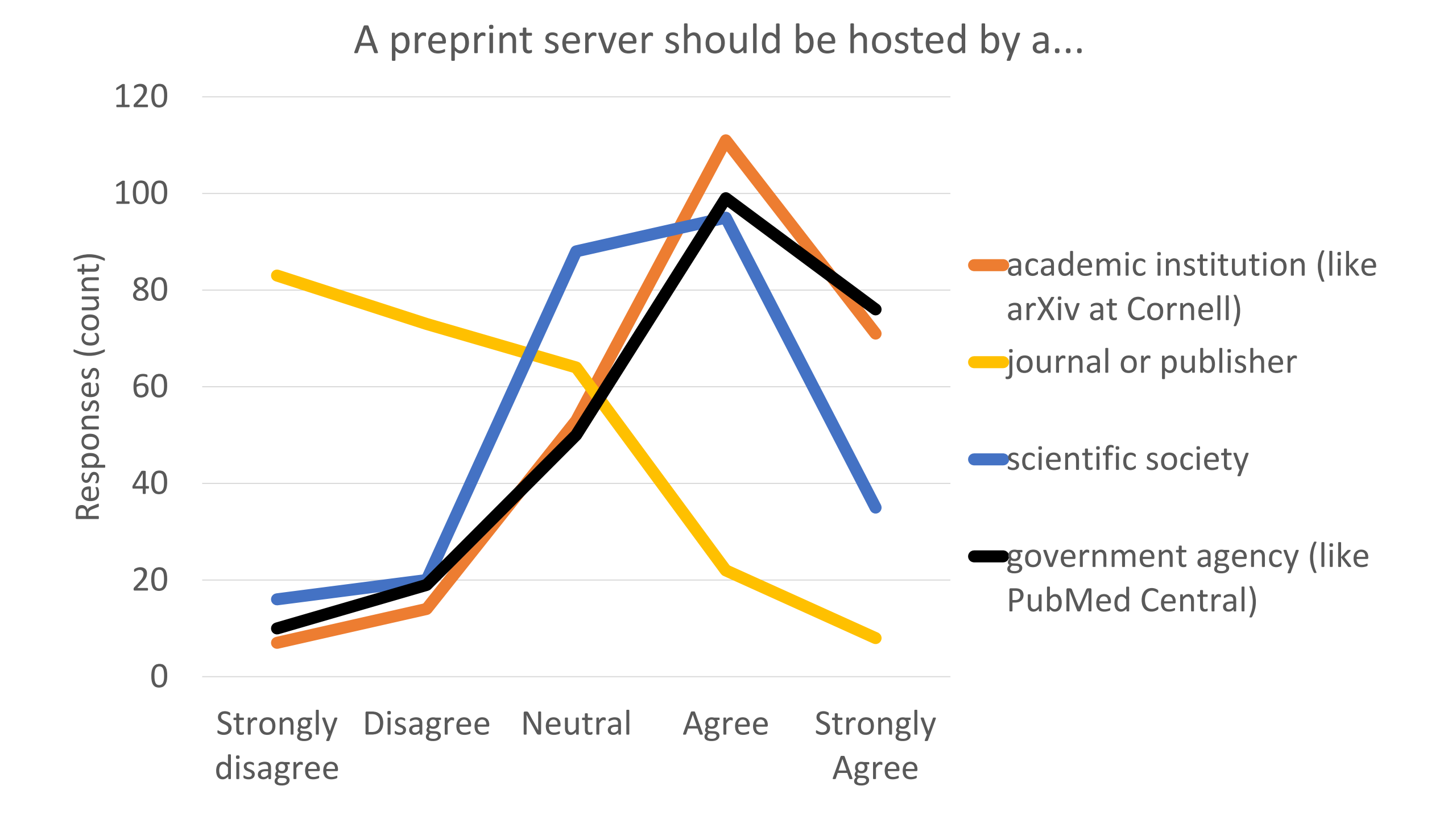
131
Did not

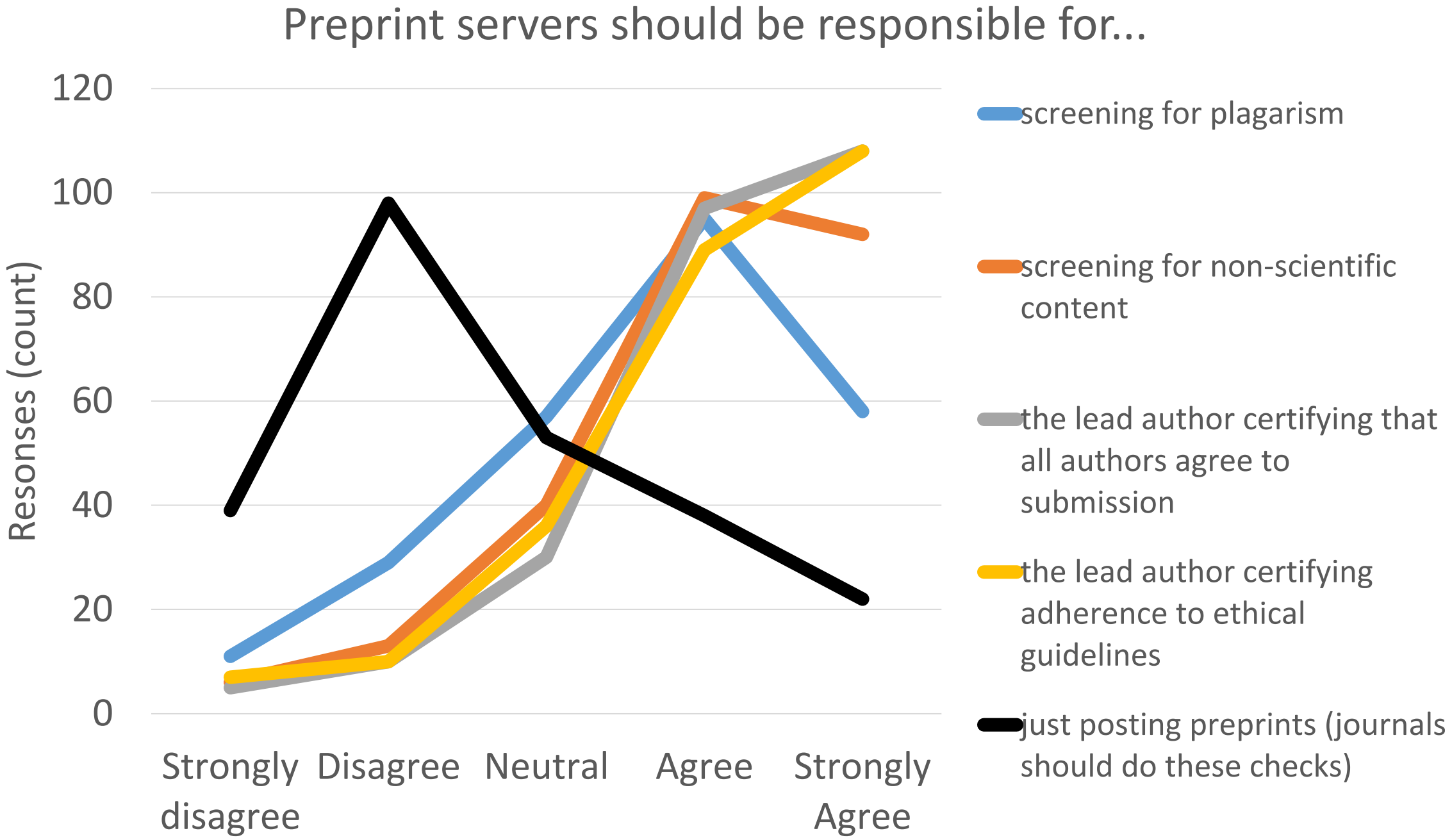
Geographic distribution

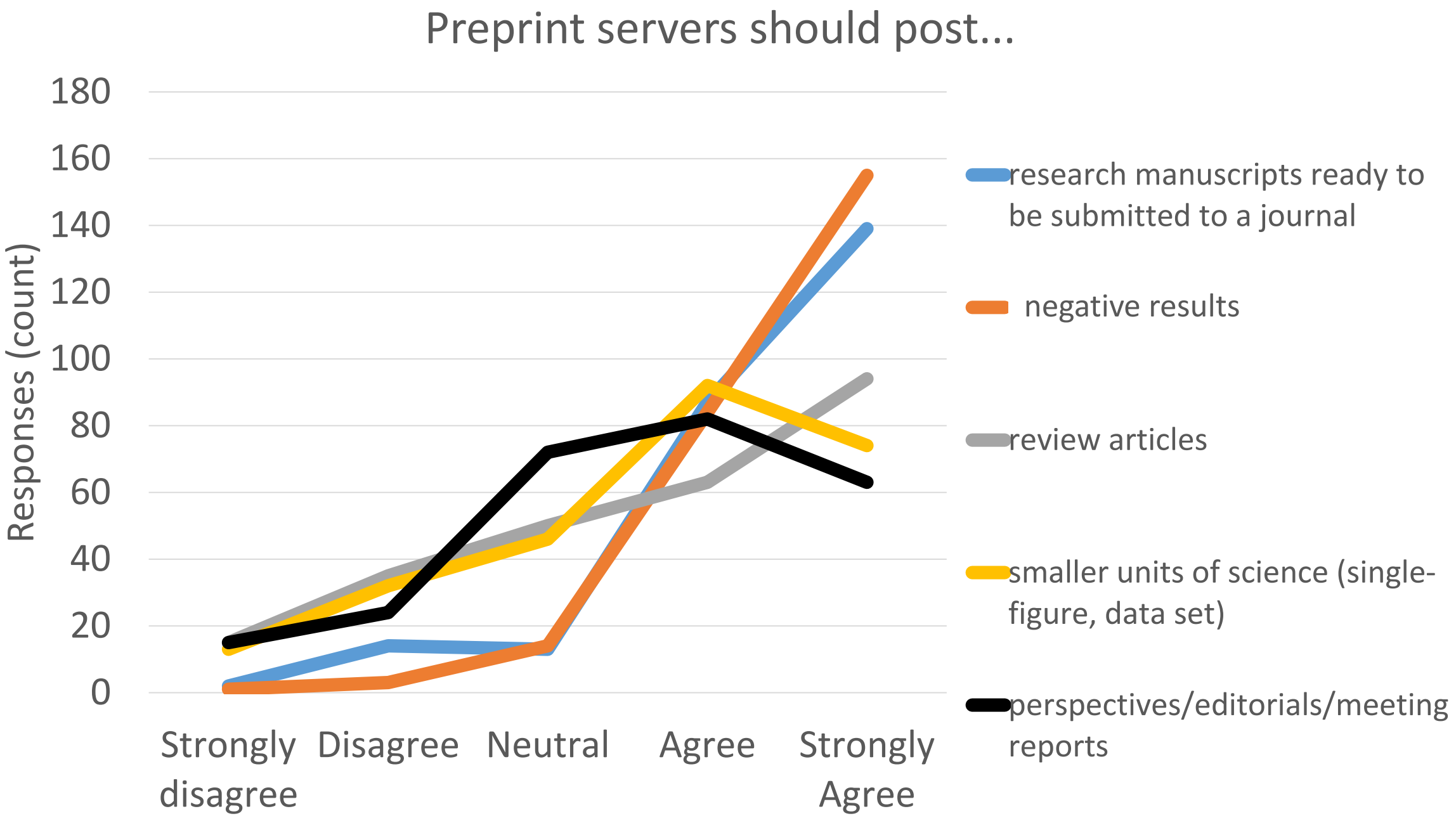


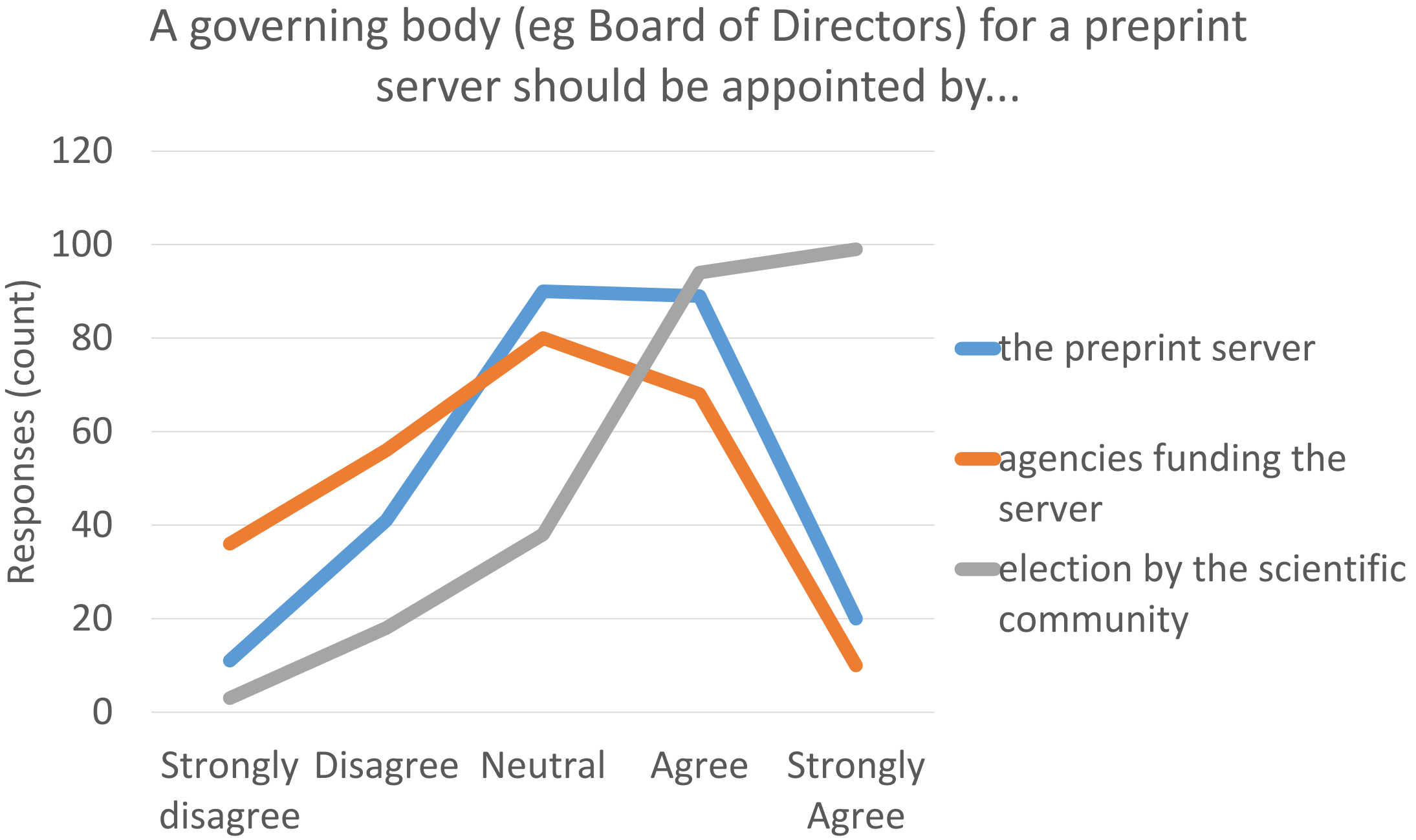


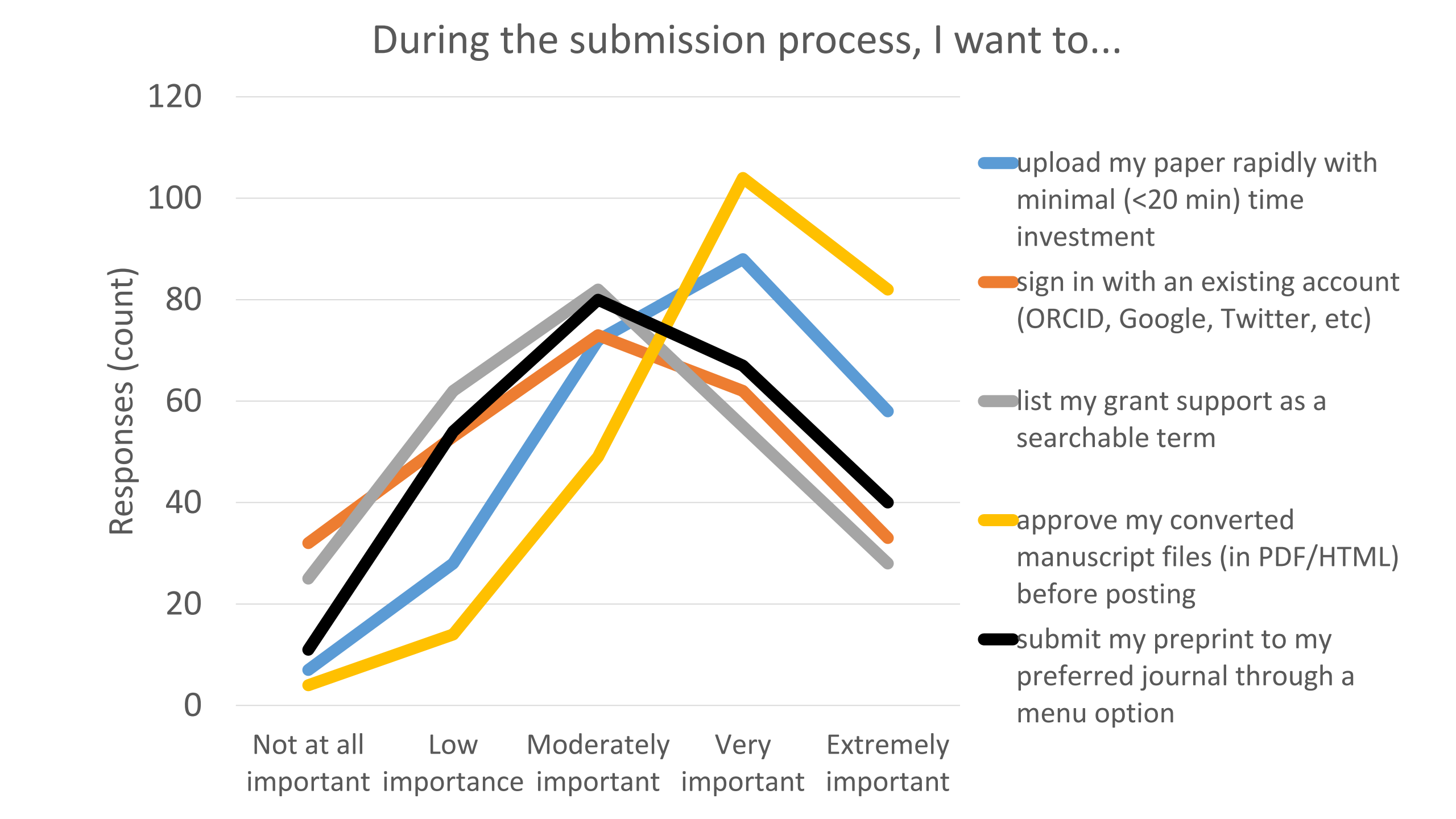

A preprint server should be hosted by a...
Responses (count)
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
For-profit entity
Non-for-profit entity
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree

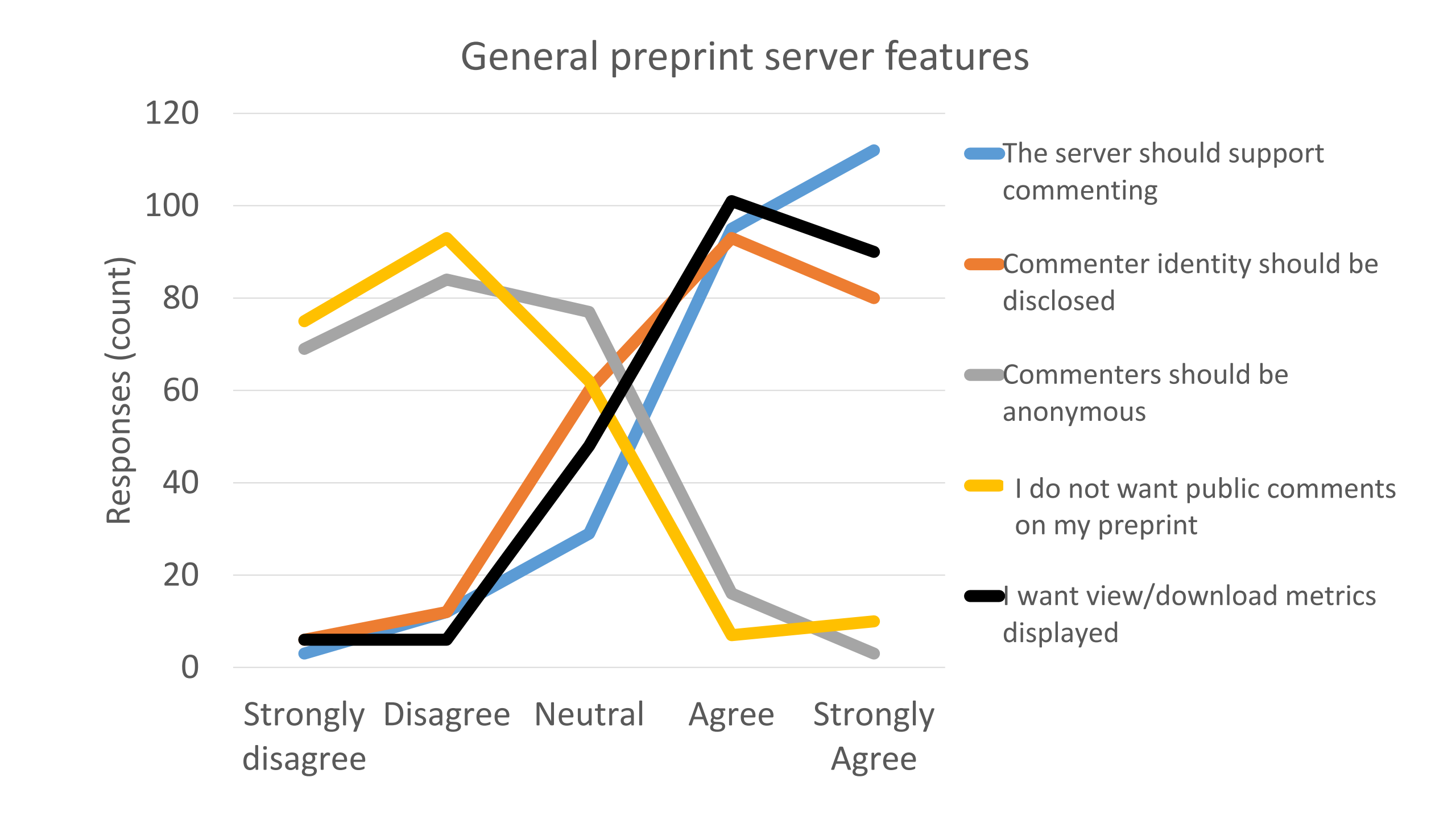

A preprint server should be hosted by a...
Responses (count)
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
academic institution (like arXiv at Cornell)
journal or publisher
scientific society
government agency (like PubMed Central)

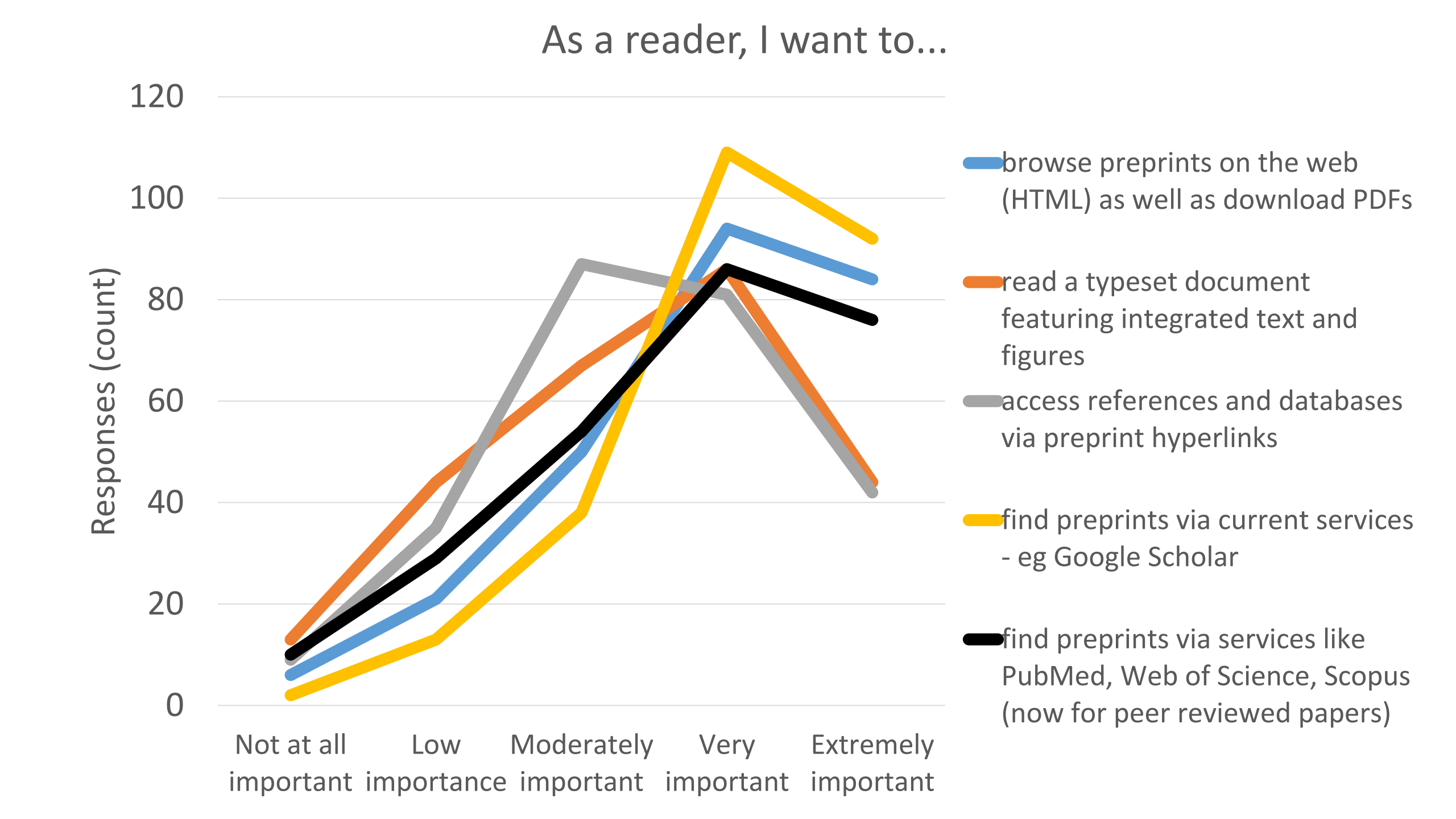

Preprint servers should be responsible for...
Resonses (count)
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
screening for plagarism
screening for non-scientific content
the lead author certifying that all authors agree to submission
the lead author certifying adherence to ethical guidelines
just posting preprints (journals should do these checks)


Preprint servers should post...
Responses (count)
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
research manuscripts ready to be submitted to a journal
negative results
review articles
smaller units of science (single-figure, data set)
perspectives/editorials/meeting reports

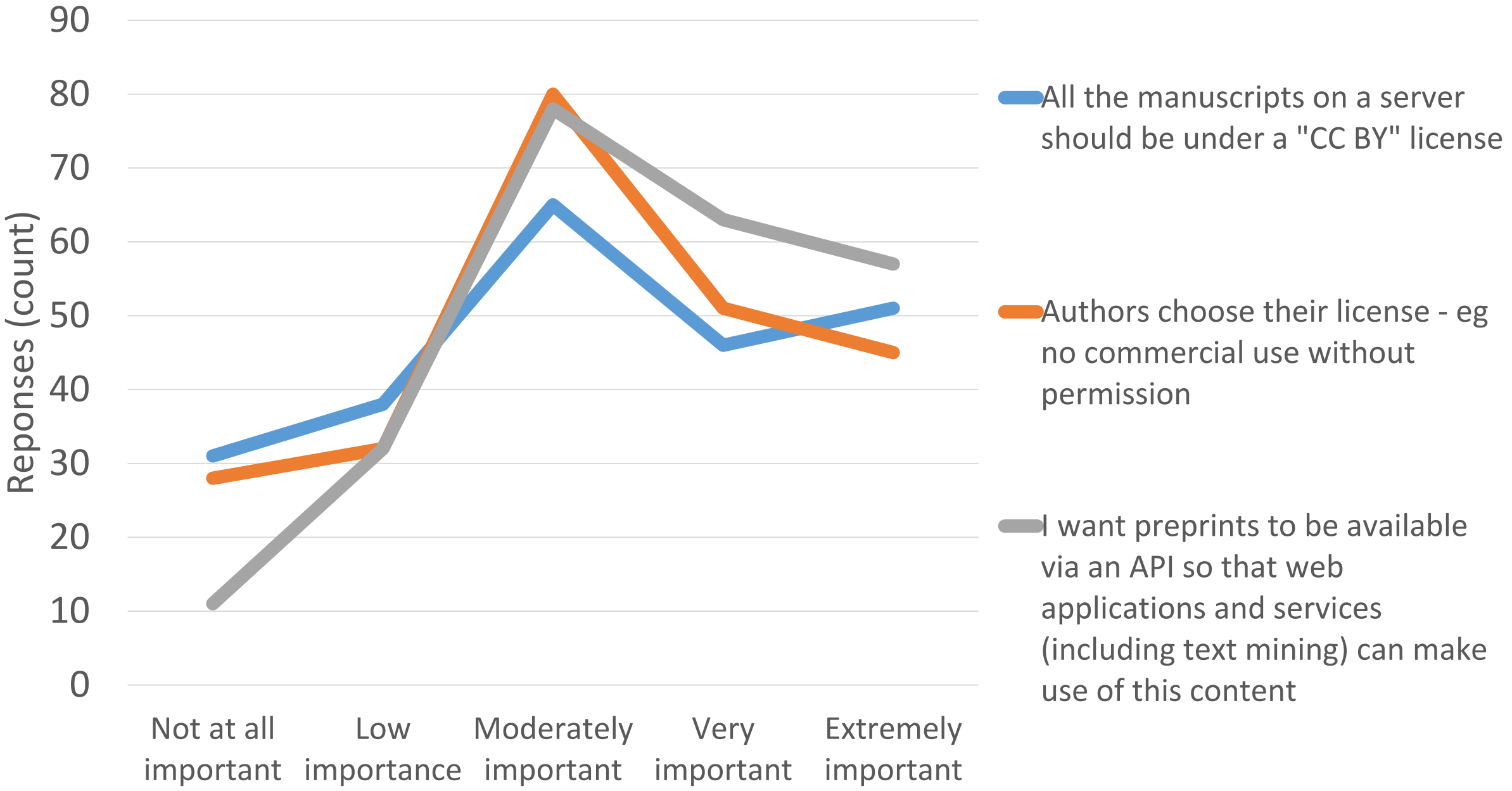

A governing body (eg Board of Directors) for a preprint server should be appointed by...
Responses (count)
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
the preprint server
agencies funding the server
election by the scientific community

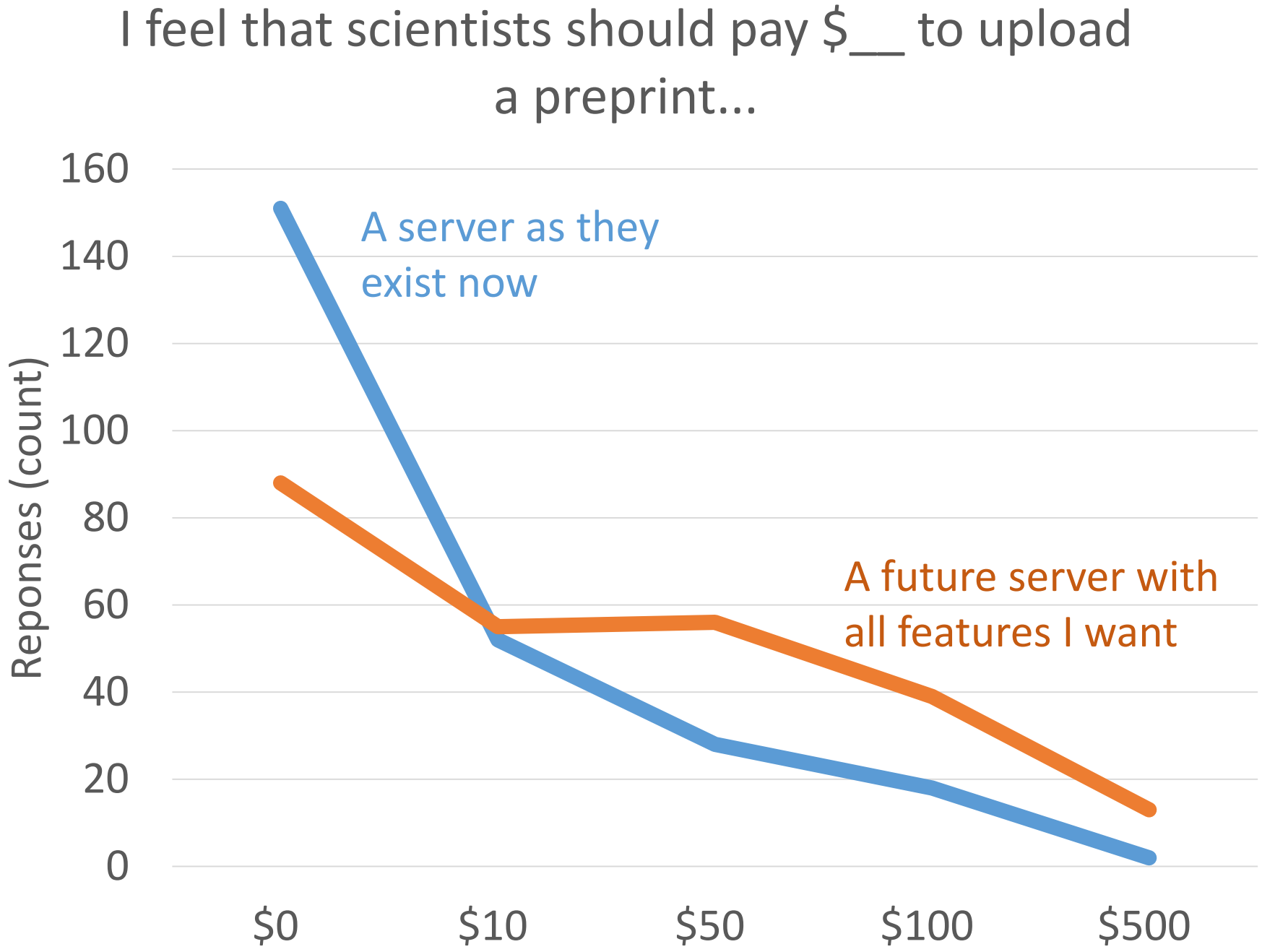

During the submission process, I want to...
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Responses (count)
Not at all important
Low importance
Moderately important
Very important
Extremely important
upload my paper rapidly with minimal (<20 min) time investment
sign in with an existing account (ORCID, Google, Twitter, etc)
list my grant support as a searchable term
approve my converted manuscript files (in PDF/HTML) before posting
submit my preprint to my preferred journal through a menu option

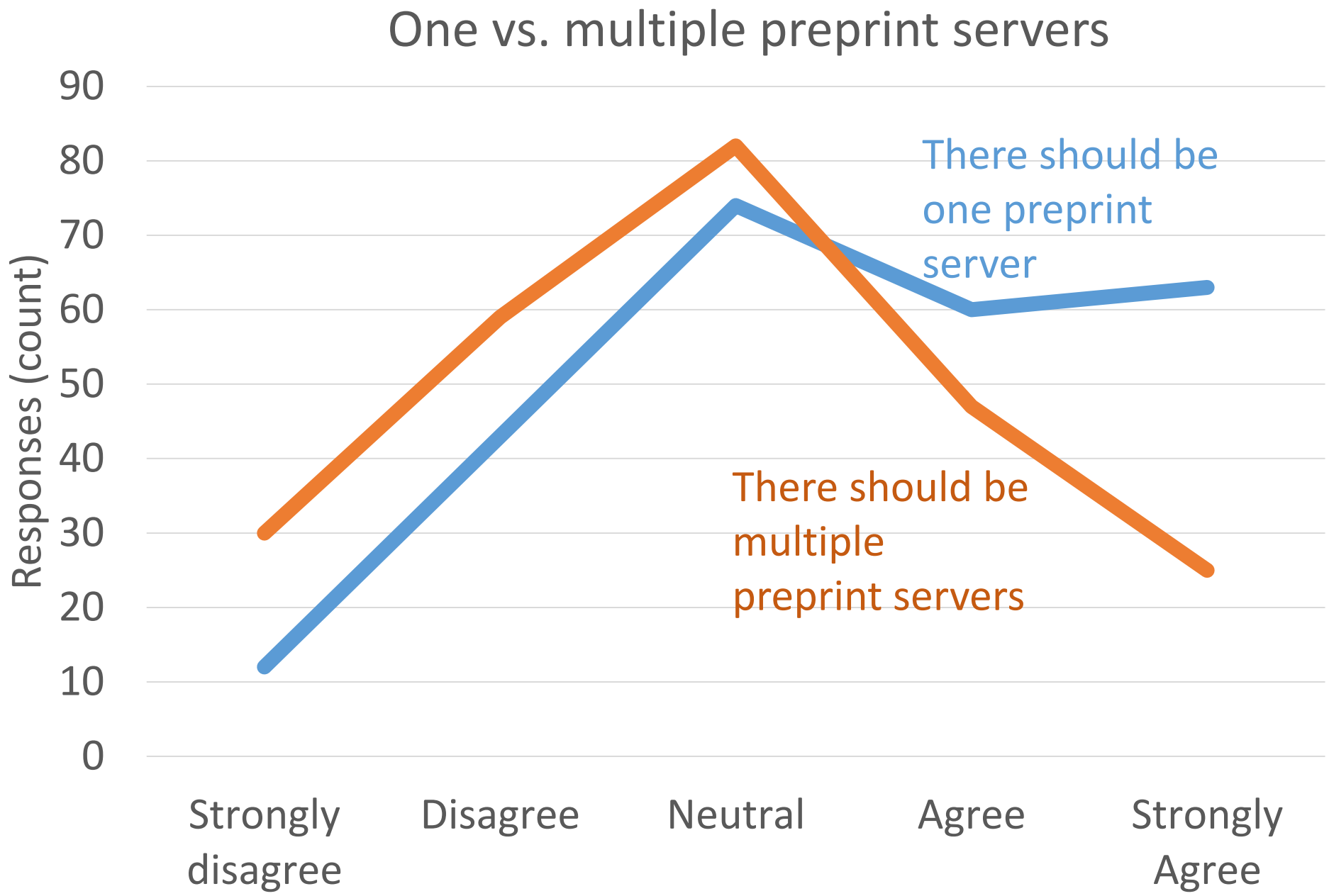

General preprint server features
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Responses (count)
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree
The server should support commenting
Commenter identity should be disclosed
Commenters should be anonymous
I do not want public comments on my preprint
I want view/download metrics displayed


As a reader, I want to...
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Responses (count)
Not at all important
Low importance
Moderately important
Very important
Extremely important
browse preprints on the web (HTML) as well as download PDFs
read a typeset document featuring integrated text and figures
access references and databases via preprint hyperlinks
find preprints via current services - eg Google Scholar
find preprints via services like PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus (now for peer reviewed papers)

Licensing & APIs




I feel that scientists should pay $__ to upload a preprint...
Reponses (count)
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
A server as they exist now
A future server with all features I want
$0
$10
$50
$100
$500


One vs. multiple preprint servers
Responses (count)
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
There should be one preprint server
There should be multiple preprint servers
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly Agree

Why?

Don't dilute this.

Simplicity. One point of search, no additional stratification of the 'good' or 'glamorous' server.

One vetted place where I know I can find and trust preprint articles

Multiple servers = fragmentation. Which will lead to confusion and lack of adoption.

I don't think it matters either way as long as they have similar operating principles and openness/exposure to search etc.

I am neutral because I don't know the relative merits of either option.

A meta-server would be best. It is hopeless to try to make it one preprint server.

Both are wrong. Maybe limited [# of servers] is the right answer.

It won't matter as long as they are searchable via existing web search.

Centralization leads to power, which leads to abuse of power. Decentralization is more democratic.

Competition is a good thing.

One is a single point of failure. There already are multiple servers, and this encourages innovation.

Different scientific communities have different publishing cultures. A one-size-fits all server is unlikely to be able to serve all of them adequately.

Summary

Desired characteristics

- Non-profit model
- Low cost for upload
- Quality control
- Scientist-elected governance
- Non-traditional posts (especially negative data)
- Non-anonymous commenting

Areas of neutrality

- One vs. multiple servers
- Licensing