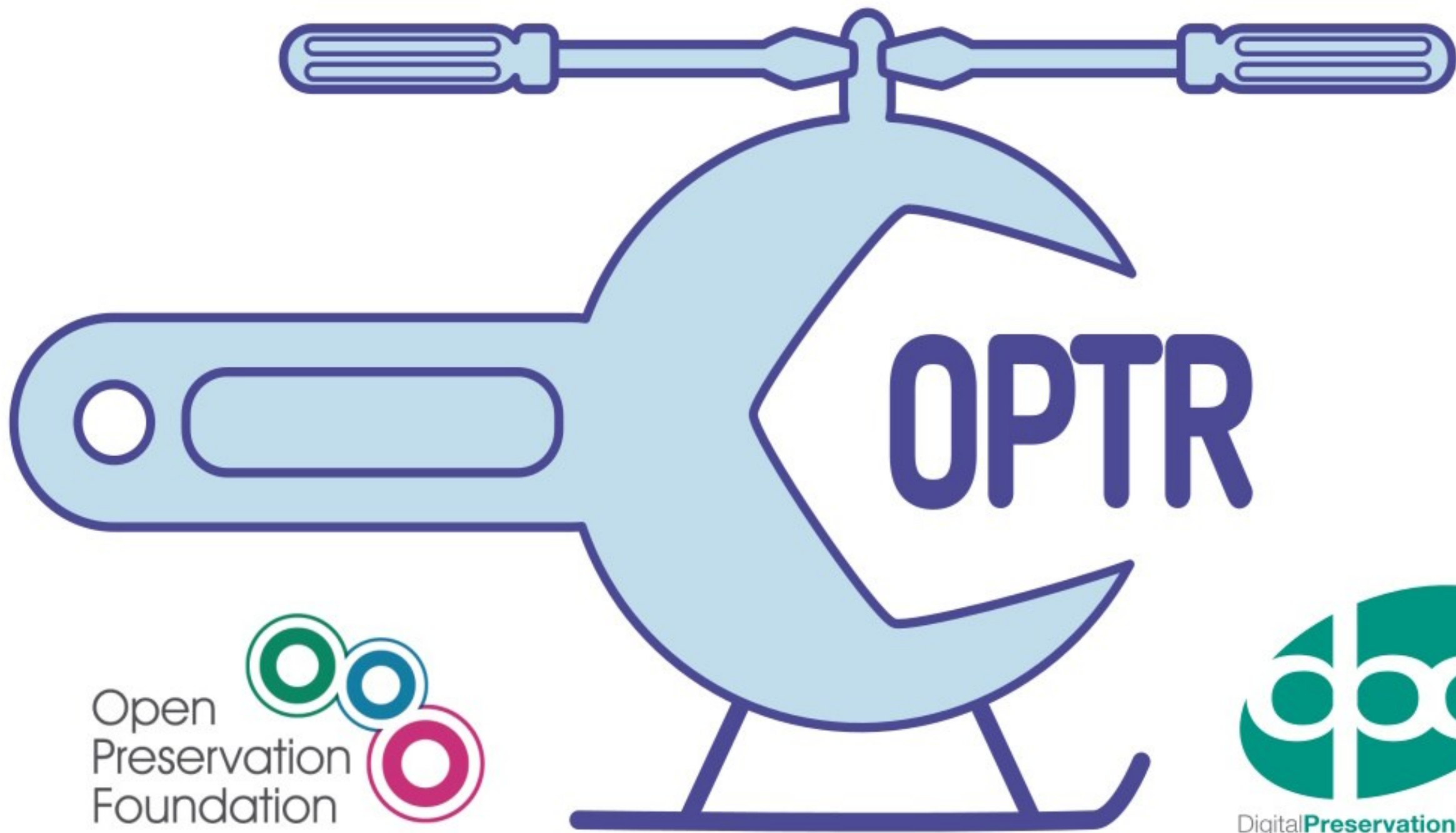


Relaunching COPTR!

#DPClinic January 2026
with the Open Preservation Foundation



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



What is COPTR?

The Community-Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry (COPTR) is a place to find tools to try, and workflows to learn from, to help you take care of your digital collections.

https://coptr.digipres.org/About_COPTR

History

(abridged, biased)

2012-2014

The digital preservation community had created a whole host of different tool registries that described preservation tools. Many people had also written blog posts about tools or organisations hosted web pages with lists of tools that tackled particular areas. There was lots of duplication between these lists and registries, but at the same time, each one often held tools that weren't described elsewhere. COPTR was built by bringing together and rationalising these other registries and lists. It was originally created in 2012 as a small activity within the JISC-funded SPRUCE Project.

It was inspired by the original Preserving digital Objects With Restricted Resources project (POWRR) Tools Grid and developed in partnership with the POWRR Project.



2021

Dutch Digital Heritage Network funded enhancements...

From MediaWiki to Semantic MediaWiki!

Richer data model

Better editing interface

More ways to present the information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vflve95D-Yc>



2023

Contributions were already low, then...

Overwhelmed with spam entries

Security issues

Complex software stack is difficult to maintain

Usefulness unclear

2024-2025

Registries of Good Practice project funding,
DPC & OPF start working together on COPTR...

Neither have the skills to maintain it 'in house'

So considering drastic options... 🦴 / 🧊

But DPC+OPF staff are not COPTR users

Decide to run a user survey

(COPTR locked down: read-only access in the interim)

COPTR (c. 2025)

What was COPTR like at this time?



[COPTR Home](#)
[Community Owned Workflows](#)
[Recent changes](#)

[Find tools](#)

[Tools grid](#)
[By lifecycle stage](#)
[By function](#)
[By content type](#)
[By file format](#)
[All tools](#)

[Help](#)

[About COPTR](#)
[Video guides to using COPTR](#)
[Mediawiki help](#)
[Wikitext cheat sheet](#)
[COPTR data structures](#)

[Tools](#)

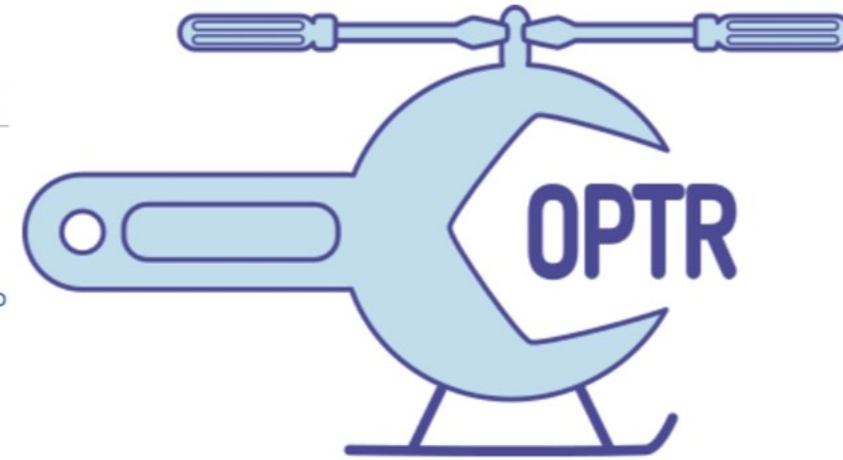
[What links here](#)
[Related changes](#)
[Special pages](#)
[Printable version](#)
[Permanent link](#)
[Page information](#)
[Cite this page](#)
[Browse properties](#)

Main Page

Community Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry (COPTR)

COPTR helps practitioners find tools needed for [long term digital preservation](#) tasks. It describes [587 tools](#) and [23 workflows](#).

- Find a digital preservation tool using the [Tools Grid](#) (or by stage, function, content type or file format). Or watch this [video to learn more](#).
- [View digital preservation workflows](#)
- [Add a tool](#), or find out more about [how you can get involved](#)
- [Add a workflow](#)
- [About COPTR](#), including how to [Contact Us](#), [how COPTR is structured](#) and [how to access COPTR data via the API](#).



NEW FOR JULY 2021: COPTR has been re-launched with new functionality. Find out all about it in this [video presentation](#).

COPTR Partners

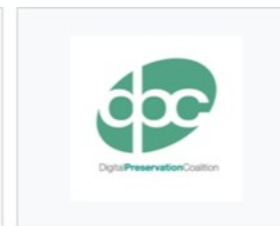
COPTR was created and launched with the support of the [Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation](#) initiative and has been populated and maintained by members of the COPTR partner organisations:



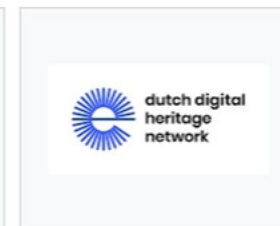
[The Digital Curation Centre \(DCC\)](#)



[The Digital Curation Exchange \(DCE\)](#)



[The Digital Preservation Coalition \(DPC\)](#)



[Dutch Digital Heritage Network \(DDHN\)](#)



[National Digital Stewardship Alliance \(NDSA\)](#)



Tools Grid

The COPTR Tools grid allows you to browse to view lists of tools that address specific content types or functions. It was inspired by the original [Preserving digital Objects With Restricted Resources project \(POWRR\)](#) [↗] Tools Grid and developed in partnership with the POWRR Project.

- [COPTR Home](#)
- [Community Owned Workflows](#)
- [Recent changes](#)

Find tools

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- [By lifecycle stage](#)
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- [Page information](#)
- [Cite this page](#)
- [Browse properties](#)

	DCC Lifecycle Stages							
	<i>Create or Receive (Acquire)</i>	<i>Ingest</i>	<i>Preservation Planning</i>	<i>Preservation Action</i>	<i>Access, Use and Reuse</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Dispose</i>	<i>Cross-Lifecycle Functions</i>
3D	1	3		5	3	2		3
Audio	5	16	3	18	4	3	1	16
Binary Data	1	4	2	5	2	2		8
Container	2	3	1	7	1	2		1
Database	1	5		16	2	1	1	1
Disk Image	13	6		4	1	4		10
Document	4	29	1	24	8	1	1	23
EBook		2		2				1
Email	5	5	2	5	6	3		7
Geospatial	1	1		2	3			
Image	9	31	1	32	6	1		19
Metadata	5	23	2	9	7	3		6
Project Management Data	1			1	1			
Research Data	10	6	9		2	16		6
Software	1	2		4		1		3
Spreadsheet	1	5		4				2
Video	4	15	3	20	3	3	1	13
Web	34	8	3	9	5	4		8
Not content-type specific	29	45	103	14	93	88	30	79

Built from the 587 tools recorded in COPTR.



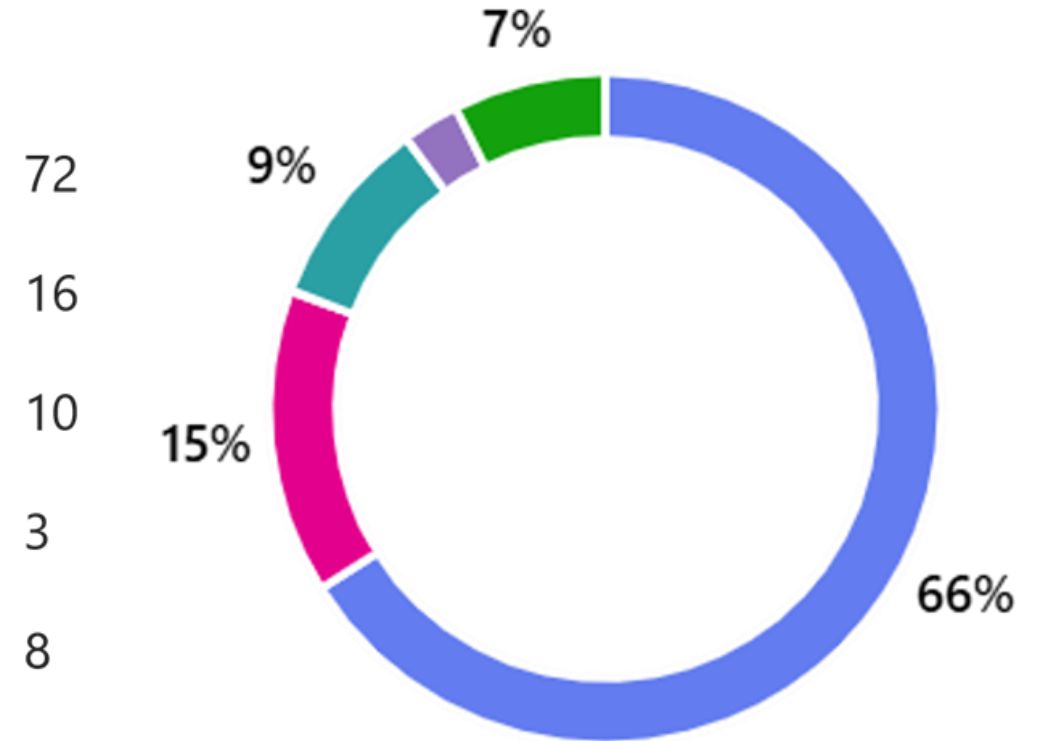
2025 User Survey Part 1: Using COPTR

“Please tell us how useful COPTR is... Or isn't!”

Finding Tools

1. In the last five years, have you used COPTR to find a tool for digital preservation?

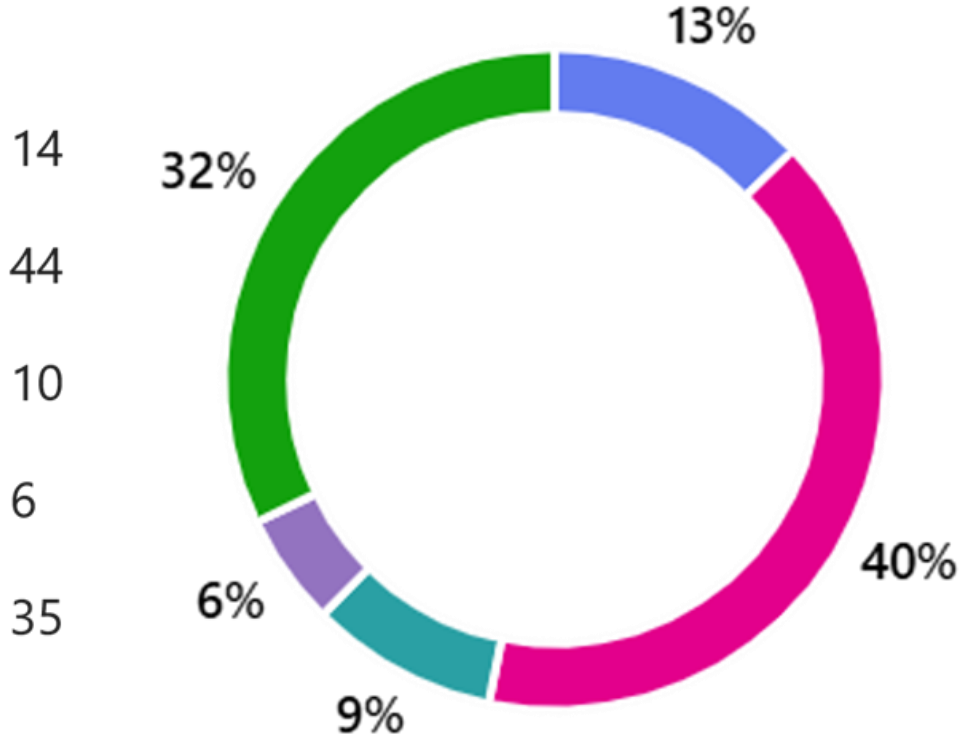
- Yes, successfully, multiple times.
- Yes, successfully, once.
- I tried, but I didn't find anything useful/up to date.
- I tried, but the list of tools was overwhelming.
- No.



Finding Workflows

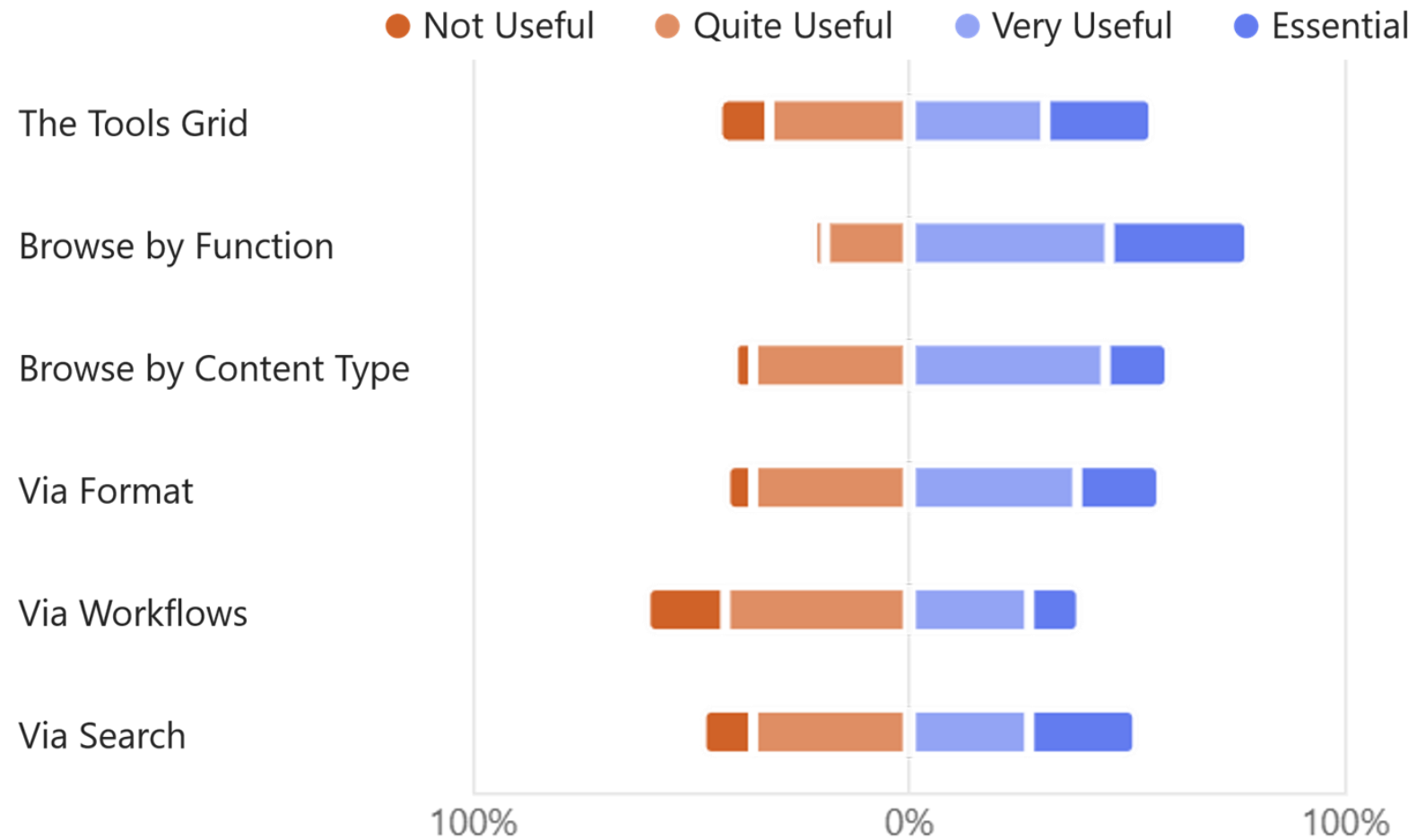
2. In the last five years, have you looked at the Community Owned Workflows?

- Yes, it helped me find or understand the tools I need.
- Yes, it helped me learn what others do.
- Yes, but it didn't have anything relevant to me.
- Yes, but the list of workflows was overwhelming.
- No.



Routes to Tools

3. How useful are the different ways to find tools?



Programmatic Access?

tumbleweed
(except me 😄)

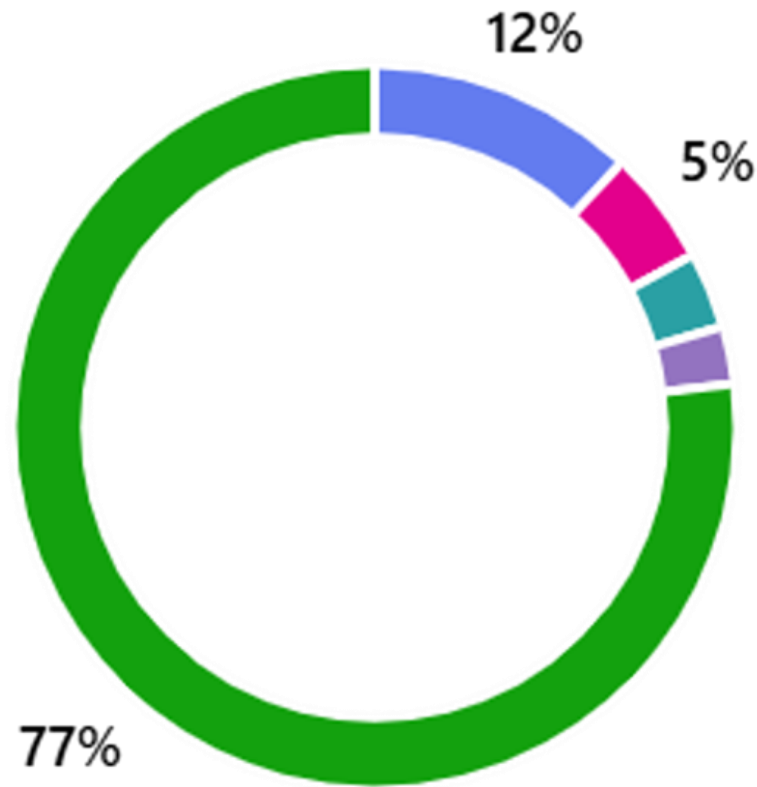
2025 User Survey Part 2: Contributing to COPTR

“Adding your own knowledge and experience.”

Adding Entries

5. In the last five years, have you added or updated any entries in COPTR

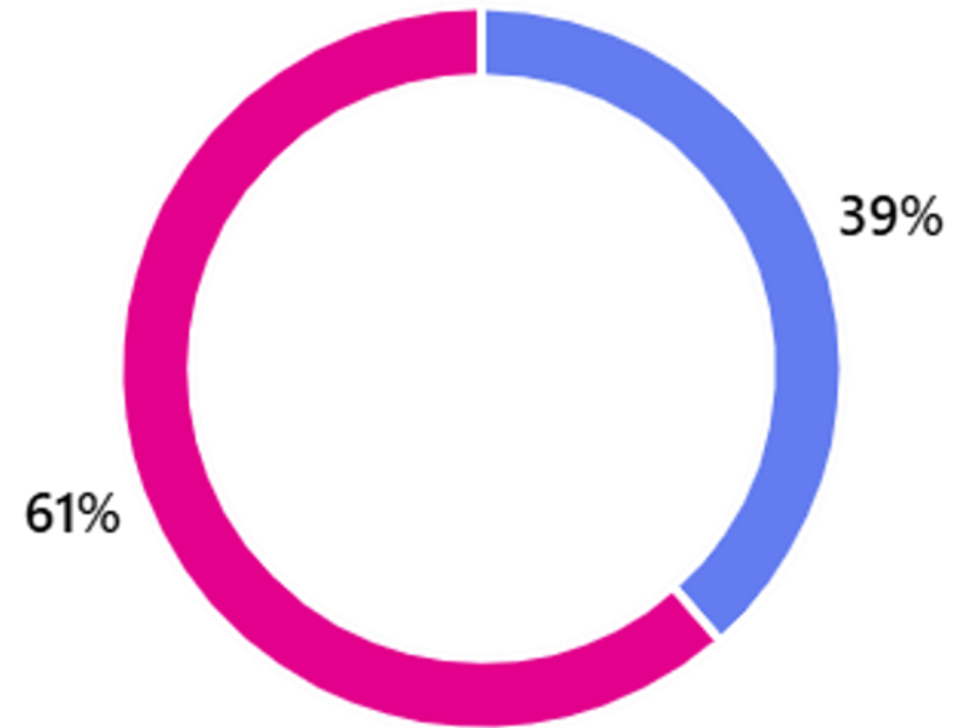
● Tools	14
● Workflows	6
● Formats	4
● Other Pages	3
● No	90



Ease of Use

6. Do you find COPTR easy to add to or update?

● Yes	42
● No	67



Barriers to Contribution

- Lack of clarity on:
 - Status!?
 - Purpose!?
 - Scope!?
 - Requirements!?
 - Process!?
 - Support!?

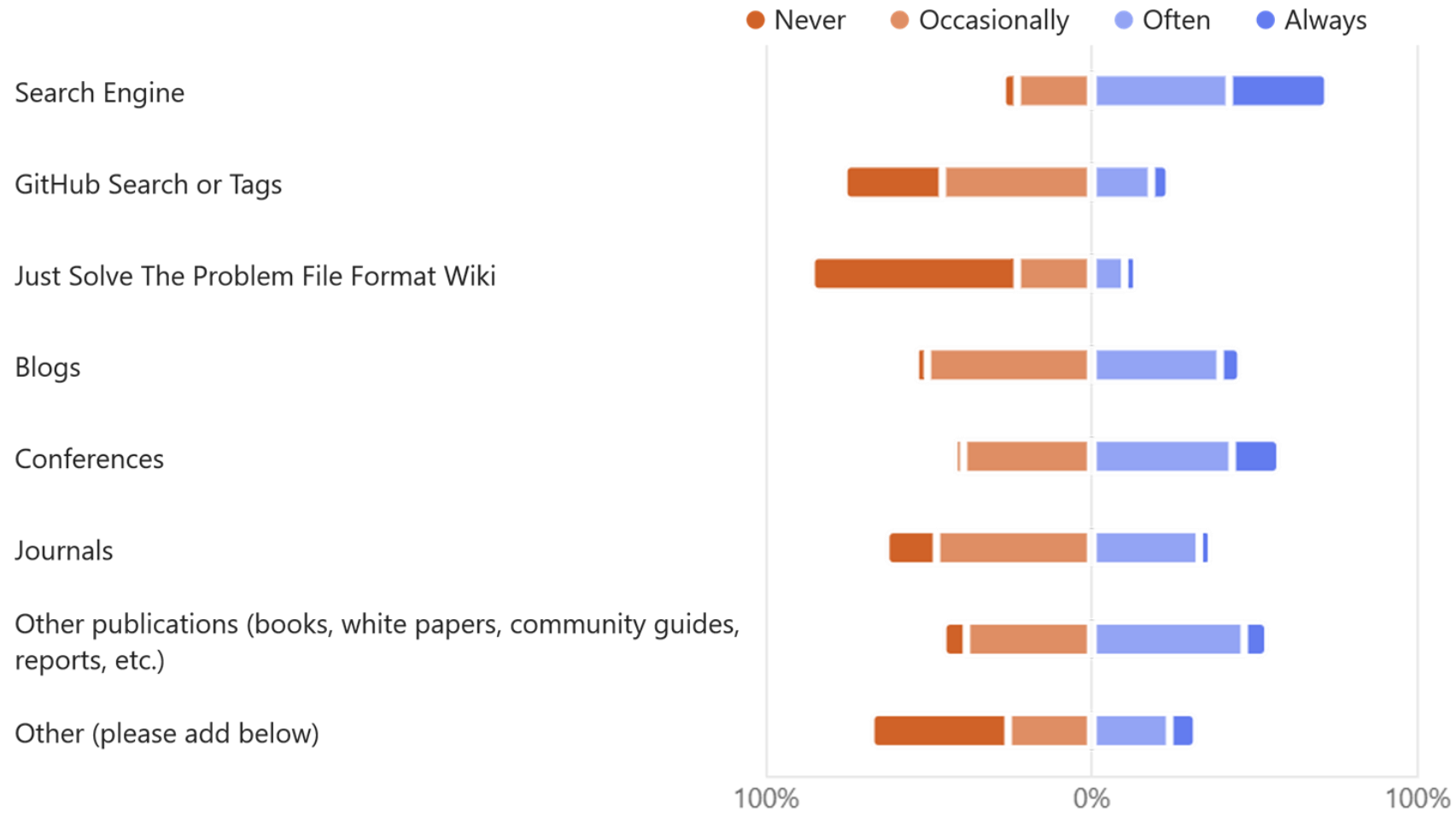


2025 User Survey Part 3: COPTR & Beyond

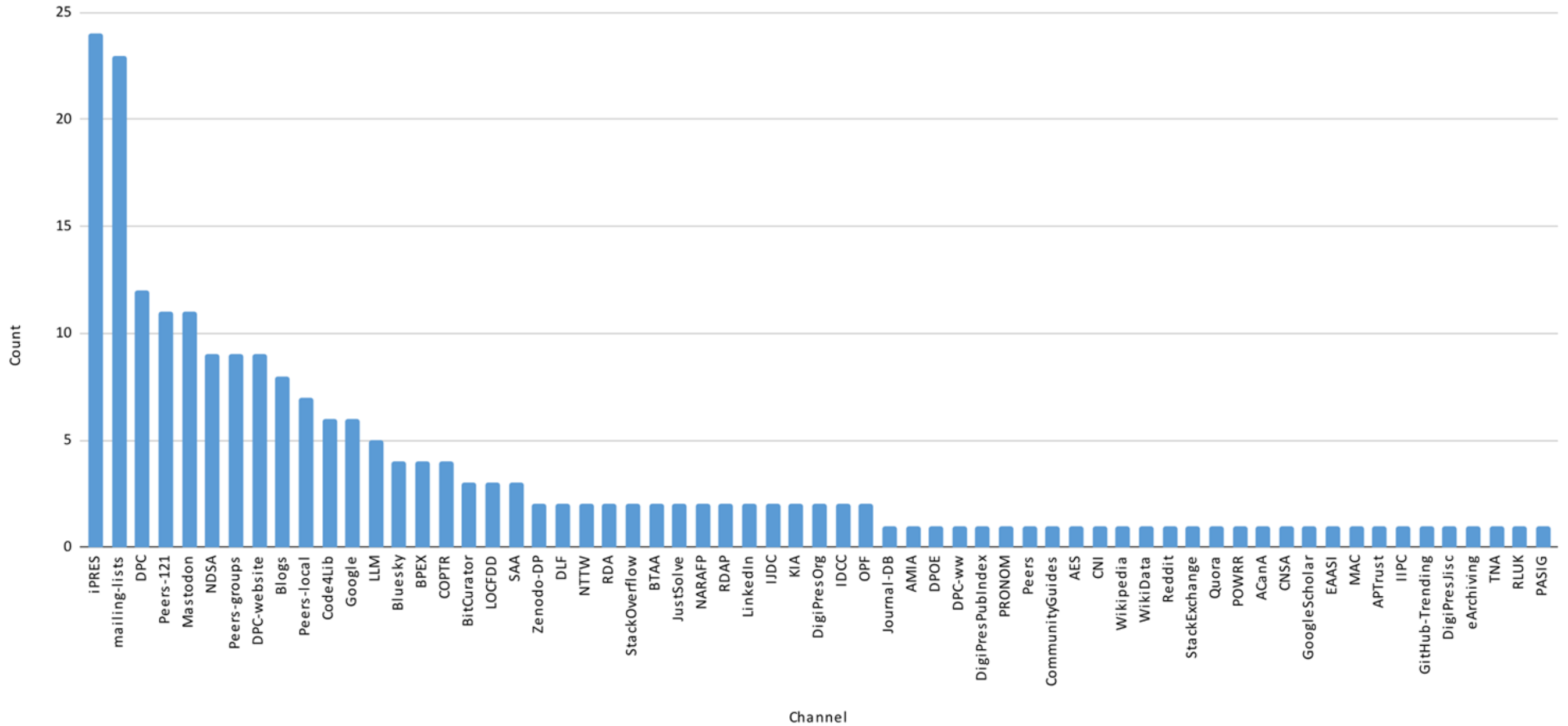
“Understanding different approaches to finding useful tools.”

Finding & Sharing Expertise

8. How do you find and share expertise with your peers?



Forums & Channels



Mailing Lists & Forums

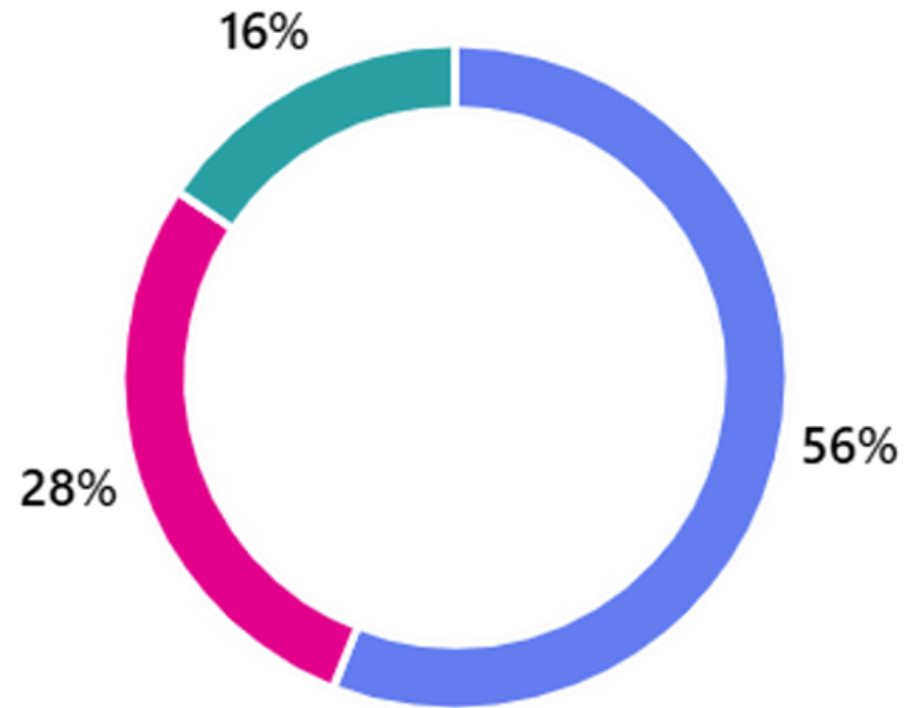
- e.g. “JiscMail DPC-Discussion & Digital-Preservation, HEA NET Digital-Collections CoP, Code4Lib, ARSCLIST, DLF Announce, dlf-bdaccess-working-group, bitcurator-users, AMIA-L, CAA (Chicago Area Archivists), various SAA lists, digipres, AIC and FAIC, dannng-announce, ARLISNA, DPOE-N, pasig, SPN, and VRA.”

See digipres.org/communities for the whole list.

Focus on Tools or Workflows

10. Would you like to see a greater focus on tools or workflows in a future iteration of COPTR?

● Tools	61
● Workflows	31
● Other	17



Moderation?

11. Bearing in mind the purpose of the registry is to document rather than evaluate, do you think there is value in adding some form of community moderation to the editorial process?

- Yes 54
- No 55



How Might Moderation Work?

- Wide range of opinions:
 - Just get rid of the spam!
 - Needs clearer editorial guidelines
 - Needs an open process for review
 - Needs an editorial committee for guidelines and review
 - Needs full peer review of all entries
- Revealed divergent views on purpose
- Recognition that this requires a lot of labour



2025 User Survey Part 4: And Finally...

Your Dream Tool Discovery Service

Inspiring ideas & enthusiasm!

Overwhelming range!

From minor tweaks...

e.g. add user comments, ratings, 'I Use This!'

...to...

e.g. a chatbot interface, runs the tools, full solutions!

Staying in Touch

109 responses!
41 staying in touch!

Outcomes

A lot of people care!

Quite a lot of people use it for training!

The basics (status, scope, etc.) are unclear!

Opinions on what COPTR should be are diverse!

AND/BUT

DPC & OPF can't do this alone!

(We can't even process this much high-quality feedback!)

We need to give the community a chance to come together!



What is COPTR?

Once more, with feeling...

Status

OPF will keep it running, for now.

(The service is the same, except user account creation is manual.)

(But it's insecure and outdated: unsustainable long term without additional funding and/or migrating away from Semantic MediaWiki)

(And sometimes it's slow or crashes because of AI crawlers.)

DPC + OPF will manage uptime, user account creation and spam.

DPC + OPF have revised the homepage and about page.

DPC + OPF will attempt to provide space for the COPTR community to come together.



Main Page

Welcome to the Community-Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry (COPTR) [\[edit\]](#)

The Community-Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry (COPTR) is a place to find tools to try, and workflows to learn from, to help you [take care of your digital collections](#). It describes 624 tools and 36 workflows. The COPTR Tools Grid (below) allows you to quickly find tools by the specific content types or functions they address.

- [COPTR Home](#)
- [Community Owned Workflows](#)
- [Recent changes](#)

Find tools

- [Tools grid](#)
- [By lifecycle stage](#)
- [By function](#)
- [By content type](#)
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- [All tools](#)

Help

- [About COPTR](#)
- [Video guides to using COPTR](#)
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- [COPTR data structures](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
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- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
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- [Browse properties](#)

	DCC Lifecycle Stages							
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3D	2	4		7	3	3		4
Audio	7	19	3	21	5	5	2	19
Binary Data	4	5	2	7	3	4	1	9
Container	4	4	1	9	2	4	1	2
Database	2	5		20	2	4	1	1
Disk Image	16	7		6	1	4		12
Document	6	33	1	27	9	3	2	26
EBook		4		3				3
Email	7	7	2	7	7	4		8
Geospatial	2	2		4	3	1		1
Image	11	36	1	36	8	3	1	24
Metadata	6	25	2	10	8	4	1	7
Project Management Data	1	1		2	1			1
Research Data	11	6	9	1	2	17		6
Software	2	3		6		2		4
Spreadsheet	1	6		6				3
Video	6	18	3	23	4	5	2	16
Web	36	9	3	12	6	6		10
Not content-type specific	30	50	109	14	102	92	31	85

Filter

Aside: Dodgy Analytics 1/3

Oct 1, 2025 — Dec 31, 2025

Visitors

47.5k

↑ 219%

Visits

235k

↑ 162%

Views

247k

↑ 155%

Bounce rate

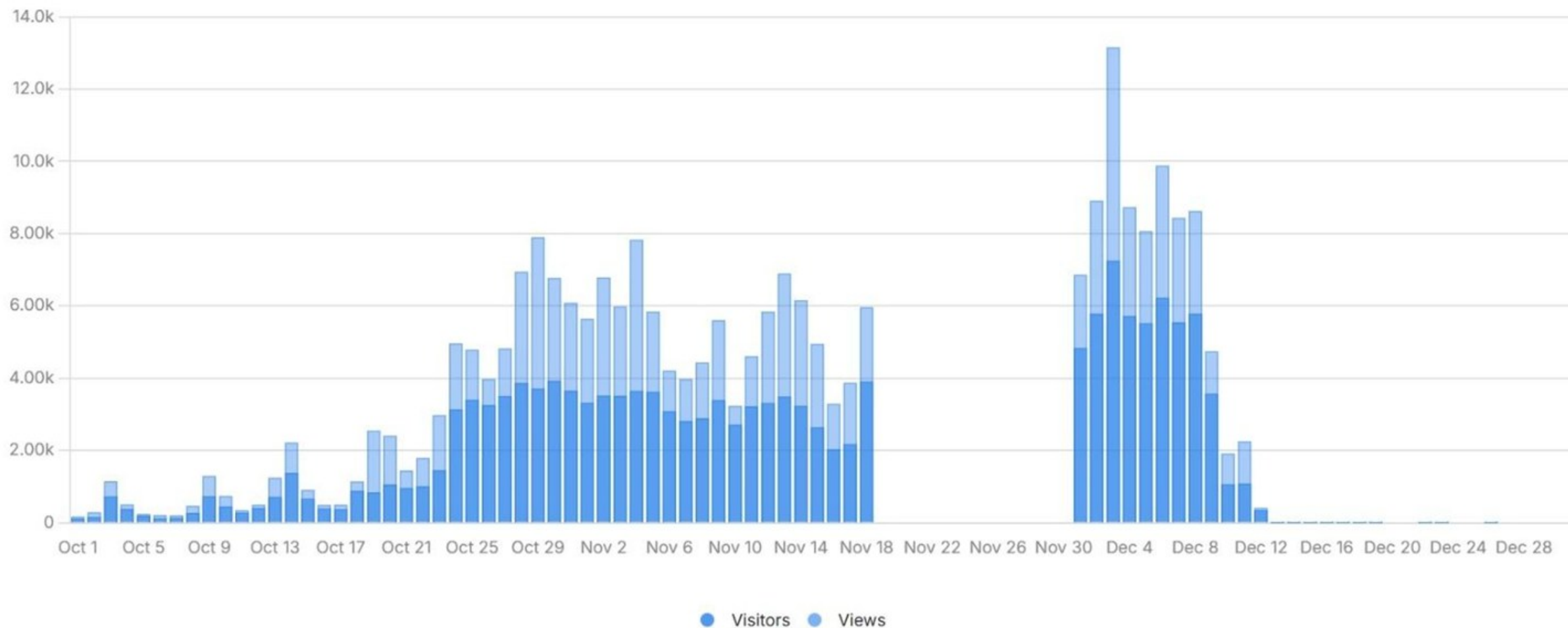
96%

↑ 1%

Visit duration

28s

↓ 17%



Aside: Dodgy Analytics 2/3

Pages











Path Entry Exit

Path	Visitors
/index.php	44.0k 93%
/Main_Page	830 2%
/Special:RecentChangesLinked	731 2%
/Special:RunQuery/Tool_Grid_query	471 1%
/index.php/Tools_Grid	235 0%
/index.php/Workflow:Community_Owned_Workflows	210 0%
/Tools_Grid	203 0%
/api.php	203 0%
/index.php/Main_Page	186 0%
/File_Formats_and_Metadata_Formats	173 0%

[More](#)

Sources

Referrers Channels











Referrer	Visitors
 google.com	903 66%
 bing.com	110 8%
 m.baidu.com	103 8%
 digipres.org	67 5%
 duckduckgo.com	50 4%
 chatgpt.com	34 2%
 dpconline.org	28 2%
 loc.gov	28 2%
 digitalpowrr.niu.edu	28 2%
 learning.monash.edu	18 1%

[More](#)

Aside: Dodgy Analytics 3/3

Environment

Browsers OS Devices

Browser	Visitors
 Chrome	46.3k 97%
 Edge (Chromium)	492 1%
 Firefox	332 1%
 iOS	187 0%
 Safari	133 0%
 Opera	22 0%
 Chrome (iOS)	20 0%
 iOS (webview)	9 0%
 Yandex	9 0%
 Samsung	6 0%

[More](#)

Location

Countries Regions Cities

Country	Visitors
 China	36.9k 80%
 Singapore	5.99k 13%
 United States	1.48k 3%
 Hong Kong SAR China	353 1%
 Germany	325 1%
 United Kingdom	217 0%
 Japan	216 0%
 Canada	190 0%
 Brazil	172 0%
 Australia	132 0%

[More](#)

Purpose

To help you find tools to try and workflows to learn from!

Not tell you what tools to use.

The right tool often depends on your specific context and goals.

By linking tools to user experiences, workflows and other records of practice, we hope it will be easier to find out what others are doing, and that this will help you evaluate what you need.

Scope (Tool Entries)

COPTR captures basic, factual details about a tool, what it does, how to find more information and references to user experiences with the tool.

The scope is a broad interpretation of the term "digital preservation". In other words, if a tool is useful in performing a digital preservation function such as those described in the OAIS model or the DCC lifecycle model, then it's within scope of this registry.

In scope: Characterisation, visualisation, rendering, migration, storage, fixity, access, delivery, search, web archiving,
open source software ->everything in-between<- commercial software.

Out of scope: Digitisation, file creation

Requirements (Tool Entries)

As long as a tool has a Purpose (a one sentence description of its function) and has been categorised by content type and function, the COPTR entry will be useful.

Keep COPTR entries concise and factual. User feedback and other subjective comment should go elsewhere (eg. a blog post) and be referenced with a hotlink from the "User Experiences" section.

Avoid time specific language as it will quickly become out of date. For example avoid: "The current version of the tool...", "This is a new tool", "This tool is currently under development". Try instead to be specific and reference a particular tool version and/or date.

Workflows

More workflows welcome!
(although a little difficult to browse and add)

DPC Workflow Webinars can
become COPTR Workflow Entries...
...so experimenting with bringing them together at:
<https://www.digipres.org/workflows/>

Process

No community governance or moderation processes!

(😬)

Process: The Governance Bootstrap Problem

DPC + OPF staff should not decide how
COPTR should be governed...

BUT

Not clear who should!

...SO...

DPC + OPF staff have proposed a plan for the time being,
to support users and community growth.

Support

Email coptr@openpreservation.org if you have problems using the service, e.g. making sure you have a user account that works.

You can use [DigiPres.org GitHub discussion forums](#) to for open discussions, feedback, or raising questions or issues with the service.

If you'd like some support, or you're just curious about COPTR, please consider joining the [Preservation Registries Special Interest Group \(PR-SIG\)](#) and coming along to one our online *Collaboration Café* calls.

Help!

Help with the content! Not just tools and workflows but homepage/about/etc.
(Please make fixes directly wherever possible, ask for support if needed)

Help using MediaWiki/Semantic MediaWiki!
(e.g. How should flagging articles be implemented?!))

Help with sustainability! COPTR is on life support!
(Maintenance skills and/or funding for Semantic MediaWiki?)

Help find ways out of the Governance Bootstrap Problem!
(We can't decide the future of COPTR, but right now we have to!)

Want to stay in touch? See <https://www.dpconline.org/digipres/pr-sig>
& <https://github.com/orgs/digipres/discussions>



Discussion

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