Elsevier journals – key facts on article growth, value and quality

Our support for authors at a glance

2020

Elsevier journals - growth, value and quality

As a global leader in scientific, technical and medical publishing, Elsevier is proud to support authors and research communities in ensuring quality research can accelerate progress for society.

Our 2,600 journals are integral to the record of knowledge as we apply high standards of quality and integrity in everything we publish and ensure trusted research can be accessed, shared and built upon by others. Our 24,000 editors work with 1.4 million expert reviewers around the world.

In 2020, remarkable progress has been made thanks to dedicated researchers and health professionals. The number of article submissions to our journals grew by over 25% to 2.5m submissions, almost double the total of articles that were submitted five years ago.

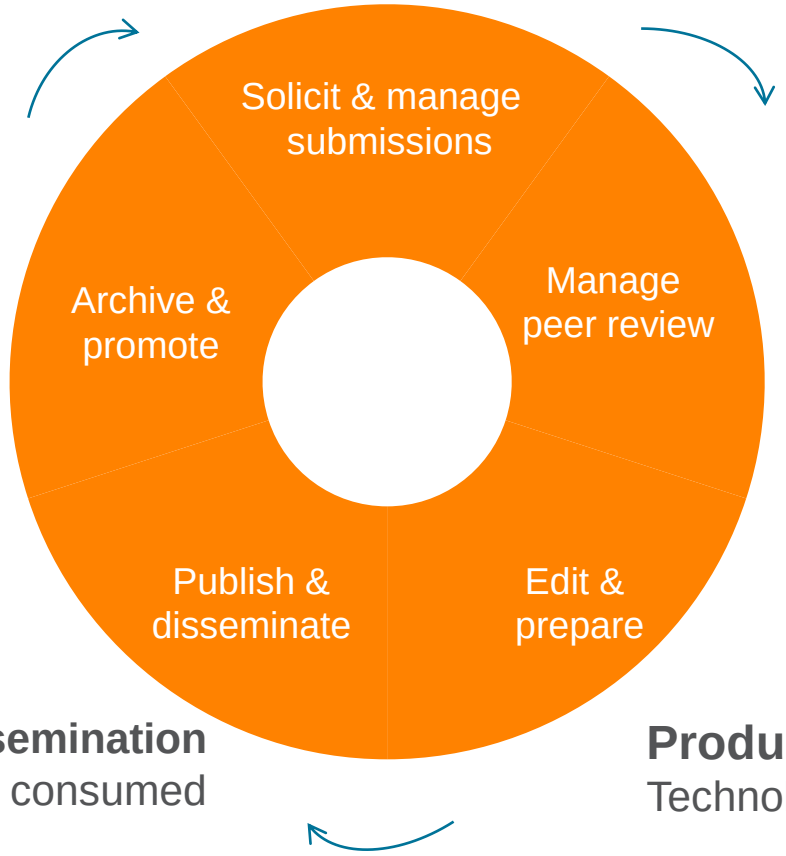
Here, we have brought together some data to provide a transparent and consistent overview of the growth of our scientific and health content, the value we offer and the levels of impact and quality we strive to ensure. We update this information annually.

Quick take-aways on the growth, value and quality of our journals

- Submissions to Elsevier journals continue strong growth: +12% CAGR over the last ten years.
- Fast growth of our open access article volume: +55% CAGR in the last ten years.
- We publish more articles and at higher quality relative to other publishers – yet our average list price per subscription article remains lower (by 2-3x) than our competitors.
- When compared to the significant increase in our article volume and consistently high article quality over the last 5-10 years, our average list prices have remained stable and much lower than other publishers, whose price increases have been c6-7% per annum over the last five years.
- Articles published in Elsevier journals account for 18% of global research output while garnering 27% of citations, demonstrating our commitment to delivering research quality significantly ahead of the industry average.

Editorial, peer review and publishing value chain
Elsevier's support for authors at a glance

Community building
2,650 journal brands



Filtering/Editing
- **>2.5m** article submissions
- **564,000** published articles
- **24,000** editors
- **90,000** editorial board members
- **~1.4** million reviewers

Production
Technological enrichment

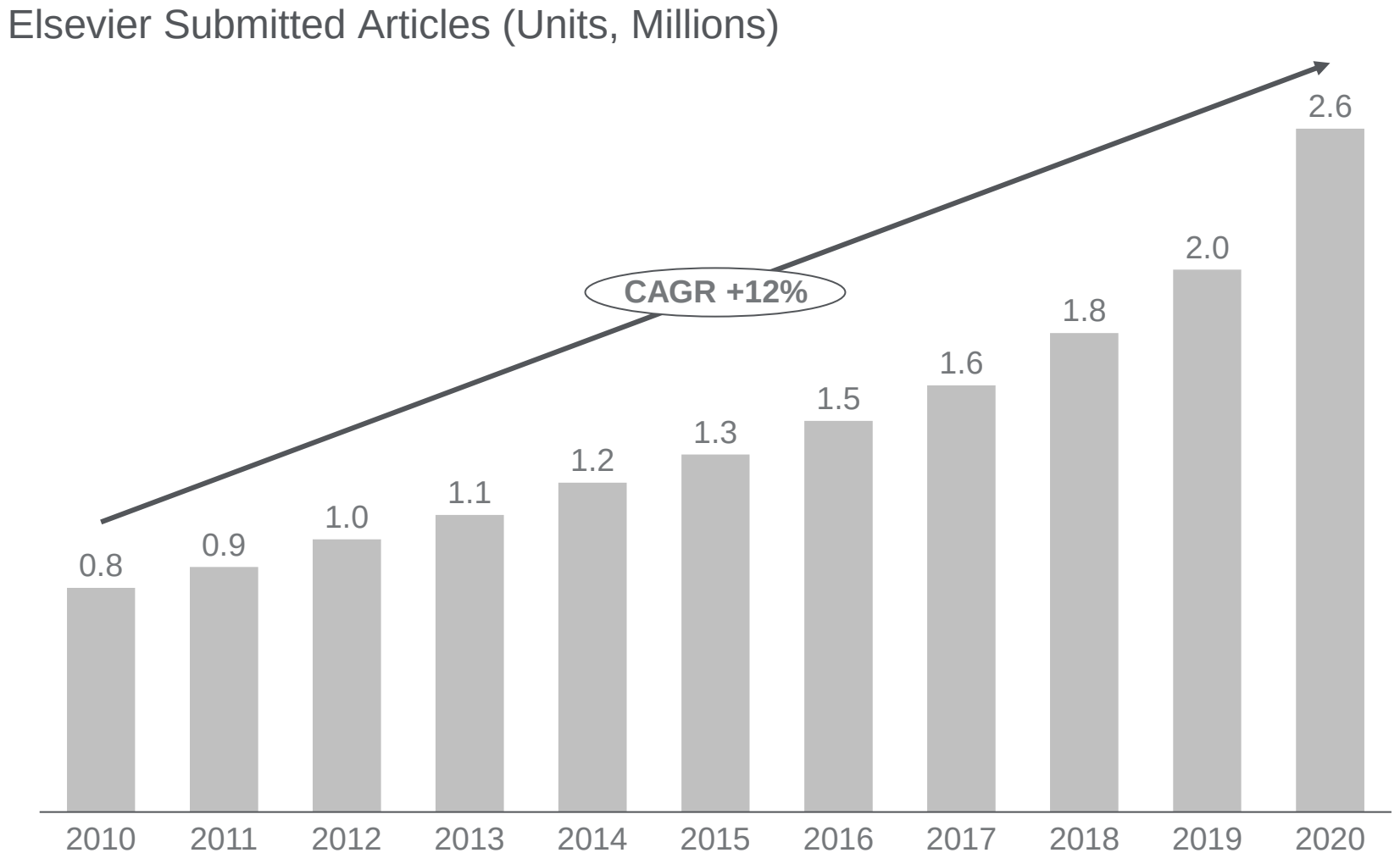
Dissemination
>1.3 billion articles consumed

Archiving
~17 million articles

2020

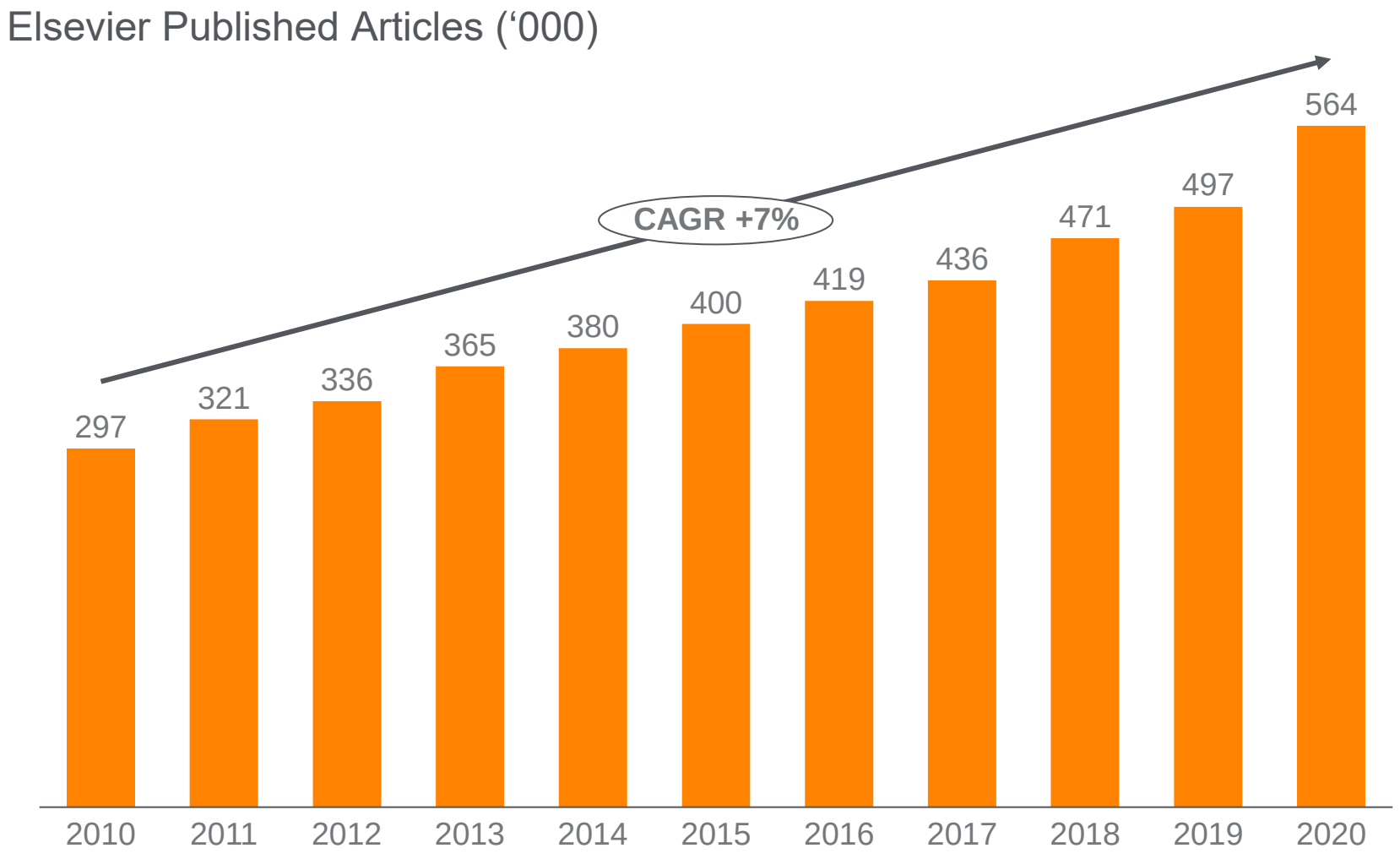
Article Volume Growth: Article Submissions

Continued growth in submissions, with +25% growth in 2020



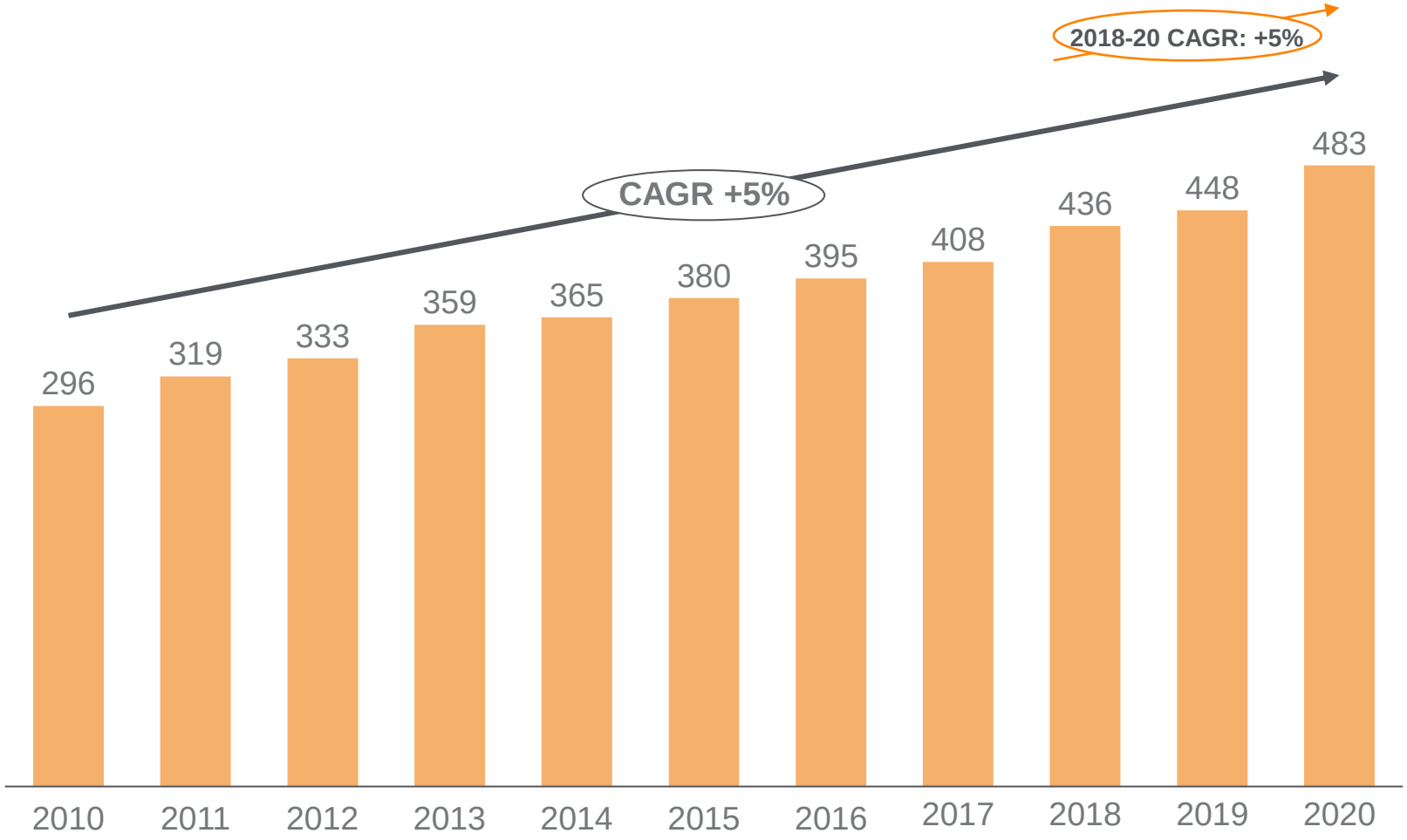
Article Volume Growth: Published Articles

Consistent published article growth; rejections underscore quality focus



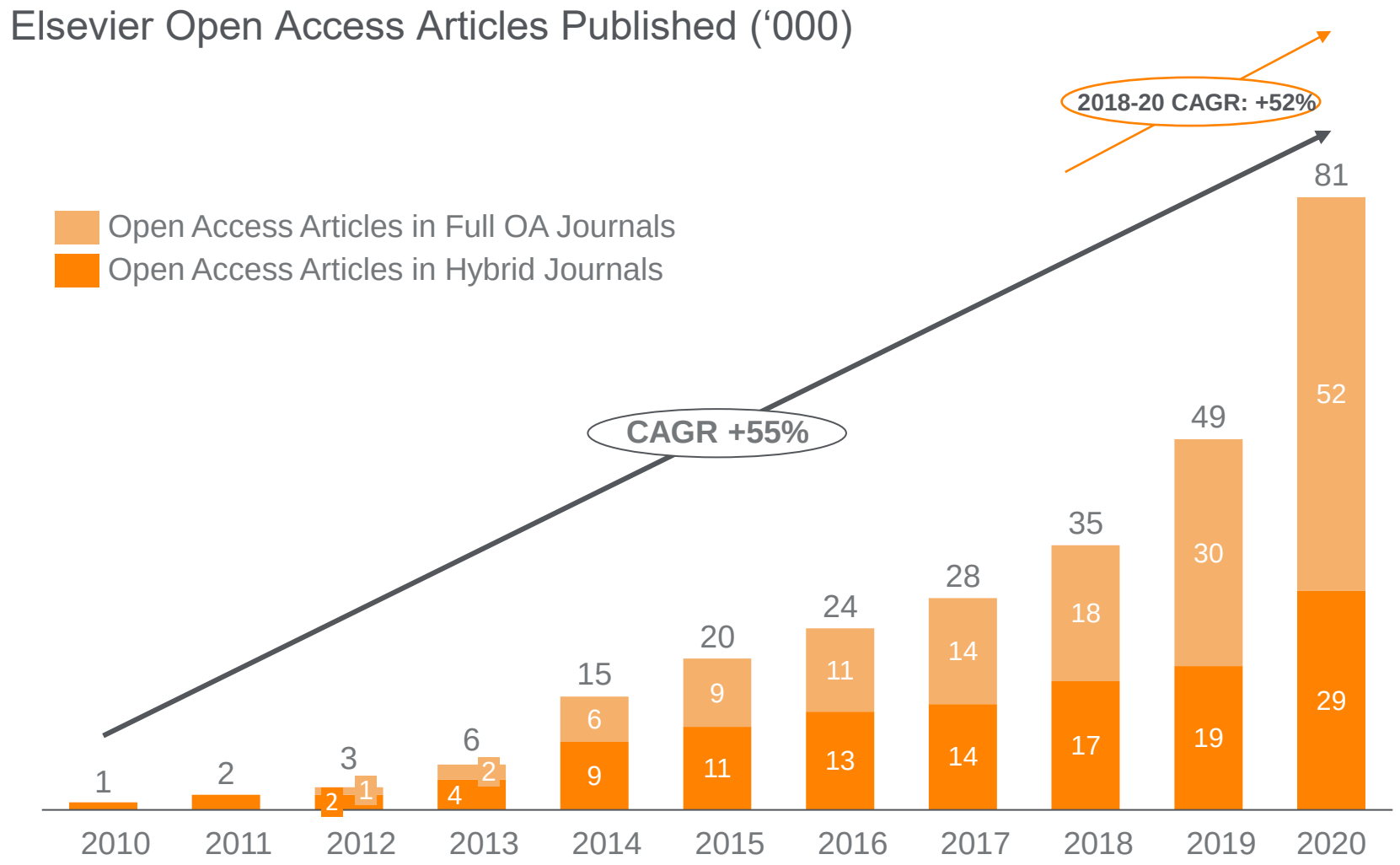
Published Articles: Subscriptions

Elsevier Subscription Articles Published (‘000)

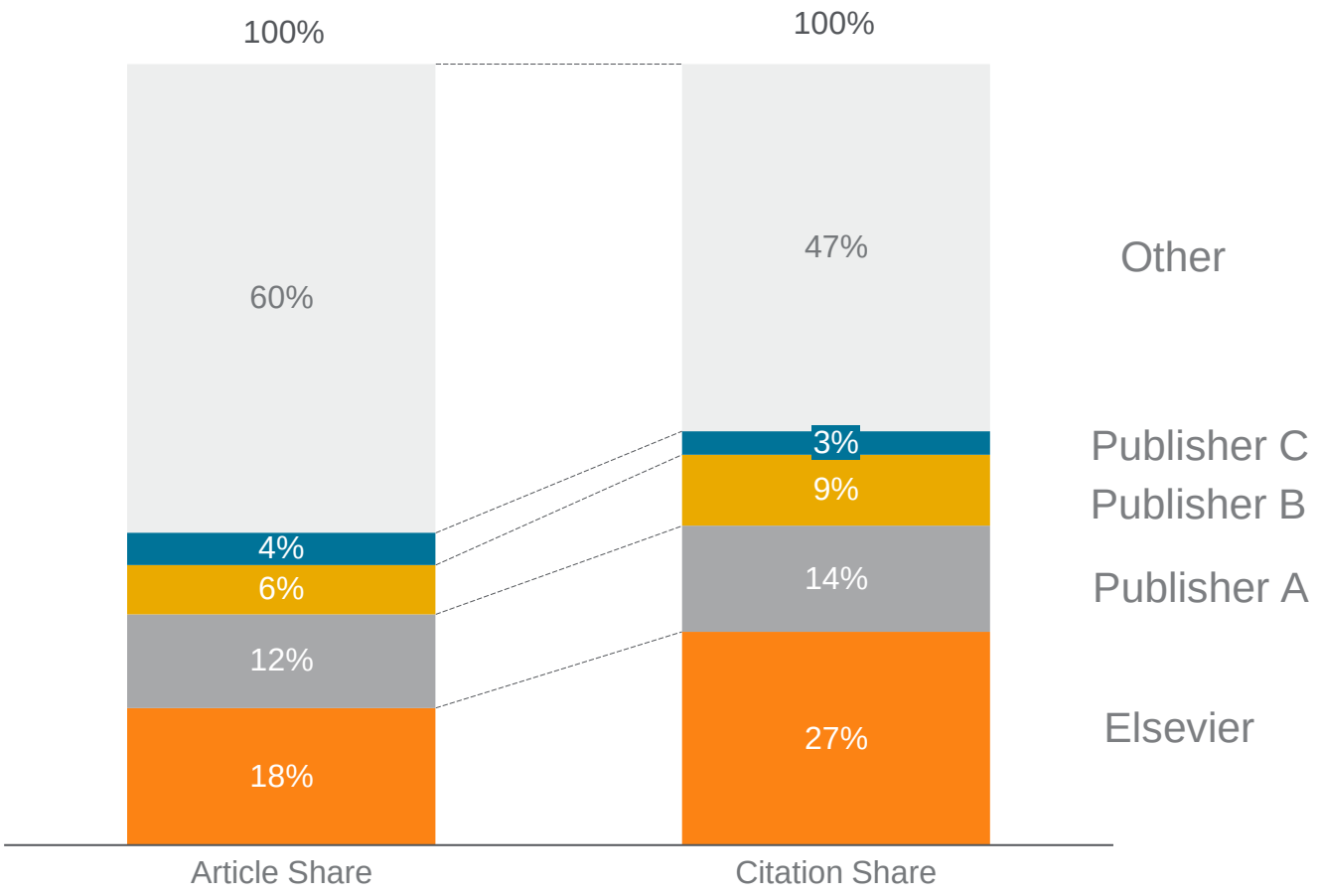


Published Articles: Open Access

Strong growth of OA articles published in our journals



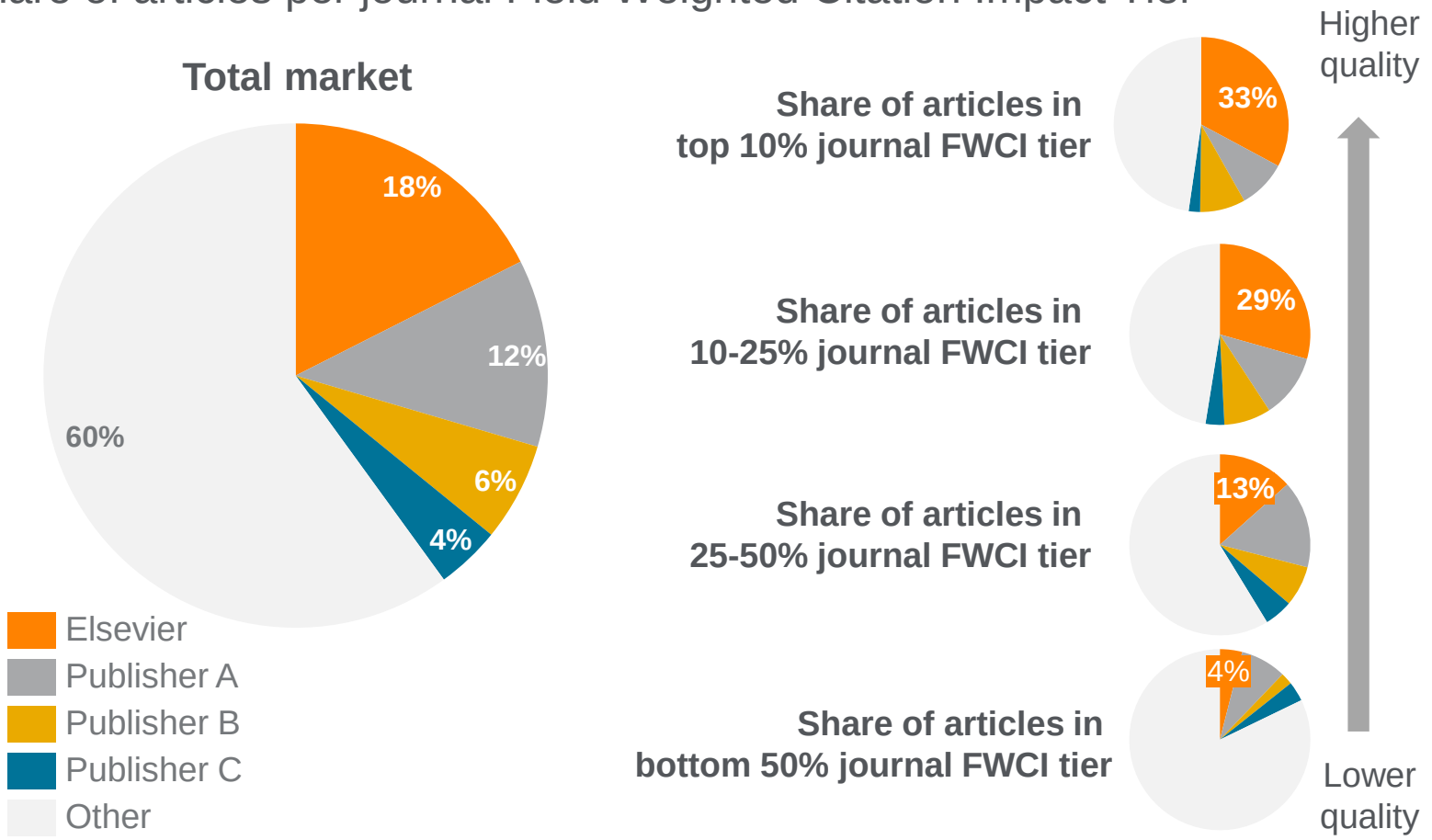
Journal and Article Quality
Article and citation share



Share of articles per publisher (published in 2016-2019) and citation share (citations in 2015-19 in relation to articles published in 2015-19). Source: Scopus data.

Journal and Article Quality
Share of articles per journal quality tier

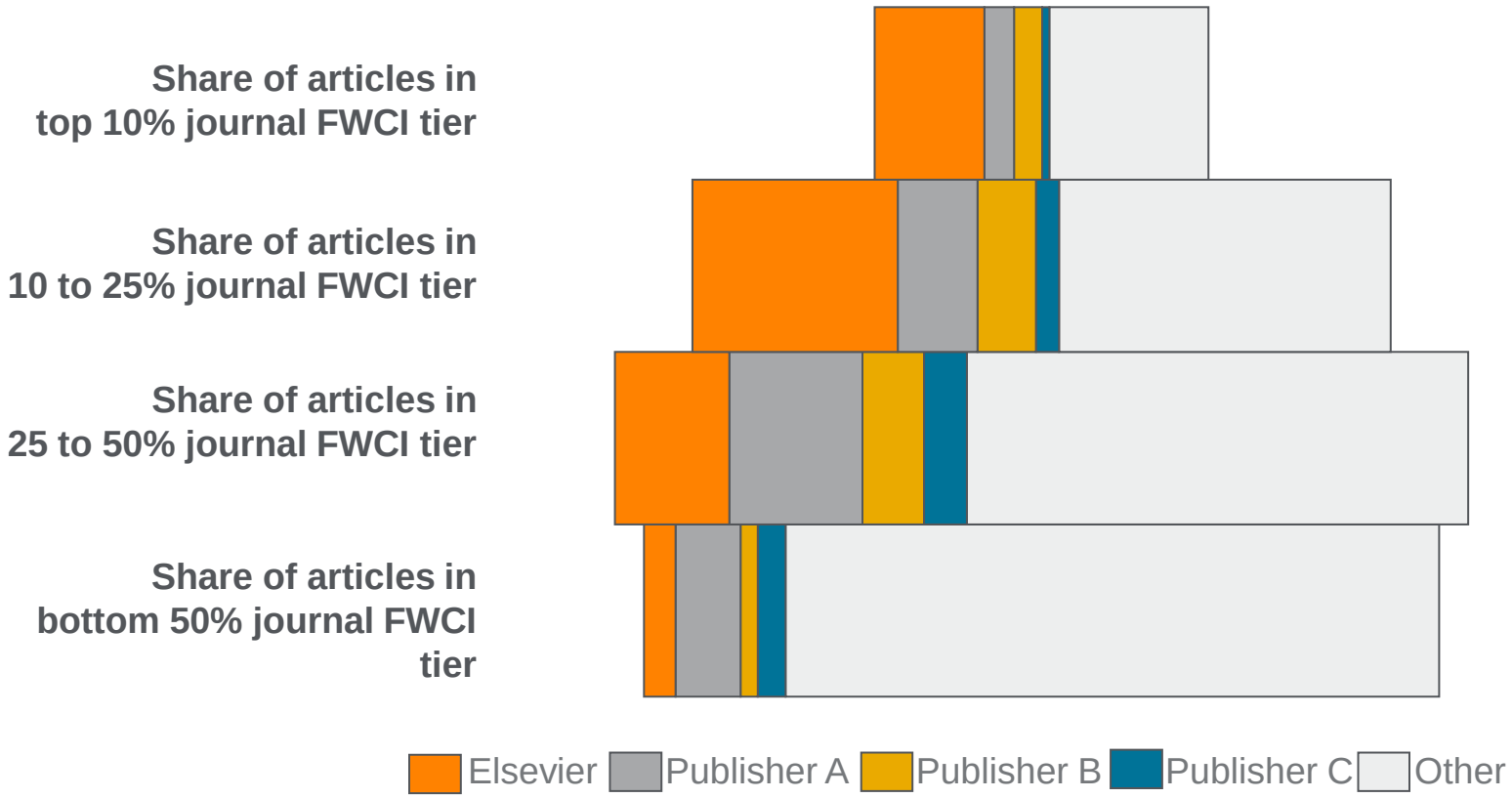
Share of articles per journal Field Weighted Citation Impact Tier*



** Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) is calculated on the basis of citations in 2015-19 to articles published in 2015-19 and accounts for article type, publication year and subject field. Source: Scopus data.*

Journal and Article Quality

Share of articles per journal quality tier



Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) is calculated on the basis of citations in 2015-19 to articles published in 2015-19 and accounts for article type, publication year and subject field. Source: Scopus data..

Journal Article Price
Average list price per subscription article

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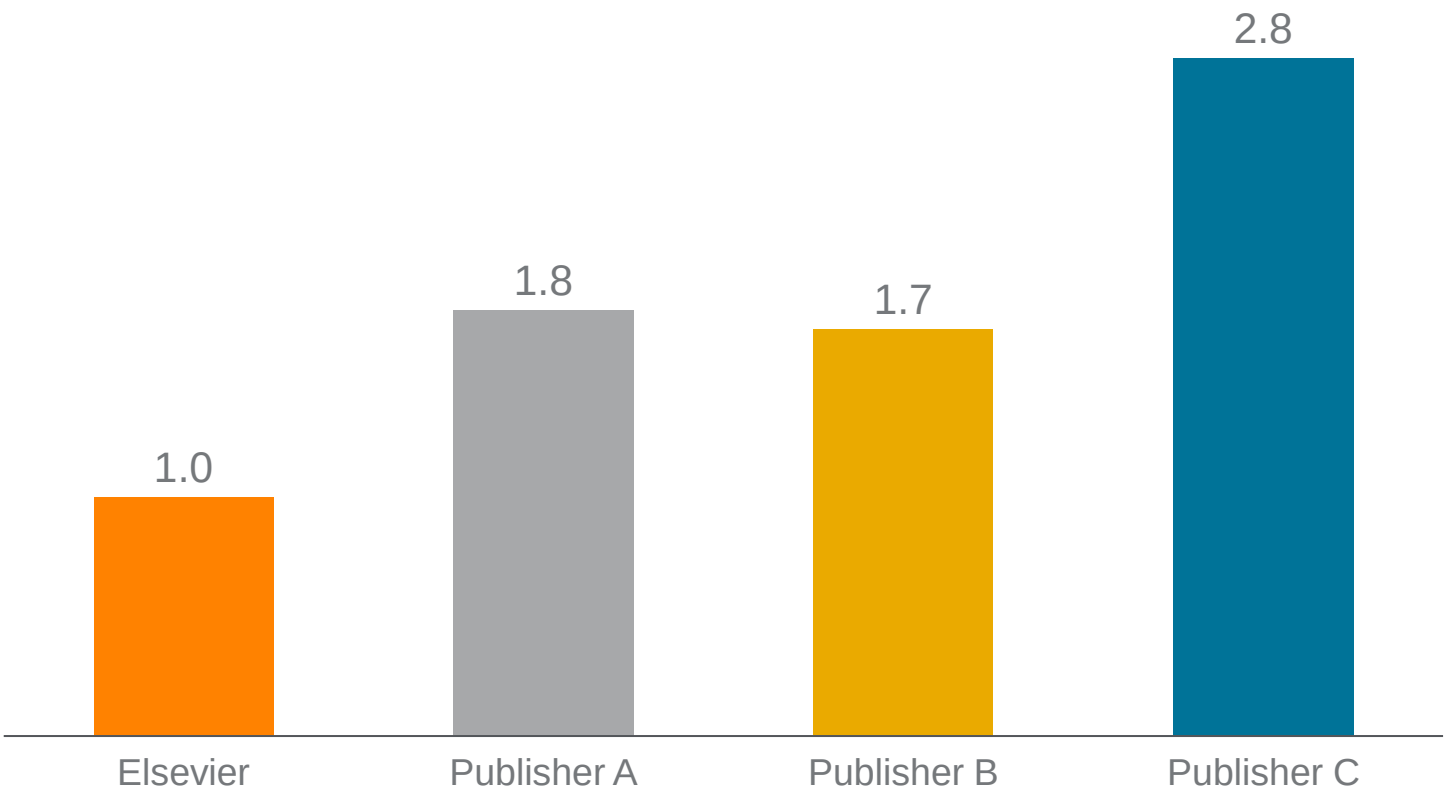
Indexed Average Subscription Article List Price*



** Indexed weighted average of list prices for 2019 subscription year versus articles published in 2019 taking Elsevier as baseline. Source: Publisher websites, Scopus data.*

Journal Article Price
Average list price per subscription article over time

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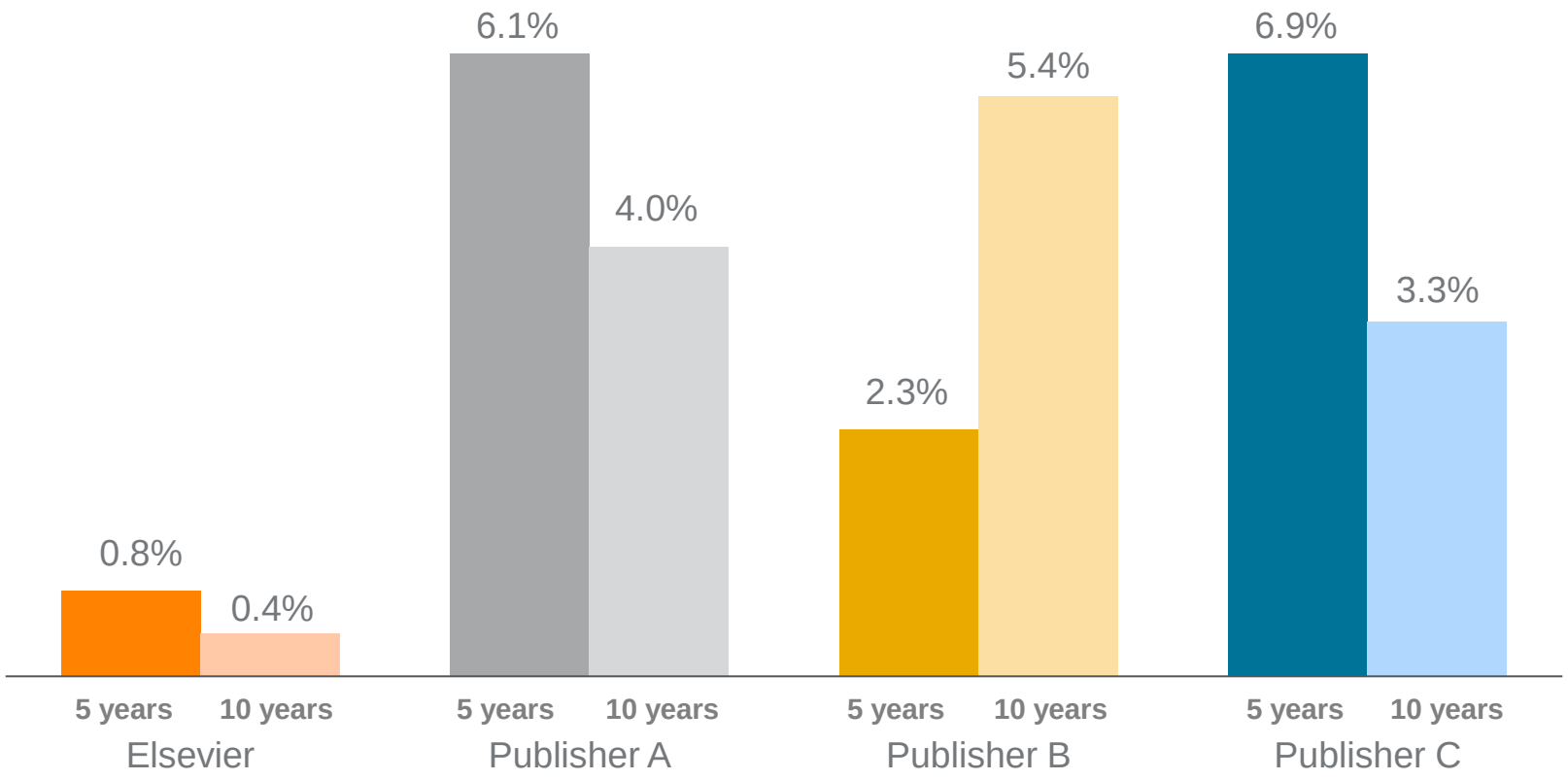
Growth Rate of Average Subscription Article List Price*



** 5-year (2015-2019) and 10-year (2010-2019) compound annual growth rates*
Source: Publisher websites, Scopus data.

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Thank you

2020