

5. Future Digital Government Publishing Strategies

The survey investigated three strategies for publishing DG research: creating a new journal dedicated to DG research, submitting individual DG articles to existing journals, or organizing special DG issues or symposia in existing journals. As individuals, respondents gave roughly equal support to two of these publication strategies: creating a new dedicated DG journal and promoting DG research in existing journals through DG special issues.

Willingness to submit digital government articles

Nearly nine in ten respondents (88 percent) were willing to respond to calls for DG special issues in existing journals. If a new journal were created, again nearly nine in ten (88 percent) were willing to submit their work to it. When asked if they would submit their best work, this figure declined to 76 percent. Although the survey did not ask respondents to indicate their tenure status, the comments suggest there might be such an effect at work. Some respondents said in the comments that they would need to publish their best work in their disciplinary journals in order to attain tenure.

Willingness to participate in the operation of a new journal

Respondents reported that they were very willing to serve as reviewers for a new dedicated journal (81 percent) and about three-quarters (72 percent) would serve on the editorial board. Respondents were slightly less willing to edit a special issue (60 percent), or serve as a topical editor (53 percent). About one in five would be interested in serving as managing editor (19 percent).

Differences among groups

Although the overall patterns of willingness were strongly favorable, there were some interesting differences among groups in their degree of willingness to participate. In general, respondents who taught DG courses were more willing to contribute to a new journal and organize DG special issues in existing journals. In addition, respondents who published at least one practitioner-oriented paper were more willing to contribute to a new journal and organize DG special issues in existing journals. Those who publish both practitioner-oriented papers and academic articles were more willing to contribute to a new journal than people who publish for only one audience or the other. In terms of disciplinary differences, respondents in the political and public sector disciplines were most willing to participate in these different publishing strategies.