



# Why every student should give Science Communication a shot?

Japan SciCom Forum 2024

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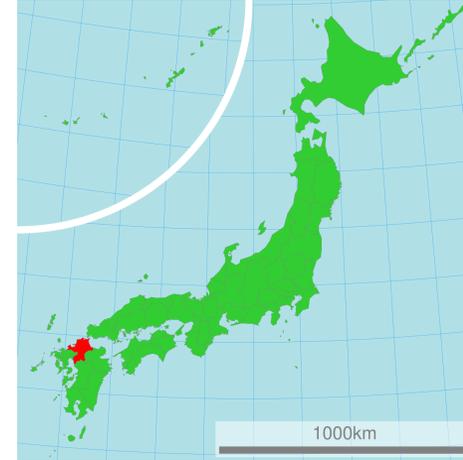




**Tehran, Iran**

**Alzahra University: Bachelor Student**

**Written for websites / Part-time staff at the  
University Cultural Center**



**Fukuoka, Japan**

**Kyushu University: Grad Student**

**Science communication intern at the  
Public Relations Initiative**



## Local community interested in reading global science news

- Globally: The main language used in science is **English**
- The main language used in Iran is **Persian**
- Some people are comfortable with **English** but not everyone
- **Local students** are interested in following the global progress in science



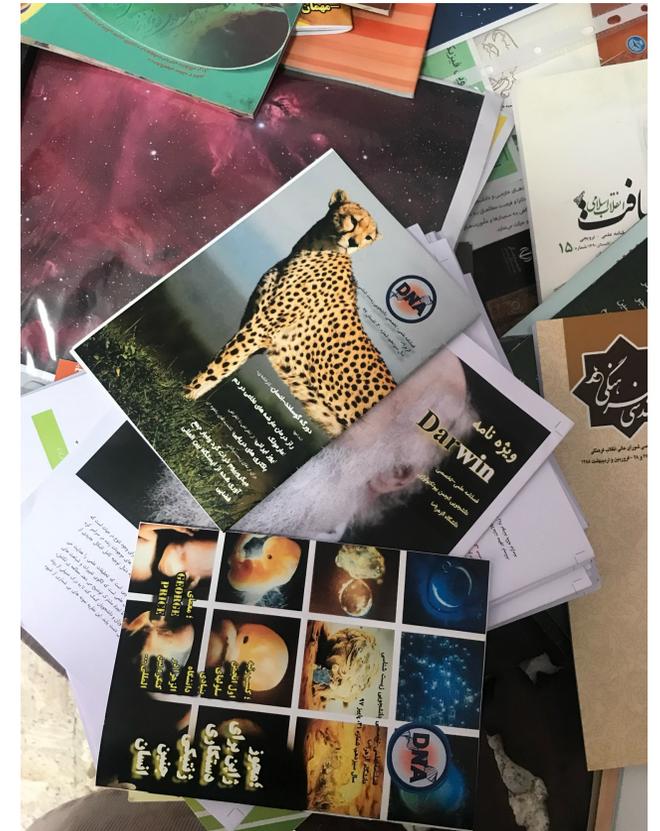


## Contents relying on translating English to local language

- Several writers translate the global news to address the language barrier
- **Almost all science outreach** contents/activities are in **Persian**
- I have written for student magazines, and a few science blogs and web pages
- Press releases/news: Prepared based on **translating** the English source

# What are Students STEM Magazines?

- ~70 **Student STEM** magazines at my former University
- DNA Magazine: Biotechnology Student Magazine
- Has been active for **19 years!**
- **Contents:** Reports on global science trends  
+ sharing info on local events, workshops, conferences, etc





## Students STEM Magazine : student-led initiative

- Published **quarterly**
- Contents **90% in Persian**
- **Writers:** Students (all levels), non-student guest writers
- **Readers:** **University & Highschool Students**
- **Supervised** by a faculty member

# How many people are reading us?

150-200 University students, but we have reached out to a **broader audience**

Around 4000 followers on Instagram

2023-2024 (last four issues):  
Average 3650 views on Telegram



# Internship in Japan

- **Since November 2023:** Science communication intern at the Public Relations Initiative
- **First time:** Preparing press releases and features in **English**
- **First time:** The activities are aimed at both **international** and **local** community





# Avoiding jargon and using English is challenging!

- As a student, I'm so used to **jargon** that I forget it can confuse or frustrate general audiences
- **Simplifying** helps keep everyone engaged
- I can use English! But I am not a native speaker!
  - 1- I made, make, and will make mistakes
  - 2- People might find my English difficult to understand
  - 3- I am grateful for having patient helpful teachers



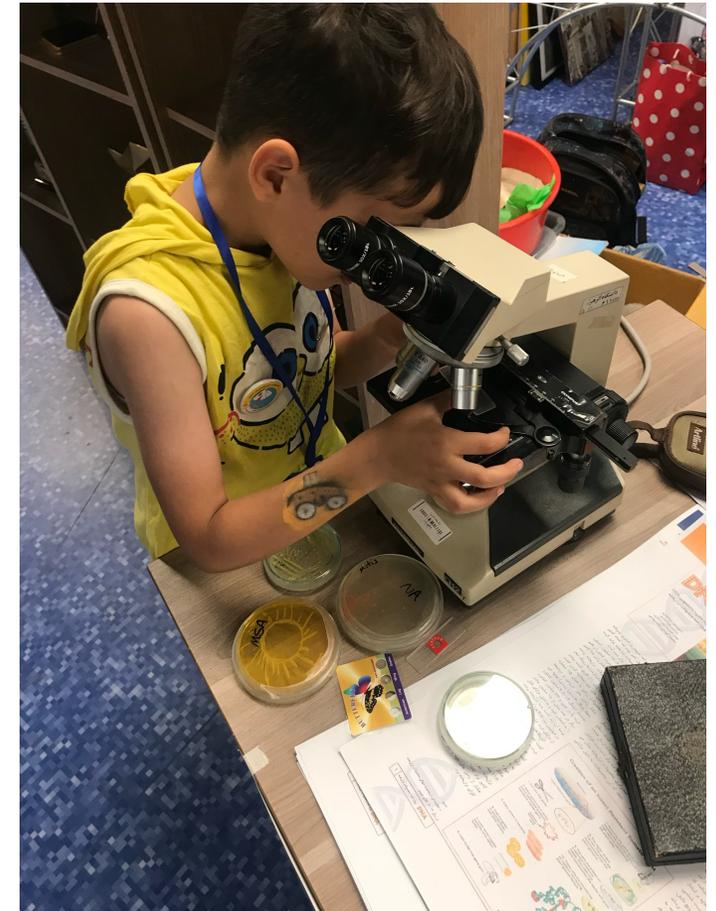
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# Students are responsible for staying connected with the general audience

- Grad students are mainly busy with research projects
- Students have **access to good learning materials**
- We have the **responsibility** to share about what we are learning



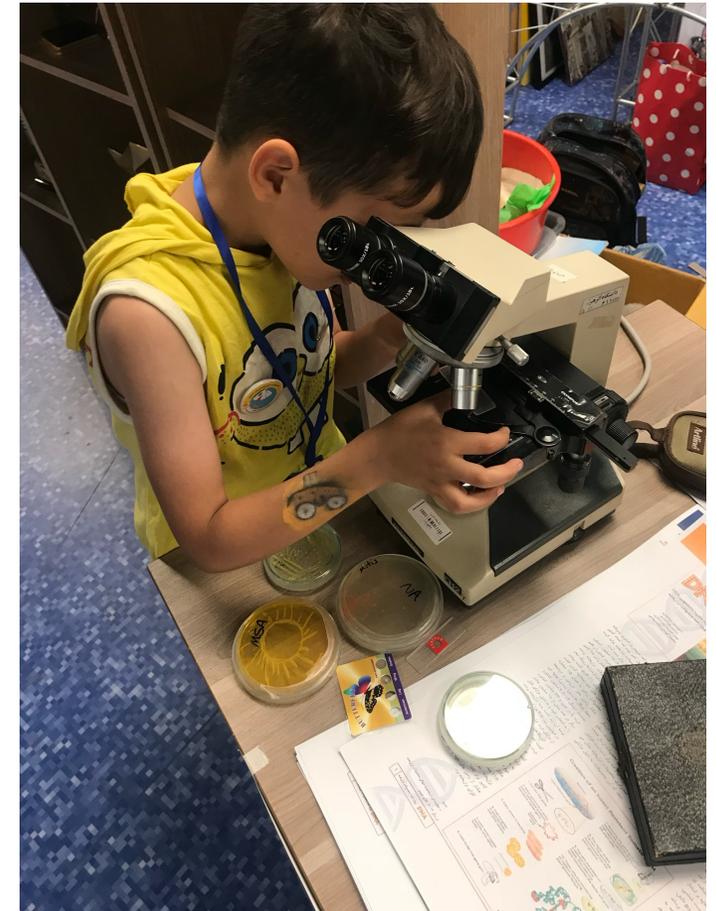


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**"Nothing in science has any value to society if it is not communicated."**

Anne Roe





# Science Communication helps us to become better researchers

- Some researchers who produce high-quality research may not be equally good at teaching, presenting, or communicating their work
- **Necessary soft skills** → becoming better researchers
- Becoming better at communicating, networking and finding our community



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- **Necessary soft skills** → becoming better researchers
- Becoming better at communicating, networking and finding our community
- Sci-com brings a perfect **learning opportunity**



# Finding the right community is challenging





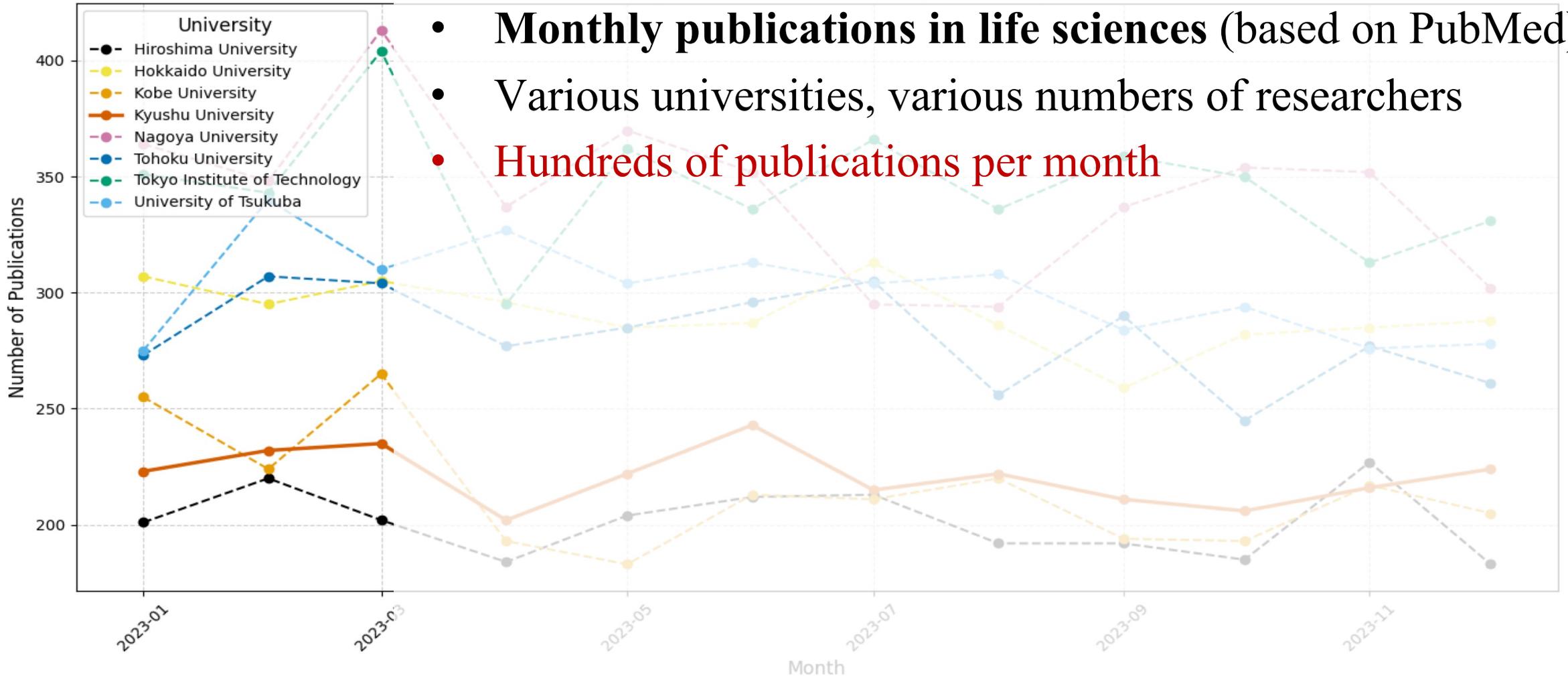
I know I am obviously **not alone** but it has been difficult to find the communities of students and researchers that **share my research interests**





# In fact, there is a lot of great research happening all around us!

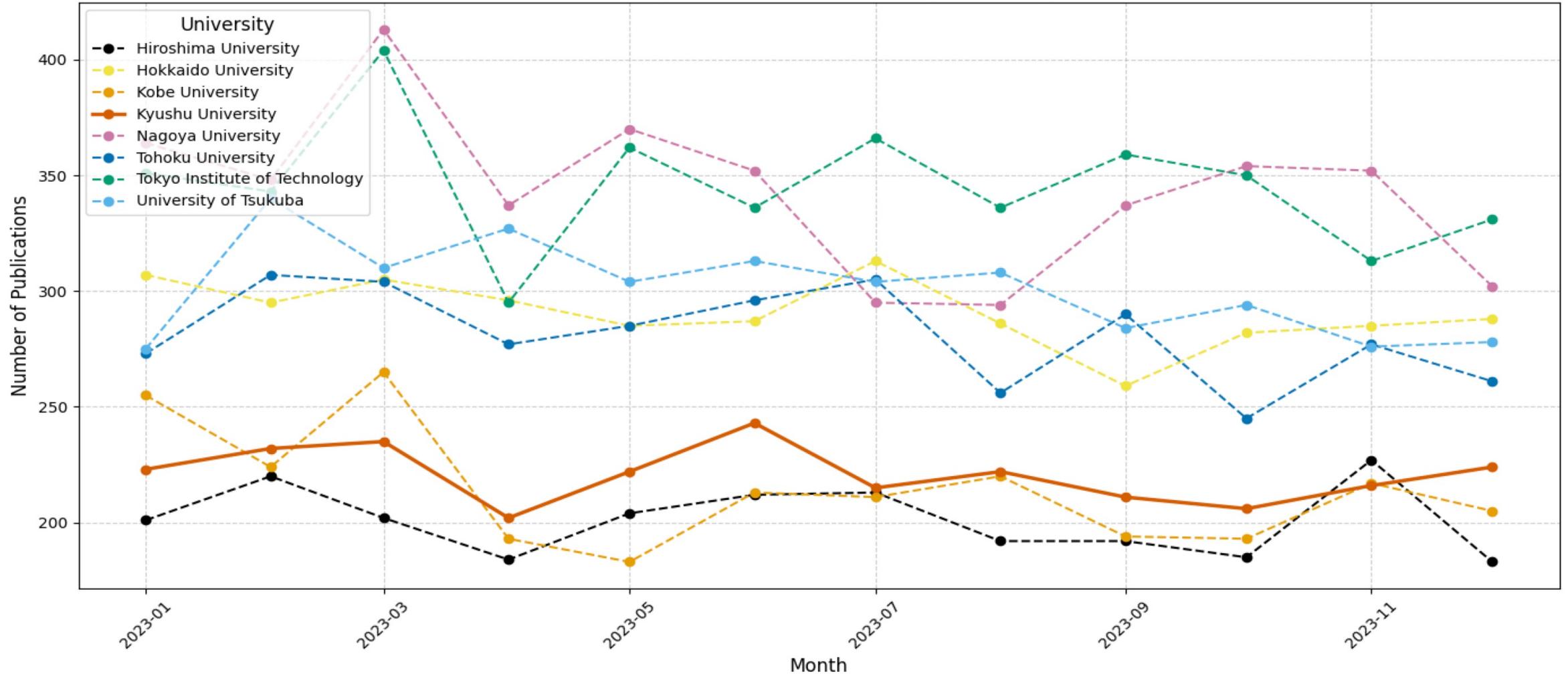
Monthly PubMed Publications by University



- Monthly publications in life sciences (based on PubMed)
- Various universities, various numbers of researchers
- Hundreds of publications per month

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Monthly PubMed Publications by University





# Sometimes is struggling to find researchers

For instance, when I am looking for a research paper/researcher:

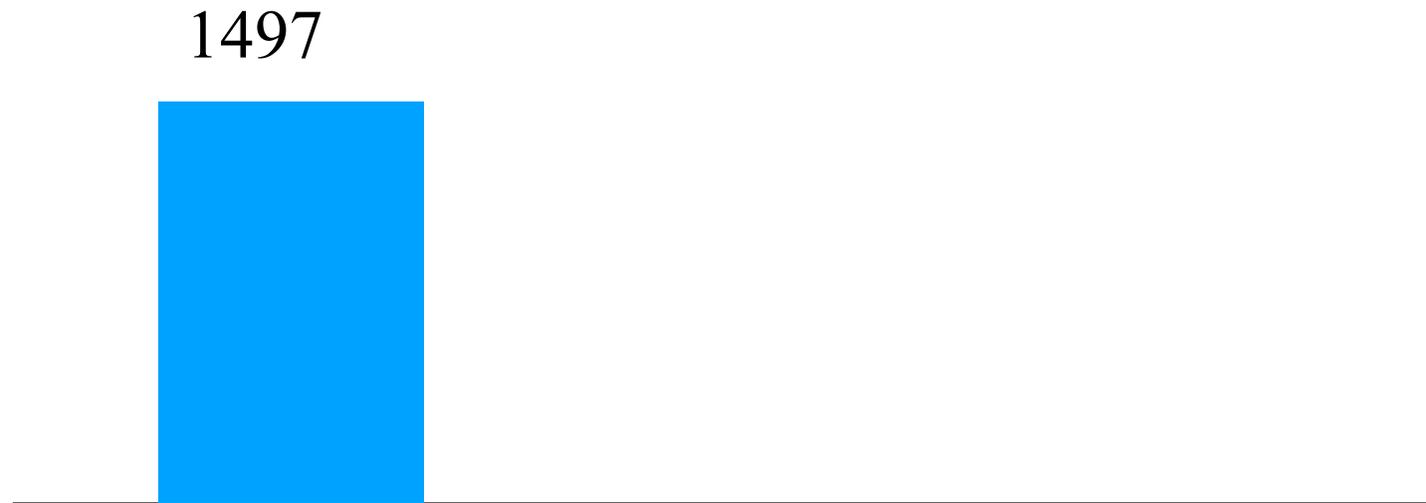
I will start with [Google Scholar](#) since it has good coverage for papers from around the world





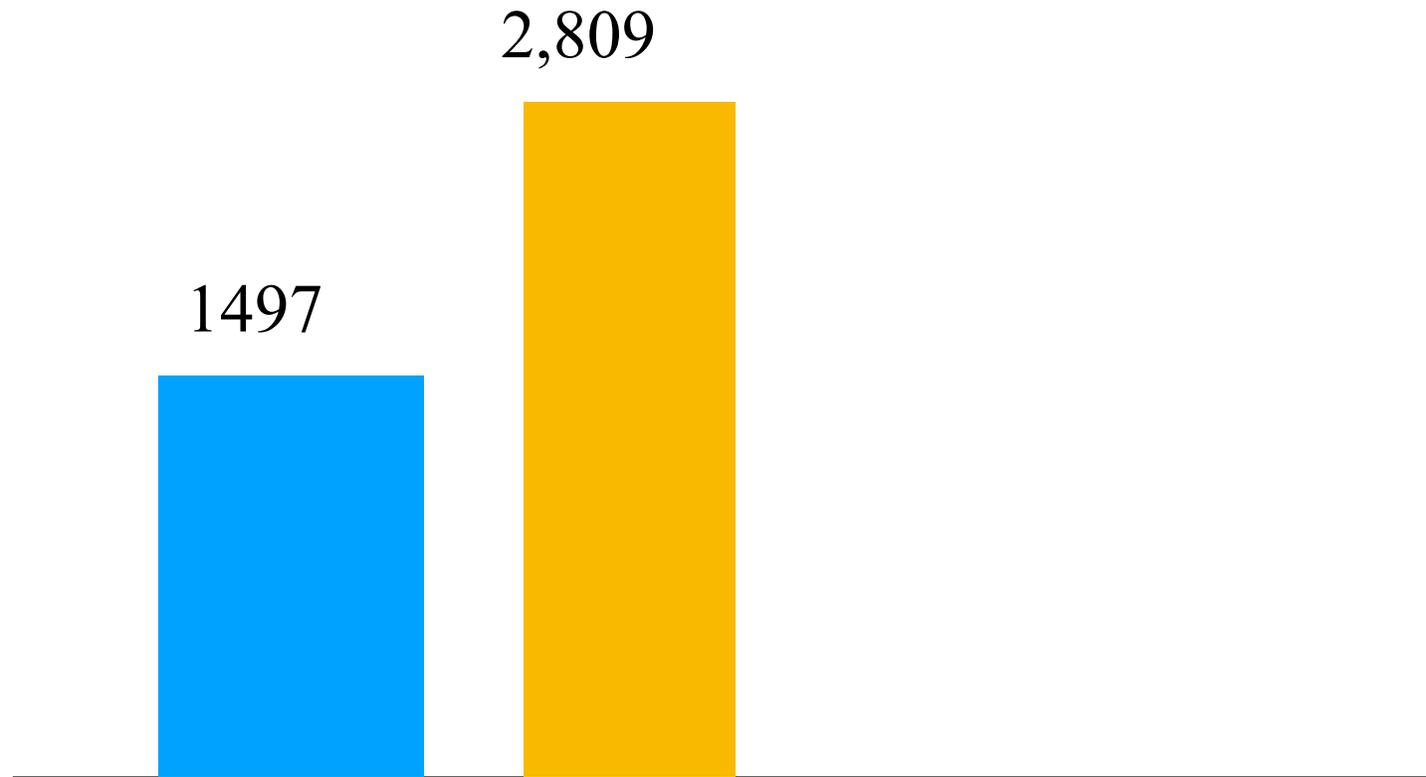
# Difficulty of finding researcher in a globally used platform

1497 users from **Kyushu University** on **Google Scholar**  
(including faculty members and students )



# University pages can offer more information

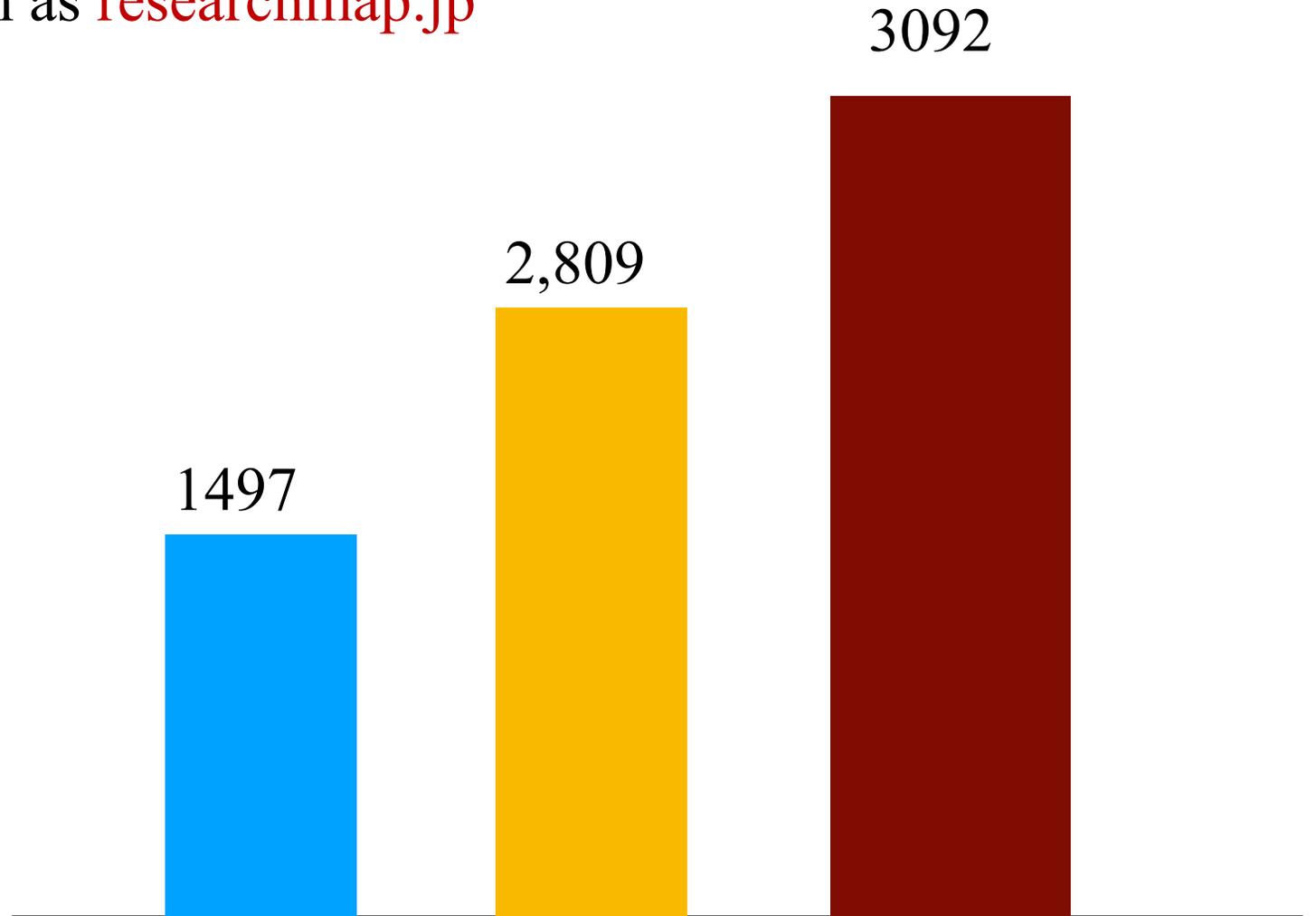
If we check Kyushu University's webpage: **2809 Researchers** (students not included)





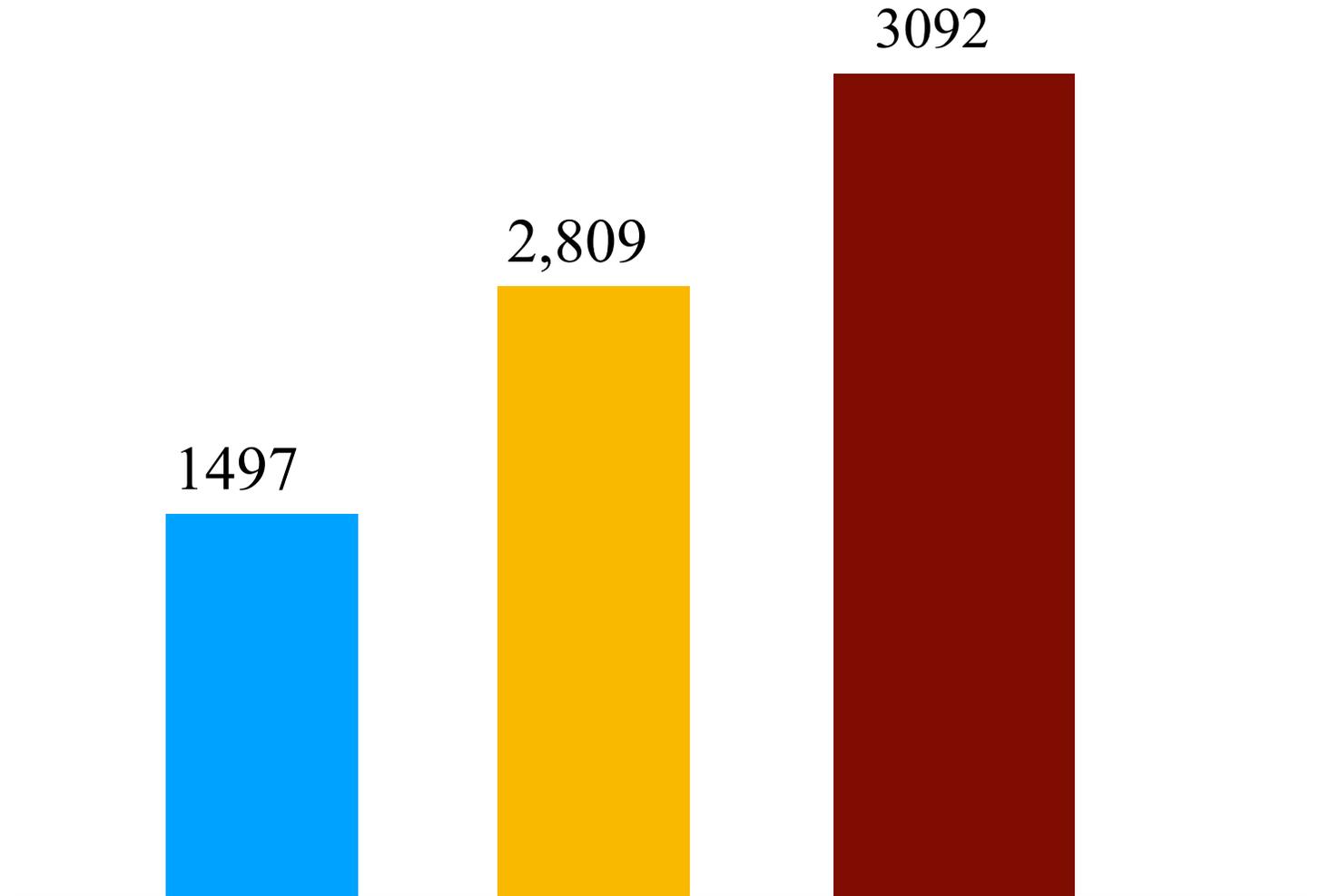
# Local researchers using local platforms

If we check local platforms such as [researchmap.jp](https://researchmap.jp)



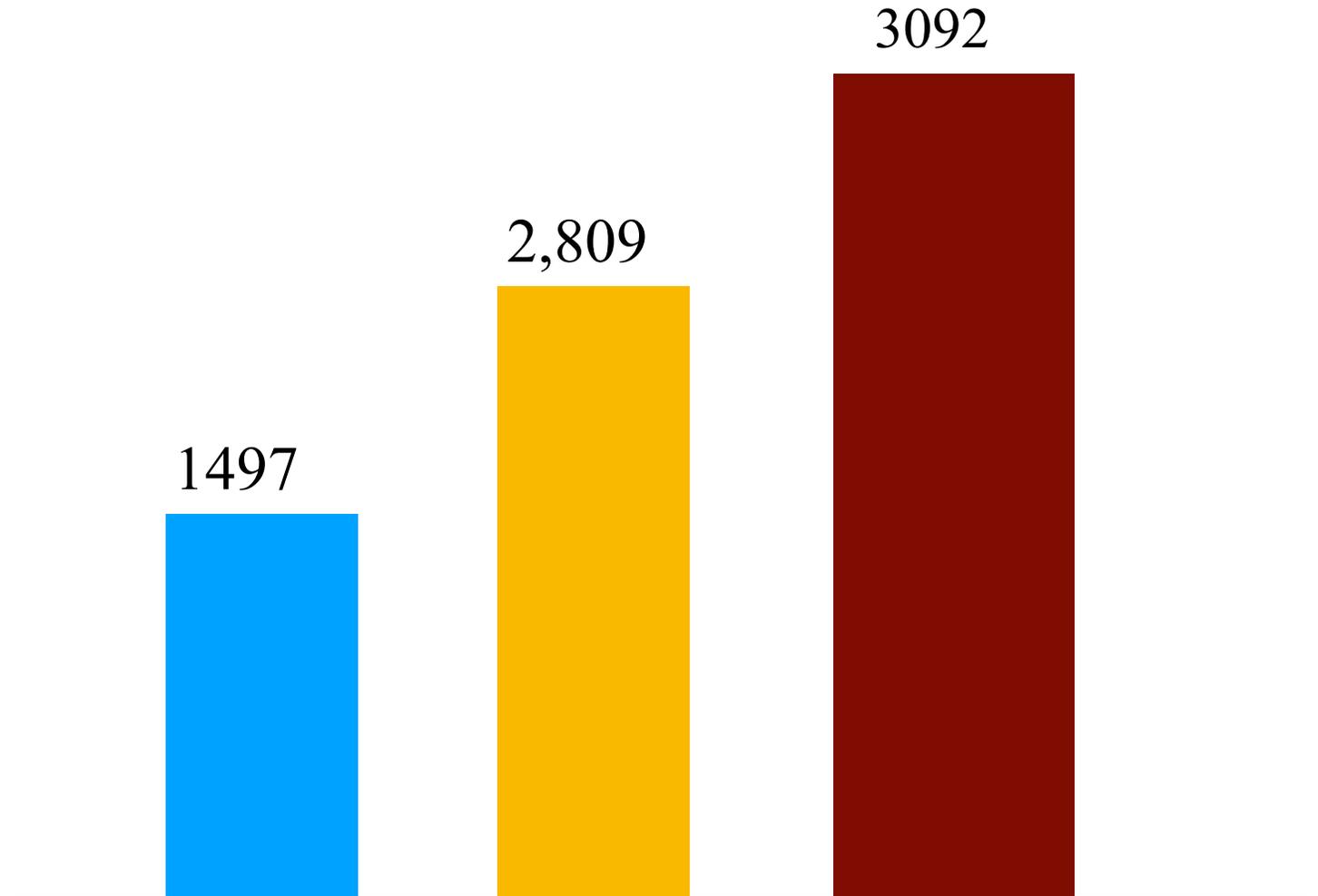
## Finding local researchers can be difficult for the international audience

- If we check local platforms such as [researchmap.jp](#)
- Frequently used by locals, (grad students and faculty members)
- It is difficult for international researchers/students to learn about Japanese scientists



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## Enhancing online visibility by communicating research

- **Better visibility** by sharing research on public platforms
- Platforms like LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and Bibliometric databases, etc.
- **Simplify networking**, offers opportunities to connect with peers and professionals

# How often we are talking about various articles?

1. **Collected the articles** published in Life Sciences from researchers who are affiliated with **Kyushu University** from *PubMed (2023-10 till 2024-9)*

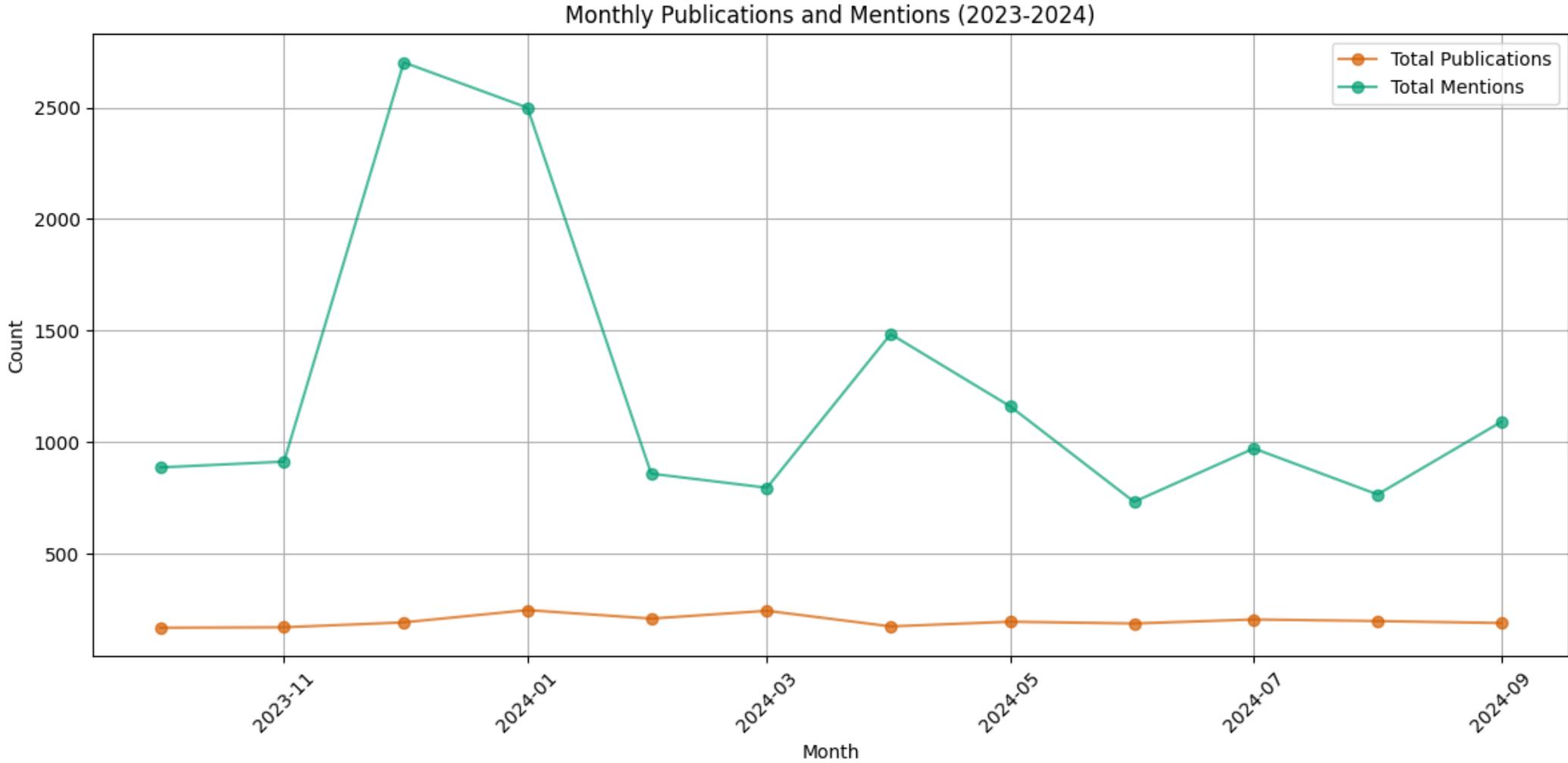


2- **Used Altmetric** to track if the studies are mentioned online (Tweeted on X or appeared on news feeds)

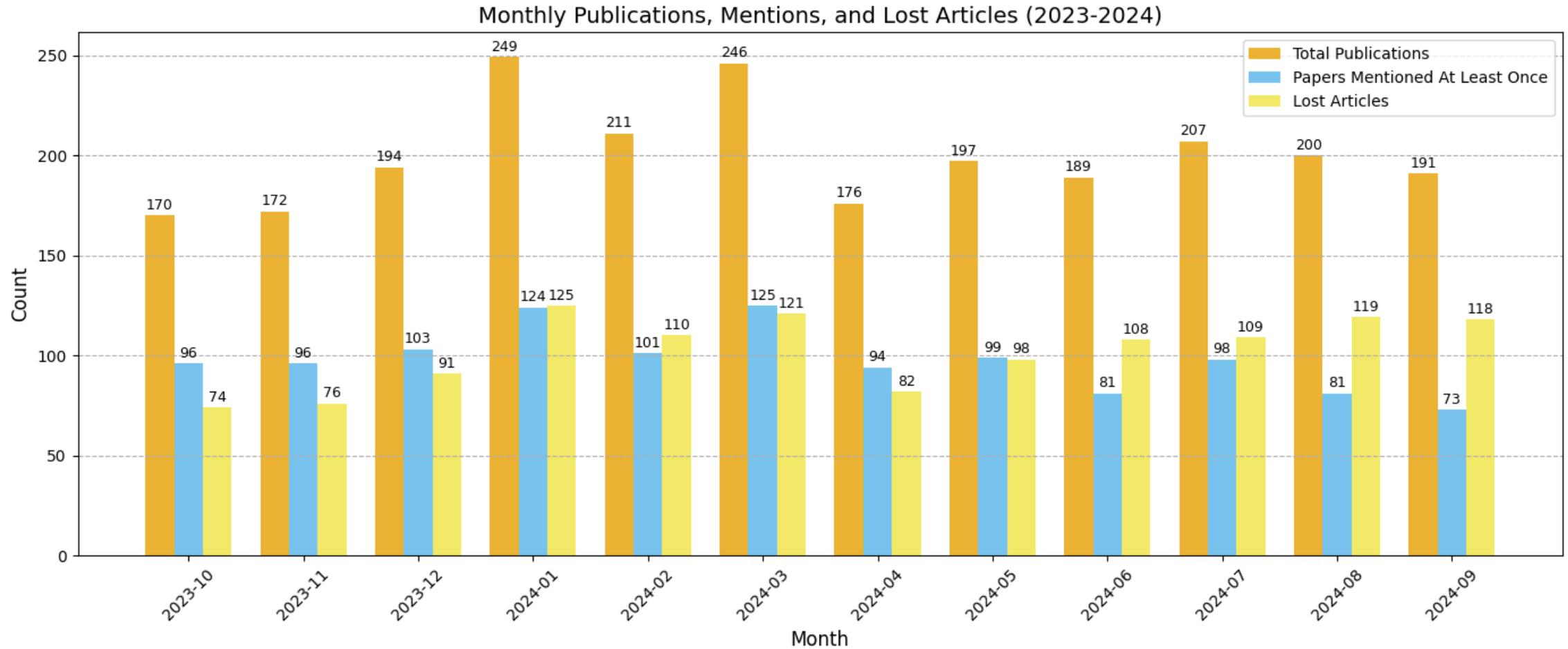


**Caveats:** limited to specific fields, Altmetric is not essentially precise, it can provide us with a rough idea

# Many studies, lots of communications



# Yet, lots of studies are not communicated



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# Good research is time-consuming

# Communication is time-consuming

- Many **graduate students** are doing research
- The University PR office **has a limited number of science communicators**



# Good research is time-consuming Communication is time-consuming

- Many **graduate students** are doing research
- The University PR office **has a limited number of science communicators**
- **Students can help to address this gap!**

**‘Science is not finished until it’s communicated’**

Mark Walport



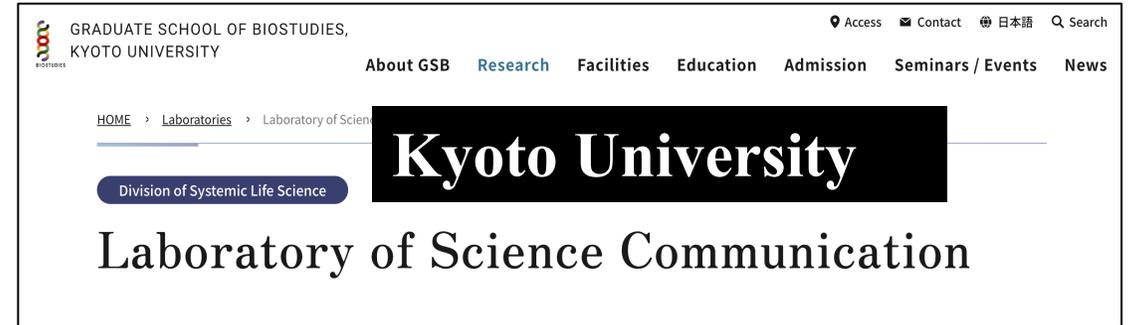
# Japan needs more students engaging in Science Outreach

- Students can take the lead and practice themselves
- However, providing structured training is a **necessity**
- For instance: offering extra-classes, minor courses, internships, etc



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**The Japan-U.S. Science Communication & Policy Fellowship Network**

The Japan-U.S. Science Communication & Policy Fellowship Network enables meaningful Japan-U.S. cooperation on global challenges by bridging a critical gap between science and policy. The Program brings together early-career scientists from Japan and the U.S. to engage in bilateral training and exchange for effective science communication and policy.

**Japan-US exchange fellowship**

The program is supported by the [Graduate University's Center for Professional Development & Academic Excellence \(CPD\)](#), the [University Institute Group](#), and the [University of California, Riverside Science to Policy](#); it is funded by The Japan Foundation.



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## Conclusion

- Outreach and communication is a crucial part of working in science
- Many research findings aren't shared widely.
- Students should lead in sharing their work.

### **For students:**

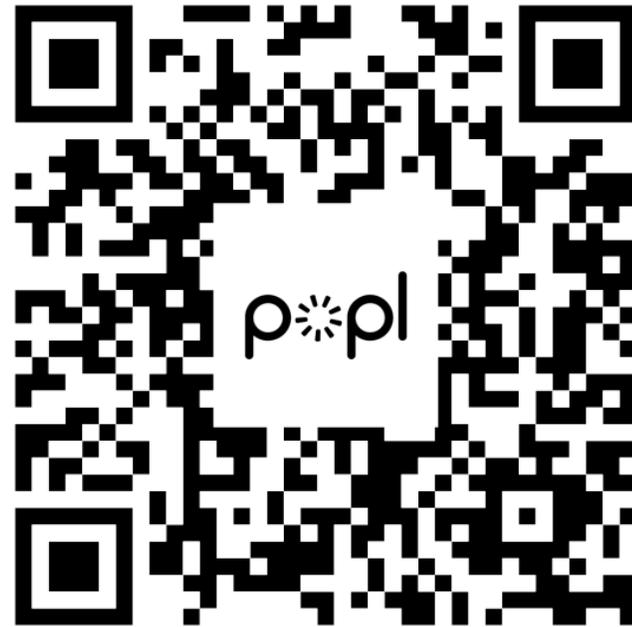
- Builds necessary soft skills for career growth.
- Strengthens connections with local communities.
- Enables international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

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**Thank you!**  
**ありがとうございます！**



Let's get connected!