

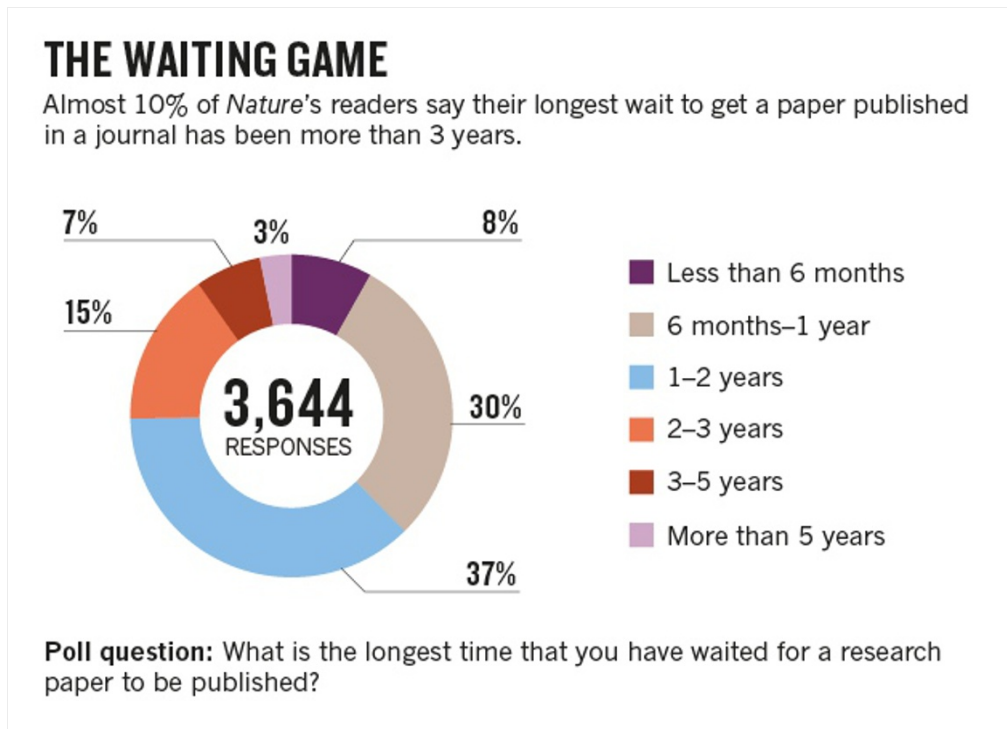
Snail's pace: *Nature* readers on their longest wait to get published

Online poll suggests 10% have had a paper held for at least 3 years.

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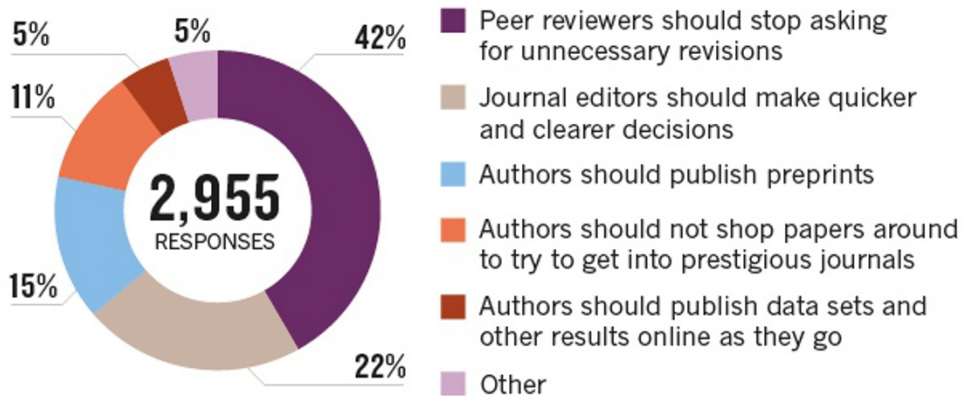
TREND WATCH: A poll answered by more than 3,600 *Nature* readers suggests that some 10% have waited at least 3 years for one or more of their papers to be published in a journal. But more than one-third have never waited longer than a year. The online poll accompanied a feature article on [scientists' frustrations with the time it takes to publish papers](#).



Nature also asked readers what they thought was the best way to speed up publication of scientific papers. Of nearly 3,000 responses, more than 40% suggested that peer reviewers should stop asking for unnecessary revisions in manuscripts, and another 22% asked journal editors to make quicker and clearer decisions.

SPEEDING UP PUBLICATION

Almost two-thirds of *Nature's* readers suggested that the key to getting papers published faster is for peer reviewers or journal editors to change their working styles.



Poll question: What is the best way to speed up the publication of scientific papers?

Only 15% suggested that authors should publish preprints and make their work available online before formal peer review. A meeting about how to encourage biologists to do just that, [ASAPbio](#), is being held this week at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

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