

WP5 Integrated User Access

Report on requirements: Survey on existing comparable systems and report on requirements and framework for common data exchange (to be delivered: month 12)

Reviewer Survey Proposal Procedures

A survey was conducted among neutron scientists acting as reviewers in review committees of European neutron facilities rating proposals for beam time by scientific merit. Topics tackled by the survey were to evaluate the frequency, activity and work load of the reviewers, their comment on the organization of the review and their point of view regarding harmonization of proposal structures and review process. The survey was held anonymous and 29 responses were received. Estimating a number of 200 individual scientists acting as reviewers in current European review panels the survey reflects the opinion of at least 15% of the reviewer community of the European neutron facilities.

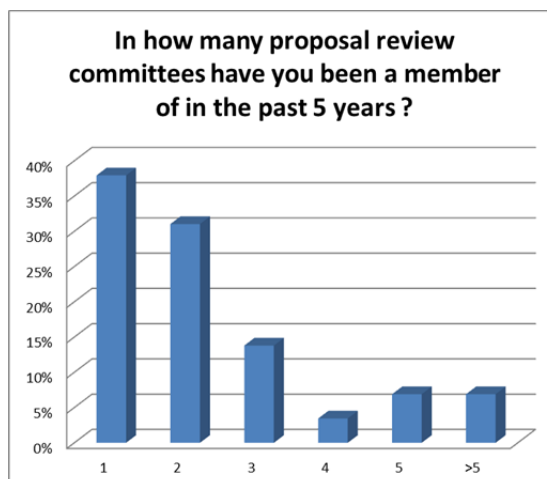
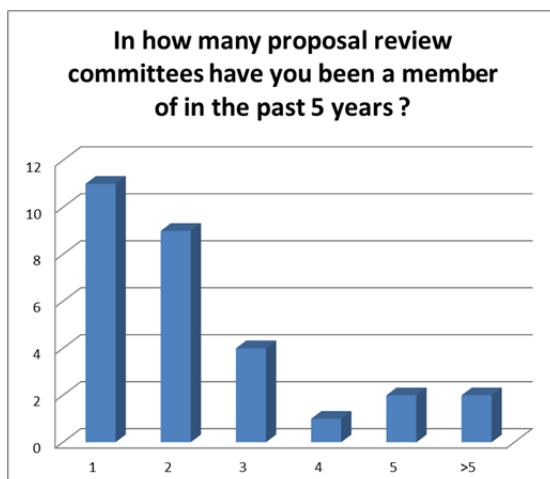
The survey shows that a single reviewer usually is active in 1 or 2 committees (69 %). The majority is active between 2 and 3 years in the committees (41 %) but nearly 1/3 is active more as 5 years (31 %). Within a year most reviewers review between 30-50 proposals (31 %) or more (50-100 proposals, 28 %). On average they invest between 0.5 (28%) and 1 (34%) hour time to review a single proposal.

The majority of the proposals to review is distributed to the reviewer as printed document (24 % and 34 % with additional web based access). 28% receive the proposals as pdf document. The reviewers prefer in their majority printed documents (56 %). Most reviews are submitted electronically (83 %) which is also the preferred option of the reviewers (68 %) but a large fraction also votes for personal meetings (56 %). There is also a clear preference to meet in person and have panel meetings (83 % rate this as important, rate 8-10). Video conferences are clearly not in favor (45 % no).

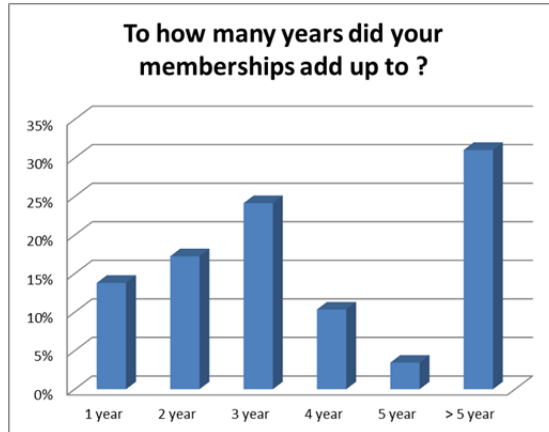
Most reviewers consider current existing web base user office systems as helpful (62 %). Only a minority considers them as "too complicated" (14 %). A clear majority is in favor of harmonized forms or procedures to review proposals across individual facilities (48 %). On the other only a minority considers a centralized review process or review panel across the facilities as useful (24 %), the majority is uncertain (maybe, 48 %).

Individual results

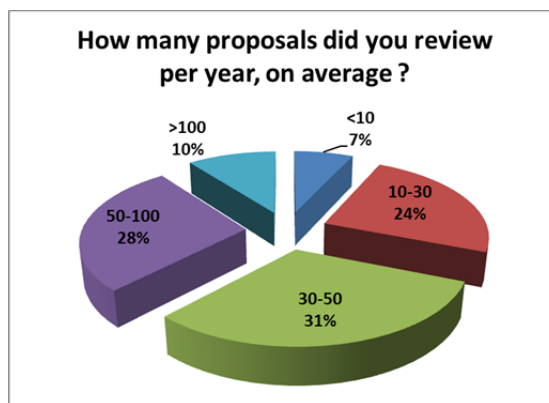
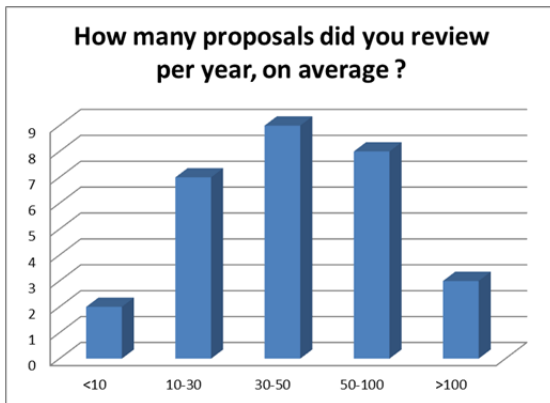
In how many proposal review committees have you been a member of in the past 5 years?



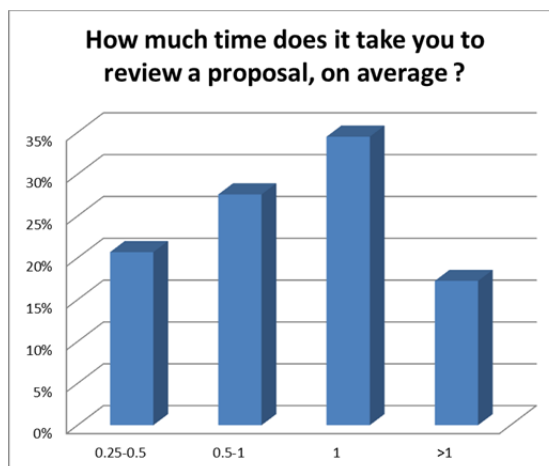
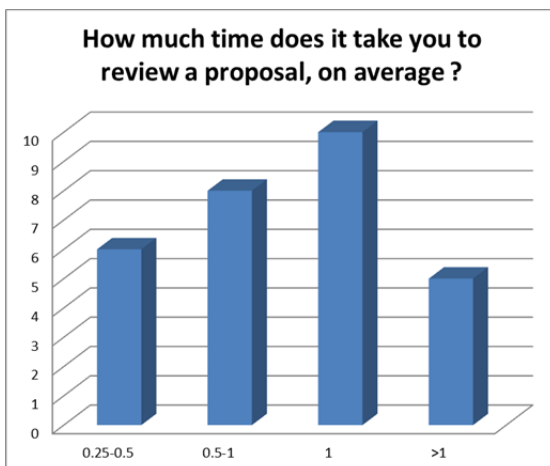
To how many years did your memberships add up to (possibly >>10)?



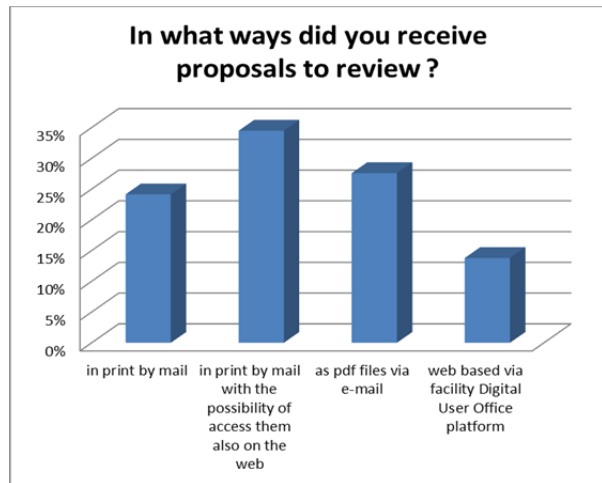
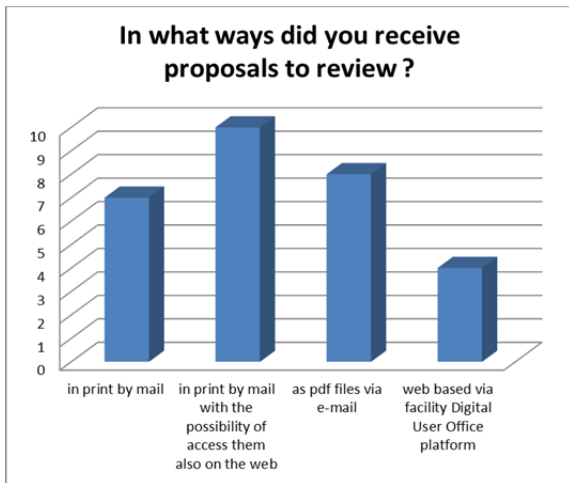
How many proposals did you review per year, on average?



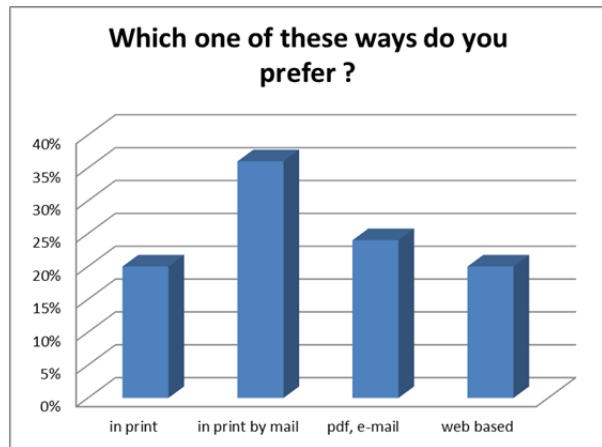
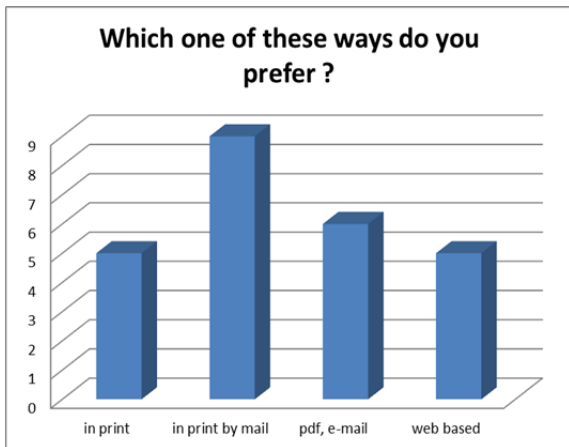
How much time does it take you to review a proposal, on average (Please estimate in hours)?



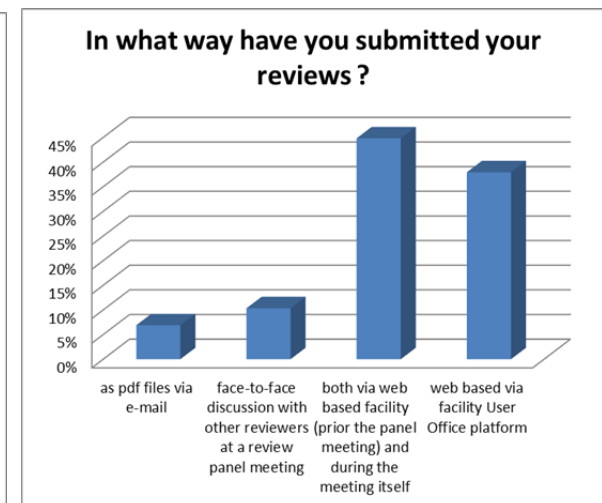
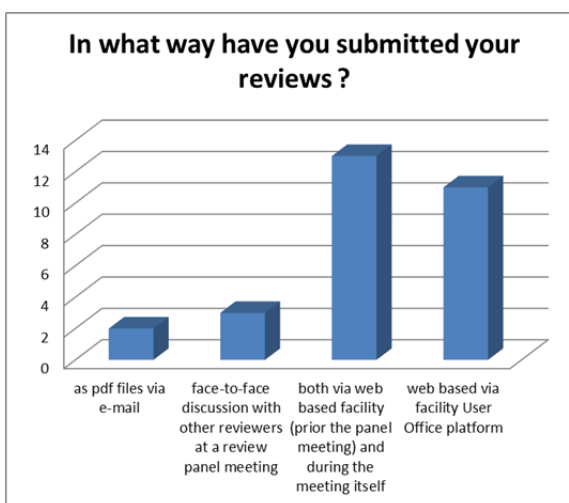
In what ways did you receive proposals to review?



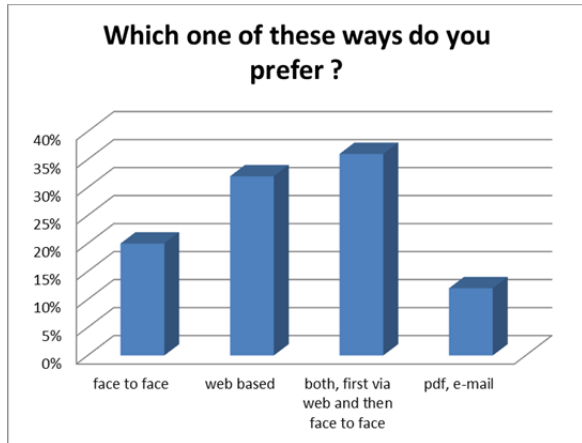
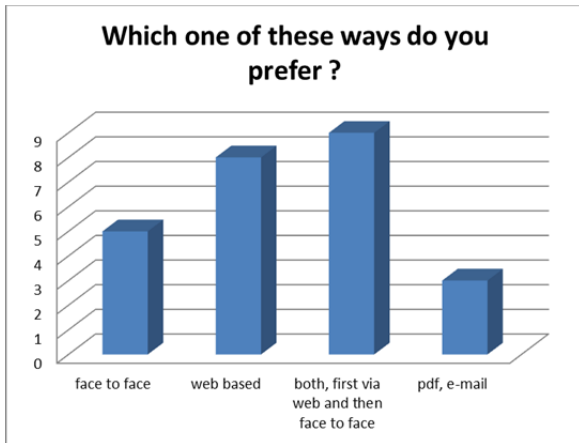
Which one of these ways do you prefer?



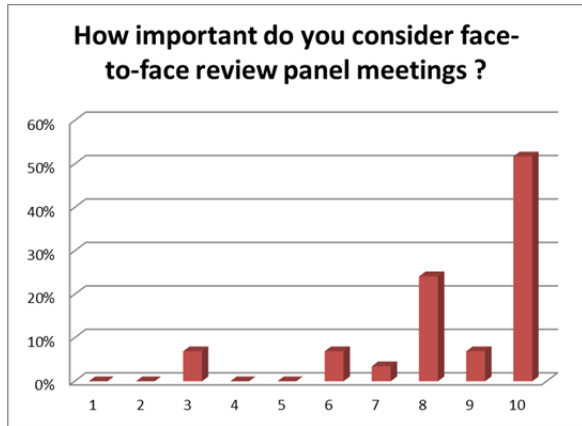
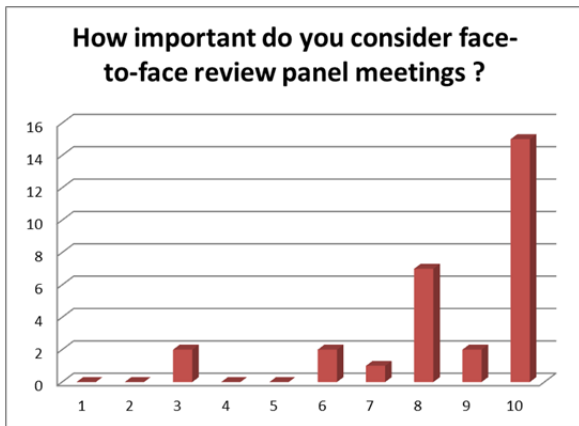
In what way have you submitted your reviews?



Which one of these ways do you prefer?



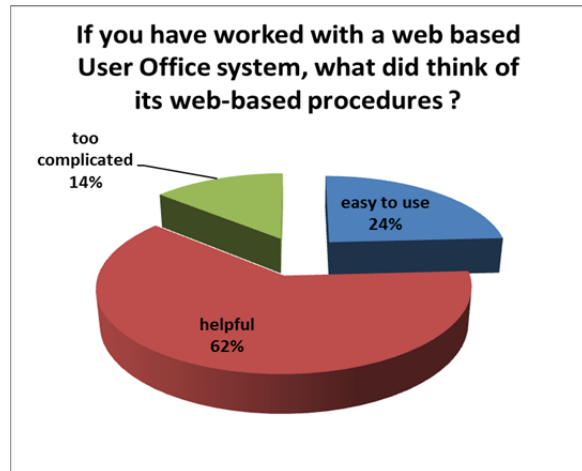
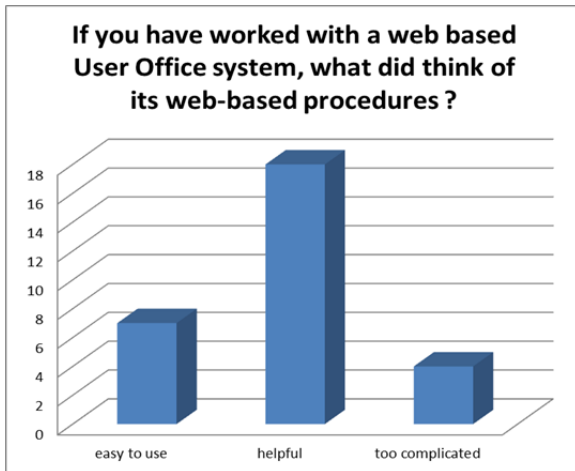
How important do you consider face-to-face review panel meetings?
(give grades for 0 (unimportant) to 10 (very important))



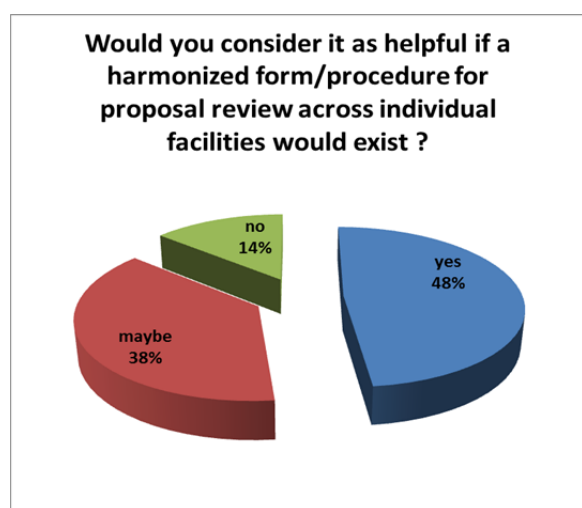
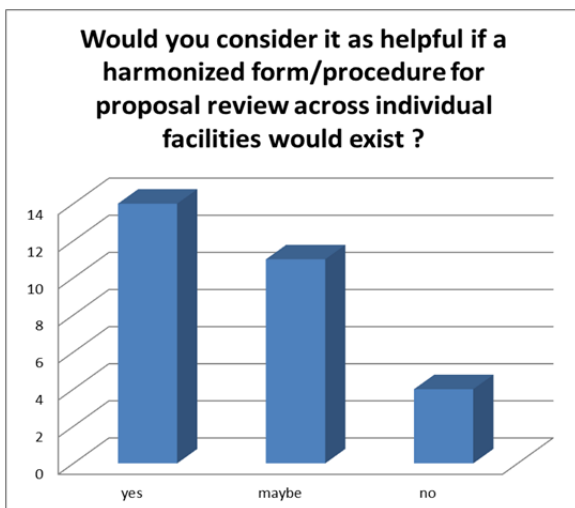
Are skype or video conferences useful alternatives for face-to-face reviewer meetings?



If you have worked with a web based User Office system, what did you think of its web-based procedures?



Would you consider it as helpful if a harmonized form/procedure for proposal submission across individual facilities would exist?



Would you consider it as helpful if a centralized review process/panel across individual facilities would exist?

