

# Accessibility and diversity of Cochrane Systematic Reviews

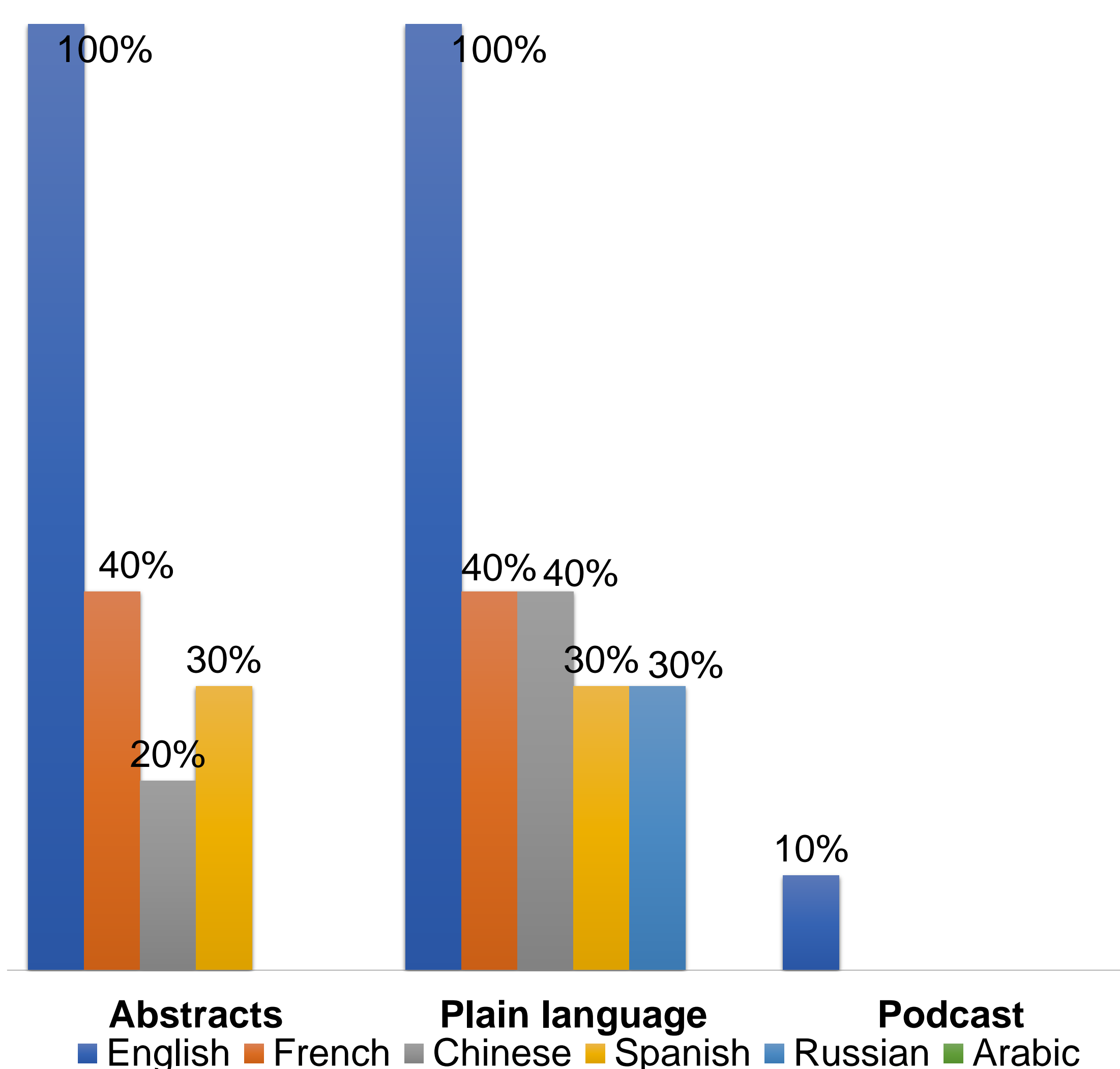
## The Problem

It is estimated that there are around **6000 languages in the world**. In science, the main form of propagation of knowledge occurs through the English language. However, 75% of the world population does not have the expertise to speak, write or read English, which may delay the spread of information from interventions that can assist in making important health decisions. **The lack of accessibility to information amplifies inequalities**. Thus, Cochrane has included in its **Strategy for 2020** "accessibility and usefulness of evidence for all, everywhere in the world." To achieve this goal, Cochrane aims to translate important contents through the 'multi-lingual' plan into the other five official languages according to the World Health Organization: French, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic.

## Methods

- We searched the CENTRAL database to identify the 10 most read systematic reviews on 1 April, 2019.
- Two researchers tracked the 10 most widely read reviews and checked whether their summaries and Plain language summaries had translations into the languages proposed in the Strategy to 2020: French, Chinese, Spanish, Russian, Arabic; and whether the podcast was available in the same languages described above.

## Key Results



## Relevance to patients and consumers

Disseminating information can bring to patients high-quality information accessibility. The translations of abstracts, plain language summaries and podcasts are an important way of reducing inequalities, such as in patients visual deficiency or deafness. It can also bring patients the possibility of discussing better treatments with physicians and health professionals.

- **Cochrane collaborators** have been **working on the translations** of Abstracts and Plain language summaries and on the production of podcasts in order **to make the best evidence accessible** to as many professionals, managers, and patients/consumers as possible, including the most diverse languages and physical and socioeconomic conditions.
- In the future, **to facilitate interpretation and decision-making in health**, it is important that the most widely read reviews are primarily translated into the other five official languages.
- **Relevance to diversity:** Propagating the accessibility of Cochrane Reviews is one way of ensuring that the best evidence in the literature reaches the entire world community.



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