

Appendix 5: Questions from surveys pertaining to summarises in Tables and Appendices

Information/question type	Authors survey	Readers survey	Reviewers survey	Table/Appendix where data is summarised
Journal				Appendix 1
Characteristics of respondents' interaction with supplementary material	1	1	1	Appendix 6
	2		2	not included
Preferred option for providing/reading/receiving supplementary material by each group	3	2	3	Appendix 7
Who supplementary materials is most useful to	4	3	4	Table 2, Appendix 7
Authors' views on what the expect journal editors, peer reviewers and readers to do with supplementary materials	5			Appendix 10
Readers' perceptive on what should be done with supplementary materials		4 & 5		Appendix 11
Reviewers' perspective of what peer reviewers do , should do and are expected to do with supplementary materials			5, 6 & 7	Appendix 12
Where supplementary material should be published	6	6	8	Appendix 9
In general, how often do you think this adds value to a research paper?		7		not included
Please provide any additional comments you have about the submission or publication of supplementary material:	7	8	9	string, not included
Approximately how many years have you been an active researcher?	8	9	10	Table 1
Approximately how many research papers have you had published in a peer reviewed journal as either an author or a coauthor?	9	10	11	Table 1
How frequently do you read articles in medical journals?	10	11	12	Table 1
Would you like to receive a copy of the results of this study when it is complete?	11	12	13	Table 1

Appendix 6: Characteristics of respondents' interaction with supplementary material N (%)

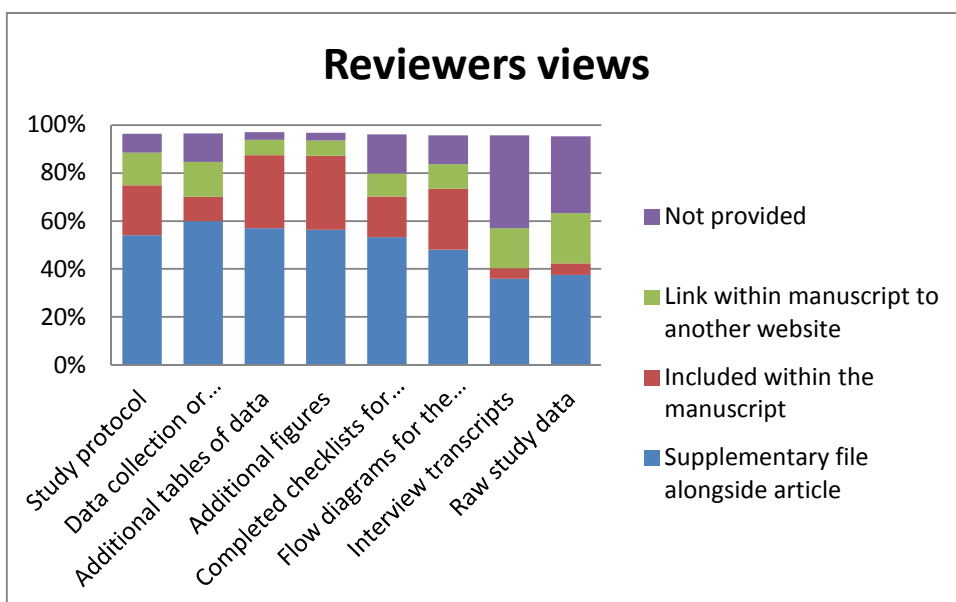
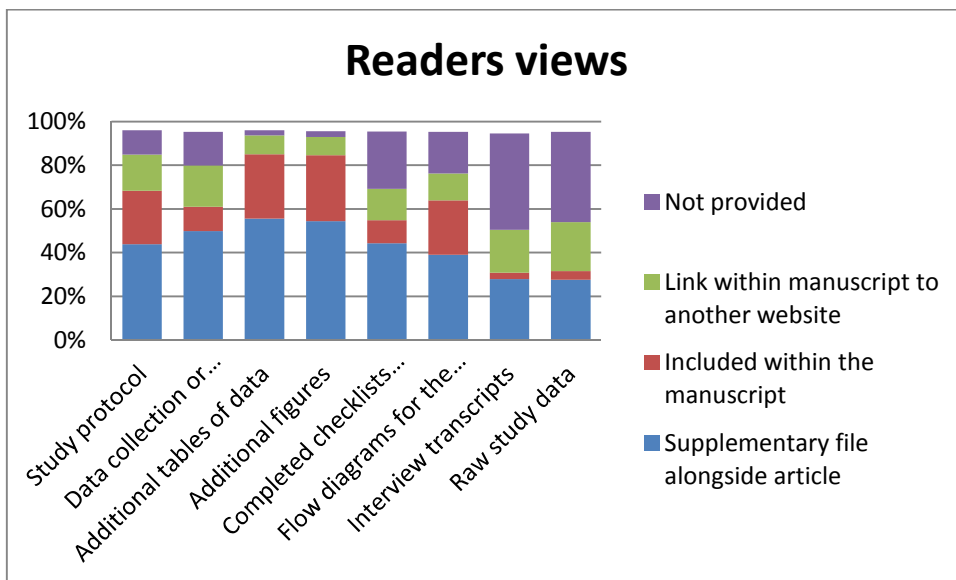
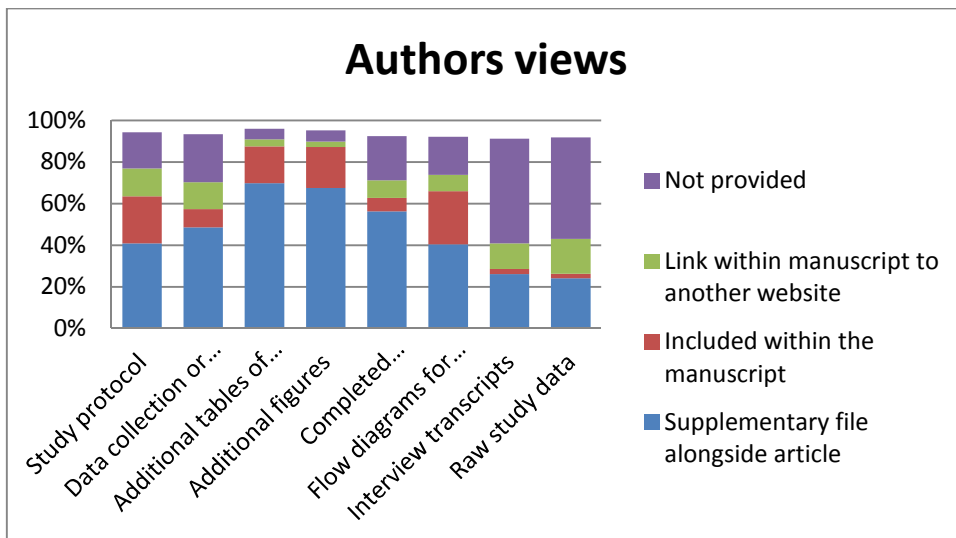
	Authors		Readers		Reviewers		
	Yes	No*	Yes	No*	Rare	Sometimes	Often**
Did the last article that you read /submitted contain:							
(a) study protocol	165 (20)	497 (61)	211 (23)	544 (60)	695 (61)	316 (28)	104 (9)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	184 (23)	469 (57)	151 (17)	548 (64)	638 (56)	403 (35)	69 (6)
(c) additional tables of data	604 (74)	161 (20)	608 (67)	207 (23)	121 (11)	619 (54)	392 (34)
(d) additional figures	470 (57)	256 (31)	486 (53)	298 (33)	184 (16)	600 (53)	338 (30)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines	323 (39)	341 (42)	181 (20)	502 (55)	502 (44)	439 (38)	158 (14)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline ^a	175 (21)	458 (56)	202 (22)	506 (56)	505 (44)	448 (39)	147 (13)
(g) interview transcripts	20 (2)	524 (64)	26 (3)	658 (72)	956 (84)	77 (7)	12 (1)
(h) raw study data	83 (10)	547 (67)	64 (7)	697 (77)	966 (85)	116 (10)	18 (2)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

** Categories define as: Rare = “never” / “almost never”, Sometimes= “sometimes”, and Often = “almost every time” / “every time”

^a (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)

Appendix 7: Preferred option for providing/reading/receiving supplementary material by each group



Views Overall (n=2872)

Supplementary Material	Supplementary file alongside article	Included within the manuscript	Link within manuscript to another website	Not provided
(a) study protocol	1352 (47.1%)	646 (22.5%)	414 (14.4%)	336 (11.7%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	1536 (53.5%)	291 (10.1%)	442 (15.4%)	465 (16.2%)
(c) additional tables of data	1728 (60.2%)	761 (26.5%)	180 (6.3%)	100 (3.5%)
(d) additional figures	1693 (58.9%)	787 (27.4%)	170 (5.9%)	105 (3.7%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	1473 (51.3%)	343 (11.9%)	309 (10.8%)	599 (20.9%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	1235 (43.0%)	726 (25.3%)	293 (10.2%)	461 (16.1%)
(g) interview transcripts	878 (30.6%)	97 (3.4%)	470 (16.4%)	1255 (43.7%)
(h) raw study data	878 (30.6%)	108 (3.8%)	581 (20.2%)	1141 (39.7%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Authors (n=819)

Supplementary Material	Supplementary file alongside article	Included within the manuscript	Link within manuscript to another website	Not provided
(a) study protocol	335 (40.9%)	185 (22.6%)	109 (13.3%)	143 (17.5%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	397 (48.5%)	73 (8.9%)	105 (12.8%)	189 (23.1%)
(c) additional tables of data	571 (69.7%)	145 (17.7%)	28 (3.4%)	42 (5.1%)
(d) additional figures	553 (67.5%)	161 (19.7%)	22 (2.7%)	43 (5.3%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	460 (56.2%)	54 (6.6%)	69 (8.4%)	174 (21.2%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	331 (40.4%)	209 (25.5%)	64 (7.8%)	150 (18.3%)
(g) interview transcripts	214 (26.1%)	20 (2.4%)	100 (12.2%)	413 (50.4%)
(h) raw study data	197 (24.1%)	18 (2.2%)	137 (16.7%)	400 (48.8%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Readers (n=911)

Supplementary Material	Supplementary file alongside article	Included within the manuscript	Link within manuscript to another website	Not provided
(a) study protocol	399 (43.8%)	224 (24.6%)	150 (16.5%)	102 (11.2%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	454 (49.8%)	102 (11.2%)	172 (18.9%)	140 (15.4%)
(c) additional tables of data	506 (55.5%)	268 (29.4%)	79 (8.7%)	22 (2.4%)
(d) additional figures	496 (54.4%)	275 (30.2%)	75 (8.2%)	25 (2.7%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	404 (44.3%)	96 (10.5%)	131 (14.4%)	238 (26.1%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	355 (39.0%)	227 (24.9%)	113 (12.4%)	173 (19.0%)
(g) interview transcripts	254 (27.9%)	27 (3.0%)	179 (19.6%)	401 (44.0%)
(h) raw study data	252 (27.7%)	36 (4.0%)	204 (22.4%)	376 (41.3%)

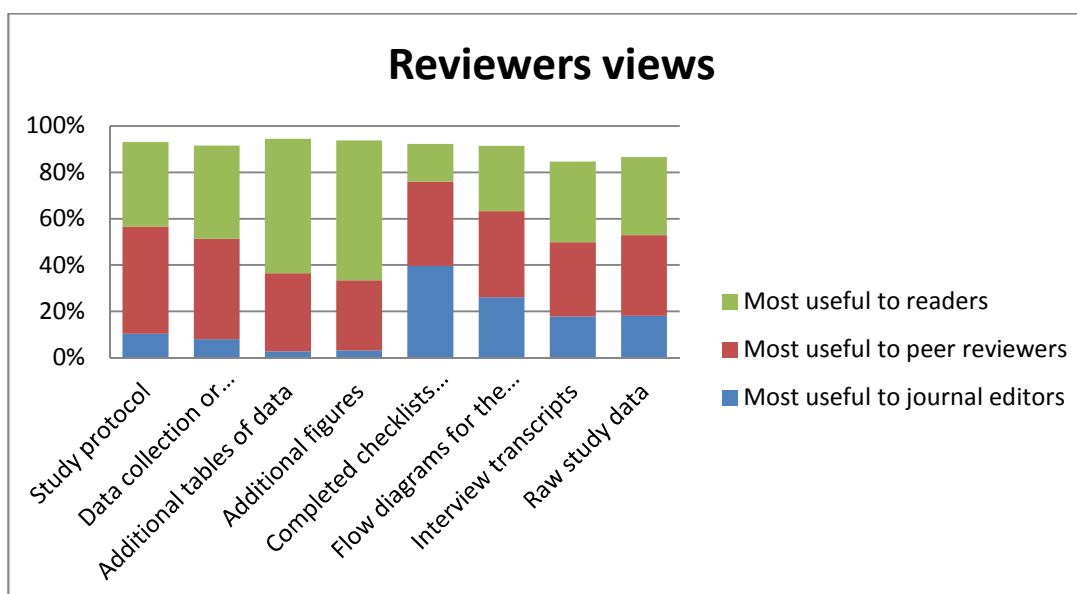
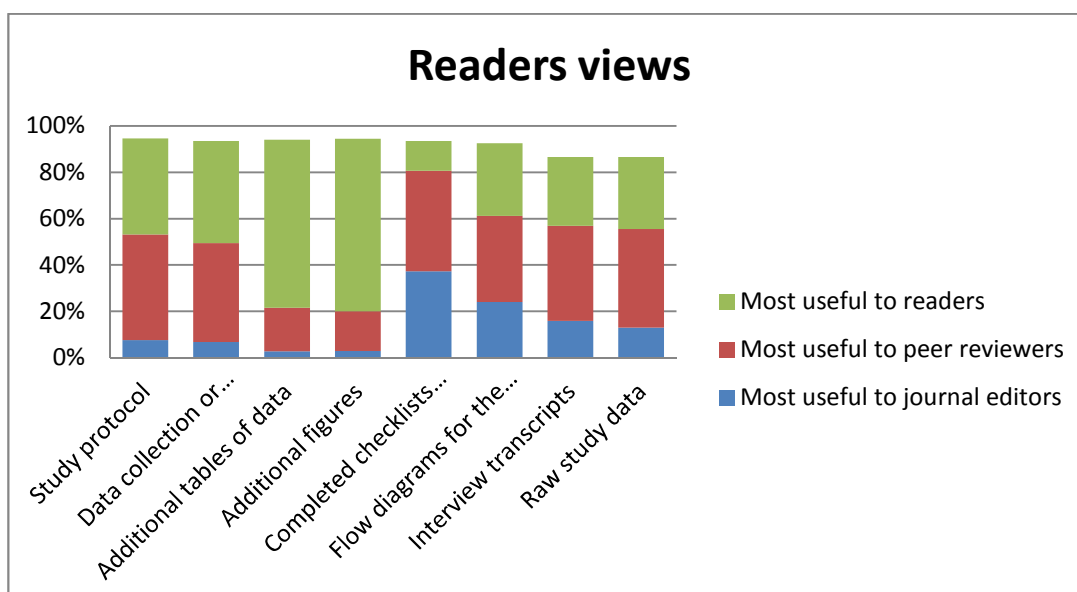
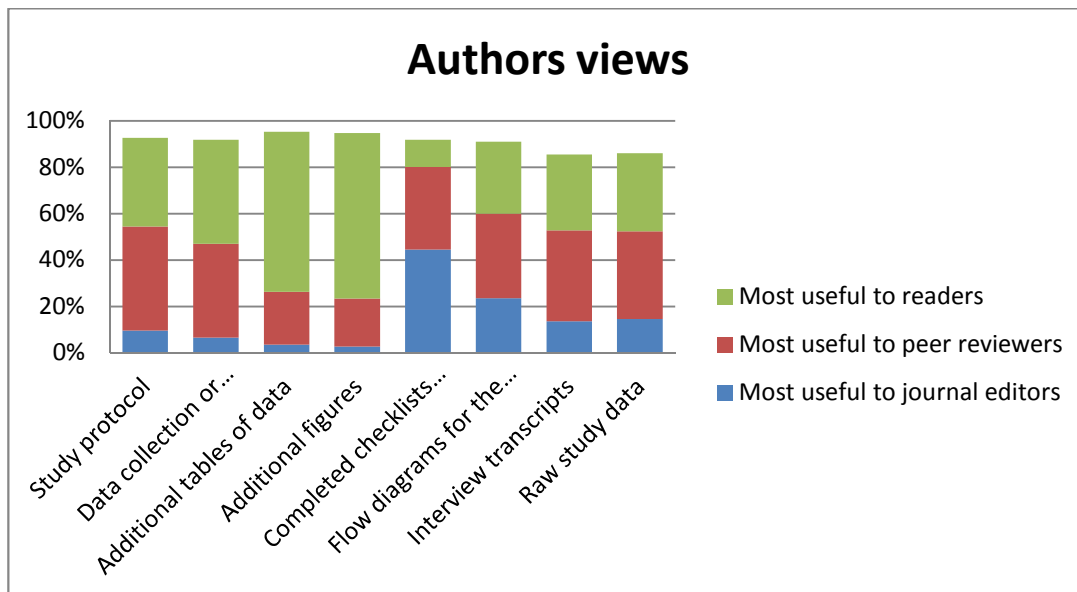
* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Reviewers (n=1142)

Supplementary Material	Supplementary file alongside article	Included within the manuscript	Link within manuscript to another website	Not provided
(a) study protocol	618 (54.1%)	237 (20.8%)	155 (13.6%)	91 (8.0%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	685 (60.0%)	116 (10.2%)	165 (14.4%)	136 (11.9%)
(c) additional tables of data	651 (57.0%)	348 (30.5%)	73 (6.4%)	36 (3.2%)
(d) additional figures	644 (56.4%)	351 (30.7%)	73 (6.4%)	37 (3.2%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	609 (53.3%)	193 (16.9%)	109 (9.5%)	187 (16.4%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	549 (48.1%)	290 (25.4%)	116 (10.2%)	138 (12.1%)
(g) interview transcripts	410 (35.9%)	50 (4.4%)	191 (16.7%)	441 (38.6%)
(h) raw study data	429 (37.6%)	54 (4.7%)	240 (21.0%)	365 (32.0%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Appendix 8: Who supplementary materials is most useful to



Views Overall (n=2872)

	Most useful to journal editors	Most useful to peer reviewers	Most useful to readers
(a) study protocol	266 (9.3%)	1312 (45.7%)	1105 (38.5%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	208 (7.2%)	1214 (42.3%)	1227 (42.7%)
(c) additional tables of data	86 (3.0%)	743 (25.9%)	1885 (65.6%)
(d) additional figures	85 (3.0%)	672 (23.4%)	1949 (67.9%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	1158 (40.3%)	1099 (38.3%)	399 (13.9%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	711 (24.8%)	1060 (36.9%)	860 (29.9%)
(g) interview transcripts	461 (16.1%)	1059 (36.9%)	935 (32.6%)
(h) raw study data	446 (15.5%)	1093 (38.1%)	944 (32.9%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Authors (n=819)

	Most useful to journal editors	Most useful to peer reviewers	Most useful to readers
(a) study protocol	79 (9.6%)	367 (44.8%)	313 (38.2%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	54 (6.6%)	331 (40.4%)	367 (44.8%)
(c) additional tables of data	29 (3.5%)	187 (22.8%)	564 (68.9%)
(d) additional figures	22 (2.7%)	170 (20.8%)	584 (71.3%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	365 (44.6%)	291 (35.5%)	96 (11.7%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	193 (23.6%)	298 (36.4%)	254 (31.0%)
(g) interview transcripts	112 (13.7%)	320 (39.1%)	268 (32.7%)
(h) raw study data	120 (14.7%)	309 (37.7%)	276 (33.7%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Readers (n=911)

	Most useful to journal editors	Most useful to peer reviewers	Most useful to readers
(a) study protocol	69 (7.6%)	416 (45.7%)	376 (41.3%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	62 (6.8%)	388 (42.6%)	401 (44.0%)
(c) additional tables of data	25 (2.7%)	172 (18.9%)	659 (72.3%)
(d) additional figures	27 (3.0%)	156 (17.1%)	677 (74.3%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	340 (37.3%)	394 (43.2%)	117 (12.8%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	219 (24.0%)	338 (37.1%)	286 (31.4%)
(g) interview transcripts	145 (15.9%)	373 (40.9%)	270 (29.6%)
(h) raw study data	119 (13.1%)	387 (42.5%)	283 (31.1%)

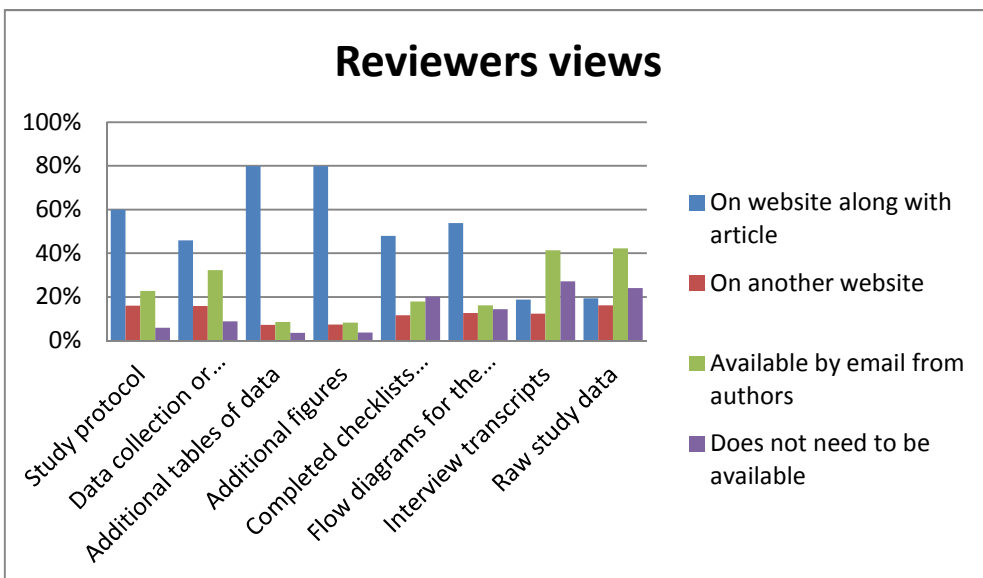
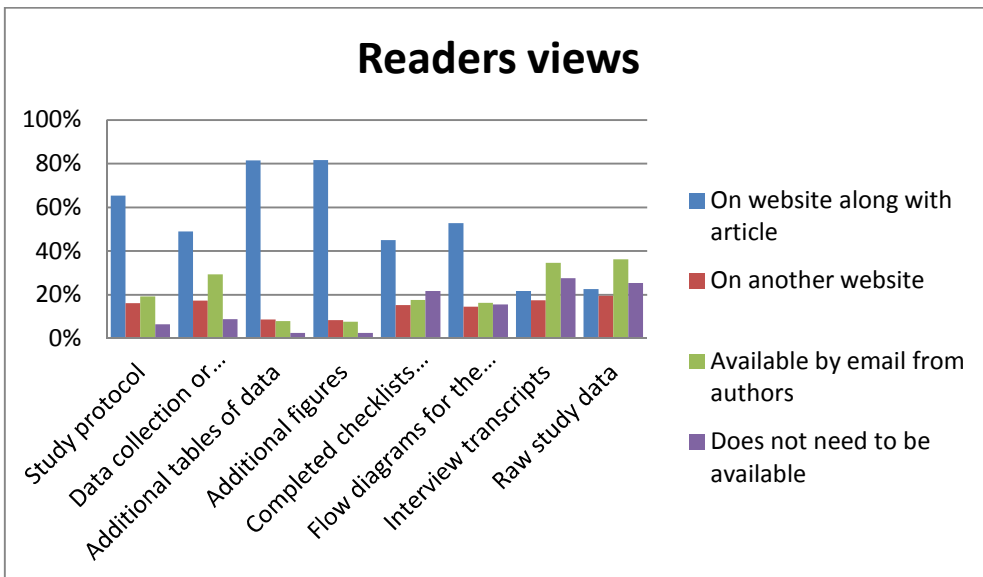
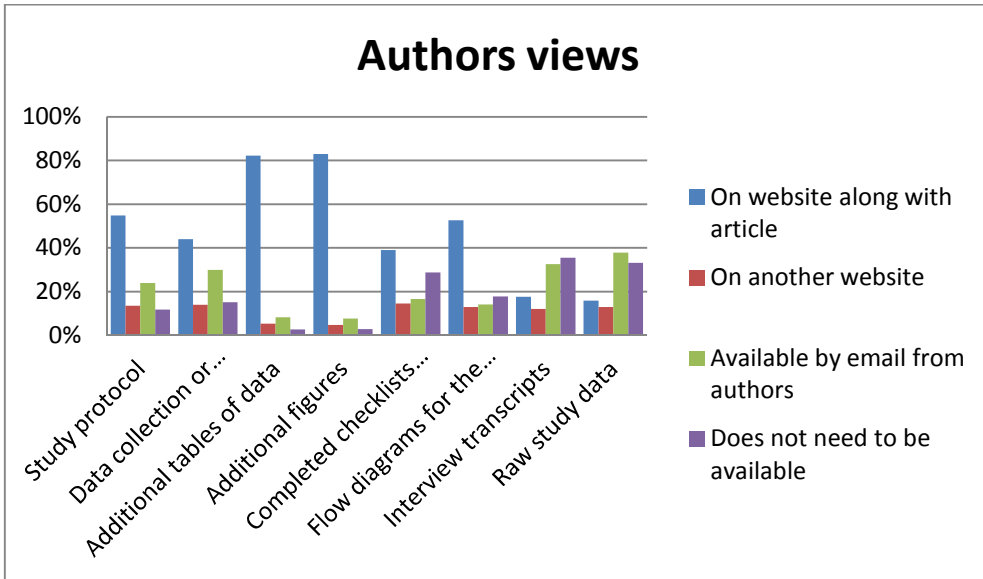
* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Views of Reviewers (n=1142)

	Most useful to journal editors	Most useful to peer reviewers	Most useful to readers
(a) study protocol	118 (10.3%)	529 (46.3%)	416 (36.4%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	92 (8.1%)	495 (43.3%)	459 (40.2%)
(c) additional tables of data	32 (2.8%)	384 (33.6%)	662 (58.0%)
(d) additional figures	36 (3.2%)	346 (30.3%)	688 (60.2%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	453 (39.7%)	414 (36.3%)	186 (16.3%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	299 (26.2%)	424 (37.1%)	320 (28.0%)
(g) interview transcripts	204 (17.9%)	366 (32.0%)	397 (34.8%)
(h) raw study data	207 (18.1%)	767 (67.2%)	385 (33.7%)

* Numbers do not sum to 100% due to missing data

Appendix 9: Where supplementary material should be published



Views Overall (n=2872)

	On website along with article*	On another website*	Available by email from authors*	Does not need to be available *
(a) study protocol	1729 (60.2%)	442 (15.4%)	631 (22.0%)	223 (7.8%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	1331 (46.3%)	455 (15.8%)	881 (30.7%)	305 (10.6%)
(c) additional tables of data	2328 (81.1%)	206 (7.2%)	239 (8.3%)	86 (3.0%)
(d) additional figures	2335 (81.3%)	200 (7.0%)	228 (7.9%)	88 (3.1%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	1277 (44.5%)	391 (13.6%)	501 (17.4%)	664 (23.1%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	1526 (53.1%)	383 (13.3%)	450 (15.7%)	452 (15.7%)
(g) interview transcripts	558 (19.4%)	400 (13.9%)	1054 (36.7%)	852 (29.7%)
(h) raw study data	557 (19.4%)	468 (16.3%)	1123 (39.1%)	779 (27.1%)

* Answers are not mutually exclusive

Views of Authors (n=819)

	On website along with article	On another website	Available by email from authors	Does not need to be available
(a) study protocol	449 (54.8%)	111 (13.6%)	196 (23.9%)	97 (11.8%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	360 (44.0%)	115 (14.0%)	245 (29.9%)	124 (15.1%)
(c) additional tables of data	674 (82.3%)	44 (5.4%)	68 (8.3%)	22 (2.7%)
(d) additional figures	679 (82.9%)	39 (4.8%)	63 (7.7%)	23 (2.8%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	319 (38.9%)	119 (14.5%)	136 (16.6%)	236 (28.8%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	431 (52.6%)	106 (12.9%)	116 (14.2%)	146 (17.8%)
(g) interview transcripts	145 (17.7%)	99 (12.1%)	267 (32.6%)	291 (35.5%)
(h) raw study data	130 (15.9%)	106 (12.9%)	310 (37.9%)	272 (33.2%)

* Answers are not mutually exclusive

Views of Readers (n=911)

	On website along with article	On another website	Available by email from authors	Does not need to be available
(a) study protocol	596 (65.4%)	148 (16.2%)	175 (19.2%)	59 (6.5%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	446 (49.0%)	158 (17.3%)	268 (29.4%)	80 (8.8%)
(c) additional tables of data	742 (81.4%)	79 (8.7%)	73 (8.0%)	23 (2.5%)
(d) additional figures	744 (81.7%)	77 (8.5%)	70 (7.7%)	23 (2.5%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	410 (45.0%)	139 (15.3%)	161 (17.7%)	198 (21.7%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	481 (52.8%)	133 (14.6%)	149 (16.4%)	142 (15.6%)
(g) interview transcripts	198 (21.7%)	160 (17.6%)	315 (34.6%)	251 (27.6%)
(h) raw study data	206 (22.6%)	178 (19.5%)	330 (36.2%)	232 (25.5%)

* Answers are not mutually exclusive

Views of Reviewers (n=1142)

	On website along with article	On another website	Available by email from authors	Does not need to be available
(a) study protocol	684 (59.9%)	183 (16.0%)	260 (22.8%)	67 (5.9%)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	525 (46.0%)	182 (15.9%)	368 (32.2%)	101 (8.8%)
(c) additional tables of data	912 (79.9%)	83 (7.3%)	98 (8.6%)	41 (3.6%)
(d) additional figures	912 (79.9%)	84 (7.4%)	95 (8.3%)	42 (3.7%)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	548 (48.0%)	133 (11.6%)	204 (17.9%)	230 (20.1%)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	614 (53.8%)	144 (12.6%)	185 (16.2%)	164 (14.4%)
(g) interview transcripts	215 (18.8%)	141 (12.3%)	472 (41.3%)	310 (27.1%)
(h) raw study data	221 (19.4%)	184 (16.1%)	483 (42.3%)	275 (24.1%)

* Answers are not mutually exclusive

Appendix 10: Authors' views on what they expect journal editors, peer reviewers and readers to do with supplementary materials N(%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript
Journal Editors	178 (22)	289 (35)	58 (7)	258 (32)
Peer Reviewers	395 (48)	253 (31)	13 (2)	122 (15)
Readers	60 (7)	355 (43)	47 (6)	322 (39)

Appendix 11: Readers' perspective on what should be done with supplementary materials

What do you think readers in general should do with supplementary materials? N(%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript
(a) study protocol	160 (18)	208 (23)	47 (5)	450 (49)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	81 (9)	244 (27)	90 (10)	441 (48)
(c) additional tables of data	224 (25)	335 (37)	25 (3)	280 (31)
(d) additional figures	237 (26)	322 (35)	23 (3)	280 (31)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	75 (8)	150 (17)	246 (27)	382 (42)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	156 (17)	210 (23)	161 (18)	328 (36)
(g) interview transcripts	14 (2)	133 (15)	244 (27)	455 (50)
(h) raw study data	17 (2)	116 (13)	199 (22)	510 (56)

As a reader, what do you usually do with the supplementary material? N(%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript
(a) study protocol	150 (17)	303 (33)	112 (12)	290 (32)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	79 (9)	286 (31)	174 (19)	316 (35)
(c) additional tables of data	229 (25)	356 (39)	53 (6)	222 (24)
(d) additional figures	243 (27)	352 (39)	48 (5)	219 (24)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	74 (8)	136 (15)	369 (41)	270 (30)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	157 (17)	179 (20)	275 (30)	239 (26)
(g) interview transcripts	15 (2)	114 (13)	384 (42)	319 (35)
(h) raw study data	23 (3)	107 (12)	308 (34)	394 (43)

Appendix 12: Reviewers' perspective of what peer reviewers do , should do and are expected to do with supplementary materials

What do you think journal editors expect peer reviewers to do with this supplementary material? N(%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript
(a) study protocol	426 (37)	304 (27)	15 (1)	328 (29)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	272 (24)	377 (33)	46 (4)	373 (33)
(c) additional tables of data	669 (59)	226 (20)	12 (1)	171 (15)
(d) additional figures	684 (60)	204 (18)	12 (1)	176 (15)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	463 (41)	238 (21)	99 (9)	264 (23)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	490 (43)	227 (20)	79 (7)	267 (23)
(g) interview transcripts	133 (12)	235 (21)	193 (17)	497 (44)
(h) raw study data	135 (12)	210 (18)	180 (16)	527 (46)

What do you think peer reviewers should do with the supplementary material? N (%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript
(a) study protocol	468 (41)	297 (26)	23 (2)	280 (25)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	287 (25)	372 (33)	49 (4)	356 (31)
(c) additional tables of data	688 (60)	208 (18)	15 (1)	161 (14)
(d) additional figures	695 (60.9%)	197 (17)	16 (1)	161 (14)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	433 (38)	225 (20)	117 (10)	286 (25)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	463 (41)	219 (19)	94 (8)	286 (25)
(g) interview transcripts	116 (10)	214 (19)	198 (17)	530 (46)
(h) raw study data	135 (12)	191 (17)	175 (15)	549 (48)

When peer reviewing, what do you do with the supplementary material? N (%)

	Read all of it routinely	Read some of it	Ignore it	It depends on the manuscript	Not applicable
(a) study protocol	400 (35)	303 (27)	27 (2)	187 (16)	146 (13)
(b) data collection or extraction forms (including questionnaires, interview topic guides, etc)	262 (23)	336 (29)	72 (6)	265 (23)	127 (11)
(c) additional tables of data	672 (59)	227 (20)	17 (2)	127 (11)	25 (2)
(d) additional figures	686 (60)	210 (18)	16 (1)	127 (11)	30 (3)
(e) completed checklists for the relevant reporting guidelines (e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, PRISMA, STARD, etc.)	367 (32)	238 (21)	145 (13)	197 (17)	116 (10)
(f) flow diagrams for the relevant reporting guideline	416 (36)	221 (19)	90 (8)	220 (19)	114 (10)
(g) interview transcripts	81 (7)	147 (13)	178 (16)	260 (23)	391 (34)
(h) raw study data	105 (9)	146 (13)	161 (14)	294 (26)	345 (30)