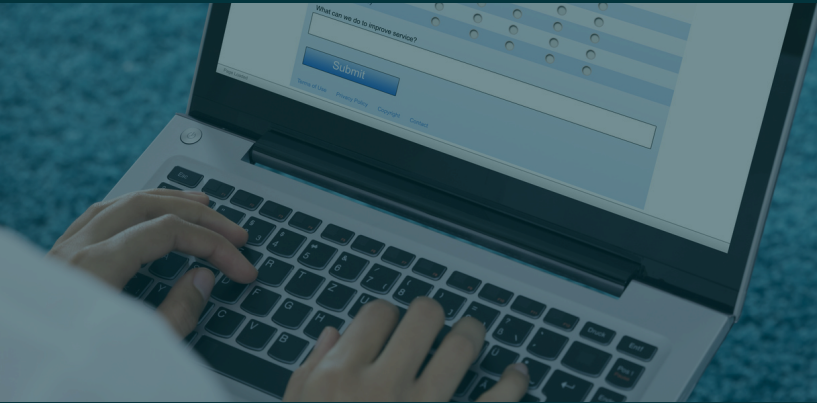


DIMENCHAIN MARKET SURVEY



This comprehensive **Market Survey**, designed by the DimenChain team, employs the proven principles of the **Mom Test** technique to uncover genuine insights into the global research collaboration landscape. The Mom Test, popularized by Rob Fitzpatrick, is a strategic approach to market research that helps avoid biased or misleading feedback—especially the kind of polite but unhelpful responses people often give when asked about new ideas. Instead of asking hypothetical or opinion-based questions, the Mom Test focuses on understanding users' real experiences, behaviors, and pain points through specific, fact-based inquiries.

The DimenChain team has identified key **challenges and unmet needs in research collaboration**, such as difficulties in finding qualified partners, managing data securely, and ensuring fair credit and intellectual property protection. The insights presented in this report reflect authentic user experiences and highlight opportunities for developing tools and processes that truly address the complexities of collaborative research across disciplines and geographies.

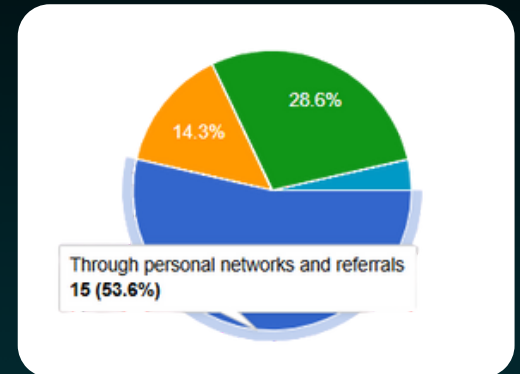


The full market survey, including all questions and response options, is available **Here**. You can explore the exact survey structure and understand how the data was collected.

2 How do you typically find and connect with new collaborators for your research projects?

- **The top four answers among respondents**

Most respondents find collaborators through personal networks and referrals (**53.6%**), followed by institutional or university resources (**28.6%**), and online research platforms like ResearchGate (**14.3%**). Additionally, **3.6%** use a combination of these three options.



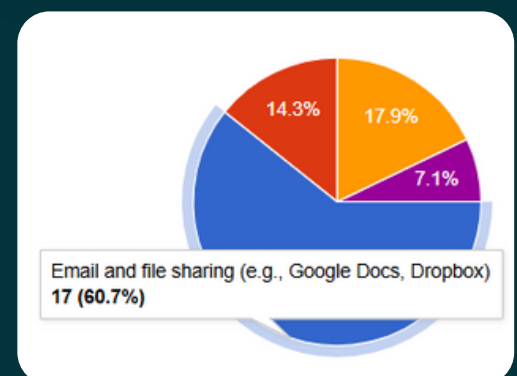
- **What is inferred**

Personal connections dominate the search for research collaborators. There is significant room for growth in leveraging digital platforms and institutional resources, especially if these can emulate the trust and familiarity found in personal networks.

3 What tools or platforms do you currently use to collaborate with researchers or labs?

- **The top four answers among respondents**

Most researchers collaborate using email and file-sharing tools like Google Docs and Dropbox, accounting for **60.7%** of responses. Instant messaging platforms such as Slack and Teams are used by **17.9%**, while **14.3%** rely on dedicated collaboration platforms like ResearchGate and Mendeley. A small portion, **7.1%**, do not use any specific tools for collaboration.



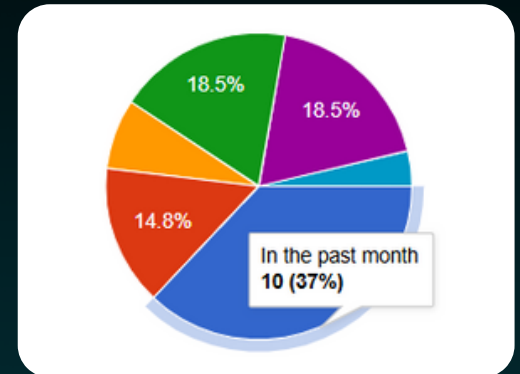
- **What is inferred**

Email and basic file-sharing tools dominate collaboration workflows. Advanced or dedicated research platforms have low adoption.

4 When was the last time you worked with another researcher or institution?

- **The top answers among respondents**

Among the respondents, **37%** reported collaborating with another researcher or institution within the past month. An additional **14.8%** had collaborated in the past three months, while **7.4%** had done so within the past six months. Collaboration within the past year was reported by **18.5%**, and the same percentage, **18.5%**, indicated they had not collaborated recently.



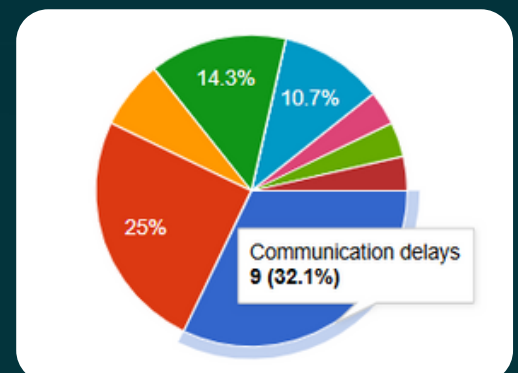
- **What is inferred**

A majority (over 50%) have collaborated within the past 3 months, indicating collaboration is a regular and ongoing part of their work, but nearly 20% haven't collaborated recently—highlighting possible barriers to engagement.

5 What challenges did you face during your last collaboration?

- **The top answers among respondents**

32.1% of respondents cited communication delays as the most common issue. Difficulty accessing data or findings was reported by **25%**, while **14.3%** experienced redundant research efforts due to lack of coordination. Concerns over intellectual property protection affected **10.7%**, and smaller percentages noted trust issues. A few respondents indicated they faced not many challenges or had not yet collaborated.



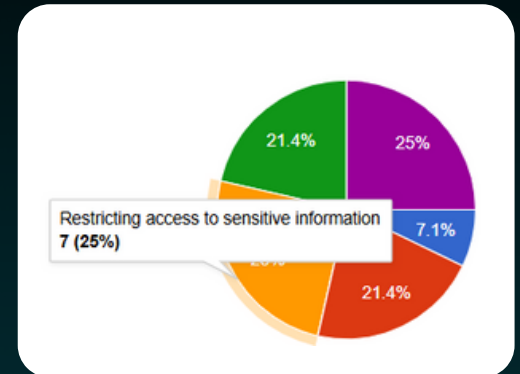
- **What is inferred**

This highlights that while collaboration is frequent, practical obstacles such as **communication and data access remain significant hurdles**

6 What precautions do you currently take to protect sensitive data or intellectual property in your research?

- The **top five answers** among respondents

25% of respondents reported restricting access to sensitive information. Equal proportions, **21.4%**, use secure, verified collaboration platforms and non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with collaborators. Encrypting files and data is practiced by **7.1%**, while another **25%** do not take any specific precautions.



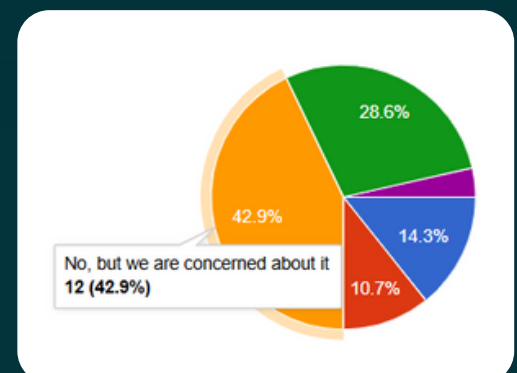
- What is inferred

A significant portion (**25%**) takes no precautions, while NDAs and restricted access are more common than encryption. Security practices are fragmented and inconsistent.

7 Have you ever had a problem with data security or IP (Intellectual Property) theft in your research? How did you handle it?

- The **top four answers** among respondents

A large portion of respondents, **42.9%**, expressed concern about potential data or intellectual property breaches, even though they have not experienced any. Meanwhile, **28.6%** have never encountered any data or IP issues. Among those who faced problems, **14.3%** took legal action following a breach, and **10.7%** resolved the issue internally without legal involvement.



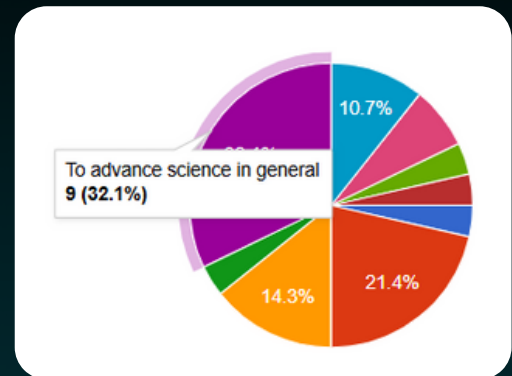
- What is inferred

This indicates that although actual breaches are relatively rare, **concerns about data security and IP protection are widespread**, with over half (53.6%) either having experienced or fearing such issues. Notably, only a small fraction (14.3%) have pursued legal action.

8 Can you tell me about a time when you shared your research with others? What motivated you to do that?

• The **top answers** among respondents

The largest motivation for sharing research, cited by **32.1%** of respondents, is to advance science in general. Following this, **21.4%** share their work to gain recognition or publish findings, while **14.3%** do so to collaborate and receive feedback. Other reasons include project or funding requirements (**10.7%**), avoiding redundant research (3.6%), accessing others' research in exchange (3.6%), and gaining additional income or financial support (3.6%). A small portion, 7.1%, have not yet shared their research.



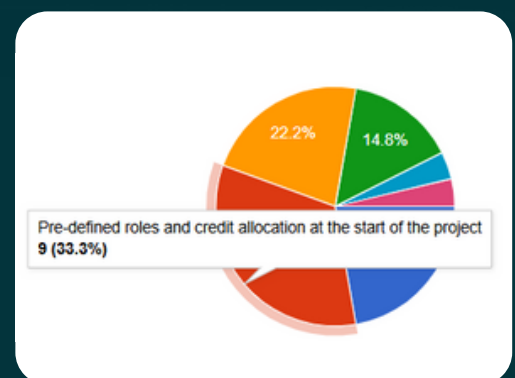
• What is inferred

The majority of researchers share their work primarily to advance science, gain recognition, or collaborate for feedback, with a smaller number motivated by project requirements or financial support.

9 When working on research collaborations, how do you currently manage contributions and ensure everyone gets credit?

• The **top answers** among respondents

When managing contributions and credit in research collaborations, one-third of respondents (**33.3%**) establish pre-defined roles and credit allocation at the project's start. Another **22.2%** rely on verbal or informal agreements, while an equal percentage (**22.2%**) determine credit based on contributions during the project. However, **14.8%** admit to lacking a clear system for managing contributions, and a small number (**3.7%**) have faced significant struggles in determining credit.



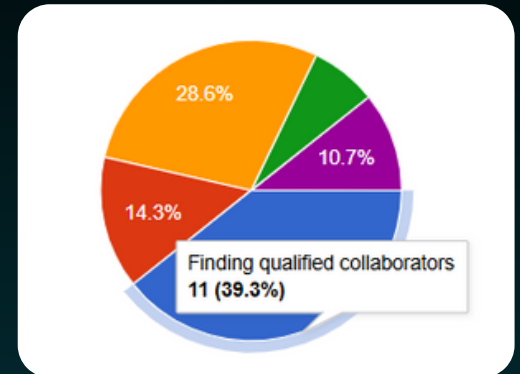
• What is inferred

This variety reflects differing approaches and challenges in ensuring fair recognition among collaborators.

10 What aspects of collaborative research do you wish were easier or more efficient?

- The **top answers** among respondents

The majority of respondents (**39.3%**) wish that finding qualified collaborators were easier and more efficient. Managing project resources is also a significant concern, with **28.6%** highlighting the need for improvement in this area. Additionally, **14.3%** want more secure ways to share data and research findings, while smaller percentages seek better solutions for discovering others working on similar questions (**10.7%**), tracking contributions and progress (**7.1%**).



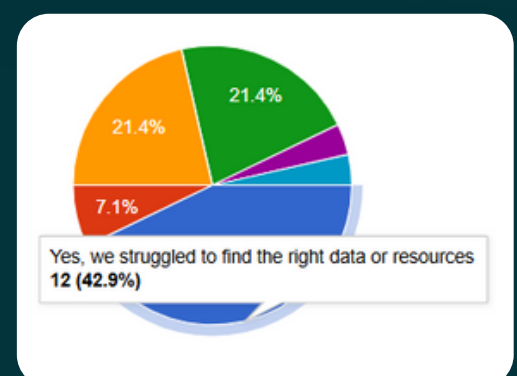
- What is inferred

The **top challenge in collaborative research is finding qualified collaborators** (nearly 40%), followed by resource management. These priorities reflect ongoing challenges in collaboration despite the use of various tools like Google Docs, Dropbox, Slack, and ResearchGate

11 Have you ever had a research project stall due to a lack of access to data, resources, or collaborators? Tell me about that experience.

- The **top four answers** among respondents

A significant portion of respondents (**42.9%**) reported that their research projects stalled due to difficulties in finding the right data or resources. Funding issues also caused delays for **21.4%**, while **7.1%** struggled to find collaborators with the appropriate expertise. Despite these challenges, **21.4%** indicated they have always managed to avoid major delays.



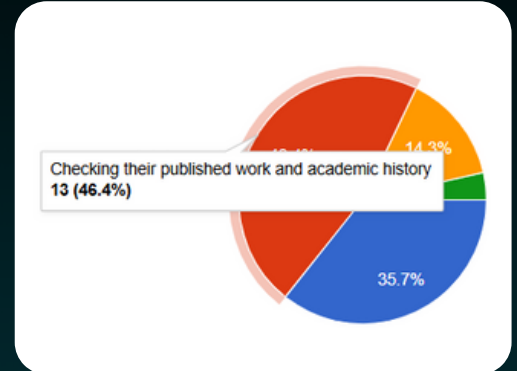
- What is inferred

Nearly half of respondents experienced project delays due to data/resource shortages. Collaborator mismatch and funding gaps are also significant factors.

12 How do you currently verify the credentials of researchers or labs you collaborate with?

- The **top four answers among respondents**

Most respondents (**46.4%**) verify the credentials of researchers or labs by checking their published work and academic history. Personal connections or referrals are also a common method, used by **35.7%** of participants. A smaller portion, **14.3%**, rely on official verification services or platforms, while only **3.6%** do not usually verify credentials.



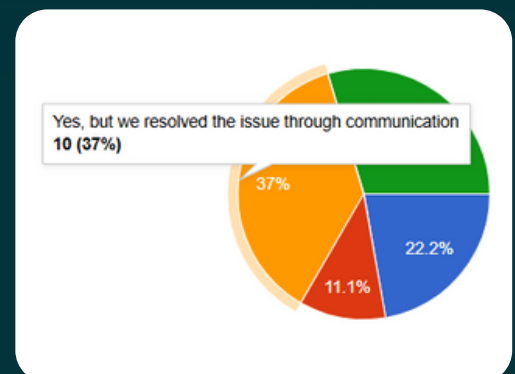
- What is inferred

Most researchers rely on published work or referrals to verify collaborators, with minimal use of formal verification platforms. Informal methods dominate credentialing.

13 Have you ever faced a situation where trust or credibility of a collaborator was an issue? What happened?

- The **top four answers among respondents**

Among respondents, **37%** reported never having issues with collaborator trust or credibility. However, **29.6%** faced trust concerns that were resolved through communication. About **22.2%** discovered that a collaborator had exaggerated their credentials, and **11.1%** had doubts about a collaborator's ability to deliver results.



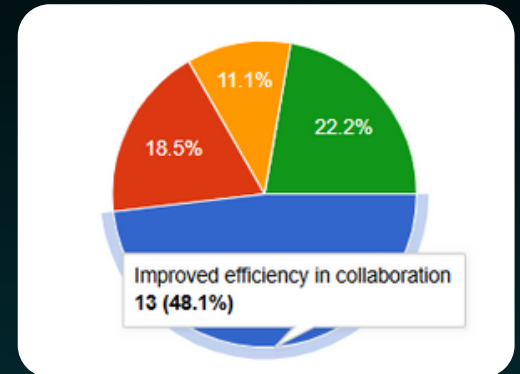
- What is inferred

These findings highlight that while many collaborations proceed smoothly, **trust and credibility remain important challenges** that sometimes require direct resolution.

14 Tell me about the last time you adopted a new tool or platform for your research collaboration. What drove that decision?

- **The top four answers among respondents**

Nearly half of the respondents (**48.1%**) adopted a new tool or platform to improve collaboration efficiency. Meeting project or funding requirements motivated **22.2%** to switch, while **18.5%** were driven by the need for better security or data management features. Easier access to shared resources influenced **11.1%** of users.



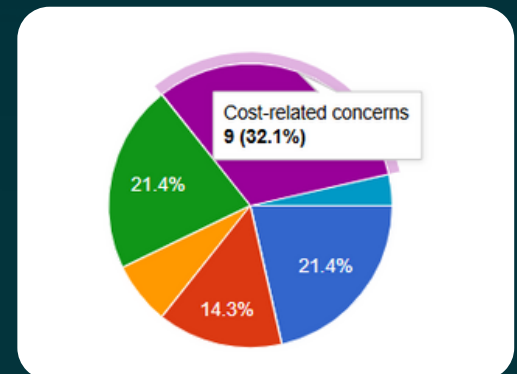
- **What is inferred**

Efficiency is the leading driver (nearly half) behind adopting new tools, while security and compliance needs also play a meaningful role.

15 What challenges did you face when implementing that new collaboration tool?

- **The top answers among respondents**

The main challenge faced when implementing new collaboration tools was cost-related concerns, reported by **32.1%** of respondents. Additionally, **21.4%** struggled with learning how to use the tool, and an equal percentage encountered resistance from collaborators reluctant to adopt it. Integration issues with other platforms affected **14.3%**, while **3.6%** had difficulty finding someone to explain the tool. A combined **7.1%** experienced both cost and lack of guidance as obstacles.



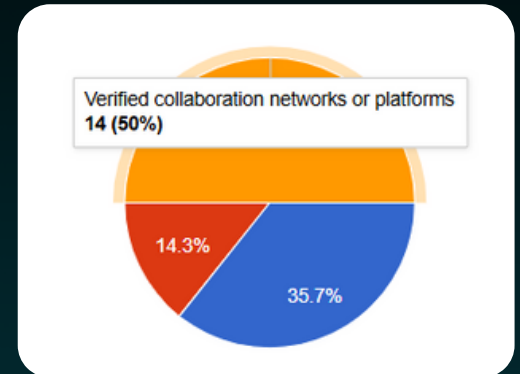
- **What is inferred**

Cost and adoption resistance are major barriers, followed by usability and integration issues. Tool onboarding still lacks proper support in many cases.

16 What other tools or processes would make your research collaborations more effective?

- The **top answers** among respondents

Half of the respondents (**50%**) expressed a need for verified collaboration networks or platforms to make their research collaborations more effective. Secure and easy-to-use communication tools were also a priority for **35.7%**, reflecting the importance of both security and usability in collaborative environments. Additionally, **14.3%** sought transparent systems for managing intellectual property and contributions.



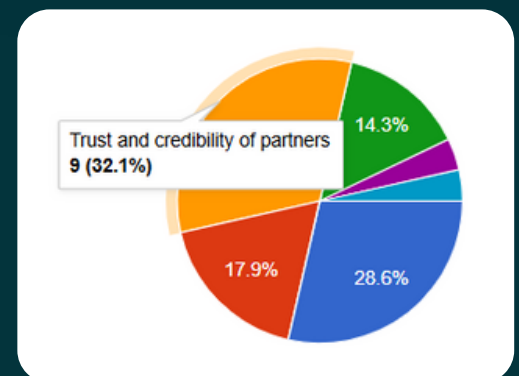
- What is inferred

The strongest need is for verified and credible collaboration platforms, followed by better communication tools. Surprisingly, incentives for sharing are not seen as a key enabler.

17 What's the most frustrating part of collaborating with other parties in research projects? How do you usually work around it?

- The **top four answers** among respondents

Reported by **32.1%** of respondents. Communication issues are also a major challenge for **28.6%**, followed by difficulties in managing data or research findings (**17.9%**) and concerns about trust and credibility (**14.3%**). Some participants noted that time zone and data management challenges are closely linked.



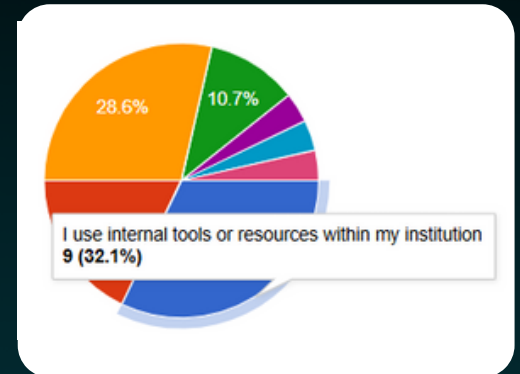
- What is inferred

Logistical coordination (time zones) and communication are the two biggest friction points. Trust and data management, while relevant, are secondary concerns.

18 How do you currently validate your research results or find benchmarks and people who can verify your findings?

- **The top answers among respondents**

The majority of respondents validate their research results using internal tools or resources within their institution (**32.1%**) or by reaching out to experts in the field for verification (**28.6%**). Relying on peer-reviewed publications and journals is also common, cited by **17.9%**. However, **10.7%** do not have a formal validation process, and smaller percentages use dedicated validation tools (**3.6%**) or have not yet established a method (**3.6%**).



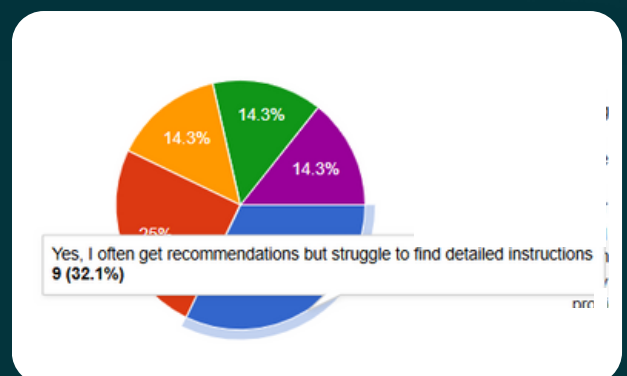
- **What is inferred**

Most validation is conducted internally or informally via experts, with only a small portion using formal validation tools or systems.

19 Have you ever been recommended a tool or method by a researcher in another lab but struggled to find clear, step-by-step guidance on how to use it under specific conditions? How did you handle this?

- **The top answers among respondents**

A significant portion of respondents (**32.1%**) often receive tool or method recommendations from other researchers but struggle to find clear, step-by-step guidance on how to use them under specific conditions. To overcome this, **25%** usually turn to colleagues or experts for advice, while **14.3%** figure things out through trial and error. Another **14.3%** rely on manuals or official documentation, and **an equal percentage** typically have the resources they need to understand how to use recommended tools.



- **What is inferred**

More than 70% of respondents experience **challenges with adopting recommended tools**, underscoring a clear need for accessible, detailed guidance and improved onboarding resources to support effective use in research collaborations.