



Reference visualization and download analysis for the “geographical literature” in the ULg Open Repository (ORBi)



ŞTIRBU Simona¹, THIRION Paul², SCHMITZ Serge³, BINARD Marc⁴, GRECO Ninfa¹

¹Library of Sciences and Technologies, ²Library Network of the University of Liege, ³Geography Department & ⁴Geomatic Unit
University of Liege, Belgium

{Simona.Stirbu, N.Greco, Paul.Thirion, S.Schmitz, Marc.Binard}@ulg.ac.be

Background

Set up by the University of Liege (ULg) **ORBi** (Open Repository and Bibliography) experienced a considerable increase of the online posted references since its creation on November 26th, 2008. The contents of the repository managed to reach a value of **78 247 references by May 2012**. **47 375 of these references have the full text and count approx. 1400 downloads per day**.

Aim

WHO and WHERE are the world internet users visualizing and downloading ORBi geographical references from?

Methods

According to the ULg obligatory self-archiving policy applied, geographers posted online their publications. From a total number of 574 articles, the sample of **150 scientific articles** published between **2005-2010 in Human/Economic, Physical Geography, Geomatics** was chosen for analysis.

- the categories of users interested in the geographical literature were identified by exploiting a **MaxMind database**;
- the globally distribution of the total numbers of visualizations and downloads was firstly analyzed (disregarding ULg views and downloads);
- the visualizations and downloads distribution over the world for the **French (68)** and **English (82)** articles was then separately analyzed.

Sample and Synthesis of article's language, IF, access, visualizations, and downloads

			Full Text	Views	Down.
	Peer Review	With IF	Open Access	General	General
68 Fr Art.	68	1	60	3629	1887
82 Eng Art.	80	67	55	2680	1424

Results

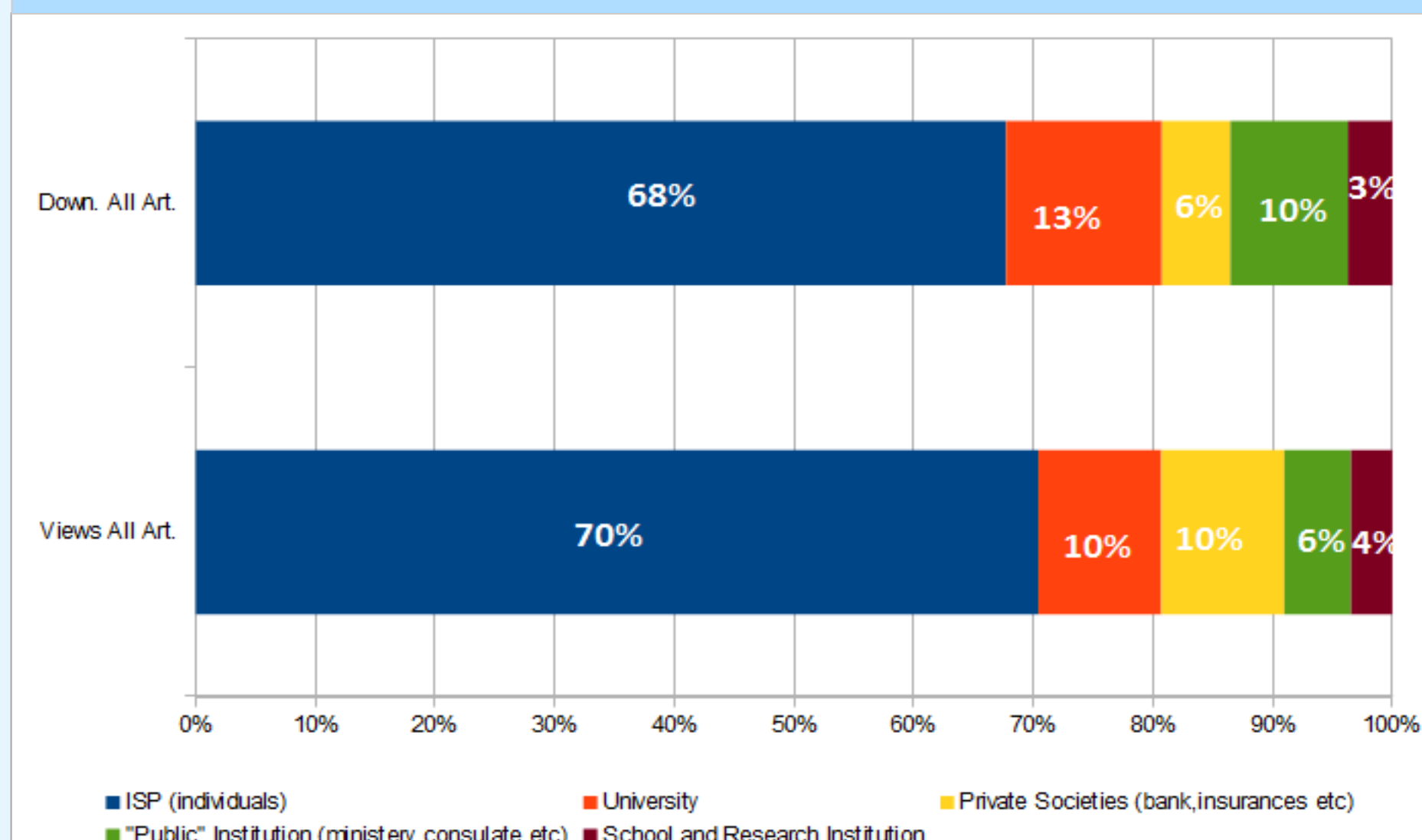


Figure 1. User's categories

Most of the visualizations & downloads are from the Internet Service Providers users, possibly researchers with no access to the “commercial” scientific literature;

More Results

Several factors could favor references usage:

- a mutual language (French);
- the difficulty of accessing the scientific literature (bibliographic DB's in countries with no possibilities of subscription);
- the literature missing in the bibliographic databases (e.g. published in national journals);

ORBi geographical references usage concentrates on Europe, US and Canada even if the most of these countries have access to bibliographic databases.

Figure 2. ORBi geographical references usage over the world

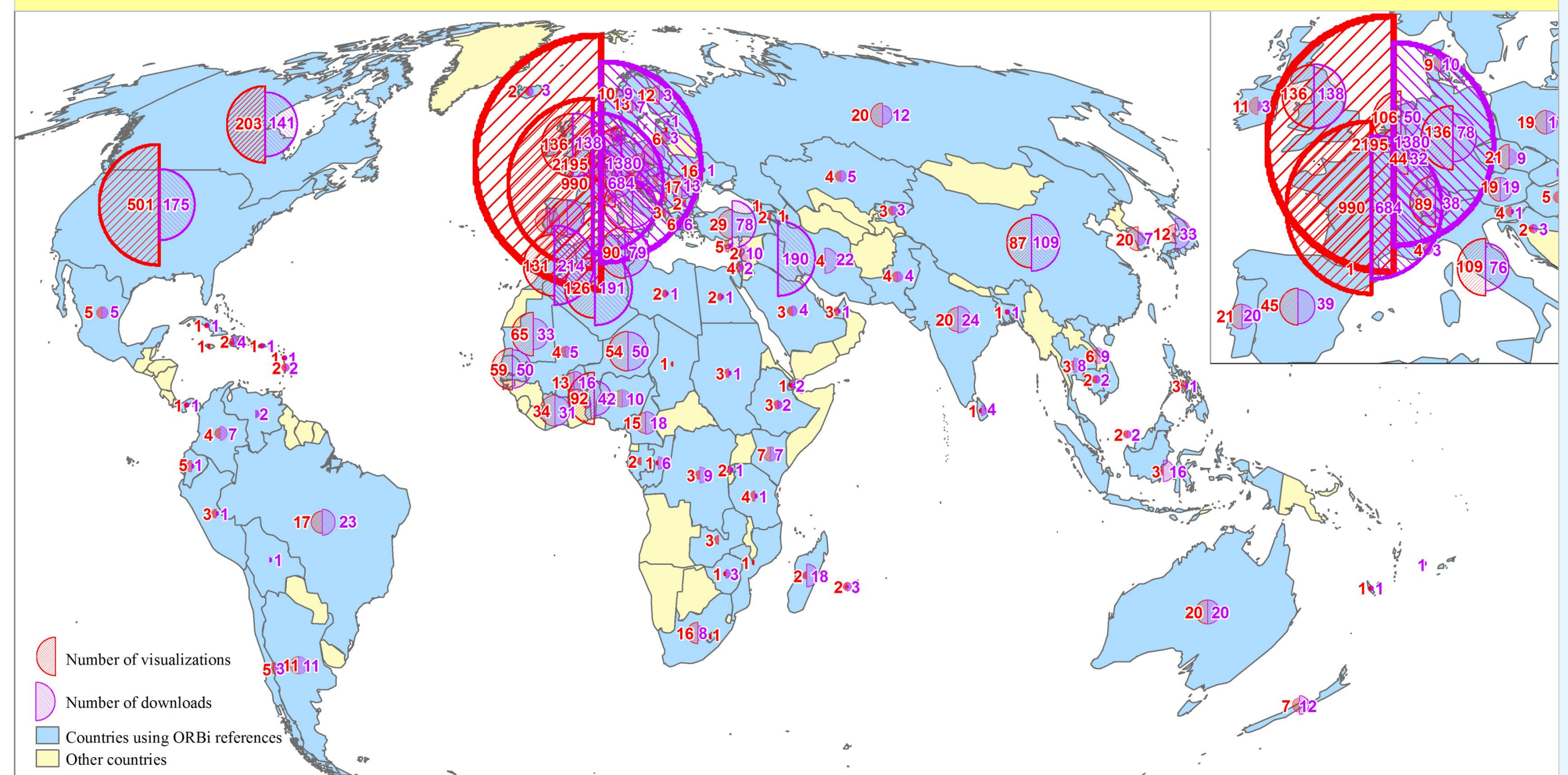
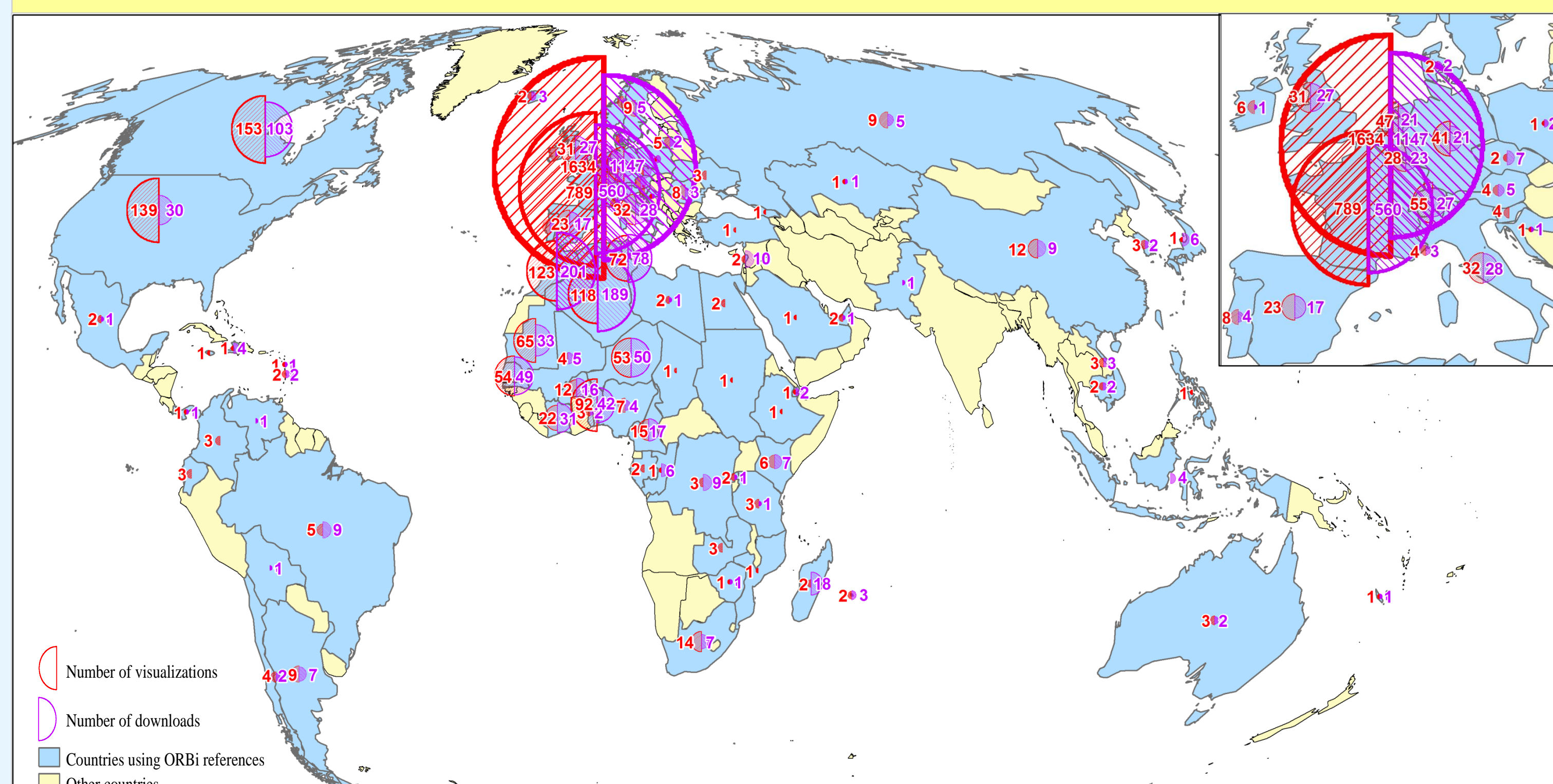


Figure 3. French references usage over the world



French articles are most viewed and downloaded by the French speaking countries from West Europe (mainly Belgium & France), Canada, and French-Speaking African Countries.

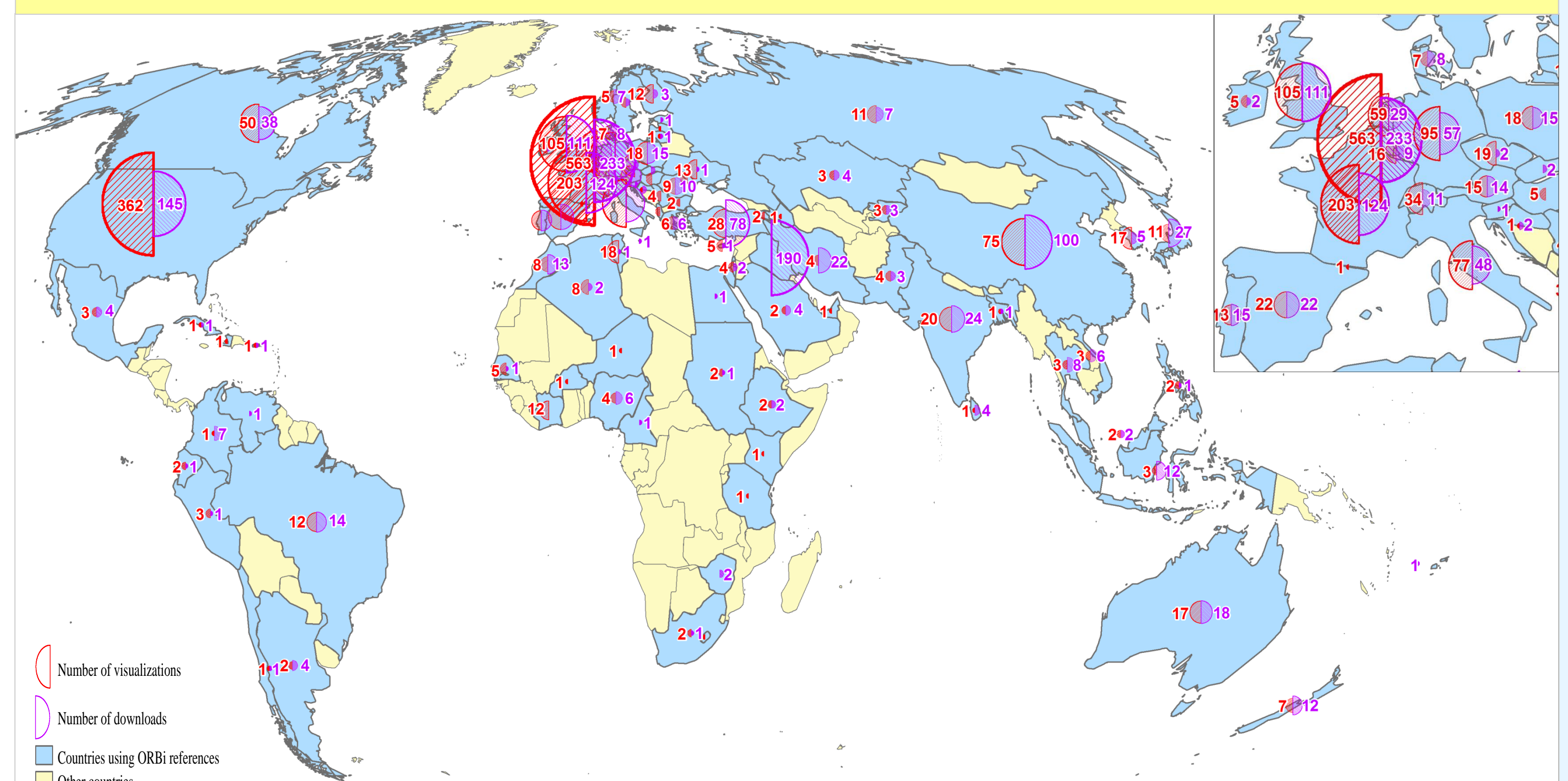
These articles count a more important usage due probably to the specificity of the case studies, and for the French-Speaking African Countries, possibly, the difficulty of access to the scientific literature.

We remark a more important usage of the English articles by users from :

- English speaking countries : e.g. US, UK, Australia;
- countries where English language is more commonly spoken and used, e.g. China, India, Central & Eastern Europe ;
- BUT the English articles are “ignored” by the English speaking African countries.**

The case studies of the English articles (remote sensing, global warming) have a different character compared to the French articles, which influences on the countries using or not this literature.

Figure 4. English references usage over the world



Findings and Conclusions

- The frequent publication of the English articles (67/82) in Impact Factor Journals does not increase the usage of the English geographical literature.
- The higher usage of the French references is probably due to the local character of the case studies and their publication in French national journals not indexed by the bibliographical databases.
- Language of the articles and the specificity of the case studies could play an important role on the distribution of the article's usage over the world.
- Future analysis will show the distribution of the user's categories by country.