

Enhancing value through interoperability: IRUS-UK and CORE

Focus

This case study focusses on the collaboration between IRUS-UK and CORE. It highlights the benefits of data sharing supported by Jisc products including:

- Providing a clearer picture of usage allowing repository managers to view combined CORE and IRUS-UK usage statistics and understand what proportion of usage is through CORE and what proportion of usage is via native repositories
- Providing a trusted source of COUNTER conformant standards-based, consistent and reliable usage data
- Demonstrating increased exposure and usage of institutional repository content that is harvested by CORE

Introduction

IRUS-UK is a standards-based statistics aggregation service, enabling UK universities to share and compare information about usage of items in their institutional repositories. Conforming to the COUNTER standard, statistics are consistent and comparable to enable benchmarking of repository usage at a national level. The standards-based approach that IRUS-UK pioneered is easily replicable and has been adopted more broadly. As such, IRUS-UK is now part of a family of services that include instances for CORE, OpenAIRE, University of Amsterdam and OAPEN, in addition to pilot services in Australia, New Zealand and the US.

The IRUS-UK and CORE collaboration

CORE is an aggregation of open access content from UK and worldwide repositories and open access journals. It provides a range of services including discovery, analytics, and text mining access, which are used by repository managers and others.

CORE required a means of consistently and accurately demonstrating the usage of institutional repository content harvested by, and downloaded from, CORE. Through working with IRUS-UK, CORE was able to ensure consistent and standards-based usage statistics were available to repository managers. This has been made possible by IRUS-UK providing COUNTER conformant usage statistics for all content downloaded from participating UK institutional repositories.

Benefits

The collaboration demonstrates the benefits of data sharing supported by Jisc products. Benefits include:

Providing a clearer picture of usage.

Repository managers can view combined CORE and IRUS-UK usage statistics at a repository level in both IRUS-UK and in the CORE dashboard. They can also identify where usage has been recorded through native repositories, and where usage has been recorded through CORE.

In addition IRUS-UK provides the enhanced functionality to display CORE and IRUS-UK usage statistics at an individual item level.

Repository managers can easily understand what proportion of usage is through CORE and what proportion of usage is via native repositories.

A CORE team member stated:

Repository managers are now in a position to view not only the repository's statistics via IRUS, but also statistics on the number of full text downloads from CORE per institution. That way, we can offer a better understanding to repository managers of the usage of their collections.

Comments from IRUS-UK users include:

it is very interesting to see the respective proportions of downloads of 'our' content that occur directly vs via CORE.... I think this could be a valuable tool for us in the future.

Alan Stiles, Open University, ORO: Open University Research Online

The presentation of CORE download statistics alongside those captured directly from our repository by IRUS-UK is helping us to present a more complete picture of the value that others are getting from the open access research we hold within our repository - a very useful enhancement.

Chris Awre, Head of Information Services, University of Hull

Providing a trusted source of standards based data.

Repository managers can be assured that the COUNTER conformant usage statistics are standards based and reliable. This was a benefit that the CORE team were keen to emphasise:

We can say we have X number of downloads per annum and we can evidence by showing that it is not something we invented - it is measured by a third party and measured using COUNTER conformant statistics so there are standards.

Increasing exposure and usage of institutional repository content.

The ability to identify usage through CORE, suggests that repository managers who make their institutional repository content available for harvesting by CORE may result in the content being used more. The CORE team are keen to provide evidence that this is the case:

....in future we would like to be able to say 'because your repository is aggregated by CORE you are getting 10% extra hits'

Comments from IRUS-UK users include:

I love the consolidated stats – immediately showing how repositories are designed to be harvested and that we have about 10% of usage via CORE.....I like the fact we have some items also consolidated across several repositories

Jackie Proven (University of St Andrews Library)

Helps make the case for adding the CORE recommender (on our to do list) – CORE stats would go up if more repositories were 'recommending' content.

Alison Sutton, Research Publications & Institutional Repository Manager, University of Reading



How are the combined statistics presented?

Via IRUS-UK

In IRUS-UK the combined statistics are presented at a repository level and at an individual item level as illustrated in the two examples below:

Combined CORE and IRUS-UK usage statistics at a repository level

- In IRUS-UK a new consolidated usage report (RR2) has been developed. RR2 enables users to view the number of successful item downloads by month for all participating UK repositories, including usage for corresponding items

downloaded from CORE. The report can be filtered to limit the results to a selected item type and/or Jisc Band of repository. It can be run for an individual month or over a number of months and can be output in HTML, TSV or CSV formats. The results can be sorted by repository or by total number of downloads in ascending or descending order.



Last update: 17th Oct 2018

Home Statistics Reports Metadata Reports Metadata Views Metastatistics Views

More search options

Repository Report 2 (RR2), Number of Successful Item Download Requests by Month and Repository, including corresponding usage from CORE

Repository Report 2 (RR2), Number of Successful Item Download Requests by Month and Repository, including corresponding usage from CORE

To whom it may concern

Period covered by Report: 2018-04-01 to 2018-09-30

Filters: NewJiscBand:2

Date Run: 2018-10-19

Number of results: 11

Repository	Overall Total	Total IRUS-UK	Total CORE	Apr-2018 IRUS-UK	Apr-2018 CORE	May-2018 IRUS-UK	May-2018 CORE	Jun-2018 IRUS-UK	Jun-2018 CORE	Jul-2018 IRUS-UK	Jul-2018 CORE	Aug-2018 IRUS-UK	Aug-2018 CORE	Sep-2018 IRUS-UK	Sep-2018 CORE
Totals	3,609,931	3,476,112	133,819	626,392	16,060	626,868	16,408	518,806	15,720	514,191	23,449	619,877	27,635	569,978	34,547
Birmingham Research Portal	43,018	43,018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,867	0	22,151	0
Edinburgh DataShare	3,045	3,045	0	1,085	0	1,051	0	760	0	51	0	36	0	62	0
Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA)	389,790	357,100	32,690	72,956	4,039	63,080	4,341	53,930	4,164	56,080	5,362	54,602	6,236	56,452	8,548
Edinburgh Research Explorer	355,759	354,159	1,600	63,835	1	70,620	145	52,719	329	53,419	348	55,631	444	57,935	333
King's Research Portal	325,536	312,200	13,336	53,286	1,407	55,907	1,610	50,999	1,823	51,027	3,010	49,805	2,387	51,176	3,099
Nottingham ePrints	520,032	508,294	11,738	105,178	973	104,554	1,178	81,350	1,202	77,719	2,250	71,389	2,571	68,104	3,564
ORO: Open University Open Research Online	623,411	618,454	4,957	120,733	566	121,324	488	97,668	221	93,755	658	96,975	1,192	87,999	1,832
SpectraDSpace at Imperial College	17,072	17,072	0	2,157	0	2,276	0	1,510	0	1,023	0	1,088	0	9,018	0
Spiral: Imperial College Digital Repository	646,389	610,077	36,312	104,245	3,549	105,126	3,617	96,862	3,792	98,280	6,925	100,662	8,905	104,902	9,524
University of Birmingham ePapers Repository	217,050	215,054	1,996	24,412	198	25,570	130	20,971	154	21,636	372	96,014	450	26,451	692
University of Birmingham eTheses Repository	468,829	437,639	31,190	78,505	5,327	77,360	4,899	62,037	4,035	61,201	4,524	72,808	5,450	85,728	6,955

CORE and IRUS-UK usage statistics at an individual item level

- In IRUS-UK users can view the combined usage for a particular item regardless of where the item is hosted via the individual item statistics page. (This refers to usage for items included within IRUS-UK and CORE). IRUS-UK provides a breakdown of the usage recorded by individual repositories through IRUS-UK as well as usage recorded by each individual repository that CORE has harvested the item from. It also provides an overall total figure for usage of an individual item.

Item Statistics

IRUS-UK: making scholarly statistics count in UK repositories



Repository	University of Huddersfield Repository
URL	http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/15105/
Author(s)	Needham, Paul; Stone, Graham
Item type	Article
Journal	Insights: the UKSG journal, Online, ISSN:2048-7754
DOI	https://doi.org/10.1629/2048-7754.25.3.262

- Monthly stats
- Monthly stats by country
- Daily stats
- Daily stats by country
- Consolidated monthly stats**

Usage Date Range

From date: Sep-2015 To date: Jan-2018 Update

Repository	Reporting Period Total	Sep-2015	Oct-2015	Nov-2015	Dec-2015	Jan-2016	Feb-2016	Mar-2016	Apr-2016	May-2016	Jun-2016	Jul-2016	Aug-2016	Sep-2016	Oct-2016	Nov-2016	Dec-2016	Jan-2017	Feb-2017	Mar-2017
Overall totals	348	16	19	7	158	15	11	3	1	4	2	17	13	5	2	6	2	2	3	2
University of Huddersfield Repository	232	0	0	3	154	9	5	1	0	1	0	14	6	0	1	2	1	1	1	0
Cranfield University CERES	113	16	19	4	4	6	6	2	1	3	2	3	7	5	1	4	1	1	2	2
CORE (Cranfield University CERES)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CORE (University of Huddersfield Repository)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Via the CORE dashboard

In the CORE Dashboard, repository managers can view the usage from IRUS-UK and the usage through CORE. In addition, they are provided with a figure showing the percentage of overall usage of which the CORE usage comprises.

IRUS should go global – that would be really useful. The user is not as interested in knowing how many times an article was downloaded from a single repository - the user is more interested in understanding how many times the article was downloaded totally from anywhere in the world.

IRUS UK

Statistics reported are provided by IRUS-UK. Usage statistics from all repositories in CORE are aggregated, filtered and processed by IRUS-UK according to their policies.

Total downloads last month (IRUS-UK + IRUS-CORE): 174538

Date	IRUS-UK	IRUS-CORE
2018-03	219735	15594 (6.63%)
2018-04	225079	13448 (5.64%)
2018-05	215691	13072 (5.71%)
2018-06	172094	16009 (8.51%)
2018-07	162368	12170 (6.97%)

If the use and sharing of standardised usage statistics was extended internationally more benefits could be accrued. IRUS already partners with services such as OpenAIRE (<https://www.openaire.eu/>) - a European Commission funded project with the general remit to implement EC open access policies and mandates, have also helped to demonstrate the value of an international approach. If standards for usage statistics are adopted globally, it will provide more opportunities to share data and make comparisons and realising the considerable benefits of doing so.

Future developments

The current CORE IRUS-UK collaboration is focussed on items held in participating IRUS-UK repositories. It points to what may be possible on a wider scale in the future. As one CORE Team member stated:

