

Newsletter

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Institutional Repository Usage Statistics in the UK (IRUS-UK)

IRUS-UK collects raw usage data from UK Institutional Repositories (IRs) and processes these data into COUNTER-conformant statistics. This provides repositories with comparable, authoritative, standards-based data and opportunities for profiling at a national level. The IRUS-UK service is a community-driven development, responding to user needs.

Welcome to 12 new participants

The IRUS team would like to welcome our latest participating institutional repositories. This means we currently have 139 active repositories and 161 repositories in total.

- **Edge Hill University research information repository**
- **TeesRep – Teesside University’s research portal**
- **UEL Research Repository** (University of East London)
- **Heriot-Watt Research Portal**
- **Enlighten Publications** (University of Glasgow)
- **Enlighten Theses** (University of Glasgow)
- **University of Northampton’s Research Explorer**
- **QUB Research Portal** (Queen’s University Belfast)
- **Bangor University Research Portal**
- **STFC ePubs** (Science and Technology Facilities Council)
- **OpenAIR@RGU** (Robert Gordon University)
- **LSBU Open Research** (London South Bank University)

If you would like to participate in IRUS-UK, then please contact our helpdesk help@jisc.ac.uk and please could we ask you to add IRUS-UK or IRUS into the subject field.

New case studies

We have just published six case studies. Four are new and two are updated.

New:

Plotting the Open Access journey of a theses collection - Glasgow School of Art Glasgow School of Art (GSA). GSA relies on IRUS-UK to obtain reliable and accurate usage data to show usage over time, the total number of downloads of theses since participating in IRUS-UK and the top five downloaded theses. They encourage PhD students to make their theses Open Access and to see the positive effect that has on their download figures. View the case study [here](#).

Improving repository data quality & supporting advocacy - University of Plymouth. The University of Plymouth has used IRUS-UK usage data statistics to improve the quality of their repository data. IRUS-UK data is used to support Open Access engagement and advocacy across the university with infographics presented at school and faculty committee meetings and open discussions with individual authors to encourage research deposit and to promote research. View the case study [here](#).

University of Reading has produced two case studies; both of these have been produced by staff members Karen Rowlett, Research Publications Adviser and Alison Sutton, Research Publications Manager.

- **Infographics used for advocacy and promotion of the University of Reading Institutional Repository - University of Reading.** Using IRUS-UK data for reporting they have now added infographics to encourage output submissions and to show how the repository is being used as a source of open access research outputs. Keen to highlight new content, infographics have also been created to show the most downloaded newcomers and to highlight items that have been added recently that are achieving high downloads. View the case study [here](#).
- **Mapping usage to research groups - University of Reading.** Their key researchers are grouped within divisions and under themes according to the subject area. So, as well as general reporting on openness and usage, the repository wanted to report by themes. They are mapping usage by combining IRUS-UK data with author IDs and staff lists from their human resources department, This enables them to associate publications with authors and themes and then calculate downloads for each of them. View the case study [here](#).

Updated:

Open Access Infographic - Imperial College London (ICL). ICL uses IRUS-UK to collate data and populate sections of the infographics they produce to highlight headline repository statistics and support their advocacy work. They also use additional download numbers to show how many downloads come via CORE. View the case study [here](#).

Using IRUS-UK to develop an OA newsletter - Aberystwyth University. Aberystwyth University uses IRUS-UK data to promote Open Access activity and have developed a regular newsletter, incorporating statistics from IRUS-UK. The university is keen to promote Open Access activity. They are also using the various visualisations available in IRUS-UK to illustrate their 'downloads by item type' and 'downloads by country'. View the case study [here](#).

These are available on the IRUS-UK website within the 'Support' section: <https://irus.jisc.ac.uk/support/casestudies/>.



Widget update

There have been some refinements and updates made to the interactive IRUS-UK widget <https://irus.jisc.ac.uk/support/widget/>, which enables IRUS-UK statistics to be embedded into institutional repository pages.

Using this means that you can provide an instant high-level snapshot of overall usage of your IR items by month and item type. Being embedded, the data in the widget will always be up-to-date without you having to do anything.

By default, the widget provides summary level download statistics for a repository, for the last 12 months, broken down by item type. The statistics displayed can be altered to:

- Configure the required date range
- Limit to a selected item type
- Select overall totals or per month
- Display or hide summary totals

A couple of repositories have this in use already.

We have written a blog post about this with examples included <https://scholarlycommunications.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2019/08/21/embedding-irus-uk-statistics-into-ir-web-pages-the-irus-uk-widget/>

We recognise that there's a requirement to display item-level statistics, in addition to summary-level statistics, and we aim to introduce such a facility this year to support repositories that are most interested in a way to incorporate the IRUS-UK usage data for each of the records in their repository and integrate it into the user's view of that record.

IRUS developments

COUNTER Release 5

COUNTER Release 5 now supports the recording of information about metadata views (Investigations) in addition to downloads of full-text items (Requests). A number of repository suppliers have already implemented the new version of the Tracker which submits messages about both Investigations and Requests. 2019-20 work involves liaising with suppliers to implement the necessary revisions to the Tracker, working with the community to ensure that all providers adopt it, making changes to the ingest process and adapting the database and UI to reflect COUNTER R5.

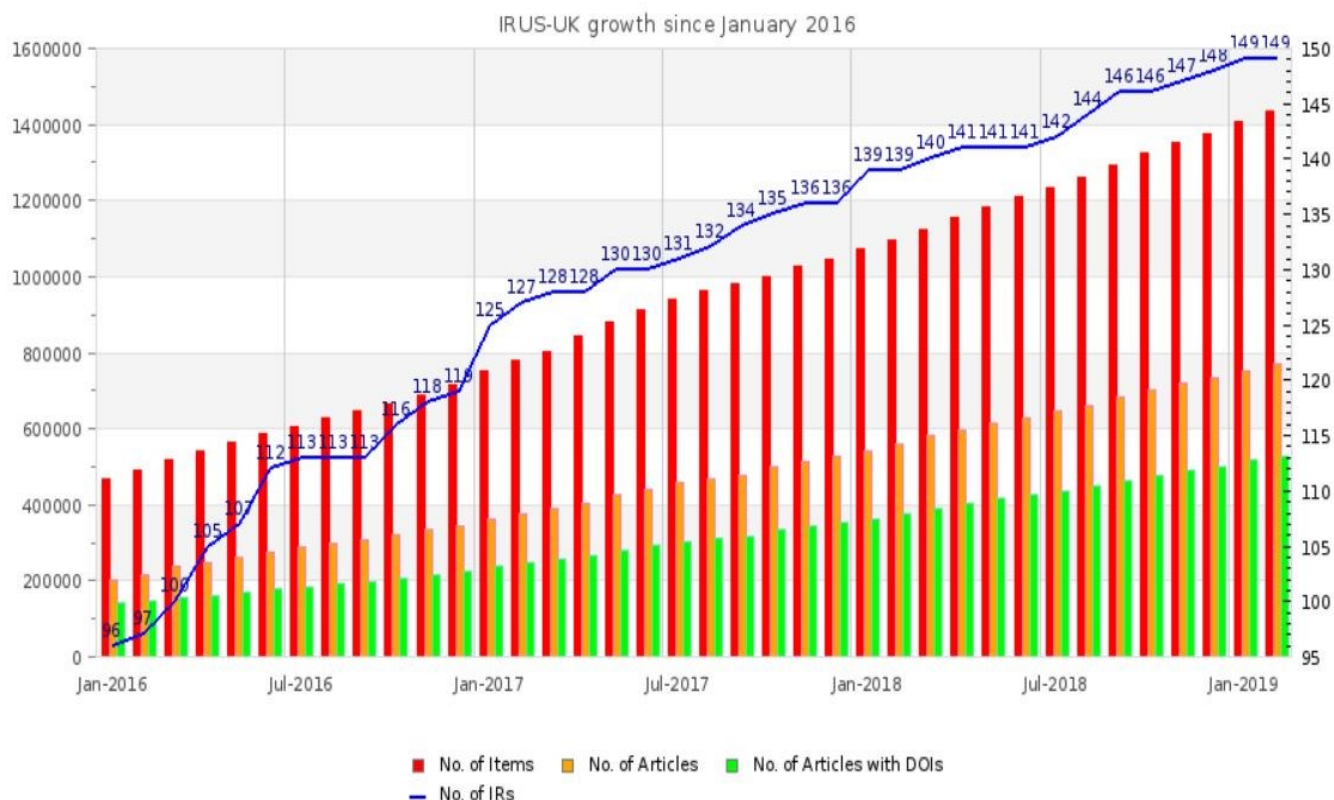
Support for research data repositories

COUNTER-conformant download metrics for research data held in research repositories will be rolled into production as part of the IRUS service in 2020.

IRUSdata-UK was a successful pilot project and recently a decision was taken to extend the existing remit of IRUS-UK to include research data and move the pilot instance into service so that it is fully supported.

IRUS-UK will be developed to produce COUNTER R5-conformant statistics and, in the case of data repositories, to provide statistics conforming to both the COUNTER R5 COP and COUNTER for Research Data COP. As part of this work, there will be a need to engage with a broader range of IR vendors to implement Tracker functionality.

IRUS-UK growth over time



Project Honey Pot

Project Honey Pot is a free, distributed, web-based, open source system for identifying the IP addresses of spammers and spambots. IRUS-UK is participating in Project Honey Pot and has

contributed to the project by identifying a previously unknown email harvester. We recommend that our users also participate. Further information can be found on the Project website <http://www.projecthoneypot.org/index.php>.

Contact Us

You can keep up-to-date with service developments by visiting our website <https://irus.jisc.ac.uk/>

We welcome your views on your experience of using the website and portal.

Please get in touch if you have comments, questions or ideas for future developments.



IRUS-UK