How do you use IRUS-UK?

One of the key findings of the guidance and support section of the IRUS-UK 2014 user survey (see back page for more on this) was the number of requests for case studies of how other institutions are using IRUS-UK, and use cases to demonstrate what can be done with IRUS-UK data. We’re planning to develop these over the next few months, and would like your help. Are you willing to speak to a member of the project team to discuss your use of IRUS-UK? It should only take around 30 minutes of your time via phone (or Skype). If you’re able to help with this, please contact us at irus@mimas.ac.uk.

IRUS-UK CAG formation

As part of the continuing work to ensure that the IRUS-UK service is developed to meet the needs of its user community the team has established an IRUS-UK Community Advisory Group (CAG). The aim of this group is to provide input and recommendations on aspects of the service enhancements and priorities. The input of the group will complement the excellent feedback we already get from our active user community and is in no way intended to replace it.

We now have around 12 representatives, across different software platforms and we held our 1st conference call with them in April. Subsequent work will be done mainly by email and we hope to have two meetings/calls per year.

Institutional Repositories Usage Statistics in UK (IRUS-UK)

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

IRUS-UK out and about

Papers and presentations in the coming months:

- Open Repositories 2014 – June in Helsinki. This is a joint panel session with Balviar Notay from Jisc and Ross MacIntyre will be focussing on an overview of the IRUS-UK service and the portal.
- Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD2014) – July in Leicester. Paul Needham will be presenting to an all attendee session “IRUS-UK: making ETDs count in UK repositories”.
- Library Assessment Conference – August in Seattle. IRUS-UK will be included, along with Journal Usage Statistics Portal (JUSP) and Library Analytics and Metrics Project (LAMP), as part of Mimas work with analytics and usage data.
- Repository Fringe2014 – August in Edinburgh. Details to be confirmed.
IRUS-UK 2014 survey

Many thanks to those of you who completed the 2014 IRUS-UK survey, and congratulations to Susan Miles who won the £50 Amazon voucher. We received 37 responses in total, and gathered some really useful feedback. We’ve gained more of an understanding of how you’re using IRUS-UK, and how you would like to in future. We’ve followed up a number of responses from those of you who had specific questions and left your details for us to contact you. We’re currently analysing the data and will be publishing a full report via our website in the next few weeks. In the meantime, here are a few of the highlight statistics from the survey:

- 93% of respondents find the IRUS-UK user interface clear
- 66% of respondents have found that IRUS-UK enables reporting they were previously unable to do
- 83% of respondents hope to use IRUS-UK for benchmarking (17% weren’t sure, no one said no)

All the suggestions gathered from the survey have been added to the IRUS-UK wish list, which is regularly reviewed by the project team, and the responses relating to how you would like to use IRUS-UK will feed into our development plans. The feedback on guidance and support has also been useful in helping us prioritise future activities to provide support for IRUS-UK users. A huge thank you again to those who completed the survey, and if you have any other feedback we’re always happy to receive it via email at irus@mimas.ac.uk or via Twitter at @IRUSNEWS.

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 developments by visiting our website www.irus.mimas.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.