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.

Welcome to six new participants

We would like to welcome our latest participating institutional repositories, meaning we currently have 83 institutional repositories representing >55% of eligible repositories:

- Online Research @ Cardiff – ORCA
- Nottingham ePrints
- WestminsterResearch
- St Mary’s University Open Research Archive
- Winchester Research Repository
- CLoK – Central Lancashire online Knowledge

Out and about

NISO virtual conference: On the 29th April Jo Alcock presented ‘Value in numbers: A Shared Approach to Measuring Usage and Impact’. This covered JUSP. IRUS-UK and developing services to support open access including Jisc Monitor and CORE (COnnecting REpositories). View the presentation on SlideShare: http://www.slideshare.net/JUSPSTATS/niso-usage290415

OR2015 conference: In Indianapolis, 8-11th June, Jo Lambert will present ‘How much?’: Aggregating usage data from Repositories in the UK.

CILIP conference: In Liverpool, 2-3rd July, Jo Alcock, on behalf of IRUS-UK and JUSP, has been invited to run a ‘masterclass’ on using usage statistics.

11th Northumbria International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries & Information Services: In Edinburgh, 20-22nd July, Jo Alcock will present ‘IRUS-UK: enabling institutions to quantify usage of open access research’.

Upcoming webinars

Our next webinar will be held on Wednesday, 24th June at 3:00pm.

This will be on ‘IRUS-UK technical development for EPrints’ and include contributions from at least one of our users.

It will be the first in a series of technical webinars with a DSpace one to follow in July (date to be confirmed) and a third, covering other repository software, to follow later in the year.

Registration is not yet open but make a note of the date if you would like to take part. Further information to follow.

Other news

Our Community Advisory Group (CAG) held its 3rd meeting (1st face-to-face one) on 14th April. Discussions included open access, deleted and restricted items, review of the user interface, forthcoming webinars and future support.
2015 IRUS-UK user survey

Many thanks to those of you who completed the 2015 IRUS-UK survey, and congratulations to Elizabeth Chamberlain who won the £50 Amazon voucher. We received 41 responses in total (from 32 different institutions), and gathered some really useful feedback. We will be publishing a full report via our website shortly. Here are a few of the highlight statistics from the survey:

- 87% of respondents use repository statistics for regular reporting to management
- 82% of respondents have found that IRUS-UK enables reporting they were previously unable to do
- When asked to consider the best thing about IRUS-UK, responses included comments on reliable authoritative statistics, the ability to benchmark, and the ease of use
- 93% of respondents felt IRUS-UK has improved their statistical reporting
- 86% of respondents rated their overall experience of IRUS-UK over the last 12 months as ‘good’ or ‘very good’
- When asked if they would recommend IRUS-UK to a colleague, half of the respondents said they definitely would (giving the top rating of 10). The average score across all respondents to this question was 9 out of 10.

All the suggestions gathered from the survey have been added to the IRUS-UK wish list, which is regularly reviewed by the service team. 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.

New reports

As part of our development we are delighted to add three brand new statistics reports:

**Book Report 1 (BR1):** Number of successful title requests by month and title. This report enables you to view the number of successful book downloads by month for a selected repository.

**Book Report 2 (BR2):** Number of successful section requests by month and title. This report enables you to view the number of successful book section downloads by month for a selected repository.

**Journal Report 1 (JR1):** Number of successful full-text article requests by month and journal. This report enables you to view the number of number of successful full-text article requests by month and journal for participating repositories. The report can be filtered to limit the results to a selected journal or repository.

All of these 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 are paginated and can be sorted as required by clicking the appropriate column headings.
IRUS-UK, the Tracker and PURE

IRUS-UK uses the Tracker Protocol to gather raw download data from UK repositories. It’s simple, lightweight and easy to implement, and has been successfully deployed on repositories running DSpace, EPrints and Fedora.

For some time now we have been urging Elsevier to add Tracker functionality to their PURE Portal repository software to meet the needs and wishes of a growing number of institutions in the UK who are using PURE and want to join IRUS-UK. So far our efforts have been unsuccessful, partly because of a (wrongly) perceived lack of interest and partly because of a misunderstanding that the Tracker Protocol is specific and exclusive to IRUS-UK and also the UK, neither of which is correct!

The Tracker Protocol is specified in Appendix D of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Articles (http://www.projectcounter.org/documents/counterart_App_D.pdf) as “intended for use by Institutional Repositories (and other services) to allow them to transmit their raw usage data to third-party services capable of producing COUNTER-compliant statistics on their behalf” and as such is part of a recognised international standard.

We are meeting with the UK PURE User Group, later this month, to discuss the best way to take this forward to enable PURE repositories to participate in IRUS-UK.
Portal update – new menu layout

We have redesigned the menu layout in the portal and with the addition of several new views and reports it was decided that a horizontal menu would be more appropriate. This has been done with approval from our Community Advisory Group (CAG).

On the home page of IRUS-UK there is now a large blue button ‘Access reports via the IRUS-UK Portal’. This was after a request to make it more obvious how to access the portal other than via the smaller grey button in the top right of the home page.

The portal then has five tabs: Home (an ‘at a glance’ summary of data in IRUS-UK); Statistics Views; Statistics Reports; Metadata Views; and Metadata Reports. By hovering over any one of these tabs you can quickly see what views/reports are available within that section. By hovering over these individual titles a blue ‘info button’ appears. Hovering over that shows detailed information of the view/report. This means it should be clearer and quicker to find which view/report you want to run without having to open each one first.

We hope you find this clearer and easier to use but, as a community resource, we are very keen to get your feedback and ideas.

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.