IRUS-UK: Overview

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IRUS-UK

- IRUS-UK: Institutional Repository Usage Statistics – UK
- Project Team Members:
  - Jisc:Mimas – Project & Service Management & Host
  - Cranfield University - Development
  - Evidence Base, Birmingham City University – User Engagement & Evaluation
- Funded by Jisc

Bringing together key repository services to deliver a connected national infrastructure to support OA
IRUS-UK: background

- PIRUS2 (Publisher and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics)
  - Aim: “develop a global standard to enable the recording, reporting and consolidation of online usage statistics for individual journal articles hosted by IRs, Publishers and others”
  - Proved it was *technically feasible*, but (initially) easier without ‘P’
  - [http://www.cranfieldlibrary.cranfield.ac.uk/pirus2/](http://www.cranfieldlibrary.cranfield.ac.uk/pirus2/)

- Main outcomes:
  - IRUS-UK
    - [http://www.irus.mimas.ac.uk/](http://www.irus.mimas.ac.uk/)
  - Release 1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Articles
    - [http://www.projectcounter.org/counterarticles.html](http://www.projectcounter.org/counterarticles.html)
IRUS-UK: aims and objectives

- A national aggregation service, enabling UK IRs to share/expose usage statistics at the individual item level, based on a global standard – COUNTER
  - Collect raw download data from UK IRs for *all item types* within repositories
  - Process those raw data into COUNTER-compliant statistics
- Facilitate comparable, standards-based measurements
- Provide an evidence base for repositories to develop policies and initiatives to help support their objectives
- Provide consistent and comprehensive statistics, presenting opportunities for benchmarking at a national level
IRUS-UK: Data gathering

Paul Needham (Cranfield University)
IRUS-UK: gathering data

- Simple method to gather raw download data:
  - On download, message sent to IRUS-UK server with some basic details

- Accomplished by adding a small piece of code to repository software, which employs the ‘Tracker Protocol’
  - Pushes minimal raw download metadata to a third-party server as OpenURL
  - Patches for DSpace (1.8.x, 3.x, 4.x) and Plug-ins for Eprints (3.2-3.3.x)
  - Implementation guidelines for Fedora

- Not in IRUS-UK scope, but also successfully deployed by:
  - OAPEN Library - freely accessible academic books, ARNO software
  - CORE - millions of scholarly articles aggregated from many Open Access repositories
IRUS-UK: processing data

- Adhere to the processing rules specified in:
  - Release 4 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for e-Resources
  - Release 1 of the COUNTER Code of Practice for Articles
  - i.e. we filter out robot accesses and double clicks on the same basis as scholarly publishers
- The COUNTER Robot Exclusion list is specified only as a *minimum requirement*
  - Supplemented COUNTER CoPs, adding filters to
    - Remove more user agents
    - Apply a simple threshold for ‘overactive’ IP addresses
- Commissioned *Information Power* to:
  - Analyse raw data collected BY IRUS-UK
  - Test the feasibility of algorithms to ‘dynamically’ identify and filter out unusual usage/robot activity
- COUNTER Working Group on Robots formed
IRUS-UK: Exposing statistics

- Web User Interface - The IRUS-UK Portal
  - Access currently behind Shibboleth authentication/authorisation
  - Wide range of views, – slicing and dicing stats from the IRUS-UK database
    - Reports available for download as CSV/Excel spreadsheet files
    - Altmetric donuts for individual items 😊

- SUSHI service
  - Standard client/server web service, utilizing a SOAP request/response to retrieve the XML version of COUNTER or COUNTER-like reports

- SUSHI Lite API
  - Under development by the NISO SUSHI Lite Technical Report Working Group (http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sushi/sushi_lite/)
  - RESTful: uses standard HTTP GET returning JSON
  - Allows retrieval of stats snippets to be embedded into Repository (and other) web pages
IRUS-UK: Demo

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IRUS-UK: Community engagement

- Growing number of repositories participating in IRUS-UK – currently 79 repositories

- Communication about progress and new developments via number of different channels:
  - IRUS-UK mailing list
  - @IRUSNEWS Twitter account
  - IRUS-UK newsletter
  - IRUS-UK webinars
  - IRUS-UK presentations at other events

- Gather feedback from participating repositories via surveys and conversations

- Community Advisory Group to provide feedback to the IRUS-UK project team and to inform future developments
IRUS-UK: user surveys

- New repositories receive an invite to a new joiner’s survey within a few weeks of joining to get their initial feedback, see if they need any support, and to gather any suggestions for improvement.

- Annual survey collects data from users on the following:
  - Use of repository statistics
  - Value of IRUS-UK
  - Challenges and barriers
  - Benchmarking
  - Usability
  - Guidance/support

- 40 responses to 2015 survey so far (open until end of March)
IRUS-UK: Added value

- 92% reported that IRUS-UK has improved statistical reporting
- 63% reported that IRUS-UK saves time collecting statistics
- 83% reported that IRUS-UK enables reporting previously unable to do
- 84% hope to use IRUS-UK for benchmarking
IRUS-UK: Best feature

- Reliable, authoritative statistics
  - COUNTER compliant statistics
  - Filtering of robots

- Ability to benchmark against others
  - Comparison of download statistics across participating IRs
  - Number (and range across the sector) of participating institutions

- Easy to use
  - Easy to setup and use
  - Easy access to statistics
  - Clear display of statistics
  - 83% find the current user interface clear
  - 88% find the current functionality clear to understand
IRUS-UK: Most useful reports

1. Item Report 1 (IR1)
2. Item Report 2 (IR2)
3. Repository statistics
4. Consolidated Article Report 1 (CAR1)*
5. ETD Report 1 (ETD1)
6. Repository Report 1 (RR1)

*NB: CAR1 and AR1j reports have been superseded by more flexible AR4 report
IRUS-UK: General comments

“IRUS has provided a range of useful reports not available to us before, and the potential to benchmark our statistics against other repositories.”

“IRUS-UK statistics have been used to inform internal reporting and decision making”
IRUS-UK: How to join

If you are a UK repository:

- Contact us at irus@mimas.ac.uk to register your interest
- Answer a few questions on the type of repository you have and the version you are running
- Get advice from us on what work will be involved depending on your repository type and version
- Implement any changes advised and then see your usage data instantly in IRUS-UK with no more work from you

“The set up was quick and painless, which is always a delight!”
“Consistent collection of statistics without me having to do it!”
IRUS-UK: User support

- Help section on IRUS-UK website includes:
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Glossary
  - IRUS-UK Statistics and Reports
  - Toolbox
  - Use cases
  - Webinar recordings

- Upcoming webinar, IRUS-UK in practice, 7th May: