

Mapping usage to research groups

from the University of Reading

Background

The following case study was kindly produced by Karen Rowlett, Research Publications Adviser and Alison Sutton, Research Publications Manager, at the University of Reading.

Our key researchers are grouped into 37 Research Divisions under 5 Themes according to the subject area. Using data from IRUS-UK, we report the total downloads from our EPrints institutional repository, CentAUR, for each of these groups. This contributes to a general reporting programme on the openness and usage of research publications in the Themes and Research Divisions presented to our Open Access Committee.

IRUS-UK reports used

Item Report 1 (IR1): for number of successful item download requests by month and repository identifier

How is IRUS-UK used?

We use the Item Report 1 (IR1), 'Number of Successful Item Download Requests by Month and Repository Identifier' together with data extracted from CentAUR and staff lists from the HR system to associate downloads with authors and then with groups.

In Item Report 1, 'Report Attributes', we select "Order By: Total Downloads (Descending)" and then export the data as a CSV file. We usually report monthly but this can also be done retrospectively as all the data is available in the report depending on the date range that you select.



Image of the IR1 with 'Total Downloads (Descending)' selected

The downloaded report gives the repository eprint URL for each item. By using find and replace in Excel the data in the first column of the report 'ItemURL' is manipulated to give just the eprint ID of the item in CentAUR. An export from CentAUR is then performed for all items added to the repository since the start of the IRUS statistics reports for our repository. In the CentAUR export, the

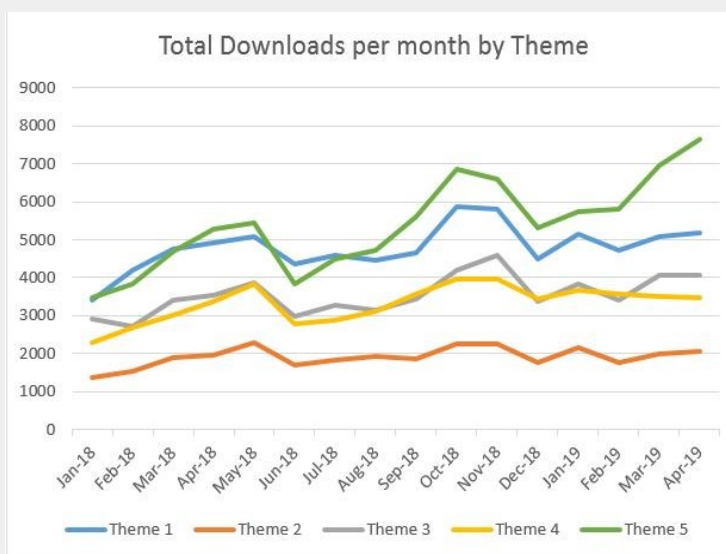
author IDs associated with each eprint listed in the download report are extracted. The author IDs are matched against staff lists provided by Human Resources and the Research Intelligence team. The staff lists include author membership of Research Divisions, Themes and Schools. We can, therefore, associate publications with these groups to allow us to calculate downloads for each of them.

The easiest way to perform the matching of the eprint ID to an author of the item is to use the first listed author ID in the Creator Browse ID field in the CentAUR export. This gives just one author per eprint whereas there may actually be several authors. However, it is sufficiently accurate for identifying a group. We did test the analysis and find that there were very few cross-over items that were co-authored by researchers from different Research Divisions.

The number of downloads per downloadable item is calculated by looking at the number of items that had more than 3 downloads per month (to exclude test downloads by repository staff). This statistic shows up differences between disciplines. Themes 4 and 5 comprise arts, humanities, business and social science subject areas. Themes 1, 2 and 3 include the STEM subjects. The arts and humanities themes exhibit the highest downloads per item. This may be because these items are less likely to

be openly available elsewhere as fewer items in these themes are published open access and they are possibly less likely to also be found in other repositories as there is generally less co-authorship.

Outcome

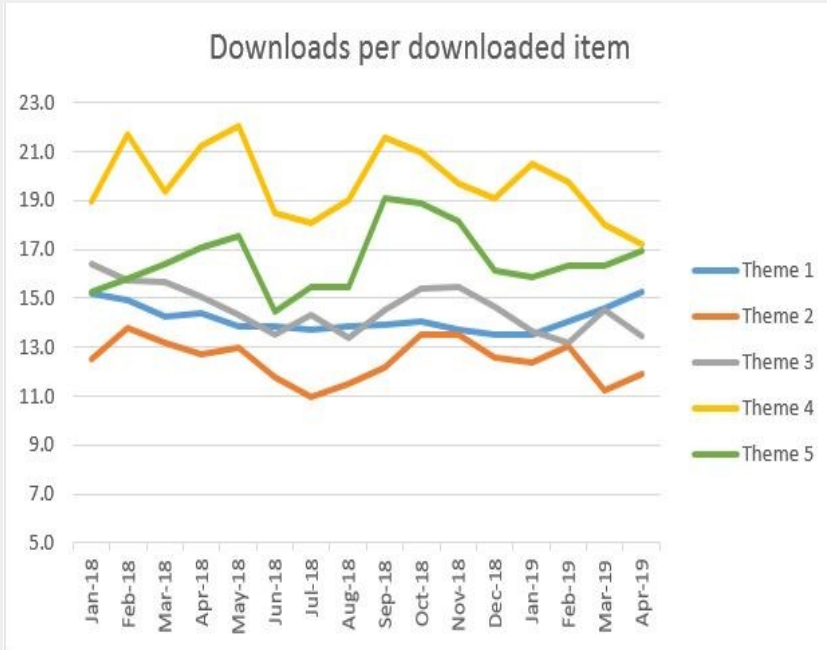


Example of total downloads per month by theme

Downloads for 2018

Theme	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	3408	4193	4755	4905	5076	4362	4587	4456	4666	5868	5817	4499	56592
2	1379	1528	1908	1966	2278	1697	1824	1927	1853	2240	2240	1776	22616
3	2910	2720	3403	3529	3861	2980	3268	3150	3439	4188	4579	3371	41398
4	2274	2667	3003	3374	3837	2796	2872	3121	3578	3958	3965	3436	38881
5	3485	3849	4698	5274	5451	3847	4479	4730	5619	6849	6601	5326	60208
None	13905	14004	17907	18260	18567	13973	14016	13694	14857	18812	17896	14342	190233
Grand Total	27361	28961	35674	37308	39070	29655	31046	31078	34012	41915	41098	32750	409928

The same data as in the above image in table format



Example of total downloads per downloaded item

Next steps

The report can be broken down to include data at the Research Division level and be circulated more widely to the Research Division Leaders. It is hoped that seeing the number of downloads per month from their content will make researchers more aware of the value of depositing their material in CentAUR. This will also help with open access compliance levels for REF2021.