

Plotting the Open Access journey of a theses collection

from the Glasgow School of Art

Background

For Open Access Week 2018, staff at the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) wanted to show the open access journey of the theses collection in their institutional repository RADAR (Repository of Art Design Architecture Research). Since 2014 the GSA has required all postgraduate research students to deposit a digital copy of their PhD or MPhil thesis in RADAR. Students can choose to make their thesis open access, embargoed or restricted from public view.

In October 2016 the GSA joined the British Library's e-thesis online service (EThOS). EThOS is the UK's national thesis service, which aims to maximise the visibility and availability of the UK's doctoral research theses. Since joining EThOS, the GSA has noticed a dramatic increase in the number of downloads of theses from RADAR, as evidenced by IRUS-UK statistics.

IRUS-UK reports used

ETD Report 1 (EDT1): for downloads of electronic theses and dissertations

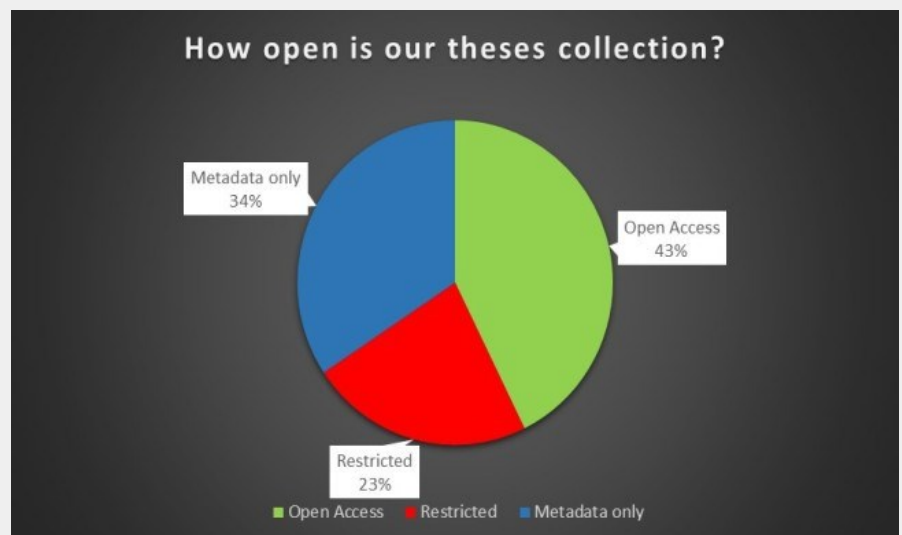
Item Report 1 (IR1): for total downloads by month

How is IRUS-UK used?

IRUS-UK is used to get reliable and accurate usage data to show the usage of theses in RADAR and has been used since 2014. This shows usage over time as well as the total number of downloads of theses within that period and the top five most downloaded theses. Additional data from EPrints was also used. It showed the methods by which the theses were available i.e. open access; metadata only; and restricted to repository staff only.

How open is the collection?

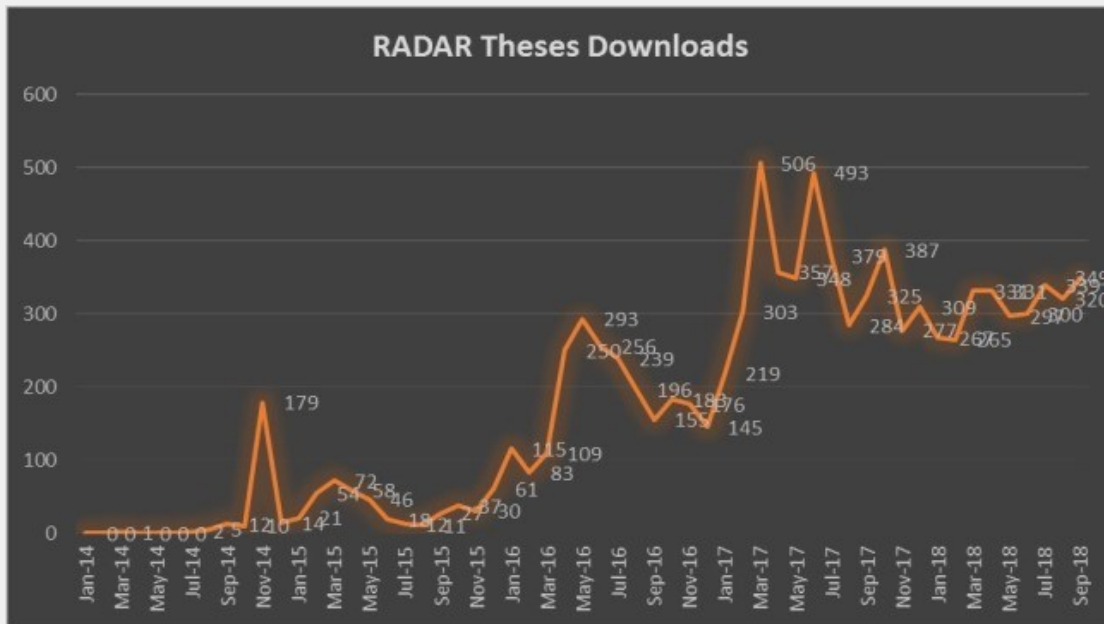
56 theses are open access; 45 are metadata only; 30 are restricted to repository staff only.



Pie chart showing access status of theses in RADAR as recorded in October 2018



The total number of theses downloads from RADAR was 9,836 as recorded in October 2018



Graph showing RADAR theses download statistics, source: [IRUS-UK](#)

TOP 5 DOWNLOADED GSA THESES



Infographic showing the top five downloaded theses from RADAR



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Outcome

A blog post was produced for Open Access Week 2018 and shared on the RADAR blog in the Glasgow School of Art. This involved producing infographics, using Microsoft Excel, including an add in 'People Graph'. This provides the ability to produce graphics from data which includes figures of people.

The blog was one of the most read posts of 2018. In addition, staff have used the post to support Open Access (OA) advocacy.

A link to the blog post is encouraging PhD students undecided about whether to make their thesis Open Access to do so as they are able to easily see the effect Open Access has on their download figures.

IRUS-UK download statistics from Item Report 1 (IR1) are used in reports for quarterly Research and Enterprise committee meetings at GSA as a way of promoting the positive aspects of making research Open Access.

The Glasgow School of Art Repository Roadmap aims to utilize IRUS-UK statistics for monitoring and benchmarking as part of their regular practice.

Related links

Open Access Week blog post:

<https://gsaradar.wordpress.com/2018/10/25/open-access-theses-in-radar/>

RADAR (Repository of Art Design Architecture Research):

<http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>

ETHOS (e-theses online service):

<https://ethos.bl.uk>