IRUS-UK

Newsletter

Contents

Institutional Repository Usage Statistics in the UK (IRUS-UK)

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

Welcome to 7 new participants

The IRUS team would like to welcome our latest participating institutional repositories. Here are the new IRs

- SHU Research Data Archive (SHURDA) - Sheffield Hallam University
- UWE Bristol Research Repository - University of the West of England
- BCU Open Access Repository - Birmingham City University
- BiRD - Birkbeck Research Data - Birkbeck, University of London
- LJMU Data Repository - Liverpool John Moores University
- UWTSD Research Data - University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- RADAR (Oxford Brookes) - Oxford Brookes University

We have 206 repositories, 178 are active and 28 are 'retired'. 'Retired' mostly refers to a repository that has changed platforms. We still hold all the usage data for the 199 repositories, and this is accessible via our reports.

IRUS-UK is funded by Jisc

IRUS R5 v1 service release

The IRUS team are working to deliver a number of enhancements to the service this Summer. The service will continue to be developed throughout 2020 but the first iteration of the service will include these features:

1. **COUNTER Release 5 (R5) conformance**

   We are transitioning IRUS to the latest version of the COUNTER standard. Release 5 of the COUNTER Code of Practice records information about metadata views in addition to downloads of full text items (Investigations and Requests). To benefit from access to R5 data, you, or your software provider if you have a hosted service, will need to ensure that the R5 Tracker has been implemented to submit messages about investigations and requests. You will have been contacted about this, and will hopefully have made the required changes, but If you have any questions please email our helpdesk. You will still be able to access usage statistics for Requests, as now, without updating to the R5 Tracker.

2. **Open Access**

   In response to your feedback, the current Shibboleth authorisation mechanism will be removed so that the IRUS web portal is fully open and supports easier access to data and tools.

3. **User Interface and access to data**

   User interface developments will improve the appearance and accessibility of the portal, access to data, reports and visualisations.

   Access to data

   You can continue to access data via the web portal, an API and widget. To help you access and embed IRUS stats within your local systems, development of an R5 API and documentation will enable you to access provisional daily stats in addition to monthly stats.

   Report labelling

   Responding to feedback that report names and corresponding descriptions weren't always intuitive or user-friendly, we're making changes to report names. The user interface will be revised and reorganized to describe the types of reports available in IRUS and the function they serve.

   Report functionality

   We're developing report functionality to streamline the set of core reports whilst offering greater flexibility to customise reports according to individual requirements.

Further details about the service, timescale for release and further developments will be communicated through the IRUS mailing list in June 2020.

Exploring international comparisons

In addition to IRUS-UK and IRUS-ANZ, Jisc is working with LYRASIS to offer IRUS in the US (IRUS-US). Use of a common standard and a common database offers opportunities for international comparison. As with the CORE data in IRUS currently, the inclusion of US and ANZ repositories will draw on a wider set of data, provide more opportunity for benchmarking and enable us to explore global uses cases. An example of this is described below.

At IRUS we have created a table showing the usage of coronavirus related content. This features items in the IRUS family of services: IRUS-UK; CORE; IRUS-ANZ; and IRUS-US. This is on each of the homepages e.g. IRUS-UK **https://irus.jisc.ac.uk/** and there is a link to the table **https://irus.jisc.ac.uk/coronavirus/**. Data is added all the time and it shows when the last updates were made. The table is interactive so you can choose how many results to display or select by each of the headings.

Jisc has written a blog post about it **https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/lockdown-report-sees-record-number-of-downloads-through-university-repositories-28-apr-2020** and both @Jisc and @IRUSNEWS have tweeted about it.

Read more about Jisc's collaboration with LYRASIS in this news item – **'Jisc and LYRASIS help US universities and research organisations gather new usage insights'**
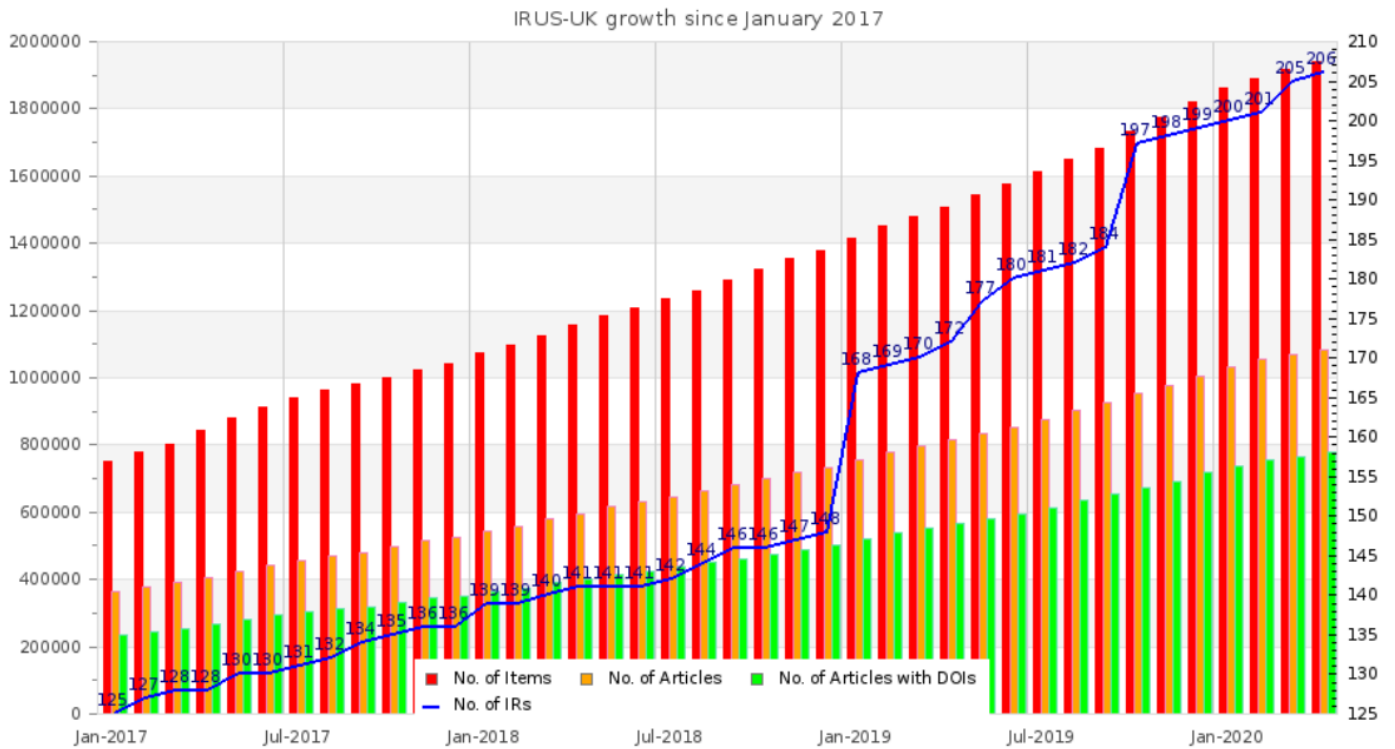
Software platforms update

We have now added Equella to the platforms we support.

We are currently working with DSpace, EPrints, Equella, Fedora, Figshare, Haplo, Pure portal, and Worktribe.

Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in working with us and you use other repository software.

IRUS-UK growth over time

IRUS-UK growth since January 2017

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 service developments by visiting our website **https://irus.jisc.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.