

Reporting to researchers

What do IRUS-UK institutions say?

University of Warwick

“We get a lot of requests from academics asking about the downloads of their research, particularly at annual review time. Sometimes departments will request information on how their items are doing so we’ve got a standard template for people who are requesting statistics - that’s an on demand service.”

Open University

“The top fifteen I report to management and send those through to faculties... I will also do ad hoc reports on how many downloads an item or series of items has had for researchers to report back to funders.”

University of St Andrews

“Thesis authors tend to have quite an interest... we do get some people asking us, so for example we had someone ask because they wanted to make sure people were still accessing the thesis.”

Introduction

Researchers are often interested in knowing the usage statistics of their items in the institutional repository; this could be for review purposes, for reporting to Research Councils, or just for curiosity. Additionally, a researcher may be involved in dissemination or publicity (e.g. a conference presentation) that refers to their research, and they may wish to see if this has resulted in an increase in the number of downloads of the item.

How can IRUS-UK help?

In the IRUS-UK Search you can search for a specific item to report on the downloads of the item. The result shows monthly downloads for the item since a download was recorded in IRUS-UK, and daily downloads for the last month.

You can also search for results by an author. You can choose to restrict the search to a certain repository, so could search for items by a researcher that are available via your institutional repository.

You may also wish to highlight the most downloaded items from an institutional repository to let researchers know when they are experiencing high download rates. This can be done with the *Item Report 1 (IR1)* by sorting by descending downloads (which is the default view).

