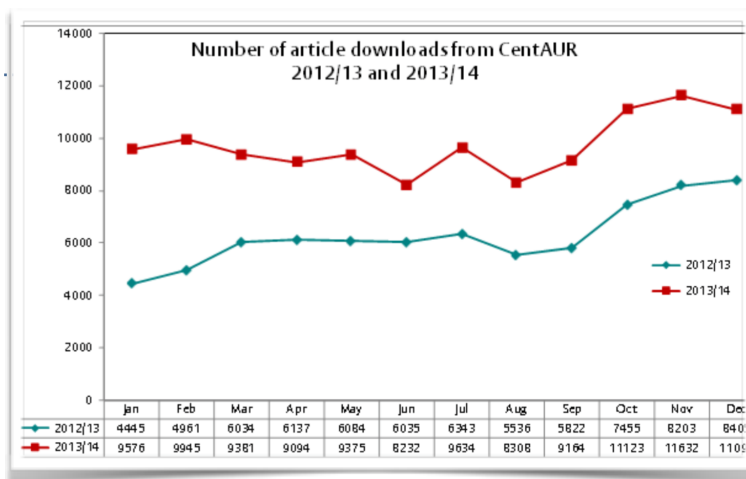# USING IRUS-UK TO REPORT TO SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Case study from University of Reading

Background

At the University of Reading, termly reports about the institutional repository (CentAUR) are provided to a senior management research committee. These are used to demonstrate the value of CentAUR and highlight activity relating to Open Access. This includes showing usage and drawing comparisons with similar repositories. It is vital that reports produced are concise, visual and easy to interpret to enable them to be understood effectively within limited time.

Sample chart from report to senior management

How do you use IRUS-UK?

Data from the IR2 report are exported as a CSV file and used to create charts for the report (this process allows anomalies to be spotted and dealt with if necessary). Data are presented which show the proportion of downloads for different periods which enables comparisons over time. Once the data are downloaded as a CSV file this gives flexibility to tailor how to present the data.

The RR1 report is used to select a number of competitor institutions and produce comparative charts showing the number of downloads. In some cases the data are filtered for articles only to enable like with like comparison and link to the institutions's current focus for the OA agenda.

Outcome

The reports have been well received by the committee. Being able to easily identify patterns such as the regular peaks and troughs in annual usage provided committee members with confidence in the statistics as they clearly related to recognisable points in the academic year. The data comparing usage with other institutions has been valuable and has generated considerable interest. It provides additional context for the statistics and a way of assessing performance.

Next steps

IRUS-UK statistics are also being used for other purposes including: developing a monthly infographic to promote the value of the repository; a comparative analysis of downloads; and advocacy for e-theses.

IRUS-UK reports used	
Item Report 2 (IR2)	For total downloads by item type for CentAUR
Repository Report 1 (RR1)	For downloads for comparator institutions