Measuring the Impact of Digital Repositories

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Institutional Repository Perspective
Impact for Whom? What Type of Impact?

• “A Feasibility Study for a National Science Foundation Open-Access Publication Repository”
  • NSF OCI-0948134 (Final report issued in 2013)

• Possible Outcomes or Goals
  • Good for science (e.g., better science, reproducibility)
  • Taxpayers pay for research so they should have access
  • Return on investment
  • Increased pressure associated with rising journal costs
  • Funders assess effectiveness of their grants
Measures from Institutional Repositories

• Generally speaking, we count things...because we can
  • Downloads
  • Citations

• What is the right metric for these measures? That is, how many downloads or citations constitutes impact?

• What about data that aren’t stored on institutional repositories?

• “We need to move from a repository centric viewpoint to a resource centric viewpoint.” – Herbert Van de Sompel