

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