

The Value of Republishing Scientific Literature in Institutional Repositories

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SCRIPT

TITLE SLIDE

Hello! Thank you for attending

Today I will talk briefly about the value of republishing scientific literature in institutional repositories

My name is Sue Ann Gardner. My co-authors are Linnea Fredrickson and Paul Royster

1st SLIDE

With Margaret Mering, we manage the Digital Commons institutional repository at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The repository has been in existence since 2005. It currently has over 118,000 full-text items which have collectively been downloaded more than 73,000,000 times

2nd SLIDE

We were compelled to examine the characteristics of the readership for several series of scientific literature in the repository because:

Older scientific literature may only occasionally circulate from university library collections or be purchased by readers from remaindered publishers' stock, and

Except for occasional interlibrary loan, readership of such hard copy materials is usually limited to local users

It is our mission through the repository to serve a worldwide readership, not just our local users

3rd SLIDE

Here is some information about the methods we used to conduct this study, and a snapshot of our findings

Series were selected to reflect both locally and non-locally focused content. I will discuss each of the series briefly when I advance to the next slide

The UNL Digital Commons dashboard was used to gather statistics for each series

Downloads per country was the metric we chose to focus on for this project. We could have selected downloads from individual institutions or readership domains (such as government, military, education, or commercial)

We identified downloads from World Bank-designated low- and middle-income countries to distinguish those downloads from the high-income country downloads to determine the stratified nature of the readership worldwide. In light of our mission to serve readers worldwide, we were interested to know to what extent this subset of our materials was reaching the most remote locations

I will show the specific numbers on the next slide. You will see there that older scientific publications uploaded to an IR are downloaded in numbers proportional to their upload rates. This was true across all scientific subjects examined from all years and included readers in all countries

Significantly, approximately 31% of downloads of this subset of materials are from World Bank-designated low- and middle-income countries

4th SLIDE

These series were chosen because they contain scientific materials from a wide range of years, some going back to the turn of the last century all the way through the present or nearly the present

The series with the most locally focused content is the *Nebraska Bird Review* followed by the *Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences*, which includes works related to Nebraska and the surrounding Great Plains region as well as some non-locally focused content

The scientific publications from the University of Nebraska State Museum (which is our local state natural history museum) and *Insecta Mundi* primarily contain non-locally focused content

4th SLIDE (continued)

Content from all series was downloaded at proportional rates, even the most locally-focused, *Nebraska Bird Review*, which had an average of 43 downloads per item

Items in the other series were downloaded about ten times more frequently than that, with an average of 437 times (for *Insecta Mundi*), 451 times (for *Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences*), and 583 times (for materials from the museum)

Altogether, the 3,887 items in these series had been downloaded about 1.3 million times as of the study date, February 19, 2021. This represents 3.3% of works and 1.8% of all downloads in the repository

With the locally focused *Nebraska Bird Review* data removed, the items represent 2.1% of works and 1.8% of downloads

5th SLIDE

Our data show that the materials in the series we examined are downloaded roughly proportionally to their percentage of content, especially the works that include non-locally focused content

These materials are accessed by a diverse readership both within and beyond academia

These data demonstrate that institutional repositories can equitably bring scientific content to the world

ADD IF THERE IS TIME

Thank you for attending! We will be happy to answer your questions during the asynchronous session that will take place throughout the next week