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6-30-2008

### Research Showcase: UNL's Institutional Repository

Paul Royster

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, [proyster@unl.edu](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)

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# Research Showcase

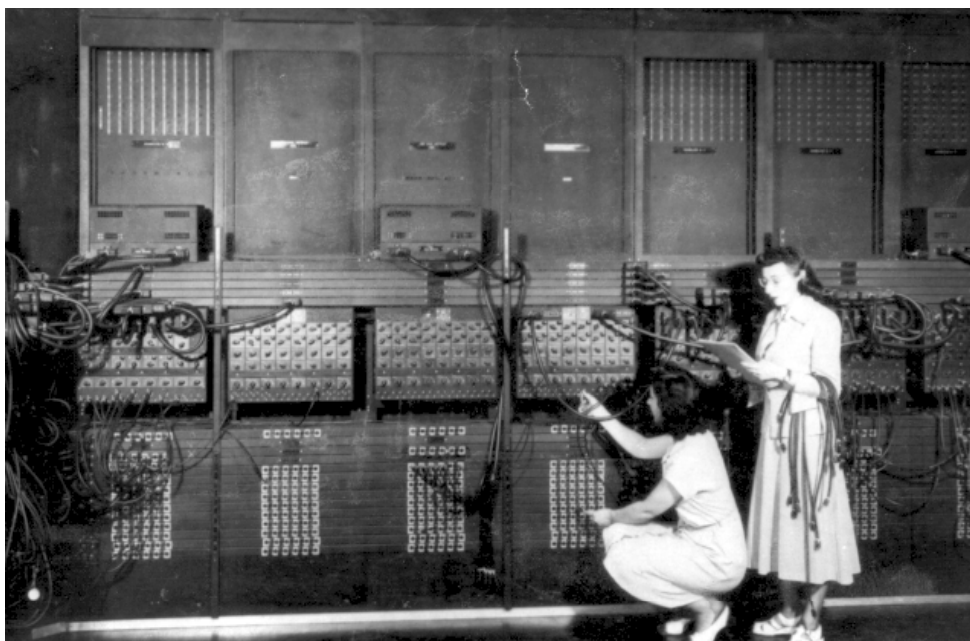


Could you direct  
me to the  
Reference Desk ?

American Library Association Convention  
Anaheim, California  
June 30, 2008

# UNL's Institutional Repository

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>



Paul Royster  
Coordinator of Scholarly Communications  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
[proyster@unl.edu](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)



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# What is an Institutional Repository ?

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- archive for digital or digitized materials, usually “documents”; i.e. articles, papers, reports, etc.
- holds an institution’s “research, scholarship, & creative activity”; also historical records, publicity materials, newsletters
- online
- can be restricted or open access, or mixed

# How long have these been around ?

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- Since the 1990s, at least, but
- over the last 4 or 5 years they have become one of the “hotter” subjects in the library field.
- There are now at least 131 IRs in the US, mostly at libraries.
- There are at least 576 IRs, worldwide.

\* Source: Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)

# What's the purpose ?

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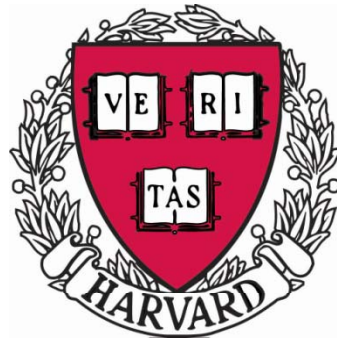
- Preserve digital materials
- Disseminate scholarly output
- Raise the research profile of the university
- Re-assert control of intellectual property

# Lately in the news:

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- Harvard faculty votes to institute mandatory open access deposit of research

( even though they don't yet have a repository or an office of scholarly communication )

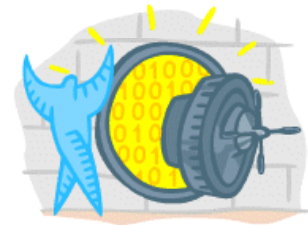




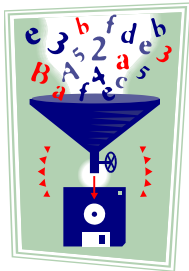
# What does a repository consist of ?

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1. database/archive of materials



2. system for inputting or adding materials



3. system for discovering and delivering materials to users



# What systems are “out there” ?

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- Commercial packages  
(bepress's Digital Commons)
- Open-source software  
(D-Space, Fedora)

# Advantages of commercial package

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- Functional “out of the box”
- Installed, maintained, supported
- On their server with unlimited storage space
- Only cost is the annual fee



 DIGITALCOMMONS™

# Open source systems

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- Software is free
- Your IT department sets up, customizes, de-bugs, & maintains on your servers
- Support is a loose network/community of users, each with different installations



# The biggest advantage of the Digital Commons system for me:

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Allows me to focus on two things:

1. Recruiting content
2. Boosting usage

I don't worry about website design, engineering, maintenance, upgrades, compatibility, storage, servers, software, ...

# UNL's history

*Digital*Commons@UNL

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Started in spring 2005

Initial contents: 9,400 (old) dissertations which

- were digitized by UMI from microfilms
- have free access restricted to UNL campus
- offer free preview & option to purchase (\$30) for off-campus users

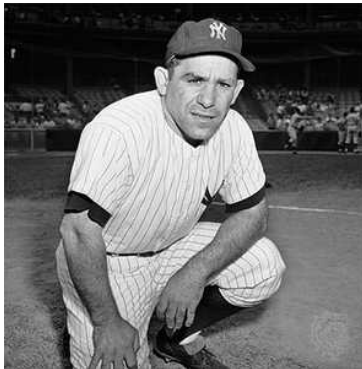
# Building open-access contents

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It was thought at first, that if you show faculty the system and explain to them the advantages of using it, **they would voluntarily deposit their articles themselves.**

*“If you build it, they will come.”*

This has proved to be a pipe dream.



Yogi Berra:

*“If people wanna stay away,  
nobody can make ‘em.”*

# Building OA contents II

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We soon realized the repository wasn't going to fill up very fast by itself, so we developed a “mediated deposit” system

→ basically, “Send us your vita, and we will do it for you.”

We call this the D.I.F.M. (= “Do it for me”) model

This has proved pretty effective.



# Staffing

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I do the article gathering, copyright checking, permissioning, and prepare “author’s versions” where needed.

We have a 21-year-old junior who does most of the article uploading, and an 18-year-old freshman who does scanning. They are work-study students who work about 8–12 hours/week and cost us about \$1.35/hour.

This is our entire staff.

## Services we offer

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1. Immediate electronic publication, with 24/7, worldwide, free access to materials
2. Design & typesetting services
3. Permissions & copyright clearance
4. Regular usage reports by email
5. Permanent URL for linking
6. Long-term archiving, storage, and migration
7. Assistance with NIH PubMed Central deposits

# Who can participate ?

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- faculty
- staff
- students
- emeriti
- researchers
- adjuncts
- affiliates
- basically, anyone with a UNL connection



# What do they deposit ?

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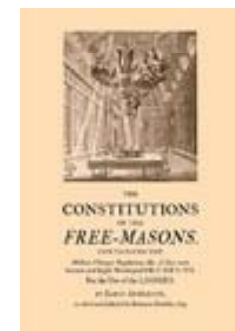
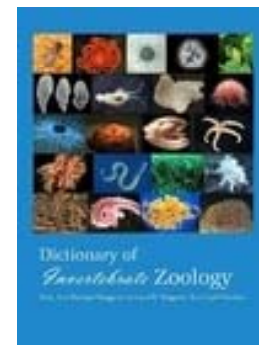
- articles
- chapters
- books
- working papers
- reviews
- theses and dissertations
- conference proceedings
- conference presentations & PowerPoints
- newsletters
- organizational histories & literature
- musical compositions

# We also publish original content

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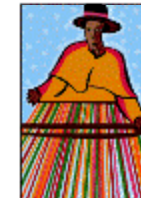
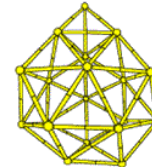
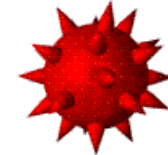
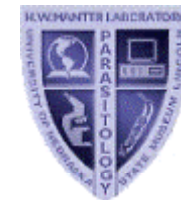
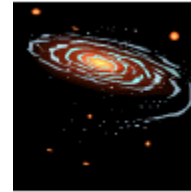
Some of our most popular content is not re-published articles and books, but materials published in the repository for the first time, including:

- Open-access dissertations
- Books (e.g. *Online Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology*, *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*, et al.)
- We are now publishing on-demand printed versions of the most popular book titles



# The most active participants are

- Physics & Astronomy (2000+ articles)
- Tractor Test Museum (1500+)
- Psychology (400+)
- Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management
- Parasitology Lab
- Natural Resources
- Agronomy
- UNL Libraries
- Teaching, Learning, & Teacher Education
- Biochemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Educational Psychology
- Biological Sciences
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Classics & Religious Studies
- History
- Modern Languages
- Plant Pathology
- Music
- Textiles, Clothing, & Design
- Nebraska State Museum—Entomology



# Year 1

## Academic Year 2005–2006

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- Added 600 (old & new) dissertations
- Added 2,400 open-access (OA) articles
- 80,000 downloads (avg 6,700/month)
- June 2006 = 12,000 downloads

# Year 2

## Academic Year 2006–2007

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- Added 300 (new) dissertations
- Added 6,000 OA articles
- 275,000 downloads (avg 23,000/month)
- June 2007 = 35,000 downloads



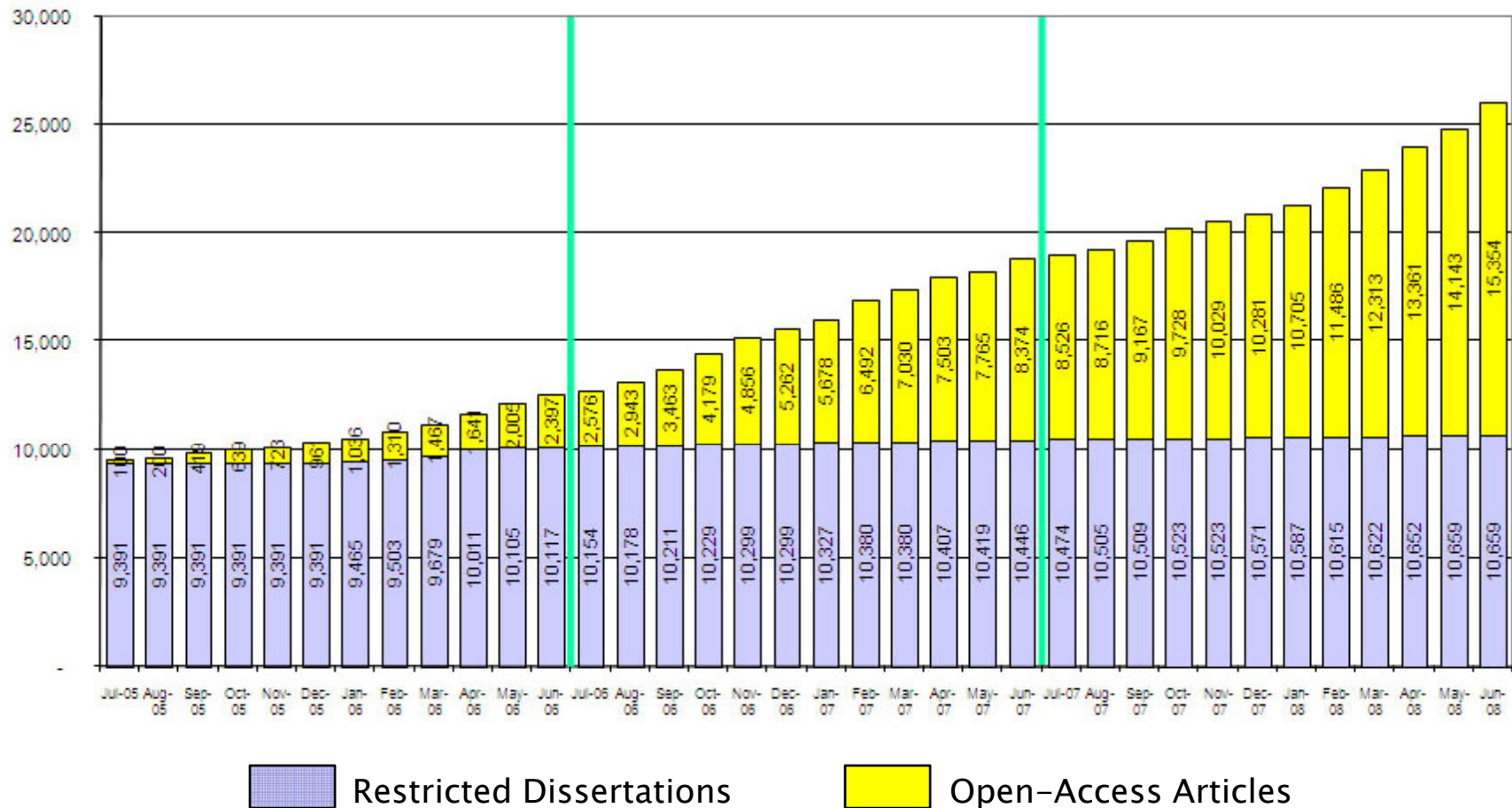
# Year 3

## Academic Year 2007–2008

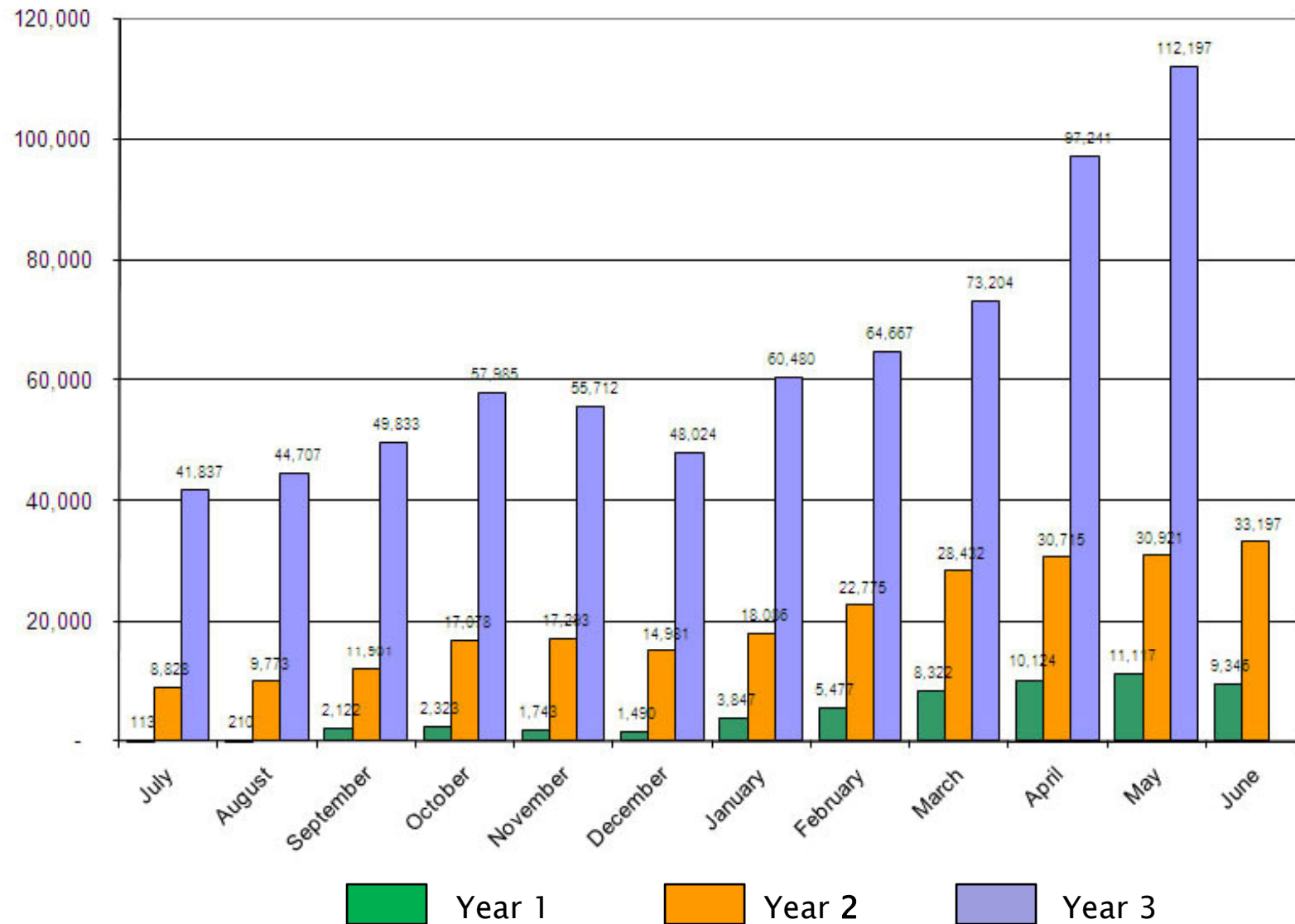
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- Added 213 (new) dissertations
- Added 7,000+ OA articles
- 830,000 downloads (avg 70,000/month)
- June 2008  $\approx$  125,000 downloads

## 3-year Growth of Repository Contents



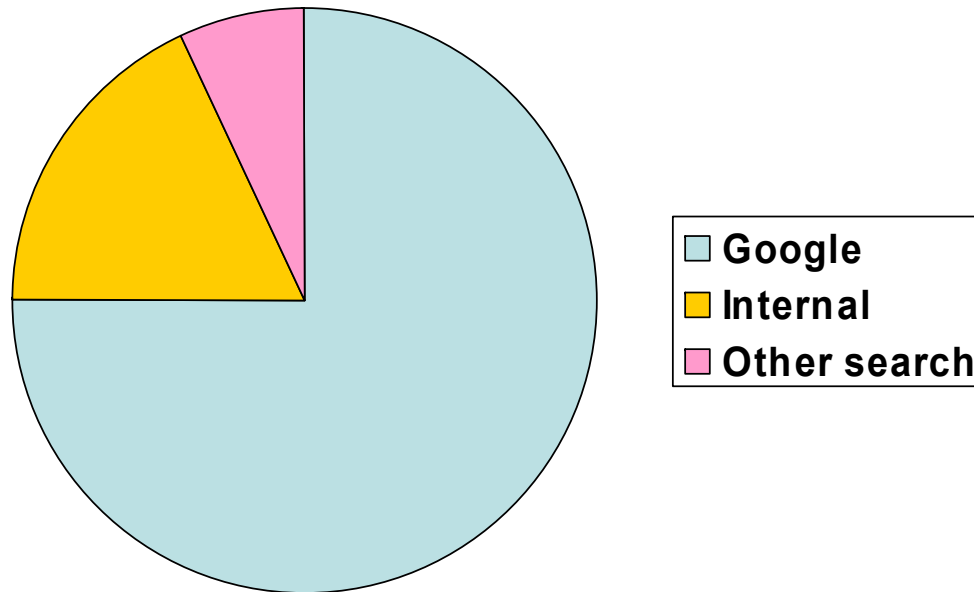
# Downloads: 3-year history (by month)



# How do users find us ?

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Google (incl. Google Scholar) =	75%
Internal (i.e., from within site) =	17%
Other search engines (Yahoo, etc.) =	8%



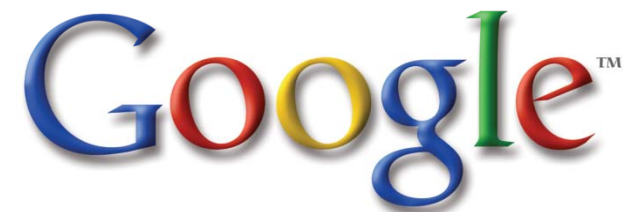
# Google-originated downloads

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- from USA 66%
- from international 34%

## *Leading countries:*

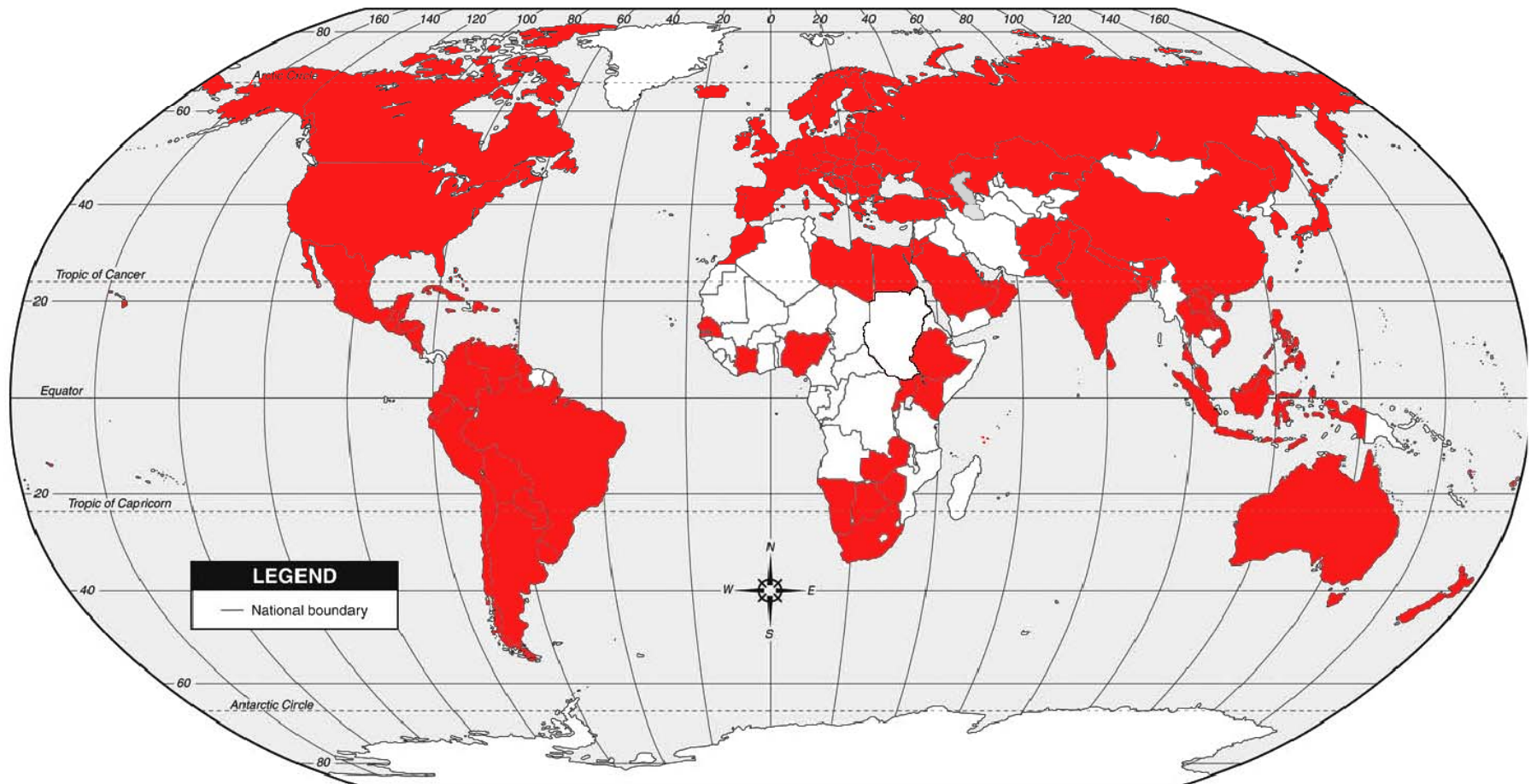
United Kingdom  
Canada  
India  
Germany  
France  
Australia  
Spain  
Italy  
China  
Japan  
Korea  
Philippines  
Thailand



# “We cover the world.”



In January 2008, files were furnished to the 120 countries shown in **red**



# Usage is increased by:

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- Abstracting:** We include a full and keyword-rich abstract to aid in Google searching. Up to 750 words.
- Critical Mass:** Increased site traffic has a feedback-loop effect of raising hits in Google rankings.
- Proactive Promotion:** Usage is increased by online links and promotion. We actively place links at Wikipedia, Online Books Page, WorldCat, and other appropriate sites.

## “The roaches do check out.”

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While some repositories may have had a “roach motel” experience, ours has been quite the opposite:

- Documents now average 7.9 downloads per month; 60 or more will be downloaded  $>100$  times.
- More than 75% of available articles are downloaded at least once during any month.

Faculty love getting the monthly emails that say “This article was downloaded  $x$  times ...” It is one of our most effective recruiting tools (regardless of the value of  $x$ ).



## Top 10 IRs, by contents\*

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1.	U. Michigan Deep Blue	43,339	documents
2.	Ohio State Knowledge Bank	30,326	
3.	MIT D-Space	28,099	
4.	UNL Digital Commons	26,113	
5.	California Digital Library	22,782	
6.	Georgia Tech SMARTech	19,660	
7.	Case Western Digital	10,997	
8.	Penn ScholarlyCommons	10,816	
9.	U Mass-Amherst	9,886	
10.	CalTech Authors	9,645	

(as of 6/26/2008)

# NIH PubMed Central deposits

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The latest federal budget bill empowered the National Institutes of Health to require recipients of NIH funding to deposit copies of articles arising from that research into NIH's open-access public repository PubMed Central.

This requirement went into effect for all articles accepted after April 8, 2008. While some publishers opposed the requirement, most are now cooperating to some extent.



# UNL Libraries & NIH mandate

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We are working with UNL's Office of Research Compliance to assist faculty in meeting this requirement, by

1. advising on their author rights and copyright transfers
2. directing them toward cooperating publishers
3. assisting with online deposits where necessary

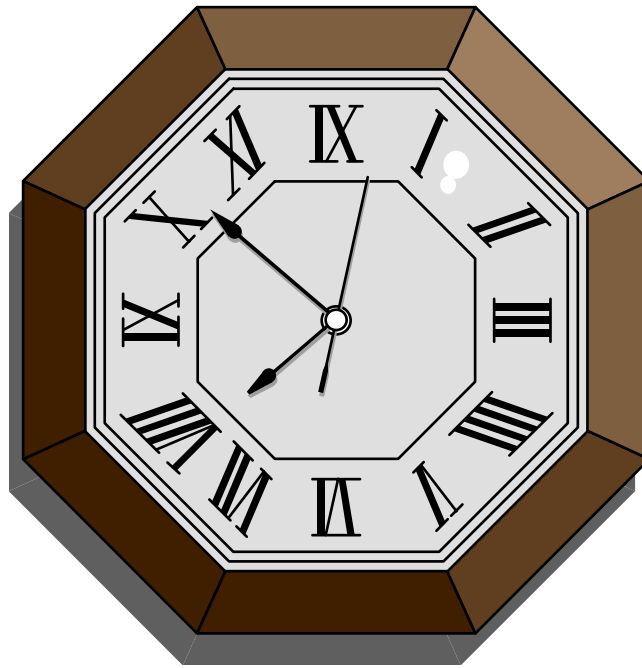


# We are doing this because ...

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- we are familiar with the copyright issues
  - we know about the publishers
  - we are accustomed to doing online manuscript deposits,
- and
- it gives us access to more researchers whom we can recruit for the Institutional Repository

# How are we on time ?



# Let's take a site tour ...

*Via Library front page:*

<http://iris.unl.edu>

*Direct:*

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>

