Open Access through Institutional Repositories: Broadening access and increasing impact, the A^{3}ir Conference Experience

EMBRY-RIDDLE Aeronautical University. PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

SCHOLARLY COMMONS

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Introduction

Over the past decade Institutional Repositories (IRs), created and fostered by universities and academic libraries, have promoted Open Access by allowing institutions to archive and disseminate the intellectual output of their community.

In 2013 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University created an IR called the Scholarly Commons.

What is the Scholarly Commons?

Institutional Repositories (IRs) are intertwined with the Open Access (OA) movement and are becoming a standard feature for research libraries. Utilizing the open web and indexing for search engines IRs increase visibility and access to scholarly works.

Since it's creation in September of 2013 the Scholarly Commons currently holds over 4,000 works, that have been downloaded 136,548 times.
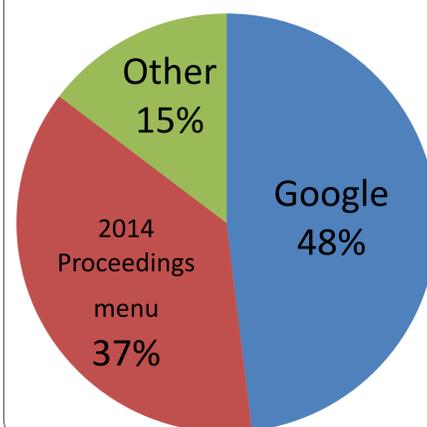
Librarians work with faculty to identify items for inclusion and to ensure copyright is upheld.

Works include scholarly publications, student work and items of importance to ERAU's history.

The Commons hosted the 2014 A3ircon Proceedings and will be the site hosting 2015's proceedings.
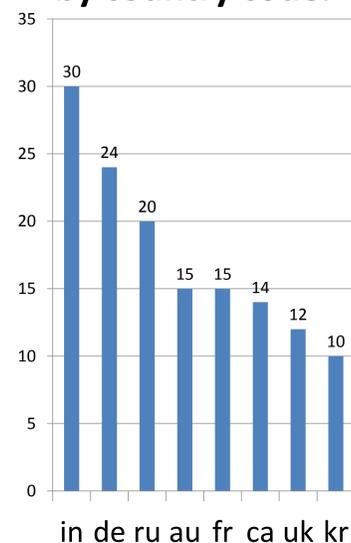
A^{3}ir Con & Scholarly Commons

In 2014 there were less than 100 attendees. Of the 26 participants who elected to include their works in the proceedings :

- There have been 1881 downloads since the Proceedings were posted in June of 2014.
- 72 downloads on average
- The paper with the most views had over 600 downloads -- 6 times higher than the attendance rate.
- 65% of presenters from 2014 had their document downloaded within the last 30 days.
- Global Reach: People in 40+ countries downloaded items, with the highest numbers coming from the US.

How people are finding the Proceedings:

- Google 48%
- 2014 Proceedings menu 37%
- Other 15%

Top Non-US visitors by country code.

Country	Value
in	30
de	24
ru	20
au	15
fr	15
ca	14
uk	12
kr	10

Conclusion & Challenges

- Low Involvement: Inclusion in the Proceedings was optional and only 26 people (including the Poster sessions) opted in.
- Delays in receiving author works caused the proceedings to be published later than planned.
- Interface & forms on the Scholarly Commons site can be confusing for authors & visitors.
- Despite these challenges, the Scholarly Commons has shown the potential to increase the dissemination of scholarly works for the ERAU community and affiliated conferences.
- Global visibility through built-in search engine optimization broadening the research impact

A3ir Con 2015 Proceedings

1. 2015 Proceedings will be hosted on the Scholarly Commons
2. Participants: want your work in the 2015 proceedings? Attend the 9:30 am Sunday session (see Program)