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The (Non) Use of Repositories: A Case Study

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The (Non) Use of Repositories: A Case Study

Kimberly Pendell, Social Work and Social Sciences Librarian, Portland State University
Why?

To better understand the landscape of OA in the field of social work.

Context

- Access to research a barrier for practitioners
- Copyright/publisher policies a barrier for researchers
- Disconnect between research and practice models
EBP & Access

Practitioners asked to search and locate evidence to inform practice decisions.

“I love libraries, but I know that my access to this library in particular is going to be next to nil once I graduate... There isn’t much out there for those of us that like research and want to base it [practice] on research. We are a little bit in a hole.” -MSW Student
Hypothesis

Institutional repositories and awareness of OA are mature enough to observe self-archiving of research published in high-impact journals.
Methodology

- Top 25 Social Work related journals, as ranked by article influence on Eigenfactor.org
- Randomized sample of 638 citations from total pool of 1587 research articles
- Citations searched in Google Scholar and DOAJ.io off-campus, unauthenticated browser
- Open, public full text access points were recorded
  - Publisher PDF, author’s pre-print or post-print
# Results

## Sources of Publicly Available Full Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Full Text Available</th>
<th>ResearchGate</th>
<th>PubMed Central/ Europe PMC</th>
<th>Institutional Repository</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>OA on Publisher Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>332</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>52%</strong></td>
<td><strong>30%</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>6.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.5%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.4%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*96% of articles on ResearchGate were publisher’s PDF version*
Results Continued...

Self-Archiving/Publisher Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RoMEo Self-Archiving Status</th>
<th>Green</th>
<th>Yellow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number in IRs</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Green: Can archive pre-print and post-print or publisher's version/PDF
Yellow: Can archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)*
Results Continued...

Relationship of Access & Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles with...</th>
<th>ResearchGate</th>
<th>PMC</th>
<th>Institutional Repository</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 20 Altmetric Scores</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 20 Google Scholar Cites</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

- Continued evidence of gap between publisher archiving policies and researcher practice
- ResearchGate’s role in the long term unclear
- How can librarians further support getting research into the hands of practitioners, to the benefit of both communities?
Questions & Comments?

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References


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