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The (Non) Use of Repositories: A Case Study

Kimberly D. Pendell

Portland State University, kpendell@pdx.edu

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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
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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 DOAI.io off-campus, unauthenticated browser
 - Open, public full text access points were recorded
 - Publisher PDF, author's pre-print or post-print
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Results

Sources of Publicly Available Full Text

No Full Text Available	ResearchGate	PubMed Central/ Europe PMC	Institutional Repository	Other	OA on Publisher Site
332	191	43	35	22	15
52%	30%*	6.7%	5.5%	3.2%	2.4%

** 96% of articles on ResearchGate were publisher's PDF version*

Results Continued...

Self-Archiving/Publisher Policy

RoMEO Self-Archiving Status	Green	Yellow
Number in IRs	17	18

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

Articles with...	ResearchGate	PMC	Institutional Repository
Top 20 Altmetric Scores	8	2	1
Top 20 Google Scholar Cites	3	2	1

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?
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Questions & Comments?

Kimberly Pendell, Social Work and Social Sciences Librarian
Portland State University
kpendell@pdx.edu

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