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Digital Commons: An Overview

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Session Outline

- Open Access in brief
- Digital Commons
 - Range of materials
 - Statistics and Google Analytics
 - Other features of BePress
 - Adding content to the Digital Commons
- Publicly-Funded Research
 - Tri-Council funding agency draft policy





Open Access: Definition

“Open Access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.”

- Peter Suber (2013)



Open Access: Two venues

- OA Journals (**Gold** OA) = conduct peer-review and make contents freely available
- OA Repositories (**Green** OA) = do not conduct peer-review but make contents freely available
- OA Repositories may contain preprints or postprints of journal articles
 - Preprints = version of an article before peer-review
 - Postprints = version of an article after the peer-review process but before copy-editing/final layout (publisher's PDF)



Open Access Repositories

- Organized by discipline/subject or institution aka IR e.g. Digital Commons @ McMaster
- Most OA repositories comply with the Open Archives Initiative, Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)
- OAI-PMH compliant allows us to extract the metadata for WorldCat and the McMaster Library Catalogue
- While best known for archiving theses, institutional repositories might also contain articles, working papers, reports, presentations and other materials not published elsewhere



Benefits to OA Repositories

- Materials take minutes to deposit and can be done by individuals
- OAI standards enhance searchability and visibility of materials i.e. allow data to operate among different computer systems
- Expose literature to a worldwide audience which may transfer to higher impact or citation rates for authors
- Helps the university raise its research profile
- Provide long-term preservation of materials
- Allows scholars to retain ownership of their works
 - Graduate students are the copyright holders of their theses



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Digital Commons

- McMaster's IR includes the research and scholarly output of the university
- Launched October 4, 2006
- University Library subscribes to BePress, a company that preserves, stores and manages the content in the IR
- BePress automatically generates a citation with a stable, permanent URL for all deposited materials





Range of Materials in the IR

- Over 17,000 works, mainly text
- Theses (8,000+) – Masters and PhD
- Journals (15) – some peer-reviewed; some hybrid
- Capstones and Major Research Papers (MRPs)
- Small collection of articles, books, conference presentations, newsletters, calendars and task force reports
- Content produced by Research Centres e.g. McMaster Health Forum





More about Theses

- Two series
 - Open Access Dissertations and Theses
 - Full-text available to all McMaster and non-McMaster users
 - Includes Masters and PhD theses mandated for submission to the Digital Commons by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), beginning May 2011
 - Print theses in the Bookstacks are being digitized by the University Library and added to the IR (Mills Library almost complete; digitization of theses in Thode Library has begun)
 - Dissertations and Theses
 - PhD theses sent to ProQuest, up to May 2011
 - Full-text of McMaster theses restricted to McMaster users only
 - Access varies for other institutions, based on their subscription with ProQuest



More about Theses

- Records for theses in the IR are added to WorldCat, a database of books and other materials in libraries worldwide <http://library.mcmaster.ca/articles/worldcat>
- From WorldCat, theses records are then added to McMaster's Library Catalogue; manual process
- The Digital Commons will always be the most up-to-date place to search for materials
- The Digital Commons allows "dark deposits" of theses i.e. full-text of new theses may be "delayed" or embargoed for up to one year
- Embargoes > one year require the permission of SGS



General Statistics

- As of Monday, October 21, 6:31 pm

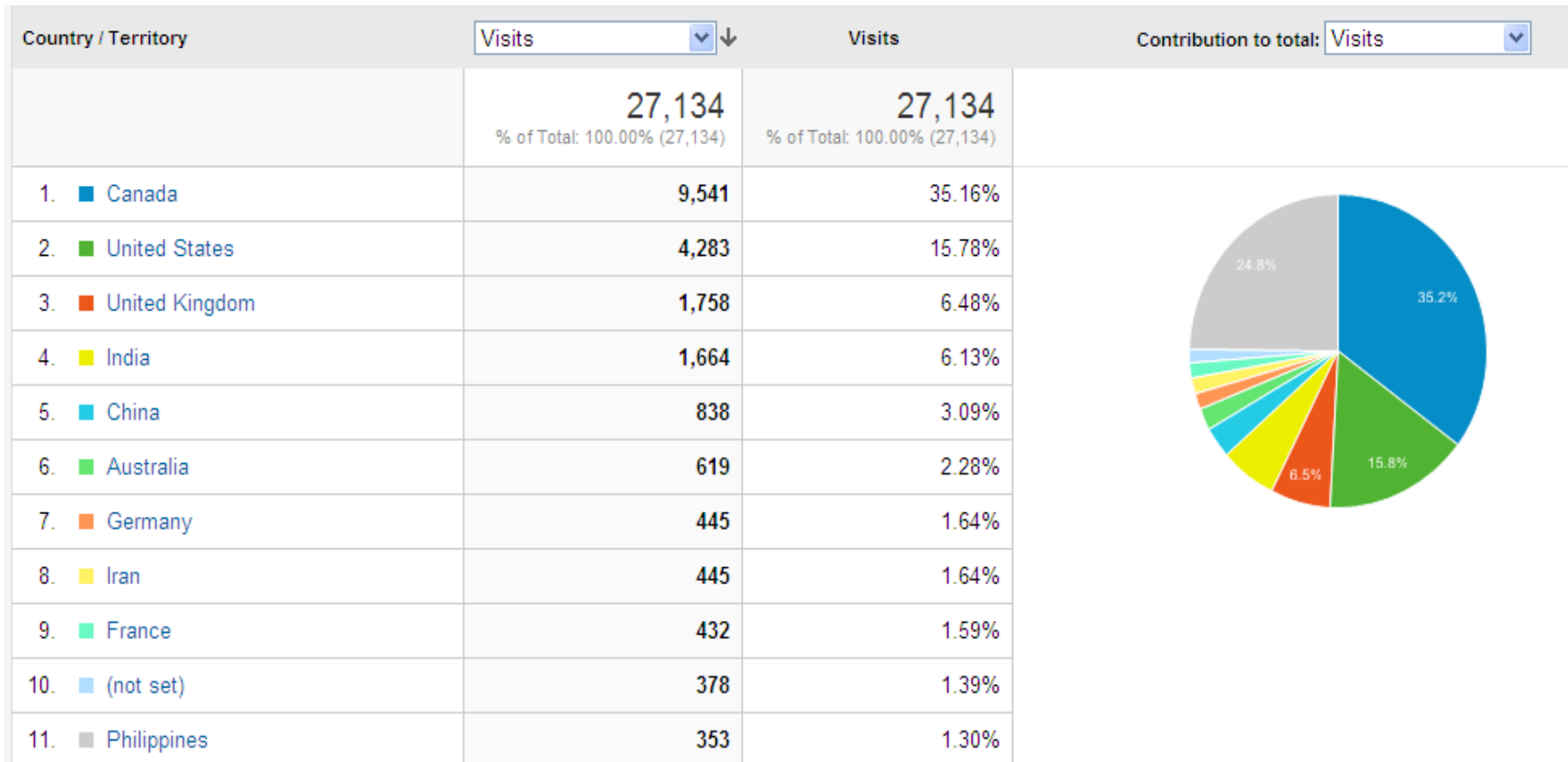
 17,339 papers to date

 2,555,243 full-text downloads to date

 1,218,613 downloads in the past year

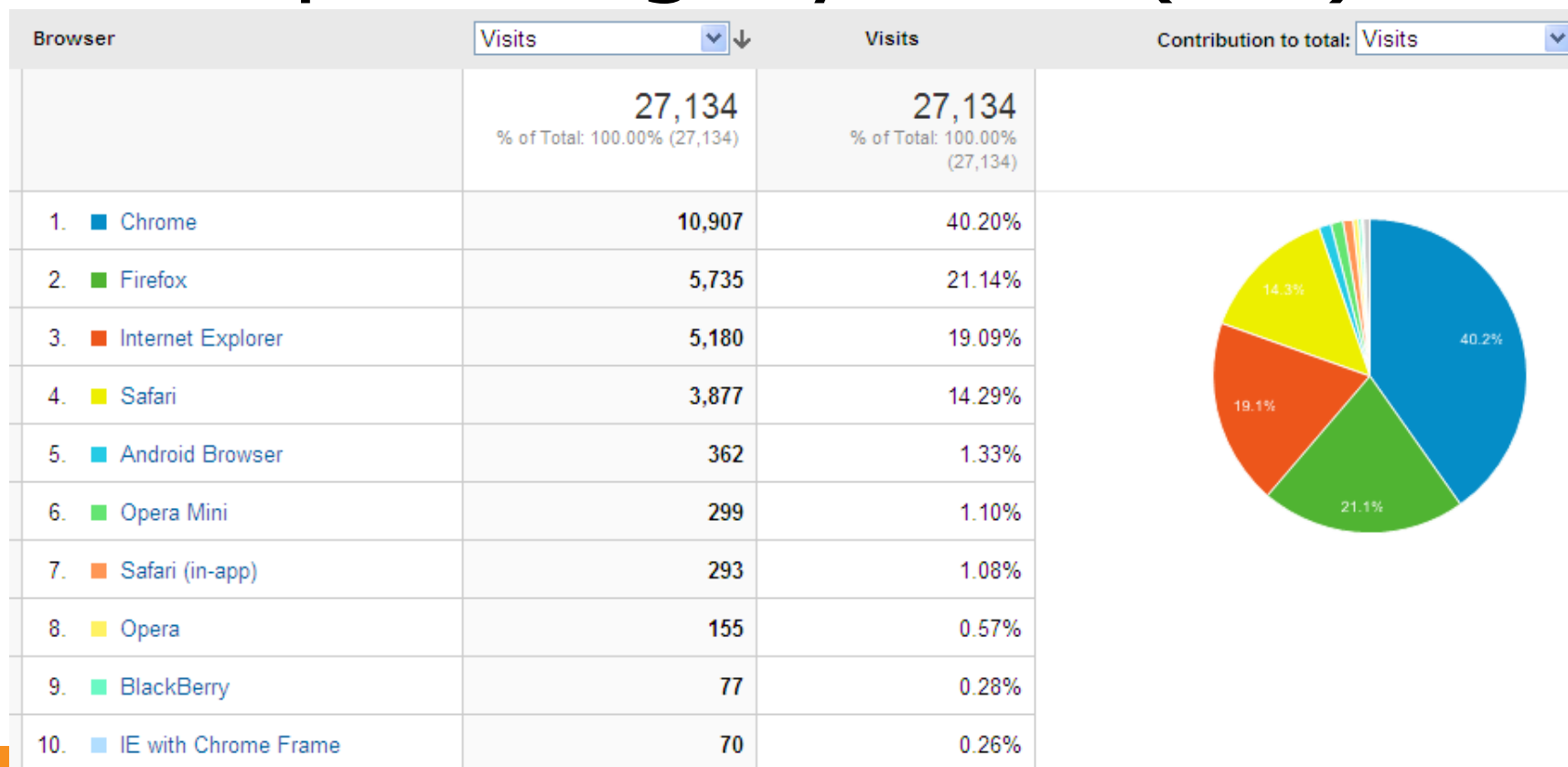


Google Analytics: Site Visits



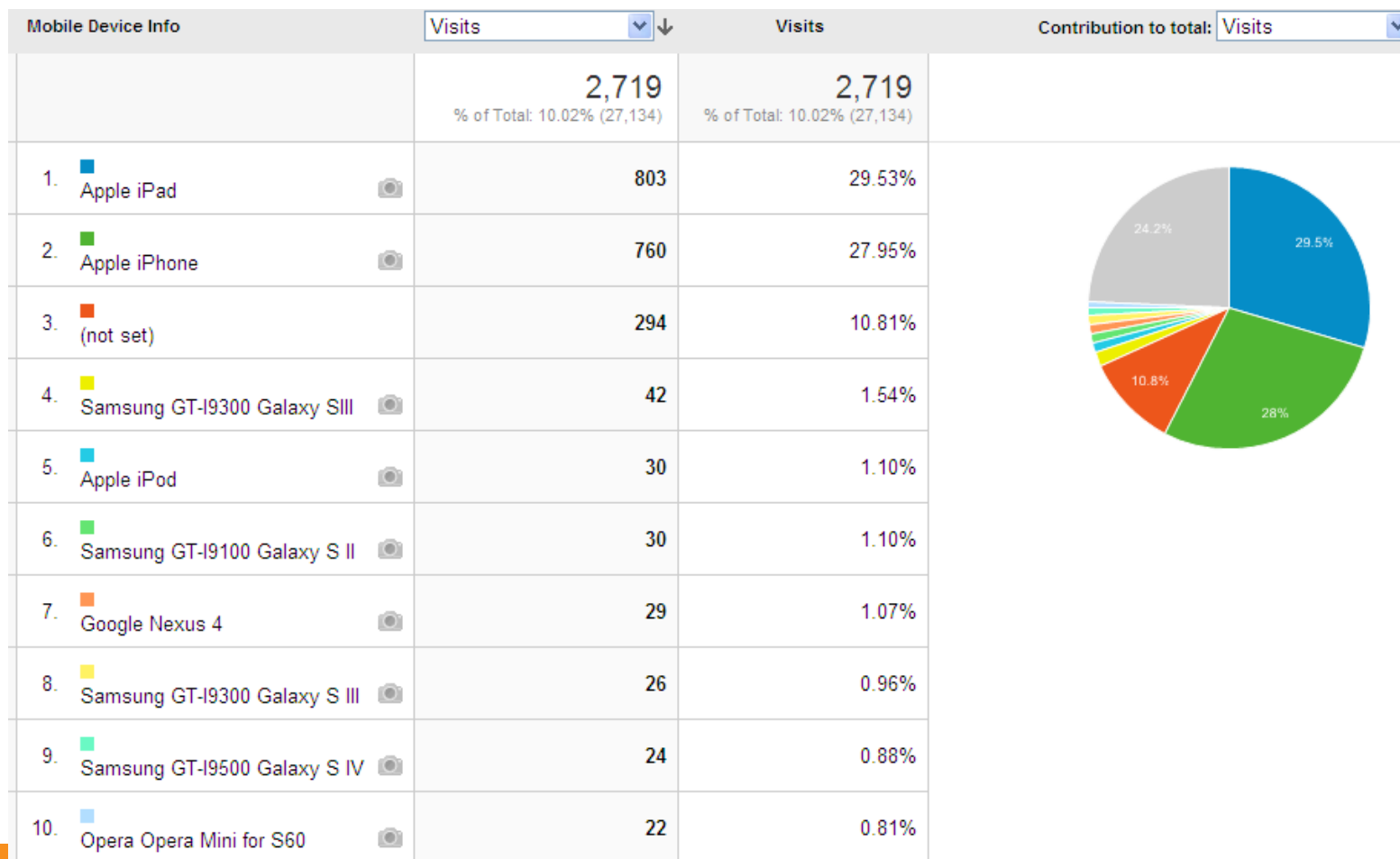


Google Analytics: Browser and Operating System (OS)





Google Analytics: Devices





Google Analytics: Page Views Hourly, **Day**, Week, Month

Page		Pageviews	% Pageviews
1. /		2,210	3.76%
2. /opendissertations/		1,621	2.76%
3. /sgs_cal/18/		1,526	2.60%
4. /hro-ors/		630	1.07%
5. /globallabour/		628	1.07%
6. /cgi/ir_submit.cgi		575	0.98%
7. /jpc/		490	0.83%
8. /dissertations/		462	0.79%
9. /esr/		445	0.76%
10. /earlytheatre/		414	0.70%





Other Features of BePress

- Advanced Search/Peer Review Search
- “Follow” Authors, Publications or Disciplines
- Author Dashboard
 - Receive an email alert when your item is downloaded
 - View the Institution, Search terms used to access your item
 - Request Usage Reports from BePress
- Discipline Wheel – browse by discipline or subject



Discipline Wheel

- Use the wheel to browse the content in the IR
- McMaster's wheel is part of the larger, Digital Commons Network
- See how items relate to similar materials being posted in other institutions that use BePress





Adding Content to the IR

- Create an account and profile
- Select the location in the IR where you would like to make your submission
- For theses, graduate students select "Open Access Dissertations and Theses"
- Select "Submit Research"
- Complete the form provided and "Submit"
- Your submission must be approved by the SGS before going "live"; you will receive an email when this process is completed



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Publicly-Funded Research

- International movement to mandate federally-funded research published in peer-reviewed journals to be made freely available within a specified timeframe
- Makes publicly-funded research “more widely available, more discoverable, more retrievable and more useful” (Suber, Peter, 2013)
- Accelerates and translates research “into new medicines, useful technologies, solved problems and, informed decisions that benefit everyone.” (Suber, Peter, 2013)
- Directive of research funding agencies in Australia and the European Union and, more recently, in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada



Tri-Council Open Access Policy

- In Canada, NSERC and SSHRC released a draft Open Access Policy on October 15, 2013

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Tri-OA-Policy-Politique-LA-Trois_eng.asp

- Soliciting feedback from institutions, associations, organizations and individuals until Friday, December 13, 2013
 - Canada. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (2013)



Tri-Council Open Access Policy

- NSERC and SSHRC modeled the policy after the OA policy at the CIHR (in effect since 2008), which states the following:

“NSERC and SSHRC ... would require federally funded peer-reviewed journal publications to be made freely available within one year of publication. The draft Tri-Agency Open Access Policy (the “draft policy”) is modeled after the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s \(CIHR\) Open Access Policy](#), which remains unchanged and continues to be mandatory.”

- Canada. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (2013)



Opportunities & Implications

- How might libraries respond to serve the needs of the faculty and of the institution?
 - At McMaster, work closely with the Research Office for Administration, Development and Support (ROADS)
 - Identify the grant recipients and engage with them and their departments
 - Consider how McMaster's IR might best support a mandate on open access research
 - Consider potential publication costs normally associated with publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Funds to come out of research grant budgets? Governments? Institutions? Libraries?



Session Recap

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Questions?



Thank you for coming!





References

Canada. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. "Consultation on the draft Tri-Agency Open Access Policy." Accessed October 22, 2013.

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/OpenAccess-LibreAcces_eng.asp

Canada. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. "Draft Tri-Agency Open Access Policy." Accessed October 22, 2013.

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Suber, Peter. "Open Access Overview." Last modified August 12, 2013.

<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>