

Repository helps decrease ILL requests for photocopies : A decisive, though shameless, experiment

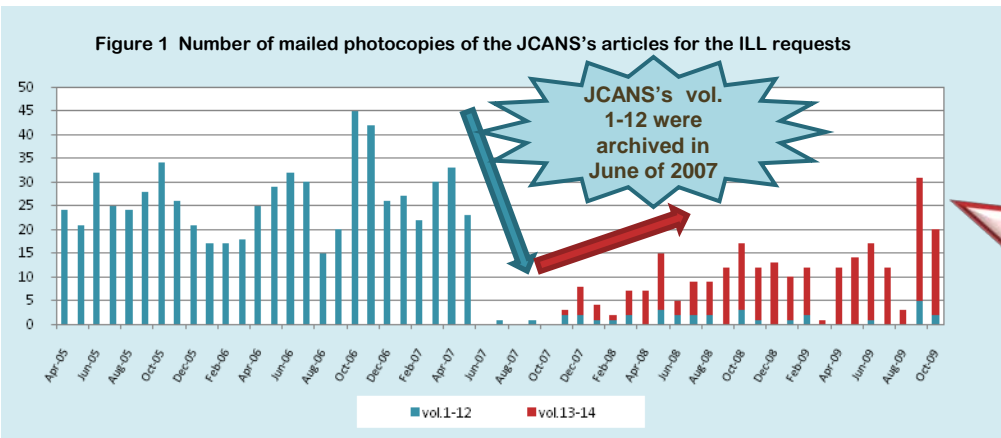
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We are reporting an unintended experiment that presents the evidence of repository's important role in the dissemination of scholarly information with CURATOR (Chiba University Repository for Access to Outcomes from Research). Yoneda et al. already reported that, in spite of the tendency of the decreasing number of ILL photocopy requests in NACSIS-ILL statistic after 1999, the demands for the articles published in Japan in the field of nursing science was growing as of 2006. The articles published in "Journal of Chiba Academy of Nursing Science" (JCANS), whose articles were in the greatest demands in the ILL photocopy service of Library of Health Sciences of Chiba University, were archived on CURATOR in June 2007. By this archiving, JCANS gained the means to access its articles via online.

Fact 1 : a 'V-shaped turn' in the ILL requests (Number of mailed photocopies)

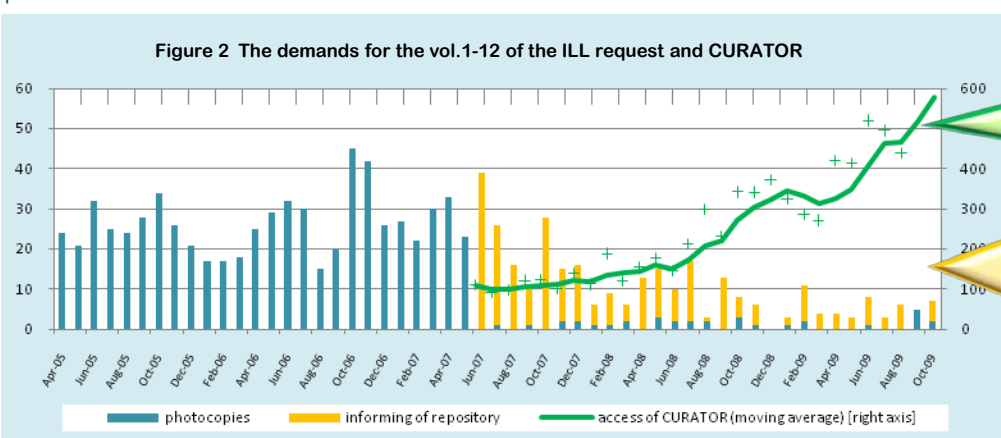
The number of mailed photocopies of the articles from this journal went down, and finally became zero. However, some recent issues of the journal failed to be archived by accident. As a consequence, the number of the ILL photocopy request for its articles jumped up again, like a 'V-shaped turn'.



We dissected the accession of ILL request, and this 'V-shaped turn' was because of the request for vol.13(2007) and vol.14(2008), these volumes are not archived on our repository.

Fact 2: Demands for Vol.1-12 (Archived Issues)

Number of mailed photocopies of JCANS's articles became zero in June of 2007, this data never mean decreasing the demands for its articles. In order to examine the impact of repository to the distribution of scholarly communication, we analyzed the demands for the JCANS's articles published in vol.1-12 from some dimensions.



The number of access to CURATOR is increasing, but this is much more than that of ILL requests.

We informed other libraries of the articles in CURATOR for the ILL requests. The number of "Informing of repository" is equivalent to that of ILL requests for vol.1-12 of JCANS, and it has been decreasing.

Consideration

Decreasing of "informing of repository" may mean that CURATOR became popular for the means of gaining JCANS's articles. It is natural that access of CURATOR is increasing, but this access is much more than the number of ILL request, even guessing the sum of the requests in Japan. We suppose this is because people can gain articles from CURATOR more easily and quickly than ILL. From these reasons, archiving the articles on repository does not only affect the existing distribution routes like ILL, but also dig up the hidden demands for scholarly information. This consideration is just first step, we are planning to dissect these data to reveal the roles of the institutional repository in the dissemination of scholarly information.

References (* : available on CURATOR: <http://curator.ll.chiba-u.jp/>)
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 Suzuki, Hiroko, and Machiko Tsuruoka. "Impact of Institutional Repository and Open Access Articles on ILL Services : From Chiba University's Experience." Bulletin of Special Libraries Association, Japan 228 (2008-03): 1-6. *
 Yoneda, Naho, et al. "Impact of Institutional Repository and Open Access Articles on ILL Services : From Chiba University's Experience." Journal of college and university libraries.76 (2006-03-31): 74-81. *