Open Access Policy: How to follow-up and monitor OA policies

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Visibility & Impact

RepositórioUM growth and the increasing levels of usage recorded since inception (more than 7 million downloads, only counting from January 2004 onwards) have been contributing to raise the overall visibility and impact of the research being produced at the University of Minho (UMinho), as some rankings and studies on the number of UMinho’s publications citations already indicate.

Monitoring

1. Use of internal sources (eg. research centers and departmental lists of publications, etc.) and of reference databases (Web of Science and Scopus) to identify “relevant” publications in agreements with institutions affiliated to the University of Minho, plus the activation of alerts in these databases to receive notices whenever a new “relevant” publication is available.

2. Use of reference management software (eg. EndNote and Mendeley) to comply with the OA policy: helping to identify and monitor at any time the bibliographic information that was uploaded in such systems and that is published in repositories linked to the University of Minho research units.

3. Use of OA statistics (OpenAIREplus & OpenAIRE projects).

Results

Conclusions

The self-archiving is an OA policy of great importance and has a significant impact of the new University of Minho self-archiving policy according to various criteria. During 2011, more than 6,080 documents were submitted into RepositórioUM, the highest annual total ever since the opening of RepositórioUM. Similarly, when comparing 2011 with the previous year, there was an increase of 77% concerning the number of self-archived publications, as well as an increase of 30% in the number of submissions. It is also particularly significant the vast number of articles of a more relevant impact of the new policy implementation, such as Scopus or Web of Science.

Finally, the periodic monitoring of the policy appears to be an important contribution to its success. There was a very significant increase in the self-archiving activity after the notification of the results of each monitoring. At the time of the final monitoring, it was estimated that 65% of the UMinho’s 2011 scientific output was deposited in RepositórioUM.