

OPEN ACCESS

TO IRISH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH





Open Access is an international movement to enable the worldwide electronic dissemination of output of funded research in a completely free and unrestricted manner. Any person, who can connect to the internet, can access open access material without incurring any costs. Furthermore, they can download, print and distribute these articles provided the author of the article is properly acknowledged and cited. The potential readership of open access articles exceeds that of articles where the full-text is restricted to subscribers.

An **institutional repository** is an online database where digital copies of research items such as articles, theses, conference proceedings and working papers are held and made freely available on the internet. The records in a repository are stored according to international standards. The content can then be made available to other databases and search engines such as Google Scholar.

"I warmly welcome the launch of the IReL-Open project. Research at NUI Maynooth has achieved world-class standing in many areas. This initiative will provide a world-wide gateway to that research and build on our own institutional repository for publications."

Professor John Hughes, President, National University of Ireland Maynooth.

"The National Research Portal will increase the international profile of individual researchers and of Irish Universities and will thereby enhance the national research endeavour"

Professor Don Barry, President, University of Limerick.

The IReL-Open Project is building online open-access institutional repositories in all seven Irish universities and linking these together through a National Research Portal. For the first time, Irish research will be made freely available on a worldwide scale.

There are over 24,000 research journals publishing worldwide and the results of Irish research compete for attention amongst this enormous wealth of information. The value of a research report is often measured by its 'impact factor', i.e. how often it is cited by the worldwide community of researchers. The National Research Portal service will significantly increase visibility of Irish research and the citations and impacts that go with this. It will also ensure that this work is preserved in digital format to international standards. The initiative offers the promise of scaling the National Research Portal to include the output of other partners within and beyond the higher education community.

The **National Research Portal** will act as a single point of access to national research output, and will contain content harvested from individual university Research Repositories.

- It will include statistical data-sets associated with research.
- It will facilitate a range of value-added services, which will include links to university Research Support Systems.
- Enhanced searching through indexing of full-text content.
- Analyses of content and indicators of research output and the identification of research trends.
- Provide for the long-term preservation of research papers and output and for the establishment of standards of description and maintenance.

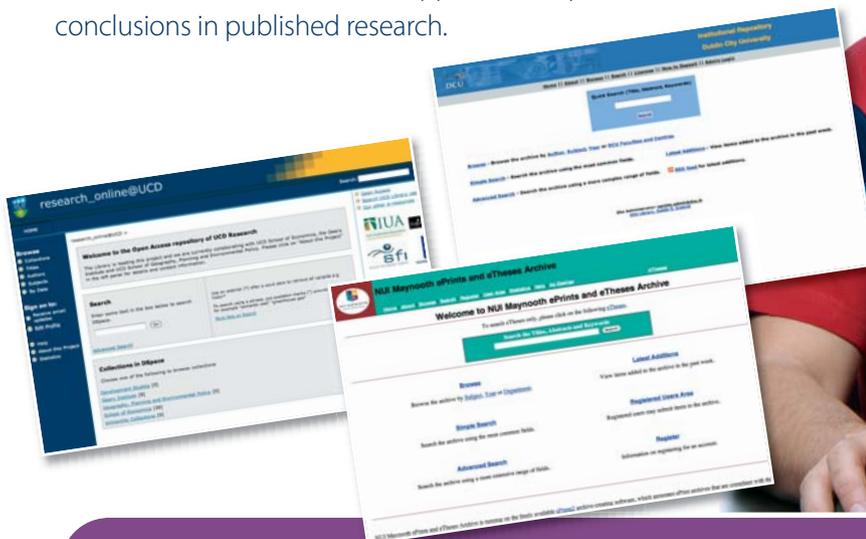


"UCD welcomes the development of global access to Irish university research outputs which will contribute to the social, economic and cultural objectives of a knowledge society."

Dr Hugh Brady, President, UCD

The **Government** has identified growth in research as critical to ensuring Ireland's future as a key player on the world stage, and essential in underpinning Ireland's investment in its future as a knowledge economy. Raising the research profile is a key strategy in the Universities strategic plans and the ability to showcase research output and identify institutional research strengths is extremely important in attracting new investment and high quality staff. For individual researchers, studies have shown that as a result of depositing material in institutional repositories citations increase, thus further disseminating the results of research, enhancing the researcher's reputation, supporting future student interest and collaborative partnerships.

At **national level**, a network of institutional repositories increases the exposure of national research output, and allows services, such as enhanced searching, and statistics generation to be developed using economies of scale. The service will demonstrate the impact of research to potential funders, who recognise the value of wider research dissemination and the associated research data that supports the reports and conclusions in published research.



"It is in the national interest to extend access to Irish research output at institutional and sectoral level so as to maximise the long-term strategic impact and thereby help develop a knowledge society."

Professor Ferdinand Von Prondzynski, President, DCU

The project is managed by the IUA Librarians' Group and is supported by the IUA. The three year project which began in April 2007 is equally funded by the Universities and the Government's Strategic Innovation Fund which is administered by the Higher Education Authority.

Benefits to authors in depositing work include:

- Broadens worldwide access to material
- Increases citations for research material
- Provides a method of preserving material
- Makes easier access to material via search engines such as Google, Google Scholar and Yahoo
- Raises profile of Irish researchers internationally

Benefits to institutions include:

- Provides a showcase of the institution's research output
- Raises the profile of the institution's research internationally through broader access and citations
- Provides potential to interface with university Research Management Systems, providing the full text storage complement in the system
- Provide a space for individuals, research groups, schools and colleges to display research work
- Increased potential for collaboration and synergies between Irish and international researchers

"University College Cork's institutional repository has the potential to transform the dissemination of our scholarly output and will be the point of access for these resources for future generations."

Dr Michael Murphy, President, University College Cork.

"The project provides an international window on Irish Research output and NUI Galway is delighted to be part of this."

Dr James J. Browne, Uachtarán – President, National University of Ireland, Galway

"The development of an institutional repository to demonstrate our research activity and achievement is a central element of Trinity's research support infrastructure. The IReL-Open national portal will also play a vital role in communicating the strength of Irish research to a global audience, in attracting the highest quality of research to Ireland and in enabling valuable links with industrial partners."

Dr. John Hegarty, President, Trinity College Dublin.



Irish Universities Association
Cumann Ollscoileanna Éireann

48 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Tel: 353 (0)1 676 4948

Fax: 353 (0)1 662 2815

Website: www.iua.ie

www.irel-open.ie

