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## Why contribute to the repository?

In the previous issue of [Digital Minute](#) we noted that by adding your contributions to our institutional repository (IR) you open up your work to the global community. But why, you ask, is this important? The Open Access Movement gained momentum in 2002, when the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) was introduced. It quickly gained popularity in the scientific and medical communities because it offered an alternative path to research and other works that were often restricted to costly subscription databases or journals. Indeed, in 2004 Miriam A. Drake [predicted](#) that IRs would grow:

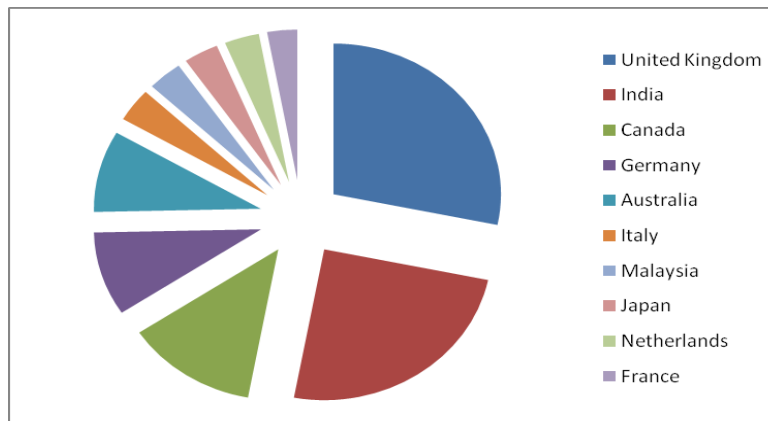
“The increased demand for scholarly information, especially in science, will probably increase the pressure on scholarly societies and universities. Digital publishing, global networking, more research, and increased communication among communities of scholars are driving the demand for broader access. The idea of the invisible college nurtured by meetings and preprints of journal articles has been replaced by global, discipline- or project-based online communities.”

Ms. Drake was right. In 2007 there were approximately 900 IRs whereas in 2010 there are now more than 1,500 [repositories](#) worldwide. Thus, we can safely say that IRs have become a valuable tool that faculty and other researchers should take seriously.

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## Where in the world?

Our collection of scholarship and other works in the [Liberal Arts & Sciences](#) was founded in January 2009. Since then we have added 138 contributions which have been downloaded 4,578 times by 59 countries. This chart reflects our top 10 downloading countries for the Liberal Arts & Sciences:



To see country downloads for the entire repository please follow [this link](#).

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