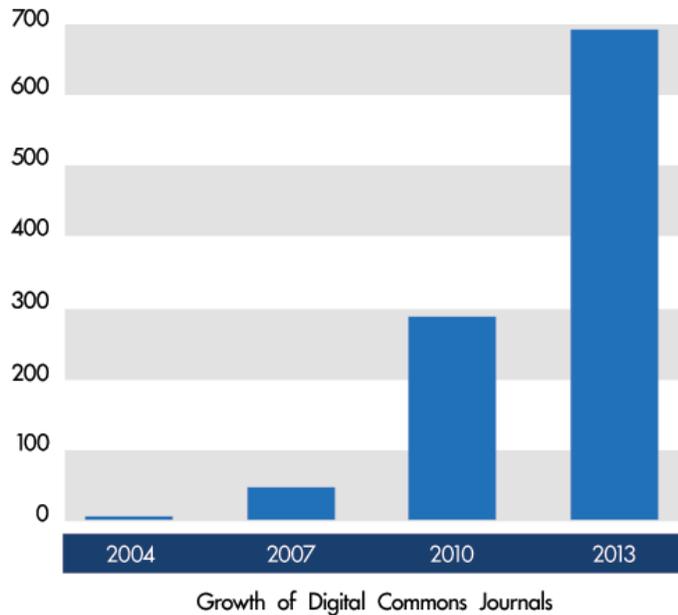


Library-led Publishing with bepress Digital Commons: Data and Benchmarks

By the end of 2013, 187 Digital Commons subscribers had launched a total of 696 journals on the platform. Digital Commons journals have published 68,420 articles and garnered over fourteen million downloads. We've compiled some data from the institutions publishing within the Digital Commons community, and seen some exciting trends emerge.

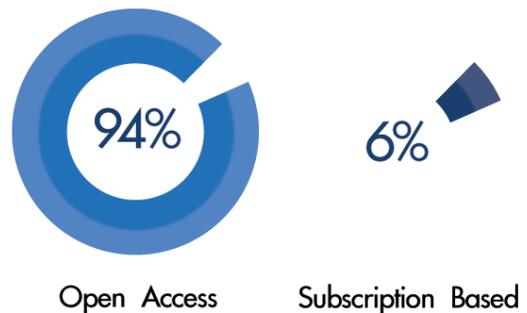
Publishing History: Growth of Journals on Digital Commons

A glance at the history of journal publishing in Digital Commons repositories clearly shows that library-based publishing has increased steadily over the past several years, and the number of journals added each year continues to rise. IRs are giving libraries opportunities to offer journal publishing services to their campuses, breathing new life into once-dormant publications as well as launching new journals from a variety of different disciplines.



Open Access Eclipses Subscription Journals

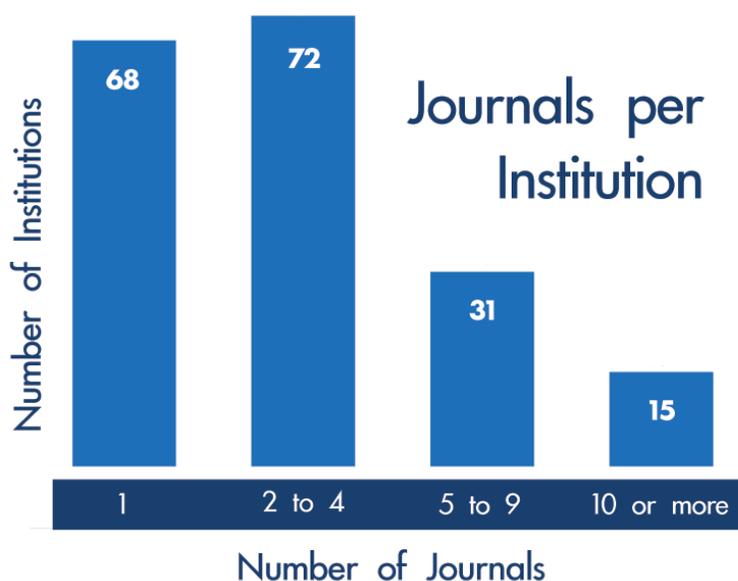
At 94%, the overwhelming majority of journals publishing on Digital Commons are being made available open access. Only 6% use subscription controls, and almost of all of these include some form of open access, most commonly a “moving wall” subscription model, where all but the most recent issues are openly accessible. Open-access journals attract a large readership, enjoying significantly higher download counts than subscription-controlled journals.



Sustainable Model for Library-Based Publishing

While some Digital Commons users have developed comprehensive publishing services for numerous journals, others are publishing just one or two. The combined effect is a thriving, sustainable community of digital publishers. The majority of DC users are publishing between 2-4 journals, but a growing number of both large and smaller institutions are successfully supporting 10 or more.

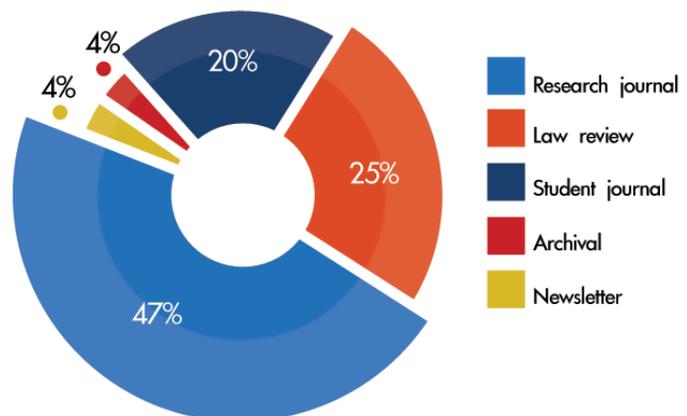
Of the fifteen institutions that currently support 10 or more journals, many additionally offer professional publishing services such as registration of DOIs and indexing of published content in various databases and archives. In cases where the library does not have the bandwidth for this type of support, bepress also offers a Publishing Services program, which is an option for journals interested in many of the services typically only offered by commercial publishers.



Purdue University	20
Grand Valley State University	19
University of Wollongong	18
Western University	17
American University Washington College of Law	15
California Polytechnic State University	15
McMaster University	15
Thomas Jefferson University	14
University of South Florida	14
Kennesaw State University	13
University of Massachusetts-Amherst	13
Macalester College	12
Wayne State University	12
University of Iowa	11
Western Michigan University	11

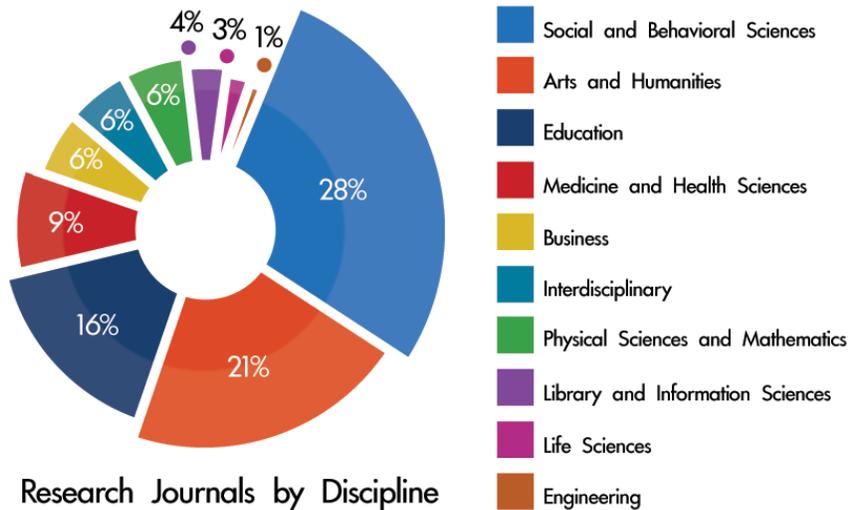
Faculty-edited Research Journals Lead the Charge

In order to better understand what types of journals are being published in Digital Commons, we've divided the journals into some basic categories. Faculty-edited research journals lead the numbers, followed by law reviews and student journals.



Library-based Publishing Opens Doors for Underserved Disciplines

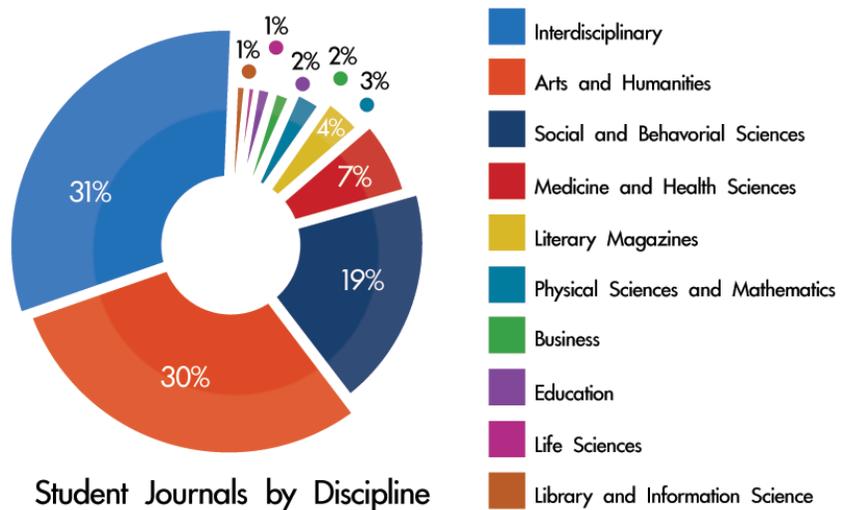
An analysis of the 327 faculty-edited research journals, which account for 47% of all journals published in Digital Commons, reveals how the various disciplines are represented. Some of the disciplines with the highest representation in Digital Commons are disciplines that are generally less well represented in traditional print publishing models, suggesting that library-led publishing is meeting



important, previously unmet, needs in the academic community. Some of the disciplines with less representation in Digital Commons may suggest opportunities for growth in future publishing.

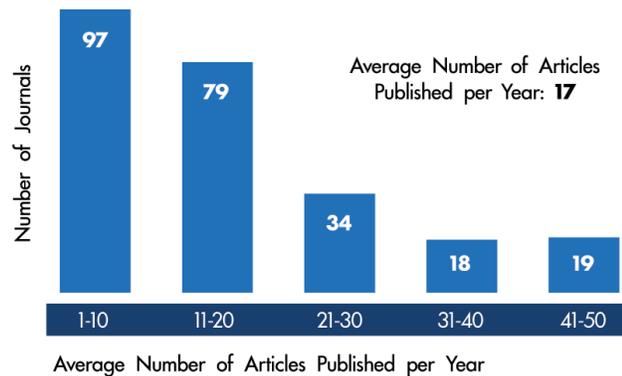
Student Journals Meet Important Needs on Campus

The 143 student journals being published on Digital Commons also cover a wide variety of disciplines, speaking to the demand from students to get involved in the publishing process and to have their work published. Student-edited journals give students experience with the editorial and peer-review process as well as a permanent showcase for their work. They also provide prospective students with a glimpse of the quality and type of work that is being done at an institution.



Library Published Journals Are Thriving

The journals data that we have collected reflects the publishing experience of so many journals that we realized there was an opportunity to identify specific trends and even suggest benchmarks that publishers might use as reference points. The results below give us an idea of the average number of articles being published by active journals in Digital Commons. The overall average for all active journals is 17 articles per year, and over 80% are publishing at the healthy rate of six articles or more per year.

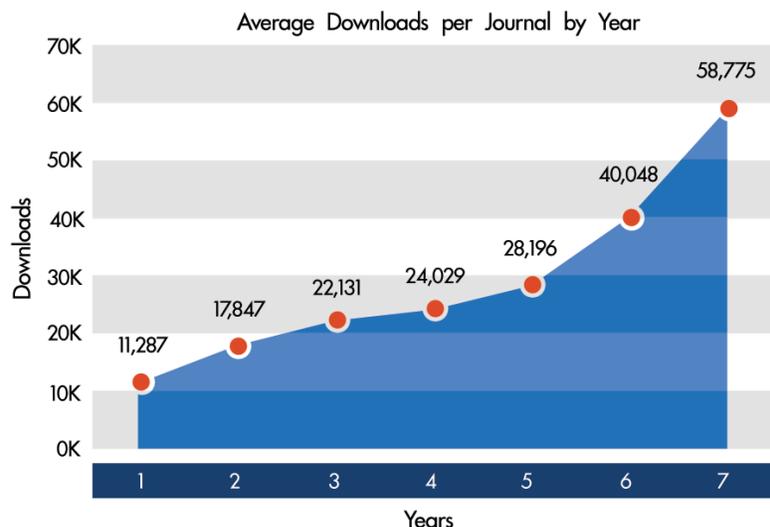


Another interesting trend that we found is that journals generally tend to publish an increasing amount with each additional year of production. As editors streamline their workflows, they become more efficient and productive, which may increase readership and submissions as a result.

Year	Average Articles Posted
Year 0	17
Year 1	18
Year 2	18
Year 3	20
Year 4	17
Year 5	21
Year 6	24

Increased Readership Proves Success

In the world of digital publishing, tracking downloads is one of the most effective ways to show readership. The average number of downloads across all actively publishing research journals on Digital Commons may offer some readership benchmarks for those interested in comparing the readership of their own journals.



The number of downloads that an individual article receives can fluctuate quite a bit depending on the topic and the intended audience. Across all active research journals throughout Digital Commons, the average number of downloads per article was 297 at the end of 2013.