Institutional Repository Access Patterns of Nontraditionally Published Academic Content: What Types of Content are Accessed the Most?

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OBJECTIVE
To determine the value of posting nontraditionally published academic content, such as materials supplementary to peer-reviewed publications, poster images, graduate course research papers, and presentation slides to an institutional repository (IR).

RESULTS
Table 1 lists the total numbers for the content types.

Table 1. Content Type with Average Year 1 Hits / Item

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Type</th>
<th>Number Found</th>
<th>Avg 1-yr:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary Materials</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide Images</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21.48043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers from CTSC BMI Course</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22.30556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Images</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17.30061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 1-4 represent the time courses for monthly hit rates for the combined four content types:

CONCLUSIONS
• The average first year access rates were similar across content types.
• Deposition of poster images seems to be the most popular of the defined content types.
• Access of content diminished over time but continued well into year three.
• This is academic output that would not likely be otherwise captured and made freely available were it not for publication in an IR.
• Authors should be encouraged to post nontraditional content to IRs because it will likely be accessed for years to come.

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