

Bridging Readership: Using an Institutional Repository (IR) to Promote COVID-19 Related Faculty Research

Sara Hoover and Brittany Smith
Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University



Background:

- [Health Sciences Research Commons](#) is the institutional repository for the Milken Institute School of Public Health, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and the School of Nursing at The George Washington University
- The repository, which includes nearly 40,000 entries for works from faculty, students, and staff, is hosted on the Digital Commons™ platform and maintained by staff at the Himmelfarb Library
- While most content is included in department specific collections, the Covid-19 pandemic provided a unique need for the creation of a subject specific collection to highlight and promote relevant research from faculty, students and staff
- With the daily influx of new information about the pandemic, the COVID-19 collection was an excellent way for scholars and researchers to contribute to ongoing medical, health sciences, public health, and nursing conversations in 2020 and into 2021
- A number of other Digital Commons users have created similar Covid-19 related subjects collection to highlight the work of faculty, students, and staff at their institution

Building the Collection:

- Establish the parameters for the collection: Whose works to include; when is it permissible to include OA content; establish guidelines for cross-archiving in both subject and discipline specific collections
- Work with Digital Commons™ to set up the collection: Established collection specific metadata fields and collection overview
- Examine similar collections from other Digital Commons™ users
- How to approach preprints: Devise a policy for archiving preprints and updating entries to reflect the version of record when appropriate
- Strategy for adding content: Develop guidelines for identifying and adding appropriate content
- Collaborate with our Social Media team to promote the collection and encourage researchers to submit their publications

Collection View:

The screenshot shows the 'Collection View' for 'COVID-19 PUBLICATIONS BY GW AUTHORS'. It features a search bar, navigation tabs (Home, About, FAQ, My Account), and a list of publications. The list includes titles such as 'International Impact of COVID-19 on the Diagnosis of Heart Disease' and 'The effect of anticoagulation on clinical outcomes in Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pneumonia in a U.S. Cohort'. Each entry includes a link icon and a brief description.

Repository Homepage View:

The screenshot shows the repository homepage with a search bar, navigation tabs, and a featured collection titled 'Covid-19 Publications by GW Authors'. The featured collection description states: 'This collection highlights journal articles, preprints, and other publications and presentations about the Coronavirus COVID-19 by faculty and researchers at the George Washington University. The content in this collection includes... View More'. There is also a small image of a hand holding a test tube.

Metrics:

- The Digital Commons™ platform provides access to two metric systems: Altmetrics and PlumX metrics
- At the article level, PlumX and Altmetrics provide readership statistics such as engagement via a social media website and publicity or mentions by a major news outlet
- A PlumX readership dashboards also provides collection level readership information specifying where collection items are being downloaded and read.

Article Level View:

The screenshot shows the article level view for 'The effect of anticoagulation on clinical outcomes in Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pneumonia in a U.S. Cohort'. It includes the title, authors (Laila L. George, George Washington University; Janna B. Benge, George Washington University; Patricia Hernandez, George Washington University; Arlene B. Benge, George Washington University; Maria A. Benge, George Washington University; Ursula A. Benge, George Washington University; Sarah A. Benge, George Washington University; Scott A. Benge, George Washington University; Karoline A. Benge, George Washington University), a PlumX metrics widget, and a list of links to related resources.

Readership Map View:

The screenshot shows the PlumX readership map view for the article. It displays a world map with various colored markers indicating readership locations across different continents. Below the map, there are statistics for the article, including the number of readers and the number of mentions.

PlumX Dashboard View:

The screenshot shows the PlumX dashboard view for the article. It features several widgets: 'PlumX Snapshot' with a 'Share' button, 'PlumX Metrics' showing various engagement statistics, and 'Social Media' links for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The dashboard also includes a table of metrics and a 'Share' button at the bottom.

Impact:

- Archived linked citations or full-text for over 130 works from GW medical, health sciences, public health, and nursing researchers
- Makes institutional research highly visible and searchable via search engines such as Google™
- Ability to see a global readership distribution
- All Covid-19 related institutional research is collected in a single digital space
- Positive user feedback: " [!] Appreciate the effort of not only helping to keep our enterprise informed on most recent information being published on Covid-19 but promoting the work of our own enterprise."-Faculty member

Next Steps:

- Incorporate more Open Access (OA) content
- Create a new collection for Covid-19 Intelligence Reports
- Work with faculty to add additional content
- Refine archiving practices related to preprints
- Continue to promote internally
- How can we continue to leverage technologies to tell institution specific research stories?

References:

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