

Edinburgh Research Explorer

ER•data: Jan-Jun 2019



The first six-months of 2019, as now seems inevitable, have proved to be the busiest six-months in Edinburgh Research Explorer's brief history, with 543,152 downloads. This is not only the first time that the half-a-million milestone has been breached within such a short period, but represents a 35% increase on the previous best. As the chart below indicates, this rate of growth is unprecedented following a full 6-months:



Fig. i Edinburgh Research Explorer: downloads May 2017 - June 2019, in six-monthly blocks

This report aims to offer an overview of the last six-months of download activity on Edinburgh Research Explorer. The data generated through the IRUS-UK download statistics portal is somewhat limited, it won't tell us much about the users, in terms of who is downloading what, but it will offer up a few broad clues. This report will investigate those clues under the following headings:

[a. Downloads by Country](#) | [b. Downloads by Item-type](#) | [c. Downloads by Title](#)

a. Downloads by Country:

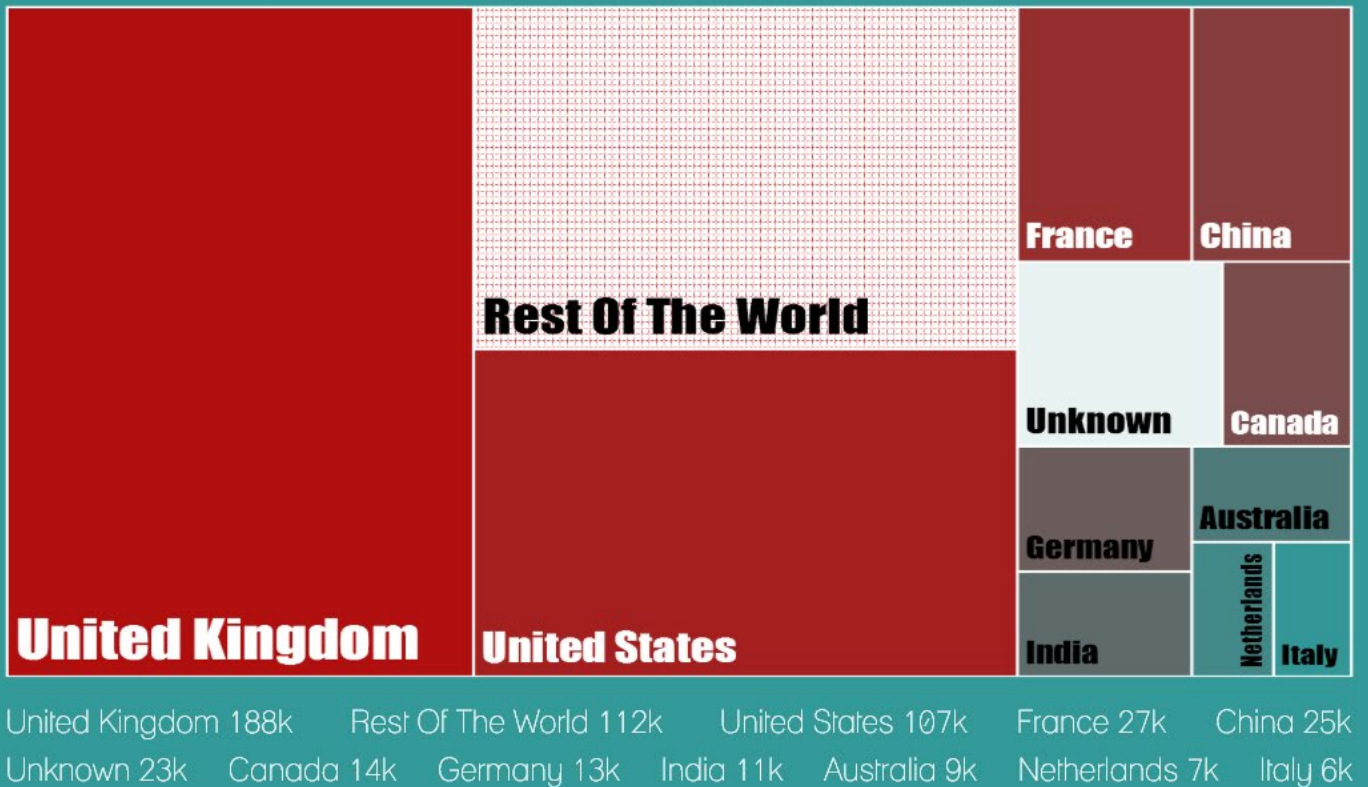


Fig. ii Edinburgh Research Explorer: downloads by country, January 2019 - June 2019

Unsurprisingly, the biggest proportion of downloads occur from within the UK (37%), with the US at 20% the only other major market. The other significant audiences can be summed up as the major economies of the English-speaking world, followed by our near-neighbours (with Italy being the only European country above 5k, with which we don't share a sea border), and China.

The 'Rest Of The World' as a block accounted for 21% of the downloads, but that block was made up of 208 other countries and territories.

Downloads from China may be significantly under-reported in these figures, whilst the data affords us no actual evidence for this conclusion, downloads from 'Unknown' have shown an upward trend over the last six-months, increasing by over a thousand-per-month from January to June, and the only two countries showing a significant fall-off over the period are India (-700-per-month) and China (-1000-per-month). Additionally, the graph overleaf would seem to indicate a certain symbiosis, with a pattern distinct from any other country in the top 30:



Fig. iii Edinburgh Research Explorer: monthly downloads by selected 'Countries', January 2019 - June 2019

b. Downloads by Item-type

Predictably, articles make up 80% of the item-types; 'Unknown' = 9%, 'Other' = 5%, Books = 4%, and Workshop/Conference Papers just 2%.



Fig. iv Edinburgh Research Explorer downloads by item-type, January - June 2019

c. Downloads by Title

As stated in the introduction, in total there were 543,152 downloads over the first six-months of 2019, the most popular title accounted for over 20,000 of them (3.80%).

The nine remaining titles in the top 10, accounted for a further 32,024 downloads (5.9%); the top 10 as a whole, accounted for almost 10%. So as would be expected, the download statistics exhibit a very long tail. How long? Well, the remaining 90.3% of the downloads were distributed amongst 35,432 titles; of those, 7,957 titles (22%) were only downloaded once.

The Top 10:

No. 10

'The 'blemish of place': Stigma, geography and health inequalities. A commentary on Tabuchi, Fukuhara & Iso'

by:
Pearce, Jamie

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
December 2012
School of Geosciences
2,275
3,096 (73%)
UK (99%)
May 2017
442 (January 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2JG87if>

No. 9

'Youth Crime and Justice: Key Messages from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime'

by:
McAra, Lesley
McVie, Susan

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
May 2010
School of Law
2,335
7,513 (31%)
UK (92%)
May 2017
559 (May 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2JHoVW6>

No. 8

'Closing the attainment gap in Scottish schools: Three challenges in an unequal society'

by:
McCluskey, Gillean

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:

Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
March 2017
Moray House School of Education;/ Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity (CREID)
2,667
3,998 (67%)
UK (98%)
May 2017
548 (March 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2lqr4gn>

No. 7

'Payment of Another's Debt, Unjustified Enrichment and ad hoc Agency'

by:
Macgregor, Laura
Whitty, Niall R.

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
January 2011
School of Law
2,861
2,963 (97%)
UK (98%)
May 2017
1,090 (March 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2JHoVW6>

No. 6

'Abandoned, Orphaned or Property for Ever? Copyright, Prescription and Personal Bar'

by:
MacQueen, Hector

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
January 2011
School of Law
2,922
5,936 (49%)
UK (99%)
July 2017
1,090 (March 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2Lomhal>

No. 5

'Personality Structure in the Domestic Cat (Felis silvestris catus), Scottish Wildcat (Felis silvestris grampia), Clouded Leopard (Neofelis nebulosa), Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia), and African Lion (Panthera leo): A Comparative Study'

by:
Gartner, Marieke Cassia
Powell, David M.
Weiss, Alexander

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:

Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
August 20141
School of Philosophy,
Psychology and Language
Sciences
3,901
36,366 (11%)
USA (51%)
May 2017
16,509 (March 2018)

<https://edin.ac/328jp71>

No. 4

'The Reform of the Law of Directors' Duties in UK Company Law'

by:
Cabrelli, David

Item-type:

Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Conference or Workshop Item –
Other
2008
School of Law
4,313
6,147 (70%)
UK (59%)
May 2017
1,072 (March 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2woSUM3>

No. 3

'Is football bigotry confined to the west of Scotland? The Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian Rivalry'

by:
Kelly, John

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:

Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
June 2013
Moray House School of
Education
4,972
6,466 (77%)
USA (72%)
May 2017
1,434 (May 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2lcSwHv>

No. 2

'Tubby's dub style:The live art of record production'

by:
Williams, Sean

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Article
September 2012
Edinburgh College of Art
5,610
19,982 (28%)
USA (71%)
May 2017
1,380 (June 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2wr74fE>

No. 1

'FISH BONE one-person exhibition:recent works by Jonathan Gibbs at the Open Eye Gallery'

by:
Gibbs, Jonathan

Item-type:
Published:
Affiliated to:
Downloads: 2019
Downloads: Total
Audience: 2019
1st downloaded:
Peak:

Other
September 2013
Edinburgh College of Art
20,650
27,002 (76%)
USA (52%)
May 2017
9,686 (March 2019)

<https://edin.ac/2wp4Ptp>

Amongst the difficulties inherent in trying interpret raw data, especially with items originating in a multi-disciplinary environment like a University and being downloaded all over the world, can be the ignorance of all the possible external factors. A prime example might be the 'FISH BONE one-person exhibition...'. Having been published nearly four-years before Edinburgh Research Explorer made its debut, it bumbled along in the first year mostly being downloaded less than 20 times a month – the odd vacation out to the mid-thirties notwithstanding. In the 2nd-year, it was barely breaking out of single figures before October ... [see Fig. V below]

Suddenly it was set alight, and for the next six months went supernova. And then two-months ago, it err, ... fizzled out. This pattern has been driven by the American audience, with the USA accounting for at least 50% of the downloads since the start. Curiously after that, at least in 2019, the next major market has been Turkey (7%), followed by France (4%) and only then the UK at 3%.

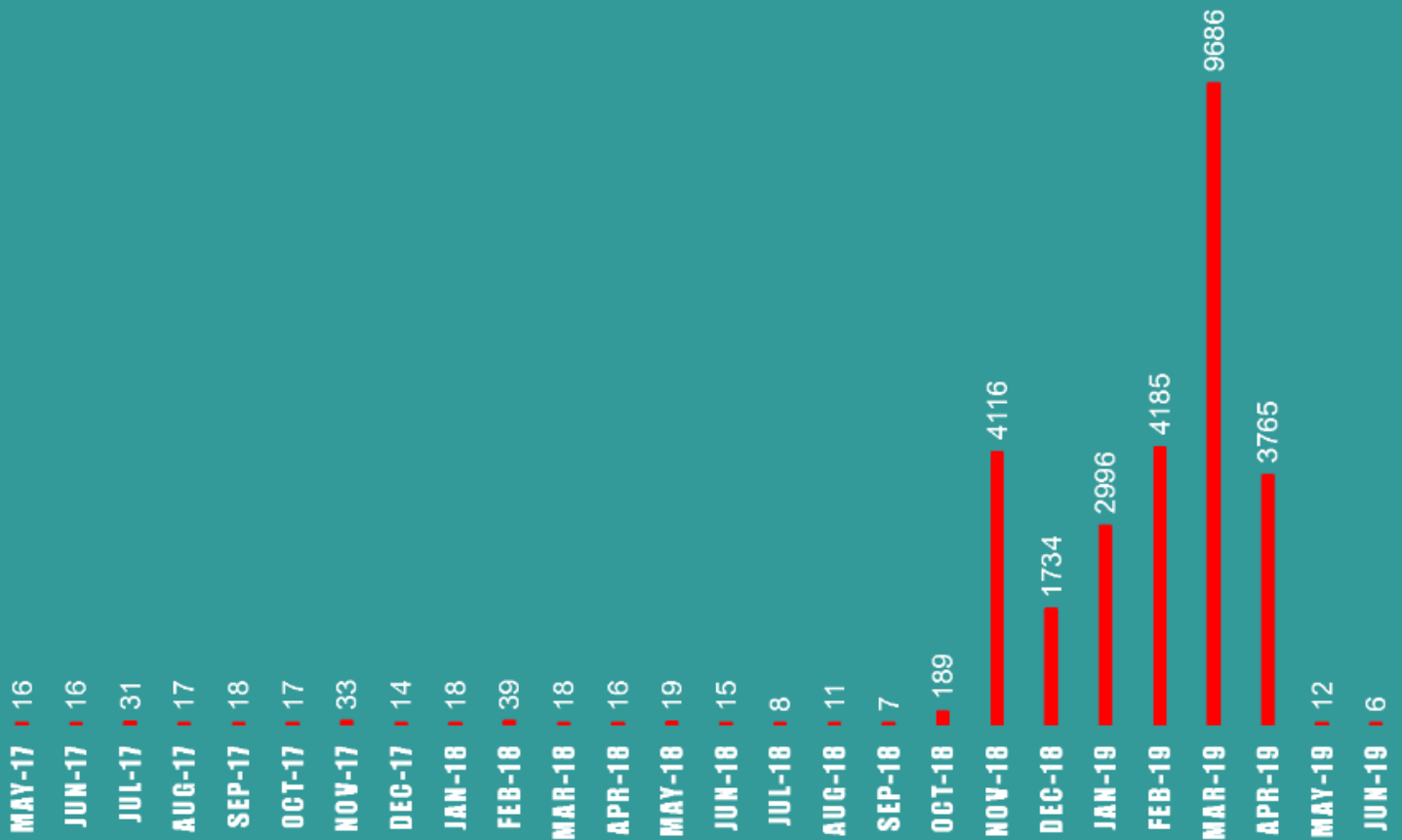


Fig. v Edinburgh Research Explorer: FISH BONE monthly downloads from May 2017 - June 2019

Obviously a sample of just 10 items won't reveal any significant patterns, but it does offer some loose threads to pull on: all ten items in the top 10 were published before Research Explorer was established, from 9 years to just 2 months before; Four of the ten came from the School of Law, but the two from ECA were massively more popular, but that popularity was overwhelmingly driven by the USA; 9/10 titles had their busiest month in this 6-month period, which shows that even though recency of publication doesn't seem to be a factor there are currents at play; But only 6/10 had more than 50% of their total downloads in these six months, suggesting some deeper, more residual currents are also a factor. The bottom half of the top ten are all appealing almost exclusively to a home audience, suggesting popularity at home doesn't lead to interest further afield – although the subject matter of four of the five would seem to explain that.

How to pull on those threads is another matter: a bigger sample size would be an obvious starting point; comparisons with other repositories' data might be more illuminating; gleaning some scraps of data from publishers for the same titles, and comparing those with the numbers of citations, references, and tweets etc. might unpick a few knots.