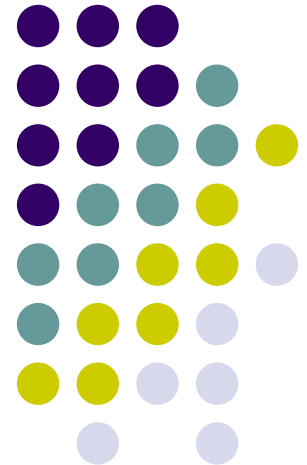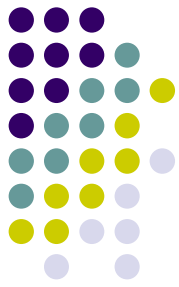# Uncommon Findings on Users of the Commons

Andrew Revelle, M.L.S.
Library Coordinator
Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis
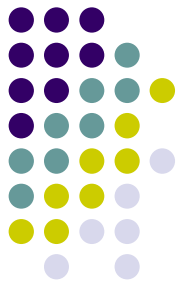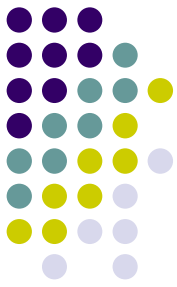Indiana University, Bloomington

Presentation outline

- How and how much do users use the Digital Library of the Commons (DLC)?

- Who are these users?

- How do these factors effect the operation of the system and the content of the metadata

Sources

- Transaction log (5/2004 – 3/2005)
  http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/awstats/awstats.pl?config=eprints
  - IP addresses processed to learn geographical location of users
  - Number of hits and page views used as an indication of type and amount of use
  - Search terms indicates type of use
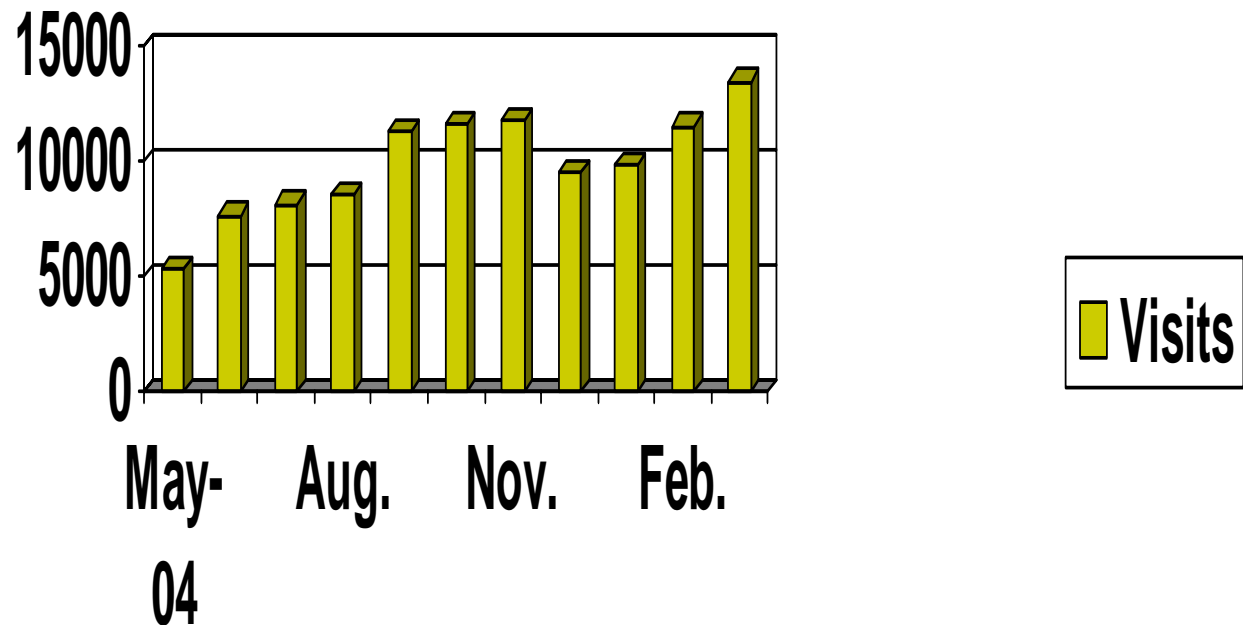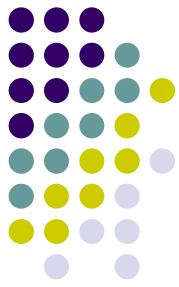- Personal and email interaction with users

How and how much do users use the DLC?

Amount of use

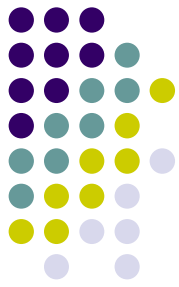- 108427 Total visits from May 2004-March 2005

Usage patterns

- Like most self-archiving repositories, we have many more users than contributors.

  - Around 10% of papers on the DLC are author posted. The remainder are chiefly IASCP conference papers.

- 4/1 search to browse ratio

  - The vast majority of users are using the simple search and not the advanced search
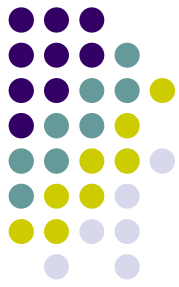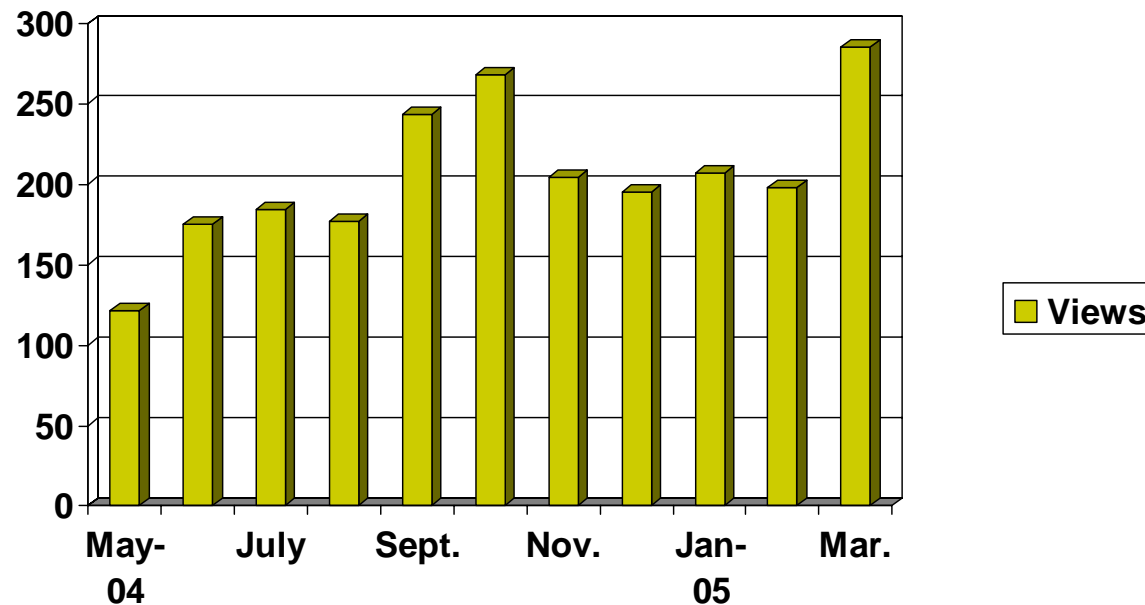
Factors that increased posting

- Posting of IASCP conference papers
  - After posting IASCP 2004 papers in December, 2004, we had an influx of authors posting earlier and/or other work
- CPR Digest article
  - After on-line publication of CPR Digest special issue on copyright and Open Access, we received numerous postings.
  - Effect of printed publication of this issue is yet to be seen
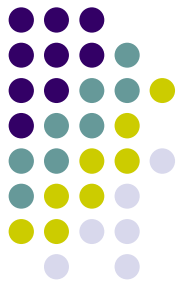
Views of keyword thesaurus

(visits to http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/thesaurus/thesaurus.html)
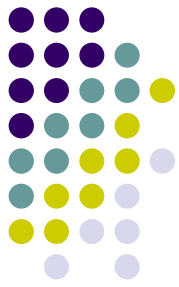
- Average = 205
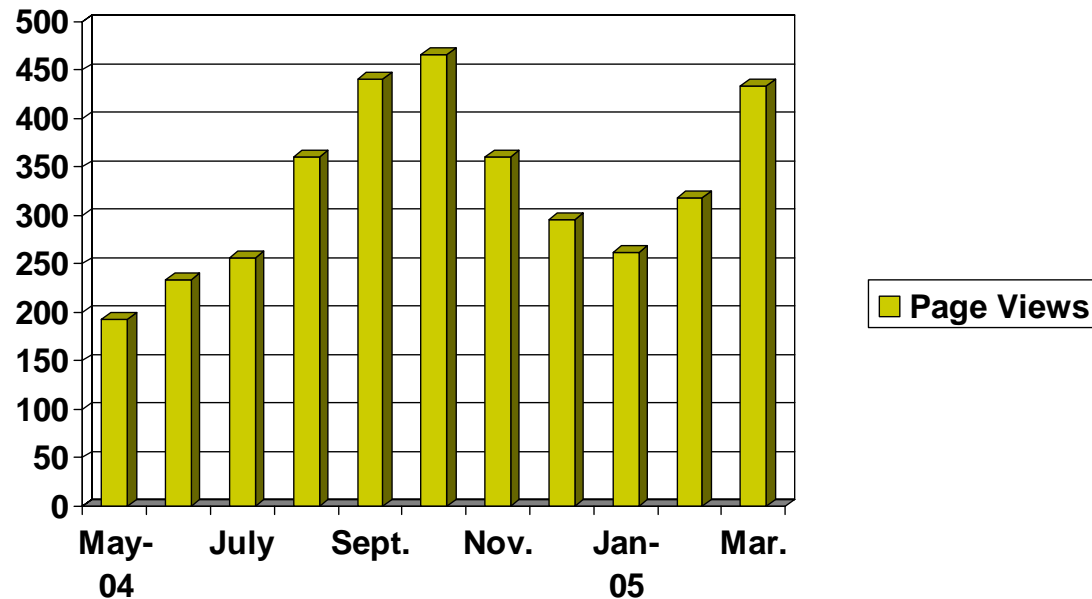- Total = 2257

Examples of search phrases

- Author/title search
  - financing economic development in nigeria a case study of imo state.
  - Vincent Ostrom
- Search by keyword or search phrase
  - ngos in the philippines
  - joint forest management in india
- Hybrid
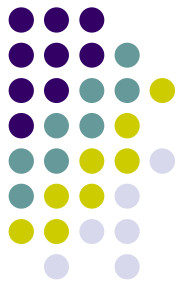 - elizabeth bennett institutions management conflict fisheries

Views of CPR Bibliography
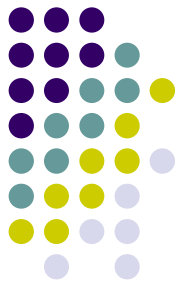**(Visits to http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/cpr/index.php)**

- Total = 3621
- Average = 329

Who uses the DLC?

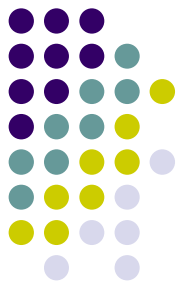# Geographical location of DLC users

- Users in 103 countries visited the DLC during the period between May 2004 and April 2005
  - From all areas of the world
  - From both developing and industrialized countries
  - From both rural and urban areas

Countries most heavily represented among DLC Users

>5000 Hits per Month	4999-2000 Hits per Month	1999-1000 Hits Per Month	1000-50 Hits per Month
United States	India	Great Britain	Japan
Canada	South Korea	China	Thailand
		Indonesia	Netherlands
		Taiwan	Australia

Countries that visited at least once per month but did not have 50 or more hits in every month

- Argentina
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Brazil
- **Bulgaria**
- Colombia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France
- Fiji
- Germany
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- **Iran**
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kuwait
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Mozambique
- **Nepal**
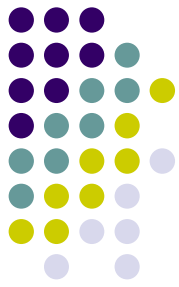- Netherlands
- New Zealand
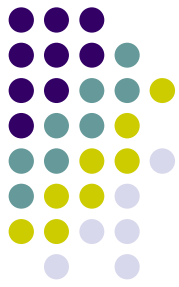- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Peru
- **Philippines**
- Poland
- **Republic of Georgia**
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- Turkey
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

Countries with less than one visit per month

- Zimbabwe
- Finland
- Tunisia
- Panama
- Ecuador
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Yugoslavia
- Yemen

- Dominican Republic
- Chile
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Papua New Guinea
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Malta
- Benin
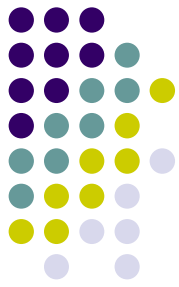- Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan)
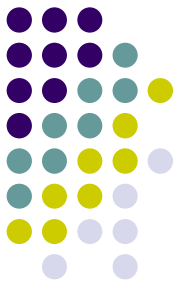
Countries with only one visit

- Ecuador
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Yugoslavia
- Yemen

- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Malta
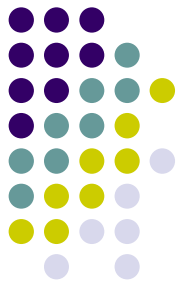- Benin

Institutional affiliation of DLC users

- Academic (Faculty and Students)
  - Some faculty members using DLC papers as course readings
- Development Agencies
  - USAID Data Management Division, Manila, Philippines
  - United Nations' Development Program, India
  - FAO, Washington, D.C.
- Government Agencies
  - US Department of Agriculture
  - US Environmental Protection Agency
  - US Forest Service
  - Bulgarian Council of Ministers
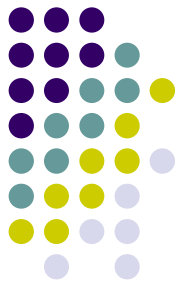- Other (use of commercial ISP, internet cafes)

Effect of use and usage on DLC

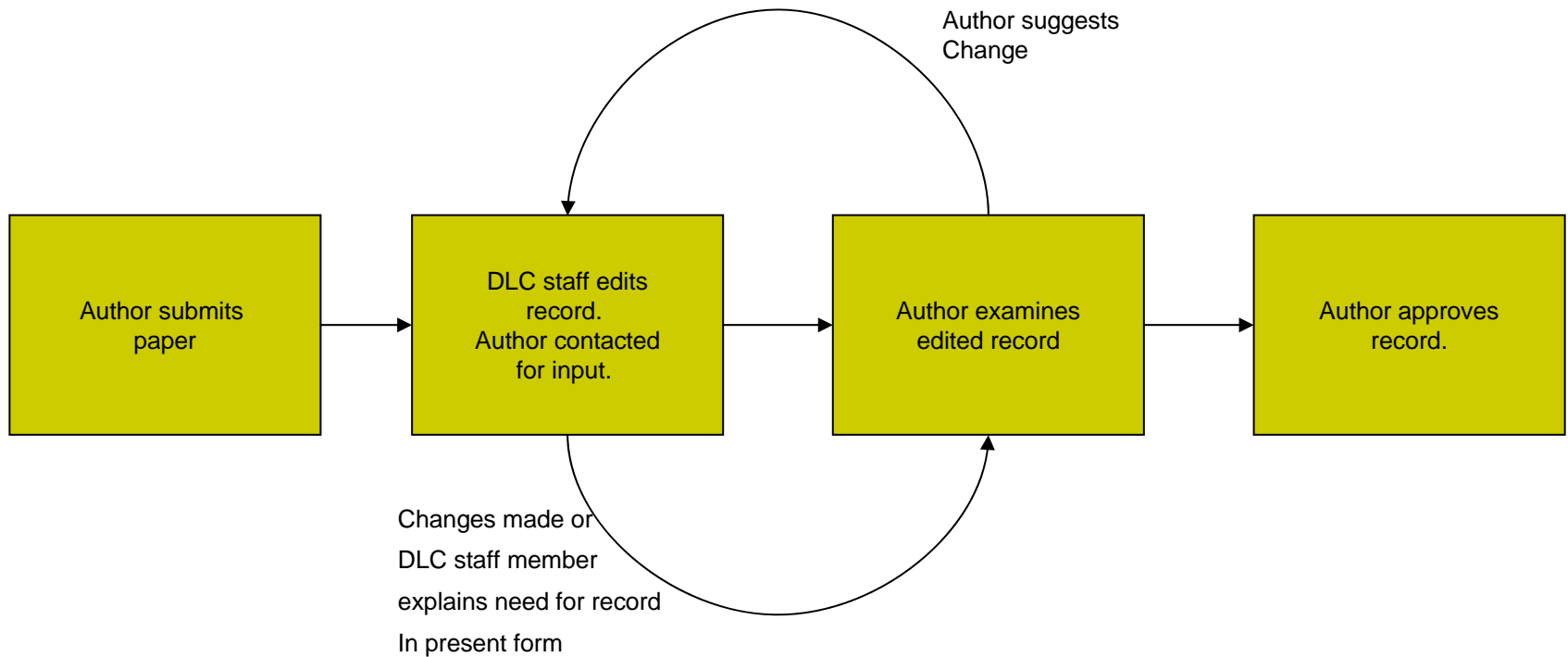# Effect of geographical variation of users on DLC

- Users in developing world often have low bandwidth, making the downloading of PDF files almost impossible
  - Solutions
    - We make sure to have complete and informative abstracts for every paper so that users can be sure they are interested before downloading
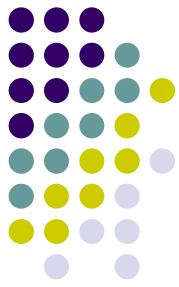   - We have printed copies and sent them by mail to scholars in Africa

Effect of the variety of institutional affiliations and academic disciplines of DLC users:

- Different disciplines have different lexicons, so translating author-supplied keywords into our controlled vocabulary is often a process of negotiation and translation
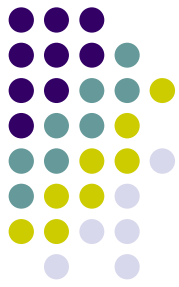
Negotiation process

Conclusions

Differences between DLC users and users other self-archiving repositories

- Users neither co-located nor from a single academic discipline

- Good amount of international use, especially use in the developing world

- Mix of academic and non-academic users

Areas for improvement

- Increased access to papers for users with low bandwidth

- Stress the need for authors to use keyword thesaurus in assigning keywords when submitting papers

- Continue efforts, including author education on copyright issues, to increase posting.