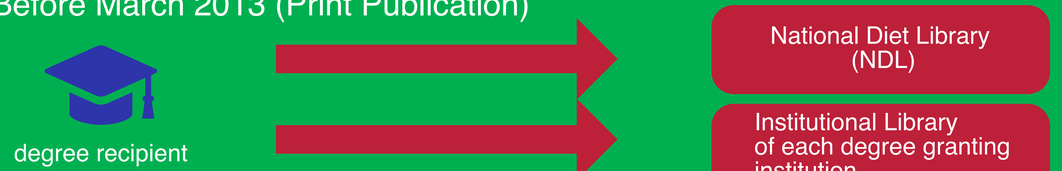
The current state of doctoral theses published via Institutional Repositories in Japan

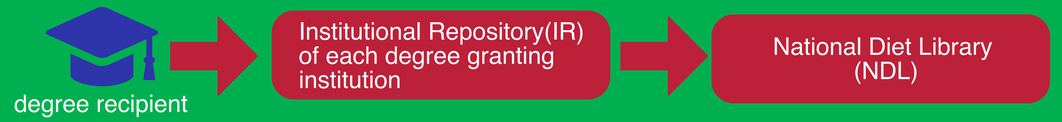
Change of publication method of doctoral theses

The system of granting degrees in Japan is governed by the degree regulations (the Ordinance of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture No. 9) since 1953. Doctoral degree recipients are required to publish their thesis. The degree regulations were amended in March 2013, and the publication method changed from print to the internet.

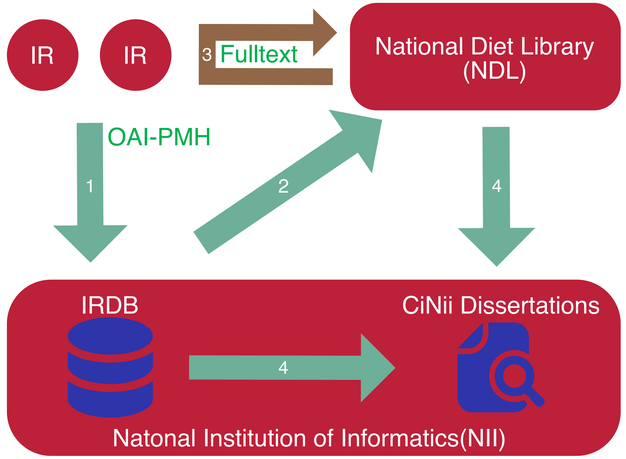
Before March 2013 (Print Publication)



After April 2013 (Internet Publication)



Metadata distribution of doctoral theses



1. Degree recipients publish their thesis at each IR.
2. IRDB(national aggregator) harvests metadata.
3. NDL collects fulltext from IRs based on metadata provided from IRDB.
   -There is also a case to be sent to the NDL web form or paper if there is no IR to the Institution.
   -The NDL is a legal deposit library of Japan.
4. CiNii Dissertations is a national database of doctoral theses in Japan, which integrates IRDB and NDL metadata.
5. Users search CiNii Dissertations.
   -Fulltext links available if available.
   -Various web APIs are supported.

Stats of doctoral theses published via IRs

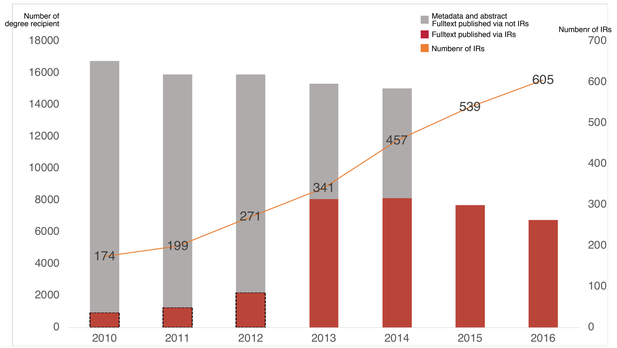
The publication rate via IRs is 52% in 2013 and 54% in 2014.

The number of theses published via IRs has decreased through 2015-2016, the total number of degree recipient is still unknown.

Reasons, why it can not be published in fulltext, are patent applications, journal submission, copyright etc.

The number of IRs continue to increase.
-NII provided JAIRO Cloud(SaaS IR system) since 2012.

The NDL estimated that the publication rate of doctoral theses is 66.2 percent. This rate is not limited to the publication via IRs.



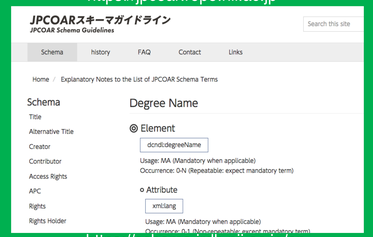
About JPCOAR

Japan Consortium for Open Access Repository(JPCOAR) is established in 2016. It consists of about 500 institutions(University libraries and Research institutions)

Mission
1. Accelerate Open Science and Scholarly Communication
2. Co-operate JAIRO Cloud
3. Increase the number of IR contents
4. Plan and Conduct the training
5. International Cooperation

JPCOAR released a new metadata schema for IR, called the JPCOAR schema in 2017. It succeeds junii2 which is a current metadata schema to promote smooth international distribution of research outputs.

https://jpcoar.repo.nii.ac.jp



https://schema.irdb.nii.ac.jp/en

Shuhei Otani JPCOAR / University of the Ryukyus