Citing the Institutional Repository

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We found over 1000 unique items in New Zealand Institutional Repositories (IRs) cited almost 2000 times in articles indexed by SCOPUS. Theses and grey materials are becoming mainstream scholarly communication.

Method
SCOPUS and NZresearch.org.nz APIs were queried using python, and an aggregated dataset compiled in an RDBMS using SQL.

Results
About 2% of all items in NZ IRs had been cited, some up to 12 times. Inconsistent referencing meant a number of different queries needed to be performed. Another search in SCOPUS for items that have "unpublished thesis" with a Canterbury affiliation with no persistent URI to a repository resulted in another 50-100 citations, so the numbers presented here are underestimates.

Conclusion
Theses are being cited in academic papers, and postgraduates should be prepared to have their work read critically. Rather than just a hoop to jump through, theses are valuable contributions to the community.

Number of citations, per year, for items in the UC Research Repository.