Bypassing Interlibrary Loan via Twitter: An exploration of #icanhazPDF requests

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What is #icanhazPDF?

A sampling:

- can't believe i have to even ask for a ~25 yr old paper ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2065727 #icanhazpdf .Please and Thank you. @fordham.edu

- #icanhazpdf tinyurl.com/mgfxhyf Ethics of Neuroenhancement article in International Journal of Technoethics. Thanks!

- can anyone get this: publish.csiro.au/paper/PP975011... #icanhazpdf at googlemail dot com
Methods

- Tweet Archivist, @tweetarchivist
- April – August 2014
- Captured 1,238 tweets --- 824 were requests of some kind
- Tracked down the source and recorded the full citation information
- Used Web of Science to categorize items by research category
THE WHO

Twitter & #icanhazpdf

#yesyoucanhazpdf
Who’s on Twitter?

• Priem, Costello, & Dzuba (2012) sampled 5 representative US and UK universities to estimate scholarly Twitter use
• “no one … discipline is significantly over-represented on Twitter”

Credit: Priem, Costello, & Dzuba (2012)
Who’s using #icanhazPDF?

• Liu (2013) randomly sampled 100 #icanhazPDF tweets and coded them based on profile bio data
• “These groups presumably have access to certain journals already, and previously might have employed more closed means of obtaining articles.”

#icanhazpdf requests from May 2012 to April 2013
Occupation/role breakdown out of 100 users

Credit: Liu (2013)
## Top 10 Journals Requested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Nature</em></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Science</em></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences</em></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Current Biology</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Energy Policy</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Genome Medicine</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>JAMA</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nature Biotechnology</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nature Communications</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nature Protocols</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90% of requests were journal articles

87% of those articles were indexed in Web of Science

Credit: the.Firebottle [https://flic.kr/p/bRSyM](https://flic.kr/p/bRSyM)
Repeat ‘offenders’?

- “Most users (76%) only used #icanhazPDF once during the data collection dates. However, there were some repeat users. Not counting retweets, the most items requested by any one user was 12.”

Credit: d_pham https://flic.kr/p/dikcUf
THE WHEN

Prime Time

#yesyoucanhazpdf

acrl 2015

MARCH 25–28, 2015

Portland, OR
Request Frequencies by Publication Year

Number of Requests

Years of Publication

#yesyoucanhazpdf
THE WHERE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Requests</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE WHY?

Credit: Abuliс Monkey
https://flic.kr/p/3KhRaW

#yesyoucanhazpdf
Ewan St. John Smith
@psalmotoxin

Still looking for a pdf of my own paper!
Please help: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24668476
#icanhazpdf

Cambridge, England

9:17 AM - 20 May 2014
References & Contact Us:

• References available at: http://tinyurl.com/ichpdfbib (PDF)

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• Images & screen captures by authors unless otherwise noted

Credit: Ben Weiner https://flic.kr/p/aJKUYT