

How IRIS Members Use The Reports They Receive



Externally-facing strategies

Most IRIS members have told us they use IRIS data reports for externally-facing stakeholders, such as legislators and other policymakers. They provide these data as part of their overall strategy of institutional analytics, using IRIS data to tell their stories to demonstrate the value and impact of research and education on their campuses.

IRIS institutions share information with local, state, and national legislators and policy makers. Many highlight the importance of state legislative connections. IRIS data are included in materials intended to underscore the impact of research universities by demonstrating the ripples in the economy created by research spending and employment. IRIS data linked to Census assets provide important information about the economic impact of research by examining the vendor spending at the county and congressional district level. Universities also use data about the geographic distribution of individuals who were funded by research and have subsequently left their institutions to tell the story of their local, state and national impact. IRIS provides details such as average salaries and job sector for these individuals as well.

IRIS reports allow universities to benchmark against a selected aggregate group. We cannot provide the data from one institution to another for this purpose under our MOU, so direct comparisons are never made. Nevertheless, IRIS provides aggregate reports against which member institutions can view themselves on various metrics. The reports are contextualized as much as possible using national data.



Internally-facing strategies

IRIS members also use their reports in a variety of ways on their campuses. Many use IRIS reports to help make data-driven decisions around research administration issues. Others use them to connect to and learn from campus constituents who have an interest in understanding their institution's social and economic impact. The reports are shared with institutional leadership, from institute directors to deans to presidential speechwriters to governing bodies.

There is considerable interest in highlighting specific aspects of the data, such as student employment on research awards. Understanding the impact of such experiences on student outcomes is on the radar, particularly as such experiences relate to STEM majors and subsequent career development.

The Federal Spending report has proven particularly useful for this purpose because it highlights the various categories of employees paid on research awards from different funders. IRIS universities have made particular use of information on student participation in federally funded research at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Some universities use these reports from IRIS to connect campus leaders from disparate units who share a common interest, such as student success; these groups can study the IRIS reports to learn more about how to better support their students. IRIS participation and data can serve an important local convening function.

Gallery of Use Cases

Externally-facing examples



Pennsylvania State University

The Government and Community Relations Office at Pennsylvania State University utilizes IRIS data demonstrating the economic impact of its research activities in reports that are shared with legislators and policy makers at the state and federal levels. They also share data with local officials to show the vendor spending within the immediate county.



University of Michigan

President Mark Schlissel of the University of Michigan frequently gives talks all over the state of Michigan. His speechwriter utilizes Census-linked IRIS data about the impact of research spending to tailor President Schlissel's talks to the specific area. For a report to the University of Michigan Board of Regents, the Office of the Vice President for Research drew on IRIS data to show the importance of external research funds to support U-M graduate students.



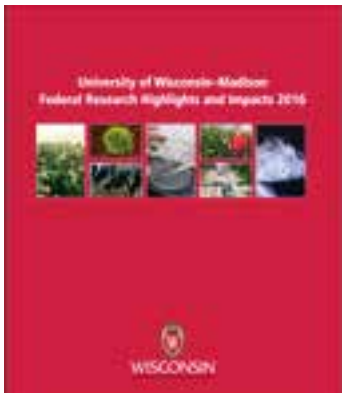
University of Kansas

The University of Kansas is planning to provide IRIS data to its Office of Public Affairs, who advocates on behalf of the university with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to demonstrate the impact of its research spending. Publications such as the Chancellor's Report is an ideal mechanism in which to highlight KU's IRIS data.



The Ohio State University

The Office of Government Affairs at The Ohio State University shares its reports, particularly Census-linked reports demonstrating the economic impact of research spending, with state and federal legislators.



University of Wisconsin-Madison

The University of Wisconsin's Office of Federal Relations uses IRIS data in its annual Federal Research Impact report, a report that targets legislators and policymakers.



University of Iowa

The University of Iowa's Office of Research and Economic Development shares its IRIS reports with its state and federal legislators in publications such as this to make the case for the importance of a research university by demonstrating its economic impact.



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research uses IRIS data in its annual Research Report that is intended for legislators and policymakers, specifically highlighting the impact of research spending in the state of Illinois and reformatting the IRIS graphic in its own school colors.



University of Arizona

The Senior Vice President for Research at the University of Arizona frequently shares IRIS data focusing on the participation of students in research in communications with legislators.

Internally-facing strategies



University of Kansas

The University of Kansas has shared IRIS data focusing on student outcomes such as the geographic distribution and average wages of students paid on research grants, as well as data highlighting the impact of research vendor spending.



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University shares its IRIS reports with the leadership team – the president, provost, and business leaders – who use these data to inform their decision-making.



University of Missouri

The University of Missouri is convening a group of campus leaders to focus on IRIS data as it pertains to student outcomes.



Purdue University

Purdue University utilizes IRIS reports by feeding relevant charts and graphs to its Vice President for Research to utilize in various meetings with campus constituents.



University of Virginia

The University of Virginia will share its IRIS data in reports it is preparing for an upcoming Board of Visitors meeting, focusing on the economic impact of research spending on individuals and vendors. They also share IRIS data with its Graduate Studies Office and the Vice Chancellor for Research.