Objective: The purpose of our communication is to present results from a new study (March 2009 – December 2009) on usage of open archives in France. The objective of the study is to gain empirical insight in usage patterns of freely available scientific items deposited in open archives, especially of non-commercial material, e.g. grey literature, mostly not distributed through other channels.

Method: Our method combines four different approaches:
1. A state of the art of published empirical data, standardization, research projects etc.
2. A survey on the development and the usage of French open archives\(^1\), based on open source methods (web, publications...) and investigation.
3. A case study on usage statistics of the institutional repository of the university of Lille 1, IRIS\(^2\) (the former Grisemine website, the first “grey” archive in France and presented at the Nancy conference\(^3\)), in order to illustrate the state of the art and the survey results.
4. Qualitative survey results from interviews on digital resources usage with a sample of scientists.

Expected results: Empirical data allowing for first comparison between different archives and document types. Awareness on the scientific but also professional and economic interest of these data. A contribution to standardization (recommendations on data production, delivery and analysis).

Costs: The research project is entirely funded by the university of Lille 3. Total with VAT 6469 €. The funding covers staff costs (two students), travel and meeting costs (technical meetings, two conferences), documentation and IT investment.

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\(^2\) Cf. https://iris.univ-lille1.fr/dspace/