

# Experimenting with JSTOR as Open Infrastructure for Primary Source Collections

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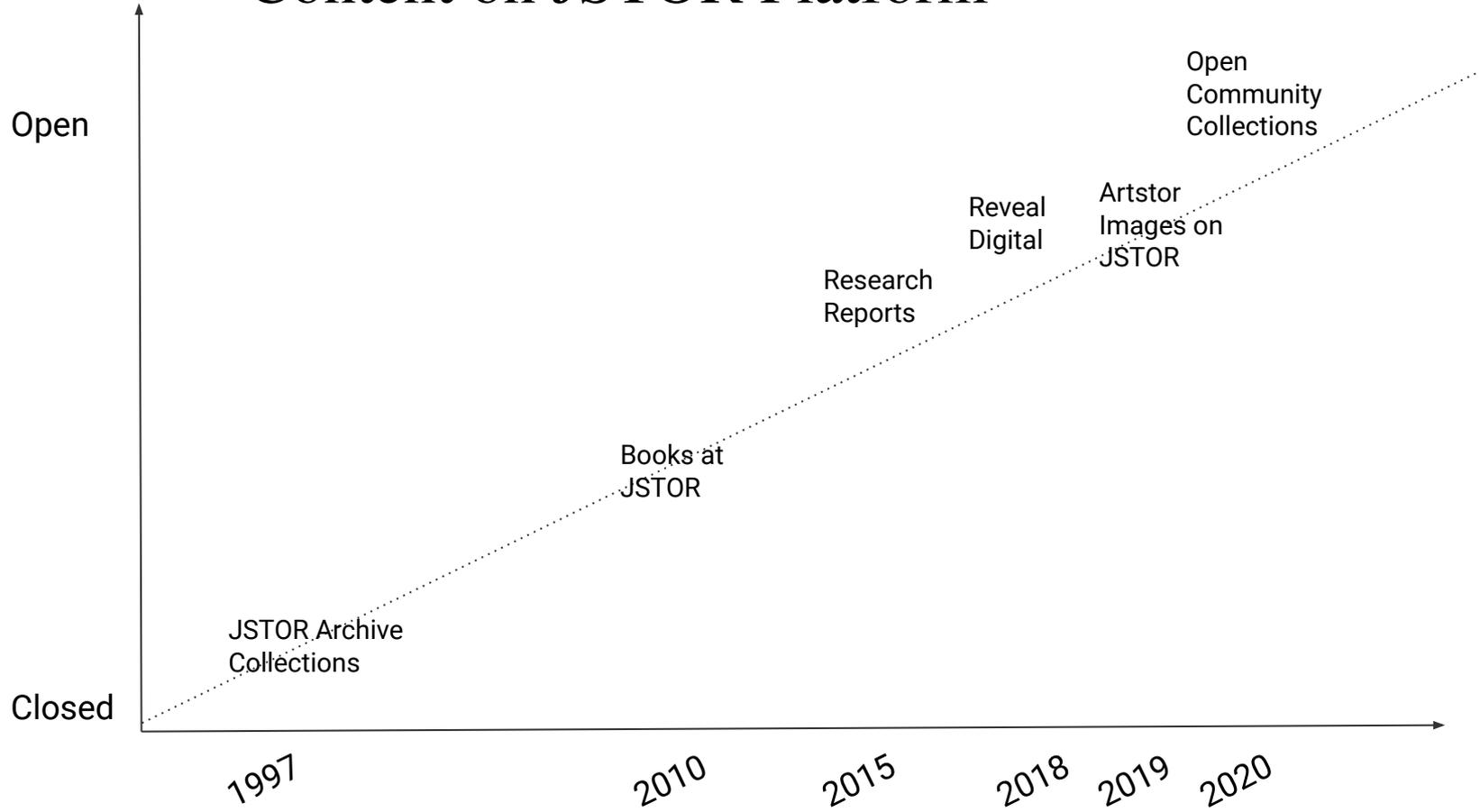
Jean & Alexander Heard Libraries



# ITHAKA and Primary Sources

- 25 years bringing content together in humanities and social sciences

# Content on JSTOR Platform

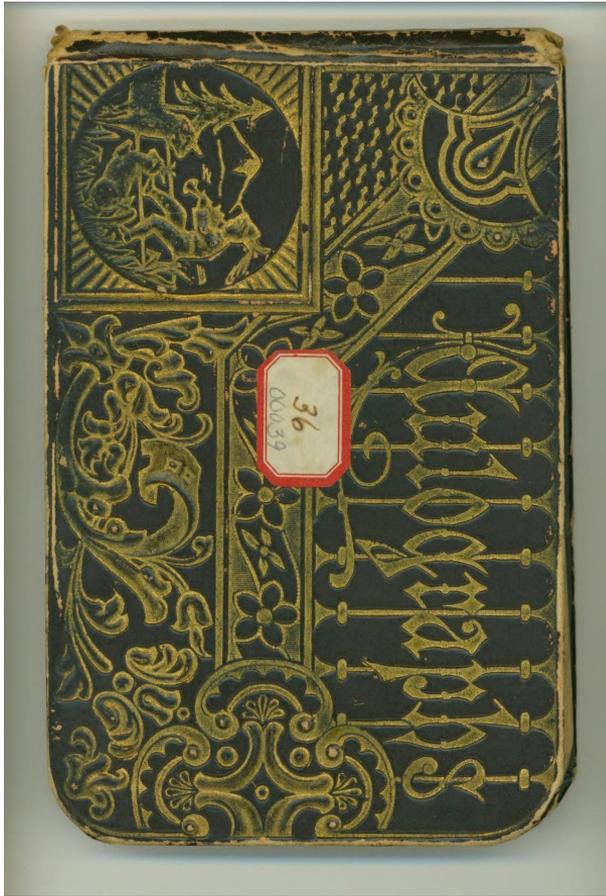


# ITHAKA and Primary Sources

- **25 years** bringing content together in humanities and social sciences
- Journals (1997)
  - > Books (2010)
  - > Research Reports (2015)
  - > Reveal Digital (2018)
  - > Images via Artstor (2019)
  - > Contributed Content from Institutions (2020)

**All underpinned with long-term preservation from Portico**

- What we heard from our participating libraries:
  - Faculty increasingly want to teach with primary sources;
  - Students - particularly early career researchers - want to do research with primary sources
- JSTOR has traditionally been a “research” platform; can it also become a “teaching” platform as well?



John Muir Journals  
University of the Pacific

# The Problems

- **Difficult to discover:** seldom in places where research starts
- **Out of context:** unconnected to the secondary literature (journal articles and book chapters)
- **Expensive to maintain:** ongoing investment required to keep relevant with changing research techniques
- **Limited Reach:** don't typically reach a global audience
- **Long-term preservation:** not a priority

# Two Working Hypotheses

1. Making this content available in the JSTOR channel will increase its usage footprint and **make the open collections more discoverable to researchers globally.**
2. Co-locating these primary source collections alongside the important secondary literature (journal articles, book chapters, research reports) already on the JSTOR platform will allow researchers to find this content in context and **make the research process more seamless.**

# Vanderbilt on Community Collections



**All Content** Images

Search journals, books, images, and primary sources

Q



Vanderbilt University

Search 1,539 items in 5 collections

Search

Q

# James Robertson Collection



All Content Images

Search journals, books, images, and primary sources

Register

Log in

Search

Browse

Tools

## James Robertson Papers

393 items

Part of [Manuscript Collections](#)

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
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COVERAGE (DATE RANGE): 1784-1814

NAME: James Robertson Papers

# Usage Statistics

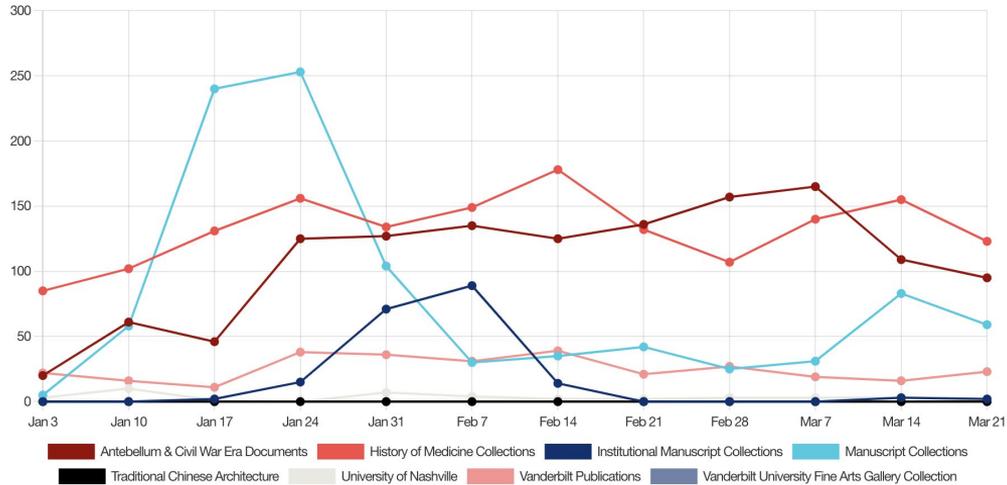
4,505 Total Item Requests ⓘ

30% Items Accessed ⓘ

105 Countries

35 Institution Landing Page Views ⓘ

## Item Requests by Collection



# PORTICO



## Dashboard

- This status is not applicable for this publisher.

u/k This status is unknown for this publisher.

DOWNLOAD HOLDINGS

COMPARE HOLDINGS

All Metadata

Search Archived Content

Multi-line Search

PUBLISHERS | REPORTS | MORE

## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY AS OF 24-MAR-2022

OVERVIEW | CONTENT RECEIPT | INGEST RATES | PROCESSING STATUS | JSTOR COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS | FILE STATUS REPORT



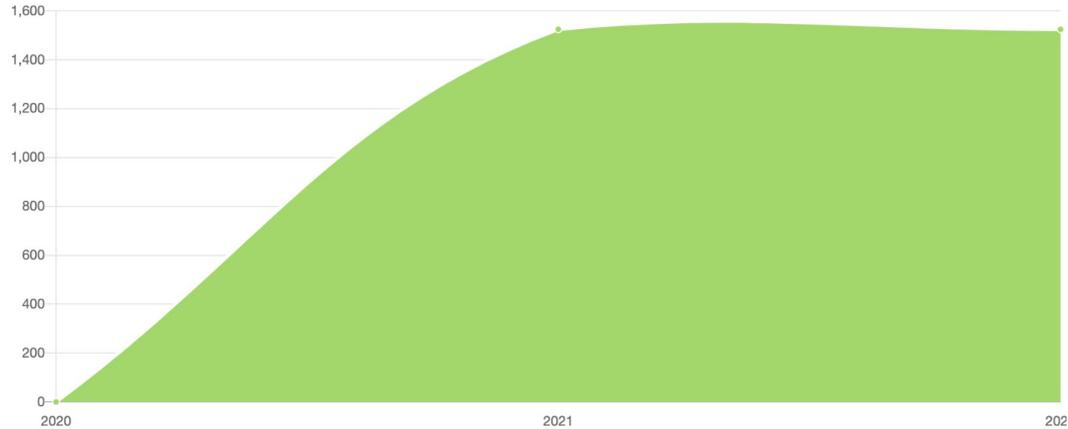
-

-

100%

6 out of 6 committed collections are preserved in Portico.

### Total Content in the Archive journal articles, books, and digitized collection items



# Challenges

## Receipt - James Robertson, George M. Deaderick, 1798 March 27



CITATION



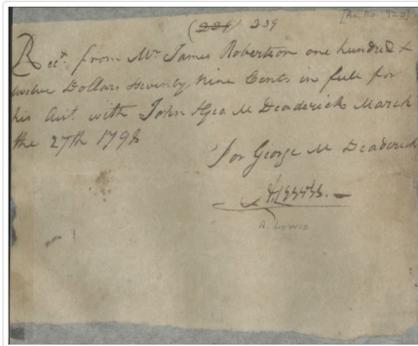
AEON REQUEST

📌 **Item — Box: 1, Folder: 1**

[Vanderbilt University Special Collections](#) | [James Robertson Papers](#) | [Accounts](#)  
| [Receipt - James Robertson, George M. Deaderick, 1798 March 27](#)

### Transcription

[page 1] Recd. From Mr. James Robertson one hundred & twelve Dollars seventy nine cents in full for his Asst with John & Geo. M Deaderick March the 27th 1798 for George M Deaderick A. Lewis [page 2] General Robertson Mero District



Receipt - James Robertson, George M. Deaderick

### Dates

1798 March 27

### Extent

*From the Collection:* 1.26 Linear Feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

### Language of Materials

*From the Collection:* English

### Collection organization

- receipts - James Robe...
- Invoice of Goods - Rob...
- Receipt - James Rober...
- Account Sheet - Treaty...
- ▶ Broad sides - Lands of Joh...
- ▶ Correspondence - Front P...
- ▶ Correspondence - Authors...
- ▶ Correspondence - Anders...
- ▶ Correspondence - Barnard...
- ▶ Correspondence - Blount, ...
- ▶ Correspondence - Blount, ...

# Progress in Growing Use and Collections

↑ 850+

collections published to JSTOR

🔍 200+

unique contributing institutions

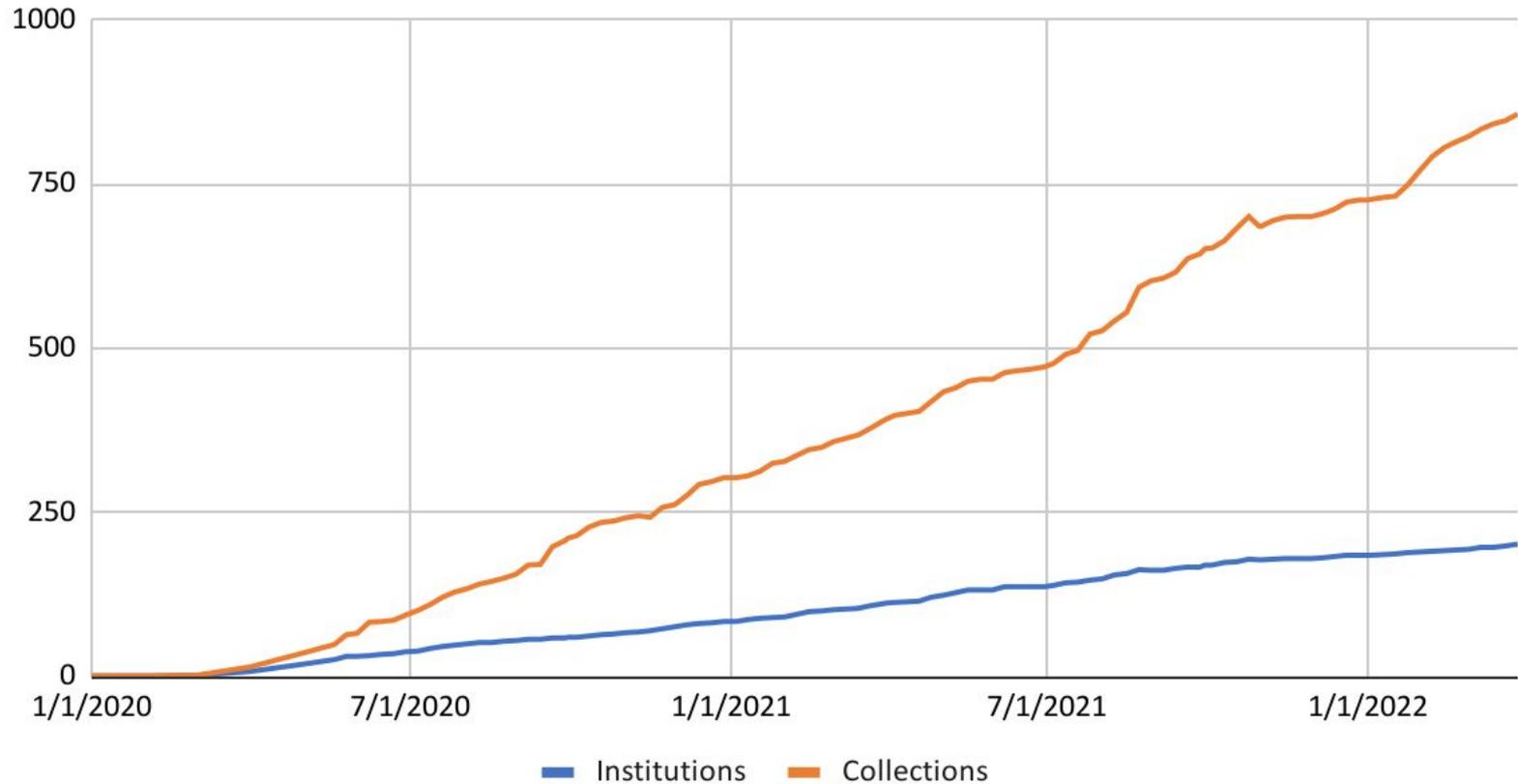
📖 62%

of item requests coming from  
non-JSTOR IP ranges (i.e. open web)

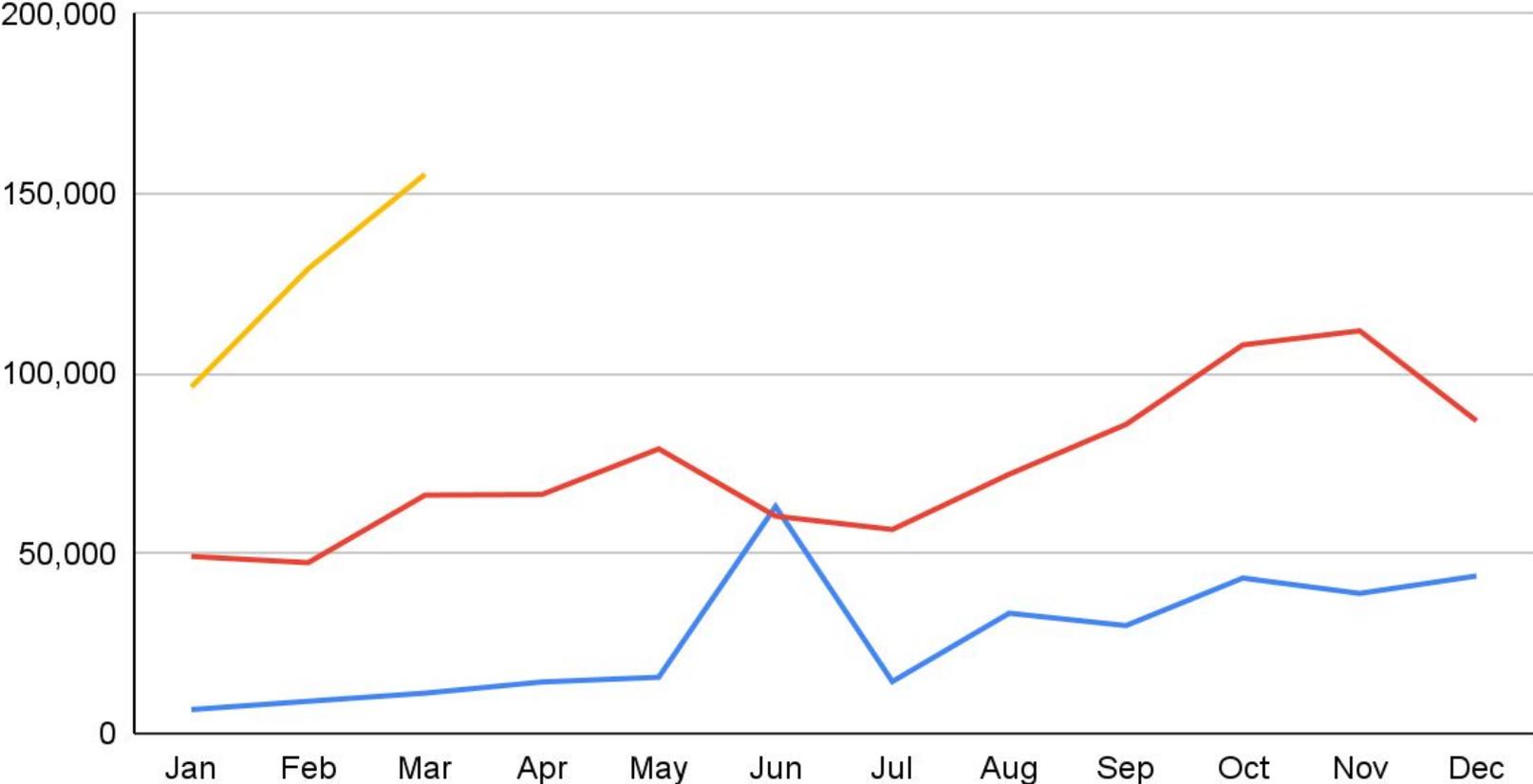
📖 7,760

unique institutions accessing  
from 180+ countries (2021)

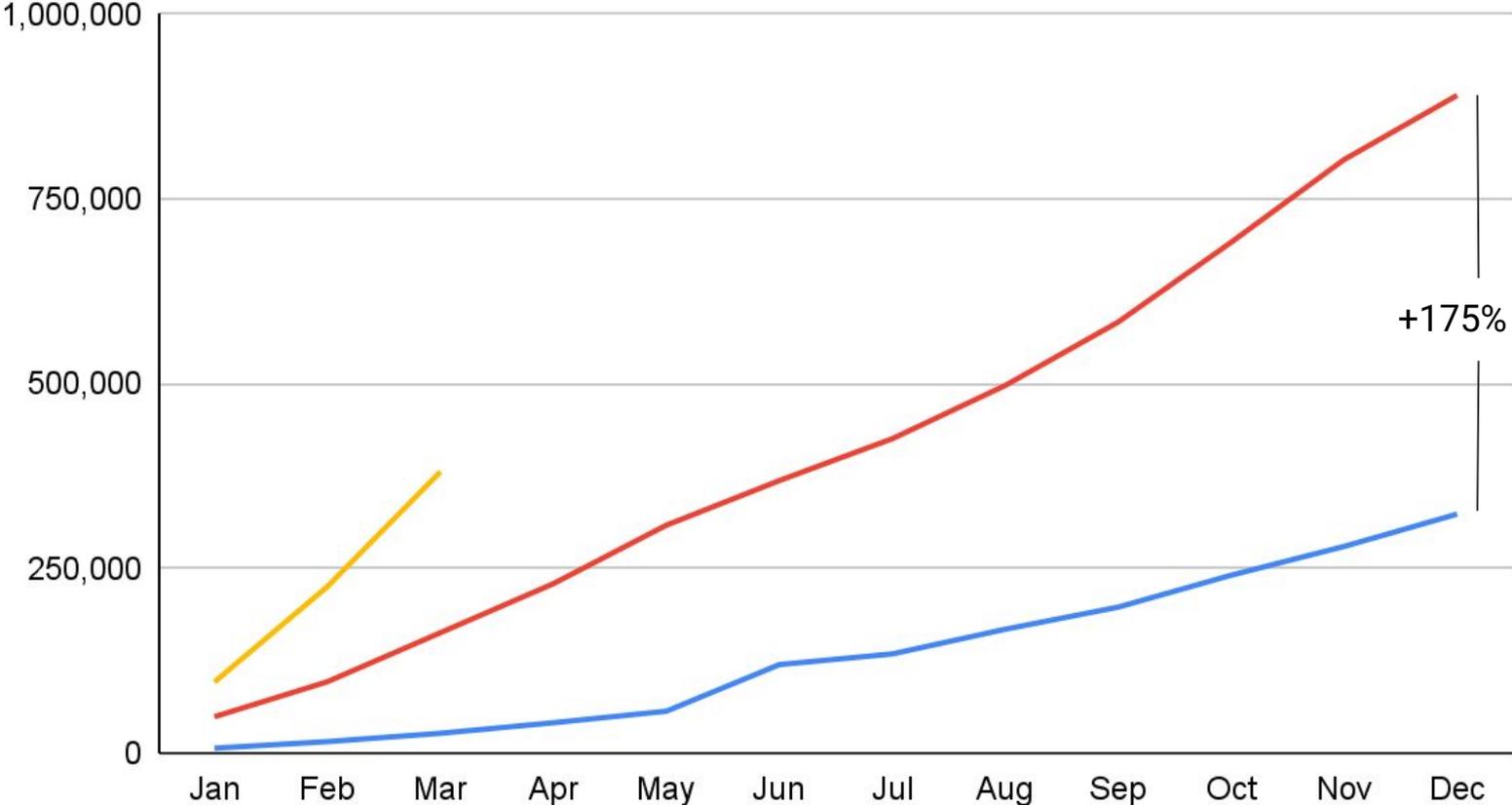
## Steady Growth in Participants and Collections



# Community Collections Monthly Usage: 2020-2022



# Community Collections Cumulative Usage: 2020-2022



# Important Learnings Thus Far

- Image content still dominates what is in repositories: Reinforced the importance of having robust metadata in making relevant image content discoverable in a vast sea of text content
- Google referrals have grown from 25% (2020) to 40% (2021) of traffic; and are increasing; the JSTOR platform can be beneficial for Google ranking of this content
- “Open” is working
- Preservation is an immediate priority
- Metadata enhancement/enrichment is essential on the dimensions of discovery, preservation, usability for TDM, accessibility, and inclusiveness

# Next Steps

- Continue adding collections from new and existing institutions
  - Charter Period ends December 31, 2022
  - **Institutions can still participate for no fees**
- Finalize business models for Hosting Service and Preservation Service;
  - **perhaps make Preservation Service available later in 2022**
- Continue platform work required to more substantially connect the secondary literature with these primary source/special/distinctive collections
- Continue work to understand the value of these collections for text analytics
  - **ITHAKA launching Constellate TDM service**
- Define and build Metadata Enhancement Service with library partners