

University Repositories and Their Significance for Scientific Research: The Case of the Repository of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje



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Abstract: Digital repositories of universities and research institutions offering open access to their scholarly output are of significant importance to academicians and researchers, especially to those located in developing countries. The Repository of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje was initiated in 2017 primarily as a digital collection of records on the University's scientific work, with an aim to serve as a tool for organisation and management of the meta-data of the scientific publications of its members. The Repository offers functions for collecting, indexing, storing and disseminating the available digital objects. In 2021, in the frames of the National Initiatives for Open Science in Europe (NI4OS Europe) project, an initiative for including the full texts of the doctoral dissertations defended at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje has been taken. The process of filling in the database of doctoral dissertations is currently in progress, in parallel with the activities to integrate historical material from the first university journals from 1948 onwards.

Rozita Petrinska Labudovikj

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies

Anastas Mishev

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering

Hristina Spasevska

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies

Introduction

Digital repositories of universities and research institutions offering open access to their scholarly output are of significant importance to academicians and researchers, especially to those located in developing countries. The Repository of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM Repository: <https://repository.ukim.mk/>) was initiated in 2017 primarily as a digital collection of records on the University's scientific work, with an aim to serve as a tool for organisation and management of the meta-data of the scientific publications of its members.

OA and Repositories

The Green OA route which represents free online access to peer-reviewed (most often not published) papers and other research materials deposited by the author through self-archiving in institutional or thematic digital repositories. By enabling free access to the research items, university repositories serve as a primary basis for literature search and review as well as scholarly communication and collaboration.

UKIM Repository Structure

The collections are based on the University structure, meaning that each Faculty and Research Institute (33 in total) has its own collection. Further, these collections have sub-collections for different types of deposits. At the University level, there are three different collections, two of them for doctoral theses - one before the establishment of the PhD School and one after, as well as University level data repository, which is the latest addition.

Conclusion & Future Work

University repositories, as a type of institutional repositories, represent electronic databases that collect and store the entire scientific research output of a university. The UKIM Repository represents a digital system integrated into the e-infrastructure of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and collects research articles, conference papers, book chapters, books and other monographic publications, electronic theses and dissertations, research data sets, and other scholarly outputs created by its members. Based on DSpace-CRIS open source software, it currently holds around 20000 records, among which almost 9000 entries are containing full texts, and it continues to grow.

Moreover, within the NI4OS-Europe, a single point of access to all national academic repositories is in a final phase, enabling the users to search all repositories from the Macedonian universities from a single location.

UKIM Repository

The Repository is based on DSpace-CRIS open source software. It serves as publication and data repository, as well as a Current Research Information System for the University. Presently, it runs on version 6 and it is expected to be upgraded to version 7 in near future. The repository allows for self-submission of deposits from the University staff validated by assigned responsible persons per collection.

The process of filling in the database of doctoral dissertations is currently in progress, in parallel with the activities to integrate historical material from the first university journals from 1948 onwards. As presented in Figure 1, the total number of visits to the Repository is in constant rise, as is the number of deposits (Figure 2), which is currently (August 2022) around 20000 records with metadata only and about 9000 with full texts.

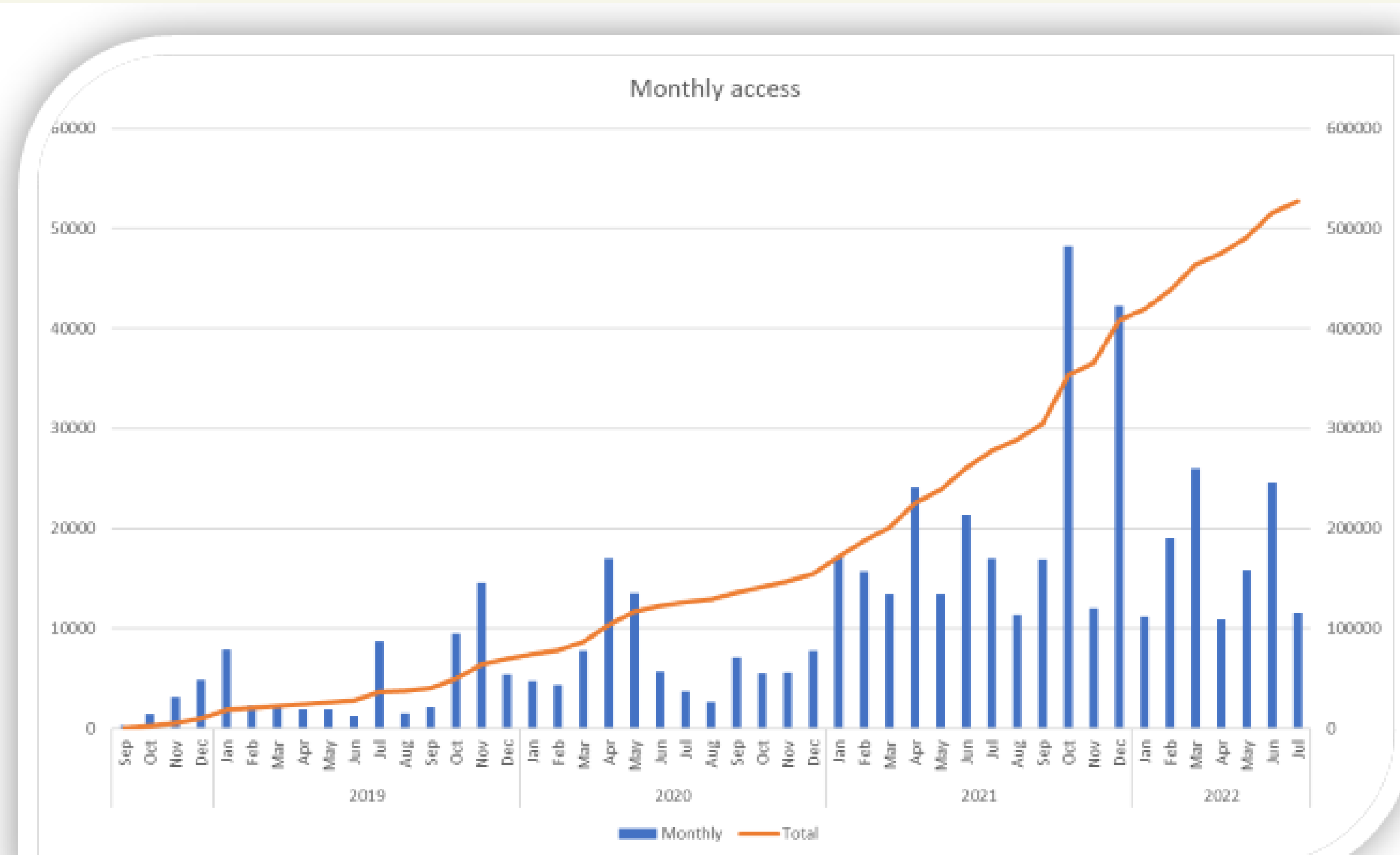
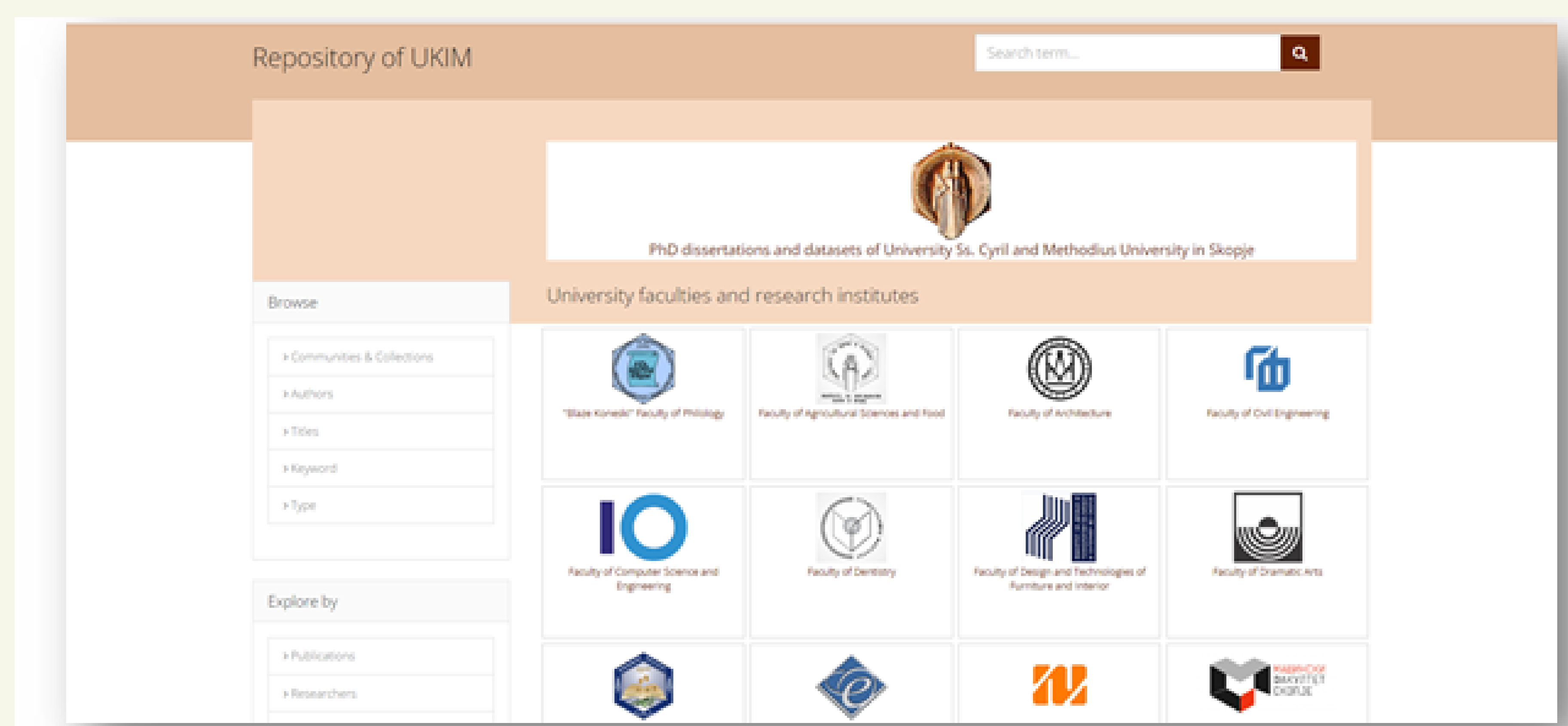


Figure 1. Monthly access to the UKIM Repository in the period September 2018 - June 2022.

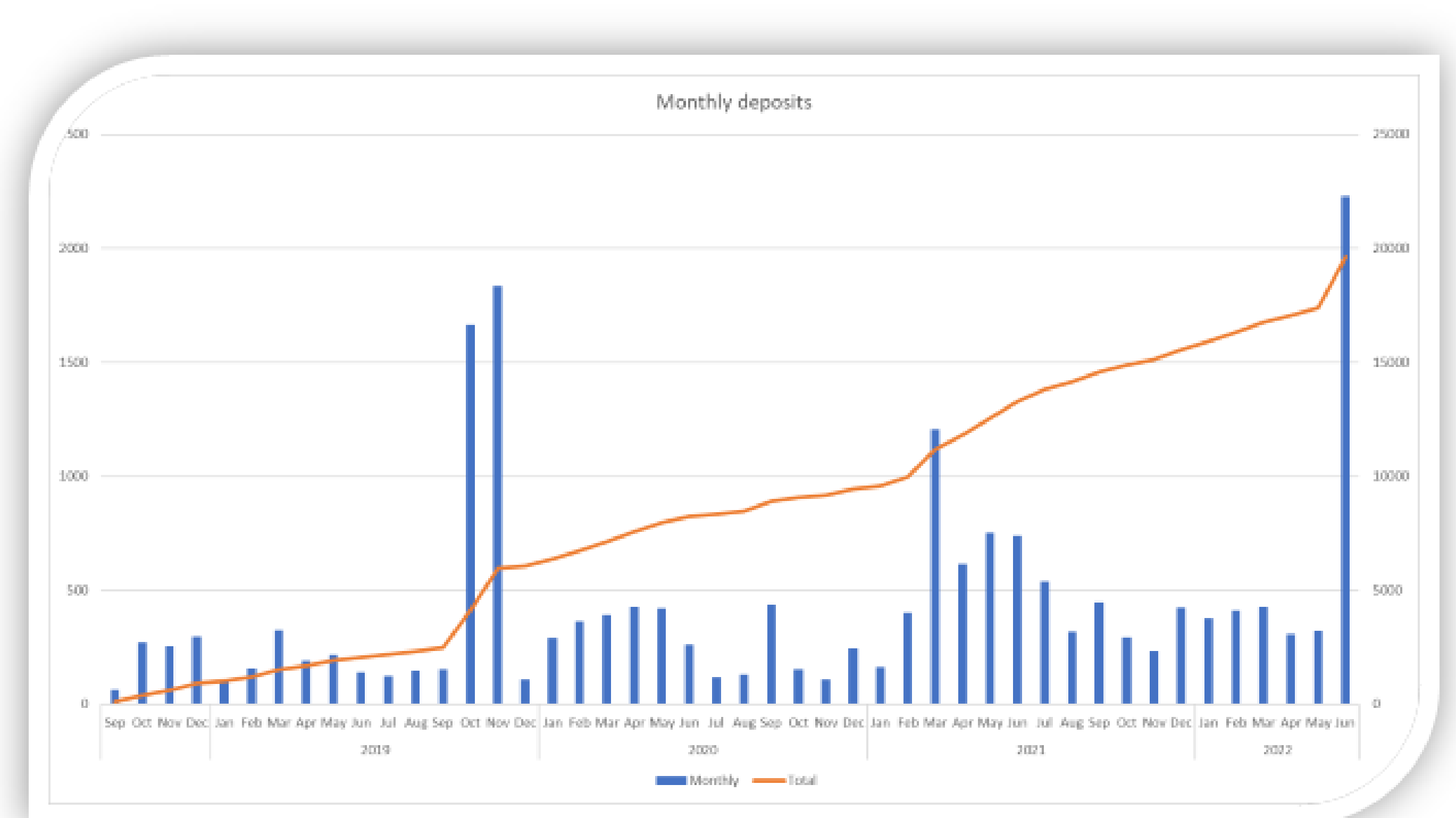


Figure 2. Number of deposits to the UKIM Repository in the period September 2018 - June 2022.