Measuring Your Research Impact

Citation and Altmetrics Tools

Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries
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Prof. Amanda Izenstark • amanda@uri.edu
Prof. Julia Lovett • jalovett@uri.edu
Prof. Andrée Rathemacher • andree@uri.edu
Scholarly Impact

How do researchers measure the impact of their work?
Journal Impact Factor

“The impact factor (IF) of an academic journal is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in that journal. It is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field…

In any given year, the impact factor of a journal is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal during the two preceding years”

— Wikipedia, “Impact factor”
What’s wrong with the IF?

- Most citations are to a small number of a journal’s articles. The IF doesn’t tell us if a particular article is highly cited or not.
- Can be “gamed” by editorial policy, e.g. by requiring authors to cite other articles that appeared in the journal or by commissioning review articles which tend to receive a lot of citations.
- Only applies to journals.
San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

“Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist’s contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.”

— http://am.ascb.org/dora/
What is the alternative?

Article-Level Metrics
Quantify how individual articles are being used

Altmetrics
Extend the measurement of impact beyond journal articles and beyond the academy
Article Level Metrics

- Measure impact at the article level, e.g.
  - citation counts
  - download counts
- These can include altmetrics
- Example: PLoS Medicine
  - http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001603
- Example: Nature
  - http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature12961
Altmetrics

● More research outputs (not just articles)
  o books, book chapters, data sets, computer code, presentation slides, posters, blog posts, digital humanities projects, websites
  o Products must be online
Altmetrics

- More types of impact (not just scholarly)
  - SCOPUS and PubMed Citations, Mendeley saves, CiteULike saves, tweets, blog posts, media mentions, delicious bookmarks, Wikipedia citations, etc.
  - Different “flavors” of impact demonstrate scholarly value as well as real-world impact (funders and universities care)
Altmetrics

- More immediate
  - Can demonstrate impact right away rather than waiting for citations to accrue

=> Can free scholars to experiment and receive credit for new types of scholarly products
Finding Citations to a Researcher’s Work

- Not one-stop shopping.
- May need to use multiple tools from multiple disciplines.
  - Web of Science
  - Scopus
  - Google Scholar
  - Other databases, such as PsycINFO...
Let’s Try...

- Search Web of Science/Web of Knowledge for an author’s citations
  - Be aware of author searching convention: Lastname F* finds variations of names
  - Note that not all journals/citing journals are in WoK

- If you have access, search Scopus for citations
  - Again, not all journals/citing journals are in Scopus
Let’s Try...

- Set up a Google Scholar profile
  - Head to Google Scholar
  - Log in to your Google Account
  - Set up your profile
  - Search for yourself; add items to your library
Altmetrics Tools

- Aggregate citations and broad measures of impact from around the web
  - Usage, mentions, social media, saved citations
- Enable compiling, sharing, promoting your work
- Implemented at institutional level or for individual researchers
Institutional level tools

● Altmetric ([www.altmetric.com](http://www.altmetric.com))
  o Tracks social media sites, news outlets, and citation managers (Mendeley, CiteULike)

● Plum Analytics ([www.plumanalytics.com](http://www.plumanalytics.com))
  o Tracks wide range of usage, mentions, citations

● Both now in DigitalCommons@URI!
  o Example: [http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/gsofacpubs/29/](http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/gsofacpubs/29/)

● And, view a summary of URI in PlumX:
  o [https://plu.mx/g/samples/uri](https://plu.mx/g/samples/uri)
Tools for Individual Researchers

● ORCID researcher profiles ([http://orcid.org](http://orcid.org))
  o Get a unique researcher identifier
  o Create a profile and bring together your works
  o Integration within publishers and repositories
    ▪ [http://orcid.org/organizations/integrators/current](http://orcid.org/organizations/integrators/current)

● My Research Dashboard - Elsevier ([https://www.myresearchdashboard.com](https://www.myresearchdashboard.com))
  o Import citations & view download statistics from journal publishers - moving to Mendeley Stats soon
Tools for Individual Researchers

- ImpactStory (http://impactstory.org)
  - Create profile, import citations & view altmetrics statistics from many sources
  - Now requires individual paid subscription
  - Example: http://impactstory.org/CarlBoettiger

- ResearchGate and Academia.edu
Let’s Try...

● Register for an ORCID ID
  o http://orcid.org

● Set up a Mendeley account
  o https://www.mendeley.com/
Promoting One’s Work

- Deposit articles in Institutional Repositories where available
- Create a SelectedWorks profile page - anyone can create one! (http://works.bepress.com)
- Make datasets, computer code, presentation slides, posters, etc. available online
- See our guide at http://uri.libguides.com/researchimpact