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Measuring Your Research Impact

Citation and Altmetrics Tools

University Libraries Search Savvy Seminar Series
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Scholarly Impact

How do we measure the impact of our 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 the journal. It is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its field…”

— 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 journal articles.
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.
  o citation counts
  o download counts

• These can include altmetrics

• Example: PLoS
  o http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001603
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)
  o SCOPUS and PubMed Citations, Mendeley saves, CiteULike saves, tweets, blog posts, media mentions, delicious bookmarks, Wikipedia citations, etc.
  o Different “flavors” of impact demonstrate scholarly value as well as real-world impact (funders and universities care)
Altmetrics

• More immediate
  o 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 Your Work

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

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

• Set up a Google Scholar profile
• Search for yourself; add items to your library
Altmetrics Tools

• Aggregate citations and broad measures of impact from around the web
  o 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)

• ImpactStory ([http://impactstory.org](http://impactstory.org))
  o Create a profile, import citations & view altmetrics statistics from many sources
  o example: [http://impactstory.org/CarlBoettiger](http://impactstory.org/CarlBoettiger)
Let’s Try...

• Register for an ORCID ID
  o  http://orcid.org
• Set up an ImpactStory account
  o  http://impactstory.org

• Import ORCID & Google Scholar data to ImpactStory
Promote Your Work

• Deposit your articles in DigitalCommons@URI per the URI OA Policy (http://uri.libguides.com/oapolicy)
• Create a SelectedWorks faculty profile page (http://works.bepress.com)
• Make your datasets, computer code, presentation slides, posters, etc. available online
• See our guide at http://uri.libguides.com/researchimpact