Engaging with research performance analytics:

Deepening the library's relationship to research progress

Summary

Institutional stakeholders are charged with showing the return on research value. The way to do that is with research performance metrics. But there are many metrics available, and it takes knowledge and practice to know when and how to use them— and librarians play a key role in navigating the metrics landscape. The following guide will help you become well-versed in eleven key performance metrics to further support your institution's strategic goals.
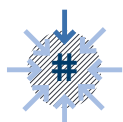
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Whether you are already deeply involved with research metrics, just getting started, or looking for ways to deepen your engagement, this resource can help.

Research performance metrics are of central importance to institutional stakeholders who aim to progress and track research productivity.

As information experts, librarians are well-positioned to be leaders in this space, and are well-equipped to provide evidence of institutional research impact, train scholars to approach and progress their own impact, and support strategic institutional research impact goals.

Being well-versed in performance metrics can help you brand the library as a central data hub and help foster generative collaborations between information professionals, research officers, faculty, and more.

Reference this list to learn how key metrics are used, to polish your existing knowledge, or to potentially learn new ways that you can engage with these metrics to support broader institutional goals of research progress.

1 CiteScore

- Capture a broad view of journal performance using eight CiteScore metrics including quartiles, rank, citation counts, document counts, and percentage cited, based on Scopus citations of the journal
- Analyze comprehensive data sets that cover 23,359 active titles in Scopus and cover a broad range of materials including journals, book series, and conference proceedings
- Create efficiency in collection assessment work and demonstrate real-time collection value by monitoring how the current year's CiteScore builds each month
- Collect data sets that are transparent, simple to replicate, and do not contain hidden algorithms that influence results
- Access free assessment metrics, including underlying data, that are open to all libraries regardless of whether or not they have an active Scopus subscription
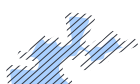
2 Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)

- Measure the impact of researchers' portfolios by comparing them against world citation and publication averages in a field of study
- Identify up-and-coming publication opportunities by viewing world output averages across discipline specific journals
- Examine international trends in research behaviors and impact within a field of study

3 h-Index

- Analyze authors' productivity and the diversity of research in their portfolios
- Provide evidence of the impact and value of research output within a specific department
- Consult with researchers and develop strategies to expand the reach of their work within a discipline

4 SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

- Assess and compare journals based on citation numbers and indicators of importance, such as the number of endorsements and the prestige of journals issuing endorsements
- Analyze the importance of journals across the scientific community as a whole or by subject areas and categories
- Work with faculty members to locate publishing opportunities that provide research results with the greatest degree of reception, reach, and significance within the scientific community

5 Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

- Demonstrate the impact of institutional research and how it supports overarching strategic goals
- Identify emerging research trends based on citation counts per paper and citation potential within a subject field
- Build subject guides and tutorials that prepare researchers to explore high profile topics within a subject area

6 Journal Impact Factor

- Purchase high impact publications that enrich library collections and institutional repositories
- Rank publications according to impact metrics and distribute lists to the campus community
- Discuss the value of publishing in traditional and Open Access journals

7 Mentions

- Provide evidence of audience engagement with research output through counts of blog mentions, forum topics, and reviews that reference specific collection artifacts
- Document the reach and influence of institutional research by capturing news mentions and the number of media articles written about specific artifacts
- Assess how collection materials fuel the research cycle by counting Wikipedia references or Q&A site mentions

8 Captures

- Capture early indicators of citation counts by tracking the number of times collection materials are downloaded, emailed, printed, or exported to bibliographic management tools
- Estimate the potential size of a research audience by counting the number of online followers and subscribers linked to faculty members or collection items
- Examine up-and-coming research trends by analyzing the number of times materials are bookmarked or added to favorite lists
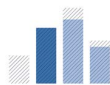
9 Scholarly Activity Online

- Analyze altmetrics to measure the impact of Open Access publications
- Expand evidence of collection usage beyond COUNTER statistics by capturing downloads, mentions, recommendations, and reviews
- Capture evidence of scientific interest and communication around up-and-coming research topics

10 Percentile Benchmark

- Examine the lifecycle of research projects from initial reading to post-publication peer review
- Persuade editorial committees to accept evidence from traditional metrics and altmetrics in order to update definitions of research impact

11 Outputs in Top Percentiles

- Work with scholars to collect citation data and develop strategies to disseminate research findings in the most visible publications

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Research performance metrics matter to many stakeholders in the institution, from those tracking research progress at the institution level, to those monitoring their own research impact. Grow the relevance of your library with fluency in the meaning behind these metrics, and the ways that you can engage with them further.

Written by: Melissa Goertzen, Consultant and Information Manager
Contact: goertzen.melissa@gmail.com

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