What’s Impact? Whose Specialty?

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Open Access and Its Enemies

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Sociotechnical Imaginaries

- Open Access is an attempt to enlist technology to co-produce a future for scholarly communication that we would like to see realized.

- Developing tools to assess the impact of scholarly communication is a key part of this process.

- ‘Impact’ itself is also a sociotechnical imaginary.

- Ivan Illich – *Tools for Conviviality*
Visions of Impact
Visions of Impact

53

101
Visions of Impact

ImpactStory.

What do these numbers actually mean?
Developing Standards

• There is a growing focus on developing standards for both bibliometrics and altmetrics.

• Our initial instinct is to appeal to disciplinary standards.

• Assumption: standards should be established by bibliometricians & altmetricians (drawn from the ranks of library and information sciences).
“For altmetrics to move out of its current pilot and proof-of-concept phase, the community must begin coalescing around a suite of commonly understood definitions, calculations, and data sharing practices.”

– Todd Carpenter, NISO Executive Director
“Organizations and researchers wanting to apply these metrics need to adequately understand them, ensure their consistent application and meaning across the community, and have methods for auditing their accuracy. We must agree on what gets measured, what the criteria are for assessing the quality of the measures, at what granularity these metrics are compiled and analyzed, how long a period the altmetrics should cover, the role of social media in altmetrics, the technical infrastructure necessary to exchange this data, and which new altmetrics will prove most valuable.”
“If researchers are being evaluated, they should be aware of the criteria used and these criteria should be justified for the purpose at hand. This requires that users of performance indicators should have clear guidelines. It seems rather obvious that the bibliometric community has an important responsibility to inform and provide such guidelines.”

– Paul Wouters, Leiden University
Standards and Peers

- Academics implicitly trust the expertise of other academics – their academic peers.

- Disciplines define peers.

- This does not necessarily interfere with interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary peer review.

- Academics follow rules of “deferring to expertise” and “respecting disciplinary sovereignty” (Lamont et al. 2012).
Autonomy and Accountability

I DON'T ALWAYS DISCUSS AUTONOMY

BUT WHEN I DO, I PREFER TO MENTION ACCOUNTABILITY.
Visions of Accountability

- Non-academics view accountability from outside disciplinary bounds.

- Non-academics exploit expertise, which entails making expertise explicit or manageable.
Visions of Impact

The Comic Strip of Neoliberalism
Visions of Impact

Altmetric for Scopus

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This app is provided by Altmetric. Learn more here.
Autonomy and Accountability

- Disciplinary autonomy is guaranteed by accountability to one’s disciplinary peers (Holbrook 2013c).
  - Research evaluation dominated by peer review

- Societal accountability is guaranteed by managing disciplinary autonomy.
  - Research evaluation dominated by metrics
Illich – Tools for Conviviality

“Scientific discoveries can be useful in at least two opposite ways. The first leads to specialization of functions, institutionalization of values and centralization of power and turns people into the accessories of bureaucracies or machines. The second enlarges the range of each person’s competence, control, and initiative, limited only by other individuals’ claims to an equal range of power and freedom.”

“A society, in which modern technologies serve politically interrelated individuals rather than managers, I will call ‘convivial’.”
56 Indicators of Impact

- H-index
- G-index
- Universal H-index
- HM-index (standardizes co-authorship)
- Peer review
- Place of publication
- # of pubs
- # of citations
- Book sales
- Article Product downloads
- Website hits
- Media mentions
- Quotes in media
- Quotes in policy
- Developing a metric that people use
- Rabble rousing
- Muckraking
- Lawsuits
- Arrests
- Cited in testimonials
- Town hall meetings

Social networking contacts
Increased diversity
Degree of ID/TD
Degree of transformativity
ID/TD rigor
CSID advisors
Special problem requests with CSID faculty
Internationalization
Grant $1
Audience size @ CSID events
Success of faculty fellows
Esteem of senior fellows
Success of graduate / UG presentations & grants
Posters?
Impact factor of journals in which CSID publishes

- Meetings with important ppl
- Invitations to present
- Invitations to consult
- Invitations to evaluate
- Protests/demonstrations/sit-ins
- Coining/debunking phrase or buzzword
- Trending in social media
- Esteem surveys
- Trust/reputation
- Rankings
- Blog mentions
- Student surveys
- Student testimonials
- Faculty recommendations
- Faculty award/prize
- Textbooks
- Influencing curriculum creation
- Participating in public education programs

Angry letters from important people
Mention by policy makers
Libraries

Leverage your position as boundary organizations.

- What goal do you want to achieve?
- Why do you want to achieve it?
- How do you plan to do so?
- How will you know if you succeed?
- What benefits could accrue if you are successful?

Design tools for conviviality!
References

The Comic Strip of Neoliberalism, last accessed September 12, 2013.


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