



JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC DENTISTRY



ALTMETRIC

From the Editor's desk....

The term “altmetrics” can be defined as article-level metrics (in contrast to the journal-level impact factor) or simply as alternative metrics. Altmetrics that measure article impact can provide a more specific view of the perceived merit of individual research articles and, in some cases, allow researchers to build an academic reputation that is not entirely dependent on the altmetrics “seek to judge the impact of a research output by examining the number of times that it is viewed, downloaded, saved, discussed by the scientific community, and recommended to others”.

ALTMETRIC RESOURCES

- **Altmetrics.org.** This free Web site is a central hub for information about the growing altmetrics movement, which it defines as “the creation and study of new metrics based on the Social Web for analyzing and informing scholarship.” Cofounded by prominent figures in the world of bibliometrics, such as Jason Priem and Heather Piwowar, altmetrics.org maintains links to new online tools for calculating impact. Other prominent features include an altmetrics “manifesto” that argues how altmetrics can improve existing scholarly filters. Access: <http://altmetrics.org>.
- **Impact Story.** Formerly known as Total Impact, Impact Story is a free open source tool designed to support URL-based publishing through the aggregation of online altmetrics. Users create collections of materials through online identifiers, such as Google Scholar Profiles, DOIs, and PubMed IDs. Impact Story uses more than a dozen APIs to search for metrics on these collected items, with sources ranging from popular social media to scholarly tools like Mendeley and PLoS. Items are subsequently assigned impact categories, such as generally/highly “saved,” “cited,” “recommended,” or “discussed.” This resource is most useful for researchers publishing in nontraditional venues or with scholarship too new to have accumulated traditional citations. Not a comprehensive source for tracing Web impact. Access:<http://impactstory.it/>.
- **PLoS Article Level Metrics.** Public Library of Science (PLoS) has emerged as the leading open access journal repository, in part due to its high traditional impact factors. However, PLoS offers an alternative to traditional impact in the form of Article Level Metrics, which track the influence of individual PLoS articles, from times downloaded to mentions in social media and blogs. PLoS also tracks internal article metrics, including comments, notes, and ratings. While a valuable resource for impact, only PLoS articles benefit from its metrics. Nevertheless, this resource represents an important new avenue for metrics, which future publishers will likely replicate. Available for free online. Access: <http://article-level-metrics.PLoS.org/>.
- **Publish or Perish.** Anne-Wil Harzing created Publish or Perish (PoP) to assist faculty looking for more diverse bibliometrics. PoP is a free, downloadable program that harvests data from Google Scholar based on author name. Users can manually remove records to refine the data, similar to what is now offered by Google Scholar Citations. PoP can also calculate numerous metrics, including alternatives to the h-index. However, because few people are familiar with non h-index calculations, it is up to users to explain such metrics to larger audiences. Access: <http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm>.



From the Editor's desk....

- ReaderMeter. ReaderMeter is a free tool that “crowdsources” impact by processing readership data from Mendeley. Created by Dario Taraborelli of the Wikimedia Foundation, it contrasts with traditional bibliometric tools in its focus on readership, not citation. The site functions by compiling reports based on authors’ names, which are subsequently processed through the Mendeley API. Each report highlights information such as an author’s “HR-Index,” “GR-Index,” “Total Bookmarks,” and “Top Publications by Readership.” ReaderMeter has been criticized some in the altmetrics community for drawing data exclusively from Mendeley.² However, plans exist to integrate data from multiple reference management sites, such as CiteULike. Access: <http://readermeter.org/>.
- Altmetrics are in their early stages; many questions are unanswered. But given the crisis facing existing filters and the rapid evolution of scholarly communication, the speed, richness, and breadth of altmetrics make them worth investing in.