Research Impact and Your Work (SI 710 Winter 2021)

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Research Impact and Your Work

SI 710: Research Methods for Historically Underserved Populations

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Link to these slides: http://bit.ly/3tO79Xt

February 18, 2021
What’s a research impact librarian?

I empower scholars to create the conditions under which they can establish:

● A strong public identity
● An account of their contributions to the scholarly enterprise
● A persuasive body of evidence for the impact of their work

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For today:

- What are we talking about when we talk about “research impact”?
- What does research impact mean for you & for your work?
- BREAK!
- Charting a path for yourself
- What resources and support are available to learn more?
What does “research impact” mean to you?
What terms, words, associations, or emotions does “research impact” bring up?
No single definition!

“The measurement of research impact is a contested research and political agenda that poses a complex academic question.”

No single definition!

- Only 23% of articles explicitly defined ‘research impact’
- 76% of those definitions came from external agencies (e.g., funding bodies)
No single definition!

Four types of research impact definitions:

- as “the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy” (the Research Councils United Kingdom)
- as “an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia” (the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Research Excellence Framework)
- as measurable influences in the form of quantifiable data such as citation frequency (bibliometric definitions)
- as the influences of research results on the knowledge and actions of researchers and policymakers (use-based definitions).

Four domains that underpinned the research impact concepts reviewed:

- contribution (the areas of research influence; e.g. economy, policies)
- avenues of impact (processes by which research could have impact; e.g. effects on knowledge, attitudes)
- change (synonyms used to describe “effects” or “benefits”)
- levels of impact (e.g. national, international).

When do you think about “research impact”? 
Not something that happens to you, but a story you create.
BREAK (10 min)
SCOPE

A process for evaluating responsibly.

(Himanen and Gadd, December 2019)
COPE: Start with what you value

- Before you can decide how to measure, you must decide what you care to know
- Why is your work important? What difference does it make, and how would you know you’d succeeded?
- What steps can you take to ensure you capture the relevant evidence?
- Do not start from whatever data is most readily available
- Do not start from what others value and want to measure--or, if you have no choice, at least don’t stop there!
**SCOPE: Start with what you value**

Example: the [Becker Model for Assessing the Impact of Research](#):

- Advancement of Knowledge
- Clinical Implementation
- Community Benefit
- Legislation & Policy
- Economic Benefit
SCOPE: Start with what you value

Example: HuMetricsHSS:

- Equity
- Openness
- Collegiality
- Quality
- Community
Your turn:

Start with what you value
SCOPE: Context considerations

- What entity are you measuring? (researcher, article, institution, department, country?)
- What is the purpose of the measurement? (to persuade, inform, compare, show off, etc.)
- What is the metric serving as a proxy for?
SCOPE: Context Considerations

That depends who's asking.
SCOPE: Context considerations

- Who is evaluating you?
- What types of work are valued? (i.e., what do they want you to do?)
- What outputs are appropriate evidence of success in accomplishing this type of work? (i.e., can you show that you did the work?)
- What are the criteria by which these outputs are evaluated? (i.e., how will they decide whether your work was good?)
- What measures or indicators are appropriate to demonstrate how well the outputs meet or exceed the criteria? (i.e., can you show that you did this work at or above the level expected?)
Your turn:

Context
Considerations
SCOPE: Options for measuring

- Quantitative vs. Qualitative?
- Traditional vs. “Alternative” metrics
- How many indicators?
- Resources:
  - The Metrics Toolkit
  - Snowball Metrics
  - Elsevier LibraryConnect Quick Reference Cards for Research Impact Metrics
  - How to use Altmetrics to showcase engagement for Tenure & Promotion
SCOPE: Options for measuring

Cited by

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Using Photovoice to examine physical activity in the urban context and generate policy recommendations: the Heart Healthy Hoods study
Cited by Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) on 01 Mar 2019
Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.

Best practices for community-engaged participatory research with Pacific Islander communities in the USA and USAPI: protocol for a scoping review
Cited by Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) on 08 Dec 2017
Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.

Participatory Action Research for Advancing Youth-Led Peacebuilding in Kenya
Cited by The United States Institute of Peace on 11 Oct 2018
The United States Institute of Peace is an independent national institute, founded by Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security.

ICV guidelines for Muslim community-university research partnerships
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Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.

Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities: Evidence review
Cited by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence on 15 Jan 2014
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities: Evidence review
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National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
SCoPE: Options for measuring

Your turn:

Options for Measuring
SCOPE: Probe deeply

- Who does this discriminate against?
- How might this be gamed?
- What might the unintended consequences be?
- Does the cost of measuring outweigh the benefit?
- Does measuring research make the research any better?
Your turn:

Probe Deeply
SCOP️E: Evaluate your evaluation

- Consistent with best practices for responsible use of metrics?
- Does this still serve the purpose?
- Have additional options emerged?
- Is this working? How could it work better?
That seems like a lot to think about on a Thursday morning. Questions?
I agree. Let’s digest and talk more later.

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Find me in my office in Hatcher 260A, or email me at rwelzenb@umich.edu
Additional resources

Research Guides:

- Research Impact Assessment (Health Sciences)
- Research Impact Challenge Guide
- Getting to know Scholarly Journals

Programming:

- Consultations and instruction upon request!
Thanks! And see you in the library (or on Zoom).