Research Impact While You Eat

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Research Impact

...while you eat

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Institute for Social Research
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Link to these slides: http://bit.ly/2tplEq3
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

Find me in my office in Hatcher 260A, or email me at rwelzenb@umich.edu
For today:

- What does research impact mean for you & for your work?
- 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!

- Scholarly impact (e.g., citations)
- Social, public, economic, clinical impact
- Policy impact
- ....etc.!
When do you think about “research impact”? 
Not something that happens to you, but a story you create.
SCOPE

A process for evaluating responsibly.

(Himanen and Gadd, December 2019)
SCOPE: 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?
- 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
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

![Diagram showing risks associated with metric use in various settings]

Figure 1. Risks associated with metric use in various settings

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
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?
SCOPE: 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 while I am eating.
I agree. Let’s digest and talk more later.

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Come by our table after lunch!
Additional resources

Research Guides:
- Research Impact Assessment (Health Sciences)
- Research Impact Challenge Guide

Programming:
- 2020 Research Impact Challenge (Sign up now!)
- Workshops during Enriching Scholarship (May 4-7)
- Consultations and instruction upon request!
Thanks! And see you in the library.