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The Impact of Open

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The Impact of Open

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Forum on Open Research and Scholarship

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Research Impact and Information Science Librarian

“Impact”

- Can be quantitative or qualitative
- All impact metrics are proxies for the concept we’re trying to measure
- We want to know something about the difference made by a particular research output

“Open”

- Discoverable on the open Web
- Available to read in full without a paywall
- Usually also available to download and share without cost to the reader

Open Access Citation Advantage

- Does it exist?
- Does it matter?
- Do we care?

Open Access Citation Advantage (OACA)

- A constant question since the early days of OA
 - The Budapest Initiative (2002) and the Berlin Declaration on OA (2003)
 - Research and debate on whether there is an OACA begins just a few years later (2006 or earlier) and continues to this day

Open Access Citation Advantage (OACA)

- [“When Bad Science Wins, or “I’ll See it When I Believe it,”](#) (Crotty, 2016, The Scholarly Kitchen Blog)
- [“The State of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles”](#) (Piowar et al, 2018)
- [“The Post-Embargo Open Access Citation Advantage: It Exists \(Probably\), It’s Modest \(Usually\), and the Rich Get Richer \(Of Course\)”](#) (Ottaviani, 2018)

**Why are we so hung
up on this question?**

Why are we so hung up on this question?

- We're forcing the justification/reason for OA to fit into existing norms of assessing research impact
- There can never be a “decisive” answer to this question, for all kinds of reasons
- It totally misses the point!!!!!! (most of the reasons we claim OA is a good thing will never be measured by citation counts!)

I am tired.

**How else might we
think about the impact,
or value, of open
scholarship?**

Can we please talk about something else?

- How findable and usable is your work?
- *Who* are the readers of your work?
- *Where* are the readers of your work?
- *How many* readers have found your work?
- *How soon* can people read your work?
- *Why* are people reading your work?
- *What difference* does it make?
- Etc.

What can we actually know, and how?

- *Who?:* Surveys? Tracking user data on the web? Capturing data from user log-ins?
- *Where?:* Web analytics; can only be done by the entity hosting the work,
- *How many?:* Download counts, fairly straightforward
- *How soon?:* Time to publication, embargoes, straightforward
- *Why?:* What difference does it make? Altmetrics, Policy, Citations, or.....we may never know!
- *Are we measuring the impact of the article, or the openness?*

**Problem: These things can
be hard, impossible, or
sometimes irresponsible to
measure**

What can we say with confidence ?

If you have...any...wish or hope for the difference your work will make in the world, OA makes that more possible.

U-M Office of the President Initiatives and Focus Areas

- Academic Innovation
- Arts Initiative
- Biosciences
- Campus Climate: Sexual Misconduct
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Environment, Sustainability, & Carbon Neutrality
- Firearm Injury Prevention Research
- Faculty Public Engagement
- Poverty Solutions
- Precision Health

Are you participating in a system that facilitates equitable, global, public access to the outputs of your research, or are you not?

Challenges and Objections

- Potential costs of OA publications
- Requirements to publish in specific journals or with specific publishers
- Nature of research or funder demands confidentiality

Challenges and Objections

- Potential costs of OA publications
 - Many OA journals actually do not charge APCs
 - [Discounts for U-M Authors](#)
- Requirements to publish in specific journals or with specific publishers
 - [Deep Blue \(or other repository\)](#) + [Author Addendum](#) + [OA Button](#) or [Unpaywall](#) browser extensions
- Nature of research or funder demands confidentiality
 - OK! I believe you and that's fine.

The impact of open is that it facilitates *everything else that comes after.*

How do we justify the impact of closed?