

Alternative Impact Measurement

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The influence and reputation of a scientist are measured by the importance of his work and his scientific presence. The common “currency” for measuring the visibility of scientific publications is primarily the citation-based impact factor. However, Bollen et al. stated in 2009 that “the notion of scientific impact is a multi-dimensional construct that can not be adequately measured by any single indicator, although some measures are more suitable than others. The commonly used citation Impact Factor is not positioned at the core of this construct, but at its periphery, and should thus be used with caution”¹

Nowadays, scientists shift their work increasingly into the World Wide Web, work collaboratively to publish their findings in publications and blogs. Reference management software such as Zotero and Mendeley are commonly used tools which support researchers in this web-based work. Twitter has become a well-used service for many researchers to share their findings and results.

Through the dissemination of scientific output in the internet, new possibilities for impact measurement arise. In addition to the determination of absolute numbers of hits on documents the observation and analysis of scientific publications in social networks can determine the impact of the work. This involves citations, references and comments. This new kind of scientific impact measurement is summarized under the term altmetrics.

The poster gives an overview of the current international developments in the field of altmetrics.

Key words:

Usage Statistics, Usage Impact, Altmetrics, Alternative Impact Measurement

¹Bollen J, Van de Sompel H, Hagberg A, Chute R (2009) A Principal Component Analysis of 39 Scientific Impact Measures. PLoS ONE 4(6): e6022. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0006022.