

Metrics, values and the role of libraries assisting Universities with measurements

Giannis Tsakonas

Library & Information Center, University of Patras
LIBER Executive Board | HEAL-Link Board of Directors
[@gtsakonas](#)

10th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar, October 14-15, 2021



context

- Open Science has been a pivotal change; promoted changes in academic processes, institutional infrastructures, services and content, culture.
- The landscape is changing; emerging fields of activity; emerging actors; new principles.
- Stakeholders adapt through consolidation; Individual performance is now chained with institutional progress.
- Assessment in Open Science is essential (the six A's: Analysis, Advocacy, Allocation, Accountability, Acclaim, Adaptation [[Parks et al. 2019](#)]).

new assessment frameworks

Principles:

- DORA > S.P.A.C.E. Rubric
- Leiden Manifesto
- OSPP Recommendations > OSCAM

Practices:

- Utrecht University - **Recognition and rewards**
- Loughborough University - **Responsible use of metrics**

The principles and values of the past are not any more relevant, but the metrics are.

The new values and metrics still search for metrics and processes that all understand and agree.

Are libraries relevant?

roles for libraries

Scholarly Metrics Recommendations for Research Libraries

<https://zenodo.org/record/1303002>

1. Discovery and Discoverability
2. Showcasing Achievements
3. Service Development
4. Research Assessment

Slowe, S. & Schwamm, H. (2020). *Why Do Measures Fluctuate? Metrics Report - Guidelines for Talking to Management.*

Fraumann, G. (2020). *Guidelines on How to Use Qualitative Approaches in Altmetrics.*



roles for libraries

1. DISCOVERY & DISCOVERABILITY

1A. Provide contextual information to allow the discovery of related work & users

1B. Exploit rich network structures & implement bibliometric methods to enable discovery

1C. Encourage sharing of library collections under open licenses

2. SHOWCASING ACHIEVEMENTS

2A. Incentivize researchers to share scholarly works, promote achievements online & engage with audiences

2B. Encourage researchers to showcase scientific contributions & monitor impact

roles for libraries

3. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

3A. Join forces with stakeholders to provide services reusing existing resources, tools, methods & data

3B. Value various levels of engagement; favour standardized, well-established practices & easy-to-use tools

3C. Make full use of open data sources; sustain not-for-profit enterprises with open business models; openly share data, tools & services

3D. Learn about platforms before implementing them in services & homogenize different sources

3E. Work with researchers to build awareness of benefits but educate about weaknesses of scholarly metrics

3F. Expand your perspective when developing services; avoid single-purpose approaches

3G. Teach colleagues new skills & library goals & services

4. RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

4A. Establish appropriate goals for assessment exercises before selecting databases & metrics; be transparent about use & interpretation

4B. Use different data sources to include various scholarly works & disciplinary communication & publication cultures

4C. Rely on objective, independent & commonly-accepted data sources to provide sound & transparent scholarly metrics

4D. Avoid using composite indicators & conflating different aspects of scholarly works & impact; don't lose the multifaceted nature of metrics & distort interpretation

anatomy of a recommendation

Three levels of engagement:
basic (circle),
intermediate
(triangle),
advanced
(square)

#inclusive

3D. Learn about platforms before implementing them in services and homogenize different sources.

- Know about rankings that might be of major importance for your researchers, such as discipline-specific journal rankings or university rankings.
- ▲ Demonstrate the value of different types of impact indicators in comparison to citations.
- Look for open data sets in the required disciplines and use them in addition to proprietary databases (eg., Web of Science). RefSeer, Paperscape, PubMed, Arxiv, Repec, Scielo and numerous others provide datasets to specialized communities.

Ordering according to their importance

#prioritized

Specific recommend acts

#actionable

conclusions

- Libraries should foster diversity in systems and resources, taking primarily care of their own.
- The road of Open Science passes through institutional infrastructures, which are sustainable, inclusive and linked.
- Libraries can inform, introduce, alarm, train, adapt and align.
- Take on responsibility in providing OS-enabling systems and supporting substantially the change for openness and fairness.

thank you for your attention.

