Research ID and Impact: An Introduction

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Today’s session

1. Overview of scholarly identity platforms - ORCID, Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, ResearchGate etc.

2. Introduction to impact metrics - focus on JIF and h-index
Digital scholarly identity
What’s the point of having an online identity?

● Demonstrating the importance of your work to the wider community

● May help meet academic/career goals
  ○ Potential employer or supervisor
  ○ Future collaborator
  ○ Finding research participants
  ○ End user of your research
  ○ Help spread evidence-based information to citizens/popular media
The perspective of an evaluator...

Penny Pexman

Early career researcher? Make sure you have a Google Scholar profile. Those are frequently referenced in the Early Career Award nominations I'm reading this morning.

7:53 AM - 8 Apr 2018

87 Retweets 225 Likes
Establishing yourself online

- There are many platforms to choose from
  - ORCID
  - ResearchGate
  - Academia.edu
  - Scopus author profile
  - Web of Science researcher profile
  - Google Scholar profile
  - LinkedIn (sections for scholarship, research, awards, etc.)

- Considerations for choosing
  - what do you have time/energy for?
  - what platforms are used in your discipline/on your campus?
  - what aligns with your goals and values?
Pros/cons of academic social media sites

- They are well-used
- They can be used to host full text content

But...

- They don’t do copyright checking for authors
- They exist to make a profit
- They don’t fulfill OA mandates
- They aren’t community-controlled
Where to start for an academic path? ORCiD

● It’s like a social insurance number for your research profile
● Distinguishes you from other authors with a similar name
● Allows you to gather all your academic outputs in one place
  ○ Education
  ○ Work experience
  ○ Non-traditional outputs like datasets, code, posters, etc.
● Totally open URL that you can include on email signatures, posters, cards, and other online profile pages
● Helpful integrations with other databases and services
Takes only a moment to claim, at https://orcid.org/register
What is research impact?
What does impact mean in an academic sense?

● Many definitions of impact – today, we’re talking about
  ○ Quantifiable impacts
  ○ Impacts of written scholarly outputs

● Traditionally, research community has focused on counting citations
How do we quantify impact?

● Citations power metrics at a variety of levels
  ○ Journal level (impact factor)
  ○ Author level (h-index)
  ○ Article level

● Now a growing interest in a wider variety of impacts
  ○ These are quantified in “altmetrics”
Journal impact factor

- You can find them in Journal Citation Reports database
- Not all journals have one (although many more will get one this year!)
- Measures the frequency with which the “average article” in a journal has been cited in the last two years
- May reflect the importance of a journal in its field
  - Can drive publication decisions
- Some disciplines pay more attention to it than others
2021 Impact factor 176.082

2021 Impact factor 11.613
Many, many criticisms of the impact factor

- Citation distributions within journals are highly skewed
  - “blockbuster” papers

- Journal impact factor is very field specific
  - Different disciplines have varied publication trends and citation patterns

- Impact factor can be “gamed”
  - E.g. editors ask authors to cite recently published works from the same journal
Sample exercise: find the impact factor of a journal in your discipline!

1. Use the library’s web site to find the Journal Citation Reports database
2. Search for a particular journal – or browse by category
3. Report back
   ○ Did you find your journal?
Author impact: h-index

- The most widely used research metric
- Measures both productivity (# of papers) and impact (# of citations)

Author impact: h-index

- It’s based on a list of publications ranked in descending order by number of times cited
  - So the value of “h” (your h-index) is equal to the number of published papers (h) sorted in descending order with at least (h) citations

Example:

- Paper 1 (400 citations)
- Paper 2 (150 citations)
- Paper 3 (6 citations) = h-index
- Paper 4 (3 citations)
Criticisms of the h-index

- Strongly correlated with an individual’s overall number of publications
- Its value never decreases
- Doesn’t measure quality
- Open to manipulation
  - self-citation
  - collaboration
Sample exercise: find the h-index of someone in your discipline!

1. Use your library’s discovery tool and choose one more more of the following:
   ○ Scopus
   ○ Web of Science
   ○ Google Scholar (no subscription required)
2. Search for an academic mentor, superstar in your discipline...
3. Report back
   ○ Did you find your person?
   ○ Bonus points – if you searched in more than one tool, is the number different?
Research assessment is changing...

- TriAgencies have signed onto Declaration On Research Assessment (DORA), which recommends:
  - Not using journal-based impact metrics, e.g. JIF, to evaluate individual articles or researchers
  - Being explicit that the content of a paper is more important than the container it is published in
  - Valuing the impact of all research outputs (datasets, software, influence on policy/practice)
    [https://sfdora.org/read/](https://sfdora.org/read/)

- UofC is a signatory to DORA - [more info](https://sfdora.org/read/)
What are altmetrics?

Complementary to traditional, citation based metrics
• Citations on Wikipedia
• Citations in public policy documents
• Links on blogs
• Mainstream media coverage
• Saves in reference managers (e.g. Mendeley)
• Mentions on social media (e.g. Twitter)
Provided by a number of different services

| Free for individuals, grant funded | Not free, owned by Digital Science – find on various publisher sites (ACS, T&F) | Not free, owned by Elsevier – find in Scopus |
What are the benefits?

- Timely
- Diverse/non-traditional
- Not just metrics
- Not just for journal articles
  - Software
  - Data
  - Posters
  - Books
Building your profile can start now!

- **ORCID**
  - Registration is especially important if you have a common surname
  - You can add all kinds of info to it - scholarships, poster presentations, etc.

- **If you already have publications**
  - Create/fix your author profiles in Scopus/Web of Science/Google Scholar
  - See [https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/researchID/author](https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/researchID/author) for details
  - Do a yearly checkin/cleanup

- **Use Zotero or similar to create a library of your own publications, including posters and presentations (useful to export to a CV).**
More information

Guide: https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/researchID

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