Altmetrics in Practice: Librarian and LIS Faculty Views

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What are altmetrics?

The **volume** and **nature of attention** that research receives online.

How often are people talking, what’s being said, and who is saying it?
Family income, parental education and brain structure in children and adolescents


Nature Neuroscience (2016) | doi: 10.1038/nn.3965
Lots of speculation, little evidence
Our studies

**Academic Librarians**
- 150 Carnegie-classified “R1” institutions
- 13,436 librarians
- 707 respondents (5.3% response rate)

**Library and Information Science Faculty**
- 55 ALA accredited LIS programs
- 2,312 faculty members
- 159 respondents (6.8% response rate)
### Regular duties (librarians) (n=509)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Bar</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection development (i.e. selecting and purchasing books, journals, etc for faculty or students)</td>
<td></td>
<td>299</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction (i.e. teaching workshops and “one-shot” instruction sessions, etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td>326</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference services (i.e. staffing the reference desk, answering reference questions via email or in 1-on-1 consultations, etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td>380</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly communication support (i.e. helping faculty and students choose research software, tools, and which journals to publish in; helping scholars understand how to measure research impact)</td>
<td></td>
<td>197</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment (i.e. gathering and reporting statistics and qualitative studies to understand the success of library-based resources and programs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>235</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liaison Libs - Disciplines served (n=186)

- Humanities: 31%
- Social Sciences: 16%
- Sciences: 33%
- Professions: 20%
Years on the job

FACULTY (N=160)
- Less than one year: 6%
- 1 - 5 years: 34%
- 6 - 10 years: 22%
- 11 - 20 years: 20%
- More than 20 years: 18%

LIBRARIANS (N=438)
- Less than one year: 0%
- 1 - 5 years: 18%
- 6 - 10 years: 22%
- 11 - 20 years: 25%
- More than 20 years: 35%
Is your LIS faculty position full time or part time (e.g. adjunct)?

(n=159)

- Full time: 71%
- Part time: 27%
- No answer: 2%
Which of the categories below best describes your separate full time position? (n=26)

- Academic Librarian: 31%
- Public Librarian: 8%
- School (K-12) Librarian or Media Specialist: 4%
- Special Librarian: 11%
- Other: 46%
Familiarity with metrics: How do librarians and faculty compare?

• Overall
• Tenure track vs. non tenure track
• Years of experience
Familiarity with Journal Impact Factor

Familiarity with citation counts

Familiarity with usage counts

Scale
1 = I’ve never heard of them
2
3
4
5 = I’m an expert
Familiarity with altmetrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Librarians (n=381)</th>
<th>LIS Faculty (n=146)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Librarians (n=381)

LIS Faculty (n=146)
Familiarity with Journal Impact Factors

- Tenure track librarians (n=211)
- Tenure track faculty (n=94)

Familiarity with citation counts

- Tenure track librarians (n=211)
- Tenure track faculty (n=99)

Non tenure track librarians (n=252)
- Non tenure track faculty (n=12)

Non tenure track librarians (n=250)
- Non tenure track faculty (n=12)
LIS Faculty familiarity with citations

- 0 - 5 years of job experience
- 6 - 10 years of job experience
- 11 - 20 years of job experience
- 21 + years of job experience

Librarians' familiarity with Journal Impact Factor

- 0 - 5 years of job experience
- 6 - 10 years of job experience
- 11 - 20 years of job experience
- 21 + years of job experience

LIS faculty familiarity with Journal Impact Factor

- 0 - 5 years of job experience
- 6 - 10 years of job experience
- 11 - 20 years of job experience
- 21 + years of job experience

Librarians' familiarity with citations

- 0 - 5 years of job experience
- 6 - 10 years of job experience
- 11 - 20 years of job experience
- 21 + years of job experience
How are librarians and faculty using research impact metrics?

- In instruction and teaching
- Evidence for promotion and tenure
- To select a venue in which to publish
- Choosing what to read
When teaching workshops or classes, how often do you address the following indicators of research impact?

- JIF
- Citation Counts
- Author h-index
- Expert peer review
- Altmetrics
- Qualitative measures

Faculty: mentions during teaching

Librarians: mentions during teaching

1 - never
2
3
4
5 - always
Use of metrics to support tenure and promotion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Librarians on tenure track</th>
<th>Faculty on tenure track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JIF</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation Counts</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downloads &amp; page views</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altmetrics</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative measures</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How often do faculty consider the following indicators of research impact in the course of selecting a venue in which to report the results of your research?

- JIF
- Citation counts
- Expert peer review
- Altmetrics
- Qualitative measures

1 – never
2
3
4
5 - always
How often do faculty use the following indicators of research impact in the course of conducting library research and literature reviews?
How often do librarians evaluate materials using the following indicators of research impact in the context of collection development:

- Citation counts
- Expert peer reviews
- Altmetrics
- Qualitative measures

1 – never
2
3
4
5 - always
Thanks for your interest in our ongoing research!

Questions?

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