JMU Libraries, Information Literacy Exercise for Social Work Research Methods (SOWK 305), Learning Outcome 15: Exploring Altmetrics

INB: This exercise was created for use in the University of Arizona’s, Guide on the Side tutorial platform hosted here as of August 2018: https://ualibraries.github.io/Guide-on-the-Side/about.html. This tool renders tutorial content with digital objects in the same browser window. Most of the below text was rendered in a panel on the left side of the browser screen, while the asset being reviewed or analyzed (e.g. a video, website, or journal article) was rendered in a panel on the right side of the browser. I used multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions in these tutorials. In cases where I used multiple choice questions, I took advantage of the tool’s feature that displays text responses when each multiple-choice statement is selected. Because I made most of these statements formative, I included each within multiple-choice option lists. Links to assets the questions referred to are also included in the text below. Note that Guide on the Side can be used as a quiz tool, in which case, the responses/prompts to the multiple-choice questions are hidden. The exercises/outcomes numbered from 10 to 15 are designed to be administered to different student groups in the same class period, followed by group reports on their assigned exercises. If there are mistakes in this material, they are mine alone, not those of my colleagues in the JMU Social Work Department or JMU Libraries. David Vess vessds@jmu.edu

Open JMU Libraries website.

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Can you see a website to the right?

Before we get started, look to the right. Is there a blank white space or do you see a website? If you see white space, look for a notification about blocking or loading scripts. The below are examples of what you may see in different browsers.
Once you locate this feature, remove the block and load all scripts so you can see the webpages in the right-hand frame. Now, by clicking on the right arrow below, you will advance in this tutorial. Go ahead and click on the arrow now. If you have any problems, contact me at vessds@jmu.edu.
What's the Learning Outcome?

Recall when I mentioned learning outcomes before? Each exercise I've given you has an outcome. It’s a kind of contract I have with you stating, "This is what you will get out of this experience."

The outcome for this exercise is:

   After this exercise, students will describe what altmetrics are and describe the benefits and limitations of altmetrics.

What are Altmetrics?

First visit this page and read this short manifesto on where altmetrics came from -- it is short, stop when you get to the trillons of comments. (If a link won't open in the panel to the right, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.)

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this: http://altmetrics.org/manifesto/]

1. According to the above reading, what are altmetrics?

   counts of how many times someone reads an article
     o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
   counts the number of times someone uses a journal
     o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
   All choices listed are correct
     o Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
   counts the number of times an article is mentioned on the web (social media and websites)
     o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. Altmetrics is a way to measure the impact of research.)
2. Why are altmetrics more appealing over other methods to measure impact?

- It tells you about impact very quickly
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect. This is true but there is a better answer.
- It measures use at the article level
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. Other measures, like the Journal Citation Reports, are measuring how often a journal is cited in the literature in a given time period. Altmetrics gives you data about specific articles.
- It measures how often a journal is cited
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.
- It measures how many papers an article cites
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Incorrect.

Arguments Against Altmetrics

Read this article's conclusion then answer the questions below. (If a link won't open in the panel to the right, try right clicking the link and opening it in another tab.)

[Panel in Guide on the Side would display this: https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0064841 ]

3. What are some arguments against using altmetrics to measure the impact of research articles.

- Who shares links and why must be taken into consideration when applying different altmetrics in research evaluation and information retrieval
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer in this list.
- All the answers listed are correct
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct.
- Altmetrics may only be useful to identify the occasional exceptional or above average article rather than as universal sources of evidence
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer in this list.
- Altmetric scores will be higher than older articles that were published before social media
  - Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer in this list.
4. It appears that some altmetrics, such as Twitter and Facebook, are good predictors of highly cited articles in the literature.

True or False

Correct answer is True

Feedback for choosing True: Correct. The article notes, “The results provide strong evidence that six of the eleven altmetrics (tweets, Facebook wall posts, research highlights, blog mentions, mainstream media mentions and forum posts) associate with citation counts, at least in medical and biological sciences and for articles with at least one altmetric mention . . .”

Feedback for choosing False: Incorrect. While not all the altmetrics were found to associate with citation counts, six of the eleven do.

Try Out Altmetrics

5. Visit this page and add the altmetrics button to your browser bookmarks toolbar or list. Then, with the bookmarklet installed in your browser bookmark bar or list, visit the below articles (they will open in new tabs). After the article page loads in the new tab, click on the Altmetrics button and you should see a little window pop up with data.


https://doi.org/10.1111/sipr.12019
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.10.007
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.09.012
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.08.006
http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0064841
6. Recognize the DOIs above? We've talked about them before. What are they?

Links to articles
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer in this list.
Unique identifier that will lead to an article
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: Correct. Yes, think of DOIs at social security numbers for articles and other information resources.
Digital Object Identifiers
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer.
Are required in APA references (when they are assigned to an article)
  o Feedback for choosing this answer: True, but there is a better answer.

7. Why would some studies (such as the examples you looked at) – have higher altmetrics than others?

[SMALL OPEN TEXT FIELD HERE]

Submit your Answers

Please enter your name and email address to retrieve a copy of your completed quiz.

Your name:

Email address:

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