

Research Incentive Fund Report

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I am studying specific costs that may be associated with the implementation of altmetrics tracking services. Altmetrics are social media metrics for scholarly content that can include the shares, views, comments, and “likes” a publication (or other such scholarly output) receives; often these metrics include usage statistics such as downloads and pageviews, as well as more formal citation counts. Web services that track altmetrics such as ImpactStory [1] and Altmetric.com [2] provide free API access and, in Altmetric.com’s case, limited technical support to launch their service in academic library IRs.

A challenge to tracking altmetrics for repository content is that much of it exists in alternate forms elsewhere on the web, as published journal articles, book chapters, white papers, or conference presentations. One means that altmetrics services use to associate disparate versions of scholarly outputs is to manually curate lists of associations between permanent identifiers such as Handles, DOIs, PubMed IDs, and ArXiv IDs that are assigned by the hosting journal, repository, or pre-print server. The work to associate permanent identifiers is time-consuming and resource intensive. At the outset of the research project, it was guessed that few item records for IR content submitted by authors included permanent identifiers for alternate versions of the content.

The Research Incentive Fund Grant funded roughly 60 hours of a student research assistant’s hourly wages. Using the IUScholarWorks repository as a case study, the student assistant is helping me understand the following:

1. The number of IR holdings where the item is an alternative version of content previously published elsewhere.
2. The number of IR holdings from [1] that include PID information in the dc.identifier metadata field.
3. The total number of publications by IUB faculty published since the advent of DOIs, PubMed IDs, and ArXiv IDs. This information will be compared with [1] and [2] to establish a benchmark of how much IR content includes proper PID metadata, where the option to do so exists.
4. The time required to both automatically and manually collect permanent identifier metadata for the purpose of associating IR content to other versions of the same content that appear in scholarly journals or subject repositories.

As of press time for *InULA Notes*, the research is still underway. However, initial findings support my theory that few faculty-submitted item records in the repository include permanent identifier metadata for content published elsewhere, which may make the implementation of altmetrics services in IRs challenging.

Further research funded by the grant will examine if these initial findings extend to IRs of other CIC institutions, which may point to the applicability of these findings in a larger context for R1

institutions. At the conclusion of the RIF grant, my student worker and I expect to publish our findings in a disciplinary journal.