Background

- TechnoScholar (series of workshops)
  - Related to technology and research
  - Open to faculty and graduate students
- “Not a Fear Factor…”
- Impact Factor/publishing
  - mainly engineering/science participants
  - Focus on traditional metrics, but mention of alternative metrics
Reasons for Survey

- Most important
  - Better prepare for workshop

- Other:
  - Rising interest in altmetrics
  - Conversations with new faculty
  - Understand what goes on in the college
Survey

- Quick Survey (survey monkey)
- 8 questions
- Department Chairs
  - 7 departments
- Two weeks
Responses

- 5 returned
- All consider impact when hiring, & for promotion/tenure
- All use traditional methods (journal/author impact)
- None use altmetrics
- Zero responses to specific sources of altmetrics used (blogs, twitter, etc.)
Responses (cont.)

- How they felt about using altmetrics to measure impact in scientific community:
  - 60% - lower standard
  - 0% - raise standard of scholarship
  - 20% - provide more opportunities for scholars to get cited
  - 40% - provide additional avenues for finding more articles
  - 20% - didn’t know
Thoughts about the altmetrics “movement”

- 20% - a fad
- 0% - here to stay
- 80% - not sure
Use of altmetrics as another tool to measure own impact

- 0% - will use
- 80% - no
- 20% - not sure
Would like to know more about altmetrics

- 20% - yes
- 60% - no
- 20% - not sure
Other thoughts about the use of altmetrics

- perhaps more appropriate for fields other than engineering
- Social media insufficient for understanding true importance of someone’s research
- Ideas without true substance can be hyped
- Long-term impact and importance is of little interest to social media audience, but purpose of research is to address long-term and ongoing problems
What this means...

- Mind made up about what altmetrics are?
- If Department Chairs not interested, what does that mean for younger faculty?
- Can Department Chairs be made to change their minds?
- Interest in altmetrics varies by discipline?
So...

- What can librarians do?
- More survey??
  - Find out how other faculty feel?
The End

Questions??