

Faculty Use of Altmetrics @ UT Arlington College of Engineering

Sylvia George-Williams

Cross Timbers Library Collaborative

Scholarly Communications & Digital Curation
Affinity Group Meeting

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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??