A new role for the library: Measuring research productivity and impact

Cathy C. Sarli
Kristi L. Holmes

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/becker_pubs
Part of the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/becker_pubs/16

This Presentation Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Becker Medical Library at Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Becker Library Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact vanam@wustl.edu.
The Beekman Medical Library Model for Assessment of Research Impact \(^\text{1,2}\) provides evidence of indicators of impact based on resulting diffusion of research outputs and activities, resources for locating evidence of impact, and also includes strategies that can be utilized by biomedical scientists to enhance their research impact.

The recent emphasis in demonstrating translational outcomes of research findings into clinical practice and community benefit is required. New methods beyond traditional citation metrics to document the impact of research are necessary. There are a number of resources available to track diffusion of research impact in order to provide a meaningful assessment of policy, practice and health outcomes. Librarians can play a role in helping biomedical researchers quantify the resulting synthesis of biomedical research findings that are not discernible via traditional citation analysis.

General Examples of Research Impact

- **Cited references**
- **Consensus Development Conference**
- **How was the research output used? How was awareness of research output demonstrated?**
- **Policy or legislation**
- **Agency partnerships**
- **Examples of Research Impact**
- **Improved quality of life**
- **Community Benefit**
- **Legislation and Policy**
- **Clinical guidelines**
- **How was community health enhanced as a result of research output?**
- **Software**
- **Databases**
- **Measurement devices**
- **Gray Literature**
- **Pharmaceutical Preparations**
- **Measurement Instruments**
- **New Research Studies**
- **Examples**
- **Cost-Effective Intervention**

**Example:** Cigna: “The OHTS established corneal thickness as a risk factor for glaucoma.”

**Example:** Takeda: “The OHTS demonstrated that medical treatment of people with intraocular pressure (IOP) of ≥24 mm Hg reduces the risk of the development of primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) by 50%.

To understand the true impact of research, it is necessary to analyze the research study process in the clinical and biomedical research environment to identify tangible indicators of research impact that are not readily discernible using citation analysis.

*Diffusion represents knowledge transfer of research outputs into meaningful outcomes. Diffusion is manifested in various pathways.*

**RESEARCH PROCESS & OUTPUTS**

**PATHWAYS TO RESEARCH IMPACT**

**DIFUSION**

- Economic Benefit
- Environmental Impact
- Community Benefit
- Legislation and Policy
- Clinical Implementation
- Education
- Software
- Databases
- Measurement Devices

**In order to realize the full impact on the health care system, i.e., research impact, one must go beyond traditional citation analysis and metrics.**

---


---

"It is no longer enough to measure what we can – we need to measure what matters."

– Wells & Whitworth

---

**RESEARCH IMPACT: The Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study**

http://ohts.wustl.edu/