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Enjoying the skyline: Providing researchers with a view of impact

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Providing Researchers with a View of Impact

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Problem

Acquiring research funding requires investigators to communicate their research effectiveness to funding agencies.
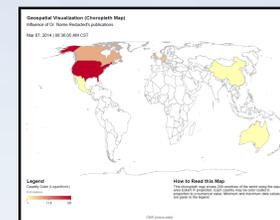
But…

The process of determining research impact can seem incredibly complex.
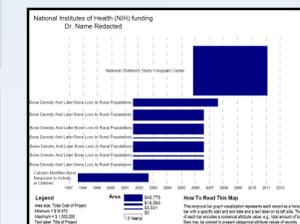
What can libraries do?

Libraries can assist in this ambitious and challenging endeavor by identifying research outcomes and outputs to help investigators visualize their own striking **"research skyline."**

Results

- Library staff completed a reporting template for each investigator. Included in this template is extensive background information including education, areas of research focus, and funding history.
- Publication data were gathered from three major resources and the data were analyzed in several ways, including the creation of temporal, geospatial and topical visualizations.
- Interview questions were developed to allow for in-depth consultation to identify additional indicators of research impact beyond publication data.

Examples of visualizations

Visualizations were made using:
- Sci2 tool (https://sci2.cns.iu.edu/user/index.php)

Data was from:
- Scopus (http://www.scopus.com/)
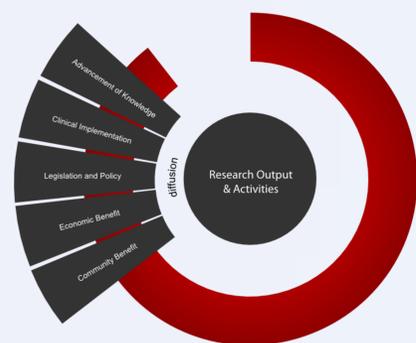- Scholarly Database (http://sdb.cns.iu.edu/)

Example of narrative text

Justification of Grant Renewal Funding:

Since my grant was funded three years ago, I published three peer-reviewed works reporting on preliminary findings in the past two years. The three works have been cited a total of 32 times by subsequent works with a second generation citation count of 15 works from author affiliations representing six countries and three languages. In addition, one of my journal articles was reviewed by six Faculty1000 Prime reviewers as Recommended Readings and assigned the following categories: "Technical Advance," "New Finding," and "Interesting Hypothesis."
[Source: Scopus and Faculty1000 Prime]

Methods

- The Becker Medical Library and the Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences selected six investigators representing various career stages and areas of research for analysis of research impact.
- A reporting template was developed to document background information and collect publication data from three resources.
- Sample interview questions were also created to allow for in-depth consultation with investigators.

Becker Medical Library Model for Assessment of Research Impact

https://becker.wustl.edu/impact-assessment

Investigator Reporting Template and Interview Questions

Other information includes downloads from Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, and NIH RePORTER

Investigator Interview Sample Questions

Follow this template only as you find it helpful.
- What do you say when asked about the impact of your research?
- What do you feel are your most important or impactful publications?
- Of your most impactful publications, to your knowledge have they:
  - Influenced policy or practice guidelines
  - Influenced funding requests or grant applications
  - Resulted in changes in clinical or patient practice
- What sources do you know of that support evidence of such impact?
- What do you perceive as barriers to the dissemination of your work?
- Who are your main collaborators and why, and how did you begin your work with them?

Conclusions

The process of identifying meaningful indicators of research impact is a daunting feat. Impact becomes noticeable as research is built upon and disseminated, and requires ongoing documentation of research outputs and activities. While there are many citation metrics to provide an overview of impact, an in-depth investigation into those numbers, and in other areas of interest, as outlined in the Becker Medical Library Model for Assessment of Research Impact, will greatly benefit the investigator by providing better understanding of how and where their research is making an impact.

Washington University in St.Louis SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences

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