



MONASH University  
Library

# Research infrastructure and Altmetrics. Sort of.

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# Two types of measures

1. Measuring the impact of the other outputs of research e.g. open data
2. Measuring the impact of the infrastructure
  1. Instruments
  2. Organisations (Libraries!)
  3. People

# Impact of the infrastructure

- Easy(ish) if organised: Connecting the use with the outputs
  - E.g. this instrument was used in this research
- Harder but doable: connecting the people to the outputs
  - Co-authors
  - Contributorship badges?



# Impact of the library

- Very hard
  - Taken for granted
  - Used without being recognised
  - Staff not always acknowledged
  - Not always part of assessment exercises
  
- Do we need to use altmetrics for ourselves?
  - Contributions to dissemination
  - Repository rankings e.g. [webometrics](#)
  - What do they tell us?

# Why have altmetrics?

- Proving impact is more and more important
- And we don't think conventional measures work
- And they don't measure everything we do
- But why do we care about impact?
  
- Tells us if research was “worthwhile”?
- Tells us what the world outside academia cares about?
- Tells our funders that what we do is worthy of attention?

# New reason to care

- Music industry using the same concept to tell them what the future is, not what happened in the past
  - **The Shazam Effect – The Atlantic, December 2014**
  - Tracking who is trending, and where
  - Understanding that not all metrics are equal
    - Facebook Likes – not so good
    - Wikipedia searches – very helpful
  - May be making music more the same though
- Should we be doing that?



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# QUESTIONS