

SCHOLARSHIP WITH IMPACT

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The current preoccupation with scholarly impact has become one of global magnitude. The scholarly impact agenda has permeated all aspects of scholastic life from deciding what to research based on likelihood of citation (authors and schools), where to publish based on journal impact factor (authors and schools), and what types of manuscripts to publish to drive up journal impact factor (reviewers/editors), to how to develop faculty resources and design incentive systems (schools). Thus, there seems to be a widespread consensus on the need for doing impactful research and for developing frameworks, along with appropriate indicators and valid metrics, for more effective evaluation of research impact at the author, journal, and institutional levels. Yet, aside from the ongoing debates surrounding the utility of citation metrics and the application of quality lists, what scholarly impact means, how it manifest itself, how it should be measured, and how it can be cultivated has received surprisingly sparse integrative, multilevel attention.

We believe that research is too important to study its impact with only a single approach, from a single perspective, either qualitative or quantitative. Research usually has multiple goals (e.g., scholarly reputation, professional/societal implications etc.), and it is, therefore, more compelling and reasonable to value its impact by diverse perspectives and multiple approaches at multiple levels of analysis. Consequently, the purpose of this track is to reorient and refocus the debate by taking stock of ongoing research, and stimulating new research questions, into the meaning, manifestations, and origins of impactful scholarship from multiple perspectives, including, authors, articles, journals, schools and consumers of research articles (e.g. funders, industry and students). We encourage submissions from multiple theoretical perspectives, and are open to contributions from diverse methodological traditions that inform, extend, and reshape the debate on what makes authors, articles, journals, and schools impactful.