



**From  
Bibliometrics to  
Altmetrics: an  
Australian Study**

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# Introduction

- First nationwide study of research information and support services provided by Australian university libraries
- Focus on bibliometrics and altmetrics
- Provide some guidelines for best practice

# Aims

- Aim was to:

- Assess the extent and nature of supporting materials that explain and discuss metrics used to assess impact
- Determine the extent and types of bibliometric and altmetric tools being used

# Methods

- Content analysis of the library web pages of all 39 Australian university libraries
- Quantitative and qualitative data gathered relating to:
  - Access to library research support page
  - Availability of dedicated research impact pages
  - Availability of information on bibliometrics and altmetrics
  - Availability of information about the research impact support offered
  - Evidence of metrics in the institutional repository

# Results

Data analysed in three broad categories:

- **Promotion**

- Awareness-raising and ease of access to research impact information
- Presentation and extent of research impact information
- Extent and quality of information about bibliometric indicators
- Extent and quality of information about altmetric indicators

- **Services**

- Availability and visibility of research impact support services

- **Use**

- Availability of metrics in institutional repositories

# Promotion

- **Awareness-raising and ease of access to research impact information**
  - 29 (74%) provided direct link from library home page to research support page
  - 36 (92%) universities had dedicated research impact pages

# Promotion

- **Presentation and extent of research impact information**
  - 25 (69%) provided extensive information on impact measures
  - 23 (64%) provided information in the form of a LibGuide
  - 6 (17%) used a web page
  - 6 (17%) used web page *and* LibGuide
  - 1 (2%) used LibGuide and downloadable pdf

# Promotion

- **Extent and quality of information about bibliometric indicators**
  - 35 (97%) provided descriptive information about how bibliometric indicators were used
  - 22 (61%) provided “good” information
  - 33 (92%) provided links to further information

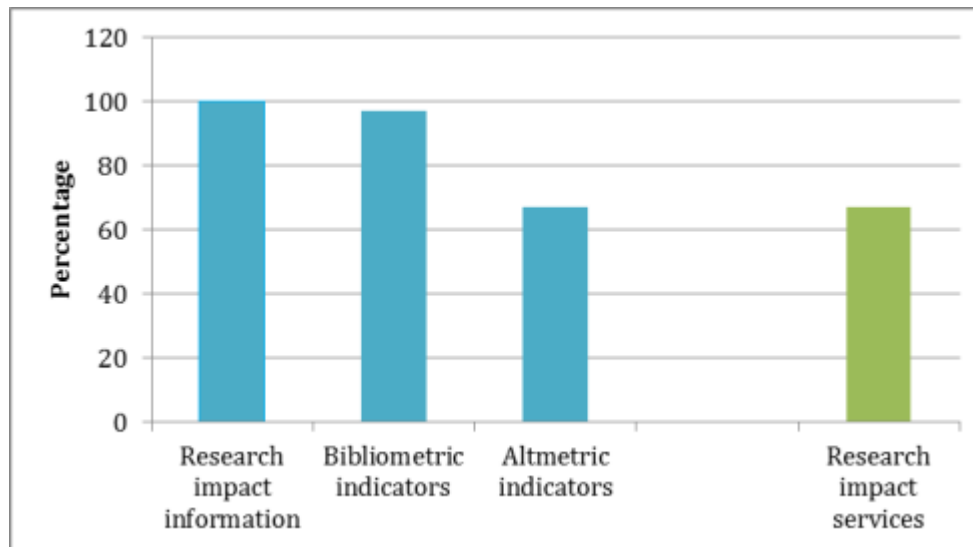


# Promotion

- **Extent and quality of information about altmetric indicators**
  - 24 (67%) mentioned altmetric indicators
  - Of these, 12 (50%) provided detailed information
  - All 24 libraries provided links to further information

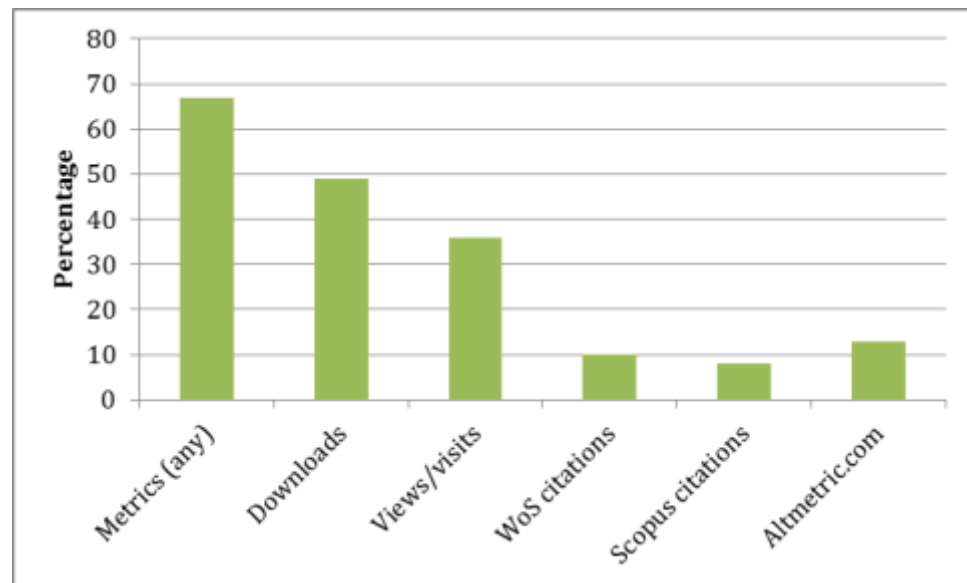
# Services

- Availability and visibility of research impact support services
  - 24 (77%) promoted an accompanying consultation service



# Use

- **Availability of metrics in institutional repositories**
  - All 39 universities have an established repository
  - 26 (67%) have capability of providing one or more types of metric pertaining to publication records:



# Discussion

- Majority of Australian university libraries provide research impact support
- Only 3 university libraries are not engaged in promoting research impact
- Substantial increase over results from 2013 study by Corrall et al
- Issues – regular updating of web pages

# Recommendations

- A clear link to research support pages from their home page
- Clear information about different tools and metrics, using examples to illustrate their use
- Background information using links to tools, web pages and scholarly articles
- A menu of available research impact services
- Contextual information about specific research impact services