inspiration

information

Citations count! Reflections on providing bibliometrics training for researchers at Cardiff University

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Outline

➢Why introduce these sessions?

➢What is covered?

➢What is the format?

➢Who has requested sessions?

➢Lessons learnt

➢Questions and comments from researchers

➢What next?

Why introduce these sessions?

➢ Original driver was the Research Excellence Framework

- Early proposal was to judge research quality mainly using metric indicators, including bibliometrics
- After results of pilot exercises, modified to peer review plus bibliometrics
- Modified further with reduced role for bibliometrics

BUT

➢ led to more interest from academic schools in understanding and using bibliometric data

➢ plus other reasons such as funders' requirements

What is covered?

➢ Why should researchers be interested in bibliometric data?
  ▪ REF
  ▪ demonstrating academic impact
  ▪ selecting journals for publications
  ▪ research funders' requirements
  ▪ publicity
  ▪ finding collaborative partners

➢ Sources of bibliometric data
  ▪ Web of Science; Scopus; Google Scholar; other databases
  ▪ Journal Citation Reports; other journal impact measures

➢ Increasing citations
  ▪ merits and methods of Open Access publishing
  ▪ institutional repository

What is the format?

- ➢ Full workshop – talk lasting c.30 mins plus workbook - 1 hour allocated

- ➢ Tailored sessions consisting of a talk and questions range from 20-60 mins

- ➢ Workbook covers:
  - ▪ finding journal bibliometrics and citations in Web of Science, Scopus and other databases
  - ▪ setting up citation alerts
  - ▪ Researcher ID
  - ▪ open access resources

Who has requested sessions?

- **Subject librarians** –three 1.5 hr workshops
- **Staff Development Programme** –1.5 hr workshops
- **University groups** –**REF** & **Research Administrators** – 20 min summary
- **Schools:**
    - eg Psychology; Business - 1.5 hr workshop
    - eg Architecture; Healthcare Studies – 1 hr talk, part of lunchtime seminar programme
    - eg Engineering – 20 min talk to Research Committee
    - eg Computer Science – 30 min talk at school awayday

Lessons learnt

➢ **Reduce** – difficult to avoid too much detail given the subject, but have to try!

➢ **Stay up to date** – REF; journal articles; features in Scopus/Google Scholar/Web of Science

➢ **Emphasise benefits** for the researcher, such as increased visibility of publications/profile

➢ **Expect it to take time** for schools to take up the offer

➢ **Target** - best attendance with sessions tailored for schools/departments

➢ **Be flexible and adapt** - length/audience/content

➢ **Be prepared** for discussions about the value of using bibliometric data

Typical questions asked/points raised

- I only want the official publisher's version to be available online, not an earlier version too.

- Doesn't the H index just reflect how long you've been publishing for?

- Where do I find the money to pay for Open Access?

- What if all the citations are self-citations? Are these going to be excluded from the REF?

- The journals in my specialist area aren't covered by Scopus and ISI so I can't find citations.

- What is a good H Index to have?

- The study on citations reported in the BMJ said that although there was an increase in readership of OA articles, there was no observable citation advantage.

Typical questions asked/points raised cont.

- We mostly publish in books, so citations to journal articles are irrelevant to us.
- I put my papers into Arxiv/PubMed/onto my website – why should I bother with the institutional repository?
- Isn't this an encouragement to publish controversial opinions for the sake of it?
- What about highly cited poor research?
- Where is the best place to put an Open Access copy of my work?
- How can I import articles not on Web of Science into ResearcherID?

What next?

➢ Continue to offer sessions and encourage take-up by schools

➢ Encourage and support subject librarians in offering sessions on bibliometrics

➢ Introduce Bristol Online Survey to collect feedback in a systematic way

➢ Respond individually to increased interest in finding bibliometric data

➢ Interest from schools in a separate presentation on Open Access publishing