HuMetricsHSS: Exploring the Potential for Altmetrics as Value-Based Indicators

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THE PROBLEM
It's all very well "making discoveries", "saving lives" and "improving the world", Roger. But your research is making barely any impact on social media.
THE GOAL
To create and support values-based framework

• for understanding and evaluating all aspects of scholarly life well-lived

• for promoting nurturing of these values in scholarly practice

• for empowering scholars to tell more textured stories about impact of their work
OUR PRELIMINARY VALUES-BASED FRAMEWORK
OUR PROPOSAL

Evaluation metrics (including altmetrics) should only measure scholar’s progress toward embodying positive values central to all HSS disciplines

- Equity
- Openness
- Collegiality
- Quality
- Community
Willingness to undertake study with social justice, equitable access to research, and public good in mind

- Accessibility
- Attribution of effort, recognition of organizational/administrative work
- Equitable access (to resources, mentors, networks)
- Diversity (of people, projects, approaches, skills, funders)
- Fairness
- Inclusivity, inclusion
- Public good, societal impact
- Social justice
OPENNESS

Transparency, candor, and accountability, as well as open access to research at all stages

• Accountability, responsibility (to colleagues, public, students, mentors)
• Candor, honesty, integrity, willingness to have and to work through conflict
• Open process
• Open research outputs
• Open source
• Support for failure, learning from it
• Transparency, vulnerability
• Trust
• Willingness to adapt/change
COLLEGIALITY

Professional practices of kindness, generosity, empathy toward others and yourself

- Empathy, caring, compassion, tenderness
- Ethical imagination
- Generosity
- Humility
- Kindness
- Patience
- Respect, appreciation, reciprocity
- Self-care, willingness to say no
QUALITY

Value that demonstrates originality, methodological soundness, advancement of knowledge

- Advancing knowledge, academic impact
- Curiosity
- Discipline, rigor, consistency in practice
- Intentionality, reflection, self-awareness
- Originality, creativity
- Pushing boundaries, courage, intellectual freedom, risk-taking
- Replication
- Reproducibility
- Soundness, accountability to affected communities
COMMUNITY

Engagement with and leadership within your community of practice and with the public

- Attunement
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Engagement, public-spirited citizenship
- Recognition of interdependence
- Leadership, support (esp. from those in power), empowering others, leading by example
- Networking, interconnectedness
- Stewardship
- Respect for privacy
- Solidarity
COOL. BUT WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ALTMETRICS?
SHARED GOALS

To expose, highlight, recognize, and reward scholarship that goes into all research activities

– peer review
– teaching
– mentoring
– conference organizing
– data curation
– committee work
– public scholarship
– etc.
ONE EXAMPLE: SYLLABUS
WHAT MIGHT WE LOOK AT?

• Syllabus itself
  – course description
  – discipline
  – instructor
  – level
  – class time allocation, activities

• Code of conduct
  – reuse in other courses?

• Required texts (etc.)
  – titles
  – authors
  – permanent identifiers (e.g., DOIs, ISBNs)
  – genre
  – class engagement

• Student assignments
WHAT MIGHT WE LEARN?

- What can we discover about circulation of ideas?
- How does citation practice differ from or reflect article/book citation?

- What forms of scholarship are included and by whom?
- What role do students play in scholarly conversation?
- Can we capture engagement indicators (e.g., time spent on a text) that provide context for citations?
HOW MIGHT THIS ENCOURAGE VALUES?

• Am I purposeful in including scholars and works from all backgrounds? [EQUITY]
• Have I made this syllabus available to other instructors? [OPENNESS]
• Does my code of conduct encourage kindness and generosity? [COLLEGIALITY]
• Is this best possible work I can share with students to teach them about topic? [QUALITY]
• Do I encourage engagement outside class and beyond campus? [COMMUNITY]
Equity
Am I including works by women?
Am I including works by traditionally underrepresented people?
Am I attentive to diverse perspectives?
Do I have a code of conduct?
If online, is my site ADA compliant?

Openness
Are the works available OA?
Do I encourage students to work out ideas be part of a conversation?
Is the syllabus openly available?

Collegiality
Do my students have a safe space to speak?
Am I encouraging constructive feedback?
Does my code of conduct emphasize kindness and generosity?
Do I credit others' work?

Quality
Does my syllabus reflect student/peer feedback from previous semesters?
Does the syllabus push the boundaries of the discipline?

Community
Does my syllabus enable interdisciplinary conversation?
Do I encourage engagement with the world outside the classroom?
WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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