# Harnessing Altmetric Data for Translational Research & Community Development: A Case Study

Open Repositories Conference 2018 Montana State University, Bozeman Montana #OR2018 Inga Haugen, Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Scholarly Communication Librarian, Virginia Tech | ihaugen@vt.edu

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## Agenda

- Introductions
- Altmetrics: understanding diverse engagement with scholarship and research
- Land Grant universities, extension agents, and knowledge exchange
- Altmetrics at Virginia Tech
- Boyer and the Scholarship of Engagement
- Developing altmetrics User Personas: a new framework for engagement scholarship
- Mediating IRB
- Next steps!
- Questions/Discussion





★ Indicators of online engagement with digitally-published research outputs

## What does that mean?





"Alternative" metrics (vs article-level metrics)

Altmetrics can track attention related to any digital research output or object -- not just scholarly articles!

### Different buckets of data . . .

#### Citation metrics

- Journal or author-level
- Can be slow to accumulate
- Most relevant to journal articles
- Never intended as a quality indicator
- Only reflect influence among other researchers who read/cite journals articles

### Web analytics

- Web traffic/funnel analysis
- Dark data
- Page hits/downloads
- Readership statistics
- Reference managers (Mendeley, Cituelike)
- Social networks (Researchgate, Academia.edu)

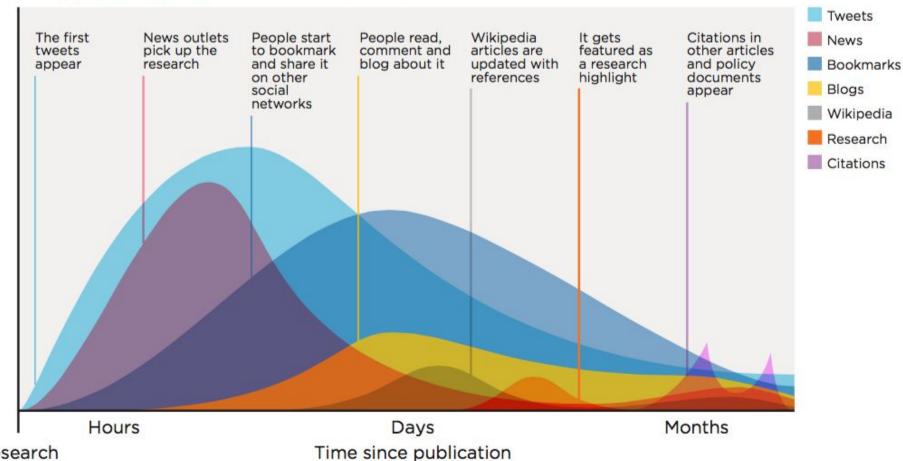
## Who is sharing and discussing research online?

- Practitioners
- Policy-makers
- Funders
- Unaffiliated researchers
- Special interest groups
- Educators and students
- Corporations
- Artists
- Community groups
- General public

#### Where is this happening?

- Mainstream news and media
- Curated blogs
- Policy documents and recommendations
- Patent references
- Social media platforms
- Post-publication peer review
- Wikipedia
- Open syllabi

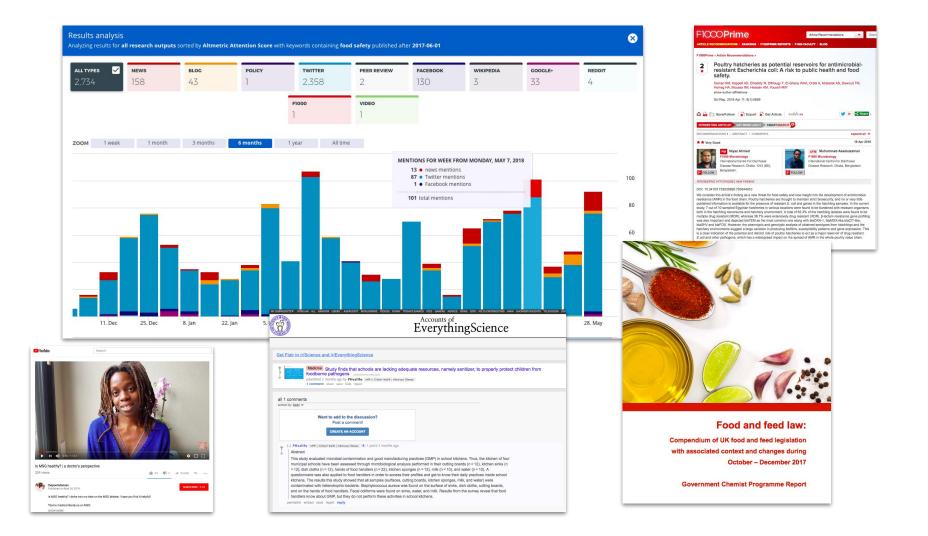
### A typical timeline of attention



Research published

Volume of attention

Figure from Altmetric.com



#### Online Impact



Abstract/Extract

280626

12742

4307

Full-Text

34894

PDF

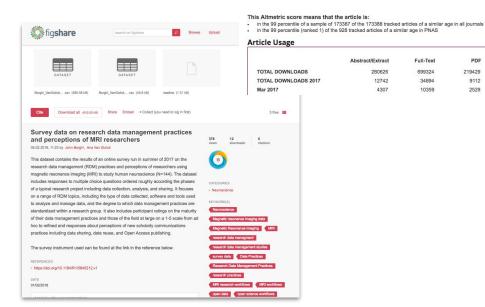
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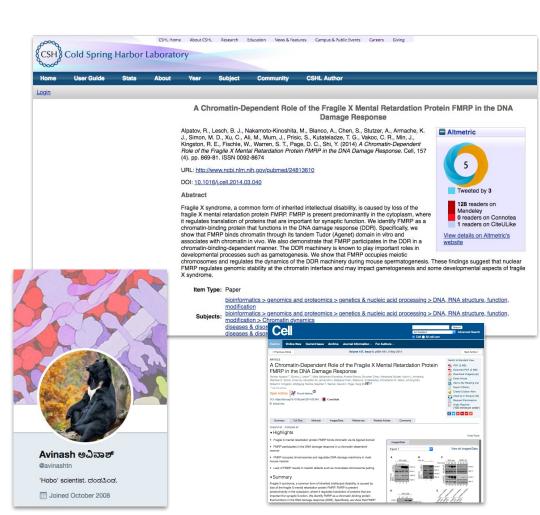
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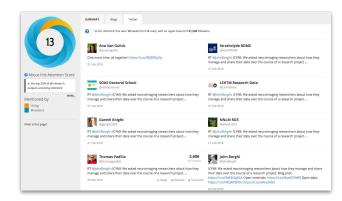
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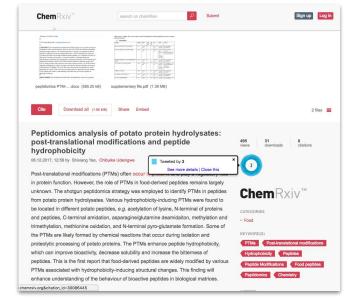
## Altmetrics and open repositories

- Altmetric data seen alongside citation and usage metrics
- Understand reach and impact of ALL digital outputs
- Pre-prints and altmetrics
- Push by open movement to only share open content









# Extension agents and knowledge exchange:

Land grant colleges and the New Scholarship

"...extension will collaborate with partners, on campus and off—to align systems (including recruitment, professional development, accountability, and undoing systems) to support engaged work that cuts across the spectrum of teaching, research, and service."

<sup>--</sup> Fear, F., & L. (2016). The "New" Scholarship: Implications for Engagement and Extension



#### NIFA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Land Grants Research Stations, and Cooperative Extension



## Virginia Tech

- 1860 land-grant in VA
- Virginia State University,
  1890 land grant, HBCU
- Support the researcher by tracking research impact
- Support the publications
- Understand how things are being found and used to suggest strategies "juice worth the squeeze"

<u>Creative Commons Attribution 3.0</u> <u>Unported</u> By: Eric T Gunther

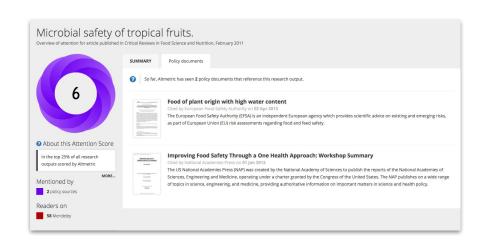


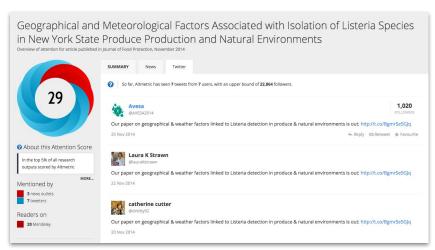
### **Altmetrics at VT**

- Viewed as important element to research impact assessment
- Vital to evidencing reach and influence of scholarship that extends beyond the academy
- Partnered with Digital Science tools like Elements and Altmetric Explorer
- Collaboration with Altmetric and VT librarians to ensure robust, responsible altmetrics education and usage



## **Examples**



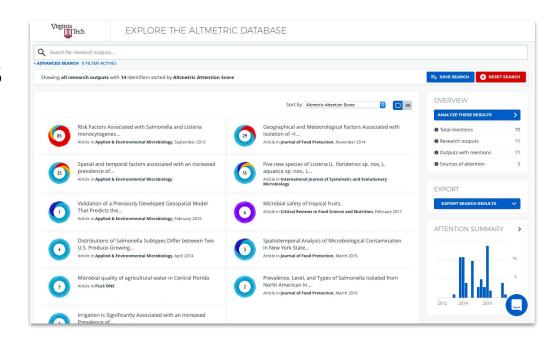


- ★ Global policy mentions targeting community outreach
- ★ Researchers, institutions, and publishers using social media to share information more broadly

# Uncovering attention patterns and timelines

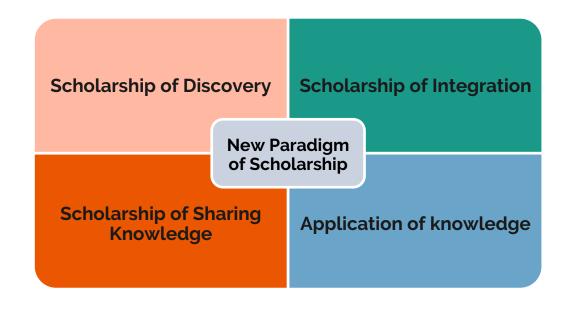
- ★ Real-time data tracking and reporting
- Institutional publication data integration
- ★ Longitudinal and landscape analysis

#### Virginia Tech and the Altmetric Explorer



## Scholarship of Engagement

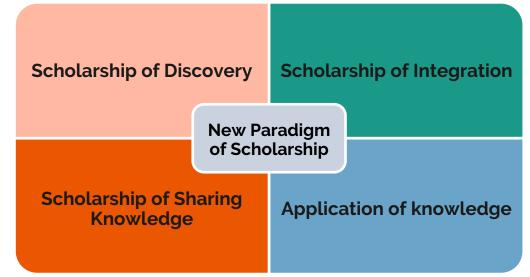
## Boyer's model: four interlocking components to scholarship



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Research is essential, but **not** sufficient

Communication must extend beyond the academy



Context and interdisciplinarity

Scholars as reflective practitioners

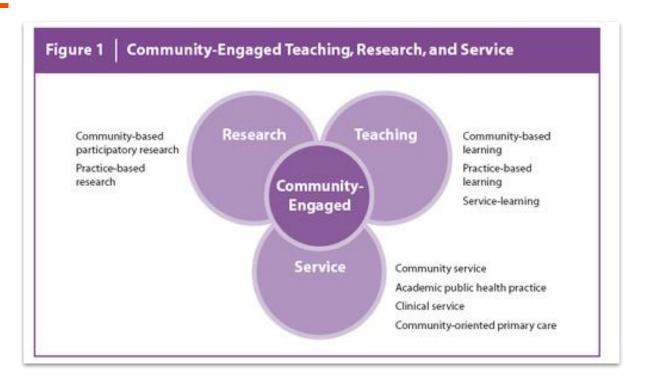
## The Scholarship of Engagement today

"Scholarship is not an it."

Fear, F., & L. (2016)

- Current framework in academia is at odds with engaged scholarship
- Prevailing methodology is that of technical rationality, i.e., "scientific approach," systematic applied procedures
- Scholarship is not static nor a planning process
- New paradigm must challenge traditional construct
- Engaged scholarship must embrace critique and be a dialogue amongst all stakeholders
- Align with the norms of engagement
- Engagement with whom and to what end?

#### **Alternative frameworks?**



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A Scholarship of Engagement must keep values and mindfulness at the center.

#### Habermas's Three Forms of Knowledge

- Instrumental knowledge (technical rationality)
- 2. Communicative knowledge
- 3. Emancipatory knowledge

### **Alternative frameworks?**

- ★ Facilitator versus expert model
- **★** Reflective practice
- ★ Qualitative and participatory processes
- ★ Expressive forms of scholarship (eg, storytelling)
- ★ Service learning curricular and faculty function
- ★ Scholarship **IN** engagement
- ★ Engagement in teaching, research, and service
- ★ Engaged forms of inquiry, discovery, and change:
- **★** Participatory and action research

# Developing altmetrics user personas

## What are user personas?

#### What are they?

- Hypothetical "user" profiles meant to improve functionality and quality of service
- Originally emerged out of tech development/web design and user experience work
- Involves rigorous qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- Proposed for library site/space design in 2003 by Alison J. Head

#### What do they do?

- Develops understanding of workflow and behavioral patterns
- Identifies key technical skills unique to each persona
- Determines universal features and functionality
- Evokes empathy; audits and eradicates stereotypes
- Iterative and collaborative -- two way exchange between researchers and communities

## User personas for altmetrics

- What primary data is available?
- Secondary?
- What are our assumptions around user categories?
- What attributes align with each?
- What are each user-types' potential frustrations?
   Motivations?

## Extension program personas: reflexive collaboration

#### Goals:

- 1. Approach process with a critical lens, keeping mission and values at center
- 2. Meet needs of extension program workflows and behavioral patterns
- 3. Develop in the context of engagement scholarship/non-traditional research outputs
- 4. Identify and align with communication methods and associated with each user
- 5. Treat personas be living, iterative documents
- 6. Ensure personas are openly available, shared broadly, and repurposable

## Extension program personas: reflexive collaboration

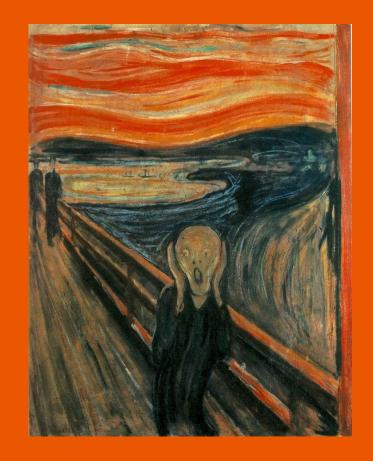
#### *Initial survey questions:*

- 1. How do you define impact with respect to your research/work?
- 2. Can you describe your professional role/relationship with non-academic communities?
- 3. How do you distribute/share information with these communities?
- 4. How many different communities do you feel you serve/work with?
- 5. What other pathways/forums do you use to share research information and communicate with different audiences? Online or otherwise?

### **Initial Proto-Personas**

	AREC	Extension Agent	Research	Teaching
Attributes / outputs	Field days	Extension pubs	Protocols	Open syllabi
Frustrations	Internet	Need for real-time data	Mediating policies and processes	Large class sizes; costs
Motivations	Support producers	Improve communication efficiency	Obtain and sustain funding	Connect science to practice
Goals	Diffuse risk	Relay time-sensitive, accurate info	Knowledge discovery and innovation	Inspire practical intellectualism

# Mediating the IRB process



## **Next steps**

Personas as an iterative, continuous project

- 1. Conduct qualitative survey
- 2. Compile results
- Develop in-depth interview format
- Interview four Ag and Life Sciences faculty
- 5. Analyze results
- 6. Develop personas with feedback from agents
- 7. Evaluate process
- 3. Share personas openly!
- 9. White paper?

## **Questions? Comments?**

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