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ASSOCIATION
FOR LEARNING
TECHNOLOGY



The quality of metrics matters:
how we measure the impact of
research in Learning Technology

ILTA IRISH LEARNING
TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

EdTech2018, 1 June 2018

Research is evolving across different sectors and roles

AIM #3

FOR:

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY
PROFESSIONALS IN:

- LEADERSHIP
- MANAGEMENT
- RESEARCH
- ACADEMIC
- TECHNICAL/
SUPPORT ROLES

LEAD THE
PROFESSIONALISATION
OF RESEARCH & PRACTICE
IN LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Developing responsible #OpenAccess #research metrics



- Robustness
- Humility
- Transparency
- Diversity
- Reflexivity

Image: Openness by [BryanMMathers](#)

Has policy moved on since 2014?

... reduce emphasis on journal impact factors as a promotional tool, and only use them in the context of a variety of journal-based metrics that provide a richer view of performance.

... broader indicator set could include 5-year impact factor, EigenFactor, SCImago, editorial and publication times.

Publishers, with the aid of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), should encourage responsible authorship practices and the provision of more detailed information about the specific contributions of each author.

Publishers should also make available a range of article-level metrics to encourage a shift toward assessment based on the academic quality of an article rather than JIFs.

Source: HEFCE (2014) The Metric Tide

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/rereports/year/2015/metrictide/#alldownloads>

Impact Factor and *alternatives*

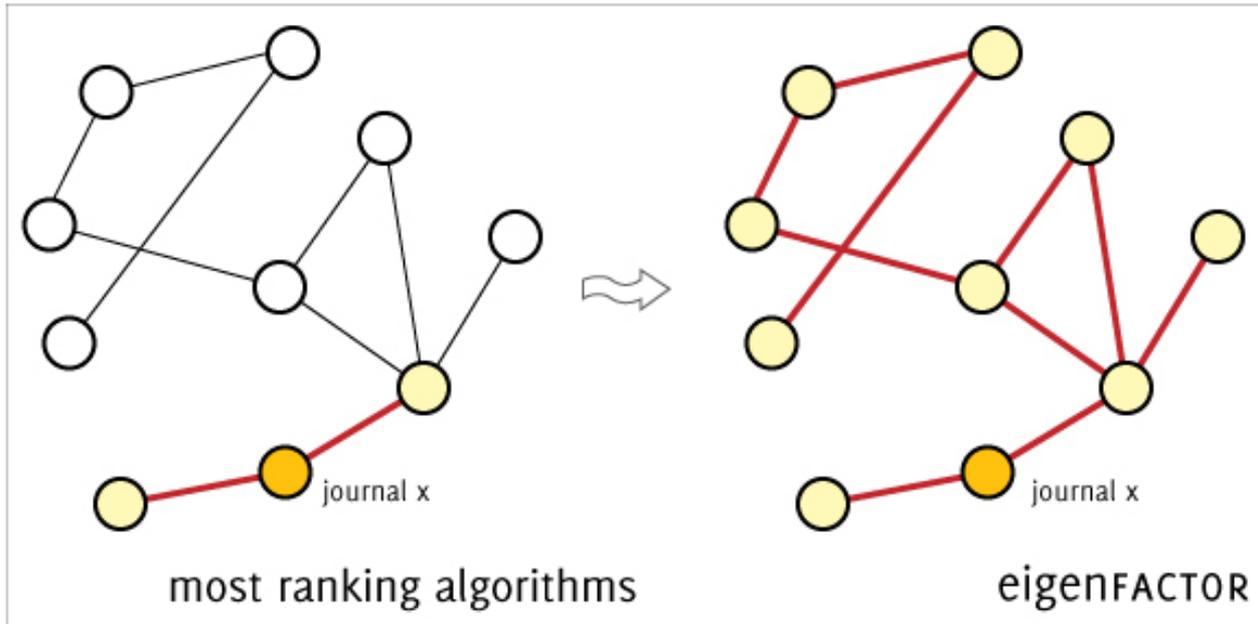
Established in research and Higher Education, consistent across disciplines	Variable across different sectors, variable across different disciplines depending on publishing practice
Widely recognised by institutions and funders for those sectors	Education needed to inform institutions and funders as well as policy makers
Tied to institution rewards and recognition	Rarely recognised or specifically rewarded, although growing
Narrow definition of how impact is measured	Different definitions and tech solutions to how impact is measured
Application process complex and not transparent	Often more accessible, but also more in flux
Advantage for large, established publishers	Easier to access

How the h index is tracked (since 2005)

- [Google Scholar](#): Google Scholar provides the h index for authors who have created a profile.
- [Publish or Perish](#): Publish or Perish is a software program that retrieves and analyzes academic citations from Google Scholar and provides the h index among other metrics. Publish or Perish is handy for obtaining the h index for authors who do not have a Google Scholar profile.
- [Scopus](#): Scopus provides a Citation Tracker feature that allows for generation of a Citation Overview chart to generate a h index for publications and citations from 1970 to current. The feature also allows for removal of self-citations from the overall citation counts.
- [Web of Science](#): Web of Science allows for generation of the h index for publications and citations from 1970 to current using the "Create Citation Report" feature.

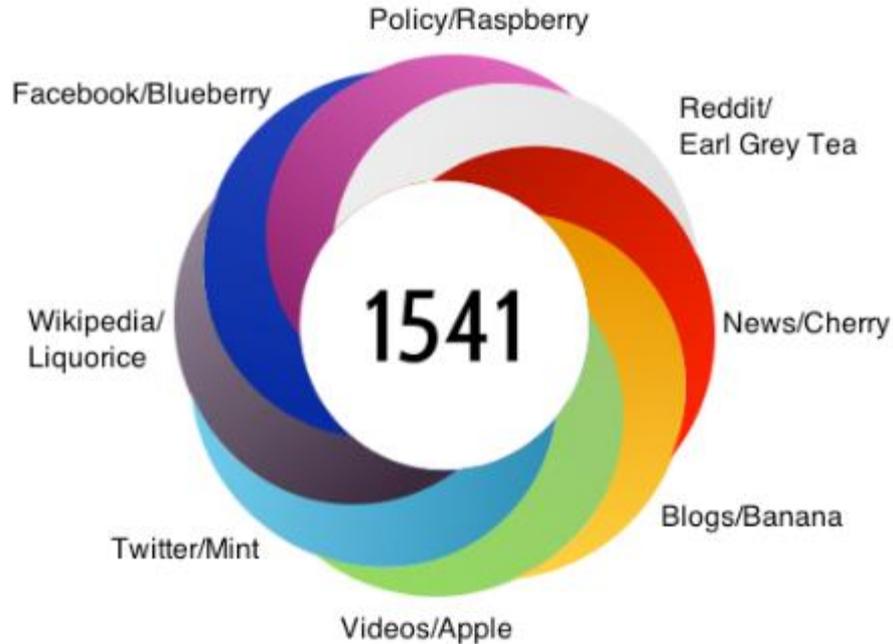
Eigenfactor (since 2007)

Scholarly references join journals together in a vast network of citations. EigenFactor algorithms use the **structure of the entire network** (instead of purely local citation information) to evaluate the importance of each journal.



Source: <http://www.eigenfactor.org/about.php>

Altmetrics (since 2012)



A record of attention (e.g. news, blogs, and on Twitter; article pageviews and downloads; GitHub repository watchers)

A measure of dissemination (mention in the news; social sharing and blog features)

An indicator of influence and impact (references in public policy documents; or commentary from experts and practitioners)

... Altmetrics are a great supplement to citations

Further Reading on the **Impact Factor** & *alternatives*

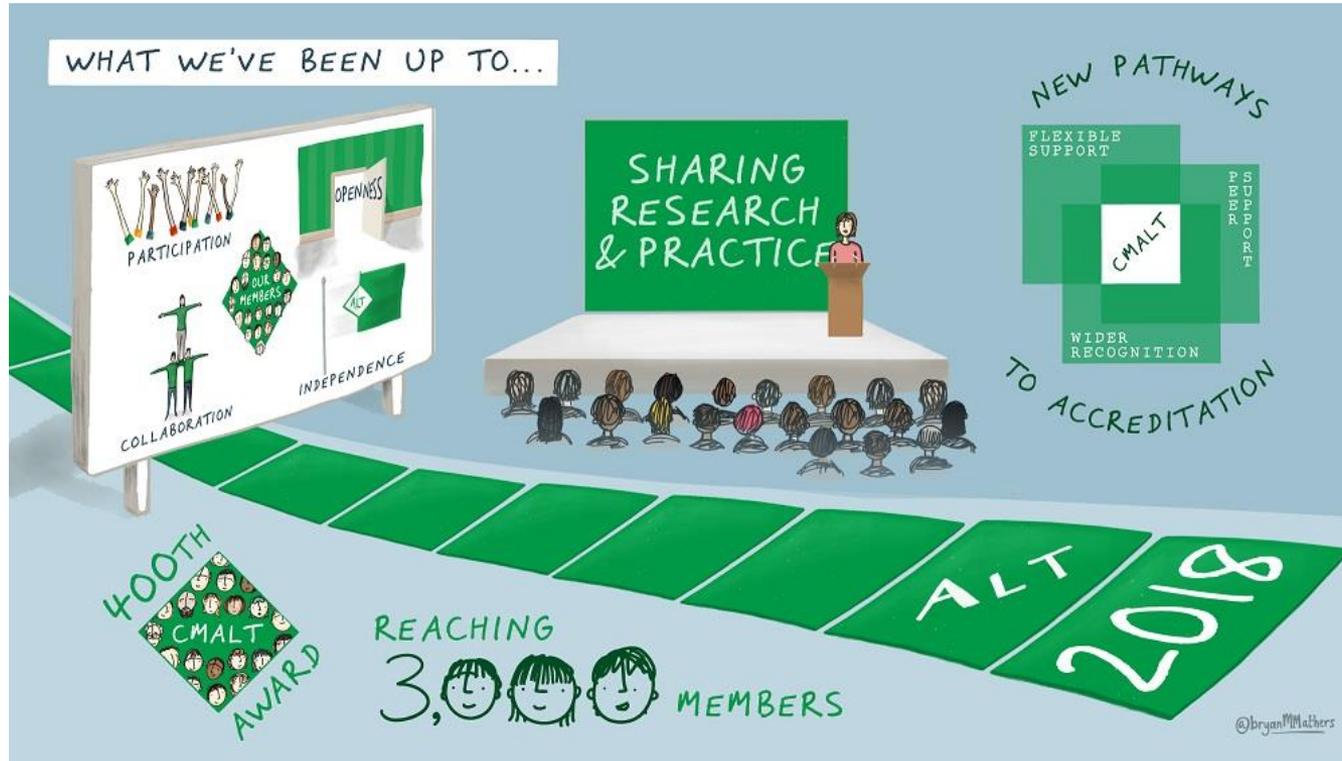
- DOAJ (2018) DOAJ Best Practice Guide <https://www.doajbestpracticeguide.org/>
- Altmetrics & Scholastica (2018) The Evolution of Impact Factors <https://scholasticahq.com/altmetrics-the-evolution-of-impact-indicators>
- HEFCE (2014) The Metric Tide <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/reports/year/2015/metrictide/#alldownloads>
- Altmetrics manifesto <http://altmetrics.org/manifesto/>
- Eigen factor <http://www.eigenfactor.org/>
- H index <http://beckerguides.wustl.edu/authors/hindex>
- [Open Divide: Critical Studies on Open Access](#), via Scinoptica, Editors: Joachim Schöpfel and Ulrich Herb
- [Research assessments based on journal rankings systematically marginalise knowledge from certain regions and subjects](#). LSE Impact Blog
- [Numbers behind Numbers: The Altmetric Attention Score and Sources Explained](#) via [@JMBurns99](#)
- [A Reality Check on Author Access to Open Access Publishing](#), Hilda Bastian, PLOS Blog <http://blog.impactstory.org/four-great-reasons-to-stop-caring-so-much-about-the-h-index/>



AM MORE
than my
H-INDEX.

 Impactstory

Recognition beyond citations and metrics



Source: ALT: What we have been up to - 2017 by [BryanMMathers](#) for ALT

Launching the **Research Project** in Learning Technology of the Year Awards

Closing for entries 18 June 2018 <https://www.alt.ac.uk/about-alt/awards>



Thank you from @marendeepwell #edtechIE18