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# Implementing a Scholarly Impact Outreach Program for Faculty and Graduate Students

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# Implementing a Scholarly Impact Program for Faculty and Graduate Students

Brenna K. Helmstutler, M.S., M.L.I.S. • Georgia State University Library



## Introduction

Today, faculty experience greater obstacles towards the achievement of promotion and tenure than in years past (Gardner and Veliz, 2014). Grants have become a major indicator of research productivity and institutional visibility, and publication criteria require substantial evidence of scholarly impact in order to present a stronger case. It has also become increasingly essential for institutions of higher education to provide meaningful data in regards to such benchmarks as enrollment and retention, and academic departments need to demonstrate the value of their programs, which often includes indicators of researcher output and grant awards. Graduate students are increasingly seeking high-quality research with notable impact to effectively support master and doctoral-level projects. Students pursuing the professorial route need to develop knowledge about establishing themselves in their respective field in order to show scholarly impact at the time of promotion and tenure review.

Implementing a scholarly impact program holds many advantages for faculty, graduate students, and in turn, the library. For faculty, application of the scholarly impact tools presented within the program offers a substantial case for faculty promotion and tenure, stronger evidence for demonstrating the value of individual researchers and/or the department, and a greater sense of librarians as partners in research beyond the traditional role. Graduate students will benefit from this content by more easily identifying top journals, authors, and articles, as well as awareness of tools as they prepare for eventual tenure-track faculty status and promotion and tenure.

Librarians will benefit from participating in scholarly impact activity with faculty and graduate students as it advances their support of faculty research, demonstrates library value in a new way, and adds innovative programming to their evolving areas of responsibility. Integration into existing faculty and student engagement without the need for funding is another advantage in these budget-conscious times.

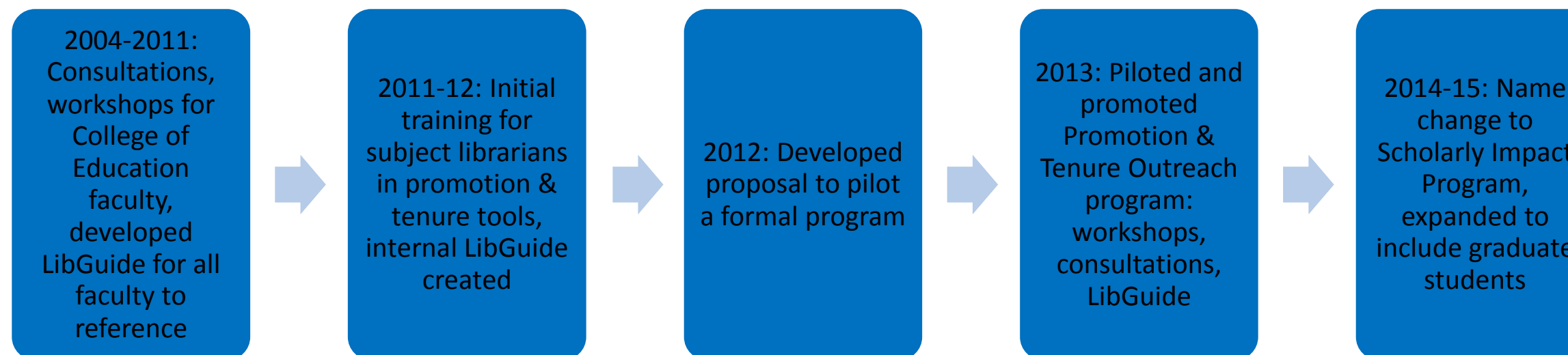
## Institutional Implications for Scholarly Impact Services

Georgia State is a doctoral-granting, urban research university.



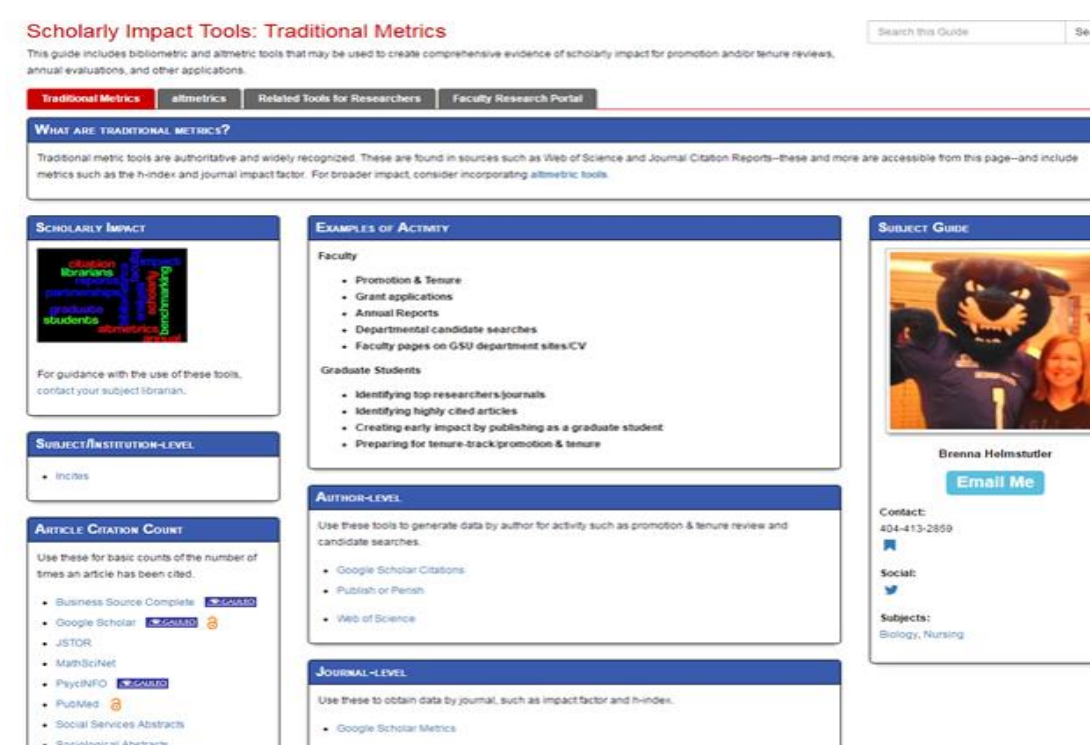
The academic library is in a prime position to offer services including workshops, individual assistance, marketing, and online research guides such as LibGuides) termed the Scholarly Impact Program.

## Scholarly Impact Program Development and Implementation



## The Scholarly Impact Tools LibGuide is organized by type of metric:

- Article citation counts (e.g. Psycinfo, PubMed, Google Scholar), which give a basic number of how many times an article has been cited and the ability to click and view those citations;
- Article-level metrics (e.g. Social Science Research Network (SSRN), Public Library of Science (PLoS), and BioMed Central), which provide citation counts and other information, such as highly accessed, downloaded, or cited;
- Author-level metrics (e.g. Web of Science, Publish or Perish), which offers in a few clicks a comprehensive report of an author's work, such as the h-index (a formula based on author works with the most citations) and much more. It is ideal for promotion & tenure review.
- Journal-level metrics (e.g. Journal Citation Reports, Google Scholar Metrics), which offer data by journal; and
- Altmetrics (e.g. CINAHL, EDS/Discover, Academia.edu, Figshare, social media), which are an emerging form of data focusing on impact from online sources.



## Scholarly Impact Activity for 2016-2017

- Subject librarians working individually with faculty and graduate students
- Subject librarians opting to engage in scholarly impact for their Research Engagement annual goal
- Conducting workshops in Spring 2017: InCites for Faculty; Metrics for Graduate Students
- Posting news on scholarly impact topics to the University Library blog
- Partnering with faculty offices on campus
- Collecting qualitative feedback from those who have actively applied scholarly impact tools after library workshops or consultations

## References

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## Suggested Readings

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