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 (Gaskarth and Vala, 2014). Grants have become a major source of revenue to both the individual 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 professional route need to develop knowledge about establishing their research impact, and in turn, the library. For faculty, application of the scholarly impact tools presented within the program offers a substantial advantage to effectively support master and doctoral level projects. Students pursuing the professional route need to develop knowledge about establishing their research impact, and in turn, the library. For faculty, application of the scholarly impact tools presented within the program offers a substantial advantage to effectively support master and doctoral level projects.

**Scholarly Impact Program Development and Implementation**

- 2011-12: Initial training for subject librarians in promotion & tenure track, internal LibGuide created.
- 2012: Developed proposal to pilot a formal program.
- 2013: Piloted and promoted Promotion & Tenure Outreach program: workshops, consultations, LibGuide.
- 2014-15: Name change to Scholarly Impact Program, expanded to include graduate students.

**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 BiMed 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 a few click the 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 a basic number of how many times a journal has been cited and the ability to click and view those citations.
- Scholarly Impact Tools LibGuide (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: Involves 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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