Citations count! Reflections on providing bibliometrics training for researchers at Cardiff University

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Outline

- Why introduce these sessions?
- What is covered?
- What is the format?
- Who has requested sessions?
- Lessons learnt
- Questions and comments from researchers
- What next?
Why introduce these sessions?

- Original driver was the Research Excellence Framework
  - Early proposal was to judge research quality mainly using metric indicators, including bibliometrics
  - After results of pilot exercises, modified to peer review plus bibliometrics
  - Modified further with reduced role for bibliometrics

BUT

- led to more interest from academic schools in understanding and using bibliometric data
- plus other reasons such as funders’ requirements
What is covered?

Why should researchers be interested in bibliometric data?
- REF
- demonstrating academic impact
- selecting journals for publications
- research funders’ requirements
- publicity
- finding collaborative partners

Sources of bibliometric data
- Web of Science; Scopus; Google Scholar; other databases
- Journal Citation Reports; other journal impact measures

Increasing citations
- merits and methods of Open Access publishing
- institutional repository
What is the format?

- Full workshop - talk lasting c. 30 mins plus workbook - 1 hour allocated
- Tailored sessions consisting of a talk and questions range from 20-60 mins

- Workbook covers:
  - finding journal bibliometrics and citations in Web of Science, Scopus and other databases
  - setting up citation alerts
  - Researcher ID
  - open access resources
Who has requested sessions?

- Subject librarians - three 1.5 hr workshops
- Staff Development Programme - 1.5 hr workshops
- University groups - REF & Research Administrators - 20 min summary

Schools:
- eg Psychology; Business - 1.5 hr workshop
- eg Architecture; Healthcare Studies - 1 hr talk, part of lunchtime seminar programme
- eg Engineering - 20 min talk to Research Committee
- eg Computer Science - 30 min talk at school awayday
Lessons learnt

- **Reduce** - difficult to avoid too much detail given the subject, but have to try!
- **Stay up to date** - REF; journal articles; features in Scopus/Google Scholar/Web of Science
- **Emphasise benefits** for the researcher, such as increased visibility of publications/profile
- **Expect it to take time** for schools to take up the offer
- **Target** - best attendance with sessions tailored for schools/departments
- **Be flexible and adapt** - length/audience/content
- **Be prepared** for discussions about the value of using bibliometric data
I only want the official publisher’s version to be available online, not an earlier version too.
What next?

- Continue to offer sessions and encourage take-up by schools
- Encourage and support subject librarians in offering sessions on bibliometrics
- Introduce Bristol Online Survey to collect feedback in a systematic way
- Respond individually to increased interest in finding bibliometric data
- Interest from schools in a separate presentation on Open Access publishing