MEETING REPORT

Altmetric manifesto completes five years (2010–2015)*

The 20th century may be considered as the century of development of metric sciences. The word 'metrics' indicates statistical measurements, which are an essential facet of all subjects. The statistical analysis and interpretation of library services was introduced in 1948 as 'librametrics' by S. R. Ranganathan, Father of library science in India. Following this, several other terms like scientometrics, bibliometrics, informetrics, econometrics, technometrics, biometrics, sociometrics, psychometrics, educametrics and so on emerged. Possibly, the inception of cybermetrics was the concluding milestone of the voyage of metric sciences in the last century. The internet and open access revolution touched the crest in 1990s that laid down a milestone in 2001. The dawn of the new millennium radiated a new spark across the globe that was Wikipedia. The knowledge dissemination process demolished another barricade to ensure easy access. It was a new concept that drastically transformed the world of scholarly communication. Various new dimensions were added to the processes of information collection, storage, processing, dissemination and evaluation. The performance and impact measurements of these processes gradually systematized them towards more objectiveness. In this way newer metric sciences are developing in different subject domains. Recent developments include Wikimetrics, article-level metrics, altmetrics, etc.

In the scholarly and scientific publishing world, altmetrics is a non-traditional metrics proposed as an alternative to traditional citation-based metrics, like impact factor, immediacy index, *g*-index, *h*-index, etc. The term 'altmetrics' was proposed in 2010, as a generalization of article-level metrics and has its roots in the #altmetrics hashtag[1]. This new metrics can be applied to people, journals, books, datasets, presentations, videos, source-code repositories, web pages, etc. Besides citation counts, altmetrics also covers other aspects of the impact of a work, such as how many data and knowledge bases refer to it, article views, downloads, or mentions in social media and news media.

'No one can read everything. We rely on filters to make sense of the scholarly literature, but the narrow, traditional filters are being swamped. However, the growth of new, online scholarly tools allows us to make new filters; these altmetrics reflect the broad, rapid impact of scholarship in this burgeoning ecosystem. We call for more tools and research based on altmetrics.'[2]

The above manifesto signalled the birth of altmetrics. It grew from the acknowledgement that the social networking provided opportunities to create new metrics for the impact or use of scholarly publications. These metrics could help scholars find important articles and perhaps also evaluate the impact of their articles. Priem and Hemminger[2] introduced a new concept 'Scientometrics 2.0' in rhythm with Web 2.0 or Library 2.0. The concept of Web 2.0 whistled a new internet era focused on participation with applications like Twitter, Digg, Delicious, etc. Priem and Hemminger[2] proposed the possible sources for Scientometrics 2.0, viz. bookmarking, reference managers, recommendation systems, comments on articles, microblogging, Wikipedia, blogging and other sources like social networks, video and open data repositories.

At the Second Altmetric Conference held recently, the welcome address was delivered by Leo le Duc (Amsterdam Science Park). There were five technical sessions and one workshop session on the first day, and five technical sessions and one concluding session on the second day. The technical sessions on the first day included: Standards in altmetrics; Altmetrics in the library; Science outreach, the good, the bad and the pointless; and Altmetrics as indicators of economic and social impact. The technical sessions on the second day included as, How are people using altmetrics now?; Altmetrics and open science; Altmetrics and research evaluation; Beyond the article: tracking over research outputs, and Altmetric manifesto five years on. In all, 19 distinguished global contributors presented papers on the first day and 21 presented papers on the second day. Details about all papers are available in http://www.altmetricsconference.com/schedule/. The major contemporary issues covered here related to evaluation and access to knowledge in the era of open access.

1. Priem, J., Taraborelli, D., Groth, P. and Neylon, C., 2010; http://altmetrics.org/manifesto
2. Priem, J. and Hemminger, B. M., *First Monday*, 2010, **15**(7); http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/2874/2570

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*A report on the Second Altmetric Conference organized by Wellcome Trust, Altmetric, Crossref, eLIFE, Springer and Elsevier in Amsterdam Science Park during 7 and 8 October 2015 to commemorate five years of altmetric manifesto of 2010.