

in new digital settings and finding new research objects, whereas the fourth part “Digital Research: Challenges and Contentions” makes the reader cautious about ethical issues of data confidentiality, the nature of digital data, the inequalities and power relations they reflect, the limitations of digital methods for studying social phenomena and so on. To summarise: the book encourages a more mature and thoughtful approach to digital methods, but it is not a step-by-step guide for the application of methods; those wishing to find advice on particular techniques will need to turn to other sources.

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### **Altmetrics: A Practical Guide for Librarians, Researchers and Academics**

*Edited by Andy Tattersall*

Facet

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Altmetrics is a relatively new method of assessing scholarly impact. It has generally been used for impact made through publication, hence the term, which comes from “article level metrics”. Recently, methods have been added to include impact through people, journals, books, data sets, presentations, videos, source code repositories and web pages. Originally, it did not include citation counts because it was, to some extent, a reaction against traditional metrics, but it can now do that as well as engage with other aspects of a work’s impact, such as how many data and knowledge bases refer to it, and the number of article views, downloads or mentions in social media and news media it receives. This extension of the method is explained well by Gunn in Chapter 6. This is an edited work and there are contributions from key figures in the field: Euan Adie, William Gunn and Ben Showers. Seven chapters were written by Tattersall and two by his colleagues Booth and Beecroft. The book’s opening chapters include a general introduction and a history of traditional metrics and a description of the development of Web 2.0 technologies that are generally used to measure altmetrics. Chapters 4, 5 and 6 are written by Showers, Adie and Gunn, respectively, and provide some interesting insights into the evolution of the methods now used and how altmetric data are collected and used. Chapter 7 considers the use of new technologies. Chapter 8, “Resources and Tools,” by Tattersall, lists 41 resources: the major altmetrics tools and many social media platforms, some of which have an academic focus, while others tend towards the mainstream. This gives some concrete examples of techniques

used by scholars to demonstrate the value of research outputs, but overall there is not a great deal of analysis of the tools themselves, which tends to reduce the practical value of this chapter. Beecroft's chapter on the use of mobile devices for measuring impact "on the go" shows how altmetrics might develop, and the concluding chapter by Tattersall on open peer review is another look into the future. This is such an important subject for academics that librarians who can give sound advice will be much appreciated, so the book is a worthwhile addition to all academic library collections.

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## **Dynamic Research Support for Academic Libraries**

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Over the past decade, academic libraries have increasingly segmented the provision of their services into those for teaching and those for research. A dependable text that informed the management of the research support function in the past decade was *Providing Effective Library Services for Research* by Webb, Gannon-Leary and Bent (Facet, 2007). This new book is therefore a timely update on ways in which research support has developed in the past few years. As it says on the cover, the book "provides illustrative examples of emerging models of research support and is contributed to by library practitioners from across the world". The book is well structured, being broken down into three parts:

- (1) *Part I: Training and Infrastructure*, describes the role of staff development and library spaces in research support.
- (2) *Part II: Data Services and Data Literacy*, illustrates the way research data services in universities help researchers to develop their data-literacy and the importance of doing so.
- (3) *Part III: Research as a Conversation*, discusses academic library initiatives that support the dissemination, discovery and critical analysis of research.

Introductions to each of these three parts, two written by Starr Hoffmann, the third by Jackie Carter, cleverly serve to bind the book together. Indeed, I found these introductions to be the most satisfying and inspiring sections. It was refreshing, for instance, to see Hoffman recognising the need for libraries to "do less, but deeper"