

Beyond Bibliometrics and Altmetrics: New Approaches to Mapping the Societal Impact of the Social Sciences and Humanities

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In contrast to other areas of research, where research is international and usually transferred to societal use by other means than the researchers' own publications, the societal impact of research in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) can often be traced back to specific authors and their publications for wider audiences in a specific culture or society.

Traditional bibliometric data sources have never covered properly the external part of the publishing activity in the SSH. Altmetrics has a limitation as well by mainly covering social media. A distinction between "social impact" and "societal impact" is needed. The societal impact of the SSH is realized in fundamental societal institutions for education, reading, writing and publishing, performing arts, cultural and religious life, political and legal processes, policy making, and public debate. I will explore how national information sources that cover these institutions directly – and independently of the researchers' own web activity – might be matched to institutional or national current research information systems in order to give a more comprehensive picture of the societal impact of the SSH.