



NISO Altmetrics Working Group C "Data Quality" – Code of Conduct Self-Reporting Table

Data aggregator: Altmetric.com

Item	Description	Supports CoC recommendation	Aggregator / Provider Submission*	Last update of self reporting table**
#1	List all available data and metrics (providers and aggregators) and altmetric data providers from which data are collected (aggregators).	T1	Altmetric collects data from: Twitter, Facebook, Google+, policy documents, mainstream media, blogs, Mendeley, CiteULike, PubPeer, Publons, Reddit, Wikipedia, sites running Stack Exchange (Q&A), reviews on F1000, and YouTube. More details can be found on our Support page: http://bit.ly/1SXDI4j	05/02/2016
#2	Provide a clear definition of each metric	A1	The Altmetric score of attention is a weighted algorithm providing an indicator of the amount of attention a particular piece of research output has received. Full details on how the score is calculated can be found here: http://www.altmetric.com/blog/scoreanddonut/ Altmetric tools also provide the raw mention counts by source, e.g., the number of posts we have seen about a specific research output on Google+. Raw counts can be viewed in the application, e.g., in the Altmetric Details Page, or exported for further analyses.	05/02/2016
#3	Describe the method(s) by which data are generated or collected and how data are maintained over time.	T1, T2, R1	Data are collected via a range of methods, largely via data provider APIs, third-party provider APIs, text mining and RSS feeds. More information on collection methods by source can be found on our Support page: http://bit.ly/1SXDI4j	05/02/2016
#4	Describe all known limitations of the data.	A3	Altmetric started tracking attention to research across sources in January 2012 and the data collected on articles published before this date is likely to be incomplete. In order to track attention to an output it must have a unique identifier that is supported in our system, e.g., Digital Object Identifier (DOI), arXiv ID, or International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and be hyperlinked or mentioned by journal, author, and date in order to be collected by our text-mining modules operating across news and policy sources. Links to original posts may break, or posts be deleted. We track public pages only, e.g., public Facebook posts, and cannot access private accounts.	05/02/2016

#5	Provide a documented audit trail of how and when data generation and collection methods change over time and list all known effects of these changes. Documentation should note whether changes were applied historically or only from change date forward.	R1, R2, R3	Altmetric does not have an audit trail before January 2016.	05/02/2016
#6	Describe how data are aggregated.	T2	Online events about research outputs are aggregated and mapped by their external persistent identifiers, e.g., DOI, Handle, PubMed Identifier (PMID), arXiv ID.	05/02/2016
#7	Detail how often data are updated.	T3	Update frequency differs across data sources—from real-time to daily. More details on update frequency by source can be found on our Support page: http://bit.ly/1SXDl4j	05/02/2016
#8	Describe how data can be accessed.	T4	Altmetric provides access to the data via end-user interfaces, the Altmetric Application Programming Interface (API), or by providing a snapshot of the data set made available upon request to organizations or individuals for research purposes. Our API documentation is open and available here: http://api.altmetric.com	05/02/2016
#9	Confirm that data provided to different data aggregators and users at the same time are identical and, if not, how and why they differ.	R4	All Altmetric applications are based on the same database. Users access the same data across each tool, except where data are cached and restricted according to access level. Access level varies across products. Explorer for Publishers, Explorer for Institutions, Explorer for Funders, Altmetric Badges, and the Altmetric Commercial API require a subscription to access all data. The Altmetric Bookmarklet, Institutional Repository Badges, Explorer for Academic Librarians, and the Researcher API are free tools that provide access to all mentions. More details can be found on our Products page: http://www.altmetric.com/products/ . The article report pages seen within the Altmetric Explorer product or when the Altmetric Badges are clicked on are cached for 60 minutes by the content delivery network we use. Therefore, it is possible that a change to an output that appears in the API results immediately will not be reflected in the relevant article report page for up to an hour. The article report pages seen within the Altmetric Explorer product or when the Altmetric Badges are clicked on are cached for 60 minutes by the content delivery network we use. Therefore, it is possible that a change to an output that appears in the API results immediately will not be reflected in the relevant article report page for up to an hour.	05/02/2016
#10	Confirm that all retrieval methods lead to the same data and, if not, how and why they differ.	R4	Different retrieval methods will lead to the same data as all Altmetric applications use the same underlying database and API. However, the article report pages seen within the Altmetric Explorer product or when the	05/02/2016

			Altmetric Badges are clicked on are cached for 60 minutes by the content delivery network we use (Fastly). Therefore, it is possible that a change to an output that appears in the API results immediately will not be reflected in the relevant article-report page for up to an hour.	
#11	Describe the data-quality monitoring process.	T5, A2	Data quality is monitored in a range of ways: by manually curating sources; monitoring potential gaming and spammy posts; setting thresholds to automatically flag suspicious activity, such as rate of change in attention for an output; creating suspicious-person profiles; and manually monitoring Altmetric staff's alerts and reported issues. Regular data clean-up tasks are also run, e.g., cross-referring data accuracy against external sources such as Crossref.	05/02/2016
#12	Provide a process by which data can be independently verified (aggregators only).	R5	See item #8—the tools and services provided by Altmetric use the API documented at http://api.altmetric.com	05/02/2016
#13	Provide a process for reporting and correcting data or metrics that are suspected to be inaccurate.	A2	Suspected inaccurate metrics or data can be reported to support@altmetric.com and via our Support portal: help.altmetric.com. Missed mentions can be reported via an online form: www.surveymonkey.com/s/misshedmentions . All Altmetric Details Pages include a "What is this page?" message to provide opportunities for reporting data errors and linking to the Missed Mentions form. The page also provides an introduction to Altmetric data.	05/02/2016