



# THE FOUR C'S OF CITATION IMPACT

Professor Anne-Wil Harzing  
Middlesex University  
[www.harzing.com](http://www.harzing.com)

# WHAT IS IMPACT?

## EMERALD IMPACT MATRIX

- ▶ Knowledge (academic):
  - ▶ implications for research
  - ▶ citations
- ▶ Practice:
  - ▶ implications for practice
  - ▶ actual application of research in industry and business, patents
- ▶ Teaching:
  - ▶ research-led teaching
  - ▶ provision of case studies and examples
- ▶ Public policy:
  - ▶ implications for policy
  - ▶ actual influence on public policy
- ▶ Society:
  - ▶ implications for society
  - ▶ actual change of norms & values, e.g. environmental impact, social responsibility

# HOW TO MEASURE IMPACT?

- ▶ Non-academic aspects of impact are difficult to operationalise & measure
  - ▶ Alt-metric.com free bookmarklet: tracks tweets, blogs, and other social media
    - ▶ Does this constitute impact? Does it work reliably (it didn't for me)?
  - ▶ Impactstory (aka Total Impact)
    - ▶ Collection creation fairly time-consuming, import from Google Scholar Citations possible
    - ▶ Impact report not very meaningful beyond the Scopus citation analysis
    - ▶ Is now charging for profiles (\$10 month)
  - ▶ Other efforts: e.g. readermeter, crowdometer,
    - ▶ All in beta, timed out/closed, (very) incomplete; enthusiastic starters, but no follow-through
    - ▶ Aimed at one-off searches, need additional input (author ID, GSC profile, twitter account)
- ▶ In many universities the main emphasis remains on academic impact
  - ▶ Citations are still seen as the main metric for academic impact
  - ▶ My focus is on citation analysis of Google Scholar data through Publish or Perish
    - ▶ Google Scholar could be argued to include some of the other forms of impact, because of its broader coverage than traditional commercial databases such as ISI and Scopus
    - ▶ Publish or Perish is designed so that even the most inexperienced users can get good results and a clear and comprehensive overview quickly for a variety of uses

# CITATION ANALYSIS: WHY CARE?

- ▶ Why publish if nobody cites your work?
  - ▶ Not publishing is like being mute, not being cited is a lot like talking without anybody listening
  - ▶ Okay, your work might still be read by students, managers, or academics who do not publish
    - ▶ But: academic research should also contribute to academic discourse
  - ▶ Government research assessments and academic promotions increasingly focus on citation impact
- ▶ Why would you want to know if your work is cited?
  - ▶ To prepare for confirmation/promotion/yearly performance appraisal
  - ▶ To know who is building on your work
    - ▶ They might be future collaborators
    - ▶ It is exciting to see how others are using your research, you might get new ideas through it
  - ▶ To get an ego boost, to know someone has (presumably) read your work 😊

# HOW TO GET CITED?

## THE FOUR C'S OF CITATION ANALYSIS

- ▶ First of all **C**ompetence (aka as Performance in the four P's of publishing), you won't be cited if your work isn't any good.
  - ▶ However, you can improve your chances of being cited through the three remaining c's
- ▶ **C**ommunicate (they can only cite your paper if they know about it)
  - ▶ Personal website, the best thing I have ever done
    - ▶ Put your papers online [Online papers, full list of publications](#)
    - ▶ Ensure your papers are found if someone searches for a topic relating to your research in Google
    - ▶ As an example my research interests: [Language in international business](#); [Headquarters subsidiary relationships](#); [Transfer of management practices](#)
  - ▶ University Repository, SSRN, Academia.edu, ResearchGate and LinkedIn are great alternatives if you don't have your own web site; I use multiple services
  - ▶ Create a Google Scholar Citation profile
    - ▶ <http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=v0sDYGsAAAAJ&hl=en>
    - ▶ [http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?hl=en&view\\_op=search\\_authors&mauthors=middlesex+university](http://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?hl=en&view_op=search_authors&mauthors=middlesex+university)
  - ▶ Conferences, attend & talk to people
    - ▶ volunteer for PDWs, as discussant, session chair, committee member
  - ▶ Email, ask for papers and send yours in return
    - ▶ Don't be shy to send your papers, most academics appreciate it

# EXAMPLE EMAIL

- ▶ I don't know if you remember me, but I met you at Victoria University (NZ) when you came to speak many years ago. At the time I was a PhD student researching multilingualism and the role of English in banks in Luxembourg.
- ▶ Now, I'm delighted to share with you what I have just published on YouTube. It's a short 20 minute illustration (doodle) on some aspects of my PhD. It's a video that could be used as a teaching resource. I've attached a free e-print from the 2013 journal article that goes with it and there are other publications found in the YouTube description. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did in producing it!
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOIyE9ylqZo>
- ▶ <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/VQn6deUXGpAkvGBDDgr7/full>
- ▶ Signature  
[Picture included]

# HOW TO GET CITED?

## THE FOUR C'S OF CITATION ANALYSIS

- ▶ **C**ollaborate (not just because it makes doing research more fun)
  - ▶ It often leads to better quality research
    - ▶ Complementary skills (theory development, empirical research, analysis, practical implications)
    - ▶ Always someone to read your paper critically
    - ▶ More motivation to finish your papers
  - ▶ Co-authored papers are cited more (because each author has their own network)
  - ▶ Your collaborators will cite you in their other projects
- ▶ **C**are (this more generally makes our profession a nicer place to be)
  - ▶ For your own reputation, it is your most valuable asset
    - ▶ Nobody wants to use and cite the work of someone they don't respect
  - ▶ For others; help wherever you can
    - ▶ Keep the promises you make at conferences
    - ▶ Alert collaborators and academic friends to useful information & congratulate them on their achievements
    - ▶ Thank others for their help!
- ▶ Read the Impact 2-pager I sent around 2 months ago!

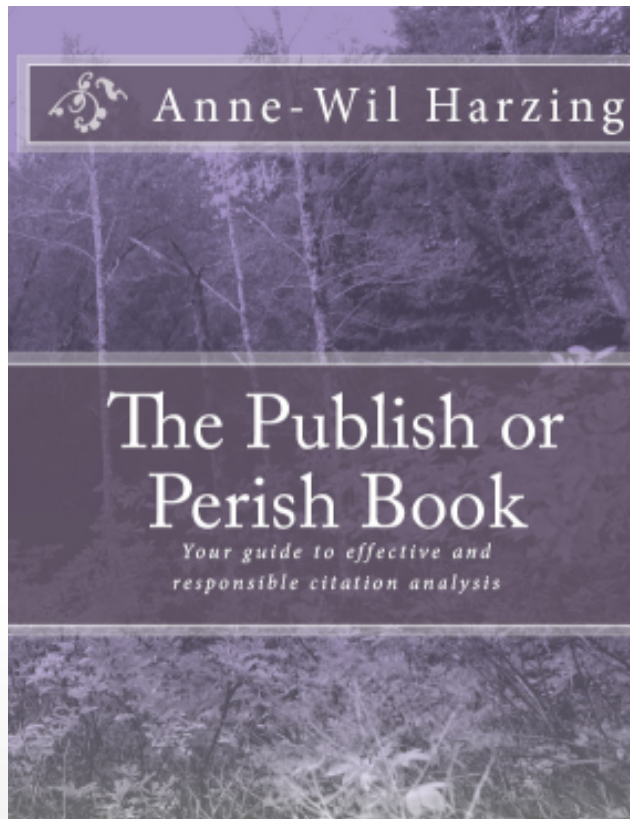
# HOW TO GET CITED?

## WHAT CAN UNIVERSITIES DO?

- ▶ **C**reate a research culture
  - ▶ Invite (international) academic visitors, get involved in (international) collaborations
  - ▶ Run seminar series, even if they are very informal
- ▶ **B**e **c**onsiderate
  - ▶ Acknowledge that especially for areas such as HRM and accounting publishing in local journals that attract fewer citations is important for knowledge transfer to practice
  - ▶ Acknowledge that not all topics are easy to publish in top North American journals, but don't discard that option just because you have Australian/British/European data
    - ▶ Kulik, C.T. (2005). On editing in an international context. *Journal of Management*, 31(2), 162-166.
- ▶ **C**elebrate
  - ▶ Achievements (in all forms), but don't make others feel like a failure
  - ▶ Diversity in topics, research methods, writing styles
    - ▶ Do not engage in head-to-head "competition" with North American academics, we can only lose
    - ▶ Build on your strengths, but do change the 10-30% of your approach you need to adjust "to be heard"
- ▶ **P**rovide a **c**omprehensive university repository
  - ▶ Research that is available open access is cited more
  - ▶ Ensure that academics submit their work into the repository
    - ▶ It really isn't that hard; I submitted a dozen papers in less than an hour
    - ▶ Library information session on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May



# MORE INFORMATION?



- ▶ Chapter 1: Introduction to citation analysis
- ▶ Chapter 2: Introduction to Publish or Perish
- ▶ Chapter 3: Author searches
- ▶ Chapter 4: Journal searches
- ▶ Chapter 5: General citation search queries
- ▶ Chapter 6: Multi-query centre
- ▶ **Chapter 7: Making your case for tenure or promotion**
- ▶ Chapter 8: How to evaluate other academics?
- ▶ **Chapter 9: Tips for deans and other academic administrators**
- ▶ **Chapter 10: Where to submit your paper?**
- ▶ **Chapter 11: Conducting a literature review**
- ▶ Chapter 12: Doing bibliometric research on authors & journals
- ▶ Chapter 13: Evaluating Google Scholar
- ▶ Chapter 14: Evaluating Thomson ISI Web of Science
- ▶ Chapter 15: A Google Scholar h-index for journals
- ▶ Chapter 16: Author citation analysis across disciplines

Now available online:

<http://www.harzing.com/popbook/index.htm>