Balancing the Irregularities of Citation Metrics in Tenure and Promotion of Faculty in Art, Architecture and Design-Related Disciplines

Publishing Patterns and Citation Impact Survey of Architecture Faculty

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Rose Orcutt
Publishing Patterns and Citation Impact Survey of Architecture Faculty

- Sent to AASL listserv in November 2015
- 7 questions
- Received 21 responses
Purpose of Survey

• Measure awareness of citation metrics by architecture faculty

  ▫ What tools the school or department used to measure citation metrics
  ▫ Knowledge of the citation metrics tools
  ▫ Insight to types of scholarship valued when teaching
  ▫ Insight to types of scholarship valued in professional development
What tools does your institution use to evaluate or measure citation metrics?

- **Academic Analytics**: 27%
- **Google Scholar**: 19%
- **ISI Web of Science**: 12%
- **Harzing Publish or Perish**: 0%
- **Plum Analytics**: 0%
- **Scopus**: 0%
- **I don't know**: 31%
- **We don't**: 12%
Current level of awareness about citation metrics at your school or department?

- Never heard of it, 10%
- It's a heavily discussed topic, 29%
- I don't know, 33%
- We are just starting to talk about it, 29%
- Never heard of it, 10%

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What type of scholarship do you value when teaching?

- Books: 33%
- Peer-reviewed journal articles: 31%
- Trade journals i.e. Casabella, Architect's Journal, Domus...: 18%
- Architects/Firm Blogs: 9%
- Online sources i.e. Archinect: 9%
- Peer-reviewed journal articles: 31%

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What types of scholarship do you value (or use) in professional life?

- Books: 32%
- Peer-reviewed Journal articles: 26%
- Trade journals (e.g., Casabella, Architect's Journal, Domus...): 24%
- Architects/Firm Blogs: 7%
- Online sources (e.g., Archinect): 11%
Any additional feedback you would like to add about citation metrics and/or tenure metrics?

Faculty responses:

- “Citation metrics are not really a true measure of the quality of significance of the contents of a publication.”

- “There is a general skepticism regarding the saliency of most metrics for architectural faculty.”
Any additional feedback you would like to add about citation metrics and/or tenure metrics? (cont’d)

Faculty responses:

• “They are critically important (I've already been through the P&T process, so it isn't relevant for me). But we must have an established method of recognizing 'excellence' in teaching, research, and service. And getting our act together for the research/scholarly component is essential.”
Survey Conclusions

- Books rate the highest of the valued scholarship both in teaching and professional use

- Faculty knowledge of citation metrics and tools vary

- Faculty do not view citation metrics as a true measure of the quality of a publication

- Faculty are skeptical of the importance of citation metrics
  - Trade publications – which are not part of traditional citation metrics - are rated almost equally as peer-reviewed journals in Professional use

- Faculty desire an established method of recognizing research excellence
Recommendations

- Educate and train faculty on the value of citation metrics
- Explore the use of tools such as ORCID that easily interact with the diverse citation metric tools
Study Limitations

- Timing
- Incentive
- Sample size
- Terminology & Question formulation
References