

Using Altmetric Explorer for REF impact case studies

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This is a story about engagement

- > The Hallam University context
- > The REF and impact
- > How Altmetric Explorer can help
- > How we approached engagement
- > Some reflections



The Hallam University research context: real impact

We believe universities should make **material contributions** to the cultural, economic, social and health challenges facing society today.

Hallam Research Strategy



The REF (Research Excellence Framework)

The REF is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions.



FUNDING



PUBLIC
ACCOUNTABILITY



BENCHMARKING

The REF and impact - case studies

The REF assesses the **'reach and significance'** of impacts.



25%

REF guidance on submissions

Impact is defined as an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, **beyond academia.**

Definition of impact,
REF guidance on submissions

Altmetric Explorer

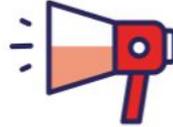
Discover pathways to impact...



**Policy
mentions**



**Patent
mentions**



**Mass media
mentions**



**Social media
mentions**

Our approach to engagement

“Not another tool we have to learn how to use...”

Steps to engagement

1

Take advantage of training material

Joined the Altmetric-REF working group

Excellent training material and support

Altmetric provides the leads to follow up

Step 1: Look past the score

Step 2: Follow the pathway

Step 3: Find the evidence

Step 4: What is the impact?



2

Engage with the right groups

We presented Altmetric Explorer to the university's REF Impact Steering Group



3

Do the groundwork

We reviewed all case studies to identify which ones may benefit from altmetrics.

4

Target the training

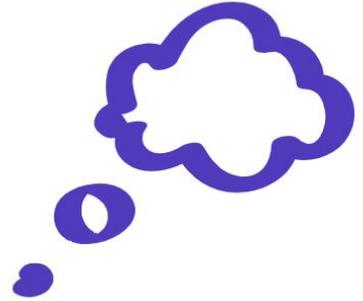
How to

- > find your outputs
- > follow the leads
- > set up alerts for mentions

Reflections so far

Reflections

- Positive feedback
- Opened up discussions about OA and discoverability
 - Promoted our in-house DOI service
 - Re-emphasised importance of institutional research repository



Identified this as a key area for future training and engagement.

References

— — —
Research Excellence Framework (REF). (2019). *Guidance on submissions, REF 2021*. Retrieved from https://www.ref.ac.uk/media/1092/ref-2019_01-guidance-on-submissions.pdf

Sheffield Hallam University. (2020). *Our research strategy*. Retrieved from <https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/quality/our-research-strategy>

Adapted training material from Altmetric-REF working group:
<https://www.altmetric.com/support/ref-2021-working-group/>

FURTHER READING

Reichard, B., Reed, M., Chubb, J., Hall, G., Jowett, L., Peart, A. & Whittle, A., (2020, May 11). *The Grammar of Impact – What can we learn from REF 2014 about writing impact case studies?* LSE Impact Blog.

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<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/05/11/the-grammar-of-impact-what-can-we-learn-from-ref-2014-about-writing-impact-case-studies/>

Thank you