

Coverage of Library and Information Science literature by Mendeley

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INTRODUCTION

Altmetrics or social media metrics are an alternative way of measuring broader research impacts in the social web via different tools. Altmetrics can measure the impact at the article level as evidenced through social media activity (Galligan & Dyas-Correia, 2013). There are different social media tools that can be used to explore changes in scholarly communication. One of the most popularly applied social media which have received more attention in previous research is Mendeley. Mendeley is a combination of a desktop application and a website which helps researchers manage, share and discover both content and contacts in research. This study seeks to explore the coverage of Library and Information Science (LIS) literature by Mendeley and specifically: to measure the proportion of LIS literature published in 2013 that has been added to Mendeley; to analyse the characteristics of the readers of these articles according to their occupation, discipline and country of origin; and to analyse any differences in Mendeley coverage according to journal of publication.

METHODS & RESULTS

- 1) We retrieved the “articles” and “reviews” published in 2013 included in the category “Information Science & Library Science” of the SSCI.
- 2) The final result showed 3,593 articles written by 8,019 authors.
- 3) On 4 February 2015 we retrieved the number and characteristics of readers in Mendeley for each article by using “Webometric_Analyst” software (<http://lexiurl.wlv.ac.uk>) with a query containing the title, authors, year of publication and DOI.

In the first phase of the study, data showed the number of articles with and without readers (Table 1) and the number of readers these articles have (Table 2).

Table 1: Articles with & without readers in Mendeley

Articles	Number	%
Without readers	595	16.56
With readers	2,999	83.47
Total	3,593	100.00

Table 2: Number of readers of articles in Mendeley

Articles with	Number	%	Articles with	Number	%
1-5 readers	697	23.24	16-20 readers	329	10.97
6-10 readers	706	23.54	21-25 readers	231	7.70
11-15 readers	468	15.61	>25 readers	568	18.94
Total				2,999	100.00

On average, each article has 14.26 readers, including all 3,593 articles, with and without readers.

Just 20% of the articles (those with the highest number of readers) accumulate half (50%) of the readers (Figure 1).

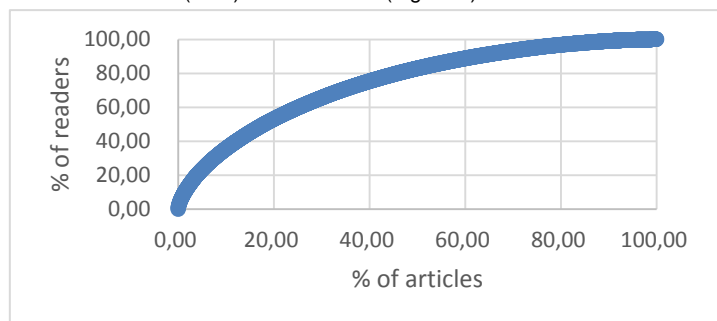


Figure 1: Cumulative percentage of articles and readers

Although the percentage of articles with readers is higher, reviews have more readers than articles (Table 3).

Table 3: Differences in readership between “articles” and “reviews”

	Articles	Articles with readers	% articles with readers	Average number of readers per article
Articles	3,507	2,931	83.57	14.03
Reviews	85	67	78.82	23.73

Table 4 shows differences in readership depending on language of the article.

Table 4: Differences in readership depending on the language

	Articles	Articles with readers	% of articles with readers
English	3,361	2,887	85.9
German	22	0	0.0
Spanish	130	99	76.15
Portuguese	44	9	20.46
French	6	1	16.67
Hungarian	18	0	0.0
Japanese	11	1	9.09

There are relevant differences in the percentage of articles with readers depending on the journal where it was published. For some journals, all articles (100%) have readers, whereas in other cases no articles at all have readers (0%).(Table 5).

Table 5: Differences in readership depending on journal

% articles with readers	Number of journals	% of journals	% articles with readers	Number of journals	% of journals
91-100 %	42	50.6	31-40 %	4	4.82
81-90 %	14	16.87	21-30 %	4	4.82
71-80 %	4	4.82	11-20 %	3	3.61
61-70 %	2	2.41	1-10 %	5	6.02
51-60 %	1	1.2	0%	1	1.2
41-50 %	3	3.61	Total	83	100.00

CONCLUSIONS

- Most LIS literature is covered by Mendeley two years after publication.
- Most articles have between one and ten readers and they are in English.
- Reviews have more readers than articles.