Online Attention to Digital Humanities Publications*

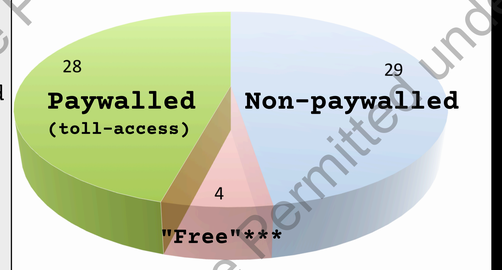
Ernesto Priego, Centre for Information Science, City University London. Ernesto.Priego.1@city.ac.uk; @ernestopriego
Leo Havemann, Birkbeck College, University of London. l.havemann@bbk.ac.uk; @leohavemann
Javiera Atenas, University College London. j.atenas@ucl.ac.uk; @jatenas

Interested in the role of "alternative" **article-level metrics** (Priem et al 2011; Priego 2012; Adie et al 2013; Alperin 2014) as tools for discovering uptake of **Open Access** and other publication patterns amongst digital humanists and **online attention** to publications in the Digital Humanities, we used the Altmetric Explorer to search and collect published outputs with **"digital humanities"** in their title and metadata. We obtained a dataset that after manual refining contained 62 outputs with unique identifiers.

The dataset included mention counts for **12** major types of online mentions. Later we used Google Scholar to identify citation counts for each output. The dataset ranks outputs by quality and quantity of online mentions (the Altmetric score).

The 3 most-mentioned papers were **not paywalled (but not strictly Open Access in all cases**)**. The paper with the highest number of mentions was a grey literature output deposited on SSRN. **There were no** outputs published in fully-Open Access Journals (**CC-BY**). **The** most open license for a published article (not preprint) in the dataset was **CC-BY-NC-ND** (**1** article).

Though the **3** most-tweeted publications were non-paywalled, the dataset as a group did not show consistent correlations between access type and online attention (including Twitter and Mendeley).



Number of outputs in dataset by access type

The dataset contained 62 outputs whose main authors or PIs were from **15** different countries.

32 of **62** outputs had a main author or PI based in the **USA**.

The output with the highest score in the dataset was in the **top 5%** of all articles ranked by attention.

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The average price of individual paywalled outputs was ~**US $29.75**. Highest prices were for Taylor & Francis (**GBP £24.00**) and Oxford University Press (**US $38.00**).

The services most used to mention the outputs in the dataset were **Mendeley** and **Twitter**, both with more than **400** total mentions. There were no mentions in **6** other services that Altmetric tracks (including Pinterest media mentions).

MENDELEY **503 Readers on Mendeley**

439 Tweeters

18 Facebook Walls in the dataset

We suggest **altmetrics** services like the Altmetric Explorer can be an efficient method to obtain **bibliographic datasets** and **track scholarly outputs** being **mentioned online** in the sources curated by these services. Our dataset reflects that outputs with **"digital humanities"** in their metadata were **not** published in **fully-fledged Open Access journals**. The role of **SSRN** and **arXiv** as Open Access **repositories** was found to be relatively significant, but the **licensing** of the outputs available through them was **not** always immediately **clearly displayed**. Our working definition of "Open Access" requires outputs to be **open** for **human and machine access** through **CC-BY** or at least **CC-BY-SA**. The **absence** of **clear licensing information** at output level is perceived to be problematic, as is the lack of any outputs clearly and visibly licensed with CC-BY. The fact the **3 most-mentioned outputs** in the dataset were available **without a paywall** might signal towards the potential of **Open Access** for greater **public impact**. '**Free access**' outputs in paywalled journals did **not** reflect **higher mentions** nor **citations** than their paywalled or non-paywalled counterparts. Though the dataset reflects a predictable **dominance** of authors based in the **USA**, the dataset points towards a **growing presence** of **international digital humanities researchers**.

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*According to data obtained with the Altmetric Explorer (available at www.altmetric.com) on April 23 2014. Data reflects the sources curated by Altmetric; logically publications not tracked by Altmetric will not have appeared in results.
"Non-paywalled" refers to full version outputs in the dataset available via open access repositories and journals. These outputs were either not licensed CC-BY or the licensing information was unclear or not present. *"Free Access" articles published in otherwise paywalled journals.
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