Collecting altmetrics in Altmetric Explorer

The Altmetric Explorer lets you perform analyses and generate reports for Altmetric attention data. Altmetric is one of the companies that provide altmetrics. The EUR has a license on Altmetric Explorer. The information under My Institution in Altmetric Explorer – publications, authors and department structure – is based on a two-yearly import of publications with a DOI from METIS.

Finding Altmetric data for one publication

1. Open Altmetric Explorer (https://libguides.eur.nl/altmetricexplorer)
2. Click Quick search...
3. Mark Full Altmetric database in the top left corner (instead of My institution only)
4. Type the title of the publication or enter the DOI of the publication
5. You will get a list of suggestions. Choose one of the suggestions (this depends on the way you search).

Or:

1. Add the Altmetric bookmarklet (https://www.altmetric.com/products/free-tools/bookmarklet/) to your browser (available for Chrome, Firefox or Safari)
2. Find your article online
3. Use the Altmetric it! button to find the Altmetric attention score and a link to the Altmetric details page.

Finding Altmetric data of a list of known publications

When you have a list of identifiers of publications – for example the DOIs, ISBNs, PubMed IDs or handles – you can use that list to find Altmetric details for the publications.

1. Open Altmetric Explorer (https://libguides.eur.nl/altmetricexplorer)
2. Click Edit Search at the top of the page
3. Mark Full Altmetric database in the top left corner (instead of My institution only)
4. Click the button Add Scholarly Identifiers
5. Paste your list of identifiers
6. Click Save
7. Check the message in the Scholarly Identifiers box: are your identifiers recognized correctly?
8. Click the button Run Search.
Finding Altmetric data for your publications

When you have an ORCID with your publication list up-to-date (including identifiers Altmetric uses) and the visibility setting of this part of your ORCID set to ‘everyone’, you can use your ORCID to quickly retrieve the Altmetric information for your publications. Altmetrics makes use of the public API of ORCID.

1. Open Altmetric Explorer (https://libguides.eur.nl/altmetricexplorer)
2. Click Edit Search at the top of the page
3. Mark Full Altmetric database in the top left corner (instead of My institution only)
4. Enter your ORCID in the ORCID box
5. Click Run Search

You can also search by name in the Keywords box, but this search is often not specific enough.

Tip: when you create an account, you can save a search and receive updates by e-mail with new mentions.

If you don’t have an ORCID or your publication list in ORCID isn’t up-to-date, check the handout ‘Creating your ORCID’.

The tabs in Altmetric Explorer

Highlights

After performing a search the Highlights tab will be opened. It gives an overview of the total number of mentions, the number of outputs with attention and the number of outputs tracked. If there is no online activity around a publication it’s not tracked, so the number of outputs tracked will often be lower than the number of identifiers you started with when you used a list.
You can also see the top outputs, the top journals, affiliations and subject areas and the latest mentions and newspaper highlights.

Research outputs

The Research Outputs tab shows the Altmetric Attentions Score for the tracked publications in your list. The list is sorted by the Altmetric Attention Score – this is an indicator of the amount of attention received by the publication. It is a weighted count of the attention: a tweet gets a weight of 1, a newspaper article of 8 and a policy document of 3, etc (see ‘How is the Altmetric Attention Score calculated?’).

Each type of attention has its own color: tweets are light blue; newspaper articles are red and policy documents purple etc. In the Research Outputs tab you can see the type(s) of attention received by the publications in the ‘donut’ before the publication. You can also sort the list based on the attention received from a particular source type.
When you click on a title, you are redirected to the Altmetric Details page, with more details about the mentions.

**Timeline**

The Timeline tab gives an overview of mentions over time. This can help you to see ‘sparks’ in the number of mentions, this can be interesting to investigate more closely: what happened?

**Demographics**

The Demographics tab gives you more insight in where the tweets, Facebook posts, news stories and policy documents come from, geographically.

**Mentions**

In this tab you see a list of all the mentions, in chronological order. You can limit by source type, but also search for mentions by specific sources, for example specific twitter accounts or newspapers.

**Journals**

This tab gives an overview of the journals or collections in your list and the types of mentions received.

**Questions to ask when looking at Altmetric data**

- In the Research outputs tab:
  - Compare the colors in the donuts: are there publications with a specific attention profile?
- In the Timeline tab:
  - Do you see ‘sparks’ in the mentions? Is there an explanation for that spark? For example a newspaper article about the research, causing more twitter mentions?
- In the Mentions tab:
  - Limit the mentions to Blog posts and scroll through the list. Do you see blogs that can be interesting for your own research? Has your research been picked up by for example blogs of professional organizations or by researchers from another field?
  - Limit the mentions to Policy documents. What kind of organizations use your work in their policy documents? Has your research been used – for example – in creating guidelines or in advice to governments?
- On the Altmetric details page of a publication:
  - Who has been tweeting about your article? Do you see colleagues who picked up your research or do you see interesting remarks?