



A potential strength of altmetrics is that they track new forms of impact—forms related but not identical to what citation counting shows us. As you can see from the table below, the data supports this claim. Again, Mendeley is the standout, correlating at .448 with Scopus citation counts.

<i>Spearman's ρ</i>	citations (Scopus)	bookmarks (Mendeley)	bookmarks (CiteULike)
citations (Scopus)		.448**	.232**
bookmarks (Mendeley)	.448**		.441**
bookmarks (CiteULike)	.232**	.441**	
<i>N=1136</i>		<i>** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).</i>	

Maturing tools like [total-impact](#) provide much more article-level data including citation on blogs, Twitter, and Wikipedia; we weren't able to include these in this preliminary paper. But continued research in to these and other altmetric sources has real promise to help build a new “[bibliometric spectroscopy](#)” [pdf], expanding and deepening our understanding of scholarly impact. It'll take work to understand and use these new metrics – but they're not going away. Scholars, like the rest of the world, are quickly moving toward a universe of web-native communication.

For more detail, check out the complete conference paper on ArXiv. We'll be presenting it at the STI 2012 Conference in Montreal.

Note: This article gives the views of the author(s), and not the position of the Impact of Social Sciences blog, nor of the London School of Economics

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