

ALL-SIS Discussion Draft

Scholarly Impact Ranking Principles (2020)

In February 2019, U.S. News and World Reports announced they would produce a new Scholarly Impact Ranking. In response to this report, these principles were developed by the American Association of Law Libraries Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section, Library Innovation and Technology Special Interest Section, Law Repositories Caucus and Technical Services Special Interest Section. There is no single measure to fully indicate scholarly output, however the following principles look to help guide responsible and meaningful data collection.

- A metric should identify and control for existing biases based on individual author's race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, ethnicity, class, or nationality.
- A metric should not reproduce biases based on institution or discipline/subject matter prestige.
- A metric should have a methodology that is chosen carefully, can be reverse engineered, and is openly documented.
- A metric should not be based as a matter of convenience on the coverage of a single dataset.
- A metric's dataset, and all related documentation, should be transparent.
- A metric should not exclude scholarship based on format.
- A metric should not place undue value on downloads received on a single platform.
- A metric should prevent manipulation of results by self-citation at the author or institutional level.