Scholarly Impact: a Bibliometric and Altmetric study of the *Journal of Community Informatics*

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Demonstrating scholarly impact is a matter of growing importance. This paper reports on a bibliometric and altmetric analysis conducted on the Journal of Community Informatics (JOCI). Besides the bibliometric analysis the study also looked into JOCI article-level metrics by comparing usage metrics (article views), alternative metrics (Mendeley readership), and traditional citation metrics (Google Scholar citations). The main contribution is to provide more insight into the metrics that could influence the citation impact in Community Informatics research. Furthermore, the study used articlelevel metrics data to identify, compare and rank the most impactful papers published in JOCI over a 12-year period.

Introduction

Community Informatics (CI) is the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to enable and empower the community as a complex sociological phenomenon (Stillman & Linger, 2009). In this convergence of the community with information sciences and technologies, it integrates the oldest social institution of human kind with the newest frontiers of material society (Carroll, Shih & Kropczynski, 2015). Community Informatics, as interdisciplinary research, presents challenges to professional librarians and scholars who aim to characterise and delineate the subject area (Less, 2008). This can negatively affect research impact as measured by citation

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indexes. Global academic literature remains dominated by northern hemisphere research and developed-world models that do not always take into account the specific sociopolitical environment of the developing regions (Alperin, 2015; Neylon et al., 2013) and the challenges faced by researchers from developing and emerging economies (using the characteristics proposed by Roztocki and Weistroffer (2011) to distinguish between developed, emerging, and developing economies).

The global political environment requires transparency, accountability, and demonstrable return-from-investment, and tertiary education institutions are under increasing pressure to provide evidence of the value of the services they provide (Nevlon et al., 2013; Von Solms & Von Solms, 2016). The term impact is generally agreed to refer to the effect of research beyond academia and captures the idea that there are a range of impacts of different types, which may be of different levels of importance to various stakeholders (Neylon et al., 2013). The measuring of research impact is contested (Bornmann, 2014); the criteria include the quality of the research outputs, funding associated with research outputs and the related citations (Neylon et al., 2013; Von Solms & Von Solms, 2016) as measured by bibliometrics and alternative metrics (Bornmann, 2014). Therefore, publishing research outputs and being cited are some of the premier demonstrations of academic success, both to the researchers and sponsoring institutions involved. The CI researcher, like all other researchers, is subjected to performance evaluation measures for the purpose of appointment, promotion, and awarding of grants and research incentives. Against the background of the interdisciplinary CI landscape and the mounting pressure to show research impact, the research question guiding this study is: What research metrics should be considered in supporting CI research impact?

As noted, the concept of research impact is contested. However, a wider discussion of research impact is beyond the scope of this study, which will conclude with the definition of research outputs making impact when they are read, used and/or cited (Von Solms & Von Solms, 2016). The impact of research is assessed by using qualitative measures (peer review) and supplemented with quantitative measures (bibliometric indicators and citation-based metrics). Agarwal et al. (2016: 297) defines bibliometrics as "the process of extracting measureable data through statistical analysis of published research studies and how the knowledge within a publication is used". It is a method to systematically count the number of publications within a discipline. More recently altmetrics (alternative to citation metrics) measures are steadily gaining ground in the global political environment, and research institutions are under increasing pressure to provide evidence of not only scholarly but also societal impact of the research (Bornmann, 2014; Neylon et al., 2013). Altmetrics (also referred to as social media metrics) measure scholarly performance of individual articles based on engagement of scholars and the public with research articles in an online and social media environment (Lin & Fenner, 2013).

In general, three types of research outlets are currently available to disseminate such research outputs, namely journals, conference proceedings, and books. Alternative metrics hold the promise of developing indicators for measuring scholarly work outside these customary outputs (NISO, 2014). These non-standard artefacts can include

software, scientific data sets, video, and images (Galligan & Dyas-Correia, 2013; Kousha & Thelwall, 2015).

Impactful research needs to be done and be seen to be done. The rationale of this study is to investigate traditional citation metrics and altmetric measures in the field of CI research. The landscape of Community Informatics research has similarities and overlaps with Development Informatics (Stillman & Linger, 2009); therefore the literature on bibliometric analysis and authoring patterns in DI is considered relevant to CI research. Based on a recent bibliometric study of the ICT4D field, Naude (2016b) identified an absence of bibliometric studies in this academic area. Alperin (2015) pinpoints the need for studies that investigate the altmetrics of research, journals, and articles published and read in a developing country towards an emerging region's perspective (Alperin et al., 2014). The lack of altmetrics research and data from developing context. In this paper we present a bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Community Informatics (JOCI). JOCI is an international peer-reviewed, online open access journal, established in 2004 to create a space for CI in the academic environment (Less, 2008).

The Ulrich's Global Serials Directory indicates that Journal of Community Informatics (ISSN 1712-4441) is a quarterly publication, published by the Centre for Community Informatics Research in Canada. Ulrich's also indicates poor indexing coverage of JOCI in subject-specific bibliographic and abstract databases, which limits the accessibility, discoverability, and visibility of articles and authors that publish in this journal.

JOCI was selected for analysis due to the emphasis on community and development informatics research and the relevance thereof for CI researchers' profiles. This study which analyses the publication data from 2004 to 2015, complements our previous study (Van Biljon, Naudé, & Lotriet, 2016), which focused on the article production, authorship, and collaboration patterns in JOCI and the correlation between the following article-level indicators: usage metrics (article views), altmetrics (Mendeley readership), and traditional citation metrics (Google Scholar). Furthermore, the indicators were used to identify, compare, and rank the most impactful JOCI articles.

Literature review

Bibliometric and altmetric analyses

A single journal bibliometric study is a quantitative tool to profile and characterise the scholarly literature published in a subject discipline by systematically analysing the articles published in an academic journal in a selected time period. A bibliometric assessment of an individual journal will reveal elements such as publication trends, article productivity and growth, authorship patterns, collaboration style, as well as the influential papers and authors in a research field. A review article by Wan, Anyi, Zainab, Anuar and Anyi (2009) summarises 82 single journal bibliometric studies published between 1998 and 2008 from various disciplines. A number of single journal studies published in all disciplines in the literature show the value of bibliometric analysis

(Bakri & Willett, 2008, 2009; Dwivedi, Lal, Mustafee, & Williams, 2009; Dwivedi, Kiang, Lal, & Williams, 2008; Dwivedi & Kuljis, 2008; Jeyasekar & Saravanan, 2014; Minas, Wright, Zhao, & Kakuma, 2014; Rao, Sharma, Devi, & Muralidhar, 2014; Sanni & Zainab, 2010; Swain, Swain, & Rautaray, 2013; Swain, 2013, 2014; Swain & Panda, 2012).

Citations are an accepted standard of measuring research impact (Von Solms & Von Solms, 2016). Alternative metrics, such as downloads and Mendeley readership hold the promise of developing indicators for measuring scholarly work outside the limitations of traditional citation metrics (NISO, 2014). Mendeley is a reference manager which was launched in 2007 and acquired by Elsevier in April 2013. Mendeley readership can be defined as the number of Mendeley users who have added a paper to their personal Mendeley library. Alternative metrics are particularly useful in interdisciplinary research which challenges the traditional delineation of subject areas. However, to propose altmetrics as a credible measure of research impact it is necessary to consider the correlation between citations and altmetric measures. Table 1 summarises a literature review of the correlation between citations and article views or downloads by considering the comparison detail, the results and the findings.

Comparison detail	Results	Findings	Citation
Google Scholar citations and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) relationship to the 200 top downloaded papers in the RePEc Digital Library in 2006.	A single downloaded paper on average receives twice as many citations from Google Scholar as from SSCI.	Downloads appear to have a moderate relationship with citations.	Chu & Krichel (2007)
Google Scholar citations and downloads by examining the top 50 most downloaded papers between January 2000 and December 2002, published in the journal Intelligent Systems in Accounting, Finance and Management: An International Journal.	The number of downloads and citations were highly correlated.	Downloads are a leading indicator of citations even years into the future.	O'Leary (2009)
Randomised controlled trial of open access publishing involving 3245 articles in 36 journals in the sciences, social sciences and humanities.	Open access articles received significantly more downloads.	Downloads had no effect on article citations within the first three years after publication	Davis (2011)
Evaluated the Scopus citations and download figures for the 50 most viewed articles from five BioMed Central open access oncology journals.	Correlation between downloads and citations was limited.	Limited correlation	Nieder, Dalhaug, & Aandahl (2013)

Table 1: Comparison	of studies on	the correlation	hetween	citations	and downloads
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Differences between citation and downloads from 2002 to 2011 for four ScienceDirect categories that included arts and humanities, computer science, economics, econometrics & finance, and oncology.	Results indicated that 50-140 downloads corresponded to one citation.	The disciplines with the highest download rates were different from those with the highest citation rates.	Gorraiz, Gumpenberge, & Schlögl (2014)
A cross sectional study of the papers published in the <i>International Review of</i> <i>Research in open and distance</i> <i>learning</i> journal, for the period 2008 to October 2013.	A significant and positive relationship between the total number of Google Scholar citations and the number of views or downloads received by the articles.	Significant and positive relationship between the total number of Google Scholar citations and the number of downloads.	(Martinez & Anderson, 2015)

The contrasting findings reveal that there is no clear and decisive answer to the question whether views or downloads can predict citations yet. However, there is some logic inherent to the fact that a paper needs to be downloaded in order to be cited and therefore downloads are considered an important usage metric. It will be used in this study when investigating the metrics that support the sustainability of a CI researcher's profile. Given the increasing impact of social media, it is necessary to consider alternative metrics.

This paper will consider Mendeley readership as the alternative metrics indicator with the most significant correlation to traditional citations. Table 2 summarises studies that compare traditional citation counts with Mendeley readership.

Comparison detail	Results	Findings	Citation	
A sample of 1613 papers published in 2007 in <i>Nature</i> and <i>Science</i> .	The correlations between the Mendeley readership counts, Google Scholar and Web of Science citations showed a nearly perfect relationship.	Statistically significant correlations between the Mendeley readership counts and traditional citation sources.	Li, Thelwall, & Giustini (2012)	
1459 articles published in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, between 2001 and 2010.	Citation counts from Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar were compared to Mendeley readership counts during April 2012.	Significant correlations between Mendeley readership counts and citation counts.	Bar-Ilan (2012)	
Random sample of 20 000 publications, from all disciplines, published between 2005 and 2011 and covered by the Web of Science compared Mendeley, Twitter, Wikipedia and Delicious.	Mendeley had the highest coverage for altmetric data.	Mendeley is currently the leading and most important altmetrics indicator across all research disciplines.	Zahedi, Costas, & Wouters (2014)	
Use and coverage of Mendeley among 71 bibliometricians.	Moderate correlation between Scopus citation counts and Mendeley readership.	Mendeley was the most popular citation manager among the bibliometricians surveyed.	Haustein et al. (2014)	

Table 2 [.]	Comparison	of citations	with Mendeley	v readership
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Scopus articles published between 2004 and 2014 in five broad fields and 50 subfields in agriculture, business, decision science, pharmacy and social sciences.	Positive correlations between Mendeley readership counts and Scopus citation counts for all years examined.	Correlations between citation counts and Mendeley reader counts for journal articles tend to increase over five years and then stabilise.	Thelwall & Sud (2015)
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The findings as presented in the third column of table 2 substantiate the importance of Mendeley as an altmetric indicator for which evidence of correlations with citation counts have been found. This supports the selection of Mendeley readership as an altmetrics indicator during the research design of this paper, to investigate the metrics that support the impact of a CI researcher's profile.

Previous studies on the Journal of Community Informatics

A survey of the literature revealed only one citation study of JOCI and one bibliometric analysis. Less (2008) conducted a citation analysis on 29 articles published in JOCI for the publication years 2004 to 2005. The list of references sections of the 29 articles was analysed. A total of 541 citations were evaluated. The most influential authors, articles and journals were analysed. Dr Michael Gurstein, Executive Director of the Centre for Community Informatics Research, Development and Training (CCIRDT) and Chief Editor of JOCI, was the most influential author, with 93% of articles examined in this study that cited Dr Gurstein. Dr Barry Wellman from University of Toronto was also influential, with 76% articles citing him. Authors with academic affiliations were cited more than authors affiliated with government, corporate or non-profit institutions. The highest number of academics cited was affiliated with the University of Toronto (Canada) and Queensland University of Technology (Australia). The highest number of author citations for an academic institution came from the University of Toronto and for a non-academic institution was the CCIRDT. Results indicated that the largest proportion of authors was affiliated with the academic disciplines of sociology (24.40%), communication (11.20%), and library and information science (11%). The results also showed that most of the publications cited in JOCI were published within the last four or five years.

The bibliometric analysis was performed on the articles published in JOCI for the publication years 2004 to 2015 (Van Biljon et al., 2016). That study presented the article production, authorship and collaboration patterns in JOCI as well as the results of an initial investigation into the correlation between the following article-level indicators: traditional citation metrics (Google Scholar), usage metrics (article views or downloads), and altmetrics (Mendeley readership).

In summary it can be said that the two previous studies that investigated JOCI do not provide the annual distribution or authorship distribution of the article views, Mendeley readership, and Google Scholar citations. Previous analysis on the most influential papers have only been for the publication years 2004 to 2005 whereas this study extends the period to 2015.

Methodology

The Journal of Community Informatics

The focus and scope of JOCI is described on the JOCI website (http://www.ci-journal.net) as follows:

"Community Informatics (CI) is the study and the practice of enabling communities with Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). CI seeks to work with communities towards the effective use of ICTs to improve their processes, achieve their objectives, overcome the "digital divides" that exist both within and between communities, and empower communities and citizens in the range of areas of ICT application including for health, cultural production, civic management, and e-governance, among others. CI is concerned with how ICT can be useful to the range of traditionally excluded populations and communities, and how it can support local economic development, social justice and political empowerment using the Internet. CI is a point of convergence concerning the use of ICTs for diverse stakeholders, including community activists, non-profit groups, policymakers, users/citizens, and the range of academics working across (and integrating) disciplines as diverse as Information Studies, Management, Computer Science, Social Work, Planning and Development Studies. Emerging issues within the CI field include: community access to the internet, community information, online civic participation and community service delivery, community and local economic development, training networks, telework, social cohesion, learning, e-health and e-governance."

The target audience of JOCI is academics, CI practitioners and national and multilateral policy makers. The readership focus of JOCI is global, including the developing world. No subscription or registration is required to access the full-text articles of the journal. The articles are published in HTML and PDF format.

The citation analysis tools available are the academic citation enhanced databases Web of Science (Thomson Reuters) and Scopus (Elsevier), and the free academic search engine and internet resource, Google Scholar. The JOCI is not indexed in Web of Science or Scopus, making the citation enhanced databases unfeasible for a citation study of JOCI. The absence of electronic bibliometric tools and citation data complicates the assessment of scholarly productivity as well as the identification and comparison of popular papers and distinguished authors in the CI discipline. JOCI is discoverable, accessible and visible via the free non-commercial resources Google Scholar and Mendeley Papers crowdsourced research catalogue.

Data collection and analysis

A single journal analysis was the focus of this research study. 260 articles published in the 11 volumes of the open access peer-reviewed Journal of Community Informatics (JOCI) for the period 2004 to 2015 were analysed. Only research articles were included; editorial introductions, reports, points of view, case studies, reviews, commentaries, notes, and cases from the field were excluded. All articles were in English, except for five articles in Spanish and Portuguese that were published in 2007 (volume 3, issue 3). The data for this study was collected during July 2016.

The JOCI bibliographic details for the publication years 2004 to 2015 were imported from Google Scholar into Mendeley. The 260 bibliographic records were exported from Mendeley to Refworks and subsequently to an MS Excel spreadsheet for analysis. Figure 1 shows the data collection process.



Figure 1: Data collection process

The bibliographic data retrieved were checked for completeness. The JOCI contents pages on the online e-journal homepage, published on the free, publicly available, open access journal archive on the JOCI website (http://ci-journal.net), were compared to the bibliographic data downloaded from Google Scholar. Missing bibliographic items were imported from the JOCI website into the Mendeley account. The following descriptive bibliographic details for each article were collected:

- Article title
- Author names
- Source information: journal title, volume and issue
- Year of publication

The number of authors, Google Scholar citations, Mendeley readership and article views were recorded manually and added to the spreadsheet for each article. This study used free web-based public data sources to record the following article-level data:

- Usage data: JOCI article views (i.e. number of times an article was viewed on the JOCI website)
- Mendeley crowdsourced readership scores (i.e. the number of Mendeley users that added a JOCI paper to their personal Mendeley library) (Gunn, 2013).
- Google Scholar citation counts (i.e. number of citations per JOCI article).

The journal usage statistics (article views) that are freely available on the JOCI website (http://ci-journal.net/reports) were recorded on the spreadsheet. All articles had views, except for one 2015 article published in volume 11 number 1.

Mendeley Readership scores are freely available in the Mendeley Papers Research Catalogue (http://www.mendeley.com). To access and search the Mendeley Papers Research Catalogue, users need to register for a free online Mendeley account. A Mendeley Public group was created "Journal of Community Informatics 2004-2015" (https://www.mendeley.com/groups/9033091/journal-of-community-informatics-2004-2015)

The JOCI bibliographic data for the period 2004 to 2015 was shared from a Mendeley account to the public Mendeley group. This enabled the researchers to view and record the Mendeley readership data for each article. Mendeley readership statistics were available for all 260 items. The Mendeley readership data was recorded manually on 14 July 2016 from the Mendeley Group for each article and entered into the Excel spreadsheet.

Each article was searched individually in Google Scholar to find the number of citations it received. The Google Scholar citation data for each item was recorded on the spreadsheet.

The final article count of 260 items of bibliographic data served as the study population for this study. The investigation is limited to one open access journal, which limits the generalisability of the results.

Results and discussion

Article Productivity

Table 3 depicts the article productivity for JOCI over a 12-year period (2004 to 2015). A total of 260 journal articles were published in 11 volumes and 33 issues (excluding the editorial introductions, reports, points of view, case studies, reviews, commentaries, notes, and cases from the field). Table 3 indicates that the highest number of articles was published in 2013, totalling 40 articles and the lowest publication rate was in 2004 with 9 articles, when the journal was launched. The mean number of articles published per year was 21.75.

Year	Volume number	Number of issues	Number of articles	%
2004	1	1	9	3.45
2005	1	2	14	5.36
2006	2	3	28	11.11
2007	3	4	22	8.43

Table 3: JOCI annual number of volumes, issues and articles

2008	4	3	13	4.98
2009	5	3	20	7.66
2010	6	2	18	6.90
2011	7	2	15	5.75
2012	8	3	25	9.58
2013	9	4	40	15.32
2014	10	3	32	12.26
2015	11	3	24	9.20
Total		33	260	100

Authorship

The results for the number of authors per article are depicted in figure 2. Overall 571 authors were involved in publishing the 260 articles in JOCI between 2004 and 2015. Of those articles, 37% had only one author; this was followed by the percentage with two authors (32%) and that with three authors (19%), and so forth. Those with more than six authors (those with 7, 8 and even 11) were all grouped under seven, which add up to 1% of the papers published. From observation it seems like the number of authors. This means that 37% of the 260 articles were single-authored while 165 (63%) were multi-authored articles. This shows that JOCI has a collaborative authorship pattern, with collaboration varying between two and eleven authors. A study by Naude (2016b) of the Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries (EJISDC) research articles, showed similar results, with 34% single-authored compared to 66% multi-authored articles.

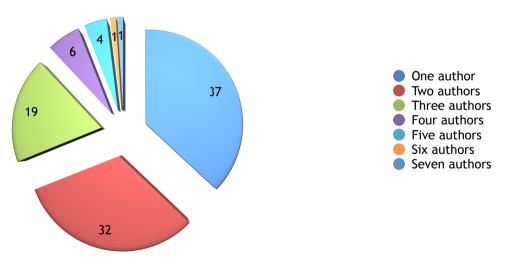


Figure 2: Percentage of number of authors per article

Collaboration

Subramanyam defines the degree of collaboration in a discipline as "the ratio of the number of collaborative research papers to the total number of research papers published in the discipline during a certain period of time" (Subramanyam, 1983, p. 37). Subramanyam's formula: C = Nm/(Ns + Nm), where C = the degree of collaboration, Nm = the number of multi-authored papers, and Ns = number of single-authored papers. This formula was used to calculate the degree of collaboration, as shown in table 4. The degree of collaboration per year varied between a minimum of 0.48 in 2012 and a maximum of 0.80 in 2011. The average degree of collaboration in JOCI was 0.63. Therefore, more than 60% of papers involved collaboration between two or more authors and the collaboration trend shows no signs of diminishing. The results can be compared to the EJISDC study (Naude, 2016a) that showed a similar collaborative publication culture. The overall degree of collaboration in the EJISDC was 0.66.

Year	Single authorship	Multi authorship	Degree of collaboration	Total articles
2004	3	6	0.67	9
2005	5	9	0.64	14
2006	8	20	0.71	28
2007	8	14	0.64	22
2008	6	7	0.54	13
2009	9	11	0.55	20
2010	8	10	0.56	18
2011	3	12	0.80	15
2012	13	12	0.48	25
2013	12	28	0.70	40
2014	11	21	0.66	32
2015	9	15	0.63	24
Total	95	165	0.63	260

Table 4: Degree of collaboration by year

Article-level metrics

The article-level measures captured were article views for the JOCI articles, the Mendeley readership, and the Google Scholar citations.

Annual distribution of Article views, Mendeley readership, and Google Scholar citations

Table 5 shows the annual distribution of article views, Mendeley readership and Google Scholar citations over a 12-year period. The 260 articles in JOCI received a total of 1,668,042 article views, 3,583 Mendeley readers and 2,781 Google Scholar citations, as measured in July 2016. The average (arithmetic mean) number of article views was

139,003, the average Mendeley readership was 298 and Google Scholar citations was 232.

Year	Vol Nr	Nr of articles	%	Article Views	%	Mendeley Readership	%	GS citations	%
2004	1	9	3.45	41519	2.49	102	2.85	284	10.21
2005	1	14	5.36	63215	3.79	324	9.04	615	22.11
2006	2	28	11.11	142140	8.52	455	12.7	512	18.41
2007	3	22	8.43	211030	12.65	272	7.59	209	7.52
2008	4	13	4.98	265574	15.92	180	5.02	228	8.2
2009	5	20	7.66	172884	10.36	205	5.72	111	3.99
2010	6	18	6.90	108975	6.53	212	5.92	121	4.35
2011	7	15	5.75	87896	5.27	222	6.2	102	3.67
2012	8	25	9.58	288794	17.31	441	12.31	335	12.05
2013	9	40	15.32	158978	9.53	470	13.12	144	5.18
2014	10	32	12.26	100838	6.05	391	10.91	113	4.06
2015	11	24	9.20	26199	1.58	309	8.62	7	0.25
Total		260	100	1668042	100	3583	100	2781	100

 Table 5: JOCI annual distribution of Article Views, Mendeley Readership, and
 Google Scholar citations

Authorship distribution of Article Views, Mendeley Readership and Google Scholar citations

Table 6 shows the authorship distribution of article views, Mendeley readership and Google Scholar citations.

 Table 6: JOCI authorship distribution of Article Views, Mendeley Readership and Google Scholar citations

Number of authors	Number of articles	%	Article views	%	Mendeley readershi p	%	GS citations	%
1 author	95	36.54	602328	36.11	1293	36.09	1030	37.04
2 authors	83	31.92	678997	40.71	1228	34.27	1154	41.5
3 authors	50	19.23	255471	15.32	647	18.07	361	12.97
4 authors	15	5.78	67598	4.05	223	6.22	129	4.64
5 authors	11	4.24	39662	2.38	114	3.18	59	2.12
6 authors	3	1.15	13591	0.81	38	1.06	16	0.58
7 authors	1	0.38	4521	0.27	15	0.42	31	1.11
9 authors	1	0.38	3664	0.22	13	0.36	0	0
11 authors	1	0.38	2210	0.13	12	0.33	1	0.04

Total	260	100	1668042	100	3583	100	2781	100	
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Statistical comparison of article views, Mendeley readership and Google Scholar citations

A Spearman correlation analysis was conducted to examine whether there is a relationship between article views, Mendeley readership, and Google Scholar citations. Table 7 shows the relationship (Spearman correlation) between article views, Mendeley readership, and Google Scholar citations:

- A statistically significant and positive linear relationship (p <0.0001) of medium strength (r=0.51; N=260) between article views and Google Scholar citations.
- A statistically significant and positive linear relationship (p <0.0001) of medium strength (r=0.50; N=260) between Google Scholar citations and Mendeley.
- A statistically significant and positive linear relationship (p <0.0001) of medium to weak strength (r=0.25; N=260) between Mendeley readership and article views.

For this journal, the results in table 7 seem to indicate that the highest correlations (Spearman) were between Google Scholar citations and article views, a slightly lower correlation between Google Scholar citations and Mendeley readership, and the lowest correlation was between Mendeley readership and article views.

Variable	Variable	Correlation	Signif Prob
Article views	Google Scholar	0.5116	<.0001*
Mendeley	Google Scholar	0.5001	<.0001*
Article views	Mendeley	0.2558	<.0001*

 Table 7: Spearman correlations between Article views, Mendeley readership and Google Scholar citations

This results can be compared to an article-level metric study of the EJISDC (Naude, 2017) that showed that the highest correlations (Spearman) were between Google Scholar citations and article downloads or views, a slightly lower correlation between Google Scholar citations and Mendeley readership, and the lowest correlation was between downloads and Mendeley readership.

JOCI influential articles

In this study, the impact of JOCI articles was assessed by counting how many times it was viewed, read, or cited. Three article-level indicators were used to sort JOCI articles, based on usage indicators (views in table 8, in the appendix), readership indicators (Mendeley in table 9, in the appendix), and citation indicators (Google Scholar in table 10, in the appendix). The influential articles are listed in tables 8, 9 and 10 and show how the ranking and impact change, depending on the indicator used.

An influential article, for the purpose of this study, is defined as an article that is among the leading 20 articles, ranked by article views, Mendeley readership, or Google Scholar citations, published in the JOCI during the period 2004 to 2015.

Article views

Table 8 (in the appendix) lists the 20 JOCI articles that were viewed the most. It also indicates if the article was among the top 20 influential articles as ranked by Google Scholar citations and Mendeley readership, as indicated by the symbol \checkmark . Of the 20 heavily viewed articles in table 8, five of the articles were among the top articles by Google Scholar citations and five were also among the top articles ranked by Mendeley readership scores.

The most viewed article (143,425 views) was an article by Kate Williams (University of Illinois) and Joan C. Durrance (University of Michigan), published in 2008 with the title "Social networks and Social Capital rethinking theory in community informatics". This article was listed among the top 20 articles by Mendeley readership and by Google Scholar citations.

Mendeley readership

Table 9 (in the appendix) lists the top 20 articles with the highest Mendeley readership scores. It also shows if the article was among the top 20 influential articles as ranked by Google Scholar citations and article views, indicated by the symbol \checkmark . Of the 20 eminent articles listed in table 9, ranked by Mendeley readership scores, twelve were among the top articles by Google Scholar citations and five were also among the top articles ranked by article views.

The article with the most Mendeley readers (85 Mendeley readers) was a solo-authored article by Harekrishna Misra (Institute of Rural Management Anand, India) published in 2015 with the title "Information kiosk based Indian E-Governance service delivery: Value chain based measurement modelling" This article was not listed among the top 20 articles ranked by Google Scholar citations or by article views.

Google Scholar citations

Table 10 (in the appendix) lists the articles with the most Google Scholar citations. It also shows if the articles were among the top 20 influential articles as ranked by Mendeley readership and article views, indicated by the symbol \checkmark . Of the 20 eminent articles in table 10 ranked by Google Scholar citations, 12 were among the top articles by Mendeley readership and five were also among the top articles ranked by article views.

The most cited article (134 Google Scholar citations) was by Ke Pigg and L.D. Crank (University of Missouri), published in 2004 entitled "Building community social capital: The potential and promise of information and communications technologies".

This article was not listed among the top 20 viewed articles, but as a top 20 article by Mendeley readership.

Top articles by Article views, Mendeley Readership, and Google Scholar Citations

Table 11 lists the four top JOCI articles overall in the publication period 2004 to 2015. This represents the overlap in the top 20 articles (tables 8, 9, and Tale 10) as ranked by article view statistics, Mendeley readership scores, and Google Scholar citations. Only the four articles listed in table 11 are among the top 20 articles that were the most viewed, had a high Mendeley readership, and were highly cited in Google Scholar. All four articles were authored in developed countries.

Rank	Article Title	Year	Authors	Affiliation	Country	Article views	Mendeley	GS
1	Social networks and Social Capital rethinking theory in community informatics	2008	K Williams J. C. Durrance	Univ. of Illinois Univ. of Michigan	USA USA	143425	32	105
2	This is what modern deregulation looks like: co-optation and contestation in the shaping of the UK's Open Government Data Initiative	2012	J. Bates	Manchester Metropoli- tan University	UK	22469	52	68
3	Too old for technology? How the elderly of Lisbon use and perceive ICT	2012	B.B. Neves F. Amaro	Univ. of Lisbon Univ. of Lisbon	Portugal Portugal	43828	66	50
4	Towards participatory action design research: adapting action research and design science research methods for urban informatics	2011	M. Bilandzic J. Venable	Queensland Univ. of Technology Curtin University	Australia Australia	18689	50	38

Table 11: Top articles by Article views, Mendeley readership and Google Scholar citations

Conclusions

There are unique challenges that confound the dissemination and impact measuring of CI research. This investigation revealed that JOCI has poor indexing coverage in commercial subject and bibliographic databases, complicating the accessibility, discoverability, and visibility of CI research. Focusing on JOCI as the main journal for the dissemination of CI research, it is concluded that traditional citation metrics have limited application in CI, due to the exclusion of JOCI in the sophisticated commercial electronic citation tools (Scopus and Web of Science) used to conduct bibliometric and citation assessments. This is intensified by the shortage of high-impact journals in the

CI discipline, the open access status of the journal and the interdisciplinary nature of the field (Naude, 2016a).

The bibliometric analysis presented in this paper sheds light on the article production and authorship over a 12-year period and showed that CI is characterised by a collaborative or multi-authorship style. Furthermore, the coverage of JOCI in the new and emerging altmetric tools such as Mendeley, shows the increasing importance of new generation metrics, and highlights the significance of a multi-metric approach in measurement and evaluation of CI researchers or CI article impact. In response to the question, namely what research metrics should be considered in supporting CI research impact, it was thus concluded that altmetric indicators such as Mendeley readership or article views can be considered.

Given the complexities mentioned around CI as an interdisciplinary field and the lack of bibliometric data, the addition of altmetrics can make an important contribution to demonstrating research impact by drawing on a wider, richer and more representative data set. The limitation of this study is that it focuses only on JOCI, and therefore more research is needed to compare altmetrics measures from related journals.

The usage data, altmetric data, and citation metric data were used to identify and compare the influential articles published in JOCI. In the absence of electronic citation tools to find the most cited papers, this analysis is valuable in that it gives an indication of the JOCI articles with the highest usage, readership and citation over a 12-year period. The result is a portrait of the leading papers in the field of CI.

In a single journal bibliometric study on EJISDC research articles (2000-2013), Naude (2016b) found that single-authored papers are cited more often than multi-authored papers. This JOCI study did not examine the relationship between citations and the number of authors in this study, but further exploration would be useful. The strong positive correlation found between citations (in Google Scholar) and the altmetric indicator (of Mendeley readership) supports the use of Mendeley as an altmetrics measure and the potential of altmetrics as a measure of research impact in the CI field. Altmetrics can indicate the broader impact of CI research on societies and communities, that cannot be measured by traditional citation metrics (Bornmann, 2014). Altmetrics can reveal the engagement of wider non-academic audiences, for example public, communities, stakeholders, and CI practitioners with CI research. Given the complications with visibility of research from developing and emerging economies, this is an important insight towards ensuring equitable representation of research impact.

The purpose of this study was to investigate research metrics to support the impact of CI research. Based on the JOCI analysis (2004-2015) and the strong positive correlation between traditional citations measures and altmetrics we propose that altmetric should be considered in measuring CI research impact. However, more research is needed to consider other CI journals and to investigate the correlations between other alternative metric measures (like Twitter and Facebook) and traditional citation measures, before the findings can be generalised.

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Appendix

Table 8: Top 20 JOCI articles ranked by article views

Rank	Article Title	Year	No of authors	Authors	Affiliation	Affiliated country	Article views	GS	Mendeley
1	Social networks and Social Capital rethinking theory in community informatics	2008	2	K Williams J. C. Durrance	University of Illinois University of Michigan	USA USA	143425	105√	32√
2	Too old for technology? How the elderly of Lisbon use and perceive ICT	2012	2	B.B. Neves F. Amaro	University of Lisbon University of Lisbon	Portugal	43828	50√	66√
3	Guidelines for designing deliberative digital habitats: learning from e- participation for open data initiatives	2012	1	F. De Cindio	Università degli Studi di Milano	Italy	35337	23	27√
4	Sostenibilidad de proyectos de desarrollo con nuevas tecnologias: el caso de la organizacion de regantes y su sistema de información en Huaral (Spanish)	2007	1	J.F. Bossio	Not indicated	Peru	24595	4	12
5	MyKnet.org: How Northern Ontario's First Nation Communities Made Themselves At Home On The World Wide Web	2009	3	P. Budka B. Bell A. Fiser	University of Vienna Univ. of Prince Edward Island University of Toronto	Austria Canada Canada	23553	24	12
6	Stakeholders' perceptions of the impact of a Global System for Mobile Communication on Nigeria's rural economy: Implication for an emerging communication Industry	2007	4	T. Adeyinka J.O. Ajiboye A.O Emmanuel J.I. Wojuade	University of Botswana University of Botswana University of Ibadan University of Ibadan	Botswana Botswana Nigeria Nigeria	23390	12	9
7	The role of social entrepreneurs in deploying ICTs for youth and community development in South Africa	2009	1	C. J. Evoh	New School University	USA	23255	9	11
8	This is what modern deregulation looks like : co-optation and contestation in the shaping of the UK's Open Government Data Initiative	2012	1	J. Bates	Manchester Metropolitan University	UK	22469	68√	52√
9	Call Centres and their Role in E-governance: A Developing Country Perspective	2008	2	S. As-Saber K. Hossain	Monash University Oxfam	Australia Bangladesh	22269	4	10
10	Anytime? Anywhere?: Reframing Debates Around Community and Municipal Wireless Networking	2008	1	L. Forlano	Columbia University	USA	19201	35√	21
11	The Potential And Limits Of Mobile Phone For Development In Africa: Top- Down-Meets-Bottom-Up Partnering	2012	2	L. Hosman E. Fife	Illinois Institute of Technology University of Southern California	USA USA	19072	3	11
12	Towards participatory action design research : adapting action research and design science research methods for urban informatics	2011	2	M. Bilandzic J. Venable	Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Curtin University, Perth	Australia	18689	38√	50√
13	Unintended Behavioural Consequences of Publishing Performance Data: Is More Always Better?	2012	2	S. McGinnes K.M. Elandy	Trinity College Trinity College	Ireland Ireland	18049	8	19

7	Towards participatory action design research : adapting action research and design science research methods for urban informatics	2011	2	M. Bilandzic J. Venable	Queensland Univ. of Technology Curtin University	Australia Australia	50	38√	18689√
8	Social Impact and Diffusion of Telecenter Use: A Study from the Sustainable Access in Rural India Project	2006	2	R. Kumar M.L. Best.	Massachusetts Inst. of Technology Georgia Institute of Technology	USA USA	42	88√	5684
9	Is Community Informatics good for communities? Questions confronting an emerging field	2005	1	R. Stoecker	University of Toledo	USA	40	87√	4548
10	A Research Design to Build Effective Partnerships between City Planners, Developers, Government and Urban Neighbourhood Communities	2006	2	M. Foth B. Adkins	Queensland Univ. of Technology	Australia	35	30	5561
11	Building community social capital: The potential and promise of information and communications technologies	2004	2	K.E. Pigg L. D. Crank	University of Missouri University of Missouri	USA USA	32	134√	12851
12	Social networks and Social Capital rethinking theory in community informatics	2008	2	K Williams J. C. Durrance	University of Illinois University of Michigan	USA USA	32	105√	143425√
13	A review on mHealth research in developing countries	2013	3	W. Chigona M. Nyemba-Mudenda A.S. Metfula	University of Cape Town University of Cape Town University of Cape Town	South Africa South Africa South Africa	32	15	8276
14	An Interpretivist Case Study of a South African Rural Multi-Purpose Community Centre	2005	2	J-P. Van Belle J. Trusler	University of Cape Town University of Cape Town	South Africa South Africa	28	35√	5647
15	The value of Community Informatics to participatory urban planning and design: a case-study in Helsinki	2010	2	J.C. Saad-Sulonen L. Horelli	Aalto University Aalto University	Finland Finland	28	29	9499
16	Sustaining Community Access to Technology: Who should pay and why	2005	2	V.N. Rideout A.J. Reddick	University of New Brunswick University of New Brunswick	Canada Canada	27	48√	3312
17	Some perspectives on understanding the adoption and implementation of ICT interventions in developing countries	2007	3	M. Ashraf P. Swatman J. Hanisch	University of South Australia University of South Australia University of South Australia	Australia Australia Australia	27	20	9284
18	Guidelines for designing deliberative digital habitats: learning from e- participation for open data initiatives	2012	1	F. De Cindio	Università degli Studi di Milano	Italy	27	23	35337√
19	Mapping the Virtual in Social Sciences: On the Category of "Virtual Community"	2006	2	S. Proulx G. Latzko-Toth	Université du Québec Université du Québec	Canada Canada	26	12	4955
20	Inside the "People of the Wheelbarrows": participation between online and offline dimension in the post-quake social movement	2010	2	M. Farinosi E. Trere	University of Udine University of Udine	Italy Italy	26	28	11299

14	The Rhetoric of Transparency and its Reality: Transparent Territories, Opaque Power and Empowerment	2012	1	B. Raman	French Institute at Pondicherry	India	17352	13	15
15	La Promocion de las TIC para el Desarrollo y los Pueblos Indigenas: Extension o Comunicación? (Spanish)	2007	2	S.M. Urquiaga E.H. Velazquez	Not indicated	Mexico	16543	3	8
16	Digital technology access and use among socially and economically disadvantaged groups in South Australia	2010	3	L.A. Newman K. Biedrzycki F. Baum	Flinders University Flinders University Flinders University	Australia Australia Australia	16280	24	21
17	Economic and social empowerment of women through ICT: a case study of Palestine	2009	1	K. S. Rabayah	Arab American University	Palestine	15501	5	1
18	Towards Place-peer community and civic bandwidth: a case study in community wireless networking	2008	1	H Hye-Na Cho	Hallym University	Korea	15069	17	14
19	E-Governance in the Developing World in Action: The case of districtNet in Uganda	2008	2	A de Jager V. van Reijswoud	International Institute for Communication and Development Divine Word University	Netherlands Papua New Guinea	14722	15	8
20	From associations to info-sociations: civic associations & ICTs in two Asian cities	2012	1	D. Sadoway	University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China	13204	10	9

Table 9: Top 20 JOCI articles ranked by Mendeley Readership

Rank	Article Title	Year	No of authors	Authors	Affiliation	Affiliated country	Mendeley	GS	Article views
1	Information kiosk based Indian E-Governance service delivery: Value chain based measurement modelling	2015	1	H. Misra	Institute of Rural Management Anand	India	85	1	1124
2	Community Informatics and Sustainability: Why Social Capital Matters	2005	1	L.E. Simpson	Queensland Univ. of Technology	Australia	80	119√	7666
3	Using a sustainable livelihoods approach to assessing the impact of ICTs in development	2006	2	S. Parkinson R. Ramirez	University of Guelph University of Guelph	Canada Canada	67	75√	10047
4	Too old for technology? How the elderly of Lisbon use and perceive ICT	2012	2	B.B. Neves F. Amaro	University of Lisbon University of Lisbon	Portugal Portugal	66	50√	43828√
5	This is what modern deregulation looks like : co-optation and contestation in the shaping of the UK's Open Government Data Initiative	2012	1	J. Bates	Manchester Metropolitan Univ.	UK	52	68√	22469√
6	Digital Inclusion Without Social Inclusion: The consumption of information and communication Technologies (ICTs) in Homeless Subculture in Central Scotland	2006	1	C.E. Bure	University of Edinburgh	Scotland	50	53√	7679

Rank	Article Title	Year	No of authors	Authors	Affiliation	Affiliated Country	GS	Mendeley	Article views
1	Building community social capital: The potential and promise of information and communications technologies	2004	2	K.E. Pigg L. D. Crank	University of Missouri University of Missouri	USA USA	134	32√	12851
2	Community Informatics and Sustainability: Why Social Capital Matters	2005	1	L.E. Simpson	Queensland University of Technology	Australia	119	80√	7666
3	Cybercafes and their potential as Community Development Tools in India	2005	1	A.M. Haseloff	Universität Augsburg	Germany	113	23	4623
4	Social networks and Social Capital rethinking theory in community informatics	2008	2	K Williams J. C. Durrance	University of Illinois University of Michigan	USA USA	105	32√	143425√
5	Social Impact and Diffusion of Telecenter Use: A Study from the Sustainable Access in Rural India Project	2006	2	R. Kumar M.L. Best.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Georgia Institute of Technology	USA USA	88	42√	5684
6	Is Community Informatics good for communities? Questions confronting an emerging field	2005	1	R. Stoecker	University of Toledo	USA	87	40√	4548
7	Crisis, Farming & Community	2005	2	C. Hagar C. Haythornthwaite	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	USA USA	77	7	5995
8	Using a sustainable livelihoods approach to assessing the impact of ICTs in development	2006	2	S. Parkinson R. Ramirez	University of Guelph University of Guelph	Canada Canada	75	67√	10047
9	This is what modern deregulation looks like : co-optation and contestation in the shaping of the UK's Open Government Data Initiative	2012	1	J. Bates	Manchester Metropolitan University	UK	68	52√	22469√
10	Digital Inclusion Without Social Inclusion: The consumption of information and communication Technologies (ICTs) in Homeless Subculture in Central Scotland	2006	1	C.E. Bure	University of Edinburgh	Scotland	53	50√	7679
11	Too old for technology? How the elderly of Lisbon use and perceive ICT	2012	2	B.B. Neves F. Amaro	University of Lisbon University of Lisbon	Portugal Portugal	50	66√	43828√
12	Sustaining Community Access to Technology: Who should pay and why	2005	2	V.N. Rideout A.J. Reddick	University of New Brunswick University of New Brunswick	Canada Canada	48	27√	3312
13	Open Government Data and the Right to Information: Opportunities and Obstacles	2012	1	K. Janssen	University of Leuven	Belgium	46	14	12992
14	The Impacts of Community Telecentres in Rural Colombia	2006	4	F. Amariles O.P. Paz N. Russell N. Johnson	Cgiar Colnodo, Administration Cgiar Cgiar	Colombia Colombia Colombia Colombia	44	17	7774
15	Towards participatory action design research : adapting action research and design science research methods for urban informatics	2011	2	M. Bilandzic J. Venable	Queensland Univ. of Technology Curtin University	Australia Australia	38	50√	18689√

Table 10: Top 20 JOCI articles ranked by Google Scholar Citations

The Journal of Community Informatics

16	An Interpretivist Case Study of a South African Rural Multi-Purpose Community Centre	2005	2	J-P. Van Belle J. Trusler	University of Cape Town University of Cape Town	South Africa South Africa	35	28√	5647
17	Anytime? Anywhere?: Reframing Debates Around Community and Municipal Wireless Networking	2008	1	L. Forlano	Columbia University	USA	35	21	19201√
18	n-Logue: The story of a rural service provider in India	2004	3	A. Jhunjhunwala A. Ramachandran A. Bandyopadhyay	Indian Institute of Technology TeNet TeNet	India India India	32	14	6197
19	A Way Forward: Sustainable ICTs and Regional sustainability	2005	4	G. Hearn M. Kimber J. Lennie L. Simpson	Queensland Univ. of Technology Queensland Univ. of Technology Queensland Univ. of Technology Queensland Univ. of Technology	Australia Australia Australia Australia	32	23	4022
20	The Canadian Research Alliance for Community Innovation and Networking (CRACIN): A research partnership and Agenda for Community Networking in Canada	2004	7	A. Clement M. Gurstein G. Longford R. Luke M. Moll L.R. Shade D. DeChief	University of Toronto New Jersey Institute of Technology University of Toronto University of Toronto Ontario Concordia University Concordia University	Canada Canada Canada Canada Canada Canada Canada	31	15	4521