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Assessing the impact of biomedical research

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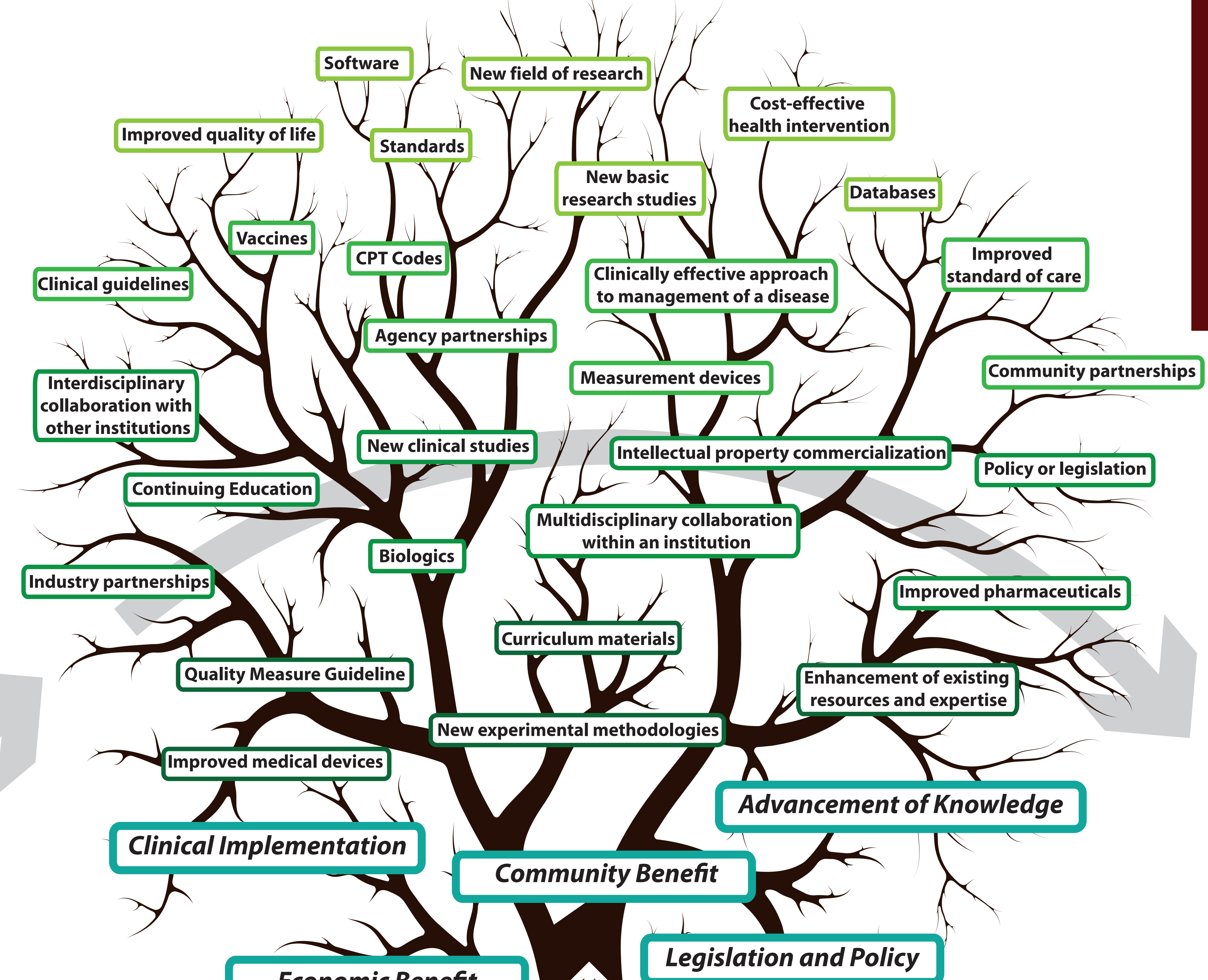
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Assessing the Impact of Biomedical Research

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PATHWAYS TO RESEARCH IMPACT



"It is no longer enough to measure what we can – we need to measure what matters."
-- Wells & Whitworth

The Becker Medical Library Model for Assessment of Research Impact represents a practical, do-it-yourself tool for tracking the impact of biomedical research. The Model includes guidance for quantifying and documenting research impact as well as resources for locating evidence of research impact.

The Becker Model can assist with the discovery process by providing a framework to document research outputs and activities, identify collaborative efforts, and assess the diffusion of knowledge and resulting research impact for an individual author or research group.

Research Outputs are the products created or generated from basic or clinical research (research data) and products disseminated by the research study investigators that discuss or interpret the findings of the research study.

Knowledge Transfer represents awareness and/or use of research outputs. Subsequent use of the research output can be by the same study investigators or by another group.

Clinical implementation is the application or adoption of research outputs in clinical practice.

Community Benefit is the enhancement of community health outcomes as a result of research outputs.

Legislation and Policy Enactment represents codification of research outputs into public law, guidelines, standards or policy.

The Becker Model



<http://becker.wustl.edu/impact/assessment/>

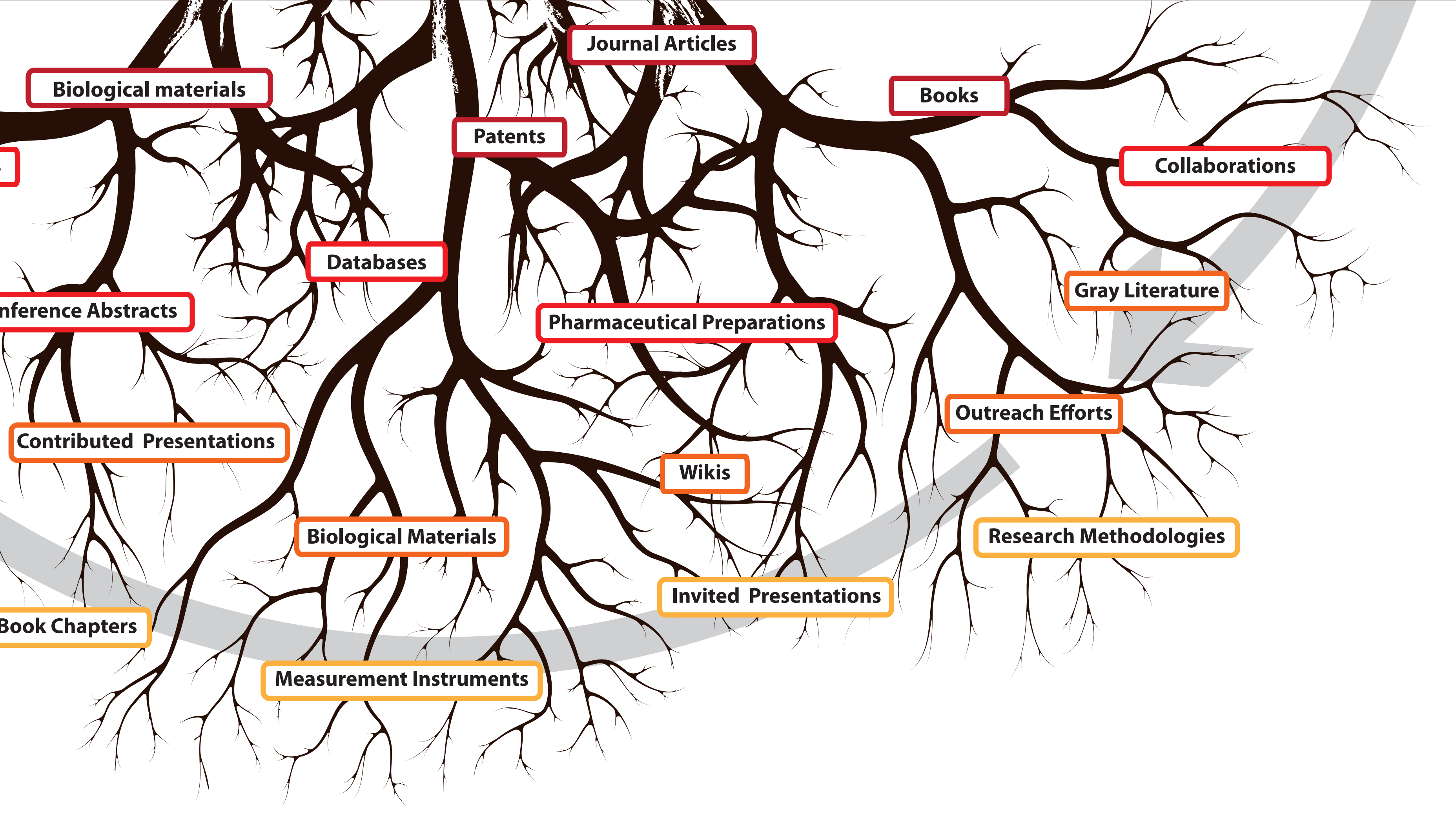
Improving access and retrieval of your research study is the surest way to enhance its impact. Repetition, consistency, and an awareness of the intended audience form the basis for the recommended strategies.



The Becker Medical Library Model for Assessment of Research Impact is in process of being revised. Please contact us with suggestions for additions or improvements.

In order to see all the leaves on the tree, i.e., research impact, one must go beyond traditional citation analysis and metrics.

To understand the true impact of research, it is necessary to analyze the research study process in the clinical and biomedical research environment to identify tangible indicators of research impact that are not readily discernible using citation analysis.



RESEARCH PROCESS & OUTPUTS

The Model provides a reporting template and an example of a completed report

Benefits of Assessment of Research Impact

- Quantify and document research impact
- Justify future requests for funding
- Quantify return on research investment
- Discover how research findings are being used
- Identify similar research projects
- Identify possible collaborators
- Determine if research findings are duplicated, confirmed, corrected, improved or repudiated
- Determine if research findings were extended (different human populations, different animal models/species, etc.)
- Confirm that research findings were properly attributed/credited
- Demonstrate that research findings are resulting in meaningful health outcomes
- Discover community benefit as a result of research findings
- Progress Reports
- Tenure and Promotion dossiers