

Alternative Impact Measurement for Scholarly Publications

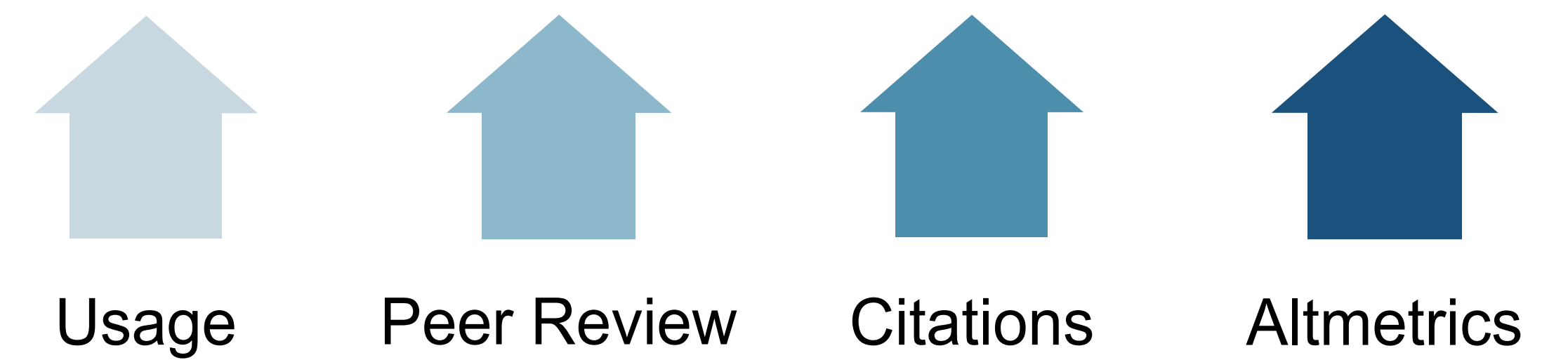
Scientific Impact

The influence and reputation of scientists are to a large part determined by the widespread dissemination and scientific reception of their publications. The common currency for measuring the visibility of scientific publications is primarily the citation-based impact factor.

Nevertheless, the impact of a scientific publication is a multidimensional construct and cannot be determined adequately using a single indicator, although some measures are more suitable than others, as Bollen et al. stated in 2009. This multidimensional approach is shared by the authors of the altmetrics manifesto, where scientific impact is represented in the four pillars usage (downloads, views), peer-review (expert opinion), citations, and altmetrics (storage, links, bookmarks, conversations).

Scientists increasingly carry out their work online to work collaboratively with other scholars and to publish their research online on repositories, in open access journals or blogs. These platforms offer the possibility to enrich publications with comments, citations or references and are thus attractive alternatives to traditional forms of scholarly communication. Additionally, reference management software, social research networks and micro blogging platforms have gained importance for many researchers to share their research and findings.

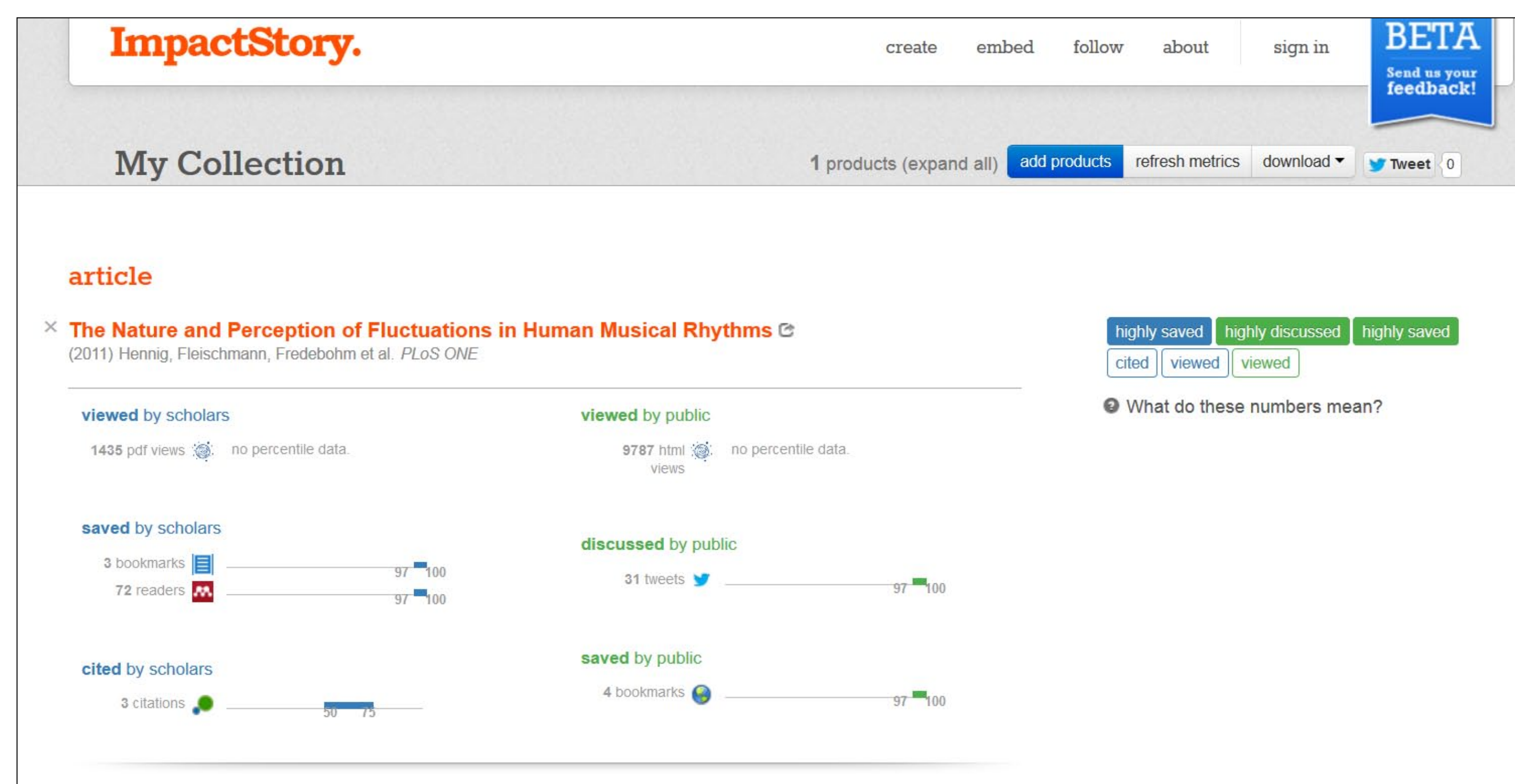
Impact



The dissemination of scientific output on the internet opens up new possibilities for impact measurement. Apart from the absolute number of downloads and views, measuring the ways scientific publications are discussed and shared on social networks can also determine their impact. This new kind of scientific impact measurement is summarised under the term altmetrics.

Altmetrics in the Wild

An increasing number of content providers are considering ways to integrate altmetrics into their services. Publishers as well as repositories either collect the data themselves or rely on third-party services providing the data free of charge. In addition to altmetrics some platforms also include journal citations and usage statistics to illustrate a publication's combined impact.



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Inspired by the work of the project of