

# InfoMania



June 2015

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR :

Welcome to this first edition of Infomania for 2015. What do we have in stock for you this time?

We held an Easter Egg hunt in April and the surprised students really enjoyed it.

We introduce you to a new way of measuring the impact of your research output by explaining the alternative methods to track and analyse the online activity of your hard work.

We have received the research output figures for 2014 and we analysed the results and created some interesting tables and visual explanation of some of the data. We created a list of all the journals used for publishing last year at the Faculty and at the same discuss the new trend of "Predatory Journals".

Two of the Soga library's personnel tell us more about the Article Writing workshop they attended. Perhaps this worthwhile workshop can be presented at the Onderstepoort Campus as well.

And last but not least, we introduce you to the new "MakerSpace" in Merensky Library, a first for South African Universities!

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Infomania*, keeping you up-to-date on the latest happenings in your information world.

**Tertia Coetsee (Editor)**

This newsletter is also available electronically at  
<http://www.library.up.ac.za/vet/infomania.htm>

## Alternative metrics, altmetrics or article level metrics

### Susan Marsh

Traditional bibliometrics such as impact factor and citation analyses are by now well-known and established methods to determine scholarly impact on a formal basis. These formal bibliometrics are heavily relied on to evaluate researchers and the research output of an institution.

An alternative method of determining the impact of scholarly publications has started to gain momentum and interest among the scholarly community. With the overall presence of social media tools and easier online discoverability of scholarly articles, this development was inevitable.

Online activity around scholarly publications on social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Google+, Pinterest, newspapers, magazines etc. and open online reference managers such as Mendeley and CiteULike provide data for alternative metrics. Through this the more immediate impact of an article can be determined because metrics can be obtained much quicker than with traditional metrics.

The concept 'Article level metrics' was introduced in 2009 by the Public Library of Science (Plos - a non-profit open access scientific publishing project aimed at creating a library of open access journals and other scientific literature under an open content license).

Apart from determining the popularity of an article, altmetrics or article level metrics can be used to discover relevant research networks. Researchers get a richer picture of their research impact and can establish in which network their articles are appreciated.

In 2011 Eduan Adie introduced the London-based service [Altmetric.com](http://Altmetric.com). [This service has a mission](#) to track and analyse the online activity around scholarly literature.

They are of the opinion that...

- Authors should be able to see the attention that their articles are receiving in real-time.

- Publishers, librarians and repository managers should be able to show authors and readers the conversations surrounding their content.
- Editors should be able to quickly identify commentary where a response is required and
- Researchers should be able to see which recent papers their peers think are interesting.

*Altmetric* defines an altmetric score for an article as a score that displays the quality and quantity of the attention an article receives in the scholarly community. The score is based on three factors:

- The number of individuals mentioning a paper
- Where the article is mentioned
- How often the author of each mention talks about the article



*Example of Altmetric data for a publication in Scopus*

Almost two years ago the publisher Wiley decided to partner with the service *Altmetric* and launched a trial on article level metrics for a number of their open access journals. In July 2014 they decided to roll it out for all their open access journals.

Elsevier's abstract and citation database Scopus, also makes use of the *Altmetric* service to measure the social and mainstream media mentions about scholarly

articles. The information appears in the Scopus database in the sidebar for documents where data is available.

Though it's unlikely that altmetrics will replace the traditional form of bibliometrics, it definitely adds value by revealing the social impact of an article.

For more info:

- <http://www.altmetric.com/about.php>
- <http://support.altmetric.com/knowledgebase/articles/83246-altmetric-for-scopus>
- <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2013/05/20/article-level-metrics-painting-a-fuller-picture/>
- <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2011/02/18/article-metrics-and-discoverability/>
- <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2014/10/08/uncovering-the-mysteries-behind-the-metrics/>
- <http://exchanges.wiley.com/blog/2014/07/08/altmetric-is-now-on-board-for-all-wiley-journals/>

## Staff matters



Marina Smit, one of our after-hours desk assistants, resigned at the end of January 2015 as her studies required more of her time. She has been part of the team since May 2014. Unfortunately due to budget constraints in 2015, the vacancy could not be filled. Four of the library's permanent staff members, Antoinette Lourens, Marguerite Nel, Susan Marsh & Tertia Coetsee will

therefore be sharing the after-hours post with the remaining student staff member, Myra-Rose Marais.

## Easter Egg hunt April 2015



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a big success and provided lots of fun. Students couldn't believe their eyes when they found Easter eggs all over the library. All the eggs except for one were found by the students. The one not found by the students was found by one of the librarians while on Saturday duty. How lucky can one be! It was immediately eaten.

## List of journals used for publishing during 2014 by the Faculty of Veterinary Science

Antoinette Lourens

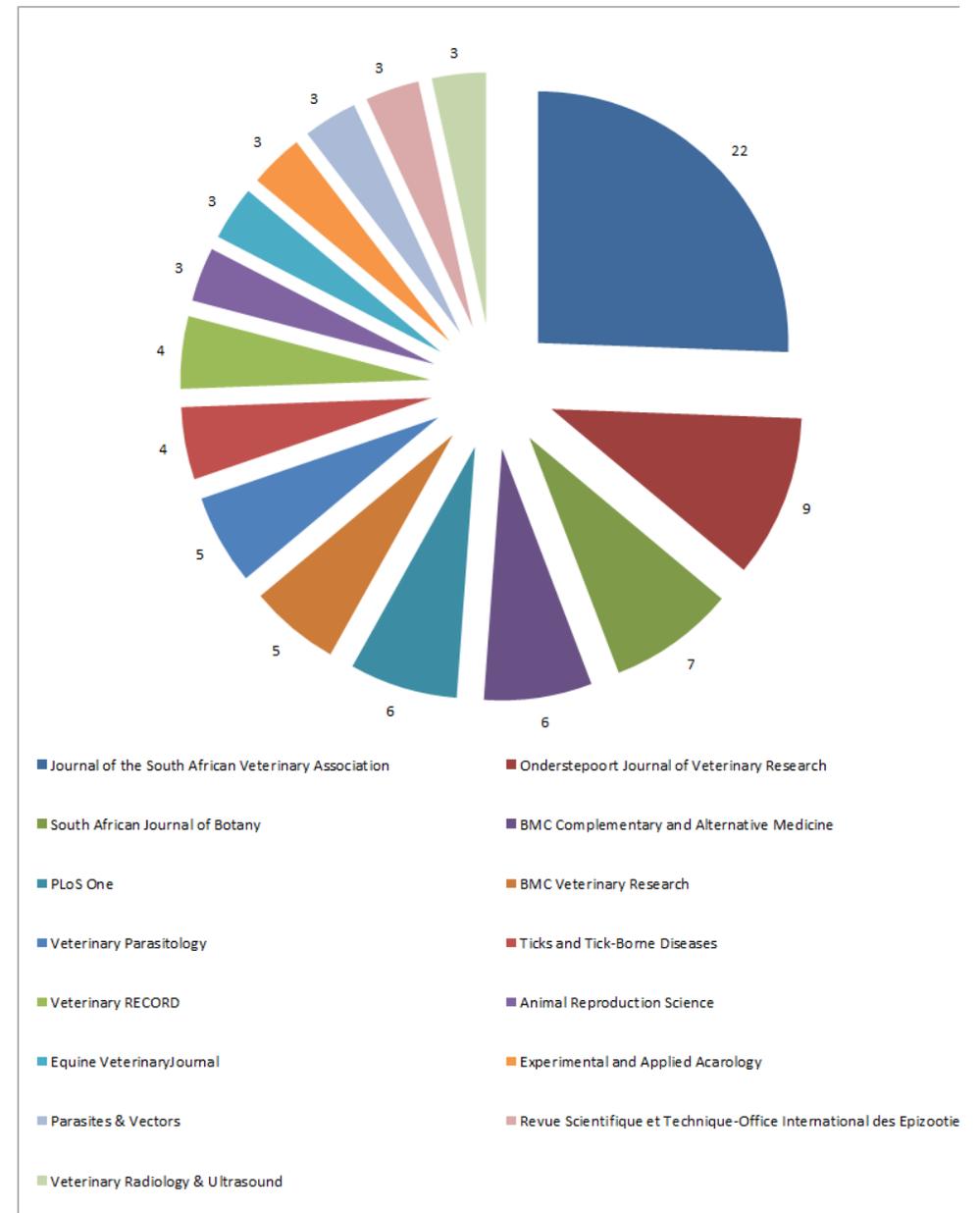
Journal Title	Articles
Acta Ethologica	1
Acta Tropica	1
Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica	1
African Journal Of Aquatic Science	1
African Journal of Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicines	1
African Zoology	1
Anatomia Histologia Embryologia	2
Anatomical Record-Advances in Integrative Anatomy and Evolutionary Biology	1
Animal Reproduction Science	3
Archives of Virology	1
Avian Diseases	1
Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy	1
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine	6
BMC Genomics	1
BMC Infections Diseases	1
BMC Veterinary Research	5
Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research	2
Canadian Veterinary Journal	1
Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology A-Molecular & Integrative Physiology	1
Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology C-Toxicology & Pharmacology	1
Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety	1

Equine Veterinary Education	2
Equine Veterinary Journal	3
European Journal of Wildlife Research	1
Eurosurveillance	1
Experimental and Applied Acarology	3
Food Chemistry	1
Food Control	1
Freshwater Biology	1
Genetica	1
Heredity	1
Infection Genetics and Evolution	1
Journal of Animal Science	1
Journal of Dairy Science	2
Journal of Environmental Science and Health Part A- Toxic/Hazardous Substances & Environmental Engineering	1
Journal of Ethopharmacology	2
Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery	1
Journal of Food Protection	1
Journal of Heredity	1
Journal of Medical Primatology	1
Journal of Morphology	1
Journal of Parasitology	1
Journal of the South African Veterinary Association	22
Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation	2
Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care	2
Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine	1

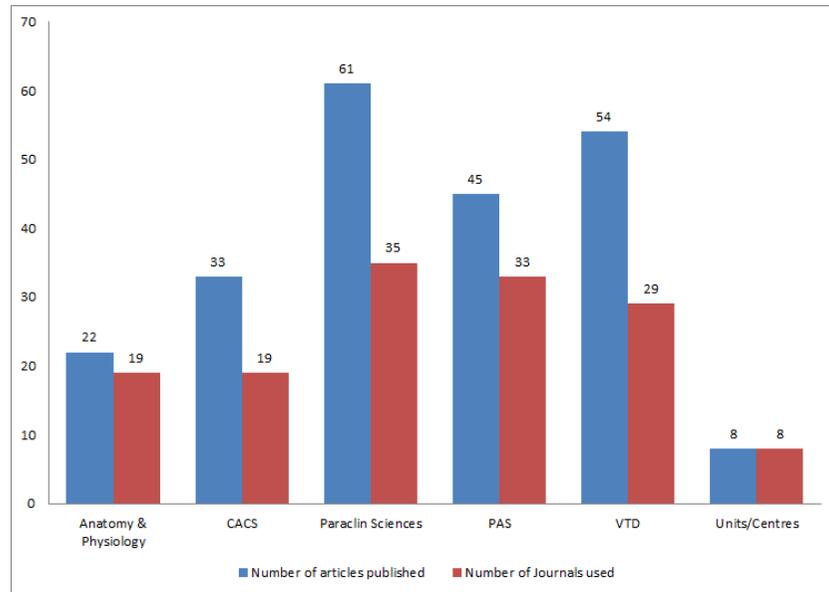
Journal of Virological Methods	2
Journal of Wildlife Diseases	1
Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine	1
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association	1
Lipids in Health and Disease	1
Malaria Journal	1
Marine and Freshwater Research	1
Molecules	1
Neuroendocrinology	1
New Zealand Veterinary Journal	1
Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research	9
Parasites & Vectors	3
Parasitology	3
Pharmaceutical Biology	1
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society :- B Biological Sciences	1
Phytochemistry Letters	1
PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases	1
PLoS One	6
Poultry Science	1
Preventive Veterinary Medicine	2
Research in Veterinary Science	1
Revue Scientifique et Technique- Office International des Epizooties	3
Science	2
Small Ruminant Research	2
South African Dental Journal (Journal of the Dental Association of South Africa)	1

South African Journal of Botany	7
Southern African Journal of Anesthesia and Analgesia	1
Therogenology	2
Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases	4
Toxicon	1
Transboundary and Emerging Diseases	2
Tropical Animal Health and Production	2
Vaccine	1
Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases	1
Veterinaria Italiana	1
Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia	1
Veterinary Clinical Pathology	1
Veterinary Dermatology	1
Veterinary Journal	2
Veterinary Microbiology	2
Veterinary Ophthalmology	1
Veterinary Parasitology	5
Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound	3
Veterinary Record	4
Veterinary Research	1
Veterinary Surgery	2
Virus Research	1
Water Air and Soil Pollution	2
Water Research	1
Water SA	1
Zootaxa	1

## The Top 15 journals used for publishing during 2014



## Number of articles published per department as well as number of journals used to do so.



## Predatory open access journals

### Susan Marsh

“Predatory open access journals” is probably by now a term that many researchers have heard. It is a term conceived by the University of Colorado Denver librarian and researcher Jeffrey Beall.

Predatory open access journals collect author fees or article processing charges (APC's) like many authentic open access journals. Their main aim though is not to further scientific knowledge but to gain as much income as possible.

Although deceptive publication practices have been present long before the open access movement, the emergence and success of fee-charging open access journals paved the way for more deception.

Jeffrey Beall compiled a list of potential, possible or probable predatory open access publishers and journals. This has become a convenient tool to use in identifying these journals, although his list has received considerable criticism from various individuals who felt that some of the journals on the list were not predatory, but rather of low quality.

Regardless of the criticism, the criteria he used to compile his list are regarded as an excellent starting point to identify potential predatory journals and/or publishers:

- Editor and staff
  - Do a thorough scrutiny of the editorial board - Editors or editorial board members often have no or fake academic affiliations
  - The journal doesn't identify a formal editor or review board
  - Two or more journals often have duplicate editorial boards
  - Scholars are included on an editorial board without their knowledge or permission
- Business management
  - Business practices display a lack of clarity (fees etc.)
  - They have no policies or practices with regard to digital preservation
  - Operations usually begin with a large number of journals
- Integrity
  - Publisher and/or journal title names include geographic terms with no connection to the publisher's physical location or the journal's geographic scope.
  - Journal titles are similar to respected journals
  - False Impact factors and other invented metrics are offered
  - False claims about where the journal is indexed are made
  - Publishers or editors spam researchers for publications
- Other
  - The publisher claims to be a “leading publisher” though they may only be a novice organisation
  - Their “contact us” page only includes a web form and they hide their location

- The publisher publishes journals that are extremely broad in order to maximise author fees
- The publisher has poorly maintained websites with dead links
- The publisher doesn't use ISSN's or DOI's or uses them incorrectly.
- The publisher promises unusual quick peer review
- None of the members of the editorial board has published articles in the journal

Another way to avoid publishing in predatory journals is to check whether a journal appears in the "Directory of Open Access Journals" (DOAJ) which is a list of trusted authentic open access journals.

The DOAJ was launched in 2003 by the Lund University in Sweden. It is a searchable multidisciplinary directory of OA scholarly journals. They only include scholarly journals with a strict quality control system to guarantee the content. Journals are accepted into DOAJ under strict rules. Journals must be scholarly with proven quality control through an editor or editorial board and peer review. A journal should have a registered International Standard Serial Number and they must be transparent about Article Processing Charges.

Sources:

Beall, J. Criteria for determining predatory open-access publishers. Available from:

<https://scholarlyoa.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/criteria-2015.pdf>

Berger M & Cirasella J. Beyond Beall's list: better understanding predatory publishers. College & Research Libraries newsletter, March 2015. Available from:

<http://crln.acrl.org/content/76/3/132.full.pdf+html>

Directory of Open Access Journals. <http://doaj.org/about>

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## Response on Elsevier's new policy on research sharing

### Marguerite Nel

The University of Pretoria Library Services (UPLS) joined several organizations around the world to denounce Elsevier's new policy that impedes open access and sharing. This followed after Elsevier announced a new sharing and hosting policy for Elsevier journal articles on 30 April 2015. In a statement against this policy, the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) explains that this policy represents a significant obstacle to the dissemination and use of research knowledge, and that it will create unnecessary barriers for Elsevier published authors in complying with funders' open access policies. In addition, the policy has been adopted without any evidence that immediate sharing of articles has a negative impact on publishers' subscriptions.

Elsevier's new policy framework is available at

<http://www.elsevier.com/connect/elsevier-updates-its-policies-perspectives-and-services-on-article-sharing>. According to Elsevier, the aim of this policy is "to empower researchers to share confidently and easily on the platforms of their choice in ways that give authors appropriate credit, and to allow readers to access the best available version and trust that the content is authoritative and complete".

COAR argues that despite the claim by Elsevier that the policy advances sharing, it actually does the opposite. The policy imposes unacceptably long embargo periods of up to 48 months for some journals. It also requires authors to apply a "non-commercial and no derivative works" license for each article deposited into a repository, greatly inhibiting the re-use value of these articles. Any delay in the open availability of research articles curtails scientific progress and places unnecessary constraints on delivering the benefits of research back to the public.

COAR continue in their statement against this policy that it applies to "all articles previously published and those published in the future" making it even more punitive for both authors and institutions. This may also lead to articles that are currently available being suddenly embargoed and inaccessible to readers.

COAR is committed to the principle that access to information advances discovery, accelerates innovation and improves education. They support the adoption of policies and practices that enable the immediate, barrier free access to and reuse of scholarly articles. They argue that the policy is in direct conflict with the global trend towards open access and serves only to dilute the benefits of openly sharing research results. With their statement against Elsevier's new policy, they also encourage other organizations and individuals to express their opinions.

The statement by COAR and signatories in support against Elsevier's most recent policy is available at: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/advocacy-leadership/petition-against-elseviers-sharing-policy/>

## Article writing Workshop

Ten steps to article writing, is a CE at UP workshop for basic and applied sciences, presented by Prof Jana Olivier. Especially postgraduates and novice article writers will find this workshop an absolute gem!

Upon enrolment, attendees are asked to bring along a draft article when attending the course. The first day of the workshop consists of aspects regarding identifying and clarifying research topics, the planning of the article and writing the introduction part. Day 2 starts with reviewing the introduction and planning the body. These include aspects related to the literature review, methodology and the conclusion.

On the last day, the abstract is written and other aspects, including the submission process, how to handle reviewers' comments and how to overcome barriers to writing, are discussed.

Throughout the workshop the attendees are equipped with valuable tips and recipes – making the writing process easier.

This three day workshop provides the writer with an almost fool proofed recipe. I can really recommend this article writing workshop to both novice and experienced researchers.

## South Africa's first Library MakerSpace opens at the University of Pretoria



The Department of Library Services at the University of Pretoria (UP) became the first library in South Africa to open a Library MakerSpace – a creative laboratory where people with ideas can get together with people who have the technical ability to make these ideas become a reality. What is a makerspace? A space to collaborate, create, and innovate. A MakerSpace is often associated with fields such

as engineering, computer science, graphic design and digital art, and although the physical space is important, it is the collaboration between individuals with various and distinct areas of knowledge that is fundamental to fostering this creative environment.

The Maker Movement, a trend to use 'do-it-yourself' and 'do-it-with-others' has grown at a rapid pace over the past few years and MakerSpace areas have become havens for technicians, artists and entrepreneurs. The Library MakerSpace, with its soldering benches, 3D printers and computers on which to design and render models, will enable makers to fulfil their creative potential.



This facility, located on Level 3 of the Merensky 2 Library on UP's Hatfield Campus, is also conducting classes on Arduino electronics and programming, mobile gaming, leatherwork, bookmaking/artist bookmaking, drones, finch robotics, computer-aided design and application development. The classes will be taught by experts at entry level so that novices can learn new skills. For more information about the Library MakerSpace, class schedules, or to make bookings, please email [makerspace@tuks.co.za](mailto:makerspace@tuks.co.za).