Altmetrics, and using Altmetric Explorer at UniSA

Why Altmetrics?
Altmetrics, also known as alternative metrics, are an immediate indicator of reach and engagement. They can be tracked over a variety of publication types, including journal articles, reports, policy documents, and eventually non-traditional outputs such as creative works. For research outputs that may or may not attract traditional citation metrics, or take time to show impact, altmetrics provide an interesting insight into how research is being used and communicated, particularly beyond the academic community.

Altmetrics measure mentions on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, blogs, news outlets, and Mendeley.

Altmetric.com, and Altmetric Explorer (a version of Altmetric.com for institutions and universities), are one of 3 main aggregators tracking alternative metrics.

Where do Altmetric ‘donuts’ appear?
Altmetric donuts appear in the UniSA Library Catalogue for individual publications that have a DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

Journal websites
Many journals and publishers are now displaying Altmetric scores for individual articles, and provide links for you to use various social media to show you have liked, saved or shared the information.

What does it mean?
You may see an Altmetric score, appearing in the middle of the donut, which is calculated based on volume, sources and authors, and includes a weighting (for example, a blog post counts for more than a tweet). The colours indicate the type of mention, eg red for news; yellow for blogs.

Select see details or click on the donut to see a full report including Score in context (e.g. 'Very good compared to other articles of same age & journal (97th percentile)'. You will also be able to follow links through to the sources of the metrics e.g. news stories and blogs discussing an article. For more information see the Altmetric User Guide The Donut and Score Explained.
Altmetric Explorer

Altmetric Explorer provides UniSA with an institutional profile for all UniSA staff with publications indexed in the UniSA Research Outputs Repository from 2008, and other universities across the world who have signed up. UniSA is also looking to capture altmetrics for non-traditional outputs e.g. creative works, events and exhibitions.

- Connect to Altmetric Explorer via the Library > Databases > A > Altmetric Explorer, or from the Research topic on BI Hub (UniSA staff access only)
- Explore the altmetric database > highlight provides a snapshot and visualisation of all UniSA activities including top outputs and affiliations, latest mentions and latest news highlights and more.

- Use the Research outputs tab to see a summary of all outputs
- Use My institution to filter by UniSA Authors or Departments

Contact your Academic Library Team for further information or assistance
Library home page > Ask the Library > phone, email or chat