Research Citations
Building Trust in Wikipedia

Introduction
A cross-publisher study (Taylor & Francis and University of Michigan Press) convened by Dimensions (Digital Science) was established in late 2022 to explore author sentiment towards Wikipedia as a trusted source of information.

Objective
To understand researchers’ views on the accuracy of Wikipedia in representing the outcomes of their research in the transition towards more public access to research.

Survey Design
- Dimensions and Altmetric data inside Google Big Query
- Taylor & Francis and University of Michigan Press publications
- Published in last 10 years
- Invited authors with at least 1 Wikipedia citation
- 7 questions, mix of Likert and Free Text

Survey Responses
- 46, 402 publications targeted
- 21,854 surveys sent
- 727 unique publication responses (5.6% response rate)
- 640 articles, 100 books responses
- 66 different countries
- 176 free-text responses
- 266 OA publications

What did the survey reveal about trust in Wikipedia citations?
- High level of interest in Wikipedia citations to published work
- Higher confidence of citation accuracy in teaching vs research
- Higher level of perceived accuracy for journal vs book citations
- High confidence in recommendation to the public in STM subjects
- Positive OA sentiment as beneficial for enhancing trust in citations

Response analysis
- 46% use Wikipedia for teaching
- 28% use Wikipedia for research
- 6.7/10 lowest mean score for public recommendation (humanities)
- 4.4% of free-text responses perceive “inaccurate emphasis” in Wikipedia citation

The use of Wikipedia citations in scholarly research has been the topic of much inquiry over the past ten years.