Altmetric Explorer for Institutions – Quick guide

This guide covers a few basic things to get you started. Please go to Royal Holloway’s Altmetric Explorer (AE) page for in-depth training materials, or to find out about upcoming training sessions.

What is it?
AE tracks links to research outputs in key non-academic sources (news websites, key social media platforms, major policy websites, influential blogs, patents, syllabi and more, on a daily basis).

- **The sources:** You can find a full list of sources tracked via this link. Most source types are tracked from 2011; new sources are continuously being added.

- **The outputs:** the full AE database contains 11 million+ research output records from across the world. AE is tracking a growing list of publishers including Cambridge University Press, Springer, Wiley and Elsevier.

- **Royal Holloway data:** Royal Holloway users can access a dashboard with data for all outputs affiliated to Royal Holloway within the Altmetric database, based on information from Pure. They can also access Altmetric data for each of the 11m+ research outputs in the database.

Which outputs are tracked?
For an output to appear in Royal Holloway’s data:

1. The publication needs to be in Pure, be visible, and its publication status must be “E pub ahead of print” or “Published”

2. The Pure record must have the unique identifier added:
   a. DOI for Articles.
   b. ISBN for books. If the book has an DOI, then this should be added too.
   c. For chapters, the book ISBN must be added. If the chapter has an individual DOI, then this should be added too.
   d. For other items, such as reports, if ISBNs/DOIs exist, these must be added too.

3. The output must be published by a publisher that AE tracks.

The output records are fed from Pure to AE on a weekly basis each Friday.

Researchers should check the records of their outputs in Pure and ensure that unique identifiers, where they exist, are added to records. Records should also be updated to reflect the publication of books and chapters.

How does AE capture mentions?

1. The mention needs to be within a key source that AE tracks.

2. The mention must contain a direct working link back to the research output’s DOI or publisher’s website page for the ISBN. The exception is for policy documents and patents where AE is able to “text mine” i.e. identify research based on some word combinations.
What does the Altmetric Score mean?

The attention score and donut provide an indicator of the type and volume of attention the output has received. The score is an automatically calculated, weighted count based on the:

1. Volume of attention. The score increases as more people mention the output.
2. Category/type of mention. Each category will contribute a different base amount to the final score.
3. Authors. Considering how often the author talks about articles or whether it is a publisher pushing out links automatically.

The colours of the donut each represent a different source of attention.

The score is a measure of attention not quality. A low score doesn’t mean that the work is not being talked about – it may just be that; people are not linking to the research output, that the mentions are outside the key sources tracked by AE, or the publisher is not covered by AE.

Full details of each mention can be found via the tabs for each source. Further information on the score and donut colours can be found on this [page](#).

### The Colors of the Donut

- Policy documents
- News
- Blogs
- Twitter
- Post-publication peer-reviews
- Facebook
- Sina Weibo
- Syllabi
- Wikipedia
- Google+
- LinkedIn
- Reddit
- Research highlight platform
- Q&A (Stack Overflow)
- Youtube
- Pinterest
- Patents

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Here’s how to…

1. **Find out who is talking about your outputs in key non-academic sources, to inform your impact and engagement activities, or to support evidencing of impact:**
   - Click on “My institution” on the left hand side of the screen (a building with columns on the right hand side of the screen)
   - Find yourself in the list of Authors
   - Click on “View Results” on the right hand side next to your name
   - You will then see a list of your research outputs with Altmetric doughnuts
   - You can order the list by score, publication date, or the type of source (e.g. if you’re interested in policy, patents, news or another specific source)
   - You can explore this list by timeline, demographics, types of mentions, and journals by clicking on the respective tab in the menu at the top
   - You can also use the “Edit Search” option on the top of the page to narrow down results, e.g. by type of output, date, etc.
• Click on an output to explore mentions for that output to see a summary of mentions by location, demographic and in context of other similar outputs

• You can also explore each mention for that output – click on the tabs on top of the output page, or click on the mention counts on the left hand side of the output page

2. **Find mentions in specific sources**, such as policy, patents or news media

• When on a summary page with a list of outputs for an author, department, research group or Royal Holloway as a whole, click on “Sort by” then pick the source – e.g. Policy documents. Outputs with policy mentions will be on top of the list.
• Click on each item, then the relevant tab on top of the output page (e.g. Policy documents) to find the specific mentions.

3. **See which papers are getting traction recently**

• When on a summary page for an author, department, research group or Royal Holloway as a whole, click on the “Timeline” tab above the list

• Pick the time period you’re interested in (e.g. one month) to see the volume of mentions

• Double click the bars to get down to the list of specific mentions

![Timeline chart](image)

4. **Explore attention to your department or research group’s research outputs, to identify key topics, papers, subject areas, journals and more, which will inform communication, engagement and impact strategies, and to find additional evidence for REF case studies**

• When logged in, click on “My Institution” – a building with columns on the right hand side of the screen

• You’ll be taken to a list of Authors and Departments – click on “Departments” tab

• Find your relevant department (or research group) on the list and click “View Results”

• You will then be taken to a list of outputs

• Click on the “Highlights” tab at the top. You’ll be taken to a page with key data on outputs, subject areas, journals, recent mentions and more

• You can then click on the relevant parts of the page to find further detail in each
5. Explore how the work of authors outside of Royal Holloway in your area of research get linked to. This will provide you with a sense of context, key sources, popular journals, dynamics of attention over time and current trends in attention to research

- You can explore the full Altmetric database of 11 million+ outputs by clicking “Edit Search” on the top of the main dashboard page that you see when you’ve just logged in.
- Tick “Full Altmetric database” instead of “My institution only” in the top right hand corner.
- Then enter parameters in the search boxes for publications, subjects, dates etc. – whatever you’re interested in.
- Please note the first two search fields under “My institution” are for Royal Holloway only, so leave them blank when searching the full database.

To go back to Royal Holloway’s data after exploring the full database, just click “My Institution” again.

6. Export data for further analysis

When viewing a list of outputs for an Author, Department or Research Group, you can click the “Export this tab” button on the top right corner of the page, to export data to a CSV file.

Guidance and support

You can find more in-depth guidance on Royal Holloway’s Altmetric Explorer page on this link.

You can also have a look at the Questions and answers portal, which has a wealth of support materials.

If you have questions about Royal Holloway’s data, your outputs, or how to use the data for your impact and engagement activities, please email altmetric@rhul.ac.uk.