PlumX / bepress Administrator Guide

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What is PlumX Dashboards and what does it do?

PlumX Dashboards gives you a way to know what is going on with your research all in one place.

We categorize metrics into 5 separate types: Usage, Captures, Mentions, Social Media, and Citations. Examples of each type are:

- **Usage** - clicks, downloads, views, library holdings, video plays
- **Captures** - bookmarks, code forks, favorites, readers, watchers
- **Mentions** - blog posts, comments, reviews, Wikipedia links
- **Social media** - +1s, likes, shares, Tweets
- **Citations** - PubMed Central, Scopus, USPTO

You can view all of our metric sources, by metric type here: https://plumanalytics.com/learn/about-metrics/

We gather metrics around what we call artifacts. Artifacts are more than just the journal articles that a researcher authors. Artifacts are any research output that is available online. To see a complete list of the types of artifacts we track, click here.

The most effective way to ensure that artifacts show all relevant metrics is to include a link to the artifact or include a hyperlinked identifier (DOI, ISBN) when referencing that artifact. For instance, when writing a blog post about an article, include a link to the article in the blog post.

Your PlumX Dashboard is automatically updated from your bepress Digital Commons repository. Newly added research to your repository may take a few days to show up in your Dashboard. Your repository usage is also included in the PlumX Usage category. You may find that your Digital Commons usage is slightly higher in PlumX than your repository due to update timing differences.
Navigating Your Dashboard

When you log in to your PlumX Dashboard, you’ll see several different areas.

By default all of the artifacts and associated metrics display. You can click on any of the artifact type tabs to filter the results list to a specific type. (Tip: Use the filter button if you want to view multiple artifact types at the same time).

The Filter button also allows you to filter by a specific metric category (usage, captures, etc.) or even more granular metric filtering (display news mentions and tweets), as well as the option to filter by a specific publication year or publication timeframe.

You can also use the bar graph in the “Impact by Type” area to filter your results list.
Artifacts and associated metrics display at the bottom of the page in reverse chronological order by default. You can click on any of the column headings to sort by title or specific metric type.

You can also expand the metric type for more granular metric details for a specific category.

Remember, your PlumX Dashboard is updated daily for new artifacts as well as updated metrics.
Artifact Page

Clicking on the artifact title in a results list will bring you to the artifact page. This is where you can view the metrics we are capturing for a specific piece of research output and see details when available) about the sources of metrics captured and explore links back to the metric sources.

Not every artifact tracked by PlumX will have all 5 categories of metrics. Often newly published artifacts may only have social media, mentions or capture metrics as citations take time to accrue.

You can expand the metric type to see the specific sources and counts and click on the tabbed areas on the artifact page to see original tweets, news and blog posts, Wikipedia references, etc.
Exporting PlumX Metrics

A PlumX Dashboard provides you with the ability to export the raw metrics for a filtered view or your entire dashboard. Navigate to the artifact type or use the filter option to select the data you wish to export the data for and click the “Export” button. Your data will be exported as either CSV or XLSX.

PlumX Analytics

PlumX Analytics provides several data visualizations to help you see your data at a higher level than you can with the data table. The Analytics reports can be accessed via the “Analytics” button above the data table on the site home page.

There are currently three reports available:

- Analytics by Publication Year Report
- Artifacts Overview Report
- Sunburst Visualization

You can filter each of the reports just like you can filter the data table on the Dashboard – by metric category/source, artifact type and date range. Most of the analytics are classic pivot tables, and combine artifact counts with each of the metrics categories PlumX tracks.

The ability to look at data this way has many benefits. A few examples are:

- View trends year over year to monitor increases or decreases of usage, citations, captures, mentions and social media.
- Determine which artifacts have the most overall impact in a group.
You can easily use these charts in presentations or reports by downloading them as an Excel file or as a PDF or image (PNG) formats.

**Artifacts By Publication Year Report**

The *Artifacts by Publication Year Report* combines artifact counts (the line across the bars) with the interactions for each year’s publications for the previous 10 years. This visualization technique allows us to represent two different types of data, in this case measuring overall productivity alongside the categories of impact, to allow for at-a-glance understanding across an entire institution’s research output. By looking at the metrics by publication year, it’s easy to see the rise of social media interactions with newer publications, while the citation counts lag for that same set. While it takes citation counts 3-5 years to accrue to any meaningful measure, the other categories that PlumX tracks can lend insight in near real-time.

In the example below, note each of the bars corresponds to the PlumX metrics categories:

- Blue = Social Media
- Yellow = Mentions
- Purple = Captures
- Red = Citations
The gray line at the top is the total number of artifacts that were published in the corresponding year. So in 2013 there were 2,372 artifacts published by this organization’s researchers that had accrued 17,976 social media interactions. In contrast, they had received just 3,378 citations.

To see the underlying data for any given year, you can click on the bar in the graph for the year you want to see and PlumX will automatically filter the results to that year and take you to the data table to see the individual artifacts for that year.

This report also includes a graph of the usage totals. We split out usage because those metrics tend to be much greater than the other categories. One observation from the usage pattern below is that the number of artifacts will drive usage, at least in part. Other factors may be artifact types (different artifacts have different measurable usage patterns), whether artifacts are available on the open Web, and how many versions of artifact are available to be accessed.
The year that stands out is 2011, when there were nearly 2.7 million uses of these 2,944 artifacts. To see what might be driving that use, click on the bar for that year, and then sort on usage in the data table.

One article (A meta-analysis of disparities in childhood sexual abuse, parental physical abuse, and peer victimization among sexual minority and sexual nonminority individuals) got about 4% of that use, and the top five got 10%. So although there were a few standouts, the high amount of use was driven by a larger number of artifacts than just those outliers.

Artifacts Overview Report

The Artifacts Overview Report allows you to explore your metrics across artifact types, which can be a great way to identify how those types that get the most engagement. For example, here’s the usage patterns for University of Pittsburgh, indicating that despite being the largest set of documents, their government documents lag behind articles:
By identifying these situations, it could help lead to changes in document availability to increase usage. PlumX Analytics gives you the data but it’s up to you to provide the context for what the metrics are actually showing.

**Sunburst Visualization**

We also include a unique data visualization called the “Sunburst.” When “Type” is selected on the toggle, the sunburst is segmented equally by each metric on the outer ring. Note that the width is equal regardless of the counts of respective metrics. When one clicks on “Impact” the relative sizes of the counts of metrics now come into play, and artifacts that have more total metrics counts form larger “wedges” in the sunburst, and those that have fewer counts become narrower.

The best scenario for using the sunburst is to look at a publication year, volume or issue see which artifacts stand out in relation to the others.

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**Digital Commons Support**

For support questions, please contact Digital Commons support at:  
dc-support@bepress.com  
(510)665-1200, dial 2 for Consulting Services