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Science Metrics: The Issues and New Approaches

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Lane, Julia

Working Paper Science Metrics: The Issues and New Approaches

RatSWD Working Paper, No. 159

Provided in Cooperation with: German Data Forum (RatSWD)

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RatSWD Working Paper Series

Working Paper

No. 159

Science Metrics: The Issues and New Approaches

Julia Lane

September 2010



The *RatSWD Working Papers* series was launched at the end of 2007. Since 2009, the series has been publishing exclusively conceptual and historical works dealing with the organization of the German statistical infrastructure and research infrastructure in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences. Papers that have appeared in the series deal primarily with the organization of Germany's official statistical system, government agency research, and academic research infrastructure, as well as directly with the work of the RatSWD. Papers addressing the aforementioned topics in other countries as well as supranational aspects are particularly welcome.

RatSWD Working Papers are non-exclusive, which means that there is nothing to prevent you from publishing your work in another venue as well: all papers can and should also appear in professionally, institutionally, and locally specialized journals. The *RatSWD Working Papers* are not available in bookstores but can be ordered online through the RatSWD.

In order to make the series more accessible to readers not fluent in German, the English section of the *RatSWD Working Papers* website presents only those papers published in English, while the the German section lists the complete contents of all issues in the series in chronological order.

Starting in 2009, some of the empirical research papers that originally appeared in the *RatSWD Working Papers* series will be published in the series *RatSWD Research Notes*.

The views expressed in the *RatSWD Working Papers* are exclusively the opinions of their authors and not those of the RatSWD.

The RatSWD Working Paper Series is edited by:

Chair of the RatSWD (2007/2008 Heike Solga; since 2009 Gert G. Wagner) Managing Director of the RatSWD (Denis Huschka) This paper documents the presentation slides of the 1st Distinguished Lecture of the German Data Forum (RatSWD), held on 15th September 2010 at the DIW Berlin.



Overview

- Why Metrics Matter
- Conceptual Framework
 - The scientific challenge
 - The empirical challenge
- What's Being Done in the US: STAR METRICS
 - What it is
 - Structure
 - Measuring outcomes: The Role of Incentives
 - Examining impact: The Role of Social and Domain Scientists

Why metrics matter Government Advance basic science Improve wellbeing of citizens Affects level of funding Funding agencies Want to identify and fund good science Affects type of funding Academic institutions Want to hire and retain good scientists Want to demonstrate impact Affects who does science



Administration Interest

Agencies, in cooperation with OSTP and OMB, should develop and sustain datasets to better document Federal science, technology, and innovation investments and to make these data open to the public in accessible, useful formats. Agencies should develop and regularly update their data sharing policies for research performers and create incentives for sharing data publicly in interoperable formats to ensure maximum value, consistent with privacy, national security, and confidentiality concerns.

Agencies should develop outcome-oriented goals for their science, technology, and innovation activities, establish timelines for evaluating the performance of these activities, and target investments toward high-performing programs in their budget submissions. Agencies should support the development and use of "science of science policy" tools that can improve management of their R&D portfolios and better assess the impact of their science, technology, and innovation investments.

FY12 Orszag-Holdren Memo, July 21 2010; reiterates August 4, 2009 memo; Science of Science Policy is only program mentioned by name

Congressional Interest





Jobs Matter

Arman de Martin Ba

When Counting Jobs Isn't Enough

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

HEALTHINGUSTRY | AUGUST 12, 2010 Science Stimulus Funds Called Wasteful

ByLOUISE RADNOFSKY

(Please see Corrections & Amplifications item below)

Economic-stimulus funds for scientific research are becoming a political target for Republican skeptics who say they have identified some grants as evidance of wasteful spending.

The National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation received \$13 billion between them from the stimulus package for extra grants to researchers, upgrados to facilities and professional development activities for scientists. The science spending methods funding for public-health studies, social-science research and overseas travel, which Republicans say have failed to create jobs.

The stimulus package passed in February 2009 has a current estimated price tag of \$862 billion.

Sens. Tom Coburn (R., Okla.) and John McCan (R., Ariz), most notably, have enticized a range of stanulus spending as failing to address what they say is the immediate priority of creating jobs in the U.S. They have publicited lists of what they consider nonessential or frivolsus projects.

Much of the NIH's \$10 billion share of the money has been spont on research into cancer, heart and other discuses. Funding for a range of other studies on substance abuse and public health has raised evelvores, including research into whether fanale college students are more likely to engage in easal sex after drinking abolich the reasons why young men dont use condoms correctly, how methamphetamine enhances the motivation for female rati's sexual behavior and 'ubesty and psychosocial adjustment during addencerce."

The NIH is pushing back, arguing that it is supporting work on important issues, and that substance abuse is one of them. The agency's director, Francis Collins, said, "I don't know if the errites want us to experiment with humans, or just give up on the problem of doig addiction, but we aren't going to do either."

Most of the \$3 billion of National Science Foundation spending has gone to energy or climate-related research, or work in fields such as astronomy, chemistry and anginaering. The agency is also supporting some social-science projects that are unlikely to reap economic rewards in the forescalable future, such as the documentation of indigenous languages that are nearby extinct, including video recordings of Tingit conversations in Alaska and analysis of the grammar of Hink, an Arizona didect.





Or...Start To Develop A Scientific Framework

- Science of Science Policy Interagency Task Group
- The SoSP Roadmap
 - Published in November, 2008
 - Four guiding themes
 - Ten key questions
- December, 2008 Workshop
 - Engage the current community of practice
 - Interactive evaluation of Roadmap



Research Challenge: Conceptual

Need to describe and measure the creation, transmission and adoption of knowledge

Table 1: Three Distinct Tasks Arising in the Analysis of Causal Models

Task	Description	Requirements
1	Defining the Set of Hypotheticals or Counterfactuals	A Scientific Theory
2	Identifying Causal Parameters from	Mathematical Analysis of
	Hypothetical Population Data	Point or Set Identification
3	Identifying Parameters from	Estimation and
	Real Data	Testing Theory

Heckman, 2008, Econometric Causality, NBER working paper 13934, 2008





If we can automate the DNA sequencing, we can describe science investments!





What is STAR METRICS?

- 1. Data Infrastructure to capture impact of science investments.
- 2. Collaborative identification of data and data sources
- Explicit integration of domain and social scientists in development of metrics





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Star Metrics Phase 1 – 14 Requested Data Elements

Description	Element ID	Item	Data Source	Unit of Analysis	Purpose
	1	De-identified Employee ID #		Individual	
	2	Federal Award ID #		Award	
	3	University Award ID #		Award	1
Information on Scientists and Awards	4	Overhead charged	University	Award	Job Metrics
	5	Occupational Classification		Individual	
	6	Proportion of time allocated to award		Individual	
	7	FTE status		Individual	
Information on Overhead	8	Proportion of overhead associated with salaries (from overhead cost proposal)	University	University	Job Metrics
	2	Federal Award ID #		Award	
Devenue to to use down	9	University Award ID #	11-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	Award	Secondary
Payments to vendors	10	Duns #	University	Vendor	Impact
	11	Amount of Contract		Vendor	1
	2	Federal Award ID #		Award	
	12	University Award ID #	1	Award	Secondary
Subcontracts and subawards	13	Duns #	University	Subcontractor	Impact
	14	Amount of Contract	1	Subcontractor	1

STAR METRICS

9/23/2010



Local Economic Impact for UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH Total Jobs (SIMULATED DATA)

County Name	County Code	Sub-Awards & Vendor Jobs	Award FTEs, Sub-Award & Vendor Jobs	Total Jobs
BARNSTABLE	1	76	76	76
BERKSHIRE	3	2.4	2.4	2.4
BRISTOL	5	100.7	861.4	931.1
DUKES	7	49.5	49.5	49.5
ESSEX	9	268.7	268.7	268.7
MIDDLESEX	17	123.8	123.8	123.8
NANTUCKET	19	5.8	5.8	5.8
NORFOLK	21	16.3	16.3	16.3
		643	1,404	1,474

Source: STAR Metrics - Jobs







Reducing Burden: Use Existing Reports

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

64

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AGENCY: National Science Foundation (NSF).

ACTION: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request and Final Notice of a Uniform Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) format.

SUMMARY: Effective with publication of this Notice in the Federal Register, agencies will be able to utilize a new uniform format for reporting performance progress on Federallyfunded research projects. The Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) will directly benefit award recipients by making it easier for them to administer Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs through standardization of the types of information required in interim performance reports—thereby reducing their administrative effort and costs. The RPPR will also make it easier to compare the outputs, outcomes, etc. of develop an agency- or program-specific component, if necessary, to meet programmatic requirements, although agencies should minimize the degree to which they supplement the standard components. Such agency- or programspecific requirements will require review and clearance by OMB. Agencies also may use other OMB-

Agencies also may use other OMBapproved reporting formats, such as the Performance Progress Report (PPR), if those formats are better suited to the agency's reporting requirements, for example, for research centers/institutes, clinical trials, or fellowship/training awards or in connection to reporting on program performance, through mechanisms such as the Performance Assessment Rating Tool. On behalf of the RBM Subcommittee,

On behalf of the RBM Subcommittee, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has agreed to serve as sponsor of this new format. We anticipate this being the final notice before the format and instructions are finalized. The general public and Federal agencies, however, are invited to comment on the proposed final format during the 30 day public comment period. The Government-wide RPPR is posted on the NSF Web site at: day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays.

We encourage respondents to submit comments electronically to ensure timely receipt. We cannot guarantee that comments mailed will be received before the comment closing date. Please include "Research Performance Progress Reporting" in the subject line of the email message; please also include the full body of your comments in the text of the message, and as an attachment. Include your name, title, organization, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address in your message. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the RPPR, contact Jean Feldman; Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Support; National Science Foundation; 4201 Wilson Blvd; Arlington, VA 22230; e-mail: jfeldman@nsf.gov; telephone: (703) 292–

8243; fax: (703) 292–9171. For further information on the NSTC RBM Subcommittee, contact Diane DiEuliis, at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503; e-mail: ddieuliis@ostp.eop.gov; telephone: 202–



Pro	BIOGRAPI vide the following information for the key personnel an Epilow this format for each person	HICAL SKETC	H ontributors in the ED FOUR PAGE:	order listed on Form Page 2.
NAME		POSITION TIT	E	
Michae	I Conlon	Interim Dire	ctor of Biome	dical Informatics.
¢8A CON	MONS USER NAME	University of	of Florida	
MCON	LON	-		
EDUCAT	ON/TRAINING, (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial p	rofessional education,	such as nursing a	and include postdoctoral training)
	INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (fapplicable)	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Bucknell	University, Lewisburg, PA	B.A.	1975	Mathematics
Bucknell	University, Lewisburg, PA	B.A.	1975	Economics
Universit	ly of Florida, Gainesville, FL	M.Stat	1979	Statistics
Universit	ly of Florida, Galnesville, FL	Ph.D.	1982	Statistics
A. Posit	ions and Honors			
Positions	and Employment			
2008-	Interim Director, Biomedical Informatics,	College of Medi	cine, Universi	ity of Florida.
2008-	Associate University CIO, IT Architecture	2		
2008-	Associate Director, Clinical and Translation	onal Science Ins	titute, Univer	sity of Florida.
2008-	Interim Director, Clinical and Translational Informatics Program, University of Florida			
2008-	Research Associate Professor, Departme	ent of Epidemiol	ogy and Healt	h Policy Research,
	University of Florida			
2005-08	PeopleSoft Implementation Officer, Unive	ersity of Florida		
2002-	Director of Data Infrastructure, University of Florida			
2002-03	Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer	, MarCon Globa	I Data Solutio	ns, Incorporated
1997-02	Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs Information Officer, University of Florida	s, Academic Inf Health Science	ormation Syst Center	ems and Support and Chief
1993-07	Director of Information Resources and Te University of Florida	chnology Progra	ams, College	of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
1992-08	Research Associate Professor. Departme	ent of Statistics,	University of	Florida
1982-83	Asst. Dir. of Acad. Computing. Ctr for Ins	str. and Researc	h Computing	Activities, Univ. of Florida
1980-83	Director, Statistical Consulting Center, C	enter for Instruc	tional and Res	search Computing Activities
Other Ex	perience			
2009-	Member, InCommon working group on Re	esearch Adminis	tration	
2008-	Chair, Health Science Center Information	Architecture Co	ommittee	
2008-	Member, Health Science Center Informat	ion System Adv	isory Council	
2008-09	Chair, University Planning Group on Com	putational Biolo	ву	
2007-08	Member, Health Science Center Informat	ion Architecture	Committee	
2004-	Member, Educause Working Group on Ide	entity Managem	ent	
2003-	Chair, Information Technology Advisory C	Committee on U	F Active Direc	tory
2003-05	Editor, AmStat OnLine, American Statistic	cal Association		
2002-	Member, Information Technology Advisor Computing	ry Committee, D	lata Infrastruc	ture and Administrative
2002-03	Chair, University Directory Services Com	mittee		
2001-03	Member, Microsoft national Higher Educa	tion Advisory G	roup	

"Facebook for Scientists"

- Information in VIVO can be used to create
 - Biosketches
 - Vitas
 - Annual reports
 - Department and research group web sites
- Information can be used to populate profiles in collaborative tools – portals, wikis, …









Node: inventor; link: co-authorship; color: organization

Capturing Outcomes



Practical Application

Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR)

PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 10-608



National Science Foundation
 Directorate for Engineering
 Industrial Innovation and Partnerships

Letter of Intent Due Date(s) (required) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time) :

December 01, 2010

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time)

February 01, 2011

Ganni	t exceed 15 pages, and must include the following:
	 How the partnership will enable innovation that neither party could do as well or rapidly alone. How the partnership leverages the research and technology of the research alliance to accelerate innovation. How the partnership is expected to impact the development of an innovation ecosystem. A strategic plan and milestone chart with specific tasks and deliverables. Information on management and staffing. An assessment plan that will gauge the success of the partnership in creating an innovation ecosystem that includes the development of and justification for appropriate metrics. Proposers participating in the OSTP/NSF/NIH Federal Demonstration Partnership's STAR METRICS program, (http://sites.nationalacademics.org/PGA/t6p/PGA_057189) are encouraged to contact their institutional representatives to identify ways in which the program could support this requirement. An education plan that shows how participating students will learn about innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology translation process.
Option 1 a	nd Option 2 Assessment
	Memorandum M-09-27 directed science and technology agencies to describe the expected outcomes from their
OMB/OSTF research in describe ho	relation to these four practical challenges and cross-cutting areas, providing quantitative metrics where possible, and w they plan to evaluate the success of various techniques to increase support for high-risk research.
OMB/OSTF research in describe ho In complian qualitative	relation to these four practical challenges and cross-cutting areas, providing quantitative metrics where possible, and w they plan to evaluate the success of various techniques to increase support for high-risk research. ce with this memorandum, each annual and final project report should provide an explanation of the quantitative and netrics that have been used in evaluating the impact of their activities.
OMB/OSTF research in describe ho In compliar qualitative In order to Universities (http://sites ways in wh	relation to these four practical challenges and cross-cutting areas, providing quantitative metrics where possible, and w they plan to evaluate the success of various techniques to increase support for high-risk research. ce with this memorandum, each annual and final project report should provide an explanation of the quantitative and netrics that have been used in evaluating the impact of their activities. reduce reporting and administrative burden, proposers are encouraged to use administrative records where possible. participating in the OSTP/NIH/NSF/Federal Demonstration Partnership's (FDP) STAR METRICS program nationalacademies.org/PGA/tdo/PGA_057189) are encouraged to contact their institutional representatives to identify ch the program could support the evaluation of their activities.

Current Status

- NIH, NSF and OSTP MOU signed, DOE and EPA joining
- Partnership with Federal Demonstration Partnership, and engagement with AAU, APLU, COGR
- Over 100 academic institutions at various degrees of participation
- European Union engagement and emulation



What does this entail?

- Partner with Pis to
 - develop flow-based annual and final reports/biosketches
 - http://ideas.repec.org/e/pla36.html
 - http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/
 - Visualizations of networks and impact
 - Collaborative tagging of research outputs etc....
- Partner with university administrators to develop flow-based impact of science funding

Ultimate Goals for Development of Science Metrics

- Fully fledged academic field
- Fully fledged analytical tool set in government: Science policy in same analytical tier as tax policy
- Common, automated, empirical infrastructure available to all universities and science agencies to quickly respond to State, Congressional and OMB requests
- Incentive compatible structure
- Common scientific infrastructure for researchers to develop and study science metrics

Why metrics matter

- You can`t manage what you can`t measure
- And what you measure is what you get