



Academic Analytics Research Center



Data Access Questionnaire for Scholarly Research Projects (January 2020 Update)

Please provide answers or explanations for the following questions/statements in a separate document with the numbering scheme below preserved. In addition, we require a CV for each scholar working on the project. An institutional email address should be used for all correspondence.

1. Please describe the research question your project addresses (2 sub-questions):
 - a. Please state the research question clearly in plain (lay-person) language; include a) a single sentence that summarizes the research, and b) an abstract of ~250 words summarizing the research.
 - b. Please clearly state your null hypothesis and alternative hypothesis(-es).
2. Research sample and analytical methods (8 sub-questions):
 - a. Please describe the specific data to be included in your study, and how any data not provided by Academic Analytics will be sourced; have permissions been granted to use the data sources other than Academic Analytics'?
 - b. What is the explicit analytical unit? (e.g., are university-level metrics most appropriate, or metrics that describe departments, individual people, Ph.D. programs, etc.?).
 - c. Have power analyses been performed to estimate the adequate sample size for meaningful results? If so, what were the results?
 - d. What is the greatest level of data anonymity that could be used for the project (e.g., does your research require the name of individual researchers, or of the actual

university and department, of the institution, the title of the grant, the name of the journal, etc.?)?

- e. How are confounding variables handled (e.g., does the research design take into account that increases in citation counts are associated with increases in the number of publications simply because of the volume of output rather than the quality of the published research?)?
 - f. Does the experimental design take into account temporal effects and/or the differences in scholarly output between early career researchers and senior scholars (e.g., more senior scholars tend to win larger research grants; early career researchers have fewer citations, etc.)?
 - g. Please describe the proposed analytical methods. Specifically, please address a) Which statistical methods will be used (and if appropriate, what will happen the assumptions of parametric techniques are not met? Will the researchers resort to non-parametric statistics?); b) will the data be transformed prior to analysis?; c) has it been taken into account that some metrics are highly skewed, follow power laws, have only positive values, etc.?; d) if appropriate to the research, how will the normalization of units be controlled (comparing dollars per grant to citations per article, e.g.)?
 - h. Please address the following points having to do with experimental repeatability: a) will the proposed study produce repeatable results that can be verified by other scholars?; b) what level of data must be published or made available to scholars/journals/repositories wishing to attempt to repeat the experiment?; c) will Academic Analytics' data be required to be placed in a public repository or embedded in raw form into supplementary materials?
3. Dissemination of research results (4 sub-questions):

- a. Will the research result in publishable/presentable results regardless of the experimental outcome? Will a negative result with regards to the research question (if applicable) prevent the work from being published?
- b. Do you plan to present this research at any professional conferences? If so, would the results be published as a conference paper and/or an abstract?
- c. Do you plan to publish this research in any scholarly journals? If so, which journals do you aim to submit your research to? Please describe your rationale for choosing these journals, whether they are open access publications, and what your fallback strategy would be if the manuscript is not accepted by your aspirational journals.
- d. Please describe any other planned to disseminate the research results (e.g., poster presentations, white papers, policy papers, presentation to faculty senate, etc.).