

Comprehensive Impact

Comprehensive Impact, as opposed to Academic Impact is an umbrella term for the impact of scientific work on society, economy and policy. Comprehensive impact covers a broad range of activities and is difficult - if not impossible - to define prescriptively. I coined the term

Comprehensive Impact in my 2017 paper [Measuring scientific impact beyond academia: An assessment of existing impact metrics and proposed improvements](#)

Why Should We Study Comprehensive Impact?

Why Scientists Care About Comprehensive Impact

[Lots of papers write about the effect that the UK's focus on comprehensive impact affects the quality of research and individual researchers](#)

Why Research Funders Care About Comprehensive Impact

[For research councils, being able to illustrate how their research impacts the economy and society helps them to compete for and justify their continued funding.](#)

Why The Public Care About Comprehensive Impact

Shortcomings of Academic Impact and Where Comprehensive Impact Helps

Scientific papers are

Related Definitions

REF Definition of Impact

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) - a UK-wide scientometric instrument for research quality defines impact as:

“an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia - [REF 2011](#)”

The REF definition of impact is ambiguous as it does not specify the type of impact - I would argue that generating lots of citations is still impact but limited to academia. That is why we specify the term "comprehensive impact" when we talk about this concept.

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