Introducing open, easy, free and non-profit metrics of online impact

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The recent acquisitions of bepress and SSRN have once again sparked a conversation about who owns scholarly infrastructure, how that infrastructure is managed, and what it means for those that want to see a change in the culture of scholarly communications. While many embrace the role of for-profit organizations as innovators and agents of change, many others are worried that the lack of scholarly-owned and led projects, especially those that involve scholarly infrastructure will not be in the best interests of the scholarly community. Regardless of which side you are on, it seems prudent to encourage a diversity of options so that the community itself can choose the tools and infrastructures that best align with their values and needs. While altmetrics have have been heralded as a means of changing the culture, especially around incentives, the tools for collecting and displaying altmetrics on a large scale have been mainly commercial. Until now.

This presentation explores an exciting development in altmetrics: Open, Free, Easy Altmetrics for Everyone! Building on the beta release of Crossref Event Data, two non-profit, mission-driven organizations, the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) and Impactstory, are partnering to build an open website and API that is easy to use by publishers, librarians and researchers. While the Crossref Event Data service brings an open source of altmetrics data, its native data format cannot be used without additional processing to calculate, aggregate, and represent the altmetrics information. The new tools, being developed by Impactstory in partnership with PKP, to be launched in the fall of 2017, will provide metrics, graphs, and maps in ways that are directly beneficial for individuals, publishers, and institutions. As two open source projects, ImpactStory and PKP are offering a non-profit, open, free option for altmetrics so that altmetrics can help change the culture for everyone.