Academic Books – Are They Cited?

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Why are books important?

- Monographs and book chapters are the major outputs in the Humanities
  - Important for the Social Sciences as well
 - Less important for the Sciences

Data sources

- Ebrary by Proquest contained about 70,000 books in 2018
- PlumX for collecting citation counts and altmetrics of these books
- Books with Scopus citation counts were considered "scholarly books"
  - 2,444 such books were identified
- Scopus (as of October 2018) indexes 205,339 books
  - Integrated in the Scopus database
  - Used in 2018 for collecting citations
- PlumX provided altmetrics both in 2015 and 2018

Data Analysis

Categorizing the scholarly books into three major categories, based on Scopus (with manual corrections):

- Arts & Humanities (AH)

- Social Science (SOC)
  - Includes the following Scopus categories: social science, psychology, economics and business management

- All other (STEM)
  - Includes the following Scopus categories: all science categories, medicine, health and engineering

Overlap between the categories

AH 757

635

92

900

SSCI 1026

8

22

26

SCI 817

761
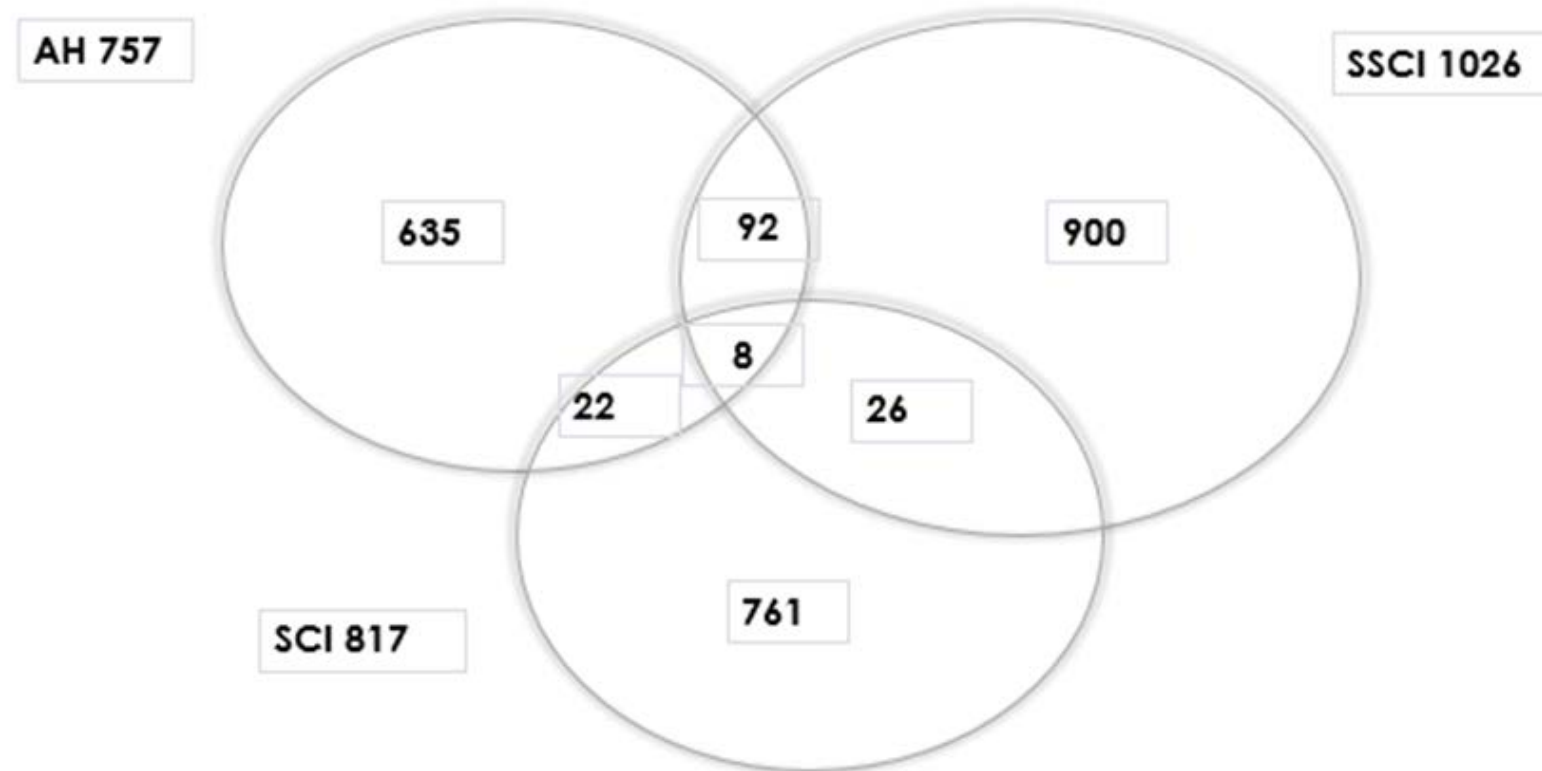
The 148 books in the overlap are designated as MIX in the following slides

books per publication year per subject category

Legend: AH, SOC, STEM, MIX
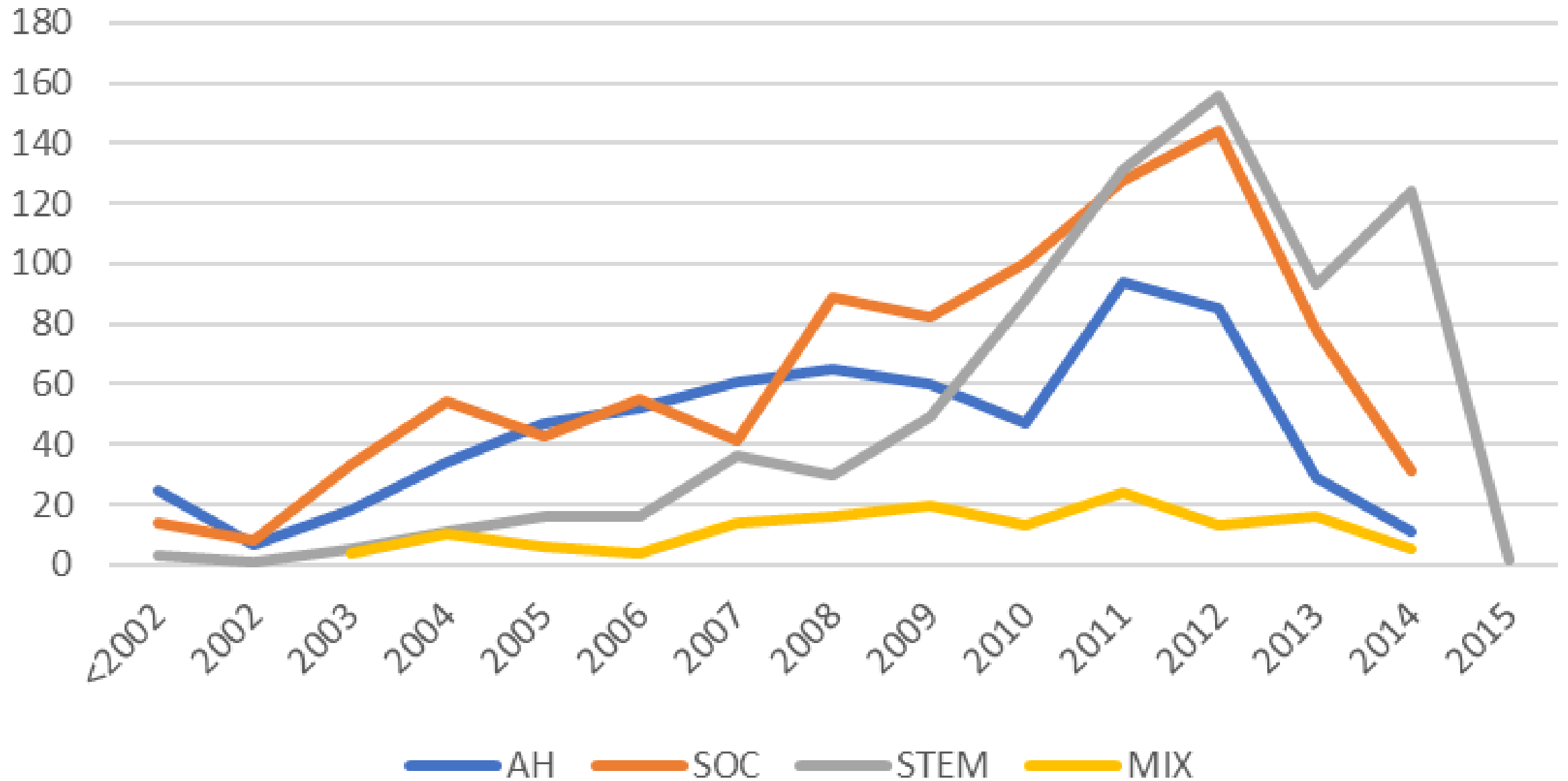
Citations in 2015 and 2018 per category

Subject categories	Scopus15	Average per book 2015	Scopus 18	Average per book 2018
AH	17,289	27.2	28,985	45.6
SOC	20,497	22.8	42,724	47.5
STEM	28,959	38.1	68,797	90.4
MIX	1,647	11.1	4,528	30.6
Total	68,392	28.0	145,034	59.3

Average number of citations highest for the Sciences, lowest for MIX but considerable growth in 3 years for MIX

Mendeley reader counts 2015 & 2018 (MIX ignored)

	No. books	Mendeley readers		Average no. of readers per book		% growth
Year		**2015**	**2018**	**2015**	**2018**	
AH	635	10,492	27,976	16.5	44.1	167.3%
Soc	900	18,634	68,716	17.2	76.4	344.2%
STEM	761	18,624	65,865	24.5	86.6	253.5%

Average number of Mendeley readers lower than citations in 2018 in AH & STEM

Goodreads - altmetric for books

	No. books	GoodReads		Average no. of GoodReads per book		% growth
Year		**2015**	**2018**	**2015**	**2018**	
AH	635	30,569	48,562	47.8	76.5	60.0%
Soc	900	65,346	97,631	72.6	108.5	49.4%
STEM	761	5,772	10,153	7.6	13.3	75.0%

Not relevant for STEM, but for AH & Soc higher than citations and Mendeley readers

How about Twitter?

	no. books with tweets 15	no. books with tweets 18
AH	19	158
Soc	15	46
STEM	10	39

Summary

- Scholarly books/ebooks are cited and read
- There is increased interest is books over time
- Altmetrics that capture attention for scholarly books are not the same as altmetrics for scholarly articles
- Twitter is not a good data source measuring attention to books