What do University Rankings Tell Us About Perceptions of Library Value?

Brian Jackson
Mount Royal University

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University Quality
University Quality as Measured by Rankings
Criticisms

- Focus on research
- Quantitative
- Arbitrary weighting
- Narrowing missions
- Who defines value/quality?
Impacts

- Student and faculty recruitment
- Administrative policy
  - Curriculum
  - Marketing
  - Research policy
- Government funding
How Rankings Measure Libraries

- Direct Measures of Libraries
- Indirect Measures of Libraries
- No Measures of Libraries
Direct Measures

- **Inputs:**
  - Expenditures
  - New acquisitions
  - Holdings/Student
  - Total Holdings

- **Questionnaire:**
  - Overall student satisfaction
Indirect Measures

- **Spending**
  - Expenditures on academic resources
  - Total spending on support services
  - Expenditures per student
  - Facilities and services spending
  - Academic services expenses

- National Student Survey (UK)
Libraries
Recourse

- Link libraries to rankings indicators
  - Reputation, student retention, research, graduation rates, faculty grants, etc.

- Offer meaningful data
Thank You