What counts for us?

Why the University of Zurich No Longer Provides Data for THE Ranking

Workshop “Reimagining university rankings: exploring strategic priorities and alternatives”, 18 June 2024

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Why UZH no longer Provides Data for the THE Ranking

– The University of Zurich (UZH) is committed to open science, which stands for open exchange, transparency and reproducibility, and promotes high-quality, efficient and impactful research.

– The benefits and influence of rankings on the world of academia have long been the subject of controversial debate.

– The rankings’ measurement of performance and quality is inadequate, they sometimes take the wrong aspects into account, and they run counter to universities’ strategic goals such as the promotion of open science practices.

– UZH is convinced that scientific quality should be the decisive factor in all research policy decisions, that open science practices make an important contribution to said scientific quality, and that rankings should not be allowed to have a negative influence in this regard.
What counts for universities

1. Focus on Quality Education and Student-Centered Approach
2. Investing in good conditions for Innovation and Research
3. Long-Term Sovereignty over Strategic Decisions
Vision and Strategy of UZH

UZH is dedicated to an open research culture that encompasses open sharing, transparency, reproducibility, and accountability as a means to increase research quality and research impact and to benefit society. To foster an open research culture and to advance Open Science, **UZH strives to be Open by Default.**

“a shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research performing organisations, with the overarching goal to maximise the quality and impact of research.”
Research Assessment Reform at UZH

- Workshops and surveys with central units and faculties
- Gap analysis and drafting of an action plan
- Research assessment of: Individuals/Projects/Units
- Activities: Ongoing/Planned/Desirable

► What gaps to be filled?
► By whom? (central/decentral)
► In what way? (level of normativity)
Some Sources and Inspirations for the project Hi-FRAME
Some first Learnings

– Positive reactions in the press and from other stakeholders
– Some processes need to be adapted
– If the goal is clear, then you can move towards it step by step. Let’s move together to make each other stronger!
– LERU Position Paper “Next Generation Metrics for Scientific and Scholarly Research in Europe”, April 2024
– “Looking at the IITs [Indian Institutes of Technology], there seems to be little downside to boycotting THE WUR, and there could be some risk in staying, especially for institutions that have over-invested in specific metrics. …, but so far there seems little reason to fear leaving the THE WUR. “ (University World News, 27.4.2024, Global).