

Author Attribution on Academia.Edu

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Introduction

- Academia.Edu is a popular social networking service for academics
- Publication metadata is indexed on the web, yet no identifiable research on academia.Edu descriptive metadata exists.
- “Creator” metadata facilitates discovery and identification, affects data quality on the web, and is vital to academic systems of prestige
- Question: what is the completeness of University of Alberta Academia.Edu “creator” metadata?

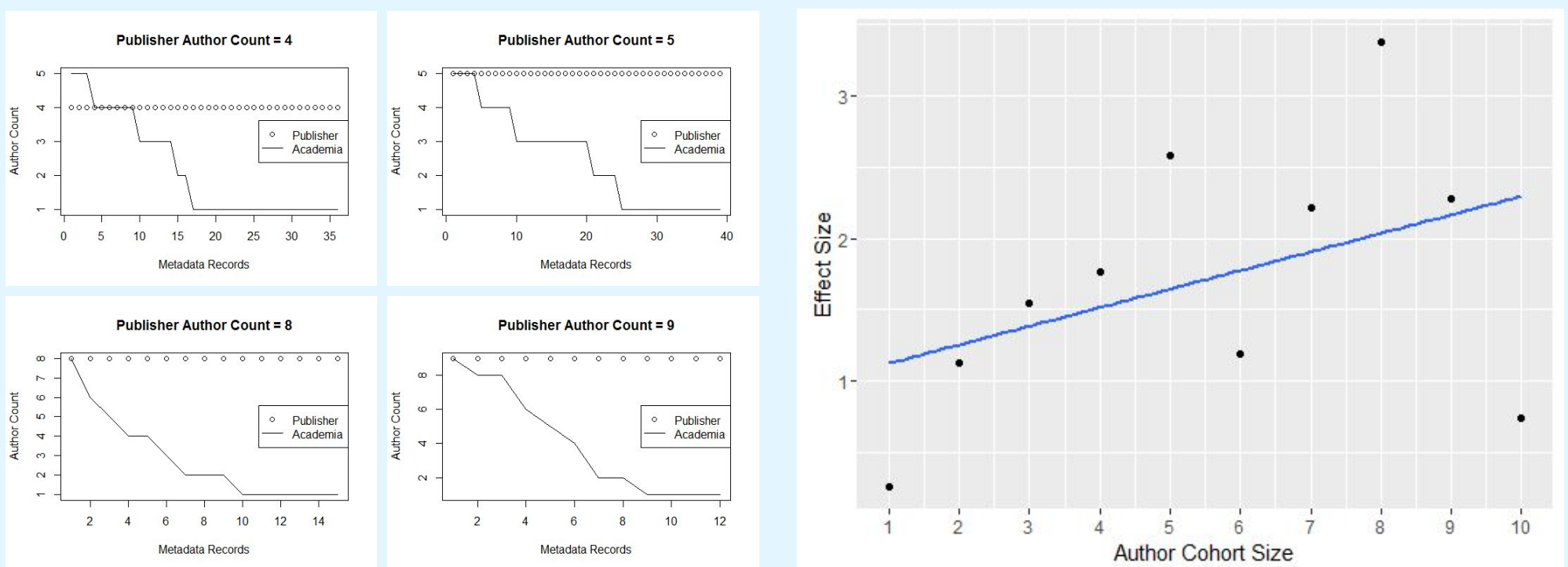
Data Collection

- Total “papers” (n=19009)
- Randomly sampled (n=302)
- Compared with matched WorldCat titles.

Analysis

- Matched and counted author names across sample pops.
- Grouped by author cohort size.
- Wilcoxon Rank Sum ($\alpha=.05$) / effect size (Cohen’s D Statistic)

Results



- As author cohort sizes increase, attribution rates decrease (see above)
- Mean Attribution: Academia.Edu 2.48 authors per record
 OCLC 4.27 authors per record
- Significance: $p \leq 2.2e-16$ (entire sample)

Recommendations

- Ensure submissions accurately attribute coauthor contributions & ensure attribution by others.
- User-contributed metadata in a repository accompanied by co-author recommendations and (semi-)automated metadata remediation.