

Research Impact*:

Why SDG matters to researchers

**Impact is defined by SDG: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals*



Background

- The 17 SDGs highlight the grand challenges for the global society and are intertwined, with progress in one affecting progress in all others. Researchers can utilize the SDGs as a framework to seek interdisciplinary collaboration solving societal issues.
- Not all funders adopted SDGs yet in defining their impact requirements. Researchers can take the lead during their grant application by developing a research pathway towards SDG impact. [Source](#)
- There are 767 participating institutions from 86 countries for this year's edition of [THE \(Times Higher Education\) Impact Rankings](#). This number shows an increase of 38% compared to the previous year. The trend shall encourage more researchers to adopt SDGs as a shared blueprint for their collaborative and interdisciplinary research planning.

Challenges & Approaches



Analytics

- Most research funds focused on energy (SDG7), and there are still knowledge gaps surrounding how the implications between the energy SDG objectives and those of the non-energy-focused SDGs might play out in different contexts. Researchers shall exploit such opportunities between the SDGs (see the funders' graph by SDGs on the next page).
- Embracing the SDG framework, researchers can examine critically, synthesize, and evaluate their discoveries across a broad range of disciplines matching as solutions to the societal issues defined by SDGs.



Engagement

- Scientific publications are intended for researchers mainly of the same domain, and researchers shall curate their work to engage with other stakeholders, policymakers, patients, and users.
- Researchers can align their work to SDGs in their on-site advocacy and online outreach engaging with the broader communities. This approach will fulfill the overall criteria of outreach, research, and stewardship in THE Impact Rankings. Potentially this will increase the citation counts of their work.

Case study about
Research Visibility

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Understand the SDG-related Research Funding

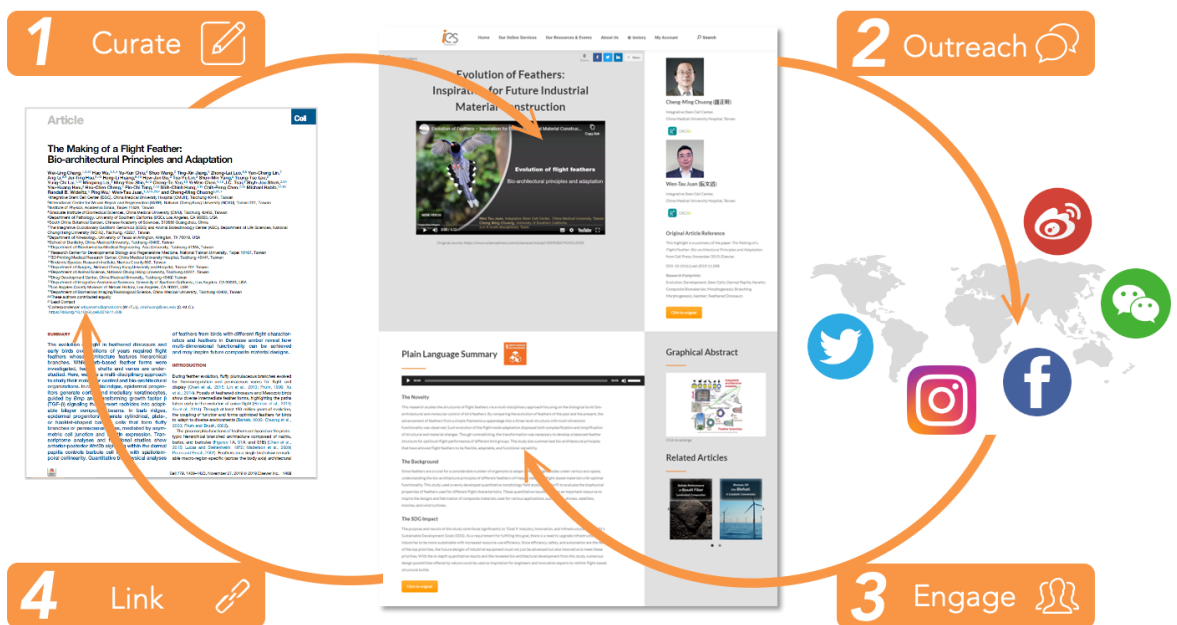
guides researchers on selective research outreach & engagement



Numbers are in USD millions

Source: Digital Science's Dimension 2016-2020

- The report, [Navigating the Structure of Research on SDGs](#), shows the annual count of SDG-related papers published in Web of Science has risen from 100 articles in 2010 to 500 in 2016, the year after the publication of the 17 SDGs. In 2018, there are 4,000 SDG-related articles in Web of Science!
- Researchers can benchmark the SDG priorities from the top research countries (shown above), which serve as a guide for online research engagement (shown below) before and after the research publication.



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