Press release

Isabella Peters member of the EU “Expert Group on Altmetrics”

ZBW researcher Isabella Peters appointed to the High Level Expert Group on Altmetrics – Group to advise the European Commission regarding alternative indicators and methods to evaluate research findings

Kiel / Hamburg, 29 January 2016: Isabella Peters has been appointed by the European Commission as one of six members of the High Level “Expert Group on Altmetrics”. This group of experts has been set up by the European Commission’s Directorate-General Research and Innovation to propose suggestions for an alternative system of evaluating scientific work apart from quantitative citation-based impact factors. Isabella Peters, whose key area of work is Science 2.0, is a researcher at the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics and professor for Web Science at the University of Kiel.

The Journal Impact Factor for any given year is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal during the two preceding years. Currently this is the gold standard in the science system. The increasing digitisation of science establishes alternative metrics, such as different types of sharing online, mentioning one’s own research in social networks on the Web or on Wikipedia, or bookmarking on Mendeley.

The EU expert group around Isabella Peters has been set up to take a critical look at the entire system of research evaluation and to propose suggestions for alternative indicators that can supplement or even replace quantitative, citation-based indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor.

The High Level Expert Group on Altmetrics consists of six experts from information science, social computing, political science, computer science, scientometrics and web science. The other five members are James Wilsdon, University of Sussex (UK), Paul Wouters, Leiden University (Netherlands), Robert Frodeman, University of North Texas (USA), Judit Bar-Ilan, Bar-Ilan University (Israel), und Elisabet Lex, Graz University of Technology (Austria).

About the ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

The ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics is the world’s largest information centre for economic literature. The institution holds more than 4 million volumes and enables access to millions of online documents in economics. In 2014 alone, 6 million digital full-texts were downloaded. In addition, the ZBW provides a fast-growing collection of Open Access documents. EconStor, the digital publication server, currently gives free access to more than 100,000 articles and working papers. EconBiz, the portal for international economic information, allows students and researchers to search among nine million datasets. The ZBW edits two journals in economic policy, Wirtschaftsdienst and InterEconomics. The ZBW is a research-based academic library. Three professors and an international group of PhD candidates carry out transdisciplinary research on Science 2.0. Research at the ZBW is connected to international networks. The main co-operation partners are engaged in the Leibniz Research Network Science 2.0 and the EU project EEXCESS. The ZBW is a member of the Leibniz Association and a foundation under public law. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, the ZBW was honoured for its innovative
library work with the international LIBER Award for Library Innovation. In 2014, the ZBW received the German “Library of the Year” award.

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