

Modernizing Global Rankings: Looking for a Breakthrough

Alex Usher April 28, 2023



The Five Sources of Breakthrough



 3rd party data (government sources, bibliometrics)

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- 2. Surveys
- 3. Institutions themselves



5. The Comparative Scope



Rankings History Timeline



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Advances in 3rd Party Data





Shanghai Rankings







Advances in Surveys

US News & World Report



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Advances in Institutional Data







Advances in the Presentation of Data





Where will the next breakthroughs come from?

Data — 3 rd party	Unlikely. More income/career progression is possible but normalizing for national context is difficult
Data — Surveys	Unlikely. Including more student data would be good, but acquiring sample is expensive.
Data — Institutional	Possible. But institutions can withhold consent
Presentation	Unlikely. Not clear what other methods are possible
Scope	Possible. Still room for more comparisons for non-research institutions. But evidently reliant on institutional data collection.



At the Intersection of Data and Scope

More rankings reflecting diverse missions and greater contextualization





More rankings reflecting experiences of non-research intensive institutions



The Breakthrough Possibility of Open Data

Universities dislike closed data systems because of the financial costs involves

Universities fear open data because they fear the disinfectant of sunlight.

But if they overcomes their fear and move to open data....many new types of rankings become possible.



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