Measuring Journal Quality & Impact
Research ReachOut @ the Library S2 2019
Enable researchers at Murdoch University to measure the quality and impact of journals, and identify high quality, reputable journals in their field of research
Overview
Measuring Journal Quality & Impact

1. Why measure journal quality and impact?
2. Thinking about journal relevance
3. Evaluating journal integrity and quality
4. Finding circulation data
5. Finding journal metrics and ranking data: SCImago & Scopus
6. Looking at journal prestige lists
Measuring Research Quality and Impact

The activity of measuring and describing the quality and impact of academic research is increasingly important in Australia and around the world. Applications for grant funding or career advancement may require an indication of both the quantity of your research output and of the quality of your research.

Research impact measurement may be calculated using researcher specific metrics such as the h-index, or by quantitative methods such as citation counts or journal impact factors. This type of measurement is also referred to as bibliometrics.

This guide provides information on a range of bibliometrics including citation metrics, alternative metrics, researcher impact, journal quality and impact, book quality and impact, and university rankings.

Key Terms and Definitions

Altmetrics - Altmetrics (alternative metrics) are qualitative data that are complementary to traditional, citation-based metrics (bibliometrics). Including citations in public policy documents, discussions on research blogs, mainstream media coverage, bookmarks on reference managers, and mentions on social media.

https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/measure_research
Why measure journal quality and impact?

• To enable you to submit future research outputs to reputable, well known journals in your field of research

• To avoid unethical publishers and journals

• To demonstrate to University administrators, and others, that your research is published in journals that are high quality, relevant to your field of research and will have a demonstrated impact on future research and practice
Measuring journal quality and impact

• Relevance to your field of research and reaching the desired target audience

• The integrity and quality of the journals, and its editorial team and contributors

• The size of a journal’s potential audience based on circulation and subscription data

• Journal impact on future research and practice, which is often measured using metrics and journal rankings
Thinking about journal relevance

• What is the scope of the journal?
• Who are the readers?
• Are they part of your research community?
• Would they be interested in your publication?
• In which journals, do experts in your research area publish?
Identifying relevant journals
Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory

Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory

• Provides information about thousands of journals

• Identify journals in a specific discipline

• Links to the journal website for further information, including the scope of the journal and instructions for authors

• Indicates if journals are peer reviewed, Open Access or indexed by bibliographical databases
What is Ulrichsweb?

Ulrichsweb is an easy-to-search source of detailed information on more than 300,000 periodicals (also called serials) of all types: academic and scholarly journals, e-journals, peer-reviewed titles, popular magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and more.
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<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive coverage of new developments and issues in all branches of genetics, with particular emphasis on the human genome project and genetic aspects of disease.</td>
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Identifying relevant journals

Some academic publishers have journal suggestions tools:

- Journal Finder (Elsevier)
- Publication Recommender (IEEE)
- Find Journal (Wiley)
- Journal Suggestor (Springer Nature)

These tools use keywords from an article’s title and abstract to search for relevant journal titles.

Most also provide impact metrics to identify highly ranked journals.
Journal Finder (Elsevier)
https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/

Find journals

Enter title and abstract of your paper to easily find journals that could be best suited for publishing. JournalFinder uses smart search technology and field-of-research specific vocabularies to match your paper to scientific journals.

More on how it works

Paper title

Enter your paper title here

Paper abstract

Enter your paper abstract here
Publication Recommender (IEEE)
http://publication-recommender.ieee.org/home

IEEE Publication Recommender™
Find the best match for your scholarly article

- Search 190+ periodicals and 1800+ conferences
- Compare critical points such as Impact Factor and Submission-To-Publication Time
- Get all the key data about IEEE publications at a glance
- Download the results of your search

Choose a search type and let Publication Recommender do the work!
- Both Periodicals and Conferences
- Periodicals only
- Conferences only

Enter keywords, key phrases, or article title

Extract keywords from your article
Enter your abstract or drag your article file here (PDF, DOC, DOCX, TEX)

Narrow by date: (Optional)
I would like to publish before: 

Get Recommendation
Evaluating journal integrity and quality

• Is the journal name unique and note easily confused with other, well-known journals?
• Are the publisher and editor contact details available?
• Do you know anyone on the Editorial Board, and what are their credentials?
• Is the journal open about its peer review process?
• Is copyright and licensing information clearly described on the journal’s website?
Evaluating journal integrity and quality

• Is there a clearly stated plan for archiving and preservation of the journal’s content?
• Does the journal have clear policies on handling potential conflicts of interest?
• Does the journal charge a fee for publication? If so, are details of the fees available?
• Is the journal indexed by reputable bibliographic databases and easily discoverable?
• Does the journal have a current top quartile rating in SCImago?
Beware!

- Unethical journals and publishers
- Hijacked journals

These publishers often target early career researchers and PhD candidates
Unethical publishing

• You may be directly contacted by an unethical publisher asking you to contribute articles to a journal they publish

• Remember to evaluate all organisations that approach you to determine the quality and integrity of their publications

• Unethical publishing may also be call questionable, disreputable or predatory publishing

• Many unethical publishers use an Open Access model, but not all OA publishers are unethical
Unethical publishing
A field spotters’ guide

Usually involves:

• A professional sounding journal and often a professional looking website

• No peer review process and little or no editorial support

• The payment of significant publication fees by the author, while the publishers expend very little

• The use of unsuspecting researchers’ names on editorial boards or “editing” committees
Hijacking

Usually involves:

• The use of a counterfeit website with a similar web address to mimic the website of an authentic and reputable journal
• The fraudulent use of established journal names and often identifiers, such as an ISSN
• The soliciting of manuscript submissions for the hijacked journals and charging of high publication fees

It can take time for the legitimate publisher to discover this disreputable activity!
Ethical publishing: Tools

• **Stop Predatory Journals** – provides lists of unethical publishers, unethical and hijacked journals, and fake and misleading metrics (this website is based on the archive of Beall’s List)

• **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)** – an independent online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals

• **Retraction Watch** – tracking article retractions as a signal of scientific integrity
Finding journal circulation data

• Circulation or subscription data for journals can be very difficult to find

• Some journals will include circulation or subscription data on their websites

• Some journals do not report their circulation data (especially small or obscure journals)

• Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory includes circulation data on Demographics tab for some titles, but not all
Journal metrics: limitations

- Some metrics cannot be compared across disciplines
- Review articles may attract more citations, regardless of their quality
- Good quality articles and journals may not be cited
- The quality of a particular article cannot necessarily be judged by the journal in which it is published
- Articles may be self-cited or cited by colleagues to increase their visibility
Finding journal metrics

• Metrics, impact factors and rankings should not be the only criteria used to determine journal quality and impact

• Use only reputable journal metric tools, there are a number of unethical publishing companies that provide misleading or fake journal metrics

• Recommended sources of journal metrics
  • SCImago
  • Scopus

• When reporting journal metrics, always state full details of the metric, how you obtained it and when
SCImago

• Metrics tool – based on data from Scopus
• Journals can be analysed individually, or as part of a subject area or category
• To see how an individual journal is ranked within a subject area and category, select Journal Rankings and the relevant area and category
• The results list will list the journals in descending order of prestige, based on a metric called the SJR (SCImago Journal Rank)

www.scimagojr.com
SCImago: SJR

• A prestige metric based on the number of citations received by a journal in a particular year and the prestige of the journals that make those citations

• SJR is a normalised score which allows the comparison of the impact of articles within a subject area and across disciplines
SCImago: Quartiles

• Individual journals will also be assigned to a Quartile
• The Quartile indicates how the journal performs in relation to other journals in the same subject area
• Q1 indicates that the title is in the top 25% of journals in that subject category
• Multidisciplinary journals may attain different Quartile metrics for each of their different subject categories
• Ideally you should aim to have your articles published in journals with a Q1 or Q2 ranking for your field of research
SCImago also reports

- H-Index = # of articles (n) published by a journal that have received the same number or more (n) citations over time
- H-index should only be used to compare journals within the same field
- SCImago also includes citation data for a journal as well as articles published within the journal
https://www.scimagojr.com/
# Nature Genetics

**Country**: United Kingdom - [III](#) SIR Ranking of United Kingdom

**Subject Area and Category**: Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Genetics

**Publisher**: Nature Publishing Group

**Publication type**: Journals

**ISSN**: 10614036

**Coverage**: 1992-ongoing

**Scope**: Nature Genetics publishes the very highest quality research in genetics. It encompasses genetic and functional genomic studies on human traits and on other model organisms, including mouse, fly, nematode and yeast. Current emphasis is on the genetic basis for common and complex diseases and on the functional mechanism, architecture and evolution of gene networks, studied by experimental perturbation.
SCImago: Journal search
Activity:

Use SCImago to search for a journal in your field of research

- What is the journal’s H-index?
- What is the 2018 SJR for the journal?
- What is the current quartile for the journal?
SCImago: Subject search

SJR
Scimago Journal & Country Rank

Enter Journal Title, ISSN or Publisher Name

WHAT IS SCIMAGOJR FOR?

JOURNAL RANKS
EXPLORE

COUNTRY RANKS
EXPLORE

VIZ TOOLS
EXPLORE
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Scopus is a multidisciplinary bibliometric database of peer-reviewed academic journals, books and conference proceedings.

There are two ways to find impact metrics and rankings of journals indexed by Scopus:

1. Using Scopus Sources
2. Using Scopus Compare Sources
Scopus Sources

- Scopus Sources provides a range of metrics which can be used to evaluate a journal:
  - SJR
  - CiteScore
  - SNIP (Source Normalized Impact per Paper)

- Sources also provides a percentile ranking within a subject area and a range of indicators of journal impact, including:
  - Documents published in the preceding three year period
  - Citations in the past year
  - Percentage of documents cited
CiteScore
Scopus

• Calculates the average number of citations received in a calendar year by all articles published in a journal in the preceding three years

• The calendar year to which a journal’s issues are assigned is determined by the issue cover date, not the dates that the articles were made available online

• CiteScore and CiteScore Percentile should not be used to compare journals from different subject areas, as they are not field normalised
SNIP: Source Normalized Impact per Paper
Scopus

• Calculated by measuring a journal’s citation count per paper against the citation potential of articles in the same research area

• The impact of a single citation will have a higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa
## Scopus Sources

### Sources

**Title**

Enter title

---

**Filter refine list**

- Apply
- Clear filters

**Display options**

- Display only Open Access journals
- Counts for previous 3 years
  - No minimum selected
  - Minimum citations ______
  - Minimum documents

---

### 40,503 results

- Export to Excel
- Download Scopus Source List
- Learn more about Scopus Source List

- View metrics for year: 2018

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<th>Citations 2018</th>
<th>Documents 2015-17</th>
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### Scopus Sources

**Title**
- Enter title

**Title:** Nature Genetics

**Filter refine list**
- Apply
- Clear filters

**Display options**
- Display only Open Access journals
- Counts for previous 3 years
- No minimum selected
- Minimum citations
- Minimum documents

**1 result**

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View metrics for year: 2018

**Export to Excel**
**Download Scopus Source List**
**Learn more about Scopus Source List**

**Top of page**
Nature Genetics
Scopus coverage years: from 1992 to Present
Publisher: Springer Nature
ISSN: 1061-4036 E-ISSN: 1546-1718
Subject area: Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Genetics

CiteScore 2018
19.88

Citation Count 2018
16,740 Citations

Documents 2015 - 2017
842 Documents

CiteScore Tracker 2019
13.40

Citation Count 2019
10,905 Citations to date

Documents 2016 - 2018
814 Documents to date
Activity

Using the same journal that you used for the SCImago activity, search Scopus Sources

• What is the 2018 CiteScore for the journal?
• What is the 2018 SJR for the journal?
• What is the 2018 SNIP for the journal?
Scopus Compare Sources

- Allows you to compare up to 10 Scopus sources
- Metrics and indicators include:
  - SJR, CiteScore & SNIP
  - Citations
  - # of citing documents
  - Percentage of documents not cited
  - Percentage of review articles published
- The Chart view displays information in a line graph, with separate graphs for each metric or indicator
- The Table view lists metrics and indicators in one consolidated table
Scopus Compare Sources

Compare sources

Select up to 10 sources to compare

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

Source title

Enter title *

E.g., Cell, cancer

limit to:

All subject areas

Search

Search results

CiteScore

Return to previous page
Scopus Compare Sources
Chart view

Select up to 10 sources to compare
Remove all selections

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area
Source title

Enter title *
Australasian journal of philos ×
E.g., Cell, cancer
limit to
All subject areas

1 Search results
CiteScore

Source ↑ CiteScore ↓

Australasian Journal of Philosophy 1.16

CiteScore publication by year

Year


CiteScore

0 1 2 3 4


Calculations last updated: 09 Sep 2019
### Select up to 10 sources to compare

**Scopus Compare Sources**

**Table view**

#### Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

- **Source title**
- **Enter title**
  - Australasian journal of philosophy
- **Limit to**
  - All subject areas
- **Search**

#### CiteScore publication by year

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**Selected sources:**
- Australasian Journal of Philosophy
- The Philosophical Review
- Journal of Philosophy
- Philosophical Studies
- Philosophical Quarterly
Activity:

Using Scopus Compare Sources, compare four journals in your field of research

- Which journal has the highest 2018 SJR?
- Which journal has the lowest number of uncited articles in 2018?
- Which journal has the highest 2018 SNIP?
Some subject areas also provide lists of relevant, high quality journals:

• **ABDC Master Journal List** (Australian Business Deans Council)
• **APS Preferred Journals List** (Australian Political Studies Association)
• **ERIH PLUS** (European Reference Index for the Humanities)
• **RePEc** (Research Papers in Economics)
Publishing Research - Research Guide

Home

Publishing Research

This guide provides information on quality practices that should be considered when determining the most appropriate method for publishing your research.

Relevant formats and publications will vary depending on your area of research, but the integrity and quality of publishers and publications should always be important criteria when choosing where to publish.

Before Submitting Your Manuscript

There are several things you need to consider before submitting your research for publication:

- Determine the intended readership for your research
- Choose the publication format that is the most appropriate for your area of research – this may be a journal, book, conference paper or other media
- Develop a strategy that takes into consideration the pros and cons of each format
- Think carefully about which publishers and publications are best suited to your research and intended audience
- Consider using placement tools to identify the publications which most closely fit your area of research
- Evaluate the quality and integrity of potential publishers and publications
- Consider the role of impact metrics in determining where to publish

Research Support

Researchers at Murdoch University are supported by the Library and the Research and Innovation Directorate.

Please contact your Subject Librarian to make an appointment for advice on measuring research quality and impact.

Research Week S1, 2019

- Publishing your Research

Slides from Research Week, Semester 1, 2019

https://libguides.murdoch.edu.au/publishing
Ask our Librarians

Need help finding resources for your assignments or building your research strategies?
Ask our Librarians!

Our Subject Librarians are skilled information professionals who can provide study, teaching and research support. We can provide support on:

- finding scholarly information to support research via our Subject Guides
- library skills training
- managing and organising research sources using EndNote
- referencing sources in assignments
- scholarly publishing, publication impact, open access and copyright.

Ask us a question

For quick questions via email, use the enquiry form below. For Murdoch students and staff only.
Help: Consultations


• Provide further research support and skills training for academic staff and research students

• You can arrange an individual or small group consultation
Any Questions?