Librarian Quick Reference Cards for Research Impact Metrics

Metrics illuminate the impact of research outputs. When meeting with students, researchers, deans or department heads, the metrics — found on Elsevier products or via other sources — on these quick reference cards can help you to:

**Prioritize Reading**

1. Impact per Publication (IPP)
2. Journal Impact Factor
3. Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)
4. Social Activity Online
5. Media Mentions

**Recommend Where to Publish**

1. Impact per Publication (IPP)
2. Citation impact per paper (SNIP)
3. Journal Impact Factor
4. SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)
5. Media Mentions

**Add to Online Research Profiles**

1. Scopus
2. Google Scholar
3. ResearcherID
4. ORCID
5. Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

**Enrich Promotion & Tenure Portfolio**

1. Impact per Publication (IPP)
2. Citation impact per paper (SNIP)
3. Journal Impact Factor
4. SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)
5. Media Mentions

**Develop Collections**

1. Impact per Publication (IPP)
2. Citation impact per paper (SNIP)
3. Journal Impact Factor

**Benchmark a Collection of Research Outputs**

1. Impact per Publication (IPP)
2. Citation impact per paper (SNIP)
3. Journal Impact Factor

**Document**

1. Citation count
2. Field-weighted citation impact
3. Impact per publication
4. Source normalized impact per paper
5. Journal impact factor

**Author**

1. Top percentiles
2. Social activity online
3. Media mentions
4. Journal impact factor

**Journal**

1. Citation count
2. Field-weighted citation impact
3. Impact per publication
4. Source normalized impact per paper
5. Journal impact factor

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**Citation Count**

- Of citations accrued since publication

A simple measure of attention for a particular article, journal or researcher. As with all citation-based measures, it is important to be aware of citation practices. The paper "Defensive Strategies for Increasing Citation Frequency" lists 35 different ways to increase citations.

**h-Index**

- Of articles in the collection that have received at least h citations

For example, an h-index of 10 means that 10 of the collection’s articles have each received at least 10 citations. It is not isolated to a single highly cited paper, but a large number of poorly cited documents. This flexible measure can be applied to any collection of valid documents. Related to type indicators, emphasis other factors, such as newer or citing outputs’ own citation count.

**Impact Per Publication (IPP)**

- Of articles in present year for journal documents from past a year

This score can be used for any newly published collection of publications. It is similar to the Journal Impact Factor in the way it is calculated, but allows for more comparison across disciplines. Since disciplinary citation practices mean that not all journals will reach the same citation rate within the Journal Impact Factor in the same year.

**Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)**

- Average of weighted citations received in a year

Under documents are in the same discipline, of the same type (e.g., article, letter, review) and of the same age. An FWCI of 1 means that the output performs just as expected against the global average. More than 1 means that the output is more-cited than expected according to the global average. For example, a 1.5 has 50% more citations than expected.

**Percentile Benchmark (Articles)**

- Of articles in scientific blogs and/or academic websites

Investigating beyond the impact on research mentions, scholars could discover possible future research collaborations or opportunities to aid the promotion and tenure portfolios. These mentions can be found in the Scopus Article Metrics Module and within free and subscription altmetric tools and services.

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**Scopus**

- The world’s largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature with content from over 15,000 publishers.

**IPP, SNIP and SJR**

- Are provided free at https://www.sciencedirect.com

**SCImago**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**Journal Citation Reports (JCR)**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**Citations**

- Of documents published in previous 2 years

Based on Web of Science data, this metric is updated once a year and traditionally released in June following the year of coverage as part of the Journal Citation Reports. It also includes a five-year Impact Factor.

**Research Trends**

- Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Dimensions

**Social Activity Online**

- Of mentions on micro-blogging sites

Micro-blogging sites may include Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and others. Reporting on this attention is becoming more common in academic circles as a way to supplement traditional citation-based metrics, which may take years to accumulate. They may also be open to gaming.

**Media Mentions**

- Of mentions in mass or popular media

Media mentions are valued indicators of social impact as they often highlight the potential impact of the research on society. Sources could include an institution’s press clippings service or an alternate provider. Web of Science, Dimensions and Pure all monitor mass media.

**Scholarly Activity Online**

- Of users who add articles into their personal scholarly collaboration network library

The website How Can I Share it links to publisher sharing policies, voluntary principles for article sharing on scholarly collaboration networks, and places to share that endorses these principles including Mendeley, FigureIt, SSRN and others.

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**Journal Impact Factor**

- Of articles in present year for journal documents from past a year

The impact of a single citation will have a higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa. Stability indicates the reliability of the score. Smaller journals tend to have wider stability than larger journals.

**Source Normalized Impact Per Paper (SNIP)**

- Citation impact per paper (SNIP)

The impact of a single citation will have a higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa. Stability indicates the reliability of the score. Smaller journals tend to have wider stability than larger journals.

**Outputs in Top Percentiles**

- Of articles in the current year

Found within Scopus. Outputs in Top Percentiles can be field weighted. It indicates how many articles are in the top 1%, 5%, 10%, or 25% of the most-cited documents. Quick way to benchmark groups of researchers.

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**Scopus**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**JCR**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**CWTS**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**Scimago Lab**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

**ORCID**

- Provides tools for comparing different scholarly sources, including SCImago Journal Rank, SJR and H-index.

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