Research metrics quick reference

Metrics illuminate the impact of your research outputs. Promotion and tenure committees, funders, advisors, research team leaders and potential collaborators are all interested in information about impact.

But where to start?
Your library can advise you on metrics that can help you to:

Citation count

A simple measure of attention for an article, journal or research. As with all citation-based measures, it is important to be aware of citation practices. Citation counts can include measures of societal impact, such as press, policy and clinical citations. “Effective Strategies for Increasing Citation Frequency” lists 15 different ways to increase citations.

- h-index
  - of articles in the collection (N) that have received at least h citations each
  - For example, an h-index of 8 means that 8% of the collection's articles have received at least 8 citations. h-index is not skewed by a single highly cited paper, nor by a large number of poorly cited documents. Flexible measure can be applied to any collection of citable documents. Related h-type indexes emphasize other factors, such as newness or citing outputs’ own citation counts.

Document count

A measure of attention for an article, journal or research. This comprehensive, current and open metric for journal citation impact is available in a free layer of Scopus.com. It includes a yearly release and monthly CiteScore Tracker updates. CiteScore calculations include citations from articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers. See wwww.scopus.com/resources

Source Normalized Impact Per Paper (SNIP)

Journal’s citation count per paper. A source-normalized abstract and citation database, curated by independent subject matter experts with content from over 5,000 publishers worldwide. SNIP is a source-normalized abstract and citation database, curated by independent subject matter experts with content from over 5,000 publishers. SNIP and SJR are provided free at www.scopus.com. CitScimago. SNIP and SJR are provided free at www.scopus.com. CitScimago™. SNIP and SJR are provided free at www.scopus.com.

Usage

Signals if anyone is reading the documents or otherwise using the research. See plumanalytics.com/learn/about-metrics/usage-metrics/

Mentions

• of blog posts, comments, reviews, Wikipedia reference, news media
  • Show how people are interacting with the research, and whether the research is gaining attention both within academic networks and in broader forums. See plumanalytics.com/learn/about-metrics/mentions/metrics/

Social media

• of shares, likes, comments, favs, ratings
  • Social media can help measure "buzz" and attention. Social media isn't an adequate measure of how well a particular piece of research has been promoted. See plumanalytics.com/learn/social-media/metrics/

CiteScore

citations to documents published in a year period
  • This comprehensive, current and open metric for journal citation impact is available in a free layer of Scopus.com. It includes a yearly release and monthly CiteScore Tracker updates. CiteScore calculations include citations from articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers. See www.scopus.com/resources

Journal Impact Factor

citations in a year to documents published in previous 2 years
  • of citable items 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®. JCR also includes a Five-Year Impact Factor.

Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)

• of citations received by a document
  • expected & of citations for similar documents
  • Citations are weighted—more or less—depending on the source they come from. The subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation. Can be applied to journals, book series and conference proceedings. Calculated by Scimago Lab. See www.scimagojr.com for SNIP data.

PlumX metrics

Quick reference

- Journal Impact Factor
- SNIP: Source Normalized Impact per Paper
- Journal Impact Factor
- CiteScore

To publish

Decide where
Publish your research outputs

Apply/report to funders

• Percentile benchmark
  • Journal metrics (e.g., CiteScore)
  • Usage
  • Captures
  • Mentions
  • Social media
  • Citations

Benchmark a collection of research outputs

• Percentile benchmark
  • Field-Weighted Citation Impact
  • h-index (if in the same field)
  • Field-Weighted Download Impact

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