University Rankings

What makes you rank?
What are the right questions to ask?

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Why are International Rankings important?

**Students & Parents**
Criteria used when choosing a university

**University Management**
Evaluating and benchmarking institutions locally and internationally

**Policy Makers**
Evaluating universities globally

**Corporates**
Evaluating universities globally

**Funders**
Evaluating universities globally

**Government**
Evaluating universities globally
Rankings give an external perspective on internal policy

Rankings assign weights to specific measures in order to benchmark the quality of an institution.

For Rankings:
We help to develop bibliometric algorithms to keep improving our collective view on what quality means. (= what is important for the future)

Developing a quality focused strategy will give your institution the best chance of doing well in future rankings.
The source for bibliometric data

Scopus®

Author Profiles
> 16.000.000
Publications
80+ million
Affiliation Profiles
> 70.000

Funders
Ranking and Benchmarking
National Assessment

(RADS) Custom Data and Analytics
... many others

> 5.000 Publishers

SciVal

... many others
What is SciVal?

SciVal provides access to the research performance of over 20,000 research institutions and their associated researchers from more than 230 nations worldwide.
SciVal Ranking Module

Analyze and benchmark the indicators used in the THE World University Rankings

Research performance by Times Higher Education (THE)

25th
World University Rankings 2021
47,202 Scholarly Output
29,368 International Output

Citations indicators used by THE

Field-Weighted Citation Impact used by THE

Global
Country Normalized

Field-Weighted Citation Impact breakdown per year

Benchmark Institution as seen by THE
How do I improve my Institution’s ranking?

Investing in research is the same as any other investment:

- Its all about interest over time

Pillars

- Quality comes from enabling the right people
- Research needs help finding its audience
- Data driven decisions are crucial for long term success

Quick wins

- Publishing in the right journals
- Making sure your affiliation is correctly defined
- Increasing Collaboration
- (Consolidation of multiple institutes in to one)
Institutional perimeter

OrgDB

Desk Research

Customer Consultants 2nd Line Support

Customers

Scopus

SciVal
How to ensure your institutional hierarchy is correct?

As the publications on which all bibliometric data used in rankings are based on Scopus hierarchies it is important to make sure your organizational structure is correct.

At the institutional level

The **Institutional Profile Wizard** works like the Author Feedback Wizard. Institutions use the wizard to:

- Modify affiliation profiles
- Update organizational hierarchies
- Modify contact information

https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/support/institution-profile-wizard
Publications eligible for rankings

• January 2015 – December 2019 for publications
• January 2015 – Mid 2020 for citations (June 30th Scopus snapshot)
• Five publication types: articles, reviews, conference proceedings, books and book chapters
• Special treatment of kilo-authored publications (publications with 1000+ authors)
• Discontinued Scopus Sources are excluded
How to spot journal quality issues?

- Spikes in year-on-year growth
- Sudden changes in content origin
- Drop in CiteScore
- Publications outside of subject area
- Weak or no peer-review process
The main indicators used in rankings

- Publication Volume
- International Collaboration
- Citation Impact
Using Metrics Responsibly

When used correctly, research metrics together with qualitative input give a balanced, multi-dimensional perspective to enhance decision-making.

- **ALWAYS use both qualitative and quantitative input into your decisions**
- **ALWAYS use more than one research metric in each theme, such as citation impact, as the quantitative input**
Developing a Bibliometric Strategy

Outlier detection

Context setting

Finding your Niche
## Outlier Detection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prominence Percentile</th>
<th>Weighted Average FWCI</th>
<th>Relative Share of publications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-50</td>
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<td>0.56</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-70</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-80</td>
<td>0.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-90</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context setting

Best in class

Selected set
Bibliometric strategy
FWCI is a normalized citation impact metric which is an indicator of the citation impact of a publication. It compares the actual number of citations received by an entity’s publications with the number of citations expected for each publication based on the subject field, publication type, and publication year.

- FWCI counts citations in the calendar year of publication and the following X years.
- It is calculated using the ratio of the citations received and the citations expected for a publication given the publication year, publication type, and subject area.
- A FWCI of more than 1.00 indicates that the entity’s publications have been cited more than would be expected based on the global average for similar publications. For example, a FWCI of 2.11 means 111% more than the global average.
- A FWCI of less than 1.00 indicates that the entity’s publications have been cited less than would be expected based on the global average for similar publications; for example, 0.87 means 13% less than the global average.
Does international collaboration affect FWCI?

Source: Scopus.com, May 2019
Collaboration

International Collaboration in the region

Romania Collaboration types

Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Greece
Romania
SINGLE_AUTHOR
INSTITUTIONAL
NATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL
Rankings evolve!

- Usage Metrics
- Output in top 10% CiteScore
- Patent Citations
- Clinical Citations
- Gender Equality
Thank you

3 key take aways
Detect Outliers
Determine Context
Find your Niche