Research students' **Skills Toolkit**

Journal Impact Factors & *InCites Journal Citation Reports*

How do you measure research quality and impact? How do you find out which are the most highly-cited journals in your field or choose the best journal to publish your article in? How do you measure the impact of an individual researcher?

In this task you will use *Journal Citation Reports* to find journal impact factors and rankings.

You'll also learn about the h-index, a personal impact factor. Scopus and Web of Science are two of the tools you can use to calculate it.

Please, note the University of Oxford supports the use of 'responsible metrics' in research assessments, in line with the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA), https://sfdora.org/read/, which recommends that Journal Impact Factors should not be used as a surrogate measure of the quality of research articles.

Journal Impact Factors

1. InCites Journal Citation Reports

JCR is produced by Thomson Reuters, using citation data from journals in the Web of Science (over 8,000 science and over 2,600 social science journals). It can be used to find top journals in your research area based on impact factors.

Open SOLO in your browser: http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk and search for **Journal Citation Reports**. Click on **Online Access**.

1a. Searching for a specific journal

In the search box start typing **Journal of Cellular Physiology** or a journal name of your choice, then select the title in the box

- The information displayed includes its **Impact Factor**, which is the average number of times articles published in the past 2 years have been cited in the reporting year.
- For a journal to have an Impact Factor it must have been tracked by Thomson Reuters (ISI) for 3 years.

- Click on the links at the bottom of the screen to get the cited and citing journal data.

To find out the journal's position in its subject(s), click **Rank**. For a visual display, click **Journal Relationships.** Hover over arcs and chords to view impact factor and citation relationship. Click on the "i", top right corner of the circle for more instructions.

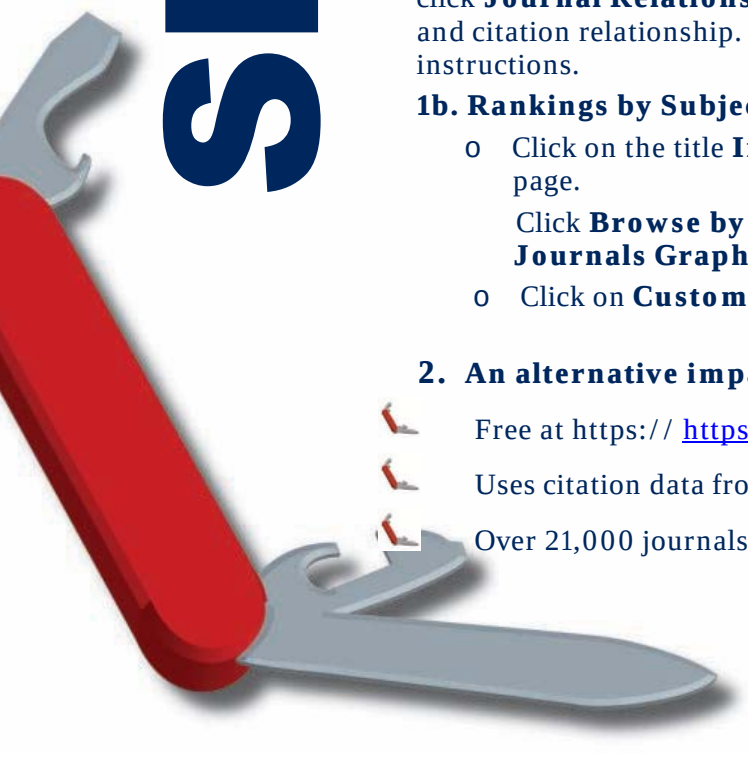
1b. Rankings by Subject

- Click on the title **InCites Journal Citation Reports** to return to the home page.

  Click **Browse by Category**. Choose a category. Click on a number in the **Journals Graph** column to see the journal ranking for that year.
- Click on **Customize Indicators** to select alternative factors.

2. An alternative impact factor: Scimago

- Free at https:// https://www.scimagojr.com/
- Uses citation data from **Scopus,** www.scopus.com
- Over 21,000 journals including titles not covered by JCR.



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- Weights citations according to *prestige* of citing journal.

  In **Scopus** the **SJR** is shown under the **Sources** button (above Document search). You are presented with a list of highly cited journals. Scroll with the > arrow to see the SJR column.

- N.B. Journal impact factors vary greatly within and between disciplines so an impact factor of 2 may be high in some subjects but quite low in others!

Other ways of measuring impact

3. The *h-index*: your personal impact factor

In 2005 the h-index was devised by J.E. Hirsch, a score based on **how many highly- cited papers you've written.**

How to calculate your h-index (or your supervisor's!)

- **Try task 3a (Web of Science) or 3b (Scopus) below.**
  Find the databases through SOLO, http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

3a. Web of Science (Select **Web of Science Core Collection** from the **All Databases** drop-down menu)

- Click on the **Author Search** button to the right of Basic Search. Do a search for your supervisor, to get a list of their papers.
- On the Results page select an author and click ***View as a set of results to export, analyse, and link to full text*** which allows you to ***Create Citation Report*** to view their h-index plus a table of:
  - Papers published by year
  - Citations in each year
  - Sum of times cited and average citations per item
  - Links to the citing articles (with or without self-citations)

3b. Scopus

- Click on the **Authors** search option.
- Do a search for your supervisor to get a list of their papers.
- On the Results page tick the box next to the author's name and select ***View citation overview.***

Why might their h-index be lower in Scopus than in Web of Science?
Journal coverage and period of coverage differ between Scopus and Web of Science. Scopus is in the process of extending cited references back to 1976, instead of the current 1996. Web of Science cited references go back as far as 1945.

- For **Help & More Information**: contact the Radcliffe Science Library (01865 272800, or enquiries.rsl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) or the Bodleian Health Care Libraries (01865 221936, or hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)
- For other journal and citation measures & tools, see our **Bibliometrics LibGuide** at http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bibliometrics