



**Copenhagen
Business School**
HANDELSHØJSKOLEN

Copenhagen Business School

**International workshop in the EU-Asia Link project
on International journals**

Leif Hansen, CBS Library – March 5, 2010



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Introduction.

- The job assigned to me was:
- ...to present a world view and definitions of international journals !!



Agenda

- What is an international journal?
- What is research quality?
- How do you measure research quality?
- How do you rank journals?
- QUESTIONS – please just ask questions as we go along



What is an international Journal

- Local journal: >66% of the authors are local, i.e from the same institution
- National journal: >66% of the authors are national, i.e. from the same country
- International journal : <66% of the authors from one country.
- BUT: what about American journals?



What is an international Journal

- Local journal: >66% of the authors are local, i.e from the same institution
- National journal: >66% of the authors are national, i.e. from the same country
- International journal : <66% of the authors from one country.
- BUT: what about american journal?
- **Does this tell us much – what about quality?**



How do you measure research quality?

- We need a quality factor when we talk about international journals
- Two different approaches:
 - Peer review
 - Metrics



How do you measure research quality?

Peer review

- Well-known in assessing quality in articles :
 - double blind peer review – or editors review?
 - Open assessment review ([Open Asssesment](#))
- Also used for ranking institutions – cf. RAE or REF in the UK
- Also used for ranking journals using surveys - see : [VHB-JOURQUAL](#)
- Takes a lot of work and rather costly



How do you measure research quality?

Metrics:

- Used for evaluating the individual article: CITATIONS
- Used for evaluating the individual author : citation / article; H-index
- Used for evaluating the individual journal: Journal Impact Factor (JIF)
- *(In a given year, the impact factor of a journal is the average number of citations to those papers that were published during the two preceding years.)*



How do you measure research quality?

Metrics:

- Citations does not equal quality as such.
- Positive citations, negative citations, citation cartels, editor induced citations , mis-citation
- Citation / article measures *impact* which is not equal to *quality*
- But still – unfortunately – citation indexes and impact factors are used as quality stamps or as proxies for quality!



How do you rank journals?

Basic problem in ranking: only compare things that can be compared!

- Different publication patterns within different reserch areas
 - Science and Health versus Social Science and Art&Humanities
 - number of authors
 - lenght of articles
 - language – different kind of audience
 - some types of articles are cited more than others



How do you rank journals?

Distribution of citations.

- Non-cited articles:
 - ~25% Science articles
 - ~40% Social Science articles
 - ~90% Art & Humanities articles
- General distribution of citations in a journal:
 - ~15% of all articles gets 50% of the citations
 - ~ 50% of all articles gets 90% of the citations, which means
 - ~ 50% of all articles gets 10% of the citations!
- Conclusion: JIF cannot be used as an indicator to the quality of an article.



How do you rank journals?

Which tools are available?

- Web of Science
~10.000 journals are indexed (7000 in SCI, 2000 in SCCI and 1000 in AHCI)

(more than 25000 peer reviewed journals!)
- WoS most used tool for citations analysis and journal ranking by JIF
- Scopus is an alternative (+18.000; +6.200 in SS and +1.400 in A&H)
- Google Scholar (number of Journals ???)
- Publish or Perish – based on search in Google Scholar ([PoP](#))



How do you rank journals?

How is WoS covering the different fields of research?

- **Excellent:**
 - Molecular biology and biochemistry, Clinical medicine, Physics and astronomy
Chemistry
- **Good:**
 - Applied physics and chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Psychology
Psychiatry, Economics
- **Moderate / bad:**
 - Sociology, Education, Political science, Anthropology, Art & Humanities
including Law

(Henk F. Moed, Citation analysis in Research Evaluation, 2005, p. 42)



How do you rank journals?

But what about law journals?

- WoS: 104 journals in Journal Citation Report
- Scopus: 213 journals with "law" in the title.
- Washington and Lee School of Law (<http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/index.aspx>)
1613 journals!
- Australian Research Council list of law journals (peer / survey based)
see: ([ARC – ERA](#)): 1167 journals



How do you rank journals?

And what about Public Procurement Law Review? ([PPLR](#))

- WoS: NO
- Scopus: NO
- Journal list from Washington and Lee School of Law: NO
- Australian Research Council list of law journals (peer / survey based):



How do you rank journals?

But what about Public Procurement Law Review? ([PPLR](#))

- WoS: NO
- Scopus: NO
- Journal list from Washington and Lee School of Law: NO
- Australian Research Council list of law journals (peer / survey based): **YES**
- Ranked as a A-journal (among the 5-20% best) just like Nordic journal of International Law
- Can also be found in PoP with bibliometric ranking ([PoP](#))



How do you rank journals?

To sum up:

- Do not compare fields that cannot be compared!
- Do not only use metrics!
- Do not mistake impact for quality
- Do not conclude from article quality to journal quality or vice versa!



How do you rank journals?

To sum up:

- And remember two things:

”Before we develop a pseudoscience of citation analysis, we should remind ourselves that what matters absolutely is the scientific content of a paper and that **nothing will substitute for either knowing it or reading it**”

(Brenner, S. "Loose ends; Current Biology, 1995 vol.5, no. 5, p. 568)



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"Surely you were aware when you accepted the position, Professor,
that it was publish or perish."