AHA Journal Evaluation Matrix

Increasingly universities, job applications and the Australian Research Council (ARC) require academics to justify the quality of their work. In response to these pressures, the AHA has assembled a journal evaluation matrix highlighting journals where historians in Australia regularly publish, compiling data about those journals' metrics and evaluations.

This document explains the meanings behind each of the evaluation metrics included in the AHA Journal Evaluation Matrix.

SCIMAGO: Scimago, run by Elsevier and based on data from Scopus, ranks journals in particular fields of research and then divides them into quartiles. The only journals included in Scimago are those which are also in Scopus, and journal editors and publishers need to apply to be part of those databases. The rankings are based on citation counts – by averaging the weighted citations in the given year (in this case 2018) against the number of citations in the past three years. Those scores are then ranked and divided into quartiles, with Q1 being the highest and Q4 the lowest. More details about the formula for ranking in Scimago is available from https://www.scimagojr.com/SCImagoJournalRank.pdf.

H-INDEX 2018: The H-Index is another metric produced in Scimago. It represents the highest number of articles (h) which have also received h citations each. For example, a publication with five articles cited by, respectively, 13, 10, 6, 3, and 2 other sources, has the h-index of 3 (as the highest number of citations up to the five articles). It is a measurement of the journal's citations and their impact over time.

Google h5-index: This metric, produced by Google Scholar, is similar to the Scimago H-Index in that it is a calculation of the number of articles (h) which have received h citations each. However, what Google Scholar does is calculates the figure based on the most recent five-year publication window.

Google h5-median: Also calculated by Google Scholar, this figure is a median number of citations for the top cited h articles in a publication, based on the most recent five-year publication window. So if a journal has a Google h5-index of 3, the h5-median is the median of the top three article citation numbers.

JCR Impact Factor: Sourced from Web of Science, this number is the ratio of citations to recently published items. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations to the journal in the most recent year by the number of publications in the journal in the preceding two years.

CiteScore: Scopus generates this figure. Similar to the JCR Impact Factor, it is the average number of citations received in a calendar year divided by all the number of articles published in the preceding three years.

Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP): Using Scopus data, SNIP is designed as an equalising metric to account for different citation expectations across fields. The SNIP figure represents the number of citations in the present year which reference publications in the past three years, divided by the number of publications in the past three years. A SNIP of 1.0 represents the median number of citations for journals in the field.