Scholarly Communications Corner
Measuring your Impact

By Sandy De Groote

Many researchers are interested in the impact of their research through their publications, both for external rewards such as promotion and tenure, but also for their own personal satisfaction. Several databases are available that provide citation counts to the number of times an article has been cited. These databases provide not only the citation to the original article, but also include the citing references. As a result, the tracking of citations is possible. Of course, the citation counts in each of these databases are limited to only the citations from journals also indexed in the database. Web of Science was one of the first databases to provide this service, but more recently, Google Scholar and Scopus have also started providing this information. In addition, many databases provide limited citation counts whereby a few selected articles in the database include citation counts and citing references. Databases with this type of limited citation counts include CINAHL, SCA Illumina databases (ERIC, PsycInfo), EBSCO databases (CINAHL), EMBASE, SciFinder Scholar, and others.

Your h-index

The databases that provide comprehensive citation counts often provide an individual h-index for the authors. The h-index is a calculation that attempts to measure both the productivity and the apparent impact of an author. The index is based on the set of the researcher’s most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other people’s publications (Wikipedia). An author has index h if h of [his/her] Np papers have at least h citations each, and the other (Np − h) papers have at most h citations each. Places where the h-index can be calculated for an individual author include the Web of Science, Scopus, and through Google Scholar.

In other words, if you have published 15 articles, you would have an h-index of 8 if eight of those articles had been cited at least eight times each, and the remaining have been cited 8 or less times.

Obtain your h-index:

Web of Science
- Enter the name of the author in the search box (e.g. Smith JT). To ensure accuracy if it is a popular name, enter Univ Illinois on the next line, then select “Address” from the field drop-down menu on the right.
- Click on Search.
• Click on Citation Report on the right hand corner of the results page, the H-index is on the right of the screen.

**Google Scholar**

- **Harzing’s Publish or Perish (POP)**
  - Publish or Perish searches Google Scholar. After searching by your name, deselect from the articles retrieved, those that you did not author. Your h-index will appear at the top of the tool. This tool must be downloaded to use.

- **Google Scholar Citations**
  - Using your Google (gmail) account, go to Google Scholar Citations to create a profile of all your articles captured in Google Scholar. This will show all the times the articles have been cited by other documents in Google Scholar and provide GS’s calculation of your h-index. Google Scholar includes the citations from more than journal articles, so citations from reports, dissertations, and other content will be included in this calculation. It’s your choice whether you make your profile public or private in Google Scholar Citations.

**Scopus Author Preview** (Author Preview is free through Scopus)

- Enter the name of the author in the search box and be sure to enter periods after the initials (e.g. Smith J.T.). To ensure accuracy if it is a popular name, you may enter *University of Illinois* in the affiliation field. [If you have worked at more than one place, your name may appear twice with two separate h-index ratings.]

For more information and links to these tools, please visit our Impact Factor Research Guide at [http://researchguides.uic.edu/if](http://researchguides.uic.edu/if) or contact Sandy De Groote, the Scholarly Communications Librarian for more information or a demonstration of the tools.

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