



HOW ARE JOURNALS AND BOOKS EVALUATED?

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JOURNAL IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factors were developed in the 1960s as a tool to help libraries **compare and rank journals** in science and social science. They are a product of Thomson Reuters (formerly ISI). To find journal Impact Factors, use the database [Journal Citation Reports](#).

The Impact Factor **measures how often articles** in a journal are cited, and thus how well journals perform. The Impact Factor in a given year is the average number of citations received per paper published in that journal in the previous two years.

You can use the impact factor to compare different journals. When using the impact factor to rank journals, it is important to rank journals from the same discipline as citation patterns vary across disciplines.

RANKING JOURNALS IN ARTS & HUMANITIES

Thomson Reuters do not publish journal citation reports in the arts and humanities, so no impact factors are available for journals in these disciplines. These are some of the measures of quality used as a substitute in the arts and humanities:

- Arts and Humanities Citation Index Journal List
- ERIH (European Reference Index for the Humanities)
- Australian Public Affairs Information Service

You can **link directly to these journal ranking tools** via the Research Output and Impact website or use a Google search to find the titles.

HOW TO FIND BOOK CITATIONS

In many disciplines in the arts, humanities and social sciences, **books** are a very significant medium for publication of new research. Databases which only count citations in the journal literature are **under-reporting the impact of publications** in these disciplines.

It should be possible to check for citations to a particular publication in any database which includes the full text of books (in other words, any database of electronic books). The largest such database is Google Books, but it is far from comprehensive.

WHAT OTHER TOOLS ARE THERE?



SCImago Journal & Country Rank

SCImago ranks journals included in the Scopus database - 16,000 journals compared with 8,000 in Journal Citation Reports.

SCImago calculates not only the number of citations to articles in journals but also takes into account the 'quality' of the citing journal.

Eigenfactor journal metrics

Eigenfactor metrics computes two principal scores - the **Eigenfactor Score** and the **Article Influence Score** which take into account:

- The quality of the citing journal
- The number of articles in each issue
- The different citation patterns in different disciplines

"Eigenfactor measures the total influence of a journal on the scholarly literature or, comparably, the total value provided by all of the articles published in that journal in a year. This seems the appropriate metric for making subscription decisions."

CT Bergstrom
Eigenfactor developer

Both SCImago and Eigenfactor are open access databases.

