



HOW DO I TRACK MY RESEARCH OUTPUT?

2

Citation metrics have found widespread application in the research community for research evaluation. For an individual article, **the number of times cited** is generally considered indicative of the article's academic impact, the assumption being that research articles of high academic quality will be cited more than those of lesser quality.

WHY CITATION METRICS?

It is important that researchers keep track of their publications and understand citation metrics in order to:

- use relevant metrics to support claims of research excellence and to help differentiate themselves from others in research grant applications and promotion rounds
- assist grant application reviewers in identifying their work and evaluating its academic impact
- provide access to their publications for the global academic community, which may help increase the impact of their work.

WHAT CITATION METRICS SHOULD AN INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHER USE?

- career citation count
- career citation count with self-citations removed
- citations per paper
- cumulative citations
- h-index ([Hirsch index](#))
- for selected articles: total citations, citations per paper etc.

HOW CAN WE PROFILE OUR RESEARCH GROUP?

- total number of publications in a given timeframe (e.g. last 5 years)
- total citation counts (for the publications within the timeframe)
- the ratio of these two, the citations per paper.

Recently, the h-index has also been applied to entities such as research groups, although the index was developed and introduced as an indicator for an individual researcher.

To profile a large group of researchers across many disciplines, a more detailed analysis of their research outputs would consider the measures mentioned above (total number of publications in a given timeframe, the total citation counts (for the publications within the timeframe), and the ratio of these two, the citations per paper) disaggregated at the discipline level and by year of publication.

AT WHAT LEVELS ARE CITATION METRICS USED TO ASSESS QUALITY?

- individual articles
- journals
- individual researchers
- research groups
- disciplines
- organisational units within an institution
- institutions
- countries

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- what a citation count is
- how to create citation reports
- how to benchmark your performance
- what your [h-index](#) is
- what journal and book rankings are
- how to keep track of metrics using tools such as [ResearcherID](#)

