RESEARCH ASSESSMENT IN INCITES

Guide to Identifying Competitor Journals for Publishers

Coverage of Web of Science Core Collection

The InCites dataset is built from publications indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection and includes records from:

- 1980 to present
- Science Citation Index Expanded
- Social Science Citation Index
- Arts & Humanities Index
- Conference Proceeding Citation Index-Science
- Conference Proceeding Citation Index-Social Science & Humanities
- Book Citation Index-Science
- Book Citation Index-Social Science & Humanities

Below are the key bibliographic fields indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection that will assist in identifying and analyzing competitor journals. This information will provide answers to critical questions with regard to benchmarking against competitor publications.

- **Authors:** All author names are indexed and names are standardized
  - Which authors are publishing in my publications and my competitor journals?
  - Are high impact researchers publishing in my competitor journals?

- **Addresses:** All addresses are indexed and standardized
  - Which institutions are publishing in my competitor journals?
  - Are top performing institutions publishing in my competitor journals?

- **Funding:** Funding data is indexed from the funding acknowledgement provided by the source paper. Funding data has been captured since 2008.
  - Which funding agencies are funding research published by my competitor journals?

- **Web of Science Category:** All sources (journal, book, conference proceeding) are assigned by the editorial team to one or several of our 250+ Web of Science Categories. The Web of Science Categories provide a useful reference for making comparisons between publishers who publish titles in the same research fields.
  - Which are the competitor journals publishing in the same field of research?
• **Publisher data:** All publisher information is indexed including publisher name and ISSN
  
  o *What is the performance (measured using Impact Factor) of the portfolio of publications from a publisher?*

• **Citations:** Citation counts are normalized in InCites in order to better understand the impact a paper or a set of papers compared to an expected impact. The expected impact, also known as Normalized Citation Impact, is created by calculating the average impact of papers from the same publication year, Web of Science category and document type. This indicator is useful to identify research that is performing above or below the expected impact of a research field.
  
  o *Who are the authors rapidly gaining citations in a subject area? Which competitor journals are they publishing in?*

**How to build a report in order to identify competing journals**

The following instructions will explain how to use InCites B&A to address the following question:

• *Which are the competitor journals publishing in the same field of research and how do these publications perform?*

**Considerations:** How do you wish to define the field of research? You can use the Web of Science categories, or for more specific areas of research, you may wish to define your own area of research in Web of Science Core Collection and export the dataset to InCites.

• Select the InCites dataset to use Web of Science categories to define the field of research (other schemas are available).
• Create your own area of research by running a Topic search in Web of Science Core Collection and export the results to InCites. Select your custom dataset for analysis.

2. Select the data set you wish to be working with. Select the InCites dataset or your custom dataset.

3. Select the Publisher you wish to obtain a list of competing journals for. You can select more than one publisher in the filter.

4. If you are using the InCites dataset, you will need to select a research area to obtain a list of competitor journals that publish in the same field.

5. Other useful filters are: Open access and Time Span. The Open Access filter will limit the list of journals to those that are indexed in the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).

6. Click on ‘Update Results’ to run the report.
7. Results are returned in Tabular Format.

8. Once you have identified the competing journals, you may wish to explore the results further and identify authors and institutions that publish in the competing journals. This can be achieved by using the ‘Refocus’ functionality.

Refocus a Report

9. Select a competing journal in the table by clicking on its name (e.g. Pediatric Blood & Cancer). This will open the Refocus menu.

10. In the menu, select the entity you wish to explore. Select ‘People’ to identify the authors who publish in the competing journal. Select ‘Organizations’ to view the organizations that publish in the competitor journal. Then click on ‘Refocus’ to execute the function.

11. The Refocused report will contain a list of authors who publish in the competing journal. You can customize the table by adding indicators and re-ordering the authors by the indicator which best suits your analysis.

   a. For example, if you wish to identify the authors who publish the best performing research in the competitor journal, order the authors by Category Normalized Citation Impact.

12. If you are unsure of the filters included in your report, click on the information icon located to the right hand side of the number of the results. This will display the limits by which your report is constructed.
13. To export the data table, click on the Export icon located on the top right side of the table. You must indicate the number of records (in this case author names) you wish to export.

14. The data exports in a CSV file format to Excel.

15. You may also wish to explore paper level performance in order to better understand the research that powers the overall performance of your competitor journal. To obtain this information, click on the number of Web of Science documents for the competitor journal. This will open the list of documents. The documents can be exported to Excel.
16. To view full bibliographic information of a paper, click on the Title of the paper in the document list. This will take you to the corresponding Web of Science record.

Measuring Journal Performance in InCites

Once you have identified competing journals in a research field, the next step will be to understand the performance of these competitor journals. You will need to:

- Customize the indicators in the tabular report
  - **Recommended indicators for journals performance comparisons are the Journal Impact Factor, the Category Normalized Citation Impact, and % Highly Cited Papers**

- Create visualizations that best illustrate the objective of your evaluation
  - **A trend graph will be useful to detect if productivity and impact are increasing/decreasing**

- Re-order the tabular data by the indicator that best responds to the question you are asking.
  - **Order your journals by Impact Factor to identify the competitor journals with the highest impact factor from JCR.**
Select the type of visualization
Select the indicator you wish to visualize from those included in the tabular data
Add or remove journals
Click here to open the Indicators index. Insert the indicators relevant to your evaluation
Re-sort the journals by clicking on the indicator heading
Journal Performance Indicators in InCites

InCites includes journal specific indicators from Journal Citation Reports such as:

- Journal Impact Factor
- 5 Year Journal Impact Factor
- Impact Factor with Self Cites Removed
- Immediacy Index
- Cited Half Life
- Eigenfactor Score
- Article Influence Score

In addition to these traditional journal indicators, InCites offers other perspectives which provide complementary dimensions to measuring journal performance. Below are recommended indicators that will enhance your understanding of journal performance.

- **Category Normalized Citation Impact**- Citation impact (citations per paper) normalized for subject, year and document type
- **% documents in Top 1%**- percentage of publications in the top 1% based on citations by category, year, and document type
- **% documents in Top 10%**- percentage of publications in the top 10% based on citations by category, year, and document type
- **Highly Cited Papers** (indicator from Essential Science Indicators)- Papers (articles and reviews) that rank in the top 1% by citations for ESI field and year
- **% Highly Cited Papers** (indicator from Essential Science Indicators)- Percentage of publications that are assigned as Highly Cited in ESI (top 1% by citations for field and year)
- **% Hot Papers** (indicator from Essential Science Indicators)- Percentage of publications that are assigned as Hot Papers in ESI (top 1% by citations for field and age)

For more information on the indicators available please read our Indicators Handbook. Go to the Help File in InCites to locate the file to download.

To learn more, visit: [http://clarivate.libguides.com/incites Ba](http://clarivate.libguides.com/incites Ba)