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Measuring Nursing Faculty Impact: Web of Science versus Scopus

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Methods

Two independent searches collected faculty publication records and citation count data from each database. Data were exported as a citation manager program for analysis. Data were collected in May 2013.

Web of Science data were collected using the database's basic search feature. Scopus data was collected using the author search feature. Affiliations and available author identifiers were used to limit results.

Relevant journal coverage and quality was compared between the two databases. Journal impact was determined by SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). Current inclusion in MEDLINE® and a refereed status in Ulrich’s Periodical Directory were consulted as measures of journal quality.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Results were limited to articles, proceedings or conference papers, and reviews. When article types were inconsistent between the two databases, Web of Science designations were used. Online profiles and available curriculum vitae (CV) were consulted for inclusion determinations only.

Information on each database was included in the study. Web of Science and Scopus databases were included.

Introduction

Web of Science has long been the forerunner for publication analysis and citation tracking. In recent decades, Scopus joined the scene, offering a choice for citation tracking of scholarly publications. However, the high cost of these two databases, in comparison to other library resources, precludes many institutions from maintaining access to both products. This poster looks at how our library addressed the growing interest in Scopus and validated the utility of acquiring both tools.

For several years the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library has offered a Web of Science-based service for annual reporting to health sciences schools and departments. These reports include publication counts, citation analysis, faculty h-index, and annual journal metrics. While appreciative of the service, the School of Nursing voiced concerns that their publications and related impact were not being fully captured by the Web of Science-based service. In the summer of 2013, several campus libraries trialed Scopus in part to address this perceived gap in coverage. The timing presented us with the opportunity to use the 2012 School of Nursing citation report as a case study to compare the Web of Science and Scopus databases.

Study Questions

A. Which database offers the widest Journal Coverage in the field of Nursing?
B. Which database offers the widest coverage for Emory Nursing Faculty publications?
C. How does nursing faculty h-index compare between the two databases?
D. Which database reflects the greatest Impact of nursing faculty publications?

Database Overview

Web of Science

- Science Citation Index Expanded 1899-present
- Social Sciences Citation Index 1955-present
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index 1977-present
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index Science 1995-present
- Book Citation Index 2005-present
- Social Sciences Citation Index - Social Sciences & Humanities 2005-present
- Current Chemical Reactions (1996-present)
- Index Chemicus (1996-present)

Scopus

- Content includes:
  - peer-reviewed journals
  - trade publications
  - books
  - conference papers
  - scientific indexed webpages
  - patents
- 45% post-1996 records include references
- 57% records post-1996
- 52% records of data included back as 1926
- Scopus coverage update in April 2013

Conclusion and Final Decision

These data were presented to administrators in the School of Nursing to document annual reporting comparisons between the two databases. They showed that Scopus offered increased journal coverage in both the general subject area of nursing, as well as in specific publication titles in which faculty were publishing. Scopus reported increases in h-index were highlighted as well as those specific cases where the reported h-index would be higher using Web of Science. This data was presented to the School of Nursing as a measure of journal impact. Faculty familiarity with the alternative Impact Factor led to some concern, as did the overall decrease in perceived journal quality of publications reported by Scopus.

After these discussions, the decision was made by the School of Nursing to continue annual reporting using Web of Science.