Finding your h-index (Hirsch index) in Web of Science

Library Factsheet no.2

What is the h-index?
“An index that quantifies both the actual scientific productivity and the apparent scientific impact of a scientist”
e.g. a h-index of 20 means the researcher has 20 papers each of which has been cited 20+ times.
An alternative to total citations which can be disproportionately affected by a few very highly cited papers.

Getting Started
Find the link of the library website (e.g. from the key databases section of your subject guide or the A-Z list http://library.soton.ac.uk/resources). If off-campus you can login using your university username and password.

Select Web of Science (Core Collection) from the all databases list (some features do not work in the default ‘all databases’ search).

Searching for your articles
In the search box (set to ‘Author’) type your surname and initials and click search.
e.g. nicholls, rj

If you have published under different initials/names you need to allow for this by using truncation (e.g. nicholls, r*) or listing alternatives (nicholls, rj or brown, rj).

If there are other authors with the same name you need to exclude their work. The ‘Refine Results’ should allow you to do this either by the Organization(s) or Research Area(s).
e.g. click on Research Areas then more options / values... tick the non-relevant subjects then click exclude.

Once you have result set you are satisfied with you may want to make a note of the search statement displayed on the results screen. This will save time if you need to repeat the process.

Creating and using the citation report

Click [Create Citation Report] on the results screen. This will then display the h-index and Average Citations per Item and other statistics.

If any articles in the list are not your's you can exclude them by ticking and clicking the button on:

![Use the checkboxes to remove individual items from this Citation Report](Image)

To see how your h-index has changed over time - use the drop-down menus (see image above) to select a range of years and click ‘Go’. The database will re-calculate the h-index only using articles processed (i.e. added to the index) within those years.

Issues to be aware of:

- In general you can only compare values within a single discipline. Different citation patterns will mean for example an average medical researcher will generally have much larger h-index value than a world-class mathematician!

- Also if you are comparing people all h-index values need to be found using the same database, and using the same method.

- The h-index may be less useful in some disciplines, particularly some areas of the humanities.

More details

- For more details see [http://library.soton.ac.uk/bibliometrics](http://library.soton.ac.uk/bibliometrics)
- References to articles in the scientific literature.
- Calculating the h-index with different databases (e.g. Google Scholar).
- Other bibliometrics including variations on the h-index.