Finding your h-index (Hirsch index) in Scopus

Library Factsheet no.6

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.

You will want to use the Author search option.

Documents Authors Affiliations Advanced

Searching for your profile

Scopus creates profiles for authors automatically based on algorithms.

Enter your family name / surname and initials (e.g. spearing, s.m.) and click . You may want to add institutions you have worked at under Affiliation (separated by or).

If there are other authors with the same name you need to exclude there work. The ‘Refine Results’ should allow you to do this either by the Affiliation(s) or Subject Area(s).

e.g. scroll down to Subject Areas (if needed place your cursor at the bottom of the list then click view more). Tick the non-relevant subjects then click exclude at the top of bottom of the sidebar.

Look through the profiles and see if one of more of them is yours – you can simply click on the name to see your publications and metrics like the h-index.
You may have two or more Scopus profiles (i.e. they may be uncertain if there are two authors called S.M. Spearing). You can request for them to be merged (tick the appropriate boxes and click "Request to merge authors"). Doing so can improve your metric scores!

You can also look for duplicate profiles by clicking on the ‘View potential author matches’ link in your profile.

Troubleshooting
Remember to separate initials with a full stop.

By default Scopus hides profiles with a single document. You can click ‘Show Profile Matches with One Document’ to unhide them.

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
- 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.