How many times have I been cited?

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What are bibliometrics?

Bibliometrics are measures of output and indicators of impact.

Understanding bibliometrics can help you:
- choose where to publish your work
- assess the impact of the work that you publish
- measure the impact of your collaborations and help to identify potential collaboration opportunities
Responsible use of bibliometrics

Bibliometrics should be used responsibly - quantitative data must be used in conjunction with qualitative data.

Bibliometrics are useful but are an *imprecise* measure of quality.

Journal Impact Factor doesn’t tell you what you might think it tells you.

The University of Liverpool are signatories of the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](https://dora.net/) (DORA). The declaration recommends that institutions...
“Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist’s contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.”

San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment
What kind of bibliometrics are there?

Article-level metrics

Author-level metrics

Journal-level metrics

Altmetrics
Article-level metrics

Citations
How many times has your article been cited in other publications?

Usage
How many times has your article been downloaded or viewed? How many Mendeley readers has your article had?

Finding article-level metrics
Scopus and Web of Science provide some metrics, as do journal websites. Some examples: Scopus 1, Scopus 2, Web of Science, publisher website

Highest cited article.
Author-level metrics

Number of publications
A very crude but simple metric - essentially, how many papers have you published?

h-index
Attempts to measure the productivity and citation impact of a researcher. Rather than looking at citations for an individual publication, it looks at citations across a researcher’s career.

You can find your h-index on Scopus and Web of Science or calculate it yourself using citation data. Your h-index will be slightly different on each site as their coverage is different.
Author-level metrics

Calculating your h-index
1. Organise your articles in descending order, based on how many times they were cited.

2. The h-index is the highest number of papers that have had at least the same number of citations.
Author-level metrics

Confused? Here’s an example...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Times cited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A paper I wrote that got cited quite a lot</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A paper I wrote that got cited slightly less</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A paper I wrote that got cited less than that one</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A paper I wrote that hasn’t been cited yet</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Author-level metrics

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Author-level metrics

Is my h-index good?
Citation practices differ massively in different fields of research. Humanities researchers cite much less than those in Health and Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.

The level of contribution that a researcher has made to a publication isn’t taken into account either.
Journal-level metrics

Impact Factor
A proprietary metric published by Thomson Reuters (who own Web of Science)

Originally used by librarians to assess whether to subscribe to journals, it is now often used by researchers as an indicator of a journal’s quality

Impact Factor = the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited.

2016 Journal Impact Factors
Journal-level metrics

Impact Factor
Useful to know, but some important things to bear in mind:
- again, citation practices differ in different disciplines so comparisons are often not very useful and are not recommended
- new journals are not included (need to have been published for two years to get a JIF) and may take longer
- only includes journals indexed by Web of Science - coverage of Social Science journals is particularly patchy
- a small number of highly cited articles can skew the figures
- doesn’t really say anything about the quality of individual articles
Altmetrics

Alternative metrics
Non-traditional metrics used to track conversations around research publications. Includes social media, mainstream news coverage, Mendeley reads, inclusion in reading lists and blog posts.

Altmetric is the most commonly used altmetrics tool
Liverpool Elements

Liverpool Elements is the university’s Current Research Information System (CRIS) and is where you can maintain a record of your publications.

The system brings in metrics (where they can be found) from Scopus, Web of Science and Altmetric.com and displays it next to your publications.