The H Index for Management Information Systems

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Please send comments, corrections, and new entries to Cathy Larson at the University of Arizona, cal@eller.arizona.edu

The h-index is a citation index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H-index). The index was suggested by Jorge E. Hirsch, a physicist at UCSD, as a tool for determining theoretical physicists' relative quality (Hirsch, 2005). A scholar with an index of h has published h papers each of which has been cited by others at least h times. The h-index is intended to measure simultaneously the quality and sustainability of scientific output, as well as, to some extent, the diversity of scientific research. Since 2005, the h-index has been discussed and analyzed in major publications such as PNAS and Nature (Hirsch, 2005, 2007; Lehmann et al., 2006; Wendl, 2007) and adopted in many disciplines (e.g., physics, biology, computer science, information science, social sciences, economics, etc.).

The h-index can be manually determined using citation databases or using automatic web tools. Subscription-based databases such as Scopus and the Web of Science provide automated calculators. Each database or tool is likely to produce a different h for the same scholar because of different coverage. Google Scholar is widely used due to its availability and easy access. Google Scholar tends to have more citations (especially from conference publications) than Scopus and Web of Science, which cover mostly journal publications (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H-index).

We provide here a partial list of Management Information System professors and researchers who each has an h index of 20 or higher according to Google Scholar. The original list of scholars that we considered includes: AIS LEO recipients, AIS Fellows, past ICIS conference and program chairs, recent ICIS track chairs, AEs of selected major MIS journals (MISQ, ISR, JMIS, MS, DSS, JAIS, TMIS), and highly ranked scholars from several recent MIS research productivity studies (e.g., CAIS 2007; EJIS 2007). Based on an initial list of about 400 senior scholars, a PHP program was developed to automatically query Google Scholar and compute the h index for each scholar. Due to the difficulty with common names, this program distinguishes works in the field through a combination of rules and machine learning. Selected results were manually checked to verify correctness. The results obtained from our analysis are similar to those generated from the popular and freely available Harzing’s Publish or Perish application (http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm), which also accesses Google Scholar for its h index calculation.

Although there are many different yardsticks for measuring research productivity in MIS, we believe the h index is a metric that deserves attention due to its academic basis, simplicity, and wide acceptance in other major scientific disciplines. Several fields have included h index of productive scholars in their disciplines at selected web sites, e.g., “The h Index for Computer Science” at: http://www.cs.ucla.edu/~palsberg/h-number.html; “The h Index for Economists” at: http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.person.hindex.html. This “H Index for Management Information Systems” is a similar effort.

Any automated tool may invariably introduce errors, inconsistencies, or omissions. Please send comments, corrections, and new entries to Cathy Larson at the University of Arizona, cal@eller.arizona.edu. We will also provide an annual update based on our existing Java program and Google Scholar.

References:


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