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Library Link aims to develop and promote relevant library resources and services in partnership with staff of C&CDHB and staff and students of UOW.

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**Make your research count: improving ‘findability’**

Whatever your views on the Publish or Perish philosophy, the fact remains that academic careers are based on research. In today’s world, research may be measured as much by impact or dissemination as by the inherent quality of the research.

When publishing, you should find a journal with a high impact factor (IF) to increase the ‘impact’ of your research. A high IF implies high readership; and a high quality journal adds prestige to the research. However, there are many other factors you can control to improve readership and the number of citations.

Making your research easy to find improves citation counts. Use clear and concise language in a publication title and abstract. Remember that search engines, including Google, rank results based on keywords, and words in the title matter more than those in the abstract. People searching databases are also more likely to read the title and the first sentence of the abstract than anything else; for example, Google results usually only display these two sentences. These sentences should both summarise the research and grab the attention of the reader.

**Techniques to improve the ‘findability’ of your research include:**

- Use a clear and unambiguous title, including core concept keywords
- Weight the beginning of your abstract with the most important aspects of the research
- Include in your abstract a range of words which people are likely to use when looking for information on your topic.
- Ensure the journal in which you publish is represented in major databases and/or Google Scholar
- When publishing, standardise both the name with which you publish and the name of your institution!

Some databases offer tools to help with name standardisation. For example, if you haven’t done so, check out the Web of Science **Researcher ID** tool.
Impact Factors

Impact factors (IF) are used as a measure of the impact or importance of a journal. They are based on how many times articles published in a given journal are cited. The algorithm used to calculate this is copyrighted by Thomson Reuters: only journals selected for inclusion their database Journal Citation Reports have an official impact factor.

For non journals not included in the above tool, common measures include the freely available SCIImago, Eigenfactor, and reports from the Scopus database.

Finding Impact Factors

Impact factors can be looked up in the Web of Knowledge Journal and Citation Reports database. You can view the IF for all journals, or journals by subject area.

Finding statistics

There are many statistical sources available. They vary in ease of use, authority and information offered. Generally speaking, if you want statistics on a specific topic or geographic region, you should go to authority bodies in that area. For example, government ministries of most countries publish statistics about their jurisdiction.

There are, however, some general tools useful for quickly comparing different areas, or for providing a wide range of general statistics. The Library recommends:

- **NLM Health Statistics**

- **Statistics NZ Digital Yearbooks**
  A comprehensive collection of New Zealand stats from 1983 onwards.

- **NZ Health Statistics**
  A collection of NZ health data and statistics from a variety of sources.

- **CIA World Factbook**
  The CIA know a lot. They even share information on countries, demographics, economics, world leaders and much more in their open access world factbook.

- **NationMaster**
  NationMaster displays a comparison of any two countries in terms of any subject of your choice, from health to transport to literacy.

- **Scimago**
  Displays comparisons of publication statistics between countries and journals.

- **Delicious**
  A collection of statistics web pages saved by the Library.
Resources for postgraduate students

Beginning, working on, or finalising a thesis or dissertation? The library has a range of resources to help with each step of this process.

Software to assist with thesis writing

Beyond the standard word processing tools, there is a range of software which can prove invaluable for postgraduate writing.

Citation management software such as Mendeley or EndNote can save many hours of frustration over referencing, as well as helping organise, annotate and manage citations and PDF files. There are a range of options available; before deciding which is right for you, try watching a few videos or playing with each. You are welcome to contact the Library to discuss either of these programs or organise a tutorial.

There are other small applications which can help you to organise your thoughts and manage tasks. Check out cloud based notes software and to-do lists such as EverNote, WunderList, ResophNotes, or Microsoft’s OneNote.

Books on postgraduate research and publishing

The Library contains a selection of books to make the entire thesis process easier.


Also available as an eBook. Click here to view.

Writing up your University assignments and research projects (2008)

How to write a thesis (2011)

Otago resources for postgraduate students

Otago electronic Thesis Writers Guide

http://otago.libguides.com/thesisinformation

Information for Wellington based postgraduate students

http://www.otago.ac.nz/wellington/departments/postgraduate/

Guide to the Wellington Medical Library resources

http://otago.libguides.com/wmhslibrary

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