

## Reputation Metrics for Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

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### H-Index Tips

1. To provide context to your database-generated H-Index, compare your H-Index to others in the same discipline, using the same database.
2. Consider *manually* generating your H-Index if any of the following conditions apply:
  - a. A significant amount of your scholarly output is **not cited in journals or books** (e.g. law)
  - b. A significant amount of your scholarly output is **written in a language other than English**
  - c. **You have a common name** that may require disambiguation in order to obtain results.
3. There is no best database for generating an H-Index. The 3 major databases are:
  - a. **Google Scholar (GS)** looks at the entire Internet, including citations that appear in university web sites, blogs, dissertations, books and journals that it can crawl. As a result, it tends to calculate the highest H-Index.
  - b. **Web of Science (WOS)** indexes citations that appear in the most-cited journals. WOS generates a lower H-Index because of embedded reference errors and the smaller number of journals indexed. WOS covers the longest time period of the 3 major indexes.
  - c. **Scopus** indexes a larger number of journals than WOS, but for fewer years.
4. Small differences in H-Index numbers don't mean a lot. Large ones generally do.
5. Consider creating a GS author profile. See, for example, Thomas Hurka's profile at <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=o6FzDjoAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>. If public, others can easily visualize your H-Index and scholarly output over time using the lists and charts provided.

### Other Metrics to Consider<sup>1</sup>

1. For how long is your work cited post-publication? Long citation periods can be significant.
2. For literary or artistic works, consider post-publication peer-review tools like book reviews, performance reviews; dedicated symposia, and festschriften.
3. For scholarly output with economic or social impacts, consider
  - a. Advisory roles and board memberships
  - b. Economic impacts in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors resulting from your research applied in practice
  - c. Requests for consultancy/advice from community groups, governments, or think tanks
  - d. Invitations to participate as an expert witness, advisor, or expert panelist
  - e. Commissioned reports
  - f. Public engagement with your scholarship, including public events; public use of your scholarship to advance social or cultural issues

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<sup>1</sup> Most of the suggestions in this section come from *The Impacts of Humanities and Social Science Research. Working paper. October 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.ideas-idees.ca/sites/default/files/2014-10-03-impact-project-draft-report-english-version-final2.pdf> February 14, 2015.*