Reputation Metrics for Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

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
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

---


U of T librarians can help you generate your H-Index and recommend best practices for your discipline. Find your liaison librarian at http://resource.library.utoronto.ca/liaison/