



What's your impact? Calculating your h-index

The h-index¹, like a cited reference count, is a measure of scholarly significance. It combines an assessment of both quantity (number of publications) and quality (references to those publications) by counting a researcher's most cited works, and the number of citations those works have received in other publications.

Calculating your h-index

Your h-index is based on a list of your publications ranked in descending order by the Times Cited count. The value of h is equal to the number of papers (N) in the list that have N or more citations.

In the example below, the researcher would have an h-index of 8, as 8 articles have been cited at least 8 or more times, and the remaining articles have each been cited 8 times or less.

Publication	Times Cited
1	87
2	70
3	46
4	32
5	19
6	15
7	10
8	9
9	8
10	6
11	4
12	1

Cut-off

Obviously, a researcher cannot have a high h-index without a substantial number of publications -- but prolific output is not enough. Work must be cited by other researchers to be counted for the h-index.

The h-index is considered a representative measurement of research impact because it discounts the disproportionate weight of highly cited publications and that work that has not yet been cited. However, the h-index is not without issues. While the basic calculation of the h-index is consistent across databases, the result can vary depending on a particular database's contents or the inclusion of older publications. An h-index can also be impacted by self-citation².

¹ Hirsch, J. E. (2005). [An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output](#). *Proceedings of the National academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 102(46), 16569-16572.

² Bartneck, C., & Kokkelmans, S. (2011). [Detecting h-index manipulation through self-citation analysis](#). *Scientometrics*, 87(1), 85-98.

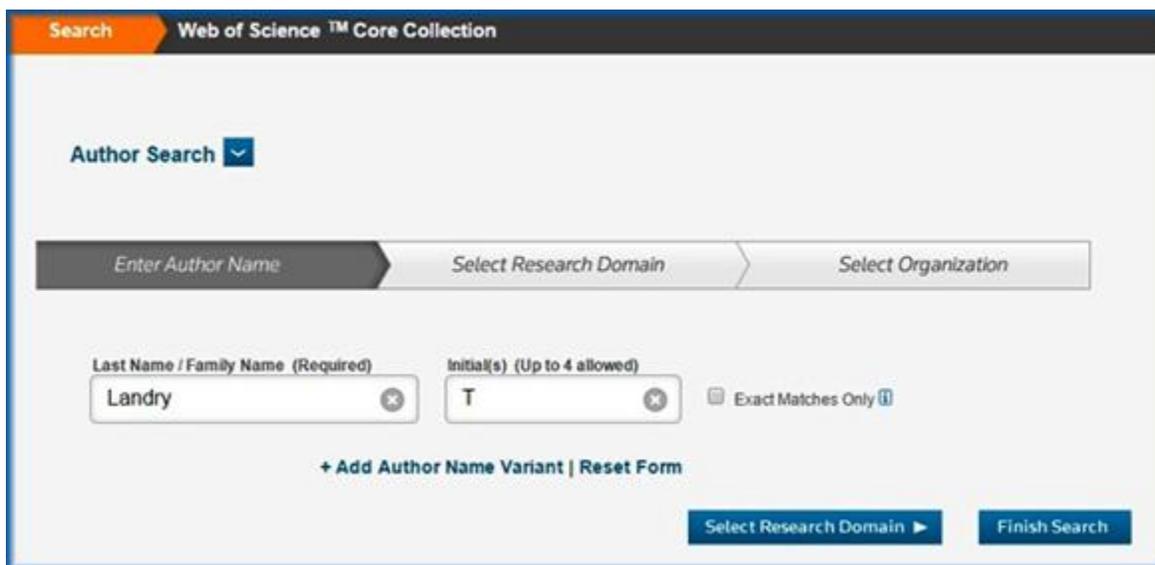
Tools to calculate your h-index

The following resources can be used to calculate your h-index. Please note that Web of Science and Scopus are licensed by McGill University to McGill faculty, staff, researchers and students, and require authentication with a McGill e-mail address and password.

Web of Science:

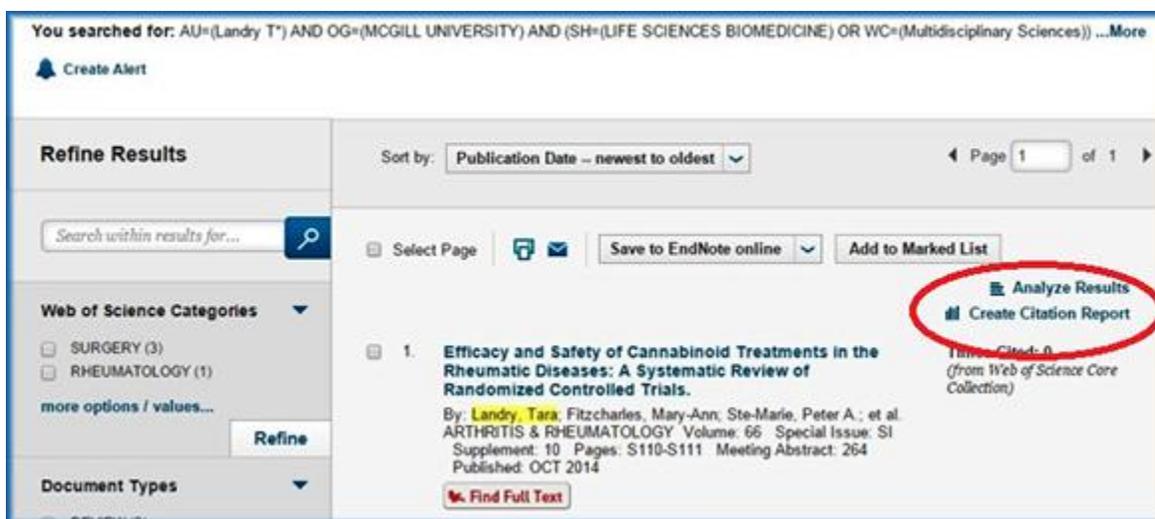
The first database to include the h-index, [Web of Science](#) indexes over 10,000 journals in the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. It requires authentication with a McGill username and password.

To find your h-index, begin by selecting the Author Search option. Select “Life Sciences Biomedicine” in the Research Domain tab. You may restrict your search further by selecting “McGill University” as an organization.



The screenshot shows the 'Web of Science™ Core Collection' search interface. At the top, there is a 'Search' button and the text 'Web of Science™ Core Collection'. Below this, the 'Author Search' option is selected. A navigation bar contains three steps: 'Enter Author Name', 'Select Research Domain', and 'Select Organization'. The 'Enter Author Name' section has two input fields: 'Last Name / Family Name (Required)' with the value 'Landry' and 'Initial(s) (Up to 4 allowed)' with the value 'T'. There is also a checkbox for 'Exact Matches Only'. Below the input fields are links for '+ Add Author Name Variant | Reset Form'. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Select Research Domain' and 'Finish Search'.

On the results page, click on “Create Citation Report”.



The screenshot shows the search results page for the query 'AU=(Landry T*) AND OG=(MCGILL UNIVERSITY) AND (SH=(LIFE SCIENCES BIOMEDICINE) OR WC=(Multidisciplinary Sciences))'. The page includes a 'Create Alert' button, a 'Refine Results' sidebar, and a main results area. The 'Refine Results' sidebar has a search box and a 'Refine' button. The main results area shows a single result: '1. Efficacy and Safety of Cannabinoid Treatments in the Rheumatic Diseases: A Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials.' by Landry, Tara, Fitzcharles, Mary-Ann, Ste-Marie, Peter A.; et al. The result is published in 'ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATOLOGY' Volume: 66 Special Issue: SI Supplement: 10 Pages: S110-S111 Meeting Abstract: 264 Published: OCT 2014. There are buttons for 'Find Full Text', 'Analyze Results', and 'Create Citation Report'. The 'Analyze Results' and 'Create Citation Report' buttons are circled in red.

The citation report will include your h-index in Web of Science, along with several other measures, including the total citation count and the average citations per item. To remove items that you did not author from the Citation Report, select them using the checkboxes and click on “Go”.



Scopus

A multi-disciplinary database of peer-reviewed literature, [Scopus](#) indexes a broader range of journals than Web of Science, which can result in a higher h-index. However, citations to pre-1996 articles published after 1996 are not currently included in the h-index calculation provided by Scopus. Like Web of Science, Scopus requires authentication with a McGill username and password.

To find your h-index, begin by selecting the Author Search option. Restrict your search by typing “McGill” in the affiliation box. You may further restrict your results by “Life Sciences” and “Health Sciences” as subject areas.

The figure shows the Scopus search interface. It has search options for Document search, Author search, Affiliation search, and Advanced search. The Author search field contains 'Landry' and the Affiliation search field contains 'McGill'. There is an ORCID ID field and a 'Limit to:' section with checkboxes for Subject Areas: Life Sciences, Health Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences & Humanities.

Select the proper author from among the search results, and click on “View citation overview”.

Author last name "Landry", Author first name "T", Affiliation "McGill"
Subject Areas: Life Sciences, Health Sciences

3 author results About Scopus Author Identifier Sort on: Document Count, Author (A-Z)

Show exact matches only Show documents View citation overview Request to merge authors

Refine Landry, Sarah Terrebbonne 8 Medicine; Social Sciences; Nursing; ... University of Kansas Lawrence United States
1 Landry, Sarah Landry, S.

Source Title Annals of Surgery (1) Landry, Tina 6 Medicine; Psychology; Arts and Humanities; ... Universite du Quebec a Montreal Montreal Canada
 Archives of Sexual Behavior (1)
 Canadian Journal of Cardiology (1)
 Clinical Journal of Pain (1) Landry, Tara 3 Medicine Montreal General Hospital Montreal Canada
 Educational Gerontology (1)

Affiliation Montreal General Hospital (3) Display 20 results per page Page 1

The citation overview will include your h-index in Scopus, as well as a citation count per year for each of your publications.

Citation overview This is an overview of citations for these authors Export Print

4 Cited Documents from "Landry, Tara" Back to author results Save these documents to My list

Author h-index: 2 Scopus is in progress of updating pre-1996 cited references going back to 1970. The h-index might increase over time. View h-graph

Citations 10
0
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015
Years

Date range: 2011 to 2015
 Exclude self citations of selected author
 Exclude self citations of all authors
 Exclude Citations from books
Edit the data for this graph and the citation table below. Update

Documents Citations

Sort on: Date (newest) Citation count (descending)

	<2011	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Subtotal	>2015	Total
Total	0	0	0	0	7	9	16	0	16
1 Derivation and validation of clinical phenotypes for COPD: A...						1	1		1
2 A systematic review of economic evaluations of enhanced reco...					3	7	10		10

Google Scholar

[Google Scholar](#) provides a simple way to check who is citing your publications, and to graph citations over time. Beyond journals, Scholar indexes a selection of academic websites, theses, and other publications, which can also result in a higher h-index.

Using a Google (gmail) account, create a profile in [Google Scholar Citations](#). This profile can be public or private. Once complete, your profile will show all the times your articles have been cited by other documents in Google Scholar, and an h-index will be provided.

Publish or Perish

[Publish or Perish](#) is a free program that retrieves and analyzes academic citations. It uses [Google Scholar](#) and [Microsoft Academic Search](#) to obtain citations, and presents a variety of statistics and metrics including the h-index. While the Publish or Perish software can be installed without administrator rights, installation on public computers is not recommended.

Cites	Per year	Rank	Authors	Title	Year	Publication
17	17.00	1	L Lee, C Li, T Landry, E Lat...	A systematic review of economic evaluation of enhanced recovery pathways for colorectal surgery	2014	Annals of surgery
9	9.00	2	L Lee, A Saleem, T Landry, ...	Cost effectiveness of mesh prophylaxis to prevent parastomal hernia in patients undergoing permanent colostomy for rectal cancer	2014	Journal of the American College of Surgeons
2	2.00	4	L Lee, J Mata, T Landry, K...	A systematic review of synthetic and bioabsorbable mesh for hernia repair	2014	Surgical Endoscopy
1	1.00	3	..., A Benedetti, T Zahra, ...	Derivation and validation of clinical phenotypes for asthma	2015	Respiratory Medicine
0	0.00	5	T Landry	Stalin's empire of memory: Russian-Ukrainian relations in the 1930s	2015	Canadian Slavonic Papers
0	0.00	6	D Méthé, LA Comeau, H St...	Stress response of <i>Grassostrea virginica</i> to hypoxia	2014	Aquaculture
0	0.00	7	T LANDRY	Words Tell the Tale: the Motivation behind the Choice of a Title	2014	Revue des études slaves
0	0.00	8	TMM Landry	Navigating Life with HIV: The Lived Experience of Women	2014	Journal of HIV/AIDS
0	0.00	9	D Burke, J Dave, J Padala...	Complex Eukaryotic Protein Expression in the Mitochondria	2015	Journal of Cellular Biochemistry

Because the coverage between citation databases varies, no single resource will provide a comprehensive measurement of impact. For a complete analysis of the impact of an author or a publication, one needs to search multiple databases for all possible citations.

To find out more about citation tracking and measuring your research impact, contact your [hospital librarian](#)