Different disciplines have different standards for citation.

It is unfair to compare H-index of researchers working in different disciplines:

- discipline that uses more references per paper is expected to have higher index
- researchers in specialist subject may have lower h-index than those in more popular or currently-topical areas
- coverage in different disciplines is not the same in different sources

“The h-index should not be used to compare scientists from different disciplines” (Hirsch (2005))

Journals indexed in the WOS cover mainly the core disciplines in the natural sciences.

Journals indexed in the WOS and Scopus do not sufficiently cover fields such as computer science.

Journals indexed in the WOS do not sufficiently cover field of engineering science as well.

Google Scholar coverage in such science disciplines like Biology, Chemistry and Physics is less than in WOS or Scopus.

Google Scholar coverage for the four Social science disciplines: Education, Economics, Sociology and Psychology as well as Computing is higher than in WOS and Scopus.

Number of Google Scholar citations for mathematicians and computer scientists higher than the WOS and Scopus, but lower for high-energy physicists.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Engineering science</th>
<th>Natural Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics</th>
<th>Social science disciplines: Education, Economics, Sociology and Psychology</th>
<th>Computer science</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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Higher coverage - ▲

Less coverage - ▼
See more:

- Average h-index may vary by database used
- Average h-index may vary by identification the name of the author