Number of citations depends on collection policy of the source

Number of citations depends on source's content and coverage.

WOS

- ✓ citation data only for the records indexed by database
- ✓ limited number of journals
- ✓ European bias
- ✓ calculates the h-index of an author from 1965 – current
- ✓ limited number of journals in non-English languages
- ✓ clear results from scholarly journals
- ✓ "in press" articles are not indexed because of editorial policy
  only in their final form
- ✓ self-citations exclusion option
- ✓ access via subscription

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SCOPUS

- ✓ citation data only for the records indexed by database
- ✓ more content (about 20,000 journals) than in WOS (about 12,000 journals)
- ✓ American bias
- ✓ calculates the h-index of an author from 1996 – current
  Scopus Cited References Expansion Program ensures cited references going back to 1970 will be added to pre-1996 Scopus content in the fourth quarter of 2014
- ✓ limited number of journals in non-English languages
- ✓ clear results from scholarly journals
- ✓ one version of a paper in results
- ✓ "in press" articles are included
- ✓ self-citations exclusion option
- ✓ access via subscription

SciVerse
Scopus

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

- ✓ Scholar's work may be published in journals not covered by WOS and Scopus
- ✓ larger number of journals than in WOS and Scopus
  not all scholarly journals are indexed in Google Scholar
- ✓ larger number of publications in non-English languages than in WOS and Scopus
- ✓ affection of additional irrelevant citations results from non-scholarly citations (records from unknown sources and informal material)
  * *not all of them are of the same quality as those found in the Web of Science or Scopus*
- ✓ in some cases Scholar indexes preprint and journal version of a paper and provides in the results the sum of the two counts, so citations are spread over the duplicates
- ✓ counts self-citations
- ✓ freely accessibly from the internet

Google
scholar

The optimal methodology to value h-index for researcher is to consult Google Scholar in addition to Web of Science or Scopus.

Different disciplines have different standards for citation

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.

	Engineering science	Natural Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Social science disciplines: Education, Economics, Sociology and Psychology	Computer science	Mathematics
WOS	▼	▲	▼	▼	▼
SCOPUS	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼
GS	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲

Higher coverage - ▲

Less coverage - ▼