SciVal is a tool to help evaluate and compare research, using citation and usage data from Scopus and Science Direct. It can be used to help assess the research performance of institutions, research groups or individual authors, or to identify influential journals or research areas.

This guide outlines how to use SciVal to help identify highly-cited authors in your field.

**Accessing SciVal**

SciVal tends to work best using FireFox or Google Chrome.

- Sign into MUSE
- Access StarPlus via the My services link

Once in StarPlus, search for SciVal in University collections

Click View it and follow the View full text link

On the University Library SciVal webpage click Connect to SciVal

SciVal

SciVal is a bibliometrics product from Elsevier for assessing the impact of research. It uses citation data gathered from the Scopus database in order to compare the impact of individual researchers, research groups, institutions and countries. This data can be used for benchmarking purposes, or to identify existing and potential research collaboration partnerships.
If you already have a Scival, Scopus or Mendeley account, you can log in with your username and password.

If you don’t already have an account you will need to register by clicking **Register Now** and following the instructions.

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**Login**

SciVal is a ready-to-use solution with unparalleled power and flexibility, which enables you to navigate the world of research and devise an optimal plan to drive and analyze your performance.

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SciVal has 5 sections:

- **Overview**: gives an overview of the research output of institutions, countries and researchers (e.g. how many papers you have published (as indexed by Scopus/Science Direct) how many citations each paper has received on average).
- **Benchmarking**: compares institutions, groups or researchers
- **Collaboration**: identifies areas where researchers in different countries or institutions are publishing research together
- **Trends**: help to identify ‘hot topics’ in your field, or highly-cited institutions, countries, authors and journals which are currently getting a lot of attention
- **Reports**: set up and save citation reports

This workbook will focus on the Trends Module – for guidance on the other modules, visit [http://www.scival.com/help/index.html](http://www.scival.com/help/index.html)

Click on **Go to Trends**
The **Trends** module helps you to see the top institutions, countries, authors, journals and topics by research area, based on citations and usage.

To start, you will need to find the topic or research area you are interested in. You can select from pre-defined subject areas, or you can define your own. For now, search for a research area that most interests you:

![SciVal interface](image)

You will see a summary page for the subject area you selected. By default SciVal will display information from the last 5 years, but you can change this using the menu at the top of the page (eg: to only display data from the most recent 3 years):

![Cell Biology summary page](image)

The graphs at the top of the page show some basic scores for this subject area – eg: number of articles published in this area for the period selected, the number of times articles have been viewed, and the number of citations articles in this field have received. Hover your mouse over the icon to find out more.
The summary page also shows a word diagram showing the most frequently occurring words and phrases in articles in this research area. The larger the word or phrase, the more often it has been mentioned. Red words have grown in popularity over the last few years, blue ones have decreased. This is one way to identify key topics in your field.

Further down the page, you’ll see a summary of the institutions, countries, authors and journals which are most active in this field. This page shows the top five in each category based on the amount of research they have produced (this doesn’t indicate whether the research produced was of a high quality however).

The information on this page can only tell you so much – for example you can see the author who has produced the most research, but this won’t necessarily tell you who has produced the most highly-cited research.

You can explore the data in more detail by clicking on the tabs near the top of the page. Click on the Authors tab to find out more about the top researchers in this research area:
By default this will show a list of the authors who have produced the most research worldwide, with a chart comparing the top three authors in this list according to their Scholarly output (the amount of research they have published).

However, Scholarly Output only tells us about the quantity of research published, but doesn’t tell us very much about the quality or impact of this research.

To compare authors according to more useful criteria, click on the **Tables** link. You can also refine the list by a particular geographical region.

The table view has several columns, allowing you to select a variety of different metrics with which to compare researchers in this field.

Use the drop down menu above each column to select the metrics you want to see
Viewed:

- Views count: The total number of times research by this author has been viewed or downloaded by other people
- Views per Publication: the average number of views each publication has received
- Field weighted views impact: gives an indication of how the number of views the researcher has received compares to the average for their subject field. This allows for a more balanced comparison of researchers from different fields

Cited:

- Citation count: this shows the total number of times the author’s research has been cited
- Field-weighted citation impact: gives an indication of how the number of citations the researcher has received compares to the average for their subject field.
- Outputs in Top Citation Percentiles: how many publications are in the top percentiles for their field
- Publications in Top Journal Percentiles: the number of publications that have been published in the world’s most highly cited journals.
- Citations per publication: the average (mean) number of times each of the author’s research publications has been cited.
- h-Index: A measure of both the productivity and publication impact of an author, based on the number of publications as well as the number of citations they have received.

Collaboration:

- These metrics give an indication of the extent to which the researcher has collaborated with others on an international, national and institutional level
- Academic-corporate collaboration indicates the extent to which the researcher has published work with commercial affiliations.

Once you have selected the metric you are interested in, click the small icon to resort the table according to this category.

You should see that the order of the table changes quite significantly. This is because each metric reveals different aspect of how an author’s work has been cited.

It is important to recognize that no single metric can give the full picture of a researcher’s impact or the quality of their work, so these should only be used as a guide to help you identify highly-cited or highly-viewed researchers in your field – they are no substitute for your own judgement.