

**Journal Rankings in Sociology:
Using the H Index with Google Scholar**

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Abstract

There is considerable interest in the ranking of journals, given the intense pressure to place articles in the “top” journals. In this article, a new index, *h*, and a new source of data – Google Scholar – are introduced, and a number of advantages of this methodology to assessing journals are noted. This approach is attractive because it provides a more robust account of the scholarly enterprise than do the standard Journal Citation Reports. Readily available software enables do-it-yourself assessments of journals, including those not otherwise covered, and enable the journal selection process to become a research endeavor that identifies particular articles of interest. While some critics are skeptical about the visibility and impact of sociological research, the evidence presented here indicates that most sociology journals produce a steady stream of papers that garner considerable attention. While the position of individual journals varies across measures, there is a high degree commonality across these measurement approaches. A clear hierarchy of journals remains no matter what assessment metric is used. Moreover, data over time indicate that the hierarchy of journals is highly stable and self-perpetuating. Yet highly visible articles do appear in journals outside the set of elite journals. In short, the *h* index provides a more comprehensive picture of the output and noteworthy consequences of sociology journals than do than standard impact scores, even though the overall ranking of journals does not markedly change.

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Interest in journal rankings derives from many sources. Faculty and graduate students who seek a good ‘home’ for their articles are often interested in information on the relative visibility of journals. Editors point to “impact scores” in order to boast about the reputation of their journal and to search for signs of changes in rank relative to other journals. Perhaps a less agreeable source of interest in journal rankings is the demand for productivity and accountability in higher education. The Great Recession that began in 2008 added impetus to long-standing calls for efficiencies. One can anticipate ever greater pressure on departments and individual scholars to justify their research productivity. Publication in top-ranked journals is one of the metrics used for such assessments.²

A related theme is the claim that scholarly research has little impact on the world. Critics of research and research universities claim that a great deal of research goes uncited, and, further, that cited articles are not read even when they are cited in subsequent research (Luzer, 2013; see also Larivière, Gingras and Archambault, 2009). Skeptics also point to the staggering number of articles published and the relentless increase in the number of journals as evidence of an untethered and unsustainable research system (eg. Frodeman, 2010).

The use of journal rankings as proxies for research quality remains controversial (Seglen, 1997; see also MacRoberts and MacRoberts, 1996). Whereas some researchers treat “high visibility” as essentially interchangeable with “high productivity” and hence “faculty effectiveness,” (Adkins and Budd, 2006; Borgman and Furner, 2002; Garfield, 2006), others remain more skeptical of the validity of citation measures (van Raan, 2005).

Disputes over citation measures have much in common with disputes over other ranking systems (see Espeland and Sauder, 2016), such as the rankings of academic departments and universities. For example, the U. S. News and World Report rankings of universities in the U.S. are contested by those institutions who do not place in the very top positions. Similarly, the (London) Times Higher Education World University Rankings of universities are also regularly challenged. So too are SATs and other scores used to evaluate students for entry into college, as are tests used for evaluating the performance of teachers and students in elementary and secondary school. Nor are challenges to evaluation metrics limited to educational settings. Metrics designed to evaluate the performance of hospitals and doctors, still being developed, are sure to be contentious. In all of these cases, no single metric is able to fully capture the complex and multidimensional aspects of performance. And those who come out with less than stellar scores inevitably challenge the yardsticks employed to judge merit and performance. Performance measures thus seem both inevitable and inevitably contested.

² The use of citation counts in evaluations remains controversial, whether it is done directly or via journal rankings as a proxy (van Raan, 1996; MacRoberts and MacRoberts, 1996; Seglen, 1997; Garfield, 2006; see Holden et al. 2006 for a number of recent references). In an appendix to this report, I discuss a key issue in the use of individual citations at the tenure decision. The basic problem, at least in the social sciences, is that the impact of research papers cannot be fully assessed until well after the tenure decision needs to be made.

Here I use the terms “visibility” or “impact” rather than “quality” in recognition of the fact that some high quality papers receive less recognition than they deserve while other high quality papers published before their time may not be fully recognized or appreciated by the scholarly community. Nonetheless, the scholarly examination of journal rankings is common, with discipline-specific assessing appearing for sociology (Allen, 2003), economics (Kalaitzidakis et al., 2003; Harzing and van der Wal, 2009), political science (Giles and Garand, 2007), psychology (Lluch, 2005), business and management (Mingers and Harzing, 2007); social work (Sellers et al., 2004) and law (Shapiro, 2000), among others. In recent years new developments have changed the approach to journal rankings (eg., Harzing and van der Wal, 2009; Leyesdorff, 2009). While the journal hierarchy does not completely change, the new tools and approaches will be valuable to sociologists both for their internal needs and for their ability to make the case for sociological research to external constituencies.

A new statistic for assessing the visibility of individual scholars can be applied to the output of journals. This new measure, *h*, draws on data for a longer time frame than the widely used “journal impact factor.” As implemented with an easily-downloaded software program, authors and editors can obtain a list of the most cited papers published in a given journal during a specified period of time. This allows interested parties the flexibility to undertake their own analysis of particular journals, and makes the journal ranking process substantively informative.

Compared to the Web of Science Journal Citation Reports, the proposed approach has a number of advantages:

- It draws on a broader data base of citations (Google Scholar) that includes citations in books and conference presentations. This data base also covers a wider set of journals than does the Web of Science
- It is based on the influential new measure “*h*,” rather than a simple average of citations per paper.
- It covers a longer time frame, allowing a more complete assessment of the citations garnered by papers published in each journal.
- The software (Publish or Perish) provides a ready list of the most highly cited papers in each journal. In this way, the perusal of journals can become a useful bibliographical tool and not simply an instrument for journal ranking.
- This software makes it easy for researchers to conduct their own journal analysis. For example, one can adjust the time frame for analysis, draw on a variety of statistical measures, and alter the set of comparison journals.

Review of Journal Rankings

The Web of Science (formerly ISI, or Institute for Scientific Information) has for some time produced annual Journal Citation Reports (JCRs) (ISI Web of Science, 2015).

This is a valuable and easy-to-use source for obtaining information on the visibility of research published by a wide range of sociology journals. The JCR reports on sociology journals generate statistics on over 100 journals at the touch of a button. Several important sociology journals, such as the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* and *Demography*, are grouped in other subject categories, but the persistent investigator can track these down without too much trouble.

As a former journal editor, I found the results produced by the Web of Science Journal Citation Reports to be depressing. The scores were typically in the range of 1, 2 or 3, suggesting that the typical article could be expected to receive one, two or perhaps three citations within a year after publication.³ Given the tremendous time and energy that goes into publishing, on the part of authors, editors, and reviewers, these scores seemed dismally low. The fact that the average paper is noted by only a few scholars, even for the most well-known journals, makes the publishing enterprise seem like a rather marginal undertaking, of interest and significance to only the most narrow-minded specialists.

Among the problems with the JCR impact factor is the short time frame. In sociology, it is not uncommon for papers to grow in influence for a decade or more after publication (Jacobs, 2005; 2007). A useful statistic provided in the JCR is the 'journal half life.' This indicates how many years it takes for half of the cumulative citations to papers in a journal to be registered. In sociology, it is common for journals to have a citation half-life of a decade or more. A ten year time-horizon for assessing the visibility or impact of research published in sociology journals is thus more appropriate than the very short time frames typically employed in natural-science fields.

The most recent editions of the Journal Citation Reports have taken a step in this direction by making available a 5-year impact score. I believe that this measure is more informative for sociology than the standard impact score, and I would recommend that journal comparisons drawing on the JCR data base use this measure rather than the traditional impact score. Nonetheless, there is room for improvement on even the 5-year impact score.

An additional limitation of the Web of Science Journal Citation Reports stems from the limitations of the data base used to generate its statistics. Although specialists in this area are well aware of its limitations, many department chairs, deans, promotion and tenure committees and individual scholars assume that citation scores capture all of the references to published scholarship. In fact only citations that appear in journal articles are covered, and only by articles published in journals covered by the Web of Science.

Sociology remains a field where both books and journal articles matter (Clemens, Powell, McIlwaine and Okamoto, 1995; Cronin, Snyder and Atkins, 1997). It is thus unfortunate at best that citations appearing in books are not captured in the standard

³The mean exposure time in the standard impact score is one year. For example, the 2008 impact score for a journal is based on citations to papers published in 2006 and 2007. The papers published at the beginning of 2006 thus have almost two years to garner references, but those published at the end of 2007 have only a few months. Similarly, the five-year impact score discussed below has a mean exposure time of 2.5 years, and thus does not capture five full years of citation exposure.

statistical assessments of scholarly impact. In this way, the JCR reports understate the impact of sociological research.

Even in the area of journals, the JCR data are not comprehensive, despite the addition of many new journals in recent years. For example, JCR does not include the *American Sociologist* and *Contexts*, among others. In my own specialty area, I have noticed that the journal *Work, Family & Community* is not covered by the JCR rankings even though it has been publishing for over a decade and has featured papers as widely noted as those in many journals that are covered. Work-family scholars thus receive less credit for their work when citations to their research appearing in this journal are missed.

Despite these limitations, many have continued to rely on the JCR rankings because there was no readily-available alternative to the Web of Science System. The introduction of Google Scholar, however, has altered the landscape for citation analysis (Google Scholar, 2015). Google Scholar captures references to articles and books that appear in both articles and books. Google Scholar also covers conference proceedings, dissertations, and reports issues by policy research centers and other sources. An earlier analysis of Google Scholar citations (Jacobs, 2009) revealed that Google Scholar often doubles the number of references received by sociology papers, compared to the citation score obtain in the Web of Science. This prior study also found that only a small fraction of these entries represent “noise”: duplicate citations or links to dead websites. Sociology citation scores may well stand to benefit disproportionately from this broader set of references since so much scholarship in the field is published in books and other outlets besides academic journals covered by JCR. It is not unreasonable to expect that the broader coverage provided by Google Scholar will provide a bigger increment in citations for a book-heavy field like sociology and less for article-centered disciplines such as mathematics and economics.⁴

Another problem with the JCR impact factor is that it averages across all articles. While this is a sensible enough place to begin, it fails to recognize the highly skewed nature of scholarly research. A limited number of studies garner a sizable share of the attention of other researchers (Larivière, Gingras and Archambault, 2009). Averaging the visibility of all papers in a journal is thus a bit like averaging the performance of all of the quarterbacks on a football team, including those who rarely take the field. The team’s performance is typically determined by the performance of the starting quarterback, not by an average score.

Sociological scholarship in other areas has similarly focused on the experiences of the top segment. Duncan (1961), in creating the socio-economic index (SEI), focused on the highest earners and the most educated members of an occupation. His argument was that the status of an occupation reflects the experiences of its most successful individuals rather than the average incumbent. This approach is particularly relevant in the context of scholarly research.

⁴ Scopus is yet another potential data source for journal comparisons (Leydesdorff, Moya-Anegón and Guerrero-Bote, 2010). I prefer Google Scholar because of its inclusion of references in books, and because it covers materials published over a longer time frame.

A good question for a journal, then, is “how many high impact papers were published in a given time frame?” The “h” index is well suited to answering this question (Hirsch, 2005). H indicates the number of papers that have been cited at least h times. Thus, an h of 30 indicates that the journal has produced 30 papers cited at least 30 times in the time frame under consideration. H is an easy to interpret statistic that provides a much more realistic assessment of the cumulative impact of papers published in a journal. H has become a widely used measure of citation visibility or impact: Hirsch’s 2005 paper has been cited nearly than 5,000 times. Bibliometricians and others have debated the strengths and weaknesses of h and have proposed alternative measures (Bornmann and Daniel, 2007; van Raan, 2006).

Publish or Perish Software

Anne-Wil Harzing, a Professor of International Management at the University of Melbourne in Australia, has created a software package called “Publish or Perish,” (hence PoP for short) that offers a practical alternative to the JCR system (Harzing, 2015). This tool allows for the analysis of the publications of entire journals as well as individual authors. PoP quickly scans the Google Scholar data base for all of the papers published in a journal in the specified time period. It lists the articles in order of the frequency of their publication, along with a menu of statistical summaries. This is a remarkably useful feature, as it a) provides an overview of the most influential papers published in a given journal; and b) allows the researcher to check the accuracy of the articles on which the statistics are based. Items which do not belong on the list can be deleted with the statistics automatically recomputed. PoP provides a wide set of statistics, including h. (I will discuss some of the alternative measures below.) PoP thus facilitates the analysis of the impact of many journals that would be extremely laborious to conduct without this type of program.⁵

Journal List

The analysis covered 120 sociology journals for the period 2000-2009, and 140 journals for the period 2010-2014. I started with the list of 99 journals included in the Web of Science sociology subject category in 2010, when research on this project began. In several cases, the classification of these publications as academic sociology journals may be questioned on the grounds of subject matter (eg., *Cornell Hospitality Quarterly*) or because of the publication’s explicit interdisciplinary orientation (*Social Science Research, Population and Development Review*). I included these journals on the grounds of both inclusiveness and comparability.

I added journals several journals that JCR classifies elsewhere, including the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, because it is published by the American Sociological Association. Several prominent journals from fields closely associated with sociology were included for substantive reasons, because sociologists frequently publish

⁵Unfortunately, PoP is not well suited for estimating the proportion of papers rarely if ever cited. That is because it often includes a number of variant references or citations, which generates a “tail” of entries with zero, one or two citations.

in these journals, as well as for purposes of comparison: *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Criminology*, *Demography*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. As noted above, the JCR list is not comprehensive. In other cases, well established journals, such as the *International Review of Sociology*, are excluded from the data base for no evident reason.⁶ For the present analysis, a number of English-language journals not covered by JCR were added to the list: *American Sociologist*, *City & Community*, *Community, Work & Family*, *Contexts*, *Critical Sociology*, *Current Sociology (UK)*, *DuBois Review*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *International Review of Sociology*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Socio-economic Review*, and *Theory, Culture and Society (UK)*. While even this expanded list is not comprehensive, especially with regard to journals published outside the U. S. and in languages other than English, it is broad enough to be informative and to illuminate the points under consideration here.

Results:

The Broad Visibility of Sociology Journals

Table 1 reports several measures of the visibility of 120 sociology journals. The proposed measure *h*, calculated over the period 2000-2009, is provided along with the standard JCR Impact factor and the relatively new 5-year impact factor. Table 1 is ordered by the journal's score on the *h* statistic measured over the period 2000-2009. I also include a measure of *h* based on the most recent five years of exposure. Two other statistics, the 5-year and 10-year *g* statistics, are also listed. This alternative measure is discussed in more detail below.

What we can learn from the new measure, *h*? I submit that this measure better reflects the reception of papers published in these journals. The standard impact factor understates the visibility of research published in sociology journals. Impact scores exceed 2.0 for only 9 of the 106 journals during the 2000-2009 period where this measure was available, indicating that, even in the top journals, the average paper can only expect a small number of citations one year after publication. The five-year impact scores indicate that the papers in the top sociology journals are cited 3-7 times. Keep in mind that the average exposure time for these papers is really 2.5 years. While these numbers are larger than the traditional impact scores, they still do not fully reflect the real visibility of the scholarship in sociology journals.

In contrast, the *h* statistic reveals that sociology journals are a robust enterprise with many papers achieving wide visibility. Between 2000 and 2009, the *American Sociological Review* published 78 papers with cumulative citation totals of 78 or more. *H* statistics over 70 were also found for *American Journal of Sociology*, the *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, and the *Annual Review of Sociology*. This measure of cumulative citations reveals that these journals have featured many articles that have attained a considerable degree of recognition.

The *h* measure is also informative for the journals that are not at the top of the journal citation list. While it is hard to get excited about an impact score of 1.0, or a five

⁶The *International Review of Sociology* has been published since 1893, two years before the *American Journal of Sociology*.

year impact score of 1.5, most journals on the list have published a number of articles that have attained recognition. Of the 120 journals on the list, 79 have an h of 20 or more, indicating that they have published at least 20 papers cited 20 times or more during the period since 2000. More than 100 (104) of the sociology journals have an h of 10 or more. Most of the exceptions are not published in the United States and do not publish in the English language.⁷

The data presented in Table 1 thus support the conclusion that a broad set of sociology journals publish research with considerable impact and visibility. The breadth and depth of these contributions is more easily seen when a ten year time frame is employed, when the top papers is the focus of the analysis, and when the broader Google Scholar data base is utilized.⁸ In each of these respects, the present analysis presents a more comprehensive and informative assessment of sociology journals than does the standard ISI-Web of Science Journal Impact Factor.

Table 2 presents a similar analysis for the most recent 5-year period (2010-2014). The set of journals was expanded to 140, following the expanded coverage of the Journal Citation Reports.⁹ The ranking of journals remains familiar in many ways. The *American Sociological Review* tops the list, followed by several prominent specialty journals. I would submit that the list of top-ranked journals based on the h statistic over a ten-year period has substantial face validity for top ten, the top twenty and perhaps even the top thirty journals. After a certain point, small differences can begin to have a considerable impact on a journal's ranking.

Comparing Journal Rankings

As we have seen thus far, the h-based method of journal ranking is valuable because it helps to illuminate the scope of contributions in sociology journals more fully than does the standard metric. The new index would thus be valuable even if the ranking of journals remained unchanged. Nonetheless, it is interesting and important to explore whether this new metric alters the relative position of sociology journals.

How does the new measure, h, affect the journal rankings? The list of journals ranked by the h-index presented in Table 1 begins with familiar journals. *ASR* and *AJS* remain in the top positions, followed closely by the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* and *Administrative Science Quarterly*. Overall, the correlation between the 5-year JCR score and the 10 year Google-Scholar-based h statistic is strong ($r=.87$). The correlation between the 5-year h index and the 5-year impact score for the period 2010-2014 measured across 132 journals is somewhat weaker ($r=.76$) but still considerable.

⁷ *The Du Bois Review* has only been published since 2004; it has achieved an h score of 11 over a six year period.

⁸ It should be noted that the average "exposure" time for a paper to be cited was 5 years, since the papers were published throughout the 10 year period covered. The most cited papers are concentrated among those published in the earliest years of the decade because they had the most time to be read and absorbed.

⁹ Two journals—the *Annals of Tourism* and *Cornell Hospital Quarterly* -- were removed on substantive grounds.

Nonetheless, the rank-ordered position of individual journals can and does change. For example, the *Annual Review of Sociology* has the highest score on the 5-year impact factor for the period 2010-2014, while it has the 8th highest h-index for this period. For any given journal, the ranking will often change based on metric employed (1 year impact score, 5 year impact score or h-index) and the time frame employed.

In many fields, review journals are highly cited (Jacobs, 2013; Moed, 2005), and the *Annual Review of Sociology* is establishing itself as example of this pattern.

In many cases, the visibility of research in a journal reflects interest in and support for research in the specialty area. For example, the visibility of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* reflects the increased interest in gender and family issues. The journals *Demography*, *Population and Development Review*, the *Future of Children* and *Gender & Society* are also affected by this trend. The high visibility of the *Administrative Science Quarterly* (ASQ), which trails only the *Annual Review of Sociology* in the most recent 5-year impact factor, reflects the tremendous growth in business schools in recent years and the accompanying increase in scholarship on organizational issues.

Another highly-cited journal is the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. This ranks fifth based on the five-year impact score; it also ranks third among public health journals, where it is listed in the JCR classification. The prominence of this journal no doubt relates to the considerable intellectual vitality and research funding in research related to health and medicine. The same can be said for the journal *Criminology*, given the growth of the number of criminal justice programs and the considerable investment in crime-related research.

In my view, the five year impact score begins to capture the time frame in which citations actually transpire in sociology, and thus is a preferred measure. It should be noted, however, that the longer the time frame, the less it reflects the efforts of the current editor. All journal rankings look back through a rear-view mirror at the impact of articles published some time ago. As we move toward longer and more realistic time frames for assessing journals, the relevance of these measures to the current editorship declines.

The overall rankings do not change radically with the introduction of the five-year impact factor. The correlation between the traditional impact factor and the five-year impact factor computer across 132 journals for which these two measures are available is quite strong ($r=.96$). Thus, the overall hierarchy is not radically altered with the move to the five-year impact factor.¹⁰

No matter what measure is employed, there is a great degree of stability in the ranking of journals over time. In this sense they are a self-reproducing hierarchy. Authors send their best work to the top journals, which receive far more submissions than they are able to publish. Editors and reviewers hold the papers submitted to the top journals to high standards. In this context, even an imperfect review system will generate a considerable number of high quality papers for the top journals. This suggestion may be

¹⁰ Another way to view this association recognizes that the five-year factor score includes the two year score. It may be useful to examine the relationship between the first two years of citation with the subsequent three years of citations. This involves subtracting the impact score from the five-year impact score and correlating the former with the remainder. This association is weaker but still substantial ($r=.80$).

viewed as operating across a set of journals in much the same way that Merton's "Matthew effect" (1969) operates across individual researchers.

When indexed by h, the correlation between the journal rankings in the 2005-2009 period and 2010-2014 period is .85. The JCR impact score produces an even higher measure of inter-temporal stability ($r=.95$). The h index is less stable because it is sensitive to small changes in the number of highly visible papers. Whether this is a limitation of the measure or a more accurate reflection of the actual position of journals is a matter of perspective.

Gender & Society

An earlier paper noted that articles published in the journal *Gender & Society* (G&S) were cited roughly twice as many times in Google Scholar than they were in the ISI-Web of Science (Jacobs, 2009). I suggested that gender articles were particularly likely to be cited in books, and thus the incremental value of Google Scholar would be greater for G&S than for journals in other fields. The present analysis indicates that G&S ranks 26 in the new 5-year rankings based on h, down from rank 21 in the period 2000-2009.

Does this finding undercut the results of the previous research? There is some overlap as well as some divergence. The ranking of G&S does improve relative to the JCR impact factor but not compared with the 5-year impact factor: G&S ranks 13th with the JCR impact factor and 9th with the five-year impact factor in the most recent period. This more comprehensive analysis suggests that most leading sociology journals are frequently cited in books as well as journal articles, and thus the citation boost conferred by Google Scholar is quite widespread. The main reason G&S fared better in the earlier analysis was that the earlier analysis pertained to a different time frame. Papers published in G&S in late 1980s and early 1990s were particularly highly cited. The earlier analysis reflected the prevalence of these high-impact articles. If the present analysis were repeated for the period 1987-2009, that is, the years since G&S was first published, G&S it would move up six ranks when ranked on the h statistic (passing the *British Journal of Sociology*, *Economy and Society*, *Social Indicators Research*, *Social Networks*, *Sociologia Ruralis*, and *Work, Employment and Society*). While G&S has done well in recent years, it has featured fewer of these high-impact papers. Further analysis would be required to pin-point how much citations appearing in books contribute to the Google Scholar-based rankings.

Social Forces

Social Forces is a generalist journal published at the University of North Carolina, for most of its history on behalf of the Southern Sociological Society. In existence since 1922, it has long been viewed as one of the most prominent generalist journals in the field. Tenure candidates fortunate enough to publish in *ASR*, *AJS* and *Social Forces* are seen as having won the "triple crown" and stand an excellent chance of promotion.

In the rankings presented here, *Social Forces* lags considerably behind *ASR* and *AJS* not just on the new measure, h, but across a variety of measures. For example, *Social Forces* ranks 23rd on this list with both the h index and 46 on the traditional impact

factor and 26th if we draw on data on the five-year impact factor for the period 2010-2014.¹¹

Can we gain any insight into the relative position of *Social Forces* by examining trends over time? Figure 1 presents data on the comparative position of four journals for each of the last four decades. The h index for each journal is expressed as a percentage of the average h for *ASR* and *AJS* combined. This provides a useful benchmark which controls for the state of scholarship at the time and the length of time available for citation. Figure 1 reveals that *Demography*, the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and the *Annual Review of Sociology* have all made gains relative to *ASR* and *AJS* since the 1970s. *Social Forces* in contrast, made gains as well during the 1980s and 1990s, but has slipped back in the last decade. However, it should be noted that, even after the recent decline, the gap between *Social Forces* and these two leading journals was narrower in the last decade than it was in the 1970s.

A plausible reading of the trend data presented in Figure 1, then, is that *Social Forces* has not so much fallen behind, but rather that other journals have made more progress in forging ahead relative to *ASR* and *AJS*. It may be that the relatively short research reports published in *Social Forces* tend to generate fewer of the 'home run' articles captured by the h index. This trend may also reflect a pattern of increasing segmentation in the discipline, with increasing recognition going to the specialties and less focus going to the generalist journals.

The generalist issue was pursued further by an investigation of five other generalist journals: *Sociological Focus*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Perspectives*, and *Sociological Spectrum*. The question explored was whether these journals gained ground or lost ground, relative to *ASR* and *AJS*, since the 1970s. Since *Sociological Forum* and *Sociological Spectrum* date to the 1980s, the analysis for these journals spans their starting date until the present. The results (not shown) indicate that each of these journals has narrowed the gap vis-à-vis *ASR* and *AJS* over the last few decades. For example, the ratio of h for *Sociological Perspectives* (relative to the average for *ASR* and *AJS*) rose from .19 during the 1980s to .30 during the 2000s. Thus, the relative decline of *Social Forces* during the last decade does not appear to be part of a broader trend afflicting generalist journals.

Foreign Journals

Journals published outside the U. S. are clearly at a disadvantage in terms of visibility. Closer inspection reveals that publication in languages other than English further reduces the visibility of journals. This pattern no doubt reflects in part the concentration of sociologists in the U. S. and other English speaking countries, and the tendency for English-speaking sociologists to principally read English-language journals and books. It

¹¹ Francois Nielsen, former editor of *Social Forces*, notes that *Social Forces* ranks higher on the eigenfactor metric. This measure weights citations by 'quality,' ie the ranking of the citing journal. This type of adjustment would be difficult to implement with Google Scholar, since one would have to weight not just journals but citations appearing in books and other sources as well.

may also result from a tendency for Google Scholar and especially the ISI Web of Science to more comprehensively cover English-language sources.

Table 3 summarizes information about the journal visibility by country, drawing on data spanning 2000-2009. The list analyzes here includes 73 journals published in the U. S.; the U. K. is a distant second with 22 sociology journals, followed by Germany (4), the Netherlands (4), France (3) and Canada (2). A valuable extension of this research would collect a more complete list of journals from countries not represented here, including journals published in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

English is doubtless the most common language for sociology publications. The list includes 102 journals published in English. Eight journals are designated “multi-language,” but in fact several of these mostly feature English-language articles, including the *International Sociological Review* (published in Italy), *Sociological Theory and Methods* (published in Japan), and the *Archives Europeene de Sociologie* (published in France).

While several long-standing and well-established British journals, including the *British Journal of Sociology* and *Sociology* are among the most highly cited journals, the average visibility is severely limited for most journals published outside the U.S. and particularly for non-English language journals. The twenty most visible journals (ranked by their Web of Science 5-Year Impact Factor) are all published in the U. S. or the U. K., as are 62 of the 65 most visible. Two journals published in English in the Netherlands, *Sociologia Ruralis* and *Agriculture and Human Values*, are ranked 23rd and 42nd on the Web of Science Five-Year Impact Factor. The highest ranked non-English is the German-language *Kolner Zeitschrift fur Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*, which ranks 60th. For foreign language journals, both the Impact Factor and the Five-Year Impact Score are nearly all below 1.0, and most have 10-year h statistics of less than 10.

Other Measures and Other Journal Ranking Considerations

The summary measure employed here, h, has many attractive features and is widely used to assess individual scholarship, but there are inevitably limitations. One prominent consideration is that h ignores the most highly influential papers above the cutoff value. For example, two journals could both have an h score of 30, but the top-cited publication for one journal could be double that of the other journal. The h measure ignores variability in the upper tail of the citation distribution. An alternative measure, g, takes this into account.¹² As a practical matter, the difference between h and g is not that large. The correlation of these two measures, h and g, for the 120 sociology journals measured from 2000-2009, is quite close ($r=.87$). I suspect that g would be more volatile from year to year because it is influenced by the citations to a handful of very highly-cited papers.¹³ Consequently, h seems slightly preferable to g as a measure of a journal's visibility.

¹² The g-index is the (unique) largest number such that the top g articles received (together) at least g^2 citations. (Egghe, 2006).

¹³ In terms of data errors, h is a bit less vulnerable to incorrect and variant citations. While each such error would affect g, h only depends on the accuracy of citation counts

Another consideration affecting this analysis is the issue of inaccurate or variant citations. Google Scholar, along with other citation data bases, includes variations of references to the same item. For example, Inglehart and Baker's article in the *American Sociological Review* was cited in at least four different ways. I endeavored to include all variant citations for the top cited article, but was unable to attempt this type of correction for every paper published in every journal. Variant citations have two effects on the statistics reported in PoP.

The main impact of this problem is that the number of papers per journal reported in PoP is highly inflated. For a number of the journals examined here, PoP reports 1,000 or more articles; this far exceeds the actual number of articles published. As a result, PoP is not a useful tool for estimating the number of papers that have zero, one or two citations. In addition, the PoP statistic on citations per paper measure is substantially understated. The impact on the h statistic for each journal is likely to be far more limited.

I have not endeavored to try to correct for the problem of variant citations. It would be difficult to do so, given the large number of articles and journals under consideration. There is good reason to expect these errors to be randomly distributed. Consequently, they are unlikely to affect the rankings of the journals based on its h score. In terms of the absolute scores, random errors would most likely result in downward biases in h but there may be cases in which the variant listing itself is sufficiently high to count as an additional high-impact paper, thus inflating h.

Another point that should be noted is that citations counts reflect exposure time. Most of the top-cited papers date from 2010 (for the 2010-2014 analysis) or from the early 2000s for the 2000-2009 analysis. More recently published papers simply have not had sufficient time to be highly cited. In terms of the comparison between journals, this is not a limitation for the current analysis, since all of the journals are examined during the same time frame.¹⁴ It may be possible to extrapolate citation counts for individual articles, but I have chosen not to do so for the purpose of identifying the most-cited papers. There is considerable variation from paper to paper in terms of its citation trajectory (Jacobs, 2005, 2007), and thus it seems more grounded to simply report the observed cumulative citation counts.

Top Cited Papers

Table 2 also reports the number of citations garnered by the top-cited paper in each journal between 2010 and 2014. Nine of these journals published a total of ten papers that were each cited more than 400 times, a considerable degree of visibility. Fifty-four of the journals included a paper cited 100 times or more, and in 91 of the 140 journals covered, the top paper was cited at least 50 times during the last five years.

The ranking of the journal does not set a firm limit on the visibility of papers. The correlation between the top-cited paper and the journal's impact score is a rather modest

of papers close to the value of h. In other words, errors in the citation counts of very highly-cited and very rarely-cited papers will not affect the measured value of h.

¹⁴ It should also be noted that the statistics reported here also do not adjust for the number of articles published by each journal.

.61, computed across 140 journals where both measure are available, which indicates that roughly one third of the variance in the visibility of the top paper is associated with the journal's rank.

One of the virtues of PoP is that it quickly brings prominent papers into focus. Table 4 lists ten papers cited at least 400 times between 2010 and 2014. Several significant conclusions can be drawn from Table 4. First, none of the top-cited papers was published in one of the three leading journals, *ASR*, *AJS* or the *Annual Review of Sociology*. The highly cited papers emerged from specialist journals, such as *Social Networks*, the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* and the *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. One of the most cited papers – by Eszter Hargittai, was published in *Sociological Inquiry*, a journal that is usually not included in the top quartile of sociology journals. And two appeared in journals that may not be familiar to all sociologist – the *Journal of Consumer Culture* and *Global Networks*.

Substantively, the theme of social networks plays a prominent role in many of these papers. Four are explicitly about networks; the Brenner, Peck and Theodore paper has cross-country policy networks as a prominent theme, and the Hargittai paper examines access to the internet, the world's largest active network. In terms of their approach, most of these papers can also be characterized as methodological contributions, review essays or synthetic theoretical essays.

The visibility of papers outside the set of elite journals may be view as evidence that that electronic search processes are leveling the playing field and enabling greater visibility across the broad spectrum of journals. This “internet accessibility” hypothesis has been advanced by Larivière and his colleagues (2009), among others. In other words, the broader accessibility of journals due to the ready availability of search tools makes it easier for researchers and scholars to find potentially important papers in a wider range of outlets. On the other hand, broader measures of the gap between papers in elite and other journals does not support the idea of an equalizing trend across journals.¹⁵

Table 5 lists eleven papers cited at least 700 times between 2000 and 2009 in the Google Scholar data in the covered journals.^{16,17} These figures would be considerably higher if they were re-calculated to cover the period 2000-20015. While a number of the most-cited papers appeared in the top-ranked journals, what is more remarkable is the fact that there is only a single case of overlap between two list of journals on Tables 4 and 5. Only the *Journal of Marriage and the Family* appears in both lists – Paul Amato

¹⁵ The ratio of h for the top 20 journals versus the remaining 108 published during both periods declines from 2.7 to 2.4, but this difference is too small to be statistically significant (treating this set of journals as a statistical sample).

¹⁶ An entry to “Reflexive Modernization” by Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens and Scott Lash in the journal *Theory, Culture & Society* garnered 783 citations. This reference, however, is to a special issue of the journal rather than a single article.

¹⁷ An earlier draft of this paper cited an essay by Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis entitled “Schooling in Capitalist America Revisited” as the most frequently cited paper. Unfortunately, the references to this article, published in the journal *Sociology of Education*, appear to be conflated with references to the with the same title published by these authors a quarter of a century earlier.

was the author in both cases. This pattern confirms one of the main conclusions in Table 4, namely that the top journals do not have a monopoly on the top-cited papers.

The list of top-cited papers for the 2000-2009 period includes three review essays published in the Annual Review of Sociology. Other bibliometric studies have found that review essays often appear in lists of top-cited papers (Seglen, 1997; Moed and Van Leeuwen, 1995; Jacobs, 2013). Substantively, these top cited papers cover social networks, neighborhood effects, stratification processes, divorce, web surveys, social movements, historical sociology, and several aspects of social theory. Quite a broad range.

Several of these papers were written by non-sociologists.¹⁸ I decided to leave these on the list because the focus is on the most visible papers in sociology and related journals, rather than the most visible papers published by sociologists. The fact that these papers are highly cited suggests that the boundaries between disciplines are far more porous than some analysts suggest (Jacobs and Frickel, 2009; Jacobs, 2013).

Conclusion

Most sociology journals examined here publish a considerable number of papers that achieve a substantial degree of scholarly visibility. The journal rankings presented here are based on the h index and draw from the Google-Scholar data base. The measures capture more citations than the traditional journal impact factor because of the longer time frame and because Google Scholar captures a broader range of citations both from journals and from other sources. The PoP software is informative because it identifies specific, highly cited papers, and thus serves as a bibliographic tool and not just a journal ranking metric. While the position of individual journals shifts somewhat with the new measure, by and large a steep hierarchy of journals remains. It is interesting, however, to note that the top cited paper in a journal is not unduly constrained by the journal's rank: even modestly ranked journals often publish several highly visible papers. While certain aspects of journal rankings remain controversial, in my view the practice of journal rankings is likely to remain with us, and consequently improved and more comprehensive assessments are to be preferred to more limited ones.

¹⁸ Ronald Inglehart is a political scientist by training but his research on "post-materialist" values is quite prominent in sociology. Gautam Ahuja is a management professor; his highly cited paper seeks to build on the research by Ronald Burt, a noted sociologist of networks. Perhaps the paper that "sticks out" the most is the paper by Filmer and Pritchett on wealth effects in the journal Demography. This paper examines the impact of household wealth on schooling in India. While this topic is in principle of interest to sociologists, this article has been of greater interest to scholars in other fields. Based on the ISI classification of the citing journals, Filmer and Pritchett paper is most popular in public health, tropical medicine, economics and demography, with only 2 percent of the citations appearing in sociology journals.

Appendix: Citation Counts and Tenure Decisions

Promotion and tenure committees face the difficult task of assessing the credentials of young teachers and scholars. The stakes are high: tenured faculty positions offer job security and unparalleled intellectual freedom. A negative vote, on the other hand, poses the risk of a tarnished professional reputation and uncertain employment prospects. Consequently, it is natural that review committees will seek out the most objective and defensible criteria available to supplement the written evaluations of professional colleagues.

One basic problem with the use of citation measures at the tenure stage is timing: it takes a number of years for the impact of scholarship to be fully felt. In the short term, low citation scores may represent false negatives: quality scholarship that simply has not had sufficient time to become recognized. This is particularly true of articles and books that are less than a year or two old when the candidate is being evaluated.

How accurate are short-term citation measures in terms of predicting the long-term impact of journal articles? I explored this question by investigating the impact of ASR papers published in 1988 and 1989. I compiled the cumulative citation scores through 1990, and then five and twenty years after the initial publication.

For the 92 papers included in this analysis, the impact factor and the five-year impact factor correlate .84 at the level of individual papers. (See Appendix Table 1.) The predictive power of the early impact factor, however, declines over time, with the impact factor predicting the cumulative citations over a twenty-year period to a modest degree ($r=.52$). The five-year impact score does a better job predicting cumulative citations over a 20-year period ($r=.72$).

These correlations are inflated by the fact that the later scores include the earlier measure. I computed the associations a second time to reflect only the relationship between early and subsequent citations. The findings indicate an even weaker set of relationships. Citations through year 2 predict citations in years 3-5 only modestly ($r=.56$) and the predictive power declines somewhat for years 3-20 ($r=.44$). The five-year score does a bit better in predicting citation in years 6-20 ($r=.67$).

The thrust of these findings point to the highly uncertain predictive power of early citations. While early citations are statistically associated with subsequent visibility and impact, there is a high degree of variability in this relationship. I would not recommend making high-stakes judgments such as tenure decisions based on citation data in fields such as sociology since their predictive power regarding the subsequent visibility of the articles in question has only a modest predictive power. This is especially the case when several articles or a book published by the candidate are published (or remain "in press") in the year or two before the tenure decision is made.

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Tables 1 and 2: see last pages of this document.

Table 3. Sociology Journals by Country and Language

Country

U. S.	73
U. K.	22
Germany	4
Netherlands	4
France	3
Canada	2
Other	12
Total	120

Language

English	102
Multi-language	8
German	3
French	3
Other	4
Total	120

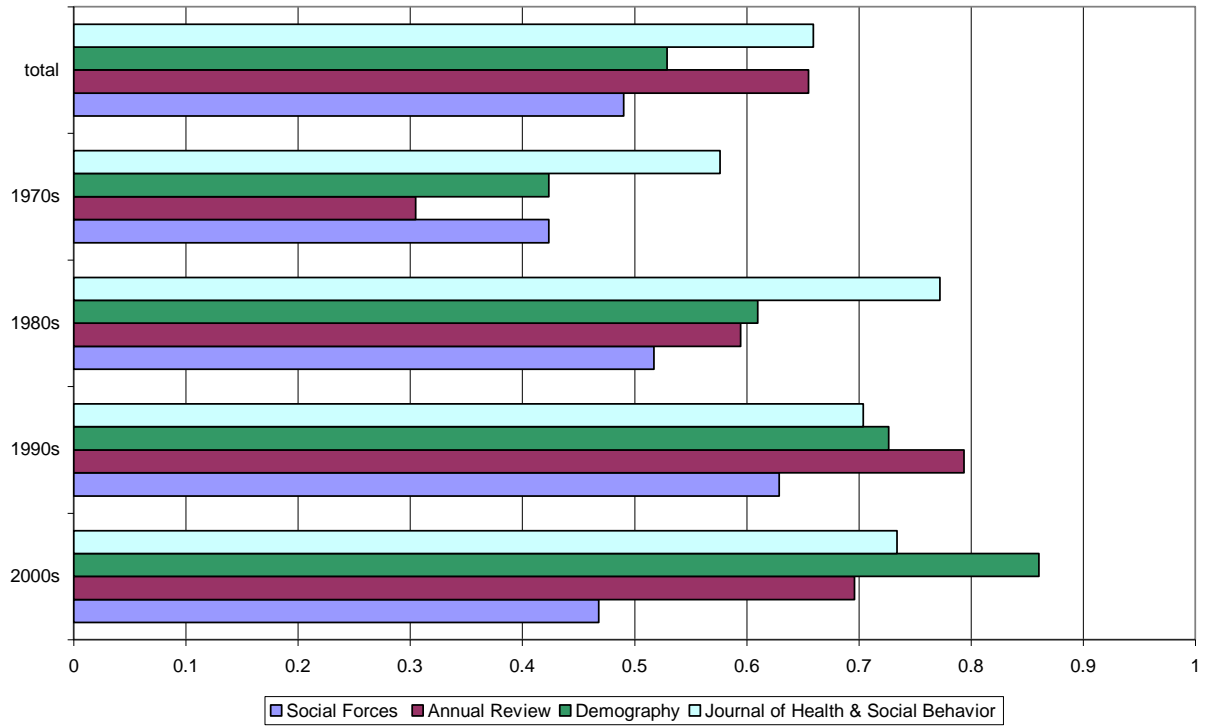
Table 4. Articles Published in Sociology Journals with 400+ Cumulative Citations in Google Scholar between 2010-2014

Cumulative Citation Count	Article Reference
681	Snijders, Tom A. B., Gerhard G. van de Bunt, Christian E. G. Steglich. "Introduction to stochastic actor-based models for network dynamics." <i>Social Networks</i> 32(1): 44-60.
646	Ritzer, George and Nathan Jurgenson. 2011. Production, Consumption, Prosumption: The nature of capitalism in the age of the digital 'prosumer' <i>Journal of Consumer Culture</i> 10(1):13-36.
620	Mood, Carina. 2010. "Logistic Regression: Why We Cannot Do What We Think We Can Do, and What We Can Do About It." <i>European Sociological Review</i> 26 (1): 67-82.
582	Brenner, Neil, Jamie Peck and Nik Theodore. 2010. "Variegated neoliberalization: geographies, modalities, pathways." <i>Global Networks</i> 10(2): 182-222.
577	Opsahl, Tore, Filip Agneessens and John Skvoretz. 2010. "Node centrality in weighted networks: Generalizing degree and shortest paths." <i>Social Networks</i> 32(3): 245-251.
546	Amato, Paul. 2010. "Research on Divorce: Continuing Trends and New Developments." <i>Journal of Marriage and the Family</i> 72(3): 650-666.
543	Hargittai, Eszter. 2010. "Digital Na(t)ives? Variation in Internet Skills and Uses among Members of the "Net Generation" <i>Sociological Inquiry</i> 80(1):92-113.
413	McCright, Aaron and Riley E. Dunlap. 2011. "The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public's Views of Global Warming, 2001-2010." <i>Sociological Quarterly</i> 52(2):155-194.
406	Peggy A. Thoits, 2011. "Mechanisms Linking Social Ties and Support to Physical and Mental Health." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 52(2): 145-161.
402	Steglich, Christian. Tom A. B. Snijders and Michael Pearson. 2010. "Dynamic Networks and Behavior: Separating Selection from Influence." <i>Sociological Methodology</i> 40:329-393.

Table 4. Articles Published in Sociology Journals with 700+ Cumulative Citations in Google Scholar between 2000-2009

Cumulative Citation Count	Article Reference
1424	McPherson, Miller and Lynn Smith-Lovin. 2001. "Birds of a feather: Homophily in social networks." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 27:415-444.
1165	Ahuja, Gautam. 2000. "Collaboration networks, structural holes, and innovation: A Longitudinal Study." <i>Administrative Science Quarterly</i> 45(3): 425-455.
1161	Benford, Robert. D. and David. A. Snow. 2000. "Framing processes and Social movements: An overview and assessment." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 26:611-639.
1143	Filmer, Deon and Lant. H. Pritchett. 2001. "Estimating wealth effects without expenditure data – or tears." <i>Demography</i> 38(1):115-132.
1114	Inglehart, Ronald. and Wayne. E. Baker. 2000 "Modernization, cultural change, and the persistence of traditional values." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 65(1):19-51.
878	Sampson, Robert J., Jeffrey D. Morenoff and T. Gagnon. 2002 "Assessing neighborhood effects." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 28:443-478.
794	Couper, Mick P. 2000. "Web surveys: A review of issues and approaches." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 64:464-494.
789	Amato, Paul R. 2000. "The consequences of divorce for adults and children." <i>Journal of Marriage and the Family</i> 62(4):1269-1287.
741	Mahoney, James. 2001. "Path dependence in historical sociology." <i>Theory and Society</i> 29(4): 507-548.
713	Link, Bruce and J. C. Phelan. 2001. "Conceptualizing stigma." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 27:363-385.
705	Brubaker, Rogers. 2000. "Beyond identity." <i>Theory and Society</i> 29(1):1-47.

Figure 1. H For Selected Journals Compared as a Fraction of ASR/AJS Average, by Decade since 1970s



Appendix Table 1.

Correlation of Early Citations with Subsequent Citations

	Impact Factor	Five-Year Impact Factor
Five-Year Impact Factor	r=.84	
20-Year Cumulative Citations	r=.52	r=.72
Citations Years 3-5	r=.56	
Citations Years 3-20	r=.44	
Citations Years 6-20	r=.40	r=.67

Data based on author's analysis of citations 92 to articles published in the American Sociological Review in 1988 and 1989, drawing from the ISI Web of Science data base

Table 1. Sociology Journal Rankings: Currently Sorted by h Metric Calculated for Period 2000-2009

Name of Journal	Google	Google	Google	Google	ISI Web of	ISI Web of	Country	Language
	Scholar	Scholar	Scholar	Scholar Most Cited	Knowledge	Knowledge		
	10 year h	5 year h	10 year g	Article	Impact Factor	5-Year Impact Factor		
American Sociological Review	78	36	124	1036	3.762	5.285	US	English
American Journal of Sociology	75	34	122	573	2.808	5.046	US	English
Journal of Marriage and the Family	73	33	120	758	1.639	2.848	US	English
Administrative Science Quarterly	71	27	127	1114	2.853	6.313	US	English
Demography	65	28	99	1094	2.321	3.732	US	English
Annals of Tourism Research	62	28	86	157	1.104	1.683	US	English
Criminology	57	26	81	383	2.321	3.732	US	English
Journal of Health and Social Behavior	54	18	82	259	1.836	4.536	US	English
Annual Review of Sociology	53	3	112	1320	2.273	4.954	US	English
Sociology of Education	52	19	98	3126	1.594	2.265	US	English
Population and Development Review	48	22	77	383	1.806	2.164	US	English
Sociology (UK)	48	21	68	214	1.464	1.785	UK	English
Social Networks	45	23	68	282	2.068	2.929	US	English
Sociologia Ruralis	43	13	65	196	1.41	1.925	Netherlands	English
Public Opinion Quarterly	42	24	81	758	1.972	2.606	US	English
Economy and Society	42	17	71	379	1.655	1.965	US	English
British Journal of Sociology (UK)	42	20	70	514	1.473	2.173	UK	English
Work, Employment and Society	42	18	54	141	1.105	2	US	English
Future of Children	40	25	65	304	4.371	3.735	US	English
Social Indicators Research	40	25	60	325	0.955	1.362	US	English
Gender & Society	38	18	57	351	1.387	1.989	US	English
Journal of Family Issues	38	22	54	130	1.13	1.536	US	English
Social Forces	37	16	61	303	1.247	2.08	US	English
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	37	15	51	143	0.907	1.538	US	English
European Sociological Review	37	22	54	122	0.816	1.345	UK	English
Social Problems	36	19	57	197	2.059	2.677	US	English
Sociology of Health and Illness	36	21	48	463	1.845	2.899	US	English
Language in Society	36	28	66	295	0.727	1.21	US	English

Theory, Culture & Society (UK)	36	21	68	754		Na	UK	English
Social Psychology Quarterly	35	15	54	369	1.143	1.983	US	English
Sociological Theory	34	14	52	298	1.226	1.596	US	English
British Journal of the Sociology of Education	34	17	49	131	0.573	0.862	UK	English
Social Science Research	33	21	46	153	1.423	1.833	US	English
Law and Society Review	33	18	49	165	1.389	1.887	US	English
Global Networks (UK)	32	20	51	213	1	1.75	UK	English
Sociological Methods & Research	31	17	56	442	1.368	2.776	US	English
Theory & Society	31	13	62	711	0.727	1.294	US	English
Work & Occupations	30	15	44	190	1.69	1.866	US	English
Rural Sociology	30	12	44	183	1.2	1.353	US	English
Agriculture and Human Values	30	17	47	226	1.186	1.319	Netherlands	English
Media, Culture & Society	30	18	42	121	0.938	1.005	US	English
Journal of Leisure Research	30	13	43	114	0.7	1.344	US	English
Politics & Society	29	14	44	215	1.45	1.58	US	English
International Journal of Intercultural Relations	29	15	40	109	0.989	1.199	UK	English
Discourse & Society	29	16	42	113	0.946	1.162	US	English
Sociological Review (UK)	29	19	41	108	0.764	1.246	UK	English
Leisure Sciences	28	11	41	162	0.776	1.169	US	English
European Journal of Social Theory	28	14	44	253		Na	UK	English
Human Ecology	27	15	39	108	1.253	1.721	US	English
Youth & Society	27	12	37	99	0.9	1.856	US	English
European Societies	26	16	42	173	0.875	1.114	UK	English
International Sociology	26	14	43	142	0.623	0.81	UK	English
Acta Sociological	25	13	35	122	0.957	0.873	UK	English
Society & Natural Resources	24	15	39	201	1.167	1.725	US	English
Mobilization	24	12	38	166	0.783	Na	US	English
Sociological Quarterly	24	13	32	63	0.565	0.883	US	English
Sociologie du Travail (France, French)	24	9	35	139	0.231	0.339	France	French
Socio-economic Review	24	20	41	145		Na	UK	English
International Review of Sociology	24	11	32	77		Na	Italy	Multi-language
Poetics	23	14	32	65	0.821	1.135	US	English
Rationality and Society	23	12	39	197	0.788	0.901	US	English
Symbolic Interaction	23	9	49	409	0.438	0.576	US	English
Sociological Perspectives	23	10	29	47	0.358	0.85	US	English

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography	22	12	31	70	1.06	0.992	US	English
Ethnic and Racial Studies (UK)	22	22	34	115	0.887	1.36	UK	English
Comparative Studies in Society and History	22	7	31	158	0.484	0.459	US	English
Sociological Forum	22	11	36	295	0.423	0.577	US	English
American Journal of Economics and Sociology	22	12	30	79	0.349	0.364	US	English
Qualitative Sociology	22	11	30	80		Na	US	English
Journal of Sociology (Australia)	21	13	27	55	0.791	0.879	Australia	English
Deviant Behavior	21	12	31	105	0.717	1.125	US	English
Sociology of Religion	21	3	28	69	0.68	0.851	US	English
Sociological Inquiry	21	10	27	66	0.581	1.11	US	English
Body & Society (note: problem with 5-year impact factor)	21	10	32	113	0.537	Na	US	English
Contemporary Sociology	21	3	37	187	0.481	0.444	US	English
Canadian Journal of Sociology	21	9	34	140	0.382	0.577	Canada	Multi-language
Berliner Journal fur Soziologie (German Language)	21	8	31	95	0.173	0.181	Germany	German
Current Sociology	21	16	37	256		Na	UK	English
Men & Masculinities	20	11	29	82	0.393	Na	US	English
Sociology of Sport Journal	19	11	27	71	0.674	0.813	US	English
Journal of Sport & Social Issues	19	10	26	75	0.643	0.752	US	English
Sociological Research Online	19	11	28	64	0.376	0.44	US	English
Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology	19	8	25	66	0.368	0.476	Canada	Multi-language
Community, Work & Family	19	10	26	56		Na	UK	English
Teaching Sociology	17	7	20	43	0.745	0.718	US	English
International Journal of Comparative Sociology	17	11	27	77		Na	UK	English
Journal of Law and Society	16	9	25	119	0.774	0.814	US	English
Review of Religious Research	16	10	24	84	0.446	0.703	US	English
Armed Forces & Society	16	11	22	50	0.417	0.561	US	English
Sociological Spectrum	16	9	21	37	0.317	0.514	US	English
City & Community	16	11	27	189		Na	US	English
Critical Sociology	15	10	21	57		Na	UK	English
Journal of Mathematical Sociology	14	8	30	404	1.04	0.933	UK	English
Society	14	6	25	136	0.19	0.198	UK	English
Contexts	14	8	20	44		Na	US	English
Zeitschrift fur Soziologie	12	4	19	70	0.608	0.784	Germany	Multi-language
Society & Animals (Netherlands)	12	6	19	47	0.293	0.765	Netherlands	English

Social Compass (Belgium, Multi-Language)	12	9	14	24	0.206	0.277	Belgium	Multi-language
American Sociologist	12	8	16	46	Na		US	English
Du Bois Review	11	8	18	66	Na		US	English
Race & Class (UK)	10	2	17	64	0.8	0.835	UK	English
Human Studies (Netherlands)	10	6	14	37	0.395	0.376	Netherlands	English
International Journal of the Sociology of Law	10	6	15	41	0.28	0.329	US	English
Journal of Historical Sociology	10	4	12	22	0.213	0.289	US	English
Journal of the History of Sexuality	9	5	14	34	0.062	0.393	US	English
Contributions to Indian Sociology	9	4	12	17	0.045	0.338	India	English
Kolner Zeitschrift fur Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie	6	3	12	40	1.188	0.867	Germany	German
Soziale Welt (German)	6	3	9	20	0.225	0.143	Germany	German
Sociologia (Slovakia)	5	4	8	25	0.175	0.151	Slovakia	Slovak
Chinese Sociology and Anthropology (English)	3	2	3	4	0.229	0.149	China	English
Drustvena Istrazivanja (Croatia, Multi-Language)	3	2	4	6	0.196	0.245	Croatia	Multi-language
Polish Sociological Review	3	6	4	16	0.118	Na	Poland	English
Cornell Hospitality Quarterly	2	2	3	8		na	US	English
Revue Francais du Sociologie	2	0	2	3	0.509	0.421	France	French
Deviance et Societe	2	0	3	7	0.22	Na	Switzerland	French
Sotsiologicheskie Issledovaniya (Russian, Russian)	2	1	2	2	0.152	0.136	Russia	Russian
Sociological Theory and Methods (Japan, Multi-Language)	2	1	2	2	0.069	0.029	Japan	Multi-language
Archives Europeene de Sociologie (France, Multi-Language)	1	1	1	1	0.2	0.382	France	Multi-language
Sociologisk Forskning (Swedish)	1	1	2	4	0.028	0.042	Sweden	Swedish
Sociologicky Casopis Czech Sociological Review	0	1	0	2	0.206	0.277	Czech Rep.	Czech

Table 2. Sociology Journal Rankings: Currently Sorted by h Metric Calculated for Period 2010-2014

h index	g index	1 yr impact factor	5 yr impact factor	top cited paper
2010-2015	2010-2015	2014	2010-2014	2010-2015

Name of Journal						Country	Language
American Sociological Review	44	68	4.39	6.824	272	US	English
Criminology	42	61	0.5	0.686	95	US	English
Demography	40	57	2.616	3.511	130	US	English
Journal of Marriage and the Family	40	71	1.77	3.133	552	US	English
Social Indicators Research	40	57	1.395	1.875	283	US	English
American Journal of Sociology	38	59	3.545	5.326	200	US	English
Annual Review of Sociology	37	64	4.08	7.374	360	US	English
Information Communication & Society	34	62	1.676	1.602	390	UK	English
European Sociological Review	33	54	1.74	2.941	620	UK	English
Qualitative Research	33	52	1.909	2.656	149	UK	English
Sociology of Education	33	50	1.711	2.638	391	US	English
Public Opinion Quarterly	32	51	1.775	2.799	180	US	English
Social Networks	32	58	2	3.137	683	US	English
Social Science Research	32	42	1.295	1.912	115	US	English
Sociology (UK)	32	49	1.617	2.083	80	UK	English
British Journal of Sociology (UK)	31	46	1.314	1.861	212	UK	English
Population and Development Review	31	51	1.667	2.835	376	US	English
Economy and Society	30	56	1.31	2.119	278	US	English
Future of Children	30	52	2.5	4.518	181	US	English
Social Forces	30	42	1.303	2.236	150	US	English
Journal of Health and Social Behavior	29	54	2.915	5.211	406	US	English
Theory, Culture & Society (UK)	29	53	na	na	354	UK	English
Administrative Science Quarterly	28	52	3.333	7.313	302	US	English
Ethnic and Racial Studies (UK)	28	39	0.956	1.285	96	UK	English
International Journal of Intercultural Relations	28	41	1.058	1.558	156	UK	English
Gender & Society	27	41	1.956	3.57	321	US	English
Social Problems	27	38	1.729	2.669	89	US	English
Work, Employment and Society	27	37	1.284	1.878	299	US	English

Agriculture and Human Values	26	41	1.617	2.196	149	Netherlands	English
Media, Culture & Society	26	36	0.77	1.308	148	US	English
Socio-economic Review	26	40	1.545	2.246	164	UK	English
Sociology of Health and Illness	26	38	1.665	2.306	188	US	English
Global Networks (UK)	25	42	1.586	2.294	583	UK	English
Sociological Methods & Research	25	42	2.205	3.126	293	US	English
International Review for the Sociology of Sport	23	36	0.953	1.287	157	US	English
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	23	32	0.958	1.565	86	US	English
Social Psychology Quarterly	23	34	0.791	1.545	119	US	English
Current Sociology	22	33	0.941	1.164	155	UK	English
Human Ecology	22	29	1.891	2.099	48	US	English
International Review of Sociology	22	34	na	na	24	Italy	Multi-language
Journal of Family Issues	22	29	1.269	1.543	61	US	English
British Journal of the Sociology of Education	21	28	0.525	1.026	62	UK	English
Law and Society Review	21	33	1.2	1.669	160	US	English
Sexualities	21	28	0.46	0.768	89	UK	English
Society & Natural Resources	21	36	1.284	1.701	185	US	English
Sociologia Ruralis	21	29	1.306	1.824	119	Netherlands	English
Body & Society	20	35	0.703	1.467	181	US	English
Discourse & Society	20	29	0.71	1.25	68	US	English
International Political Sociology	20	26	0.734	1.535	71	US	English
Journal of Consumer Culture	20	46	1.194	2.962	646	UK	English
Politics & Society	20	40	1.119	2.281	279	US	English
Theory & Society	20	28	1.457	1.333	77	US	English
Nations and Nationalism	19	25	0.444	0.699	85	UK	English
Poetics	19	32	1.293	2.184	163	US	English
Research in Social Stratification and Mobility	19	331	1.119	na	132	US	English
Social Movement Studies	19	28	0.944	na	54	UK	English
Sociological Theory	19	42	2.226	2.714	344	US	English

Youth & Society	19	32	1.722	1.97	130	US	English
European Journal of Social Theory	18	28	0.679	1.11	100	UK	English
Journal of Sociology (Australia)	18	26	0.78	1.368	101	Australia	English
Men & Masculinities	18	26	1.451	1.545	3	US	English
Sociological Forum	18	26	1	1.359	189	US	English
Sociological Quarterly	18	32	1.028	1.89	413	US	English
Critical Sociology	17	24	0.491	na	58	UK	English
International Sociology	17	26	0.812	1.16	70	UK	English
Journal of Contemporary Ethnography	17	22	0.826	1.067	60	US	English
Journal of Law and Society	17	26	0.5	0.734	49	US	English
Journal of Leisure Research	17	23	0.907	1.348	109	US	English
Language in Society	17	26	1.073	1.366	102	US	English
Leisure Sciences	17	23	1.177	1.581	47	US	English
Sociological Inquiry	17	33	0.75	1.211	548	US	English
Sociology of Sport Journal	17	25	0.75	1.151	100	US	English
Acta Sociologica	16	20	1.1	1.39	45	UK	English
Cultural Sociology	16	26	0.431	0.842	79	UK	English
European Societies	16	25	0.75	1.136	96	UK	English
Health Sociology Review	16	21	0.515	0.923	45	Australia	English
Journal of Sport & Social Issues	16	29	0.571	1	80	US	English
Qualitative Sociology	16	22	0.711	1.272	49	US	English
Rural Sociology	16	25	1.409	2.009	75	US	English
Sociological Methodology	16	36	2.45	4.021	402	US	English
Sociology of Religion	16	22	1	1.363	68	US	English
Work & Occupations	16	25	1.222	1.632	72	US	English
American Journal of Economics and Sociology	15	19	0.153	0.284	44	US	English
City & Community	15	20	1	1.525	43	US	English
Community, Work & Family	15	23	na	na	83	UK	English
Crime Media Culture	15	18	3.098	4.433	34	UK	English

Deviant Behavior	15	20	0.942	1.12	44	US	English
Ethnography	15	22	1.041	1.2	65	UK	English
Race & Class (UK)	15	19	0.646	0.769	49	UK	English
Social Justice Research	15	22	1.17	1.466	72	UK	English
Sociological Perspectives	15	21	0.618	0.993	60	US	English
Mobilization	14	22	0.978	1.368	70	US	English
Du Bois Review	13	20	0.553	na	60	US	English
Innovation	13	18	0.4	0.54	54		
International Journal of Comparative Sociology	13	17	0.613	1.115	40	UK	English
Symbolic Interaction	13	18	0.625	0.888	37	US	English
Comparative Studies in Society and History	12	17	0.677	0.813	189	US	English
Economic and Social Review	12	17	0.522	0.652	44	Ireland	English
Rationality and Society	12	16	0.394	0.663	39	US	English
Sociological Review (UK)	12	17	0.875	1.199	73	UK	English
Teaching Sociology	12	17	0.464	0.489	49	US	English
Journal of Mathematical Sociology	11	16	0.238	0.684	43	UK	English
Society and Mental Health	11	15	1.269	1.308	31	US	English
Sociological Spectrum	11	15	0.371	0.569	49	US	English
Sociologie du Travail (France, French)	11	19	0.217	0.36	67	France	French
Armed Forces & Society	10	14	0.591	0.62	33	US	English
Contexts	10	14	na	na	53	US	English
Food Culture & Society	10	14	0.22	na	33	UK	English
Human Ecology Review	10	17	0.789	1.3	58	US	English
Review of Religious Research	10	13	0.406	0.421	28	US	English
Society	10	297	0.354	0.349	24	UK	English
Human Studies (Netherlands)	9	14	0.618	0.55	57	Netherlands	English
Social Compass (Belgium, Multi-Language)	9	11	0.164	0.362	20	Belgium	Multi-language
Society & Animals (Netherlands)	9	14	0.704	0.739	53	Netherlands	English
Soziale Welt (German)	9	13	0.3	0.25	29	Germany	German

American Sociologist	8	11	na	na	32	US	English
Contemporary Sociology	7	36	0.742	0.621	87	US	English
Filosofija-Sociologija	7	8	0.333	0.196	13	Lithuania	Lithuanian
Contributions to Indian Sociology	6	9	0.917	0.538	17	India	English
Journal of Historical Sociology	6	8	0.298	0.365	48	US	English
Journal of the History of Sexuality	6	8	0.167	0.2	192	US	English
Canadian Journal of Sociology	5	7	0.5	0.505	12	Canada	Multi-language
Polish Sociological Review	5	6	0.121	0.121	9	Poland	English
Sociologia (Slovakia, Slovenian Language)	5	26	0.2	0.205	10	Slovakia	Slovenian
Chinese Sociology and Anthropology (English)	3	3	0.97	1.167	6	China	English
Current Perspectives in Social Theory	3	3	0.105	0.069	5	UK	English
Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala	3	3	0.798	0.642	4	Romania	English
Sociologisk Forskning (Swedish)	3	3	0.321	0.186	13	Sweden	Swedish
Sociologický Casopis Czech Sociological Review	3	3	0.681	0.586	3	Czech Rep.	Czech
Zeitschrift für Soziologie	3	4	0.708	0.833	2	Germany	Multi-language
Berliner Journal für Soziologie (German Language)	2	2	0.13	0.216	9	Germany	German
Convergencia-Revista de Ciencias Sociales	2	3	0.019	0.072	7	Mexico	Spanish
Drustvena Istrazivanja (Croatia, Multi-Language)	2	4	0.101	0.164	26	Croatia	Multi-language
International Journal of the Sociology of Law	2	2	na	na	55	US	English
Kolner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie	2	3	0.667	0.656	17	Germany	German
Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas	2	2	0.217	0.289	5	Spain	Spanish
Revista Internacional de Sociología	2	2	0.189	0.321	4	Spain	Spanish/English
Revue Française de Sociologie	2	2	0.361	0.461	9	France	French
Sociological Research Online	2	3	0.426	0.473	68	US	English
Sociological Theory and Methods (Japan, Multi-Language)	2	2	na	na	4	Japan	Multi-language
Sotsiologicheskie Issledovaniya (Russian, Russian)	2	3	0.115	0.102	13	Russia	Russian
Deviance et Societe	1	1	0.119	0.163	7	Switzerland	English
Archives Europeenes de Sociologie (France, Multi-Language)	1	1	0.417	0.563	25	France	Multi-language

Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology

1

1

0.55

0.659

2

Canada

Multi-language

Table 2. Sociology Journal Rankings: Currently Sorted by h Metric Calculated for Period 2010-2014								
				1 year	5 year			
	h index	g index		impact factor	impact factor	top cited paper		
	2010-2015	2010-2015		2014	2010-2014	2010-2015		
Name of Journal							Country	Language
American Sociological Review	44	68		4.39	6.824	272	US	English
Criminology	42	61		0.5	0.686	95	US	English
Demography	40	57		2.616	3.511	130	US	English
Journal of Marriage and the Family	40	71		1.77	3.133	552	US	English
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European Sociological Review	33	54		1.74	2.941	620	UK	English
Qualitative Research	33	52		1.909	2.656	149	UK	English
Sociology of Education	33	50		1.711	2.638	391	US	English
Public Opinion Quarterly	32	51		1.775	2.799	180	US	English
Social Networks	32	58		2	3.137	683	US	English
Social Science Research	32	42		1.295	1.912	115	US	English
Sociology (UK)	32	49		1.617	2.083	80	UK	English
British Journal of Sociology (UK)	31	46		1.314	1.861	212	UK	English
Population and Development Review	31	51		1.667	2.835	376	US	English
Economy and Society	30	56		1.31	2.119	278	US	English
Future of Children	30	52		2.5	4.518	181	US	English
Social Forces	30	42		1.303	2.236	150	US	English
Journal of Health and Social Behavior	29	54		2.915	5.211	406	US	English
Theory, Culture & Society (UK)	29	53		na	na	354	UK	English
Administrative Science Quarterly	28	52		3.333	7.313	302	US	English

Ethnic and Racial Studies (UK)	28	39		0.956	1.285	96	UK	English
International Journal of Intercultural Relations	28	41		1.058	1.558	156	UK	English
Gender & Society	27	41		1.956	3.57	321	US	English
Social Problems	27	38		1.729	2.669	89	US	English
Work, Employment and Society	27	37		1.284	1.878	299	US	English
Agriculture and Human Values	26	41		1.617	2.196	149	Netherlands	English
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Socio-economic Review	26	40		1.545	2.246	164	UK	English
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Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	23	32		0.958	1.565	86	US	English
Social Psychology Quarterly	23	34		0.791	1.545	119	US	English
Current Sociology	22	33		0.941	1.164	155	UK	English
Human Ecology	22	29		1.891	2.099	48	US	English
International Review of Sociology	22	34		na	na	24	Italy	Multi-language
Journal of Family Issues	22	29		1.269	1.543	61	US	English
British Journal of the Sociology of Education	21	28		0.525	1.026	62	UK	English
Law and Society Review	21	33		1.2	1.669	160	US	English
Sexualities	21	28		0.46	0.768	89	UK	English
Society & Natural Resources	21	36		1.284	1.701	185	US	English
Sociologia Ruralis	21	29		1.306	1.824	119	Netherlands	English
Body & Society	20	35		0.703	1.467	181	US	English
Discourse & Society	20	29		0.71	1.25	68	US	English
International Political Sociology	20	26		0.734	1.535	71	US	English
Journal of Consumer Culture	20	46		1.194	2.962	646	UK	English
Politics & Society	20	40		1.119	2.281	279	US	English

Theory & Society	20	28		1.457	1.333	77	US	English
Nations and Nationalism	19	25		0.444	0.699	85	UK	English
Poetics	19	32		1.293	2.184	163	US	English
Research in Social Stratification and Mobility	19	331		1.119	na	132	US	English
Social Movement Studies	19	28		0.944	na	54	UK	English
Sociological Theory	19	42		2.226	2.714	344	US	English
Youth & Society	19	32		1.722	1.97	130	US	English
European Journal of Social Theory	18	28		0.679	1.11	100	UK	English
Journal of Sociology (Australia)	18	26		0.78	1.368	101	Australia	English
Men & Masculinities	18	26		1.451	1.545	3	US	English
Sociological Forum	18	26		1	1.359	189	US	English
Sociological Quarterly	18	32		1.028	1.89	413	US	English
Critical Sociology	17	24		0.491	na	58	UK	English
International Sociology	17	26		0.812	1.16	70	UK	English
Journal of Contemporary Ethnography	17	22		0.826	1.067	60	US	English
Journal of Law and Society	17	26		0.5	0.734	49	US	English
Journal of Leisure Research	17	23		0.907	1.348	109	US	English
Language in Society	17	26		1.073	1.366	102	US	English
Leisure Sciences	17	23		1.177	1.581	47	US	English
Sociological Inquiry	17	33		0.75	1.211	548	US	English
Sociology of Sport Journal	17	25		0.75	1.151	100	US	English
Acta Sociologica	16	20		1.1	1.39	45	UK	English
Cultural Sociology	16	26		0.431	0.842	79	UK	English
European Societies	16	25		0.75	1.136	96	UK	English
Health Sociology Review	16	21		0.515	0.923	45	Australia	English
Journal of Sport & Social Issues	16	29		0.571	1	80	US	English
Qualitative Sociology	16	22		0.711	1.272	49	US	English
Rural Sociology	16	25		1.409	2.009	75	US	English

Sociological Methodology	16	36		2.45	4.021	402	US	English
Sociology of Religion	16	22		1	1.363	68	US	English
Work & Occupations	16	25		1.222	1.632	72	US	English
American Journal of Economics and Sociology	15	19		0.153	0.284	44	US	English
City & Community	15	20		1	1.525	43	US	English
Community, Work & Family	15	23		na	na	83	UK	English
Crime Media Culture	15	18		3.098	4.433	34	UK	English
Deviant Behavior	15	20		0.942	1.12	44	US	English
Ethnography	15	22		1.041	1.2	65	UK	English
Race & Class (UK)	15	19		0.646	0.769	49	UK	English
Social Justice Research	15	22		1.17	1.466	72	UK	English
Sociological Perspectives	15	21		0.618	0.993	60	US	English
Mobilization	14	22		0.978	1.368	70	US	English
Du Bois Review	13	20		0.553	na	60	US	English
Innovation	13	18		0.4	0.54	54		
International Journal of Comparative Sociology	13	17		0.613	1.115	40	UK	English
Symbolic Interaction	13	18		0.625	0.888	37	US	English
Comparative Studies in Society and History	12	17		0.677	0.813	189	US	English
Economic and Social Review	12	17		0.522	0.652	44	Ireland	English
Rationality and Society	12	16		0.394	0.663	39	US	English
Sociological Review (UK)	12	17		0.875	1.199	73	UK	English
Teaching Sociology	12	17		0.464	0.489	49	US	English
Journal of Mathematical Sociology	11	16		0.238	0.684	43	UK	English
Society and Mental Health	11	15		1.269	1.308	31	US	English
Sociological Spectrum	11	15		0.371	0.569	49	US	English
Sociologie du Travail (France, French)	11	19		0.217	0.36	67	France	French
Armed Forces & Society	10	14		0.591	0.62	33	US	English
Contexts	10	14		na	na	53	US	English

Food Culture & Society	10	14		0.22	na	33	UK	English
Human Ecology Review	10	17		0.789	1.3	58	US	English
Review of Religious Research	10	13		0.406	0.421	28	US	English
Society	10	297		0.354	0.349	24	UK	English
Human Studies (Netherlands)	9	14		0.618	0.55	57	Netherlands	English
Social Compass (Belgium, Multi-Language)	9	11		0.164	0.362	20	Belgium	Multi-language
Society & Animals (Netherlands)	9	14		0.704	0.739	53	Netherlands	English
Soziale Welt (German)	9	13		0.3	0.25	29	Germany	German
American Sociologist	8	11		na	na	32	US	English
Contemporary Sociology	7	36		0.742	0.621	87	US	English
Filosofija-Sociologija	7	8		0.333	0.196	13	Lithuania	Lithuanian
Contributions to Indian Sociology	6	9		0.917	0.538	17	India	English
Journal of Historical Sociology	6	8		0.298	0.365	48	US	English
Journal of the History of Sexuality	6	8		0.167	0.2	192	US	English
Canadian Journal of Sociology	5	7		0.5	0.505	12	Canada	Multi-language
Polish Sociological Review	5	6		0.121	0.121	9	Poland	English
Sociologia (Slovakia, Slovenian Language)	5	26		0.2	0.205	10	Slovakia	Slovenian
Chinese Sociology and Anthropology (English)	3	3		0.97	1.167	6	China	English
Current Perspectives in Social Theory	3	3		0.105	0.069	5	UK	English
Revista de Cercetare si Interventie Sociala	3	3		0.798	0.642	4	Romania	English
Sociologisk Forskning (Swedish)	3	3		0.321	0.186	13	Sweden	Swedish
Sociologický Casopis Czech Sociological Review	3	3		0.681	0.586	3	Czech Rep.	Czech
Zeitschrift für Soziologie	3	4		0.708	0.833	2	Germany	Multi-language
Berliner Journal für Soziologie (German Language)	2	2		0.13	0.216	9	Germany	German
Convergencia-Revista de Ciencias Sociales	2	3		0.019	0.072	7	Mexico	Spanish
Drustvena Istrazivanja (Croatia, Multi-Language)	2	4		0.101	0.164	26	Croatia	Multi-language
International Journal of the Sociology of Law	2	2		na	na	55	US	English
Kolner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie	2	3		0.667	0.656	17	Germany	German

Revista Espanola de Investigaciones Sociologicas	2	2		0.217	0.289	5	Spain	Spanish
Revista Internacional de Sociologia	2	2		0.189	0.321	4	Spain	Spanish/English
Revue Francais du Sociologie	2	2		0.361	0.461	9	France	French
Sociological Research Online	2	3		0.426	0.473	68	US	English
Sociological Theory and Methods (Japan, Multi-Language)	2	2		na	na	4	Japan	Multi-language
Sotsiologicheskie Issledovaniya (Russian, Russian)	2	3		0.115	0.102	13	Russia	Russian
Deviance et Societe	1	1		0.119	0.163	7	Switzerland	English
Archives Europeenes de Sociologie (France, Multi-Language)	1	1		0.417	0.563	25	France	Multi-language
Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology	1	1		0.55	0.659	2	Canada	Multi-language

