

Global ranking of knowledge management and intellectual capital academic journals: 2017 update

Alexander Serenko and Nick Bontis

Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this study is to update a global ranking of 27 knowledge management and intellectual capital (KM/IC) academic journals.

Design/methodology/approach – The ranking was developed based on a combination of results from a survey of 482 active KM/IC researchers and journal citation impact indices.

Findings – The ranking list includes 27 currently active KM/IC journals. The A+ journals are the *Journal of Knowledge Management* and the *Journal of Intellectual Capital*. The A journals are the *Learning Organization*, *Knowledge Management Research & Practice*, *Knowledge and Process Management*, *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems* and *International Journal of Knowledge Management*. A majority of recently launched journals did not fare well in the ranking. Whereas a journal's longevity is important, it is not the only factor affecting its ranking position. Expert survey and citation impact measures are relatively consistent, but expert survey ranking scores change faster.

Practical implications – KM/IC discipline stakeholders, including practitioners, editors, publishers, reviewers, researchers, students, administrators and librarians, may consult the developed ranking list for various purposes. Compared to 2008, more researchers indicated KM/IC as their primary area of concentration, which is a positive indicator of discipline development.

Originality/value – This is the most recent ranking list of KM/IC academic journals.

Keywords Citation analysis, Journal ranking, Knowledge management, Intellectual capital, Scientometrics, Expert survey

Paper type Research paper

Alexander Serenko is Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Canada. Nick Bontis is Chair at the DeGroot School of Business, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.

1. Introduction and purpose of the study

In 1665, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, the world's first academic journal, published its inaugural issue and established the principles of scientific rigor and the tradition of peer-review. In the introduction to its first issue, Oldenburg (1665), the founding editor, indicated that for “the improvement of Philosophical Matters”, “the advancement of Learning and profitable Discoveries” and the dissemination of ideas to “other parts of the World”, the journal's mandate was to ensure that academic “[p]roductions being clearly and truly communicated” so that like-minded peers were able to “search, try, and find out new things, impart their knowledge to one another, and contribute what they can” (pp. 1-2). For the following three and a half centuries, peer-reviewed journals have served perhaps the utmost role in scientific advancement by certifying the quality of academic works, convening communities of researchers and curating manuscripts (Davis, 2014). Many academic journals, especially the elite ones, may dramatically influence the development of entire schools of thought, establish the predominance of inquiry methods, facilitate paradigm shifts and form a discipline's identity. In many disciplines, including

Received 12 November 2016
Revised 12 February 2017
Accepted 27 February 2017

The authors would like to thank all survey participants for dedicating their time to this important initiative.

management, a record of publication in scholarly journals has become a *de facto* standard of assessment of one's academic achievements.

Due to the importance of academic journals, it is critical to understand their role in scientific development from the perspective of discipline stakeholders. One way to achieve this is through the construction of journal ranking lists which serve many purposes. First, ranking lists help to understand the collective opinion of active research consumers about the perceived level of scientific merit of each journal. Second, they may guide novice researchers and students through the elaborate maze of available outlets and help them focus on the ones that are relevant, known and respected. Third, ranking lists inform scholars looking for appropriate venues for their manuscripts about the available alternatives. Fourth, they help libraries justify the allocation of limited subscription resources toward relevant and respected outlets. Fifth, ranking lists signify the very existence of an academic discipline and inform other fields about its core body of knowledge.

The purpose of this study is to update the ranking of knowledge management and intellectual capital (KM/IC) academic journals that were developed previously in 2008 and 2012[1] (Serenko and Bontis, 2009, 2013; Bontis and Serenko, 2009). These rankings were based on the combination of expert survey and journal citation impact measures methods. There are several reasons why this ranking list should be updated approximately every four years:

- the population of active KM/IC researchers may change, as new academics enter the field and some exit (e.g. due to retirement, changes in academic interests, switching to industry);
- active researchers may alter their opinion regarding the quality of current journals;
- citation measures of KM/IC journals may change;
- new KM/IC journals appear (in this study, six new KM/IC journals were identified and added to the ranking list); and
- some KM/IC journals occasionally become inactive (in this study, three previously ranked KM/IC journals were removed because they were out-of-print).

Since the publication of the first ranking list of KM/IC journals in 2009, the authors of this study have encountered many examples when their list assisted individuals and organizations. Graduate students entering the realm of KM/IC research consulted this list to familiarize themselves with the available outlets. Some faculty stated that "it helped me get tenure" or "justify the legitimacy of my KM research and its journals". A number of KM/IC journal editors stated the ranking of their journal on their website to attract the best-quality submissions and increase their reader base. Our ranking list facilitated the inclusion of KM/IC journals in other ranking lists, which is an important step to ensure the recognition of KM/IC as a field of science. For instance, the *Association for Knowledge Management in the Society and Organizations* (*Association pour la Gestion des Connaissances dans la Société et les Organisations*) has successfully lobbied the *French Foundation for Management Education* (*Fondation Nationale pour l'Enseignement de la Gestion des Entreprises*) to include several KM journals in its ranking of management journals, which is preponderantly used in France[2]. Other examples include adding KM/IC journals or improving their standing in the *Academic Journal Guide* of the UK Chartered Association of Business Schools and *Excellence in Research for Australia* initiated by the Australian Research Council[3]. Thus, to ensure the future success of KM/IC, it behooves us to periodically update the KM/IC ranking list.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. The next section describes this study's methodology, including journal list development, expert survey administration, citation impact measures selection and final ranking construction. Section 3 cautions the reader

about the pitfalls and dangers associated with the misinterpretation, misuse and even abuse of journal rankings. Section 4 presents the developed ranking list, and Section 5 discusses the findings.

2. Methodology

To ensure that the ranking lists developed in the present study may be compared to those of previous ones, the methodology of Serenko and Bontis (2009, 2013) and Bontis and Serenko (2009) was followed. For this, an expert survey was conducted followed by the calculation of the journals' h- and g-indices. The final ranking list was developed based on the combination of scores obtained by each method.

2.1 Journal list development

The list of journals ranked in the previous studies was used as a starting point. Each journal was reviewed to make sure it was active. Three out-of-print journals were removed: *actKM: Online Journal of Knowledge Management* (The actKM Forum), last issue appeared in 2009; *Open Journal of Knowledge Management* (Community of Knowledge), last issue appeared in 2013; and the *Journal of Knowledge Management Practice*, last issue appeared in 2013. After this, a comprehensive and exhaustive search for new KM/IC-centric journals was done by using Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, Google Scholar and Google Search Engine. The following inclusion criteria were established and applied. The journal must:

- follow a rigorous peer-review process;
- focus on KM, IC and/or organizational learning issues;
- analyze the issues above from the managerial, business, information systems (excluding pure IT), policy or economics perspective;
- be currently in-print;
- not have manuscript submission, processing and publication fees or charges; and
- not appear on Beall's List of Predatory Publishers, which was still available at the date of the study at <https://scholarlyoa.com/publishers> (In January 2017, Jeffrey Beall removed the list of predatory journals and publishers from his website. Please see www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/01/18/librarians-list-predatory-journals-reportedly-removed-due-threats-and-politics for detail. A copy of this list is available from the authors of this study).

Whereas having manuscript charges is considered acceptable in some disciplines, and there are well-respected journals following this practice (e.g. *Frontiers in Psychology*), manuscript charges are very uncommon in the management domain. In business/management schools, research is considered a required activity of each faculty member (except for teaching-intensive faculty positions). Faculty members are compensated by their universities and colleges; in return, they create new knowledge and share it with the global research community for no extra (direct) financial benefit. Imposing article charges may discourage authors from submitting their work and create the perception of "purchasing" journal space. In addition, many fee-charging journals have attracted somewhat negative publicity and have questionable practices (see <https://scholarlyoa.com/category/article-processing-charges>).

The following journals were reviewed and excluded from this study's ranking:

- *Journal of Organizational Knowledge Management* (charge US\$195 per article);
- *Intangible Capital* (charge €295 per article);

- *Journal of Knowledge Management, Economics and Information Technology* (charge €125 per article; listed in Beall's List of Predatory Publishers; it also limits the maximum number of authors per article to three – the practice unheard of in scientific circles);
- *Knowledge and Performance Management* (charges start at €320 per article) (NOT to be confused with *Knowledge and Process Management*);
- *International Journal of Data Mining and Knowledge Management Process* (charge US\$120 per article); and
- *International Journal of Knowledge, Innovation and Entrepreneurship* (the typo in "Entrepreneurship" appeared on the official journal's website at the time of review and was retained for integrity purposes; listed in Beall's List of Predatory Publishers).

Whereas the authors of this study refrain from commenting on the scientific merit and impact of the journals above, it is their belief that KM and IC researchers should be aware of their titles and are encouraged to do their own research and to reach their own conclusions. As anecdotal evidence, when approached by this study's authors, one of these journals guaranteed a two-week turnaround from article submission to its appearance in-print (not merely acceptance) – as long as the fee is paid – the manuscript processing pace unheard of in the academic world.

International Journal of Nuclear Knowledge Management was not considered for three reasons. First, it is a niche journal devoted to a very narrow, specific area. Second, many articles published in this journal are science-oriented (i.e. non-managerial). Third, when this journal was included in the 2009 ranking, we felt that it did not fit the overall managerial theme of the ranking, and many respondents were simply unfamiliar with it, which unfairly reduced its ranking scores.

As a result of the exhaustive search, six additional journals were added to the list. Overall, 27 KM/IC-centric academic journals were included in this study's ranking.

2.2 Expert survey

To make sure each journal is represented by the same number of experts who published in it, 110 names of the authors who contributed at least once to the journal were randomly selected from each journal. The period from 2008 to 2016 inclusively was used to secure a sufficient number of author names. Each name was selected only once. Every time a name was added to the list, it was compared with those already included in the list (some authors published in multiple journals being ranked). The name selection process was purely random, and no discrimination criteria were applied (e.g. no consideration was given to authorship order, seniority, affiliation, position, etc.). Because several journals (e.g. the *Journal of Organizational Knowledge Communication*) were new and published few articles, all author names were selected from them, but the number of authors sometimes fell below 110. For most journals, however, 110 author names were selected. In total, 2,578 unique author names were found.

The survey instrument used was adopted from [Serenko and Bontis \(2009, 2013\)](#). To help respondents better differentiate among journals, publishers' names were added after the journal titles^[4]. Respondents were invited to rank the overall contribution of each journal to the KM/IC field on a seven-point Likert-type scale. The following response anchors were used: none (0), marginal (1), some (2), average (3), good (4), very good (5) and outstanding (6). To eliminate the confounding effect of journal appearance order, the sequence in which journals appeared was automatically randomized for each respondent, which is a built-in feature of the SurveyMonkey Web-based survey system. At the end of the survey, a small number of general demographic questions were asked. IP addresses were recorded to identify duplicate submissions. Respondents were invited to complete the survey over email, followed by two weekly reminders.

2.3 Journal citation impact

On June 20, 2016, h- and g-index data were collected for each ranked journal individually by means of Harzing's Publish or Perish tool version 4.26 (see www.harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish). The method by Bontis and Serenko (2009) was followed; journal title was entered into the "Journal title" field, the fields "Journal ISSN", "Exclude these words" and "Year of publication between" were left blank. Google Scholar was selected as the data source because it is a very comprehensive citation database (Harzing and van der Wal, 2008; Harzing, 2013, 2014). The "Lookup Direct" feature was used to retrieve the latest data directly from Google Scholar. Both British and American spellings were utilized (e.g. *The Learning Organisation* and *The Learning Organization*), and the results were manually aggregated if necessary. Citation data for *the IUP Journal of Knowledge Management* (formerly *the ICFAI Journal of Knowledge Management*) were obtained for each title and manually combined.

The h-index and g-index were recorded for each journal. A journal has index h if h of its Np articles have at least h citations each, and the other $(Np-h)$ papers have no more than h citations each, where Np is the total number of articles published over n years (Hirsch, 2005). The g-index is calculated when all articles that appeared in a journal are "ranked in decreasing order of the number of citations that they received, the g-index is the (unique) largest number such that the top g articles received (together) at least g^2 citations" (Egghe, 2006, p. 131). Similar to other citation data sources, Google Scholar contains a small number of errors, including incorrect entries and duplicates. Thus, all results were copied from Publish or Perish to Microsoft Excel and manually analyzed. Minor adjustments to the g-index of four journals were made (their g-index was increased by one point).

2.4 Final ranking

Whereas journal ranking lists based on expert surveys and citation impact measures exhibit some consistency, rankings of individual journals may occasionally deviate depending on the selected method (Serenko and Dohan, 2011; Saarela *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, similar to the previous KM/IC journal ranking studies, the final journal ranking was based on the combination of scores obtained by the expert survey and journal citation impact methods according to the following procedure by Bontis and Serenko (2009, p. 23):

- the journal scores from the expert survey method were standardized;
- the h- and g-index scores were standardized and averaged (i.e. mean) for each journal;
- the scores obtained from Steps 1 and 2 above were averaged for each journal;
- the scores from Step 3 above were standardized;
- because the mean of standardized scores is 0, the score of 1 was added to each journal's resulting score to avoid negative numbers; and
- a new ranking was developed.

3. Note of caution

The development, merit and very existence of journal ranking lists is a very controversial issue. First, no ranking method is perfect. Second, despite the editors' best intentions, even top journals occasionally accept manuscripts of questionable quality, whereas excellent submissions are rejected, given the limitations of the peer-review process (Starbuck, 2016). Third, even within the same discipline, each journal occupies a particular niche and caters to a unique readership, which makes direct journal comparison very difficult (McKercher, 2005; Sangster, 2015). Fourth, "journal quality" is a somewhat illusive concept that varies among survey respondents (Macdonald and Kam, 2008; Moore, 2015). Most importantly, journal ranking lists should not be used to

judge the quality of a particular article. Instead, publications should be assessed on an individual basis according to their scientific merit and impact. One's career decisions, including hiring, tenure and promotion, should be based on a holistic assessment of his/her lifetime achievements rather than on the titles of journals he/she published in. Overall, this study does not endorse the quality (or lack of thereof) of a particular academic journal; it only offers a ranking list developed based on the methodology that is considered acceptable and is commonly used in scientometrics. The authors of this study also warn about the danger of obsession with publishing a large quantity of articles in the highest-ranked journals, which may lead to the state of "pathological publishing" achieved and maintained through questionable, unethical and even illegal methods (Buela-Casal, 2014). The goal of every true scholar should be the advancement of science rather than placing a certain number of articles in outlets of particular rankings. The developed ranking list should not be blindly used for research output evaluation, and we strongly recommend the administrators, government officials, policymakers and others in positions of power who wish to make use of our ranking list to consult the works of Coulthard and Keller (2016), Sangster (2015), and Tadjewski (2016).

4. Findings

4.1 Expert survey

In total, 2,578 email invitations were sent out to prospective respondents, while 423 of those bounced back. IP addresses were reviewed for duplicate or incomplete submissions due to a technical problem, and two records were removed. A total of 482 submitted surveys were retained for analysis at the response rate of 22.4 per cent.

KM/IC researchers from 70 different countries took part in the survey (see Table I). Except for the USA, no other country was over-represented in the sample. The dominance of the USA is expected because of its high volume of Anglophonic scientific output in most areas including KM/IC (Serenko *et al.*, 2009; Dwivedi *et al.*, 2011; Uzunboylu *et al.*, 2011). Thirty-five per cent of the participants were female; 92, 7 and 1 per cent indicated doctoral, master and bachelor as their highest degree earned, respectively. In all, 90 and 9 per cent were academics (or students) and practitioners, respectively, and several people were unemployed or retired. Respondents in the final sample had 16 and 9 years of full-time academic and industry work experience, respectively.

Figure 1 outlines the areas of concentration for highest degree earned. There are two interesting observations when comparing this figure with that of the 2012 study. First, there was a substantial increase in the KM/IC topics from 10 to 17 per cent. Second, cognitive, personnel and industrial and organizational psychology emerged as a small-yet-noticeable category.

Figures 2 and 3 present the respondents' primary and secondary research areas, respectively. Compared to the previous 2012 study, three differences are worth noting. First, there was an increase in KM as a primary research area from 24 to 36 per cent. Second, accounting and finance as well as strategic management appeared as

Table I Geographic location

| <i>Region (Most representative countries)</i> | <i>Total (%)</i> |
|---|------------------|
| Europe (Italy = 6.8%, Spain = 5.9%, UK = 5.5%, Finland = 3.7%, France = 2.4%, Germany = 2.4%, Portugal = 2.4%, Greece = 2.0%, etc.) | 41.3 |
| North America (USA = 17.3%, Canada = 4.6%) | 21.9 |
| Australasia (Australia = 4.2%, New Zealand = 1.5%) | 5.7 |
| Other (India = 4.6%, Malaysia = 3.1%, Brazil = 2.4%, Iran = 1.5%, etc.) | 31.1 |
| Total | 100.00 |

Figure 1 Areas of concentration for highest degree earned (all respondents)

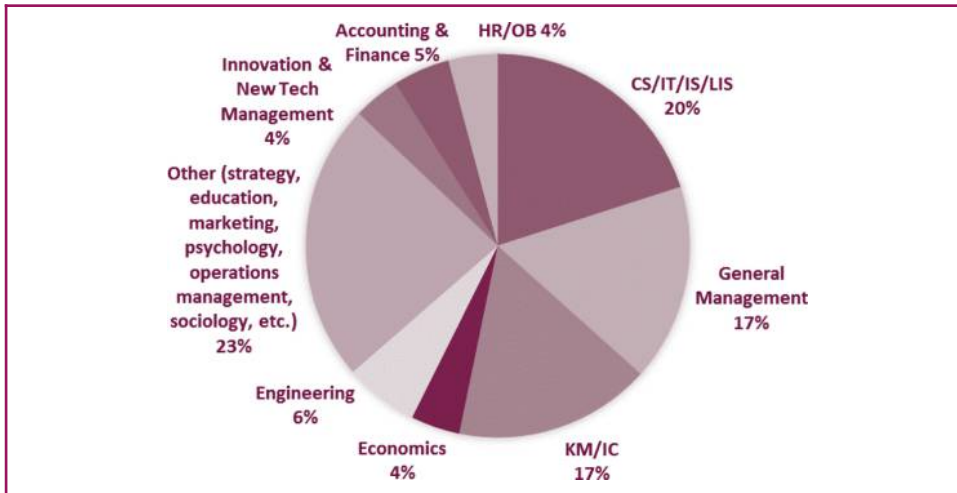
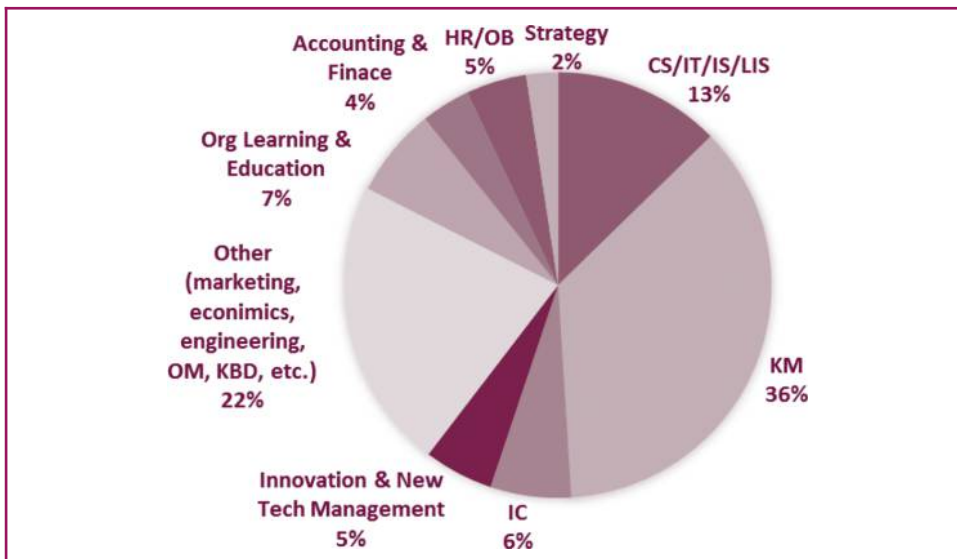


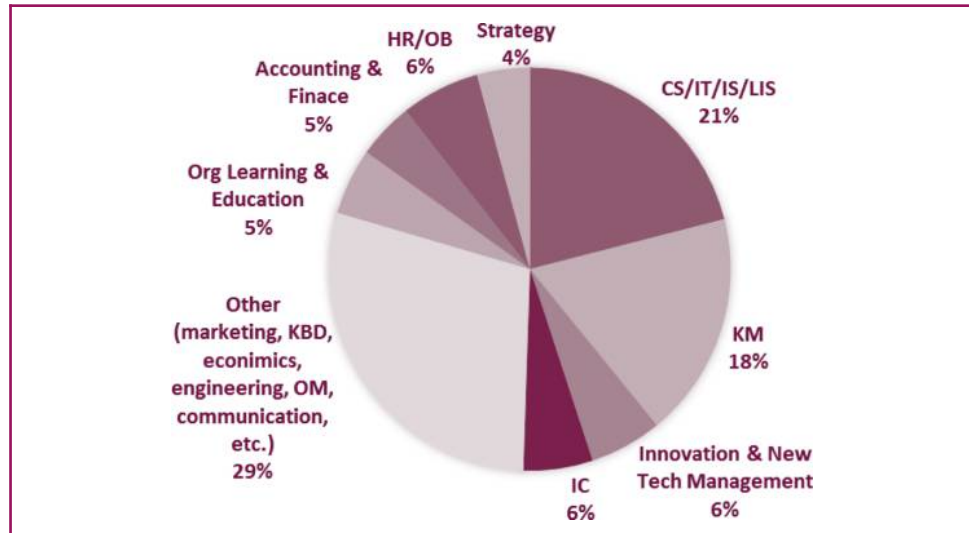
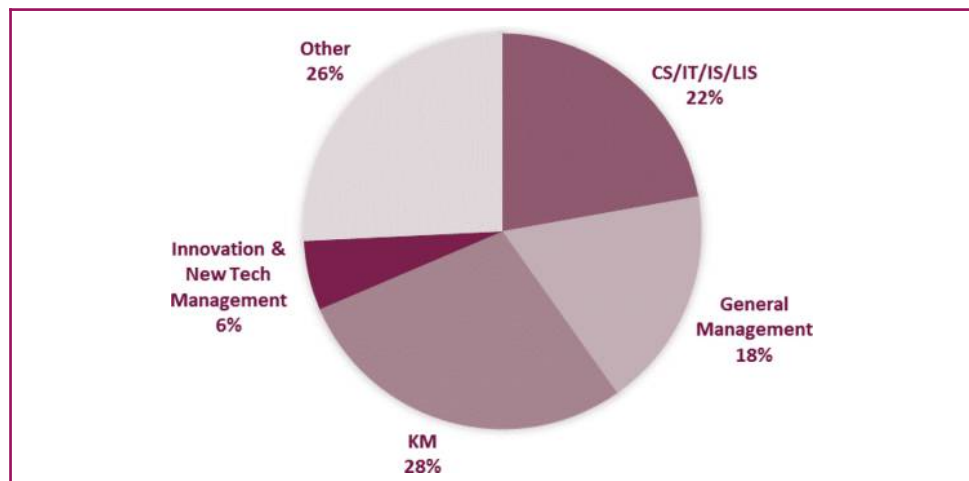
Figure 2 Primary research area



research areas. Third, knowledge-based development (KBD) and knowledge management for development (KM4D) dropped from 5 to only 1 per cent as a primary research area.

Only 3 per cent of respondents indicated both KM and IC as their primary or secondary research area, which shows that very few active researchers pursue KM and IC topics simultaneously. Figure 4 outlines areas of concentration for highest degree earned for those whose primary or secondary research interest is KM. Seventy-four per cent of those who mainly specialize in KM research completed their (predominantly doctoral) studies in KM, CS/IT/IS/LIS, general management and innovation and new technology management.

Table II presents the ranking based on the expert survey method and compares it with the results of previous studies. The *Journal of Knowledge Management* retained its leading position. The *Journal of Intellectual Capital* jumped from 4th to 2nd position, beating

Figure 3 Secondary research area**Figure 4** Areas of concentration for highest degree earned for those whose primary or secondary research interest is KM

Knowledge Management Research & Practice and *International Journal of Knowledge Management*. *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems* became the biggest winner by moving from 11th to 6th position. *International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Science* also went up from the 22nd to the 15th position. *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development* and *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Organizations* outscored *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*. Newer journals mostly appeared at the bottom of the list because they did not have enough time to earn the recognition of active field researchers. Note that because of differences in the number of respondents, journal scores reported in the present and the previous studies are not directly comparable.

4.2 Journal citation impact

Consistent with the previous studies, the journals were first ranked based on their h-index and then on their g-index (in case of their h-index ties). The results indicate that the position

Table II Journal ranking – expert survey method

| Rank | Title | Score | 2012 Rank | 2008 Rank |
|------|--|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | <i>Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Emerald) | 1,986 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | <i>Journal of Intellectual Capital</i> (Emerald) | 1,558 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | <i>Knowledge Management Research & Practice</i> (Palgrave Macmillan) | 1,492 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | <i>The Learning Organization</i> (Emerald) | 1,410 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IGI) | 1,242 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | <i>VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems</i> (Emerald) | 1,215 | 11 | 14 |
| 7 | <i>Knowledge and Process Management: The Journal of Corporate Transformation</i> (Wiley) | 1,114 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | <i>Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (World Scientific) | 1,051 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | <i>International Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital</i> (Inderscience) | 1,042 | 9 | 9 |
| 10 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management Studies</i> (Inderscience) | 1,032 | 13 | 11 |
| 11 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Learning</i> (Inderscience) | 965 | 12 | 12 |
| 12 | <i>Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Academic Conferences and Publishing International) | 873 | 10 | 10 |
| 13 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development</i> (Inderscience) | 856 | 15 | NA |
| 14 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Organizations</i> (IGI) | 851 | 16 | NA |
| 15 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Science</i> (IGI) | 846 | 22 | NA |
| 16 | <i>Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management</i> (Informing Science) | 822 | 17 | NA |
| 17 | <i>Knowledge Management: An International Journal</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 800 | NA | NA |
| 18 | <i>Knowledge Management & E-Learning: An International Journal</i> (University of Hong Kong) | 789 | 18 | NA |
| 19 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge, Culture, and Change Management: Annual Review</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 776 | 14 | 13 |
| 20 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Society Research</i> (IGI) | 753 | 20 | NA |
| 21 | <i>Knowledge Management for Development Journal</i> (Foundation for the Support of KM4DJ) | 716 | 19 | 17 |
| 22 | <i>Online Journal of Applied Knowledge Management</i> (IIAKM) | 687 | NA | NA |
| 23 | <i>The IUP Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IUP Publications) (formerly <i>The ICFAI Journal of Knowledge Management</i>) | 668 | 24 | 18 |
| 24 | <i>Journal of Technologies in Knowledge Sharing</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 650 | NA | NA |
| 25 | <i>International Journal of Management, Knowledge and Learning</i> (Slovenian Research Agency) | 632 | NA | NA |
| 26 | <i>Regional Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (Regional Institute of Information and Knowledge Management) | 588 | NA | NA |
| 27 | <i>Journal of Organizational Knowledge Communication</i> (Statsbiblioteket) | 579 | NA | NA |

of the top five journals did not change (see Table III). A leading position of the *Journal of Knowledge Management* is not surprising, given that it contains a majority of articles considered KM citation classics (Serenko and Dumay, 2015b). *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems* again substantially increased its ranking, moving from 12th to 7th position. *Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management*

Table III Journal ranking – citation impact method

| Rank | Title | H-index | G-index | 2012 Rank | 2008 Rank |
|------|--|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | <i>Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Emerald) | 138 | 226 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | <i>Journal of Intellectual Capital</i> (Emerald) | 105 | 192 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | <i>The Learning Organization</i> (Emerald) | 83 | 123 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | <i>Knowledge and Process Management: The Journal of Corporate Transformation</i> (Wiley) | 58 | 103 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | <i>Knowledge Management Research & Practice</i> (Palgrave Macmillan) | 42 | 74 | 5 | 5 |
| 6 | <i>Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Academic Conferences and Publishing International) | 34 | 53 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | <i>VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems</i> (Emerald) | 31 | 43 | 12 | 8 |
| 8 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Learning</i> (Inderscience) | 26 | 42 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | <i>Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management</i> (Informing Science) | 23 | 38 | 13 | 15 |
| 10 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IGI) | 22 | 32 | 10 | 11 |
| 11 | <i>International Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital</i> (Inderscience) | 21 | 32 | 11 | 13 |
| 12 | <i>Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (World Scientific) | 20 | 31 | 9 | 9 |
| 13 | <i>Knowledge Management & E-Learning: An International Journal</i> (University of Hong Kong) | 18 | 25 | 19 | NA |
| 14 | <i>The IUP Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IUP Publications) (formerly <i>The ICFAI Journal of Knowledge Management</i>) | 15 | 23 | 18 | 17 |
| 15 | <i>Knowledge Management for Development Journal</i> (Foundation for the Support of KM4DJ) | 14 | 20 | 14 | 17 |
| 16 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge, Culture, and Change Management: Annual Review</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 14 | 17 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management Studies</i> (Inderscience) | 13 | 17 | 15 | 17 |
| 18 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development</i> (Inderscience) | 11 | 18 | 20 | NA |
| 19 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Organizations</i> (IGI) | 6 | 9 | 23 | NA |
| 19 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Society Research</i> (IGI) | 6 | 9 | 21 | NA |
| 21 | <i>Online Journal of Applied Knowledge Management</i> (IIAKM) | 6 | 6 | NA | NA |
| 22 | <i>International Journal of Management, Knowledge and Learning</i> (Slovenian Research Agency) | 5 | 8 | NA | NA |
| 23 | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Science</i> (IGI) | 4 | 7 | 24 | NA |
| 24 | <i>Knowledge Management: An International Journal</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 2 | 2 | NA | NA |
| 25 | <i>Journal of Organizational Knowledge Communication</i> (Statsbiblioteket) | 1 | 1 | NA | NA |
| 26 | <i>Journal of Technologies in Knowledge Sharing</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 0 | 0 | NA | NA |
| 26 | <i>Regional Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (Regional Institute of Information and Knowledge Management) | 0 | 0 | NA | NA |

and *Knowledge Management & E-Learning* have improved their position by more than doubling and tripling their h- and g-indices, respectively. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management* also improved its standing. One of the possible reasons for a sharp increase in the citation indices of *Knowledge Management & E-Learning* is the distribution of its table of contents through subscription-based email lists, for example the Listserv of the Association for Information Systems.

4.3 Final ranking

As described in the Methodology section, the results of the expert ranking and citation impact measures were aggregated into a single ranking list (see [Table IV](#)). As suggested by [Gillenson and Stafford \(2008\)](#) and consistent with previous rankings, the list includes a classification grouping around 5 per cent of A+, 20 per cent of A, 50 per cent of B and 25 per cent of C journals.

Table IV Final KM/IC academic journal ranking list – expert survey (i.e. stated preference) and citation impact (i.e. revealed preference) methods combined

| Rank | Tier | Title | Year launched | Score | 2012 rank | 2008 rank |
|------|------|--|------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | A+ | <i>Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Emerald) | 1997 | 4.2446 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | A+ | <i>Journal of Intellectual Capital</i> (Emerald) | 2000 | 3.1859 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | A | <i>The Learning Organization</i> (Emerald) | 1994 | 2.4786 | 3 | 3 |
| 4 | A | <i>Knowledge Management Research & Practice</i> (Palgrave Macmillan) | 2003 | 2.0651 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | A | <i>Knowledge and Process Management: The Journal of Corporate Transformation</i> (Wiley) | 1997 | 1.7456 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | A | <i>VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems</i> (Emerald) | 1971/2003 ^a | 1.4190 | 12 | 12 |
| 7 | A | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IGI) | 2005 | 1.3408 | 6 | 6 |
| 8 | B | <i>Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (World Scientific) | 2002 | 1.0306 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | B | <i>International Journal of Learning and Intellectual Capital</i> (Inderscience) | 2004 | 1.0292 | 10 | 10 |
| 10 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Learning</i> (Inderscience) | 2005 | 0.9961 | 11 | 11 |
| 11 | B | <i>Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (Academic Conferences and Publishing International) | 2003 | 0.9678 | 9 | 9 |
| 12 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Management Studies</i> (Inderscience) | 2006 | 0.8843 | 13 | 13 |
| 13 | B | <i>Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management</i> (Informing Science) | 2006 | 0.7376 | 14 | 16 |
| 14 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development</i> (Inderscience) | 2010 | 0.6061 | 16 | NA |
| 15 | B | <i>Knowledge Management & E-Learning: An International Journal</i> (University of Hong Kong) | 2009 | 0.5899 | 19 | NA |
| 16 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge-Based Organizations</i> (IGI) | 2011 | 0.5191 | 18 | NA |
| 17 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge, Culture, and Change Management: Annual Review</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 2001 | 0.5031 | 15 | 14 |
| 18 | B | <i>International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Science</i> (IGI) | 2010 | 0.4871 | 25 | NA |
| 19 | B | <i>Knowledge Management for Development Journal</i> (Foundation for the Support of KM4DJ) | 2005 | 0.4255 | 17 | 18 |
| 20 | C | <i>Knowledge Management: An International Journal</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 2012 | 0.3791 | NA | NA |
| 21 | C | <i>The IUP Journal of Knowledge Management</i> (IUP Publications) (formerly <i>The ICFAI Journal of Knowledge Management</i>) | 2003 | 0.3739 | 21 | 20 |
| 22 | C | <i>International Journal of Knowledge Society Research</i> (IGI) | 2010 | 0.3702 | 20 | NA |
| 23 | C | <i>Online Journal of Applied Knowledge Management</i> (IIAKM) | 2013 | 0.2564 | NA | NA |
| 24 | C | <i>International Journal of Management, Knowledge and Learning</i> (Slovenian Research Agency) | 2012 | 0.1742 | NA | NA |
| 25 | C | <i>Journal of Technologies in Knowledge Sharing</i> (Common Ground Publishing) | 2014 | 0.1267 | NA | NA |
| 26 | C | <i>Regional Journal of Information and Knowledge Management</i> (Regional Institute of Information and Knowledge Management) | 2015 | 0.0325 | NA | NA |
| 27 | C | <i>Journal of Organizational Knowledge Communication</i> (Statsbiblioteket) | 2014 | 0.0311 | NA | NA |

Note: ^aWhen founded in 1971, this journal's original title was "VINE"; in 2003, it was renamed as "*VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems*" with a subsequent change in its focus on information and KM systems; therefore, the year 2003 is used for the measurement of citation indices and correlations

There are several observations worth mentioning. First, the top five journals retained their previous position. Second, *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems* jumped from the B- to A-level ranking. Third, a majority of B-level journals moved one spot up or down. At the same time, *Knowledge Management & E-Learning* jumped four spots up due to its improved citation impact. *International Journal of Knowledge and Systems Science* improved its overall ranking due to higher expert scores, but its citation impact measures still remained low. *Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management* lost two spots due to lower expert scores, despite its improved citation impact measures. Fourth, the journals that were added to the ranking list for the first time did not fare relatively well because they did not have enough time to earn the recognition of the KM/IC research community and accumulate citations. Nevertheless, their inclusion in the list is important, as it informs active scholars about the very existence of such outlets. Fifth, there was a very high Spearman's (non-parametric) rank correlation between a journal's age (in years) and its overall ranking score ($\rho = 0.84$, $p < 0.005$). This shows that, consistent with prior research (Butler, 2002; Serenko and Dohan, 2011), a journal's longevity is a key factor affecting its position in the ranking list. There are, however, several exceptions to this rule. *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development* (launched in 2010) was ranked 14th, whereas *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* (launched in 2005) received the 19th spot. As both journals cater to the same category of researchers focusing on knowledge-based development, a different ranking order might be expected if longevity was the only factor. *The IUP Journal of Knowledge Management* was ranked 21st despite being launched in 2003.

4.4 Editors' feedback

To better understand the potential impact of this study's findings and generate additional insights that may be of interest to various KM/IC discipline stakeholders, the current and former (2012-2016) editors of A+- and A-ranked journals were forwarded the results of this study accompanied by several brief questions. First, the editors generally agreed that journal rankings are important and may have positive influence on a well-ranked journal. Rankings serve as independent third-party assessments of journal quality and help editors attract better manuscripts. The role of rankings is particularly critical in some institutions or countries where "official" journal ranking lists dominate decision-making processes (i.e. promotion, funding distribution, institutional rankings). At the bare minimum, journal rankings may be considered a "necessary evil", perhaps because of their limitations, ambiguities, potential misinterpretations and frequent misuses (i.e. they are not perfect but are often indispensable). Second, the editors identified several factors that have had the most important impact on the reputation and citation counts of their journals. These included:

- forming a strong editorial board;
- receiving coverage by Clarivate Analytics' Journal Impact Factor (i.e. being indexed in the SSCI, previously owned by Thomson Reuters[5]);
- recruiting associate editors who handle manuscripts in their areas of expertise;
- soliciting papers from well-known scholars;
- establishing relationships with and presence at conferences and other academic meetings;
- developing an efficient and fast review process with the participation of competent reviewers;
- achieving a quick publication period (i.e. from acceptance to appearance in-print);
- securing and implementing an easy-to-use online manuscript submission system;

- working with a reputable publisher;
- accepting high-quality submissions and even commissioning potentially promising articles from reputable authors; and
- requiring all authors to do a comprehensive literature review and ensuring the works are well situated in the literature.

Third, some (but not all) editors have developed a formal promotion strategy, often cooperating with the publisher, focusing on increasing their journal's online presence, featuring freely accessible articles, delivering journal announcements through email distribution lists, adding their journal to library collections and tracking downloads. In addition, two strategic moves contributed to a dramatic ranking improvement of *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems*:

1. re-indexing the journal by adding its full name to the VINE acronym to make it more searchable; and
2. inclusion in Clarivate's Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), which improves a journal's discoverability, exposure and citability.

ESCI represents the first step toward receiving the coveted Journal Impact Factor. Fourth, with respect to a journal's long-term vision, most editors emphasized a need to receive or improve the Journal Impact Factor, achieve leading positions in various journal rankings, discover ways to attract high-quality submissions, keep up with the changes in the KM/IC discipline, institute succession planning in terms of the editorial team and improve interaction with their readership which may be achieved by means of social media. However, journal editors (and their publishers) have been slow to pick-up the promotional and collaborative benefits of social media. Only a minority of the journals studied had active communication of new issues and their articles through such tools as Twitter and Facebook. Although many journals continue to announce their new issues through Listservs, it seems that they have not graduated to more modern tools of promotion. Interestingly, neither of the top two A+ KM/IC journals (the *Journal of Knowledge Management* and the *Journal of Intellectual Capital*) had dedicated Twitter or Facebook accounts, but their publisher Emerald Group did.

5. Discussion, future research directions and conclusion

The goal of this study was to update the global rankings of 27 KM/IC academic journals developed previously (Serenko and Bontis, 2009, 2013; Bontis and Serenko, 2009). Two empirical methods were used: the survey of active KM/IC researchers and journal citation impact measures. The final ranking was constructed based on the combination of scores from both methods.

First, the *Journal of Knowledge Management* was again ranked as the leading journal in the discipline by significantly outperforming its rivals. Consistent with previous rankings, it was confirmed that the *Journal of Knowledge Management* is the most reputable and most cited KM/IC journal, which is currently included in Clarivate's Journal Citation Reports. On the one hand, it is a major achievement for the field to have a well-respected and well-cited journal publishing influential works. On the other hand, having only a single leading journal may potentially harm the overall development of the discipline by creating unnecessarily high (and even unrealistic) standards of rigor and quality required for publication. So far, based on the authors' personal opinion, this has not been the case with the *Journal of Knowledge Management*. However, its editors, board members and reviewers should be aware that as the journal's reputation and impact grow, so does its volume of submissions, which has an inverse relationship with an acceptance rate. Eventually, when only a few per cent of all submissions are accepted (generally, after multiple and painstaking revisions), the probability of

mistakenly rejecting innovative, thought-provoking and creative works that do not conform to the conventional quality and rigor standard becomes very high. This is the situation that does not bode well with the innovative spirit of KM/IC research, and we hope that various stakeholders will take the issue above into consideration.

Second, the *Journal of Intellectual Capital* was again recognized as an A+ journal, and *The Learning Organization*, *Knowledge Management Research & Practice*, *Knowledge and Process Management*, *VINE: The Journal of Information and Knowledge Management Systems* and *International Journal of Knowledge Management* were included in the A list. Out of this group, only *Knowledge Management Research & Practice* was included in Clarivate's Journal Citation Reports, which is regrettable. The inclusion of these journals in the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) will further boost their reputation, help them attract higher-quality submissions and improve their overall ranking. Third, whereas the fact that journal longevity is one of the most important factors affecting a journal's reputation and impact is generally well-documented in scientometrics, the present study identified several vivid exceptions to this rule. Thus, older journals have an advantage over their younger counterparts, but this advantage is not absolute. The fact that the journal has been in-print for many years does not by itself guarantee a leading ranking position.

Fourth, a visual inspection of [Tables II](#) and [III](#) revealed a relative consistency of the expert survey and citation impact measures. In these tables, the ranking positions of only a few journals moved in the opposite directions; for many, increases or decreases in journal ranking positions in one table were consistent with those in another table. Thus, subjective self-reported measures of journal quality may serve as a good proxy of their (somewhat more) objective citation impact measures, and vice versa. Fifth, with respect to the previous ranking, the expert survey-based list ([Table II](#)) shows slightly more variability in general than the list based on citation impact measures ([Table III](#)). This suggests that active researchers alter their opinion regarding journal standing more readily than journals' citation impact measures change. This finding is expected because the accumulation of high h- and g-indices is a long-term process. In addition, if experts believe that the overall contribution of a particular journal is in decline, they may immediately reflect it in their lower ranking scores. In contrast, citation indices may not be reduced because papers may not be simply un-cited. Sixth, compared to 2008, more researchers indicated KM/IC as their primary area of concentration, which is a positive indicator of discipline development. Seventh, a majority of scholars who selected KM as their primary research area completed terminal degrees in KM, computer science, information systems/technology, library and information science, general management and technology/innovation management. Thus, perspective students wishing to pursue KM dissertation topics should pay extra attention to such respective departments which may have faculty members concentrating on KM research or the entire KM research streams.

With respect to future research, various avenues may be explored. First, a journal ranking may be constructed based on the Author Affiliation Index ([Ferratt et al., 2007](#); [Cronin and Meho, 2008](#)). This method posits that the ranking score of each journal is linked to the number of authors who published in it and who are affiliated with a pre-determined set of well-established, prestigious academic institutions. Second, the Publication Power Approach ([Holsapple, 2008](#); [Chen et al., 2017](#)) represents a fruitful avenue to further explore the nature of KM/IC journals because it assumes that a journal's ranking score reflects the actual long-term publishing behavior of senior (e.g. tenured) discipline researchers. Third, it is possible that personal research preferences have a confounding effect on respondents' ranking scores; individuals tend to rate higher journals in which they published and with which they are familiar, regardless of these journals' (more objectively assessed) quality and scientific merit ([Boor, 1973](#); [Hawkins et al., 1973](#); [Ballas and](#)

Theoharakis, 2003; Serenko and Bontis, 2011). In addition, the more people are merely familiar with a specific journal, the more frequently they read and cite it, which, in turn, boosts this journal's citation measures and a subsequent ranking position. Fourth, it would be also interesting to compare the ranking lists produced exclusively by practitioners and academics. It may be argued that practitioners, who are interested in the applied aspects of published works (Moshonsky *et al.*, 2014), favor outlets catering to their unique needs, whereas academics assign higher scores to journals focusing exclusively on theoretical and methodological advancement.

Fifth, the open-access movement has recently gained momentum (Laakso *et al.*, 2011). As of February 2017, the Directory of Open Access Journals listed 9,500 open-access outlets containing 2.4 million scholarly articles, and many reputable publishers (e.g. Emerald) have started offering various open-access options. Because open-access works are more frequently downloaded, read and cited than their non-open-access counterparts (Wang *et al.*, 2015), it would be interesting to explore the presence of open-access effect in KM/IC journal rankings. Sixth, future scholars are recommended to look deeper into the nature of each journal to explore whether journals focusing on particular topics or methods outperform their rivals. The KM/IC discipline is represented by a variety of topics and unique research streams (Curado *et al.*, 2011; Serenko and Dumay, 2015a; Mariano and Awazu, 2016), and some of them attract more citations than the others. The citation-based ranking method used in the present study treated all topics equally. However, it is possible that a different ranking may be obtained for journals focusing on distinct lines of research. For example, *Electronic Journal of Knowledge Management* is likely to fare well in an exclusive ranking of KM/IC journals focusing on public sector topics because these reflect its area of specialization (Massaro *et al.*, 2015).

Seventh, social media tools, such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, provide an easy-to-use platform for academic researchers to promote their publications. If a particular researcher and her institution were adept at using these tools and benefitted from a significant volume of followers, one could imagine the "advertising" of a single publication in a journal. This would raise general interest in the paper, thus attracting more potential downloads, and by extension, citations. By reducing search costs using appropriate descriptors, one could argue that paper A in a top-tier journal could very well be outshined by paper B in a mid-tier journal simply because of the social media campaign that was used to drive traffic to paper B. Linking research papers and their citations to whether or not there was any social media promotion connected to it would be a very interesting area of future research. Eighth, it is important to understand the changing focus of academic evaluation from journals to citation impact. Generally speaking, tenure and promotion committees at various business schools continue to focus on a specified list of journals that are deemed to be worthy for publication. A well-known example of this would be the Financial Times 50 list which contains the top academic journals in the management field[6]. However, when evaluating more seasoned academic researchers for full professorships or endowed chairs, tenure and promotion committees complement the traditional evaluation method with a more comprehensive citation count. If the trend toward citation impact starts to become weighted more heavily, researchers may in fact choose to "game the system" by publishing a higher volume of papers in mid-tier journals given their propensity to have faster throughput times. This would skew the reputation of top-tier journals in the long-run and actually have a perverse effect on the rankings. As such, the issues above offer tremendous opportunities for future scholars interested in the nature of KM/IC journals.

The evolution of the KM/IC discipline has made significant strides since its genesis in the 1990s. The increased number of academic refereed journals in the field is positively correlated with the number of graduate programs offering specializations in knowledge

management and intellectual capital throughout the world. Many of these institutions now boast several tenured faculty members who specialize in KM/IC, some of whom are senior professors which would have been unthinkable a couple of decades ago. This bodes well for the overall health of the discipline and for the longevity of the journals in this study and their pursuit of inclusion in the SSCI.

Notes

1. Even though the previous publications appeared in 2013 and 2009, their data were collected in 2012 and 2008, respectively, which is indicated in all tables.
2. Personal communication with Jean-Louis Ermine, Institut Mines-Télécom, TEM, Paris-Saclay.
3. Excellence in Research for Australia (the Australian Research Council) does not currently publish a ranking of journals.
4. The authors are grateful to Dr Murray Jennex for this suggestion.
5. On October 3, 2016, Thomson Reuters Intellectual Property & Science business (which owned Web of Science and related products, such as Journal Citation Reports) was sold to Onex Corporation and Baring Private Equity Asia which formed a new independent company Clarivate Analytics.
6. www.ft.com/content/3405a512-5cbb-11e1-8f1f-00144feabdc0

References

- Ballas, A. and Theoharakis, V. (2003), "Exploring diversity in accounting through faculty journal perceptions", *Contemporary Accounting Research*, Vol. 20 No. 4, pp. 619-644.
- Bontis, N. and Serenko, A. (2009), "A follow-up ranking of academic journals", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 13 No. 1, pp. 16-26.
- Boor, M. (1973), "Unfamiliarity breeds disdain: comment on department chairmen's ratings of psychological journals", *American Psychologist*, Vol. 28 No. 11, pp. 1012-1013.
- Buela-Casal, G. (2014), "Pathological publishing: a new psychological disorder with legal consequences?", *The European Journal of Psychology Applied to Legal Context*, Vol. 6 No. 2, pp. 91-97.
- Butler, L. (2002), "Identifying 'highly-rated' journals – an Australian case study", *Scientometrics*, Vol. 53 No. 2, pp. 207-227.
- Chen, L., Holsapple, C.W., Hsiao, S.-H., Ke, Z., Oh, J.-Y. and Yang, Z. (2017), "Knowledge-dissemination channels: analytics of stature evaluation", *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 68 No. 4, pp. 911-930.
- Coulthard, D. and Keller, S. (2016), "Publication anxiety, quality, and journal rankings: researcher views", *Australasian Journal of Information Systems*, Vol. 20, pp. 1-22.
- Cronin, B. and Meho, L.I. (2008), "Applying the author affiliation index to library and information science journals", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 59 No. 11, pp. 1861-1865.
- Curado, C., Oliveira, M. and Maçada, A.C.G. (2011), "Mapping knowledge management authoring patterns and practices", *African Journal of Business Management*, Vol. 5 No. 22, pp. 9137-9153.
- Davis, G.F. (2014), "Editorial essay: why do we still have journals?", *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 59 No. 2, pp. 193-201.
- Dwivedi, Y.K., Venkitachalam, K., Sharif, A.M., Al-Karaghoul, W. and Weerakkody, V. (2011), "Research trends in knowledge management: analyzing the past and predicting the future", *Information Systems Management*, Vol. 28 No. 1, pp. 43-56.
- Egghe, L. (2006), "Theory and practise of the g-index", *Scientometrics*, Vol. 69 No. 1, pp. 131-152.

Ferratt, T.W., Gorman, M.F., Kanet, J.J. and Salisbury, D. (2007), "IS journal quality assessment using the author affiliation index", *Communications of the Association for Information Systems*, Vol. 19, pp. 710-724.

Gillenson, M. and Stafford, T. (2008), "Journal rankings 2008: a synthesis of studies", *Proceedings of the 14th Americas Conference on Information Systems, Toronto*.

Harzing, A.-W. (2013), "A preliminary test of Google Scholar as a source for citation data: a longitudinal study of Nobel prize winners", *Scientometrics*, Vol. 94 No. 3, pp. 1057-1075.

Harzing, A.-W. (2014), "A longitudinal study of Google Scholar coverage between 2012 and 2013", *Scientometrics*, Vol. 98 No. 1, pp. 565-575.

Harzing, A.-W. and van der Wal, R. (2008), "A Google Scholar H-index for journals: a better metric to measure journal impact in economics & business?", *Proceedings of the Academy of Management Annual Meeting*.

Hawkins, R.G., Ritter, L.S. and Walter, I. (1973), "What economists think of their journals", *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 81 No. 4, pp. 1017-1032.

Hirsch, J.E. (2005), "An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, Vol. 102 No. 46.

Holsapple, C.W. (2008), "A publication power approach for identifying premier information systems journals", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, Vol. 59 No. 2, pp. 166-185.

Laakso, M., Welling, P., Bukvova, H., Nyman, L., Björk, B.-C. and Hedlund, T. (2011), "The development of open access journal publishing from 1993 to 2009", *PloS One*, Vol. 6 No. 6, pp. 1-10.

McKercher, B. (2005), "A case for ranking tourism journals", *Tourism Management*, Vol. 26 No. 5, pp. 649-651.

Macdonald, S. and Kam, J. (2008), "Quality journals and gamesmanship in management studies", *Management Research News*, Vol. 31 No. 8, pp. 595-606.

Mariano, S. and Awazu, Y. (2016), "Artifacts in knowledge management research: a systematic literature review and future research directions", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 20 No. 6, pp. 1333-1352.

Massaro, M., Dumay, J. and Garlatti, A. (2015), "Public sector knowledge management: a structured literature review", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 19 No. 3, pp. 530-558.

Moore, L. (2015), "Exploring the role of symbolic legitimation in voluntary journal list adoption", *Accounting Education: An International Journal*, Vol. 24 No. 3, pp. 256-273.

Moshonsky, M., Serenko, A. and Bontis, N. (2014), "Examining the transfer of academic knowledge to business practitioners: doctoral program graduates as intermediaries", *International Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 10 No. 3, pp. 70-95.

Oldenburg, H. (1665), "Introduction", *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, Vol. 1 No. 1, pp. 1-2.

Saarela, M., Kärkkäinen, T., Lahtonen, T. and Rossi, T. (2016), "Expert-based versus citation-based ranking of scholarly and scientific publication channels", *Journal of Informetrics*, Vol. 10 No. 3, pp. 693-718.

Sangster, A. (2015), "You cannot judge a book by its cover: the problems with journal rankings", *Accounting Education*, Vol. 24 No. 3, pp. 175-186.

Serenko, A. and Bontis, N. (2009), "Global ranking of knowledge management and intellectual capital academic journals", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 13 No. 1, pp. 4-15.

Serenko, A. and Bontis, N. (2011), "What's familiar is excellent: the impact of exposure effect on perceived journal quality", *Journal of Informetrics*, Vol. 5 No. 1, pp. 219-223.

Serenko, A. and Bontis, N. (2013), "Global ranking of knowledge management and intellectual capital academic journals: 2013 update", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 17 No. 2, pp. 307-326.

Serenko, A. and Dohan, M. (2011), "Comparing the expert survey and citation impact journal ranking methods: example from the field of artificial intelligence", *Journal of Informetrics*, Vol. 5 No. 4, pp. 629-648.

Serenko, A. and Dumay, J. (2015a), "Citation classics published in knowledge management journals. Part II: studying research trends and discovering the Google Scholar effect", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 19 No. 6, pp. 1335-1355.

Serenko, A. and Dumay, J.C. (2015b), "Citation classics published in knowledge management journals. Part I: articles and their characteristics", *Journal of Knowledge Management*, Vol. 19 No. 2, pp. 401-431.

Starbuck, W.H. (2016), "60th anniversary essay: how journals could improve research practices in social science", *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 61 No. 2, pp. 165-183.

Tadajewski, M. (2016), "Academic labour, journal ranking lists and the politics of knowledge production in marketing", *Journal of Marketing Management*, Vol. 32 Nos 1/2, pp. 1-18.

Uzunboylu, H., Eriş, H. and Ozcinar, Z. (2011), "Results of a citation analysis of knowledge management in education", *British Journal of Educational Technology*, Vol. 42 No. 3, pp. 527-538.

Wang, X., Liu, C., Mao, W. and Fang, Z. (2015), "The open access advantage considering citation, article usage and social media attention", *Scientometrics*, Vol. 103 No. 2, pp. 555-564.

Corresponding author

Alexander Serenko can be contacted at: aserenko@lakeheadu.ca

For instructions on how to order reprints of this article, please visit our website:

www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/licensing/reprints.htm

Or contact us for further details: permissions@emeraldinsight.com