

# Bibliometric indicators and their impact on Russian university rankings

## Indicadores bibliométricos y su impacto en los *rankings* de universidades rusas

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### **Abstract:**

Higher education has long been recognized as an essential component of the development and prosperity of countries. The goal of this paper is to give an overview of Russian universities (RU) ranking by various global universities rankings and to evaluate RU performance in these rankings. **Methods:** Statistics on RU research output and citation score was downloaded from two main databases produced by the Thompson-Scientific: Web of Science (WOS) and Essential Science Indicators (ESI) for 1998-2008. **Discussion:** The research and education relationship in Russia differs sharply from that generally accepted elsewhere where research is mainly performed at university. In the foreign rankings among top 500 universities are only four Russian universities. We analyzed 1047 highly cited Russian articles which were included ESI for the monitoring period. Statistics of the RU included in the database ESI for the 1998-2008 had shown that for nine years, only nine RU have been able to reach those most prestigious journals. **Conclusions:** We assume that rankings based solely on bibliometric indicators are inappropriate metrics for RU. It may be argued that the use of such measures makes it difficult for RU to compete with the more powerful and highly resourced universities across the globe. One potential approach is to establish a ranking among Euro-Asian universities that may provide a link between global and national rankings. Russian science policy in the higher education should encourage universities authority to participate in the global rankings. For this purpose it is necessary to monitor the faculty publishing activity and their impact via WOS or SCOPUS; to develop and updates universities websites and to utilize a unified English spelling of University name and affiliated with its institutions.

**Keywords:** bibliometrics; bibliometric indicators; university rankings.