

péter's picks & pans



Péter Jacsó
University of Hawaii

Aardvark, JCR on the Web, EuroFactor

My picks include the Aardvark Web portal, focusing on library and information technology in Asia, and the new Web edition of ITI's Journal Citation Reports. The former provides current information about projects, conferences, exhibits and other events, organizations, and developments in the fields of library and information science in Asia (and a nifty version of the ERIC database on the side). The latter is the much enhanced Web version of the classic annual publication of Thomson ISI. The pan is the Euro-Factor database, which presents an impact factor for 512 European journals without revealing (for good reasons) anything about its source data for the cited and citing counts. It profusely proclaims the need for a pan-European measure to prove how influential non-U.S. biomedical and life science journals are, as determined by Europeans for Europeans, using "biometric analysis."



the picks

AARDVARK

In June I sent an e-mail to a colleague and occasional contributor to *ONLINE*, Ruth Pagell, to congratulate her on her appointment as chief librarian of the Singapore Management University. The announcement was so fresh that she knew I must have learned about it from Aardvark [www.aardvarknet.info], the very current and informative Web portal (or rather vortal) for information technology resources with a focus on Asia (but not with chauvinistic exclusivity). It is run by the multinational i-Group, Ltd. headed by Pote N. Lee, which represents many U.S. online information services (H.W. Wilson and CAS), publishers of journals, books, and databases (Emerald, ACM, IEEE, SIAM, CABI, and FSTA) in Southeast Asia. It also provides localization and other support services.

The crown jewel of this Web site, for me, is the directory of more than 600 open access and subscription-based databases, computerized bibliographies, and union catalogs that are mostly from and about Asia, the Pacific, and Oceania. Aardvark also offers information about relevant U.S. government and institutional databases, such as the ones of the National Archive and Records Administration or Hawaii's Bishop Museum. This succinctly annotated and well-indexed directory is a superb resource for any scholar doing research on subjects related to the region.

Aardvark offers, in its Literature section, a good collection of somewhat overlapping, but still well-classified, links to open access full-text articles on 18 of the hottest topics in information technology. The number of articles varies from four on CrossRef to 54 on open access, with 41 on metadata and 44 on digital libraries. Represented are the best open access LIS journals

(*D-Lib*, *First Monday*, *Ariadne*) and free articles from a variety of practitioners' journals and newsletters (*Searcher*, *Information Today*, *RLG News*). Reports and standards from government agencies are also included. Results are listed in alphabetical order, and neither date nor relevance sorting is available. Sampling the choices, it is obvious that the editor, Clive Wing, must be an avid reader of the information technology literature. Aardvark has its own open access news magazine, *Access*, with about one-third of the back issues available online. The directory of electronic LIS journals links you to 730 sites.

Additionally, there is a very good link collection to Asian digital libraries (26), Asian library associations (64), and Asian library schools (88, but its URLs need updating). Links are also provided to publishers, national libraries, and library consortia in the Asian region (including Australia and New Zealand). The list of hotlinked LIS-related conferences rounds out the excellent set of directories. As a bonus, there is a clever version of ERIC (although without a thesaurus navigation option) featuring the InfoBridge software developed by i-Group, Ltd. and used with many databases (CABI has licensed it) from servers around the region.

JCR ON THE WEB

The 2004 Web version (JCR on the Web) of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) is part of the ISI Web of Knowledge platform. Its current edition, released in the summer of 2005, offers a set of bibliometric/scientometric measures, not only for more journals than ever before, but also with some additional features, such as aggregate measures for the groups of journals assigned to the same (sub)disciplines. This facilitates the at-a-glance comparison of the median and aggregate impact factors of a set of journals with a set of other journals in a different but related discipline. An example is the set classified under a variety of sub-disciplines within psychology versus psychiatry. There is also a new, related journal feature (although not for every journal) that shows which

other journals were the most often co-cited with the target journal, and thus are the most likely to cover similar topics. The visualization of the citedness, self-citedness, and immediacy index, plus the histogram of the impact factor through the past 5 years makes the data readily perceivable. The Help file and the tutorial are excellent.

There are 7,680 journals covered (77 percent of them from the sciences; the rest from the social sciences). The number of open access journals increased to about 300. I

am happy to see that *Information Research* joined the list in the Information and Library Science category. I'm not unique in having some open access journals on my mind (*First Monday*, *D-Lib*, *Ariadne*) that I think should replace some of the existing journals, which don't deserve to remain monitored by ISI. For example, I tested the citedness of *First Monday* by ISI-monitored journals and calculated its impact factor on my own. That exercise indicates that its inclusion would be justified.

Aardvark's well-organized and information-rich Web portal

Rank	Category (linked to category information)	Total Cites	Median Impact Factor	Aggregate Impact Factor	Aggregate Immediacy Index	Aggregate Cited Half-Life	# Journals	Articles
1	PSYCHIATRY	209305	1.247	2.601	0.399	7.70	76	5323
2	PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED	40774	0.810	1.052	0.224	9.30	50	1689
3	PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL	33902	1.518	1.815	0.338	9.50	16	843
4	PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL	116119	1.077	1.687	0.358	8.10	84	3820
5	PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL	81768	1.086	1.724	0.331	8.90	49	2287
6	PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL	34223	0.707	1.118	0.362	>10.0	38	1079
7	PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL	121401	1.417	1.853	0.351	9.10	68	3465
8	PSYCHOLOGY, MATHEMATICAL	12652	0.715	1.107	0.341	>10.0	10	393
9	PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY	112246	0.704	1.321	0.257	9.50	100	3945
10	PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOANALYSIS	6471	0.623	0.950	0.269	9.40	12	428
11	PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL	76131	0.963	1.323	0.219	>10.0	46	1995

JCR's new aggregate measures of journals from related (sub)disciplines

I still disagree with the principle of not counting editorial materials and book reviews in the denominator of the impact factor's algorithm, and I remain concerned about the lack of consistency in assigning document type codes for recurring papers, such as this column. It affects

the impact factor of only a few journals (although sometimes that effect is extreme). JCR on the Web may seem to be a relatively expensive database, but not in the context of the ever-increasing serials prices. It is still the only tool that can help librarians weed out the low impact—

but expensive—journals from their acquisition list with the least emotional bias and donkey work (non-intellectual efforts), saving money for the next edition.



the pan

THE "EURO-FACTOR" DATABASE

Proof of the popularity of ISI's Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is shown by the number of sites where partial or complete lists of thousands of journals are posted—until Thomson lawyers serve them with cease and desist orders. Many years ago EBSCO thought that it could, without a license, include the JIF in its Serials Directory. JournalSeek, from Genamics, made the same mistake 5 years ago and had to remove the JIF numbers. In 2002, a Canadian company, Prestige Factor, Ltd., launched an eponymous database and a tirade against JCR, which it sold to some libraries. Guess what source it used for its prestige factors? Yes, the JCR. The company just applied some voodoo algorithm and went laughing to the bank, until it was sued by ISI and went out of business. It was my pan in this column, published in the July/August 2002 issue—and I hope it helped bring them down. You can see the gory details of this "intellectual" robbery at <http://prestigefactor.net> long.com. A year later, VICER [<http://vicer.org>], an Austrian publishing outlet created by a group of anesthesiologists, launched the EuroFactor database with its own tirade against JCR, which it characterizes as being completely U.S.-centric.

Guess what VICER used to get the source article and citation counts for the baffling, off-the-wall algorithm used for calculating its EuroFactor with no explanation whatsoever? The composition, the grammar, and the arguments for the phony "Europhoric" vapor on the home page make Alexander Haig sound better than Cicero, and Monsieur Chauvin look like a cosmopolitan.

Journal Summary List Journal Title Changes

Journals from: **subject categories ANESTHESIOLOGY** VIEW CATEGORY SUMMARY LIST


Sorted by: **Impact Factor** SORT AGAIN

Journals 1 - 20 Page 1 of 2

g is based on your journal and sort selections.

Mark	Rank	Abbreviated Journal Title (linked to journal information)	ISSN	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Articles	Cited Half-Life
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	PAIN	0304-3959	16730	4.061	0.666	299	8.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	ANESTHESIOLOGY	0003-3022	18306	4.055	0.774	381	7.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	CLIN J PAIN	0749-8047	1781	3.058	0.413	63	5.8
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	BRIT J ANAESTH	0007-0912	7744	2.469	0.508	246	7.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	ANESTH ANALG	0003-2999	14031	2.180	0.426	627	6.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	ANAESTHESIA	0003-2409	5079	2.163	0.806	165	7.5
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	EUR J PAIN	1090-3801	654	1.811	0.387	62	3.6
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	REGION ANESTH PAIN M	1098-7339	1553	1.600	0.176	74	6.5
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	ACTA ANAESTH SCAND	0001-5172	3692	1.413	0.345	197	7.1
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	CAN J ANAESTH	0832-610X	3120	1.208	0.469	145	7.4
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	J CLIN ANESTH	0952-8180	1304	1.208	0.094	85	6.9
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	J NEUROSURG ANESTH	0898-4921	565	1.163	0.222	54	5.7

Sample journal metrics for Anesthesiology journals in JCR on the Web



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VICER database EURO FACTOR DATABASE for a particular field.

The Euro-Factor is not exactly new and not exactly a database

There is not a single word about the time frame used, what articles are included in the denominator, whether citations from American, Asian, African, and Australian journals were counted or only those ones were which are published in Europe (to be more specific, in the region west of Burgenland and north of the Lago Maggiore). This is pure quackery. The online database has been promised for quite some time, but what you get for free is a PDF file, labeled as new, but it is 3 years old. The price for the printed version is 30 euros, which is as cheap as the compilation. Don't bother to acquire it.

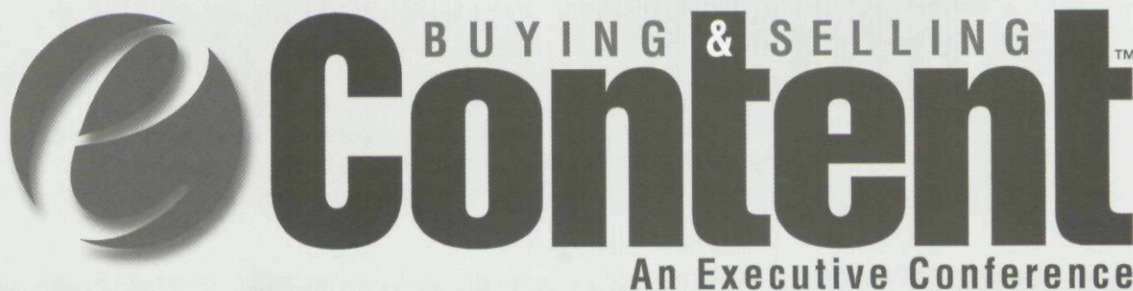
Peter Jacso [jacso@hawaii.edu] is professor of library & information science at the University of Hawaii's Department of Information and Computer Sciences.

Comments? E-mail letters to the editor to marydee@xmission.com.

ANESTHESIOLOGY	
1 Brit J Anaesth	9.09
2 Anaesthesia	7.26
3 Acta Anesth Scand	5.84
4 Anesthesist	2.91
5 Eur J Anesth	2.57
6 Anasth Intensivmed	1.55
7 Anasth Intensiv Notf	1.50
8 Mal Hypertherm	0.29
Pain Medicine	
1 Pain	11.20
2 Pain Clinic	1.09
3 Pain Rev	0.95
CRITICAL CARE AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE	
1 Intensive Care Medicine	5.97
2 Anasth Intensiv Notf	1.50
3 Diff Airway	0.37
DENTAL SCIENCE	
1 Brit Dent J	4.35
2 Acta Odontologica Scand	3.67
3 Eur J Orthodont	2.81
4 Eur J Oral Sci	2.30
5 Swed Dent J	2.24

Some European-only anesthesiology journals with Euro-Factors from thin air

The Shifting Dynamics of the Content Market



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