THOMSON REUTERS INSTITUTIONAL PROFILES

A new approach to evaluating academic institutions

Introduction

Fundamental questions about evaluating universities

• What are the objectives or missions of a university?
• How can one measure success in achieving these objectives?
• What is the purpose of the evaluation?
Institutional Profiles

Profiles Project

Academic Reputation Survey

- A clear distinction between research and teaching.
- A hierarchical subject classification scheme.
- Participation by invitation only to prevent manipulation.
- Structured distribution of the invitations.
- Translations into multiple languages.

- 17,000 respondents from more than 130 countries
- 90% are academics, institutional leaders or researchers
Institutional Data Gathering

• We use existing data sources when available.
• Common data definitions for all institutions.
• Strong support structure.
• A comprehensive data validation
• Subject area breakdowns.

Data supplied by the institution include, but are not limited to:
  – Numbers of academic staff.
  – Numbers of students.
  – Funding information.
  – International diversity information.

Bibliometric data

For each institution we do a detailed unification of their institutional name variants to ensure that we capture all of their papers. We extract a wide variety of data for each institution such as:

• Number of papers.
• Number of citations.
• Normalised Citation Impact.
• Proportion of papers with an international co-author.
Data Analysis and Interpretation

Interpretation of the data is essential.

A comparison of two indicators of performance.
Total papers v Papers per Academic staff.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Subject normalization is very important to overcome subject bias and to understand the true strengths of an institution.

A comparison of six subject areas for the indicator “Papers per Academic staff” using absolute values and relative performance
Data Analysis and Interpretation

Subject normalization is very important to overcome subject bias and to understand the true strengths of an institution.

An example of the results of subject normalization.

Papers per staff member

Results and comparisons

*The total income and research income for selected institutions (2009) in millions of US$ equivalent modified by Purchasing Power Parity.*
Results and comparisons

Normalized and scaled research funding.
Results and comparisons

Conclusion

• Robust data source for all kinds of evaluation.

• Future developments of the project will include:
  – Broadening of the scope of the database to include government research laboratories etc
  – Further studies to identify appropriate indicators for knowledge transfer and economic impact.

• Institutional Profiles help understanding of institutional performance across international boundaries and subject silos.
THANK YOU

Simon Pratt, Project Manager, Institutional Research

To find out more: http://science.thomsonreuters.com/globalprofilesproject/

Contact us at: science.profilesproject@thomsonreuters.com