University of Balamand overall research performance 2014-2016

Scholarly Output: 453 (↓)
Authors: 362 (▲)
Field-Weighted Citation Impact: 2.78
Citation Count: 4,685
Citations per Publication: 10.3
h5-index: 23

- Immunology and Microbiology (4.1%)
- Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (4.8%)
- Environmental Science (4.8%)
- Energy (2.8%)
- Engineering (10.3%)
- Materials Science (4.2%)
- Chemistry (5.4%)
- Physics and Astronomy (3.5%)
- Mathematics (2.3%)
- Computer Science (7.7%)
- Social Sciences (3.7%)
- Psychology (2.7%)
- Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacology (2.3%)
- Other (9.6%)
- Medicine (29.9%)
Benchmarking

Field-Weighted Citation Impact vs. Publication Year

Institutions and Groups
- University of Balamand

Countries and Groups
- World

Field-Weighted Citation Impact (2014): 2.06

32 university in South Africa
Elsevier Publishing Campus
Publishing Connect
Closer look into citations

**Citation Count**

- 2014: 1,000
- 2015: 3,000
- 2016: 500
- 2017: 200

**Citations per Publication**

- 2014: 10
- 2015: 30
- 2016: 1
- 2017: 1

4,685
number of citations received by publications at the University of Balamand

10.3
average number of citations per publication at the University of Balamand
Leading The Way

How to get published
Bibliometrics
Manuscript language
Publishing Ethics
Predatory Journals
Let’s start off with a film…

http://youtu.be/75xKK2eGQNk
Planning your article
Are you ready to publish?

Not ready
Work has no scientific interest

Ready
Work advances the field
Choosing the right journal
Best practices

- Aim to reach the intended audience for your work
- Choose only one journal, as simultaneous submissions are prohibited
- Supervisor and colleagues can provide good suggestions
- Shortlist a handful of candidate journals, and investigate them:
  - Aims
  - Scope
  - Accepted types of articles
  - Readership
  - Current hot topics

Articles in your reference list will usually lead you directly to the right journals.
Practical Advice

• Evaluate your research area
  ▪ Journals, authors, citations, publications per year (Scopus)

• Evaluate which journal is right for your article
  ▪ Impact Factor
  ▪ Alternative metrics (H-index, SNIP, SCImago)
  ▪ Journal Analyser (Scopus)

• Find out more about the journals
  ▪ Who are the editors?
  ▪ Guide for authors
Elsevier Journal finder

Find the perfect journal for your article

Elsevier® Journal Finder helps you find journals that could be best suited for publishing your scientific article. Please also consult the journal’s Aims and Scope for further guidance. Ultimately, the Editor will decide on how well your article matches the journal.

Powered by the Elsevier Fingerprint Engine™, Elsevier Journal Finder uses smart search technology and field-of-research specific vocabularies to match your article to Elsevier journals.

Simply insert your title and abstract and select the appropriate field-of-research for the best results.

Paper title

Enter your paper title here

Paper abstract

Copy and paste your paper abstract here.

Fields of research

Optional: refine your search by selecting up to three research fields

- Agriculture
- GeoSciences
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Humanities and Arts
- Physics
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Life and Health Sciences
- Social Sciences
Guide for Authors

- Find it on the journal homepage of the publisher, e.g. Elsevier.com
- Keep to the Guide for Authors in your manuscript
- It will save your time
Planning your article
Types of manuscripts

Full articles
- Substantial, complete and comprehensive pieces of research
  *Is my message sufficient for a full article?*

Letters or short communications
- Quick and early communications
  *Are my results so thrilling that they should be shown as soon as possible?*

Review papers
- Summaries of recent developments on a specific topic
- Often submitted by invitation

Your supervisor or colleagues are also good sources for advice on manuscript types.
Bibliometric indicators

- Impact Factor
- Eigenfactor
- SNIP
- CiteScore
Choosing the right journal
The Impact Factor

Ratio between citations and citable items published in a journal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Citing Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ISI Web of Knowledge℠
Journal Citation Reports® 2009 JCR Science Edition

Journal Impact Factor

Cites in 2009 to items published in: 2008 = 8210
2007 = 10060
Sum: 18270

Number of items published in: 2008 = 289
2007 = 305
Sum: 594

Calculation: Cites to recent items

To all items (regardless of type)

Only source items (‘articles’ and ‘reviews’)

Citations to non-source items (editorials, letters, news items, book reviews, abstracts) may inflate the Impact Factor.
Impact Factor

- It indicates how many times the more recent papers in a journal are cited on average in a given year.
- It is influenced by editorial policies of journals and turnover of research.

The impact factor can give you a general guidance, but it should NOT be the sole reason to choose a journal.
The Eigenfactor

- Freely available at eigenfactor.org; on the JCR
- Similar to Impact Factor, but considers 5 years
- Self-citations excluded
- Citations weighted by the EF of the citing journal
Source Normalized Impact per Paper

- Freely available online via Scopus
- Similar to Impact Factor, but considers 3 years
- Measures contextual citation impact
- Citations weighted by the likelihood of citation in the subject field of source

Devised at the University of Leiden, currently the most sophisticated journal performance indicator
**CiteScore**

A journal's CiteScore represents the average number of citations received in the CiteScore year (e.g. 2015), by papers published in the three preceding years (e.g. 2012, 2013 and 2014).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CiteScore</th>
<th>CiteScore Percentile</th>
<th>CiteScore Rank</th>
<th>Citations 2015</th>
<th>Documents 2012-14</th>
<th>% Cited</th>
<th>SNIP</th>
<th>SJR</th>
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<td>95</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>3.158</td>
<td>3.561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your personal reasons for publishing?

However, editors, reviewers, and the research community don’t consider these reasons when assessing your work.
The process of writing – building the article

- Title, Abstract, and Keywords
- Conclusion
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Figures/Tables (your data)
General structure of a research article

- Title
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Methods
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting materials
Preparing your article

Writing your article

- Spend time on abstract and conclusion & references
- Sharing research data
- Use easy to understand charts and professional illustrations
- Use clear and correct manuscript language
Effective manuscript titles

- Attract reader’s attention
- Contain fewest possible words
- Adequately describe content
- Are informative but concise
- Identify main issue
- Do not use technical jargon and rarely-used abbreviations

Editors and reviewers do not like titles that make no sense or fail to represent the subject matter adequately. Additionally, if the title is not accurate, the appropriate audience may not read your paper.
Introduction

Provide a brief context to the readers

Address the problem

Identify the solutions and limitations

Identify what the work is trying to achieve

Provide a perspective consistent with the nature of the journal

Write a unique introduction for every article. DO NOT reuse introductions.
Methods

- Describe how the problem was studied
- Include detailed information
- Do not describe previously published procedures
- Identify the equipment and materials used
Methods – ethics committee approval

- Experiments on humans or animals must follow applicable ethics standards
- Approval of the local ethics committee is required and should be specified in the manuscript, covering letter, or the online submission system
- Editors can make their own decisions on ethics
Results

- Include only data of primary importance
- Use sub-headings to keep results of the same type together
- Be clear and easy to understand
- Highlight the main findings
- Feature unexpected findings
- Provide statistical analysis
- Include illustrations and figures
Discussion

• Interpretation of results

• Most important section

• Make the discussion correspond to the results and complement them

• Compare published results with your own

Be careful not to use the following:
- Statements that go beyond what the results can support
- Non-specific expressions
- New terms not already defined or mentioned in your paper
- Speculations on possible interpretations based on imagination
Conclusion

- Be clear
- Provide justification for the work
- Explain how your work advances the present state of knowledge
- Suggest future experiments
Acknowledgments

- Advisors
- Financial supporters and funders
- Proof readers and typists
- Suppliers who may have donated materials
References

- Do not use too many references
- Always ensure you have fully absorbed the material you are referencing
- Avoid excessive self citations
- Avoid excessive citations of publications from the same region or institute
- Conform strictly to the style given in the Guide for Authors
## Help with your article

Writing an article is hard work – finding and sorting research, preparing references, sourcing feedback…

You can get help from Mendeley (www.mendeley.com), a free reference manager and academic social network.

The Mendeley Reference Manager generates citations and bibliographies in Word, OpenOffice, and LaTeX.

You can also use Mendeley to connect with colleagues and securely share papers, notes and annotations.

Or use Mendeley’s social network to identify potential collaborators.
Choosing the right journal

Do NOT just “descend the stairs”

Top journals

Field-specific top journals

Other field-specific journals

National journals

http://thewordthoughtsblog.blogspot.nl/2012_04_01_archive.html
Why is language important?

Save your editor and reviewers the trouble of guessing what you mean.

Complaint from an editor:
“[This] paper fell well below my threshold. I refuse to spend time trying to understand what the author is trying to say. Besides, I really want to send a message that they can't submit garbage to us and expect us to fix it. My rule of thumb is that if there are more than 6 grammatical errors in the abstract, then I don't waste my time carefully reading the rest.”
Manuscript language: Sentences

- Write direct, short, and factual sentences
- Convey one piece of information per sentence
- Avoid multiple statements in one sentence

The average length of sentences in scientific writing is only about 12-17 words.
Manuscript Language – Tenses

• Present tense for known facts and hypotheses:
  “The average life of a honey bee is 6 weeks”

• Past tense for experiments you have conducted:
  “All the honey bees were maintained in an environment with a consistent temperature of 23 degrees centigrade…”

• Past tense when you describe the results of an experiment:
  “The average life span of bees in our contained environment was 8 weeks…”
Manuscript Language – Grammar

• Use active voice to shorten sentences
  ▪ Passive voice: “It has been found that there had been…”
  ▪ Active voice: “We found that…”
  ▪ Passive voice: “carbon dioxide was consumed by the plant…”
  ▪ Active voice: “…the plant consumed carbon dioxide..”

• Avoid abbreviations: “it’s”, “weren’t”, “hasn’t”
  ▪ Never use them in scientific writing
  ▪ Only use abbreviations for units of measure or established scientific abbreviations, e.g. DNA
Authorship: Do’s and don’ts

General principles for who is listed first:

First Author:
- Conducts and/or supervises the data analysis and the proper presentation and interpretation of the results
- Puts paper together and submits the paper to journal

Co-Author(s):
- Makes intellectual contributions to the data analysis and contributes to data interpretation
- Reviews each paper draft
- Must be able to present the results, defend the implications and discuss study limitations

Abuses to be avoided:

Ghost Authors:
- Leaving out authors who should be included

Scientific Writers and Gift Authors:
- Including authors when they did not contribute significantly
Q. What does it mean to be an Author?

A researcher completes her paper. Along the way she consulted her advisor for guidance on the experiment, the data analysis and writing and revising the final article.

A professor in India assisted her in analyzing the data only. A lab assistant helped her in preparing the experimental design and maintaining and operating the equipment. Two fellow grad students read her paper and edited it, though they had no hand in the experiment.

- Who is listed as an Author?
- Who is listed first?
Authorship Policies

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors who declared that an author must:

1. substantially contribute to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data AND
2. draft the article or revise it critically for important intellectual content AND
3. give their approval of the final version to be published all three conditions must be fulfilled to be an author

- Applying this set of policies to our example, only the researcher and her advisor would qualify as authors
- All others would qualify as “Acknowledged Individuals”
Conflicts of interest question

Indicate if any of the following are examples of conflicts of interest:

1. A University Researcher, who owns stock in a large oil company, conducts an experiment on the environmental effects of oil drilling.
2. A University Researcher, who is developing and testing a new technology, is also a consultant for a financial services firm that weighs investments in new technologies.
3. A Researcher submits an article to a journal for which the Editor-in-Chief is a Professor in the Researcher’s department.
4. A Doctor who abides by traditional healing procedures writes a paper on emerging current medical technologies.
Conflicts of interest answer
These are all present potential conflicts

They can take many forms:
- Direct financial - employment, stock ownership, grants, patents
- Indirect financial - honoraria, consultancies, mutual fund ownership, expert testimony
- Career and intellectual - promotion, direct rival
- Institutional
- Personal belief

The proper way to handle potential conflicts of interest is through transparency and disclosure.
At the journal level, this means disclosure of the potential conflict in your cover letter to the Journal Editor
A recent example of what can happen

Scientists who disputes consensus on warming has received $1.2 million

BY JUSTIN GILLIS AND JOHN SCHWARTZ

For years, politicians wanting to block legislation on climate change have bolstered their arguments by pointing to the work of a few scientists who claim that greenhouse gases pose little risk to humanity.

One of the names they invoke most often is Wei-Hock Soon, known as Willie, a scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who claims that variations in the sun’s energy can largely explain recent global warming. He has often appeared on conservative news programs, testified before Congress and in state capitals, and starred at conferences of people who deny the risks of global warming.

But newly released documents show the extent to which Dr. Soon’s work has been tied to funding he received from corporate interests.

He has accepted more than $1.2 million in money from the fossil-fuel industry over the last decade while failing to disclose that conflict of interest in most of his scientific papers. At least 11 papers he has published since 2008 omitted such a disclosure, and in at least eight of those cases, he appears to have violated ethical guidelines of the journals that published his work.

The documents show that Dr. Soon, in correspondence with his corporate funders, described many of his scientific papers as “deliverables” that he completed in exchange for their money. He used the same term to describe testimony he prepared for Congress.

Though Dr. Soon did not respond to questions about the documents, he has long stated that his corporate funding has not influenced his scientific findings.

The documents were obtained by Greenpeace, the environmental group, under the Freedom of Information Act. Greenpeace and an allied group, the Climate Investigations Center, shared them with several news organizations last week.

The documents shed light on the role of scientists like Dr. Soon in fostering public debate over whether human activity is causing global warming. The vast majority of experts have concluded that it is and that greenhouse emissions pose long-term risks to civilization.

Historians and sociologists of science say that since the tobacco wars of the 1960s, corporations trying to block legislation that hurts their interests have employed a strategy of creating the appearance of scientific doubt, usually with the help of ostensibly independent researchers who accept industry funding.

Fossil-fuel interests have followed this approach for years, but the mechanics of their activities remained largely hidden.

“The whole doubt-mongering strategy relies on creating the impression of scientific debate,” said Naomi Oreskes, a historian of science at Harvard University and the co-author of “Merchants of Doubt,” a book about such campaigns.

“Willie Soon is playing a role in a certain...
The most serious issues to avoid

These are the 3 most common forms of ethical misconduct that the research community is challenged with:

1. **Fabrication**
   Making up research data

2. **Falsification**
   Manipulation of existing research data

3. **Plagiarism**
   Previous work taken and passed off as one’s own
What is plagiarism?

“Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, including those obtained through confidential review of others’ research proposals and manuscripts.”

_Federal Office of Science and Technology Policy, 1999_

“Presenting the data or interpretations of others without crediting them, and thereby gaining for yourself the rewards earned by others, is theft, and it eliminates the motivation of working scientists to generate new data and interpretations.”

_Professor Bruce Railsback, Department of Geology, University of Georgia_
What may be plagiarised?

Work that can be plagiarised includes…

- Words (language)
- Ideas
- Findings
- Writings
- Graphic representations
- Computer programs
- Diagrams

- Graphs
- Illustrations
- Information
- Lectures
- Printed material
- Electronic material
- Any other original work

Higher Education Academy, UK
Correct citation is key

Crediting the work of others (including your advisor’s or your own previous work) by citation is important for at least three reasons:

- To place your own work in context
- To acknowledge the findings of others on which you have built your research
- To maintain the credibility and accuracy of the scientific literature
Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is restating someone else's ideas while not copying their actual words verbatim.

It is unacceptable:

▪ Using exact phrases from the original source without enclosing them in quotation marks
▪ Emulating sentence structure even when using different words
▪ Emulating paragraph organization even when using different wording or sentence structure

– Statement on Plagiarism
Department of Biology, Davidson College.
www.bio.davidson.edu/dept/plagiarism.html
How can plagiarism be detected?

- Huge database of 30+ million articles, from 50,000+ journals, from 400+ publishers
- Software alerts Editors to any similarities between the article and this huge database of published articles
- Many Elsevier journals now check every submitted article using CrossCheck
Consequences question

A researcher has plagiarized another author’s article
What are the potential consequences and what actions can the publisher or researcher’s institution/funding body take?
Article Retraction

This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor-in-Chief.

The authors have falsified mathematical findings and have made unsubstantiated claims regarding Euclid's parallel postulate. (Appl. Math. Lett., 23 (2010) 1137–1139, doi:10.1016/j.aml.2010.05.003). This article represents a severe abuse of the scientific publishing system. The scientific community takes a strong view on this matter and apologies are offered to readers of the journal that published this article during the submission process.

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Publication ethics – How it can end

Hungarian president resigns over doctorate plagiarism scandal
Pal Schmitt steps down after university revokes doctorate, saying Olympics thesis was mostly copied from two authors

German minister loses doctorate after plagiarism row
Germany's defence minister has been stripped of his university doctorate after he was found to have copied large parts of his work from others.

The Hungarian president, Pal Schmitt, has announced he will resign after losing his doctorate in a plagiarism scandal.
Who is really responsible for Ethics?

- All Stakeholders
- Authors
- Institutions/Companies/Agencies/Funding Bodies
- Publishers/Journal Editors

All Elsevier journals are members of COPE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS
Predatory Publishers

• Use the gold open-access model (author pays)
  ▪ Article processing charges (APCs)
• Conflict of interest: more papers accepted = more income
• Not all OA journals are bad; not all traditional ones are good
• Monetary transactions from authors to publishers cause many problems
• Doubtful peer-review processes
• Cannot identify editorial board members
• Experts at manipulative spamming
• Target young and emerging researchers
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Please note that if you do not already have a Researcher Academy account you will be asked to create one

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