

# University Rankings and Institutional Afiliations: How can Librarians Help?

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# Introduction

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There are different models of external quality evaluation for academic institutions such as universities, faculties and colleges. For the purposes of comparison, institutions or their segments are placed in categories, evaluated and ranked. National and international rankings focus on different areas, however, both consider scientific output in their calculations. A higher ranked university has a better national and international reputation and is perceived as of better quality.

Most popular international university ranking lists all use scientific production in their methodology.



# Croatian universities on the ranking lists

## Croatia (local name: Hrvatska)

ranking	<a href="#">World Rank</a> ▲	<a href="#">University</a>	<a href="#">Det.</a>	<a href="#">Presence Rank*</a>	<a href="#">Impact Rank*</a>	<a href="#">Openness Rank*</a>	<a href="#">Excellence Rank*</a>
1	668	<a href="#">University of Zagreb</a>	»	86	847	4148	538
2	1102	<a href="#">University of Split</a>	»	1238	2980	738	853
3	1534	<a href="#">University of Rijeka</a>	»	1092	2765	990	1629
4	2196	<a href="#">Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek</a>	»	971	3940	2816	2172
5	3843	<a href="#">University of Zadar</a>	»	2017	5103	3259	4547
6	4196	<a href="#">University of Dubrovnik</a>	»	5323	8703	4132	4120
7	6149	<a href="#">Zagreb School of Economics and Management</a>	»	11132	5787	5627	6007

Webometrics

RANKING | SCORES | →

Rank	Name	Overall	Teaching	Research	Citations	Industry Income	International Outlook
501–600	<b>University of Split</b> 📍 Croatia	30.7–34.9	16.8	12.5	60.3	33.5	41.7
801–1000	<b>University of Zagreb</b> 📍 Croatia	15.6–21.4	21.0	11.1	20.3	41.6	28.5

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018*

# Previous studies have shown...

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Although international ranking methodologies differ one from another Petrušić's analysis (2017) shows a certain degree of **favoritism regarding the research role of the university.**

Buela-Casal et al. (2007) conducted a comparative ranking study based on the frequency of some indicators in international rankings and their weight shares where they demonstrated that **research and scientific output indicators play a significant role in all the international ranking methods.**



# Aim of the research

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...is to show that correctly stating the institutional affiliation in the scientific articles indexed in the WOSCC and Scopus databases for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, affects the number of papers attributed to those institutions.

# Why did we do this research?

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In 2014 Thomson Reuters invited Croatian universities to revise institutional affiliations of the research papers produced at their universities.

Academic librarians at the University of Split revised the name variants associated with the University and its faculties.

# Assess the mapping of your organisation

Collaborate with us in checking your representation is correct

For Univ. Split, 36 new variants have been added in the last year

The screenshot shows the Thomson Reuters interface. On the left, a sidebar lists 'INSTITUTION NAME VARIANTS' with a search bar containing 'THOMSON RI'. The main window displays details for 'UNIVERSITY OF SPLIT', including 'Other Names', 'Address', and a list of 'Name Variants'. A callout box highlights 'FESB UNIV SPLIT' in the list. Below this, a table titled 'Clarivate Analytics' shows a list of variants with columns for 'SEGMENT 2', 'SEGMENT 3', 'LOCATION CITY/STATE/COUNTRY', and 'ADD/DELETE'. A callout box highlights 'February 2017' in the table. A legend at the bottom explains the table structure: 'INSTITUTION NAME VARIANTS', 'SEGMENT 2', 'SEGMENT 3', 'LOCATION CITY/STATE/COUNTRY', and 'ADD/DELETE (Customer Feedback)'. The table lists variants like 'FESB UNIV SPLIT' and 'MED FAK SVEUCILISTA SPLITU' with their corresponding locations in Croatia and Japan.

## Variants

Increased number of variants: from 32 to 68.

Rules reviewed

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As the librarians revised the affiliations the number of papers in WOSCC that are affiliated with the University of Split **increased from 2443 in May 2016 to 3027 in May 2017 to 8003 in August 2018**. (InCites dataset updated Aug 31, 2018. Includes Web of Science content indexed through Jun 30, 2018.). Hence the visibility of the scientific production of the University of Split increased.

### Coincidence?

The University of Split was ranked by Times Higher Education (THE) in:

- 500-600<sup>th</sup> World University Rankings 2018,
- 101-150<sup>th</sup> Young University Rankings 2018,
- 107<sup>th</sup> Emerging Economies University Rankings 2018.

# Research questions

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1. How accurate are the institutional affiliations for the research papers written at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture. 2007-2017 in WoSCC and Scopus?
2. Is there a difference between the total number of papers by these institutions and the number of papers attributed to these two institutions?

# Research methods

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Our sample was the collection of **scientific papers** published from the beginning of **2007 to the end of 2017**, written by authors from the **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** and the **Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture** at the **University of Split**.

WOSCC database search was conducted in June and July of 2018 on a sample of **129 authors from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** and **102 authors from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture**.

Scopus database search was conducted in August of 2018 on the same sample.

# Results

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WOSCC

- 250 scientific papers
- 40 with no University name
- 26 with no Faculty name
- 26 with no affiliation

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, SCOPUS

- 289 scientific papers
- 24 with no University name
- 81 with no Faculty name
- 5 with no affiliation

# Results

## FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND NAVAL ARCHITECTURE, WOSCC

- 1742 scientific papers
- 414 with no University name
- 735 with no Faculty name
- 5 with no affiliation

## FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND NAVAL ARCHITECTURE, SCOPUS

- 1145 scientific papers
- 549 with no University name
- 132 with no Faculty name

# Discussion

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- The results show that authors use different variants of names as their institutional affiliations, hence when searching by the listed affiliation a certain number of papers cannot be attributed either to the University of Split or to a particular faculty.
- Linking different affiliation names has led to an increase in the number of papers attributed to these institutions, which we believe, among other factors, influenced the international ranking of the University of Split.
- Our sample was small. This research should be done on a larger sample starting with other faculties at the University of Split and continuing on to other universities. Also further work should be done in order to increase the visibility of research papers.
- Along with publishing in OA this is another way to increase visibility.

# Librarians can help:

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- to raise (future) authors' awareness of importance of stating the affiliations correctly -through library workshops and/or other means of teaching information literacy.
- to raise awareness with institution administrations about the correlation of correctly stating the affiliations and the placement on the international ranking lists.
- to instruct on how to correctly state the affiliations
- to revise the name variants to ensure the affiliations are correct.



We are writing to tell you about a new tool, the [Institution Profile Wizard](#), that will soon be made available as part of Elsevier's Scopus database. The Institution Profile Wizard will allow institutions to modify their affiliation profiles and correct their organizational hierarchies to ensure the correct set of affiliation profiles are grouped together and displayed on Scopus. As Scopus institutional publication data is included in the *THE* World University Rankings methodology, this development will allow for greater accuracy when reporting institutional data. Scopus publication and citation data also powers Elsevier's SciVal.

The [Institution Profile Wizard](#) will be available from 2nd July 2018.

Before getting started, institutions that subscribe to Scopus and wish to access the Institution Profile Wizard will need to provide a signed authorization letter from the institution. [Instructions on how to obtain and submit the authorization letter can be found here.](#)

[This page](#) also contains additional information on the Institution Profile Wizard, including instructions for non-Scopus subscribers who wish to modify their Scopus institution profile.

Sincerely  
Data Team  
Times Higher Education

# Conclusion

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Correctly stating the affiliations on research papers lead to a larger number of papers attributed to the parent institution, thus increasing visibility of that institution.

Librarians can help by raising awareness of importance of correctly stating the affiliations and by instructing the authors on how to correctly list the affiliations.

# Literature

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- Petrušić, I. Razvoj metodologije i modela rangiranja visokih učilišta u Hrvatskoj: doktorski rad. Zagreb: Filozofski fakultet, 2017.
- Buela-Casal, G., Gutiérrez-Martínez, O., Bermúdez-Sánchez, M. P., & Vadillo-Muñoz, O. Comparative study of international academic rankings of universities. *Scientometrics*, 71, 3(2007), 349–365.

# Thank you!

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