

Illinois Law Review Online Ranking List Methodology

The University of Illinois Online Law Review Ranking list is a comprehensive, up-to-date list of all online law reviews. It currently contains the eighty schools that have online law reviews that publish content separate from the schools' print editions. We intend this list to be a one-stop shop for authors. Along with rankings based on citation information, the list includes the updated submission criteria for each online law review, the types of content it publishes, and the number of pieces it published from the years 2014–2016.

This ranking list focuses on the number of non-student pieces the online law review publishes and the number of citations each of those pieces garner. Our goal in creating this ranking list is to give authors the ability to view a ranking list based on the criteria that are most important to them. Our unique dataset includes three established methods by which to measure the citations: the impact factor, the i10-index, and the h-index. To help tailor the ranking, authors have the ability to choose from a menu of options, including: (1) results based on Westlaw citations or Google Scholar citations; and (2) publications ranked based on the impact factor, the i10-index, or the h-index.

The *Illinois Law Review Online* will continue to update the database annually in order to provide authors with the current and relevant information they need when deciding where to submit articles for publication.

Below is a description of each method used to measure the number of citations and pieces.

The Impact Factor

The impact factor measures the total number of citations for all non-student articles published in the journal from 2014 to 2016 divided by the total number of articles published in those years. Thus, the impact factor measures the average number of citations per piece. This method is useful to illuminate the significance of total citation frequencies.¹ It helps eliminate part of the bias of counts that favor: large over small journals; journals that publish more frequently over those that publish less frequently; and older journals over newer publications.² In addition, “[t]he impact factor can be used to provide a gross approximation of the prestige of journals in which individuals have been published.”³ The impact factor is commonly used to rank law schools and journals. While journals with fewer than ten articles published in the last three years are not included in the list of journals

¹ *The Thomas Reuters Impact Factor*, CLARIVATE ANALYTICS, <http://wokinfo.com/essays/impact-factor/> (last visited Apr. 15, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

ranked by impact factor, readers can still find data on their impact factors in our dataset.

The H-Index

The h-index “captures output based on the total number of publications and the total number of citations to those works, providing a focused snapshot of an individual’s research performance.”⁴ Calculating the index requires knowing the number of pieces published and the number of citations for every piece. For example, if an online law review has at least ten articles with at least ten citations, their h-index is ten. An advantage of the h-index is that it is not skewed by journals with one highly cited article or with many weakly cited articles.⁵ Journals with an h-index value of zero are not included in the list of journals ranked by h-index.

The i10-Index

The i10-index measures an online law review’s impact by identifying the number of pieces that have at least ten citations.⁶ This is a tool that was introduced by Google in 2011 to be used with Google Scholar.⁷ The i10-index values favor journals that publish well-cited articles and does not necessarily reflect the overall strength of a journal. Journals with an i10-index value of zero are not included in the list of journals ranked by i10-index.

⁴ *Calculate Your Academic Footprint*, UNIV. OF WATERLOO (Mar. 30, 2017), <http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/content.php?pid=84805&sid=1885850>.

⁵ Alan Marnet, *H-Index: What it is and How to Find Yours*, BENCHFLY, <http://www.benchfly.com/blog/h-index-what-it-is-and-how-to-find-yours/> (last visited Apr. 15, 2017).

⁶ *Measuring your Research Impact: i10-Index*, CORNELL UNIV. LIB., <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=32272&p=203393> (last visited Apr. 15, 2017).

⁷ *I10-Index*, REVOLVY, https://www.revolv.com/main/index.php?s=I10-index&item_type=topic (last visited Apr. 15, 2017).