

How do I measure the impact of research I have funded?

Analytical Services for Funders & Government





We help funders gain in-depth insights into the impact of their investments to support evidence-based decision making.

Elsevier's Analytical Services team is experienced in serving policy makers, funders, government agencies, academic, and corporate research institutions around the world. From simple, targeted reports to comprehensive multidimensional studies, as well as data delivery and web integration services, our offerings will meet your research management needs.

The team benefits from access to proprietary data sources including; ScienceDirect, Scopus, Total Patent, PlumX, and Overton, that are available across Elsevier and RELX. Insights are generated by combining these with public data sources and institutional data to help funders gain a more comprehensive view of their research investments. Elsevier's Scopus data is the preferred data source of policy makers, funders, and academic and corporate research institutions for its breadth of coverage and rich structured data. Scopus is the data source for the Times Higher Education and QS rankings, and is used by 84% of the top 100 universities.



Insights, based on data

Taking the time to fully appreciate your goals to provide the most appropriate analysis, our team combines high quality data sources with technical and research metrics expertise accrued over Elsevier's 140 years within the research community.

Our team of consultants move beyond data to provide powerful insights when measuring research performance. The resulting insights help funders gain an in-depth view into funding initiatives, their return on investment and the outputs to help assess and design funding programs.

How do I measure the impact of research I have funded?

Our insights help you

- Identify and measure the research publications resulting from your funding investment
- Uncover the academic, economic and societal impact of funded research
- Understand the reach and effect of research in society

So you can

- Advocate for the societal benefit of the research you've funded
- Enhance strategies for increasing impact of the research you've funded
- Develop a more effective funding strategy

Case Studies

The challenge

A government body released a competitive tender to assess their country's research performance against other countries and their global positioning.

Elsevier's Analytical Services team prepared a winning proposal that delivered a comprehensive and pioneering approach. The scientometric study used Scopus, the world's largest high-quality abstract and citation database of peer reviewed literature, and incorporated indicators and analytical methodologies developed in collaboration with the global research community.

Our approach

Following the tender win, the team combined a variety of indicators from different sources to present a multifaceted view of the country's comparative performance in research, as well as data about trends that affect their research strengths.

Key themes were explored through literature reviews, in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and data analyses from a range of Elsevier sources, including Scopus and ScienceDirect, as well as: R&D expenditure and human capital data from the OECD, PhD graduate and funding data and patent information from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The result

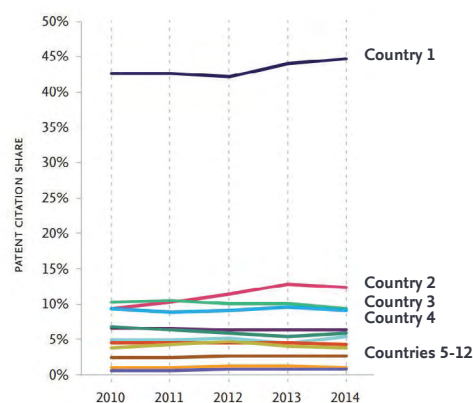
The report generated actionable insights for the client, with a focus on the roles and contributions of the triple helix of research contributors: government, academia and industry.

Additionally, the report and associated web portal, that included all data beyond what could be provided in the report, was widely used by internal analysts to assess specific initiatives and gain knowledge into levels of efficiency in generating citation impact from research budgets.

Strong levels of engagement were driven at each stage of the project, fostering a continual feedback loop between the client, governments, and Elsevier. Adopting this approach, as well as feedback generated between stakeholders, helped to impact the highest levels of government policy, provided academics with valuable insights into industry requirements and identified collaboration opportunities for a wide variety of industrial sectors.

To understand the efficiency of research dollars spent by the agency, we assessed citations per million USD Gross Expenditure in Research and Development. The data revealed that country 1 far surpasses the other nations in turning research expenditure into citations.

Patent citation share









Source: Scopus and OECD MSTI 2015/2



As global research budgets are under increased scrutiny, the need to show the outcome of research and development funding is becoming increasingly important. Our team can work closely with you to assess your funding research portfolio, drawing links between investments and their impact on society and innovation, to ultimately improve the effectiveness of your research investments.

Measuring the return on your research investment: output and impact analyses

Questions we can help you answer

-  How does my return on investment compare to peer funding bodies?
-  What are the core commercial and societal impacts of funded research?
-  How are my investments advancing innovation?
-  What real world applications have resulted from research I've funded and how is it being perceived across different sectors?
-  How is research I've funded being discussed in traditional and social media?
-  How can I develop evidence-based messaging about the real-world impact resulting from my funding?

Our Analytical Services team shares insights to provide funders with an enhanced understanding of the ways they can make their research investment go further. They do this by unveiling the research outcomes related to funded projects. Funders can then use this information to showcase the impact of the funding body, improve the funding strategy or better publicize the research.

Our approach

By connecting funded projects to published research, we can assess the research outputs and impact resulting from your funding investment. We do this by defining the project outcomes according to the individuals leading the work, the time frame of the research, the funding acknowledgements in the publications and the research topics. Once we make the link to publications, we then explore how the research has been cited in other research, in patents, and how it has been referenced in the news and by social media.

Tools and data sources readily available to our teams

Scopus®

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Research assessment has moved to include new types and measurements of impact alongside traditional citation metrics. Elsevier offers a balanced, multi-dimensional basket of metrics to help universities, researchers and funders to showcase the research and assess the impact at the journal, article and author levels. On article level metrics specifically, Plum Analytics gathers metrics about research from dozens of scholarly sources, media channels and social media tools, and categorizes them into Usage, Captures, Mentions, Social Media and Citations.

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UKRI-India: partnership for growth with research innovation



This report highlights the impact of a partnership facilitated by UKRI India since its inception in 2008, underscoring its pivotal role in strengthening the UK-India research and innovation

relationship. Since 2008, UKRI India has supported research and innovation programs valued at over £330 million, with contributions from the UK, the Government of India, and third-party funders. To assess the outcomes of its funded projects, UKRI India commissioned Elsevier's Analytical Services team to conduct a data-driven analysis. This report, supported by Elsevier's independent research, showcases the significant contributions of UKRI India in advancing collaboration between the UK and India in research and innovation

[Read the report](#)

Progress Toward Gender Equality in Research & Innovation - 2024 Review



This report examines the progress achieved over the past two decades toward ensuring equal participation of women in research and innovation. By providing a deeper understanding of the current landscape, it aims to highlight pathways for advancement, guide policymaking, and support efforts to promote gender diversity

and equal opportunities within the research workforce. The analysis leverages over 20 years of Scopus data to evaluate women's representation in research and track changes over time, offering insights at both a global level and across 18 specific countries.

[Read the report](#)

Interested in reading our public reports?

Analytical Services reports answer pressing questions relevant to research management and inform decisions related to funding allocations, research policies and strategies.

Quantitative analysis of Dutch research and innovation on key technologies



This detailed report, commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (MinEZK), explores the Netherlands' research capabilities across 44 key technologies, offering comparative data that highlights the country's position in the global research landscape. It presents a thorough and nuanced analysis of the Netherlands' scientific standing, including comparisons with the research landscapes of 15 EU countries, China, the United States, and the global community at large.

[Read the report](#)



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