

## Business, Management and Accounting Journals' Ranking: An Empirical Evaluation of Journal Ranking-Publication Difficulty Factors (JR-PDF) Model

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### Abstract

*Business, management, and accounting study at the university level seems to be very important in developing countries. It can be hard for academics in those fields to choose the right journal to publish their study results.*

*The goal of this study project is to use the "Journals Ranking Using Publication Difficulty Factors model (JR-PDF)" to test how well the journals rank in the fields of business, management, and accounting.*

*The information gathered comes from about 290 journals in the given field. When JR-PDF was compared to well-known databases, the results showed that they worked with each other very well. To make the proposed model more valid and reliable, more work could be done by collecting data about the academic journals in the biological and agricultural sciences.*

**Keywords:** *Business, Management, Accounting journals, JR-PDF, Constructivist approach, Developing Countries.*

### Introduction

Academic research appears to be a key of the three academic functions in general, and in Business, Management and Accounting are no exception (Al-Kurdi et al., 2020; Álvarez-García et al., 2018; Martins et al., 2019). A very competitive academic environment will motivate and create high pressure on scholars in Business, Management and Accounting disciplines to produce academic research (Al-Yaseen, H. 2021). Scholars in Business, Management and Accounting disciplines publish their results in a range of forms (Al-Yaseen, H. 2021; Martins et al., 2019). Selecting the right journal to publish research results is a challenge to academics in the mentioned disciplines.

Building upon previously published work (Al-Yaseen, H. 2021), this research attempts to test the journals' ranking in Business, Management and Accounting discipline using "Journals Ranking Using Publication Difficulty Factors model (JR-PDF)" (Al-Yaseen, H. 2021). Business, Management and Accounting discipline includes about 290 journals (Clarivate Analytics, 2021; Scopus, 2021). Business, Management and Accounting discipline journals are categorized in Scopus into four quartiles (91 journals in quartile one; 78 journals in quartile two; 69 journals in quartile three and 52 journals in quartile four, and in Clarivate Analytics (9 journals are indexed in Science Citation Index

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Expanded; 152 journals are indexed in Social Sciences Citation Index; 1 journal is indexed in Arts & Humanities Citation Index and 131 journals are indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Journals in Business, Management and Accounting discipline

Journals in Scopus database				
Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4	Total
91	78	69	52	290 Journals
Journals in Clarivate Analytics database				
Social Sciences Citation Index	Science Citation Index Expanded	Arts & Humanities Citation Index	Emerging Sources Citation Index	Total
152	9	1	131	293

The objectives of this research are threefold: firstly, collect a required data about Business, Management, and Accounting journals. Secondly, to apply journals' ranking based on publication difficulty factors model (PDF) on Business, Management, and Accounting journals. Thirdly, compare the results with the largest abstract and citation databases (such as: Scopus), for applicability, validity, and reliability purposes.

To achieve the research objectives, the following main empirical research questions need to be answered:

- What are the ranking of Business, Management and Accounting journals based on (JR-PDF) model?
- What are the compatibility/incompatibility of Business, Management and Accounting journals compared to abstract and citation databases?

The remainder of the research is structured as follows: section 2 identifies the research methodology, approach and data collection; section 3 presents the results and discussion and testing (JR-PDF) model of Business, Management and Accounting journals; section 4 the conclusions, limitations and future work.

## Methodology

As this research situation is not interested in variables, or hypothesis to be tested, instead, it needs to identify an existing model that acts as a precise description and ranking of the situation we are searching (ranking of Business, Management and Accounting journals), and so, constructivist paradigm will guide this research in (identifying and testing an existing model; using grounded theory method to develop a new model; or applying an action research method) (Arpentieva et al., 2021; Boddy, R., and Jankowicz, D., 2022; Höft et al., 2019; Isik, A. D., 2018). Constructivist paradigm seems to be appropriate in this situation and can be used to help to answer empirical research questions and meet the research objectives about the ranking of Business, Management and Accounting journals using an existing model (JR-PDF) through an empirical data to test the model (as shown in Figure 1).

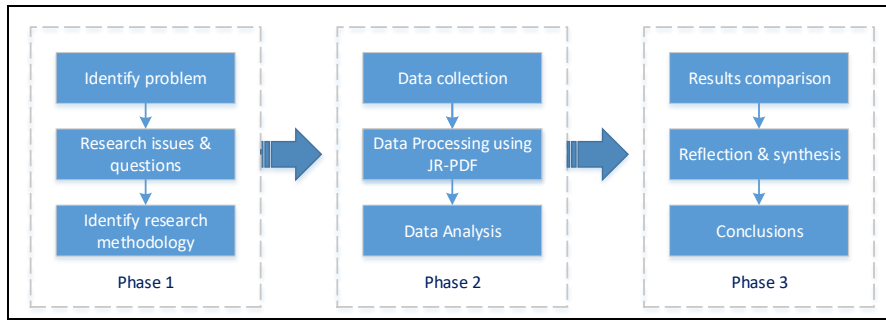


Figure 1. Research design and phases

(JR-PDF) model included two major categories: (75%) journal’s weight if Business, Management and Accounting journal is Indexed in well-known databases, such as: (Clarivate Analytics; Excellence in Research for Australia; Association of Business Schools; Scopus; Elsevier); and it will get (25%) weight if Business, Management and Accounting journal has an impact factor, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2. Publication difficulty factors and their weight [2]

#	Publication difficulty factor	Weight	Publication difficulty sub-factor	sub-factor weight
1	Journal is Indexed in well-known databases	75%	Thomson Reuters ISI (Clarivate Analytics)	25 points
			Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)	15 points
			Association of Business Schools (ABS)	15 points
			SCOPUS	10 points
			Elsevier	10 points
2	Journal has an impact factor	25%	IF (Thomson Reuters) (Clarivate Analytics)	25 points
			SNIP/IPP	
			SJR	
	Total	100%		100 points

As this research is a part of a research project, (JR-PDF) model will be used in order to test its validity using Business, Management and Accounting journals as a sample.

Data collection and sample used:

A profiling approach (Al-Kurdi et al., 2020) is employed to capture the data about 290 Business, Management and Accounting journals from journals’ websites with specific focus on (Journal is Indexed in well-known databases, and Journal has an impact factor). Then, (JR-PDF) model is used to analyse 290 journals collected in order to calculate the publication difficulty factor for each journal, also to assign a rank for each journal in Business, Management and Accounting discipline, and finally to test validity of the model use by comparing compatibility/incompatibility between the model results and the original rank of the journals from well-known database sources.

## Results and discussion

This section presents the results of Business, Management and Accounting journals' test; comparison between (JR-PDF) model and the largest abstract and citation databases, showing the compatibility and incompatibility journals.

Applying journal ranking publication difficulty factors (JR-PDF)

Data about 290 Business, Management and Accounting journals were collected, organized, sorted and cleansed from its original sources. Then, data Business, Management and Accounting journals was entered in the research system which apply (journal ranking based on publication difficulty factors) model and the results were calculated based on the different variables and weight for each journal; after the calculations have completed, a final rank assigned for each journal. Then, the new rank for each journal in the Business, Management and Accounting journals sample was compared to the original rank in Scopus and Clarivate Analytics.

Compatible journals with JR-PDF model

Based on the research system calculations and the comparison between the new rank of each journal and the original rank, the results from the research system showed that: firstly, from the original ranking, there are 91 journals were ranked in quartile one in Scopus; 78 journals were ranked in quartile two; 69 journals were ranked in quartile three; and 52 journals were ranked in quartile four, as shown in Table 1.

Secondly, results from the research system found that, there are 78 journals out of 91 journals were ranked in quartile one, make the compatibility (85.7%) between (JR-PDF) model and (Scopus and Clarivate Analytics) ranking; 73 journals out of 78 journals were ranked in quartile two, make the compatibility (93.6%) between (JR-PDF) model and (Scopus and Clarivate Analytics) ranking; 64 journals out of 69 journals were ranked in quartile three, make the compatibility (92.7%) between (JR-PDF) model and (Scopus and Clarivate Analytics) ranking; and 52 journals out of 52 journals were ranked in quartile four, make the compatibility (100%) between (JR-PDF) model and (Scopus and Clarivate Analytics) ranking, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Compatibility results between (JR-PDF) model and Scopus, Clarivate Analytics databases

Quartile	Scopus, Clarivate Analytics journals	Number of compatible journals with JR-PDF journals	% of compatible journals
Quartile 1	91	78	85.7
Quartile 2	78	73	93.6
Quartile 3	69	64	92.7
Quartile 4	52	52	100.0
Total	290	267	

Incompatible journals between JR-PDF model and largest abstract and citation databases

There are high percentage of compatibility between (JR-PDF) model and the largest abstract and citation databases (Scopus, Clarivate Analytics), however, there are incompatibility percentage as well.

There are 23 journals (7.9%) out of 290 journals were incompatible between (JR-PDF) model and the largest abstract and citation databases (Scopus, Clarivate Analytics), 13 journals out of 91 journals were incompatible in quartile one, make the incompatibility percentage (14.3%), the 13 journals based on (JR-PDF) model have moved to a lower ranking to be in quartile two; 5 journals out of 78 journals were incompatible in quartile

two, make the incompatibility percentage (6.4%), the 5 journals based on (JR-PDF) model have moved to a lower ranking to be in quartile three; 5 journals out of 69 journals were incompatible in quartile three, make the incompatibility percentage (7.3%), the 5 journals based on (JR-PDF) model have moved to a lower ranking to be in quartile four, however, all the (52 journals) were compatible in quartile four, as shown in Table 4.

The reason behind incompatibility between (JR-PDF) model and the largest abstract and citation databases (Scopus, Clarivate Analytics) is that the 23 journals that were incompatible have limited number of documents in the last three years (2019-2021), further, limited number of citations, this will have a negative effect on the weight of journals' (IF, SNIP/IPP, SJR).

Table 4. Incompatibility results between (JR-PDF) model and Scopus, Clarivate Analytics databases

Quartile	Scopus, Clarivate Analytics journals	Number of incompatible journals with JR-PDF journals	% of compatible journals
Quartile 1	91	13	14.3%
Quartile 2	78	5	6.4%
Quartile 3	69	5	7.3%
Quartile 4	52	0	0.0%
Total	290	23	7.9%

## Conclusions

There is high percentage (93%) of compatibility between (JR-PDF) model and the largest abstract and citation databases (Scopus, Clarivate Analytics), however, there is a low incompatibility percentage as well. The average percentage of 290 ranked Business, Management and Accounting journals is (92.1%) compatible between abstract and citation databases and (JR-PDF) model, and a very low average percentage incompatibility of 290 ranked Business, Management and Accounting journals is (7.9%).

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The key value and uniqueness of this work lies in testing (JR-PDF) model and ranking a sample of Business, Management and Accounting journals. This has been achieved by synthesizing the journals exist in Business, Management and Accounting discipline.

Future work could be a data collection process about the scholar journals in the different disciplines other than Business, Management and Accounting discipline. It is hoped that this small part of research project on Business, Management and Accounting discipline has encouraged scholars to follow-up this research that will help in making an informed decision to select an appropriate academic journal to publish their research findings as it is one of the critical steps in publicizing research results.

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