

1cTurning the tables: Examining the feasibility of an institutional league table based on good research practice

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Oral and poster abstract text

Background

League tables, such as the *Times Higher Education (THE)*, are used by institutions to boost their reputation and recruit staff and students. Institutions achieve high rankings in research when their staff publish papers and receive citations. Senior management have implemented policies to increase their institution's ranking, meaning league tables could promote positive changes in research culture.

Objectives

To examine an institutional ranking scheme based on the responsible research indicator of published papers that cited the EQUATOR guidelines.

Method

We used *Scopus* to find papers that cited the reporting guidelines for CONSORT (randomised trials), PRISMA (systematic reviews) and STROBE (observational studies) for the years 2016 and 2017. We assumed these citations were a marker of good practice and awarded one point per citation, shared across the authors' institutions. We used bootstrapping to estimate the uncertainty in ranks. We compared the EQUATOR and *THE* rankings.

Results

There were over 44,400 papers with over 8,800 unique affiliations. Substantial data cleaning of affiliations was needed, including removing extraneous department information and translating between languages. "Missing" was ranked fifth overall, showing the need for better data. The rankings were relatively stable between 2016 and 2017. The uncertainty in rankings increased proportionally with higher ranks. There was a positive correlation between the EQUATOR and *THE* research rankings (Spearman = 0.19).

Conclusion

These early results offer some support for a league table based on good research practice. This would be a large departure from the previous tables and would need support from researchers and influential institutions.