Web of Science Group

A Clarivate Analytics company

What is Web of Science Group providing to the REF?

Simon Thomson

02.10.2019

Principles underpinning the provision of citation data to REF 2021

1. The role of Web of Science Group is to provide citation data and advise – not to make decisions about what to provide.
2. The final decision about how contextual data are provided to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and sub-panel members remains with the REF team.
3. The use of metrics in the REF will be responsible; it will take into account best practice and the views of the UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics
4. Decisions regarding the nature of each output should be made by the sub-panel members rather than by Web of Science Group, the REF team or other parties.
5. The process of data provision will be open.
6. The data should be as transparent as possible.
7. Unless there is a good reason for change, the data and the format will be consistent with REF 2014.

What is Clarivate providing to the REF?

1. Matching API service

- Link submitted outputs to our citation data
- Incorporated into the REF submission system

2. Contextual data

- Support panels in their evaluation

3. Matching support services

- Assist HEIs to match outputs to Web of Science

4. Interpretative support

- Support and training about the responsible use and potential pitfalls of citation data

Background to contextualising citation data

Because citations credit the intellectual contribution of earlier research, the number of citations a paper receives reflects the impact it has had on the field to which it relates.

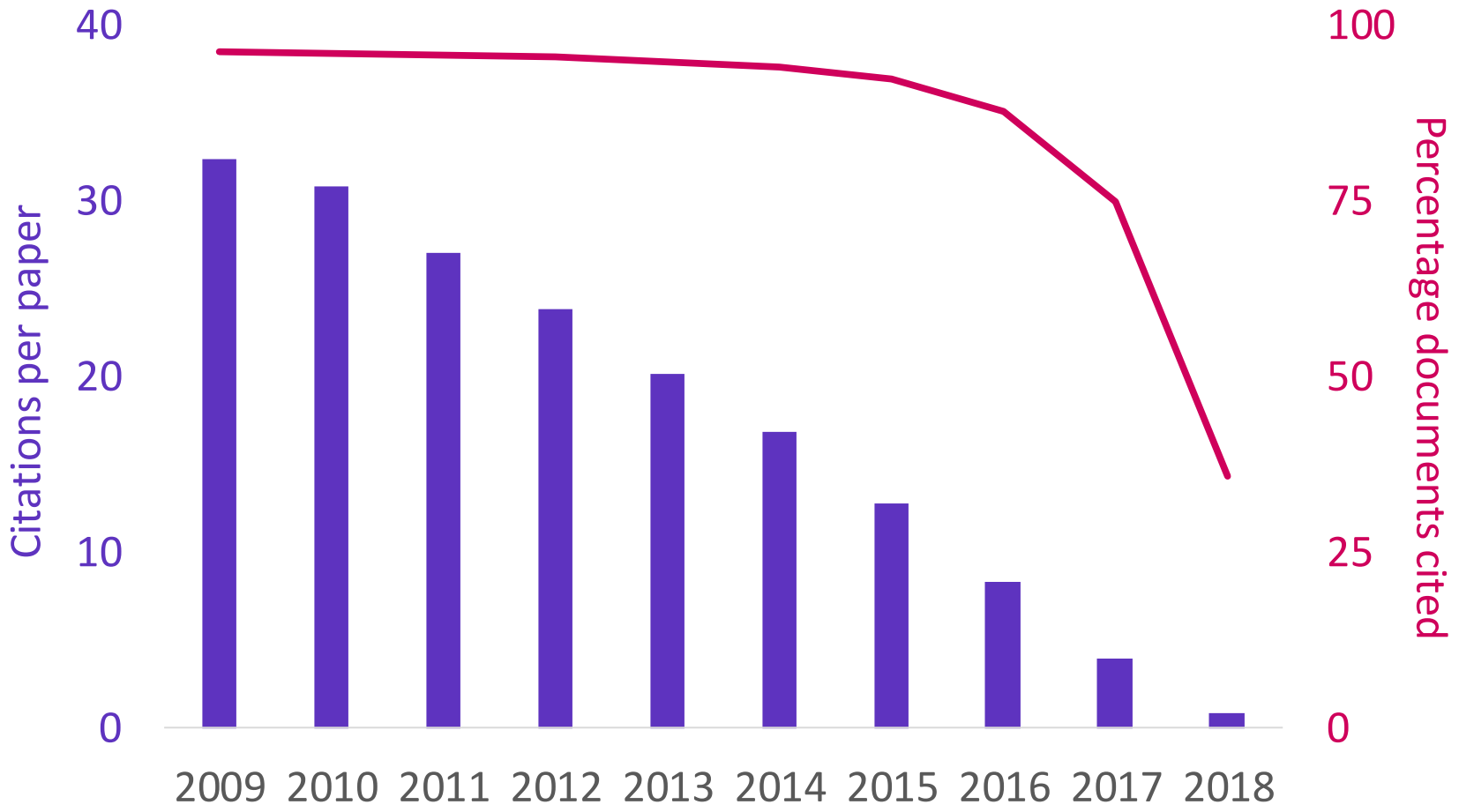
But citation counts are also affected by:

- The field of research.
- The age of the paper (i.e. the publication year).
- The type of document (e.g. article, review, proceedings paper, book).

Background to contextualising citation data

Publication year

Older papers are more likely to be cited and have had more time to accumulate citations:



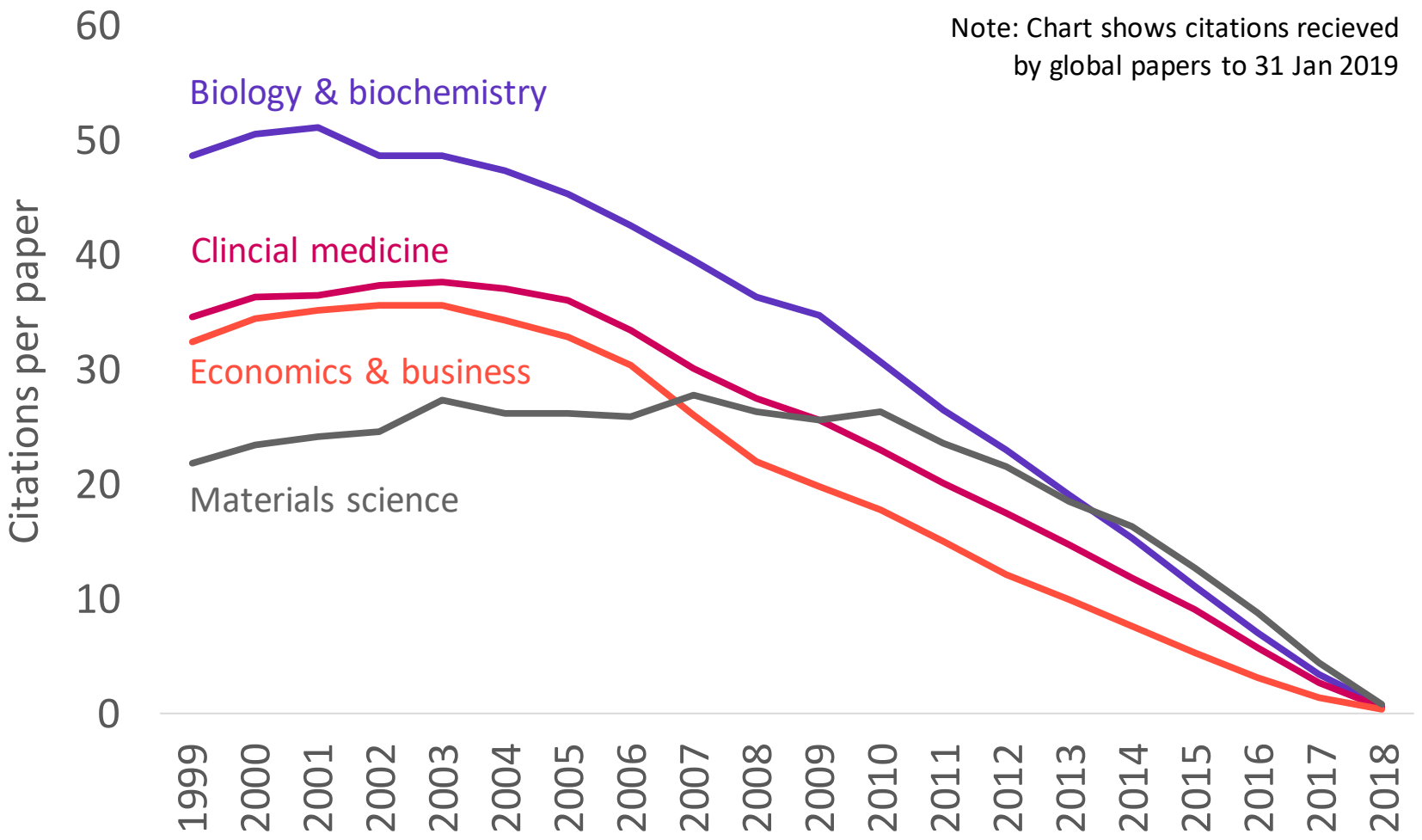
Note: Chart shows citations recieved by UK papers to 31 Jan 2019

Web of Science Group

Background to contextualising citation data

Field

Citation rates and behaviours vary by field:

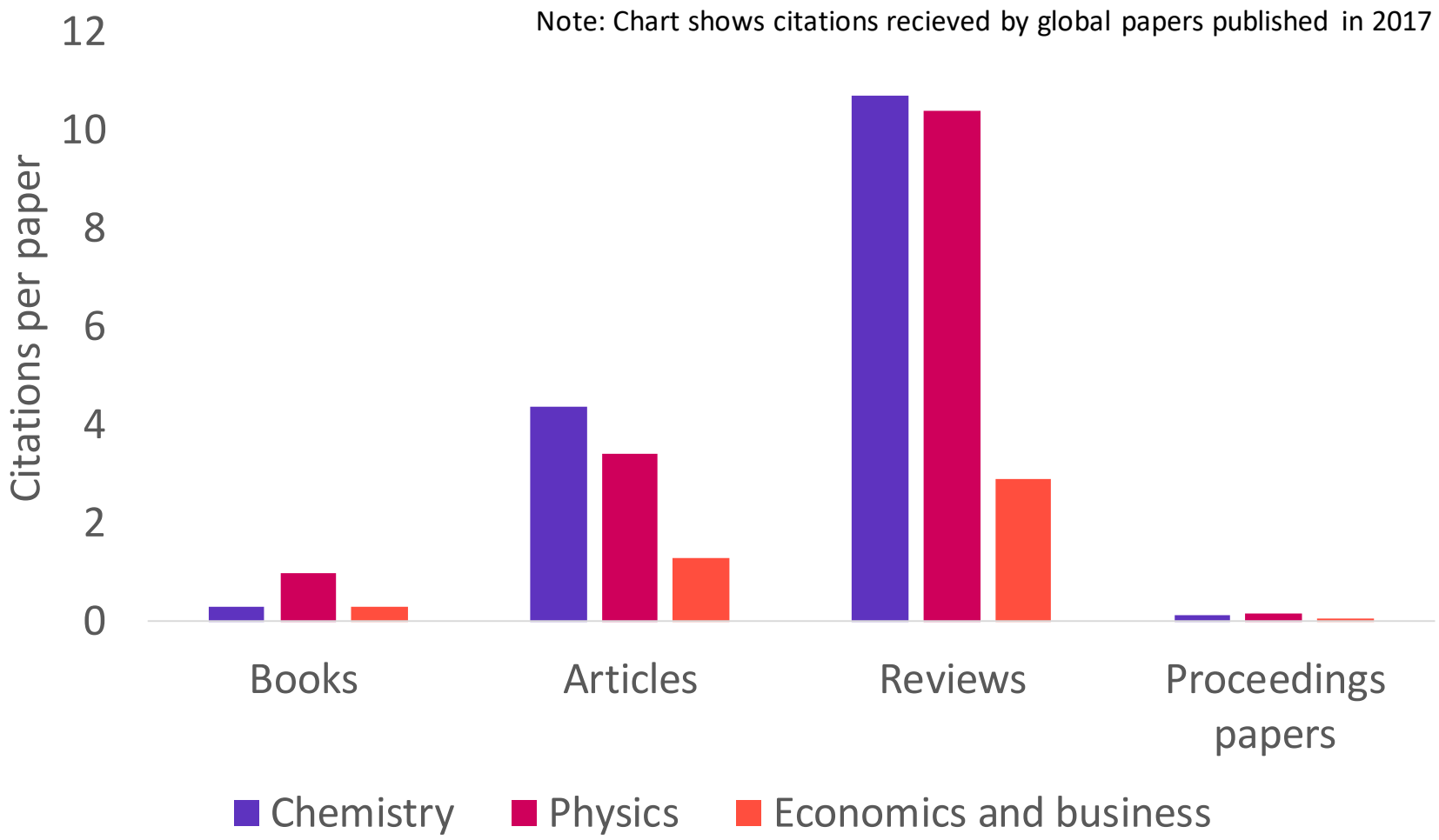


Web of Science Group

Background to contextualising citation data

Document type

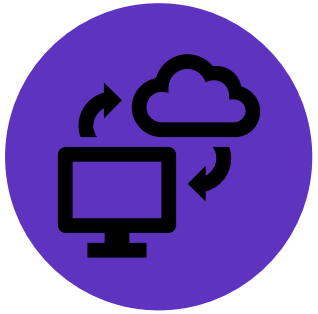
Reviews and articles tend to receive more citations than other document types:



Web of Science Group

What is Clarivate providing to the REF?

API



Clarivate Analytics and the REF team are committed to responsible use of metrics.

- Working with the UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics, who are also represented on the REF Panel User Group for metrics.

The API will allow the submission system to match outputs submitted by HEIs to the Web of Science.

- Available to HEIs through the REF submissions system and associated systems the REF team may develop.
- Bibliographic Data (confirm matching).
- Number of citations.
  - Citation counts from the Web of Science Core Collection database.
  - Align with citation counts on the Web of Science online platform.
- API and submissions system in development.

What is Clarivate providing to the REF?

Contextual data

Contextual data has been agreed.

- REF Panel User Group for metrics meeting in March and further rounds of discussion and prototyping by email.

Similar to the contextual data used in REF 2014.

- Global mean number of citations per publication.
- Number of citations equating to different thresholds of excellence.
  - The world's top 1%, 5%, 10%, 25% and 50% of most highly cited papers.
- We will provide the data to the REF team as a spreadsheet.
  - Additional look-up function.

Three snapshots during the project:

- Start of the pilot phase (September 2019)
- Start of the submission phase (January 2020)
- For the evaluation phase (November 2020)

Final scope on the REF website.

What is Clarivate providing to the REF?

Support services

We have proposed to set up a helpdesk that can be accessed by telephone and by email.

- This helpdesk will be operational throughout the submissions phase.
- Bibliographic metadata and citation counts will be provided to submitting HEIs through the REF submissions tool, so they can review these and raise any queries with Clarivate Analytics.
- The helpdesk will provide support on matching queries and data quality.
- We will make the necessary numbers of staff available in order to deal with volumes of enquiries.
    - We will progressively have more staff supporting this service during 2020.
- The final matched data will be provided as a static dataset to the REF team for audit purposes.

What is Clarivate providing to the REF?

Interpretative support

The Web of Science Group is commitment to ensuring our data are used responsibly and with full knowledge of the limitations.

- We will contribute to the training and advise provided to panels on the use of citation data.
  - Responsible use and best practice.
  - Potential pitfalls.
- Any materials produced will be made available on the REF webpage.

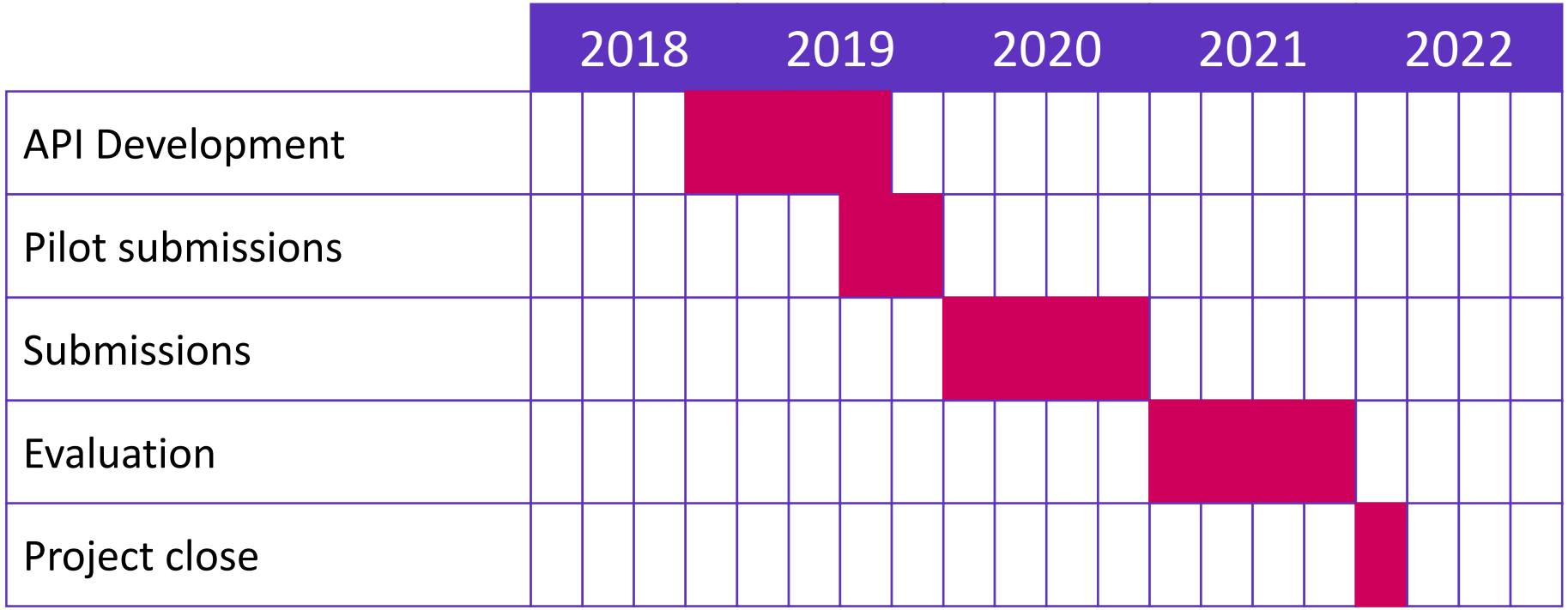
Database coverage

Data we provide to the REF will be derived from the Web of Science Core Collection:

- Science Citation Index – Expanded.
- Social Sciences Citation Index.
- Arts and Humanities Citation Index.
- Emerging Sources Citation.
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index.

Citation counts will be consistent with those provided in out Web of Science product based on the Core Collection.

Overview of project timelines



Web of Science Group

Project workstreams and milestones

API development

- March 2019: Provide initial API to REF Team
- End 2019: Finalise API

Matching support

- Q4 2019: Pilot
- Throughout 2020: Live

Contextual data:

- Q1-Q3 2019: Development and specification
- September 2019: Provide snapshot of contextual data prior to pilot phase
- January 2020: Provide snapshot of contextual data prior to submissions phase
- December 2020: Provide final contextual data to REF Team

Interpretive support

- Q1 2020-Q4 2021

Citation data and preparing for the REF

Panels only using citation data to inform their assessment of the significance of outputs as part of their peer review of the 'originality, significance and rigour'.

Cautious use of citations for evaluating recent publications.

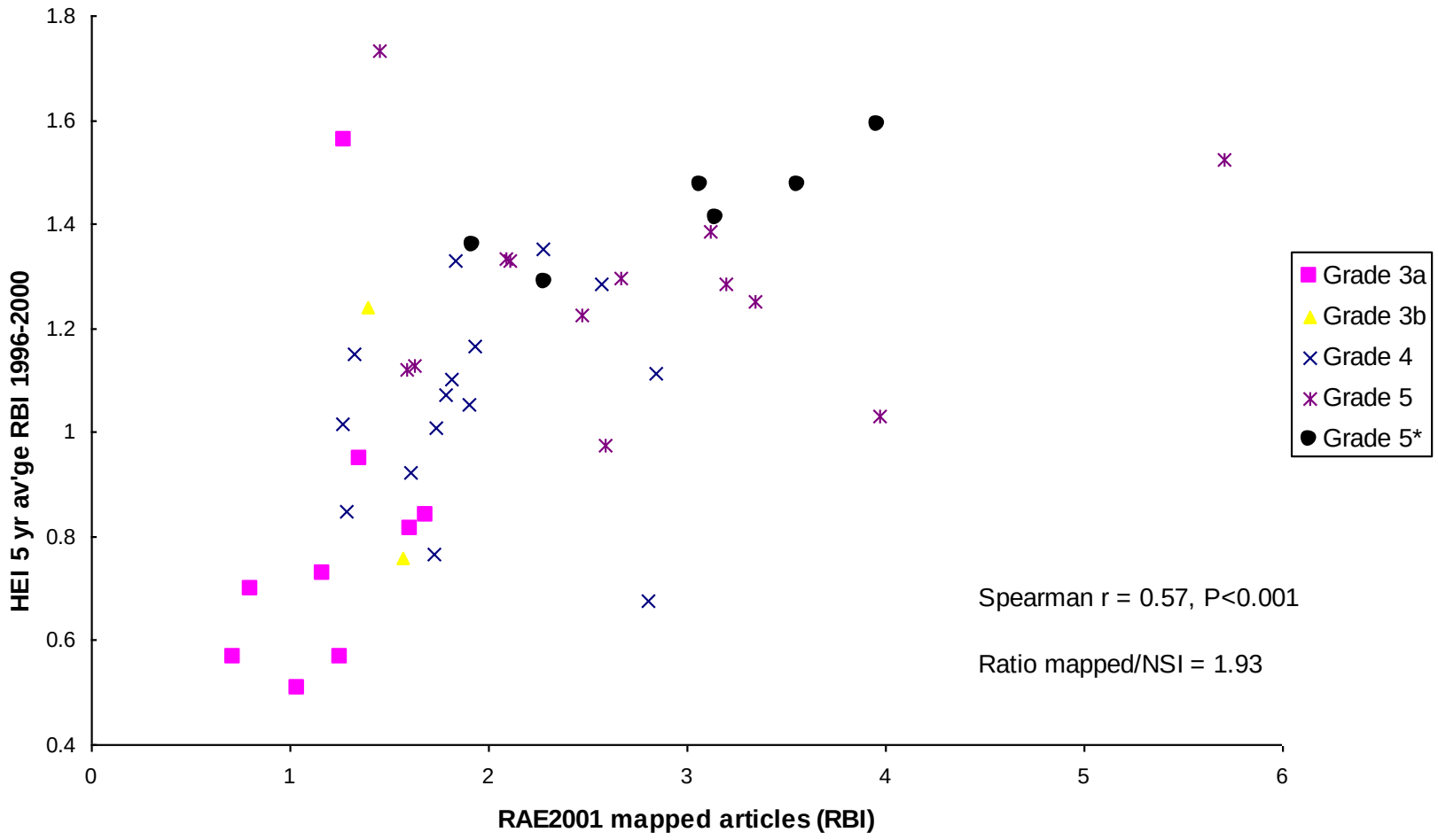
- We will not be providing citation data for the most recent year.

Bibliometric methods do not make a value judgement on why a given paper is cited which could make reliance on them at the paper-level somewhat misleading.

- Andrew Wakefield's original paper on a link between MMR and autism has been cited 1,248 times, putting it among the most highly-cited papers.

Citation data and preparing for the REF

Bibliometrics and peer review are different – but coherent

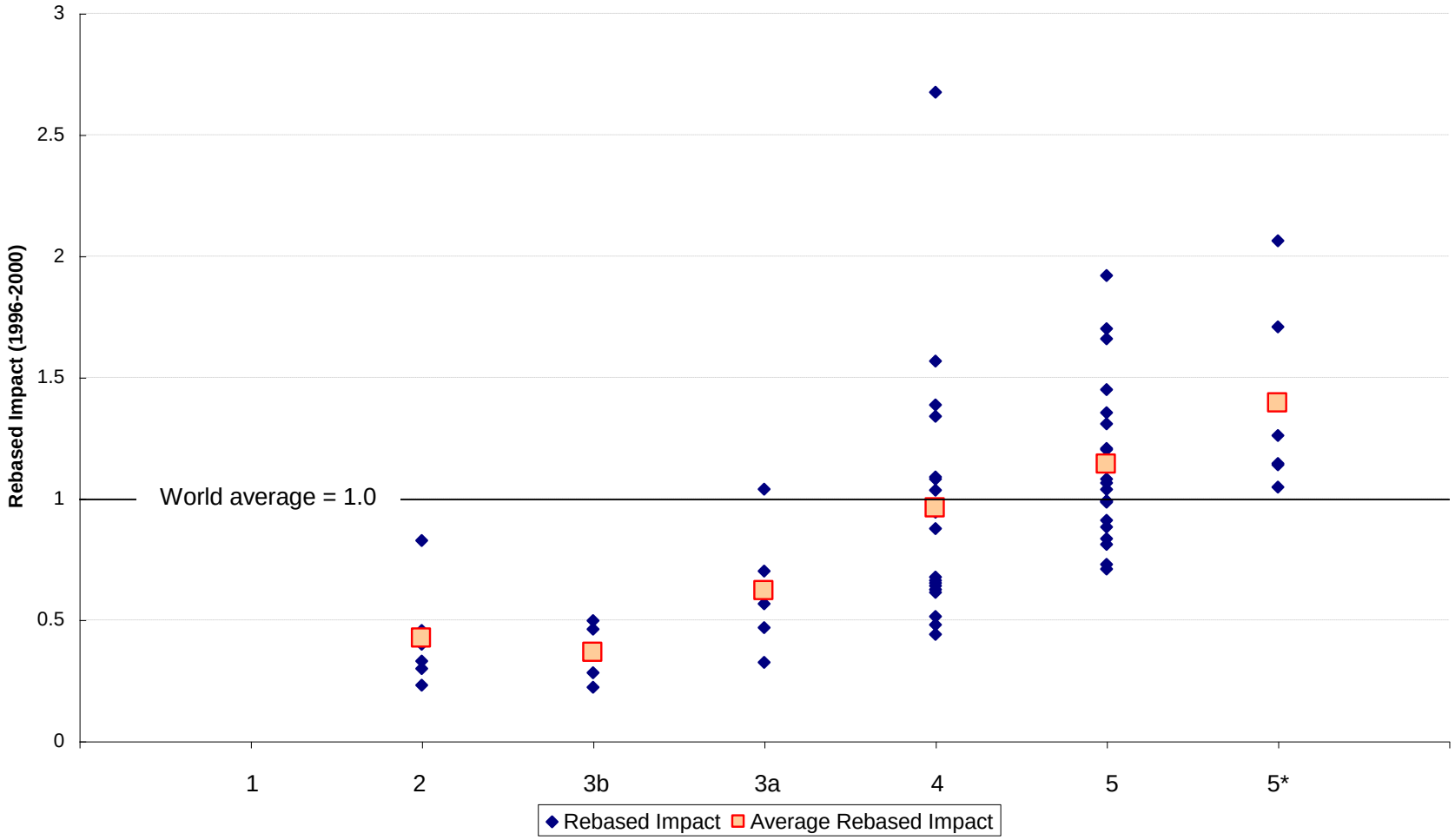


Evidence Ltd for HEFCE (2003): analysis of RAE2001 grade against bibliometric performance for UOA18 Chemistry

Web of Science Group

Citation data and preparing for the REF

Bibliometrics and peer review are different – but coherent



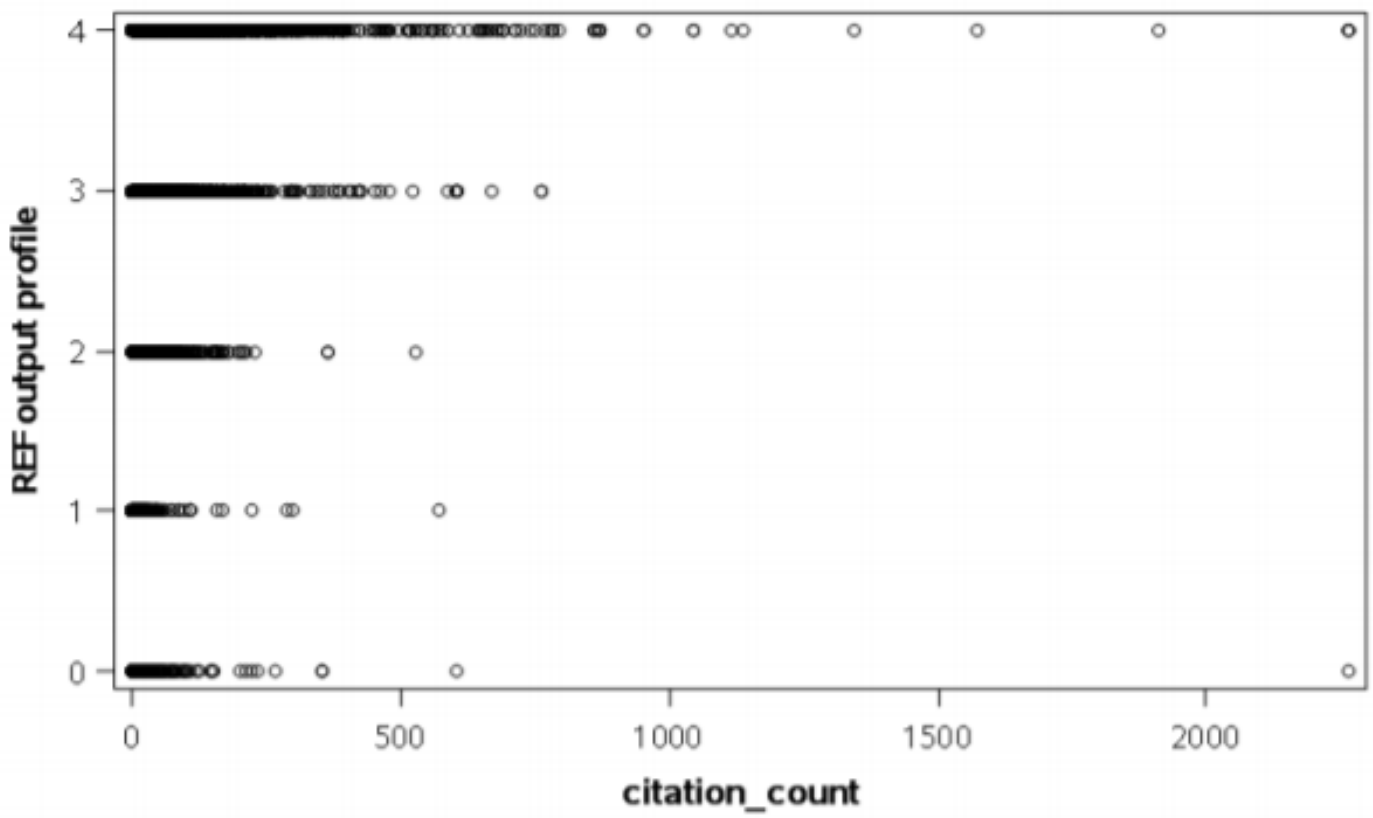
Evidence Ltd for HEFCE (2003): analysis of RAE2001 grade against bibliometric performance for UOA14 Biological Sciences

Web of Science Group

Citation data and preparing for the REF

Bibliometrics and peer review are different – but coherent

Figure A1 Scatterplot of citation count against REF quality profile (publication year = 2008)



HEFCE Analytical Services (2015) The Metric Tide: Correlation analysis of REF2014 scores and metrics. p17: http://www.dcscience.net/2015_metrictideS2.pdf

Citation data and preparing for the REF

"The funding bodies do not sanction or recommend that HEIs rely on citation information to inform the selection of outputs for inclusion in their submissions. Institutions should select and submit outputs that in their judgement reflect their highest-quality research in relation to the full range of assessment criteria (originality, significance and rigour), and in accordance with their codes of practice (see REF 2018/03), having due regard to the equality implications of using citation data."

REF (January 2019) 2019/01: Guidance on submissions, Paragraph 292:
http://ref.ac.uk/media/1092/ref-2019_01-guidance-on-submissions.pdf

Web of Science Group

A Clarivate Analytics company

Thank you

Simon Thomson
simon.thomson@clarivate.com
+44 (0)7717 732757
webofsciencegroup.com

© 2019 Clarivate Analytics. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Clarivate Analytics content, including by framing or similar means, is prohibited without the prior written consent of Clarivate Analytics. Web of Science Group and its logo, as well as all other trademarks used herein are trademarks of their respective owners and used under license.