The H-index in Google Scholar

To determine the H-index of a researcher (or yourself) based on publications and citations in Google Scholar, you can use the Google Scholar Citation Profile of the researcher (when available) or use Publish or Perish to retrieve the citation data from Google Scholar.

Google Scholar Citation Profile

A researcher can create and update his own Google Scholar Citation Profile, and when he has chosen to make it public, everyone can see his publications and citations in Google Scholar, including the H-index.

1. Enter the last name of the author in the search box in Google Scholar
2. When a Google Scholar Citation Profile is available, you see User profiles for ... on top of the list of results.

User profiles for bakker
Arnold B. Bakker - Verified email at fsw.eur.nl - Cited by 107518
Paul IW de Bakker - Verified email at vrtx.com - Cited by 105923
Eric Bakker - Verified email at unige.ch - Cited by 21236

3. Open the user profile
4. The H-index is shown under Citation indices. Two H-indices are given: based on all publications and based on the citations received in the last 5 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Since 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citations</td>
<td>107518</td>
<td>80362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h-index</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h10-index</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: a researcher has to create, check and update his own Google Scholar Citation Profile. Google Scholar will give suggestions, based on their algorithm, and there can be incorrect matches. The list might contain publications of other researchers, namesakes or not!
**Tips**

- Check if the Google Scholar Citation Profile has been updated. An easy way is to sort by Year: do you see recent publications?

**Publish or Perish**

Publish or Perish is a software program that retrieves and analyzes academic citations, for example from Google Scholar. You can download Publish or Perish on the website: [http://www.harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish](http://www.harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish)

1. Open Publish or Perish
2. If the author has a Google Scholar Citation Profile you can use the Google Profile option, and enter the name or ID of the profile.
3. If there is no (up-to-date) Profile, use the Google Scholar option.
4. Enter the name of the author, including the initials, between quotes.
5. Click Lookup

The query is being processed, that can take some time.

6. Check the list of publications – are they of the author you are investigating?
   a. When you see a namesake in the results that you want to exclude, you can enter that name behind **None of the words** and rerun the search.
   b. When you see individual publications you want to exclude, you can unmark them in the list (please note: this selection is not kept when you rerun the search)
7. The H-index, based on the publications selected, is shown in the menu on the left side of the screen.

**Tips**

- Please note: there is a maximum of 1000 results, just like in Google Scholar.

- To identify publications not published by your author, it can help to change the sort order of the results. Sort for example by Publication or by Year.

- It can be useful to save the results in Excel:
  - Open the menu behind Copy and choose For Excel with Header
  - Paste this in Excel
• Write down the following information:
  o The number of publications found with Publish or Perish
  o The years of publication
  o The number of citations received
  o The H-index
  o The date of your data collection
  o The version number of Publish or Perish used

• Sometimes it’s impossible to determine the H-index of a researcher in Publish or Perish: when there are many namesakes in the same discipline, publishing in the same journals. When that’s the case, don’t determine the H-index.

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