Using Citation Analysis to Identify the Best Database to Search: A Case Study in Chemical Engineering

Giovanna Badia
Schulich Library of Science & Engineering
Finding the Most Comprehensive Database in Chemical Engineering

involved

Identifying 3 Core Journals in Chemical Engineering

as

Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineering Science

Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research

used to

Extract References from 2011 Papers

led to

Creation of Core Journals List for Chemical Engineering

to analyze literature coverage in

GeoRef

SciFinder

Compendex

Scopus

Medline

Applied Science & Technology Abstracts

Materials Research Database with METADEX

Web of Science
Lessons Learned Thus Far

- Interdisciplinary nature of today’s academic environment makes it challenging to determine a core list of journals in a particular subject area; various approaches are needed to accomplish this task.

- *Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory* contains inconsistent and outdated information for abstracting/indexing of journal titles, e.g., some databases provide dates of coverage for the journal while others do not.
Questions in Going Forward

- How can we confirm that the multidisciplinary nature of a specialty is reflected in the citations extracted from a few core journal titles?

- Appropriateness of using citation analysis to identify the most comprehensive database in a discipline? Is this favoring Web of Science & Scopus?
Comments?

Giovanna Badia
Liaison Librarian
Schulich Library of Science & Engineering

Tel.: 514-398-7340
E-mail: giovanna.badia@mcgill.ca