

World Universities' ranking on the Web

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www.webometrics.info

Introduction

Web is becoming key for scientific communication although only a limited amount of academic activities and research results are published on it. Inclusion of web indicators among the criteria used for evaluation of universities and R&D institutions could increase the scientific community commitment for publishing on the Web.

Methodology

Data has been collected from the main search engines (Google, Yahoo Search, MSN search and Teoma) for each one of about 9,400 universities and 3,500 research centers worldwide with an independent institutional internet domain.

Position

$$R_{Global} = 4 * R_{Visibility} + 2 * R_{Size} + 1 * R_{Rich\ Files}$$

Figure 1. Combination of the Weighted Ranks of the indicators (after Drake equation)

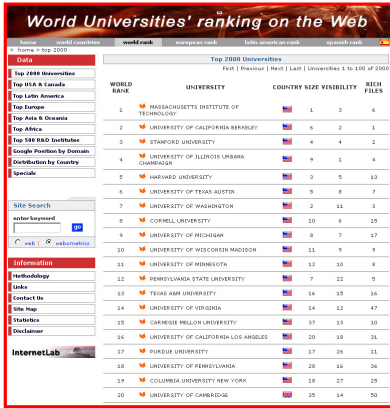


Figure 3. World Top 20 universities



Figure 2. Webometrics.info homepage

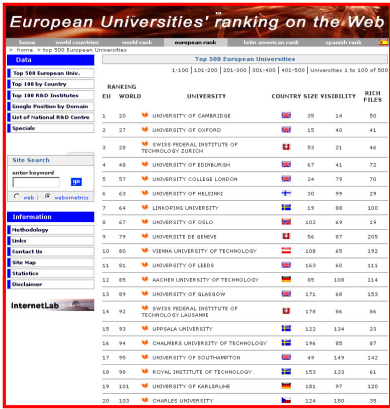


Figure 4. European Top 20 universities

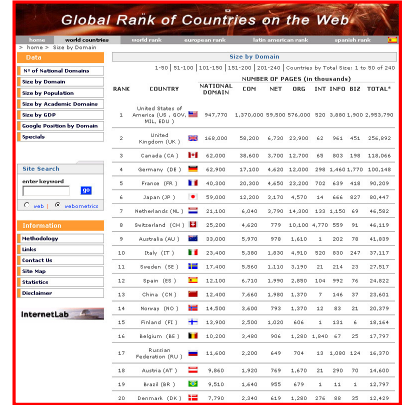


Figure 5. World Top 20 countries

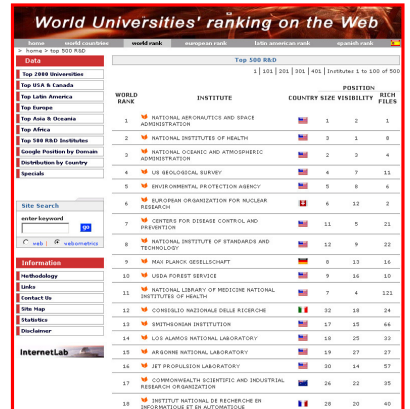


Figure 6. World Top 20 R&D institutions

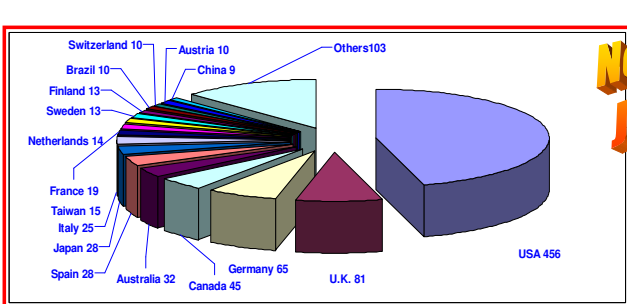


Figure 7. Top 1000 universities by country

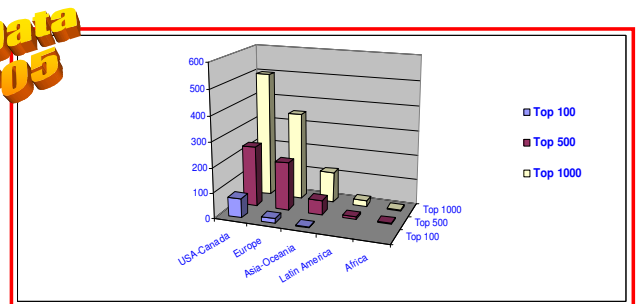


Figure 8. Top universities by geographic regions

Results

- Top institutions according to web data are also the best positioned in other rankings based on traditional bibliometric indicators
- Institutions from English-speaking countries represents a large share of the group of most important ones, but percentage is far lower than journals in the Journal Citation Report. In fact there is a good presence of universities of other countries
- Previous results showing under expected presence of Japanese universities were probably due to search engines bias
- However results still show late positions of French universities

Final comments

The ranking is not intended as a final product even as new indicators (including non-web ones) are scheduled for a near future. Although web indicators could be used for evaluation purposes in the middle term, the main objective of the website is to promote the use of the Web for both informal and formal communication, increasing significantly the volume of academic/scientific information available worldwide.

