**consent form for participation in a research study**

**researcher and title of study**

My name is Daniel Hocking and I am a postdoctoral research associate at the University of New Hampshire. I am conducing a study on “Comparing Journal Influence through Citation Metrics and Scholar Perception”**.**

**what is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this study is to compare how well various citation-based metrics of journal influence and impact related to the opinion and perceptions of ecologists. I need at least 30 participants in this study, but hope to receive many more responses. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

**what does your participation in this study involve?**

Participation in the study involves answering questions related to publishing practices and rating and ranking ecology journals. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

**what are the possible risks of participating in this study?**

This study does not involve any sensitive materials or physical participation. I do not expect any psychological, physical, or financial risks associated with participation in this study.

**what are the possible benefits of participating in this study?**

There are no expected direct benefits to participants of this study. No financial or other incentives are provided for your participation. The study will help provide insight to the publishing practices of ecologists and how well research perception is reflected by various citation-based metrics.

**If you choose to participate in this study, will it cost you anything?**

There are no costs associated with participation in this study.

**will you receive any compensation for participating in this study?**

No compensation will be provided for participation in this study.

**do you have to take part in this study?**

Your consent to participate in this research is entirely voluntary, and that your refusal to participate will involve no prejudice, penalty or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled.

**can you withdraw from this study?**

If you consent to participate in this study, you may refuse to answer any question and/or stop your participation in the study at any time without prejudice, penalty, or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled

**how will the confidentiality of your records be protected?**

I seek to maintain the confidentiality of all data and records associated with your participation in this research.

To ensure anonymity, I will not be collecting IP addresses. This survey is being conducted using Qualtrics software; therefore, I will use their system of confidentiality protection: "*Qualtrics* uses Transport Layer Security (TLS) *encryption* (also known as HTTPS) for all *transmitted data*. We also protect surveys with passwords and HTTP referrer checking. Our data is hosted by third party data centers that are SSAE-16 SOC II certified. All data at rest are encrypted, and data on deprecated hard drives are destroyed by U.S. DOD methods and delivered to a third-party data destruction service.” <http://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>.

However, any communication via the Internet poses minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality.

**how will the data be reported and used?**

This data will be used to compare the opinions of participants with citation-based metrics of journal influence. Summaries statistics (aggregate responses) of participate responses will be reported along with correlation analysis with citation metrics. These summaries and analyses will be used in peer-reviewed scientific journals to help understand and inform publishing practices in the field of ecology.

**whom to contact if you have questions about this study**

If you have any questions pertaining to the research you can contact Daniel Hocking (dhocking@unh.edu) to discuss them.

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject you can contact Dr. Julie Simpson in UNH Research Integrity Services, 603-862-2003 or [Julie.simpson@unh.edu](mailto:Julie.simpson@unh.edu) to discuss them.

By continuing this survey, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and consent to the conditions stated above. No signature is needed, to maintain confidentiality and anonymity. You may still opt to stop the survey at any time without penalty.

**Indicate your highest degree acquired (select 1)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | MD or equivalent |
|  | PhD or equivalent |
|  | M.S., M.A. or equivalent |
|  | B.S., B.A. or equivalent |
|  | Associates Degree or equivalent |
|  | High School Degree or equivalent |
|  | Less than high school degree |

**Which best describes your current industry of employment (select 1):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Academia/Higher Education |
|  | Government |
|  | Private industry |
|  | Non-governmental organization (NGO) |
|  | K-12 Education |
|  | Unemployed |
|  | Other |

**Which best describes your gender identity (optional question)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Male |
|  | Female |
|  | Other |
|  | Choose not to disclose |

**Have you published original research in peer review in scientific journals?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

**Have you published original research in ecology journals?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

**Have you reviewed manuscripts for ecology journals?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

**Have you served as an editor or associate editor for an ecology journal (presently or in the past)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |

**Which best describes your primary field of study or expertise (Select 1):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Ecology |
|  | Evolution |
|  | Behavior |
|  | Conservation |
|  | Statistics |
|  | Library science |
|  | Other |

**Rank (1 – 9) the relative importance of each of the following when deciding to which journal a manuscript is submitted**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Overall “fit” including type of articles published, topics published, and intended audience |
|  | Journal Impact Factor |
|  | Reputation of journal among peers |
|  | Likelihood of article being read and cited in a particular journal |
|  | Open Access |
|  | Cost |
|  | Other Importance/Impact/Prestige metrics |
|  | Speed of review and publishing process |
|  | Past experience (positive or negative) with a journal or editor |

**Rank the following on a scale of 0 to 5 based on familiarity with each metric with 5 being highly familiar and 0 indicating that you have never heard of the metric**

0 – never heard of the metric

1 – Heard of the metric but don’t know much about it. Couldn’t supply a definition

2 – General idea of the metric but not the details

3 – Basic familiarity with the metric and basic definition but not how it differs from other metrics

4 – Understand the metric and could explain it to others but couldn’t list the strengths and weaknesses

5 – Know the definition, strengths, and weaknesses of the metric

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Journal Impact Factor | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 year Journal Impact Factor | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Eigenfactor | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Article Importance | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| h-index | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| hc-index | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g-index | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e-index | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| AR-index (alt: AW-Index) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Rank the following journals (1 – 20) based on the influence on the field of ecology (per article?)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences |
|  | Ecography |
|  | Ecological Monographs |
|  | Global Change Biology |
|  | Global Ecology and Biogeography |
|  | Ecology |
|  | Methods in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | Annual Review of Ecology |
|  | Conservation Biology |
|  | Ecological Applications |
|  | Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment |
|  | Trends in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | American Naturalist |
|  | ISME Journal |
|  | Journal of Applied Ecology |
|  | Journal of Ecology |
|  | Perspectives in Plant Ecology |
|  | Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History |
|  | Ecology Letters |
|  | Evolution |

**Rank the following journals (1 – 20) based on the influence on science as a whole**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences |
|  | Ecography |
|  | Ecological Monographs |
|  | Global Change Biology |
|  | Global Ecology and Biogeography |
|  | Ecology |
|  | Methods in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | Annual Review of Ecology |
|  | Conservation Biology |
|  | Ecological Applications |
|  | Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment |
|  | Trends in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | American Naturalist |
|  | ISME Journal |
|  | Journal of Applied Ecology |
|  | Journal of Ecology |
|  | Perspectives in Plant Ecology |
|  | Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History |
|  | Ecology Letters |
|  | Evolution |

**Rank the following journals (1 – 20) based on the quality of articles in these journals**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences |
|  | Ecography |
|  | Ecological Monographs |
|  | Global Change Biology |
|  | Global Ecology and Biogeography |
|  | Ecology |
|  | Methods in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | Annual Review of Ecology |
|  | Conservation Biology |
|  | Ecological Applications |
|  | Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment |
|  | Trends in Ecology and Evolution |
|  | American Naturalist |
|  | ISME Journal |
|  | Journal of Applied Ecology |
|  | Journal of Ecology |
|  | Perspectives in Plant Ecology |
|  | Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History |
|  | Ecology Letters |
|  | Evolution |

**Rate each journal on a scale of 1-10 based on the influence (on scholarly thought and activity) of typical (average) articles in each journal (1 = least influential, 10 = most influential)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ecography | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ecological Monographs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Global Change Biology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Global Ecology and Biogeography | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ecology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Methods in Ecology and Evolution | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Annual Review of Ecology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Conservation Biology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ecological Applications | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Trends in Ecology and Evolution | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| American Naturalist | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| ISME Journal | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Journal of Applied Ecology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Journal of Ecology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Perspectives in Plant Ecology | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ecology Letters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Evolution | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |