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## Did you know?

Research Trends Editorial Board

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## Section 6: Did You Know?

...That there are now more than 37 h-index variants?

Since its proposition by physicist Jorge Hirsch in 2005<sup>1</sup>, the h-index has become a popular bibliometrics measure to evaluate scientists, and has featured regularly in Research Trends<sup>2-4</sup>. The simplicity and intuitiveness of the h-index have contributed to its popularity, but also to its criticism by a community wishing for more precise and unbiased measures, as the h-index tends to favor late-career scientists. As a consequence, several corrections to the metrics have been put forward: a recent paper has identified no less than 37 h-index variants that have emerged in the past 6 years. Interestingly the study found high levels of correlation between the h-index and most variants, suggesting that many of these tend to measure the same aspect.

1. Hirsch, J.E. (2005) [An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output](#). Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Vol. 102, No. 46, pp. 16569–16572.
2. Egghe, L. (2007) [From h to g: the evolution of citation indices](#). **Research Trends**, September.
3. Bornmann, L. (2008). [The h-index and its variants: which works best?](#) **Research Trends**, May
4. Plume, A. (2009). [Measuring up: how does the h-index correlate with peer assessments?](#) **Research Trends**, May.
5. Bornmann, L., Mutz, R., Hug, S.E. & Daniel, H.D. A multilevel meta-analysis of studies reporting correlations between the h index and 37 different h index variants. *Journal of Informetrics*, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 346–359.