

# Current Comments®

## Journal Citation Studies. 40. Anthropology Journals—What They Cite and What Cites Them

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Over the years, we have published a number of journal citation studies. These studies identify the significant journals in a given field. Recently, we investigated journals in the earth sciences,<sup>1</sup> neurosciences,<sup>2</sup> and arts and humanities.<sup>3</sup> In connection with the recent International Congress on Anthropology held in Vancouver, we decided to study anthropology journals indexed in *Social Sciences Citation Index®* (*SSCI®*). So we have identified some of the "core" journals in the field and examined how these core journals cite one another.

According to A.L. Kroeber, editor of *Anthropology Today*, anthropology is "a science devoted to the study of man, the study of differences and similarities of all aspects of the life of man without limitation in time and space."<sup>4</sup> The field has two major branches. Physical anthropology examines the origins of the human species and physical variations within it. Cultural anthropology is concerned with human behavior and its "artifacts"—material objects, social systems, religious beliefs, language, etc.<sup>5</sup> A diverse group of disciplines is related to the general heading of cultural anthropology—linguistics, ethnology, ethnography, social anthropology, and applied anthropology, to name only a few.

The term "anthropology" is derived from a combination of the Greek *anthropos*, meaning "man," and the ubiquitous *logos*, denoting, in this case, "account."<sup>5</sup> It first came into use during the

Renaissance. Writers at that time defined anthropology in a variety of ways, for example, as "a description of the body and soul" and "the laws of their union," or as "the history of human nature."<sup>6</sup> Physical anthropology has its origins in the work of eighteenth-century naturalists. Cultural anthropology can be traced to the compendia of customs produced by European social philosophers and other scholars during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. By the late nineteenth century, anthropologists had begun to produce influential theoretical works<sup>7</sup> using evolutionary theory as a unifying frame of reference. In addition, much work in the field was sponsored by museums interested in expanding their collections. It was at this point that scientific societies and journals bearing anthropological titles began to appear.<sup>6</sup>

The oldest anthropology journals indexed in *SSCI* and included in this study were in fact founded during this era. They are *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* (*Contributions to Linguistics, Geography, and Ethnology*), established in Holland in 1853; *Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, first published in 1860; and *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, founded in Germany in 1865. As you can see, anthropology is an old and international field.

Table 1 lists the 41 "core" anthropology journals included in this study, along with their first dates of publication. The

**Table 1:** Core anthropology journals indexed by *SSCI*<sup>®</sup> and the year that each began publication.

American Anthropologist—1888  
American Ethnologist—1974  
American Journal of Physical Anthropology—1918  
Annual Review of Anthropology—1972  
Anthropologiai Közlemények—Anthropological Communications—1954  
Anthropologica—1955  
Anthropological Linguistics—1959  
Anthropological Quarterly—1928  
Anthropologie—1890  
Anthropology & Education Quarterly—1970  
Anthropology UCLA—1969  
Anthropos—1906  
Arctic Anthropology—1962  
Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde—1853  
Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris—1860  
Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology—1964  
Chinese Sociology and Anthropology—1968  
Collegium Anthropologicum—1977  
Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry—1977  
Current Anthropology—1960  
Dialectical Anthropology—1975  
Eastern Anthropologist—1947  
Ethnology—1962  
Ethos—1973  
Homme—1961  
Homo—1948  
Human Organization—1941  
Journal of Anthropological Research—1945  
Journal of Family History—1976  
Journal of Human Evolution—1974  
Journal of Peasant Studies—1973  
Journal of the Anthropological Society of Nippon—1973  
Journal of the Polynesian Society—1892  
Man—1966  
Man in India—1921  
Mankind—1931  
Mankind Quarterly—1960  
Oceania—1930  
Social Networks—1979  
Soviet Anthropology and Archeology—1962  
Zeitschrift für Ethnologie—1865

list certainly does not include every anthropology journal published today. Nor does it include all of the important journals which publish anthropology research, including archaeology journals, listed separately in Table 2, and multidisciplinary journals. However, we are confident that it does include the significant anthropology journals. I have previously explained how ISI<sup>®</sup> selects journals for coverage in our citation indexes.<sup>8</sup> We rely heavily on citation

**Table 2:** Archaeology journals indexed by *SSCI*<sup>®</sup> and the year that each began publication.

Acta Archaeologica—1951  
American Antiquity—1935  
American Journal of Archaeology—1885  
Antiquaries Journal—1921  
Antiquity—1927  
Archaeology—1948  
Archaeometry—1958  
Ausgrabungen und Funde—1956  
Bulletin Monumental—1834  
Hesperia—1932  
International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration—1972  
Israel Exploration Journal—1950  
Journal of Archaeological Science—1974  
Journal of Near Eastern Studies—1884  
Revue Archéologique de l'Est et du Centre-Est—1950  
World Archaeology—1969  
Zeitschrift für Archäologie—1967

analysis to help identify the most influential journals in their fields. In the case of new journals, we depend on the judgment of our editorial advisory board and of specialists working in the field.

As in our other journal citation studies, we will consider the anthropology journals in this study as if they comprised a single "Macro Journal of Anthropology." Data were taken from the 1982 *Journal Citation Reports*<sup>®</sup> (*JCR*<sup>™</sup>) volume of *SSCI* to determine what this macro journal cited and vice versa. You should keep in mind, however, that the *SSCI JCR* combines citation data from all ISI citation indexes—*SSCI*, *Science Citation Index*<sup>®</sup> (*SCI*<sup>®</sup>), and *Arts & Humanities Citation Index*<sup>™</sup> (*A&HCI*<sup>™</sup>).<sup>9</sup>

In comparison to other fields which study aspects of human behavior, such as psychology, anthropology is a relatively small field. The 41 core anthropology journals published only 941 articles in 1982. This represents about two percent of the 46,729 research articles included in the 1982 *SSCI JCR*. The core journals cited 30,275 references that year, or three percent of the 1,020,377 references processed in the 1982 *SSCI JCR*. Thus, the average anthropology article cited about 32 references in 1982. This is high compared to the 22 cited in the average *SSCI JCR* article.

**Table 3:** The 50 journals most cited by core anthropology journals in 1982. An asterisk indicates a core journal. A = citations received from core journals. B = citations received from all journals. C = self-citations. D = percent of citations from all journals that are core journal citations (A/B). E = percent of citations from all journals that are self-citations (self-cited rate, C/B). F = percent of core citations that are self-citations (C/A). G = impact factor. H = immediacy index. I = 1982 source items.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
*Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol.	861	1721	506	50.03	29.40	58.77	1.39	.25	122
*Amer. Anthropol.	413	1110	58	37.21	5.23	14.04	.79	.22	27
*Curr. Anthropol.	307	589	145	52.12	24.62	47.23	.79	.38	61
Science	306	70,867	—	.43	—	—	6.81	1.73	988
*Man	305	585	48	52.13	8.21	15.74	1.09	.19	27
Nature	246	110,923	—	.22	—	—	8.75	2.10	1362
*J. Hum. Evol.	236	376	98	62.77	26.06	41.53	.62	.20	60
*Amer. Ethnol.	157	280	60	56.07	21.43	38.22	1.07	.39	41
Hum. Biol.	155	806	—	19.23	—	—	.67	.15	46
*Ethnology	122	222	21	54.95	9.46	17.21	.50	.12	26
Folia Primatol.	106	618	—	17.15	—	—	1.08	.15	54
*J. Anthropol. Res.	105	211	10	49.76	4.73	9.52	—	—	23
*Anthropos	104	194	67	53.61	34.54	64.42	.35	.11	47
Amer. Sociol. Rev.	103	4345	—	2.37	—	—	2.74	.24	62
*Oceania	94	191	27	49.21	14.14	28.72	.48	.06	16
Amer. J. Sociol.	93	2599	—	3.58	—	—	1.45	.25	53
Primates	90	511	—	17.61	—	—	—	—	—
Africa	88	269	—	32.71	—	—	.86	.06	17
Amer. J. Hum. Genet.	83	3155	—	2.63	—	—	3.92	.94	88
*J. Anthropol. Soc. Nippon	81	100	73	81.00	73.00	90.12	.42	.07	44
Z. Morphol. Anthropol.	81	152	—	53.29	—	—	—	—	—
Amer. Antiq.	76	667	—	11.39	—	—	.70	.19	54
*Hum. Organ.	76	355	39	21.41	10.99	51.32	.40	.12	43
Sci. Amer.	66	3211	—	2.06	—	—	3.05	.64	107
*Annu. Rev. Anthropol.	64	175	20	36.57	11.43	31.25	.83	.08	12
Hum. Hered.	62	661	—	9.38	—	—	.79	.24	78
Ann. Hum. Genet.	59	1528	—	3.86	—	—	2.42	.66	35
*Cult. Med. Psychiat.	58	112	24	51.79	21.43	41.38	1.11	.16	19
*Anthropologie	57	139	—	41.01	—	—	.08	.00	0
J. Dent. Res.	57	4076	—	1.40	—	—	1.62	.32	216
Amer. Naturalist	53	5273	—	1.01	—	—	2.00	.55	137
Ann. NY Acad. Sci.	53	18,355	—	.29	—	—	1.65	.43	798
*Can. Rev. Sociol. Anthropol.	51	207	45	24.64	21.74	88.24	.30	.17	30
Ann. Hum. Biol.	45	318	—	14.15	—	—	.67	.24	51
*Anthropol. Quart.	44	95	6	46.32	6.32	13.64	.24	.00	18
*Homo	42	73	16	57.53	21.92	38.10	.19	.23	13
*Man India	42	49	5	85.71	10.20	11.90	.02	.00	27
*Mankind	41	69	12	59.42	17.39	29.27	—	—	11
Comp. Stud. Soc. Hist.	40	254	—	15.75	—	—	.63	.08	26
*Bull. Mem. Soc. Anthropol. Paris	39	62	13	62.90	20.97	33.33	.09	.00	17
Anim. Behav.	36	3085	—	1.17	—	—	2.08	.41	172
Soc. Sci. Med.	35	139	—	25.18	—	—	.00	.17	219
Angle Orthodont.	34	463	—	7.34	—	—	.65	.00	25
Evolution	34	3328	—	1.02	—	—	2.68	.59	121
Hum. Ecol.	34	156	—	21.79	—	—	.50	.50	20
Hum. Genet.	34	3346	—	1.02	—	—	2.10	.35	209
J. Anat.	33	3692	—	.89	—	—	1.44	.36	127
Sociol. Anal.	33	171	—	19.30	—	—	.56	.07	15
*Homme	32	71	14	45.07	19.72	43.75	.28	.08	13
Amer. J. Orthodont.	31	1296	—	2.39	—	—	1.11	.22	105

Articles published in the core anthropology journals received 7,500 citations in 1982, or about one percent of all references cited by journals covered in *JCR* that year. Only four journals account for 53 percent of all citations received by the core group—*American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, with 1,721 citations; *American Anthropologist*, 1,110; *Current Anthropology*, 589; and *Man*, 585. However, these same four journals pub-

lished only 25 percent of the papers in the core group in 1982.

Table 3 lists the journals most frequently cited by the core anthropology journals. They are ranked by the number of citations received from the core in 1982. The table also shows the number of citations received from all journals, self-citation rates, impact factors, immediacy indexes, and the number of source items each journal published in 1982.

The impact factor measures the citation frequency for the average article published during the preceding two years. The immediacy index indicates citation frequency for those articles published during the *same* year of *JCR*. The article counts, impact factors, and immediacy indexes for two journals in Table 3 are not available because these journals, *Primates* and *Zeitschrift für Morphologie und Anthropologie*, were not included in the 1982 *SSCI*. However, both of these journals are currently being evaluated for coverage. Impact and immediacy data for two other journals, *Journal of Anthropological Research* and *Mankind*, are unavailable because they were only recently added to our data base.

The 50 journals listed in Table 3 received about 5,500 citations from the core anthropology journals in 1982. This amounts to 18 percent of all references cited by the core group that year. Twenty-two journals in Table 3 are themselves core journals, and they are indicated by asterisks. About 48 percent of the citations these 22 journals received as a group in 1982 came from core anthropology journals.

Of the 28 non-core journals in Table 3, the most frequently cited are *Science*, with 306 citations from the core, and *Nature*, with 246. These two journals ranked fourth and sixth respectively among all journals cited by the core. They have appeared among the most-cited journals in almost all of the journal citation studies we've published. Five additional multidisciplinary publications are listed in Table 3—*Africa*, *Scientific American*, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, *Social Science & Medicine*, and *Human Ecology*.

Of the 21 remaining non-core journals most frequently cited by the core anthropology journals, ten are devoted to various aspects of biology, four are sociology journals, two are concerned with the study of primates, three publish dentistry research, one focuses on anthro-

pology, and one on archaeology. While anthropology is usually considered a social science, these citation patterns demonstrate the close relationship between some anthropological disciplines and the "harder" sciences, particularly human anatomy, biology, and genetics. Anthropology overlaps with a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and arts and humanities as well. For example, a cultural anthropologist may study archaeology and publish in such archaeology journals as *American Antiquity*.

Table 4 lists the 50 journals which most frequently cited the core anthropology journals in 1982. They cited the core journals about 4,500 times, accounting for 60 percent of the 7,500 citations received by the core from all journals that year. Twenty-six journals in Table 4 are in the core group, and they are indicated by asterisks. Twelve percent of the references in these 26 are citations to the core. By comparison, only one percent of the references in the non-core journals in Table 4 were citations to the anthropology core group.

The journal that most frequently cited the core group is also the journal most frequently cited by the core—*American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. This journal also has the highest impact factor of the core anthropology journals—1.39. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* ranks second in impact (1.11), followed by *Man* (1.09), *American Ethnologist* (1.07), and *Annual Review of Anthropology* (.83). The median impact of the core journals taken as a group was .31 in 1982. That year the median impact of all *SSCI* journals was .35, and the median impact of all *SCI* journals was .54.

Since it has been claimed that the way we calculate impact is biased in favor of the fast-moving fields, we are studying new ways to calculate relative impact. In this study, however, we continue to calculate impact by dividing the number of articles a journal published in 1980 and 1981 into the number of citations these articles received in 1982. This baseline

**Table 4:** The 50 journals which most frequently cited core anthropology journals in 1982. An asterisk indicates a core journal. A=citations to core journals. B=citations to all journals. C=self-citations. D=percent of total citations that are core journal citations (A/B). E=percent of total citations that are self-citations (self-citing rate C/B). F=percent of citations to core journals that are self-citations (C/A). G=impact factor. H=immediacy index. I=1982 source items.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
*Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol.	672	3772	506	17.82	13.41	75.30	1.39	.25	122
*Curr. Anthropol.	460	3436	145	13.39	4.22	31.52	.79	.38	61
*Annu. Rev. Anthropol.	315	1743	20	18.07	1.15	6.35	.83	.08	12
*J. Hum. Evol.	257	1975	98	13.01	4.96	38.13	.62	.20	60
*Amer. Ethnol.	223	1844	60	12.09	3.25	26.91	1.07	.39	41
*Anthropos	186	1728	67	10.76	3.88	36.02	.35	.11	47
*Amer. Anthropol.	151	1591	58	9.49	3.65	38.41	.79	.22	27
*Man	115	1044	48	11.02	4.60	41.74	1.09	.19	27
*J. Anthropol. Soc. Nippon	113	696	73	16.24	10.49	64.60	.42	.07	44
*Homo	102	630	16	16.19	2.54	15.69	.19	.23	13
Soc. Sci. Med.	101	6708	—	1.51	—	—	.00	.17	219
*Ethnology	93	591	21	15.74	3.55	22.58	.50	.12	26
*J. Anthropol. Res.	93	906	10	10.26	1.10	10.75	—	—	23
Amer. Antiq.	80	2008	—	3.98	—	—	.70	.19	54
*Hum. Organ.	80	1126	39	7.10	3.46	48.75	.40	.12	43
Hum. Biol.	77	1267	—	6.08	—	—	.67	.15	46
FF Commun.	74	559	—	13.24	—	—	.00	.00	2
Ann. Hum. Biol.	70	1248	—	5.61	—	—	.67	.24	51
*Oceania	66	398	27	16.58	6.78	40.91	.48	.06	16
Hum. Ecol.	65	779	—	8.34	—	—	.50	.50	20
Amer. J. Primatol.	64	2252	—	2.84	—	—	.75	.02	88
Folia Primatol.	61	1377	—	4.43	—	—	1.08	.15	54
*Can. Rev. Sociol. Anthropol.	57	1024	45	5.57	4.39	78.95	.30	.17	30
*Collegium Antropol.	57	405	12	14.07	2.96	21.05	.17	.00	18
*East. Anthropol.	46	427	16	10.77	3.75	34.78	.03	.00	19
*Anthropol. Educ. Quart.	43	507	21	8.48	4.14	48.84	.74	.00	16
*Mankind	42	335	12	12.54	3.58	28.57	—	—	11
Science	41	27,145	—	.15	—	—	6.81	1.73	988
*Cult. Med. Psychiat.	38	497	24	7.65	4.83	63.16	1.11	.16	19
*Anthropol. Quart.	37	457	6	8.10	1.31	16.22	.24	.00	18
Nature	37	36,347	—	.10	—	—	8.75	2.10	1362
Signs	37	2143	—	1.73	—	—	1.03	.21	29
Can. J. Sociol.	36	812	—	4.43	—	—	.27	.07	15
Hum. Hered.	34	1274	—	2.67	—	—	.79	.24	78
*J. Fam. Hist.	34	726	18	4.68	2.48	52.94	.45	.27	22
Amer. Behav. Sci.	32	1170	—	2.74	—	—	.32	.17	41
Ethn. Racial Stud.	32	1093	—	2.93	—	—	.41	.00	30
*Homme	32	424	14	7.55	3.30	43.75	.28	.08	13
*Anthropol. Linguist.	31	403	13	7.69	3.23	41.94	.05	.00	18
Latin Amer. Res. Rev.	31	1605	—	1.93	—	—	.36	.03	30
Prog. Hum. Geog.	30	2642	—	1.14	—	—	—	.66	33
Arch. Eur. Sociol.	29	761	—	3.81	—	—	.44	.00	11
Deut. Vier. Lit. Geist.	29	1933	—	1.50	—	—	.13	.00	33
World Archaeol.	29	1027	—	2.82	—	—	.35	.00	27
Amer. J. Orthodont.	28	2210	—	1.27	—	—	1.11	.22	105
*Bull. Mem. Soc. Anthropol. Paris	28	198	13	14.14	6.57	46.43	.09	.00	17
Comp. Stud. Soc. Hist.	28	1721	—	1.63	—	—	.63	.08	26
*Ethos	28	647	—	4.33	—	—	.31	.32	19
Rev. Educ. Res.	27	1952	—	1.38	—	—	2.81	.05	20
Annales—Econ. Soc. Civil.	26	2087	—	1.25	—	—	.18	.08	53

may be more appropriate for journals in biochemistry and molecular biology, whose articles are cited soon after publication. But in anthropology, the "peak" citation years may be later.

In order to determine these peak citation years, we rely on a journal's "half-life." Table 5 lists the half-lives for the journals in this study. These are reproduced from the 1982 *JCR*. The column on the left gives each journal's cited half-life. The cited half-life indicates the me-

dian age of articles from each journal which were cited in 1982. For example, *American Ethnologist* has a cited half-life of 4.5. This means that half of the citations this journal had received as of the end of 1982 were to articles published during the previous four and a half years.

Citing half-life differs from cited half-life in that it indicates the age of the material that each journal cites. Citing half-life is defined as the number of years,

**Table 5:** 1982 *SSCI*<sup>®</sup> cited and citing half-life of core anthropology journals. Journals with asterisks also appear in the *SCI*<sup>®</sup> cited and citing half-life listings. Journals with no listing either received less than 100 citations in 1982, or gave out less than 100 citations in 1982. A = cited half-life. B = citing half-life. C = core anthropology journal.

A	B	C
> 10.0	6.5	Amer. Anthropol.
4.5	8.9	Amer. Ethnol.
6.8	8.9	*Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol.
5.1	5.8	Annu. Rev. Anthropol.
—	—	Anthropol. Kozlem.— Anthr. Commun.
—	—	Anthropologica
—	> 10.0	Anthropol. Linguist.
—	7.8	Anthropol. Quart.
> 10.0	—	Anthropologie
—	8.4	Anthropol. Educ. Quart.
—	—	Anthropology UCLA
> 10.0	> 10.0	Anthropos
—	> 10.0	Arctic Anthropol.
—	—	Bijdr. Taal- Land- Volkenkunde
—	> 10.0	Bull. Mem. Soc. Anthropol. Paris
6.3	9.0	Can. Rev. Sociol. Anthropol.
—	—	Chin. Sociol. Anthropol.—Engl. Tr.
—	9.1	Collegium Anthropol.
3.8	6.4	Cult. Med. Psychiat.
6.2	> 10.0	Curr. Anthropol.
—	> 10.0	Dialect. Anthropol.
—	> 10.0	East. Anthropol.
> 10.0	> 10.0	Ethnology
—	> 10.0	Ethos
—	9.9	Homme
—	> 10.0	Homo
> 10.0	8.2	Hum. Organ.
—	—	J. Anthropol. Res.
3.9	> 10.0	J. Fam. Hist.
5.4	8.4	*J. Hum. Evol.
5.2	> 10.0	J. Peasant Stud.
> 10.0	> 10.0	J. Anthropol. Soc. Nippon
—	—	J. Polynesian Soc.
9.4	9.0	Man
—	> 10.0	Man India
—	—	Mankind
—	> 10.0	Mankind Quart.
> 10.0	9.1	Oceania
—	9.4	Soc. Networks
—	> 10.0	Sov. Anthropol. Archeol.—Engl. Tr.
—	—	Z. Ethnol.

from the current year back, which accounts for 50 percent of the total citations given by the citing journal during the current year. A figure greater than ten indicates that more than 50 percent of citations given by a journal in 1982 were to articles published before 1973. In future studies, a program modification will allow us to give precise half-life figures greater as well as less than ten.

As you can see, many anthropology journals in this study have cited and citing half-lives greater than ten. The tendency for old material to be cited explains why impact factors based on citation counts for 1980 and 1981 articles

may not reflect peak citation years. It also explains why the immediacy indexes for anthropology journals are generally lower than those for journals in the "harder" sciences.

Among the core journals, the journal with the highest immediacy index is *American Ethnologist* (.39), followed by *Current Anthropology* (.38), *Ethos* (.32), *Journal of Family History* (.27), and *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (.25). The immediacy index is calculated by dividing the number of articles a journal published in 1982 into the number of citations they received that same year. The median immediacy of the core journals as a group is .08, compared with .13 for all *SSCI* journals and .11 for all *SCI* journals indexed in the *SSCI* and *SCI JCRs*.

Influential articles, like important journals, can be identified by citation analysis. Table 6 lists the articles from the core anthropology journals that received at least 100 citations between 1966 and 1982. Nine articles met or exceeded this threshold. They were published in five journals. Four of the most-cited articles were published in *American Anthropologist*, while *Ethnology* accounts for two. The remaining three journals each published one of the "classic" anthropology articles.

Three of the nine most-cited papers in this study were written by G.P. Murdock. The earliest of these was published in 1957, when he was at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. This paper, entitled "World ethnographic sample," presents a sample of roughly 600 cultures around the world, from ancient Egypt to Soviet Russia. Each culture is also classified by various ethnographic categories—settlement patterns, division of labor by sex, marriage, kinship organization, etc. This paper is the third most-cited in our study. By 1967, Murdock, then at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had expanded his ethnographic sample to a set of 21 installments, including more than 1,000

**Table 6:** The nine most-cited anthropology articles from the core journals. Each article received 100 or more citations combined from the 1966-1982 *SCJ*<sup>®</sup> and *SSCI*<sup>®</sup>. Papers are listed in alphabetical order by first author. A = total citations. B = bibliographic data.

A	B
122	<b>Barry H, Child I L &amp; Bacon M K.</b> Relation of child training to subsistence economy. <i>Amer. Anthropol.</i> 61:51-63, 1959.
138	<b>Evernden J F &amp; Curtis G H.</b> The potassium-argon dating of late Cenozoic rocks in East Africa and Italy. <i>Curr. Anthropol.</i> 6:343-85, 1965.
207	<b>Foster G M.</b> Peasant society and the image of limited good. <i>Amer. Anthropol.</i> 67:293-315, 1965.
116	<b>Jolly C J.</b> The seed-eaters: a new model of hominid differentiation based on a baboon analogy. <i>Man</i> 5:5-26, 1970.
100	<b>Moss M L &amp; Young R W.</b> A functional approach to craniology. <i>Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol.</i> 18:281-92, 1960.
355	<b>Murdock G P.</b> Ethnographic atlas: a summary. <i>Ethnology</i> 6:109-236, 1967. (Also published as Murdock G P. <i>Ethnographic atlas</i> . Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1967, 128 p.)
179	<b>Murdock G P.</b> World ethnographic sample. <i>Amer. Anthropol.</i> 59:664-87, 1957.
145	<b>Murdock G P &amp; White D R.</b> Standard cross-cultural sample. <i>Ethnology</i> 8:329-68, 1969.
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societies. In 1967, an entire issue of *Ethnology* was devoted to a summary of this expanded ethnographic sample. The same year, the summary was also issued as a book by the University of Pittsburgh Press. The book has received 225 citations, the journal version 130. So at 355 cites, this is the most-cited "article" in our study. Another paper by Murdock, published in *Ethnology* in 1969, is also based on his earlier samples, but presents a refined analysis of 186 cultures. It was cited 145 times through 1982.

The second most-cited paper (over 200 cites), published in *American Anthropologist*, was authored by G.M. Foster, University of California, Berkeley, and entitled "Peasant society and the image of limited good." Published in 1965, this paper discusses the cognitive orientation of peasants. It explains how their social premises and assumptions may prevent rapid economic development in peasant societies.

The fourth most-cited paper is by A.F.C. Wallace, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and was published in *American Anthropologist* in 1956. This paper is a comparative study entitled "Revitalization movements." It identifies parallel features of nativism; religious revivals; utopian movements, both secular and religious; and other types of movements through which social groups seek to rectify stresses inherent in the status quo.

Another perspective on the half-life of articles in this field is illustrated in Table 6. The "youngest" paper was published in 1970. Three were published in the late 1950s, and five in the 1960s. In fast-moving fields vintage work is often absorbed into the field's body of common knowledge and is no longer explicitly cited. That is, it becomes "obliterated."<sup>10</sup>

We can now identify the most significant anthropology journals. Eleven core journals ranked among the top 20 in both Tables 3 and 4. That is, they most frequently cited, and were cited by, the core journals. When we also take into account impact factors and immediacy, ten core journals ranked among the top 20—*American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Anthropos*, *Current Anthropology*, *Ethnology*, *Journal of Human Evolution*, *Journal of the Anthropological Society of Nippon*, *Man*, and *Oceania*.

Citation studies such as this one may be useful to editors. Surely it is of some value to know how often and by what other journals your publication is cited. On the other hand, scholars may use these data in deciding where to submit papers. Librarians can use *JCR* to allocate limited shelf space and subscription budgets. *JCR* was never intended to be used as the sole indicator of a journal's usefulness or importance. But data in

JCR should be provided to those entrusted with such decisions so that they can supplement other indicators and appropriate subjective evaluations. One of JCR's chief virtues, apart from the objective, statistical data on journals it provides, is that it reveals the network of journals for the field involved.

Recently, J. Rounds, University of California, Los Angeles, used JCR data to assess citation patterns between anthropology journals, and to determine what contribution these journals made to "mainstream anthropological theory."<sup>11</sup> In particular, he examined *Human Organization*, an applied anthropology journal, to determine what journals it cited, and vice versa. From this data, he concluded that this journal had a relatively minor impact on mainstream anthropological theory. Rounds correctly pointed out that his study was preliminary, and that more research was needed. He also cited many of the caveats on citation analysis that we have discussed repeatedly. Nonetheless, his study still evoked criticism. In another article, R.W. Stoffle, University of Wisconsin,

challenged Rounds's assertion that citation relationships between journals can be used to locate "dominant" journals. He also argued that conclusions based on citation patterns neglect the importance of specialized journals. Despite their low citation counts, he cautioned, these journals are nonetheless significant to the group of scholars they are meant to serve.<sup>12</sup>

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of anthropological research, in spite of its relatively small size, is the high degree of public interest in it. This is reflected in the readership of magazines like *National Geographic*. Unlike such popular scientific publications as *Scientific American*, however, *National Geographic* is not highly cited by scholars in anthropology. This is because it is primarily a descriptive, rather than an analytical, publication.

\* \* \* \* \*

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