

Research Article

GIScience Journals Ranking and Evaluation: An International Delphi Study

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Abstract

Researchers' fame in most scientific fields is closely linked to their publishing capacity, both in terms of quantity and quality. In GIScience, as in other fields, this situation demands that the researcher evaluate and to be very familiar with the scientific journals in which they could publish. Some specialized journals (e.g. Journal of Citation Reports or JCR) are devoted to ranking these reviews according to various methods and criteria. Compared to other scientific communities, GIScience is relatively new and constantly evolving. Therefore, the journals of this field do not benefit from any real formal ranking yet. The objective of this paper is to present the process and results of a study aimed at addressing this gap. More specifically, the challenge is to elaborate an importance ranking of the scientific journals in the field of GIScience. To do so, both a qualitative (Delphi study carried out with 40 international experts) and a quantitative (JCR impact factor) approach has been implemented. This triangulation method leads to an early global ranking of the journals of this field.

1 Introduction

Researchers' reputation in most scientific fields is closely linked to their publishing capacity (Hamilton and Ives 1980, Latour 1987, Hardgrave and Walstrom 1997). Their

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Table 5 Final ranking of GIScience journals

Journal	Rank
International Journal of Geographic Information Science	1
International Journal of Remote Sensing	1
Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing (PE&RS)	1
Computers and Geosciences	1
Transactions in GIS	1
GeoInformatica	1
Geomatica	1
Cartography and Geographic Information Sciences	2
Environment and Planning B	2
IEEE Transactions Geoscience and Remote Sensing	2
Remote Sensing of Environment	2
Computers, Environments and Urban Systems	2
Annals of the Association of American Geographers	2
URISA Journal	2
Environment and Planning A	2
Landscape Ecology	2
Cartographica	2
Journal of Geographic Information and Decision Analysis	2
Marine Geodesy	2
Revue Internationale de Géomatique	2
Geographical System	2
Professional Geographer	2
Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers	3
Earth Surface Processus and Landforms	3
Progress in Human Geography	3
Spatial Cognition and Computation	3
Mapping Sciences and Remote Sensing	3
Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing	3
Cartographic Journal	3
Canadian Geographer	3
Geoscience Canada	3
Cybergeo	3
International Journal of Urban and Regional Research	3
Applied Geography	3
Surveying and Land Information Science	3
Earth Observation and Remote Sensing	3
Cartographic Perspectives (<i>Journal North American Cartographic Information Society</i>)	3
Acta Cartographica	3
Remote Sensing Reviews	3
Espace Géographique	3
Geofocus International Review of GI Science and Technology	3
Mappemonde	3
Geographical Analysis	3
Geocarto International	3
Geomatique Suisse	4
Géospacial Solutions	4