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Developing a Core List of Journals in an Interdisciplinary Area

Implications for Academic Faculty and Librarians Demonstrated in the Business Literature

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Faculty who publish in interdisciplinary areas may be faced with the challenge of justifying research published in journals that are not considered important by their home department. This paper uses corporate governance (an academic area in business) as an example of an interdisciplinary research area. A core list of journals is developed using citations from Corporate Governance: An International Review, that demonstrates the interdisciplinary nature of corporate governance research. This core list can be used by both corporate governance academics and business librarians to help justify faculty publishing decisions. The process devised for developing a core list is applicable to other interdisciplinary areas. The paper concludes by exploring the implications of departmental journal lists and provides suggestions for both faculty and librarians.

An interdisciplinary field is one that combines the methods, conceptual frameworks, and knowledge of two or more disciplines to address questions that lie in the disciplinary nexus. Sustainability, African American studies, and neuroeconomics are all examples of fields that combine knowledge from different disciplines to answer specific research questions. Interdisciplinary fields pose challenges for both academics and librarians precisely because they are at the intersection of two (or more) disciplines. Academics who do interdisciplinary research may struggle with integrating their research and teaching into a traditional department structure. Librarians who support interdisciplinary fields may be faced with a subject area where the traditional methods for acquiring, accessing, and evaluating information do not apply. Librarians who provide resources and assistance to interdisciplinary scholars need to be diligent in defining the parameters of the field to ensure that they are adequately meeting scholars' teaching and research needs.

In this paper, the authors use citation analysis to determine the top-cited journals in *Corporate Governance: An International Review (CGIR)* from 1999 to 2008 and develop a core list of journals for corporate governance. The results demonstrate that corporate governance is an interdisciplinary field that relies

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heavily on the disciplines of accounting, economics, finance, and management for both publishing venues and intellectual underpinnings. The authors then compare this core list with a composite list from business disciplines, including the fields of management, accounting, finance, and economics, to determine the overlap of top journals in these fields and corporate governance. The process devised for developing a core list is applicable to other interdisciplinary areas. Finally, the authors discuss the implications of this research and its benefits for both corporate governance academics and librarians with collection management responsibilities.

Corporate governance is an academic area in business concerned with the relationships between corporations' boards of directors and various corporate stakeholders investors, regulatory agencies, corporate management, and the public. At the most basic level, research in corporate governance explores aspects of agency theory—the relationships that arise when a principal (board of directors) hires an agent (corporate officers) to run a company on behalf of shareholders.1 Agency theory explores how the agent and principal work together and the incentives and behaviors in place to ensure that agents act in the best interest of the principal.² Corporate governance research, then, involves the study of how a board of directors motivates corporate officers and verifies that they are acting in the best interests of the board and shareholders. The research cuts across disciplinary boundaries and includes topics in accounting (e.g., financial reporting), economics (e.g., theory of the firm), finance (e.g., executive compensation), and management (e.g., strategic planning).

An important question for faculty in any academic discipline is how their research will be evaluated during promotion and tenure reviews. Faculty in business schools are generally affiliated with a specific academic department (e.g., management) even if their research focus is an interdisciplinary area. Business programs are required by accrediting agencies to provide evidence of academic rigor for their faculty publications and, to that end, departments may rely on disciplinary journal rankings that use a variety of metrics to determine the best titles in a discipline. The conventional wisdom that departments maintain lists of acceptable journals appears to be largely anecdotal. Van Fleet, McWilliams, and Siegel report that "surprisingly few institutions reported using formal lists."

Choosing an appropriate publishing venue can be critical for tenure-track faculty doing interdisciplinary research. Corporate governance researchers may publish in journals not included in disciplinary journal rankings because few journals exclusively publish corporate governance research. Some of the more prominent corporate governance journals are Corporate Governance: An International Review, Corporate Governance: The International Journal of Business in Society, International Journal of Corporate Governance,

Directors and Boards, and The Corporate Board. The last two titles are practitioner-oriented journals that are less likely to generate academic citations. They also focus slightly more on the director's role instead of the relatively wider array of business functions that pertain to corporate governance, such as strategic and financial management.

Publishing in corporate governance journals is essential for scholars who want to establish a reputation as researchers in the field. At the same time, publishing in journals that are not included on disciplinary journal lists may limit their ability to gain tenure in their home department. A National Academy of Sciences report on promoting interdisciplinary research found that while departments may value interdisciplinary researchers, publications "not recognized as being in the home department's discipline may be considered valuable but not sufficient for tenure." For corporate governance researchers, and interdisciplinary scholars in other fields, justifying publications that fall outside their department's disciplinary boundaries can be critical to their tenure or promotion success.

Literature Review

Disciplines versus Interdisciplinary Areas

One of the central questions in this paper is whether corporate governance is a distinct discipline or an interdisciplinary subject. The distinction is important because of the way that departments within business schools evaluate faculty for promotion and tenure. A perennial discussion in the business literature is whether corporate governance is a distinct discipline or whether it is an interdisciplinary field as described above. Durisin and Puzone assert that corporate governance is a discipline based on their analysis of citations from *CGIR* and other journals. They argue that corporate governance research is seen as relevant but intellectually inferior, and they demonstrate using citation analysis that a strong intellectual foundation for corporate governance exists in the fields of management, economics, finance, and accounting.

Disciplines, as described by Salter and Hearn, have both a core of knowledge and an organizational infrastructure that supports further knowledge production. The knowledge core includes both discipline specific knowledge and theoretical knowledge that underpins the discipline. According to Becher and Trower, infrastructure refers to the social and connective schema that holds the discipline together and includes everything from discipline specific journals and conferences to defining the social norms and expectations placed on scholars who belong to that discipline. The social aspects of disciplinary membership for interdisciplinary researchers are particularly important in the context of this paper. The authors contend that corporate governance

research is interdisciplinary and offer a framework from which they can discuss the unique challenges to interdisciplinary researchers in business schools. The hallmarks of an interdisciplinary field are exactly what Durisin and Puzone show in their article—the widespread inclusion of corporate governance topics in established disciplinary areas.⁸

One measure of interdisciplinarity is the number of citations in journal articles that come from related disciplinary areas. Porter and Rafols provide evidence that science areas are becoming more interdisciplinary, though the exact reasons are not clear. Prinia and colleagues examine citations from Science Citation Index and demonstrate that basic science disciplines (e.g., biology, mathematics, and physics) routinely share literature with one another. 10 Leavitt, Thelwall, and Oppenheim conducted a similar study for social science fields, which confirmed that the social sciences also share literature between disciplines.¹¹

While interdisciplinary subjects draw on knowledge from their core disciplines, they also develop new methods and paradigms that may, over time, evolve into new disciplinary areas. Distinctions in the minutiae between disciplinary, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and cross-disciplinary research are complex and beyond the scope of this paper. Van den Besselaar and Heimeriks provide a cogent introduction to the subject and propose an indicator of interdisciplinarity "based on the patterns and intensity of knowledge streams between research fields."12 A large body of literature describes trends in interdisciplinary research that focuses on both science and social science fields. 13 Klein's 1996 book on the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge and research, now a classic, contains a thorough examination of interdisciplinarity.¹⁴ Ostreng focuses on how interdisciplinary research interacts with traditional disciplines in the sciences. 15 The best current discussion of issues related to interdisciplinary research is edited by Frodeman, Klein, and Mitcham. 16

Interdisciplinary subjects pose challenges for libraries in both collection management and reference activities. One of the challenges for librarians is identifying the domain of interdisciplinary subjects. This in turn leads to questions about information seeking by interdisciplinary scholars and the best way for librarians to provide services. Dobson, Kushkowski, and Gerhard describe the characteristics of interdisciplinary subjects and propose an approach for evaluating collections of interdisciplinary materials. 17 They maintain that familiarity with the subject domains of interdisciplinary fields is central to successfully evaluating interdisciplinary collections. A complete issue of Library Trends in 1996 discussed the impact of interdisciplinary fields and included articles about subject domains, information seeking, and aligning library services with the research practices of interdisciplinary scholars. 18

Literature that is more recent elaborates on those issues and informs current thought about libraries and interdisciplinary scholars. Palmer and Cragin discuss how information science has adapted to the changing landscape of disciplinary change, focusing on "the social dimension of scholarly practice and its influence on how information is collected." 19 Witt and Rudasill's 2010 book elaborates on the challenges of increased interdisciplinary research for libraries supporting the social sciences.²⁰ Topics in the volume include an examination of differences in data-sharing practices between disciplines, a rethinking of traditional cataloging and collection management systems to accommodate interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g., into what traditional subject areas does sustainability studies fall?), and the development of research portals that facilitate the discovery of interdisciplinary knowledge.

Use of Core Lists in Business Schools

Most reputable business schools are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) in a process that involves a detailed self-study, a site visit, and the development of a detailed school mission statement that defines the goals and parameters in which the school operates. Accreditation standards require that institutions support "successful achievement of all dimensions of the stated missions with particular focus on high quality degree programs and scholarly research."21 They also require that schools provide "clear expectations regarding the quality of the intellectual contributions and how quality is assured (e.g., specific target journals or outlets, selectivity requirements, etc.)."22

A consequence of accreditation criteria is the need for business schools to quantify the research output of their faculty. Schools can meet the accreditation criteria for demonstrating research quality by comparing their faculty's publishing output with journal lists that identify the top journals in a discipline. One side effect of this reliance on journal lists tied to business school accreditation is a large literature devoted to journal lists. Durisin and Puzone's article includes an extensive bibliography about core lists.²³ Journal lists are available for business disciplines including accounting, finance, economics, and management areas and can be easily discovered by searching for "core list" and the discipline (e.g., accounting) in a database such as ABI/Inform.

In the realm of online resources, Harzing's Journal Quality List (JQL) website provides a meta-analysis of journal rankings across a variety of business journal rankings.²⁴ JQL is a compilation of journal ranking studies in business fields including economics, finance, accounting, management, and marketing. Harzing's Publish or Perish website allows researchers to calculate publication metrics based on the availability of their work in Google Scholar.²⁵

The use of core journal lists to provide evidence of research quality is not a phenomenon unique to the United

States. Quantifying research output is an issue for universities in Europe, where institutional productivity is evaluated at a national level and the results are used to allocate research funding. Durnal lists for disciplines across the academy are one of the metrics used to define institutional research productivity. The Research Assessment Exercise in the United Kingdom uses the Association of Business Schools (ABS) list of journals when evaluating research productivity of business schools. ABS is the British accrediting body for business schools. These periodic assessments of research productivity are used to determine research funding for universities in the United Kingdom and other European countries. The use of core journal lists to assess institutional productivity may explain the proliferation of journal lists across disciplines.

Methods Used to Develop Business Core Journal Lists

Core lists may be developed by individual departments but enough published journal lists exist so that schools can select from published lists instead of creating their own. Data for lists often come from Thomson Reuters' *Journal Citation Reports* and the use of ISI impact factors and citation counts are one method of developing core journal lists. Authorship studies, as represented by Heck, Zaleski, and Dressler, explore who publishes in a discipline.²⁸ This particular article used journal citations found in a list of elite economics journals to explore the contributions of authors by academic institution to economics journal literature.

Citation analysis studies generally fall into two categories. The first is a citation analysis of a specific journal. Lindquist and Smith's citation analysis of the Journal of Management Accounting Research is an example of studies done to celebrate a milestone anniversary for a journal.²⁹ Studies of this type are common in business literature (and other disciplines) and can be used to discover the range of journals used in a discipline. The second type of citation study is broader and assesses the literature within a specific discipline or subdiscipline. In their study of corporate social responsibility and corporate social performance, De Bakker, Groenewegen, and Den Hond compiled citations from Social Science Citation Index and ABI/Inform and used them to map the scope of their subject.³⁰ The primary difference between the two approaches is that the former uses a single journal as a data source and the latter uses search results on a particular subject as the starting point.

In addition to the use of citation counts, other methods can be used to develop core journal lists. Wu, Hao, and Yao surveyed department heads to gather perceptions from department heads about journal rankings in accounting, finance and information systems.³¹ Preference studies query department heads, faculty, business school deans, or other experts for an assessment of journal reputation based on

personal knowledge. The ranking of management journals by Harris is based on multiple sources of data including expert opinion and citation indexes.³² It provides greater granularity and subject breadth than other management journal lists. By contrast, Ritzberger's list of 261 economics journals relies on a variant of the algorithm Google uses to rank search engine results.³³

Many of the methods described above are familiar to library and information science (LIS) researchers. Citation analyses of journals or disciplines are a staple of LIS research, as are surveys of stakeholders about journal preferences. Quantitative studies may rely on data from the *Journal Citation Reports* or other bibliographic data. The examples above are representative of categories of core list methodologies, not an exhaustive list of methods. For each method, multiple studies are available in the business literature, and variations in method often reflect the differences in methodological approaches between business disciplines. One insight from the wealth of core journal studies in business is that no consensus about how to create core lists exists.

Business Core Journal Lists: Critiques

Journal ranking in business schools has been the subject of many critiques, both methodological and otherwise. Considering the stakes for faculty whose careers may rise or fall on the basis of a core journal list, such critiques are understandable. A common thread that runs through the critiques of journal ranking is the reliance on the use (some would say misuse) of the journal impact factor for determining research worth.

Journal impact factor (JIF) is a metric developed by Eugene Garfield in *Journal Citation Reports* (*JCR*), now owned by Thomson Reuters. The JIF measures the ratio of citations to a journal to the number of citable items published in that journal over a period. *JCR* includes both the two-year and five-year JIFs for journals, though one can use the data to calculate impact factors for different lengths of time. The different JIFs are provided as a way of recognizing that not all disciplines cite their literature at the same rate. Publishing lags in social science disciplines (e.g., sociology) may mean that the five-year JIF is a better representation of journal reputation than in a science discipline (e.g., chemistry) where publishing, and possible citations to articles, happens more quickly.

A number of substantive critiques, many from outside of the business literature, about the use of the JIF have been written. Seglen enumerates twenty-three reasons not to use JIF to evaluate research. Among the reasons not to use JIF is that it "conceals the difference in article citation rates" within a journal.³⁴ He contends that only a few articles in any given journal issue are highly cited and that relatively few articles contribute to the JIF for a given journal.

Althouse and colleagues focus on the variation in JIFs across disciplines and the upward trend in JIFs over time, a trend also explored in research by Campanario.³⁵ These articles argue that the increases in IIFs are the result of increased citations within articles and are not necessarily indicative of changes in journal quality. Neff and Olden demonstrate that an increased number of citations in journal articles inflates the JIF of ecology journals.36

Other critiques of JIF (and other journal metrics), such as the article by Finch, point out that no perfect method for evaluating articles and journals exists.³⁷ Sala and Brook explore the bias introduced into JIFs when multiple authors in an article cite their previous work.38

Critiques of journal lists within the business literature are similar to those of other fields. Adler and Harzing offer a meta-analysis of journal ranking methods, including those that use the JIF.³⁹ Their main objection to the use of the JIF is that it equates journal quality with article quality. Singh, Haddad, and Chow found that top management journals received more citations, but that not all the articles in top journals were of the same quality.⁴⁰ In a study related to journal lists, Bornmann and Dieter found that citation decisions are a complex phenomenon that includes both social and practical aspects.41

Other critiques of journal lists from business fields focus on the use of those lists by departments or colleges. Lange found that, while schools do indeed rank business journals, little consistency in ranking is found between institutions. 42 Adams and Johnson report that the implementation of a journal list at the University of Houston "is imperfect" but that the consistency of annual reviews has increased.⁴³ Henderson, Ganesh, and Chandy argue that faculty are specialists and are not necessarily able to judge work of other scholars because of limited knowledge of other fields. 44 Noteworthy is that critiques of journal lists and the JIF are found across disciplines, an indication that concerns about the use of the JIF are a nearly universal concern among academics.

Citation Analysis

This research uses citation analysis as a tool for developing a core list of journals in corporate governance. Citation analysis is one of many tools used by both business faculty and library and information science researchers to examine the intellectual structure of disciplines. A number of recent library and information sciences titles explore bibliometric methods, including citation analysis. De Bellis provides a theoretical overview of bibliometric methods in library and information science, while the volume by Andrés has a more practical focus. 45 A specific discussion of bibliometric methods for revealing interdisciplinary fields can be found in an article by Morris and Van der Veer Martens. 46

Business disciplines have a long tradition of using

citation analysis to examine trends in business literature. Citation analysis is used in several ways to examine business literature beyond compiling journal lists. Lindquist and Smith note that citation analysis of a single journal is usually done as a retrospective for journal anniversaries and also may include content analysis of article subjects and authorship.⁴⁷ De Baaker, Groenewegen, and Den Hond describe how the structure of disciplines or subdisciplines can be investigated to delineate subject boundaries. 48 Matherly and Shortridge conducted a meta-analysis of journal ranking studies that provides new measures for determine journal quality.⁴⁹ Bibliometric analysis of journal literature provides multiple means of assessing and evaluating subject literature in disciplinary or interdisciplinary fields.

Research Method

The authors chose CGIR, (print ISSN 0964-8410, online ISSN 1467-8683) as a data source because it is the premier academic journal devoted solely to the topic of governance. The mission of CGIR is "to publish cutting-edge research on the phenomena of comparative corporate governance throughout the global economy," and the journal is "committed to publishing rigorous and relevant research on corporate governance so that the practice of corporate governance can be influenced and improved throughout the world."50 According to Harzing's online "Publish or Perish" citation analysis tool, CGIR has published articles for twenty-one years, generates 18.55 citations per article and has an h-index (an indicator of both quality and quantity of published work) of 56.51 It is the only journal listed in Journal Citation Reports that exclusively publishes corporate governance research.

The data in this study include citations from research articles appearing in CGIR between 1999 and 2008. During this time, 420 research articles were published, with more than 15,000 individual citations across more than 1,100 journals. The journal expanded from four to six issues per year in 2005 and published an average of 8.75 articles per issue during the study period.

The research method in this study is based on journal ranking studies in library and information science that date back to a study of chemistry journals by Gross and Gross in 1927.⁵² The categories used to classify citations are an adaptation of a coding method used by Kushkowski in a study of web citation by graduate students.⁵³

The authors used a multistep process to collect and analyze the data. The first step involved identifying the research articles included in the study period. The authors identified each research article in the study period and collected demographic data about the year of publication, volume, and page numbers, and total number of citations for each

article. Editorials, letters to the editor, and book reviews were excluded from the article count. Next, the authors created separate spreadsheet files that corresponded to each year in the study period. Tabs within each annual spreadsheet corresponded to individual issues and columns in the issue tabs corresponded to individual articles. Each issue tab included information about the volume number and issue number. Columns in the issue tabs included page numbers and the number of citation included in the article as a check during data entry. The last step in preparing the spreadsheets involved seeding them with an initial list of journals. The authors compiled a list of about 150 journals by counting citations in articles from one issue of *CGIR* and included these in the first column of each issue tab. They also identified categories of nonjournal formats to track during the study.

After developing the spreadsheets for the individual volumes with the issue and article information, data collection was straightforward. The authors and three research students entered information about each citation into spreadsheets. Coders would start with an article bibliography and a spreadsheet with a list of journals down the side and columns for each article. Each article was assigned a spreadsheet column and data were collected by matching the items in the bibliography with the journal titles or publication formats. If a journal title was not included on the spreadsheet, it was added at the bottom of the sheet.

After the data were collected, the authors consolidated spreadsheets from individual articles and issues into an annual database, verified journal titles, and summed citation counts for variant journals within and between spreadsheets. The final data set included three spreadsheets, one for individual issues, one for annual volume statistics, and a master spreadsheet that compiled annual figures for the years studied. Figures 1, 2, and 3 show examples of the individual issue, annual, and master spreadsheets used to collect and consolidate the data. The completed data set included 15,270 citations to 1,116 journals.

Limitations of the Data

The data are limited by possible errors in data entry, coding, and possible errors in the original citations. The authors provided training on identifying different types of citations and checked citations in random articles throughout the data collection process as a quality check. Multiple coders for the citations may present a problem in inter-coder reliability because the authors did no formal reliability checks.

The authors counted individual citations without regard for duplicates; unlike co-citation analysis, the authors did not track multiple occurrences of the same article. The authors counted citations to each journal without regard for duplicate citations. Likewise, the authors ignored the contributions of individual scholars. Other studies look at authorship

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1	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J
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3	Issue:	2	Page #:		14	13	11	15	16	69
4					116	104	41	65	63	
5				Total Citations:	116	104	41	65	63	389
6	Non-Jou	irnal for	mats:				6			
7	Account	ting Stan	ndard							0
8	Annual I	Reports				0			0	0
9	Reports				1		3	5		9
10	Book				24	8	1	1	3	37
11	Book C	hapter			3	0	0	0	0	3
12	Governm	ent Doc	ument		2	0	0	0	0	2
13	Thesis/	disserta	tion							0
14	Unpubli	shed								0
15	Website	9			1	0	0	4	0	5
16	Working	Paper			2	0	1	1	1	5
17	Journals	s below	this line:							
18	Abacus								1	1
19	Academ	y of Man	agement J	ournal	2	24			2	28
20	Academy	y of Mana	agement F	Review	2	10				12
21	Accounti	ng and B	Business R	esearch					2	2
22	Accounti	ng and F	inance				1	2		3
23	Accounti	ng Auditi	ing and Ac	countability Journa	al					0
24	Accounti	ng Auditi	ing and Ta	xation						0
25	Accounti	ng Forun	n							0
26	Accounti	ng Histor	rians Journ	nal,						0
27	Accounti	ng Horiz	ons					3	1	4
28	Accounti	ng Organ	nization an	d Society						0
29	Accounti	ng Revie	ew				5	10	7	22
30	Accounti	ng, Busir	ness and F	inancial History						0
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Figure 1. Single-issue Spreadsheet Pane

contributions of authors within *CGIR* and examine corporate governance as an interdisciplinary field.⁵⁴ Finally, the authors acknowledge that assessing journal quality is a subjective process and that institutions and even departments within the same school of business may disagree about what constitutes a quality journal.

Results

The complete data set includes 15,270 individual citations. Table 1 shows the breakdown of citations by format. Sixty-three percent (9,572) of the citations are to journal articles and 37 percent (5,698) were to other formats. The only other format with more than 10 percent of the citations is books with 17 percent (2,628). Book chapters are included as a separate category to track citations. The website category includes any item with a URL in the citation, regardless of its other characteristics, as a way of measuring the prevalence of citations to electronic media.

A total of 1,116 journals are represented in 9,572 citations for the ten years in the sample. A distribution showing the number of years that journals are cited is shown in table 2. Note that only 1.7 percent (19) of the journals are cited in all ten years of *CGIR* analyzed for this study, and they

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3	issue:	1-0	Page #:	Total Citations:	241	389			386	348	226
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7	Annual F	reports			0	0		-		0	2
8	Book	100.400			48	37		71	50	30	26
9	Book Ch				6	3			10	10	
10	Confere				0	0		3		5	1
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12	Reports				2	9				1	4
13		dissertati	on		0	0			0	0	
14	Unpublis				0	0	0	1	0	3	
15	Website				0	5	8	5	4	3	- 2
16	Working	Paper			9	5	22	14	11	11	
17	Journal 7	Totals fro	m below:		166	328	363	317	296	284	173
18											
19	Journal of	of Financ	ial Econor	nics	8	13	35	24	19	24	12
20	Corpora	te Gover	nance: Int'l	Review	17	13	17	23	13	20	10
21	Academ	y of Man	agement J	ournal	5	28	22	21	13	7	9
22	Journal o	of Financ	e		9	11	25	10	14	24	9
23	Administ	trative So	cience Qua	arterly	13	18	25	13	12	3	8
24	Academ	y of Man	agement F	Review	3	12	13	21	15	8	7
25	Strategio	Manage	ement Jou	mal	4	17	7	10	14	12	6
26	Journal o	of Accoun	nting and E	conomics	3	23	13	0	8	10	
27		ing Revie			2	22			11	7	-
28			nting Rese	arch	3	19	5	0	9	6	4
29			al Econom		2	6	9	2	3	6	- 2
30			of Social		4	3				2	-
31			ss Ethics	-9)	3	0				1	
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Figure 2. Single-year Spreadsheet Pane

accounted for 47 percent (4,544) of the total citations. On the other end of the scale, 63 percent (701) of the titles were cited only once and contribute only 9.4 percent (900) of the total citations. The distribution of citations by number of years cited is evidence that corporate governance literature is highly concentrated in a few journals.

Journal Concentration

The spreadsheets provide detailed information about how many citations a journal received in any given year. Using this information, the authors constructed a core list that includes any journal cited in *CGIR* at least once a year in five or more consecutive years. Limiting the scope of the core list eliminated infrequently cited journals and focuses attention on heavily cited titles. A total of 137 journals are cited at least once a year in five or more consecutive years, including a total of 7,487 journal citations, representing 12 percent (137) of the 1,116 titles and 78 percent (7,487) of the 9,572 journal citations in the study.

Subject Breakdown

The authors assigned each of the 137 journals included in

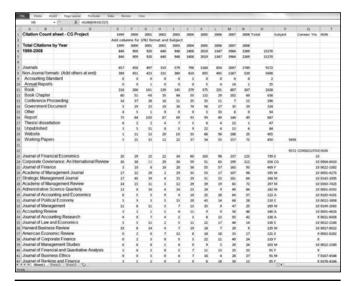


Figure 3. Master Spreadsheet—All Years

the core list a subject code based on the major subject for that journal. Subject codes provide a way of tracking the relative contribution of different disciplines to corporate governance research. Table 3 shows the subject distribution for the core journal list. The top subject areas represented by the journals citations are management, economics, finance, accounting, and corporate governance. They account for 82 percent of the journals and 94 percent of the total journal citations. None of the remaining subject categories (business news, law, news, psychology, or sociology) contribute more than 3 percent of the total citations. Citations to corporate governance journals are only 10 percent of the total journal citations. The distribution of citations in other than corporate governance journals is an indication of the interdisciplinary nature of corporate governance.

Corporate Governance Core List

The corporate governance core list is shown the appendix. The entries in the list are the 137 titles that are cited at least once a year in five or more consecutive years of *CGIR*. They are arranged in descending order by number of citations. Among the top 50 titles, only 2 (*CGIR* and *Directors and Boards*) are corporate governance titles. In the entire list, only 6 corporate governance titles and *CGIR* account for almost 90 percent (656 of 737) of the citations in corporate governance publications. What is clear from this list is that the literature of corporate governance is concentrated within established business disciplines.

The appendix also includes the subject code for each journal and the column "Highly Ranked," which is an indicator of whether the journal is considered top-tier in its respective field. Because the focus of this paper is developing a

core list, including some indication of the relative importance of the journal in the authors' list is important. As discussed earlier, core lists constructed in business colleges and departments may be focused on established disciplinary areas and ignore interdisciplinary areas. The goal with the "Highly Ranked" field is to provide an objective indication of journal quality based on the intersection of journal rankings described in Harzing's Journal Quality List. ⁵⁵ One strength of the JQL is that it collects journal-ranking studies from around the world and presents them side-by-side for comparison. Rankings come from a variety of sources, ranging from rankings done by individual institutions to those done

Table 1. Citations by Format

Citation Type	Number	Percent
Articles	9,572	63
Nonarticle Citation Types		
Accounting Standard	2	0
Annual Reports	25	0
Book	2,628	17
Book Chapter	636	4
Conference Proceeding	196	1
Government Document	324	2
Other	54	0
Report	847	6
Thesis/Dissertation	47	0
Unpublished	84	1
Website	405	3
Working Papers	450	3
Subtotal	5,698	37
Total Citations	15,270	100

Table 2. Consecutive Years of Citation

Consecutive Years	Number of Titles	Percent Titles	Number of Citations	Percent Citations
10	19	1.7	4,544	47.5
9	21	1.9	1,073	11.2
8	21	1.9	727	7.6
7	18	1.6	439	4.6
6	22	2.0	312	3.3
5	36	3.2	392	4.1
4	48	4.3	378	3.9
3	80	7.2	404	4.2
2	150	13.4	403	4.2
1	701	62.8	900	9.4
Totals	1,116	100.0	9,572	100.0

as part of national journal-ranking initiatives. The current edition of JQL contains information from twenty-one different journal ranking studies dated 1998 to 2012.

To arrive at an assessment of quality journals in corporate governance, the authors selected three rankings (the Australian Business Deans Council Journal Rankings List (ABDC), the Association of Business Schools Academic Journal Quality Guide (ABS), and a list from the ESSEC Business School in Paris (ESSEC)) in the forty-fifth edition of the JQL. Each ranking has the advantage of being recent (two dated from 2010 and one from 2011), and all have broad journal coverage. The ABS ranking is used as an evaluative tool when conducting the UK Research Assessment Exercise. ABCD is a ranking developed by the Australian Business Deans Council after input from professional societies. ESSEC is the equivalent of an individual school ranking.

Journals included in the "Highly Ranked" column ranked in the top two categories (indicating that the journals have an international reputation) in all three rankings. The criteria for including journals were as follows: ABCD journals were included if their ranking was A° or A; ABS journals were included if their rankings were 4 or 3 (including the 4° titles); ESSEC journals were included if their rankings were 0 or 1 (including the 0+ journals). Triangulating between three different rankings insured that the included journals were ranked as top-tier journals in multiple rankings. In this core list, 46 percent (63) of 137 titles are identified as "Highly Ranked," including the top 20 titles in the list.

Discussion

This research successfully constructed a core list of journals for the field of corporate governance.

One lesson from the development of this core list is that many journals on the list are top-tier journals in traditional business disciplines. This core list demonstrates the interdisciplinary nature of corporate governance research and is free from the bias that may be present in a departmentally developed core list. This work has implications for both researchers and librarians with collection management responsibilities.

Implications for Researchers

Researchers need to be aware that the perceived quality of an individual research article tends to be tied to the quality of the journal in which it appears. Faculty members often make judgments regarding journal quality to make informed decisions about promotion and tenure and performance evaluations

Table 3. Journals by Subject Area

Number	Total Citations	Percent Citations
19	926	12
5	189	3
6	737	10
26	1,674	22
18	1,076	14
10	124	2
44	2,591	35
3	37	0
2	20	0
4	113	2
137	7,487	100
63	3,676	49
50	3,328	45
24	483	6
137	7,487	100
	19 5 6 26 18 10 44 3 2 4 137 63 50	Number Citations 19 926 5 189 6 737 26 1,674 18 1,076 10 124 44 2,591 3 37 2 20 4 113 137 7,487 63 3,676 50 3,328 24 483

of their faculty colleagues. Faculty and administrators in academic institutions involved in making performance evaluations for both salary increases and promotion and tenure decisions need to exercise their subject expertise and professional judgment in conducting these evaluations. This paper potentially informs these types of decisions by indicating the core journals contributing to the field of corporate governance. Since corporate governance researchers may publish in a diverse set of academic disciplines, this paper is useful to faculty members on promotion and tenure committees and those who provide external letters of recommendation in terms of identifying the journals making the most important contributions to the development of the corporate governance field.

Therefore researchers interested in corporate governance employed in finance departments seeking promotion can claim that corporate governance research fits the mainstream of finance research in general. The same argument holds for economics, accounting, and management scholars. Governance researchers outside of business schools also will find these results useful in terms of where to submit their academic work.

The authors discussed earlier that corporate governance researchers are frequently affiliated with business departments whose publishing criteria may not match where the researcher is publishing. In this case, the core list

is a useful tool for demonstrating that the core journals in corporate governance are highly respected journals in other disciplines. This information can be useful when justifying publishing outside of a department's disciplinary journal lists.

Individual faculty also can take steps to ensure that their research is evaluated objectively by promotion and tenure committees and department administrators. One of the most important things that faculty can do is to find out how their department evaluates research outcomes during promotion and tenure cases. Particularly important is to find out if a disciplinary journal list exists, how the list compiled, how often is it updated, and who has input into the revision process. Also important is talking with promotion and tenure committees or recently promoted faculty to learn how journals that fall outside disciplinary lists are evaluated. The authors' list of core journals constitutes a set of target outlets for all governance research that can supplement existing departmental journal lists.

Beyond finding acceptable publishing outlets and understanding how their department evaluates research, faculty also need to be able to show the impact of their research on their discipline, regardless of whether that discipline is corporate governance, a more standard business discipline, or a different interdisciplinary field. Tracking citations to research is particularly important and can demonstrate the impact of an individual article. A highly cited article in a second-tier journal can signal that the article is of particular importance and should be evaluated on its merits and not the (presumed) prestige of the journal.

Implications for Librarians

This paper demonstrates the complexities of interdisciplinary fields, and librarians can leverage the information in this paper in a number of ways. One important lesson from this study is that interdisciplinary fields differ from traditional disciplines in the way they produce and use knowledge. Knowing that a field is interdisciplinary can inform both research assistance and collection management decisions. Integrating methods of searching for interdisciplinary information (e.g., using multiple databases) with traditional collection evaluation methods enhances the ability of librarians to meet the needs of their interdisciplinary scholars.

Another important task for librarians is assisting faculty in interdisciplinary areas, such as corporate governance, in defending their choice of publishing venues, especially in cases where publications fall outside a department's disciplinary journal list. Educating faculty on ways to demonstrate the value of their articles despite their publication choice is important. One way to accomplish this is to emphasize that that journal rankings by themselves do not adequately represent the quality of individual articles.

Singh, Haddad, and Chow point out that "using journal rank as a proxy for quality can lead to substantial judgment errors: Many top articles are published in non-top journals, and many non-top articles are published in top journals." Being familiar with the literature that critiques journal ranking may provide the evidence departments need to change their evaluation methods. Research that explores individually evaluating articles for merit has been done by Mingers, Watson, and Scaparra. ⁵⁷

Another role of librarians is to educate faculty on the use and misuse of journal rankings. This may take the form of discussions with promotion and tenure committees or presentations at departmental meetings. Encouraging faculty and departments to judge research based on the impact of the article will enhance their ability to judge quality research. As Singh, Haddad, and Chow noted, "both administrators and the management discipline will be well served by efforts to evaluate each article on its merits rather than abdicate this responsibility by using journal ranking as a proxy for quality." Librarians should realize that educating faculty about journal rankings will be an ongoing discussion topic.

Collection management for corporate governance and other interdisciplinary areas is complicated by the need to examine literature in multiple subject areas. The references included in the literature review may assist librarians with interdisciplinary collection management challenges. The method used in this paper is transferrable and can be applied to any interdisciplinary subject area. It can be used for developing core lists that can be used for collection evaluation or for evaluating journal articles for promotion and tenure that are relevant regardless of discipline. The method also is useful for delineating the core subject areas that constitute an interdisciplinary subject.

Conclusion

This research describes a method of identifying core journals in the interdisciplinary field of corporate governance. Specifically, the authors demonstrated that the primary journal in the field, *CGIR*, draws the majority of the citations in its articles from influential established business journals in established business disciplines. The core list developed by the authors contains top-tier journals primarily from the areas of accounting, economics, finance, and management.

Librarians can use these results to enhance their ability to reach out to corporate governance scholars, and knowledge gained from this research can inform both collection management and faculty outreach activities. Results from this method also can be used to educate faculty on the differences between disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields. Other interdisciplinary fields face similar issues related to identifying core journal lists. The method can easily be adapted to other interdisciplinary areas. Using methods like the one described in this research allows librarians to document the scope of an interdisciplinary field for their interdisciplinary scholars.

The development of core lists in business schools, and other academic departments and programs, is an important component of evaluation processes that take place at the individual (e.g., promotion and tenure) and institutional (e.g., national research assessments) levels. This research method can be used to explore the structure of interdisciplinary research being conducted by academic departments. Librarians can use this information to help faculty provide a defense of publishing in interdisciplinary areas. The importance of this research is that it demonstrates a method for evaluating interdisciplinary research areas that informs both academics and librarians about the multifaceted research that takes place in the academy.

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Appendix: Corporate Governance Core Journals

			Total		Highly
Rank	Journal Name	ISSN	Citations	Subject	Ranked
1	Journal of Financial Economics	0304-405X	740	ECO	Y
2	Corporate Governance: An International Review	0964-0701	656	CG	Y
3	Journal of Finance	0022-1082	469	FIN	Y
4	Academy of Management Journal	0001-4273	394	MAN	Y
5	Strategic Management Journal	0143-2095	368	MAN	Y
6	Academy of Management Review	0363-7425	297	MAN	Y
7	Administrative Science Quarterly	0001-8392	242	MAN	Y
8	Journal of Accounting and Economics	0165-4101	213	ACC	Y
9	Journal of Political Economy	0022-3808	210	ECO	Y
10	Journal of Management	0149-2063	169	MAN	Y
11	Accounting Review	0001-4826	146	ACC	Y
12	Journal of Accounting Research	0021-8456	138	ACC	Y
13	Journal of Law and Economics	0022-2186	136	ECO	Y
14	Harvard Business Review	0017-8012	125	MAN	Y

15	A	0002 0202	101	ECO	V 7
15 16	American Economic Review Journal of Corporate Finance	0002-8282 0929-1199	121 119	ECO FIN	Y Y
17	Journal of Corporate Finance Journal of Management Studies	0022-2380	103	MAN	Y
18	Journal of Management Studies Journal of Business Ethics	0167-4544	91	MAN	Y
19	Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis	0022-1090	91	FIN	Y
19 20		0378-4266	91 85	FIN	Y
20 21	Journal of Banking and Finance		74	FIN	Y
	Financial Management	0046-3892			
22	Quarterly Journal of Economics	0033-5533	74	ECO	Y
23	Accounting and Business Research	0001-4788	73	ACC	
24	Financial Times	0307-1766	73	BNEWS	
25	Long Range Planning	0024-6301	63	MAN	
26	Journal of Business Finance and Accounting	0306-686X	61	FIN	Y
27	Contemporary Accounting Research	0823-9150	51	ACC	Y
28	Economic Journal	0013-0133	50	ECO	Y
29	Academy of Management Executive	0896-3789	47	MAN	
30	American Sociological Review	0003-1224	47	SOC	Y
31	Organization Science	1047-7039	46	MAN	Y
32	Accounting Horizons	0888-7993	45	ACC	
33	British Journal of Management	1045-3172	44	MAN	
34	American Journal of Sociology	0002-9602	43	SOC	Y
35	Business Lawyer	0007-6899	43	MAN	
36	Journal of Business	0021-9436	41	MAN	
37	Wall Street Journal	0099-9660	41	BNEWS	
38	Human Relations	0018-7267	39	MAN	Y
39	Journal of Accounting and Public Policy	0278-4254	39	ACC	
40	Organization Studies	0170-8406	39	MAN	Y
41	Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization	8756-6222	37	ECO	Y
42	Journal of General Management	0306-3070	36	MAN	
43	Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory	0278-0380	35	ACC	
44	Business Week	0007-7135	34	BNEWS	
45	Journal of International Business Studies	0047-2506	34	MAN	Y
46	European Economic Review	0014-2921	32	ECO	Y
47	Directors and Boards	0364-9156	31	CG	-
48	Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice	1042-2587	30	MAN	
49	British Accounting Review	0890-8389	28	ACC	
50	Review of Financial Studies	0893-9454	28	FIN	Y
51	Economist	0013-0613	27	BNEWS	
52	Journal of Applied Corporate Finance	1079-1196	27	FIN	
53		0022-0515	27	ECO	Y
	Journal of Economic Literature				1
54 ==	Managerial and Decision Economics	0143-6570	27	ECO	
55 56	Bell Journal of Economics	0361-915X	26	ECO	
56	Family Business Review	1894-4865	26	MAN	
57	Journal of Management and Governance	1385-3457	26	MAN	*7
58	Management Science	0025-1909	26	MAN	Y
59	Journal of Economic Perspectives	0895-3309	25	ECO	Y
30	California Management Review	0008-1256	24	MAN	Y
61	Econometrica	0012-9682	24	ECO	Y
52	Journal of Business Venturing	0883-9026	24	FIN	Y
63	Corporate Board	0746-8652	23	CG	
64	Accounting Auditing and Accountability Journal	0951-3574	21	ACC	Y
65	Accounting Organization and Society	0361-3682	21	ACC	Y
66	Columbia Law Review	0010-1958	21	LAW	
67	RAND Journal of Economics	0741-6261	21	ECO	Y
68	European Financial Management	1354-7798	19	FIN	Y
69	Ivey Business Journal/ Quarterly	1481-8248	19	MAN	
70	Yale Law Journal	0044-0094	19	LAW	
71	Accountancy	0001-4664	18	ACC	

72	Annual Review of Sociology	0360-0572	18	SOC	
73	Australian Journal of Management	0312-8962	18	MAN	
74	European Management Journal	0263-2373	18	MAN	
75	International Journal of Accounting	0020-7063	18	ACC	Y
76	New York Times Magazine	0028-7822	18	NEWS	•
77	Pacific Basin Finance Journal	0927-538X	18	FIN	
78	Review of Economic Studies	0034-6527	18	ECO	Y
79	Accounting and Finance	0810-5391	16	ACC	•
80	Mckinsey Quarterly	0047-5394	16	MAN	
81	Stanford Law Review	0038-9765	16	LAW	
82	Abacus	0001-3072	15	ACC	Y
83	Journal of Applied Psychology	0021-9010	15	PSY	Y
84	Journal of Business Research	0148-2963	15	MAN	Y
85	Journal of Business Strategy	0275-6668	15	MAN	•
86	Journal of Corporation Law	0360-795X	15	LAW	
87	European Accounting Review	0963-8180	14	ACC	Y
88	Fortune	0015-8259	14	BNEWS	•
89	Journal of Accounting Literature	0737-4607	14	ACC	
90	British Journal of Industrial Relations	0007-1080	13	MAN	Y
91	Company and Securities Law Journal	0729-2775	13	LAW	
92	Economic Policy	0266-4568	13	ECO	
93	International Journal of Industrial Organization	0167-7187	13	MAN	Y
94	Journal of Comparative Economics	0147-5967	13	ECO	•
95	Journal of Managerial Issues	1045-3695	13	MAN	
96	Sloan Management Review	1532-9194	13	MAN	Y
97	Sunday Times (London)	0956-1382	13	NEWS	
98	Michigan Law Review	0026-2234	12	LAW	
99	Australian Accounting Review	1035-6908	11	ACC	
100	Business Horizons	0007-6813	11	MAN	
101	Directorship	0193-4279	11	CG	
102	Industrial and Labor Relations Review	0019-7939	11	ECO	Y
103	Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization	0167-2681	11	ECO	Y
104	Journal of International Financial Management and Accounting	0954-1314	11	FIN	•
105	Oxford Review of Economic Policy	2666-903X	11	ECO	
106	World Development	0305-750X	11	ECO	Y
107	Entrepreneurship & Regional Development	0898-5626	10	MAN	
108	Journal of Financial Research	0270-2592	10	FIN	
109	Journal of Industrial Economics	0022-1821	10	ECO	
110	Managerial Auditing Journal	0268-6902	10	ACC	
111	Managerial Finance	0307-4358	10	FIN	
112	Review of Financial Economics	1058-3300	10	ECO	
113	Asia Pacific Journal of Management	0217-4561	9	MAN	
114	Australian Financial Review	0404-2018	9	FIN	
115	Business and Society	0007-6503	9	MAN	
116	Corporate Ownership and Control	1810-3057	9	CG	
117	Harvard Law Review	0017-811X	9	LAW	
118	Human Resource Management	0090-4848	8	MAN	Y
119	Research in Organizational Behavior	0191-3085	8	MAN	
120	Across the Board	1047-1554	7	CG	
121	European Journal of Finance	1351-847X	7	FIN	
122	Forbes	0015-6914	7	FIN	
123	Georgetown Law Journal	0016-8092	7	LAW	
123	Management International Review	0938-8249	7	MAN	Y
125	Scandinavian Journal of Management	0956-5221	7	FIN	1
126	Applied Financial Economics	0960-3107	6	ECO	
127	Appued Financial Economics Compensation and Benefits Review	0886-3687	6	MAN	
128	Economica	0013-0427	6	ECO	Y
120	Болописи	0015-0427	U	ECO	1

129	George Washington Law Review	0016-8076	6	LAW	
130	Globe & Mail (Toronto)	0319-0714	6	NEWS	
131	International Journal of Management	0813-0183	6	MAN	
132	Journal of Change Management	1469-7017	6	MAN	
133	Journal of Law and Society	0263-323X	6	LAW	
134	Journal of Monetary Economics	0304-3932	5	ECO	Y
135	Journal of Organizational Behavior	0894-3796	5	MAN	Y
136	Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	0022-3514	5	PSY	Y
137	Sociology	0038-0385	5	SOC	Y

Note: Items that have the same number of citations are listed alphabetically.