IGU JOURNAL PROJECT

Ton Dietz
Guest Professor Human Geography
University of Amsterdam
Director African Studies Centre Leiden
Credits

- IGU Executive Board for initiating the project in 2008
- The University of Amsterdam’s Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies for supporting the project
- Cecilia Blaustein, Qiu Li and particularly Jaap Rothuizen for doing the preliminary work
- Some IGU National Committee chairs and EB members for adding/correcting information so far
- IGU Secretary-General Mike Meadows and his University of Cape Town team to put the results online.
IGU JOURNAL PROJECT

- List of as many geographical journals in the world as possible
- Make it searchable on the igu-online.org website
- Search entries online:
  - Country
  - Journal Name
  - ISSN
  - Editor
  - Key word
For every journal:
- Name + issn (+e-issn) + since …
- Country + City of publication
- Name of publishing company
- Editor + Editor information
- Language(s)
- Website
- ISI category + if ISI: 5-yr impact factor (recent)
Results so far

1310 geographical journals

But: **geography**: broadly defined

On Web of Knowledge (ISI): Sciences: ca 400 current entries: wok-categories: geography physical; geochemistry & physics; geosciences multidisciplinary; geology; remote sensing; biodiversity conservation; environmental sciences; meteorology and atmospheric sciences; soil science; water resources; oceanography

On Web of Knowledge (ISI): Social Sciences: ca 300 current entries: wok-categories: geography; area studies; demography; environmental sciences; planning and development; urban studies; transportation studies

Some overlap
What should be done now?

- Improve the search possibilities online
- For the journals that are on the list: update the ISI and other information (and do so every year) + correct where necessary
- Check the web of knowledge for ‘missing journals’ in the relevant categories + add
- For other journals: add! Particularly for countries with few or no entries yet
Geographical Coverage of the current IGU journal database-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and Oceania</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1310</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geographical coverage-2

Most geographical journals (on the IGU list so far):
- China 274
- USA 256
- UK 143
- Netherlands 92
- France 51
- Spain 42
- Nigeria 41
- Germany 32
- Canada 31
- Mexico 29
## Language coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISI (wok) and non-ISI-1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ISI</th>
<th>not-ISI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ISI and physical geography (narrow)

- N = 43
- 5yr impact; range 0-6.6 in 2012
- Top 5:
  - Global Ecol Biogeo  6.6
  - J. Biogeogr      4.9
  - Quarternary Sci Rev  4.7
  - Progr Phys Geogr   4.1
  - Global Planet Change  3.9
Others in top 15

- 3.8 Landscape Ecology
- 3.7 Cryosphere
- 3.4 ISPRS J Photogramm
- 3.1 Quarternary Res
- 3.1 Landscape Urban Plan
- 2.9 Palaeogeogr Palaeocl
- 2.9 Geomorphology
- 2.8 Holocene
- 2.7 J. Glaciol
- 2.7 Boreas
ISI and geography in the social sciences database (narrow)

N=73 (overlap with phys geography: 6)

5yr impact; range: 0-8.3 in 2012

Top 5:

- Global Environ Change  8.3
- J. Econ. Geogr.   5.0
- Econ. Geogr.    4.1
- Progress Human Geogr.  4.0
- T.I. Brit. Geogr.  3.9
Others in top 15

- 3.3 Appl Geogr
- 3.1 Landscape Urban Plan
- 3.0 J. Transport Geogr
- 2.9 Polit Geogr
- 2.7 Ann Assoc Am Geo
- 2.6 Environ Plan D
- 2.3 Environ Plann A
- 2.2 Antipode
- 2.1 Geoforum
- 2.0 Popul Space Place
ISI: A BIASED SYSTEM OF JOURNAL EVALUATION-1

(situation 2010)

English language

- In Americas 236 ISI 21 not-ISI
- In Europe 226 ISI 55 not-ISI
- In Africa 28 ISI 69 not-ISI
- In Asia & Oc 10 ISI 78 not-ISI

Chinese language

- In Asia & Oc 10 ISI 230 not-ISI
### ISI: A BIASED SYSTEM OF JOURNAL EVALUATION-2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>ISI</th>
<th>not-ISI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish language</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French language</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese language</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian language</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-language</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other languages</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issue

Should the world geographers accept this bias of a commercial US-based English-focused company?

Or should there be a more balanced assessment of the ‘world of geography’ in journal publications?
Example

- In the European Association for Development Institutes EADI a broader system is used now
- A: ISI highest 1/3 impact of an ISI category
- B: other ISI
- C: not-ISI but scientifically peer reviewed
- D: other academic; not peer reviewed
- E: non-academic (policy; practitioners)
- + specific assessment of book publishers and other types of scholarly products
Example continued

- For geographical journals (narrowly defined) this would mean:
  - For Physical Geography: ISI-A journals:
    - 5 yr impact factor: $> 2.7$; B journals: $< 2.7$
  - For Human Geography: ISI-A journals:
    - 5 yr impact factor: $> 1.8$; B journals $< 1.8$
  - If overlap: the best score
    - E.g., Int J. Geogr Inf Sc 5Y-IF $= 1.8$; so: A!
Another issue

Many geographical journals have a website, but not all (all should have one?)

A growing number of journals are e-publications; or with digital access (all should?)

However: very few are freely available online
So:

- Should academic geographers refuse to publish in journals (and books) that are not online? Or even: only in journals with free online access? Immediately or only after some time?

- Should geographers demand that all their scholarly products should immediately be available online on their personal and/or institute’s websites?