

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABDC LIST

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ABSTRACT

Assessment of intellectual contributions by university faculty are becoming more complicated because of the need to demonstrate impact. In the past, faculty are normally required to publish in the journals that are peer reviewed and/or blind reviewed. As the number of journal outlets increased, faculty are also asked to provide additional measures of quality such as impact factors, Hastings index, and number of citations. Some disciplines have developed their own list of journals. Elite institutions have even insisted on a smaller group of exclusive journals that are acceptable. For the average academic institutions accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB International), they may be more student centric and teaching is their primary mission, such limited listings may not be an appropriate assessment mechanism for evaluating the research productivity of their faculty. An increasing number of institutions are now using the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) list, a much more inclusive and friendlier inventory of almost 3000 journals of all types. Given the needs of diverse institutions, many universities and colleges consider the ABDC list is a better fit for assessing the research productivity of faculty in one of the four categories of the AACSB International. This study examines the journals that are included in the ABDC listing by analyzing their compositions and characteristics from a variety of viewpoints or areas of focus. For faculty at institutions that have adopted this list, the results will provide implications about how these journals are used and can be applied to faculty teaching at institutions that have different missions.

In nations using other criteria, the analysis of this study can be used by their educational institutions in the development of a fairer and more inclusive evaluation list.