# Are we making a difference?
# Citations to articles published in *ORL-Head and Neck Nursing*

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## Background

*ORL-Head and Neck Nursing (ORL-HNN)* is an otorhinolaryngology nursing specialty journal published quarterly by the Society of Otorhinolaryngology Head & Neck Nurses.

## Objectives

- Determine the most-cited articles and authors published in *ORL-HNN*;
- Identify other clinical and academic specialties using or citing articles from *ORL-HNN*;
- Identify resources most useful to find references citing *ORL-HNN* articles.

## Methods

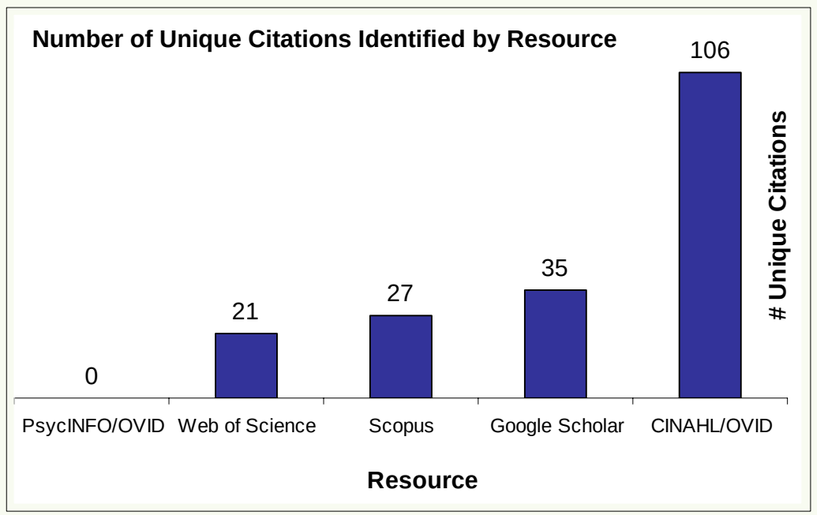
1. An EndNote® library was created of all articles published in *ORL-HNN* between 1982 and 2007. “Article” was defined by inclusion as a citation in MEDLINE® (PubMed®) or the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL®/OVID).
2. Citations to all articles published in *ORL-HNN* from 1982 to 2007 were searched using 4 databases and 1 search engine:
   - Web of Science™
   - Scopus™
   - CINAHL®/OVID
   - PsycINFO®/OVID
   - Google Scholar™
3. The records and data for each cited reference were downloaded to separate EndNote® libraries.
4. To identify the most-cited authors and papers, duplicate citations were removed to determine the number of unique citations for each original *ORL-HNN* article.
   - To determine the *most-cited papers*, the unique citations to each paper were summed.
   - To determine the *most-cited authors*, the unique citation counts for each article were summed to derive an overall citation count for each author.
   - To determine the *most prolific author*, all articles published were counted (excluding editorials, media reviews, presidential addresses/perspectives, consultation forum, and letters to the editor).
5. To determine which resource retrieved the most unique citing references, those appearing only in 1 resource were identified as a “unique” citing reference.
6. The subject categories of journals citing *ORL-HNN* articles were determined using *ISI Journal Citation Reports® (JCR)* and *Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory*™.


## Results

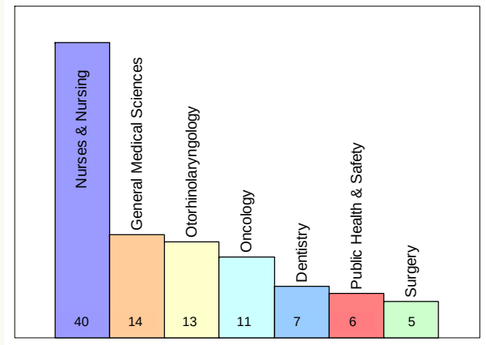
- 191 *ORL-HNN* articles were cited;
- Most-cited paper was a 1996 study of the use of the Delphi survey technique, cited 30 times;
- Most-cited author was cited a total of 51 times;
- Most prolific author published 27 articles in *ORL-HNN*.

## Identifying Unique Citations

Unique citations were identified by reviewing the results retrieved from each resource that includes cited references. A citing reference was “unique” if it was only retrieved from 1 resource. The citing references retrieved from each resource were reviewed and tallied by hand.




## Subjects of Journals Most Frequently Citing *ORL-HNN* Articles




**Subject Categories of Journals Citing *ORL-HNN***

| |
|---|
| Aeronautics & Space Flight |
| Alternative Medicine |
| Engineering |
| Environmental Studies |
| Gerontology |
| Insurance |
| Linguistics |
| Orthopedics |

**156 Journals from 74 Subject Categories Cited *ORL-HNN* Articles**

## Calculating the Impact of *ORL-HNN*

2006 calculated Impact Factor* for *ORL-HNN* = 0.3556

2006 calculated h-index** for *ORL-HNN* = 11

This calculated impact factor includes all unique citations to *ORL-HNN* from all 5 sources. Thirty-six nursing journals ranked by ISI have impact factors ranging from 2.058 (*Birth Issues in Perinatal Care*) to 0.373 (*Geriatric Nursing)*.

*The annual *JCR* impact factor is a ratio between citations and recent citable items published. Thus, the impact factor of a journal is calculated by dividing the number of current year citations to the source items published in that journal during the previous two years by the number of published articles in that journal during the previous two years .

**The h-index was proposed by Jorge Hirsch in 2005 as an alternative to the impact factor. The h-index quantifies scientific productivity and the impact of a scientist based on the set of his/her most quoted papers and the number of citations that they have received in other people's publications. For example, an author or journal with an h-index of 30 has written at least 30 papers that have each had at least 30 citations. This metric is useful because it takes into account the uneven weight of highly cited papers or papers that have not yet been cited.

## Conclusion

Citations studies can demonstrate that articles have a wide impact both within the journal’s primary academic discipline and beyond it. While the citation index published by ISI *Web of Knowledge* remains an important tool for identifying related articles, other resources may also identify unique citations.

For this nursing specialty field, CINAHL/OVID retrieved the most unique citing references, although the search process was time consuming. While not specific to nursing, Google Scholar is a free alternative to identifying citing references and should be included with any comprehensive cited reference search.

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