

A ranked [list of journals](#): reconfiguring the field

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As many members of EAAE will be aware of, European universities are increasingly assessing their faculty by looking at their research output. Research Assessment Exercises as conducted in the United Kingdom might not yet be omnipresent, but in many countries one can definitely see a tendency to head in that direction.

When universities and regulating bodies develop a research assessment system, they often base themselves on what are seen as commonly accepted parameters in sciences and life sciences. In these disciplines, books are not regarded as particularly important, and exhibition catalogues are unheard of. Major publications in these fields are articles in reviewed journals with high ranking and high impact factors. The ranking of journals and the calculation of their impact factor is generally done by relying upon the ISI Web of Science, which offers such services through its SCI (Science Citation Index), SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) and AHCI (Arts & Humanities Citation Index). Unfortunately, the AHCI is far less comprehensive and serviceable than the other two citation indexes. Books are not excerpted in AHCI and many important journals never made it into their list of titles. AHCI is therefore not a good basis for assessing the research output in the field of architecture. Nevertheless many universities seem to be inclined to use the Web of Science– basically for reasons of simplicity of procedure and for lack of an alternative system.

Schools of architecture thus increasingly feel the pressure to develop a system of their own that would offer guidelines in assessing the research output of scholars and practitioners in architecture. For the moment no such system is available, although initiatives are being taken by several bodies (among them the European Science Foundation). Such a system should be able to acknowledge the value of books and exhibition catalogues, next to articles published in international and national journals.

EAAE wants to play a role in these developments. As a first step, we want to come up with a list of journals relevant for the field of architecture and related disciplines (architectural history, planning, design methodology, etc.) To that end we want to establish an international committee which will be formed in Chania in September 2009 and which will work during 2009-2010 on the construction of such a list. The committee doesn't need to start from scratch, since a preliminary list exists which can be the starting point for its discussions. This [list](#), composed by some researchers of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, is published on the website of the EAAE.

The council welcomes the nomination of possible committee members. Please contact Hilde Heynen for more information (hilde.heynen@asro.kuleuven.be).