

## Mathematical and Statistical Bibliometric Indicators for Scholars in the Field of Romance Languages and Linguistics

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### ABSTRACT

The rapid development of using information technology enables scholars to present their work in the worldwide databases, to read works of other colleagues, to be read, to get citations. The primary objective of this study is to show the scholars of Romance languages and linguistics who meet with their projects and publications in Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) how to work with databases. The second objective is to point out that to present research made in the field of Romance languages and linguistics written in a Romance language is a difficult task for a number of scholars across the world.

**Keywords:** WOS, WOK, SCOPUS, journals with romance languages and linguistics scope, jbitechnology, scholars, citations, indicators

### INTRODUCTION

The science of bibliometrics, scientometrics or journal metrics includes mathematical and statistical methods in order to analyze and measure the quantity and quality of scientific publications and of the performance of a researchers' output. In our article, we deal with some quantity indicators (cites, cites core, SNIP, SJR, IF and one quality indicator (field-weighted citation). Some structural indicators (measurement of connections between publications, authors, and areas of research) are shown inductively in our research paper, too. Indicators in question are important for scholars and institutions they work for. In our case, it particularly goes on scientific or university institutions in Slovakia, Algeria, Russia, Slovenia, Czech Republic. Outcomes published in journals indexed in the most important databases Wos, Wok, and Scopus provide a researcher with the mentioned indicators. The measurements are often a mark of the quality of the researcher. They help gain scientific grants or another sort of research promotion. As research results are published, read and then cited by other researchers, bibliometric indicators are becoming a significant guide to quality. This article promotes the work with bibliometric databases as well as it summarizes some important indicators when searching for data relevant for the Romance-languages-and-linguistics scope and the challenge to exchange knowledge in Romance languages.

The corps of the paper is divided into these chapters.

1. Scopus
  - 1.1 Cites
  - 1.2 How to work with citations
  - 1.3 Citescore, SNIP, SJR
  - 1.4 Field-weighted citation

### **Contribution of this paper to the literature**

- The authors refer to some mathematical and statistical bibliometric indicators which create the center of attention in the world-wide recognized databases Web of Science, Web of Knowledge and Scopus in order to show that the journals with the Romance-languages-and-linguistics scope. The possibility to exchange knowledge for eligible authors to write scientific papers in other (Romance) language than English is small. Journals for French-speaking, Spanish-speaking or Italian-speaking scholars occur less in the databases than journals for English-speaking scholars.
- The paper also presents some guide steps for working with databases as the databases are gaining more and more an important role in evaluation of the French-speaking, Italian-speaking and Spanish-speaking researchers' work.

#### 2. Web of science

##### 2.1 How to work with citations

##### 2.2 IF

#### 3. Research Methodology

##### 3.1 Journals with Romance languages and linguistic scope

##### 3.2 Best cited journals

##### 3.3 Best cited journals in Romance languages and linguistics scope

## **Purpose and Objectives of the Study**

Are cites equal to being read? Let's suppose that the number of citations equals a number of readings or studies of what the scholar has written. The more citations the scholar completes, the more he is read; thus, he/ she influences the scientists of his field, and he becomes a recognized personality with his impact in the field, with social changes and an economic contribution.

The purpose of this paper is to present the operation of the two global tools in order to organize research in French language and thus to connect with the scientific world in French thanks to cites that appear in the databases from the data of uploaded papers into researcher's account. Articles published with the help of financial support, project or inter-university cooperation (where the authors come from several universities around the world) are of greater importance than home-made articles.

Another objective of the study is to point out that the number of the journals in which scholars might publish in Romance languages is still too small.

## **The Relevance of the Research**

The specific conditions of the modern scholar are characterized by new patterns of innovative, more reliable technology tools. These are the worldwide recognized databases related to different domains or field of research.

The Wos, Wok and Scopus databases house a number of journals, books and conference proceedings published in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and human sciences. It is a favor for Russian, Slovak, Algerian, Slovenian researchers seeking scientific legitimacy from the international scientific community. This recognition is based on the publication of the results of the survey and the peer-review evaluation which subsequently leads to large-scale dissemination of research products. Bibliometric indicators measure the quality of researchers' work and the influence of the journals in which they publish" (Dassa, Kosmopoulos, & Pumain, 2018).

Thus, the databases allow scholars not only to have international visibility but also to gain notoriety like their peers around the world. In this sense, the Ministries of (Higher) Education and Scientific Research of Slovakia, Russia, Algeria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic through decisions on the sustainability and recognition of scientific journals encourage all scholars and academic institutions to get published and get classified their work in several databases. The databases are cited in documents of the national character of the cited countries distributed as a basis for categorizing journals. Slovakia's system enables researchers to publish in Scopus, Wos and Wok databases where publications in Wok are the most precious. Algeria recognizes mainly Scopus.

Thus, Scopus allows Slovak, Russian, Slovenian, Algerian researchers not only to have international visibility but also to gain notoriety like their peers around the world.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The first base of citations was founded in the 70s; it was called Science Citation Index (SCI). This tool at the beginning strictly defined for the analysis of scientific articles has developed over a period of time. Presently, the global importance is accentuated. Reading and being read in the field of research in the circle of internationally recognized scholars has become the main goal of bibliometrics.

Two scientific databases are recognized as those that collect high-quality scientific articles, studies and monographs - ISI (Wos - Web of science and Wok - Web of knowledge) and Scopus.

Within the ISI by Thomson Reuters, Wok, and Wos with these basics of citations in sections Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI) and Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) become for Romance languages important. Among the journals accepted by these two sub-bases or sections of WOS, a small number of journals allow eligible authors to write articles in French or other Romance language. It seems impossible to get published in these journals.

Scopus (whose editor is Elsevier) enables the scientific knowledge exchange in a limited number of languages, but still, the database is more open to the language diversity than Wos or Wok. The tests of sheltering the results of research in lingua franca - English - are the tendencies of this century.

Cites counted either in SCI in the Wos or SCI in the Scopus are considered a bibliometric tool widely used in the natural sciences but not so frequent in humanities and social sciences. In particular, because the AHCI and SSCI Wos are incomplete. Hence the challenges of Elsevier which embarked on the development of a database of citations with wider coverage.

Importance, comparison or other aspects of bibliometric indicators were mentioned in a number of scientific papers by Kubiak (2017), Mongeon and Paul-Hus (2016), Trajtel, Tomková, and Kružlik (2017), Wouters (2006), Luque-Martínez and Del Barrio-García (2016), Correia, Paredes, and Fonseca (2018), Migheli and Ramello (2018), Fang, Zhang, and Qiu (2017), Frandsen (2017), Arroyo Moliner, Gallardo-Gallardo, and Gallo de Puellas (2017), Bao and Zhai, (2017), Abrizah et al. (2012), Campanario, González, and Rodríguez (2006), Saad, (2006), Egghe and Rousseau, (2006), Egghe (2006), Zanotto (2006), Franceschini, Maisano, and Mastrogiacomo (2015), Franceschet (2009), Gavel and Iselid (2008), Glänzel and Schoepflin (1999), Kvon and Vaks (2017), Kvon et al. (2017), Kousha and Thelwall (2007), Mingers and Lipitakis (2010), Nederhof (2006), Boyack et al. (2018), Solomon, Laakso, and Björk (2013), Zhang (2009), Jacso (2012), Craig et al. (2007), Kong, Kayumova, and Zakirova (2017), Bornmann et al. (2009), Larsen and von Ins (2010), Zheng (2012), Shamshina and Koryuhina (2015), Lojova (2016), Levina (2017).

In addition to these two global databases, in 2007 the lists of scientific journals ERIH of the European Foundation for Science and in 2008 the lists of the AERES (Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education in France) were born. These databases do not inform the users of the cites core, nor do they demonstrate the scientific index of the journals or the researcher's profile and so are not taken into consideration as much as two gigantic databases presented above. Scopus retains every year the interest not only for the size of its database but also for its highly developed services, offered to researchers: help with publication criteria formulations, transparency, improper practices, plagiarism, the behavior of publishers and co-publishers.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Procedure

The leading methods to study the problem were the following ones:

- the demonstrative, explicative method
- the content analysis.

These methods allow us to provide accuracy of the calculations made.

### Cites

#### *How to Work with the Cites and Citations in the Database of Scopus*

Before starting work with the Scopus and Wos databases, researchers must connect to these two databases, either through the university network or by creating their account directly in the databases.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> step**

It is necessary to enter the Scopus database from the university network or from the personal account (**Figure 1**).

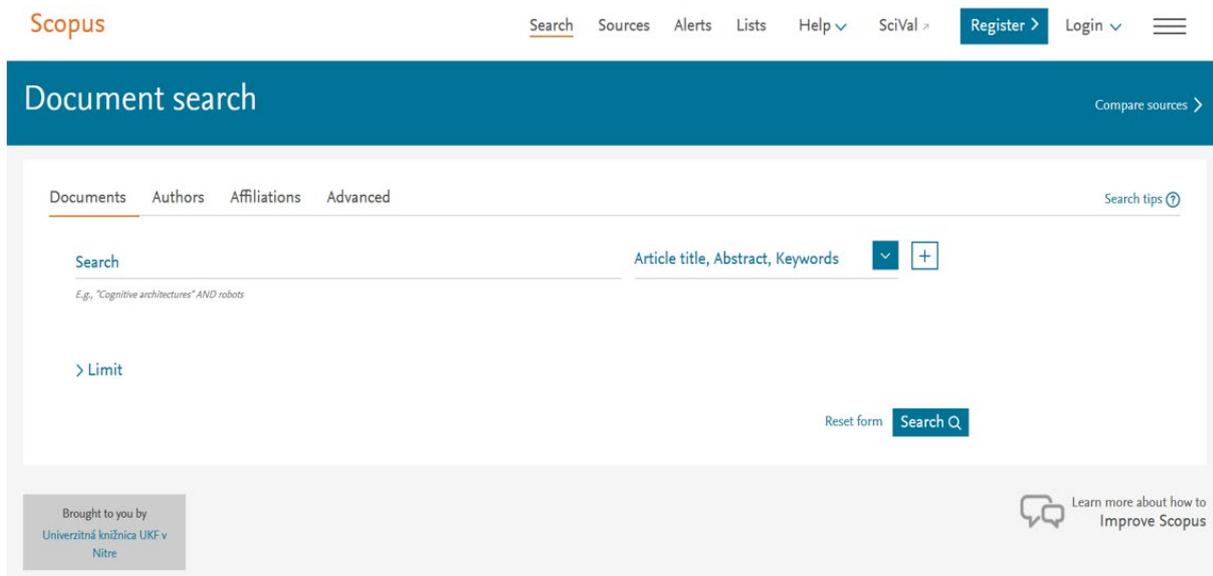


Figure 1. Entrance from the university network

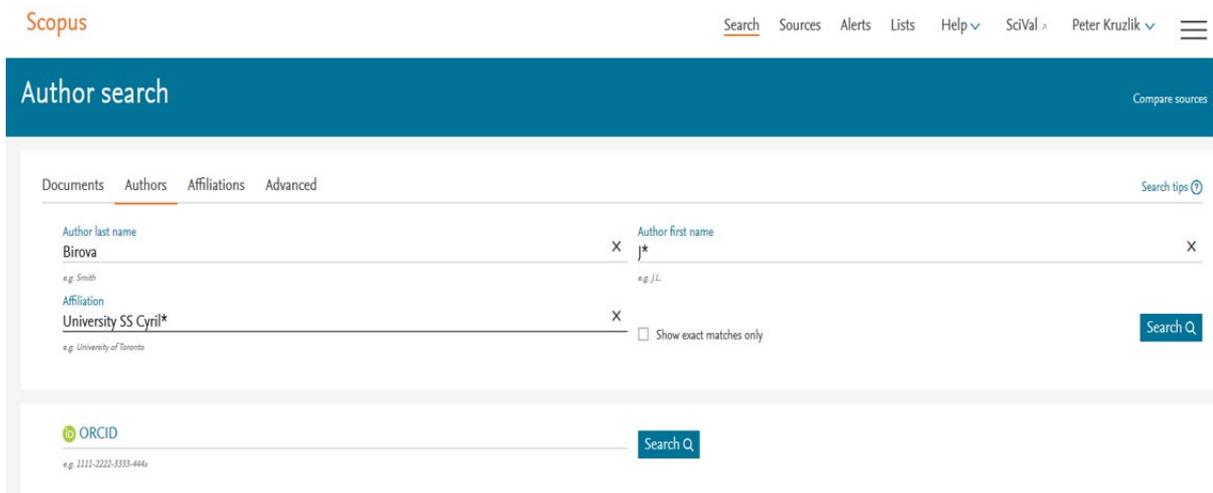


Figure 2. Searching the scholar

### 2<sup>nd</sup> step

Click on the icon to highlight the field with an orange color and fill in the name of the searched scholar, (example Birova J). In order to achieve the works and cites of the searched researcher, it is recommended to add other particularities as the place of work or country (University of SS Cyril and Methodius or abbreviation University SS Cyril\*), we click then on Search (Figure 2).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> step

We tick the desired personality, then Show documents (Figure 3).

The screenshot shows the Scopus search results for the author 'Birova, Jana'. The search criteria are: Author last name "Birova", Author first name "J\*", Affiliation "University of SS Cyril and Methodius\*". The results page shows 1 author result. The table below summarizes the data shown in the screenshot:

Author	Documents	Subject area	Affiliation	City	Country/Territory
Birová, Jana Birová, Jana Birová, Jana Birová, Jana	21	Social Sciences ; Arts and Humanities ; Mathematics; ...	University of SS Cyril and Methodius, Trnava	Trnava	Slovakia

Figure 3. Displaying the scholar

The screenshot shows the Scopus search results for the author 'Birova, Jana', displaying 21 document results. The results are sorted by 'Cited by (highest)'. The table below summarizes the data shown in the screenshot:

Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
1 Modeling the process of forming social and cultural competence among students of linguistics faculty	Kazakov, A.V., Zakirova, V.G., Birová, J.	2017	Man in India 97(14), pp. 291-305	19
2 Problem of using innovative teaching methods for distance learning students	Borisova, O.V., Vasbieva, D.G., Malykh, N.I., Vasnev, S.A., Birová, J.	2016	Mathematics Education 11(5), mathedu.2016.0104, pp. 1175-1184	17
3 About theoretical definitions of pluralistic and Pluricultural approaches   [O teoretických definíciách viazajúcich a plurikulturných prístupov k vyučovaniu cudzích jazykov]	Birová, J.	2013	XLinguae 6(2), pp. 91-103	17

Figure 4. Displaying the scholar's documents

#### 4<sup>th</sup> step

The documents published by the personality appear. In this case, 21 documents of Birova Jana for the date of September 13, 2018 (Figure 4).

#### 5<sup>th</sup> step

On the high facet, we check the possibility at the same time. We click on View citation overview which is in the same part on the same line of the facet (Figure 5).

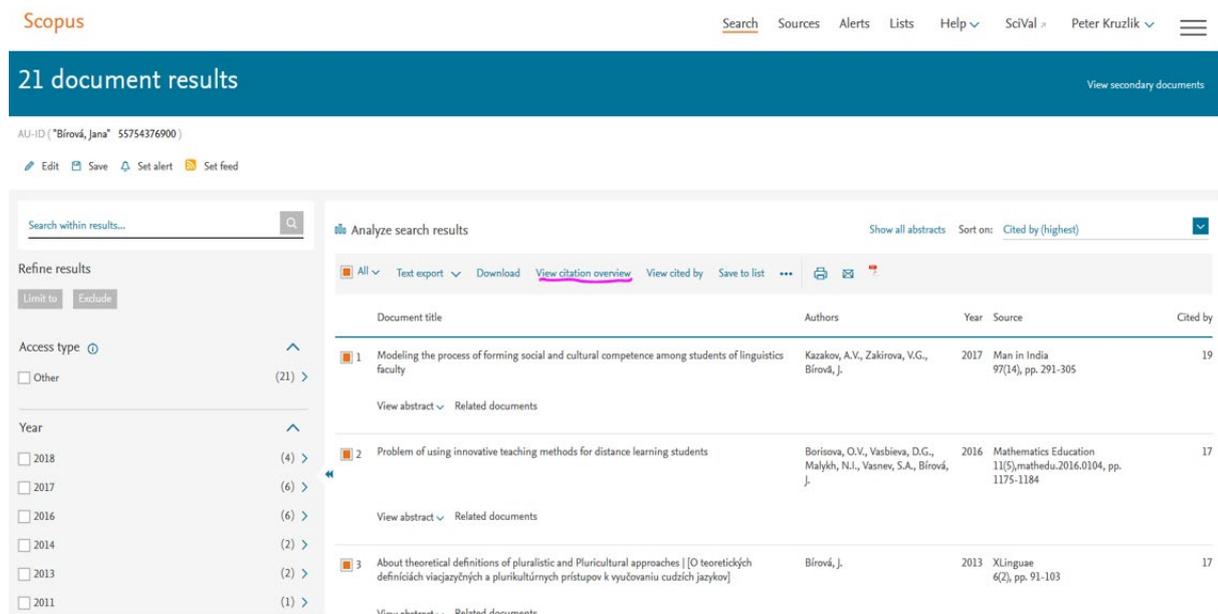


Figure 5. Displaying the citations

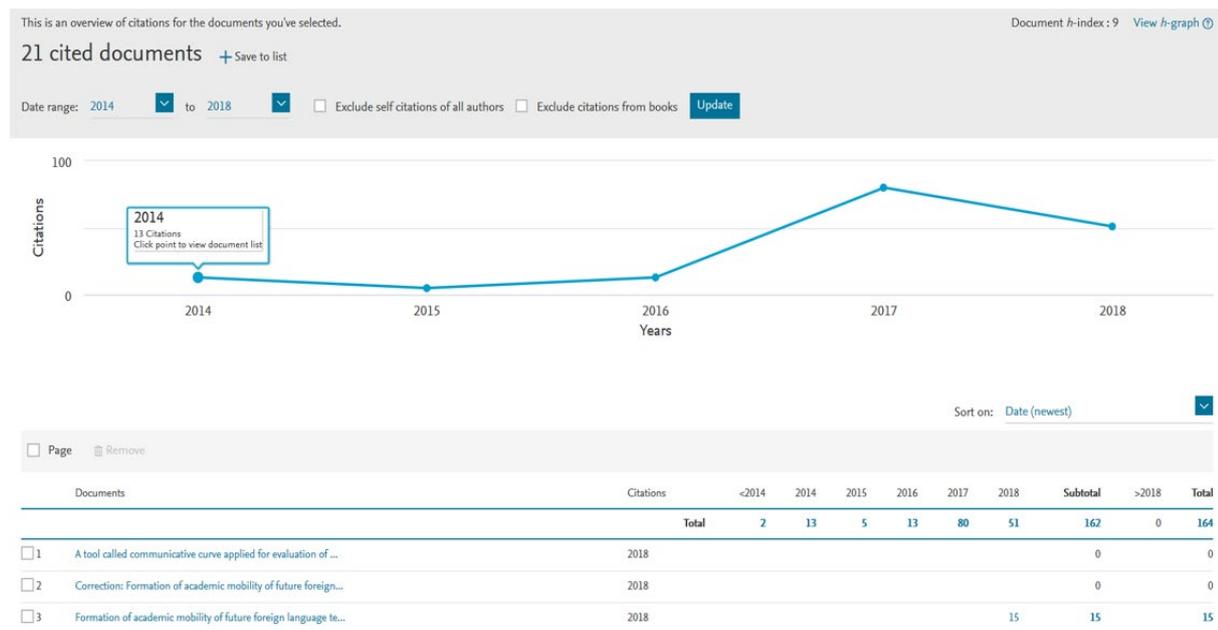


Figure 6. Displaying the scholar's report

6th step

After a minute, the search engine generates a report with author's h-index and cites. They might be treated separately for the individual years but also from the global point of view. In the case of Birova Jana, there are 51 citations for the year 2018; in the icon Total, we found 164. Two of them are self-citations (Figure 6).

7th step

If we do not want to count the auto citations, we click on Exclude self-citations, then Update (Figure 7).

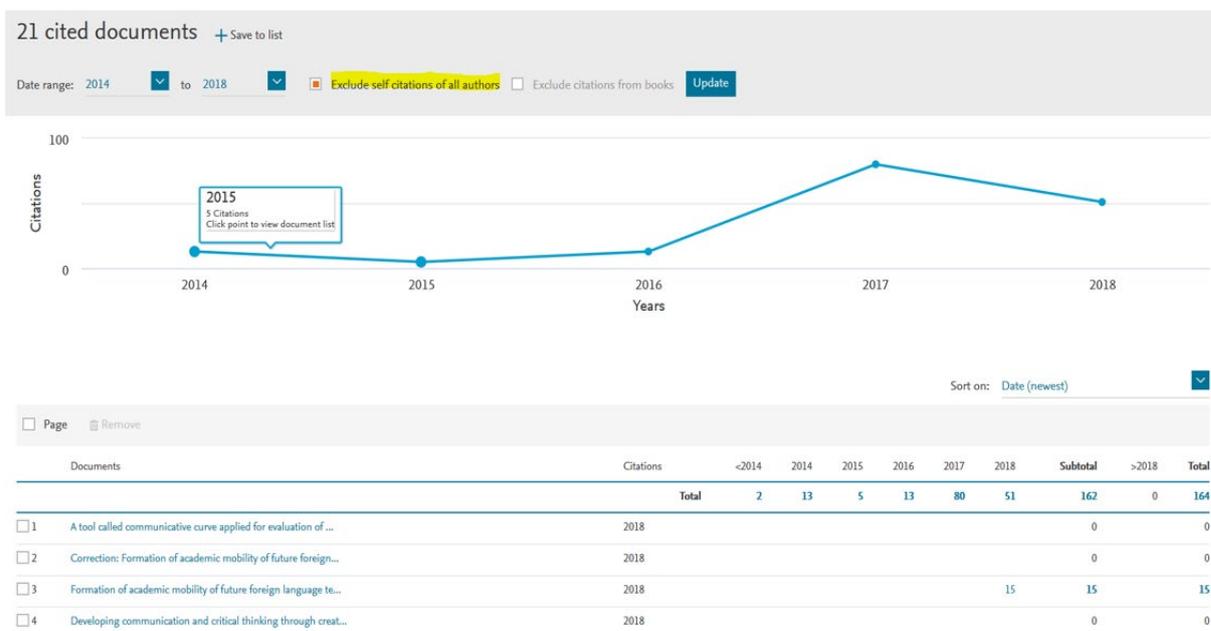


Figure 7. Omitting the self-citations

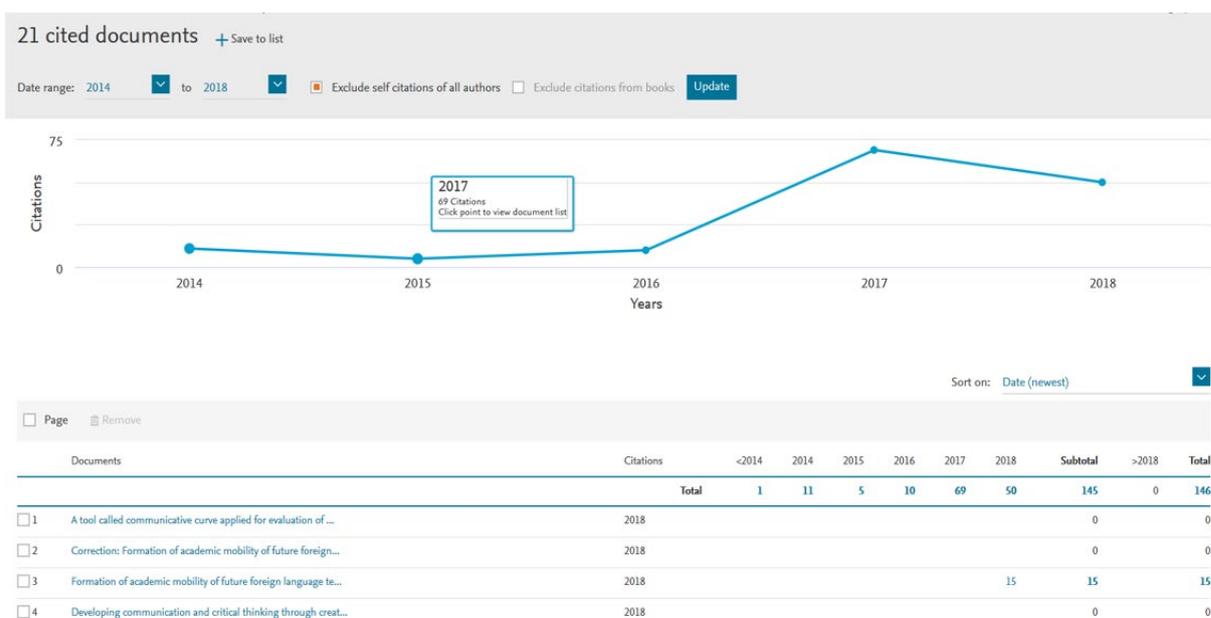


Figure 8. Displaying the citations without self-citations

### 8<sup>th</sup> step

After clicking on Update, the total number of citations takes place without counting self-citations with the author's scientific index (Figure 8).

## Citescore

Citescore is a journal metrics which indicates a number of citations. Citescore of the journal XLanguage, e.g., represents the value 0,61 for the year 2016. The citation count - 57 citations in 93 cited documents ranks position the journal on the 82nd place out of 452 journals ranked in the field Philosophy, Arts and Humanities on the 138th place out of 582 journals ranked in the field Language and linguistics, Arts and Humanities and on the 154th place out of 628 journals from the field Linguistics and language, Social sciences (Figure 9).

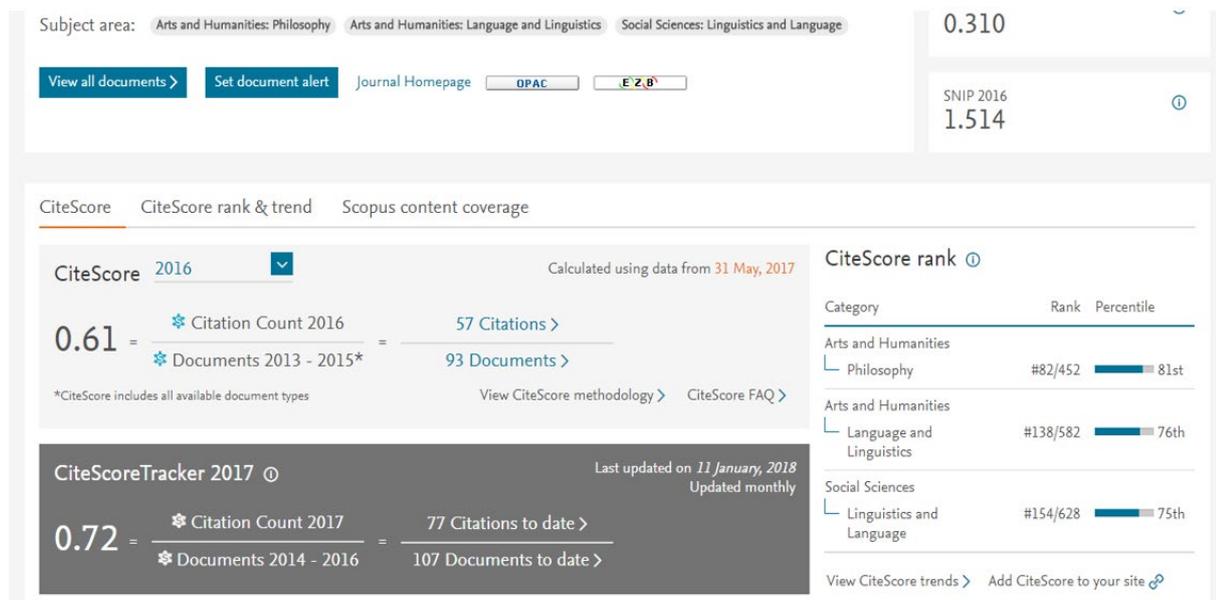


Figure 9. Displaying the journal's citescore

### Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

Source normalized impact per paper is a journal's citation count per paper or / and citation potential in its subject field. It is one of the measurement that reflects the journal's excellence. More <https://blog.scopus.com/posts/journal-metrics-in-scopus-source-normalized-impact-per-paper-snip>.

### Scientific Journal Ranking (SJR)

The SJR indicator refers to the count of received citations in 2 (previously 3) years in a ratio with published articles in the journal. It seems that more articles the journal publishes, more difficult the journal gains the high position in SJR as scholars focus mainly on publishing the research results and less on popularizing their publications at other scholars.

### Field-Weighted Citation Impact

The influence of citations on the field of research is another important bibliometric aspect. If the scholar's area of research is language and linguistics and his/ her article is published in the journal of technology, this kind of impact will most likely be less than the impact of work published in a journal focused on linguistics. The other fact that is taken into consideration is the proportion of the citations that the article has received and the citations that are attributed on average to an article in the research field. If the number exceeds 1, it means that the article is quoted more than it was expected. The article that is below has up to day 13 September 2018 been cited 17 times, and the field-weighted citation impact is 5.18 (Figure 10).

The screenshot shows the Scopus interface for a document. The title is "[O teoretických definíciách viacjazyčných a plurikultúrnych prístupov k vyučovaniu cudzích jazykov]" by Birová, J. The journal is "XLanguage", Volume 6, Issue 2, 2013, Pages 91-103. The field-weighted citation impact is 5.18, and it has 17 citations in Scopus. The abstract discusses the FREPA project and its goal to promote plurilingualism through four pluralistic approaches: awakening to languages, integrated approach, intercultural approach, and intercomprehension.

Figure 10. Displaying the field-weighted citation of a particular research study

The screenshot shows the Scopus interface for a document. The title is "Lesson effectiveness, strong and weak sides of the initial implementation of the integrated language approach" by Birová, J. The journal is "Komunikácie", Volume 16, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 41-45. The field-weighted citation impact is 0.97, and it has 7 citations in Scopus. The abstract discusses the effectiveness of the French lesson in the initial implementation of the integrated language approach at primary school.

Figure 11. Comparing the field-weighted citation impact

But in this one, the field-weighted citation impact is only 0,97 even though there are 7 citations. The problem is that even the title of the journal is *Komunikácie* (Communications) and seems to be adequate to publish there an article about Romance languages and communication, this is not really a case. The accent must be put on the scope of the journal, not on its title. The scope of the journal *Komunikácie* is engineering and technology (Figure 11).

## Quartile

Counting the quartile is not difficult. The total number of journals ranked according to the cites core and SJR indicator is divided by 4. The best journals with the best citescore and SJR gain the 1st quartile.

This bibliometric indicator shows how the journal is read, used and spread among the scholars. The higher readiness ensures, the higher quartile. The quartile is a mark of quality.

## Web of Science (WOS)

### 1<sup>st</sup> step

The database Web of Science Core Collection presents several icons. The icon Cited Reference Search, serves for searching the data, like name, affiliation, etc.; example Birová J\*, then Search (Figure 12).

**Web of Science** Clarivate Analytics

Search Tools ▾ Searches and alerts ▾ Search History Marked List

Select a database  [Learn More](#) Get one-click access to full-text

Basic Search **Cited Reference Search** Advanced Search + More

Find the articles that cite a person's work.  
**Step 1:** Enter information about the cited work. Fields are combined with the Boolean AND operator.  
 \* Note: Entering the title, volume, issue, or page in combination with other fields may reduce the number of cited reference variants found.

▾

Select from Index

▾

Select from Index  
View abbreviation list

▾  [View our Cited Reference Search tutorial.](#)

[+ Add row](#) | [Reset](#)

Figure 12. Searching the scholar

Select	Cited Author	Cited Work [Expand Title]	Title [Expand Title]	Year	Volume	Issue	Page	Identifier	Citing Articles
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J. + [show all authors]	ELINE MATH ED	Some criteria on language education assessment	2016	11	7	2470		2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J. + [show all authors]	INT ELECT J MATH ED	Implementation of new teaching technologies during...	2016	11	8	3089		2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	MATURIEM FRANCUSI		2005					1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	MATURIEM FRANCUSI		2006					1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	ORCHODONARE ENOLOGI							1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J. + [show all authors]	KLINGUAE	Plurilingual and Pluricultural Competence and...	2014	7	1	75		1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	KLINGUAE EUROPEAN SC	Plurilingual and pluricultural approaches intuitively...	2013	6	3	76		2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	KLINGUAE EUROPEAN SC	About theoretical definitions of plurilingual and...	2013	6	2	95		3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J. + [show all authors]	DIALOGUES CULTURES ET	Les reformes dans l'enseignement des langues...	2010	55		67		1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIROVA, J.	THESIS	Komunikativni cilji v tipologiji ucnobitovskih sloh...	2009					2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Birova, Jana	J LANG CULT EDUC	Preferences for activities in french textbooks used...	2016	4	1	71	DOI: 10.1515/glae-2016-0006	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bortolone, G. V., Birova, J. + [show all authors]	ELINE MATH ED	Problems of Using Innovative Teaching Methods for...	2016	11	5	1175		3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chen, Feng, Birova, Jana + [show all authors]	EURASIA J MATH SCI T	Formation of IC3 Competence of Future University...	2017	13	8	4765	DOI: 10.12973/eurasia.2017.00963a	11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Golubkova, O. N., Birova, J. + [show all authors]	MAN INDIA	The Development of Sociocultural Competence in...	2017	97	14	73		3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kazakova, A. V., Birova, J. + [show all authors]	MAN INDIA	Modeling the Process of Forming Social and Cultural...	2017	97	14	291		6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wang, Siqian, Birova, Jana + [show all authors]	EURASIA J MATH SCI T	Formation of Academic Mobility of Future Foreign...	2018	14	3	959	DOI: 10.12973/eurasia.2018.01150	4

Figure 13. Displaying the scholar's works

### 2<sup>nd</sup> step

After generating the WoS, a table of the works cited will appear. The scholar must identify his/ her work (the name Birova can also introduce another person), click on Select all \* where there are 11 results with this name, click on Finish Search: in 16 records, 48 quotes were found (Figure 13).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> step

These are records with citations in bibliographic references. In some records, the name Birova can be quoted several times. In the searched records (in this case it is 32 records), we click on the right facet with the name Create Citation Report. (Figure 14).

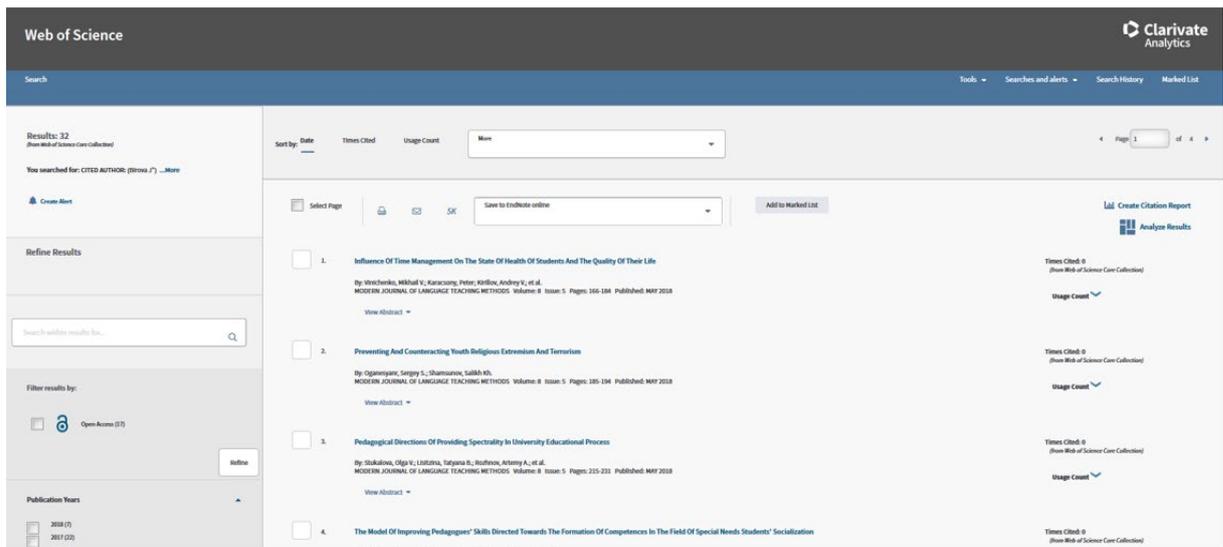


Figure 14. Displaying the scholar’s report

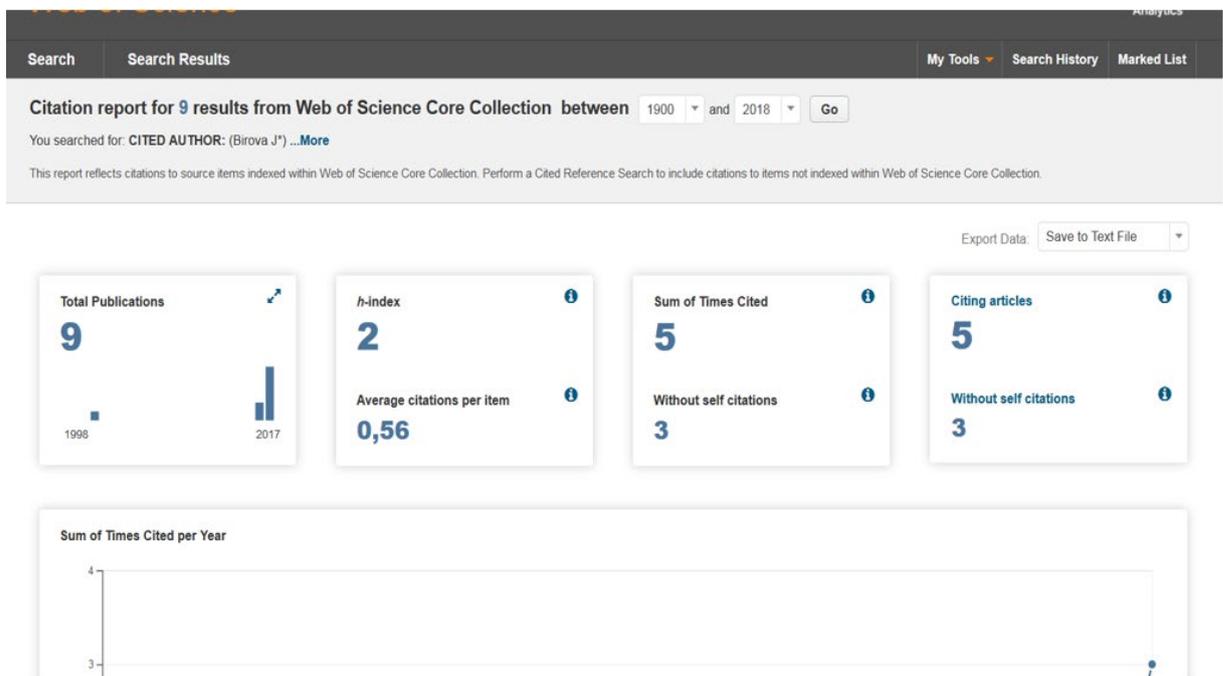


Figure 15. Displaying the scholar’s citation report

**4th step**

Citation report appears (Birova J\*) (Figure 15).

**Research Methodology**

In this work, the research methodology that follows was applied.

**Research Question**

Which of the presented databases offers a bigger range of the journals with another worldwide language than English (French, Italian, and Spanish)?

### Research Objective

To analyze data presented within the corpus of the journals of the mentioned databases.

To point out on the number of the scholarly journals which enable researchers to write scientific papers on linguistics in Romance languages.

### Research Method

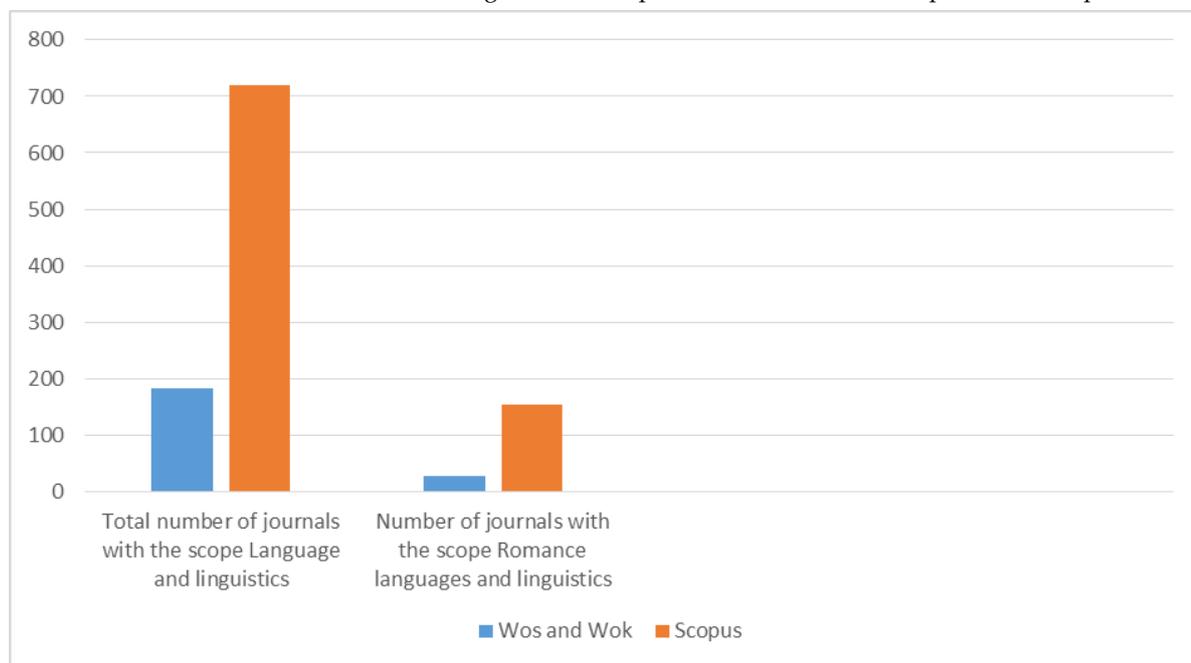
Content analysis, interpretation of mathematical and statistical results.

## RESULTS

**Table 1.** Quantitative analysis of journals indexed in two databases

Databases	Total number of journals with the Language and linguistics scope	Number of journals with the scope "Romance languages and linguistics"	%
WoS	181	28	15,46 %
Scopus	689	153	22, 20 %

**Table 1** shows the results obtained during the research phase. It is evident that Scopus is more expanded.



**Figure 16.** A graph interpretation of the results presented in **Table 1**

## DISCUSSIONS

French, Spanish are the languages spoken throughout the world. They deserve to have the position of the language of science at least to a certain extent. However, publishing a study in a Romance language in a worldwide recognized database seems difficult. The reason is a small number of scientific journals indexed in these databases which would enable scholars writing in these languages. Specifically, it is less than 16% in WoS, Wok, and in Scopus, less than 22% of all considered journals. The numbers in the tables and in the graph are distorted, and, in fact, the total sum up of the journals is smaller. The reason is that a certain number of journals are indexed in both databases WoS and Scopus.

## CONCLUSION

In our article, we intended to demonstrate work with databases at the citation level. The cites might be made once the scholar arrives to be published in a journal accepted by one of the worldwide databases. The researcher will promote his work, his name, the French language or other Romance language and the establishment for which he/ she works. Articles resulting from research or support are better valued than articles written without project funding.

During the research phase that was running in 2017, we worked with databases and processed data from other relevant sources. Research has shown that databases prefer publishing in English. Writing a research paper in a particular Romance language in the domain of Language and linguistics and publishing it is possible in 15.38% of journals indexed in Wos and Wok, which represents specifically 28 journals. Regarding the Scopus database, eligible authors might publish their studies in Romance languages in 182 journals, representing 21.25% of the journal's share of language and linguistics in Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences.

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