

1. The main Journal ranks are based on SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) values (<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>) which are calculated from citation information coming from Scopus. The SJR value of a journal is a measure of the academic influence of a journal, which considers the amount of citations as well as the prestige of journals citing an article. In addition, SJR values take into account different citation habits within different research fields. The longer a list of citations in a citing article, the less does one of the citations count. For more details please go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCImago_Journal_Rank.
2. The generally known top 5 journals (AER, Econometrica, JPE; QJE, RES) – according to international standards – receive a weight of 1. The remaining journals are going to be evaluated relative to the average of the SJR values from the top 5 group.
3. Therefore, the list of top 5 journals is not conclusive but can endogenously be extended. In case a journal obtains an SJR value that is equal or higher than the average of SJR values in the top 5 group, it also receives a weight of 1. Put differently: All journals are weighted relative to the top 5 journals. The corrected SJR values are going to be divided by the mean of the corrected SJR values in the top 5 group. In case that the result of such a division exceeds 1, the journal receives a value of 1. This results in a top group (with weight 1) that usually contains more than 5 journals.
4. We consider all journals that are part of EconLit. Journals which are not part of their list are not going to be included, respectively receive a weight of zero. This gives journals incentives to be included there. Currently, EconLit includes almost 2000 journals. All journals that are not part of this list are not considered as economic journals.
5. Almost all journals that are part of EconLit start with a weight of 0.025. Those journals that do not have SJR values receive this value. None of the other journals in EconLit can fall below 0.025 (which is 50% of the previous minimum weight). The only exceptions are journals that are exclusively available to organization members (e.g., working paper series, institutional journals). These are removed and treated as if they are not a part of the EconLit list.
6. The SJR value of a journal changes from year to year. Furthermore, there is a tendency of increasing numbers of citations. Economists seem to cite more and more over time. SJR values used here are going to be corrected for that general trend, such that only the relative difference within a publication year counts.
7. To be in accordance with the way that the SJR values are calculated, we take the mean of the corrected SJR values over the following three years. The SJR value is calculated by dividing the average number of citations in the year of the SJR value by the number of publications from the last three years. A publication in 2011 consequently influences SJR values in 2012, 2013 and 2014. A publication will only influence the quality of a journal in the future. Therefore, the average of the SJR values 2012, 2013 and 2014 is going to serve as basis for the weight in 2011. The value for 2012 is going to be equivalent to the average of 2013, 2014 and 2015, etc.
8. In order to account for the number of authors, each author receives the points of a publication divided by the number of authors.
9. On the website, it will be possible to also look at the rankings based on SNIP values as well as based on the weights from the VWL journal list of 2015.

10. Classifications of journals are still going to be announced. These are going to be classifications from A+ to F (with no other intermediate stages). Next to A+ journals the 5 % of journals with the highest SJR values are going to receive the classification A, the remaining journals of the top 10% of journals are classified as B and the remaining journals of the highest 25%/50%/100% of all journals receive C/D/E respectively. Journals that are included in EconLit but do not have SJR values are classified as F.

However, the points that are going to be used for the ranking are continuously located between 0.025 and 1.