Supporting Information

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Comparing Citation Databases

Citation data were culled from Google Scholar, Scopus, and the Institute for Scientific Information Web of Science in April 2014. Each database counts citations differently (1), raising the possibility that results could be affected based on the database chosen. In our case, citation counts were correlated 0.97 between Google Scholar and Scopus, 0.97 between Google Scholar and Web of Science and 0.98 between Scopus and Web of Science. Among the top 50 articles, Google Scholar reported 465.00 mean citations, Web of Science 298.56, and Scopus 354.08. Although Google Scholar was most generous—or liberal—in its citation counts, the relative ordering of articles changed little based on the database chosen. Figs. S1 and S2 provide visualization of the absolute and relative citation distribution of articles in the various databases. Although values from Google Scholar are used for the data and analyses in this paper, substituting either Scopus or Web of Science data yields very similar outcomes. Further, all of the top 50 articles—whether accepted or rejected from our three focal journals—were published in late 2003 or 2004. There are no major time differences between these articles to accrue citations.

1. Meho LI, Yang K (2007) Impact of data sources on citation counts and rankings of LIS faculty: Web of Science versus Scopus and Google Scholar. *JASIST* 58(13):2105–2125.

Gatekeeper Correspondence Regarding Article Rejections

The publication outcomes reported in Fig. 1 raise the question of what happened in the evaluation process with the highly cited articles that were rejected by our three focal journals. *SI Appendix* reports relevant correspondence between editors, associate editors, reviewers, and authors offering justifications and explanations for those gatekeeping decisions. All of these articles garnered more citations than any of those published in our three elite focal journals over the same time period. Because 12 of the 15 cases involved desk-rejection, in most cases, comments regarding the rejected article were fairly succinct. Articles are presented based on their Google Scholar citation rank. One article, the second most-cited, was rejected by two of our focal journals before eventually being published elsewhere. Details that identify the specific article have been redacted. Reminiscent of Peters and Ceci's (2) resubmissions of published psychology articles, gatekeepers identified—or at least perceived—significant shortcomings with all but 1 of the 15 cases.

See Tables S1 and S2 for regression analysis of publications in journals with impact factors Over 8.00.

2. Peters DP, Ceci SJ (1982) Peer review practices of psychological journals: The fate of published articles, submitted again. *Behav Brain Sci* 5(2):187–195.
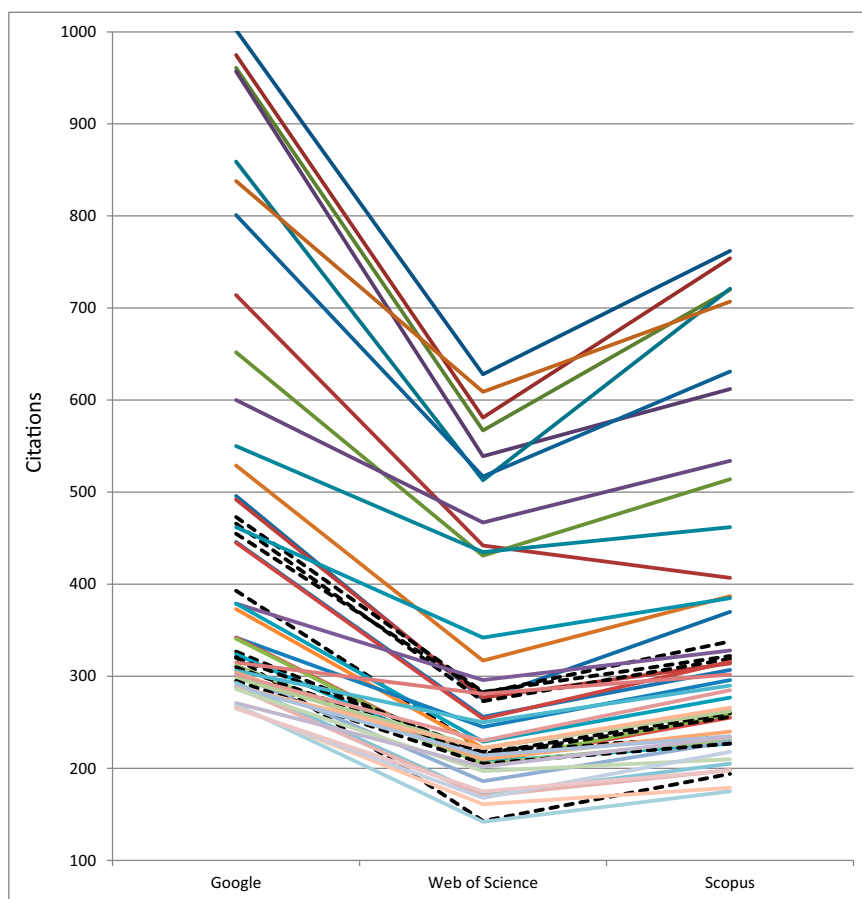

Fig. S1. Visualization of the absolute and relative citation distribution of articles in the various databases. Rejected articles in colored solid lines; accepted articles in dashed black lines.

Fig. S2. Visualization of the absolute and relative citation distribution of articles in the various databases. Rejected articles in colored solid lines; accepted articles in dashed black lines.
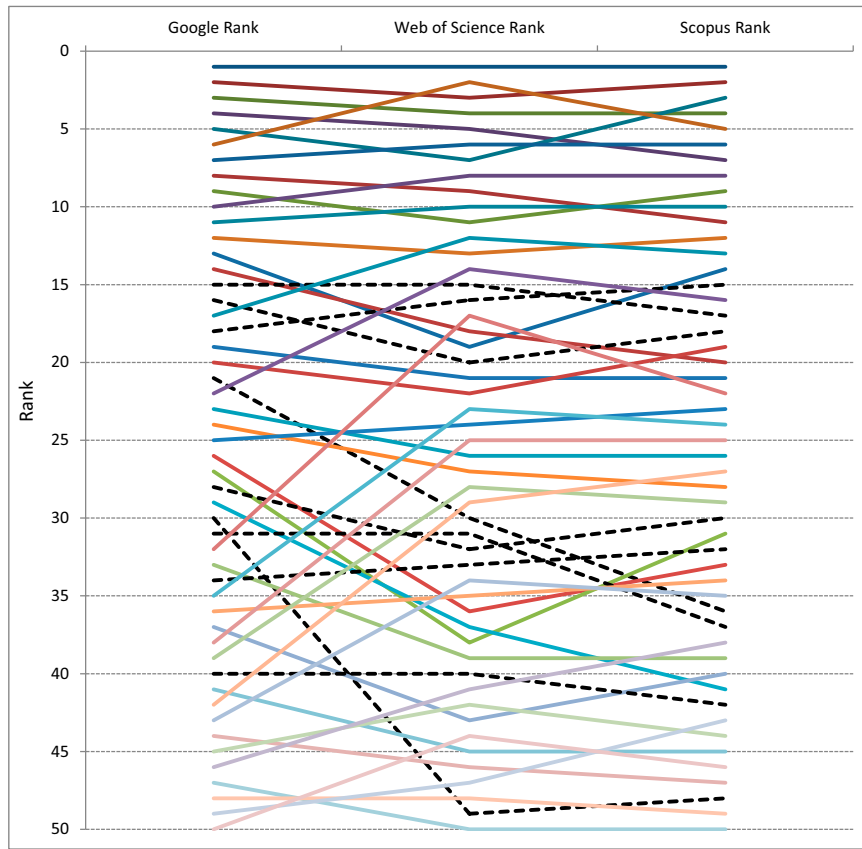
Table S1. Effects of journal impact factor on citation outcomes for articles

Variable	Model 1 (all publications)	Model 2 (all publications)	Model 3 (impact factor >8.00)	Model 4 (impact factor >8.00)
Publication in *Annals*, *BMJ*, or *Lancet*	67.20*** (18.02)	−113.74*** (19.94)	−69.55 (36.32)	−124.79*** (36.21)
Journal impact factor		12.93*** (0.86)		9.88*** (2.23)
Constant	143.22*** (17.45)	−93.86*** (22.02)	212.77*** (22.49)	−37.99 (48.86)
R^2	0.02	0.23	0.03	0.16
n	808 (757 rejections, 51 acceptances)	808 (757 rejections, 51 acceptances)	133 (82 rejections, 51 acceptances)	133 (82 rejections, 51 acceptances)

Annals, Annals of Internal Medicine; *BMJ*, British Medical Journal. ***$P < 0.001$ (two-tailed tests).

Table S2. Effects of journal impact factor on logged citation outcomes for articles

Variable	Model 1 (all publications)	Model 2 (all publications)	Model 3 (impact factor >8.00)	Model 4 (impact factor >8.00)
Publication in *Annals*, *BMJ*, or *Lancet*	0.975*** (0.18)	−0.49* (0.21)	−0.21 (0.20)	−0.36 (0.21)
Journal impact factor		0.11*** (0.01)		0.26* (0.13)
Constant	3.59*** (0.05)	3.13*** (0.06)	4.77*** (0.12)	4.44*** (0.20)
R^2	0.04	0.17	0.00	0.04
n	808 (757 rejections, 51 acceptances)	808 (757 rejections, 51 acceptances)	133 (82 rejections, 51 acceptances)	133 (82 rejections, 51 acceptances)

*$P < 0.05$; ***$P < 0.001$ (two-tailed tests).

Other Supporting Information Files

SI Appendix (DOCX)