

Bibliometrics are **measures of publication output** and **indicators of various types of academic impact**. To learn more, see our [Quick Guide](#) for a brief overview of bibliometrics for researchers.

What is SciVal?

SciVal is online tool developed by Elsevier that makes it easy for researchers to explore bibliometrics. Find bibliometrics for your own publications, for the University of Surrey as a whole, or for other researchers and institutions. Alternatively, examine bibliometrics by country or research area.

Access SciVal

Access to SciVal is available from any computer on campus, but you will need to register first. Go to <http://www.scival.com>, click on [Register](#) and enter the details requested. Now, to login to SciVal, enter your University of Surrey email as the username and the password you created during registration.

I'm logged in. Now what?

On the home page of SciVal, you will see that the tool comprises three modules:

1. Overview
2. Benchmarking
3. Collaboration

In this guide, we focus exclusively on the Overview module, which provides a substantial and varied set of bibliometrics useful for the individual researcher.

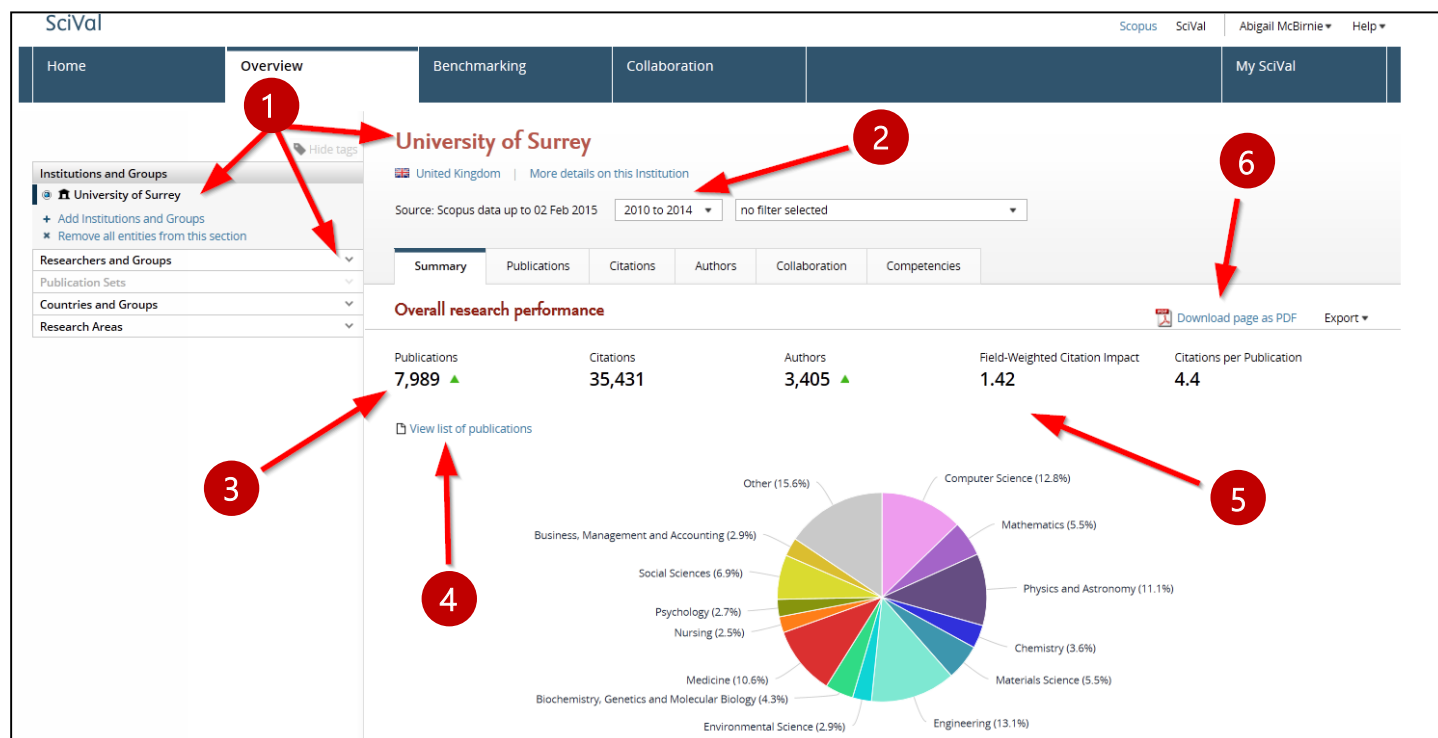
Getting started in the Overview module

When working in the Overview module, always bear in mind these three key points:

1. **Use multiple metrics** – when you look at output and the different types of impact, you are measuring different things, so it makes sense that you need different metrics.
2. **Normalise if you want to compare** – only like with like comparisons are truly fair, so you must account for differences in subject area, year of publication, and document type.
3. **Combine with expert knowledge and peer review** – always remember that bibliometrics are not an end in themselves but rather a tool to support human judgement and experience.

The home screen of the Overview module

This (minus the red arrows!) is what you will see when you first click into the Overview module.



Each red arrow numbered in the screenshot highlights a key bibliometric result or important feature.

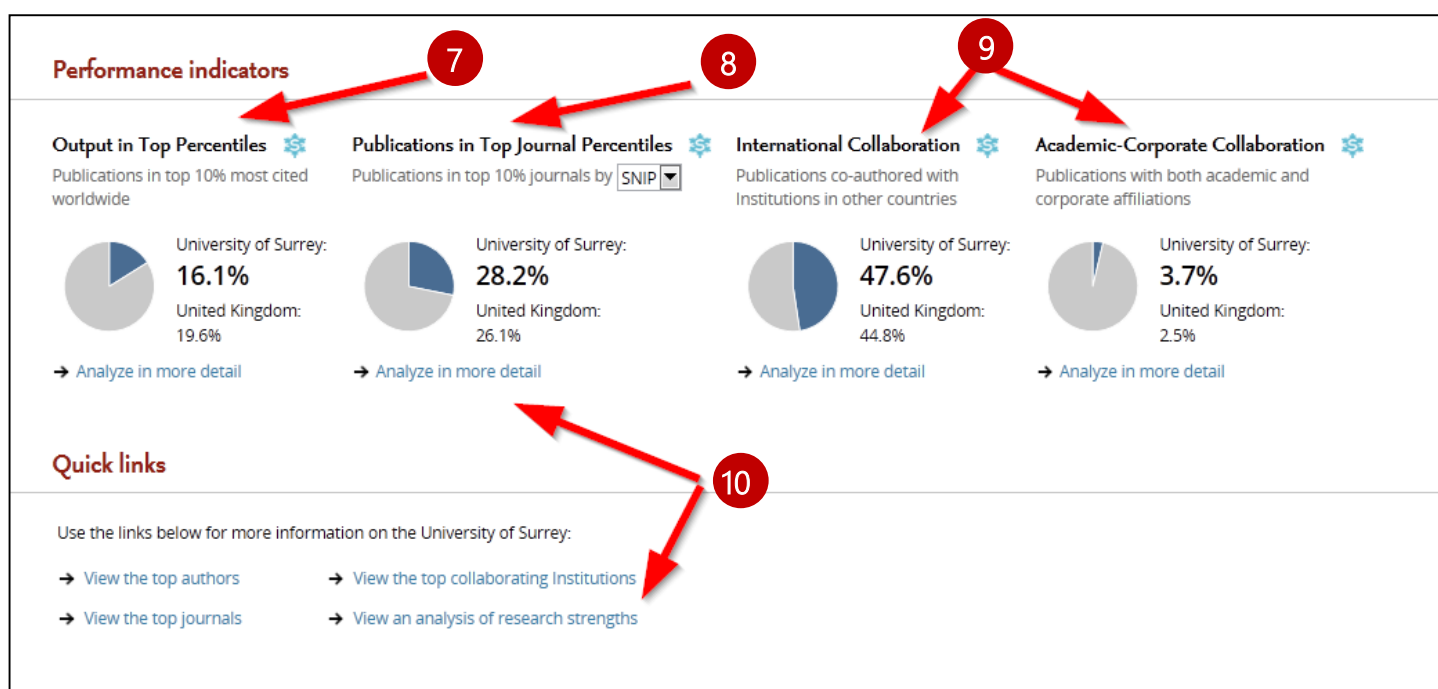
- 1 Use the drop down menus to call up bibliometrics for an institution, researcher, country, publication set, or research area. University of Surrey appears for you by default. Use the **+Add** or **+Define** features to populate the lists with additional options.
- 2 A time span appears by default. Change this according to your needs. A publication window covering five years up to the most recent complete calendar year is often a suitable choice.
- 3 The number of publications is a basic measure of **output**.
- 4 All blue links in SciVal are clickable; for example, the View list of publications link allows you to view details such as title and author for each paper that contributes to the publication output.
- 5 Field Weighted Citation Impact is a useful indicator of **post publication impact**. This bibliometric accounts for differences in subject area, publication year, and document type and is the only fully normalised metric available in SciVal. Absolute numbers such as citation counts can't be used fairly for comparison purposes. However, provided you use the same publication window, you can use Field Weighted Citation Impact to make direct comparisons between entities. For example, how does Surrey's citation impact for the publication window 2010-2014 compare with that of the UK for the same five year period? World average for the Field Weighted Citation Impact indicator is 1.0. Generally, a score of 1.5 or higher is considered well above average.

A very important caveat often comes into play when examining the Field Weighted Citation Impact scores of individual researchers. Statistical methods underlie this bibliometric, so a minimum sample size is crucial. In other words, you need to have a large enough set of publications to use this indicator. How many publications? A minimum of 50 is a good general guide. For sets of fewer than 20 publications, assume that the Field Weighted Citation Impact score is unreliable and do not use it.

- 6 The [Download page as PDF](#) option exports the bibliometric information on the Overview module home screen into a one-page report for your records or presentations. If you need more detailed data, then the drop down Export function provides additional options for downloads. This feature is especially useful if you want to work with SciVal data off campus.

In the screen shot above you'll find features and bibliometrics beyond the six we've highlighted; for example, the tabs across the top of the report allow you to jump to more detailed analyses on publications, citations, authors, or collaboration, while the pie chart in the middle of the page breaks down the publication output by subject area.

Now, let's have a look at what you see if you scroll down to the bottom half of the Overview summary.



- 7 The Output in Top Percentiles bibliometric provides an indication of **post publication impact**. Unlike Field Weighted Citation Impact, Output in Top Percentiles is not normalised by either subject area or document type. As such, this metric is not suitable for comparing entities.

- 8 The Publications in Top Journal Percentiles score is an indicator of **point of publication impact**. Both the SNIP and SJR options available in the drop down menu are normalised for subject area and publication year—but not for document type. Because it is only partially normalised, the Publications in Top Journal Percentiles metric should not be used to make direct comparisons between entities.
- 9 Two bibliometric indicators of collaboration impact are available: percentage of output involving international collaboration and percentage of output involving academic-corporate collaboration.
- 10 Various links allow you to analyse aspects in more detail.

Don't forget that you can always export a PDF report of the Overview Summary page using the [Print PDF](#) button found at the top right hand side of the page. The [Export](#) function provides additional options for downloads.

Adding entities to the drop down lists in the Overview module

In this guide, we've worked exclusively with the University of Surrey entity found under the [Institutions and Groups](#) drop down list. However, you can add existing or newly-defined entities to any of the drop down lists found on the left-hand side of the Overview module interface. In many cases, all you need to do is search and add. Alternatively, you can define your own entities, such as research areas, search for individual researchers, or create bespoke groups, for example, your choice of a particular set of institutions or countries.

SciVal does so much more!

Here, we've only covered a fraction of what SciVal can do. To experiment with the tool further and explore additional features, click on the drop down Help function in the top right-hand corner of the SciVal home page and select the Online Manual. Alternatively, come to one of our hands-on bibliometric training sessions to learn how to unlock more of the potential SciVal has to offer researchers.

Acknowledgement: All screenshots used above derive from Elsevier's SciVal tool.