

# Citations beyond WoS: a delineation of non-source citations in political science

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## Abstract

Citations to and from books are distributed differently from those to and from journal articles (Broadus, 1971). Samuels (2013) points out that books in political science are cited by books more than by SSCI journal articles (16.3 times vs. 6.6 times, on average). In another study (Samuels, 2011), SSCI articles are likewise cited more by books than journal articles. In general, Hicks (1999) states that 40% of the citations that books receive, investigated by the share of references to monographs in Bourke, Butler & Biglia (1996) and Hicks & Potter (1991), are missed if we use the indicators built from citations by SSCI-indexed journals. This indicates that citations from journal articles are not the largest source of citations obtained by social science publications.

The limited coverage of WoS in the social sciences, which is due to the selection thresholds on high impact, international and peer-reviewed journals, leads to missed citation links in these fields on a large scale. To investigate the citations from outside of WoS in the social sciences, a comparison of different citation resources in political science is applied in this study. The results show that some document types with higher impact in non-source items, such as *books* and *edited books*, might have a similar average citation rate to source items within a broader citation source. It also implies that relying only on the citations from WoS would underestimate the impact of non-source items in the social sciences.

## References

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