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Research Report on High-Impact Journals in Psychology

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Abstract

The level of scientific journals constitutes an important manifestation of a nation's soft power, reflecting its scientific and technological competitiveness. Investigating the caliber of scientific journals enables an understanding of various countries' scientific capabilities within specific fields, while lists of high-level journals can serve as crucial references for China's efforts to build world-class journals. Furthermore, research trends featured in prominent psychology journals possess significant research and reference value, playing a guiding role in psychological research and development. Therefore, identifying high-level journals in psychology is essential for both journal development and disciplinary advancement. The Pan Shu Library of the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, has conducted a comprehensive survey of high-level psychology journals both domestically and internationally, resulting in a ranking of high-level psychology journals. This report integrates data from two databases—WoS and Scopus—categorizing academic journals in psychology-related fields into three types: empirical journals, review journals, and research methods journals for analysis. Primary reference metrics include WoS's Journal Impact Factor, Journal Citation Indicator, Scopus's CiteScore, and SJR indicator, supplemented by consideration of publication patterns in top international psychology departments and language factors, aiming to identify the most important and influential core academic journals in psychology. Survey results indicate that the United States has established a substantial number of high-level psychology journals, such as PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE. China remains at a disadvantage in journal establishment; beyond focusing on producing high-level papers, it is imperative to vigorously develop domestic psychology journals and accelerate the construction of a high-end academic exchange platform for the new era.

Full Text

Preamble

This report on high-level journals in the field of psychology was prepared by Liu Mingzi and Wei Dongqi from the Pan Shu Library of the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The caliber of scientific journals constitutes an important manifestation of national soft power and reflects a country's scientific competitiveness. Investigating the quality of scientific journals enables us to understand national strengths in specific fields, and lists of high-level journals serve as crucial references for China's efforts to build world-class publications. Furthermore, research developments published in important psychology journals hold significant value for study and reference, guiding the direction of psychological research and development. Therefore, systematically identifying high-level psychology journals is essential for both journal development and disciplinary advancement. The Pan Shu Library of the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, conducted a comprehensive investigation of high-level psychology journals both domestically and internationally, resulting in a ranked list of leading journals in the field. This report draws upon both the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus databases to categorize psychology-related academic journals into three types: empirical journals, review journals, and methodology journals. The primary reference metrics include WoS Journal Impact Factor (JIF), Journal Citation Indicator (JCI), and Scopus CiteScore and SJR metrics, supplemented by an analysis of publication patterns from top international psychology departments and consideration of language factors, aiming to identify the most important and influential core academic journals in psychology. The findings reveal that the United States publishes a substantial number of high-level psychology journals, such as *Psychological Medicine*. China remains in a relatively weak position in journal development and must vigorously strengthen its domestic psychology journals while pursuing high-quality research publications, thereby accelerating the construction of a high-end academic exchange platform for the new era.

1. Background and Purpose

Scientific journals serve as crucial vehicles for scientific discoveries and direct channels for demonstrating national scientific competitiveness and cultural soft power. The document "Opinions on Deepening Reform to Cultivate World-Class Scientific Journals" explicitly calls for the development of world-class scientific journals. The discipline of psychology should thoroughly implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on developing first-class academic journals. By investigating high-level journals, we can grasp the landscape of leading psychology publications globally and provide references for building world-class Chinese psychology journals.

Moreover, research findings published in important, high-level psychology journals are of great interest to researchers. With the development of scientific

research capabilities, China has become a major research nation. According to statistics, China rose to second place in the 2022 rankings of countries by volume of psychology papers indexed in SCI and SSCI, though its research impact still has considerable room for improvement. This presents a higher demand for the Chinese psychology community: China must secure quality journal platforms, improve research integrity, and enhance both paper quality and national influence. Based on the needs of psychology journal development and disciplinary growth, this report investigates high-level psychology journals both domestically and internationally to produce a comprehensive ranking.

2. Research Methods

As an interdisciplinary field, psychology encompasses areas including computer science and artificial intelligence, with many psychology-related papers published in other disciplinary journals. However, from the perspective of psychology's core components, its scientific connotations, theoretical frameworks, and research paradigms constitute the primary research scope. Therefore, this study focuses specifically on journals in the field of psychology itself.

Journals classified under psychology subject categories in various databases are generally considered psychology journals and can be identified through database searches. To evaluate high-level psychology journals, this report combines bibliometric analysis with expert interpretation. We conducted multi-metric analyses of psychology journals in the WoS and Scopus databases and referenced publication preferences of leading international psychology departments to create a list of high-level foreign psychology journals. Similar methods were applied to investigate domestic Chinese journals, selecting high-level Chinese psychology journals. The final step integrated both domestic and international journals to form a complete list of high-level psychology journals.

This report utilizes WoS and Scopus databases to investigate psychology-related academic journals, dividing them into three categories: empirical journals, review journals, and methodology journals. Review papers and methodology papers typically receive more citations than empirical research papers, causing journals focusing on these article types to rank higher in citation-based metrics. Therefore, this report selects high-impact journals separately for each category. Additionally, since different subfields of psychology vary in researcher numbers, journal quantities, and publication volumes, and exhibit subtle disciplinary differences, we further screened high-impact journals by subfield distribution to avoid bias toward subfields with numerous high-impact journals, ensuring coverage of all secondary psychology sub-disciplines.

The primary reference metrics include WoS Journal Impact Factor (JIF), Journal Citation Indicator (JCI), Scopus CiteScore, and SJR indicator. These are widely recognized journal evaluation metrics that demonstrate high complementarity.

This report comprises four components: First, WoS psychology-related journals

are ranked by 2021 JIF and JCI, with high-ranking journals selected as high-level journals. Impact Factor is a well-established authoritative metric from Journal Citation Reports (JCR), calculated as the ratio of total citations in the current JCR year to the number of citable items published in the previous two years. Journal Citation Indicator (JCI) represents the average Category Normalized Citation Impact (CNCI) of all research articles and reviews published in a journal over the previous three years. This metric eliminates the influence of differences in document types, publication years, and disciplines, complementing JCR metrics effectively.

Second, Scopus ranks journals based on “CiteScore 2021” and SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). CiteScore 2021 calculates the number of citations received in 2021 for documents published between 2018-2021, divided by the total number of documents published during that period. SJR, developed by a Spanish research group based on the Scopus database, employs Google’s PageRank algorithm to measure journal prestige, considering how journal topic and prestige affect citation value.

Comparing Scopus and WoS metrics, CiteScore and JIF both assess average citation counts over a specific period, sharing similar calculation methods. JCR and SJR additionally consider differences in citation sources and journal weight, providing effective supplements to the former metrics. The consideration of metrics and journal selection methods maintain high consistency between Scopus and WoS databases.

Third, top psychology institutions typically possess excellent academic reputations and research standards. The journals where these institutions frequently publish reflect recognition from outstanding psychology researchers. This report surveyed the top five institutions in international psychology rankings, using the Q classification of their frequently published journals as a criterion to identify Q1-category journals favored by leading institutions.

Fourth, we selected high-level domestic Chinese psychology journals as supplements using quantitative data from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ 2022 journal evaluation results and the *Chinese Academic Journal Impact Factor Annual Report* (2022 edition), combined with manual assessment. In the *Annual Report*, Q classification and “Clout Index (CI)” serve as primary reference data. The CI metric selects the two most representative evaluation indicators—total citation frequency and impact factor—projects them into a “journal influence ranking space,” and calculates a comprehensive indicator using vector equal weighting. This evaluation metric balances journal quality, history, and scale, using the “Journal Mass-Effect Index (JMI)” to correct anomalies where individual journals have large publication volumes but low impact factors. The *Annual Report* ranks journals in each discipline by CI and divides them into four equal zones (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4), more objectively reflecting relative academic influence levels. The JMI refers to the ratio of a journal’s impact factor to its publication volume, representing the average contribution per article to the journal’s impact factor.

3. High-Level Psychology Journals in the WoS Database

WoS categorizes all research into 252 subject categories (WoS Categories). The relationship between WoS categories and journals is many-to-many: a single journal can belong to multiple WoS categories, and each category contains multiple journals. Among WoS categories, 11 are psychology-related: PSYCHOLOGY (SCI); PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, MATHEMATICAL (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY (SSCI); PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOANALYSIS (SSCI); and PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL (SSCI). These 11 categories encompass 600 psychology journals. High-impact journals ranking highly in both JIF and JCI are listed in Table 1 .

Table 1 High-Impact Psychology Journals in the WoS Database Source
 Publication Title JIF 2021 JCI 2021 PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS PSYCHOLOGY - SCIE NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOUR PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL - SSCI BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL - SSCI JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL - JOURNAL OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI ## 7 PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE LEADERSHIP QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR COMPUTERS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - PSYCHOLOGY - SCIE;PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL - SSCI PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL - SSCI;PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL - SSCI JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY PSYCHOLOGY - SCIE;PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL - JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL - SSCI CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL - SSCI JOURNAL OF BUSINESS AND PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI CHILD DEVELOPMENT PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL - SSCI;PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL - SSCI DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL - ## 20 PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL BULLETIN ## 4 AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST ANNUAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY PERSPECTIVES ON PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SPORT AND EXERCISE

PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL - SSCI;PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - SSCI;PSYCHOLOGY - PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - 9SSCI PSYCHOLOGY - SCIE;PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI TRENDS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCES PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL - SSCI CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW PSYCHOLOGY, CLINICAL - SSCI ANNUAL REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR PSYCHOLOGICAL ## METHODS PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI PSYCHOLOGY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - ORGANIZATIONAL RESEARCH METHODS PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED - SSCI BEHAVIOR RESEARCH ## METHODS PSYCHOLOGY, MATHEMATICAL - SSCI;PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL - SSCI

4. High-Level Psychology Journals in the Scopus Database

The Scopus database covers over 40,000 journals across 27 primary disciplines and 324 secondary disciplines. Like WoS, a single journal in Scopus can correspond to multiple categories, belonging to both psychology and other disciplines. Within psychology, there are eight secondary categories: APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY; CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY; DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY; EXPERIMENTAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY; GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY; NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY; PSYCHOLOGY (MISCELLANEOUS); and SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, encompassing 1,576 journals. Ranking these 1,576 journals by CiteScore and SJR metrics, supplemented by expert assessment, the Scopus-based investigation results are presented in Table 2

Table 2 High-Impact Psychology Journals in the Scopus Database Source Publication Title CiteScore THE LANCET CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOUR EXPERIMENTAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY;SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY ## 3 LEADERSHIP QUARTERLY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY;APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY COMPUTERS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR JOURNAL OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY AND ALLIED DISCIPLINES TECHNOLOGICAL FORECASTING AND SOCIAL CHANGE JOURNAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY;APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF THE LEARNING SCIENCES DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, SUPPLEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL BULLETIN PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY TRENDS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCES EXPERIMENTAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY;NEUROPSYCHOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGY ANNUAL REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SPORT AND EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY;SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SOCIAL ISSUES AND POLICY REVIEW SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY;APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL ## METHODS PSYCHOLOGY (MISCELLANEOUS) BEHAVIOR RESEARCH ## METHODS EXPERIMENTAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY;PSYCHOLOGY (MISCELLANEOUS);DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ## METHODOLOGY GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

5. High-Quality Journals Frequently Published by Top Psychology Institutions

Top psychology institutions are widely recognized for their excellent academic reputation and research standards. The academic journals where these institutions frequently publish reflect recognition from outstanding psychology researchers. Referencing QS and ARWU international psychology rankings, we identified five top psychology institutions each: Harvard University, Stanford University, Oxford University, Cambridge University, UC Berkeley, University College London, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. Notably, Harvard and Stanford appear in the top five of both QS and ARWU rankings. These eight institutions have published 69,623 psychology papers indexed in WoS. From their high-frequency publication venues, we selected Q1 journals and ranked the top 15 by publication volume, as shown in Table 3 .

Table 3 High-Impact Journals Published by Top Psychology Institutions
Source Publication Title 69,623 2021JIF JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHI-

ATRY PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCIENCE ## 5 BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES JOURNAL
OF AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS COGNITION INTER-
NATIONAL JOURNAL OF EATING DISORDERS JOURNAL OF PER-
SONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT
HEALTH JOURNAL OF CONSULTING AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
CORTEX JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY
BEHAVIOUR RESEARCH AND THERAPY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

6. Chinese High-Level Psychology Journals

As English dominates international academic communication, Chinese-language psychology papers face systematic and comprehensive citation suppression. Both WoS impact factor metrics and Scopus CiteScore metrics are citation-based, making them unsuitable for selecting Chinese journals. This report selects high-level Chinese journals to supplement the final list and avoid language bias. The VIP Chinese Science and Technology Journals Database indexes 35 psychology journals, Wanfang indexes 14, and CNKI indexes 17. Only *Acta Psychologica Sinica* and *Advances in Psychological Science* rank as Q1 journals in the *Chinese Academic Journal Impact Factor Annual Report* psychology category, both recognized as “High-Level Psychology Journals in the Chinese Humanities and Social Sciences Journal Evaluation Report (2021)” and indexed in CSCD, CSSCI, and Peking University Core databases. The *Chinese Academic Journal Impact Factor Annual Report* (2022 edition) statistics for 14 Chinese psychology journals show *Advances in Psychological Science* and *Acta Psychologica Sinica* in Q1 with CI values of 1352.327 and 1207.416, respectively, far exceeding other journals. In the 2022 evaluation by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, *Acta Psychologica Sinica* was rated as “Authoritative” and *Advances in Psychological Science* as “Core.” Based on these evaluations, we added the domestic empirical research journal *Acta Psychologica Sinica* and the review journal *Advances in Psychological Science* to our final list.

7. Conclusion

Integrating the four journal lists from our investigations, we retained journals appearing on both WoS and Scopus high-level journal lists. The analysis reveals that major publishers of core international psychology journals are concentrated in the United States, represented by the American Psychological Association and Annual Reviews. Comparing top-five institution-preferred journals with these lists shows that *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *Psychological Medicine*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, and *Child Development* appear on all three lists: WoS, Scopus, and top-institution rankings.

Beyond English journals, we supplemented the high-impact list with Chinese high-level psychology journals, forming the final bilingual high-impact journal list shown in Table 4 .

Table 4 High-Level Psychology Journals Category No. Source Publication Title PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOSOMATICS KARGER NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOUR United Kingdom LEADERSHIP QUARTERLY United States NATURE PORTFOLIO ELSEVIER SCIENCE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY ELSEVIER SCIENCE JOURNAL OF ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR WILEY PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE United States JOURNAL OF PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING FOUNDATION-AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY United States WILEY PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE United States COMPUTERS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR PUBLICATIONS INC PERGAMON-ELSEVIER SCIENCE CHILD DEVELOPMENT WILEY JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC Chinese Psychological Society and Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences ANNUAL REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGY United States ANNUAL REVIEWS INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SPORT AND EXERCISE PSYCHOLOGY ROUTLEDGE JOURNALS, TAYLOR & FRANCIS LTD TRENDS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCES ELSEVIER SCIENCE LONDON ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY ANNUAL REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR United States ANNUAL REVIEWS United States ANNUAL REVIEWS PSYCHOLOGICAL BULLETIN United States CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC PERGAMON- ELSEVIER SCIENCE Advances in Psychological Science Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences PSYCHOLOGICAL METHODS United States PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC BEHAVIOR RESEARCH ## METHODS SPRINGER

To more comprehensively evaluate high-impact journals, we supplemented the analysis with annual publication volume data from WoS and CNKI databases. Annual publication volume refers to total publications divided by years of publication. Generally, high-impact journals publish approximately 100 articles annually. Journals maintaining high impact factors with substantial publication volumes warrant special attention, though some review and methodology journals publish fewer articles. Considering annual publication volume, journals with high output and strong impact factors tend to be interdisciplinary. For example, *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* publishes 340 articles annually with a psychiatry focus; *Computers in Human Behavior* publishes 256 articles annually with computer science characteristics; and *Nature Human Behaviour* is a comprehensive journal accepting papers from over 20 disciplines. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* performs well among review

journals. Among methodology journals, *Behavior Research Methods* publishes substantially more articles annually than *Psychological Methods* despite similar citation scores, representing a notable publication in its category.

Overall, the United States publishes the most high-level psychology journals and holds considerable discourse power in the field. By contrast, China lacks high-level psychology journals and has not yet established significant international influence. As Chinese psychology research strives for global leadership, neglecting domestic journal quality improvement will inevitably become a bottleneck for development. Chinese psychologists must not only publish in high-level journals but also vigorously develop domestic psychology journals to accelerate construction of a high-end academic exchange platform for the new era.

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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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