The count of publications from university scholars is a top factor in major national and international rankings of research universities, and contributes to prestige and institutional recognition worldwide.

Many rankings use a methodology based on counts from computer-based searches for an institution’s official name or a common variant.

As many as 60% of UW–Madison publications may be missed in publication counts for rankings because they don’t include an official name or readily recognized variant.

To make sure publications are counted, use the institution’s official name or one of these variants:

1. University of Wisconsin–Madison (official name)
2. UW–Madison (variant)
3. Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison (variant)

A study of publications by UW–Madison faculty showed that:

- 38% of papers used one of the names listed above and would be sure to count
- 56% referenced the University of Wisconsin but did not specify Madison
- 4% did not reference the university at all, and included only a center or institute name
- More than 1,000 variants of this institution’s official name are in use for scholarly publications

Examples of relevant rankings [UW–Madison rank]:

- Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Rankings of World Universities [27th]
- (London) Times Higher Ed World University Rankings [43th]
- QS World University Rankings [56st]
- Center for World Universities Rankings (CWUR) [25th]

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