

Biological sciences at UCSD rank in the top 10 in latest "Citation Analysis" poll conducted by ISI

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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT UCSD RANK IN THE TOP 10 IN LATEST "CITATION ANALYSIS" POLL CONDUCTED BY ISI

Biological sciences at the University of California, San Diego ranked among the nation's top 10 universities for several categories in a recent "citation analysis" conducted by Science Watch, a newsletter published by the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia.

In what some consider the nation's only universal rating scheme of its kind, biological sciences at UCSD ranked fourth in total citations from September 1987--August 1990, and fourth in total number of papers for that time period.

The numbers translated to ninth in citations per paper in the Science Watch poll.

"I think this is a good measure of biological sciences at UCSD," said Ted Case, chairman of the biology department. "It means that we have a faculty research community that is highly influential among its peers in the biological sciences throughout the country."

Although the poll has engendered mixed feelings among some researchers, many regard it as a useful indicator for judging scientific accomplishment.

Several compare the newsletter's listing to science's version of baseball statistics. In this manner, anything pertaining to scientific publishing can be ranked, from papers published by individual researchers to the number of times papers from a particular speciality at a given university are cited by their peers.

"Part of the reason these lists are being compiled is because large quantities of data can now be easily handled by large computers," added Case.

By the end of last year, the science citation databank at ISI included indices and files on 3,241 journals, or about 639,000 papers. ISI officials estimate they track about 12 million citations each year, including bibliographies and references.

In this latest top 10 poll of the biological sciences, other institutions aside from UCSD listed according to citations per paper were: 1. Rockefeller University; 2. California Institute of Technology; 3. MIT; 4. Stanford University; 5. Princeton University; 6. University of California, Berkeley; 7. Harvard University; 8. University of California, San Francisco; 10. University of Oregon.

In terms of total citations and total number of papers, only Harvard, UCSF and Stanford ranked higher than UCSD.

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