



The CWTS Leiden Ranking: a responsible approach to university ranking

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27th April 2022



Universiteit
Leiden

CWTS Leiden Ranking



- Focused completely on scientific performance of universities
- Based purely on bibliometric indicators; no survey data or data provided by universities



<https://www.leidenranking.com/>

CWTS Leiden Ranking



- High quality data collection and advanced bibliometric methodology
- Separate indicators of size-dependent and size-independent scientific performance
- No composite indicators

<https://www.leidenranking.com/>





Advanced bibliometric methodology



Robust indicators insensitive to ‘extreme values’



Fine-grained field classification system

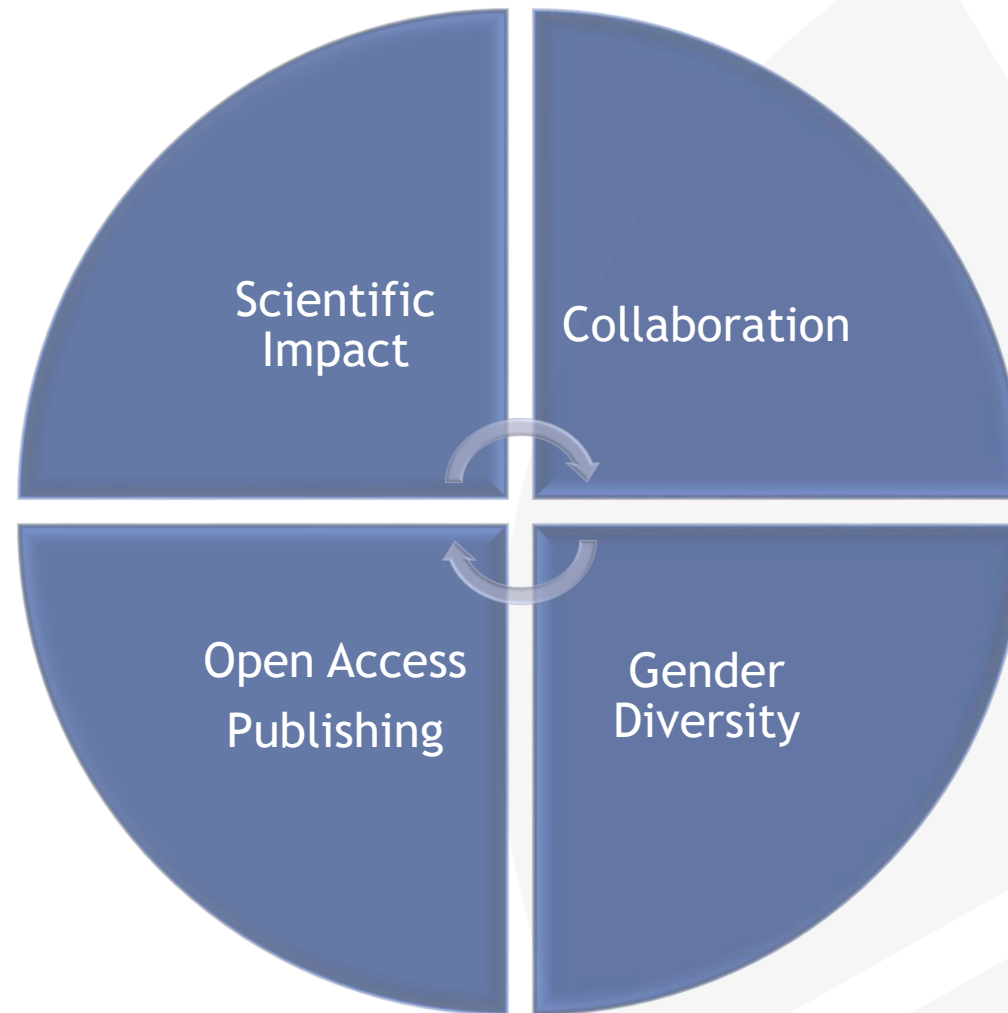


Fractional counting approach



Core publications only

Dimensions in the Leiden Ranking





Principles for Ranking Universities

Design



Interpretation



Use



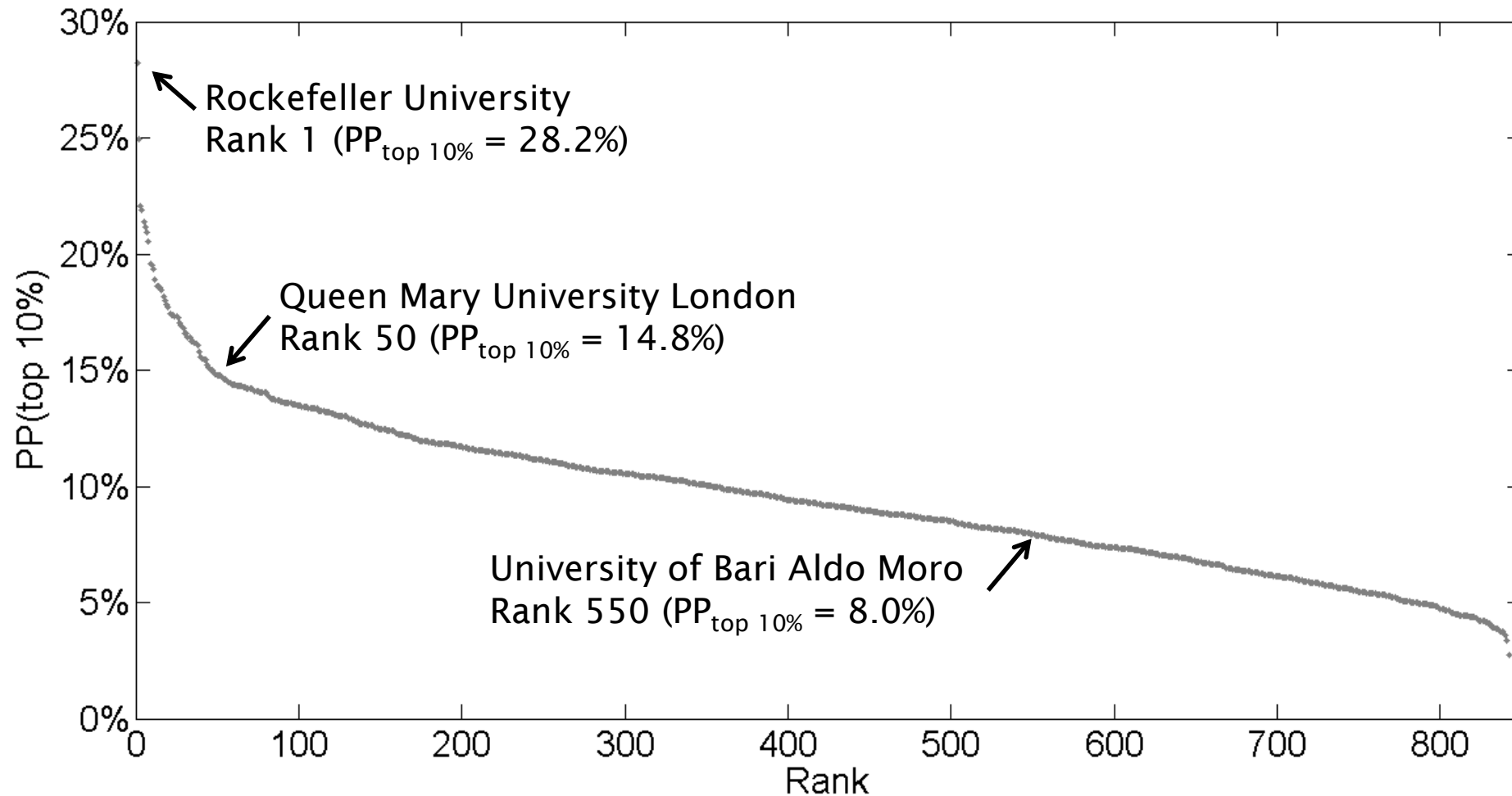
Design of rankings

- One size doesn't fit all
- Separate the relative from the absolute
- Be explicit about the definition of a university
- **Be transparent**

Interpretation of rankings

- Compare and contrast (Comparisons between universities should be made keeping in mind differences between universities)
- Uncertainty in university rankings should be acknowledged
- **Look at the underlying data** (An exclusive focus on ranks of universities should be avoided; values of underlying indicators should be taken into account)

Take into account values of indicators



Difference in PP_{top 10%} is two times larger for universities at ranks 1 and 50 than for universities at ranks 50 and 500

Use of rankings

- **Not everything that counts can be counted** - Dimensions of university performance not covered by university rankings should not be overlooked -
- **Know your level** -Performance criteria relevant at university level should not automatically be assumed to have same relevance at department or research group level -
- **Handle with care, but don't discard** -University rankings should be handled cautiously, but they should not be dismissed as being completely useless -

Conclusion

- Rankings provide valuable information...
...but only when designed, interpreted, and used in a proper manner
- University rankings are here to stay...
...but we can change the rules of the game



Thanks!
Questions?