

An Analysis of Refereed Articles in Hospitality and the Role of Editorial Board Members

by David DM Mason and Ann Cameron

Introduction

The objective of this research was to estimate the average output of individual faculty members in Hospitality and to establish productivity ranges for individuals and institutions. It also aimed to test the nature of the relationship between the output productivity of institutions and editorial board membership. The method used was to identify every journal with hospitality in its title, or which stated that its aim was primarily to

starting from an inclusive position this research gives equal prominence to national and regional journals, and also provides a snapshot of total refereed output worldwide at one point in time.

Recent research indicates that previous measures of hospitality faculty output may need to be reassessed (Polonsky, Juric and Mankelow, 2003) due to several factors impacting on higher education around the world. One factor is the growth in the number of hospitality programs outside of the USA, and the upward migration of hospitality teaching to university level in many countries. This has increased the number and quality of research programs outside of the US. The second is the increase in the number of peer reviewed

databases has levelled the playing field and virtually any article can be retrieved in seconds. This has profound implications for the idea of "best journals": in the past ease of access may have equated to "most cited" and therefore "best".

This study reviews the literature on hospitality output and addresses the main criticisms levelled at that research. It then describes how the journals were selected for this analysis and how the scoring scheme was calculat-

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publish hospitality research, and to analyse every peer reviewed article published by those journals in a single year. This method departs from that used in previous research on hospitality productivity in not deciding in advance which journals are more important than others. It also differs in not attempting to track the publication record of individuals over a period of years. By

David DM Mason is an associate professor in the School of Information Management at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Ann Cameron is a research assistant and doctorate student at Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand.

journals publishing hospitality related research. This means that there are many more high quality journals competing with the established US journals, and in many cases offering a more relevant output. A third is the introduction of formal national review procedures of university performance in several countries, notably the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. This is putting pressure on the academics in those countries to increase their output in absolute terms, and in particular to publish in peer reviewed journals where previously this was not seen as a priority for them. The fourth factor is the impact of the Internet. This has changed the rules of academic publishing. In the era of hard copy publications a handful of journals could dominate their field because those were the only journals likely to be held by the library and readily available to researchers outside the leading universities: accessing other journals was just too difficult to be worthwhile. The emergence of online consolidated

ed. The results of the analysis are then presented giving scores for individuals and their institutions. An analysis of editorial board memberships and the correlation with output scores is then presented, with a discussion of the implications for future research.

Literature Review

In many countries publication output has become a significant measure of individual academic quality (Page, 2003). Faculty staff and institutions are being ranked and rewarded on the basis of their output but for hospitality little has been published to define what the expected output should be (Khan &

Olsen, 1988; Roberts, 1998; Johanson & Woods, 2002).

Previous research has shown that published rankings are being used to provide guidance for potential students, as a basis when considering potential hires, and by faculty when deciding research goals. (Kaufman, 1984; Sheldon & Collinson, 1990). Publication rates also affect the individual in "promotion, tenure and compensation decisions" (Schmidgall, Woods and Rutherford, 1996 p48). It is therefore important that such rankings should be as unbiased and objective as possible.

Research into hospitality faculty productivity (Wood, 1995; Losekoot, Verginas and Wood, 2001) has been criticised on three grounds: for being based on too narrow a range of journals, principally US oriented; for using an inconsistent time frame for the sample; and for using an inadequate scoring system.

These criticisms were apparent in later work. For example, Schmidgall, Woods and Rutherford (1996) analysed the "best" hospitality publications as nominated by North American members of CHRIE. Bowen and Sparks (1998) conducted a hospitality marketing content analysis based on eight journals. Samenfink and Rutherford's research (2002) was based on four "top" journals and analysed all publication activity in the previous twenty six years in those journals only. Johanson and Woods' (2002) research surveyed only US university faculty and centred on twenty journals nominated by US hospitality program directors. However, the US centric bias

noted by Woods is not specific to hospitality, the same "US orientation" was found in Human Resource Management (Ozbilgin, 2004) and in Finance (Chan and Fok, 2003).

Choice of Journals

The perception of the quality or relevance of any particular journal is largely subjective (Cobanoglu & Moreo, 2001). However it is generally accepted that peer reviewed publication assures the highest quality (Losekoot, Verginas and Wood, 2001) and that depth, scope and complexity are associated with quality (Johanson and Woods, 2002). This research made no attempt to assess the quality, relevance or otherwise of any article or journal other than by selecting peer reviewed research, nor did it take into account whether the articles appeared in journals closely associated with the author's own institutions. The fact that every article was stated to have been peer reviewed was taken as assurance that they all met a minimum standard of quality.

It has been recommended that when analysing output "as many titles as possible should be employed" (Wood, 1995 p173). This research followed that recommendation by being broad rather than narrow and analysing all peer reviewed articles in hospitality in one publication year. However deciding what counts as hospitality is fraught with difficulties. Attempts have been made to define the subject of hospitality, without reaching a definitive answer (Taylor & Edgar, 1996; Brotherton, 1999; Brotherton & Wood, 2000; Lashley, 2000; Lashley and Morrison, 2000; Slattery, 2002; Brotherton, 2002). This research decided not to answer that question, but to define hospitality as "whatever it was that hospitality journals published". This approach is open to criticism, but practical considerations made it the only feasible way to proceed. In particular there is the criticism that hospitality research is published in tourism journals and in other areas (Losekoot, Verginas and Wood, 2001). This is true, but trying to identify every article dealing with hospitality would mean not only searching an enormous number of journals, but also comes up against the issue of what exactly is included or excluded in "hospitality". Equally, there is the criticism that tourism research is published in hospitality journals. Trying to eliminate or differentiate what should be classed as tourism again comes up against the lack of a widely accepted definition of "hospitality". We therefore accepted that the editors

of hospitality journals know hospitality research when they see it, and relied on their judgement in the matter.

Time Frame

Previous productivity research was based on longitudinal analyses of selected journals (see for example Rutherford and Samenfink, 1992; Samenfink & Rutherford 2002). These articles looked at the total contribution of individuals over extended time periods and were criticised on the grounds that over the years authors had ceased or started publishing, and that the earliest output data was of historical interest only (Losekoot, Verginas and Wood, 2001). To a large extent the longitudinal studies were constrained by the need to pick up on previous research, and the emergence of many new journals makes an extension of that type of analysis much less relevant. In addition the dominance of "top" journals has diminished with the spread of the Internet and the consolidation of online journal databases. Traditionally, before the arrival of internet library databases, the importance of a journal was mainly determined by the number of holdings in university libraries - if a journal was widely accessible it was then considered "influential". Journals with only a limited availability were much less likely to be cited. This led to a cycle where the best authors vied to get into the most widespread journals which led to those journals being held by more libraries, and other journals discarded. This is no longer true: virtually all journals are available online instantly to even the smallest university library and the most obscure journal is equally likely

to be read and cited. Technology has therefore made it necessary to analyse a bigger pool of journals. Eventually it will be possible to carry out a longitudinal study across the whole range of journals and this research focusing on a single year can be regarded as a first step in that process.

Scoring System

Measures of output need to take account of the contribution of joint authors (Losekoot, Verginas and Wood, 2001; Wood, 1995). When an article is co-authored it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine the individual contributions from each author. In some disciplines there is a convention that the first named author is assumed to have contributed most, with other authors' contributions reflected in descending order by the sequence of their names, and in some journals there is a requirement to declare explicitly what the contribution of each has been. In the journals in this sample no such conventions were found, so each article was deemed to be the result of equal contributions by the authors named in the article. This system follows the recommendations of Woods (1998) who considered that single authors should receive more credit than co-authors. An article with a single author was therefore deemed to be one hundred percent attributable to that author and an article with two authors was deemed to represent a fifty percent contribution by each, and so on. This scheme followed the method of Rutherford and Samenink (1992) and was accepted by Losekoot, Verginas and Wood (2001) as the best available. This method allowed the creation

of a scoring scheme to assess the total output of individual authors. An author publishing an article with no co-author would score a one for that article, and an author publishing one article with three co-authors would score 0.25 for that article. In this way a composite score could be created that summarized each author's output for the year. Composite cores for universities could then be created by summing the scores of individuals affiliated with those universities.

This research avoided selection bias by analysing all journals in hospitality, and therefore not picking journals based on subjective criteria. The second criticism, inconsistent time frames, was avoided by analysing the sample of journals for one year thus avoiding problems found in longitudinal analyses. The third criticism, the scoring method, was addressed by using the method recommended as best, while recognising that it is still imperfect.

Methodology

The selection of journals to analyse began with the lists of Hospitality and Tourism journals compiled by Morrison (2003). Initially all the journals on the Hospitality list were included in the research sample except the specialist gaming and nutrition journals. The list of tourism journals was inspected and any journal that included the word hospitality in its title was also added. A scan of the literature was done to identify other potential journals and as a result additional journals were added. The search tried to identify hospitality journals published in French or Spanish but could not find any, so the results are for English language journals only.

The Journal Sample

From the list of potential journals, at least one issue for the 2002 year, the most recent complete year of publication at the time of the research, was located. Some of the journals were dropped because they either proved to be defunct or did not publish in 2002. For each journal which did publish, their acceptance policy was determined, either as shown in the journal itself or by contacting the editor for clarification. Journals which did not use formal refereeing procedures were excluded. This resulted in a list of twenty journals for the sample (see Table one).

For this research only refereed articles were included. Anything which had not ostensibly been through a double blind review process such as book

reviews, interviews and research notes were excluded. The twenty journals produced a total of 396 refereed articles. By endeavouring to capture as many hospitality articles as possible, the sample of articles necessarily includes tourism articles sourced from the Tourism and Hospitality journals and so the total number of articles in the database is inflated by non-hospitality articles, although that will be balanced to some extent by an unknown number of hospitality articles which have been published in other discipline journals that were not included.

Scoring the Outputs

A database was created and details of all qualifying articles were entered. For each article the title, abstract, author's names and the author's university affiliation were entered. In addition the names and affiliation of the editorial board of each journal were entered. Full details of each entity involved (Journal, Author, Editor, Article, University) were stored in relational tables so that multi-aspect analyses could be performed. This allowed analyses to be produced including author collaborations, editorial board member distributions, and total outputs per author/university/country for that year. Where an article had one author, that author got a score of 1, for a co-authored article, each author got a score of 0.5, and for multi-authored articles the total score of one was divided equally between the individuals named.

Output Per Author

There were 593 individual authors whose name appeared on one or more articles. The mean score

Table 1

List of journals and number of refereed articles published in 2002

Journal Title	No. of Articles
Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly	49
International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management	47
Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education	29
International Journal of Hospitality Management	28
Journal of Foodservice Business Research	25
Journal of Human Resources in Hospitality & Tourism	24
Tourism and Hospitality Research: the Surrey quarterly review	21
Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research	20
International Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Administration	19
Florida International University Hospitality Review	19
Journal of Hospitality and Leisure Marketing	19
Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management	17
The Consortium Journal: Journal of HBCU	16
Journal of Quality Assurance in Tourism and Hospitality	13
Anatolia	12
ASEAN Journal of Hospitality and Tourism	12
Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism	9
Journal of Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism Education	8
Journal of Hospitality Financial Management	4
International Journal of Hospitality Information Technology	4

(articles per author) was 0.67, with a standard deviation of 0.45. The median and mode were both 0.5. About 30% of authors had a score of 0.33 or less, 66% had a score of 0.50 or less, and almost 90% had a score of 1.00 or less.

In other words, fewer than ten percent of authors had an individual score equivalent to the production of one article per person in this publication year. These figures of course only include those who actually published: there is some unknown number of academics who did not publish at all, so the real average output must be lower still. On the other hand, some of the joint articles would have been written with graduate students who might produce only one output based on their thesis work, and then leave academia and never publish again, meaning that if only faculty staff were consid-

ered, the average output scores might well be higher.

These figures are similar to the results for marketing academics' outputs (Polonsky, Juric & Mankelow, 2003) which reported an average annual count for refereed journal articles of 1.57 for professors, 0.97 for associate professors and 1.93 for assistant professors. Their sample was perhaps skewed towards research-active academics, and included only authors who were faculty members, and did not include authors such as graduate students who had university affiliations, but were not faculty members. Additionally, it did not distinguish joint authorship.

In earlier research, Schmidgall, Woods and Rutherford (1996) reported figures much lower than this survey. They found that 65% of their sample reported no publications in refereed hospitality journals in the previous three years, meaning 35% had at least one publication in the period. However one article in three years equates to 0.33 per year and an analysis of total responses on a per annum basis shows that 7% had an annual average of 0.33, 6% had 0.66, 7% had 1.00, and percentages for higher outputs tailed off from there. A similar pattern was seen for publications in hospitality trade journals and non-hospitality refereed journals. However, to make a direct comparison with this cur-

rent research it is more consistent to compare the output of published authors. Looking only at respondents who had published at least one article shows that 20% reported one article, 17% had two, 19% had three, 11% had four, 8% had five and the remaining 24% had six or more per annum. This means that 55% of respondents had an annual output of one or less, but 45% had more than one a year. We suspect that the difference is due to the fact that the reported counts did not distinguish between sole and joint authorships so the publication scores may well have been lower than the reported figures suggest.

Joint Authorship

The preponderance of fractional scores indicates multiple authorship was common. In fact, more authors collaborated than not: only one third of articles were written by a single author. There is some evidence that multiple authorship is becoming the norm (Roberts, 1998). However, in hospitality it appears that the team approach found in some disciplines is not common, only 4% of articles had four or more authors (33% had one author, 45% had two, 18% had three).

The prevalence of joint authorship raises the possibility that some authors might have a strategy of pooling their efforts, with individuals agreeing to appear as co-authors on several articles, rather than as sole author on one. The data does not support this: 80% had their name appear on only one article, 15% on two, 5% on three and only 1% appeared on four or five. Those authors whose name appeared most often were also among those with the highest output

score. There were no instances where an author had appeared four or five times, but with only a fractional share of each of the articles.

Output Per University

Journals usually record the affiliation of the authors of articles so it was possible to create a table of output by universities. Author affiliations with 312 universities were noted. In addition, there were 92 authors with non-university affiliations, mostly listed as "consultant" or giving the name of their company, and despite efforts to contact them, six authors could not be linked with any affiliation.

There was a marked skew in the number of authors per university: Cornell had the most with a total of 34, Hong Kong Polytechnic University had 30, Purdue and the University of Nevada had 28 each, and thereafter the numbers of authors per university fell rapidly. Only 5% of universities had more than ten authors published in the year, 88% had four or fewer, 20% had two, and 54.8% had only one published author. The mean was 2.4 per university.

The total score for a university can be calculated from the individual scores of authors affiliated with it. Table two shows the top twenty universities ranked by total affiliate's output scores. It is immediately noticeable that US universities make up thirteen of the top twenty. These figures show the US dominance over all journals and goes some way to counter the charges of "US parochialism" raised by Losekoot, Verginas and Wood (2001).

The US pre-eminence is also evident when comparing the output of all universities by country, rather than just the top performers. The USA scored a total output of 206; UK 46; Australia 30; PRC 16; Canada 12; Israel 6; Turkey 6; Spain, Norway and Singapore, 4. For some countries, for example Israel, PRC and Canada, one university contributed most of that country's output. In other countries publication was distributed more evenly among the universities.

Calculations show that when the number of authors per country is taken into account, there is very little difference in the output per author. Of countries with five or more authors, Canada

Table 2

Top Twenty universities by output score

Total Score	University
21.17	Cornell University
13.92	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
13.33	University of Nevada
11.75	Pennsylvania State University
11.25	Purdue University
9.17	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
8.83	University of Strathclyde
8.50	University of Guelph
8.25	Northern Arizona University
6.50	University of Houston
6.00	University of Central Florida
5.42	Ben Gurion University
5.17	Michigan State University
5.00	University of Queensland
5.00	University of Surrey
4.67	Texas Tech University
4.50	University of Action Learning at Boulder
4.50	Victoria University, Melbourne
4.17	Iowa State University
4.17	Oklahoma State University

has the highest average score per writer with 0.82, USA averages 0.72, UK averages 0.71 and the tenth highest, Turkey, has an average output score of 0.50. Another way of looking at the output scores is to calculate scores per country

divided by the number of universities, to give the average output per university. Omitting countries in the sample with fewer than three universities or a total score less than three gives a different top ten, with PRC first with a score

Table 3

Output Scores by Bloc.

Bloc	Total Score	Number of Universities	Avg Score Per University	Total Authors	Avg Score Per Author
NAFTA	217.67	131	1.66	465	0.47
EU	85.08	118	0.72	225	0.38
Asia	27.17	29	0.94	72	0.38
ANZ	33.33	27	1.23	71	0.47
MidEast	8.00	6	1.33	19	0.42

Table 4

Number of board members and total output scores for universities with five or more board members.

Board Members	Total Score	University
26	21.17	Cornell University
22	13.33	University of Nevada
15	5.17	Michigan State University
15	13.92	Hong Kong Polytechnic University
14	5.00	University of Surrey
13	3.00	Florida International University
13	9.17	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
13	11.25	Purdue University
12	5.00	University of Queensland
11	8.83	University of Strathclyde
11	1.58	University of Delaware
10	11.75	Pennsylvania State University
8	6.50	University of Houston
8	3.33	Oxford Brookes University
7	3.50	Griffith University
7	1.67	Southern Cross University
7	6.00	University of Central Florida
6	3.00	University of Massachusetts
6	.50	Georgia State University
5	4.50	Victoria University, Melbourne
5	8.50	University of Guelph
5	4.17	Iowa State University
5	3.50	Leeds Metropolitan University

of 4.1 per university, followed in order by Canada (1.9), Israel (1.9), USA (1.6), Australia (1.4), UK (0.9), Spain (0.8), Germany (0.6), Turkey (0.5) and Korea (0.5).

Comparisons of one country with another can be misleading, so to create a broader measure of output, scores were summed by economic bloc. Table three shows the results with totals of individual scores per bloc, number of universities per bloc, average output per university, number of authors and average output per author. The results of this show that North American universities have average scores more than twice as high as universities in the EU, but less difference on a per author basis.

These figures show that there is a wide disparity of total scores per university, but fairly homogenous

scores per author.

Editorial Board Membership

There were 410 individuals listed on one or more editorial boards of the journals in the sample, as shown in the last issue of the year for each journal. In counting board memberships no distinction was made between particular types of board members such as being general editor, review editor or other specialist function. Of the total, including non-university affiliates, 330 (80.5%) are members of only one journal board, 61 (14.9%) are on two, 11 (2.7%) are on three, 4 (1%) are on four; three individuals had five memberships and one individual had six.

The average for a person who appears on any editorial board in any capacity was 1.27 editorial memberships. This agrees with Chan and Fok (2003) who reported an average of less than two memberships per capita in finance studies journals. In total, 89 different universities were represented on one or more journal boards.

Table four shows the count of board members and the total score for all universities with more than five

board members. Inspection of the table suggests that there might be a correlation between the number of board members in a university and the total output of that university.

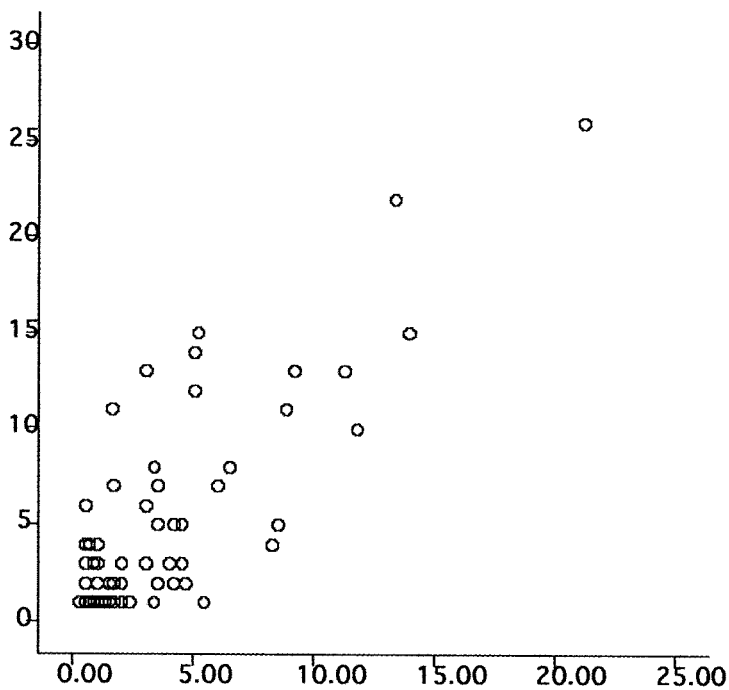
A Pearson correlation calculation for the 23 universities listed in table four gives a figure of $r = 0.743$ ($p < 0.001$) but in fact, this understates the case. The overall figure is much higher: taking in every university with at least one editorial board member, the correlation is $r = 0.817$ ($p < 0.001$), which means that 66% of the variance in one column is accounted for by the other. These observations are in accordance with previous studies. Chan and Fok (2003) suggested there was a high correlation between research productivity and editorial membership for finance schools with excellent research publication productivity and a lower correlation for schools with merely good publication records.

Hypotheses

There are several possible hypotheses which might explain the correlation. One hypothesis could be that prolific authors are the people who are invited to serve on editorial boards and the figures merely reflect that association. To test that hypothesis the names of the editorial board members were matched with the names on the authors list. Matching both lists revealed that 185 of the names on the editorial boards (of the total of 410) were also authors of publications. However being on the editorial board does not correlate with having an above average output: the average publication score per editorial board member was 0.52, lower than the overall average of 0.67 for all authors. In fact, only 16.2% of editors scored a one, 55.7%

Figure 1

Scatterplot of number of editorial board members per university (vertical scale) and total scores per university (horizontal scale)



scored a half and the remainder less than a half.

Another hypothesis might be that editorial board members act as mentors and conduits for less experienced faculty members and their presence pushes up publication rates for junior staff. If this were the case then staff at universities without board members would find it more difficult to get informal guidance and encouragement and therefore would tend to have a lower overall score.

Figure one shows a scatterplot of the relationship between number of members of editorial boards affiliated with a university and the total output score of that university. A positive association between total university scores and number

of board members at the university is evident: universities with low numbers of board members have low output scores.

There is no way of assessing this hypothesis from the data in the sample, but there is some evidence in the literature to support it. In a summary of research into factors determining academic productivity in Marketing no mention was made of editorial board membership directly, but membership of professional bodies was associated with greater academic productivity (Polonsky, Juric and Mankelov, 2003).

Membership of editorial boards in Finance has been investigated as a measure of the quality of institutions. In that research it was

stated that "Editors and members of editorial boards are trusted by their peers who submit their research for publication consideration" (Chan and Fok, 2003 p405). Research within hospitality found that professors and assistant professors tended to publish with all levels of faculty within their own hospitality program, while associate professors co-published with faculty outside their own program or with their program director (Johanson & Woods, 2002). Piercy (1999, cited in Polonsky et al, 2003) has reported Business professors as feeling that they were full time consultants and part time academics, and that they therefore underperformed in teaching, supervision, service and research. This would certainly be consistent with the reduced average score seen for editorial board members. It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest that senior faculty with editorial board membership might be more likely to be approached by junior faculty as a source of advice on how to get published in their journals, although this has to remain speculative.

In addition, the findings suggest a number of avenues for future research. Firstly, in this sample there was a strong correlation between board membership and university productivity, although only a weak correlation with individual output. The nature of this relationship needs to be investigated and confirmed. Secondly, it was clear from reading the articles that some journals were generally below the quality of others, but so far no consistent and defensible method of assessing quality has been proposed. Using peer review as a standard allows for some measure of quality control but it is not ideal, and it would be good if some objective measure of quality was available so that output scores could have another dimension added to them. Thirdly, the choice of publication year was arbitrary, but it is intended to extend this research to include subsequent years, and to include new journals as they emerge, so that the generalisability of the output scores can be extended. Finally, it has to be acknowledged that the sample has inevitably omitted hospitality articles published in non-hospitality journals. Some way of including those would give a better representation of overall faculty output.

Conclusion

This study adds to the literature analysing Hospitality research, authorship and publication. It extends and confirms previous research and shows that publishing rates in Hospitality are low in absolute terms, but

not dissimilar to publication rates reported from other disciplines. The figures for the productivity of hospitality faculty as measured by a count of peer reviewed articles in one publication year give a reliable and repeatable measure of output, free from the criticisms of output measures in previous research. The results show that US universities lead the world in terms of total Hospitality research but that individual productivity is similar for US faculty compared with other countries. The figures calculated for individual scores can be used to set accurate targets for faculty in Hospitality programs, and the composite scores give universities an objective measure of where they stand in international rankings.

A significant relationship between editorial board membership and institutional output was found: a clear correlation exists between productivity and editorial board membership. The exact nature of this relationship awaits further research, but it is hypothesised that editorial board members act as conduits in helping junior faculty to get published. The size of the correlation suggests a possible strategy for Hospitality programs wanting to increase their productivity and world ranking: encourage faculty members to actively seek membership of editorial boards.

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