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Current Comments

Most-Cited Authors in the Arts and Humanities, 1977-1978

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In the past, I've reported on several studies we've done at ISI® which identified the most-cited authors listed in the *Science Citation Index® (SCI®)*[1] and the *Social Sciences Citation Index™ (SSCI™).*[2] Recently, I was asked by my friend and colleague Don Swanson to speak at the University of Chicago about the new *Arts & Humanities Citation Index ™(A&HCI™).* As part of that presentation, which will be published shortly in the *Library Quarterly,*[3] I compiled some data on most-cited authors in the arts and humanities.

In this study we used data from the annual editions of the *A&HCI* for 1977 and 1978. For these years we processed about 150,000 items which contained over 900,000 citations to articles, books, etc.

The list presented in Figure 1 differs from our earlier lists in several important ways. Whereas previous lists were based on the number of citations each author received, the new list is based on the number of *citing articles.* In the sciences it is not common for a single article to explicitly cite several pages in an article or book. In the social sciences it is more common. But in the humanities authors are frequently cited by "chapter and verse." In this way they accumulate several citations per article. In fact, citation counts prove to be double the number of citing articles. With due respect to humanists, however, we haven't really examined how often scientific articles cite the same author. I suspect that we will find that it is significantly less than what we've found in the arts.

The number of citing articles gives a more accurate indication of the influence of the cited authors on the list. For example, William Shakespeare was cited 1,431 times in 1977/1978 but only 594 articles were involved. Since the number of citing articles may be a better indication of an author's influence, I intend to indicate the number of citing articles in future studies of scientists as well. However, we will have to study the significance of any changes in rankings produced. We have included citation and citing article counts in the accompanying lists.

In contrast to earlier studies, in which we grouped authors by discipline or by rank order, the list in Figure 1 is arranged chronologically. However, for readers' information, the rank of each author appears in parentheses beside each name on the list. Chronological order solves the always difficult problem of assigning authors to disciplines. I've received many letters from authors who resented the classification we chose for them. Choosing a single category for many authors is arbitrary to say the least. Should William James be considered a philosopher or a psychologist?

The chronological arrangement emphasizes some very interesting differences between the sciences, the social sciences, and the arts and humanities. In our study of the 300 most-cited scientists,[1] the oldest author on the list was

Figure 1: *A&HCI*™ most-cited authors, 1977-1978. Authors' names are arranged in chronological order. Each author's birth and death dates, when known, are given, followed by the author's discipline(s). Both the number of articles citing each author and the total number of citations each received are listed. The number in parentheses beside each author's name indicates the author's rank on the list.

		Number of Citing Articles	Total Citations
(27)	Homer (c. 9th Cent. BC). Poet.	228	497
(51)	Euripides (c. 484-406BC). Playwright.	173	309
(5)	Plato (427-347BC). Philosopher.	500	1233
(2)	Aristotle (384-322BC). Philosopher.	624	1361
(13)	Cicero, Marcus Tullius (106-43BC). Politician, Philosopher & Rhetorician.	288	774
(37)	Vergil (Publius Vergilius Maro) (70-19BC). Poet.	209	346
(81)	Horace (Quintus Horace Flaccus) (65-9BC). Poet.	133	320
(33)	Ovid (Publius Ovidius Nasso) (43BC-AD17). Poet.	216	431
(80)	Seneca (Lucius Annaeus Seneca the Younger) (4BC-AD65). Politician, Philosopher & Playwright.	134	273
(86)	Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus) (c. 23-79). Naturalist.	129	204
(27)	Plutarch (c. 46-120). Biographer & Philosopher.	228	534
(12)	Augustine of Hippo (354-430). Theologian & Philosopher.	293	599
(37)	Aquinas, Thomas (c. 1225-74). Theologian & Philosopher.	209	457
(31)	Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). Poet.	220	594
(58)	Chaucer, Geoffrey (c. 1340-1400). Poet.	160	316
(3)	Shakespeare, William (1564-1616). Playwright & Poet.	594	1431
(56)	Descartes, Rene (1596-1650). Mathematician & Philosopher.	165	387
(24)	Milton, John (1608-74). Poet.	232	450
(63)	Locke, John (1632-1704). Philosopher.	148	209
(81)	Johnson, Samuel (1709-84). Lexicographer, Poet & Critic.	133	195
(39)	Hume, David (1711-76). Philosopher & Historian.	207	314
(34)	Rousseau, Jean Jacques (1712-78). Philosopher & Novelist.	215	439
(9)	Kant, Immanuel (1724-1804). Philosopher.	346	667
(32)	Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von (1749-1832). Poet.	217	441
(57)	Blake, William (1757-1827). Poet & Artist.	164	879
(10)	Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich (1770-1831). Philosopher.	322	696
(49)	Wordsworth, William (1770-1850). Poet.	178	343
(59)	Coleridge, Samuel Taylor (1772-1834). Poet & Critic.	159	305
(85)	Balzac, Honoré de (1799-1850). Novelist.	130	258
(88)	Mill, John Stuart (1806-73). Philosopher.	127	168
(40)	Dickens, Charles (1812-70). Novelist.	202	394
(73)	Curtius, Ernst R. (1814-96). Archeologist & Historian.	140	168
(1)	Marx, Karl (1818-83). Philosopher.	704	1644
(95)	Melville, Herman (1819-91). Novelist.	124	230
(21)	Engels, Friedrich (1820-95). Political Writer.	242	412
(52)	Baudelaire, Charles P. (1821-67). Poet & Critic.	171	369
(74)	Flaubert, Gustave (1821-80). Novelist.	138	282
(63)	James, William (1842-1910). Philosopher & Psychologist.	148	221
(30)	James, Henry (1843-1916). Novelist & Critic.	225	511
(26)	Nietzsche, Friedrich W. (1844-1900). Philosopher.	229	410
(6)	Freud, Sigmund (1856-1939). Psychiatrist.	462	966
(70)	Shaw, George Bernard (1856-1950). Playwright, Essayist & Critic.	142	385
(88)	Conrad, Joseph (Teodor Józef Konrad Korzeniowski) (1857-1924). Novelist.	127	456
(70)	Husserl, Edmund (1859-1938). Philosopher.	142	379

(41)	Weber, Max (1864-1920). Sociologist.	200	294
(52)	Yeats, William Butler (1865-1939). Poet.	171	555
(4)	Lenin, Vladimir Ilyich (1870-1924). Political Writer.	545	1737
(36)	Russell, Bertrand Arthur William (1872-1970). Mathematician & Philosopher.	213	335
(60)	Cassirer, Ernst (1874-1945). Philosopher.	152	215
(48)	Jung, Carl Gustav (1875-1961). Psychiatrist.	182	338
(45)	Mann, Thomas (1875-1955). Novelist.	188	316
(16)	Joyce, James (1882-1941). Novelist.	261	488
(63)	Woolf, Virginia (1882-1941). Novelist.	148	451
(97)	Bultmann, Rudolf (Karl) (1884-1976). Theologian.	123	251
(45)	Lawrence, David Herbert (1885-1930). Poet & Novelist.	188	604
(42)	Lukács, György (1885-1971). Critic & Philosopher.	199	315
(14)	Eliot, Thomas Stearns (1888-1965). Poet & Critic.	287	539
(18)	Heidegger, Martin (1889-1976). Philosopher.	254	587
(15)	Wittgenstein, Ludwig (1889-1951). Linguistic Philosopher.	271	432
(75)	Auerbach, Erich (1892-1957). Linguist & Literary Critic.	135	139
(81)	Benjamin, Walter (1892-1940). Art & Literary Critic.	133	242
(42)	Panofsky, Erwin (1892-1968). Art Historian.	199	265
(19)	Jakobson, Roman (b. 1896). Linguist, Critic & Historian.	244	376
(93)	Piaget, Jean (b. 1896). Psychologist.	125	211
(98)	Brecht, Bertolt (1898-1956). Playwright.	122	230
(67)	Lewis, Clive Staples (1898-1963). Essayist, Critic & Novelist.	144	198
(75)	Yates, Frances Amelia (b. 1899). Literary Critic.	135	172
(61)	Borges, Jorge Luis (b. 1899). Short Story Writer & Poet.	151	555
(66)	Lacan, Jacques (b. 1901). Psychiatrist.	145	210
(98)	Benveniste, Emile (b. 1902). Linguist.	122	147
(34)	Popper, Karl Raimund (b. 1902). Philosopher.	215	370
(54)	Adorno, Theodore Weisengrund (b. 1903). Philosopher & Critic.	170	316
(75)	Wellek, René (b. 1903). Literary Critic.	135	192
(11)	Sartre, Jean-Paul (b. 1905). Novelist, Playwright, Critic & Philosopher.	319	519
(88)	Beckett, Samuel (b. 1906). Novelist, Playwright & Poet.	127	332
(98)	Goodman, Nelson (b. 1906). Philosopher & Aesthetician.	122	158
(19)	Eliade, Mircea (b. 1907). Religious Historian.	244	379
(17)	Levi-Strauss, Claude (b. 1908). Anthropologist.	257	406
(75)	Merleau-Ponty, Maurice (1908-1961). Philosopher.	135	246
(29)	Quine, Willard Van Orman (b. 1908). Linguistic Philosopher & Mathematical Logician	227	446
(70)	Gombrich, Ernst Hans Josef (b. 1909). Art Historian.	142	198
(75)	Abrams, Meyer Howard (b. 1912). Literary Critic.	135	151
(8)	Frye, Northrop (b. 1912). Literary Critic.	386	509
(55)	Ricoeur, Paul (b. 1913). Philosopher.	168	306
(7)	Barthes, Roland (b. 1915). Linguistic Philosopher & Critic.	420	678
(87)	Chisholm, Roderick Milton (b. 1916). Philosopher.	128	226
(67)	Davidson, Donald (b. 1917). Philosopher & Poet.	144	253
(93)	Ellmann, Richard (b. 1918). Literary Critic.	125	165
(95)	Kermode, (John) Frank (b. 1919). Literary Critic.	124	144
(81)	Strawson, Peter Frederick (b. 1919). Philosopher & Logician.	133	171
(88)	Rawls, John (b. 1921). Philosopher.	127	164
(44)	Kuhn, Thomas Samuel (b. 1922). Historian of Science.	196	255
(22)	Foucault, Michel (b. 1926). Philosopher & Critic.	239	350
(22)	Chomsky, Noam (Avram) (b. 1928). Linguistic Philosopher.	239	433
(61)	Habermas, Jürgen (b. 1929). Sociologist & Philosopher.	151	301
(50)	Bloom, Harold (b. 1930). Literary Critic.	177	235
(69)	Genette, Gerard (b. 1930). Literary Critic.	143	184
(25)	Derrida, Jacques (b. 1933). Philosopher & Critic.	230	384
(47)	Todorov, Tsvetan (b. 1939). Literary Critic.	186	260
(92)	Kristeva, Julia (b. 1941). Linguistic Philosopher.	126	186

born in 1899. This reflects what we all know about most scientific publications. Citations are concentrated on the most recent literature even though we know that greater use of older literature is increasing.

In our study of the 100 most-cited social scientists[2] the oldest author was born in 1818. The social sciences, too, build on relatively recent works. However, the arts and humanities differ significantly in this regard. The oldest author on this list is Homer, who is believed to have lived around the ninth century BC. Table 1 indicates the chronological spread of the authors. Almost a third of the authors on this list were born before the 19th century. In the arts and humanities, it's clear, works do not become dated. The masters are continually discussed. Important authors are not often superseded by other more recent authors. Indeed, as librarian D. W. Langridge says, "Plato exists today alongside Kant, Whitehead, and A. J. Ayer...."[4]

Table 1: Authors' birthdates by centuries.

Century	No. of Authors
9th cent. BC	1
5th " "	2
4th " "	1
2nd " "	1
1st " "	4
1st cent. AD	2
4th " "	1
13th " "	2
14th " "	1
16th " "	2
17th " "	2
18th " "	10
19th " "	39
20th " "	32

In the 300 most-cited author list,[1] we based the names on the list on "all author data." This means that all authors of a paper were credited for citations to that paper, not just the first author. This was important in the sciences, since scientists often collaborate on research projects. This list, however, is based on primary author data. Since most works cited in the arts and humanities have only one author, this does not present any problems. However, in future studies it will be interesting to include secondary authors. Co-authorship in the humanities does occur in the twentieth century, especially in fields like linguistics and history.

All the authors on this list were cited by at least 122 articles. The average number of citing articles was 210; the average total citations was 414 or nearly 2 citations per citing article.

Ten names on this list may look familiar because they also appeared on our *SSCI* most-cited author study last September:[2] Jean Piaget, psychologist; Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, psychiatrists; Jurgen Habermas, sociologist and philosopher; Karl Marx and Karl Popper, philosophers; Max Weber, sociologist; Claude Levi-Strauss, anthropologist; Noam Chomsky, linguist; and Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The appearance of some of these authors on both lists is partially explained by the fact that philosophy, linguistics, archaeology, and history are covered by both the *A&HCI* and the *SSCI*. But even if these two services did not have overlapping coverage, citations to these authors would be found in both indexes.

Authors from areas we associate with the social sciences have had a strong influence on arts and humanities scholars. Lenin's works are often cited in history journals. Habermas and Piaget are highly cited in philosophy journals. The works of Freud and Jung have influenced many literary critics. Levi-Strauss is also cited by literary scholars. Weber, who wrote on the relationship of Protestantism to capitalism, had a powerful influence on historical thought and the sociology of religion. He is cited in the areas of theology and religious study, as well as history and philosophy.

A glance at the disciplines associated with the 100 authors on the list demonstrates the wide scope of subject matter of interest to arts and humanities scholars. A total of 25 disciplines are represented. The largest group of au-

thors, a third, are philosophers. Another seventeen are poets. Critics (literary, art, and music) and novelists make up about 20% of the names on the list. The other third is scattered among playwrights, linguists, theologians, psychiatrists, political writers/politicians, sociologists, art historians, naturalists, archeologists, psychologists, essayists, short story writers, religious historians, anthropologists, and science historians. This breakdown is somewhat rough, however, since, as I noted before, many of these authors easily fit into more than one disciplinary category.

I find this list highly thought-provoking. It can tell us some interesting things about current arts and humanities scholarship. Certainly, it shows the perennial interest in the "classic" authors: Shakespeare, Aristotle, Augustine, Milton, and Homer, for example. The modern authors on the list are also intriguing. The presence of scholars like Barthes, Wittgenstein, Jakobsen, Chomsky, and Derrida indicates a special concern with language itself, not only linguistics, but in literature and philosophy.

Will these authors remain on the list over the next 20 years or more? Or will some of them drop off as their works or theories become less popular? I would like to see a similar list based on data from a 1957-58 *A&HCI*. It would certainly be instructive to see the differences. As we produce more back years of *A&HCI*, we'll be able to report on such changes. We have already completed data for 1976 and production of 1975 will start shortly. As with *SCI* and *SSCI* we intend to complete the back files as resources permit. I have no doubt of their value for scholarship. It is now purely a question of economics.

Unfortunately, this list fails to reflect many names that are often discussed in the non-English language journals. While we cover many of them in *A&HCI*, we certainly do not claim to be comprehensive, for example, for Russian or Chinese journals. But as *A&HCI* gains international acceptance we can improve our coverage as we did with *SCI* and *SSCI*.

I consider myself an educated person. I realize that my own formal education, like most scientists', was deficient with respect to the arts and humanities. But as one who has spent a lot of time reading and designing encyclopedias I am surprised there are over 25 names on this list that are absolutely unknown to me, mostly among the authors of this century. In case you're feeling that you've missed something, I've included in Figure 2 the titles of the most-cited works of those authors who were born after 1900.

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Figure 2: The most-cited works by the authors on the most-cited list who were born in the 20th century.

Total Citations 1977	1978	Bibliographic Data
24	33	**Abrams M H.** *The mirror and the lamp: romantic theory and the critical tradition.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1953. 406 p.
7	14	**Adorno T W.** *Asthetische theorie.* (Aesthetic theory.) Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1970. 544 p.
40	70	**Barthes R.** *S/Z.* Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1970. 277 p.
17	9	**Beckett S.** *En attendant Godot, pièce en deux actes.* (Waiting for Godot, tragicomedy in two acts.) Paris: Edition de Minuit, 1952. 163 p.
38	40	**Benveniste E.** *Problèmes de linguistique generale.* (Problems in general linguistics.) Paris: Gallimard, 1966. 356 p.
19	24	**Bloom H.** *The anxiety of influence: a theory of poetry.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1973. 157 p.
17	30	**Chisholm R M.** *Theory of knowledge.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1966. 117 p.

51	45	**Chomsky N.** *Aspects of the theory of syntax.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1965. 251 p.
7	11	**Davidson D.** Mental events. (Foster L & Swanson J W, eds.) *Experience and theory.* Amherst, MA: Univ. of Massachusetts, 1970. p. 79-101.
29	59	**Derrida J.** *De la grammatologie.* (Of grammatology.) Paris: Editions de Minuit, 1967. 448 p.
21	17	**Eliade M.** *Le sacré et le profane.* (The sacred and the profane.) Paris: Gallimard, 1965. 192 p.
14	19	**Ellman R.** *James Joyce.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1959. 842 p.
43	49	**Foucault M.** *Les mots et les choses; une archéologie des sciences humaines.* (The order of things: an archeology of the human sciences.) Paris: Gallimard, 1966. 400 p.
86	118	**Frye N.** *Anatomy of criticism; four essays.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press, 1957. 383 p.
59	72	**Genette G.** *Figures.* Paris: Editions de Seuil, 1966-1972. 3 vols.
19	39	**Gombrich E H J.** *Art and illusion: a study in the psychology of pictorial representation.* New York: Pantheon Books, 1960. 466 p.
28	31	**Goodman N.** *Languages of art: an approach to a theory of symbols.* Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1968. 277 p.
27	33	**Habermas J.** *Erkenntnis und interesse.* (Knowledge and human interests.) Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1968. 364 p.
11	30	**Kermode J F.** *The sense of an ending; studies in the theory of fiction.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1967. 187 p.
17	22	**Kristeva J.** *Sémeiotiké. Recherche pour une semanalyse.* Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1969. 379 p.
71	104	**Kuhn T S.** *The structure of scientific revolutions.* Chicago, IL: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1962. 172 p.
31	51	**Lacan J.** *Ecrits.* Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1966. 924 p.
42	60	**Levi-Strauss C.** *Anthropologie structurale.* (Structural anthropology.) Paris: Plon, 1958. 454 p.
22	40	**Merleau-Ponty M.** *Phénoménologie de la perception.* (Phenomenology of perception.) Paris: Gallimard, 1945. 531 p.
28	50	**Popper K R.** *Logik der forschung; zur erkenntnistheorie der modernen naturwissenschaft.* (The logic of scientific discovery.) Vienna: J. Springer, 1935. 248 p.
45	65	**Quine W V O.** *Word and object.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1960. 294 p.
50	69	**Rawls J.** *A theory of justice.* Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1971. 607 p.
18	19	**Ricoeur P.** *De l'interpretation; essai sur Freud.* (Freud and philosophy; an essay on interpretation.) Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1965. 533 p.
28	45	**Sartre J P.** *L'être et le néant essai d'ontologie phénoménologique.* (Being and nothingness; an essay on phenomenological ontology.) Paris: Gallimard, 1943. 722 p.
26	34	**Strawson P F.** *Individuals; an essay in descriptive metaphysics.* Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1959. 263 p.
42	28	**Todorov T.** *Poétique de la prose.* (Poetics of prose.) Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1971. 255 p.
34	34	**Wellek R &** Warren A. *Theory of literature.* New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1956. 368 p.

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