

Subject classification of publications in the ISI database based on references and citations

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Abstract

The ISI database of scientific publications includes a subject classification of the journal issues. One of the subject classes is Multidisciplinary Sciences, which includes such prestigious journals as Nature and Science. This means that comparisons based on the ISI subject classes treat Nature and Science papers separately. For example, a medicine article that is published in Nature is not compared to other medicine articles, but rather to other articles published in multidisciplinary journals.

This paper describes a method for reclassifying papers in multidisciplinary journals based on the papers' references and citations. The method manages to reclassify more than 50% of the papers in multidisciplinary journals. Most of the papers that the method fails to classify are lowly cited.