

## **A critical analysis of the impact of *Island Studies Journal*: retrospect and prospect**

*Elaine Stratford*

*University of Tasmania*

*Australia*

[Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au](mailto:Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au)

**ABSTRACT:** This paper offers a critical review and reflection on the first decade of publishing of scholarly and review articles in *Island Studies Journal*. Following brief comments on the politics of publishing in any field, and in island studies *per se*, attention turns to consider how *Island Studies Journal* has contributed to and shaped the study of islands; reflect on what is written, by whom, using what broad methods of approach; and how the journal has tracked in terms of readership and citations. The final part of the paper advances a number of recommendations for the journal in its next decade, and invites both the community of scholars who identify as *island* scholars, and affiliates and allies in other fields, to be more strategic, active, and consistent in using this important scholarly resource.

*Keywords:* bibliometrics, island studies, *Island Studies Journal*, knowledge production, scholarship

© 2015 – Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

---

### **Introduction**

Publishing in academic journals is a mark of intelligent endeavours and knowledge production, and it can enhance scholarly careers and improve the common good, however that is defined. Much rides on both outcomes and, in such light, knowledge should be advanced carefully, incrementally, and thoughtfully, and by means of clear evidence and sound argument. In the process, open and critically-reflective references to our values, ways of thinking, and ways of being are warranted, and accountability, transparency, and legitimacy are crucial to that work. These principles are important to articulate and then enact as praxis, and evaluations of their efficacy are called for. On this understanding, it is timely that some measure of reflection and evaluation now be done in relation to the *Island Studies Journal* (ISJ), at this the end of the first decade of publishing; such is the purpose of this article.

*Island Studies Journal* is the professional publication for both ISISA (the International Small Islands Studies Association) and RETI (The Excellence Network of Island Universities). The journal has the following rationales:

1. advancing and critiquing the study of issues affecting or involving islands;
2. reviewing, surveying, or providing a fresh perspective on existing and upcoming 'island studies' literature;
3. promoting and supporting the comparative study of islands, or of issues, policies and developments thereof;
4. seeing islands as part of complex systems of regional or global interaction and therefore also focusing on 'island-mainland' relations and comparisons;

*E. Stratford*

5. disseminating island-based and island-tested best practices that may be proposed, adopted or adapted by island communities, entrepreneurs, governments or civil society associations;
6. encouraging the development of island studies, this being the inter-disciplinary and pluri-disciplinary study of islands on their own terms;
7. reviewing books, monographs and other educational initiatives which purport to contribute to island knowledge;
8. developing an audience for island studies scholarship and a reputable platform for the growing scholarly community interested in island studies: including teachers, researchers, community representatives, students and public policy officials who are interested in, hail from, live on, or work on, islands ... as well as islanders generally (Island Studies Journal, 2015, n.p.).

In undertaking a critical analysis of the journal and reflecting on its impact, the following method of approach was used. First, the journal website and sub-links were read for historical and contextual insights related to journal mission, editorial policy, and editorial board composition.

Second, all scholarly and review articles published from 1(1) to 10(1) were put in Endnote and a PDF of each was attached to its Endnote entry. A full alphabetical list of publications with abstracts will be found on the Journal's website.<sup>1</sup> Abstracts were then entered into Wordle, and common English words and confounding terms such as island or island studies were removed. While basic, the word cloud outputs that are discussed below delineate 'epicentres' of thematic effort, which are illuminating for what they convey about what the community of scholars *is* writing about, and for what they reveal about what *could be, but is not yet being*, produced in the journal.

Third, each scholarly and review paper was then read and cursory notes were also taken for each. As each paper was completed, it was loosely categorized in terms of its central focus or concern. Those readings served to 'triangulate' the abstract word analysis, meaning that I was able to assure myself that the words used in the abstracts and visualized in word clouds were, in fact, related to what authors were actually writing about. (Keywords were not analysed, for reasons that are elaborated below, and that suggest significant opportunities for more strategic thinking on the part of authors and the editorial team.)

Fourth, effort turned to a mixed-method analysis of the journal's impact in terms of select bibliometrics produced by Thomson Reuters and Google Scholar, findings from which are presented below. An exercise was then undertaken to map the 'echo-effect' of the ten most highly-cited articles in the journal's first decade of activity, with a view to catalogue where these works have been taken up by others or, on occasion, used by authors themselves in this or other contexts.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal>

As I wrote the first draft of this introduction, my initial thinking suggested that more work is needed to build the journal's profile using legitimate means<sup>2</sup> elaborated later in the paper, and over ensuing drafts that view has not moderated. Each article published in the journal has undergone double-blind peer review and been judged of academic merit. Yet analysis of data about the journal's scope, reach, and impact reveals that certain leading scholars in allied fields with an interest in islands, and who write in other journals about islands – either substantively or as *mise en scène* – have yet to submit manuscripts to this journal, among them a not insignificant number of members of the editorial board. As one reviewer of this paper noted in his/her feedback,

We know that one reason for this is that scholars in some disciplines are actively deterred from publishing in cross-disciplinary publications due to overt or implicit prioritization of certain journals (and/or types of journals) over others when considering issues such as promotion and/or hire-ability.

Some of the observations that may be made about *Island Studies Journal* inevitably pertain to the politics of publishing, a short discussion of which forms the next section of the article. Thereafter, comments are made about island studies and the study of islands, and about the ways in which *Island Studies Journal* speaks to these imperatives. Information about the authorship and subject matter of the journal's first decade is then provided and commented upon, before attention turns to a discussion about journal metrics. A small number of concluding thoughts are then advanced about the journal's prospects and about what its community of scholars might do in the next decade to continue to support it, the field of island studies, and the study of islands.

### **A place to start: thoughts on the politics of publishing**

Critical reflection on the impact of a body of work invites thinking on the purpose of intellectual labours. This article considers the expression of such labours in *published* works and lends itself to brief engagement with the politics of publishing *per se*. Such engagement is deemed necessary because a discussion of bibliometric measures devoid of reference to their political contexts provides only part of a more complex story about publishing.

Publishing is a material expression of knowledge production, circulation, and critical debate, and often also serves as a crucial extension of scholarly identity, which may lead to boundary riding and forms of academic chauvinism as much as to cross-fertilization and hybridity. In more prosaic terms, Kennedy (1997) has argued that writing is a chief academic *duty*, and Macfarlane's (2012) views on intellectual *leadership* augment that fundamental proposition. However, Kennedy and Macfarlane are not uncritical of some of publishing's characteristics, including a tendency to conservatism.

In like vein, Moxley and Lenker (1995, p. 11) have summarized several of the marked tendencies of publishing, partly to unsettle them. Publishing traditions, they suggest, place

---

<sup>2</sup> Readers will find in this article a marked absence of reference to works published in *Island Studies Journal* for the reason that there are risks attached to inflating journals' self-citation rates *vis-à-vis* Thomson Reuters rankings, a matter discussed in more detail later in the article.

value on “arcane and theoretical topics and issues (at the high end) [down] to pedagogical matters (at the bottom)” and view “rigorous ‘original’ research [as having] more value than rigorous secondary or summarizing research [with] ... work with a personal slant usually ... [having] less value still”. In such a schema, university press books and major scholarly articles are considered more important than non-specialist books, articles, textbooks, and other pedagogical outputs, External validation of publications is critically important in relation to all such activities.

Lest a tinge of hypocrisy be thought to colour this narrative, I acknowledge that most of the authors contributing to *Island Studies Journal* participate in the politics of publishing, but such participation is not naïve. And, regardless of problems inherent in the systems in which we write and share knowledge, part of this – or indeed any other – journal’s remit is to assure the highest possible quality of publications, especially because of the effects and influences scholarship has on policy, planning and management, and professional and lay practices. Our work touches people’s lives, places, spatial relationships, and localities and environments; self-evidently, significant ethical responsibility therefore attaches to publishing. Thus, systems by which to measure quality are important in principle, if imperfect in practice, for they say something about the observance of good governance in knowledge production, which remains key to the common good.

Like its many journal siblings, and most notably *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures*, *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*, and *Urban Island Studies Journal*, *Island Studies Journal* is also a custodian of the intellectual heritage of a field of study. It is a ‘living’ assemblage that touches upon different (a) times, places, spaces, communities, social institutions, and environmental dynamics; (b) traditions, customs, and personnel from public, private, and non-government sector organizations that are local, national, and international in focus; (c) academics, their students, collaborators, and critics; and (d) past ideas and forms of evidence, alongside those presently framed or others being brought into existence by our thinking and writing of them.

In light of the foregoing, it is noteworthy that *Island Studies Journal* is a member of the Directory of Open Access Journals, which was launched in 2003 at Lund University in Sweden as an international service covering 300 journals. The directory listings now number 10,000 and cover the social science and humanities, and science, technology, and medicine (Directory of Open Access Journals, 2015). Membership of the Directory is “a clear statement of intent and proves a commitment to quality, peer-reviewed open access” and the intention is to “increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact” (ibid.). All work in *Island Studies Journal* is also covered by a ‘Creative Commons Attribution: No Derivative Works 3.0 Unported Licence’. These characteristics of the journal signify a strong editorial commitment to ensuring that academics, policy-makers, and members of island communities (or indeed other communities) working in organizations with limited acquisitions budgets, or otherwise with limited access to libraries’ journal subscriptions, are able to engage in debates central both to the field and their own interests.

### **Attending to island studies and to the study of islands**

Arguably, a body of literature that attends to the study of islands is both intrinsically worthy and instrumentally important, for all of the reasons that Baldacchino outlined in the inaugural editorial of this journal. At that time, he claimed that the,

prospects for island studies thus appear encouraging. The comparative, global, interdisciplinary and/or trans-disciplinary study of islands is possible and plausible. There are today many more 'island scholars', self-styled or otherwise; and better known to each other than before. The adoption of 'island studies' as a focus of inquiry, straddling as well as going beyond conventional disciplines, can be a powerful force towards a better understanding of the world and the furtherance of knowledge (Baldacchino, 2006, p. 6).

This claim provides a launch-pad for the critical review that follows. Doubtless, because of the articles *published* in the journal and – as will be shown – because of the *citation* of those works in other journals and outlets, the possibility and plausibility of the field has been demonstrated (a conclusion which, nevertheless, should not invite complacency). Likewise, there seem to be many more people engaged in island scholarship than there were when I attended my first International Small Islands Studies Association Conference in 2002. The populating of island studies is further evinced by growth over time in the number of submissions to the journal.

In addition, to read the articles in *Island Studies Journal* as a body of work of 139 different parts, is to discern a change in tenor over time: from early and speculative works fleshing out the productively contested faultlines and parameters of the field, to others that deepen and unsettle those initial boundaries by providing more nuance to the contestation, and to others that invite island scholars to adopt more expansive but no less rigorous thinking by reference to archipelagos, aquapelagos, and watery worlds. Throughout the decade, a small number of papers that are theoretical and methodological in focus are enlivened and themselves unsettled by empirical works, many of which are intrinsic/single or instrumental and comparative case studies. Together, the corpus creates a constellation of fresh insights and questions about the field.

Island studies, then, must surely be viewed as a recognised focus of study and, so, too, the study of islands *through* other fields continues; this is a distinction and recursive referent to the idea that islands should be studied on their own terms.

And yet, much in *Island Studies Journal* speaks to wide(r) and profoundly important matters: to note just a few, consider population dynamics such as mobility and migration patterns. Think about social justice and equity imperatives and the care of individuals and communities of place and of interest across the life-course. Pay heed to calls for due regard to our varied 'speaking positions': indigeneity, gender, race, class, status, faith, and so on. Be alert to the many different forms and effects of economic activity that affect island lives from the substrate to the atmosphere. These matters assuredly require close and careful consideration in and on islands; but equally, our roles as scholars and allied commentators surely invite us to demonstrate how our work resonates and ramifies. Otherwise, are we not merely speaking into a comfortable cul-de-sac of our own making? In short, public intellectual work with a remit wider than islands *per se* seems critically important to me; yet I understand the call for a nissological approach: the study of islands on their own terms. But neither one nor the other should be at the expense of the field in toto, and *rapprochement* between them is, perhaps, evinced by a gradual decrease in the incidence of debate about what is it that island scholars should be most concerned with or advancing.

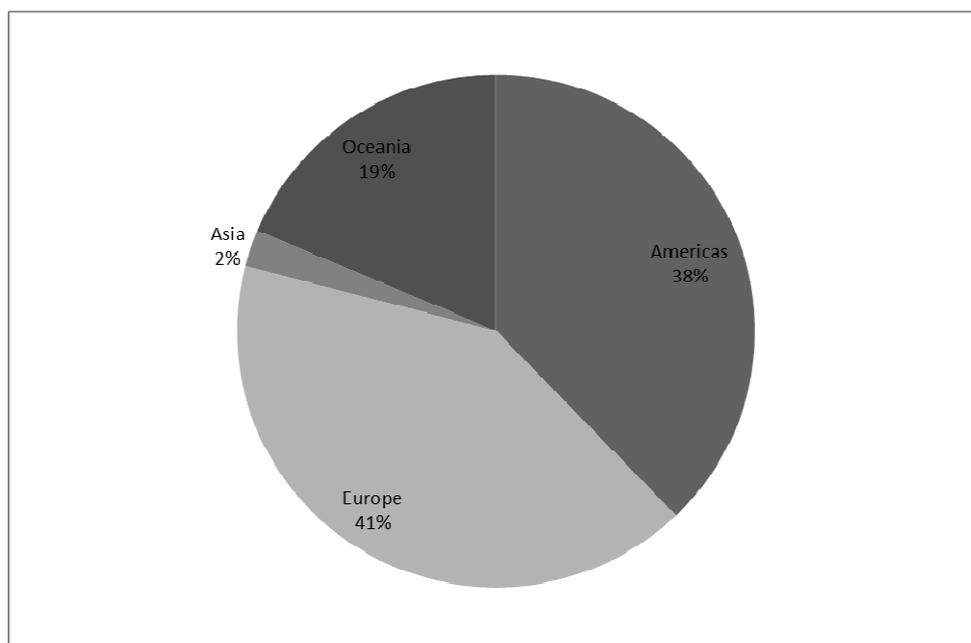
### *Authors writing for the journal*

Who, then, are the contributors to *Island Studies Journal*, and what have they written about over the decade?

Basic indexical work was undertaken to learn more about the 172 authors who have singly or collectively contributed scholarly and review papers to *Island Studies Journal* over the decade. A spreadsheet was constructed listing all authors, and three sorts of information about them were logged: their locations [which were so diverse that I settled, perhaps ironically, on a traditional set of classifications broadly continentalist in feel], and their institutional and disciplinary affiliations.

The results suggest that *Island Studies Journal* does have reach into a strong international community. [Figure 1](#) summarizes the locations from which authors were submitting works. Most come from Europe (41%) and the Americas, predominantly the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean (38%); with 19 per cent coming from Oceania, primarily Australia and New Zealand, and a few are based in Asia (2%).

**Figure 1: Location of authors publishing in *Island Studies Journal* 1(1) to 10(1).**



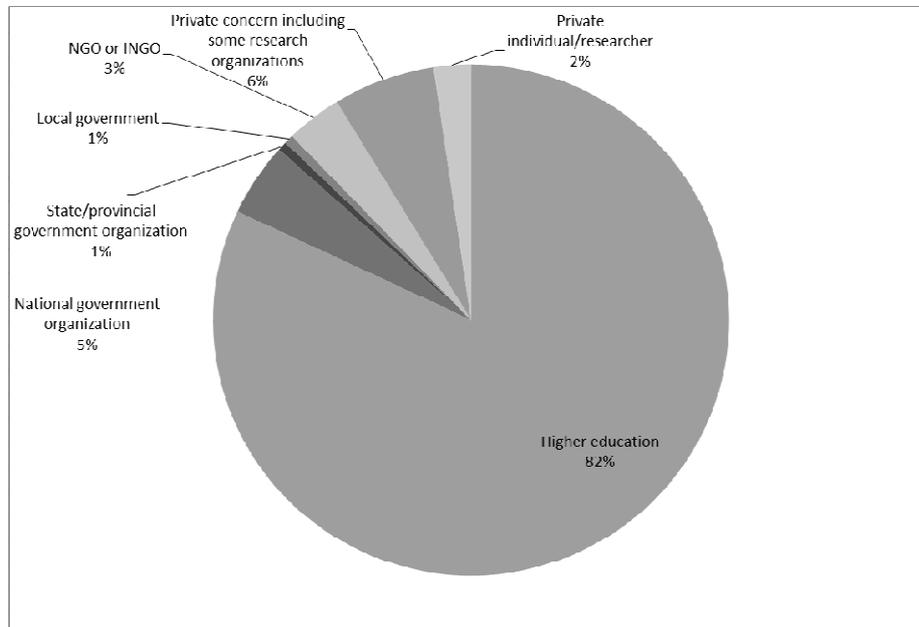
Source: author

From my experience serving on five editorial boards, these patterns are in keeping with academic publishing more generally. Yet beneath the categories are diverse localities from the Åland Islands (Finland) to Tonga, from Gabriola Island (Canada) to Taiwan, or from Iceland to Tasmania (Australia): those with an interest in island studies do, it seems, span the globe.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> As one reviewer noted, “It is interesting that *ISJ* hasn’t gained much traction in Asia, *Shima* has a little more but [the *Journal of Marine and Island Cultures*] was obviously most successful. This merits acknowledgement.”

**Figure 2: Institutional affiliations of authors in *Island Studies Journal* 1(1) to 10(1).**



Source: author

Authors' institutional affiliations were also varied (Figure 2), and – again not unexpectedly – most prevalent was employment in higher education organizations, and primarily universities and colleges (82%). But whereas one might anticipate that *only* academics would publish in many scholarly journals, nearly 20 per cent of authors published in *Island Studies Journal* work in other sectors: namely, national government organizations (5%), state or provincial government organizations (1%), local governments (1%), international or other non-government organizations (3%), private concerns, including research organizations (6%), and as freelance or private practitioners (2%). Again, this finding suggests that the journal has achieved a range and scope that its creators aspired to, and which is implied in the eighth rationale for the journal, noted earlier. To recapitulate, that rationale was to develop an audience (including, I submit, an audience of co-authors and fellow writers) for island studies scholarship from varied stakeholder groups.

Finally, authors' disciplinary affiliations provide evidence of both particular subject-based foundations to the journal's scholarship *and* high levels of interdisciplinarity and pluridisciplinarity, also referred to in aspirational terms in the journal's sixth rationale. Those authors primarily identifying as geographers, or affiliated with, geography departments in higher education organizations are most numerous, with significant input also coming from those based in economics and management, earth and environmental sciences, and anthropology and archaeology. However, as Figure 3 shows, the diversity of authors' self-styled attributions as to their disciplinary backgrounds is noteworthy, spanning from the humanities to the social sciences, and across the biological, physical, and technical sciences. Because these are self-styled, ready identification of sub-discipline was not possible, but may be worth further analysis by others for whom such a nuance is of interest.

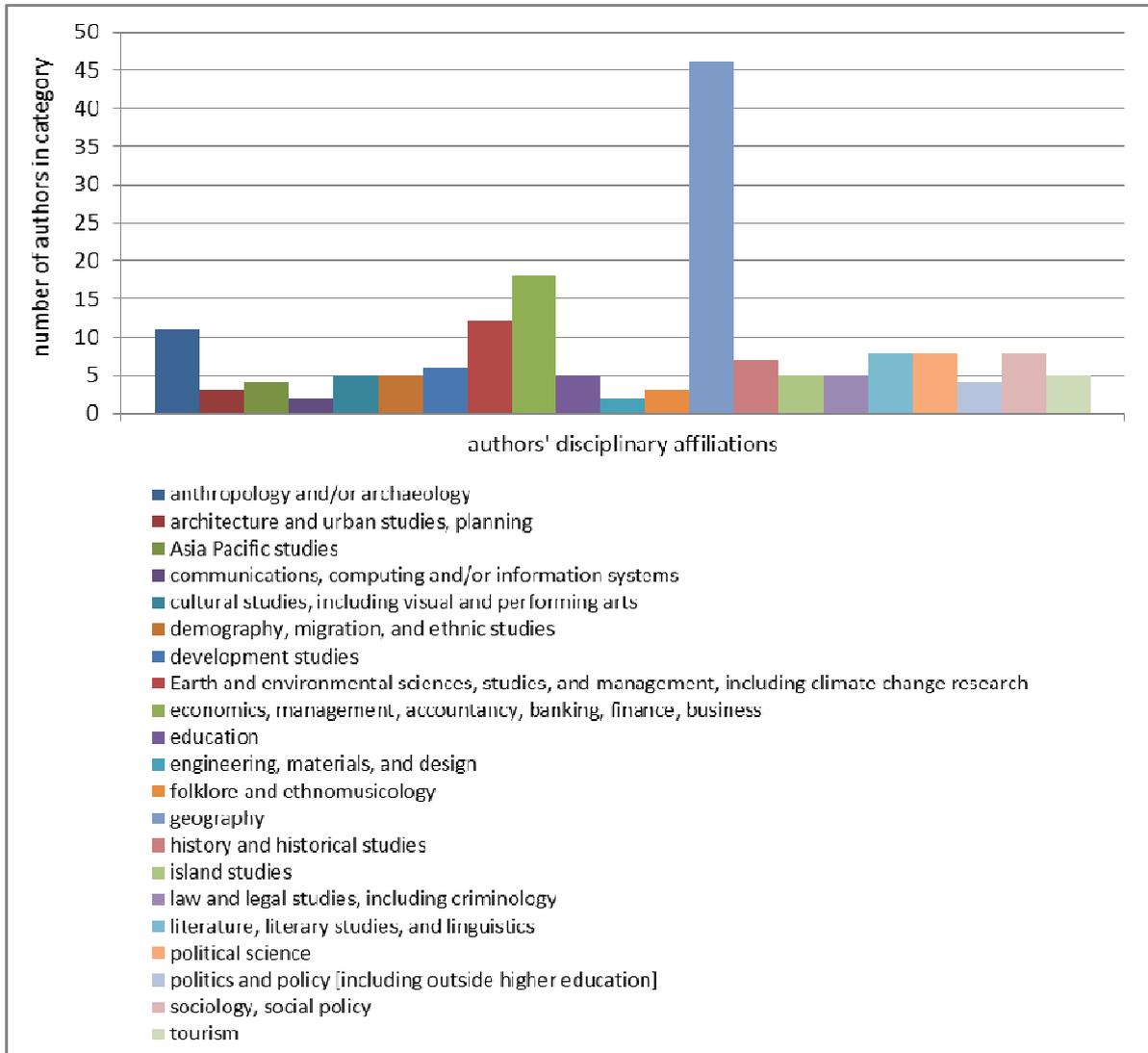
Of more interest to me here is the reach and range of disciplinary affiliations, which could be construed as double-edged. *On one hand*, the apparent diversity of island studies enables many perspectives to be addressed in the journal. In evidence here is a kind of archipelago of knowledge traditions. Works from literary studies and earth and environmental sciences nestle cheek-by-jowl, and one might assume that authors will scan not only their own works but others in any given issue in which their work appears, and thereby embrace opportunities to learn about other disciplinary values, epistemes, and methodologies. Thus, divergent approaches to scholarship appear shared, at least on the surface.

*On the other hand*, in any one issue, a mix of widely divergent papers may – and sometimes does – risk the feel of a collection of unrelated papers. By and large, individual papers in such issues are not cited as well as those batched informally in allied fields or formally as special issues; these latter are becoming increasingly frequent and may be strategically important in terms of the politics of publishing and bibliometrics. Such effects may point to the need for more in the way of an editorial work in each issue, on which I elaborate in due course and which also has its own possible pitfalls.

### ***The journal's subject matter***

Reading and noting all of the scholarly and review articles in *Island Studies Journal* enables a thematic analysis: theoretical and methodological works; broad surveys; typologies; rare works on pedagogy; works focused on seascapes and archipelagic assemblages; analyses of narrative, literature, language, and linguistics; others on island place or island mobilities and migrations, and the ways in which these three intermingle; comparative studies of different islands, and/or of different processes: be they broadly social, cultural, economic, political, or environmental, and accounting for their different qualitative and quantitative, theoretical and applied, or ideal or pragmatic approaches to the study of islands.

**Figure 3: Disciplinary affiliations of authors in *Island Studies Journal* 1(1) to 10(1).**



Source: author

Another way to gauge the subject matter that has characterized *Island Studies Journal* over the decade *could* have been to consider titles and keywords selected by authors, both of which are critical in the politics of publishing. In a regular and useful blog on writing for the social sciences, the London School of Economics notes the following about *titles* (see [Table 1](#)).

**Table 1: Key questions for designing sound article titles for journal papers.**

Is your title:	Example (and comment):
<p>a full ‘narrative title’ that clearly summarizes the substance of what the article argues or what has been found out? (Very good)</p>	<p>‘New public management is dead: Long live digital era governance’ — <i>the whole argument of the paper in 10 words</i></p>
<p>an ambiguous title but with at least some narrative or substantive hints about your line of argument or findings? (OK)</p>	<p>‘Modernist art: the gay dimension’ — <i>probably highlights themes about homosexuality, but might deny them instead</i></p>
<p>a title that perhaps contains some cues as to the author’s argument, but where you’d need to read the piece first to understand these hints? (Poor)</p>	<p>‘One for All: the logic of group conflict’ — <i>actually, this is a book title about solidarity pressures in ethnic groups, (and not Alexander Dumas’ The Three Musketeers which it apparently references).</i></p>
<p>an overly general title that could lead to multiple conclusions or lines of argument? (Poor)</p>	<p>‘The Economic Institutions of Capitalism’ — <i>probably related to organizational /institutional aspects of economics</i></p>

Source: London School of Economics and Political Science (2015, n.p.).

Importantly, Google and other search engines work with particular search algorithms that attribute high importance to words appearing in titles; more than is assigned to abstracts, keywords, or text. Ambiguity, misleading terms, or over-generalization are unhelpful and, in some instances, characterize titles in *Island Studies Journal*. Furthermore, *keywords* are critically important for the ‘discovery’ of articles by potential readers who use a range of search engines; such detection is indispensable if articles are to be selected, read, and cited.

These observations circulate back to the politics of publishing, since one cannot necessarily judge what could be the transformative merits of a work read but then not referred to. My reading of abstracts and keywords suggests that there is significant overlap between them, and analysis of the former illuminates the scope of the latter. Therefore, a keyword analysis has not been done; but note was taken of the terms used, and two observations arose from that work, and are outlined briefly prior to a discussion of findings from the analysis of abstracts. In tandem with analysis of citations of the journal, noted below, scrutiny of the types of keywords used by authors writing for the journal suggests that there are opportunities for authors to be more strategic in order to raise the likelihood of articles being located in online searches, being read, and being cited.

On many occasions, keywords in articles in the journal were vague, ‘boutique’, or ‘cottage’ in effect. Much might be gained by authors if they consulted Ulrich’s Periodical Directory for the indexing and abstracting services listing the journal, and if they considered using more of the keywords commonly used in the ERIC, GeoRef, PsycInfo, BIOSIS, and other subject thesauruses. Such consideration should then inform the selection of article titles, and all that should likely be finalized at the end of the penultimate draft of the whole work if title, abstract, keywords, and text are to line up with rigour.

Leaving the matter of keywords to one side now, a broad-brush ‘map’ of key themes that have typified the content of *Island Studies Journal* has also been made apparent by gathering all of the abstracts into a Word document and then removing confounding words such as island/s and studies used with such frequency that their inclusion would distort the outcomes of a Wordle analysis.

Wordle is a tool described by its creator as “a toy for generating ‘word clouds’ from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text” (Feinberg, 2014, n.p.). The program enables users to copy text from documents, paste them into a window, select to remove common English words, and generate a range of aforementioned word clouds. Several refinements of this basic input process were undertaken, and numerous word clouds generated, two of which are produced below. Though elementary, the output does capture visually epicentres of thematic effort in the journal over the first decade. The results reveal what authors have been concerned with and, significantly, in the word clouds’ interstices or voids are signs of what could be, but is not yet being, published in *Island Studies Journal*.

A minimalist visualization of themes at [Figure 4](#) highlights the 40 words most used in abstracts. It establishes that attention focuses on *smallness* – a putative quality of islandness and key subject of debate in the field; *development* – a major consideration that typifies intellectual, policy, and practical labours meant to improve islanders’ capacity to flourish; and *tourism* – a sector of economic activity that islanders either embrace or are compelled to work with to develop local, regional, or national economies.

Other themes concern economic and political matters, not least in relation to questions of state sovereignty, migration, social and cultural change and their effects on identity and on islandness. Themes less present in early issues of the journal – the urban and the archipelago among them – register in this 40-term word count and, if debates and conversations about them continue, the epicentres of attention in word clouds can be expected to shift and change. There is also evidence of concern for scale, space, place, and nature; history, context, and relationships; policy and management; and for research processes; case studies, for example.





This kind of consideration of the impact of *Island Studies Journal* circles back to an earlier discussion about the politics of publishing. Suffice to say that it has become an inescapable imperative to pay heed to bibliometrics; but that attention should be neither slavish nor uncritical. Therefore let me be clear here: in my considered view, *Island Studies Journal* serves a critically important role as a chief means by which island studies scholars, policy-makers, advocates, and practitioners are able to engage in extended disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and pluri-disciplinary debates and discussions about matters of fundamental concern to islanders, island places, island relations, archipelagic relations, and those with mainlands, continents, watery spaces ... one could digress. Nevertheless, it is salutary to consider some of the key bibliometric measures that pertain to *Island Studies Journal*.

*Island Studies Journal* has been listed by Thomson Reuters since 2012. At time of writing, source data for its most current Journal Citation Report (JCR) were drawn from 2014 and based on 25 articles citing 1,118 references; the ratio between these is 44.7 – that is the number of citations provided per article (Thomson Reuters 2015b). As a *Geography* publication, the Journal's citation report impact factor rank has fluctuated over the three years during which data has been generated: from 60/72 listed in 2012 (Quartile 4: 17<sup>th</sup> percentile), to 48/76 listed in 2013 (Q3: 37<sup>th</sup> percentile), to 53/76 in 2014 (Q3: 30<sup>th</sup> percentile). As a *Social Sciences / Interdisciplinary* publication, the Journal is ranked more highly: 62/92 in 2012 (Q3: 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile); 39/93 in 2013 (Q2: 58<sup>th</sup> percentile); and 48/95 in 2014 (Q3: 50<sup>th</sup> percentile) (Figure 6).

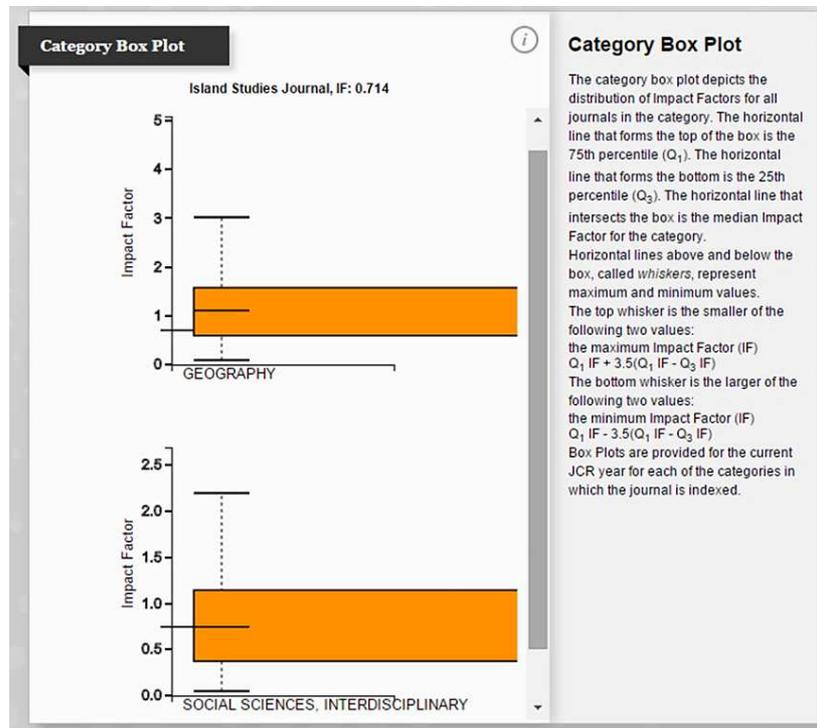
The total number of times that a journal has been cited by all journals listed in the Web of Science database in a given 'journal citation report' year amounts to the total citations. Cumulative total citations of *Island Studies Journal* increased from 40 in 2012 to 79 in 2013 and to 88 in 2014; another two years' data will be required before five-year trends are identified. Citable items also increased from 12 in 2012 to 16 in 2013 to 25 in 2014.<sup>4</sup>

Over the same period (from 2012 to 2014), the journal's impact factor in Web of Science rose from 0.391 to 0.714, the latter figure broadly comparable with, for example, *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, *Journal of Geography* or *Geografiska Annaler B*. Impact factors are considered important because they indicate "the frequency with which an average article from a journal is cited in a particular year" (Thomson Reuters Scientific Head Offices, 2012, n.p.). Among other functions, that measure is useful for evaluating the relative importance of journals in the same field; where interdisciplinarity is the norm, such evaluation may be limited in value or may need to account for additional nuance.

---

<sup>4</sup> In passing, Scopus data indicates that non-citation of articles published in *Island Studies Journal* may be an issue, with 25 per cent, 41 per cent and 59 per cent of articles for 2012, 2013, and 2014 yet to be cited. These findings are far from fatal: or, to put that in the positive, there remain manifold opportunities for authors to share their work with others in meaningful and legitimate ways to optimize the chance that their work will be cited. Those ways include sending links to the article PDF to people whose works have been cited in the paper; noting publications after one's signature in emails; or blogging about one's research and referring to outputs and outcomes.

**Figure 6: Category Box Plot Impact Factors for Geography and Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary categories, *Island Studies Journal* 2014.**



Source: Thomson Reuters.

An immediacy index is also important for some journals: for example, *Nature*, *Science*, and those focused on, for example, medicine or chemistry. This index measures “how frequently the average article from a journal is cited within the same year as publication” (Thomson Reuters Scientific Head Offices 2012, n.p.). Many such journals are published monthly; however, this measure may not be especially useful for *Island Studies Journal* given its biannual publication schedule and the lag time experienced as a result.

Nor does *Island Studies Journal* yet have cited half-life data, which benchmark the age of cited articles. However, citing half-life data is available. This data enables interested parties to identify “the number of years from the current year that account for 50% of the cited references from articles published by a journal in the current year” (Thomson Reuters Scientific Head Offices, 2012). The journal’s citing half-life data is: 7.2 in 2012, 7.6 in 2013, and 8.2 in 2014.

In *Island Studies Journal*, a significant number of citations are journal self-citations, the effect of which may be to lower the impact factor (0.217 in 2012 and 0.321 in 2015). According to Thomson Reuters, in the *Journal Citation Report*, every journal record will tabulate “all citations to the journal from any article indexed” during the *Report* year (McVeigh, 2002, n.p.). Most journals have instances of articles that cite other articles previously published in the host publication: journal self-citations.

In general terms, there is a complex ethics pertaining to journal self-citation, and Thomson Reuters has delisted journals for periods of time if their editors and boards are shown to pressure authors to cite their journals or to organize as citation cartels across a

limited number of journals (Shema, 2012). However, McVeigh (ibid.) also notes that self-citation may “be a characteristic largely at the level of the individual title, and must be considered only in the context of the title’s particular content and history”. Thus, given the specificity of the subject matter of *Island Studies Journal* – a clear focus upon the study of islands and matters pertaining to them, and also given that few other journals exist to promulgate findings on these subjects, a higher-than-normal level of self-citation is to be expected. As McVeigh (2002, n.p.) notes,

a high volume of self-citation is not unusual or unwarranted in journals that are leaders in a field because of the consistently high quality of the articles they publish, and/or because of the uniqueness or novelty of their subject matter.

Presently, the latter applies to *Island Studies Journal*, but – and this point is worth underscoring – a positive sign of the journal’s broadening reach and impact will be to receive more in the way of external citations. Authors will be able to aid such processes by timely promotion of publication using professional websites, social media, and other forms of appropriate networking.

As well as describing citation cartels (which I am not suggesting applies in relation to *Island Studies Journal*), Shema (2012) also notes work done by Fowler and Aksnes (2007) on the question of whether and to what extent author self-citation is a useful practice. Reading their work provides me with useful additional insights. For example, in relation to the articles studied, they note the function of self-citation as a means to improve “the visibility of authors’ prior works or the authority of their arguments”, and acknowledge that these self-referential instances are likely to “generate more citations from others in the future as others become more aware of the authors’ past research or more convinced of their credibility” (Fowler and Aksnes, 2007, p. 428).<sup>5</sup> For early career scholars or any scholar engaged in new work or publishing in fields new to them, as long as such citations are meaningful, they are also important. Given the comments above in relation to Scopus data on non-citation of work, for those publishing in *Island Studies Journal* these points are perhaps doubly useful.

Analysis of citations measured in Google Scholar provides a raft of additional insights. Arguably, Google Scholar has utility for gauging one’s reach as a scholar in the public domain because, *inter alia*, it accounts for open-access/public-good journals, reports from governments and international and other non-government organizations, doctoral and masters dissertations, and teaching guides. It may also compensate for the recent entry of humanities and social sciences journals in other databases such as Thomson Reuters.<sup>6</sup> Quality assurance is essential, and scholars working with their Google Scholar citations need to ensure that self-

---

<sup>5</sup> This study excluded papers from the humanities and social sciences and those papers analysed had at least one Norwegian author.

<sup>6</sup> One reviewer noted that “With regards to Google Scholar vs. Thomson Reuters, it could be worth noting that, whereas Thomson Reuters remains the most respected source and that which is most often used by institutions, decision-making on the part of individual scholars (including potential authors) may be disproportionately driven by Google Scholar, which is both more accessible and more conceptualizable for non-experts in bibliometry.”

*A critical analysis of the impact of Island Studies Journal*

citations and duplicates are removed, and entries proofed. Google Scholar searches of each paper published in *Island Studies Journal* over its life enable one to track the existence of more citations than are logged by Thomson Reuters (Table 2), but the latter provides significantly more nuanced analysis of impact, albeit on a smaller number of citations.

The citations that Google Scholar lists of articles in *Island Studies Journal* include dissertations, teaching documents, government reports, and other non-academic outputs; and that is illustrative of journal's open access arrangements and rationales. Google Scholar provides relatively straightforward access to information about the ways in which articles in *Island Studies Journal* are cited, by whom, and in which outputs.

**Table 2: *Island Studies Journal*: type of publication and citations in Google Scholar.**

Year	06		07		08		09		10		11		12		13		14		15		Total
item / issue	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	8.1	8.2	9.1	9.2	10.1	10.2	18
scholarly articles	6	3	4	4	5	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	5	11	6	11	16	7		120
review articles	2	1	4	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		19
book reviews	8	13	8	9	9	14	8	10	12	6	11	12	14	13	11	11	6	10	6		191
scholarly article citations	219	53	109	47	99	29	54	46	30	22	18	67	18	19	47	21	24	34	1		956
review article citations	14	16	39	20	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0		115
Google Scholar citations																					1071

Note: Issues 7.1, 8.1, 9.1, 9.2 and 10.1 contained 'special' sections. The *Island Studies Journal* website also refers to calls for articles for three more such special sections: on Sustainable Development and Nature Conservation in the Outermost European Regions; Island Decolonization; and Island Toponymies.

Source: Author and Google Scholar

Thus, in Table 3, the ten articles most highly cited since 2006 are tabulated in column 1, the number of citations is noted in column 2, and the citing authors, journal titles in which their articles appear, and times those publications themselves are cited, are noted in column 3. At the top of each cell formed by the ten articles and column 3, the total number of times each citing article has itself been cited is also recorded (N=xxx). In parts and in total, this data is seen as a proxy *echo-effect* for each article listed in column 1, and (though indirectly) for the journal as a whole. It is evident that, in Google Scholar, articles being published in *Island Studies Journal* are being widely cited across diverse disciplines and in journals that are also analysed by Thomson Reuters and, indeed, Scopus, for example. They are also being cited in journals that are not listed by these other organizations and in non-academic outlets.

**Table 3: Top ten most highly cited *Island Studies Journal* papers and citations of them.**

Article in <i>Island Studies Journal</i>	Times cited in GS at 9/2015	Examples of works citing articles in column 1
Hay, P. (2006). 'A phenomenology of islands'. 1(1): 19–42.	95	N.236 Baldacchino, <i>Island Studies Journal</i> , 2008 [53 citations] Stratford, <i>Political Geography</i> , 2008 [46 citations] Vanclay, <i>Ocean and Coastal Management</i> , 2012 [31 citations] Jackson and Della Dora, <i>Environment and Planning A</i> , 2009 [29 citations] Fletcher, <i>New Literatures Review</i> , 2011 [21 citations] Stratford, <i>Environment and Planning A</i> , 2009 [20 citations] Seamon, in <i>The Role of Place Identity in the Perception, Understanding, and Design of Built Environments</i> , 2011 [edited book] [17 citations] Vannini and Taggart, <i>Cultural Geographies</i> , 2013 [15 citations] Steinberg et al., <i>Antipode</i> , 2012 [11 citations] Ronstrom, <i>Island Studies Journal</i> , 2009 [11 citations]
Baldacchino, G. (2006). 'Islands, Island Studies, <i>Island Studies Journal</i> '. 1(1): 3–18.	85	N.433 Sharpley, <i>Tourism Development and the Environment</i> , 2009 [book] [159 citations] Farbotko, <i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i> , 2010 [63 citations] Vannini, <i>Ferry Tales</i> , 2012 [book] [48 citations] Lazrus, <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , 2012 [34 citations] Baldacchino, <i>Geographical Review</i> , 2007 [27 citations] Carrigan, <i>Postcolonial Tourism 2010</i> [book] [24 citations] Sheller, <i>Environment and Planning A</i> , 2009 [21 citations] Johannesson et al., <i>Tourism Geographies</i> , 2010 [21 citations] Vannini, <i>Cultural Geographies</i> , 2011 [19 citations] Hall, <i>Asian Pacific Journal of Tourism Research</i> , 2010 [17 citations]
Marjavaara, R. (2007). 'Route to destruction? Second home tourism in small island communities'. 2(1): 27–46.	46	N.473 Hall and Muller, <i>Nordic Tourism</i> , 2008 [book] [113 citations] Hall and Page, <i>Tourism Management</i> , 2009 [114 citations] George et al. <i>Rural Tourism Development</i> , 2009 [book] [97 citations] Marjavaara, <i>Second Home Tourism</i> , 2008 [book] [41 citations] Muller and Marjavaara, <i>Tijdschrift Voor Economische En Sociale Geografie</i> , 2012 [30 citations] Muller, <i>Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift</i> , 2011 [19 citations] Hoogendoorn, <i>Second Homes</i> [PhD dissertation] [15 citations] Muller and Hoogendoorn, <i>Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality</i> , 2013 [13 citations] Kauppila, Fennia, <i>International Journal of Geography</i> , 201 [9 citations] Canavan, <i>Journal of Travel Research</i> , 2012 [12 citations]
Baldacchino, G. (2008). 'Studying islands: on whose terms? Some epistemological and methodological challenges to the pursuit of island studies'. 3(1): 37–56.	52	N.220 Mountz, <i>Political Geography</i> , 2011 [71 citations] Stratford et al., <i>Island Studies Journal</i> , 2011 [37 citations] Lazrus, <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> , 2012 [34 citations] Fletcher, <i>New Literatures Review</i> , 2011 [21 citations] Stratford et al., <i>Island Studies Journal</i> , 2013 [11 citations]

*A critical analysis of the impact of Island Studies Journal*

		<p>Baldacchino, <i>The Diplomacies of Small States</i>, 2009 [edited book] [12 citations]</p> <p>Pugh, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2013 [10 citations]</p> <p>Baldacchino, <i>Journal of Marine and Island Cultures</i>, 2012 [10 citations]</p> <p>Gibbons, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2010 [7 citations]</p> <p>Hay, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2013 [7 citations]</p>
<p>Stratford, E., G. Baldacchino, E. McMahon, C. Farbotko and A. Harwood. (2011). 'Envisioning the archipelago'. 6(2): 113–30.</p>	37	<p>N.83</p> <p>Lazrus, <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>, 2012 [34 citations]</p> <p>Pugh, <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i>, 2013 [8 citations]</p> <p>Baldacchino and Ferreira, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2013 [7 citations]</p> <p>Hay, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2013 [7 citations]</p> <p>Stratford and Langridge, <i>Social and Cultural Geography</i>, 2012 [7 citations]</p> <p>Clark and Baldacchino, <i>Cultural Geographies</i>, 2013 [6 citations]</p> <p>Baldacchino and Tsai, <i>Political Geography</i>, 2014 [5 citations]</p> <p>Straughan and Dixon, <i>Mobilities</i> [3 citations]</p> <p>Dawson, <i>Shima: the International Journal of Research into Island Cultures</i>, 2012 [5 citations]</p> <p>Stratford, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2013 [editorial] [2 citations]</p>
<p>Boomert, A. and A.J. Bright. (2007). 'Island archaeology: in search of a new horizon'. 2(1): 3–26.</p>	35	<p>N.156</p> <p>Ladefoged and Graves, <i>Current Anthropology</i>, 2008 [34 citations]</p> <p>Van de Noort, <i>North Sea Archaeologies</i>, 2011 [book] [32 citations]</p> <p>Fitzpatrick and Anderson, <i>Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology</i>, 2008 [22 citations]</p> <p>Ramos et al., <i>Journal of Caribbean Archaeology</i>, 2010 [12 citations]</p> <p>Hofman et al., <i>Journal of Caribbean Archaeology</i>, 2010 [12 citations]</p> <p>Goldie, <i>The Idea of the Antipodes</i>, 2010 [book] [10 citations]</p> <p>Keegan et al., <i>The Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Archaeology</i> 2013 [book] [10 citations]</p> <p>Bright, <i>Blood is Thicker than Water</i>, 2011 [book] [9 citations]</p> <p>Calvo et al., <i>World Archaeology</i>, 2011 [8 citations]</p> <p>Thompson and Turck, <i>Journal of Field Archaeology</i>, 2010 [7 citations]</p>
<p>King, R. (2009). 'Geography, islands and migration in an era of global mobility'. 4(1): 53–84.</p>	35	<p>N.49</p> <p>Domínguez-Mujica et al., <i>Annals of Tourism Research</i>, 2011 [17 citations]</p> <p>Lulle, <i>Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography</i>, 2014 [5 citations]</p> <p>Teerling and King, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2012 [4 citations]</p> <p>Bernardie-Tahir and Schmoll, <i>Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies</i>, 2014 [4 citations]</p> <p>Picornell, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2014 [4 citations]</p> <p>Mainwaring, <i>Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies</i>, 2014 [3 citations]</p> <p>Çalışkan, <i>Shima: the International Journal of Research into Island Cultures</i>, 2010 [3 citations]</p> <p>Lulle, <i>Women's Studies International Forum</i>, 2014 [3 citations]</p> <p>Bjarnson, <i>Island Studies Journal</i>, 2010 [3 citations]</p> <p>Soulimant, <i>Geography</i>. Université de La Rochelle (HAL archives-ouvertes), 2011 [3 citations]</p>

Baldacchino, G. (2006). 'Warm versus cold water island tourism'. 1(2): 183–200.	28	N.74 Jóhannesson et al. <i>Tourism Geographies</i> , 2010 [21 citations] Xiao Jianhong, <i>Acta Geographica Sinica</i> , 2011 [14 citations] Brown et al., <i>International Journal of Culture, Tourism and Hospitality Research</i> , 2010 [13 citations] Canavan, <i>Journal of Travel Research</i> , 2012 [12 citations] Baldacchino, <i>Shima: the International Journal of Research into Island Cultures</i> , 2008 [7 citations] Canavan, <i>International Journal of Tourism Research</i> , 2013 [5 citations] da Silva, <i>Turismo na natureza como base do desenvolvimento turístico responsável nos Açores</i> , 2013 [5 citations] Pons and O'Rullan, <i>Miscellanea Geographica–Regional Studies on Development</i> , 2014 [4 citations] De Silva, <i>Knowledge Management in Tourism: Policy and Governance Applications</i> , 2012 [book] [3 citations] Funk, <i>On the Truly Non-cooperative Game of Island Life</i> , 2009 [book] [3 citations]
Dodds, R. (2007). 'Malta's tourism policy: standing still or advancing towards sustainability'. 2(1): 47–66.	25	N.87 Dodds and Graci, <i>Sustainable Tourism in Island Destinations</i> , 2012 [book] [54 citations] Chapman and Speake, <i>Tourism Management</i> , 2011 [34 citations] Dodds, <i>Journal of Sustainable Development</i> , 2012 [15 citations] Åkerlund, Doctoral thesis, Umeå universitet [6 citations] Xiao Jianhong, <i>Acta Geographica Sinica</i> , 2011 [14 citations] Dela Santa, <i>Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research</i> , 2013 [7 citations] Brown et al., <i>International Journal of Culture, Tourism &amp; Hospitality Research</i> , 2010 [7 citations] Åkerlund et al., <i>Journal of Policy Research in Tourism, Leisure and Events</i> , 2015 [6 citations] Smith, <i>Anatolia</i> , 2009 [6 citations] Kunst, <i>Tourism and Hospitality Management</i> , 2011 [5 citations]
Anckar, D. (2006). 'Islandness or smallness? A comparative look at political institutions in small island states'. 1(1): 43–54.	20	N.80 Cox et al., <i>The Unfinished State: Drivers of Change in Vanuatu</i> , 2007 [Report for Australian Agency for International Development] [26 citations] Turner et al. <i>Democratization</i> , 2011 [15 citations] Anckar, <i>Democratization</i> , 2008 [12 citations] Fielding, Doctoral dissertation, University of Montana, 2010 [6 citations] Grydehøj, <i>European Journal of Spatial Development</i> , 2013 [6 citations] Samy et al., in <i>Small States and the Pillars of Economic Resilience</i> , 2008 [work for Islands and Small States Institute, Malta and Commonwealth Secretariat, London] [5 citations] Veenendaal, Doctoral dissertation, Leiden University, 2013 [4 citations] Polido et al., <i>Ocean and Coastal Management</i> , 2014 [3 citations] Rocha et al. <i>Revista Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios</i> , 2010 [2 citations] Anckar, <i>Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift</i> , 2011 [1 citation]

Source: Author and Google Scholar.

In effect, [Table 3](#) provides something of a map onto the network that *Island Studies Journal* and articles in its collection have forged over time.

Now, Thomson Reuters has a powerful method to trace the impact of a journal in terms of the extent and quality of the intellectual community in which it circulates, but the number of citing sources<sup>7</sup> it draws upon is, as noted above, narrower and oriented to scholarly quality measures, where Google Scholar is broad-church and has other limitations, also referred to above. In Thomson Reuters’ system, journal impact may be partially gauged by reference to cited and citing journal data. Cited journal data “shows how many citations a journal received in the JCR year” (Thomson Reuters, no date-a). Citing journal data shows how many citations to other journals were made in the parent journal (Thomson Reuters, no date-b). These ‘journal relationships’ between a journal and the top twenty journals in its ‘network’ may also be rendered in the form of arcs on a circle for both cited and citing journal data; *Island Studies Journal* has yet to reach twenty such relationships of substance. These visualizations are not reproduced here, but the relationships are noted below ([Table 4](#)).

**Table 4: *Island Studies Journal* relationships.**

<b>Cited Data</b>	<b>Citing Data</b>
<i>Island Studies Journal</i>	<i>Island Studies Journal</i>
<i>Political Geography</i>	<i>Progress in Human Geography</i>
<i>Comparative European Politics</i>	<i>World Development</i>
<i>Annual Review of Laws</i>	<i>Geografiska Annaler B</i>
<i>Journal of Sustainable Tourism</i>	<i>Social Indicators Research</i>
<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>Cultural Geographies</i>
<i>Law Library Journal</i>	<i>Journal of Environmental Psychology</i>
<i>Mobilities UK</i>	<i>International Migration Review</i>
<i>Ocean Development and International Law</i>	<i>Journal of Transport Geography</i>
<i>Journal of Destination Market Management</i>	<i>Annals of Tourism Research</i>
<i>Human Ecology</i>	<i>Asia Pacific Viewpoint</i>
<i>Geografisk Tidsskrift – Danish Journal of Geography</i>	<i>Environment and Planning D</i>
<i>European Urban and Regional Studies</i>	<i>European Journal of Migration Law</i>

Source: Thomson Reuters

In terms of *cited journal data*, it has been established that *Island Studies Journal* has been cited 88 times in journals measured by Thomson Reuters. Of those citations, 47 are by articles published within the journal itself. Six are by articles published in *Political Geography*, and two each by articles published in a further eight journals. A ‘long tail’ follows of journals

<sup>7</sup> Indeed, one reviewer noted the absence of the journal *Shima* from the relationships, suggesting that were it indexed, a strong relationship between the two journals would be likely (particularly in some areas of thematic focus, such as aquapelagos, archipelagos, and Baldacchino’s key overview texts). Moreover, “the absence results in an underestimation of the amount of cross-journal discussion going on” [Anon].

citing the journal once; interdisciplinarity again features as a characteristic of that list. What needs to be gleaned from this data is that scholars publishing in *Island Studies Journal* are, to all intents and purposes, talking amongst themselves. While these conversations may be rich and important, they may also suggest a degree of insularity and point to opportunities for authors to let others know of the journal, its work and theirs, and the merits that the journal has for interdisciplinary research in a number of internationally important fields. There is, doubtless, a role for the editorial team and international advisory board in such relational labours.

Of equal interest are the *citing journal data* for *Island Studies Journal*. For ‘all years’ in addition to the 47 citations to the journal itself, there are 1,121 citations to journals, and the next most common citation is to ‘non-traditional’ sources: acts of parliament, press releases, United Nations documents, maps, ephemera, grey literature, reports, internet sites, and so on (Thomson Reuters, no date-c). Ten citations are to Baldacchino’s (2007) edited collection *A World of Islands*.

### **Final observations**

Publishing of any kind is no mean feat. Scan the electronic resources in great repository libraries such as the British Library, US Library of Congress, National Library of Australia, or Library and Archives Canada, and rapidly it will become apparent that thousands of specialist and non-specialist scholarly and populist periodicals have been conceived, produced, fostered, and then foundered in relatively short order. Marking a decade of publishing, *Island Studies Journal*, its key founding figures, authors, readers, and advocates have, in any estimation, every reason to be proud of the achievements made. This observation is confidently advanced on the basis of the evidence reported here, and likely would be augmented by additional qualitative research undertaken in conversation with stakeholders. Such labours may be well worth the effort and reported back to the readership at the start of the next decade. These broad comments in place, what, does the foregoing analysis reveal in terms of what might be done differently in the future; not least in order to shift the bibliometrics of the journal while enabling it to retain open access and serve multiple, and not simply scholarly, constituents?<sup>8</sup>

First, there is a real opportunity to ensure the clarity, honesty, strategic worth, and accessibility of article titles, abstracts, and keywords. This comment pertains to publishing more generally, but ought to be taken seriously by authors writing for *Island Studies Journal*.

Second, more effort by authors could be made to reach out to and bounce off existing discussions and debates in the journal’s past issues *and* in other journals; to position their work more deliberately and strategically; to enter into asynchronous conversations and commit to showing the currency and salience of their works vis-à-vis others.

---

<sup>8</sup> One reviewer invited responses on the following questions: “Where is the field going in the next ten years? What types of authors and what types of subject matter should therefore perhaps be targeted in the future by special sections, editorial initiatives and the like? In addition, should there be more strategic changes in the target audiences for the journal, perhaps seeking to focus it more towards policymakers?” I have avoided answering these on the grounds that they are precisely and fittingly the questions that a new ISJ Editor and editorial team will, I am sure, relish responding to in due course.

Third, and allied to this recommendation, is a plea that authors more routinely and faithfully engage in reading and responding to each other's work; both in the journal in debates, and in other articles in other journals. At the same time, these conversations need to be managed carefully and stringently; there is a real need to ensure that self-citation is contained and does not become excessive in *Island Studies Journal* (even given that this is a specialist journal with a particular readership).

Fourth, throughout articles and particularly in introductions and/or conclusions, markedly more effort might go into highlighting the significance of findings for thinking about islands and for thinking about big questions that are intrinsic to islands. The latter would require that authors avoid being caught up in the nissological debate and the push to value the intrinsic to such an extent that efforts are not made to 'speak' persuasively to others in other locations and other fields.

Fifth, and allied to these other recommendations, there may be cause for editorials for more issues of the journal. At least some of those without special sections merit an overarching voice that can orchestrate the discussion about the specific and general significance of each paper and each issue as a whole.

Sixth, greater levels of engagement by members of the editorial board are possibly warranted, at least in terms of inviting and encouraging them to organize special issues and take on sub-editorial roles in the quality assurance of those issues, write editorials, and contribute papers. Regular, critically engaged, and legitimate citation by them of articles from *Island Studies Journal* in other fora would be a fillip for the journal.

Seventh, more in the way of special sections in issues would go some way to creating momentum around particular interdisciplinary borderlands: islands, sustainable development, and nature conservation in the outermost European regions; island decolonization; and island toponymies being three examples in train at present. For these *and for general issues*, however, more might be done to encourage authors to use social media to sound and respectful effect to advise colleagues of the advent of new work.

Eighth, some thought might be given to varying the position of special sections in any given issue. Such sections are usually positioned first but, having a 'natural' advantage over single papers, might just as easily be flagged in the journal issue title page and editorial, and then positioned after individual papers, to give the latter a fighting chance at being noticed opportunistically if not strategically.

Finally, though no mention has been made of these three matters in the foregoing pages, there is need to require authors to ensure the provision of the highest quality of image; to consider refreshing the journal's webpage, a vital 'front door' to the articles that have been contributed; and to tangle with the inevitable question about whether to position the journal with a large publishing company, with all the advantages and disadvantages that this implies. These three questions are likely to concern the editor, his or her team, the board, authors, and stakeholders in the early part of the next decade in the life of the journal. This particular advocate wishes all concerned the best in such deliberations, convinced that the future of the journal is assured, given that the island studies community continues to nurture this important project.

## References

- Baldacchino, G. (2006). Islands, island studies, *Island Studies Journal*. *Island Studies Journal* 1(1): 3–18.
- Baldacchino, G. (Ed.). (2007). *A world of islands: An island studies reader*. Charlottetown, Canada and Luqa, Malta: Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island and Agenda Academic.
- Directory of Open Access Journals. (2015). About the Directory of Open Access Journals. Retrieved from <https://doaj.org/about>.
- Feinberg, J. (2014). What is Wordle? Retrieved from <http://www.wordle.net/>.
- Fowler, J.H. and Aksnes, D.W. (2007). Does self-citation pay? *Scientometrics* 72(3): 427-437.
- Island Studies Journal. (2015). Rationale and call for papers. Retrieved from <http://www.islandstudies.ca/journal>
- Kennedy, D. (1997). *Academic duty*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.
- London School of Economics and Political Science. (2015). Your essential ‘how-to’ guide to choosing article titles. The Impact Blog. Retrieved from <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2011/06/21/your-essential-%E2%80%98how-to%E2%80%99-guide-to-choosing-article-titles/>
- Macfarlane, B. (2012). *Intellectual leadership in higher education: Renewing the role of the university professor*. London and New York: Routledge.
- McVeigh, M.E. (2002). Journal self-citation in the journal citation reports - Science Edition. Retrieved from <http://wokinfo.com/essays/journal-self-citation-jcr/>
- Moxley, J.M. and Lenker, L.T. (1995). *The politics and processes of publishing*. London: Greenwood Publishing Group.
- Shema, H. (2012). On self-citation. Retrieved from <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/information-culture/on-self-citation/>.
- Thomson Reuters. (2015a). About us. Retrieved from <http://thomsonreuters.com/en/about-us.html>
- Thomson Reuters. (2015b). Journal Citation Reports®. Retrieved from <https://jcr-incites-thomsonreuters-com.ezproxy.utas.edu.au/JCRJournalProfileAction.action?pg=JRNLPF&journalImpactFactor=0.714&year=2014&journalTitle=Island%20Studies%20Journal&edition=SCI&journal=ISL%20STUD%20J>.
- Thomson Reuters. (2015c). The Thomson Reuters Journal Selection Process. Retrieved from <http://wokinfo.com/essays/journal-selection-process/>
- Thomson Reuters. (no date-a). Cited Journal Data. Retrieved from <http://ipscience-help.thomsonreuters.com/incitesLive/JCRGroup/jcrJournalProfile/jcrJournalProfileCitedJournal.html>
- Thomson Reuters. (no date-b). Citing Journal Data. Retrieved from <http://ipscience-help.thomsonreuters.com/incitesLive/JCRGroup/jcrJournalProfile/jcrJournalProfileCitingTab.html>
- Thomson Reuters. (no date-c). Glossary: Non-Traditional. Retrieved from <http://ipscience-help.thomsonreuters.com/incitesLive/glossaryAZgroup/g16/8949-TRS.html>
- Thomson Reuters Scientific Head Offices. (2012). Journal Citation Reports® Quick Reference Card. Retrieved from [http://wokinfo.com/media/mtrp/jcr\\_qrc\\_en.pdf](http://wokinfo.com/media/mtrp/jcr_qrc_en.pdf).