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United States dominates the Nature Publishing Index Global Top 50

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Institutions in the United States dominate a new ranking of the world's top 50 institutions. The Nature Publishing Index Global Top 50 published today ranks the top 50 institutions in the world, according to their output of primary research articles in Nature research journals in 2010. Launched today as a beta website at **www.natureasia.com/publishing-index/global**, the Index is a collaboration with Digital Science, a sister division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd.

US institutions occupy 33 of the top 50 positions, with Harvard University in first place and Stanford University, MIT, NIH, Yale University, California Institute of Technology and Columbia University also in the top ten. Six of the campuses of the University of California feature in the top 50, and if all ten were aggregated together the University of California system would be ranked number one.

The launch of the beta site for the Nature Publishing Index Global Top 50 coincides with the publication today of the *Nature Publishing Index 2010 Asia Pacific*, a supplement that provides a snapshot of 2010 rankings of research institutions and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The Nature Publishing Index puts the Asia-Pacific rankings in a global context. The Asia-Pacific rankings are available at **www.natureasia.com/publishing-index** and feature a 12-month rolling window of data, updated weekly.

Five institutions from Asia feature in the top 50— four from Japan and one from China. The University of Tokyo, number one in the Asia-Pacific, is number six in the global rankings, followed by RIKEN at 23, Kyoto University at 25, Osaka University at 33, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences at 32.

"This is just the starting point of many different ways to interpret and mine the data in the index," said David Swinbanks, Managing Director Asia and Australasia, Nature Publishing Group (NPG). "We warmly welcome feedback and hope that it will become a dynamic entity that responds to feedback from its users."

The Index results should be used with some caveats. The Index only covers *Nature* and the 16 Nature research journals, so while it offers broad coverage of basic research in the life sciences, physical and chemical sciences, coverage of applied sciences, engineering and clinical medicine is relatively limited, and so the index should be used primarily as an indicator of strength in high quality basic research. It does not incorporate publication in other high quality journals. The Index also only considers one factor- publication output in one family of journals. It does not weight multiple factors in the way that other rankings do, such as the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities or the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The output of an institution or country obviously depends on its size. Finally, some institutions have very large numbers of researchers that help drive up their rankings. So it is important to take into account the numbers of researchers in an institution or country when interpreting the results.

"Because the modern scientific research organization may include traditional divisions as well as specialized institutes, collaborations, affiliates and other types of structures, defining the boundary of organization can be challenging," says Caitlin Trasande, Head of Science Metrics at Digital Science. "However, we view organizational complexity as positive sign that research organizations think flexibly about how researchers in different scientific domains and organizational cultures work best." Feedback on how institutes are defined and measured can be sent to **institutes@digital-science.com**.

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About Digital Science

Digital Science, a new division of Macmillan Publishers Limited, provides software tools and state-of-the-art technology solutions for the research world. It was launched in December 2010 to explore opportunities presented by the web for enabling more effective research and research management. Digital Science combines in-house development with external investments, working with promising start-ups and other partners to help them realise the potential of their ideas. For more information, visit www.digital-science.com

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