Keeping up with careers

Sam Young talks about an idea she has had to rank our career journals for content and fit with professional practice.

Like most of us, I have a pretty full life. There is always lots to do, and not enough time to fit everything in.

I was thinking about how I keep up with what is going on in my various professions and passions – management, leadership, careers, business, technology; and realised that what 'currency' I have comes from reading articles, then testing those ideas contained within.

And that's not just any articles, but thoughtful and carefully written articles. It often means articles which have been peer-reviewed, and have been through an editing process; in which case we are talking about articles by thought leaders, by researchers, and those which are published in journals.

How do we know what 'quality' looks like in career thought leadership, research and journals? Largely, I think, through others in our field thinking they are... which is not very scientific.

In fact, it sounds remarkably like it could be an Emperor's New Clothes-type fail.

David Winter from the University of London ran a blog called "Careers – in Theory"[1], containing a list of career-oriented journals. I have copied David's list below, plus I have added some journals, from 25 onwards, which I felt that David had missed:

1. National Institute for Career Education and Counselling Journal (NICEC)
2. Career Development International (formerly “International Journal of Career Management”)
3. Journal of Vocational Behavior
4. International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG)
5. Education + Training
6. British Journal of Guidance & Counselling
7. International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling
8. Journal of Career Development (formerly "Journal of Career Education")
9. Career Development Quarterly
10. Journal of Employment Counseling
11. Journal of Organizational Behavior
12. The Coaching Psychologist
13. Journal of Vocational Education & Training
14. Journal of Education and Work
15. Human Resource Development International
16. Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology
17. Human Relations
18. Journal of Career Assessment
19. Journal of Counseling Psychology
20. Journal of Counseling & Development
21. Journal of Management
22. Work and Occupations
23. Vocations and Learning
24. Academy of Management Learning and Education

25. International Journal of Evidence Based Coaching and Mentoring
26. Australian Journal of Career Development (AJCD)
27. Canadian Journal of Career Development (CJCD)
28. Career & Technical Education Research (CTER)
29. Career Development for Exceptional Individuals
30. Career Planning and Adult Development Journal
31. Journal of Career and Technical Education (JCTE)
32. Academy of Management Journal
33. Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation

As there are myriad career journals, how do we know which ones are reliable? For my management, leadership and business interests, it is easy, because an awesome academic - Anne-Wil Harzing[2] – compiles a journal rankings list each year.

But to the best of my knowledge, no one does that for the career development field. It would be really useful if someone did.

However, based on the SCImago journal ranking tables[3], I have sorted the list above, jimmied some content aims from each journal's outline, and undertaken a rough calculation of the amount of career focus each journal has (5 being mostly career-oriented).

My rough calculation is a simple ranking exercise, having undertaken a database search for all articles from a particular publication up to and including 31 December 2014 (in order to harmonise it with the SCImago list), then, on the same journal, doing a unique article keyword (nK) and title (nT) search for 'career'. I divide the resulting article count (N) by the count for 'career', and get an extremely rough count of career content: ie, (nK + nT) /N = %.

My roughly-ranked list can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxGfPWDV-xuMdUdoZ21VaDVWSlU/view?usp=sharing[4]

Hopefully you find it useful.

And if you have any error, omission and advice for me on the list, I would love to hear from you!

★ Sam Young – CDANZ Professional Member, Career Practitioner, Lecturer, Director & Business Consultant
Follow at http://nz.linkedin.com/in/samyoungnz

Notes:

1. Winter, David (n.d.). Careers - in Theory: Journals. Retrieved 17 January 2016 from https://careersintheory.wordpress.com/journals/
2. Young, Sam (2016). H- and G-indexes... and Harzing's index. Retrieved 28 February 2016 from http://www.samyoung.co.nz/2016/02/h-and-g-indexes-and-harzings-index.html
3. SCImago (2014). Journal Rankings. Retrieved 17 January 2016 from http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=0&area=0&year=2014&country=&order=sjr&page=2&min=0&min_type=cd&out=xls
4. Young, Sam (January 2016). List of Journals which publish Career Matter. Retrieved 28 February 2016 from https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxGfPWDV-xuMdUdoZ21VaDVWSlU/view?usp=sharing

List of Journals which publish Career Matter (January 2016)

Key: Career Focus colour rating (5 being the most career-oriented journals, and 1 being the least) | 5 | 1-4

subtotal 37

	Journal & Impact Factor (greatest to least)	SCJ [1] Ranking	Content Description [2]	Career Focus (1-5) [3]	Journal Location Online	# Articles [4]	# career keyword [5]	% career content [6]
1	Academy of Management Journal	67	Aimed at management scholars, AMJ articles test, extend, or build theory and contribute to management practice using a variety of empirical methods (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, field, laboratory, meta-analytic, and combination)	1	http://aom.org/Publications/AMJ/Welcome-to-AMJ.aspx	3487	147	4%
2	Journal of Management	109	scholarly empirical and theoretical research articles for the management field, covering business strategy and policy, entrepreneurship, human resource management, organizational behavior, organizational theory, research methods, and new ideas or perspectives	1	http://jom.sagepub.com/	1463	23	2%
3	Journal of Organizational Behavior	566	empirical reports and theoretical reviews of research in OB, globally, focusing on research and theory within and across individual, group and organizational areas	1	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291099-1379	1894	83	4%
4	Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology	1022	increase understanding of people and organisations at work including industrial, organizational, work, vocational and personnel psychology; behavioural and cognitive aspects of industrial relations; ergonomics and human factors; industrial sociology	1	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%292044-8325	834	37	4%
5	Human Relations	1088	advance understanding of social relationships at and around work, encourages strong empirical contributions that develop and extend theory and conceptual papers that integrate, critique and expand existing theory.	1	http://hum.sagepub.com/	2383	82	3%
6	Journal of Vocational Behavior	1234	publishes empirical and theoretical articles that expand knowledge of vocational behavior and career development across the life span, encompassing career choice, implementation, and vocational adjustment and adaptation, theoretical understanding of career choice and vocational adjustment, counseling and career development programs in colleges and universities, business and industry, government, and military applications	4	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jvb	2965	746	25%
7	Journal of Counseling Psychology	1442	publishes empirical research in the areas of counseling activities including assessment, interventions, consultation, supervision, training, prevention, and psychological education; career development and vocational psychology; diversity and underrepresented populations in relation to counseling activities; the development of new measures to be used in counseling activities; professional issues in counseling psychology	3	http://www.apa.org/journals/cou	1626	314	19%
8	Academy of Management Learning and Education	2007	examines pressing issues in the fields of management learning and education by presenting theory, models, research, critiques, dialogues and retrospectives that address the learning process and the practice of management education.	2	http://aom.org/Publications/AMLE/Academy-of-Management-Learning---Education.aspx	835	56	7%
9	Work and Occupations	3459	provides a broad perspective on the dynamics of the workplace and examines international approaches to work-related issues	2	http://wox.sagepub.com/	946	51	5%
10	Journal of Career Assessment	3851	provides methodologically sound, empirically based studies focusing on the process and techniques by which counselors gain understanding of the individual faced with making informed career decisions. The journal covers the various techniques, tests, inventories, rating scales, interview schedules, surveys, and direct observational methods used in scientifically based practice to provide an improved understanding of career decision-making.	5	http://jca.sagepub.com/	779	468	60%
11	Vocations and Learning	4468	provides an international forum for vocational learning: vocational colleges, schools, universities, workplaces, domestic environments, voluntary bodies, and includes vocational curriculum and pedagogy practices; the role and nature of vocational knowledge; the relationship between vocational context and learning; analyses of vocational instructional practice and policy; vocational teaching and learning studies; relationships between vocational learning and economic imperatives; practices and policies of national and trans-national agencies.	1	http://www.springerlink.com/content/1874-7868	320	9	3%
12	Career Development International	5352	provides a platform for research in Careers and Development that deals with questions of theories and theory development, as well as with organizational career strategy, policy and practice. Issues of theory and of practice may be dealt with at individual, organizational and society levels.	5	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/cdi	2662	1431	54%
13	Journal of Counseling & Development	5911	publishes practice, theory, and research articles across 19 different specialty areas and work settings. Sections include practice, research, assessment and diagnosis, trends, and practitioner profiles.	1	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291556-6676	4026	139	3%
14	Career Development & Transition for Exceptional Individuals	7027	specializes in the fields of secondary education, transition, and career development for persons with documented disabilities and special needs. *CDTEI* focuses on the life roles of individuals as students, workers, consumers, family members, and citizens	3	http://cde.sagepub.com/	663	88	13%
15	Career Development Quarterly	7793	Fostering career development through the design and use of career interventions, and containing articles on career counseling and development, work, leisure, career education, and coaching and management.	5	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%292161-0045	1083	562	52%
16	Education + Training	8144	addressing the complex relationships between education, training and employment globally, focusing on young people in the transition from school/college to employment, and the partnerships between the worlds of education and work; explores learning vocationalism and employability.	4	http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/et	2441	538	22%

Journal & Impact Factor (greatest to least)		SCJ [1] Ranking	Content Description [2]	Career Focus (1-5) [3]	Journal Location Online	# Articles [4]	# career keyword [5]	% career content [6]
17	Journal of Vocational Education & Training	8168	embraces the broad range of settings and ways in which vocational and professional learning takes place and, hence, is not restricted by institutional boundaries or structures in relation to national systems of education and training. It is interested in the study of curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment, as well as economic, cultural and political aspects related to the role of vocational and professional education and training in society.	3	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13636820.asp	1476	171	12%
18	Journal of Career Development	8220	provides professionals in counseling, psychology, education, student personnel, human resources, and business management with the most up-to-date concepts, ideas, and methodology in career development theory, research, and practice. Topics covered are career education, adult career development, career development of special needs populations, career development and the family, and career and leisure.	5	http://jcd.sagepub.com/	1236	774	63%
19	Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation	8373	articles with immediate application for helping rehabilitation counselors, psychologists and other professionals in providing direct services to people with disabilities	1	http://www.iospress.nl/journal/journal-of-vocational-rehabilitation/x	3322	160	5%
20	Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development	9682	concerned with research, theory, and program applications pertinent to multicultural and ethnic minority interests in all areas of counseling and human development.	1	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)2161-1912	696	28	4%
21	Journal of Education and Work	9147	examines how knowledge, skills, values and attitudes on work and employment are developed within the education system; explores the various forms of industrial training and accreditation in the economic system, including changes in the economic and industrial infrastructure which influence the type of employees required, and work in the informal economy; comparative studies of skill formation and especially the transition from education to employment, how this process is structured and managed, and its effects on young people, schools, colleges, universities and employers	3	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13639080.asp	474	50	11%
22	British Journal of Guidance & Counselling	10149	communicating research, theoretical and practical writing on career guidance: specifically: to assist people of any age and at any point throughout their lives to make educational, training and occupational choices to manage their careers. Career guidance helps people to reflect on their ambitions, interests, qualifications and abilities. It helps them to understand the labour market and education systems, and to relate this to what they know about themselves. Comprehensive career guidance tries to teach people to plan and make decisions about work and learning. Career guidance makes information about the labour market and about educational opportunities more accessible by organising it, systematising it and making it available when and where people need it	4	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/03069885.asp	1520	334	22%
23	New Zealand Journal of Psychology	10716	include manuscripts in any substantive area of psychology, and book reviews. Submitted manuscripts may be empirical; reviews of the literature; or discussions of theoretical/conceptual psychological frameworks if (a) they include data collected from NZ samples, or (b) they discuss the relevance of issues to the NZ social and cultural context, or to NZ psychological practice	1	http://www.psychology.org.nz/publications-media/new-zealand-journal-of-psychology/#.VpxMeublYek	766	5	1%
24	Journal of Psychologists and Counsellors in Schools (formerly Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling)	12256	address theoretical, practical and training issues that impact upon guidance and counselling professionals today.	1	http://www.agca.com.au/article.php?id=5	162	4	2%
25	Journal of Employment Counseling	12429	illuminates theory and practice in employment counseling, reports professional experimentation and research, and examines current client vocational problems as well as the professional concerns of counselors	5	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%292161-1920	2673	1372	51%
26	International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling	13909	promotes the exchange of information about counselling activities throughout the world. The journal contains conceptual, practical and research contributions on theories and models of guidance and counselling; counsellor education and supervision; state of the art reports on guidance and counselling in specific settings; special populations, applications and counselling services in developing countries.	2	http://www.springerlink.com/content/1573-3246	1154	88	8%
27	International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance	14668	publishes articles in relation to work and leisure, career development, career counselling and guidance and career education, which have preferably either an international content (e.g. comparative studies, multi or cross-cultural perspectives, regional surveys, etc.) or contribute to topics of broad international interest.	5	http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/journal/10775	677	476	70%
28	Career Planning and Adult Development Journal	not rated	focuses on a specific area of career development and is edited by a subject matter expert with invited articles from knowledgeable practitioners.	5	http://www.careernetwork.org/	796	708	89%
29	Australian Journal of Career Development	not rated	focusing on current theory, practice and policy relating to the career and work education field; speaking to practitioners and researchers across the school, adult vocational education, HR and private practice sectors.	5	https://www.acer.edu.au/ajcd/	794	663	84%
30	National Institute for Career Education and Counselling Journal	not rated	publishes articles on the broad theme of career development including career development in: the workplace - private and public sector, small, medium and large organisations, private practitioners; education - schools, colleges, universities, adult education, public career services; the community - third age, voluntary, charity, social organisations, independent contexts, public career services.	5	http://www.nicec.org/html/journal.html	82	64	78%
31	Career & Technical Education Research	not rated	Addressed are the global interests of workforce education research, education, issues and policy for those with research interests in the relationship between education and work.	5	http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/CTER/	288	160	56%
32	Journal of Career and Technical Education	not rated	Discussing the philosophy, theory, practice, and issues in career and technical education.	5	https://ejournals.lib.vt.edu/index.php/JCTE/index	282	115	41%

Journal & Impact Factor (greatest to least)		SCJ [1] Ranking	Content Description [2]	Career Focus (1-5) [3]	Journal Location Online	# Articles [4]	# career keyword [5]	% career content [6]
33	Canadian Journal of Career Development	not rated	Publishing multi-sectoral career-related academic research and best practices from Canada and around the world	4	http://cjcdonline.ca/	119	45	38%
34	International Journal of Evidence Based Coaching and Mentoring	not rated	provide evidence-based, well-researched resources for students, professionals, corporate clients, managers and academic specialists who need to be at the forefront of developments in the field; offer an accessible yet powerful discussion platform for the growing number of coaching and mentoring practitioners seeking to validate their practice. Including empirical or conceptual papers are encouraged on any aspect of coaching or mentoring.	1	http://www.business.brookes.ac.uk/research/areas/coachingandmentoring/	414	15	4%
35	Human Resource Development International	not rated	promotes all aspects of practice and research that explore issues of individual, group and organisational learning and performance; committed to a wide understanding of 'organisation' - one that extends through self-managed teams, voluntary work, or family businesses to global enterprises and bureaucracies; exploring the development of organisations and the life-long learning of people and their collectivity (organisation), strategy and policy.	1	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13678868.asp	785	15	2%
36	New Zealand Journal of Counselling	not rated	promote counselling practice and research that reflect the unique cultural context of Aotearoa New Zealand, respecting and encouraging the partnership principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.	1	http://www.nzac.org.nz/new_zealand_journal_of_counselling.cfm	324	9	3%
37	The Coaching Psychologist	not rated	Articles making a significant and original contribution to the field of coaching psychology. This issue concentrates on enhancing the dialogue between the fields of neuroscience and coaching psychology		http://shop.bps.org.uk/publications/journals-and-periodicals/the-coaching-psychologist-vol-11-no-2-december-2015.html	no data as yet	emailed	

[1] Using The Shape of Science SCImago 2014 journal rankings from http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=0&area=0&year=2014&country=&order=sjr&page=2&min=0&min_type=cd&out=xls

[2] Taken or abridged from the stated journal aims and purpose statements

[3] 1 if <5%; 2 if 5-10%, 3 if 10-20%, 4 if 20-40%, 5 if >40%

[4] Rough count of articles published up to 31 December 2014, to match the SCImago ratings data

[5] Rough count of articles with 'career' either in the title or as a keyword

[6] Rough percentage of 'career' content: n('career' title/keyword)/n(count of all published articles to 31 Dec 2014)