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Jane (Journal/Author Name Estimator)

Sharon L. Leslie
Georgia State University, sleslie@gsu.edu

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because of this, implies an effortlessness that is deceptive. Jane uses Apache’s open source text search engine Lucene to find similar records. “The similarity scores of all the articles belonging to a certain journal or author are summed to calculate the confidence score for that journal or author. The results are ranked by confidence score.” Jane analyzes only first 50 results in active journals. For those who wish to use Jane in their own application an API (application programming interface) is available on the site.

Users begin by entering either a title or an abstract and choosing one of the three ways to search. Users may also choose to build a key-word search using Boolean. Jane states that citations included contain an abstract, were published in the last 10 years, and did not belong to one of these categories: “comment, editorial, news, historical article, congresses, biography, newspaper article, practice guideline, interview, bibliography, legal cases, lectures, consensus development conference, addresses, clinical conference, patient education handout, directory, technical report, festschrift, retraction of publication, retracted publication, duplicate publication, scientific integrity review, published erratum, periodical index, dictionary, legislation or government publication.”

Critical Evaluation

**SEARCH BY JOURNAL**

Typing in a search term, for “instance influenza vaccine AND pregnancy,” and then clicking the Find Journals button returns a page with journal titles ranked from the most to least number of articles on influenza vaccine and pregnancy (FIGURE 2). This results page has four columns: Confidence level, Journal Title, Article Influence, and Articles. The article influence score is calculated using Eigenfactor <http://www.eigenfactor.org> which uses data from Thomson Scientific’s Journal Citation Reports (JCR). The score itself is hyperlinked to the Eigenfactor page where the details about the journal’s scores and publication history may be found. The blue bar indicates the percentage of journals in MEDLINE that have a lower Article Influence score, according to Eigenfactor. Some journals may not show an article influence score because they are not
listed in the JCR or because they must “be cited in the last 5 years by some journal that is listed in the JCR.” Journals may also not be listed because they are “those publications that are smaller than a threshold size of 12 articles per year averaged over 5 years, … or those journals that do not cite other journals listed in the JCR.”

Clicking on Show Articles opens a view of citations from that journal that are hyperlinked to the PubMed abstract. There is also an “Explore More in PubMed” link that goes to PubMed and shows those citations and others from that journal (a maximum of 20 articles are displayed). There are no additional ways to sort the results, such as by publication date, but the once the “Explore More in PubMed” link is clicked results may be sorted in PubMed.

**SEARCH BY ARTICLE**

Searching by article returns ranked results of the closest match to the text searched (FIGURE 4). Again, all citations are hyperlinked directly to PubMed. E-mail addresses may be available as well.

**ADVANCED SEARCH**

Clicking the “Show Extra Options” button (FIGURE 5) unveils refining capabilities, including type of publication type (e.g., Review, Meta-Analysis), and language. In the journal search only, Open Access or PubMed Central published journals may be chosen as limiters. Users should note that boxes remain checked off from search to search so be sure to clear your choices.
highlycited.com lists “the top 250 preeminent individual researchers in each of 21 subject categories in 21 broad subject categories in life sciences, medicine, physical sciences, engineering and social sciences.” Google Scholar, which is free, is being rolled out and will allow authors to manage their own citation analyses. And PubMed itself has the “related citations” link.

Jane data is updated only once a month. Little information is available about the creators of the site but they are responsive to inquiries. An e-mail about the product was answered within one day. The vagueness of the information would be of concern if one were paying for this system. As it is, the content can be used as supplemental information without extreme apprehension. An “Additional Information About Jane” page gives short answers to a sparse number of questions.

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

For investigators concerned about confidentiality of their research interests, the “Scramble” button “scrambles your text so nobody else can read it.” Actually, the searches are just scrambled by putting the words in alphabetical order. The site states, “The information sent to the Jane server is not stored. It is kept in memory for as long as needed to calculate the scores and formulate the response page, and then it is discarded from memory. The server itself is protected using standard protection measures. However, we understand that there is still the possibility that someone could intercept the transmission, and of course you do not know whether you can trust us. We therefore included an option in Jane to ‘scramble’ your input (see the button below the input box). Scrambling simply entails putting all the words in alphabetical order, and this is done by your browser (i.e. no information is sent for the scrambling). We admit that putting the words in alphabetical order does not completely disguise your input, but it does make it extremely hard to read.

**FIGURE 4.** “Find Articles” Search

There are other products, both fee-based and free of charge, that perform similar searches. eTBLAST <http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3> is another similar free product which searches several additional Open Access databases including, NASA, arXiv.org, NIH’s funding database, RePORTER (Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool), and even Wikipedia. Web of Science <http://thomsonreuters.com>, a fee-based site, has related records searching. ISIHighlycited <http://isi-
Jane Review Scores Composite: ★★★ 3/4

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★ 1/2
Jane pulls data only from MEDLINE. Other similar sites pull from additional sources. The site is updated with MEDLINE data only monthly.

User Interface/Searchability: ★★★★
Jane utilizes a clean, user-friendly search interface. However, if a problem or questions arises, users must contact the developers as no “Help” button exists.

Pricing: NA

Contract Options: NA

Contract Provisions and Authentication
None; access to this database is free. There is no authentication required.

Author’s References


About the Author
Sharon Leslie is an Assistant Professor and Public Health and Health Sciences librarian at Georgia State University. She received her MSLS from Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA. She is a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals.