

University of Cape Coast



2018

**Google Scholar Presence (Public Profiles) Across
Colleges, Faculties/Schools and Departments in the
University of Cape Coast**

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STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 1.0 CONTEXT
- 2.0 PRESENCE OF FACULTY MEMBERS ON GOOGLE SCHOLAR
- 3.0 CITATIONS OF FACULTY MEMBERS OF UCC

I.0 CONTEXT

The Google Scholar platform displays the research output of academics, including the total number of published research work, number of publications per researcher and number of citations per publication over a specified period of time. It indicates the areas of specialisation/research interests as well as the list of co-authors of individual researchers. The platform also offers opportunity for scholars to identify potential collaborators in allied academic disciplines worldwide.

The Directorate of Research, Innovation and Consultancy of the University of Cape Coast (DRIC-UCC) presents the 3rd edition of Google Scholar presence across the various colleges of the University of Cape Coast (UCC). As mentioned in the maiden edition of the report, the fundamental motivation for the compilation of the report is to achieve the vision of the Vice Chancellor in promoting research interest and multi-disciplinary collaborations throughout the university and beyond.

The Vice Chancellor has indicated his unflinching commitment to making UCC a citadel of academic and research excellence globally. One of the key priority areas that give expression to this commitment is the visibility of UCC faculty members online. Initially, DRIC identified a plethora of avenues through which faculty members could set up profiles and subsequently enhance their visibility. However, the Vice Chancellor recommended an incremental approach in order not to instantaneously inundate or overwhelm faculty members with sundry outlets for visibility. Google Scholar was proposed for a start, since it is really the only *general free tool* for academic literature that we have, in an easy-to-use familiar interface. Google Scholar also provides open access to unique content, including grey literature usually not found in other search tools. Furthermore, Google Scholar is one of the least stringent platforms, allowing for grey literature so that faculty members can easily take credit for their work even though unpublished – a modest start. The disadvantages of Google Scholar are mostly related to the fact that it is not structured as a traditional bibliographic database in the same way that Thomson ISI and Scopus are. However, Thomson ISI and Scopus are **not free**, and UCC is making effort to commit financial resources in order to access the content. Besides, both have very stringent inclusion criteria, and anecdotal evidence suggests that less than half of the academic staff at UCC is currently present there. ResearchGate, a social networking initiative for academics, is free and allows faculty members to communicate, disseminate and measure their research output, likewise Publons, a free social network initiative that recognises and

rewards the peer review work of academics. Peer review is such a critical and valuable aspect of research, as it improves work and ensures there is trust and integrity in what gets published. In the nearest future, DRIC will complement the Google Scholar report with reports on the profile and visibility of UCC faculty members on ResearchGate and Publons.

The purpose of the serialised report is to improve the research visibility of the University. DRIC-UCC believes that the rationale behind the release of Google Scholar report is gradually manifesting, as evidenced by the incremental changes in the number of citations for academic members in the University on Google Scholar, plus the enrolment of new members on the platform.

The periods spanning November 2016, May 2017 and July 2018 witnessed increases in the number of faculty members on Google Scholar, coupled with significant increases in the number of citations led to improvement in the visibility of the University in the global research community.

The Google Scholar platform is open to all academics with functional institutional email addresses. However, in order to accurately report the proportionate presence of each Faculty/School and Department/Institute/Centre/Unit, this report will focus on the population of staff members that fall into the following categories: Professor, Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow, Lecturer/Research Fellow, Assistant Lecturer/Assistant Research Fellow, Principal Research Assistant and Senior Research Assistant. The contribution of the non-teaching University staff in offices such as the Institutional Advancement Office, Directorate of Research, Innovation and Consultancy, Directorate of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance, the Sam Jonah Library and Registrar's Office to the visibility of the university in the global research community will be later discussed.

Throughout this report, the five colleges in UCC have been abbreviated to simplify the graphical presentation. The College of Education Studies is represented as CES, College of Humanities and Legal Studies as CHLS, College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences as CANS, College of Distance Education as CoDE, and the College of Health and Allied Sciences as CoHAS.

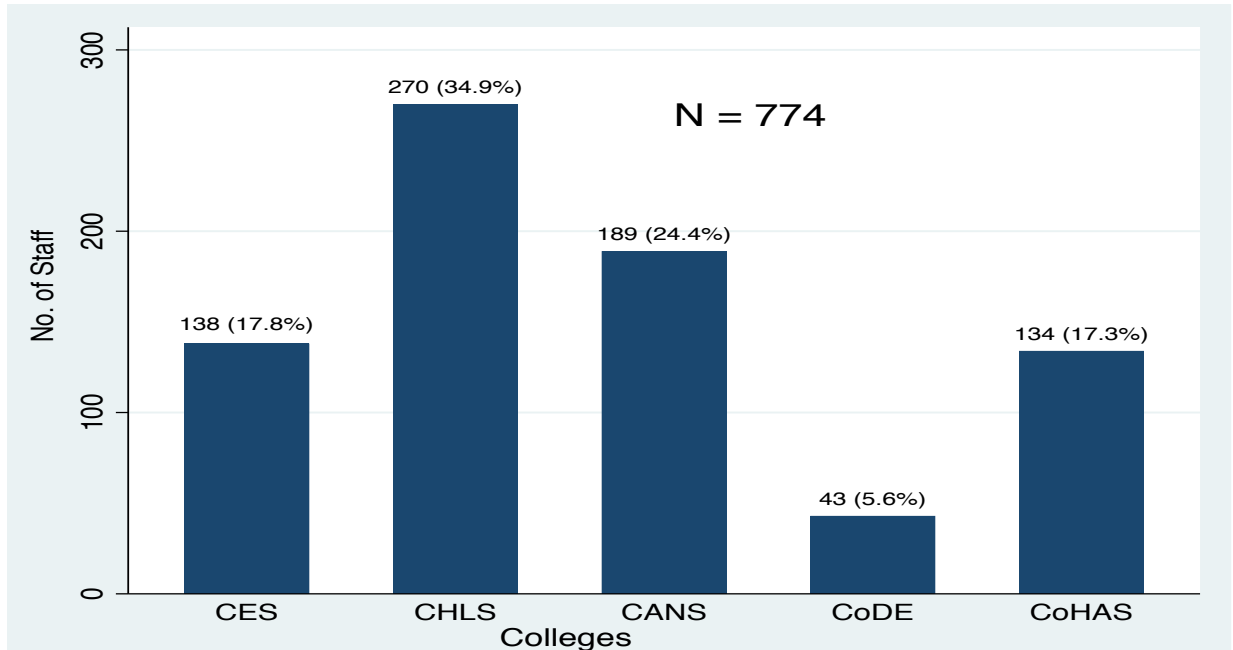


Figure 1: Population of Staff across Colleges at UCC in July 2018

The total number of teaching and research staff of UCC has increased by 55 members (7.66%) since the release of the May, 2017 report. The population of the academic staff in UCC during the compilation of this report in July 2018 was 774, as indicated in Figure 1. Figures 2 and 3 depict the number of faculty members based on ranks for the University and across colleges.

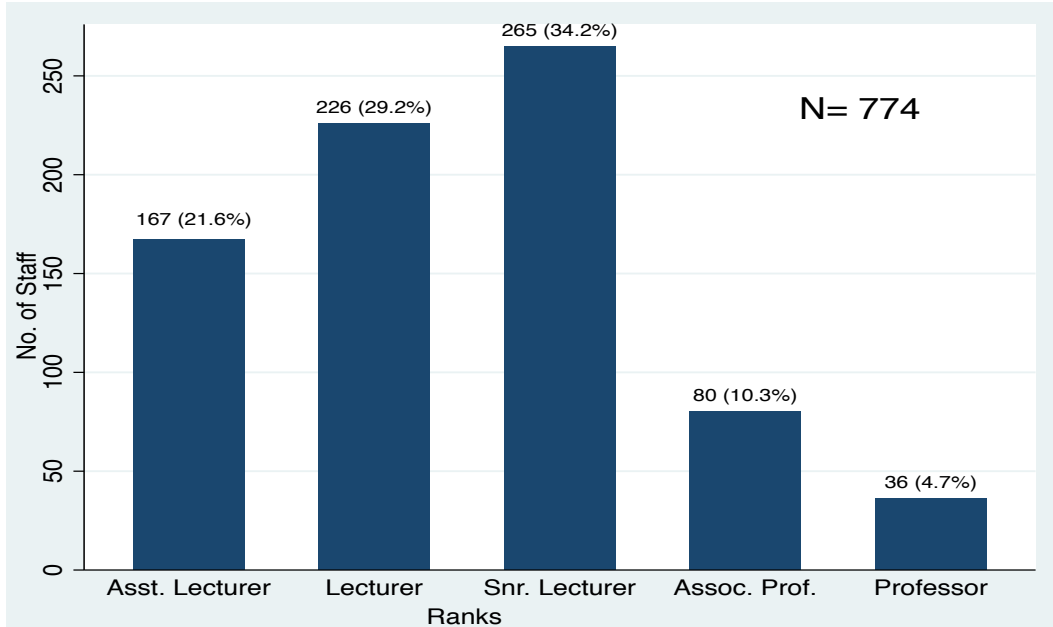


Figure 2: Population of Staff Based on Ranks in July 2018

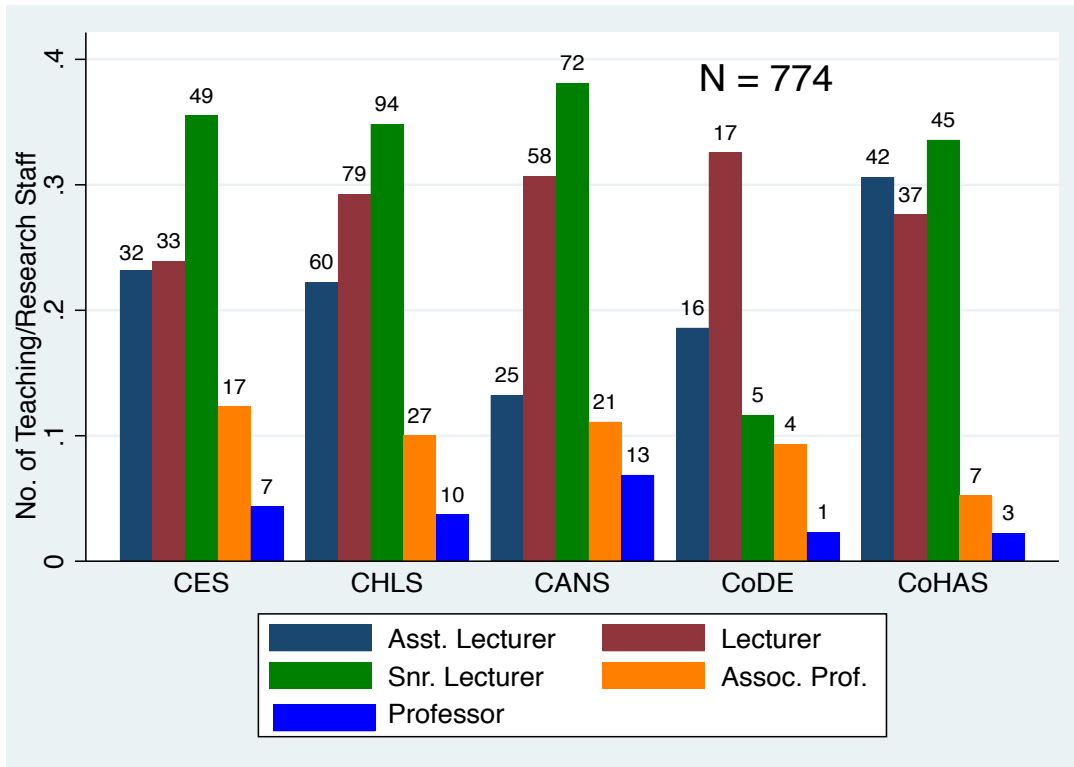


Figure 3: Population of Staff by Rank across Colleges

2.0 PRESENCE OF FACULTY MEMBERS ON GOOGLE SCHOLAR

In this section, the number and corresponding percentages of faculty members on Google Scholar has been profiled for the various Colleges, Faculties/Schools and Departments in the University.

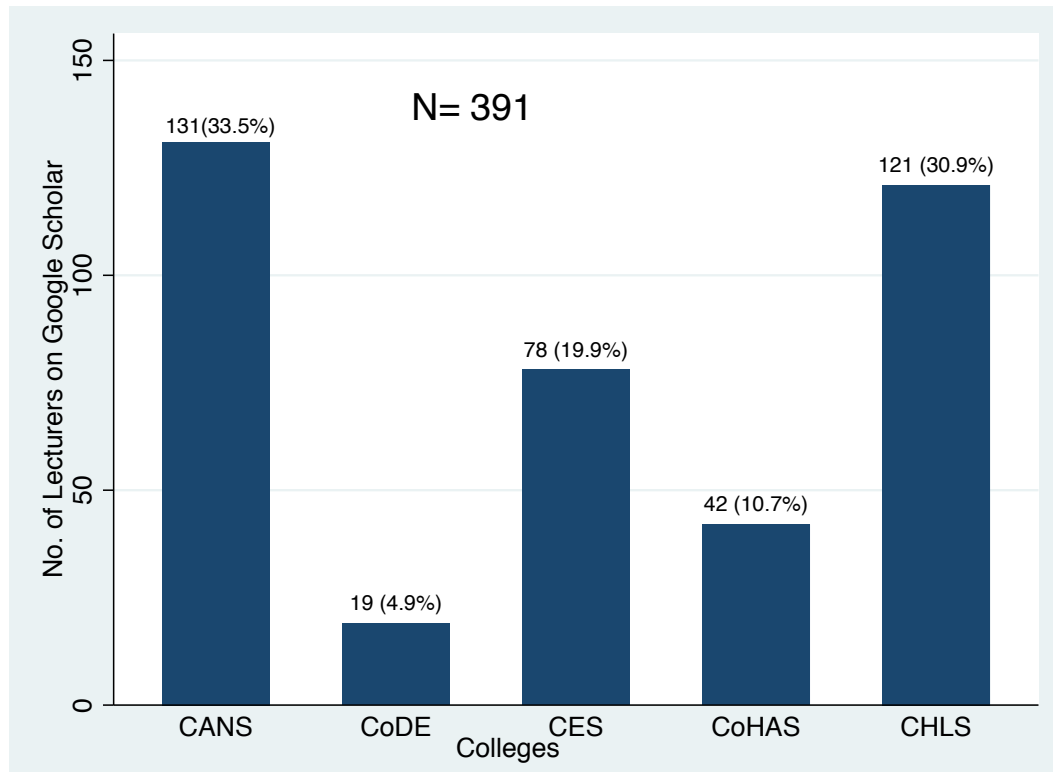


Figure 4: Number of New Faculty Members on Google Scholar by Colleges

- The CHLS has the largest population of academic staff in the University, as seen in Figure I. However, the College with the highest number of its academic staff on the Google Scholar platform is CANS.
- The CANS has the highest proportion of its lecturers on Google Scholar. Only CANS and CES have more than half of their academic staff present on the platform, as shown in Table I. CANS has 69.31% and CES has 56.52% of their academic staff on Google Scholar.
- The CoHAS has the least number of their academic staff on the platform. Only 31.34% of their academic staff are present on the Google Scholar platform.

Table 1: Academic Staff of UCC and their Presence on Google Scholar - 2018

College	Number of Academic Staff	Number of Academic Staff on Google Scholar	Percentage of Academic Staff on Google Scholar
CHLS	270	121	44.81
CANS	189	131	69.31
CoHAS	134	42	31.34
CES	138	78	56.52
CoDE	43	19	44.19
Total	774	391	50.52

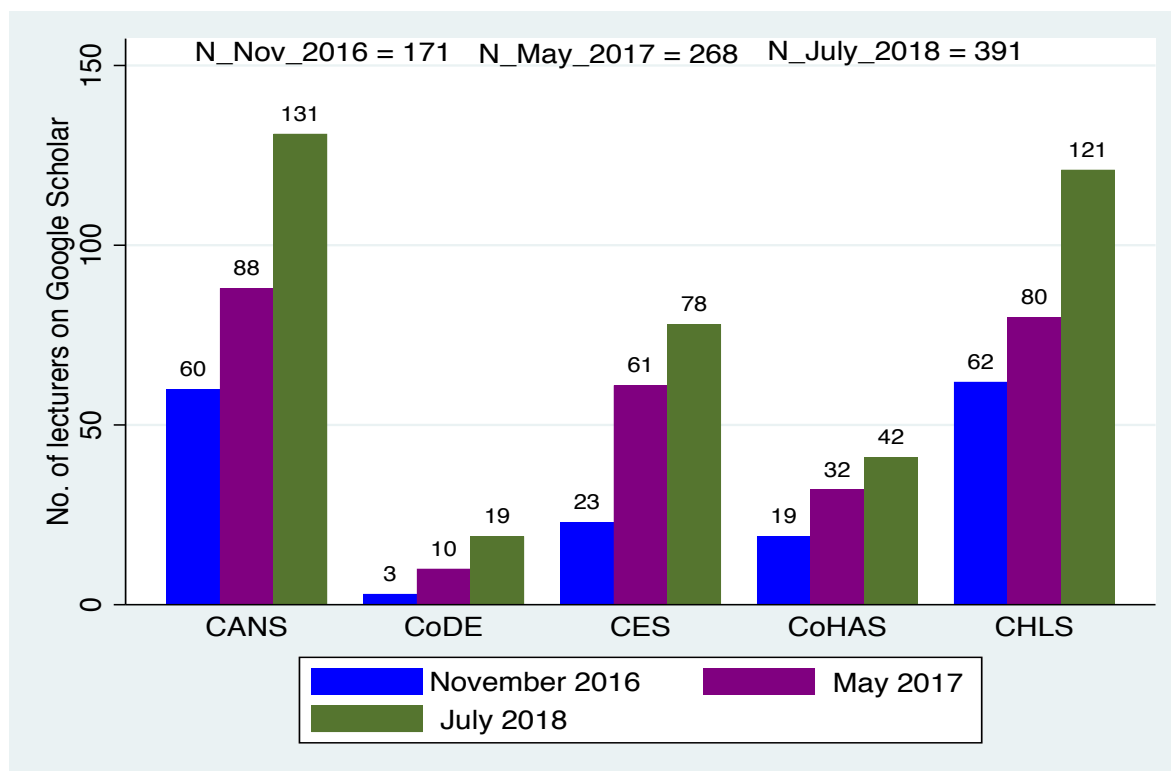


Figure 5: Number of Teaching/Research Staff on Google Scholar by Colleges for November 2016, May 2017 and July 2018

- The presence of faculty members on the Google Scholar platform increased across all the colleges of the university.
- Compared with the May 2017 report, the number of faculty members present on Google Scholar more than doubled for the CANS, CoDE, and CHLS with estimated percentage increase of 52.3%, 80% and 52.6%, respectively.

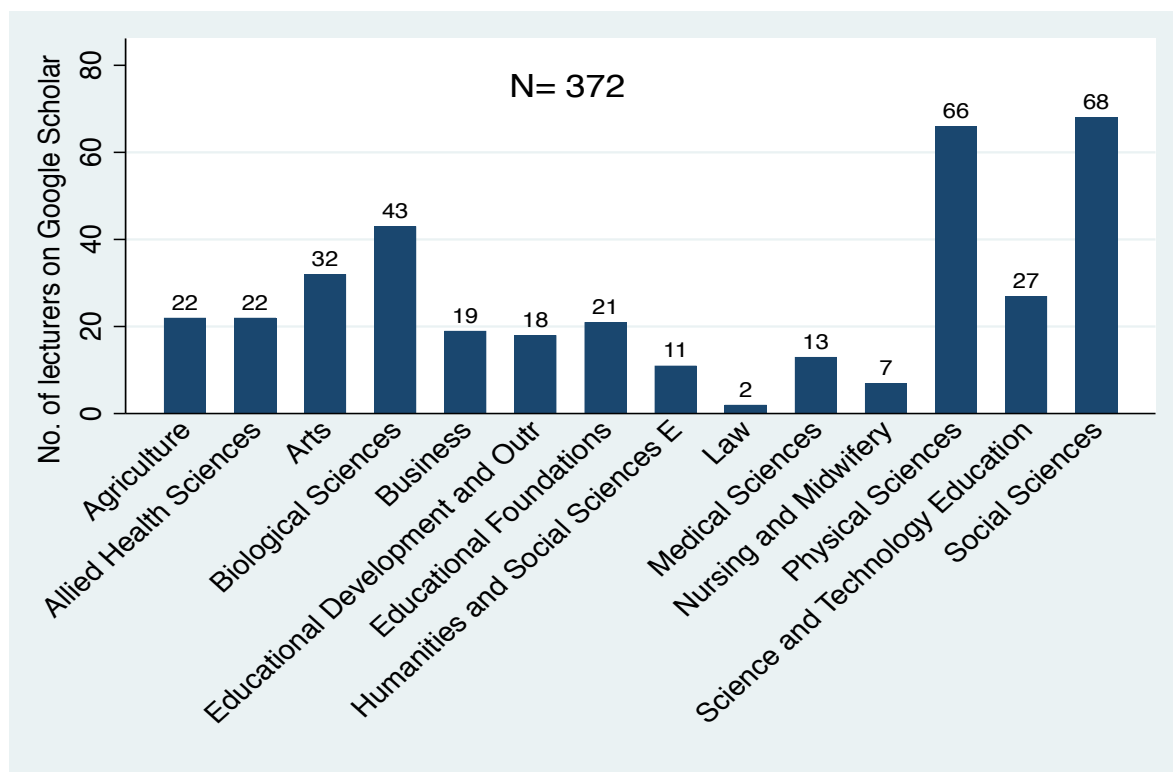


Figure 6: Number of Teaching/Research Staff on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools

Note: Total staff on Google Scholar: 391 = N+19 (Members from CoDE)

- The Faculty of Social Sciences and the School of Physical Sciences were ranked as the Faculties with the highest number of Lecturers on Google Scholar, followed by the School of Biological Sciences.
- The Faculty of Law still remains the Faculty with least members on Google Scholar, although it witnessed an additional member this year.

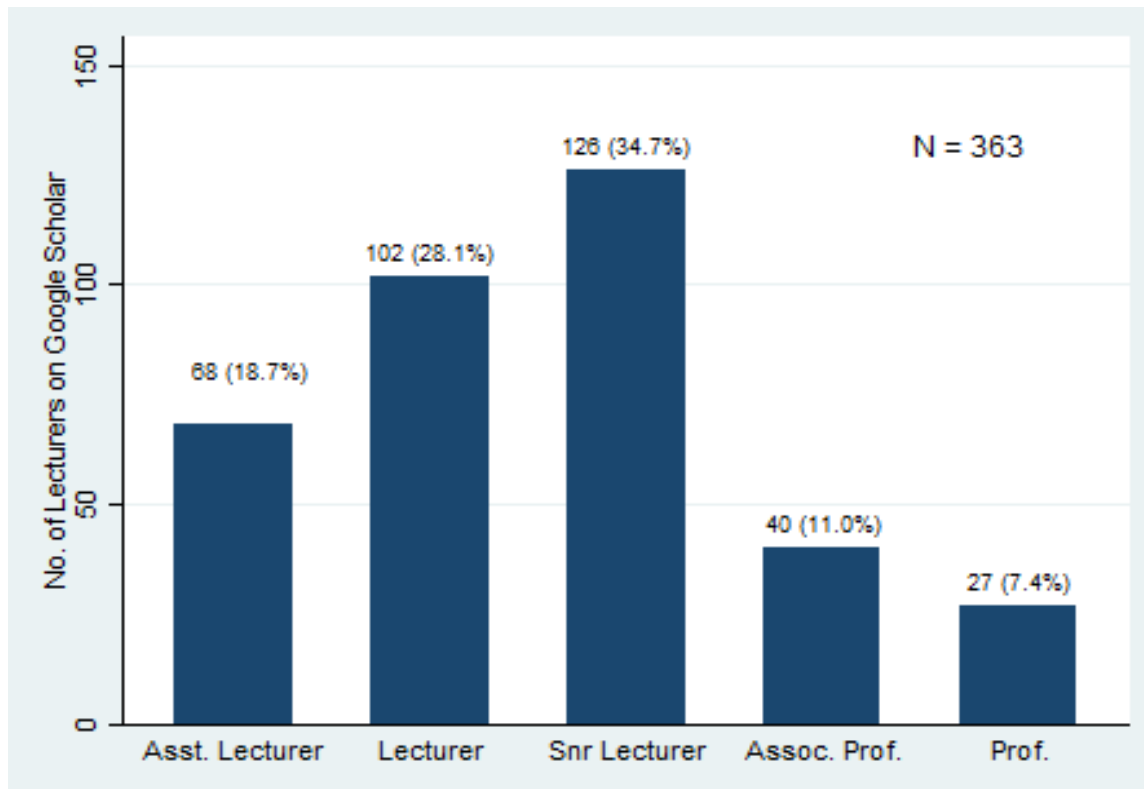


Figure 7: Number of Teaching/Research Staff on Google Scholar Rank

Note: The number of observations has dropped due to the exclusion of teaching associates.

- More than a third of the teaching and research faculty members on Google Scholar are Senior Lecturers.
- Of the 36 Professors in the university, 27 of them, representing 75%, are on Google Scholar. Likewise, 50% of the Associate Professors are on the platform.
- Also, 48% of all Senior Lecturers are on Google Scholar, while 45% and 41% of Lecturers and Assistant Lecturers are on the platform as of July 2018, respectively.

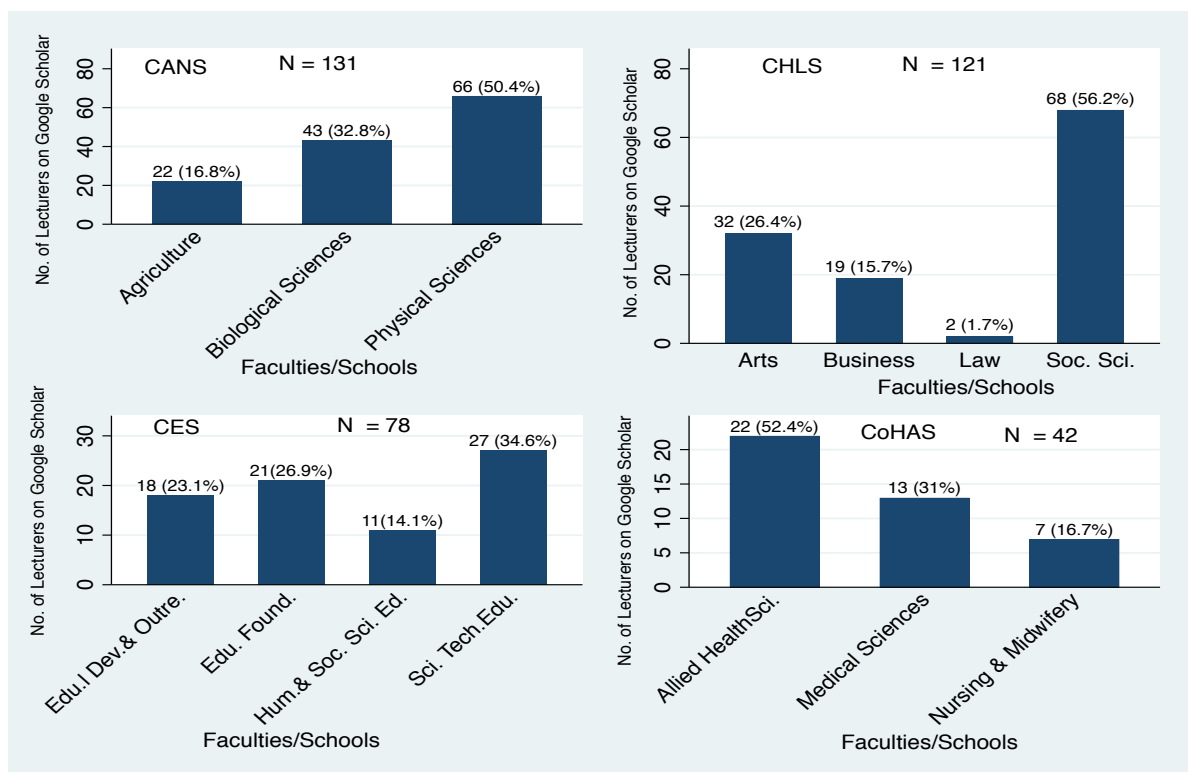


Figure 8: Number of Faculty on Google Scholar by Colleges and Faculties/Schools

- The Faculty of Social Sciences and the School of Physical Sciences recorded the highest number of lecturers on Google Scholar across all the Faculties in the University. Since May 2017, lecturers on Google Scholar within the Faculty of Social Sciences increased by 25 members, that is, an increment from 41 members to 66 members, while that of the Physical Sciences increased by 35 members (from 31 to 66).
- The School of Biological Sciences was ranked immediately below the Faculty of Social Sciences and the School of Physical Sciences with a recorded number of 42 members on Google Scholar. This figure represents an increase of 5 members since the May 2017 edition.
- Each Faculty/School recorded an increase in the number of lecturers on Google Scholar from May 2017.
- Compared with the May 2017 edition, the Faculty of Law doubled their representation on Google Scholar.

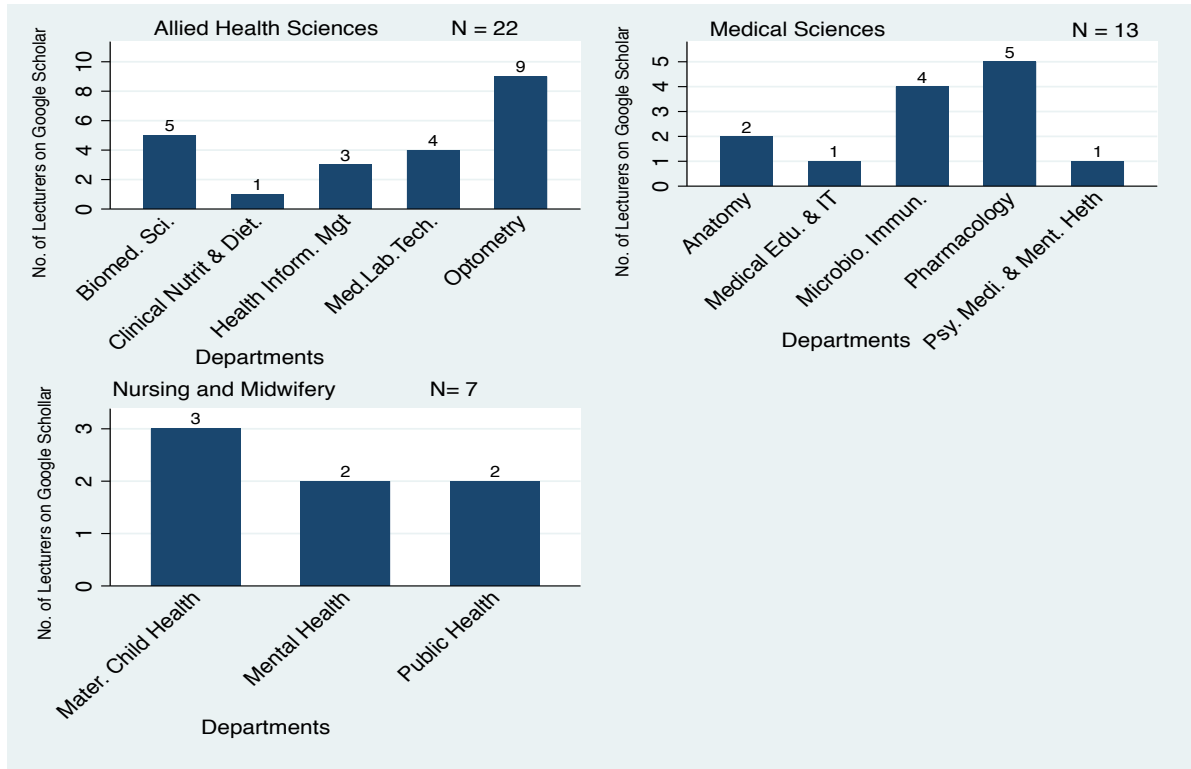


Figure 9: Number of Faculty Members in CoHAS on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools and Departments/Institute/Centres/Units

The Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences recorded the highest number of academic staff on Google Scholar at the School of Allied Health Sciences, while the Department of Pharmacology recorded same for the School of Medical Sciences.

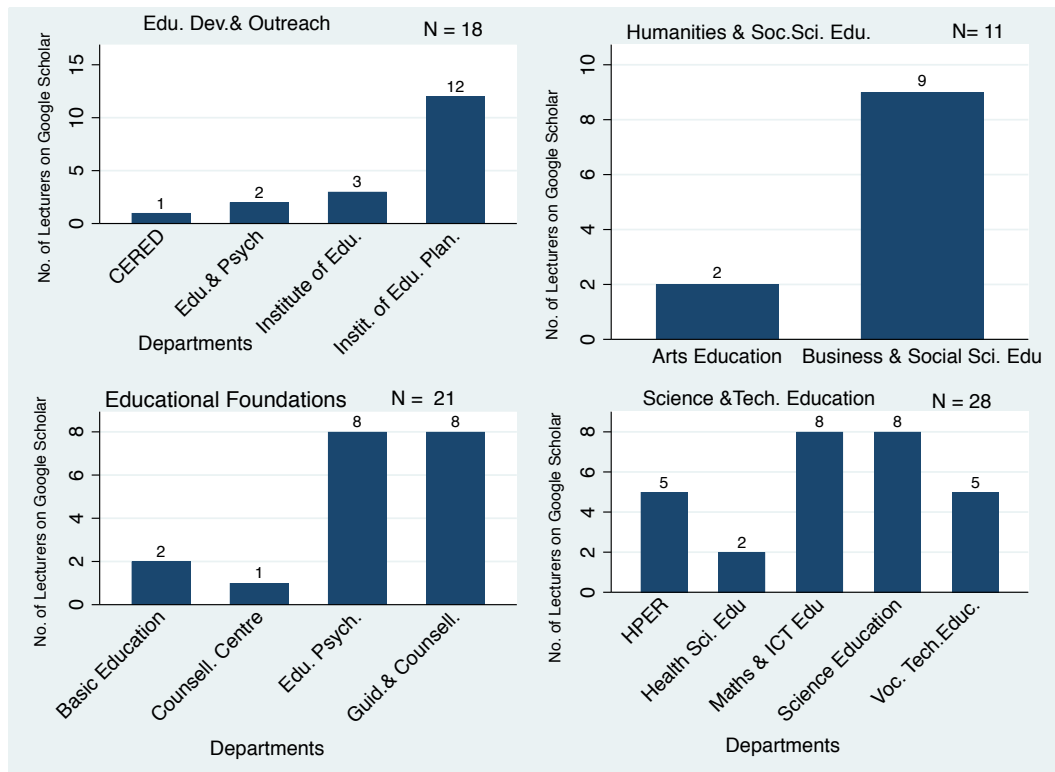


Figure 10: Number of Faculty Members in CES on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools and Departments/Institutes/Centres/Units

In CES, the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration under the School of Educational Development and Outreach had more of its academic staff on Google Scholar, while the Centre for Education Research, Evaluation and Development (CERED) and the Department of Guidance and Counselling each had a registered member on the platform.

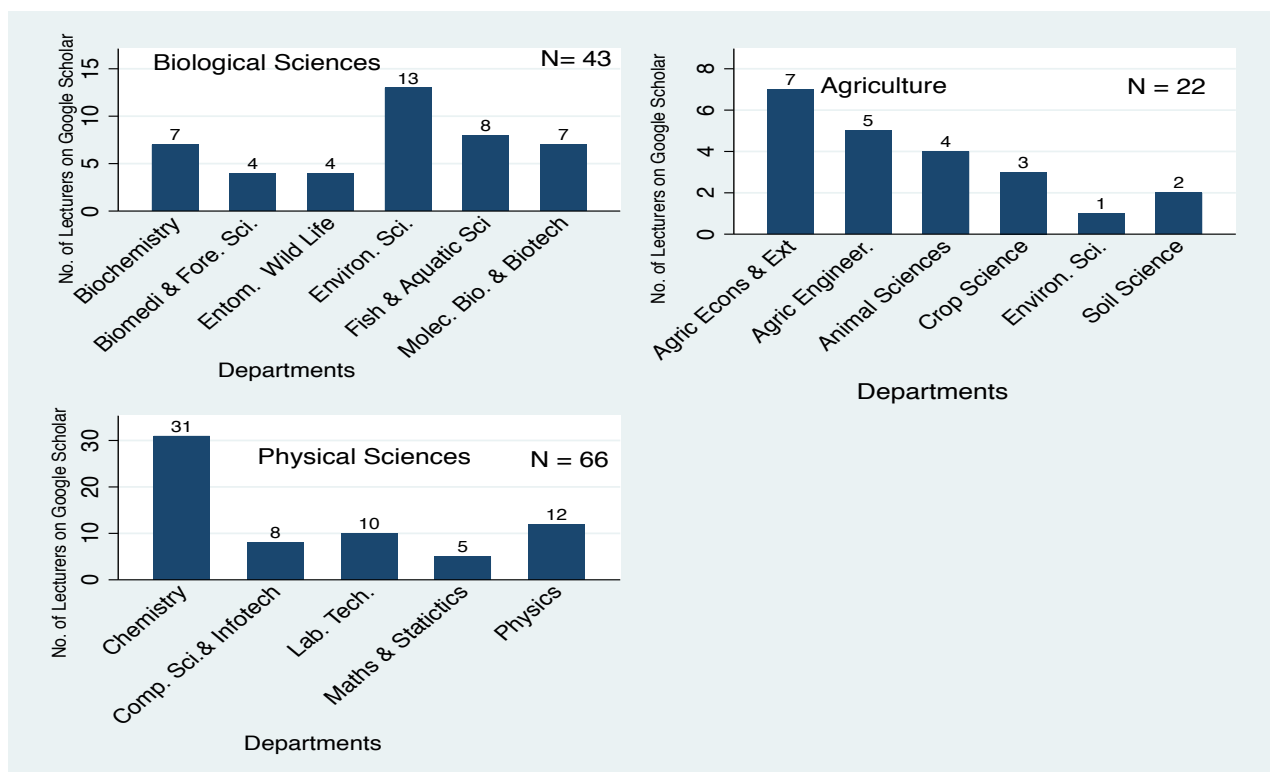


Figure 11: Number of Faculty Members in CANS on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools and Departments/Institutes/Centre/Units

The Department of Chemistry has 31 of its academic staff members, out of the total of 66 in the School of Physical Sciences, on Google Scholar.

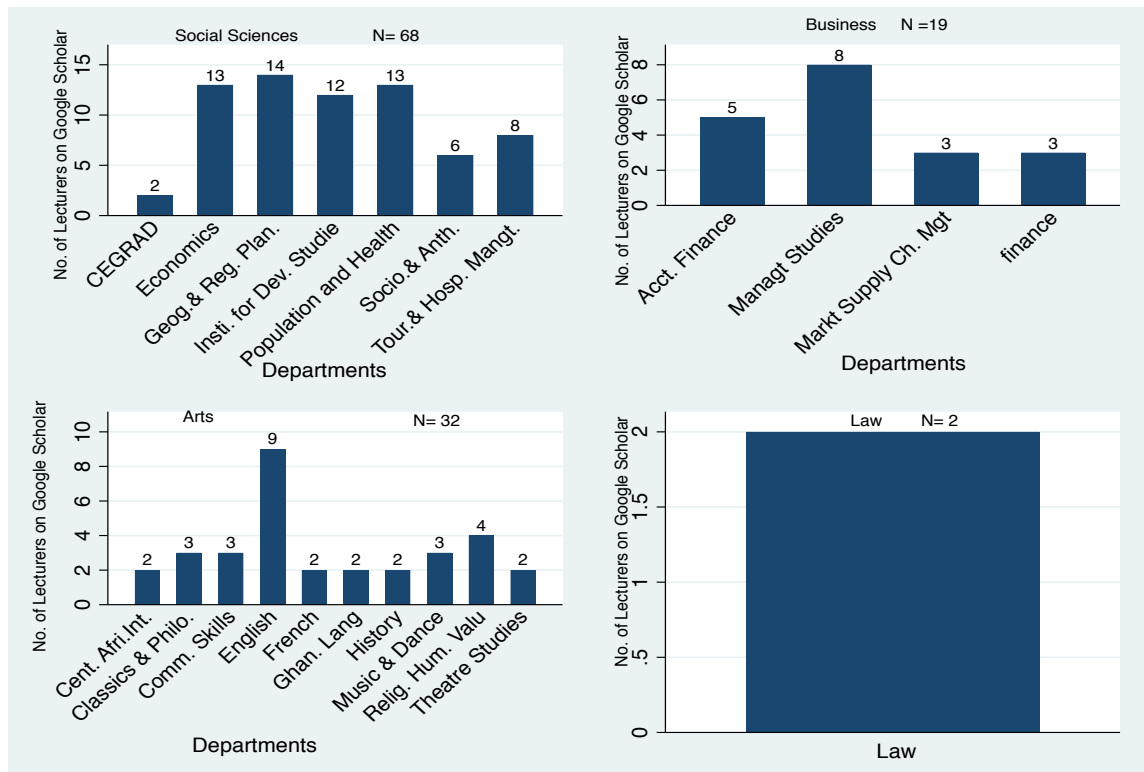


Figure 12: Number of Faculty Members in CHLS on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools and Departments/Institutes/Centres/Units

The Department of English, compared with the other departments in the Faculty of Arts, recorded more academic staff on Google Scholar. In the Faculty of Social Sciences, four departments recorded high presence on the platform.

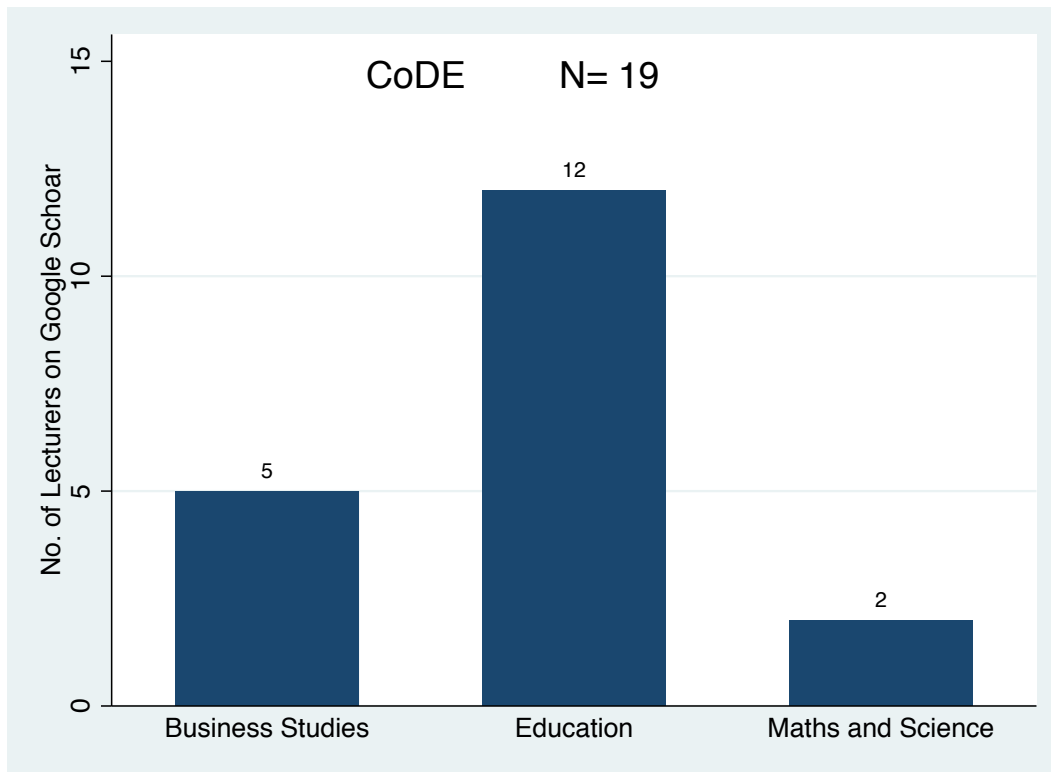


Figure 13: Number of Faculty Members in CoDE on Google Scholar by Departments

The Department of Education Studies at CoDE recorded more than two-thirds (63.16%) of the staff on the Google Scholar platform compared to the other departments in CoDE.

3.0 NUMBER OF CITATIONS OF FACULTY MEMBERS ON GOOGLE SCHOLAR

This section of the report presents the total citations of academic staff of the University on Google Scholar by Colleges, Faculties/Schools and Departments. Figures 14 and 15 depict the total citations of lecturers across the various Colleges and over time.

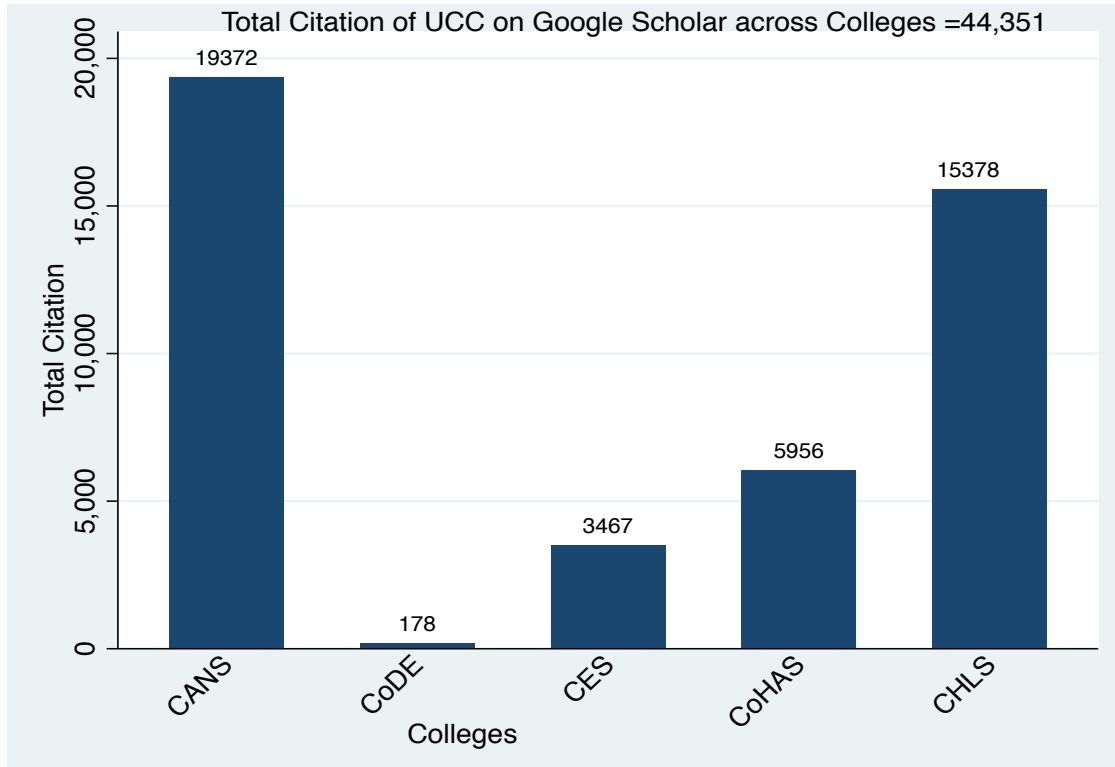


Figure 14: Total Citations on Google Scholar by Colleges

A glimpse of Figure 15 gives the impression that there has been an improvement over the period in terms of the number of citations on Google Scholar by Colleges from November 2016, to July 2018. However, this improvement was not uniform across colleges since some colleges recorded below fifty-percentage change with others seeing over 100-percentage change. For instance, the percentage change in the number of citations on Google Scholar within the CANS was 82.2% compared to 67.9% for the case of CoDE, 40.4% for CES, 114.7% for CoHAS and 70.2% for CHLS.

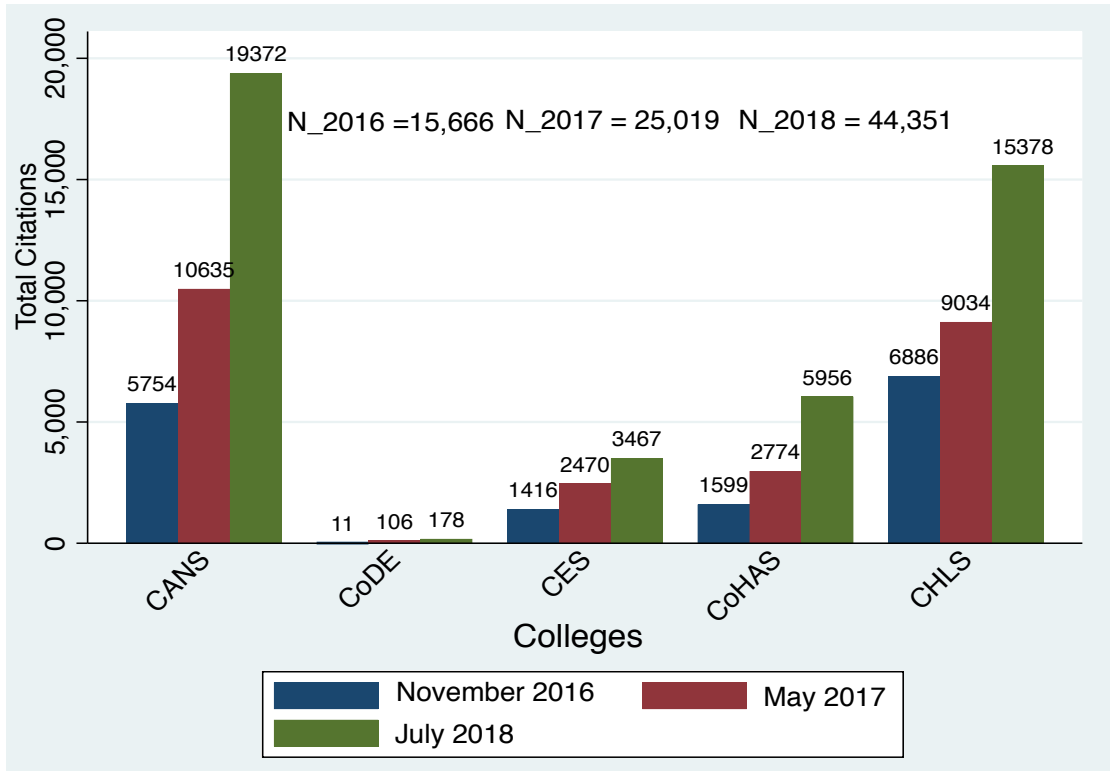


Figure 15: Citations on Google Scholar by Colleges Over Time

Since the maiden edition of this report, both the presence and citation of published research work by faculty members across all the Faculties/Schools in the University have increased significantly, as shown in Figure 15.

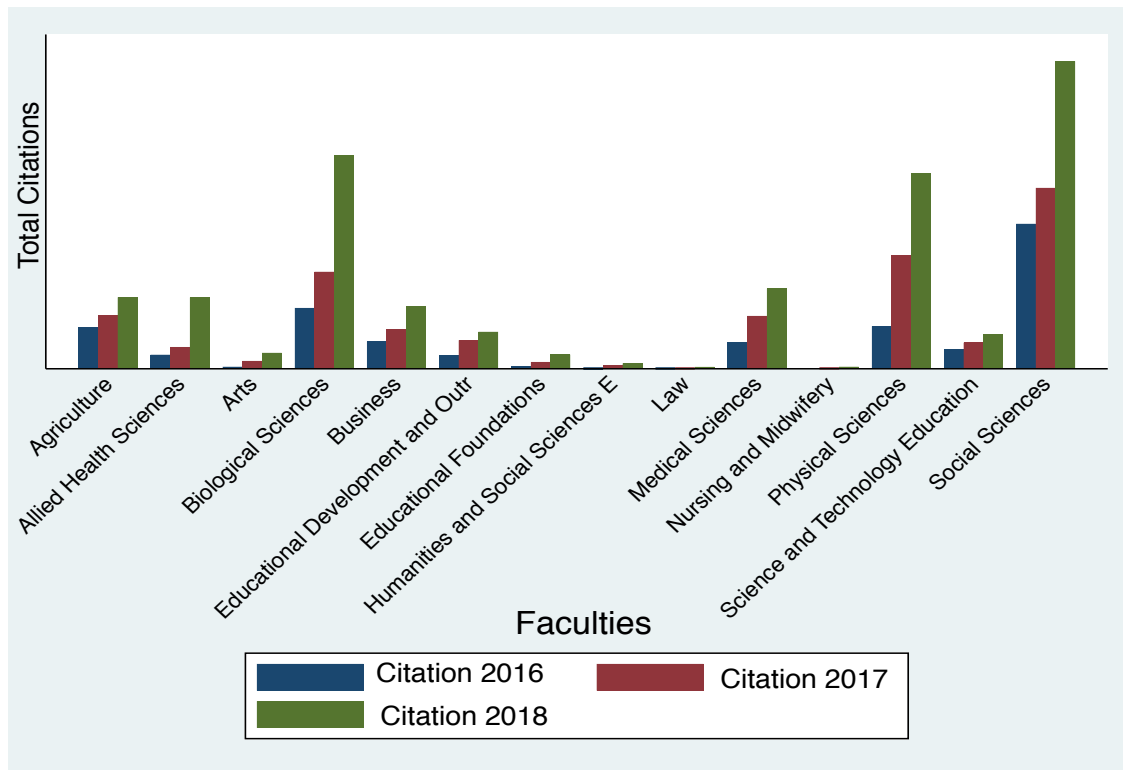


Figure 16: Total Citations on Google Scholar by Faculties/Schools

- The School of Nursing and Midwifery increased from no citation in November 2016 to 32 citations in 6 months and further increased to 78 citations in July 2018.
- The School of Allied Health Sciences more than doubled their number of citations from 2,975 in May 2017 to 5,956 in July 2018, while most of the Faculties increased their number of citations by 50% plus in the 1 year 2-month period.
- The increase in the number of citations over the 1 year 2-month period indicates that faculty members in UCC are contributing to visibility agenda through research.
- The expansion of faculty members on Google Scholar has increased the external exposure of the university – different academic fields are covered as more members log onto the platform.

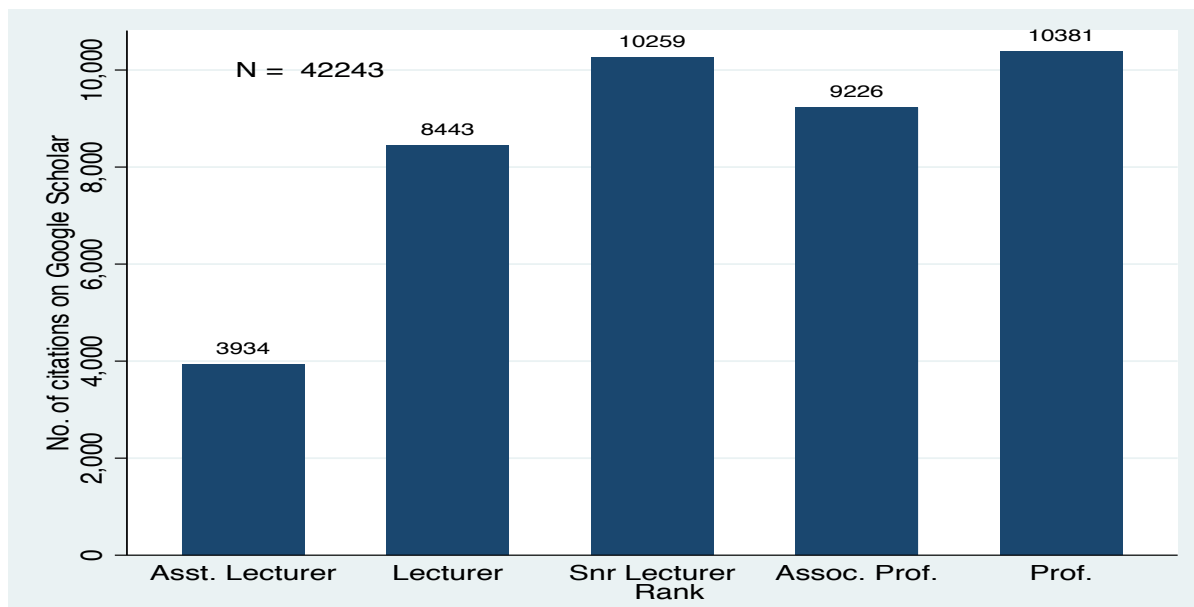


Figure 17: Total Number of Citations across Ranks for 2018

- The total number of citations for the 363 teaching and research staff is 42,243.
- The highest total number of citations by rank was recorded for Professors, followed by Senior Lecturers, Associate Professors, Lecturers and, finally, Assistant Lecturers.

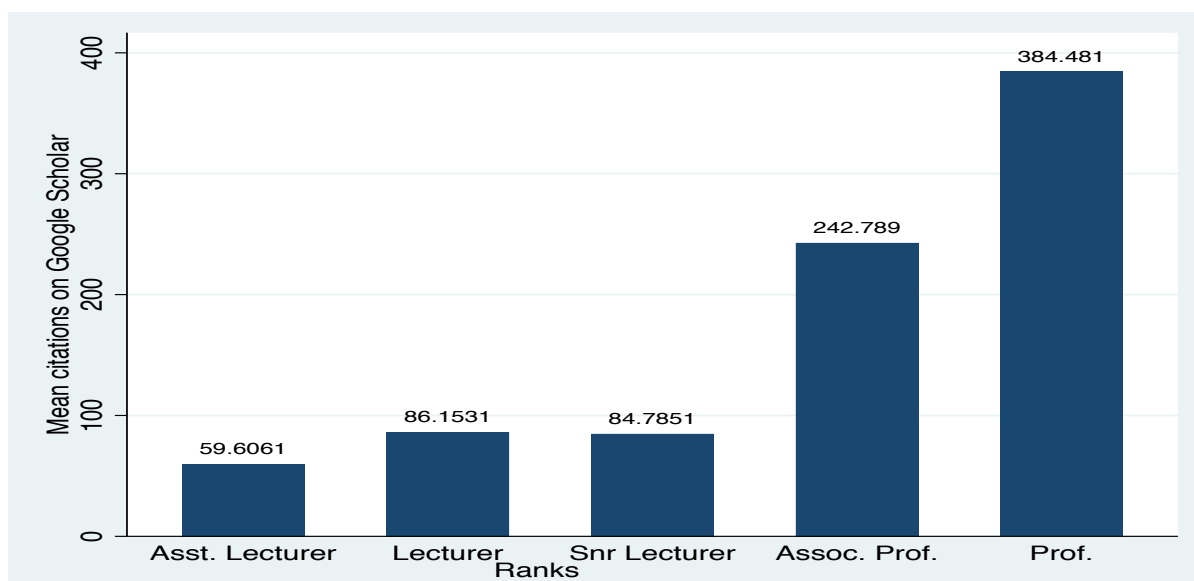


Figure 18: Average Number of Citations across Ranks

- Figure 18 shows the average citation for each of the academic ranks for the period under consideration. In spite of the relatively small number of Professors (27) in UCC, their average citation is higher than that of the other ranks.
- Worthy of notice is the higher average citation of Lecturers compared to that of Senior Lecturers.