Rating and Ranking: Pros and Cons

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• Background
• Rating and Ranking Systems 
  (Global, Regional, National)
• Pros and Cons of Rankings
• Other Systems Related to Ranking 
  (AHELO - OECD)
• Concluding Remarks
Background

* Emergence of Ranking Systems in 1865 (European studies to assess quality of institutions & scholars in science and medicine)
* Rankings continued in the 1920's (USA - faculty surveys)
* University evaluation/ranking became popular in recent years (among general public, media and universities).
* Present form introduced by US News and World Report over 20 years ago to publish transparent comparative data on institutions
* Despite being controversial, Ranking became an unavoidable part of academic life, with increasing demand globally, regionally and nationally
* Currently, roughly 50 major ranking systems are in use
Who Conducts the Rankings

* Academic institutions: Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), Wuhan University etc.
* Governmental Agencies: HEC of Pakistan etc.
* Accrediting bodies: Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT)
* Non-governmental organizations: QAA UK, OIC, Google, etc.
* Academics themselves
Rankers identified

University Ranking
* Times Higher Education Ranking
* QS World Universities Ranking
* Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)
* CHE Excellence Rankings
* RatER Global University Ranking of World Universities
* Webometrics Ranking of World Universities
* 2010 World University Ranking
* SIR World Report
* Leiden Ranking
* University Ranking by Academic Performance
* The Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities
* Professional Classification of Higher Education Institutions
* International Student Barometer (ISB)
Most Popular Universities Rankers around the World

* Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)
* QS World University Ranking (QS)
* The World University Ranking (Times Newspaper) 
  
  *Times Higher Education Supplement (THES)*
* Scimago Institutions Ranking (SIR)
* University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP)
* Webometrics Ranking (WR)
Rating and Ranking Systems
(Global, Regional, National)
Indicators of Rankings

* Hundreds of different indicators
* Categories of indicators:
  * Characteristics of the student body
  * financial inputs
  * staff inputs
  * student experiences
  * learning outcomes
  * financial outcomes
  * research metrics, and
  * reputation
Keywords for Rankings

- Institution (History, culture)
- Academics (awards, researches)
- Facilities (campus, laboratories)
- Collections (libraries, museums)
- Finances (key sources, research grants, scholarships, financial support)
- Alumni (Notable, academics)
1. Rankings by Subject
   - Arts and Humanities Universities
   - Engineering and IT Universities
   - Life Sciences and Biomedicine Universities
   - Natural and Physical Sciences Universities
   - Social Sciences Universities
Categories of Rankings

2. Rankings by Location
   - American Universities
   - Asian and Middle Eastern Universities
   - African Universities
   - Australian and New Zealand Universities
   - British and European Universities
   - Canadian Universities
Classification of Rankings

Based on:
• Producing university league tables
• Concentrating on research only
• Multi-rankings: using indicators without producing league tables
• Web rankings
• Benchmarking based on learning outcomes (AHELO – OECD)