Searching for Globally Feasible Indicators from Domestic Rankings

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Abstract

In recent years, new global rankings have been published in succession. However, very limited numbers of indicators were used in global rankings because of the significant difference amongst different higher education systems. The purpose of this study was to survey indicators used in selected domestic rankings and to analyze their feasibility for global comparison. The study selected eleven institution-level rankings from eight countries mainly based on information availability and integrity. According to the indicators’ global comparability, they were first classified into four groups, namely Comparable at a global level, Fairly comparable at a global level, Hardly comparable at a global level and Incomparable at a global level. For the indicators in the Comparable or Fairly comparable groups, the frequency of their appearances for each country were summed up and compared. It was observed that some commonly used indicators had already been used in global rankings, implying other frequently
appearing indicators have the potential to be used in future global rankings. Discussions on the philosophy behind designing indicators for global comparison were also included.

**Keyword:** Ranking; Indicator; Comparison; Global