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# Historical Social Research: An International Journal for the Application of Formal Methods to History, 2004–2014. An Overview

Philip Jost Janssen \*

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**Abstract:** »Historical Social Research: Eine internationale wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für die Anwendung formaler Methoden auf die Geschichte. Ein Überblick«. In this introduction to HSR Supplement 26, the findings of the journal *Historical Social Research* from 2004 to 2014 are presented. With the journal being in its 40th year of existence, one could split the journal's history into three phases: First, the constitutional period (1976–1988), then, second, the establishing period (1988–2000). The third period consists of the last 10–14 years. It may be characterized by processes of focusing, digitalization and internationalization, and it is this third period which is the subject of this article. In a short overview, some developments with respect to the contents are highlighted. Afterward, some structural changes in HSR publication formats and journal management are given. Finally, the article presents some bibliometric analyses, particularly concerning download and citation statistics.

**Keywords:** HSR, Historical Social Research, Historische Sozialforschung, journal, abstracts, retrospective, metrics.

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## 1. Introduction

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In 2015, *Historical Social Research* will start its 40th volume. That in itself is significant, considering how short-lived many scientific journals are nowadays. Founded in 1976 as a small, of course, “analogue” newsletter of the association QUANTUM, the HSR has been developed into a journal with international recognition. It is listed in the *Social Science Citation Index* as well as in *Scopus*, and has become accessible via JSTOR and *SocINDEX with Full Text*. In 2011, the European Science Foundation admitted *Historical Social Research* to the category “international top-journal (INT1 Sub-Category).” The ESF justified this with the consistently high quality of the journal, attesting to the HSR’s

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“high visibility and influence among researchers in the various research domains in different countries, regularly cited all over the world.”

Now it's time to take stock of the last years. This HSR Supplement is the successor of HSR Supplements No. 15 (2003) and No. 16 (2004). In Supplement 15, “Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung. An International Journal for the Application of Formal Methods to History, 1978-2003,” the HSR Editorial Office presented a short history of the journal for the first time. Based on online database *HSR-Trans* (Rahlf 2000, 2001), we brought the abstracts of all-until-then published, 596 HSR contributions. Furthermore, it contained a keyword-author index.

The following Supplement 16, “Historical Social Research: Selected Bibliography 1975-2000,” completed this collection by bringing the journal into its international context. This seemed reasonable especially in light of the journal's origins. In the pioneering phase of *Historical Social Research* (in the European context) and of its American counterpart, *Social Science History*, the member organizations were crucial in gaining scientific recognition. Among them are, in particular, the “Association for Quantification and Methods in Historical and Social Science Research” mentioned above (QUANTUM, founded in 1975) and the “Social Science History Association” (SSHA, founded in 1974). In the beginning, these organizations networked with each other, and they each founded and established own scientific journals. In addition, further associations and journals with focus on “formal methods” were established.

Consequently, the bibliography of 2004 covered also articles published, for example, in “Historical Methods,” in “History and Computing,” or in the “Journal of Interdisciplinary History.” The bibliography, along with the basic analysis on the authors' profiles in Supplement 16, demonstrates how open the field of Historical Social Research has always been. They also document some specifics of the first two periods of HSR history:

*Period 1, 1976 to 1988* could be described as “constitution phase.” In the beginning, the newsletter was only 24 pages long and the authors were recruited chiefly from the QUANTUM network itself. “Quantum-Information” was the publication's title until the 12th issue in 1979, when the bilingual main title “Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung” first appeared. The meaningful cover with quad paper stands symbolically for the “mission” quantification in the early years.

*Period 2, 1988 to 2000* would then be the “establishment phase.” Increasing awareness and recognition in the community did, in fact, also increase the print run of the HSR, and the issues became more voluminous. At the same time, the scope of the journal expanded: Not any longer primarily quantitative-methodological contributions, but more and more of articles with a thematic focus were the ones that made it into the journal. The more professional layout since 1988 (with the “label” copperplate) marked a completely new phase. At the same time, the *Centre of Historical Social Research* (ZHSF)'s involvement

got stronger. That department of the former *Central Archive for Empirical Social Research* (ZA) was the publisher of the journal, and as such, the ZHSF pushed co-operations and networking with other associations, societies, institutions, and publications. Within the journal, the content became more differentiated, as the issues were then structured in several sections, e.g. “Data Section,” “Methods: Reviews and Notices,” or “Humanities Computing.”

This Supplement 26, as successor project of Supplements 15 and 16, keeps the promise of bringing overviews about topics and authors to the fore from time to time. We present here the essence of the time period from 2004 to 2014. In spite of ubiquitous online resources, readers still have the desire to “grasp” HSR content haptically. The last 10-15 years actually stand for a further development, thus a *period 3* in HSR history which could be titled “Focusing, Digitalization and Internationalization.” After the turn of the millennium, *Historical Social Research* was internationally known and established enough that the journal was now able to address topics not only in single contributions, but in more comprehensive Special Issues and Foci. Conceptualizing issues on one specific theme or method and bringing 10-15 contributions of high quality was no longer a utopian vision. In the course of the inclusion in international databases as *Social Science Citation Index*, *Scopus*, *SocINDEX with Full Text* and JSTOR, there has been a fundamental increase in coverage and relevance of the journal. This recognition then again strengthened the interest of international authors to publish in the HSR (see section 2).

Another reason why a further “self-reflective HSR Supplement” seems to make sense today is that journal’s history has achieved an important milestone. The Editorial Board was recently expanded with further Managing Editors, so that the responsibility for research lines and publication policy enjoys a broader basis than ever. In addition, there will be a new form of distribution architecture. From 2015 on, publisher *GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences* will also take over sales and distribution of HSR and HSR Supplement. This transmission from Quantum to GESIS also represents a stable institutional support to this traditional journal – without cutting the link to the QUANTUM Network. After all, this network remains personally represented in the Co-operating Editorial Board and in the Editorial Office. HSR continues to be the “Official Journal of QUANTUM” and of “INTERQUANT” (*International Commission for the Application of Quantitative Methods in History*).

In contrast to former evaluations, there is a benefit in Supplement 26 that we could not offer in Supplement 15 (2003). It is only within the past few years that we – thanks to our online resources – have been able to analyze reading behavior at least in basic terms. For the purpose of internal quality management and reporting systems, we increasingly use downloaded statistics and metrics. Exemplary and only to some extent would we like to share those results with our readers. What kind of metrics are relevant for us, what are particularly successful contributions – at least in terms of downloads and citations?

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## 2. The Journal, 2004-2014

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### 2.1 Trends, Turns, and Traditions

The contents of 2004 are significant. In Volume 29, there were HSR Special Issues covering the following topics:

- *New Media, Electronic Publishing & Open Access* (29.1). Just after the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities,” the HSR also tackled this topic in a Special Issue. Although the formerly new media are not as “new” as they had been ten years before, we still explore that issue further, both in HSR contributions and in the journal’s management strategies. This is because digital dissemination has become all the more multidimensional, as has digital rights management. For instance, commencing in 2014, we use DOIs<sup>1</sup> identifying every single HSR text persistently, which is an important tool to guarantee durability and digital access.
- *Historical Information Science* (29.2). What was then called “computer aided methods“ or “IT application/computerization,” comes today under the label “Digital Humanities” – and remains a major research area of HSR, as illustrated, for example, in 37.3, introducing discussion and significant conclusions after 50 years of computer technology in the humanities. Also inspiring: the recent Foci on “Informetrics & Digital Libraries” (in 38.3) and “Interactive Visualizations” (in 39.3).
- *Environmental History* (29.3). The whole field of Environmental History has been continued systematically, inter alia, with the successful Special Issue on “Disaster Research” (32.3) or – forthcoming in 2015 – with a Special Issue on “Climate & Beyond. Knowledge Production on Planet Earth.”

There are similar examples in many other volumes: Picking up on the latest trends in research on the one hand (trends that, not in their importance, but often in their terminology, shortly thereafter appear anachronistic); and on the other hand, continuous development of the traditional HSR topics. The overview of all Special Issues and Foci between 2004 and 2014 shows this clearly:<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is a character string, identifying (electronic) objects uniquely. The HSR DOI includes some information about its publication date and context (volume, issue, year, pages). The DOI for an article remains fixed, whereas its location and other metadata may change. So, the DOI system provides an easy and stable access to documents and, it associates metadata with objects.

<sup>2</sup> Only short titles are presented here. Full titles and brief information can be found in Part B “Special Issues – Foci – Supplements.” In this list, all Special Issues and Foci are mentioned. As there are, in some issues, 2 Foci resp. 1 Special Issue + 1 Focus, issues may appear twice.

**Table 1: HSR Volumes 29 (2004) - 39 (2014)**

<i>Volume 29 (2004)</i>	29.1 New Media in the Humanities. Electronic Publishing & Open Access 29.2 Historical Information Science 29.3 The Frontiers of Environmental History 29.4 Mixed Issue
<i>Volume 30 (2005)</i>	30.1 Qualitative Social Research 30.2 Entrepreneurs and Managers in Socialism 30.2 Gesamtwirtschaftliche Entwicklung Ostdeutschlands 30.3 Siblings – Parents – Grandparents 30.4 Die amerikanische TV-Serie "Holocaust"
<i>Volume 31 (2006)</i>	31.1 Football History 31.2 World and Global History in Europe 31.3 Doing Biographical Research 31.4 Constructing Population in 20th Century Historiography
<i>Volume 32 (2007)</i>	32.1 Sports and Dictatorship 32.2 Family Limitation in Historical Perspective 32.2 The Victorian Panel Study 32.3 Historical Disaster Research 32.4 New Political Economy in History
<i>Volume 33 (2008)</i>	33.1 Discourse Analysis in the Social Sciences 33.2 Elite Formation in the Other Europe (19th-20th Century) 33.3 Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data 33.4 Stochastic Demographic Dynamics and Economic Growth
<i>Volume 34 (2009)</i>	34.1 Linking Theory and Data 34.2 Counterfactual Thinking as a Scientific Method 34.3 Social Bookkeeping Data 34.3 Children Born of War 34.4 Premature Death
<i>Volume 35 (2010)</i>	35.1 Global Communication 35.2 Transitions – Transformations: Change after Communism 35.3 Integration or Exclusion: Former National Socialists in the GDR 35.4 The Production of Human Security
<i>Volume 36 (2011)</i>	36.1 Methods for Qualitative Management Research 36.2 Fertility in the History of the 20th Century 36.3 Change of Markets and Market Societies 36.4 Conventions and Institutions from a Historical Perspective
<i>Volume 37 (2012)</i>	37.1 Elite Foundations of Social Theory and Politics 37.2 Elites in Post-Socialist Transformation 37.3 Digital Humanities 37.3 Murder and Mass Murder in Pre-Modern Latin America 37.4 The Économie des Conventions 37.4 Web History
<i>Volume 38 (2013)</i>	38.1 Security and Conspiracy in History 38.2 Cultural Analysis & In-Depth Hermeneutics 38.2 Process Theories and Process-Oriented Methodologies 38.3 Space/Time Practices 38.3 Informetrics & Digital Libraries 38.4 Industrie Ostdeutschlands 1950-2000



this was not actually the aim. Historical Social Research will remain an inter-, trans-, and multidisciplinary field with a strong empirical foundation, diachronic perspective and theoretical, methodical and thematic plurality.

The dictum of 2003 remains valid: The primary objective of Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung is to “successfully implement the own (formal) methods into diverse disciplines, ensuring that the use of those methods becomes *self-evident* and *appropriate*” (Schröder 2003, 12). With regard to the definition of “formal methods,” the journal’s scope constantly refers to Charles Tilly:

Formalization means a variety of procedures that match descriptions of events, structures, and processes with explicit models of those events, structures, and processes. Formal methods do not necessarily involve quantification or computing; analyses of linguistic, spatial, or temporal structure, for example, often proceed quite formally without computers and without any direct intervention of mathematics (Tilly 1987, 19).

## 2.2 Focusing – Digitalization – Internationalization

The HSR topics mentioned above show continuity, along with an establishment of new research lines. And it shows another more structural development: Within eleven years, there was just one single “pure” Mixed Issue: Vol. 29, (2004) 4. Altogether there were 121 single contributions in eleven years, averaging 2.75 per issue. Instead, the *Special Issue* has become the dominant form of publication. With an average size of 270 HSR pages and 13 contributions, including a substantial introduction, it provides sufficient space for profound multi-faceted analyses of selected research areas or methods. In addition, the *Focus* has turned out to be a more important publication format as well, be it a small collection of a handful of contributions on one issue (approximately 120-150 pages), or a focus on one topic in an individual “XXL” contribution.

Since 2013, there are no longer any subdivisions within the Mixed Issue itself. Previously, Special Editors responsible for the sections “Cliometrics,” “Humanities Computing” or “Data & Archives” had an important function of implementing and managing essential subject areas for *Historical Social Research*. Today, those sections are part of the HSR research lines and appear continuously as Special Issues or as single contributions in the mixed part of the journal. Other smaller sections such as “Past Events,” “Forthcoming Events,” “Miscellaneous Notes” and “Publications” were even transferred into the digital sphere beforehand. One of our co-operation partners, the mailing list and web portal *H-Soz-u-Kult*, has successfully taken over most of the news, announcements and reviews we used to present in the HSR for many years.<sup>4</sup>

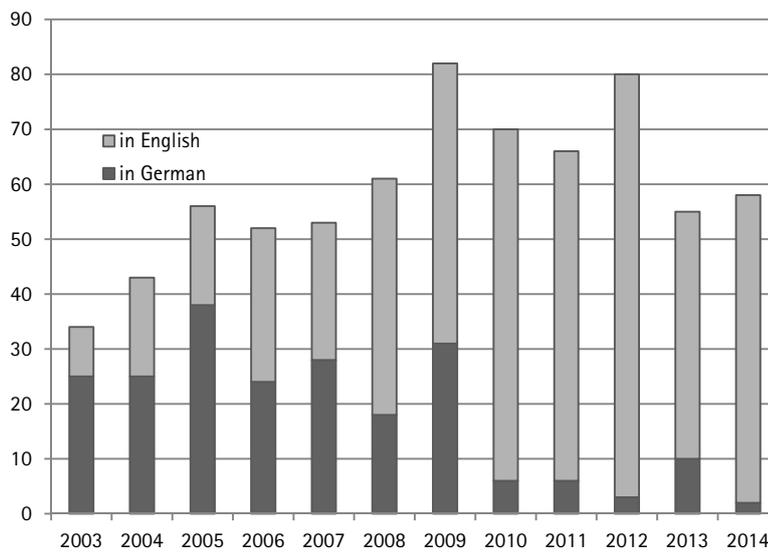
The process of internationalization in terms of readership (see section 3) corresponds with an internationalization regarding the authors. In 2003, we had

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<sup>4</sup> <<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de>>.

34 authors from 6 different countries; in 2014, there were 79 authors from 15 different countries. Still defined as a bilingual English/German journal, the share of papers in English in the HSR now reaches 97 percent (2014) compared to just 26 percent in 2003.

Figure 2: HSR Articles per Year, 2003-2014 (Excluding Supplements)



The Editorial Office aims to publish one HSR Supplement issue each year. Since the programmatic prelude in 1988 by Wilhelm H. Schröder (“Historische Sozialforschung: Forschungsstrategie, Infrastruktur, Auswahlbibliographie”), 25 issues have been published in this series. Originally, the Supplements were born out of the need to print course materials related to the field of Historical Social Research.<sup>5</sup> This was later complemented by monographs, normally outstanding dissertations (e.g. HSR Supplements No. 9 and No. 10). Fortunately, the past few years have witnessed a further development in the concept. There were “data-intensive” overviews, for example, in Gerhard Heske’s Supplements No. 17 and No. 21. There were still monographs (Suppl. No. 22) and bibliographies (as mentioned: Suppl. No. 16), and the reader of Mey/Mruck on Grounded Theory in 2007 has become one of the bestsellers in HSR history overall. However, 2008 was the beginning of a successful expansion of the HSR Supplement’s portfolio: The idea was to combine an autobiographical reflection with selected contributions of one prominent researcher in the field

<sup>5</sup> The former “ZHSF-Herbstseminar,” today: GESIS-Methodenseminar is said to be the flagship of courses on “formal methods.” See <<http://www.gesis.org/methodenseminar>>.

of Historical Social Research. This model (so far issues of Best, Schröder, Jarausch and Falter) has turned out to be a long runner to be continued in the next Supplements.

Table 2: HSR Supplements No. 16 (2004) – No. 26 (2014)<sup>6</sup>

<i>HSR-Suppl. 16 (2004)</i>	Historische Sozialforschung: Auswahlbibliographie 1975-2000
<i>HSR-Suppl. 17 (2005)</i>	Bruttoinlandsprodukt, Verbrauch und Erwerbstätigkeit in Ostdeutschland 1970-2000
<i>HSR-Suppl. 18 (2006)</i>	Historisch-Sozialwissenschaftliche Forschungen: Quantitative sozialwissenschaftliche Analysen von historischen und prozeßproduzierten Daten
<i>HSR-Suppl. 19 (2007)</i>	Grounded Theory Reader
<i>HSR-Suppl. 20 (2008)</i>	Führungsgruppen und Massenbewegungen im historischen Vergleich. Der Beitrag der Historischen Sozialforschung zu einer diachronen Sozialwissenschaft
<i>HSR-Suppl. 21 (2009)</i>	Volkswirtschaftliche Gesamtrechnung DDR 1950-1989. Daten, Methoden, Vergleiche
<i>HSR-Suppl. 22 (2010)</i>	Jugendforschung in der frühen Bundesrepublik. Diskurse und Umfragen
<i>HSR-Suppl. 23 (2011)</i>	Kollektivbiographie als interdisziplinäre Methode in der Historischen Sozialforschung: Eine persönliche Retrospektive
<i>HSR-Suppl. 24 (2012)</i>	Contemporary History as Transatlantic Project
<i>HSR-Suppl. 25 (2013)</i>	Zur Soziographie des Nationalsozialismus
<i>HSR-Suppl. 26 (2014)</i>	Journal Historical Social Research. Retrospective, 2004-2014

The scientific journal in the digital age: Since early on, the editors have addressed the new challenges of the web, trying to make use of its opportunities. For instance, the online supplement *HSR-Trans*, is a platform that, since 2000, has published things “in transition” just on the Internet alone. Documents that, due to form or size, did not really fit to a print version were, for example, databases, supplemental course material, or extensive bibliographies. Additionally, the online resource *HSR-Retrospective* has the merit of retro-digitizing the entire analogue HSR archive (2006-2007). The digital texts are today fully included in the *Social Science Online Repository* (SSOAR), accessible from the HSR website or by browsing SSOAR.

The core objective of every scientific journal – namely maximizing relevance, extending coverage, thus: gaining international recognition – is actually hard to quantify. Besides, for a journal in a fairly small interdisciplinary “niche” as *Historical Social Research*, limits of dissemination do exist. It is, therefore, an important seal of approval that HSR has been selected into several prestigious international databases:

<sup>6</sup> More information about the contents can be found in Part B “Special Issues – Foci – Supplements.”

- Since 2006: *Social Science Citation Index*
- Since 2006: *SocINDEX with Full Text*
- Since 2007: *Scopus*
- Since 2011: JSTOR

Apart from the high recognition of HSR content as such, it naturally pushes further dissemination and, related to both, it is a strong argument for authors to publish in the journal. Furthermore, the registration in digital information services brings yet another additional advantage: editorial work today includes bibliometric analysis as a matter of course.

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### 3. Selected Figures

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The print run of 750 copies per issue is still remarkable for a scientific journal. In the editorial of HSR Supplement No. 15, the print run and the fact that 228 libraries worldwide are subscribers of the HSR were the most important indicators for dissemination in 2003. Due to diverse presences in digital databases, we are now better able to count reading behavior and impact. However, we also know that most of the figures concerning downloads and citations have some pitfalls, too: Firstly, because the analyses don't cover the actual number of citations (*Web of Science*, WoS); secondly, because fully automated crawler and parser software generates, to some extent, inaccurate results (*Google Scholar*). Nevertheless, it's worth the effort to periodically collect some metrics to evaluate the development of the journal's impact, at least in a rough way. Incidentally, it is common knowledge today that the Impact Factor is not particularly meaningful.<sup>7</sup>

#### 3.1 Downloads

Sales figures have for a long time been good indicators of a fundamental interest in specific HSR topics. Since archiving the issues in SSOAR, and with the co-operation with EBSCO and JSTOR, those sales figures have lost importance. In addition, there are the liberal HSR author's rights, which allow more than legally required, namely inalienable secondary publication rights ("unabdingbares Zweitveröffentlichungsrecht") without any embargo or other obligations. Consequently, some HSR contributions are today also available via *academia.edu* or similar platforms. At the same time, this appears as a problem

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<sup>7</sup> Here there is plenty to be said against the IF, cf. Herb and Beucke (2013). For a journal like Historical Social Research, the IF as indicator is not appropriate for several reasons. There is, for example, the length of the journal that precludes a high rating (the denominator in the calculation is too high) but also because the "exploitation circles" take longer in Social Sciences and Humanities (long-time effect of articles, late bloomers). Additionally, there is the restricted pool of documents, as citations just count within the JCR; which means that anthologies, monographs and journals not listed in the WoS are permanently excluded.

for internal reporting as we don't receive any downloads statistics from private web sites or social academic web.

Good accessibility of HSR content has not fully replaced print sales. But multi-channel has increased the total usage enormously. And simultaneously, it enables new analysis possibilities. Three examples are shown in the following, SSOAR, *SocINDEX with Full Text* and JSTOR.

### 3.1.1 SSOAR

The *Social Science Open Access Repository* (SSOAR)<sup>8</sup> was established by GESIS in 2008 and is today the largest freely accessible, full-text server for scholarly articles from the Social Sciences. *Historical Social Research* has been cooperating with SSOAR since its launch, and today has 1,255 texts online, plus 96 contributions from HSR Supplement. HSR has thus turned out to be the second largest provider in this repository. You can also find all 242 articles from the series *Historisch-sozialwissenschaftliche Forschungen* (HSF) in SSOAR, brought to open access after a retro-digitalization in 2013 (Schröder 2006).

With a moving wall of exactly two years, every single article is directly linked on the *HSR Archive*.<sup>9</sup> The usage of SSOAR shows a consistently positive development throughout the last years: *DSpace* statistics has counted 274,605 downloads since September 2012. An additional 22,237 downloads (2013) for HSF articles is not a bad result for a series closed down in 1991. The Top 5 most frequently downloaded HSR articles demonstrates that SSOAR primarily addresses a German-speaking audience. Here all contributions, including 37 (2012) 4, belong to the population of texts; however, the recently uploaded texts still need some time to take off.

**Table 3:** HSR Articles, Most Downloaded via SSOAR, Sept 2011 – Oct 2014

Author	Title	HSR Issue	Downloads
Jörg Blasius	Korrespondenzanalyse: ein multivariates Verfahren zur Analyse qualitativer Daten	Vol. 12 (1987) 2/3	1141
Matthias Middell	Welt- und Globalgeschichte in Europa: Berichte über den 1. Europäischen Kongress für Welt- und Globalgeschichte im September 2005 in Leipzig	Vol. 31 (2006) 2	1125
Petra Muckel	Die Entwicklung von Kategorien mit der Methode der Grounded Theory	Suppl. 19 (2007)	1030
James Riordan	The Impact of Journalism in Sport	Vol. 32 (2007) 1	933
Barbara Stelz-Marx	Die unsichtbare Generation: Kinder sowjetischer Besatzungssoldaten in Österreich und Deutschland	Vol. 34 (2009) 3	894

<sup>8</sup> <<http://www.ssoar.org>>.

<sup>9</sup> <<http://www.gesis.org/en/hsr/archive>>.

### 3.1.2 SocINDEX with Full Text

From Volume 28 (2003) onwards, current articles of *Historical Social Research* are available on *SocINDEX with Full Text* from EBSCO.<sup>10</sup> When the HSR was selected in 2006, it was listed with the status of a “Core Journal,” in those days belonging to what was a small circle of about 800 Core Journals world-wide.<sup>11</sup> This database is the world’s most comprehensive sociology research database. In addition to nearly 900 full-text titles, *SocINDEX with Full Text* also contains abstracts for more than 1,500 “core” coverage journals dating as far back as 1895. In addition, this database provides data mined from more than 420 “priority” coverage journals as well as from over 2,919 “selective” coverage journals. Complete with extensive indexing for books/monographs, conference papers, and other non-periodical content sources, the database also includes searchable cited references.

The appearance in *SocINDEX* is of essential importance for the journal. That is because of the high international visibility of the database, and because of the immediacy with which HSR contributions can be provided to the community. Normally, the digital versions are available even before the print edition can be delivered. The license holders in *SocINDEX* do search primarily thematically, as the database is structured not on issue, but on an individual text basis. 18,053 HSR articles were downloaded in 2013, 14,349 in 2012 and 7,289 in 2011. EBSCO license holders are usually universities and libraries. Access to HSR content came from 71 countries (2013); consistently, every second user is from the US. Here is an example of the most frequently downloaded articles in 2013. It shows the most important criteria for *SocINDEX* users: up-to-dateness and “interdisciplinary connectivity.”

**Table 4:** HSR Articles, Most Downloaded via SocINDEX with Full Text in 2013

Author	Title	HSR Issue	Downloads
Liesbeth van der Heide	Cherry-Picked Intelligence. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Dispositive as a Legitimation for National Security in the Post 9/11 Age	Vol. 38 (2013) 1	551
Caroline Dodds Pennock	Mass Murder or Religious Homicide? Rethinking Human Sacrifice and Interpersonal Violence in Aztec Society	Vol. 37 (2012) 3	531
Christian Schwarzenegger	Exploring Digital Yesterdays - Reflections on New Media and the Future of Communication History	Vol. 37 (2012) 4	431
Christian Oggolder	Inside - Outside. Web History and the Ambivalent Relationship between Old and New Media	Vol. 37 (2012) 4	368
A. Cisneros Puebla	Qualitative Computing and Qualitative Research: Addressing the Challenges of Technology and Globalization	Vol. 37 (2012) 4	364

<sup>10</sup> <<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/socindex-with-full-text>>.

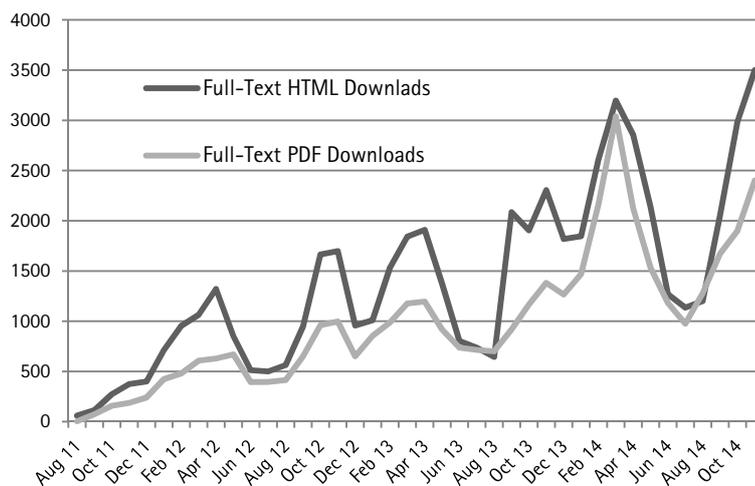
<sup>11</sup> From today's 1,500 Core Journals (Nov 2014) only 760 contain the Full-Text option.

### 3.1.2 JSTOR

The journal reached an important goal when, in August 2011, *Historical Social Research* and *HSR Supplement* were included into JSTOR as part of the “Art & Sciences X Collection.”<sup>12</sup> Reliable long-term archiving is one important benefit. The other is a new level of international visibility. JSTOR, short for “Journal Storage,” is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and increasing access to scholarly journal literature. JSTOR has created a high quality, interdisciplinary “trusted digital archive for scholarship” and can be regarded as the world’s most important digital library. The database contains more than 1,900 journal titles in more than 50 disciplines. Originally containing digitized back issues of academic journals, it now also includes books and primary sources, and current issues of journals. JSTOR is licensed mainly to academic institutions, public libraries, and research institutions. More than 8,000 institutions in more than 160 countries have access to JSTOR.

With an embargo of one year, HSR content is accessible for license holders. De facto, it works out to 1-2 years of embargo as JSTOR digitizes, prepares and uploads just once a year. So, the complete Volume 38 (2013) will be online at the beginning of 2015. The degree of use seems to correspond with the semesters of US universities:

Figure 3: Downloads via JSTOR Aug 2011 – Nov 2014



While in SSOAR, the German, “classical,” and in *SocINDEX*, the current HSR contributions are dominant, the JSTOR usage spreads across all HSR periods.

<sup>12</sup> <<http://www.jstor.org/r/histsocres>>.

Nevertheless, the Top 5 is dominated by “spectacular” topics and theoretical or methodological overviews:

**Table 5:** HSR Articles, Most Downloaded via JSTOR (Aug 2011 – Nov 2014)

Author	Title	HSR Issue	Downloads
Carolyn Ellis, et al.	Autoethnography: An Overview	Vol. 36 (2011) 4	2.025
Philip Smith	A Quantitative Evaluation of Demographic, Gender and Social Transformation Theories of the Rise of European Witch Hunting 1300-1500	Vol. 17 (1992) 4	1.862
Eric A. Johnson	German Women and Nazi Justice: Their Role in the Process from Denunciation to Death	Vol. 20 (1995) 2	1.573
Caroline Dodds Pennock	Mass Murder or Religious Homicide? Rethinking Human Sacrifice and Interpersonal Violence in Aztec Society	Vol. 37 (2012) 3	1.174
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita	Leopold II and the Selectorate: An Account in Contrast to a Racial Explanation	Vol. 32 (2007) 4	1.113

HSR issues most accessed via JSTOR are some “evergreens” but also two issues from the recently uploaded volumes 36 und 37:

**Table 6:** HSR Issues, Most Downloaded via JSTOR (Aug 2011 – Nov 2014)

Title	HSR Issue	Downloads
Football History: International Perspectives	Vol. 31 (2006) 1	4.879
Digital Humanities	Vol. 37 (2012) 3	3.748
Conventions and Institutions	Vol. 36 (2011) 4	3.352
Global Communication	Vol. 35 (2010) 1	3.231
Counterfactual Thinking as a Scientific Method	Vol. 34 (2009) 2	3.184
New Political Economy in History	Vol. 32 (2007) 4	3.096
Grounded Theory	Suppl. 19 (2007)	3.096
Sports and Dictatorship	Vol. 33 (2008) 1	2.513
Integration or Exclusion	Vol. 35 (2010) 3	2.334
Fertility in the History of the 20th Century	Vol. 36 (2010) 2	2.244

While most of the users are from the US (45%), Germany (10%), UK (8%) and Canada (6%) – HSR articles are read via JSTOR in more than 100 countries, whether Algeria, New Zealand or Zimbabwe.

### 3.2 Citations in SSCI and in *Google Scholar*

Since 2006, the HSR has been represented in the *Social Science Citation Index* from Thompson Scientific as part of the Core Collection of the *Web of Science*.<sup>13</sup> The *Social Sciences Citation Index* (SSCI) is an interdisciplinary citation

<sup>13</sup> <<http://www.webofknowledge.com>>.

index product of Thomson Reuters. It was developed by the *Institute for Scientific Information* (ISI) from the *Science Citation Index*. The database provides access to current and retrospective bibliographic information, author abstracts, and cited references found in over 2,474 (2014) of the world's leading journals of social sciences across more than 50 disciplines. Since belonging to SSCI (2006), the following HSR contributions have been cited at least seven times:

**Table 7:** HSR Articles 2006-2014, Cited at Least Seven Times in SSCI

Author	Title	HSR Issue	Cited
Matthew Taylor	Global Players? Football, Migration and Globalization, c. 1930-2000	Vol. 31 (2006) 1	16
Janet Heaton	Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data: An Overview	Vol. 33 (2008) 3	13
Ingrid Schoon	Planning for the Future Changing Education Expectations in Three British Cohorts	Vol. 35 (2010) 2	11
Rainer Diaz-Bone	The Methodological Standpoint of the "Économie des Conventions"	Vol. 36 (2011) 4	8
Nina Baur	What can Sociology Learn from History about Methodology?	Vol. 33 (2008) 3	8
Beatrice de Graaf & Cornel Zwielerlein	Historicizing Security - Entering the Conspiracy Dispositive	Vol. 38 (2013) 1	7
Rainer Diaz-Bone & Robert Salais	Economics of Convention and the History of Economies. Towards a Transdisciplinary Approach in Economic History	Vol. 36 (2011) 4	7
Karl Haerter	Security and "Gute Policy" in Early Modern History: Concepts, Laws, and Instruments	Vol. 38 (2013) 1	7
Nina Baur	Problems of Linking Theory and Data in Historical Sociology and Longitudinal Research	Vol. 34 (2009) 1	7
Gerrit Jasper Schenk	Historical Disaster Research. State of Research, Concepts, Methods and Case Studies	Vol. 32 (2007) 3	7
Greg Bankoff	Comparing Vulnerabilities: Toward Charting an Historical Trajectory of Disasters	Vol. 32 (2007) 3	7
Rainer Diaz-Bone	Convention, Organization and Institution. The Contribution of the "Economics of Convention" to Institutionalism	Vol. 34 (2009) 2	7
Franz Mauelshagen	Flood Disasters and Political Culture at the German North Sea Coast: A Long-Term Historical Perspective	Vol. 32 (2007) 3	7

Accessed Nov 27, 2014.

The metrics of SSCI provide a rough orientation. Due to the restriction of including just a few volumes, the statistics lack many citations, as issues published before 2003 have not been included in the index. Even though dependent on the data basis, but as reference value of interest is the h-index (*h* articles have at least *h* citations). At *Web of Science*, HSR's h-index has increased to 7,

which is the same level as in the *Scopus* database.<sup>14</sup> For similar reasons, the metrics in *Scopus* – short observations period, selective choice of publications – do not cover the actual number of citations.

The range of publications is of high significance for the inter- resp. transdisciplinary, (self-)image of the HSR. Even in the restricted scope of the *Web of Science*, HSR contributions have been cited in 61 different journals covering various disciplines (2013): From A (*American Journal of Physical Anthropology*) to Z (*Zeitschrift für Soziologie*). As an aside, in a recent scientometric analysis on interdisciplinarity in *Scopus* and WoS, the HSR is used as an example (Leyensdorff et al. 2014).

**Table 8:** Social Science Citation Index, Metrics 2008-2014

Results found	673
Sum of the Times Cited	632
Sum of Times Cited without Self-Citations	317
Citing Articles	371
Citing Articles without Self-Citations	276
Average Citations per Article	0.94
h-index	7

Accessed Nov 27, 2014.

The long-term effects can be partly represented on the basis of *Google Scholar* data. The fully automated crawler and parser software *publish or perish* reveals a certain journal impact by cumulating citations of HSR contributions of all volumes dating back to 1980. It has the restriction, though, that the maximum number of papers is limited to 1000.<sup>15</sup> Other disadvantages of indicators generated in that way have been described in numerous texts. The criticism mainly concerns the unclear data basis and the fact that metadata remains unused at *Google Scholar*, which can lead to incorrect results (Fell 2010). According to *Google Scholar* analysis, the HSR reaches an “h5-index” of 12, which means that, between 2009 and 2013, twelve items have been cited at least twelve times.<sup>16</sup> In the long run, the program calculates an h-index for the HSR of 35 (as at November 2014). According to *publish or perish*, the most frequently cited contributions in HSR history are:

<sup>14</sup> <<http://www.scopus.com>>. The metrics of *Scopus* can be researched via *SCImago Journal & Country Rank (SJR)*, <[www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)>.

<sup>15</sup> <<http://www.harzing.com/pop.htm>>.

<sup>16</sup> <[http://scholar.google.de/citations?hl=de&view\\_op=search\\_venues&vq=historical+social+research](http://scholar.google.de/citations?hl=de&view_op=search_venues&vq=historical+social+research)>.

**Table 9:** Citations (Google Scholar / Publish or Perish)

Author	Title	HSR Issue	Citations
Glaser, Holton	Remodeling Grounded Theory	Suppl. 19 (2007)	602
Udo Kelle	Sociological Explanations between micro and macro and the Integration of Qualitative and Quantitative Methods	Vol. 30 (2005) 1	367
Carolyn Ellis et al.	Autoethnography: An Overview	Vol. 36 (2011) 4	351
Janet Heaton	Secondary Analysis of qualitative data	Vol. 33 (2008) 3	285
Erwin K. Scheuch	The Cross-Cultural Use of Sample Survey : Problems of Comparability	Vol. 18 (1993) 2	135

Accessed Nov 27, 2014.

It should be mentioned here that HSR is also benefiting from its co-operation with *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research (FQS)*, one of the most successful e-journals overall.<sup>17</sup>

What the newly established co-operation between Thomson Reuters and *Google Scholar* will bring for citation analysis is yet to be seen. And at the same time there occurred many discussions on alternative measurements of impact by means of social web analysis. In special terms, it is about the validity and relevance of the so-called “altmetrics” (Haustein et al. 2013). We are following those discussions within scientometrics eagerly, although altmetrics are currently a negligible factor. Perhaps they are crucial in the next HSR Supplement (in 2024) covering the journal’s development.

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#### 4. About this Abstract Collection

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This Supplement contains abstracts of all 671 HSR contributions from 2004 to 2014 inclusive.

In *Historical Social Research*, every paper longer than 6 pages comes with an abstract. This does not apply for the sections of the past, namely announcements, short reports on conferences, or reviews, which make it into the journal today only in exceptional cases. Already in the early 1980s HSR abstracts were integrated in the following printed international scientific databases: *Historical Abstracts*, *Sociological Abstracts*, *International Political Science Abstracts*, *Social Research Methodology Database* and SOLIS, the *Social Science Literature Information System* of GESIS.<sup>18</sup> Through the expansion of HSR’s homepage in 2012, all tables of contents and abstracts from Volume 36 onwards are

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<sup>17</sup> <<http://www.qualitative-research.net>>.

<sup>18</sup> <<http://www.gesis.org/en/services/research/solis-social-science-literature-information-system>>.

available online. The simple search is connected with the social science portal *sowiport* and the HSR ISSN in order to generate HSR hits only.<sup>19</sup>

The abstracts are typically written in English. The older contributions up until 2008 and partly until 2010 do have a German abstract, as well. As a consequence of the internationalization described above, we here concentrate on the English versions – a significant difference to the former HSR Supplements, incidentally. However, the German versions can be found on SSOAR.

The collection is arranged in a chronological order. And this is for two reasons: First, we find it illuminating to show the contributions embedded in the “HSR genesis,” as they normally refer to articles published earlier on that topic or method. Second, a contribution should be received in its specific context as part of a Special Issue or Focus. The related contributions around that thematic complex would have been lost in an alphabetic order. This is why the reader finds a separate part presenting concise information on all Special Issues and Foci in the last eleven years in this Supplement. This part also contains information on the ten HSR Supplements, published 2004-2013.

Each item has a consecutive number. The numbering starts where it had ended in 2003. The text of Andermanns/Degkwitz “Neue Ansätze in der wissenschaftlichen Informationsversorgung” being first contribution in Vol. 29 (2004) 1 hence receives the Abstract No. 597. And the collection ends with the recently published “Trends in Papal Communication” of Zängle in Vol. 39 (2014) 4 – as Abstract No. 1267. Each item is identified by the volume (“Vol. 39”) the year (“2014”), the issue number in that year (“No. 4”) and the page numbers; additionally the issue number in total (Nos. 107-150), and for the current volume, the DOIs as well.

The author index at the end of this issue makes searching for “typical” or “exceptional” HSR authors easier, and identifies the “prolific writers” in the field of the 709 different authors who have published *Historical Social Research* since 2004. Beyond all metrics: Their outstanding expertise guarantees a further positive development of the HSR in the next few years.

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