# Testing Journal Matching Systems
## A Head-to-Head Comparison

Linda Zellmer
LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu

# Introduction

- Report on work to test journal matching systems that have been developed to help authors identify and choose potential journals for publication.

- Methods Used.

- Results.

- Discussion of results and systems.

# Why Journal Finders?

- Authors have a number of options for publishing their work.
  - Reputable journals from various publishers.
  - Less than reputable journals.
- New researchers generally guided by their advisors, but may wish to branch out at some point.
- Many options for identifying journals for publication:
  - Library Resources (e.g. Library Journal Holdings List; Ulrich's; Subject Indexes; Librarians).
  - Google Scholar.
  - Journal Matching Systems - match working titles & abstracts to journals that publish in a subject area.

# What are Journal Matching Systems?

- Systems designed to help researchers identify and choose a journal for a publication.

- Use terms from an article's title and/or abstract to find journals that publish articles on that topic.

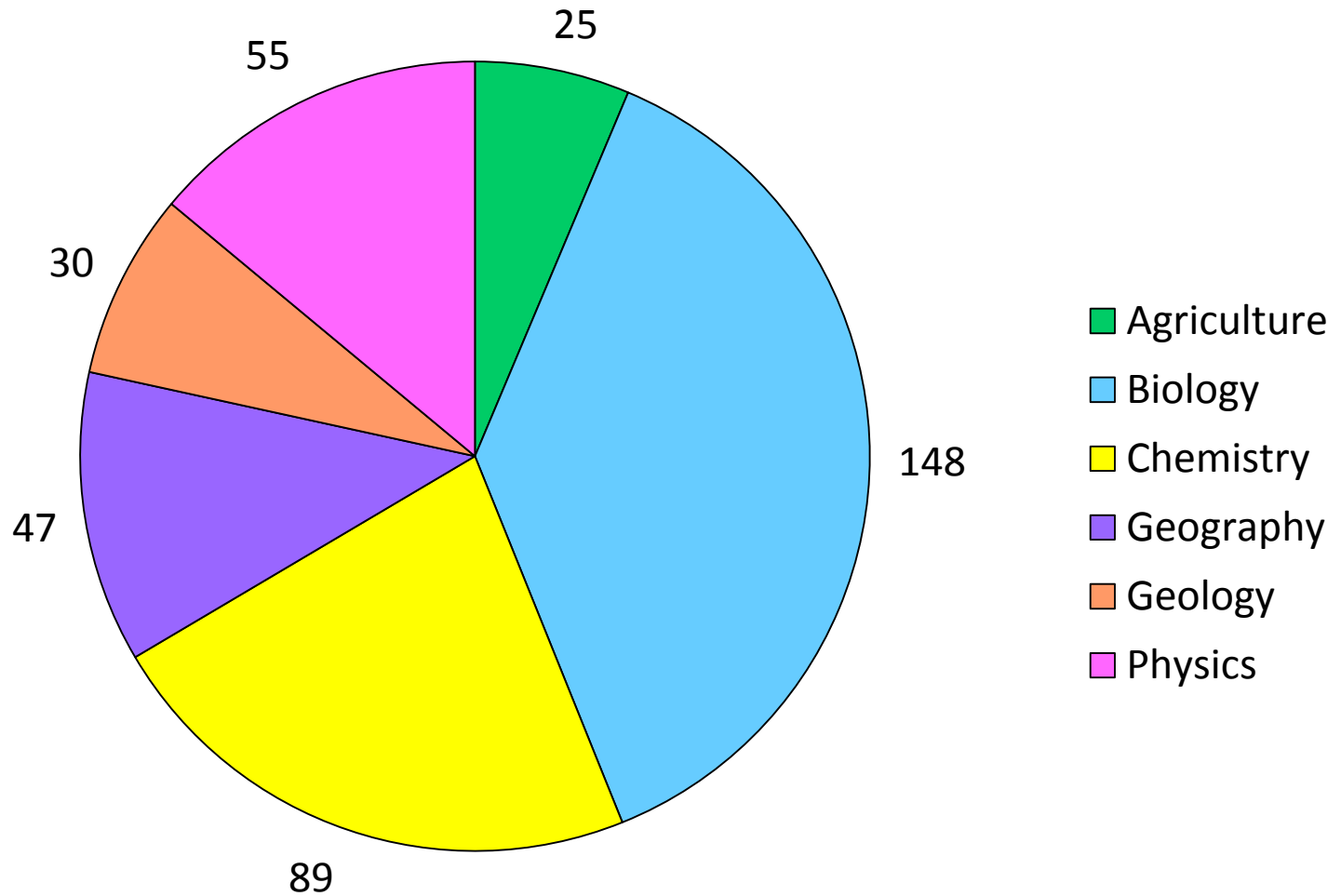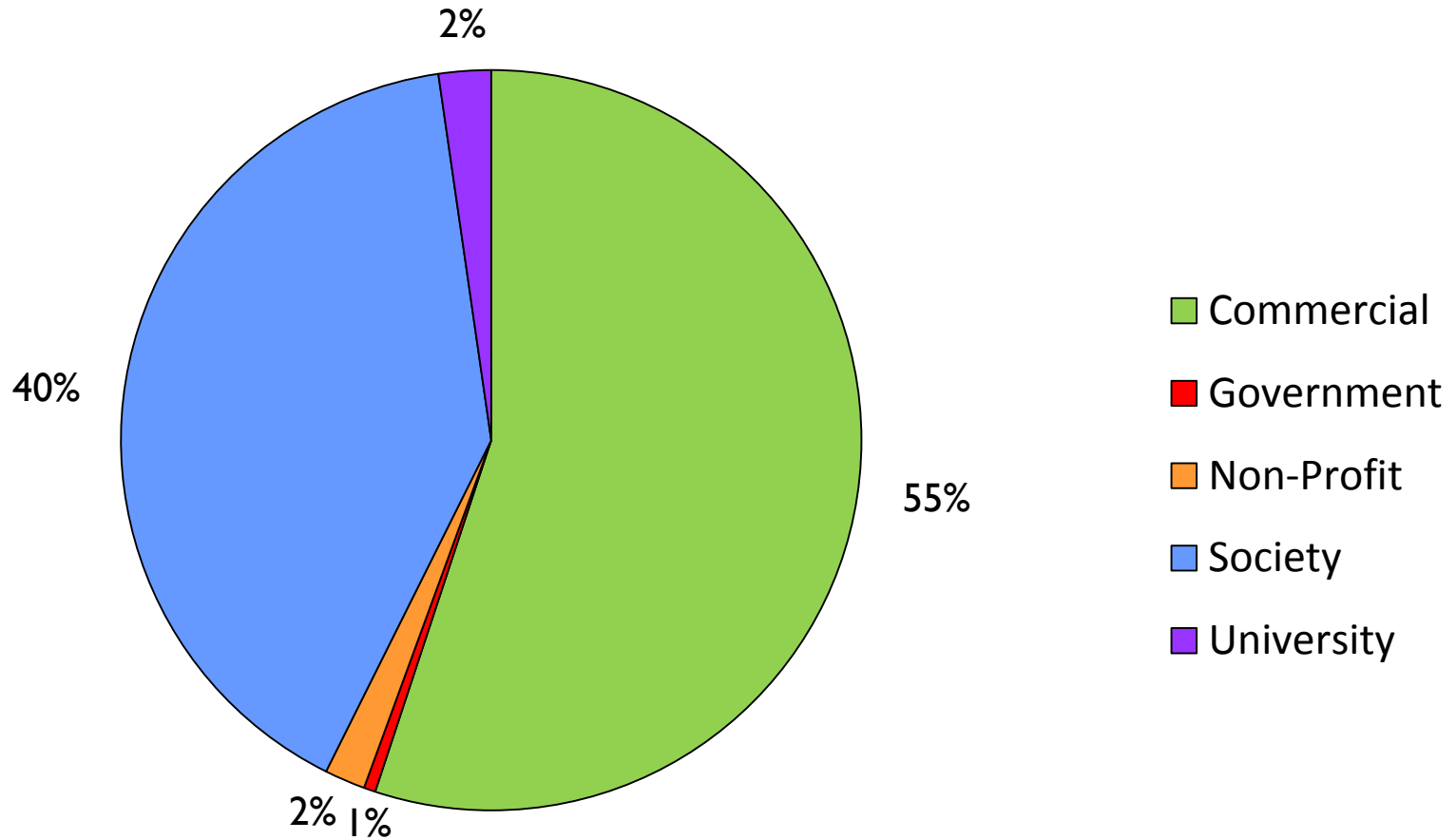- Available from individual publishers and other sources.

# Methods

- Collected titles & abstracts of articles written by science faculty at Western Illinois University.

- Total of 394 journal articles from 2003 to 2015.

- Searched each title and abstract in the journal matching systems.

- Identified whether the results matched the journal that published the article (Top Match; Top 5 Matches; Any Match).

- Summarized the data.

# Number of Articles by Subject

# Number of Articles by Publisher Type



- Commercial
- Government
- Non-Profit
- Society
- University

# Systems Tested

- Edanz Journal Selector

- Elsevier Journal Selector (only on Elsevier titles)

- EndNote Journal Matching

- Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE)

- Journal Guide

- Scientific Journal Finder

- Springer Journal Finder (only on Springer titles)

- ResearchGate – tested and dismissed (matches individual articles but does not give a list of journal titles that might publish on a topic).

# Results – Information Provided

| System | Links | Journals | Time | Rank? | Acceptance Rate | Publication Time | Fees |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Edanz | Yes | 28,547 | 5 yrs. (2013-17) | IF | No | No | No |
| Elsevier | Yes | 2,500 | 9 yrs. | IF | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| EndNote | Yes | 11,365 | 5 yrs. | IF; JCR Rank | No | No | No |
| JANE | No | 5,629 | 10 yrs. | Article Influence | No | No | No |
| Journal Guide | Yes | >40,000 | 10 yrs. 2005-15 | SNIP | No | If provided by publisher | No |
| Scientific Journal Finder | Yes | >30,000 | 10 yrs. 2003-13 | SJR | No | No | No |
| Springer | Yes | 2,900 | None | IF | Yes | Yes | No |

**IF** - Impact Factor       **JCR Rank** – Journal Citation Reports Rank
**SNIP** - Source Normalized Impact per Paper       **SJR** - SCImago Journal Rank
**Article Influence** - article citation frequency within 5 years of publication

# Results – Matches by System

| System | Top | Top 5 | Match | Total | % Match |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDANZ | 51 | 43 | 16 | 110 | 27.92% |
| EndNote (362) | 72 | 57 | 24 | 153 | 38.83% (42.27%) |
| JANE | 93 | 11 | 10 | 114 | 28.93% |
| Journal Guide | 42 | 49 | 30 | 121 | 30.71% |
| Scientific Journal Finder | 85 | 7 | 8 | 100 | 25.38% |
| Elsevier (71) | 11 | 20 | 13 | 44 | 61.97% |
| Springer (30) | 2 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 46.67% |

# Results – Matches by Subject

| System | Ag | Biol | Chem | Geog | Geol | Phys |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDANZ | 3 | 55 | 34 | 5 | 5 | 8 |
| Elsevier (71) | 2 | 7 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 4 |
| EndNote (362) | 15 | 58 | 33 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| JANE | 2 | 56 | 43 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| Journal Guide | 3 | 58 | 41 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| Scientific Journal Finder | 1 | 51 | 34 | 0 | 5 | 9 |
| Springer (30) | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

# Discussion

- Systems do not always match to journals that published the article.
- Systems provide different information about journals:
    - Impact factor or other ranking.
    - Links to journal home page.
    - Decision time or time to publication (from publishers).
- Some systems do better in certain subjects (Biology & Chemistry).
- Publishers' systems (Elsevier; Springer) direct users to their journals.
    - May have lower impact factors than the journal where an article was published.
    - Both provide acceptance rate and decision time.

# Discussion

- Elsevier matched articles about brood parasite birds to parasitology journals (brood parasites are birds that lay their eggs in other birds' nests).

- EndNote gives information from Journal Citation Reports (discipline & rank within a discipline) when results expanded.

# Questions?