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Dominance of leading business schools in top journals: Insights for increasing institutional representation

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ABSTRACT

The competitive push for business schools to publish in prestigious journals has resulted in a disproportionate number of papers in prestigious Management and Operations Research/Management Science (OR/MS) journals coming from a select group of institutions. Our analysis shows the Matthew effect of prestigious journals favors established schools with 51.2 % of papers in 18 Management ABS 4* journals and 61.3 % of papers in 3 OR/MS ABS 4* journals involving authors from the 100 top business schools identified by the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). Citation patterns are similarly concentrated among papers authored by scholars from UTD-listed business schools, with nearly 80 % of citations from 4* Management journals directed to equally rated 4* Management journals (67.8 % for 4* OR/MS journals). An initial regression analysis suggested a positive correlation between the percentage of papers in a journal attributed to authors affiliated with those leading business schools and journal citation performance. However, further examination using multi-level regression adjusted for journal prestige, using the ABS and FT50 lists, showed a negative interaction effect on citation rates for papers from these schools in prestigious OR/MS journals. This insightful finding was confirmed by a post-hoc comparison revealing no significant citation advantage in prestigious journals for papers from leading business schools over those from a broader range of institutions. Thus, while leading business schools benefit from disproportionate space in prestigious journals, this does not translate to a citation advantage for the journals themselves, indicating no Matthew effect at the journal level driven by these schools. We argue that our findings show a unique opportunity for prestigious journals and business schools to expand collaborations with institutions in geographies historically underrepresented without a significant impact on the citation performance of those journals. This inclusion would only benefit research excellence, as our results demonstrate convergence in citation rates, citation patterns on external research areas, and topics across both subsets of papers—from leading institutions and those from a broader institutional spectrum—published in prestigious journals, indicating that diversifying contributions does not compromise the performance of these journals.

1. Introduction

In 2002, Gioia and Corley cautioned the Management academia community on the perils of treating business schools as businesses—and not schools—focusing on image signaling as a primary strategy to enhance their prestige. They argued that rankings were pushing business schools to "game the system" through an emphasis on fulfilling the criteria of the rankings, to the detriment of business schools' vocational goals of knowledge generation and transfer.

Deans and professional staff have an intrinsic motivation to engage in this "academic arms race" (a term used by Enders, 2014) due to the role of rankings in attracting students (Han, 2014; Mårtensson and Richtnér, 2015). Faculty is not exempt from the effects of this race as they are extrinsically motivated by strategically aligned evaluation performance goals that have a direct impact on the research outcomes of their institutions, and a considerable influence on institutional rankings

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and business school rankings.

Faculty also have an intrinsic motivation to enter this academic arms race since their careers increasingly depend on research output (Miller et al., 2011; Osterloh and Frey, 2020). This is particularly accentuated in business schools where career promotions and prestige are highly dependent on publishing *only* in top-ranked journals (Aguinis et al., 2020; Heckman and Moktan, 2020). This reality has created a game of its own (Macdonald and Kam, 2007): competing for publication space in top-ranked journals (Card and DellaVigna, 2013; Certo et al., 2010).

Leading institutions and business schools make up a considerable proportion of papers published in prestigious journals (Babbar et al., 2020; Glick et al., 2007; Podsakoff et al., 2008). We posit that this pattern is driven by the Matthew effect, where both journals and institutions with established prestige gain additional attention (citations) and resources (grants), independently of their actual impact, and where "the rich get richer at a rate that makes the poor become relatively poorer" (Merton, 1968, p. 62). Prestigious journals benefit from their reputation (Drivas and Kremmydas, 2020; Larivière and Gingras, 2010), attracting more citations and therefore attention from academics at prestigious institutions. Together, this may create a reinforcing loop: prestigious institutions publish in prestigious journals, further enhancing the prestige of both and consolidating their influence—and disproportionate representation—in the academic field.

While this state of affairs benefits researchers associated with business schools in their career advancement and prestige, it does not necessarily imply that this environment advances the outcomes of academic journals, despite the fact that this arms race makes prestigious journals a much more desirable target for publication. Limiting the diversity of contributing institutions to a select group of journals might affect the variety of content and perspectives in these publications (Aguinis et al., 2020), owing to the epistemic and disciplinary homogeneity among faculty at leading institutions (Corsi et al., 2019; Demeter and Toth, 2020; Rasche, 2014). Furthermore, research published in prestigious journals risks being myopic to current developments within their disciplinary fields, as the relatively small circle of contributors from top business schools would not be able—or even encouraged (Shapiro, 2017)—to consider a broader range of scientific sources, which ultimately could influence the relevance and real impact of research published in top journals by leading business schools, a concern that has occupied many pages in the Management literature (Adler and Harzing, 2009; Aguinis et al., 2012; Pettigrew and Starkey, 2016; Pfeffer and Fong, 2002; Sadler-Smith and Cojuharenco, 2020).

Therefore, given the additional space that prestigious journals allocate to papers from leading business schools, this paper aims to assess whether the prevailing publishing practices among these schools—reflecting a reinforcing loop of prestige in publication outputs driven by the Matthew effect—contribute positively to the overall impact of prestigious journals. We use the UT Dallas Worldwide Rankings (Naveen Jindal School of Management, 2021) and the QS Global MBA rankings (Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, 2024) lists to identify leading business schools. We identify the documents published by the business schools listed in these two *business schools'* rankings within a representative sample of journals in the fields of Management and Operations Research & Management Science (OR/MS). These fields, where business schools are very active, are known for their significant interchange of knowledge (Meredith and Pilkington, 2018; Pieters and Baumgartner, 2002). By comparing the performance of each journal separately for papers authored by scholars from leading business schools versus those authored by scholars outside these schools, we can assess the influence that largely publishing research from a select group of business schools has on journal outcomes. This design also allows us to investigate whether the Matthew effect at the journal level is compounded by the Matthew effect caused by prestigious business schools, as previous research has sparsely explored this phenomenon, focusing only on economics departments from a few elite universities (Medoff, 2006).

Furthermore, our research studies whether a disproportionate representation of leading business schools in prestigious journals could have an impact on the diversity of sources cited and topics covered in journals. In doing so, this investigation seeks to discover whether the prominence of business school rankings—and their influence on the publication targets of faculty in leading business schools—deters scholars from considering research that goes beyond the conventional boundaries of their disciplines. By examining this phenomenon, we aim to contribute to the ongoing debate on the role of rankings in shaping the research landscape, questioning whether the current status quo where leading business schools have an entrenched influence in prestigious journals serves the best interests of academic scholarship and its capacity for developing "*interesting, important, and impactful*" (Cachon et al., 2020) research.

This document is organized as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of research related to the topic at hand. Section 3 explains the methodology while Section 4 describes the aggregate statistics of our sample. Section 5 presents the results of our investigation, along with a discussion of such results. Finally, Section 6 discusses the policy implications of our results, whereas Section 7 presents the conclusions, limitations, and future research.

2. Related literature

Results regarding the focused targeting of leading business schools on prestigious Management and OR/MS journals are mainly related to understanding the proportion of papers published by a limited set of institutions in some academic journals. For instance, Glick et al. (2007) mention that only five of the top business schools authored 16.62 % of the papers published in five top organization science journals over a span of 20 years, whereas 5 % of the universities considered by Podsakoff et al. (2008) accounted for 72 % of the total citations received by a set of 30 highly influential Management journals. Considering a more heterogeneous sample of 20 leading business research journals, Trieschmann et al. (2000) found that 25.5 % of the total pages published in those journals could be attributed to the 25 most prolific universities, whereas 87.2 % of the pages published by those journals were authored by 100 institutions. Babbar et al. (2020) show that this concentration of papers authored by leading institutions is also prevalent in the Operations Management (OM) field, a subject area where business schools are also very active. They found that 71.8 % of the papers published by four highly-ranked OM journals were authored by 100 of the most prolific institutions. Similarly, Koufteros et al. (2021) reported that 51 of the most prolific universities contributed to 57 % of the weighted number of publications in these four highly-ranked OM journals.

The factors leading to this current state of affairs have been thoroughly examined in studies exploring the influence of institutional and journal rankings on business schools (Hommel and Thomas, 2014) and, to a lesser extent, in the line of research discussing the relevance and impact of business schools (Redgrave et al., 2023). Despite thorough research on rankings, influence, relevance, and impact, the foundational aspects of these patterns remain unclear. We propose that a key concept explaining these dynamics is the Matthew effect, which posits that prestige attracts more recognition and resources, regardless of the intrinsic quality of work. This effect may play a pivotal role at both the institutional and journal levels, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of influence (Larivière and Gingras, 2010; Merton, 1968), with publishing in prestigious journals becoming the 'new bottom line' for measuring scholars (Aguinis et al., 2020), partly due to incentives to increase institutional standing in the rankings (Besancenot and Vranceanu, 2008). Additionally, there is a prevailing belief that papers published in prestigious journals inherently possess higher quality simply because of the venue (Hussain, 2013; Osterloh and Frey, 2020). Scholars are thus incentivized to publish in such journals, not only for career advancement (Dennis et al., 2006) and to capitalize on the positive citation effects due to the Matthew effect (Drivas and Kremmydas, 2020; Larivière and Gingras, 2010), but also to signal their own reputation and research

quality to other stakeholders outside their own departments and institutions (Besancenot et al., 2009). This dynamic reinforces institutional reputation, with prestigious institutions attracting more visibility and citations (Medoff, 2006), while individual scholars with established reputations secure more funding and citations (Abramo et al., 2023; Bol et al., 2018; Costas et al., 2009; Katchanov et al., 2023; Qiu, 2023).

As many scholars focus their attention on publishing in prestigious journals, the number of academic sources that are consulted would be reduced because only papers published in top journals would be deemed worthy of being cited (Shapiro, 2017). This can result in a reduction of the range of cited sources. In this regard, previous research has consistently found that a narrower range of cited research areas, i.e., lower disciplinary diversity, might lead to higher citation performance for research institutions/units (Hackett et al., 2021; Rafols et al., 2012), papers (Antons et al., 2019; Fontana et al., 2022; Yegros-Yegros et al., 2015), and individual careers (Corsi et al., 2019). Therefore, a concentration of publications from a select group of institutions might indirectly boost a journal's citation performance due to this reduced source diversity. However, challenging this notion, Vogel et al. (2017) found that a paper's disciplinary diversity positively correlates with journal rankings across various rating scales. Their study also revealed significant positive links between journal rank and both the institutional reputation of authors, as indicated by the Times Higher Education (THE, 2023) ranking, and their institutional diversity.

For the interested reader, Vogel et al. (2017) offer a detailed summary of factors influencing citation performance at the paper level, drawing from extensive research in this area. For instance, Judge et al. (2007) identified that the number of references cited and the longitudinal design of a paper as well as the journal citation rate and its subjective prestige were all factors influencing the citation performance of papers published in 21 Management journals. Mingers and Xu's (2010) results including papers from six management science journals published in 1990 suggest that paper citations are mainly driven by the journal in which the paper is published, whereas factors such as paper length, number of references, the prestige of the first author's affiliation, and whether a document was a review paper were also important in determining the number of citations of a paper. Similar conclusions about the key factors influencing citation performance (such as paper length, number of authors, number of references) were supported by more recent studies across various fields (see, e.g., Abramo et al., 2024; Kousha and Thelwall, 2024; Mammola et al., 2022; Meyer et al., 2018).

Following the results from previous studies that were concerned with understanding what influences citation performance at the level of document, institution, and researchers, here we focus on understanding the influence of the disproportionate representation of a small number of business schools on journal performance. We assess the journals in terms of number of citations, the diversity of institutions they include, the diversity of references that they cite within their own field of research, and the diversity of research areas that they cite.

3. Methods

3.1. Study approach

In this study, we consider journals as the primary unit of analysis, recognizing them as the main vehicles for disseminating knowledge (Meredith et al., 2011), and "competing" to publish the most relevant research for their target audience and editorial scope. We consider journals as autonomous entities responsible for curating knowledge through their editorial processes. Still, their identity and relevance are closely tied to the papers they publish and the authors who contribute, suggesting that journals reflect the characteristics of their constituent research and scholars. Consequently, we assess journal performance using standard bibliometric information from published papers.

Building on prior research (Liu et al., 2012; Lumineau et al., 2021; Rafols and Meyer, 2010), we apply Stirling's (2007) framework for assessing diversity in science, chosen for the straightforwardness of its calculations and the clarity of its interpretations. Our study employs three diversity indicators, detailed in Table 1: Variety, Shannon Evenness, and Average Dissimilarity. These indicators allow us to explore how diversity aspects influence journal performance and examine the representational differences between leading business schools and journals across various dimensions. More details about how these indicators were calculated can be found in section 3.3.2.

To analyze these associations, we initially employ ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, adhering to standard practices in similar studies. To further study the impact of publishing targets from highly-ranked business schools on journals, we conduct a regression analysis with random effects, considering repeated measurements through the Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) estimation approach, as implemented in the *nlme* package for R (Pinheiro et al., 2021). All statistical analyses are performed using R, version 4.3.2. Given the significant knowledge exchange but distinct methodological, stylistic, and outreach particularities between Management and OR/MS journals, our analyses are carried out separately for each journal category.

3.2. Data source and pre-processing

For this study, we use data from the Web of Science (WoS) (Clarivate Analytics, 2024). We include all documents indexed in the WoS in 2020, written in English, and published between 2010 and 2019 from journals classified as "Management" or "Operations Research and Management Science" subject categories in the WoS. This database is commonly used in research evaluation (Bartol et al., 2014; Bordons et al., 2002; Ossenblok et al., 2012; Rijcke et al., 2015). The collection of data was done in February (OR/MS journals) and August (Management) 2020. WoS data contains document information regarding the journal, year of publication, authors, authors' affiliations (department, institution and country), number of citations received, and list of references. Information regarding title and author keywords per document was also collected to be able to perform topic modeling.

Due to the low number of documents published by some journals included in the WoS list, the journal-category matrices (journals in rows, categories in columns) for some journals were highly sparse. Thus, to reduce sparsity and produce more relevant and concise results, we included Management journals with >180 documents, while OR/MS journals with >150 documents were considered, resulting in 184 (out of 265) Management journals and 81 (out of 86 listed in WoS) OR/MS journals. This accounted for just over 98 % of the total documents indexed in WoS in the OR/MS subject area in the 2010–2019 period and nearly 89 % of documents for Management. The list of the journals included in the study is presented in Table A1 for Management and Table A2 for OR/MS, in Appendix A. It is worth noting that because some journals are classified in both Management and OR/MS subject areas, these journals might have different indicator values when making calculations for the different subject areas as they are compared with a different set of journals.

Table 1
Journal diversity indicators and how they are used.

Indicator	Question answered by the indicator	Formula
Variety	How many categories there are in a journal?	n
Shannon *evenness*	How evenly are the categories represented in a journal?	$-\frac{1}{ln(n)}\sum_i p_i ln p_i$
Average *dissimilarity*	How different the journal is from all the others in the field?	$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i,j} d_{i,j}$

* Legend: n represents the number of categories, p_i is the proportion attributed to a category in a journal, and d_{ij} is the distance between two journals. Distances are calculated using Salton's cosine measure (Ahlgren et al., 2003).

3.3. Variables included in the study

3.3.1. Dependent variables

Journal citation performance is a key factor in research evaluation (Waltman, 2016) and it has been argued that it depicts scientific relevance and impact (Aksnes et al., 2019; Ashford, 2013). It has also been shown to correlate (Vogel et al., 2017) with subjective lists developed by experts to rank the journals according to their quality. Therefore, we use citation performance as the main variable representing journal performance. We tally the total number of citations garnered by the papers in a journal and divide this summation by the total number of documents from a journal within our database to compute the average number of citations per paper in a journal (*citesperdoc*). This variable is used as the main response factor in our analyses. We also include in our preliminary analysis the Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics, 2019) 2020 Impact Factor (IF) and Article Influence Score (AIS) to account for journal citation performance. AIS is a measurement that is also related to the influence of a journal within and outside its own research field because it measures citation impact giving more weight to citations coming from highly-cited journals. We consider the 2020 data because of its direct proximity to the last year of publication that we consider in our database (2019).

3.3.2. Independent variables

3.3.2.1. Affiliation-related variables. Since we are interested in identifying how the publishing targets of a selected group of business schools influence journal performance, we first determined their representation in Management and OR/MS journals. To identify a set of prestigious business schools, we used two rankings that use business schools as the unit of analysis: the University of Texas at Dallas 2016 to 2020 Worldwide Rankings (UTD) (Naveen Jindal School of Management, 2021) list and the QS Global MBA rankings (QS) (Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, 2024). We utilized two rankings to avoid dependence on a single assessment metric. While we are aware of other institutional rankings that consider other, more comprehensive criteria (see, e.g., Ryazanova et al., 2017), those rankings focus on the overall university level and not at the business school level of analysis we consider here. The UTD ranking was chosen for its focus on institutional productivity within a curated list of highly regarded Management and OR/MS journals across many rankings (Harzing, 2016), which we believe accurately reflects the publishing aspirations of leading business schools. To complement UTD's productivity approach, we employ the QS ranking, which draws on three distinct surveys that gather insights from various stakeholders of business schools (Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, 2024). From the QS ranking we select the highest 100 ranked business schools to account for a representative sample and align with the number of business schools in the UTD list.

After compiling the lists, we identified the terms that were typically used in the WoS database (see Tables A3 and A4 in Appendix A) to identify these ranked business schools and carried out a text mining analysis (using the *quanteda* package for R (Benoit et al., 2018)). This analysis enabled us to label documents authored by faculty from these schools as IUTD = YES (indicating inclusion in the UTD list—or IQS = YES, for the first 100 business schools in the QS list), with all other documents marked as IUTD = NO (IQS = NO). It is worth noting that if a document is authored by an academic affiliated with a host institution from a ranked business school, but the list of affiliations does not include the ranked business school, then this document is classified as IUTD = NO (IQS = NO). This classification facilitated the calculation of the percentage of papers in a journal authored by scholars affiliated with UTD-listed or QS-listed business schools (*percentIUTD* or *percentIQS*).

In addition to *percentIUTD* (*percentIQS*), we also measured affiliation diversity at the level of institution to assess whether a wider net of collaborating institutions represented in a journal could have an impact on its performance. For this analysis, we included institutions with at least 3 published documents to reduce matrix sparsity and computational burden. This resulted in a dataset of 5084 institutions for Management and 4918 for OR/MS which allowed us to calculate the number of institutions represented within a journal (*nInst*), the evenness of that representation (*evennessInst*), as well as the dissimilarity of institutions represented within a journal when compared with all the other journals in its field (*dissimilarityInst*).

Thus, for each document, we identified the affiliations listed for the authors and aggregated them at the journal level, determining how often each institution appeared in the published documents of a journal. This created a matrix with journals as rows and institutions as columns, i.e., the journal-institutions matrix, where the entries represent the frequency of each institution represented in a journal. The number of distinct institutions represented in a journal is denoted as *nInst*. Using the journal-institutions matrix as input, *evennessInst* was calculated using Shannon's evenness calculation (see the formula in Table 1) by determining the proportion of each institution's occurrence within a journal. To calculate *dissimilarityInst*, we applied Salton's cosine distance (Ahlgren et al., 2003) using the journal-institutions matrix. For documents authored by scholars affiliated to business schools in the UTD and QS lists, we considered their host institution in *nInst*, *evennessInst*, and *dissimilarityInst* calculations, so that their documents were not counted twice. Based on the country in which those institutions are located, we also identified the representation of countries per journal to build the journal-countries matrices (one for Management, one for OR/MS). The calculations for the country indicators *nCountries*, *evennessCountries*, and *dissimilarityCountries*, were performed in the same manner as for the institutions, using the journal-countries matrices.

3.3.2.2. Reference-related variables. To account for the disciplinary and network diversity of a journal, we built the journal-references matrices, capturing how frequently documents published by a journal referenced other journals within the same subject area, as previous studies have done (Fontana et al., 2022; Hackett et al., 2021; Rafols et al., 2012). This was done through a text-mining process where we identified the journal names in the reference list of every document. Similarly, using the entire reference lists from journal documents, we tracked how often they cited journals from any subject area and aggregated these references by subject area to build journal-areas matrices. We also wanted to understand whether this current state of disproportionate representation of leading business schools in prestigious Management and OR/MS journals was influencing the diversity of topics published in the journals while ultimately affecting the performance of a journal. To extract the topics from the documents, we used topic modeling based on Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) (Deerwester et al., 1990; Kulkarni et al., 2014) to algorithmically identify the *topics* of the papers included in this sample (see section A.1 in Appendix A for a more extensive explanation on this method and the extracted topics), as previous studies have done (Hackett et al., 2021; Romero-Silva and de Leeuw, 2021). After conducting the topic modeling, we then built the journal-topics matrices. For these three variables (References, Areas, and Topics) we also calculated Variety, Evenness, and Dissimilarity values for each journal.

3.3.2.3. Journal attributes. We also include the size of the journal represented by the number of documents (*docs*) published between 2010 and 2019 to control for the influence that a journal's reach and visibility could have on the citation performance of a journal. Since long-standing journals could also have an advantage in terms of visibility, we control for the first year of publication of a journal (*firstYear*) to consider the age of the journal. To account for the coupling between institutional prestige and journal prestige, we use two qualitative approaches to represent journal prestige: the FT50 list, employed by the Financial Times to evaluate the research performance of business schools offering MBAs (Financial Times, 2016), and the 2021 Academic Journal Guide (the ABS

list) from the Chartered Association of Business Schools from the UK (Chartered Association of Business Schools, 2021). Similar to our approach to identifying prestigious business schools, we selected two rankings to reduce reliance on a single metric. Journals included in the FT50 list were assigned a value of FT50 = YES; otherwise, a value of FT50 = NO. For the ABS classification, we assigned values from 0 to 5 to each journal, 5 representing an ABS classification of 4*, 4 representing a 4, and so on, whereas a 0 represents a journal not included in the ABS classification. Journal rankings can be found in Tables A1 and A2 of Appendix A.

3.3.2.4. Document attributes. Previous research has consistently found, for various research areas (Fox et al., 2016; Haustein et al., 2015; Meyer et al., 2018; Mingers and Xu, 2010), that the length of the paper, the number of authors, and the number of references are very influential in the citations that those documents garner. Therefore, we collected data from all the papers in a journal regarding these three variables and calculated the average *length*, the average number of *authors*, and the average number of references (*refperdoc*) in the papers published by a journal to be able to account for the influence of those variables in the citation performance of a journal.

4. Descriptive statistics and correlations

Unsurprisingly, the sample of journals included in this study shows that leading business schools comprise a large proportion of the papers published in highly ranked journals (see Table 2), illustrating the impact that current publishing targets of leading business schools have on the configuration of Management and OR/MS fields. As shown in Table 2, 51.2 % of papers in 18 Management ABS 4* journals (45.5 % of 27 FT50 Management journals) feature at least one author from UTD-listed business schools. This trend is even more pronounced in OR/MS, where 61.3 % of papers in 3 ABS 4* journals (64.3 % 5 FT50 journals) include such authors. In contrast, non-ranked journals show a much lower representation of leading business schools, with only 1.2 % for OR/MS papers and 5.0 % of Management papers in non-ABS-ranked journals (4.6 % of OR/MS papers in non-FT50 journals and 9.1 % for Management) authored by UTD business school affiliates. The disparity between journal outcomes is also illustrated in Table 3, where we can see the big range of values for *percentIUTD* (also *percentIQS*).

Building the journal-references matrices enabled us to identify differences in journal citation patterns between papers authored by UTD business schools and those from other institutions, as shown in Table 4. This table displays the distribution of citations given to journals across different ABS rankings, with the data divided into two sets: papers authored by UTD business schools and papers authored by non-UTD institutions. Each row totals 100 %, representing the percentage of citations originating from journals with a particular ABS ranking and showing how those citations are distributed across journals with varying ABS rankings, represented in the columns. Self-citations are also represented, showing the percentage of citations that come from the same journal.

From Table 4, we can see that, across all ABS rankings and IUTD values, Management journals cite much more often 4* journals than OR/MS journals. On the other hand, OR/MS journals, especially those not ranked as 4*, tend to cite ABS 3 journals more often, particularly in the subset of non-UTD documents. UTD business school papers show a stronger tendency to cite ABS 4* journals compared to non-UTD papers. This is especially evident in Management, where nearly 80 % of citations from 4* journals refer to other 4* journals. The stark contrast between the citation patterns of UTD business schools and other institutions is clearly shown in the OR/MS data with 67.8 % of citations from 4* OR/MS journals going to 4* OR/MS journals, and 47.8 % being self-citations, compared to 55.6 % and 39.3 %, respectively, for non-UTD institutions. These patterns are also reflected when using the FT50 list as a prestige indicator, though the details are omitted here for conciseness.

These results suggest that UTD business schools not only prioritize publishing in prestigious journals, as shown in Table 2, but also heavily cite work from prestigious journals, particularly when publishing in such outlets themselves. Interestingly, Table 4 shows that the self-citation rate (citations to the same journal) is higher for 4* journals than for those ranked lower on the ABS scale, a pattern that is especially pronounced in papers authored by scholars from UTD business schools.

Table 2
Number of papers classified by ranked affiliation (IUTD or IQS) and ranked journal (ABS or FT50) and proportion of those papers coming from ranked business schools.

			Business school prestige ranking	IUTD (group papers based on author(s) affiliation with a UTD-listed business school)			IQS (group papers based on author(s) affiliation with a top 100 QS-listed business school)		
Research area	Journal prestige ranking	No. of journals according to journal rank	Value in the ranking	NO	YES	% YES	NO	YES	% YES
Management	ABS (group papers based on ABS journal rank)	13	Not in ABS	4285	225	5.0 %	4287	223	4.9 %
		24	1	7543	317	4.0 %	7480	380	4.8 %
		64	2	23,369	1338	5.4 %	22,975	1732	7.0 %
		44	3	19,132	3386	15.0 %	18,777	3741	16.6 %
		21	4	8273	2465	23.0 %	8313	2425	22.6 %
		18	4*	5947	6241	51.2 %	6435	5753	47.2 %
	FT50 (group papers based on journal included in the FT50)	157	NO	60,550	6056	9.1 %	59,795	6811	10.2 %
		27	YES	9699	8101	45.5 %	10,146	7654	43.0 %
OR/MS	ABS	22	Not in ABS	16,793	209	1.2 %	16,826	176	1.0 %
		17	1	17,014	253	1.5 %	17,053	214	1.2 %
		14	2	7548	381	4.8 %	7597	332	4.2 %
		21	3	25,405	2172	7.9 %	25,527	2050	7.4 %
		4	4	8304	1642	16.5 %	8477	1469	14.8 %
		3	4*	1299	2083	61.6 %	1452	1930	57.1 %
	FT50	76	NO	74,606	3570	4.6 %	74,933	3243	4.1 %
		5	YES	1757	3170	64.3 %	1999	2928	59.4 %

Table 3
Summary statistics of the journals considered in this study.

	Management				OR/MS			
Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
ABS	2.489	1.326	0.000	5.000	1.716	1.425	0.000	5.000
FT50	−0.707	0.710	−1.000	1.000	−0.877	0.484	−1.000	1.000
percentIUTD	0.156	0.185	0.000	0.770	0.084	0.156	0.000	0.767
percentIQS	0.161	0.168	0.000	0.755	0.076	0.143	0.000	0.729
docs	448	306	164	1965	1026	1313	175	8813
citesperdoc	19.102	15.464	1.977	90.734	10.023	7.653	1.917	51.475
refperdoc	67.273	23.310	0.045	212.988	36.296	11.569	15.837	89.189
length	17.237	5.689	3.090	44.509	15.907	5.050	4.223	26.976
authors	2.860	0.393	1.557	4.622	3.127	0.365	2.426	4.622
firstYear	1987	16	1917	2015	1986	15	1953	2017
nCountries	46	13	15	81	56	16	27	99
nInst	359	170	79	1009	535	394	139	2166
nRef*	127	29	0	175	66	11	37	82
nTopics	74	32	18	190	82	35	21	168
nAreas*	157	22	0	207	163	29	90	210
evennessCountries	0.529	0.125	0.149	0.735	0.567	0.110	0.090	0.689
evennessInst	0.625	0.055	0.429	0.751	0.652	0.068	0.492	0.805
evennessRef	0.613	0.106	0.000	0.801	0.581	0.080	0.250	0.701
evennessTopics	0.678	0.104	0.339	0.915	0.716	0.110	0.475	0.908
evennessAreas	0.512	0.078	0.000	0.760	0.558	0.067	0.418	0.715
dissimilarityCountries	0.360	0.123	0.217	0.910	0.355	0.118	0.206	0.841
dissimilarityInst	0.835	0.044	0.745	0.959	0.773	0.061	0.623	0.949
dissimilarityRef	0.719	0.121	0.505	1.000	0.483	0.181	0.299	0.932
dissimilarityTopics	0.842	0.053	0.686	0.962	0.783	0.075	0.619	0.918
dissimilarityAreas	0.275	0.133	0.160	0.962	0.361	0.129	0.213	0.729
IF	4.900	2.848	0.409	16.438	3.245	2.090	0.782	8.633
AIS	1.514	1.635	0.173	11.791	0.936	0.725	0.156	4.062

* HARVARD BUS REV documents do not include a reference section.

Table 4
Distribution of citations by ABS Ranking for the UTD and non-UTD subset of papers across Journals with different ABS rankings.

Research area	IUTD	From\To	Not in ABS	1	2	3	4	4*	Self-citations
Management	YES	Not in ABS	9.4 %	0.8 %	5.9 %	10.7 %	24.6 %	48.6 %	8.6 %
		1	1.3 %	12.7 %	8.1 %	17.7 %	14.1 %	46.1 %	11.7 %
		2	0.9 %	1.3 %	14.7 %	16.6 %	15.2 %	51.3 %	9.8 %
		3	0.6 %	0.7 %	3.6 %	24.1 %	12.9 %	58.0 %	11.7 %
		4	0.6 %	0.4 %	3.0 %	10.4 %	26.1 %	59.6 %	14.1 %
		4*	0.3 %	0.2 %	1.8 %	7.6 %	10.4 %	79.7 %	24.1 %
	NO	Not in ABS	23.7 %	2.0 %	9.5 %	13.0 %	17.4 %	34.3 %	22.3 %
		1	1.3 %	14.8 %	13.1 %	20.2 %	16.1 %	34.5 %	12.3 %
		2	1.1 %	2.1 %	20.9 %	18.5 %	15.2 %	42.2 %	12.8 %
		3	0.8 %	1.3 %	5.9 %	30.5 %	14.5 %	46.9 %	15.8 %
		4	0.9 %	1.0 %	4.5 %	12.1 %	31.4 %	50.1 %	18.4 %
		4*	0.5 %	0.2 %	3.3 %	9.3 %	13.2 %	73.5 %	22.9 %
OR/MS	YES	Not in ABS	16.1 %	5.0 %	5.6 %	29.8 %	21.7 %	21.7 %	14.5 %
		1	2.9 %	14.2 %	4.7 %	34.4 %	22.2 %	21.5 %	12.2 %
		2	2.7 %	3.0 %	18.1 %	26.6 %	19.7 %	30.0 %	13.0 %
		3	1.6 %	2.0 %	3.8 %	41.4 %	19.0 %	32.2 %	19.5 %
		4	1.4 %	1.4 %	3.5 %	25.2 %	31.9 %	36.7 %	24.6 %
		4*	1.0 %	0.4 %	3.1 %	16.5 %	11.1 %	67.8 %	47.8 %
	NO	Not in ABS	42.5 %	6.8 %	4.6 %	25.4 %	14.1 %	6.5 %	35.2 %
		1	6.0 %	31.3 %	5.0 %	31.7 %	18.9 %	7.2 %	27.2 %
		2	4.4 %	5.8 %	24.5 %	32.5 %	21.6 %	11.1 %	19.7 %
		3	3.2 %	4.6 %	4.4 %	52.8 %	20.9 %	14.2 %	26.4 %
		4	2.9 %	3.2 %	5.1 %	31.6 %	41.5 %	15.7 %	35.9 %
		4*	2.1 %	1.1 %	5.2 %	20.4 %	15.5 %	55.6 %	39.3 %

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 depict the correlation coefficients for the study's variables related to Management and OR/MS journals, respectively. Exact correlation coefficients and their corresponding *p*-values are available in Appendix B. These figures offer a preliminary understanding of how journal citation performance (*citesperdoc*, IF, and AIS) is correlated with many diversity dimensions. They also show that the size of the journal (*docs*) is a determinant of many of the journal's characteristics. Correlation coefficients show an almost perfect correlation (above 0.97) between *percentIUTD* and *percentIQS*, largely due to the significant overlap between the two lists. Specifically, 67 business schools from the UTD list are also in the top 100 QS list, while 68 from the QS top 100 appear in the UTD list. We take into consideration these structural relationships to inform the specification of the models that we present here.

5. Results and discussion

A preliminary OLS regression analysis at the journal level revealed a consistently significant positive relationship between *percentIUTD* (also *percentIQS*) and *citesperdoc*, IF, and AIS across different models (see Appendix C), suggesting a consistent association between having a big proportion of contributions from leading business schools and journal

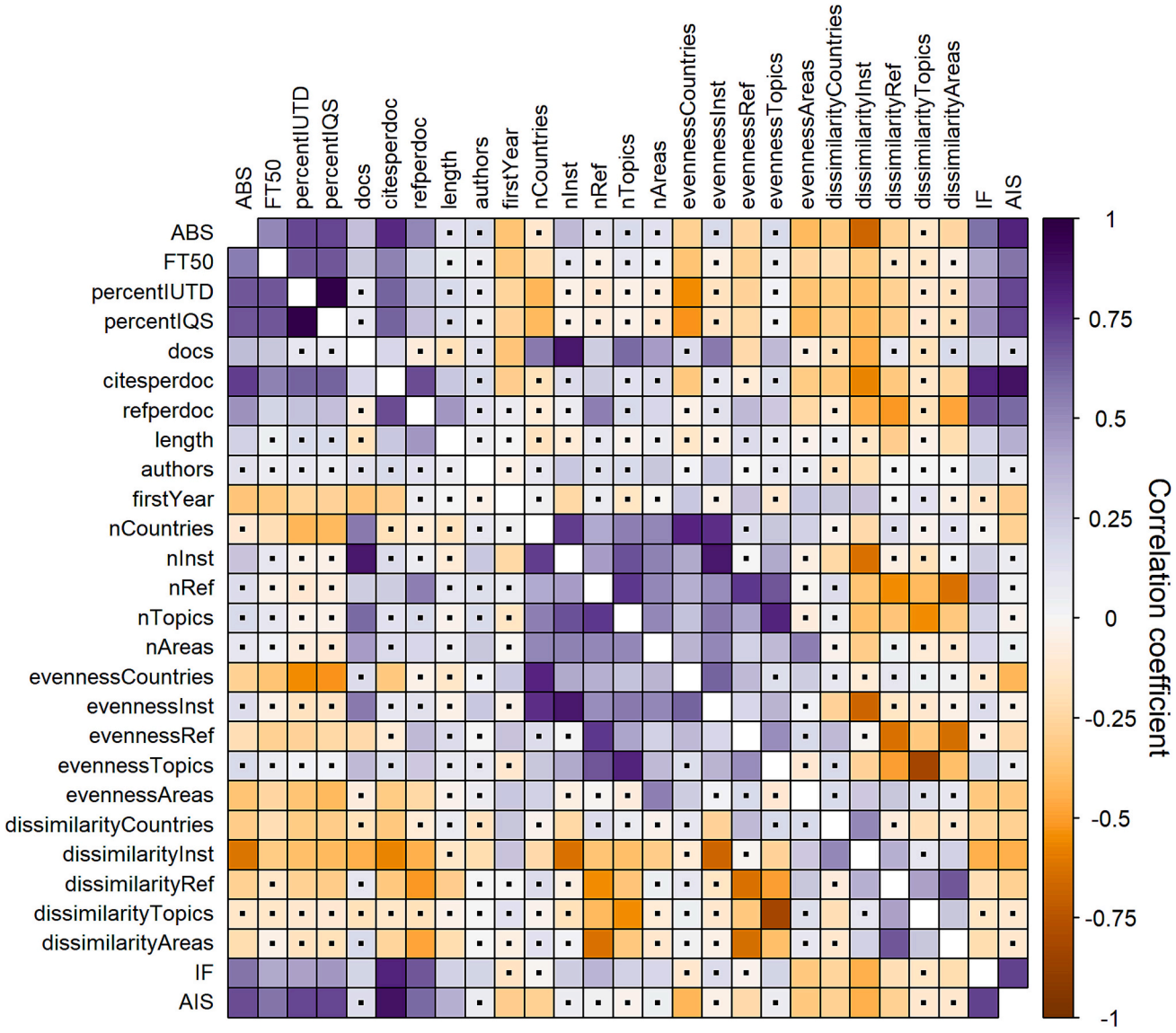

Fig. 1. Correlation coefficients for Management journals (■ shows correlation coefficients with *p*-values higher than 0.01).

citation performance. From this result one might conclude that a significant proportion of papers from highly ranked business schools positively influences a journal's citation metrics, attributed to the superior quality of their research. However, given that prior studies have identified a citation advantage for papers published in prestigious journals (Drivas and Kremmydas, 2020; Judge et al., 2007; Starbuck, 2005), i.e., the Matthew effect for journals, one could argue that the observed association between *percentIUTD* (*percentIQS*) and *citesperdoc* is caused by the tendency of scholars at highly ranked business schools to publish predominantly in a select group of high-impact journals. This scenario suggests that business schools may benefit from a citation advantage by targeting these journals, rather than the advantage being gained by the own contribution of the papers authored by scholars from leading business schools.

To investigate this question, we conducted an analysis at the journal level comparing the set of papers authored by highly ranked business schools against all the other papers published in each journal. This allowed us to compare vis-à-vis each set of papers at the level of each journal. We present the results of such a comparison in the next subsection. Given the significant overlap between the top 100 QS list and the UTD list, the high correlation between *percentIUTD* and *percentIQS*, and the greater representation of UTD-listed business schools in highly ranked journals (as shown in Table 2), we selected the UTD list for the remaining analyses since both lists are largely equivalent.

5.1. *Regression analysis with repeated measurements (multi-level analysis)*

To carry out this comparison, we recalculated the key variables for two distinct groups of papers within each journal: those authored by institutions listed in the UTD (IUTD = YES) and those not (IUTD = NO). Consequently, each journal had two data points per variable, except for the journal rankings ABS and FT50, which remained constant across both sets. We employed these recalculated variables in a multi-level regression analysis to examine *citesperdoc*, adopting a random effects model for the journals. This method aligns with the multi-level analytical framework used in prior studies (De Stefano and Montes-Sancho, 2023; Laik and Mirchandani, 2023), recognized for its reliable and conservative estimation of fixed effects coefficients (Bell et al., 2019), particularly taking into account that estimating the journal-specific coefficients was not the primary focus of this study. Although we also explored a fixed effects model for journals, it yielded similar coefficient estimates for our variables of interest. We did not develop models for IF and AIS in the multi-level analysis, as these metrics have been calculated

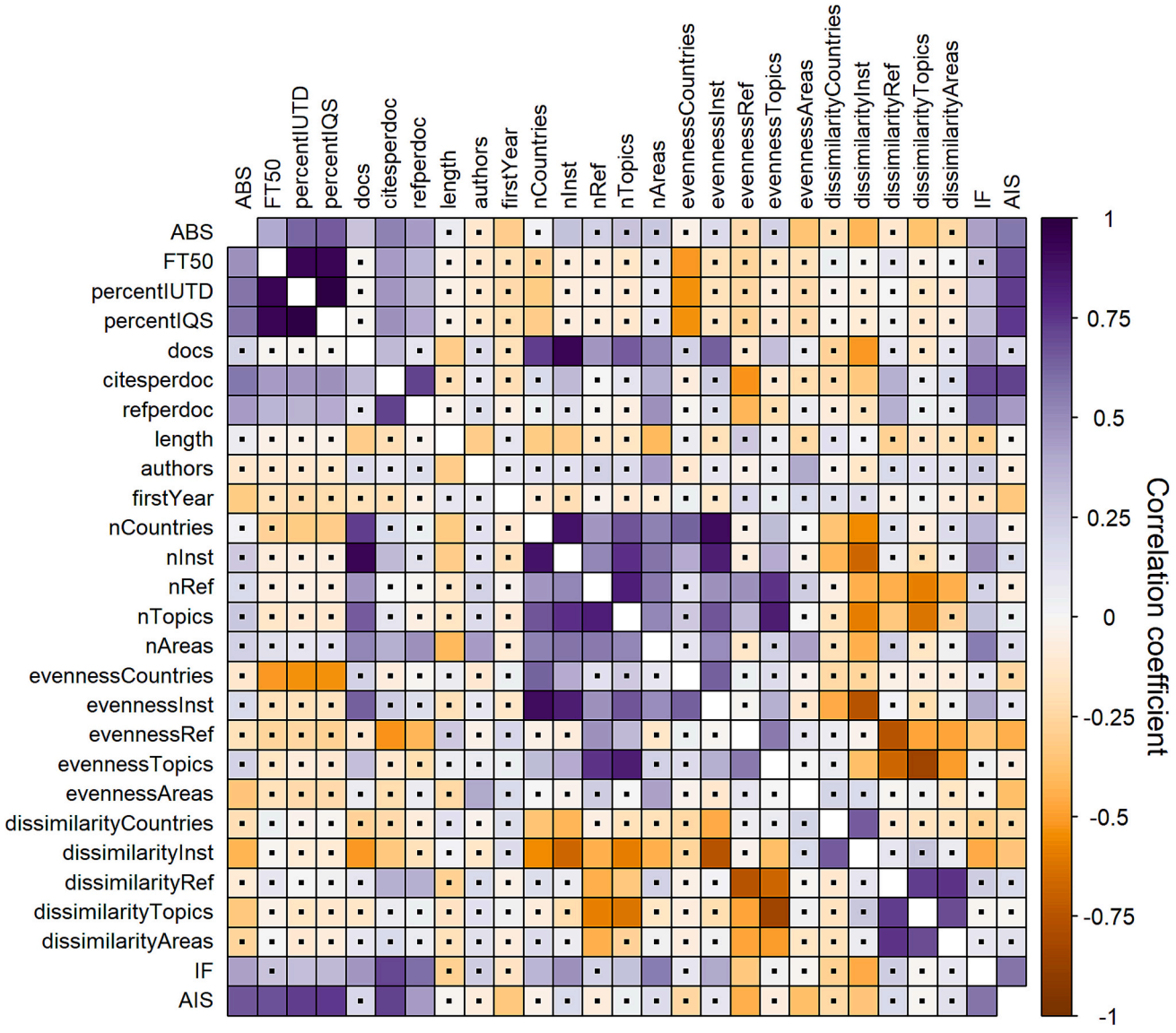

Fig. 2. Correlation coefficients for OR/MS journals (■ shows correlation coefficients with p-values higher than 0.01).

Table 5
REML models for *citesperdoc* in Management journals considering the ABS ranking.

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)
Fixed effects												
(Intercept)	−0.094	0.079	0.235	−0.105	0.069	0.131	−0.101	0.069	0.146	−0.129	0.066	0.052
log(docs)	0.001	0.078	0.985	0.016	0.058	0.784	0.034	0.068	0.618	0.189	0.068	0.006
IUTD=YES	0.188	0.138	0.174	0.209	0.095	0.028	0.203	0.097	0.038	0.257	0.106	0.016
ABS	0.635	0.055	0.000	0.635	0.055	0.000	0.630	0.055	0.000	0.378	0.054	0.000
IUTD=YES:ABS	0.063	0.094	0.500	0.054	0.058	0.355	0.054	0.059	0.358	0.031	0.061	0.614
evennessCountries							−0.046	0.057	0.422	−0.128	0.054	0.018
evennessRef							0.086	0.053	0.106	−0.108	0.051	0.037
evennessAreas							−0.043	0.043	0.316	−0.034	0.041	0.413
length										−0.030	0.044	0.504
authors										−0.016	0.036	0.653
refperdoc										0.497	0.055	0.000
Random effects (journal)												
(Intercept)				0.618			0.606			0.428		
Residual				0.411			0.417			0.443		
AIC	851.3			734.3			750.2			702.4		
BIC	874.7			761.5			789.1			752.8		
logLik	−419.7			−360.1			−365.1			−338.2		
L.Ratio test p-value				<0.0001 (Model 1 vs. 2)			0.0187 (Model 2 vs. 3)			<0.0001 (Model 3 vs. 4)		

by the Journal Citation Reports for a journal's entire paper set. For conciseness, this discussion focuses solely on models that include evenness metrics. For this analysis, we used the logarithm of the number of documents (log(docs)) rather than the raw count to address the significant disparities in publication volume between papers from UTD business schools and those from other institutions in prestigious journals. Detailed descriptive statistics, segmented by ABS/FT50 and IUTD values, are available in Appendix D.

Results from the random effects models using a Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML) estimation approach are presented separately for the two journal rankings in Tables 5 to 8. Since REML does not allow for the estimation of R-squared to directly compare the models, we carried out an analysis of variance to compare the models using the log-likelihood ratio test (Lewis et al., 2011). The results of this test are shown at the bottom of Tables 5 to 8. Across all models, the estimates for journal prestige (ABS and FT50 = YES) are statistically significant (p-value <0.001) and positive for both Management and OR/MS journals. The effect of IUTD on *citesperdoc* tends to be stronger and more statistically significant in the models that include the FT50 ranking compared to those with ABS. However, the effect is positive in all cases, supporting previous findings of the Matthew effect on citations driven by institutional prestige (Medoff, 2006).

These results also show that the interaction coefficient between IUTD and ABS (IUTD=YES:ABS) for OR/MS journals is statistically significant (p-value <0.05) for models 2 to 4 and *negative*, suggesting that the subset of papers published by UTD business schools in journals with higher ABS rankings might actually *decrease* the citation rate of a journal when accounting for the effect of the journal itself. The same results hold for the REML models considering the FT50 list for both OR/MS and Management journals although the estimates for the IUTD=YES:FT50 = YES interaction are not statistically significant at the p-value <0.05 level. While the interaction effect between IUTD and ABS for Management journals is positive—contrasting with the interaction effects in the other models—it remains small and non-statistically significant. Given the stronger, negative significant effects seen in the other models, these findings suggest the need for further investigation. Thus, we conducted a post-hoc statistical analysis, as outlined in subsection 5.2.

Model 4 in Tables 5 to 8 shows a statistically significant negative association between *citesperdoc* and *evennessRef*, suggesting that journals with a broader diversity of references do not necessarily achieve higher citation rates, a result that aligns with previous research (Hackett et al., 2021; Rafols et al., 2012; Yegros-Yegros et al., 2015). Model 4 in Tables 5 to 8 also shows a positive and statistically significant association between *citesperdoc* and *refperdoc*, confirming previous findings at the paper level (Meyer et al., 2018; Mingers and Xu, 2010). However, for Model 3 in Table 5, the association between *citesperdoc* and *evennessRef* is positive, suggesting that *evennessRef* might be sensitive to the incorporation of other variables in the model, which would explain the positive association that Vogel et al. (2017) found regarding interdisciplinarity and journal prestige. By accounting for the different subsets within each journal, Model 3 shown in Table 7, identifies a statistically significant correlation between *citesperdoc* and *evennessAreas*. In this regard, our analysis indicates that Management journals featuring papers with more references beyond the Management discipline exhibit lower *citesperdoc*.

5.2. Post-hoc analysis

To better understand the differences in journal performance between papers authored by non-UTD institutions and those by UTD business schools, we present the Wilcoxon signed rank test in Table 9 (Woolson, 2008), comparing paired journal data for both groups ((IUTD = NO) - (IUTD = YES)). t-tests were also conducted, yielding similar results but are omitted here for brevity. We carried out two comparisons considering both ABS and FT50 journal rankings to examine the interaction between institutional and journal prestige. For example, in Management journals with an ABS classification of "3", the difference in *citesperdoc* is negative and statistically significant ($p < 0.025$), as it can be seen in Table 9. However, no significant differences were found in Management journals with other ABS classifications or in OR/MS journals across any ABS classification. Moreover, when analyzing non-FT50 (FT50 = NO) Management journals, we observe that the subset of papers authored by UTD business schools within these journals yields a higher *citesperdoc* compared to the other subset of papers. Conversely, within non-FT50 OR/MS journals, the non-UTD subset of papers shows a higher *citesperdoc*, albeit this difference is not statistically significant.

This approach of dividing papers into two subsets—those authored by UTD business schools and those by non-UTD institutions—reveals no statistically significant difference in the *citesperdoc* for the Management and OR/MS journals included in the FT50 list (FT50 = YES). The absence of statistically significant differences in *citesperdoc* within FT50 journals may be attributed to their smaller sample sizes. However, this observation might also indicate that the citation impact of prestigious journals does not solely rely on publishing a large proportion of papers from leading institutions. Instead, it could be related to the rigorous review process these journals employ to maintain high standards.

Table 6
REML models for *citesperdoc* in OR/MS journals considering the ABS ranking.

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)
Fixed effects												
(Intercept)	−0.345	0.144	0.018	−0.261	0.125	0.039	−0.257	0.122	0.038	−0.170	0.120	0.161
log(docs)	0.465	0.140	0.001	0.357	0.105	0.001	0.173	0.115	0.138	0.250	0.116	0.035
IUTD=YES	0.690	0.255	0.008	0.523	0.177	0.004	0.514	0.184	0.007	0.341	0.197	0.087
ABS	0.498	0.095	0.000	0.503	0.095	0.000	0.551	0.088	0.000	0.396	0.086	0.000
IUTD=YES:ABS	−0.288	0.152	0.060	−0.232	0.088	0.010	−0.208	0.088	0.021	−0.184	0.091	0.047
evennessCountries							0.194	0.109	0.079	0.105	0.108	0.334
evennessRef							−0.346	0.085	0.000	−0.266	0.086	0.003
evennessAreas							0.280	0.076	0.000	0.033	0.094	0.730
length										−0.049	0.069	0.477
authors										0.122	0.065	0.064
refperdoc										0.332	0.077	0.000
					Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.	
Random effects (journal)												
(Intercept)				0.726			0.657			0.538		
Residual				0.439			0.426			0.448		
AIC	427.1			369.1			362.8			361.4		
BIC	445.4			390.5			393.2			400.7		
logLik	−207.5			−177.6			−171.4			−167.7		
L.Ratio test p-value				<0.0001 (Model 1 vs. 2)			0.0064 (Model 2 vs. 3)			0.0031 (Model 3 vs. 4)		

Table 7
REML models for *citesperdoc* in Management journals considering the FT50 list.

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)
Fixed effects												
(Intercept)	−0.500	0.088	0.000	−0.358	0.077	0.000	−0.368	0.076	0.000	−0.325	0.066	0.000
log(docs)	0.316	0.077	0.000	0.124	0.050	0.014	0.117	0.068	0.089	0.307	0.066	0.000
IUTD=YES	0.699	0.158	0.000	0.382	0.095	0.000	0.393	0.097	0.000	0.465	0.106	0.000
FT50 = YES	1.468	0.194	0.000	1.460	0.196	0.000	1.503	0.196	0.000	0.914	0.156	0.000
IUTD=YES:FT50 = YES	−0.428	0.300	0.155	−0.123	0.155	0.428	−0.132	0.159	0.409	−0.281	0.168	0.097
evennessCountries							0.018	0.061	0.766	−0.102	0.056	0.071
evennessRef							0.117	0.059	0.046	−0.131	0.053	0.015
evennessAreas							−0.098	0.045	0.031	−0.069	0.042	0.100
length										−0.023	0.046	0.613
authors										−0.025	0.037	0.503
refperdoc										0.616	0.052	0.000
					Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.	
Random effects (journal)												
(Intercept)				0.756			0.735			0.445		
Residual				0.413			0.419			0.454		
AIC	949.2			794.2			806.3			719.6		
BIC	972.6			821.5			845.2			770.0		
logLik	−468.6			−390.1			−393.2			−346.8		
L.Ratio test p-value				<0.0001 (Model 1 vs. 2)			0.1082 (Model 2 vs. 3)			<0.0001 (Model 3 vs. 4)		

Table 8
REML models for *citesperdoc* in OR/MS journals considering the FT50 list.

	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)	Estimate	Std. Error	Pr(>|t|)
Fixed effects												
(Intercept)	−0.576	0.138	0.000	−0.368	0.127	0.005	−0.406	0.123	0.001	−0.271	0.119	0.026
log(docs)	0.612	0.121	0.000	0.351	0.099	0.001	0.193	0.127	0.132	0.282	0.124	0.026
IUTD=YES	0.989	0.245	0.000	0.552	0.182	0.003	0.621	0.180	0.001	0.411	0.196	0.039
FT50 = YES	1.892	0.397	0.000	1.797	0.402	0.000	1.838	0.385	0.000	1.331	0.345	0.000
IUTD=YES:FT50 = YES	−1.138	0.607	0.063	−0.625	0.356	0.083	−0.602	0.353	0.093	−0.535	0.370	0.152
evennessCountries							0.252	0.114	0.030	0.147	0.113	0.196
evennessRef							−0.312	0.088	0.001	−0.225	0.085	0.010
evennessAreas							0.200	0.077	0.012	−0.086	0.091	0.350
length										−0.043	0.069	0.538
authors										0.144	0.067	0.036
refperdoc										0.395	0.075	0.000
					Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.			Std. Dev.	
Random effects (journal)												
(Intercept)				0.738			0.685			0.516		
Residual				0.456			0.446			0.473		
AIC	424.3			372.5			371.3			361.9		
BIC	442.7			393.9			401.6			401.1		
logLik	−206.2			−179.3			−175.6			−167.9		
L.Ratio test p-value				<0.0001 (Model 1 vs. 2)			0.0645 (Model 2 vs. 3)			0.0015 (Model 3 vs. 4)		

This notion is further supported by the smaller, non-significant differences in all evenness variables between papers authored by UTD business schools and those by other institutions within prestigious OR/MS journals (FT50 = YES or ABS = 4 and 4*). In contrast, non-prestigious journals (FT50 = NO or ABS <4) show significant, positive differences between the two subsets in all evenness variables, i.e., the set of papers from non-UTD institutions has higher evenness values than the set of papers from UTD business schools. This suggests that authors, regardless of their institutional affiliation, tend to conform to the standards of prestigious OR/MS journals (as discussed in Alvesson and Sandberg (2013) and Rasche (2014)), limiting their collaboration (*evennessCountries*, *evennessInst*), citations (*evennessRef*, *evennessAreas*), and topical (*evennesTopics*) diversity. A similar pattern of no statistically significant differences is seen for *evennessAreas* and *evennessTopics* in Management journals with an ABS classification of 4 and 4*.

To complete our analysis, we conducted two statistical tests to examine whether significant differences exist in journal performance across different FT50 and ABS rankings. For these analyses, we used the same set of papers authored by UTD business schools (IUTD = YES) or authored by non-UTD institutions (IUTD = NO). First, we performed a Wilcoxon rank sum test to compare the FT50-listed journals with non-listed ones ((FT50 = NO) – (FT50 = YES)) for both IUTD = NO and IUTD = YES. Due to the multiple ABS ranking values, Dunn's tests were conducted using the *agricolae* package for R (de Mendiburu, 2020) to perform multiple pair-wise comparisons of journals with different ABS values (e.g., ABS = 1 vs. other ABS values). Table 10 summarizes the Wilcoxon rank sum test results, highlighting any statistically significant differences across journals with different rankings. These tests are not paired as the sample sizes of each group are different (see Table 2). Full Dunn's test results are provided in Appendix E for reference.

Table 10 shows that, within each institutional subset, prestigious journals consistently outperform non-ranked journals in terms of *citesperdoc*, in line with the findings from Tables 5 to 8. For papers from non-UTD institutions, the Wilcoxon test highlights a shift in international representation: non-ranked journals exhibit more diversity in country representation, reflected in higher *evennessCountries* values, compared to FT50 journals. However, for papers from UTD business schools, international representation remains stable, with no significant difference in

Table 9
Wilcoxon signed rank test comparing the IUTD=NO set against the IUTD=YES set within the same journal (Shaded cells indicate statistically significant differences between the two sets at the $p < 0.025$ level).

			(IUTD=NO - IUTD=YES)							
			ABS						FT50	
Research area	Variable	Indicator	NOT IN ABS	1	2	3	4	4*	NO	YES
Management	citesperdoc	Estimate	−2.768	0.209	−1.577	−2.673	−0.630	−2.822	−1.540	−1.714
		p-value	0.414	0.877	0.028	0.016	0.658	0.284	0.003	0.166
	evennessCountries	Estimate	0.274	0.248	0.200	0.105	0.059	0.053	0.161	0.058
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.000
	evennessInst	Estimate	0.326	0.306	0.264	0.152	0.092	0.042	0.224	0.043
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.001
	evennessRef	Estimate	0.096	0.100	0.077	0.026	0.018	0.013	0.058	0.012
		p-value	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.002	0.000	0.001
	evennessTopics	Estimate	0.379	0.351	0.309	0.134	0.069	−0.005	0.244	0.005
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.899	0.000	0.799
	evennessAreas	Estimate	0.103	0.055	0.072	0.028	0.023	0.012	0.050	0.016
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.054	0.000	0.010
OR/MS	citesperdoc	Estimate	0.189	0.788	0.224	0.650	−0.877	−0.175	0.488	0.548
		p-value	0.824	0.207	0.808	0.412	0.875	1.000	0.271	0.813
	evennessCountries	Estimate	0.367	0.276	0.247	0.155	0.110	0.110	0.250	0.086
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.000	0.125
	evennessInst	Estimate	0.414	0.347	0.295	0.216	0.161	0.052	0.313	0.025
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.250	0.000	0.313
	evennessRef	Estimate	0.184	0.089	0.067	0.027	0.019	0.046	0.082	0.053
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.875	0.250	0.000	0.063
	evennessTopics	Estimate	0.429	0.388	0.327	0.164	0.043	0.010	0.323	0.003
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.750	0.000	1.000
	evennessAreas	Estimate	0.093	0.093	0.071	0.043	0.005	0.011	0.069	0.023
		p-value	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.813

Table 10
Wilcoxon rank sum test comparing non-FT50 against FT50-listed journals ((FT50 = NO) – (FT50 = YES)) for the same set of papers (IUTD = NO or IUTD = YES).

		Management		OR/MS	
Variable	Indicator	IUTD=NO	IUTD=YES	IUTD=NO	IUTD=YES
citesperdoc	Estimate	−21.591	−23.229	−9.334	−11.178
	p-value	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.006
evennessCountries	Estimate	0.094	−0.014	0.163	0.008
	p-value	0.000	0.535	0.002	0.930
evennessInst	Estimate	0.010	−0.153	0.060	−0.216
	p-value	0.472	0.000	0.042	0.001
evennessRef	Estimate	0.080	0.034	0.110	0.091
	p-value	0.000	0.069	0.035	0.128
evennessTopics	Estimate	−0.023	−0.253	0.065	−0.253
	p-value	0.238	0.000	0.206	0.007
evennessAreas	Estimate	0.036	−0.004	0.036	−0.017
	p-value	0.011	0.790	0.144	0.450

evennessCountries values between FT50 and non-FT50 journals, both for Management and OR/MS.

However, this consistency does not extend to a journal's institutional representation when considering the set of papers from UTD business schools. FT50 journals display greater *evennessInst* than their non-ranked counterparts in both Management and OR/MS fields. This effect is less pronounced in papers from non-UTD institutions, suggesting that the prestige of UTD business schools and their historical success in prestigious journals may attract a wider array of represented institutions, aiming to leverage this prestige for publication success in prestigious journals. Dunn's tests in Appendix E confirm these findings, revealing significant differences in *evennessCountries* and *evennessInst* primarily in the subset of papers from the UTD business schools when comparing highly ranked and lower-ranked journals.

6. Policy implications

From our perspective, the most relevant result from our study is the finding that there are no statistically significant differences between the average citations of our sample of prestigious Management and OR/MS journals when comparing one-to-one the subsets of documents from ranked business schools against the subset containing all the other documents. This suggests that the reinforcing loop driven by the journal-based Matthew effect where prestigious institutions publish in prestigious journals, increasing the prestige of both, does not generate a *direct* citation advantage at the journal level. This may have direct implications for the management expectations of editorial policies. One suggestion to promote a wider authorship representation is that editorial teams of prestigious journals explicitly make more space for papers published by authors not affiliated with leading institutions. This practice would allow for different voices to be heard, while not impacting citation performance. To help this transition, journals would also need to increase the diversity of their editorial board. Previous research has highlighted a concentration of editors from a small, select group of institutions in some prestigious Management and OR/MS journals (Newhouse and Brandeau, 2021), which could influence the supported diversity of authorship. As García-Carpintero et al. (2010) found, there is a positive correlation between the international diversity of journal editorial boards and the diversity of authorship representation in those journals.

Some might argue that the high standards of these prestigious journals are a direct result of their selective acceptance from what are considered the best institutions, suggesting that introducing a broader range of institutions could compromise the quality of published research. However, our findings challenge this notion. They reveal that journals of established prestige inherently enforce their rigorous quality standards across the board. This is evidenced by the small differences in the diversity of referenced research domains and published topics among papers from both elite business schools and a wider academic pool, indicating a universal adherence to these standards regardless of institutional prestige.

Given the conformity to the standards of highly regarded journals from all sorts of institutions, one would be inclined to wonder about the advantage of increasing the diversity of institutional representation in prestigious journals. We contend that including a wider set of institutions, especially those from the Global South, would enable journals to more comprehensively tackle growing global challenges, such as prevalent health issues in these regions (Yegros-Yegros et al., 2020). This inclusivity not only fosters research with significant relevance and impact (Cachon et al., 2020) in Management and OR/MS but would also help overcome what Alvesson and Sandberg (2013) called "formulaic and dull" research. It encourages a departure from insular academic discussions, mitigating the risk of intellectual stagnation and promoting a richer, more varied academic dialogue, particularly when taking into account the narrower citation patterns and topical coverage of academics affiliated with leading business schools when compared to academics in other institutions.

Leading business schools have the opportunity to leverage their extensive collaborative networks for publishing in prestigious journals, as illustrated by our findings, aiming to tackle significant global challenges in partnership with scholars from diverse geographies. Expanding these collaborations to include institutions from underrepresented regions presents a significant opportunity to generate relevant and impactful research and broaden the scope of the research challenges being addressed. Such collaborations are uniquely positioned to address impactful global challenges that are often first and acutely experienced in these underrepresented regions (see, e.g., the impact of climate change on developing countries (Bathiany et al., 2024)). Such inclusive efforts can yield comprehensive insights that benefit all stakeholders, reinforcing the global standing and influence of leading business schools while "opening the door" for other institutions to participate in prestigious outlets.

Additionally, normalizing the inclusion of works by authors from traditionally underrepresented institutions in these journals could subtly shift the currently discipline-bound citation practices. Our study indicates that authors from such institutions tend to cite a broader array of sources, both within and beyond the journal's primary research domain. This broader citation practice is important, as Fontana et al. (2022) have demonstrated, since greater disciplinary diversity in citations can enhance the dissemination of knowledge across various fields.

Therefore, we join previous calls from eminent researchers (Adler and Harzing, 2009; Bachrach et al., 2017; Gioia and Corley, 2002) suggesting diversification of the criteria of business school rankings and faculty evaluation beyond document counting. Without diversification of criteria measuring the participation of leading business schools and faculty in solving relevant problems with societal impact, there is little incentive to engage in the investigation of underrepresented topics and collaborate across a broader range of institutions. Another push to attain a wider diversification could come from funding bodies to allocate funds specifically targeted toward addressing relevant, understudied topics in the Global South while partnering with institutions that have historically not received funding from these bodies. By addressing these policy implications, the academic community can work toward developing a comprehensive research ecosystem that values and promotes a richer variety of academic work, ultimately enhancing the contribution of academic research to society at large.

7. Conclusions, limitations, and future research

Building on previous research that consistently identified the same set of institutions as the most prolific contributors to Management and OR/MS journals, our study found a distinct disproportionate representation of contributions from a select few business schools alongside a discernible statistical correlation between the proportion of papers authored by these leading institutions and the citation performance of the journals. We also found a significant concentration of citations among papers authored by scholars from prestigious institutions, with citations from prestigious journals predominantly directed to other prestigious journals. However, when conducting a direct comparison between subsets of papers from top business schools and those from a broader academic spectrum within the same prestigious journals, we found no statistically significant differences in citation rates even when accounting for different ranking approaches. This suggests that the high standards of prestigious journals are maintained across the board, irrespective of the institutional affiliation of the contributors, a result that contrasts with the previously reported Matthew effect at the university level (Medoff, 2006). Additionally, these results provide a valuable opportunity to encourage more submissions from schools not typically considered leading. This finding challenges the current state of affairs in prestigious journals where leading business schools are disproportionately represented. Therefore, our study highlights the need for a more inclusive approach to academic publishing in prestigious journals, one that recognizes the value of diversity in contributing voices without compromising on quality or impact.

The primary limitation of this study is that it considers a subset of journals indexed in the WoS. Despite this limitation, we feel that our sample is representative of each field, covering >98 % of indexed documents in WoS for OR/MS, nearly 89 % in Management in the 2010–2019 period, and includes journals with very different disciplinary and international profiles. Our sample is also limited to a 10-year period, which could miss important longitudinal insights regarding the effect of a lack of authorship diversity on journal performance and topic diversity over time or an understanding of more current developments in scholarly trends, particularly after the effect that COVID-19 might have caused on research productivity (Kwon et al., 2023; Walters et al., 2022; Zheng and Ni, 2024), although the time period also excludes any potential COVID impact on journal submissions and publications. Collecting citation data in 2020 may have also impacted citation counts for publications from 2018 and 2019, as they had less time to accumulate citations. This could have resulted in lower citation performance for journals with a higher proportion of documents published in those years, potentially leading to a biased estimation of the random effects for those journals. However, since our primary focus was not on estimating the exact effects of individual journals, but rather on comparing the overall citation performance of papers from leading business schools versus other institutions within each journal, this limitation is unlikely to significantly impact our main findings. Furthermore, our approach mitigates the potential bias from uneven publication trends by comparing journals against themselves, allowing us to observe citation patterns across two institutional subsets without the need for additional adjustments.

The accuracy of our tally of business schools' documents may also be affected by inconsistencies in how authors list their affiliations. For example, some authors may mention only their host university without specifying their business school. Such variations can lead to deviations in our reported figures at the business school level, potentially underrepresenting the overall output of the 100 leading business schools considered in our analysis. Moreover, we applied a cutoff by excluding institutions with fewer than 3 publications from our analysis to manage computational complexity. While this decision was necessary to handle large-scale data processing, it may have resulted in a slight underestimation of institutional diversity, as smaller contributors were not fully accounted for.

In terms of future research opportunities, future studies could carry out a longitudinal analysis regarding journal performance with changing patterns of authorship representation, including gender (see, e.g., Auschra et al., 2022) and ethnicity. There is also potential to investigate whether our findings apply to other areas of research where business schools are very involved, such as Business, Economics, and Finance. Finally, more qualitative research is needed to better understand the barriers to entry (beyond language (Ramírez-Castañeda, 2020)) for underrepresented institutions in prestigious Management and OR/MS journals, particularly from the Global South, in order to implement policies at the journal level that could increase the participation of different voices in such outlets. Ethnographic research also focusing on understanding how academic collaboration networks form, which dives into the social aspects of such networks (Chen et al., 2019), and the mechanisms to enter already formed networks would be a relevant complementary investigation to better help underrepresented institutions to overcome those barriers of entry.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Rodrigo Romero-Silva: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Methodology, Investigation, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Erika Marsillac:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Investigation, Conceptualization. **Sander de Leeuw:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Investigation, Conceptualization.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

During the preparation of this work, the authors used ChatGPT 4 in order to improve the clarity and conciseness of the manuscript. After using this tool, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2025.105193.

Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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