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GEOSCIENCE RESEARCH AT LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES: SCHOOL RANKINGS

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ABSTRACT

Liberal arts colleges have in recent years placed an increasing emphasis on research. In this environment of increased interest in research at liberal arts colleges we present a ranking of research in geoscience at national liberal arts colleges based upon articles published in GeoRef listed journals. We find that the research activity is highly concentrated among a few schools. We also find that liberal arts faculty are interested in teaching geoscience as measured by the number of publications in the Journal of Geoscience Education and that there is a positive correlation between faculty research at an institution and the undergraduates who go on to receive Ph.D.'s in geoscience.

Rank Cohort	Number of PhD's in Geology	Percent of Total PhD's from Liberal Arts Colleges
1-20	354	45.4
21-40	186	23.8
41-60	96	12.3
61-80	59	7.6
81-100	8	1.0
101-120	13	1.7
121-140	31	4.0

Table 6. Distribution of PhD's granted from liberal arts colleges (1989-1994) across rank cohorts (1970-1996).

College	Rank	Journal Articles	Rank	Total Pages	Rank	Abstracts	Rank	Dept. Size Adjusted Articles
Williams College	1	49	1	525	3	92	1	8.2
Colgate University	2	40	3	435	1	125	7	4.4
Wesleyan University	3	34	2	462	4	90	9	4.3
Union College	4	28	6	276	18	53	5	4.7
Franklin and Marshall College	4	28	7	269	2	111	15	3.5
Hamilton College	6	26	7	269	15	59	4	5.2
Colorado College	7	22	10	238	6	79	13	3.7
Smith College	7	22	5	282	5	83	18	3.1
Vassar College	9	19	13	172	28	37	2	6.3
Oberlin College	10	18	4	296	13	68	3	6.0
Pomona College	11	17	18	122	26	40	9	4.3
Lafayette College	12	16	9	256	9	75	11	4.0
Mount Holyoke College	13	15	11	205	15	59	20	2.5
Bryn Mawr College	14	14	14	151	15	59	15	3.5
College of Wooster	14	14	20	118	8	76	15	3.5
Augustana College	16	13	45	43	35	23	8	4.3
Amherst College	16	13	12	201	10	73	26	2.2
Denison University	18	12	37	54	19	51	19	3.0
St. Lawrence University	18	12	17	129	45	12	22	2.4
Carleton College	18	12	28	83	11	71	27	2.0
Bowdoin College	21	11	16	136	33	24	13	3.7
Bucknell University	21	11	19	119	21	48	33	1.6
Middlebury College	23	10	21	114	7	78	27	2.0

Table 3. Ranking of national liberal arts colleges by GeoRef published articles, pages, and abstracts 1987-1996, top 50 colleges. (50 colleges shown in original table; 23 shown in this excerpt)