



Print version

# Research Metrics

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## **University Campus Library – Management of the University Campus at Bohunice**

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# Introduction to research metrics (h-index, Impact Factor, etc)

## Introduction

An integral part of researchers' duties in a research institution is not only to publish their results but also to report the results for the purpose of evaluating their research. For this purpose mathematical and statistical methods are applied to gain a quantitative evaluation of research results. These methods process data provided by authors about their publications and the citation rates of their works from the Journal Citation Reports (JRC) and Scopus databases.

In the JCR database, impact factor serves for this purpose, and since 2017, another key metric, Article Influence Score (AIS), has been used by the Research, Development and Innovation Council.

Both databases count the Hirsch index, also called the h-index, to evaluate the quality of a given author's publication activity.

Journal Citation Reports	Subject of metrics	Scopus	Subject of metrics
Impact factor	Journal	CiteScore	Journal
Article Influence Score	Article	SNIP	Journal
H-index	Author	SJR	Journal
		h-index	Author

Table 1 An overview of metrics and subjects of their analysis in JCR and Scopus

## Impact factor – definition

Impact factor is one of the tools for quantitatively evaluating research results. This factor measures the average citation rate of articles in a given journal for a specific period of time. It is defined as follows: the ratio of citations recorded in the given (evaluated) year to all articles published in a given journal in the preceding two years to the total number of all those articles (Fig. 1). Impact factor values may be found in the JCR database.

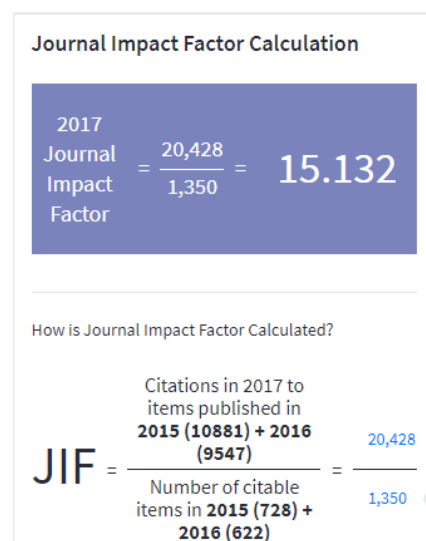


Fig. 1 Impact factor of the journal Blood in 2017 (source: Journal Citation Reports, 2019)

## Limitations and Biases of the Impact Factor

- While the impact factor is a time-tested indicator evaluating the quality of journals, it is completely unsuitable for assessing the quality of individual articles or researchers themselves.
- Journals from different fields cannot be compared based on their values of impact factor, because every field has different publication conventions and citation potential.
- The language of the publications may also influence the value of the impact factor. A journal publishing in another language than English is commonly less cited despite the fact that it may be a periodical of high quality.
- The type of documents the journal commonly publishes, e.g. reviews, research articles or case reports, is another variable that affects the value of the impact factor.
- The type of access to full texts also affects the impact factor. Open-access journals have a larger citation potential, because their articles reach a readership more quickly and without any barriers, whether financial or technical.
- A two-year period for calculating the impact factor may be too short, because to prepare publications citing the respective article may take longer in some fields. For that reason a five-year impact factor was added to help the user gain a more precise picture about the journal's citation rate.
- The value of the impact factor is very often influenced by a small number of highly-cited papers in a journal where the majority of articles does not reach the value of the impact factor calculated (see Figures 2 and 3).

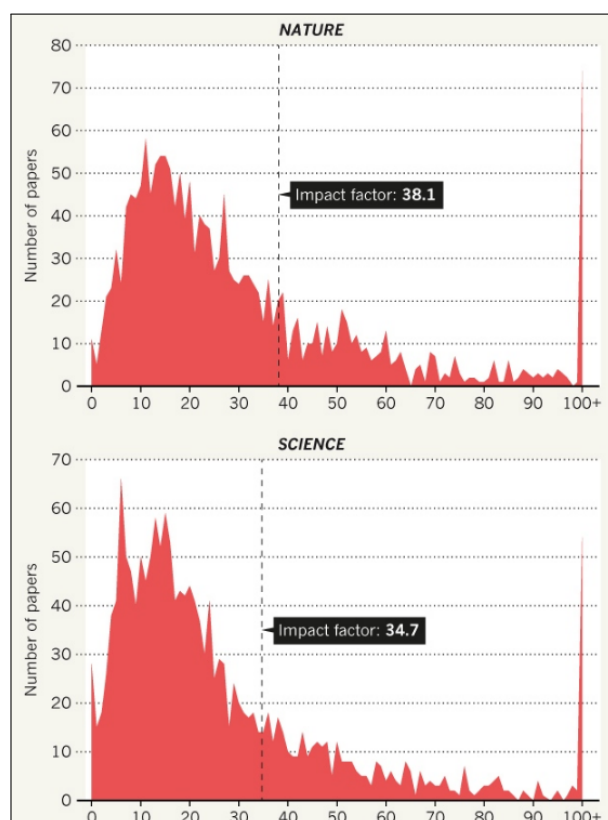


Fig. 2 Distribution of citations with regard to the impact factor value of the journals Nature and Science (source: Callaway, 2016)

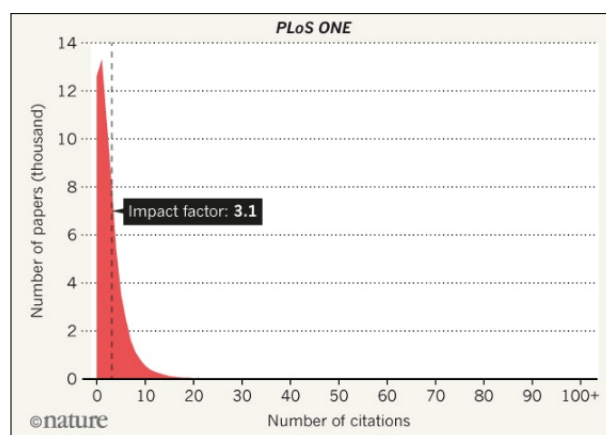


Fig. 3 Distribution of citations with regard to the impact factor value of the journal PLoS (source: Callaway, 2016)

## Article Influence Score (AIS)

AIS is a metric which is subject to a bibliometric analysis performed by the Research Development and Innovation Council (RVVI). Compared to impact factor, AIS is a more sophisticated metric, because it calculates the value of the average influence of every article in a journal for a five-year period (roughly similar to five-year impact factor). A score greater than 1 indicates that each article in a specific journal has an above-average influence, while a score smaller than 1 means that articles in a journal have below-average influence. AIS values may be found in the JCR database.

## SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)

SJR is a sophisticated metric whose main principle is similar to Google Page Rank (a number assigned by Google to every URL that expresses the credibility and importance of the given website). SJR takes into consideration the importance of citations (i.e. not all citations are equally important). The main principle for calculating SJR is an algorithm that measures how many times the journal was cited by other journals and what importance these individual citations have. The importance of citations is derived from the prestige of the journal from which the citations come. The aim of SJR is to facilitate a relevant comparison of journals' quality from different fields. In the bibliometric analysis carried out by the Research Development and Innovation Council, this metric is a key tool for evaluating research organisations in the Czech Republic.

## CiteScore

CiteScore is a metric calculated in the same way as impact factor with the difference that the number of articles and their citations are taken from the last three years and not two as in the case of impact factor.

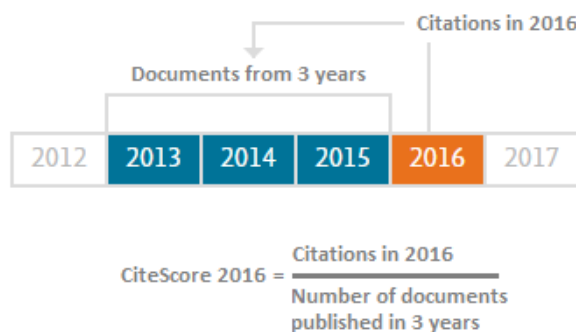


Fig. 4 Calculating CiteScore for a journal for the year 2016 (source: Elsevier, 2019)

## Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

SNIP designed by Henk Moed from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CTWS) is another indicator in Scopus. It expresses the ratio of an average citation of an article in a given journal to the citation potential of the field (the probability that a document will be cited in the given field). The SNIP metric helps authors determine which journals in their field are of high quality. It may also serve a key indicator when deciding where to publish.

SNIP is calculated with a simple formula:

$$\text{SNIP} = \frac{\text{IPP}(\text{journal's impact per publication})}{\text{DCP}(\text{Database Citation Potential})}$$

The IPP is a value computed in a similar way like impact factor, but IPP works with data from the last three years (not just two as in the case of impact factor).

$$\text{IPP}_{2016} = \frac{\text{number of citations in 2016 to articles between 2013-2015 in journal XY}}{\text{number of all articles published between 2013-2015 in journal XY}}$$

The result of IPP provides information on how many times every article published in the XY journal in the years 2013–2015 was cited in 2016.

DCP is an abbreviation for the citation potential of a journal in its respective field. The value of DCP is calculated as the ratio of the citation potential of a journal in the database to the median value of a journal in the same field. Obtaining these details is very demanding, and it must be carried out with the help of computer technology.

$$\text{DCP}_{2016} = \frac{\text{citation potential of journal XY in database}}{\text{median value of journal XY in its field in database}}$$

The median of the journal's field is the median value of citation potential in the respective field.

## H-index

Hirsch index (h-index) is an indicator assessing the publication activity of individual authors or groups of authors (e.g. within an institution).

H-index is calculated for journals as well, because it may be determined for any set of records. However, this metric is primarily connected with assessing the publication performance of an author as an individual.

Note, that the value of h-index may differ based on which database you use for the computation, because not every database records the same journals and their volumes.

H-index indicates how many articles received a higher number of citations than their order number (publications are in a descending order according to the number of citations they received). H-index equals the order number of the article which received the same or a higher number of citations than its order number in the list – see Fig. 5.

order number	publication	times cited
1	A	87
2	B	70
3	C	46
4	D	32
5	E	19
6	F	15
7	G	10
<b>8</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>9</b>
9	I	8
10	J	6
11	K	4
12	L	1

Fig. 5 A sample of computing the h-index with the result of h-index = 8

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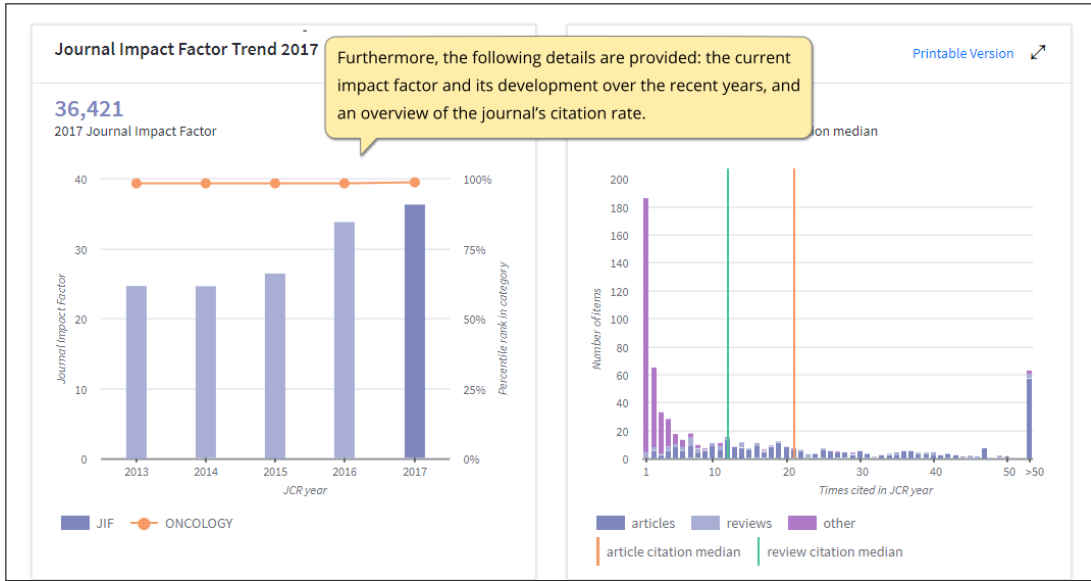
# Finding impact factors for journals

1

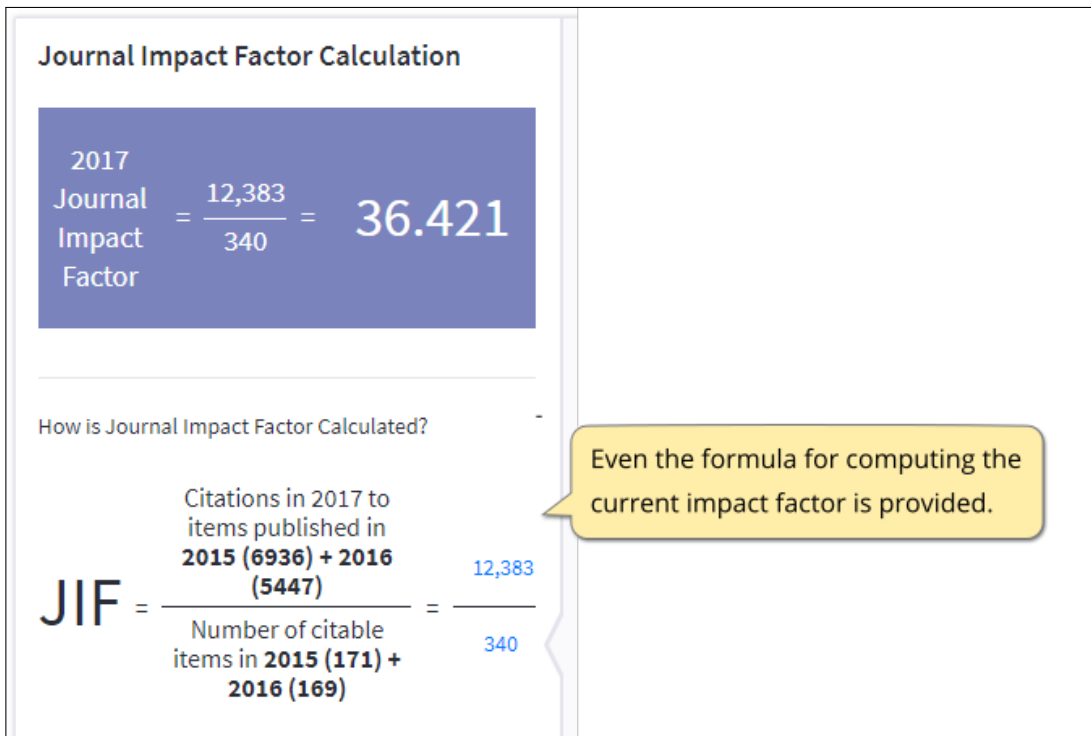
2

3

4



5



6

Source data Box plot Rank [Click here to view Cited Journal Data, Citing Journal Data and Journal Relationships](#)

### Journal source data 2017 ?

					Percentage(C/(C+O))
Number in JCR Year 2017 (A)				78	26%
Number of References (B)	4,934	3,033	7,967	1,631	83%
Ratio (B/A)		86.7	47.4		

Since 2018, the records also include more detailed information about the type of published articles and their citation rates,

the number of publications in the journal according to the country of origin,

and the number of articles according to institutions.

#### Contributions by country/region

country	count
1. USA	556
2. England	302
3. France	213
4. Italy	199
5. GERMANY (FED REP GER)	188
6. Canada	169
7. Australia	131
8. Netherlands	129
9. Spain	113
10. Belgium	87

#### Contributions by organizations

organization	count
1. HARVARD UNIVERSITY	133
2. UNIVERSITY OF LONDON	121
- UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM	121
4. VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM	120
5. UNICANCER	107
6. UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO	90
7. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SYSTEM	84
8. MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER	83
9. DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE	80
10. ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE HOPITAUX PARIS (APHP)	52

7

Web of Science InCites Journal Citation Reports Essential Science Indicators EndNote Publons Help English

## InCites Journal Citation Reports

Clarivate Analytics

Home > Journal Profile

### LANCET ONCOLOGY

ISSN: 1470-2045  
eISSN: 1474-5488  
ELSEVIER SCIENCE IN  
360 PARK AVE SOUTH  
ENGLAND

Go to Journal Table

TITLES  
ISO: Lancet Oncol.  
JCR Abbrev: LANCET ONCOL

LANGUAGES  
English

CATEGORIES  
ONCOLOGY - SCIE

PUBLICATION FREQUENCY  
12 issues/year

Current Year **All years**

If you return back to the title page of the journal, you can click on **All years** to display a citation overview for the preceding years.

The data in the two graphs below and in the Journal Impact Factor calculation panels represent citation activity in 2017 to items published in the journal in the prior two years. They detail the components of the Journal Impact Factor. Use the "All Years" tab to access key metrics and additional data for the current year and all prior years for this journal.

8

## LANCET ONCOLOGY

ISSN: 1470-2045  
 ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC  
 360 PARK AVE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10010-1710  
 ENGLAND

Go to Journal Table of Contents    Go to Ulrich's

**Titles**  
 ISO: Lancet Oncol.  
 JCR Abbrev: LANCET ONCOL

**Categories**  
 ONCOLOGY - SCIE

**Languages**  
 English

12 Issues/Year,

Return to Current Year page: [Here](#)

**Key Indicators**

Year ▾

Year	Total Cites <a href="#">Graph</a>	Journal Impact Factor <a href="#">Graph</a>	Impact Factor Without Journal Self Cites	5 Year Impact Factor <a href="#">Graph</a>	Immediacy Index <a href="#">Graph</a>	Citable Items <a href="#">Graph</a>	Cited Half-Life <a href="#">Graph</a>	Citing Half-Life <a href="#">Graph</a>	Eigenfactor Score <a href="#">Graph</a>	Article Influence Score <a href="#">Graph</a>	% Articles in Citable Items <a href="#">Graph</a>	Normalized Eigenfactor <a href="#">Graph</a>	Average JIF Percentile <a href="#">Graph</a>
2017	44,962	36.421	35.802	33.234	8.631	168	4.6	4.6	0.13...	11.999	79.17	15.9...	98.879
2016	38,110	33.900	33.250	31.194	7.722	169	4.4	4.7	0.12...	11.131	84.02	13.9...	98.848
2015	30,800	26.509	25.813	28.181	8.170	171	4.2	4.6	0.116...	11.061	79.53	13.3...	98.826
2014	24,861	24.690	24.041	26.239	6.243	169	4.2	4.5	0.10...	10.011	78.11	11.39...	98.815
2013	20,565	24.725	24.143	24.229	5.325	163	4.0	4.6	0.09...	9.601	74.85	10.2...	98.768
2012	17,005	25.117	24.521	21.856	6.536	153	3.7	4.7	0.07...	8.521	75.82	Not ...	98.731
2011	13,237	22.589	22.205	18.730	4.848	105	3.7	5.0	0.06...	7.421	76.19	Not ...	98.214
2010	10,853	17.764	17.393	16.082	6.556	108	3.6	4.5	0.05...	5.855	65.74	Not ...	97.568
2009	8,251	14.470	14.202	13.673	3.901	111	3.6	5.1	0.04...	4.691	60.36	Not ...	97.289

Besides the data about impact factor from the preceding years, you can access values of other citation metrics here as well: the 5-year impact factor or values of impact factor without journal self cites.

Click on **Graph** to see the respective data in a graph.

9

**Source Data**

**Rank**

**Cited Journal Data**

**Citing Journal Data**

**Box Plot**

**Journal Relationships**

**Metric Trend**

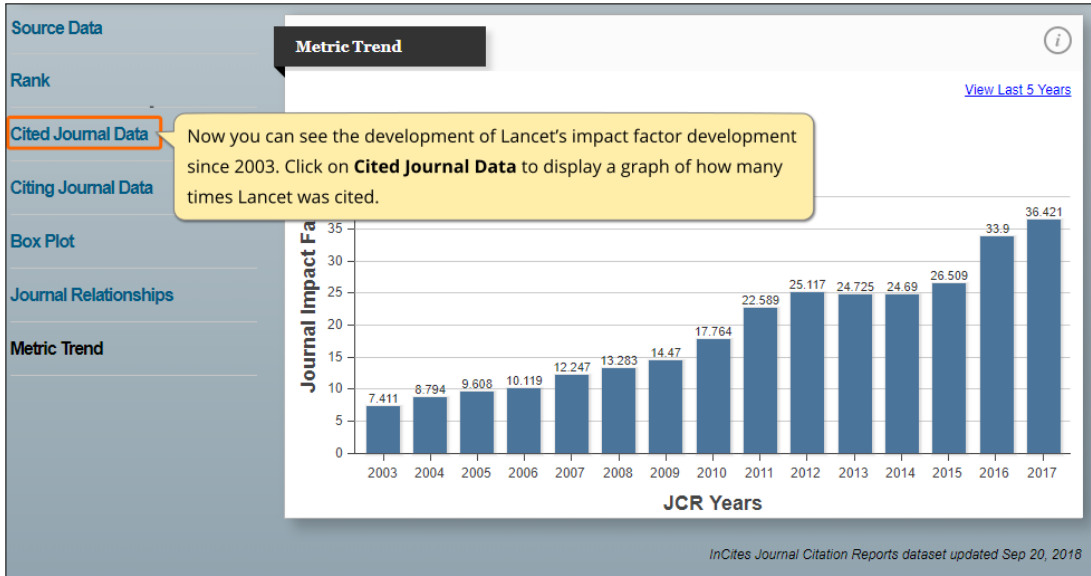
**Metric Trend**

We were automatically redirected to the bottom part of the journal's websites where you can display various indicators - currently the graph depicting the impact factor development over the last five years is displayed. Click on **View All Years** to display all data available.

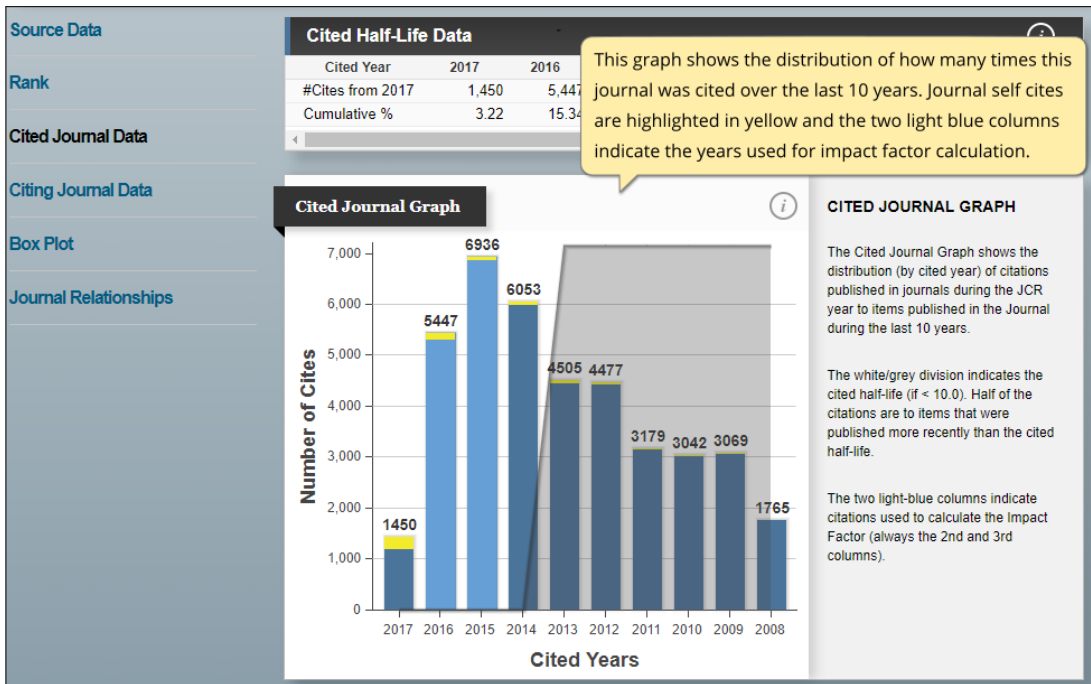
[View All Years](#)

InCites Journal Citation Reports dataset updated Sep 20, 2018

10



11



12

**JCR Impact Factor**

A very important factor for assessing a journal in JCR is its rank among other journals from its field - classification into so-called quartiles.

You can see that *Lancet Oncology* is in 2017 in the Q1 quartile in the field of ONCOLOGY. This means that after all journals from this field were ordered according to their impact factor in descending order, *Lancet Oncology* took the third position which is in the first quarter.

JCR Year	ONCOLOGY		
	Rank	Quartile	JIF Percentile
2017	3/223	Q1	98.879
2016	3/217	Q1	98.848
2015	3/213	Q1	98.826
2014	3/211	Q1	98.815
2013	3/203	Q1	98.768
2012	3/197	Q1	98.731
2011	4/196	Q1	98.214
2010	5/185	Q1	97.568
2009	5/166	Q1	97.289

13

Go to Journal Profile

Master Search

Compare Journals

View Title Changes

Select Journals

Select Categories

- NUTRITION & DIETETICS
- OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
- OCEANOGRAPHY
- ONCOLOGY
- OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE
- OPHTHALMOLOGY

**Journals By Rank**      Categories By Rank

Journal Titles Ranked by Impact Factor

Compare Selected Journals    Add Journals to New or Existing List    Customize Indicators

Select All	Full Journal Title	Total Cites	Journal Impact Factor	Eigenfactor Score
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 CA-A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS	28,839	244.585	0.06600
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 NATURE REVIEWS CANCER	50,407	42.784	0.08000
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 LANCET ONCOLOGY	44,962	36.421	0.13600
<input type="checkbox"/>	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY			0.28500
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 CANCER CELL	35,217	22.844	0.09700
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 JAMA Oncology	5,707	20.871	0.02800
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 ANNALS OF ONCOLOGY	38,742	13.930	0.09600

If you return to the home page and select **Journals by Rank** tab, you can also display the amount of impact factor from selected specialities, states or publishers. You can also select a specific field of journals in the **Select Categories** section.

14

Select Edition

SCIE     SSCI

Open Access

Open Access

Category Schema

Web of Science

**JIF Quartile**

Q1     Q3

Q2     Q4

Select Publisher

Select Country/Region

Impact Factor Range

to

Average JIF Percentile Range

to

Clear    **Submit**

You can also specify the quartile of the journals found in the **JIF quartile** section.

After you tick any of these criteria, click on **Submit**.

# Evaluation of Journals in Scopus

1

Scopus Sources Alerts Lists Help SciVal Register Login

## Document search

Compare sources

The module **Compare sources** in the Scopus database helps you find the citing rate of journals indexed in this database. Scopus uses SJR, SNIP and CiteScore metrics for measuring of individual journals' citation performance.

Documents Authors Affiliations Advanced

Search Article title, Abstract, Keywords

E.g., "Cognitive architectures" AND robots

> Limit

Reset form Search

Help improve Scopus

2

Select up to 10 sources to compare

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

Source title

Source title  
ISSN  
Publisher

limit to

All subject areas Search

Search results CiteScore

Source CiteScore

Journals can be searched for according to their title, ISSN or publisher.

3

Select up to 10 sources to compare

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

Source title

Enter title \*

E.g., Cell, cancer

limit to

All subject areas

Multidisciplinary

Agricultural and Biological Sciences

Arts and Humanities

Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology

Business, Management and

Search

CiteScore

CiteScore

When you search for a journal according to a word from its title, we recommend specifying the field of the periodical you are looking for.



4

### Select up to 10 sources to compare

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

Source title ▼

Enter title \*  
lancet ×

*E.g., Cell, cancer*

limit to ▼ Search

All subject areas

Search results CiteScore ▼

Source ↑ CiteScore ↓

Citation performance may be shown for individual journals or you can compare the journals of interest. Let us demonstrate it on the example of *Lancet* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.  
First we are going to search for *Lancet*.

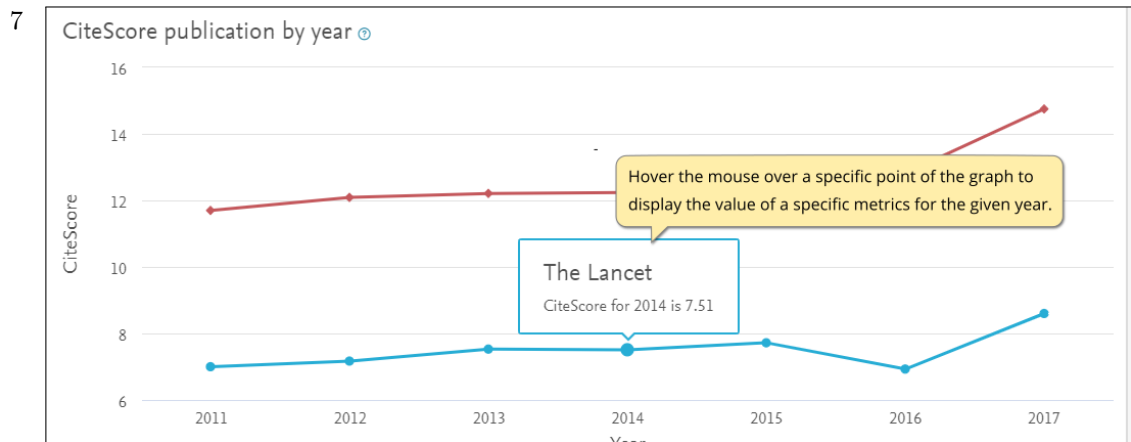
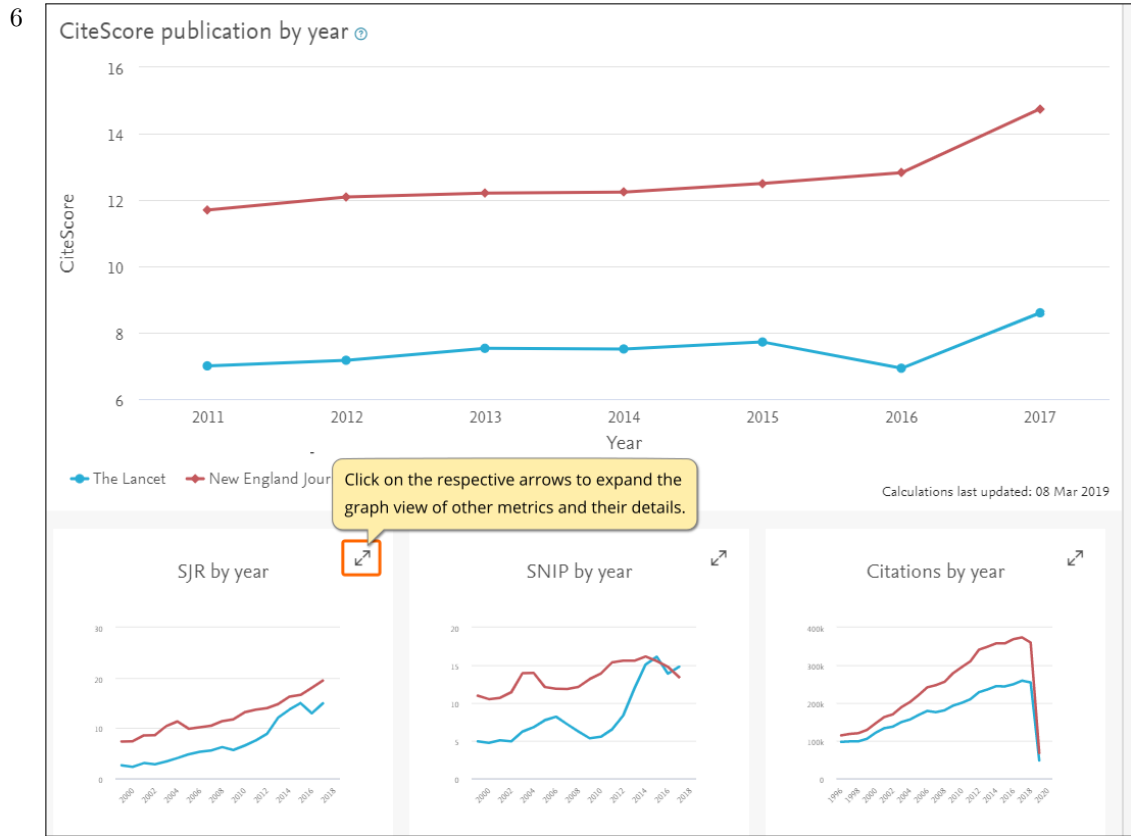
5

14 Search results CiteScore ▼

Source ↑ CiteScore ↓

<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet <span>▼</span>	8.60
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health <span>▼</span>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology <span>▼</span>	5.67
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology <span>▼</span>	3.61
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Global Health <span>▼</span>	4.47
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Haematology <span>▼</span>	4.12
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet HIV <span>▼</span>	3.77
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Infectious Diseases <span>▼</span>	6.81
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Neurology <span>▼</span>	9.39
<input type="checkbox"/> The Lancet Oncology <span>▼</span>	10.35

The database found all journals containing the word Lancet. We select the journal we want.



# How to find h-index in Web of Science

1

Web of Science InCites Journal Citation Reports Essential Science Indicators EndNote Publons Kopernio Sign In Help English

Web of Science Clarivate Analytics

Tools Searches and alerts Search History Marked List

Select a database Web of Science Core Collection

Claim your publications Track your citations

Basic Search Cited Reference Search Advanced Search Author Search Structure Search

thon v\* Author Search

Select from Index

Timespan All years (1945 - 2019)

More settings

Academy of Sciences of the C

Clarivate Analytics

Before you start calculating the h-index, select the database Web of Science Core Collection.

If you want to determine the h-index of the given author, you need to create a list of their articles and perform a citation analysis of these articles. To get a CORRECT number you need to proceed carefully and avoid including articles that were written by another author of the same name. An incorrect variant of the authors name due to a mistake in a journal editing also poses a problem.

For the purpose of this sample we used articles by Vojtěch Thon from the Faculty of Science at Masaryk University. We entered his name in the form thon v\* into the field Author and clicked on Search.

2

Results: 100 (from Web of Science Core Collection)

Select articles grouped for author name: thon v\*

You searched for: AUTHOR: (thon v\*) ...More

Create Alert

Refine Results

Search within results for...

Filter results by:

- Highly Cited in Field (3)
- Open Access (35)
- Associated Data (2)

Refine

Publication Years

- 2019 (2)
- 2018 (5)
- 2017 (1)
- 2016 (4)
- 2015 (8)

more options / values...

Refine

Web of Science Categories

- IMMUNOLOGY (42)

In the database a total of 100 publications were found; HOWEVER, the author of THESE ARTICLES MAY BE EITHER Vojtěch Thon OR his namesake, or people with the same surname and names such as Václav, Vítězslav, etc. Therefore it is necessary to limit the search result only to publications written by Prof. Thon.

acetylglucosaminyltransferases and acceptor

By: Li, Yanhong; Xue, Mengyang; Sheng, Xue; et al. BIOORGANIC & MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY Volume: 24 Issue: 8 Pages: 1696-1705 Published: APR 15 2016

Full Text from Publisher Free Full Text from Publisher View Abstract

12. Effective one-pot multienzyme (OPME) synthesis of monotreme milk oligosaccharides and other sialosides containing 4-O-acetyl sialic acid

By: Yu, Hai; Zeng, Jie; Li, Yanhong; et al. ORGANIC & BIOMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY Volume: 14 Issue: 36 Pages: 8586-8597 Published: 2016

Full Text from Publisher Free Accepted Article From Repository View Abstract

13. Substrate promiscuities of beta 1-3-N-acetylglucosaminyltransferases and beta 1-4-galactosyltransferases

By: Li, Yanhong; Xue, Mengyang; Sheng, Xue; et al. Conference: Annual Meeting of the Society-for-Glycobiology on Glycobiology - Accelerating Impact across the Biomedical Sciences Location: San Francisco, CA Date: DEC 01-04, 2015 Sponsor(s): Soc Glycobiol GLYCOBIOLOGY Volume: 25 Issue: 11 Pages: 1259-1259 Meeting Abstract: 93 Published: NOV 2015

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14. Natural IgG, IgM and IgA anti-Gal antibodies in sera of healthy humans and patients with primary hypogammaglobulinemia

By: Chovanцова, Z.; Hamanová, M.; Chmelliková, M.; et al. Conference: Congress of the European-Academy-of-Allergy-and-Clinical-Immunology Location: Barcelona, SPAIN Date: JUN 06-10, 2015 Sponsor(s): European Acad Allergy & Clin Immunol ALLERGY Volume: 70 Special Issue: SI Supplement: 101 Pages: 139-139 Meeting Abstract: 290 Published: SEP

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2. **Multiplex Assay for Quantification of Acute Phase Proteins and Immunoglobulin A in Dried Blood Spots**  
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JOURNAL OF PROTEOME RESEARCH Volume: 18 Issue: 1 Pages: 380-391 Published: JAN 2019

3. **Dynamics of allergy development during the first 5 years of life**  
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4. **Financial analysis and comparison of smallholder forest and state forest enterprise plantations in Central Vietnam**  
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Total Publications **52** Analyze

h-index **17** Average citations per item **31,4**

Sum of Times Cited **1 633** Without self citations **1 593**

Citing articles **1 206** Analyze Without self citations **1 185** Analyze

7

14. Antigen presentation by common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) B cells and monocytes is unimpaired  
By: Thon, V; Eggenbauer, H; Wolf, HM; et al.  
CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY Volume: 108 Issue: 1 Pages: 1-8 Published: APR 1997

15. THE COSTIMULATORY SIGNAL CD28 IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL BUT CANNOT CORRECT THE IMPAIRED ANTIGEN RESPONSE IN T-CELLS OF PATIENTS WITH COMMON VARIABLE IMMUNODEFICIENCY  
By: FISCHER, MB; WOLF, HM; EGGENBAUER, H; et al.  
CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY Volume: 95 Issue: 2 Pages: 209-214 Published: FEB 1994

16. Antibody forming cells and plasmablasts in peripheral blood in CVID patients after vaccination  
By: Chovancova, Zita; Vlkova, Marcela; Litzman, Jiri; et al.  
VACCINE Volume: 29 Issue: 24 Pages: 4142-4150 Published: MAY 31 2011

17. ...ents with common variable  
The resulting H-index number is 17. You can verify whether this result is correct, if you look at the bottom part of the Thon articles list. In the list, the article with the last order number which was cited as many times as its order number or more is marked graphically.

18. ... ELISA Assay: a Valuable Diagnostic and Prognostic Tool for Common Variable Immunodeficiency  
By: Cavaliere, F. M.; Milito, C.; Martini, H.; et al.  
JOURNAL OF CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY Volume: 33 Issue: 4 Pages: 838-846 Published: MAY 2013

0	2	2	0	0	24	1.04
0	1	1	0	1	23	0.88
6	3	2	1	0	21	2.33
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thon v\*

Author

Search tips

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For the purpose of this sample we used articles by Vojtěch Thon from the Faculty of Science at Masaryk University. We entered his name in the form thon v\* into the field Author and clicked on Search.

2

Results: 100  
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Select articles grouped for author name: thon v\*

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In the database a total of 100 publications were found; HOWEVER, the author of THESE ARTICLES MAY BE EITHER Vojtěch Thon OR his namesake, or people with the same surname and names such as Václav, Vítězslav, etc. Therefore it is necessary to limit the search result only to publications written by Prof. Thon.

12. Effective one-pot multienzyme (OPME) synthesis of monotreme milk oligosaccharides and other sialosides containing 4-O-acetyl sialic acid

By: Yu, Hai; Zeng, Jie; Li, Yanhong; et al.  
ORGANIC & BIOMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY Volume: 14 Issue: 36 Pages: 8586-8597 Published: 2016

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