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Research Metrics

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

Introduction

An integral part of the duties of researchers in scientific and research institutions is not only to publish their research results but to report the results for the purpose of evaluating their research. The evaluation process uses mathematical and statistical methods to gain a quantitative evaluation of research results. These methods process data provided by authors about their publications and the citations of their works in the Journal Citation Reports (JRC) and Scopus databases.

In the JCR database, the impact factor and the Article Influence Score (AIS) are the key metrics used by the Research, Development and Innovation Council for their bibliometric analysis since 2017.

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

The impact factor is one of the tools for quantitative evaluation of research results. This factor measures the average number of citations of articles published in a given journal during the previous two years by journals indexed in the JCR database (Fig. 1).

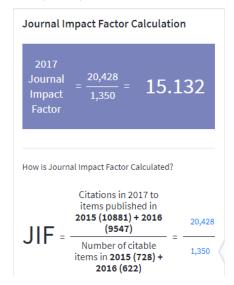


Fig. 1 Impact factor of the journal Blood in 2017 (source: Journal Citation Reports, 2019)

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).

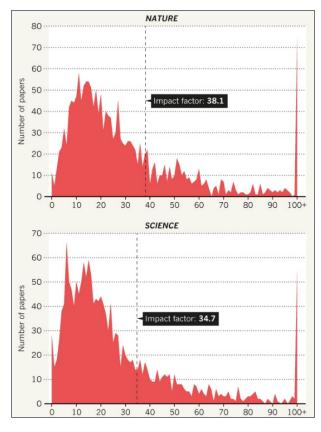


Fig. 2 Distribution of citations with regard to the impact factor value of the journals Nature and Science (source: Callaway, 2016)

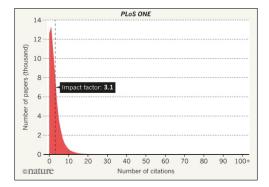


Fig. 3 Distribution of citations with regard to the impact factor value of the journal PLoS (source: Callaway, 2016)

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 belowaverage 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 similar to the impact factor, with the difference that the number of articles and their citations are taken from the previous three years and not two as in the case of the impact factor.



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

Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

SNIP is a citation metric designed by the late Henk F. Moed from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CTWS) in Leiden in the Netherlands. 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:

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

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).

 $IPP2016 = \frac{\text{number of citations in 2016 to articles between 2013-2015 in journal XY}}{\text{number of all articles published between 2013-2015 in journal XY}}$

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.

 $DCP2016 = \frac{\text{citation potential of journal XY in database}}{\text{median value of journal XY in its field in database}}$

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

H-index

The Hirsch index (h-index) was designed by the physicist Jorge E. Hirsch from the University of California. This indicator focuses primarily on the publication activity of individual authors but can also be calculated for a journal. The value of the h-index for a single author can differ in different databases due to differences in their content.

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.

Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
Evaluation of e-learning course, Information Literacy, for medical students	Kratochvíl, J.	2013	Electronic Library 31(1), pp. 55-69	10
Efficiency of e-learning in an information literacy course for medical students at the Masaryk University	Kratochvil, J.	2014	Electronic Library 32(3), pp. 322-340	7
Comparison of the Accuracy of Bibliographical References Generated for Medical Citation Styles by EndNote, Mendeley, RefWorks and Zotero	Kratochvíl, J.	2017	Journal of Academic Librarianship 43(1), pp. 57-66	4
Predatory journals: How their publishers operate and how to avoid them [Predátorské časopisy: Praktiky jejich vydavatelu a jak se jim bránit]	Kratochvíl, J., Plch, L.	2017	Vnitrni Lekarstvi 63(1), pp. 5-13	1
Compliance with ethical rules for scientific publishing in biomedical open access journals indexed in journal citation reports [Dodržování etických pravidel ve vědeckém publikování v biomedicínských open access časopisech indexovaných v journal citation reports]	Kratochvíl, J., Plch, L., Koritáková, E.	2019	Vnitrni Lekarstvi 65(5), pp. 338-347	0

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

Reference list

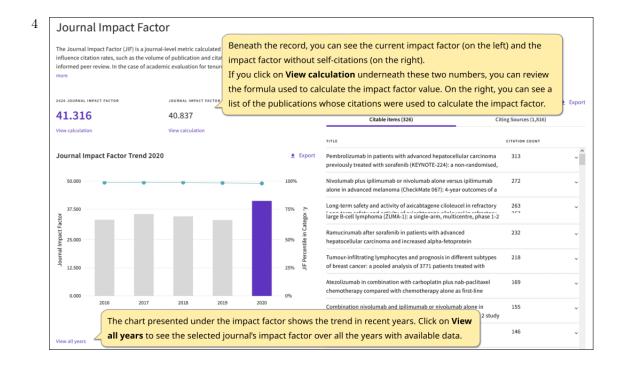
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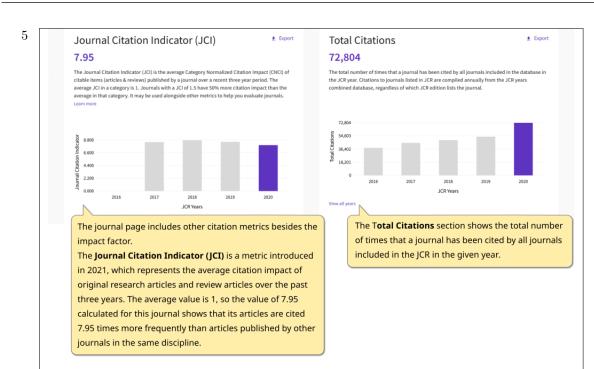
Finding impact factors for journals

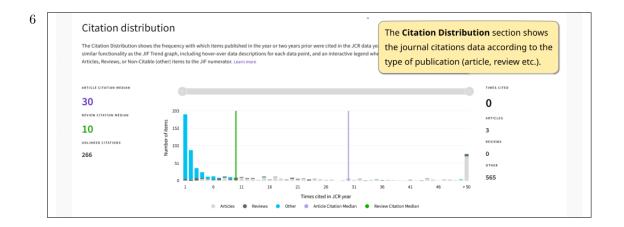
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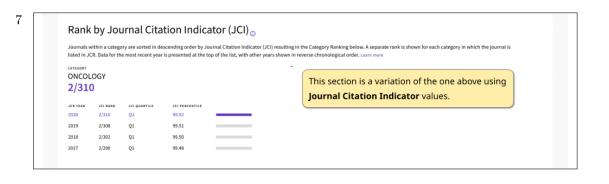
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Citation network

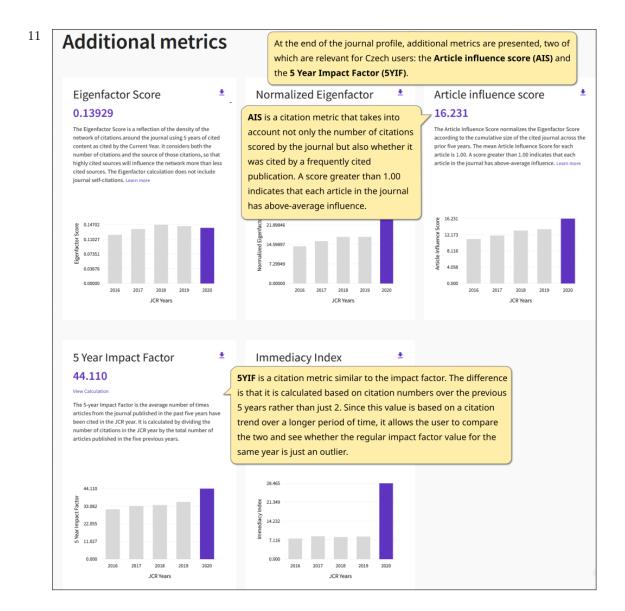
The next section shows the median age of publications in the journal that were cited in the given year (**Cited Half-life**) and the median age of publications cited by the journal in the given year (**Citing Half-life**).

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2019									2019	6,385 citations	14.99%	1,271 sources
2018									2018	7,084 citations	24.72%	1,317 sources
2017									2017	8,310 citations	36.13%	1,504 sources
2016 2015 2015									2016	7,786 citations	46.82%	1,467 sources
2015									2015	7,223 citations	56.74%	1,496 sources
2014									2014	6,489 citations	65.65%	1,496 sources
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Content metrics ▲ Export Average JIF Percentile Source data This tile shows the breakdown of document types published by the journal. Citable Items are Articles and Reviews. For the purposes of calculating JIF, a JCR year considers the publications of that journal in the two prior years. Learn more The Average Journal Impact Factor Percentile takes the sum of the JIF Percentile rank for each category under consideration, then calculates the average of those values. Learn more ALL CATEGORIES AVERAGE EDITION Science Citation Index 159 total citable items 98.14 Expanded 08001063 ARTICLES REVIEWS COMBINED(C) OTHER DOCUMENT TYPES(O) 98.14 NUMBER IN JCR 125 YEAR 2020 (A) 34 159 386 29% 1,616 2,399 6,285 80% NUMBER OF REFERENCES (B) 3,886 The Average JIF Percentile (AJIFP) calculates the RATIO (B/A) 31.1 70.6 39.5 4.2 1 average percentile of the journal's impact factor in all Source data gives an overview of the types of the disciplines that it is included in the JCR. The higher publications in the journal, including the number of the value on a scale of 1 to 100%, the higher the impact citations (references) included in these publications. factor among the journals in the relevant discipline. For example, *Cell* has a JIF percentile of 99.49% in biochemistry and molecular biology and 98.72% in cell biology, so its average JIF percentile is 99.10%, since (99.49% + 98.72%)/2 = 99.10%.





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	REGIONAL ANESTHESIA AND PAIM MEDICINE	1098-7339	1532-8651	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	4,948	5.113	Q1	1.96	0.34 %
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	BRITISH JOURNAL OF ANAESTHESIA	0007-0912	1471-6771	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	21,180	6.199	Q1	2.33	5.93 %
	PAIN	0304-3959	1872-6623	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	38,312	6.029	Q1	1.90	0.74 %
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2	ANESTHESIOLOGY	0003-3022	1528-1175	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	28,995	6.424	Q1	2.85	0.19 %	
	BRITISH JOURNAL OF ANAESTHESIA	0007-0912	1471-6771	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	21,180	6.199	Q1	2.33	5.93 %	
	PAIN	0304-3959	1872-6623	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	38,312	6.029	Q1	1.90	0.74 %	
	ANAESTHESIA	0003-2409	1365-2044	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	10,389	5.879	Q1	2.07	4.76 %	
	REGIONAL ANESTHESIA AND PAIR MEDICINE	1098-7339	1532-8651	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	4,948	5.113	Q1	1.96	0.34 %	
	EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY	0265-0215	1365-2346	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	4,150	4.140	Q1	1.56	0.00 %	
	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL	0952-8180	1873-4529	ANESTHESIOLOGY - SCIE	4,401	3.542	Q1	0.98	2.30 %	

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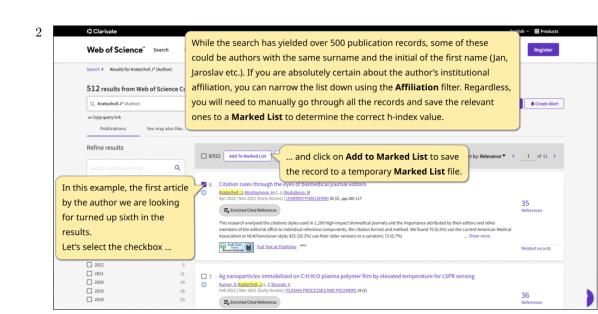
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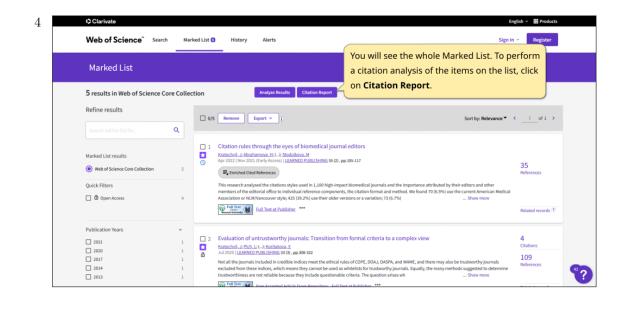
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⊖ 2	Evaluation of e-learning course, information Literacy, for medical students Katachid.J 2013 <u>ELECTRONIC LIBBARY</u> 31 (1), pp.55-69	2	1	2	0	0	1.2	12
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⊖ ⁴	Evaluation of untrustworthy journals: Transition from formal criteria to a complex view Kettechnil. J. P.Br., 1;F. Kettekena. F Jul 2009 (<u>LEARNED PUBLISHING</u> 33 (1), pp.306-322	0	0	1	3	0	1.33	4
⊖ 5	Citation rules through the eyes of biomedical journal editors <u>Kratechul. J. Abrahamma, 15 (-): Stochleva, 18</u> Apr 2022 [Nov 2021 (Carly Access) <u> LARMO PUBLISHING</u> 35 (D), pp.365-117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

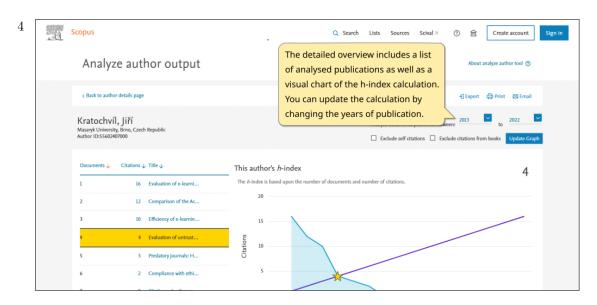
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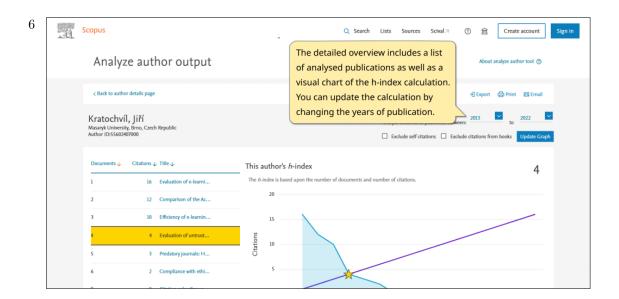
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