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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 40th issue of the 4th volume of the President's News Digest. In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of **"Scientific Journals Impact Factors".**

In 1955 Dr Eugene Garfield mentioned the idea of an impact factor in Science magazine. That paper is considered the primary reference for the concept of the Science Citation Index. In the early 1960s, Dr Eugene Garfield and Dr Irving H. Sher created the journal impact factor to help select journals for the new Science Citation Index (SCI). When the **journal's** name or ISSN is **indexed** in Science Citation **Index** or Social Science Citation **Index** it means that the **journal** is an **ISI indexed**.

Scopus is launched in 2004 by Elsevier. **Both Scopus** and **ISI** (are two bibliographic databases operated by different companies - Elsevier and Clarivate Analytics (formerly part of Thomson Reuters).

Impact Factors are means to measure the significance of a journal by calculating the number citations within journals over a specified period of time. The higher the impact factor, the more highly ranked the journal.

The Journal Citations Report (JCR) database tracked all impact factors for journals.

Impact Factors should not be the only consideration when judging quality as not all journals are tracked in the JCR database. However, some league tables of universities rankings like QS will only consider citations in Scopus.

The calculation of Impact Factor is based on a two-year period and involves dividing the number of times articles were cited by the number of articles that are citable.
Calculation of 2018 IF of a journal:
A = the number of times articles published in 2016 and 2017 were cited by indexed journals during 2018.
B = the total number of "citable items" published in 2016 and 2017.

When you divide A/B you get the 2018 impact factor of a journal.

The impact factor is used to compare different journals within a certain field. The web of science (ISI) now owned by Clarivate Analtyics indexes around 12,000 science and social science journals whereas Scopus/Elsevier indexes more than 40,000. There is not much difference except the time frame put into evaluation. Clarivate analytics (ISI) uses the published articles for the last two years, while Scopus uses a 3 year window. Scopus calls it metrics as citescore while ISI calls it Impact Factor. Scopus is a bigger repository and indexing system in terms of number of journals and citescore has started becoming an important tool for journal evaluation and used widely in international universities rankings.

Reference:
https://clarivate.com/essays/history-journal-impact-factor/

https://harzing.com/popbook/ch16_2_1.htm

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Science is a way of life. Science is a perspective. Science is the process that takes us from confusion to understanding in a manner that's precise, predictive and reliable - a transformation, for those lucky enough to experience it, that is empowering and emotional."

Brian Greene