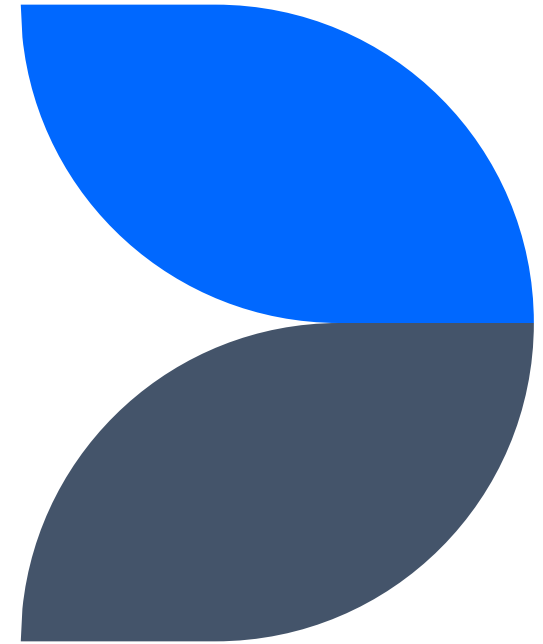# The IMPACT Factor

Dr. Cecilia Boyd

Primary Goal

To Understand the relevance of the Impact Factor when selecting your journal for submission.

What IS the Impact Factor

The impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year.

It is calculated by dividing the number of current citations to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in the two previous years.

The impact factor is often used as a proxy for the relative importance or prestige of a journal within its field, but it has some limitations and criticisms.

Some advantages of using the impact factor include:

Aid for researchers and institutions to identify and evaluate journals that are relevant and reputable for their research topics.

Provision of a quick and easy way to compare journals across different disciplines and regions.

Can be a Reflection of the quality and influence of the information provided by the publisher or journal.

It does not account for factors such as citation practices, publication ethics, peer review, editorial policies, or journal scope.

IMPACT FACTOR Explained

The impact factor Is often used as a criterion to rank journals, selecting authors, and to fund research projects.

IT means
the importance of a journal within its field. Those journals with a high impact factor value are given a higher status of being <u>"more important", or carry more prestige in the respective field than those with lower values.</u>

It reflects the yearly mean number of citations of articles published in the last two years in a given journal.

 ration between the number of citations received in that year for for publications in that journal.

Elsevier™ Author Services

IMPACT FACTOR and RANKING

The Journal Impact Factor is published each year by Clarivate Analytics. It is a measure of the number of times an average paper in a particular journal is cited during the preceding two years.

For example:

A = the number of times articles published in a specific journal in 2014 and 2015 were cited by journals during 2016.

B = the total number of 'citable items' published by that journal in 2014 and 2015. ('Citable items' are usually articles, reviews, proceedings, etc.; not editorials or letters-to-the-editor.)

2016 impact factor = A/B.

Actual value is intentionally only displayed for the most recent year. Earlier values are available in the Journal Citation Reports from Clarivate Analytics

ISI ranking:

Journals are often ranked by Impact Factor in an appropriate Clarivate Analytics subject category. As there are now two Impact Factors published – two-year and five-year Impact Factors – this rank may differ, so care is needed when assessing these ranked lists to understand which of the two metrics is being used. In addition, journals can be categorized in multiple subject categories, giving them different ranks for each subject.

NOTE: A rank should always be in context to the subject category.

Impact Factor Ranking

The Impact Factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the Journal Citation Reports year (the numerator) by the total number of citable items published in the two previous years (the denominator).

An impact factor of 7.5 is considered to be very high, and a journal with this impact factor would be considered to be among the top journals in its field. However, it's important to note that impact factors are only one measure of a journal's quality, and _should not be the only factor considered when evaluating the importance or relevance of a journal._

Resource: Clarivate (2022). Journal Citation Reports: Document Types Included in the Impact Factor Calculation. Accessed at: https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/article/Journal-Citation-Reports-Document-Types-Included-in-the-Impact-Factor-Calculation?language=en_US

There are [Disadvantages](#) of Using the Impact Factor to select your journal

It does not account for factors such as citation practices, publication ethics, peer review, editorial policies, or journal scope.

It may be influenced by self-citations, predatory journals, or citation manipulation.

It may not capture the full impact or contribution of individual articles or authors.

Therefore, while the impact factor can be useful as one indicator of journal quality, it should not be used as the sole criterion for selecting or evaluating journals.

Other factors such as article content, methodology, results, discussion, and implications should also be considered.

Additionally, researchers should be aware of the limitations and biases of the impact factor and use it with caution and critical thinking

The Impact Factor

Summary

As you research your journals be certain to look at the impact factor.

Several points must be considered as you are searching for an appropriate journal to submit your work.

In fact you should select several journals at the start of your search then, by the process of elimination you will select the one that meets the criteria for your manuscript.

Thank you

**DOC's of Color
Mentoring Team**