Advantages and disadvantages of journal impact factor

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1. JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

The measure of impact of certain journals in the scientific community that represents the average number of citations which every article in that journal has received over the last two years. The higher the impact factor of the journal, the higher the reputation among those scientists.

Where:
A= the number of times that all items published in that journal in 2013 and 2014 were cited by indexed publications during 2015
B= the total number of "citable items" published by that journal in 2013 and 2014

\[ \text{JIF}_{2015}=\frac{A}{B} \]

2. JIF CROATIAN JOURNALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>H Index</th>
<th>Documents</th>
<th>Citable Documents</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Self Citations</th>
<th>Citations per Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996-2014</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>72,110</td>
<td>69,675</td>
<td>459,356</td>
<td>97,694</td>
<td>6,37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCImago Journal & Country Rank ranks a journals magazines from 239 countries around the world. According to SJR, Croatia is in 48th place with 72,110 processed documents.

3. ADVANTAGES OF JIF

- the most important and recent use is in the process of academic evaluation
- the calculation of impact factor is easily understood
- it is an objective measure
- in market research, the impact factor provides quantitative evidence for editors and publishers for positioning their journals in relation to the competition - especially others in the same subject category
- it provides librarians and researchers a tool for managing library journal collections
- as a management tool for library journal collections, the impact factor supplies the library administrator with information about journals already in the collection and journals under consideration for acquisition
- can be used to provide a gross approximation of the prestige of journals in which individuals have been published (this is best done in conjunction with other considerations such as peer review, productivity, and subject specialty citation rates

4. DISADVANTAGES OF JIF

- the journal’s impact factor is not necessarily representative of the individual journal articles
- it is highly dependant on the number of references per article in the research field
- language barriers for journals that are not in English
- selective journal self - citation: articles tend to preferentially cite other articles from the same journal
- expensive prices for access to databases
- errors in citations
- longer articles are more often cited
- citations of papers in journals are not in correlation with the quality of the journal and even less so with the scientific quality of the paper
- journals that are less available to readers will almost never achieve a higher impact factor regardless of the quality of papers it publishes
- it shows us more about the popularity of the journal than about its true reputation and authors are forced to send their papers to journals with a higher impact factor and as a result tend to avoid domestic journals

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