

IMPACT FACTORS: WHAT ARE THEY?

ISI Web of KnowledgeSM



Journal Citation Reports[®]

IMPACT FACTORS

The ISI® Journal Citation Reports (JCR®)

The Impact Factor has moved in recent years from an obscure bibliometric indicator to become the principal quantitative measure of the quality of a journal, its research papers, the researchers who wrote those papers, and even the institution they work in

IMPACT FACTORS

The **Impact Factor** is calculated by dividing the number of current citations a journal receives to articles published in the two previous years by the number of articles published in those years.

So, for example, the 2007 **Impact factor** is the citations in 2007 to articles published in 2005 and 2006 divided by the number articles published in 2005 and 2006.

IMPACT FACTORS


The journal **Impact Factor** is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year.

The **Impact Factor** can help you evaluate a journal's relative importance, especially when compared to others in the same discipline.

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What counts?

Article

- An article is a significant item published in a JCR journal
 - Editorials, letters, for example, are usually not counted as articles because they are not generally cited
 - Articles and Reviews are counted separately in the Source Data section of the Journal page.
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IMPACT FACTORS


What counts?

Review

- It cites more than 100 references
- It appears in a review publication or a review section of a journal
- The word *review* or *overview* appears in its title
- The abstract states that it is a review or survey

IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factor: ISI inclusion criteria

- timeliness of publication
 - peer review
 - international editorial conventions
 - international diversity
 - regional scholarship
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IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factors: how they can be used

- As qualified measure of a journal's standing
- To identify highly-cited authors
- To identify highly-cited themes

IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factors: how they can be increased

- There are very few quick fixes for increasing a journal's Impact Factor. Methodically building visibility, quality and 'must have' content for the journal is the surest way of gaining a high impact factor.
- However there are several ways to increase citations ... these can include:

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IMPACT FACTORS

Impact Factors: how they can be increased

- Publishing review articles will increase citations; they can attract a high number of readers, especially in 'hot' topics
- Authors from ranked journals: publish articles by authors who have contributed to other JCR ranked journals
- Inviting top academics to write for the journal on 'hot' areas of interest can increase citations and awareness of the journal