**Dear Author/Reader,**

**I Editor in-chief, getting lot of mails from the many Authors regarding "what is the Impact factor for my Journal". But most of the people don't know what is the impact factor?, what is the way for calculating the journal impact factor ? and how we can use the impact factor ?. Most of the individuals treating the Impact factor as a main quality parameter for ranking the journals. But we should be noted that the Impact factor of a journal is no way related to the main quality parameters like quality of peer review and quality of content of the journal. To educate each individual regarding the Impact factor, I have summarized the main points here below.**

**Please note: Impact factor can be calculated after completing the minimum of 3 years of publication; hence Journal Impact Factor can not be calculated for new journals.**

**Journal Impact Factors\* (\*Source: Thomson Reuters, Science gateway)**

**Journal Impact Factor is from Journal Citation Report (JCR), a product of Thomson ISI (Institute for Scientific Information). JCR provides quantitative tools for evaluating journals. The impact factor is one of these; it is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a given period of time.**

**The impact factor for a journal is calculated based on a three-year period, and can be considered to be the average number of times published papers are cited up to two years after publication.**

**For example, the impact factor 2010 for a journal would be calculated as follows:**

**A = the number of times articles published in 2008-9 were cited in indexed journals during 2010**

**B = the number of articles, reviews, proceedings or notes published in 2008-2009**

**Impact factor 2010 = A/B**

**(Note that the impact factor 2009 will be actually published in 2010, because it could not be calculated until all of the 2009 publications had been received. Impact factor 2010 will be published in 2011)**

**\*\*\*Please note the following key points related to Journal Impact factor:**

  **•Journal Impact Factor can not be calculated for new journals. I mean "the impact factor of a journal is calculated by dividing the number of current year citations to the source items published in that journal during the previous two years", hence impact factor can be calculated**

**after completing the minimum of 3 years of publication.**

  **•Journal Impact Factor will be a quotient factor only and will not be a quality factor.**

  **•Journal Impact Factor will not be related to quality of content and quality of peer review, it is only a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period.**

  **•Journal which publishes more review articles will get highest impact factors.**

**You can also refer more about the Journal Impact Factors from the following URL links:**

*   **http://tierra.rediris.es/publipapers/cortex.pdf**
*   **http://smj.sma.org.sg/5008/5008e1.pdf**
*   **http://www.elsevier.com/framework_editors/pdfs/Perspectives1.pdf**
*   **http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/free/essays/impact_factor/**
*   **http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/editorshome.editors/citation#journalanalyzer**

- **PL READ "Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research "BY Per O Seglen - - BMJ VOLUME 314 15 FEBRUARY 1997**

- **PL READ "Impact factor: a valid measure of journal quality? BY Somnath Saha, M.D., M.P.H.,** *Assistant Professor,*[1] **Sanjay Saint, M.D., M.P.H.,** *Associate Professor,*[2] **and Dimitri A. Christakis, M.D., M.P.H.,** *Assistant Professor*[3] **----- J Med Libr Assoc. 2003 January; 91(1): 42–46.**

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