



Description

With each year, the number of studies getting published in international peer-reviewed journals continues to increase. So, for any study that gets published, it is very critical that it gets cited by other researchers as only then will the impact of the study increase.

Citation metrics provide a way to quantitatively measure the impact, quality, and significance of published research. Most of these metrics are based on journal citations and do not provide a way to measure author or article level performance. There are various factors influencing the number of citations and the quality of the published work. Note that citation metrics are calculated based on average counts of citations per paper (within set parameters).

However, these citation metrics are considered to be indicative of the readership and popularity within the scientific community for a particular journal. Therefore, measuring the number of citations is an important benchmark for journals, institutions, and even individual academics. In this infographic, we provide a brief introduction to the commonly used citation metrics.

MEASURING RESEARCH IMPACT: CITATION METRICS

A quantitative measure of impact, quality, and significance of published research

- 1 Journal Impact Factor**
 IF is the average number of citations of an article, a review, or a proceeding published in a journal in the last 2 years.
- 2 Immediacy Index**
 Immediacy Index is the average number of times an article is cited in the first year of publication. This metric indicates how quickly articles are cited.
- 3 5-year Impact Factor**
 5-year IF is the average number of citations of an article, a review, or a proceeding published in a journal in the last 5 years.
- 4 Eigenfactor**
 This metric is based on weighted citations in a JCR year to papers published in the last 5 years. For calculating Eigenfactor, greater weightage is given to citations from influential journals and self-citations are not considered.
- 5 Hirsch Index**
 The h-index is indicative of the number of papers, h, that have been cited at least h times, regardless of the year of publication. It can be applied on datasets and is an author-level metric.
- 6 Altmetrics**
 Altmetrics is complementary to traditional metrics and considers the citations on Wikipedia and research blogs, media coverage, bookmarks on reference managers, and mentions on social networks.
- 7 SNIP**
 Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) is published by CWTS Journal Indicators. It is based on weighted citations in a year to papers published in the last 3 years. Unlike the IF, SNIP corrects for the differences in citation practices between scientific fields.
- 8 SJR SCImago Journal Rank**
 This metric is based on average number of weighted citations in a year to papers published in the last 3 years. For calculating SJR, greater weightage is given to citations from influential journals.

**Sequence is not indicative of rank*

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