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# CiteScore: A new-fangled metric available for determining the citation impact of scientific journals

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Bibliometrics is the science of evaluating the impact of a journal based on its scientific work using mathematical and statistical tools. The impact factor was the first bibliometric parameter introduced, and it was followed by a few other metrics.<sup>1</sup> An awareness of the journal impact factor came into existence five decades ago. In the early 1960s, Irving H Sher and Eugene Garfield formed the journal impact factor to help select journals for the Science Citation Index.<sup>2,3</sup> Since then, impact factor has been followed and widely employed by many scientific journals. Currently, the impact factor has evolved as a fundamental and universal measure of the value of a journal. The impact factor for an indexed journal is calculated based on two essential parameters such as the 'numerator' and the 'denominator' as shown below. The numerator is based on the number of citations received in the current year for articles published in a journal in the previous two years, while the denominator is the number of citable source articles published in the same two years.<sup>2,3</sup>

$$\text{2016 Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{Number of citations in 2016 for the articles published in 2014 and 2015}}{\text{Number of articles published in 2014 and 2015}}$$

The impact factor is often considered to compare the impact of journals in terms of quality articles published based on their citations, although this has a few limitations. This is because, citations received for an article largely depend upon the nature of a study based on its area, discipline, and citation frequencies. For instance, citations to be received for an article

from the mathematics discipline could be significantly lower as compared to that of an article from the biomedical discipline, and this would unquestionably influence the calculation of an impact factor for a journal. Even within the biomedical discipline, the citations to be received for an article depends highly on the subject of the research. For example, an article from the area of most prevalent disorders such as diabetes mellitus, cancer and hypertension could receive more citations than that of an article pertaining to an orphan disease. Therefore, the currently available impact factor could be influenced considerably by scientific fields with differential citation frequencies. However, consideration of impact factor as an important feature to measure the value of a journal is widespread, and it has been followed by numerous authors of several scientific fields, although a few other tools are also available to measure the citation impact of scientific journals such as Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) and SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), among others.

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