

About ISI Journal Citation Reports

ISI Journal Citation Reports, (JCR), through ISI Web of Knowledge, provides data to evaluate and compare scholarly journals. More than 7,500 journals from 3,300 publishers in science and the social sciences are included in the database. With JCR it is possible to find those journals with the highest impact, those used most frequently, and those that are the largest. Users can also get a sense of which journals are at the center of current scholarly communication in a particularly field or topic area.

Two editions can be separately searched: the Science Edition, with information from approximately 5,900 journals, and the Social Sciences Edition, with information from approximately 1,700 journals. Searching by journal is another option, for either individual journals or all journals in the same subject category, publisher, or country.

Information given for each journal includes the calculations listed below. The difference between **cited** and **citing** measures is an important distinction. **Cited** refers to references **to** a journal's own articles by other articles. **Citing** refers to references **by** a journal's own articles to other articles.

- **Citation and Article Counts:** Lets users compare and evaluate journals based on how often a particular journal is used.
- **Impact Factor:** Lets users evaluate the relative importance of journals in the same field. It is based on how often articles from that journal have been cited. The impact factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in a given year to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in the two previous years.
- **Immediacy Index:** Measures a journal's effect on current scholarly communication based on how quickly an article in that journal is cited within the same year. Helpful when looking at journals dealing with very current subjects. The immediacy index is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year.
- **Cited Half-Life:** Shows age of articles from the journal that are cited in other articles. The citing half-life is the median age of articles from the journal cited in the JCR year. Only journals cited 100 or more times have a cited half-life. Research journals may have a longer cited half-life than state-of-the-art journals.
- **Citing Half-Life:** Shows age of articles cited **by** the journal's own articles. The citing half-life is the median age of articles cited in the journal in the JCR year. Only journals publishing 100 or more citations have a citing half-life. Cited-only journals do not have a citing half-life.
- **Source Data Listing:** Summarizes the following data for each journal: number of articles published in current year, total number of references in those articles, average number of references per article. Only original research and review articles are counted. Editorials, letters, etc. are not included in the tabulation. Cited-only journals have no source data. Since review articles are frequently cited more often than original research articles, it can be important to know which journals publish more review articles.

The source data specifies number of review articles, number of non-review (original) articles, and "other items". This last category includes information on non-scholarly items, such as, news and commentaries.

An article is considered a review if it:

- contains more than 100 references
- appears in review publications or review sections of journals
- contains the word review or overview in the title, or
- states in the summary that the article is a review or summary

A blank indicates that the references for a particular journal were not included in JCR.

- **Citing Journal Listing:** Lets users identify a particular journal's subject or specialty. The Citing Journal Listing tells which publications are cited **by** a particular journal. It lists those cited most often at the top followed by others in decreasing frequency. Citing Journal information also provides an indication of a journal's closest peer or competitor and can reveal specialty-specific networks of journals.
- **Cited Journal Listing:** Lets users determine which publications cite a particular journal. As with the Citing Journal Listing, this information provides the journal's subject or specialty, closest peer or competitor, and the names of other journals related to it by specialty.
- **Related Journals** have cited and citing relationships. Users can see which

journals share citations, and are most related to the journal being investigated.

- **Trends:** A graph showing the trend of individual impact factors for each scholarly journal for the last five years. These graphs link from Web of Science.
- **Subject Categories:** Lets users examine the general subject assigned to each journal. When more than one is given, it is possible to study the overall rank versus the rank within a subject.

Statistical information is also available for these categories. It is based on combined data from 2003 forward. Items calculated include total cites, median impact factor, aggregate impact factor, aggregate immediacy index.

- **Publisher Information:** Lets users see the full record page for the following information: full and abbreviated journal title, ISSN, number of issues per year, publisher name and address, country and language of publication, subject categories assigned by ISI.
- **Journal Title Changes:** A listing of journal title changes are provided on the Journal Title Changes page for all changes occurring in the past two years (the JCR edition year and the preceding year). The listing is in alphabetical order by journal title.

A Link to **JCR's tutorial** is available from ISI Thomson Scientific at <http://scientific.thomson.com/tutorials/jcrweb/>.

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UPMC Shadyside Libraries (412-623-2441);
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05/07