Mastering metrics
A Taylor & Francis guide

FOR RESEARCHERS...
Metrics can help you to choose which journal to submit your work to, and assess the ongoing impact of an individual piece of research (including your own).

FOR JOURNAL EDITORS...
Metrics can help you assess your journal’s standing in the community, raise your journal’s profile, and potentially attract quality submissions.

FOR LIBRARIANS...
Metrics can help you to select journals for your institution, and analyze their usage and impact. They can also help you assess the impact of research published by those in your institution.

IMPACT FACTOR
Impact Factors are the most commonly used metric to assess a journal. Different subject areas have varying citation patterns which are reflected in the calculations. Released annually based on Web of Science Journal Citation Reports®, only journals in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) and Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) can have an Impact Factor.

How it’s calculated:
Number of citations in one year to content published in the previous two years
Number of articles and reviews published within the previous two years

5-YEAR IMPACT FACTOR
5-year Impact Factors attempt to reflect the longevity of research, and are more stable year-on-year for smaller titles as there are a larger number of articles and citations included. These are useful for subject areas where it takes longer for work to be cited.

How it’s calculated:
Number of citations in one year to content published in the previous five years
Number of articles and reviews published within the previous five years

EIGENFACTOR
The Eigenfactor is based on the idea that not all citations are created equal. It measures the influence of a journal within the relevant literature over 5 years. A citation from a highly-cited journal is worth more than one that receives few citations.

How it’s calculated:
Number of citations in one year to content published in the previous five years (weighted)
Number of articles published within the previous five years

ARTICLE INFLUENCE SCORE
The Article Influence Score measures the average influence per article of the papers published in a journal. It is calculated by dividing the Eigenfactor by the number of articles published in the journal. A score greater than 1.00 means that each article has an above average influence.

How it’s calculated:
The normalized Eigenfactor per article

CITESPHERE
CiteScore aims to capture the optimum citation period for most subject areas. It is a ratio of citations to content published, and considers all content.

How it’s calculated:
Citations in a given year to articles published in the previous three years
Number of articles published within the previous three years

SNIP
Source Normalized Impact Per Paper
SNIP is published twice a year and looks at a 3-year period. It attempts to correct subject-specific characteristics so it is easier to make cross-discipline comparisons between journals. It measures citations relative to citations expected for the subject field.

How it’s calculated:
Journal citation count per paper
Citation potential in the field

IMMEDIACY INDEX
The Immediacy Index focuses on how quickly content is cited rather than its long-term impact. The immediacy index can vary between subject areas and journal type.

How it’s calculated:
Number of citations to articles published in a given year
Number of articles published in the same year

H-INDEX
The h-index attempts to measure the productivity of a researcher and the citation impact of their publications. It varies by field and depends on which data source is used to calculate the value. If you have a h-index of 10 you must have published at least 10 papers that have each been cited 10 times or more.

How it’s calculated:
Average number of weighted citations in a given year
Number of articles published in the previous three years

ALTMETRIC ATTENTION SCORE
Altmetric Attention Scores are based on the number of mentions an article receives from various source types. Within each source type, each mention is weighted differently. So, article mentions in an international newspaper have a different weighting to someone tweeting about the same piece of research.

How it’s calculated:
Gathers data collected around research content that isn’t usage or citation data, such as mentions on social media, in traditional media, on blogs, in policy documents, and online reference managers.

Find out more: bit.ly/TF-Mastering-Metrics

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