

Editorial

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Spread the Citation Index of the Article

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How can the citation index of a published research enhanced?

The citation index (HI) is probably the biggest concern for researchers because it is commonly used in the evaluation of the quality and excellence of the published work.

Once the research is complete, the researcher has to take an important decision concerning the choice of the Journal with which his research ideas will be published.

It is most often the impact factor (IF) which is taken into consideration to decide on the Journal of choice, being reflective of its quality.¹

Can IF be considered as a good parameter for the evaluation of the performance of a Journal?

An understanding of the publication process can help the readers decide for themselves if the IF could be considered as a relevant parameter for an evaluation of the Journal quality.

IF is the measure of the number of citations received each year by the journal, and it can be strictly correlated to the quality of published articles/research.^{2,3}

Who takes the decision as to whether an article is good enough to be published?

The Editor is the first one to decide, followed by the reviewers (generally members of the journal's Editorial Board and Reviewer Board or the experts in the related field),⁴ to take the final decision pertaining to the acceptability of the article for publication with the Journal.

The acceptance or rejection process can be further divided into three parts: 1) To receive the decision or comments of the Editor following the review of the manuscript. 2) In acknowledgement of the proposed remarks and recommendations of the expert reviewers, the author is expected to undertake the manuscript revision. 3) The final decision to accept or reject the article is taken by the Editor having analysed that the reviewer's comments have been addressed .

Generally, the pre-requisite to obtain an IF is its existence over a long period of time, normally more than 3 years, explaining why the more relevant journals are also the older ones. However, in no way does this imply that a young journal can be not a valid source to publish and share your research ideas.

The second check point in making the choice of journal, is the availability and accessibility of an article to the readers; for a work to be cited it is necessary that a large audience has access to read it and thereby appreciate your work.

Often, there are limitations due to reduced numbers of articles being available with "open access".⁵ Several institutions do not facilitate complete access to all journals owing to the limitation of financial resources which could hinder the wide availability of the article for reading.

These Institutions could also be the potential implementers of citation index for a cer-

tain article which is not available for open access.

Our Journal offers this service supported by certain administrative charges, which are necessary to cover for the operational and production expenses to facilitate the possibility of open access of the published articles.

This feature is a promising opportunity to enable the sharing of published literature, the freedom to post it on Research Gate and Academia to enhance the visualization of articles in social networking platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook or Twitter.

ResearchGate and Academia, with the strong support of many journals (defined as green access resources), solve the problems of sharing publications by allowing complete availability and accessibility of many articles. Researchers also emphasize on the importance of these 2 platforms to increase the number of citations each year.⁶

All journals offer opportunity to share ideas and published work through social media avenues such as LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook and I strongly recommend it's use.

Enriching social networking across various platforms can help achieve a high citation index too!

Introducing the article's first page (including Abstract) on LinkedIn or Facebook, with the use of a hashtag for the title, or the use of a sentence that could be considered more relevant on Twitter; or creating an Instagram profile to publish images of your research/paper may be a promising platform to showcase the published literature.

Social Network, if well used, can create awareness about the research work and evoke great enthusiasm among a large audience.

Ideally, the choice of the journal to publish one's research should be with relevance to the following parameters:

- 1) Credibility of the journal, that it is not always linked to the impact factor. (By carefully analysing the expertise, experience and professional achievements of the Editorial Board members)
- 2) If it allows complete sharing or the availability of the full article using academic platforms such as ResearchGate and Academia.
- 3) If it ensures open access.

Currently, there are a lot of journals and their numbers will further increase in the coming days, so it is very important to evaluate all the possible factors before submission.

A high impact factor is a warranty of the journal capacity to select the best articles to publish and only the members of the editorial board and the reviewer board are responsible of this selection.

It is important to read the published articles in the journal that one chooses for the publication of their work. If the individual making the choice finds the literature interesting and innovative, probably the other readers will also have the same opinion. On the basis of my suggestion, the individual's choice of the appropriate Journal to publish one's work should be determined by an evaluation of the Editorial Board it houses, by reviewing the quality of previously published articles, by giving importance to the possibility of open access, and by checking for their presence on Scopus/PubMed/Google.

An author should never forget to share one's article on research platforms such as ResearchGate and social networking websites.

Choosing a journal satisfying one or two of these parameters can help increase the citation index of an article, but the most important part is to write a GREAT scientific paper!

Hope that my suggestions can be useful for the publication of works of potential researchers, scientists, academicians, students and other contributors.

Good Luck!

Arianna Di Stadio

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