Peer Reviewed Journals

Sue L. T. McGregor PhD

2016

Professor Emerita (MSVU)

McGregor Consulting Group, Canada

www.consultmcgregor.com

Sue.mcgregor@msvu.ca

902-823-2625

Title of Journal

- The name of the journal can provide some clues as to its focus, scope and intended audience
  - **Journal** of … (*Journal of Leadership Education*)
  - **International** (*International Journal of Consumer Studies*)
  - **Specific country** (*Canadian Journal of Education*)
  - **Specific discipline** (*Global Education Journal*)
  - …**Quarterly** (Economic *Quarterly*)
  - …**Forum** (*Kappa Omicron Nu FORUM*)
  - …**Yearbook** (*Business Education Yearbook*)
  - …**Research** (***Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal***)
  - **The…** (*The Catalyst*)
  - … **Review** (*College and University Media Review*)
  - **Name of a specific topic** (*Radical Pedagogy*)

How long the journal has existed

- Saged journal, extremely well established (50 years or more)
- Well established (30 years or more)
- Moderately well-established (10-30 years)
- New kid on the block (5-10 years)
- Untested (0-5 years)

How long journal has been in existence con't

- The volume number tells you how many years a journal has been in existence.
- Volume 17 means 17 years.
- Most journals have several issues each year. If you see 17 (4), it means volume 17, the 4th issue published that year.
- The website for the journal , or its front or back cover, will indicate the number of issues published each year.
- Most journals publish 2 or 4 issues per year, a few have 1 issue a year and others have more than 4 issues per year.
- Some journals indicate the month/season as well but this is not usually part of the citation

Current Issue: November 2012
Volume 36, Issue 6
September 2012
Volume 36, Issue 5
July 2012
Volume 36, Issue 4
Special Issue: Insights African Continent…
May 2012
Volume 36, Issue 3
March 2012
Volume 36, Issue 2

Pagination

- Some journals start each issue within a volume with the # 1. There will be 4 page 14s, 4 page 128s etc. Need to cite issue number in the reference list
  - Issue 1 = pages 1-128
    Issue 2 = pages 1-256
    Issue 3 = pages 1-257
    Issue 4 = pages 1-175

- Other journals start the volume with the #1 and number each paper continuously – the page numbers grow steadily until the end of that year. A paper might be pp. 1112-1165.
  - Issue 1 = pages 1-128
    Issue 2 = pages 129-256
    Issue 3 = pages 257-384
    Issue 4 = pages 385-512

When citing the above, the issue number is not needed.

- Many online journals do not have page numbers. There is only a volume # and maybe an issue #, plus the URL and/or DOI (Digital Object Identifier).

Editors and Board Members

- **Each journal has an Editor (paid or unpaid)**
- Some journals have Associate Editors, Statistical Editors, Book Review Editors and/or Managing Editors
- Most journals have a Board, comprising a collection of scholars in the attendant field of study (ranging from 5-10 members to over 20)
- These boards are supposed to set policies, missions, values, goals et cetera for the journal (some boards are much more active than others)
- Board meetings can be in real time or electronically, or a combination, usually prefaced with the Editor's report and the **Publisher's report**

Publishers of Journals (they print and distribute the journals (make them available to readers), using the material/manuscripts the editor(s) give them)

- Some journals are self-published by supporting organizations or institutes
- Some are published by university presses
- Others are part of a stable of journals managed by huge publishing firms: (accounting for over 50% of all papers published)
  - Sage
  - Taylor and Francis
  - Reed Elsevier
  - Springer
  - John Wiley & Sons (Blackwell)
  - Kluwer Academic

Guidelines for Authors

- Each journal Editor and Editorial Board prepares a document usually titled *"Guidelines for Authors,"* explaining how to prepare manuscripts for submission and peer review
- These documents contain basic information about:
  - Referencing style
  - Word counts and page numbers allowed
  - Preferred word processing programs (WORD, WP, RTF)
  - Formatting of manuscript (line spacing, pitch and font, line numbering, pagination)
  - Review process and timelines
  - How to deal with tables, figures, pictures
  - What to put on title page
  - Where/to whom/how to submit the paper

Examples of *Guidelines for Authors*

- **International Journal of Consumer Studies**
  - http://ca.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-IJCS.html
- **Educational Leadership**
  - http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Write-for-Educational-Leadership/Write-for-Educational-Leadership.aspx
- **Canadian Journal of Higher Education**
  - http://ojs.library.ubc.ca/index.php/cjhe/about

Peer Reviewers

- If the journal is peer reviewed (called a refereed journal), there will be a collection of reviewers that the Editor turns to as each paper comes in for consideration
- Note that Editors screen all incoming manuscripts to see if they fit the remit of the journal (aims, objectives, mission, topics, focus). If not, papers will be **editor-rejected** and not be sent for review.
- Some journals list the identity of these people and some do not (revealing the identity of reviewers for any given paper depends upon the **type of review)**
  - http://www.healthpromotionjournal.com/index.php?com_route=review

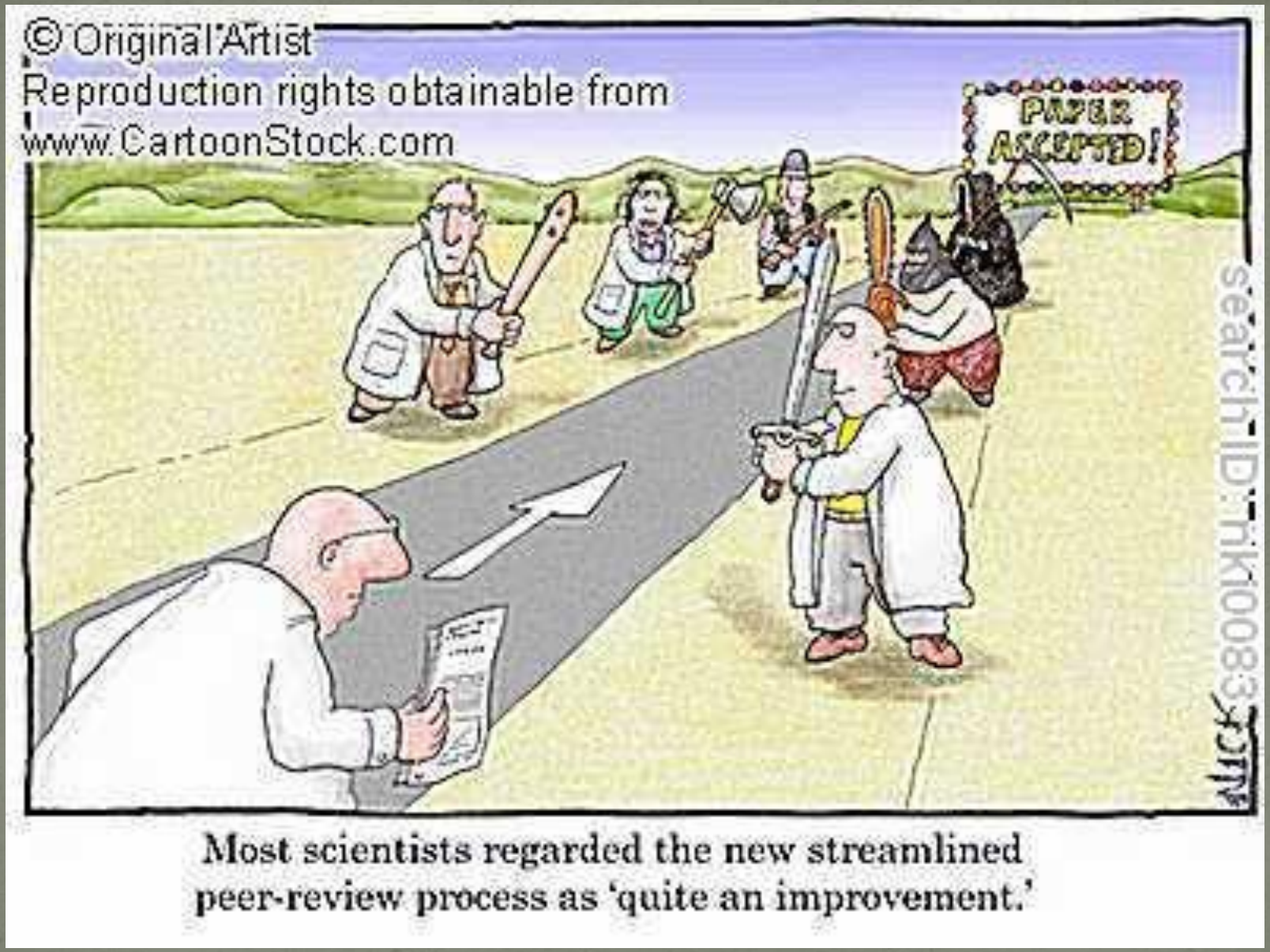
Types of peer review

- **Double blind**
  - Neither the author(s) nor the reviewers know each other's identity (the Editor and/or the conference organizer(s) know all names)
- **Single Blind**
  - The reviewer(s) knows the author's name but the author(s) does not know reviewers (Editor knows all names)
- **Open review (no blind)**
  - Both author(s) and reviewers know each other's identity
- **Editor reviewed** (no peers involved, per se)
- **Committee reviewed** (often used for conferences that have an editorial committee reviewing many submissions); various degrees of 'blindness' exist
- **Paid, in-house staff** reviewed

Double Blind proudly stated….

International Journal of Contemporary Surgery

is a double blind peer reviewed international journal



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Emergent conversation about changing the peer review process

- Some people are calling into question the whole process of peer review, asking instead for an **open** review process. It would entail a conversation, a colloquy (dialogue and exchange) between author(s) and peers – nothing blind about it. No secrets. It would be an open communication amongst members of the peer's community of fellow scholars.

- But, right now, peer review is the best process there is for decisions about whether or not to publish a paper in a journal. Unfortunately, there is no way right now to *judge the reviewer's judgement*, because the final decision is with the Editor. SO….the role of the Editor is KEY.

Acceptance Rates

- Peer review is an external quality control benchmark; acceptance rates (rejection rates) are internal benchmarks for quality, set by the Editor and/or the Editorial Board. Few journals publish this information for the public, although it is available by request in most instances
- Not every paper submitted to an editor is actually published in the journal.
- **Assumptions:**
  - the lower the acceptance rate, the higher the calibre of the papers in the journal (more rigorous)
  - the lower the acceptance rate, the more prestigious the journal
  - the lower the acceptance rate, the more competitive the journal (getting accepted means you won over others)

Acceptance Rates

- There is substantial variation among disciplines
- Smaller, speciality journals tend to have higher acceptance rates (50% or higher)
- A quick glance at the 2011 Cabells' Directory of journals shows an average acceptance rate of **11-20%** (meaning 80-90% of all papers submitted are *rejected* by the Editor – never get published in that journal)

SPECIAL TOPICS

Editors have a powerful role to play in building the body of knowledge of a field or discipline

Special Issues or Themed Issues

- Often, Editors and Editorial Advisory Boards will select themes for specific issues. These issues often have **Guest Editors**, an expert in the topic/discipline.
- Themes are used to:
  - capture state-of-the-art thinking in the field
  - profile special topics emerging in the field
  - develop a topic with which the Editor wants scholars to begin to engage
  - publish collection of papers from a conference
- If an article is in a special issue, one is safe to assume that the author(s) is recognized as being an expert in this topic OR is bringing a unique perspective to the topic
- Special issues can be very competitive and/or very elite
- Papers in special issues tend to be cited more often than regular issues
- Authors are often **invited to submit** papers to a special issues

Paper based or online

- For centuries, journals were published on paper, one bound issue at a time (containing several papers in each issue)
- Since the early 90s, there has been rapid movement towards electronic journals with various models:
  - Online is exact replica of print version (both)
  - Online is exact version of print with additional online-only papers
  - Online only (no print version)

Impact Factors and Other Journal Ranking Systems

- In the 1960s, a movement began to 'count citations' assuming that the more often a paper is cited, the more important is the paper and/or journal; the more impact.
- The most popular index now is the Impact Factor, calculated by Thomson Reuters (Journal Citation Reports, JCR) (since mid 70s). Each journal accepted into their rating system (close to 9000 journals and only 10% who ask are accepted) is given a number from **0.0 to 30**, with anything over 2.0 considered a good ranking. Most journals fall below 2.0 (over 90%). This number is recalculated each year.
- Other systems involve *Tired journals* and **H-rankings**
- Cabell's directory of journals (Texas) is an example of a list of journals with type of peer review, impact factors, acceptance rates (includes education journals)
  - http://classguides.lib.uconn.edu/loader.php?type=d&id=301228

2012 Impact Factor data

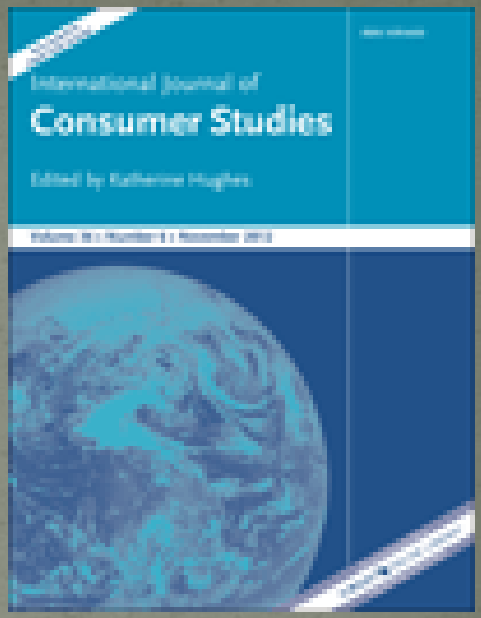
(8836 journals)

- 93% score of 2.0 or lower (7715 journals)
- More than half are 1.0 or lower (58.5%)
- 5.5% score 10 or greater
- 0.3% have a factor of 30 (n=23 journals out of almost 9000!)

Five year data:

IF	1yr	%	Rem	5yr	%	Rem
30	20	0.2	8316	23	0.3	8313
25	31	0.4	8305	32	0.4	8304
20	46	0.6	8290	48	0.6	8288
15	65	0.8	8271	79	0.9	8257
12	110	1.3	8226	117	1.4	8219
10	151	1.8	8185	158	1.9	8178
9	192	2.3	8144	185	2.2	8151
8	220	2.6	8116	223	2.7	8113
7	275	3.3	8061	282	3.4	8054
6	372	4.5	7964	384	4.6	7952
5	536	6.4	7800	544	6.5	7792
4	837	10.0	7499	871	10.4	7465
3	1458	17.5	6878	1550	18.6	6786
2	2707	32.5	5629	2840	34.1	5496
1	4935	59.2	3401	4875	58.5	3461

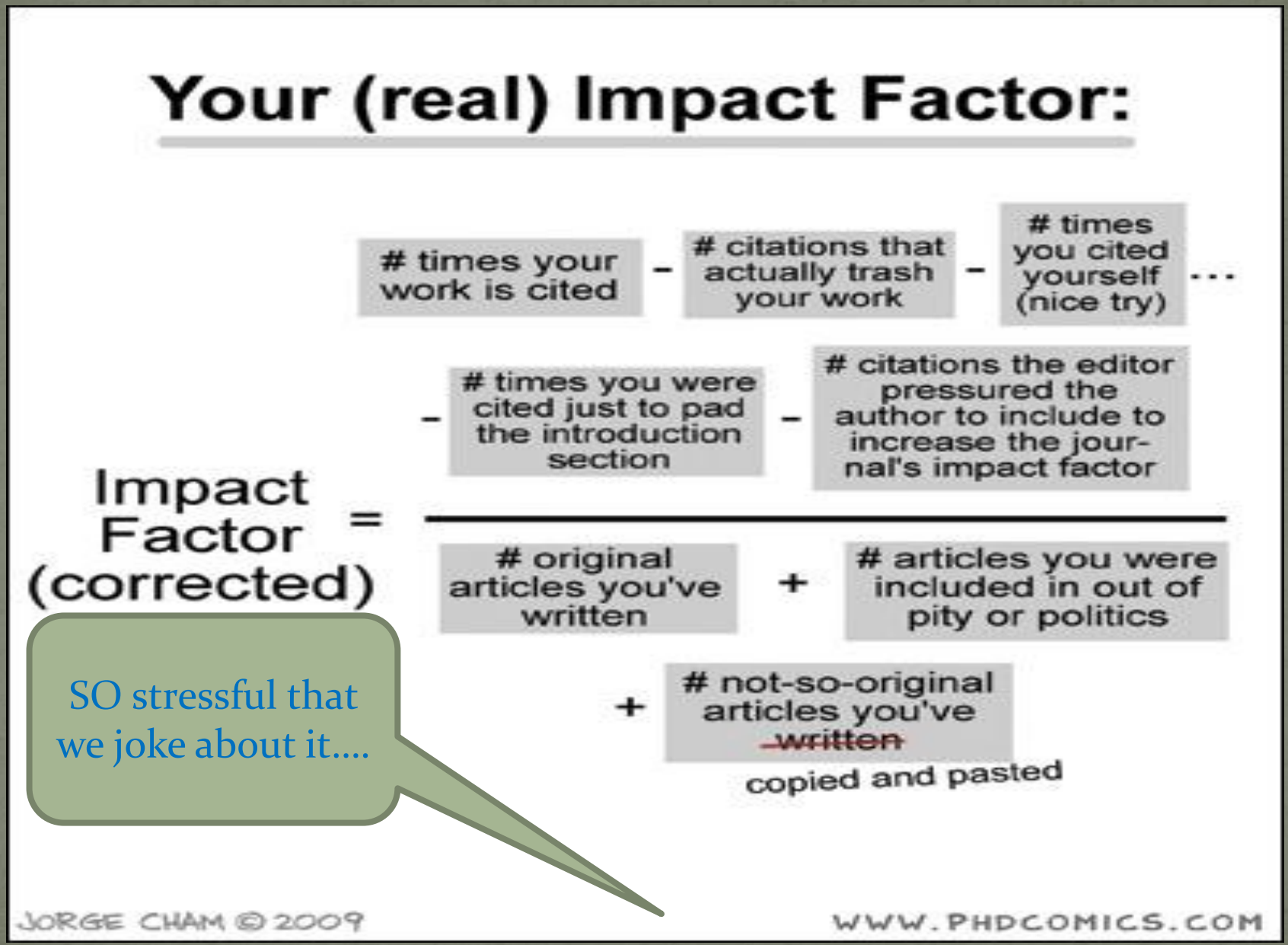
Example



- International Journal of Consumer Studies
- **Wiley** Blackwell Publishing
- Edited By: Katherine Hughes
- Impact Factor: 0.521 (in 2012 it was 0.661)
- ISI Journal Citation Reports (JCR)© **Ranking**: 2011: 86/113 (Business) (Institute for Scientific Information, part of Thompson Reuters)

MANY, MANY, MANY flaws with the Impact Factor approach

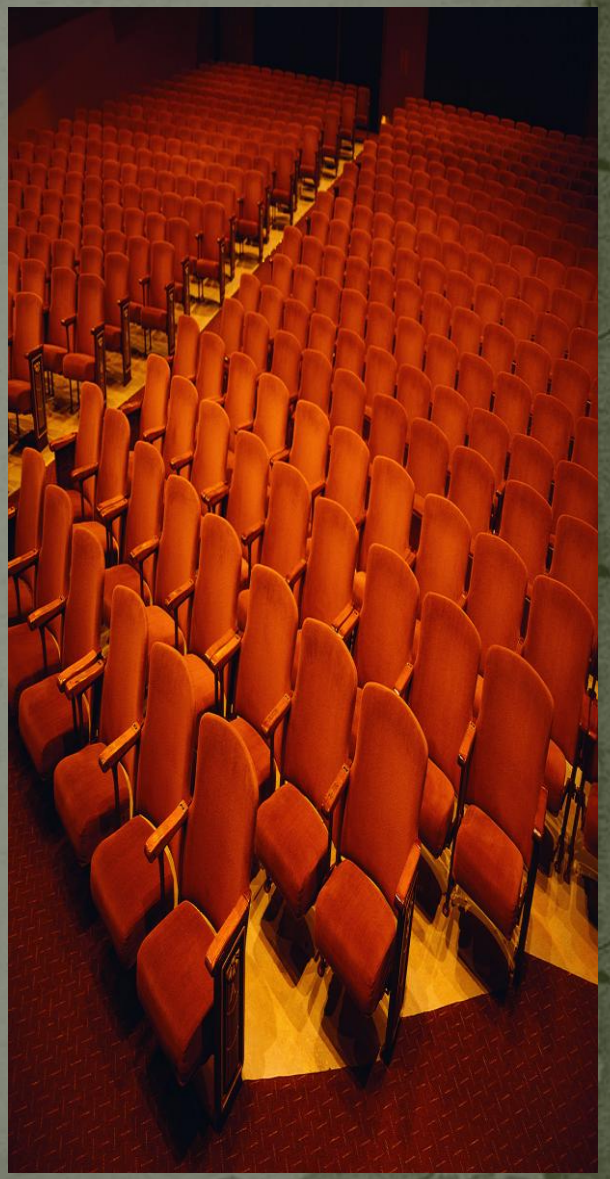
Yet – a growing number of people reply on this **number** (index) to gauge the calibre of scholarship provided by a journal and author(s)


Your (real) Impact Factor:
times your work is cited
- # citations that actually trash your work
- # times you cited yourself (nice try)
...
- # times you were cited just to pad the introduction section
- # citations the editor pressured the author to include to increase the jour-nal's impact factor
Impact Factor (corrected) =
original articles you've written
+ # articles you were included in out of pity or politics
+ # not-so-original articles you've ~~written~~ copied and pasted
SO stressful that we joke about it....
JORGE CHAM © 2009
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Another approach to impact factors

Tiered Journals

- A tier is a layer, level or stratum. Imagine tiered seats in an auditorium.
- A recent initiative related to measuring impact is to create a list of peer reviewed journals, organized into tiers (Tier 1, 2, 3 etc, Tier A, B, C).
- The lower number is considered the top tier, e.g., ***Tier 1 or Tier A+***, and the more prestigious the journal – **"front row seating," "top of the heap"**



Tiered Journals. Australian Research Council as example

- **A***

Typically an A* journal would be one of the best in its field or subfield in which to publish and would typically cover the entire field/subfield. Virtually all papers they publish will be of a very high quality. These are journals where most of the work is important (it will really shape the field) and where researchers boast about getting accepted. Acceptance rates would typically be low and the editorial board would be dominated by field leaders, including many from top institutions.

- **A**

The majority of papers in a Tier A journal will be of very high quality. Publishing in an A journal would enhance the author's standing, showing they have real engagement with the global research community and that they have something to say about problems of some significance. Typical signs of an A journal are lowish acceptance rates and an editorial board which includes a reasonable fraction of well known researchers from top institutions.

- **B**

Tier B covers journals with a solid, though not outstanding, reputation. Generally, in a Tier B journal, one would expect only a few papers of very high quality. They are often important outlets for the work of PhD students and early career researchers. Typical examples would be regional journals with high acceptance rates, and editorial boards that have few leading researchers from top international institutions.

- **C**

Tier C includes quality, peer reviewed, journals that do not meet the criteria of the higher tiers.

Yet another approach – The h-Index

- Suggested as an idea by Jorge E. Hirsch in 2005 (so, it is often called the *Hirsch index or Hirsch number*)
- Designed to measure the actual quantity (productivity) and apparent quality (impact) of scientific output
- Works best when used to gauge citations within one field, not across fields
- **h-index of 20** means the researcher has 20 papers, each of which has been cited 20+ times
- The h-index grows as citations for a person accumulate; thus it depends upon the 'academic age' of the scholar
- An h-index of 12 might be good for tenured, Associate professor. A value of 18 could mean Full professor. 15-20 could mean a fellowship for a society and 45 and higher might mean membership in a national or international academy.
- Different databases generate different indices for the same scholar (due to number and accuracy of its collections): Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, Web of Knowledge, ResearchGate See http://www.southampton.ac.uk/library/research/bibliometrics/factsheet03-hindex-gs.pdf

Placement of article in the issue

- The Editor's placement of a paper within the entire collection for an issue may or may not be an indicator of the merit of the scholarship/reputation of author(s) or their institutions.

1. **Lead papers** (the first one in the issue) can be indicative of the currency of the ideas and/or the reputation of the author(s)
2. It could be political move by the Editor to place a particular idea or author(s) as the first paper because the first paper is often cited more often than others, raising the journal's impact factor
3. It could also be as simple as the Editor trying to grab the readers' attention with an interesting idea (not necessarily the **best** paper in the collection)
4. And, some journal Editors arrange the collection of papers in alphabetical order

Year paper is published

- The year the paper is published can indicate the currency of the ideas **(old/dated, current, leading edge, seminal (a work from which other works grow))**
- NOTE – for paper-based journals, do not assume the research was conducted the year it is published. It can take upwards of 1-3 years from submitting the original manuscript to the paper actually being published. And, the data can be much older than that…
- ONLINE – you can be more assured that the research in e-papers was conducted closer to the publication date because the paper does not sit in the hopper, with the Editor, waiting for room in the paper issue (only so many pages are allotted per issue; not so for electronic venues)

Early online, ahead of print/DOI

- More and more often, Editors and Publishers are working together to post accepted papers to the journal's website, *long before they will appear in print*
- These services are often called Early On-Line or something similar
- Since the paper has not yet been assigned page numbers in the printed issue, the paper is assigned a **Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number**, which people cite in addition to one or both of volume and issue, if available.
- If people paste the DOI number into the journal's search engine, the paper should appear

Example from *Journal of Climate*

- *Journal of Climate*, Ahead of Print

The Influence of Atlantic Tropical Cyclones on Drought over the Eastern US (1980-2007)

- Jonghun Kam, Justin Sheffield, Xing Yuan, and Eric F. Wood
- (doi: 10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00244.1)

Example from *International Journal of Consumer Studies*

- **Early View (Online Version of Record published before inclusion in an issue)**
  - A conception of moral sensitivity and everyday consumption practices: insights from the moralizing discourses of pet owners
  - Morven G. McEachern and Fiona Cheetham
  - Article first published online: 22 NOV 2012 | DOI: 10.1111/ijcs.12005


transmob

New Trend – Open Access Journals

See also http://libguides.msvu.ca/openaccess

- Providing unrestricted access via the internet to peer reviewed scholarly research
- Two degrees of access
  - *Gratis* open access (no-cost to user online access)
  - *Libre* open access (usage rights granted by use of **Creative Commons** licenses)
- Authors have to pay to have their work published (called an *Article Processing Fee* (APC)), a practice which is raising issues about *perceived calibre* of research (argument is that it offsets cost of making paper free to readers)
- Access is provided two ways
  - Via the journal itself (called Gold access) see http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability and http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/communication-sustainability
  - Self (author)-archiving at institutional (university or central) depositories (e.g., PubMed Central, Academia.edu, ResearchGate) Called Green access


http://ec.msvu.ca:8080/xmlui/
All Research Resources
Mount E-commons Home
Introduction - Open Access: A ...
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Search
Share
More
Sue McGregor
Norton
Safe Web
Share
Vault Open
Login Assistant
Find: fees
Previous
Next
Options
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY
E-Commons
Mount E-commons Home
Mount E-Commons
Welcome to the Mount Saint Vincent University (The Mount) E-Commons. The Mount E-Commons acts as an institutional repository and is a service of the Mount Library that collects, preserves, and distributes digital material. Institutional Repositories are important tools for preserving an organization's legacy; they facilitate digital preservation and scholarly communication.
Mount Saint Vincent University has an Open Access policy with regards to research produced by faculty, academic, and professional staff members, which can be viewed here
This site is organized into "Communities" and "Collections". Communities are usually departments with the Mount, and are often subdivided into "sub-communities," which feature the work of particular faculty members. Collections are a subcategories of Communities and may be divided along the lines of individual faculty members and their various, or more broader themes such as Mount theses and research projects such as the Social Economy Space. You can also do a full-text search of all of the items in the E-Commons.
The E-Commons is a space for a variety of scholarly and institutional output from the Mount and beyond. Our current content includes graduate theses, images from some of the Library's special collections, senate minutes, research project outputs (SE space) and faculty publications, among others.
Search DSpace
Go
Advanced Search
Browse
All of DSpace
> Communities & Collections
> By Issue Date
> Authors
> Titles
> Keywords
Mount Library Home
Mount EC policies
11:56 AM
21/10/2013

New Trend – Gauge non-academic impact of scholarly work

- **Altmetric** (free toolbar app to generate metrics) http://www.altmetric.com/
- Collects data from social media cites and uses it to assess the paper's impact relative to other articles
  - Tracks what people are saying on line about scholarly papers
- What is the wider impact of the ideas in a paper aside from counting the number of people who cite the work in their scholarship?
  - E.g., does industry use the ideas
  - Are school children interested in them, are their parents or teachers, school administrators
  - Do the ideas inspire people in government or NGOs
  - Are funders using the papers to award monies and grants
- Produces a score (a metric) that is supposed to represent non-citation activity around an article

Extended Peer Review

- **Extended peer review** is the process of including people and groups with experience beyond that of working academics in the processes of **assuring the quality of research** (in effect the social robustness of the scholarship).
- If conducted systematically, this can lead to more reliable, or applicable, results than a peer review process conducted purely by academics.
- "The aim of knowledge quality assurance by **extended peer review** is precisely to open processes and products of policy relevant science to those who can legitimately verify its relevance, fitness for purpose and applicability in societal contexts, contributing with 'extended insights and knowledge'" (Pereira & Funtowicz, 2005, p. 76).
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extended_peer_review

Not yet developed PleaseCiteMe.com

- Suggested in June 2012 Blog by Arjen Wals http://transformativelearning.nl/2012/04/26/publish-or-perish-improving-your-h-factor-made-easy-through-hbay/

- This would be a web-based system where scholars can trade citations – "I will cite you if you cite me"
- OR attach a monetary value ($$$) – pay someone to cite you