Impact Factor and Cited Reference

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This session will explore three questions…

1. How good is this journal in the research field?
2. How important is this article in the research field?
3. How important are the works of this author?

1. How good is this journal in the research field?
   - **Measurement**: Impact factor
   - **Databases**
     - *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*
     - *Journal Performance Indicators on Diskette (JPIOD)*

2. How important is this article in the research field?
3. How important are the works of this author?
   - **Measurement**: Number of cited references
   - **Database**: *ISI Web of Science*
In this session, we will cover:

- Part I
  - Find the impact factor of a journal
- Part II
  - Find the number of cited references to a publication / an author’s work

Some definitions before we begin…

Dwight H. Parkinson

A profound understanding of the transformation of Chinese society is p...
**Impact Factor**

- **WHY** impact Factor?
- **WHERE** to find impact factor?
- **WHAT** is impact factor?
- **HOW to** find impact factor?

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**Why Impact Factor?**

- A quantitative indicator to assess the importance of a journal.
- Important to
  - A consumer of information: “Which journals should I read?”
  - An author: “Which journals should I submit my research papers to?”
Where to find impact factor?

- **Journal Citation Reports (JCR)**
  - Subscriptions:
    - Web version: 1998-
  - Over 7,400 journals
  - Available annually in two editions:
    - Science
    - Social Sciences

- **Journal Performance Indicators on Diskette (JPIOD)**
  - Over 10,000 journal titles
  - Covers science, social sciences, arts & humanities
What is Impact Factor?

1. ISI identifies the top journals and includes them in the database.

These are the source journals.

2. For each source journal, ISI studies the reference list of each article.

Rationale: "The more a journal is referenced, the more important is this journal".
### Impact Factor (JCR)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1997</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cites in 1999 to articles published</td>
<td>9698</td>
<td>12493</td>
<td>22191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of articles published</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>769</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Impact Factor

\[
\text{Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{Cites to recent articles}}{\text{Number of recent articles}} = \frac{22191}{769} = 28.857
\]

### Citation Impact (JPIOD)

**Key:**

- C = total citations received
- P = total papers published
- U = uncited papers

Citation Impact (All items) = \( \frac{C}{P} \)

Citation Impact (Cited items only) = \( \frac{C}{(P - U)} \)
How to find impact factor

Refer to worksheet

Summarize
Part I: Impact Factor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JCR</th>
<th>JPIOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of journals</td>
<td>&gt;7,400</td>
<td>&gt;10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time coverage</td>
<td>Annual; 1994 -</td>
<td>20 year cumulative; 1981 – 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject coverage</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formula</td>
<td>Citations received over the past 2 years / Total papers published over the past 2 years</td>
<td>Total citations received / total papers published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search options</td>
<td>By Subject Category</td>
<td>By Subject Category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Publisher</td>
<td>By Publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Counter of publication</td>
<td>By Counter of publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By a specific journal title</td>
<td>By a specific journal title</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part II**

**Number of cited references to a publication or an author’s publications**
WHY cited reference?
WHAT is cited reference?
WHERE to find cited reference?
HOW to find cited reference?

Why cited reference?

- Check how important is an article in the research field.
- Check how important is an author’s publications in the research field.
- Trace the historical development of a research field.
- Find related research work.
What is cited reference?

1. ISI identifies the top journals and includes them in the database. These are the source journals.

2. For each source journal, ISI studies the reference list of each article. This time, instead of studying the journals, ISI examines the publications referenced.

Rationale:
“The more a publication is referenced, the more important is this publication”.

E-Resources

Where to find the number of cited reference?

- ISI Web of Science
  - Arts & Humanities Citation Index (1975 - )
  - Science Citation Index (1970 - )
  - Social Sciences Citation Index (1970 - )
- Over 8,000 top international journals
- Provides weekly updates

How to find Cited Reference?

- Cited Author Search
  - Best to use the first listed author of the publication
  - Name Format

  Maximum: 15 characters

  Last name XXX

  Begins with the last name, e.g. Yuen

  Followed by up to 3 initials, e.g. KY
To search, enter
- The last name,
- A space,
- Initials (up to 3 initials), and then
- An asterisk (*)

Example: For Professor KY Yuen
- Yuen KY or Yuen KY*

How to find cited reference

Refer to [worksheet](#)
Summarize
Part II: Cited Reference

1. Enter the last name followed by the initial of the author. E.g. Yuen KY
2. If you are not sure of the exact format of the cited author’s name, use The truncation symbol *, e.g. Yuen KY*
Optional:
Enter the cited work / cited year
Hits = Number of citing articles
Cited Author = Name of the author we searched for
Cited Work, Volume, Page, Year = Citation of the cited publication

Count the number of cited references

Display the full record of the cited article

Click the title to display the full record of this cited article.
Some cited articles are not hyperlinked. These articles are not indexed in Web of Science and therefore you will not be able to display the full record.

1. Tick the check box next to the cited article.
2. Click on the Search button.

Search for the citing articles, i.e. who cited this article.
E.g. the second record probably has a data entry error in the page number. The page number should be “1100” instead of “1110”.

E-Resources

Assistance

- Visual Guides
  - HKUL Homepage > Online Research Guides > Online Courses
    - Finding Impact Factor with JCR
    - Finding Impact Factor with JPIOD
    - Finding cited reference with ISI Web of Science

- Quick Guides
  - HKUL Homepage > Online Research Guides > How to use
    - JCR; JPIOD; Web of Science (Cited Reference)

- Ask a Librarian
  - Email: hkulref@hkucc.hku.hk
  - Tel: 2859-2203
  - LiveRef