Research metrics

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CiteScore

CiteScore: A new metric to help you choose the right journal

Impact factor is important when it comes to deciding which journal to publish in. But it's impossible to get a true picture of impact using a single metric alone.

Elsevier has launched **CiteScore** metrics, a new standard that gives a more comprehensive, transparent and current view of a journal's impact – one that will help you decide whether to accept your next invitation to review or where to submit your next publication.

**What is the difference between impact factor and CiteScore?**

The calculation of CiteScore is straightforward with no secret algorithms or hidden details. The freely available Source Details screen on Scopus displays the exact figures used to determine the score.

CiteScore metrics calculate the citations from all documents in year one to all documents published in the prior three years for a title. This offers a more robust and accurate indication of a journal's impact

= Citations from 2015

20XX = Documents published in year 20XX

| 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |

A

B
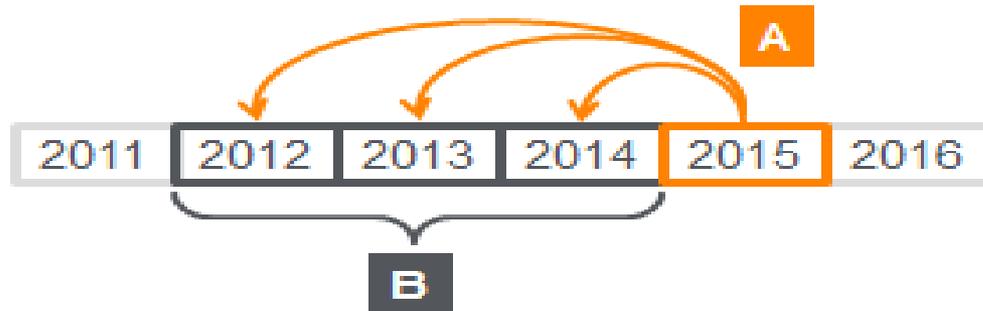
$$\text{CiteScore 2015 value} = \frac{A}{B}$$

As an example, to calculate a 2015 value, CiteScore counts the citations received in 2015 to documents published in 2012, 2013 or 2014. This number is divided by the number of documents indexed on Scopus published in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

CiteScore itself represents a robust approach for two reasons

- **The three-year citation window:** Research has found that in slower-moving fields, two years' worth of data is too short; yet five years is too long to consider in faster-moving fields. Three years is the best compromise for a broad-scope database, such as Scopus, as it incorporates a representative proportion of citations across all disciplines while also reflecting relatively recent data.

- **CiteScore's numerator and denominator both include all document types :** This means not only articles and reviews but also letters, notes, editorials, conference papers and other documents indexed by Scopus are included. As a result, the numerator and the denominator used in the CiteScore calculation are consistent. This approach gives a more complete picture of citation impact and makes manipulating the calculation more difficult.