7 TIMELESS QUOTES about the impact factor

Many people are of the opinion that the impact factor is the ultimate measure of a researcher's success and journal's prestige. What do academic publishing experts think? Here, we bring you some excerpts from our interviews with industry experts who have expressed their views on the impact factor.

Lacey Earle

Vice President of Business Development at Cabell's International

Attempting to measure a journal by a single number is an attempt to measure a complex and widely varying creature by one attribute and then, based on that attribute, asking "How good is this journal?" A better question to ask, one which addresses the real complexities of journal quality is, "In what way and to whom is this journal important?"

The best way to fully understand the influence and impact of a research publication is to use a range of metrics instead of relying on a single score.

Melinda Kenneway & Charlie Rapple

Co-founders of Kudos

Linqi Zhang

Chair, Department of Basic Medical Sciences and Comprehensive Aids Research Center at Tsinghua University, China

Overall, I think that when choosing a target journal, it is more important for you, as a researcher, to ensure that the journal publishes articles in the same field, that your paper matches the aims and scope of the journal, and that the journal is widely read by researchers in your field. These factors are more important than impact factor or other superficial metrics.

Finding one measure for "importance" is obviously impossible. But it doesn't automatically mean that the impact factor is worthless…The impact factor is sometimes viewed as a problem in itself, but the problem is when this complex, high-dimensional problem is being reduced to a one-dimensional measure.

Jo Røislien

Associate Professor, Dept. of Health Sciences, University of Stavanger

Ian Stoneham

Publisher at the Institute of Engineering (IET)

Impact factors are a useful tool and, of course, a good indicator of how our journals measure up, but they are not a direct measure of a journal's success.

Traditionally, 'impact' would be using citations or the Impact Factor to help gauge what the scholarly influence of an article was. But nowadays we also care about other types of outputs - datasets and software, say, not just articles - and other types of impact, be it wider societal impact, economic, or on policy or practice.

Euan Adie

CEO and Founder of Altmetric

Stacy Konkiel

Outreach & Engagement Manager, Altmetric

I've exchanged views with researchers from all over the world and when I ask them, "What makes for 'good science'?" their answers are always the same: to be "good science" research must be (a) high-quality work and (b) it must make a difference in the world. Citation-based metrics like the JIF can't tell us a lot about either of those things, but some altmetrics can.

Check out our Interviews section for more nuggets of timeless wisdom from publication experts.

VISIT

www.editage.cn/insights/categories/interviews

editage 意得辑 Insights™

Resources for authors and journals