Journal Citation Reports

Journal Citation Reports – Descriptive Document

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The Journal Citation Reports is a source for the evaluation of scientific journals, first created and published by Dr Eugen Garfield and the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) in 1975. It has since been published annually and provides comprehensive journal metrics including the Journal Impact Factor.
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**General Description**

*Journal Citation Reports*® (JCR) offers a systematic, objective means to critically evaluate the world's leading journals, with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data.

It offers a unique perspective for journal evaluation and comparison by accumulating and tabulating citation and article counts from virtually all specialties in the sciences, social sciences, and technology fields. To help you compare journals and discover which are the most significant to you, Journal Citation Reports can show:

- Most frequently cited journals in a field
- Hottest journals in a field
- Highest impact journals in a field
- Most published articles in a field
- Subject category data for benchmarking

The Journal Citation Reports are part of the Journal and Highly cited module within InCites and allow you to evaluate and compare journals using citation data drawn from approximately 12,000 scholarly and technical journals and conference proceedings from more than 3,300 publishers in over 60 countries. Journal Citation Reports is the only source of citation data on journals, and includes virtually all specialties in the areas of science, technology, and social sciences.

The JCR provide dynamic, interactive features supported by visualizations of JCR indicators that allow researchers and librarians, as well as publishers, to compare, evaluate and inform their decisions on published research in varying fields.

Key features in the Journal Citation Reports allow you to:

- View a comprehensive Profile Page for each journal telling the journal’s story supported by graphs and contextual information
- Focus on desired subject categories, enabling you to review journal titles and key performance indicators in the category;
- Compare multiple journals based on a chosen indicator;
- Evaluate the performance of journals in which you or your organization has published research;
- Recognize trending journals in key research categories;
- Identify the ideal journal in which to publish your forthcoming research

All data in Journal Citation reports whether visualizations or data tables is downloadable for further use outside JCR. User can customise the appearance of data tables by adding or removing indicators to their analysis as required.
Accessing the Journal Citation Reports

Whilst the JCR technically reside on the InCites Platform, you can also access them from the Web of Science Platform. Your institution's subscription to InCites may enable you to access InCites via IP authentication. This bypasses the sign in page that requires an email address and password. However, to take full advantage of all of the features of InCites—including personalization and roaming access—you will want to register and then sign in whenever you want to use all the features.

To sign in, click the Sign In link that appear in the menu bar at the top of any page in InCites or Web of Science. Enter your email address and password, and then click Sign In.

If you go to the Journal Citation Reports Tab before signing in, you will be presented with a login page here, where you can enter your username and password:

Registration

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You are a registered user of InCites if you can sign in using an email address and a password. You can use your Web of Science login credentials to sign in to InCites, as long as you have a valid InCites subscription.

If you are not a Web of Science user, or if you prefer to use separate credentials to log on to InCites, you must register as a new user.

1. Click the Sign In link at the top of any page.
2. Click Register in the Sign In area to access the User Registration page.
3. Complete the User Registration form, and then click Submit Registration to complete your registration.

When you sign in as a registered user, you can:

- Save reports.
- Save report selections. This feature enables you generate pre-defined reports based on updated data.
- Create and share document collections.
- Set up and manage folders to store reports, report selections, and document collections.

**Working with the JCR - Key Analysis Features**

**Landing page and Master Search**

The Landing Page provides users with a single simplified search field that you can use to start your search for journal titles, JCR abbreviated journal title, ISSN or eISSN number. Alternatively, you can pick one of three options – Browse Journals, Browse Categories or Custom Reports to start your search.
As you enter your search terms into the Master Search field, you'll see a selection of suggested journal titles appear from which you might select to go directly to the Journal Profile or you can access the Master Search by clicking on the search icon.

The Master Search page will display all journals that match the terms you've entered, displaying the Full Journal Title, JCR Abbreviated Title, ISSN, eISSN, Edition and JCR Coverage Years. For example, entering 'Nucleic Acid' will return all results for journals whose titles start with that phrase. From the results you can click on the title of your choice to go directly to that journal's profile page. Clicking any of the hyperlinked years listed for a journal will take you to a ranked list of journals for the year selected.
Journal Profile Page

Each journal covered in the Journal Citation Reports has a Journal Profile page providing the full « story » of the journal in one place, including the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) with trend data, a comprehensive overview of related information and visualizations and Key Indicators, allowing users to see multiple years worth of data in a glance.

Top Section

Information related to the journal's publisher, location, and publication frequency, as well as other criteria relevant are presented at the top of the page beneath the title. Additionally, any title that has been suppressed in any year will have that suppression notation listed on its profile page.

Middle Section

The middle section of the profile page provides very detailed and transparent information on the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) for the journal for the current JCR year, with a trend graph and a citation distribution graph which also specifies the Article and Review Citation Medians. Both graphs can be expanded to a...
printable and better readable version, if you wish to print the complete journal profile page. 

User the printable versions of the graphs for better visualization.

The legend for the citation distribution contains a box with the number of unlinked citations. Those are citations that could not be clearly related to specific documents within the journal due to citation errors (ie wrong or missing details like volume, issue, pages, etc.) but could be clearly attributed to the journal. They count towards the total citation count forming the nominator of the JIF calculation.

The number items that received 0 citations in the years relevant to the JIF calculation is listed in another box as part of the legend on the right. The first column on the x-axis

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of the graph represents the number of items that received 1 citation. As the number of items that received 0 citations can be very high for some journals, the information about those has been kept outside the diagram in order to keep reasonable and comparable proportions of the diagram. The same refers to the number of items that received more than 50 citations, where « >50 » just represents the last figure on the x-axis in order to keep the same scale of the diagram across all journals within the JCR.

The next section lists the Journal Impact Factor for the JCR year, displays its exact calculation and provides access to the full list of the citable items that form the denominator of the current JCR year JIF calculation. Click « Show all » to expand the full list, which you can then also View in the Web of Science or Export to csv or file format. Viewing the list in the Web of Science allows to view the Citation Report for those items and Analyse Results function.

Go to the Citations in current JCR year tab to open the list of citing items, sorted by journal. This too can be viewed in the Web of Science for full transparency and additional analysis and export options.
### Journal Impact Factor Contributing Items

#### Citable Items in 2016 and 2015 (71)

- **Citations in 2017 (502)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citable Item</th>
<th>Citations</th>
<th>Journal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUCLEIC ACID THERAPEUTICS</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENTIFIC REPORTS</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLECULAR THERAPEUTIC ACIDS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR SCIENCE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### List of the citing items that contributed citations to the nominator for the current JCR year JIF calculation, ordered by journal

- **Pharmacokinetic Profiling of Conjugated Therapeutic Oligonucleotides: A High-Throughput Method Based upon Serial Blood Microsampling Coupled to Peptide Nucleic Acid Hybridization Assay**
  - By: Brinda, Bruce A.; Chavan, Aravinda; Gilbert, James W.; et al.
  - NUCLEIC ACID THERAPEUTICS Volume 27, Issue 3, Pages 328-334, Published: 2017 - Document Type: Article

- **Pharmacokinetic Profiling of Conjugated Therapeutic Oligonucleotides: A High-Throughput Method Based upon Serial Blood Microsampling Coupled to Peptide Nucleic Acid Hybridization Assay**
  - By: Brinda, Bruce A.; Chavan, Aravinda; Gilbert, James W.; et al.
  - NUCLEIC ACID THERAPEUTICS Volume 27, Issue 3, Pages 328-334, Published: 2017 - Document Type: Article

#### Click the Plus next to the journal title to expand a list of all citing articles from that journal

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Lower Section

Key Indicators for the current JCR year

This section shows all key indicators for the journal for the current JCR year, including the JIF with and without self citations, the 5-year Impact Factor, Cited and Citing Half-lives, Eigenfactor Score, Immediacy Index and Average JIF Percentile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Cites</th>
<th>Journal Impact Factor</th>
<th>Impact Factor Without Journal Self Cites</th>
<th>Citable Items</th>
<th>Cited Half-Life</th>
<th>Eigenfactor Score</th>
<th>Article Influence Score</th>
<th>% Articles in Citable Items</th>
<th>Normalized Eigenfactor</th>
<th>Average JIF Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>2.884</td>
<td>2.402</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>0.00300</td>
<td>1.097</td>
<td>94.59</td>
<td>46.635</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Journal Source Data for the current JCR year

The source data for the journal in the current JCR year is displayed next, listing the number of citable and other items as well as the references along with ratios of same. An item is classified as a review if it meets any of the following criteria:

- it cites more than 100 references
- it appears in a review publication or a review section of a journal
- the word review or overview appears in its title
- the abstract states that it is a review or survey

Other items include editorials, letters, news items, and meeting abstracts. These items are not counted in JCR calculations because they are not generally cited. Data in this column are available only in JCR 2012 and subsequent years.

The ratio of references to citable items showing in the table indicates the average number of references cited by an article or review. The Percentage of citable items indicates the number of documents published in the journal that were included in the Journal Impact Factor calculation. The Percentage of Cited References indicates the percentage of references (outgoing cited references) that are citable items, showing the amount of scholarly content that a journal references.

The Combined Citable Items total provides a hyperlink that takes you to the Document List Page, where information on document items used to calculate the metrics for that year are detailed. On occasion, where journal unification (one or more journals is associated with a parent title for the purposes of JCR indicator calculation) has been applied or changed, the Document List Page count will not match the Combined Citable Item count. As journal unifications are not visible in Web of Science and this is the first time we are providing these links, we expect some variances. We will continue to work toward transparency and are working on the process to synchronize these data in future updates.
Click the « here » link to view the complete information for the journal along with Rank, Cited and Citing Journal Data, Box Plot and Journal Relationships. Many indicator values can be clicked, and a pop-up...
window will display the data from which that year’s metric was calculated. Additionally, visualizations are also accessible by clicking Graph for any indicator of your choosing. The graph will appear directly below the table. Clicking on the hyperlinked year will allow you to jump right to that year’s data.

**Journal Rank**

This section provides complete ranking information for the journal in each category it is listed in for all years covered in the JCR. Rank information is included for both the JCR Impact Factor and ESI Total Citations. Category ranking is presented by year in descending order for each category in which the journal is ranked in both the JCR and ESI. JCR Impact Factor table also includes the Quartile and JIF Percentile for each year.
Cited Journal Data

Cited Journal data show how many citations a journal received in the JCR year. Cited journal data is relevant when analyzing metrics such as the Journal Impact Factor and Market Share. Tables on the page provide extensive data for the following:

Cited Half-Life Data

The Cited Half-Life is the median age of the citations received by a journal during the JCR year. A citation’s age is equal to the publication year of the citing item (i.e., JCR year) minus the publication year of the cited item. By definition, half of a journal’s earned citations are to items published before the Cited Half-Life, and half are to items published after the Cited Half-Life.

For all JCR data years prior to 2017, the maximum Cited Half-Life that will be displayed in the Key Indicators table is 10 years. Any value greater than this will be displayed as >10.0.

In 2017 data and for all subsequent years, the Cited half-life metric is calculated to a resolved value. Cited half-life shows how a journal’s back-file is actively contributing to current scholarship.

The Cited Half-Life Data table will display information beginning with the current JCR Year and extend back an additional 9 years, with further historical cited years noted in the final column. Scroll to the right to see all years.

Only journals cited 100 or more times in the JCR year have a Cited Half-Life.

Cited Journal Graph

The Cited Journal Graph shows the distribution by cited year of citations to articles published in a journal.

Cited Journal Data

The Cited Journal Table lists the journals that cite the journal analysed. In the table below, the cited journal is Nucleic Acid Research. The citing journals are listed in the Citing Journal column. All of the citing articles were published in 2017.
Citing Journal Data

Citing Half-Life Data

The Citing Half-Life is the median age of the citations produced by a journal during the JCR year. A citation’s age is equal to the publication year of the citing item (i.e., JCR year) minus the publication year of the cited item. By definition, half of a journal’s outbound citations are to items published before the Citing Half-Life, and half are to items published after the Citing Half-Life.

For all JCR data years prior to 2017, the maximum Citing Half-Life that will be displayed in the Key Indicators table is 10 years. Any value greater than this will be displayed as >10.0.

In 2017 data and for all subsequent years, the Citing half-life metric is calculated to a resolved value. Citing half-life shows how each journal interacts with the published literature of its field. Journals with a high Citing half-life are citing more of the deep, archival materials in their field in the current JCR year. This indicates that older literature is still actively contributing to current scholarship.

Citing Journal Graph

The Citing Journal Graph shows the distribution by cited year of citations from articles in the selected journal. All of the citing articles were published in the JCR year.
The Citing Journal Graph shows the distribution (by cited year) of citations published in the Journal during the JCR year to items published in journals during the last 10 years. The white/grey division indicates the citing half-life (if < 10.0). Half of the citations are to items that were published more recently than the citing half-life.

Citing Journal Data

The Citing Journal Table lists journals cited by the journal currently analysed.

Box Plot

Category Box Plot

The Category box plot depicts the distribution of Impact Factors for all journals in the category. The horizontal line that forms the top of the box is the 75th percentile (Q1). The horizontal line that forms the bottom is the 25th percentile (Q3). The horizontal line that intersects the box is the median Impact
Factor for the category. Box plots are provided for each category in which the journal is indexed. Horizontal lines above and below the box, called whiskers, represent maximum and minimum values. The top whisker is the smaller of the following two values:

- the maximum Impact Factor (IF) $Q_1 \text{IF} + 3.5(Q_1 \text{IF} - Q_3 \text{IF})$

The bottom whisker is the larger of the following two values:

- the minimum Impact Factor (IF) $Q_1 \text{IF} - 3.5(Q_1 \text{IF} - Q_3 \text{IF})$

**Journal Relationships**

The **Journal Relationships** visualization displays the citing or cited data relationships between the parent journal and the top twenty journals in its network. On the diagram, the top twenty cited or citing journals are displayed as arcs on the circle. The size of each arc is indicative of the relative citation relationships to that journal. The thickness of the chords connecting the arcs is demonstrative of the strength of citation relationship between the journals. You can also now download the Journal Relationships visualization. After the visualization loads, select the PDF download option. The PDF will download with the visualization and the relevant data table.

- The **Journal Relationships** diagram includes several interactive features:
  - Hover over arcs to display the journal Impact Factor.
  - Hover over chords to display the citation relationship to the parent journal.
  - Click the title of any journal in the arc to go straight to that title's profile page.
Click the arc for any title to see that journal’s relationship to the top twenty journals in the parent journal's network.

**Contextual Information**

The purpose of this section of the profile page is to provide context for the journal being analysed and is meant to be descriptive rather than comparative. The information refers to the three most recent years of the journal (ie the JCR year and the two prior years) and is based on all listed authors and addresses.

The section provides the lists of Contributions by country/region and by organisations. To see the full and exportable version of each list click the arrow to expand the list.
### Contributions by country/region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>country</th>
<th>count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. USA</td>
<td>1,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. England</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. GERMANY (FED REP GER)</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. CHINA MAINLAND</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. France</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Canada</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Japan</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Spain</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Italy</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Switzerland</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Denmark</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Sweden</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Netherlands</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- South Korea</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Australia</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The expanded list can be exported to .csv.
Browse by Journal

Start from Browse by Journal if you wish to compile a list of journals of interest for comparison purposes. This will display a new page, where journals are listed by rank. From the left navigation pane use the search field at the top to find a single journal (see Master search).
For comparisons, use the **Select Journals** button.

- Expand the tab: "Nucleic Acid Research".
- Type search term here: "Nucleic Acid".
- Select desired journals from list of journals that meet search criteria.
- Expand the categories to retrieve a list of journals for a Web of Science or ESI category.
A list of journals for the category chosen (by either Web of Science or Essential Science Indicators category schema) will display, from which you can select journals of interest to you.

Additionally, you can narrow your selection by JIF Quartile, Publisher name, Journal origin country or Open Access for journals listed in Directory of Open Access Journals. You can also define the Journal Impact Factor Range or Average JIF Percentile Range.
Saving Journal Lists

To save your selection for recurring comparison purposes click the Add Journal to New or Existing List Tab in the middle of your list header. A pop-up window appears to make your decision and pick the existing list to add to or name the new list you wish to create:

![Add Journal to New or Existing List](image)

Comparing Journals

The **Compare Journals** feature can be accessed by either clicking Compare Journals beneath the Master search field on the Journals By Rank page, or by checking those journals you'd like to compare on the ranked list and clicking **Compare Selected Journals**. Comparisons can be conducted by either trend or quartile:

- **Trend Comparison**: illustrates the activity or progress of one indicator in one subject area for a selection of journals across a range of JCR years
- **Quartile Comparison**: enables users to compare various quartile metrics for selected journals within a given subject categorization.

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After opening the Compare (Selected) Journals process, select a method for comparison (Quartile or Trends) using the radio buttons, select the JCR year, or several years by using shift-and-click (works only for Trends). Now, select the Metric to compare by (i.e., 5 Year Impact Factor, Immediacy Index, etc.), then click Submit.

The category list that appears under Select Category includes only those categories that your selected Journals belong to. If your selected journals have no category in common, a comparison of journals by category will not be possible, and you will only be able to see individual journal results for individual categories.
Browsing by Category takes you to the **Categories by Rank** list in the JCR. The categories are ranked by number of journals available in each category. The list can be re-sorted by other metrics like Total Citations or Aggregate Impact Factor or even alphabetically by category name. Just click on the column heading to sort. Click the Customize indicators to open a pop-up with a selection of more metrics to include in the table, like Aggregate Immediacy Index or Aggregate Cited Half-Life.

Clicking on the hyperlink of the number of journals for each category takes you to the list of journals for the category. The journal ranking page opens again and you can select and/or compare journals or save lists (see previous chapter: Browse by Journal).

You can filter the Categories by Rank list for the categories you are interested in. Just click the arrow next to “Select Categories” on the left navigation pane to open a drop down list of all available categories. Select by checking the box next to the category name. Also select the JCR year and Edition, then submit.

Clicking the hyperlink of a category name on the Categories By Rank List takes you to the Category Profile Page.
Category Profile Page

The category profile provides a comprehensive overview for each of the 234 different subject categories in the JCR, starting from 2003 onwards. All metrics related to a subject category in the Journal Citation Record are available, including:

- Number of journals and articles in the category,
- Total cites,
- Median Impact Factor,
- Aggregate Impact Factor,
- Aggregate Immediacy Index,
- Cited and Citing category half-life.

Each entry reflects data for that JCR year. Displays of multi-year metrics trends are accessed by clicking the Graph link found below many header fields in the table. Category-level metrics were first calculated on the year 2003 JCR data and are not available prior to that year.

The data table can be downloaded in either PDF, CSV or Excel format, while the charts contained within each tab can be exported as a PDF.
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Category Overview

In addition to the indicators’ table the category overview provides graphs for the Frequency of Publications, a Box Plot for the category and Aggregate Source Data. The frequency bar graph shows how many of the journals in the chosen category are published annually, semiannually, quarterly, bimonthly, monthly, biweekly and weekly. The Category Box Plot is a visualization of the distribution of Impact Factors for all journals in the category.

Cited Category Data

Cited Category Data provides aggregate cited data to publications published in journals of the category. The Aggregate Cited Half-Life is calculated the same way as the journal cited half-life. The cited half-life is the median age of the articles that were cited in the JCR year.

The Aggregated Cited Category Graph shows the distribution (by cited year) of citations published in journals during the JCR year to items published in journals in the category in the last 10 years.

The Cited Subject Category Table lists the journals that cite journals in the subject category. Click on the title of a citing journal to go to the Journal page for that journal. Numbers in the All Journals row are sums of the numbers in their respective columns.

Citing Category Data

The Citing Category Data tab provides information related to citing data for the subject category.

The Aggregated Citing Half-Life Data is the median age of the citations produced by a category (i.e., by the journals that comprise the category) during the JCR year. A citation’s age is equal to the publication year of the citing item (i.e., JCR year) minus the publication year of the cited item. By definition, half of the citations produced by a category are to items published before the Citing Half-Life, and half are to items published after the Citing Half-Life.

The Aggregate Citing Category Graph shows the distribution (by cited year) of citations published in the Category during the JCR year to items published in journals during the last 10 years.

The Citing Category Data table lists journals cited by journals in the subject category. Click the abbreviated title of a cited journal in the list to go to the journals’ profile page. The numbers in the All Journals row are sums of the numbers in their respective columns. Individual years in the column headers represent the Publication year of the cited articles. Column Rest shows all publication years of cited articles prior to the ten-year period defined by the table.
Custom Reports

This section provides direct access to your saved custom lists of journals or reports. From here you can click the name of the report to open it, select it for deleting or click Edit to add or remove items from the report.
JCR Data and Downloads

Journal Citation Reports allows you to download various information by clicking the download icon at the top of the page. Select the desired format from the available options.

In the Journal Profile page, you can choose from PDF, CSV or XLS. Selecting CSV or XLS will result in a prompt asking you to choose which data tables you would like to download.

Choose from:
- Journal Profile Grid Data
- Citing Journal Data
- Cited Journal Data

Download the JCR Metrics File

If you are entitled to download the JCR Metrics File for the current JCR year, click the double arrow icon to open the table of files available for download.

![Metrics Files Table]

If you are missing the icon from your display, check entitlements with your Account Manager.

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