

The Impact of Cumulative Impact Factors

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Journal *impactfactors* have been increasingly used by the scientific community since their inclusion in the *Science Citation Index® Journal Citation Reports®* volumes from 1975 to 1988. Then in 1989, these were converted to microfiche editions. In 1995, however, ISI® will also publish them on CD-ROM.

The most popular data from *JCR®* are the current journal impact factors. These impact numbers are ratios which help rank the relative influence of journals field by field. ISI recently introduced the *Journal Performance Indicators on Diskette* which provides longitudinal data on 2000 journals, including year productivity as well as cumulative citation measures. This has facilitated the calculation of long-term citation impacts. These cumulative impacts for 1981 articles and for 1981-85 articles reveal interesting differences in long-term impact for research as well as review journals. Rankings by cumulative impact are significantly different from current impact factor rankings. A brief discussion of uncitedness will also be included—most high impact journals have fewer than 1% uncitedness.

In deference to our hosts, up-to-date citation analyses will be presented, for the University of Barcelona in particular, and also field-by-field comparisons for Mediterranean countries including Spain and France.