

# Indexing of a Journal

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## INDEXING/INDEXATION

A journal's indexation is seen to be a reflection of its quality. In comparison to non-indexed publications, indexed journals are thought to be of greater scientific quality. Medical journal indexing has become a contentious topic. Index Medicus has long been regarded as the most comprehensive index of medical scientific journal publications. It has been in print since 1879. Many more prominent indexing systems have emerged throughout time. MedLine, PubMed, EMBASE, SCOPUS, EBSCO Publishing's Electronic Databases, and SCIRUS are only a few of them. Index Medicus is available in a variety of regional and national editions, including African Index Medicus.

The Impact Factor (IF) is a similar and equally contentious topic [1]. IF is used as a proxy for a journal's relative prominence in its field. Journals indexed in Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports are given an IF. IF has been chastised for its misapplication and manipulation [2]. There are a number of reasons that could skew the IF calculation.

These include the database's coverage and language preferences, the procedures used to collect citations, the algorithm used to calculate the IF, journal citation distribution, online availability of publications, negative citations, journal publisher preferences for specific types of articles, publication lag, citing behaviour across subjects, and the possibility of journal editors exerting influence. [4] IF isn't provided for all indexed journals, which is unusual. In truth, the Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports do not include all publications indexed in Index Medicus/MedLine/PubMed. Similarly, not all journals included in Index Medicus/PubMed/MedLine are indexed in Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports and hence have an IF.

This raises the question of which indexation is the most accurate and reliable. How can the quality of papers published in journals indexed by various indexation services be compared? These questions are very important for two reasons. First, academic

institutions are increasingly recognising the value of publications.

Teaching faculty at medical colleges should also have indexed publications, according to MCI requirements. As a result, many more authors would be able to publish than ever before [4]. Because there is no clarity on the topic, choosing a high-quality publication becomes a challenging decision for the authors. Should only journals indexed in Index Medicus/MedLine/PubMed be targeted? Is it acceptable to submit to journals with a high impact factor even if they are not indexed by Index Medicus/MedLine/PubMed?

Second, many more indexing services have recently emerged. Caspur, DOAJ, Expanded Academic ASAP, Genamics Journal Seek, Hinari, Index Copernicus, Open J Gate, Primo Central, Pro Quest, SCOLOR, SIIC databases, Summon by Serial Solutions, Ulrich's International Periodical Directory, and Ulrich's International Periodical Directory are among them. Are both of these indexing services equally useful? Is it possible to consider a journal "indexed" if it is indexed in one of these databases?

These are some of the issues that need to be addressed. Associations of medical journal editors, such as the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, could be crucial in this debate.

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