ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Economics

INDEXING PARAMETER ANALYSIS: WHY SJR SHOULD BE A PREFERRED INDEXING PARAMETER

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

Indexing Parameter is being increasingly used to determine the career trajectory of an Individual. This practice of weighing the work of an individual based on where he publishes needs to be scrutinized. Scopus has created an environment of dependance on Citation. The indexing parameter is extremely reliant on these Citations. There is an overwhelming need to dissociate the dependence of indexing parameter on Citation.
Keywords: Indeexing parameter, Citation, Scopus

I. INTRODUCTION

An Indexing parameter conveys a meaning to the reader. It conveys the message that here is the weight of this particular Journal. The heavier the weight is, a stronger indication that it could be a well read one or a Journal that produces multiple new ideas and explores them in great detail. In the next few sections, we will be looking at various Indexing parameters and their influence on Scopus Publications.

1. THE IMPACT FACTOR ERA

The Impact factor was originally devised in the 1960's to guide Academic libraries in their Journal purchases(Archambault & Larieviere,2009). Although there are many indices developed over the last decade, the Impact Factor is still the most widely used. The Impact factor of a Journal is defined as the mean Citation rate, during that given year, of the papers published in that journal during the previous 2 years. For example a Journal's Impact Factor for 2011 considers citation received in 2011 by papers published in the Journal during the year 2009 and 2010(George A Lozana). Impact factor began to show the loopholes which was used by Journal publishing houses to further the Impact factor of their Journal by citing papers which are published by them. The Impact factor seemed at first to be a step in the right direction. It was a measure of providing the average times a journal's papers are cited over a period of time. What started as an index for evaluating a journal has now turned into an index for evaluating the papers that are published in the journal and for evaluating the authors who write those papers. There were more limitations to the paper in the outset: mere citation doesnt mean that a paper is important or even good. Impact factor continues to be used as a tool to measure or quantify an Individuals growth in Academia. There are countries globally which use Impact Factor to disburse large funds for Research. We need to re-evaluate our dependency on the Impact Factor(Allen J Wilcox,2008),.

2. THE GROWTH OF CITESCORE

One of the biggest limitation of Impact Factor was that it was patented to be used in Web of Science and hence no other Journal could use it as a tool to measure the quality of its work. CiteScore adresses this issue and a lot more. It is free to access on the Scopus Journal Website. Citescore also provides a 3 year citation window. This distinguishes CiteScore from Impact Factor. CiteScore will see an upward trajectory in its usage. It will be the tool that would be widely used to measure the work of Scopus Indexed Journals(Courtney,2017).

3. EMERGENCE OF SNIP AND SJR

SNIP stands for Sournce Normalized Impact per Paper. SNIP was creaed by Henk Moed at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies. SNIP corrects for differences in citation practices between scientefic fields, thereby allowing for more accurate between-field comparisons of Citation Impact.

SJR stands for The SCImago Journal & Country Rank. It performs more or less the same task as SNIP but additionally has access to Country Specific Indicators which makes it more specific.

With the emergence of such indicators, it is certainly a chance for us to explore them and give them a chance over Impact Factor. In the next section, we conduct a test to see if the problems pertaining to Impact Factor are addressed by these indicators.

II. THE BEST INDEXING PARAMETER: A correlation study on different Indexing parameters

The biggest drawback of Impact Factor that we discussed was the increasing dependency of Citation on Impact Factor. In order to understand the interdependance of Indexing parameter on Citation, we have to study the Correlation between them.

A Correlation is the study of mutual relationship or connection between two or more objects. The value can range between -1 and 1. The more closer the correlation is to 0, it is a good indicator that their dependence on each other is less. If the cofficient of correlation leans more towards the -1,an indication of negative correlation and vice-versa.

1. METHOD

To study the Correlation, I have collected the data of the Journal from the Scopus website. The Journals collected were of a specific type namely, Computer Science Applications and General Computer Science having more than 150 articles or documents were used for the study. This was done to get the best correlation coefficient. A total of 302 Journal were collected. The Correlation Coefficient Study was conducted to measure the correlation between percentage of documents cited on one end and the indexing parameter on the other end.

2. RESULTS AND FINDINGS OF THE CORRELATION STUDY

The following data was collected following the Correlation coefficient analysis:

(i) CiteScore vs Percentage of Documents Cited for 302 Journals

Correlation	CiteScore	% Cited
CiteScore	1	
% Cited	0.779	1

A Correlation coefficient of 0.779 was achieved in the case of CiteScore and Percentage of Documents Cited.

(ii) SNIP vs Percentage of Documents Cited for 302 Journals

Correlation	SNIP	%Cited
SNIP	1	
%Cited	0.749	1

A Correlation coefficient of 0.749 was achieved in the case of SNIP and Percentage of Documents Cited.

(III)SJR VS PERCENTAGE OF DOCUMENTS CITED FOR 302 JOURNALS

Correlations	SJR	%Cited
SJR	1	
%Cited	0.626	1

A Correlation coefficient of 0.626 was achieved in the case of SJR and Percentage of Documents Cited.

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