

INCREASING THE PRESENCE OF A SCHOLARLY ARTICLE - MAKING IT COUNT

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ABSTRACT

This article will be discussing on the ideas of Indexing- History, Concept and Practice, Indexing Agencies, Indexing Parameters, Review Methods and the Concept of Open Journals.

Keywords - *Indexing, Indexing policies, Review methods, Open journals*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indexing is an important parameter for any Research Journal to increase its visibility so that maximum researchers can reach to explore new innovative ideas and opportunities around the world. Researchers turn to citation tracking to find the most influential articles for a particular topic and to see how often their own published papers are cited. For years researchers looking for this type of information had only one resource to consult: the Web of Science from Thomson Scientific. In 2004 two competitors emerged – Scopus from Elsevier and Google Scholar from Google.

Scientific findings and discoveries can have far-reaching implications for individuals and society. This is one reason why they undergo a process of quality control known as 'peer review' before they are published. Peer review involves subjecting the author's scholarly work and research to the scrutiny of other experts in the same field to check its validity and evaluate its suitability for publication. Free access to research articles benefits the wider society. The open access model makes data available to anyone with internet access. This is useful for lifelong learners. It also transcends academic affiliation.

2. THE IDEA OF INDEXING

- The idea of Index is to denote something in a direct or indirect manner.
- There are two different dictionary definitions of the word Index. The first definition states it as an alphabetical list of names, subjects, etc. with reference to the pages on which they are mentioned. The second definition states it as a collection of information stored on a computer or on a set of cards in an alphabetical order.
- Therefore we can state that Index is not the reality but it is helping to reach the reality. Indexing makes the accessibility of knowledge easier.
- Search engines to find books are an example of modern day index. Other examples of Indexing are - Hyperlinks and Keywords.

3. HISTORY OF INDEXING

- The ancient forms of indexing were written in the stones then it shifted to hand written materials. During the pre-printing-era no two manuscripts were identical.
- Handwriting differed and there were issues of pagination as the page numbers were also different. One of the matters of concern that was faced by the people was due to the change in words. Some examples of word change are - FIRE and FIRED, FIELD and FILE.
- As modern printing emerged during 1440, it paved the path for The Bible Concordance in 1544 but the author was burned for heresy.

- A Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures, generally known as Cruden's Concordance, is a concordance of the King James Bible (KJV) that was singlehandedly created by Alexander Cruden (1699–1770). The Concordance was first published in 1737.
- On 15 April 1755 Samuel Johnson, wrote "A Dictionary of the English Language", sometimes published as Johnson's Dictionary, was the first index to the English language.
- The Index Society in London (1877) was formed with the aim of creating a general index of universal literature, where the learned people got appointed as indexers.
- In the United States, William Frederick Poole in 1848, while still a student, published his own 154-page index to periodical literature. Poole was the precursor to modern indexing.
- Paul Otlet The Father of Information Science created a collection of index cards, meant to catalog facts, that came to be known as the "Universal Bibliographic Repertory". In 1934 Otlet wrote, "A system by which knowledge would be projected on one's individual screen so that in his armchair, anyone would be able to contemplate the whole of creation or particular parts of it", he was the idea behind the internet.

4. TYPES OF INDEXING

The various types of indexing are - *Author, Subject, Persons, Place and Concept*. Indexing can be further classified as-

- Citation - Index of the presence of another work.
- New Testament cites Old Testament - 1C - Mentioned as footnote.
- Since 12th century - Hebrew religious literature
- Legal citation - A list of all the authorities citing a particular case or other legal authority.
- Shepard's citations - The verb Shepardizing refers to the process of consulting Shepard's to see if a case has been overturned, reaffirmed, questioned, or cited by later cases. Although the name is trademarked, it is also used informally by legal professionals to describe citators in general.
- Father Roberto Busa - Computational Linguistics, algorithm generated.
- Thomas Watson - An American businessman who served as the chairman and CEO of International Business Machines (IBM). He oversaw the company's growth into an international force from 1914 to 1956. Watson developed IBM's management style and corporate culture.
- Eugene Garfield - Conducted a thorough analysis of review articles and cited references.

5. PURPOSE OF INDEXING

- Discovering truth by building on previous discoveries.
- It provides future reference
- Faster learning
- Acknowledging
- Prominence of persons, subjects etc.
- Interconnections

6. BENEFITS OF INDEXING

- Their use in queries usually results in much better performance.
- They make it possible to quickly retrieve (fetch) data.
- They can be used for sorting. A post-fetch-sort operation can be eliminated.
- Unique indexes guarantee uniquely identifiable records in the database.
- Gives a sense of pride.

7. INDEXING and ABSTRACTING

- INDEXING assigns descriptors and other kinds of access points to documents.
- ABSTRACTING shortening or summarization of documents.

8. THE EVALUATION POLICIES OF INDEXING AGENCIES

The evolution of the electronic age has led to the development of numerous databases on the World Wide Web, offering search facilities on a particular subject and the ability to perform citation analysis.

Scopus is an abstract and indexing database with full-text links that is produced by the Elsevier. The name, Scopus, was inspired by the bird, Hammerkop (Scopus umbretta), which reportedly has excellent navigation skills. The database, was developed working with 21 research institutions and more than 300 researchers and librarians. Scopus was launched in November 2004 and it is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, featuring smart tools to track, analyze and visualize research. With 22,800 titles from more than 5,000 international publishers, Scopus delivers the most comprehensive view of the world's research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social science, arts and humanities.

The Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB) was established in 2005 to promote an open and transparent content coverage policy. The Board consisted of a large independent group of established subject matter experts from around the world. The CSAB as we know it today was formed in 2009 and is now made up of 17 independent, international scientists, researchers and journal editors from all scientific disciplines and geographical areas. The CSAB's primary function is to evaluate and determine which peer-reviewed serial titles are accepted into Scopus, and which are excluded. To ensure both the broadest coverage and highest quality content is included, the CSAB maintains and follows a transparent and robust selection policy.

Additionally, the CSAB is integral in determining content strategy by:

- Recommending long-term content approaches to ensure that Scopus remains focused on the research community's information needs.
- Keeping the Scopus team abreast of trends and developments in the research community, such as new standards, protocols or software with which to integrate.

8.1. The evaluation policies of various indexing agencies are as under

- Consist of peer-reviewed content and have a publicly available description of the peer review process.
- Be published on a regular basis and have an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) as registered with the ISSN International Centre.
- Have content that is relevant for and readable by an international audience, meaning: have references in Roman script and have English language abstracts and titles.
- Have a publicly available publication ethics and publication malpractice statement.

CSAB members have deep subject matter expertise, and are committed to actively seeking out and selecting literature that meets the needs and standards of the research community that they represent.

Below are potential indexes of interest with general information about the steps taken to have a journal indexed -

8.1.2. ISI WEB OF SCIENCE

An analytic company focused on scientific and academic research, patent analytic and regulatory standards, pharmaceutical and biotech intelligence, trademark protection, domain brand protection and intellectual property management.

- Evaluation period is close to a year.
- Re-evaluated yearly.
- Very selective in what they include.
- Publishing regularly is a must.
- If included, likely going into Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) for one year and then re-evaluated for the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)

- Publication ethics: Thomson Reuters evaluates journal practices, so having a publication ethics and malpractice statement is preferable.
- Impact Factors available—but only for SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded) and the SSCI (Social Science Citation Index)

8.1.3. SCOPUS

Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings as well as smart tools to track, analyze, and visualize research.

- Must have two years of content to be considered.
- Regular publication schedule/ publishing on time is a factor in acceptance.
- Re-evaluated yearly.
- Requires a public-facing Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement.

8.1.4. PROQUEST

It is one of the largest, multidisciplinary, full-text databases available in the market today.

- More selective than EBSCO.
- Application is very basic.
- Include pertinent details such as title(s), the subject areas covered by your publication(s), ISSN/EISSN, frequency of publication, average number of articles per issue, etc.

8.1.5. ULRICH'S PERIODICALS DIRECTORY

A database of serial information, including ISSN, editorial boards, indexing coverage, peer review status, and publication history for journals. This resource is commonly used to identify legitimate venues for publication.

- If one's serial publication is not already tracked by Ulrich's, one can bring that title to the attention of the Ulrich's editorial team by sending an email to ulrichs@proquest.com.
- In the email, one must include the name of the publication and any other information. An editor will follow up with the publisher or provider and attempt to get the most recent information about the publication.

9. THE COMMON FEATURES REQUIRED FOR ALL THE INDEXING AGENCIES ARE AS UNDER

- Journal Policy - Convincing editorial policy, Type of peer review, Diversity in geographical distribution of editors and Diversity in geographical distribution of authors.
- Content - Academic contribution to the field, Clarity of abstracts, Quality of and conformity to the stated aims and scope of the journal and Readability of articles.
- Journal Standing - Citedness of journal articles in Editor standing.
- Publishing Regularity - No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule.
- Online Availability - Full journal content available online, English language journal home page available and Quality of journal home page.
- Plagiarism detection - Invest in many resources to help educate researchers on how to avoid ethical issues, to detect any issues during the editorial process, to support editors in handling publishing ethics allegations and, if necessary, to correct the scholarly record.

10. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF INDEXING PARAMETERS

In this section I will be discussing about the advantages and disadvantages of three different Indexing Parameters. These are - The H-index, CiteScore and Impact Factor.

10.1. H -INDEX

The h-index was suggested in 2005 by Jorge E. Hirsch, a physicist at UC San Diego, as a tool for determining theoretical physicists' relative quality and is sometimes called the Hirsch index or Hirsch number. It aims to measure the cumulative impact of a researcher's output by looking at the amount of citations his/her work has received. Hirsch argues that the h-index is preferable to other single number criteria, such as the total number of papers, the total number of citations and citations per paper.

The h-index is defined as the maximum value of h such that the given author/journal has published h papers that have each been cited at least h times. The index is designed to improve upon simpler measures such as the total number of citations or publications. The index works properly only for comparing scientists working in the same field; citation conventions differ widely among different fields.

10.1.1. Among the advantages of h-index the following have been pointed out by Hirsch-

- It combines a measure of quantity (publications) and impact (citations).
- It allows us to characterize the scientific output of a researcher with objectivity, and therefore may play an important role when making decisions about promotions, fund allocation and awarding prizes.
- It performs better than other single-number criteria commonly used to evaluate the scientific output of a researcher (impact factor, total number of documents, total number of citations, citation per paper rate and number of highly cited papers).
- The h-index can be easily obtained by anyone with access to the Thomson ISI Web of Science and in addition it is easy to understand.
- Hirsch intended the h-index to address the main disadvantages of other bibliometric indicators, such as total number of papers or total number of citations.

10.1.2. There are however, several disadvantages of the h-index that have also been remarked-

- A disadvantage of the h-index is that it cannot decline. That means that academics who retire after 10-20 active years of publishing maintain their high h-index even if they never publish another paper.
- It only includes citation to journal articles (not to books, book chapters, working papers, reports, conference papers, etc.)
- It only includes citations in journals that are listed in the ISI Thomson database.
- The use of the h-index could provoke changes in the publishing behaviour of scientists, such an artificial increase in the number of self-citations distributed among the documents on the edge of the h-index.
- There are inter-field differences in typical h values due to differences among fields in productivity and citation practices, so the h-index should not be used to compare scientists from different disciplines.

10.2. CITESCORE

In December 2016, Elsevier introduced a new metric for journals called CiteScore which is a part of Scopus-the world's largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. Its primary function is to analyze the number of times a journal article is cited in other works. This information is important to librarians as they make decisions regarding journal subscriptions, to journal editors, as they determine what sort of articles yield the most readers, and to authors, as they build a case for their work. By adding this feature, the scholarly community now has free access to the metrics covering journals from over 5,000 publishers. Elsevier has launched CiteScore metrics, a new standard that gives a more comprehensive, transparent and current view of a journal's impact – one that will help the researchers decide where to submit their next publication.

10.2.1. The main advantages of the CiteScore metrics are-

- **Comprehensive** - CiteScore is essentially the average citations per document that a title receives over a three-year period. It is simple to replicate. It provides a 3-year citation window, rather than the 2-year window of the Impact Factor.

- **Expansive Range of Journals/Documents** - It is calculated from the Scopus journal list, which is much larger than the Web of Science list and includes more social sciences and humanities journals. Its database comprises of peer-reviewed literature from more than 5,000 publishers.
- **Transparency** - CiteScore's algorithm is clearly defined, there are no hidden calculations behind the results.
- **Current** - Through the CiteScore Tracker, it is possible to check citation rates on a monthly basis. Previously, these numbers were only available annually. (Annual calculations are also offered.)
- **No Cost** - Access to CiteScore metrics is free of charge.

10.2.2. The disadvantages of CiteScore come down to these factors-

- The vast quantity of journals included in CiteScore's analytics may dilute the quality of its outcomes.
- CiteScore metrics seem to favor journals that fall under the Elsevier umbrella, as well as Emerald, which claimed to assist in CiteScore's development.
- CiteScore metrics skew against journals with a lot of front matter. In particular, the Nature family of journals.
- The journal must be actively indexed in Scopus and classed as a journal, book series, trade journal, or serial conference proceedings. Stand-alone books or conference proceedings are not eligible.
- The journal must be selected for indexing in Scopus. Scopus has an active Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) made up of independent subject experts who evaluate submitted titles throughout the year.

10.3. IMPACT FACTOR

Impact factor is a quasi-qualitative indicator, which provides a measurement of the prestige and international visibility of journals. The Impact Factor has had a long reign in academe. Beginning in 1975 as a by-product of the Science Citation Index, it provided a unique, objective means of rating journals based on their citations and quickly became a standard measure of journal quality.

Impact factors are calculated from the number of citations received by the papers published in a named journal during the previous two years. In this way, they can reflect the changing status of a journal within a research field, as the number of citations increases or declines.

10.3.1. The main advantages of Impact Factor include-

- It provides librarians and researchers a tool for managing library journal collections.
- Can be used to provide a gross approximation of the prestige of journals in which individuals have been published
- As a management tool for library journal collections, the impact factor supplies the library administrator with information about journals already in the collection and journals under consideration for acquisition.
- In market research, the impact factor provides quantitative evidence for editors and publishers for positioning their journals in relation to the competition - especially others in the same subject category.
- Impact factors can be a useful tool when trying to find an objective measure of quality.

10.3.2. The disadvantages of Impact Factor are as under -

- Since the Impact Factor is derived from journals indexed in the Web of Science, no other journals can have an Impact Factor.
- Since the Impact Factor only looks at citations in the current year to articles in the previous two years, it only works well for disciplines in which rapid citation is the standard.
- There is no Journal Citation Reports (JCR) for arts & humanities, therefore no Impact Factor for those journals.
- Language barriers for journals that are not in English.
- Expensive prices for access to databases.

11. VARIOUS REVIEW METHODS

Peer review is the process of subjecting an author's research to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field, prior to presenting their work at a conference and/or publication in a journal. The main role of the peer review process is to reinforce the credibility of research by facilitating its evaluation and to improve the overall quality of published papers.

- **SINGLE BLIND** - This allows the reviewer to critique an abstract or paper without any influence being exerted on them from authors. If a reviewer knows their name will be visible to the author or the public, they may not give their true opinion in case it's perceived as too critical. Knowing their name will be kept anonymous gives reviewers the freedom to say what they really think.
- **DOUBLE BLIND** - While double blind has all the benefits of single blind, it takes it to another level. Both the reviewer and author are kept anonymous from each other. This guards against reviews being influenced by the author's reputation, and perceptions based on her/his previous work.
- **TRIPLE BLIND** - The reviewers and the handling editors cannot know the identity of the authors/institution during the review process, this helps as the reviewers and handling editors are not biased by the identity of the authors and evaluate the article solely based on the scientific importance.
- **OPEN REVIEW** - An open peer-review system include reviewers being "more tactful and constructive" than they would be if they could remain anonymous. It has also been argued that open review leads to more honest reviewing and prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas, as well as leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests.

12. OPEN JOURNALS

Open access (OA) is a mechanism by which research outputs are distributed online, free of cost or other barriers and in its most precise meaning, with the addition of an open license that removes most restrictions on use and reuse. Open access can be applied to all forms of published research output, including peer-reviewed and non peer-reviewed academic journal articles, conference papers, theses, book chapters and monographs.

CONCLUSION

Indexing is a process in which indexes are created in order to maintain the records so that the researchers can reach the requisite particular record otherwise it will be difficult for them to narrow down their search from huge number of records. The internet is in a constant state of change, with new content being added to the web by the minute and old content sometimes getting moved around. While the benefit of publishing scholarly outputs online is that it's possible for them to be widely shared across different channels and updated as needed, the potential for online content to be moved, modified, or hosted in multiple places can also make keeping track of different versions tricky at times.

To bypass or to diminish peer review may start a process that would eventually undermine the output of our research, allow the cynics to question its validity and give free rein to those that prefer their biases to results from well-controlled experimental investigations. Open access is even more critical for scientists in developing countries. High journal subscription prices can often keep the developing world from making scientific advances.

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