

Kako napisati rad za SCI?

Miodrag Stojkovic

Why publish?

To secure:

- future
- funding
- job promotions
- peer recognition

The Impact Factor (IF) of a journal is probably the only **quantitative way** of assessing its worth and relevance to the academic community it serves

History

- ✓ The IF was devised by and is calculated by ISI, part of the Thomson Corporation.
- ✓ ISI was founded by Eugene Garfield in 1958 and its best known product is the current awareness service, *Current Contents* which covers over 7,000 journals in pure and applied science, medicine, social sciences and the humanities.

How to obtain IF?

- To merit inclusion in the ISI database (and therefore to receive an Impact Factor) a journal must pass a vetting procedure which begins with an inhouse editor with appropriate subject expertise and concludes with a review and confirmation by the entire editorial team.
- The assessment involves a number of parameters including regularity of publication, profile of the editorial team, whether it is peer reviewed and the relevance and topicality of the contents.

ISI is working very hard

- ISI staff search the reference lists of all the journals they cover (**citing journal**) and **count all the citations** to record a total for each destination journal (**cited journal**).
- **The cited journals are then analysed to** determine the number of articles they contain that can be considered substantial enough to warrant being counted as **source items**.
- **It is the source items that** attract the citations from the citing journals.

Definition of IF

- The IF for a given year is defined as the total number of citations received in that year to articles published in the previous two years divided by the total number of citable items (**source items**) published by the journal in those two years.

Taking 2007 as an example:

- **IF 2007 =**

citations received in 2007 to articles
published in 2005/6

the number of source items published
2005&2006

How to improve IF

- Attempts to improve the IF may be centred on increasing the overall number of citations (**the numerator**)
- or decreasing the number of articles published by the journal that are considered to be **source items (the denominator)**
- or both.

Source items

- In general, the following are counted as **source items**:
 - Original articles
 - Review articles
 - Case reports
 - Articles in symposium supplements
- and the following are not:
 - Letters (except where they function as articles, e.g. *Nature*)
 - Abstracts
 - Commentaries
 - Editorials

The steps toward publication can be summarized like this:

- ✓ Do research
- ✓ Write manuscript
- ✓ Submit
- ✓ Editor sends to review
- ✓ Returned manuscript with reviews
- ✓ Revise
- ✓ Published

Manuscript structure

(Title page)

- The title page should contain: the title of the article, which should be concise but informative. It should describe the main findings or the purpose of the study.
- First name, middle initial, and last name of each author, with highest academic degree(s) and institutional affiliations.
- Name of department(s) and institution(s) to which the work should be attributed.
- A short running head or foot line of no more than 40 characters (count letters and spaces).
- Source(s) of support in the form of grants, equipment, drugs, or all of these.
- Disclaimers, if any.
- Name and address of the author responsible for correspondence about the manuscript, including phone and fax numbers and e-mail address, if available.

Abstract

- The second page should carry an abstract of the following style: It should not be more than 150 words for unstructured abstracts or 250 words for structured abstracts (those that contain the following sub-headings: Background/Aims/Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusions).
- The abstract should provide a brief background, state the purpose(s) of the study or investigation, basic methods (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals; observational and analytical methods), main results (give specific data and their statistical significance, if possible), and the principal conclusions.
- Emphasize new and important aspects of the study.
- Below the abstract provide, and identify as such, 3 to 10 key words or short phrases that will assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and may be published with the abstract.
- Do not cite reference(s) in this section.
- Define all abbreviations used in the Abstract.

Introduction

- Summarize what is known about the topic of the manuscript.
- Do not make an exhaustive literature review. Give only strictly pertinent references.
- Do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.
- Provide a statement of objectives and research plan.
- The use of present and past verbs is allowed.
- Avoid referring to your work only.
- End this section by describing the rationale for the study or observation, followed by a brief statement describing the most important finding of the study.

Materials and Methods (MM)

- Start with what you first did to answer your question and end by describing what you did last.
- Divide into subsections if long.
- Provide enough information to enable another investigator to replicate the work.
- The most important subsection is the protocol, which consists of:
 - The independent variable (manipulated variable).
 - The dependent variable (measured variable).
 - All controls.
- Describe your selection of the observational or experimental subjects (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly.
- Identify the methods, apparatus (manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Avoid the use of "the method is described elsewhere ..".
- Give references to established methods, including statistical methods (see below); provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate 'their limitations.

MM II

- Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration.
- Ethics. When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983. Do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. When reporting "experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution's or the National Research Council's guide for, or any national law on, the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.
- Statistical methods:
 - Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results.
 - Avoid sole reliance on statistical hypothesis testing, such as the use of P values, which fails to convey important quantitative information.
 - Give details about randomization.
 - Describe the methods for and success of any blinding of observations.
 - References for study design and statistical methods should be to standard works (with pages stated) when possible rather than to papers in which the designs or methods were originally reported.
 - Specify any general-use computer programs used.
 - Avoid nontechnical uses of technical terms in statistics, such as "random" (which implies a randomizing device), "normal," "significant correlations," and "sample." Define statistical terms, abbreviations, and most symbols.

Results

- Describe the most important results first, followed by less important results.
- Do not compare the present data with previously published results.
- Avoid using descriptive words (markedly, greatly, prominent, etc...).
- *Statistical analysis:*
 - Adhere to describing comparisons as significant or not-significant.
 - Avoid using different levels of statistical significance. A $p < 0.05$ is sufficient to convince the reader to the presence of a significant difference, rather than cluttering the text with different p values (e.g., $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.001$, $p < 0.0001$, etc).
 - Give numbers of observations.
 - When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals). Describe whether the number that follows the mean value is SD or SEM.
- Present results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations.
- Either present data that support the results or cite figures or tables that present data. Do not duplicate data in text and tables or illustrations. Use graphs as an alternative to tables with many entries.
- Check that for every result in this section there is a method in the Methods section
- Emphasize or summarize only important observations.
- Include test and control data.

Results II

- Report treatment complications.
- Restrict tables and figures to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess its support.
- Refer to the Figures and Tables in the text, discussing the information provided.
- Do not use abbreviations in the figures, if possible. Expand all abbreviations in the figure legend.
- *Figures*
 - Simplify Figures.
 - Check that numbers in Figures match the information provided in the text and Abstract.
 - The legend should tell the reader about the most important thing displayed in the Figure.
 - Avoid using more than 4-5 figures.
 - If several Figures look the same, group them into one Figure.
- *Tables*
 - Use a descriptive title.
 - Avoid using long Tables.
 - Expand all abbreviations in the legend.
 - Do not use more than one level of statistical comparisons. If this becomes necessary, do not use multiples of *, e.g., *, **, ***, ****, but rather use different symbols.

Discussion

- First state the answer to the question placed at the end of the Introduction.
- Provide evidence in support of the answer.
- Describe complications.
- Describe conflicting results and reasons for such differences.
- Establish the newness of your findings.
- Limitations of the methods, weaknesses in study design, validity of assumptions.
- End with a reinforcing message.
- Discuss whether these results are new, unique, similar or different to previously published results.
- The use of past and present verbs is allowed.
- Include in the Discussion the implications of the findings and their limitations, including implications for future research.

Discussion II

- Relate the observations to other relevant studies.
- Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by your data.
- Avoid claiming priority and alluding to work that has not been completed.
- State new hypotheses when warranted, but clearly label them as such.
- Recommendations, when appropriate, may be included.
- Always end this section with a concluding summary or the future direction of research.
- *Do not:*
 - Begin the Discussion with a summary of the results or a repeat of the Introduction section.
 - Write a long Discussion. The length should not exceed one fifth of the total text material.
 - Make too many speculations.
 - Make an exhaustive review of the literature. Avoid using more than 25 citations.

Acknowledgement

- Acknowledge people who contributed to the completion the study and preparation of the manuscript.
- Contributions that need acknowledging but do not justify authorship, such as general support by a departmental chair.
- Acknowledgments of technical help.
- Acknowledgments of financial and material support, specifying the nature of the support.
- Financial relationships that may pose a conflict of interest.
- Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission from persons acknowledged by name, because readers may infer their endorsement of the data and conclusions.
- Technical help should be acknowledged in a paragraph separate from those acknowledging other contributions.

References

- Check the style required by the selected journal.
- Numbering of references depends on the journal selected for submission of the manuscript.
- Citation of the references in the text of the manuscript also differs from one journal to other. For example, some journals require identification of references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in parentheses, e.g. (1) or (1, 4), or (3-9, 11, 16-18). *In the latter case DO NOT use (3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,16,17,18)*. However, other journals require the use of the name of the first author followed by the year of publication, e.g., (Richard *et al.*, 1991; Smith *et al.*, 1993), (Richard and Smith 1995).
- References cited only in tables or in legends to figures should be numbered in accordance with a sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure.
- The format of the reference may also vary depending on the journal selected for submission of the manuscript. Avoid the use of abstracts as references.
- "unpublished observations" and "personal communications" may not be used as references, although references to written, not oral, communications may be inserted (in parentheses) in the text.
- Include in the references papers accepted but not yet published designate the journal and add "In press".
- Information from manuscripts submitted but not yet accepted should be cited in the text as (unpublished observations).
- The references must be verified by the author(s) against the original documents.

Mistakes

- **Title too broad:**
Microstructure of cheese
- **Appropriate:**
Microstructure of low-fat Cheddar cheese:
An optical microscopy study

Mistakes II

- **Abstract sentences vague:**
This paper deals with an investigation of manufacturing conditions on the quality of bread. It seemed that there was a trend towards an increase in the bread volume as kneading of the dough was increased.
- **Sentences more appropriate:**
The volumes of bread loaves were assessed from photographs of slices taken in the middle of the loaves. The loaf volume was increased by 5.2% ($P < 0.1$), 7.6% ($P < 0.05$), and 8.9% ($P < 0.01$) following an increase in the kneading time by 10, 25, and 40%, respectively, as compared with the control samples.

How to enhance the publication of your manuscript?

- The most important step is a good scientific experimental design.
- Write a manuscript that describes a comprehensible story with a clear message.
- Select the most appropriate journal for publication of your manuscript (a clinical journal for clinical studies, research-oriented journal for animal studies). If you do not know all journals that publish articles in your field, then visit the [Institute for Scientific Information \(ISI\)](#) for a complete list of all medical/bioscience journals.
- Read the *Instructions for Authors* of the selected journal. If you cannot obtain a copy of the journal, then visit the web site of that journal, if available, and search for the *Instructions for Authors*. For a list of some of the journals that maintain web sites containing *Instructions for Authors*, visit our list of [medical journals](#).
- Seek the help of a scientific editor. Scientific editing improves the readability of the article and diminishes the chance of rejection by the reviewers. The editor should be preferably a scientific individual and not English-language editor only. The editor should also be reliable and provide a fast and confidential service.
- Badly written manuscripts are those that do not tell a clear story and only describe overwhelming details about what others have done or found rather than describe and discuss the major findings of the study.