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The role of indexing agencies and parameters in research

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ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the indexing and its importance to a researcher—a report of indexing and indexing parameters of various indexing agencies. Today, various abstracting and indexing services are available. Most are affiliated with institutions (e.g., PubMed held at the National Institute of Health by the United States National Library of Medicine), and others are provided by publishers (e.g., Scopus by Elsevier).

Keywords— *Indexing, Indexing Parameters, Abstracting, Institution, Publication*

1. INTRODUCTION

Any journal's prestige is addressed by how many abstracting and indexing services that journal incorporates. In the last few years, it has been observed that authors have started to search for indexed journals to publish their articles. This is probably happening because it has become a mandatory requirement for further teaching faculty promotions in medical colleges and institutions. The indexation of a journal is considered a reflection of its quality. Indexing will help the journal achieve its primary objective of being accessible to a broad public. In effect, being accessible will improve the reputation of the journal as a reliable source of high-quality information within the field. As part of the study, database research is the first activity that researchers undertake, and they naturally look to established, well-known databases. Thus, being indexed in your field in a known database would help to increase the readership of the journal. Indexing is done in the present scenario by various indexing agencies, including Scopus, ISI Web of Science, Google Scholar, Ulrich's directory of periodicals, Crossref, BIOSIS, BASE, Index Copernicus, ABDC, etc. These agencies are online databases that index journals, books, research papers, and so on. Each of these indexing agencies has its evaluation policies whereby they determine the quality and content of the information sent to them for indexing.

2. HISTORY OF INDEXING

Initially, indexing was handwritten. People developed keywords and manually wrote down, which caused pagination problems as their handwriting was not the same. This led to different ways of indexing, and indexing became much simpler with the advent of the printing press. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language in 1755 is considered the very first index of the English language. Indexing was so crucial that societies were formed for indexing. Index Society was founded in London in 1877, to construct a general index of universal literature. There was also The Society of Indexers, which was established in 1957. There are some remarkable people like William Frederick Poole who prepared a 154-page index of periodic literature, which became a precursor to modern-day indexing, and Paul Otlet, who wanted to launch the Universal Bibliography Repertory. It could also be said that one of the first examples of indexing was the Bible. The New Testament often cited the Old Testament. Indexing had also been used in Hebrew Religious Literature since the twelfth century. Some prominent people who did excellent indexing work, commonly known as or considered to be the ones who brought a proper indexing form and structure. Eugene Garfield and Fr. Robert Busa. Pope Francis Busa, the Father of Computational Linguistics, indexed all the works of St. Thomas Aquinas, and Eugene Garfield performed a detailed and complete analysis of the review papers and their references cited. Legal citations, another form of citation indexing, are a list of all authorities citing a particular case, statute, or other legal authority, and the first of its kind is Shepard's Citations (1873).

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Indexing agencies are the foundation that reassures the research community about the standards of publishing. Different parameters to measure the citations can help increase the credibility of the research namely, impact factor, cite score, h-index, etc.

Impact Factor has taken on an essential role in the Indian context. An academic journal's impact factor (IF) or journal impact factor (JIF) is a scientometric index representing the average number of citations obtained from papers published in a given journal in the last two years. It is often used as a proxy for a journal's relative importance within its field; journals with higher impact factors are often considered to be more important than those with lower ones. As a result, all kinds of indexes are designed to evaluate all of it

– scientific journals, science, and scientists. Moreover, when deciding on a promotion or selection, a lot of focus is given to whether, so all researchers want publications in journals that are indexed in the critical component of Thomson Reuters' Web of Science. The Science Citation Index expanded the database with the Impact factor and its annual sister publication, the JCRs. It is, therefore, essential to understanding the basics of the Impact factor.

Citation index (indexing) is an ordered list of cited articles, each followed by a list of citing articles. The citing article is identified as the source, and the article cited as a reference. Legal citation indexes were discovered in the 18th century, and citers such as Shepard's quotations (1873) have made them popular. The Eugene Garfield's Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) introduced the first citation index for papers published in scientific journals in 1960, first the science citation index (SCI), and then the citation index for social sciences and the citation index for the arts and humanities. "CiteSeer" did its first automatic citation indexing in 1997. Google Scholar and Elsevier's Scopus are other sources for these data.

Major citation indexing services currently are:

- **SCI and SCI-expanded:** Published by ISI a part of Thomson Reuters. As stated, SCI was originally developed by ISI and created by Eugene Garfield (1964). The database of SCI has two objectives: first, to identify what each scientist has published, and second, where and how often that scientist cites articles. The online version of the SCI is called "Web of Science."
- **Scopus:** Scopus (Elsevier) is a bibliographic database for academic journal articles, which includes abstracts and citations. It consists of 21,000 titles from more than 5000 publishers. Also available online. Scopus is a bibliographic database containing abstracts and citations for academic journal articles. It covers peer-reviewed journals in the scientific, technical, medical, and social sciences. It is owned by Elsevier. Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings
- **Indian citation index (ICI):** An online citation data ICI is a new web platform that periodically measures the performance of Indian research. This bibliographic on- database was introduced in 2009. ICI covers 800 plus Indian publications on scientific, technological, medical, and social sciences.
- **CrossRef:** Crossref (formerly styled CrossRef) is an official Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Registration Agency of the International DOI Foundation. It is run by the Publishers International Linking Association Inc. (PILA) and was launched in early 2000 as a cooperative effort among publishers to enable persistent cross-publisher citation linking in online academic journals. Since its founding, CrossRef has provided reference linking services for 44 million content items, including journal articles, conference proceedings, books, book chapters, reference entries, technical reports, standards, and data sets. Besides, "CiteSeer" and Google Scholar' are freely available online.

The h-index is an author-level metric used to measure a scholar or researcher's citation impact, as well as productivity. It was developed in 2005 through Jorge E. Hirsch. This can be calculated for a journal, too. It is the h number of articles cited h number of times each. It is the measure of the number of published articles, and not just the citations. It helps the researcher to make an objective evaluation of an article or journal. Anyone can calculate it because it is not copyrightable. It helps the researcher to locate journals or papers quickly.

Though these parameters, to a significant extent, help researchers and scholars, there are times when these would pose a difficulty. Most of these criteria are discipline-specific and thus don't help much in the disciplines that aren't so popular or sought after. It can fail to recognize an excellent article in a journal, simply because it has not been cited several times. It also doesn't help a journal that has fewer citations to get more as it will be pushed to the end of the list. It depends on the author's or scholar's longevity since the more articles are written and the more citations they obtain.

4. CONCLUSION

Indexing is vital for research journals because it will increase that particular journal's visibility. It also lets researchers explore ideas and thought processes that are different from theirs from around the world, something they wouldn't have considered otherwise. It would also help them to narrow down the choices of articles or journals they'd spend time reading. It's a sad fact that after so much reviewing and reworking, it happens that it takes nearly two years to publish an article or research paper. This poses a problem for many because by the time it is published, their work could become outdated. Considering that study is supposed to be current and application-oriented, if the review processes occur a little quicker, it will be of great benefit to researchers. It will also assist with providing the audience a specific piece of information so they can act on the issue before it is too late.

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