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Indexing: A tool to promote Quality Research

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ABSTRACT

In today's scenario research work demands an environment where ideas can be exchanged, examined, and applied. It becomes very essential for researchers and lecturers to know that their research work is known by the community and also get recognition with the ones who they know or with whom they work with. A very important thumb rule for the accomplishment of research work is networking and showcasing oneself work to others to increase the stock of knowledge, to a larger audience, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge which will further help to devise new applications for future researchers work. Thus, it becomes very much prerogative for researchers and lecturers in choosing the right, authentic and reputable publications which in itself is a task. As Indexed journals are considered to be of higher quality than in comparison to any non-indexed journals for better visibility of the journal. The article also addresses a proper understanding about indexing and the major indexing agencies.

Keywords— *Indexing, Indexing Agencies, Citations, Peer reviewing, Promotion Tool, Quality Indexing Journal*

1. INTRODUCTION

Originally, the role of universities with respect to teaching and learning was not to conduct examinations however as education system across globe evolved, now all is an integral part of university system in itself. Globally, now universities and institutions are being assessed and evaluated based on their ecosystem, research output, infrastructure, qualified professors, teaching techniques, etc. Accordingly, the researchers/scholar are making their own choice of study/work. As we evolved in our ecosystem, now the research output in terms of research papers, books, reports, patents, standards, etc. are measurable objects in a race of publication in a well-qualified publication.

For about 350 years, journals are the main and major source of research communication and over the period a concept of referred and high impact factor journals has evolved to monitor and maintain the quality standards of publications or research documents or research papers. Therefore, researchers and lecturers followed by the universities and research institutions are in a competition of publication of research articles, in authentic and reputable publications in order to increase the counts of publications and citations received to them, which thereby decides their relative superiority among the comity of academic world. This in itself also increases the creditability of the universities and institutions for better visibility of the journal with wider users.

In research 'indexing' is a quality determining factor. A similar concept of "Indexing" is like inventory, list, record, catalog or register. To make a journal stand out from many other publications researchers and lecturers should index their journals to show the visibility, readership, clarity and availability of their journals to a larger audience. Indexing will always help a researcher to reach to better audience by showing the reliability of our research journal. In research publication, as indexing plays a vital role. Just an example, to point out someone we use our index finger, just like that, indexing also put some light towards our area of research. Dictionaries define an index as a collection of information stored on a computer or on a set of cards in alphabetical order. Or it can be a list showing which page includes a name or subject. Index always acts as a signboard.

It is very must that researchers and lecturers have a good understanding of published and indexed journal publications. The idea behind, is it will spark the lectures spirit to conduct the quality research and to improve publishing capabilities. It also promotes new scholars to carry on the spirit in the era of quality publications.

2. DEFINING AN 'INDEXED JOURNAL'

An 'Indexed Journal' is a journal of which published articles are indexed in some Indexing/Abstracting periodical/database. The basic agenda behind getting a journal indexed is to increase the visibility, accessibility and quality standard of that journal to wider users. Therefore, indexed journals are considered of higher quality as compared to non-indexed journals. We have a number

of popular; most trusted and accepted indexing agencies to do the task of indexing in its perfection. Some of them are, Scopus, Web of Science, Ulrich's periodicals directory, ISI Web of Knowledge, Science Citation Index, OCLC, Google Scholar, Crossref, BIOSIS, MIAR, ABDC, Index Copernicus and Bielefeld Academic Search Engine etc.

These popular indexing agencies have their own policies regarding indexing a journals. For continuity of quality of these agencies, they always include and index better quality journals for their good value. However, at the same time, for researcher and lecturers it is better to understand effectively in order to make ourselves aware of the evaluation policies of these indexing agencies along with the steps taken to have a journal to be indexed by any particular agency.

In consideration of all the universities and institutions, researcher and lecturers the Impact Factor (IF) of journal is considered as the 'quality mark'. The higher the IF leads to equivalent to higher the quality of a journal. However there is lot of ambiguity that lies towards IF used as a proxy for the relative importance of a journal within its scope of arena. There are a lot of biasness in the calculation of the IF which could involve multiple factors associated to it. Such as the preference of language of the database, availability of online publications, negative citations, and the measures used to collect citations. However, these factors might also play a role in journal indexation. With all this, unpredictably IF is not available for all indexed journals.

3. 'QUALITY JOURNAL' FOR PUBLICATION

Often researchers and lecturers have a query in mind that some journals are indexed in highly rates indexation services however having low or almost no IF. Whereas, it can be vice versa too some have high IF but are not at all indexed in these highly rated indexation services. So researchers and lecturers in such a situation need to take both IF and peer-review considerations into account for selecting journals to publish their research output. This is further minimised biases and place transparency in the process of selecting the 'quality journal'.

4. INDEXING AGENCIES

Indexing is a database of higher scientific journals having a good track record of maintaining the ethics and quality in terms of publication. These publications provide in having content that is relevant and of interest to an audience all around the world, having a well-documented references or bibliography section. It further has a published peer-review procedure, also being analysed by a tool of a particular agency to identify relevant, concrete and authentic titles and content.

Scopus launched in 2004 is an Elsevier's online database of peer-reviewed literature and delivers a comprehensive overview of the research output from all around the world. Any journal which have to be indexed by Scopus are thoroughly examined, reviewed and evaluated by their Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB), an internationally acclaimed board of selection experts. Accordingly, it should also meet its five category criteria for evaluation such as journal policy, content, journal standing, publishing regularity and online availability. The selection process is very transparent thereby leading for quality content for Scopus. Also, to identify outlier journal behaviour in the Scopus database a tool named Radar was launched in 2017. Nevertheless, Scopus analyses once a year the performance of all journals in the database.

Web of Science launched in 1997, is an online subscription based scientific citation indexing service originally produced by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), later sustained by Clarivate Analytics that provides a comprehensive citation search. For researchers and lecturers for reference of cross disciplinary research it gives access to multiple databases. It enhances the scholar/researcher study and allows for in-depth exploration of specialized sub-fields within an academic or scientific discipline. It is also another well-known indexing agency. Before submitting a journal for evaluation one should ensure that the publication publishes peer-reviewed content and it has an ISSN registered. Strict in terms of their rules and policies that needs to be adhered without which journals will not be evaluated in Web of Science. Nevertheless, Web of Science has three flagship Citation indexes namely, the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI).

DOAJ or Directory of Open Access Journals is an online directory. It provides indexes and provides access to quality open access, peer-reviewed journals. Researchers and lecturers should be well known with the information to fulfil all the criteria. It covers all history, religion, geography, language and literature, etc. journals.

Google Scholar, one can simply upload the paper by following a few guidelines, very easy indexing agency. Google Scholar includes many disciplines and sources like articles and technical reports from academic publishes, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, and other scholarly organizations available across the Web.

However as researcher and lecturers understand the varied agencies involved in indexing, they all vouch for quality journal. Through this it encourages to broaden their reputation. Most vital the selection body is internationally sound, thus with a larger audience these indexing agencies select the content that is significant for and readable by an international audience too. In order to measure the performance of the journals issued by the researchers and lecturers indexing parameters are used across. Namely, Impact Factor, Cite Score, h-index, g-index, i10-index, SNIP, SJR etc. Having their own advantages and restrictions. Which thereby determine the quality of the journals and articles to a larger extend.

Impact factor as explained earlier, the impact factor or journal impact factor of an academic journal is a scientometric index which reflects the yearly average number of citations that recent articles published in a given journal received. Next a very simple way of measuring the citation is via Cite score as an impact of serial titles such as journals. The definition of Serial titles is basically defined as titles which publish on a regular basis.

An author level metric is h-index that attempts to measure both the productivity and citation impact of the publications of a scientist or scholar. Lastly the for quantifying productivity in science, based on publication is the g-index. Thus, Indexing is a database of higher scientific journals having a good track record of maintaining the ethics and quality in terms of publications to be followed by researchers and lecturers. The cited article is identified as the reference and the citing article as the source.

Indexing as an essential tool to promote research work

Indexing as an essential tool to promote research actually will help researchers and lecturers journal to achieve its main purpose. They will be accessible and knowledge oriented to a wide audience. Quality paper is what publishers gauge for which further enhances the better visibility of the journal with a wider user. Being accessible in turn will improve researchers and lecturer's journal's reputation as a reliable source of high-quality information in one's respective field.

5. RESULT

The result was in a manner of explaining the level of understanding to researchers and lecturers related to the publications in indexed by DOAJ, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. As in the current scenario, publications play a vital role for universities/institutions, and evolving industry dynamics. However, one of the important facts that was portrayed by the article was also how Indexing as a tool to promote research is beneficial to researchers and lecturers in the current scenario. Thus, one must keep in mind the indexing factors/ parameters while publishing which should be adhered. Researchers and lecturers should make themselves aware of the evaluation policies of the above-mentioned indexing agencies and limitations along with the steps taken to have a journal to be indexed by any particular agency in the appropriate manner.

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