Islamic World Science Citation Center's Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

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Abstract
This article gives an overview of the Islamic World Science Citation Center's (ISC) Journal Citation Reports (JCR) database. ISC-JCR is the only source of citation data on Islamic countries’ leading journals and covers journals in English, Arabic and Persian languages. It provides information on highest impact journals in a field, the most cited journals and hottest journals. This database allows users to evaluate and compare scholarly journals in all subject areas. The basic measures of the ISC-JCR, navigation overview and benefits for the users are presented in this article.

Keywords: Islamic World Science Citation Center, ISC, Journal Citation Report, JCR, bibliometrics, periodicals, impact factor.

Overview
Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) located in Shiraz, established by Regional Information Center for Science and Technology (RICEST) and Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in 2008. It aims to promote scientific cooperation among Islamic countries and attempts to achieve following objective: 1) providing incentives that would uplift the Islamic countries researchers’ zeal for initiating innovative research in humanities, while considering local needs and Islamic values, such that would encourage the whole Islamic countries to adopt such incentives. 2) Preparing the ground for promotion of science and scientometrics in the Islamic countries. 3) Exercising needful attention to the Islamic laws and moralities in production and provision of science. 4) Adopting facilitative policies that would uplift constructive interaction amongst Muslim scientists and Islamic centers. 5) Proposing suitable instruments and mechanisms that would fulfill optimally the information needs of the Islamic Ummah (ISC’s Policy Plan, 2008).

Since the establishment, ISC has provided several outstanding services such as ISC’s Journal Citation Reports (JCR) for leading journals of the Islamic countries, Persian Journal Citation Reports (PJCR), Iran Science Citation Index (ISCI), Iran Essential Science Indicators (Iran ESI) and Persian Current Contents. These products are accessible through the ISC’s website: http://www.isc.gov.ir or http://www.ricest.ac.ir.

The Journal Citation Reports (JCR) which is one of the most important services of the ISC, produces the only source of citation data on Islamic countries’ leading journals. This service allows users to evaluate and compare scholarly journals in all subject areas. It
covers all of journals published in English, Persian as well as Arabic languages. In addition, ISC’s authorities plan to have citation analysis in other language such as Turkish, Malay and French. Although, other well-known citation systems (e.g. Thomson Reuters and Scopus) undertake various types of assessments for scientific journals but they mostly concentrate on English resources. The reminder of this article briefly describes the ISC-JCR database (Ghane, 2009).

**Basic Measures and Definitions**

The ISC’s Journal Citation Reports presents quantifiable statistical data that provides a systematic and objective way to rank and evaluate the 57 Islamic countries scholarly journals. It can determine the highest impact journals, the most frequently cited journals, the hottest journals and shows which journals are the most important and influential in their respective disciplines. For every journal covered in JCR the following information is accessible: impact factor, immediacy index, cited half-life, citing half-life, cited journal, citing journal and bibliographical information.

*Impact factor* - the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) year. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the two previous years. This will assist evaluation and comparison of journal’s relative importance especially those titles which are in the same field (Fitzpatrick, 2003).

*Immediacy index* - the average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published. This index is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in given year by the number of articles published in that year. It can be useful for comparing journals on cutting-edge research (ibid).

*Cited half-life* - the median age of the articles that were cited by other journals in the JCR year. It is only calculated for journals cited 100 or more times in the JCR. Since cited-half life is depend on the rapidity of research change in a discipline, lower or higher cited half-life does not indicate any particular value for a journal (ibid).

*Citing half-life* - this implies the median age of the articles that were cited by the articles published in the journal that year (ibid).

*Cited and citing journals* - cited journals, shows citations to the selected journal by year of cited article and citing journals presents the distribution trends of citations in the selected journal, by cited year of citations (ibid).

*Bibliographical information* - for each journal in the JCR, its full title, ISSN number, publisher, publisher address, website and email address is provided.

**Navigation Overview**

The ISC journal citation report is easy to navigate. From the JCR homepage, users need to select one of the three languages (Farsi, English and Arabic) provided for the database and JCR year to search (Fig. 1). Data that display for journals come from journal data published in the selected year.
Once users logged in, the journal search page will display. In this page the JCR sorts journals by Title” but these journals can be sorted by “total cites”, “immediacy index”, “number of articles” and “impact factor” as well (Fig. 2).

Selecting a journal title allows users to see its cited half-life, citing half-life, immediacy index, impact factor, cited journal, citing journal and bibliographical information (Fig. 3&4).

**Figure 1. ISC- JCR Home Page**

**Figure 2. Journals’ list**

**IJISM, Special Issue**
2nd International Conference on Scholarly Journals Editors-in-Chief (Islamic Countries, 1-2, Dec. 2014)
In order to see whether journal articles that were published long time ago are still being cited, users need to select cited half-life (Fig. 5). This number may be helpful for librarians in managing their journals collection and publishers for adjusting editorial policies to compete in different market segments (Journal Citation Reports, 2009).

**Figure 3. Journal selection**

**Figure 4. JCR’s measures**

**Figure 5. Journal cited half-life**
The journal citing half-life option helps JCR users to know how far back the journal that they are searching is citing articles (Fig. 6). This is basically the opposite of the journal cited half-life. Half of the citations in the journal are to articles published within the citing half-life. This number may be used for evaluation of editorial policies.

![Figure 6. Journal citing half life](image)

The most well-known statistic of the JCR is journal impact factor. When users want to identify which journals received the highest average citations per recent article in a particular year they should select impact factor option (Fig. 7). It is helpful in evaluation of a journal’s relative importance as compared to other journals in the same field. Using the impact factor aids librarians to identify best journals for their collection (Journal Citation Reports, 2009).

![Figure 7. Journal impact factor](image)

**Citing Half Life**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Citing Half-Life</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gema online journal of language studies</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Calculation**
The Half-Life Integer:
The number of years from the current year to the year to the year where less or -50% is cumulated
The Half-Life Fraction using the figures in the columns above:
A-subtract the percentage reached just before 50% from 50%
B-subtract the percentage reached just before 50% from the percentage in the next column to the right
C-divide the result A by result B and truncate to the nearest tenth

**Impact Factor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Impact Factor: 0.448</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gema online journal of language studies</td>
<td>0.448</td>
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| Cites in 2012 to articles published in 2011 + 2010 | 15 |
| Number of articles published in 2011 + 2010 | 29 |

**Calculation**
It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the current year to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in the two previous years.
In order to find out the “hottest” journal publishing information it is necessary to select immediacy index from the list. It shows how many times papers published the JCR edition year have been cited in that same year (Fig. 8).

**Figure 8. Journal immediacy index**

In a case that users wish to identify those publications that most frequently cited a particular journal or find those publications that were most frequently cited by a particular journal, they should select cited journal and citing journal accordingly (Fig. 9 & 10). These citation links shows subject orientation of a journal, its competitor or closet peer as well as journal’s specialty-specific network (Journal Citation Reports, 2009).
A list of journals which have received citation from Iranian Journal of Fuzzy Systems

Figure 9. Cited journals

A list of journal which have cited Iranian Journal of Fuzzy Systems

Figure 10. Citing Journals
If JCR users wish to search journals based on other criteria, they can select filter from the list. In this page, the journals can be located by their subject category (broader or narrow), publisher and title (keywords) (Fig. 11). Users need to click on the appropriate link to begin the search.

**Figure 11.** Filter page

**Conclusion**

Islamic World Science Citation Center's (ISC) Journal Citation Reports (JCR) database is a unique source for evaluating and ranking of Islamic countries’ leading journals. The ISC-JCR covers all journals published in English, Persian and Arabic languages and uses bibliometric techniques to identify journals' impact factor, immediacy index, citing half-life and cited half-life. These measures help to assess Islamic countries’ journal impact and importance, research influence at the journal level and relationship between cited and citing journals in a clear and easy-to-use framework. The ISC-JCR is a useful tool for various users such as librarians, publishers, editors, authors, professors, students and Information analysts.

**References**


