COMMENTARY

Beyond the Impact Factor

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The impact factor can undervalue the importance of smaller, specialized journals, and no single metric can serve as a perfect assessment of a journal's value or worth. This article provides a brief overview of various publication metrics, including the Scopus CiteScore, Eigenfactor®, and Altmetric attention score, using examples from the *Oncology Nursing Forum*. It also addresses the use of the *Oncology Nursing Forum* as a resource for research and answering clinical questions.

In a recent editorial, Katz and McGee (2019) discussed the impact factor of the *Oncology Nursing Forum* (*ONF*) and other journals, particularly the influencing effect of open access availability. For years, articles have been published denouncing the overreliance on any single measure of a journal's quality or influence (Coleman, 2007; Magnus, 2013). There are numerous other mechanisms beyond the impact factor for assessing the citation-related metrics of journals and articles.

Citation Metrics

One additional metric is the Scopus CiteScore (https://bit.ly/2RVZdEj). As of January 2019, *ONF* has a CiteScore of 1.59, calculated by counting the citations received in 2017 to documents published in 2014, 2015, or 2016 and dividing this by the number of documents published in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Scopus is particularly useful for examining the citation metrics of individual articles. The *ONF* article with the most citations (459 citations) in Scopus is "The Revised Piper Fatigue Scale: Psychometric Evaluation in Women With Breast Cancer" by Piper et al. (1998). Table 1 lists the three *ONF* articles with the most citations in Scopus as of January 2019.

Another metric source is Google Scholar, which shows the same Piper et al. (1998) article as having 897 citations as of January 2019. Of note, Google Scholar has duplicate citations and, overall, lacks the precision and accuracy of databases such as Scopus. However, Google Scholar might include a citing source that is not identified by Scopus and other databases, so it is advisable to use as wide a variety of sources as possible when examining the citation counts of articles.

The FAQ page for Eigenfactor® (https://bit.ly/2UqX Gmd) provides definitions of the Eigenfactor score and article influence score. Conklin and Oermann (2017) define the Eigenfactor score as "the number of times in the past five years that articles from the journal were cited in the Journal Citation Reports. The Eigenfactor score considers which journals have contributed these citations and removes journal self-citations" (p. 1). As of January 2019, the *ONF* Eigenfactor score was 66 and article influence score was 78, ranking 8th out of 118 journals in the nursing category.

Altmetrics

The altmetrics of an article indicate the number of times it is viewed, downloaded, and discussed on social media, by news outlets, and via other sources. It appears to be growing in importance as a measure of an article's reach, as evidenced by some universities incorporating altmetrics into the tenure process—the more traditional approach was to focus on the impact factors of the journals that published faculty's articles. The article's dissemination is illustrated in the Altmetric "donut," which provides a visualization of its attention from news outlets, tweets, Facebook, Wikipedia, and more. There is a necessary distinction between the general concept of altmetrics (lowercase "a") and the organization Altmetric (capital "A") responsible for the donut illustration. Other organizations provide altmetrics data, such as the PlumX product from Plum Analytics.

As of January 2019, the *ONF* article with the highest Altmetric attention score is "Establishing Priorities for Oncology Nursing Research: Nurse and Patient Collaboration" by Cox, Arber, Gallagher, MacKenzie, and Ream (2017), with a score of 95 (see Figure 1). This means that the article was covered by 10 news outlets; for example, a United Press International story (https://bit.ly/2TlqVa3) summarizes it,