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Comparison of the indexes of Gastroenterology & Hepatology journals in different databases

Li JY *et al.* Indexes comparison in Gastroenterology & Hepatology journals

Jia-Yuan Li, Zhi-Han Yan, Ze Xiang, Ce Gao, Jian Wu

Abstract

BACKGROUND

The significance of an accurate assessment of the quality of journals for scientific research is of great significance. Compared with the Journal Impact Factor (JIF), which has been used most widely for a long time, and the new CiteScore (CS) in recent years, new journal evaluation indicators have been emerging. Based on ⁷Reference Citation Analysis (RCA) database, an open multidisciplinary citation analysis database based on artificial intelligence technology, Journal article influence index (JAII) is one such new journal evaluation indicator.

AIM

To focus on the similarities and differences between JAII and JIF and CS as journal evaluation indicators, which will provide an intuitive visual representation method.

METHODS

We searched for JCR to get the Institute for Scientific Information Web of Science release 2021-JIF, downloaded the CS list updated in July on Scopus website, and collected the 2022 JAII from the RCA database (www.referencecitationanalysis.com).

RESULTS

Our research results revealed that with breaking through the time limit of mainstream literature evaluation methods, JAII performs well in data reliability, providing a complement to JIF and CS.

CONCLUSION

JAI is a comprehensive assessment of the quality and performance of journals.

Key Words: Journal article influence index; Journal Impact Factor; CiteScore; Gastroenterology & Hepatology

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Core Tip: Compared with Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and CiteScore (CS), Journal article influence index (JAI) is able to break through the time limit, not necessary for the waiting times of JIF and CS to be accurately evaluated. JAI is useful for assessing the performance of journals since its creation. Therefore, time randomness is ignored. JAI is a comprehensive assessment of the quality and performance of journals. In addition, Reference Citation Analysis covers some specific journals than other datasets.

INTRODUCTION

The quality assessment of research is important for various professional associations, individual scientists, academic institutions and funding organizations^[1]. The quality of scientific contributions is primarily assessed based on their long-term impact on science. The impact can be inferred from the citations received by an article in a journal in a scientific article. These principles have been applied to the evaluation of scientific journals^[2]. In fact, many researchers have proposed different ways to assess the quality of scientific journals^[3,4]. What most of these methods have in common is the use of complex mathematical algorithms to analyze networks of scientific papers to estimate citation quality.

The Scientific Citation Index, Journal Citation Report (JCR), published by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and first proposed by Eugene Garfield in 1955, aims to

rank, evaluate, classify, and compare journals^[5]. These indicators are calculated based on the number of articles published by a journal and the number of times a journal is cited. It is used as a tool to evaluate researchers and research work in a wide range of scientific settings, with one of the most prominent indicators being the Journal Impact Factor (JIF). In addition to the impact factor, other metrics provided by ISI include: total citation frequency, immediacy index, number of source entries published in the current year, frequency of citations in the previous two years, cited half-life, and the ratio of different citations for each article. ISI introduced a simplified system in 1974 and came up with a list of topic categories. The institution gave a total of 176 JCR journals categorized by topic. In recent decades, there have also been many holistic analyses of different journal categories, revealing common characteristics of a particular type of journal on the JIF for researchers to better evaluate^[6,7]. In each category, journals are ranked according to the JIF. Based on the frequency distribution of the indicator, the journals listed in the JCR are divided into different groups, allowing us to look at the impact factor values more intuitively from a holistic and comprehensive perspective.

JIF is an indicator of the quality of scientific journals that have been used even the most widely used in the past^[8]. However, it was proposed in 1999 that the ISI/JCR JIF does not fully guarantee its accuracy^[9]. Methodological considerations in the calculation of the indicator include a lack of assessment of the quality of citations, the inclusion of their own citations, poor comparability between different scientific fields, and an analysis of publications mainly in English^[10].

On December 8, 2016, Scopus launched CiteScore (CS), an indicator that competes directly with the JIF, specifically for journals indexed by Scopus. Over the past few years, the number of journals assigned to CS has increased dramatically, especially for journals that are not JIF-covered by Scopus. Some studies have evaluated the relationship between CS and JIF, revealing that although there is a strong correlation between CS and JIF, there are also obvious complex differences^[11,12]. CS may be used as an index metric that is now more useful, possibly more balanced, and most certainly

more transparent^[13]. However, it also has some of the same issues as the JIF^[14,15], plus the fact that the JIFs of different disciplines are not comparable to each other.

⁷Reference Citation Analysis (RCA) ⁵is an open multidisciplinary citation analysis database based on artificial intelligence technology. This database covers disciplines such as ⁵business, economics and management, chemistry and materials science, engineering and computer science, health and medical sciences, humanities, literature and arts, life sciences and earth sciences, physics and mathematics, and social sciences. ³Users can search relevant literature based on fields such as ³author, category, DOI, ISSN, keyword, ORCID number, publication name, PubMed ID and title, ³track original innovative research results and cutting-edge progress, and sort by article impact index. With the results analysis function, an analysis report of the retrieved results can be created at the same time.

Based on the RCA database, the Journal Article Influence Index (JAI) is officially available as a new journal evaluation indicator. JAI is calculated similar to the regular citation quality assessment. To ensure its accuracy, it is compared to traditional journal evaluation metrics. Due to the continuous deepening of research in the field of gastrointestinal tract and liver in recent years^[16], we decided to conduct further research in this field. Based on the field of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, this paper compared the similarities and differences between JAI, JIF and CS for journal evaluation indicators, and aimed to provide an intuitive visual representation method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Source of the data

The raw data for this study comes from three official websites (July 2022). We searched for JCR to get the ISI Web of Science release 2021-JIF, downloaded the CS list updated in July on Scopus website, and collected the 2022 ¹JAI from the RCA database (www.referencecitationanalysis.com). In addition, ¹we also searched for information related to the characteristics of these scientific journal-quality indexes for reference.

Besides, based on the results of the RCA search by the category Gastroenterology & Hepatology, we compared it to JIF and CS. The results of the RCA database are used as the matching benchmark, and the matching method is based on ISSN, EISSN and journal name. In this category, there are totally 102 journals with JAI, 81 journals with JIF, and 76 journals with CS.

RESULTS

Statistical analysis and visualization

We presented 102 journals in descending order according to JAI, along with 81 journals of JIF and 76 journals of CS in 2021 (Table 1).

Next, in order to make an intuitive comparison between the two, we draw a scatter distribution plot for JIF-JAI (Figure 1A) and CS-JAI (Figure 1B), respectively, and draw a one-time uniform curve using the least squares method^[17]. In this case, we took an intersection, considering that some journals lack JIF or CS. It can be seen from the figure that in the evaluation of lower-quality journals, the linearity of JAI and JIF and CS has greater overlap, but in the evaluation of higher-quality journals, the randomness of the data is greater. Among them, journals with a large deviation between JIF and JAI include NATURE REVIEWS GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY, LANCET GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY, SEMINARS IN LIVER DISEASE and so on. Journals with a large deviation from JAI include GUT, JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY and so on.

The results of the combined analysis of the three journal evaluation indicators are visualized as follows (Figure 2A-C)^[18]. Figure 2A gives a comparison of the values between the three evaluation indicators of the same journal (73 in total, taking the intersection). Figure 2B gives the JIF-JAI ratio and CS-JAI ratio for each journal. Figure 2C gives the values of JIF and CS in descending JAI order.

Finally, we combined the three journal evaluation indicators together, and through the histogram (Figure 2D), we can more clearly see the impact of the joint evaluation of

the three evaluation indicators on the ranking of journals without weight. This can also be used as a reference evaluation method.

DISCUSSION

Compare the database and the calculation principle

JIF: JIFs are obtained through the Web of Knowledge database using the Science Edition of Journal Citation Reports which collects citation data from more than 7300 worldwide science and technology journals. The IF of a T-year journal is defined as the number of times the journal has been cited in years T-1 and T-2 divided by the number of documents that can be cited in the journal in years T-1 and T-2^[19].

CS: CSs are calculated using data from the Scopus database. CS has a publication window of 3 years before the 1 year reference window and counts the references from each document type to each document type^[20]. In other words, CS calculates the average number of citations of papers published in a journal for three consecutive years in the fourth year. The formula is that documents published in the previous three years were cited by journals in a year divided by the number of documents published in those three years that were included in the Scopus database.

JAI: JAIs are calculated from journals and their citations included in the RCA database. The formula is total citations divided by total articles.

Advantages and disadvantages of JAI

It is undeniable that JAI has its merits as a journal evaluation indicator: (1) Compared with JIF and CS, JAI is able to break through the time limit. Journals do not need to meet the waiting times of JIF and CS to be accurately evaluated. JAI is able to evaluate more journals accurately, which explains why there are more journals with JAI than those with JIF and CS; (2) compared with JIF and CS, JAI is useful for assessing the performance of journals since its creation. There will be no biased evaluation of journals

since a small number of articles in journals will form a high JIF and CS at a given time. JAII is more conducive to a comprehensive assessment of the quality and performance of journals; and (3) compared with JIF and CS, JAII is more conducive to high-quality journal evaluation. And in the evaluation of journals with lower indicators, JAII has a high degree of compliance with JIF and CS.

In addition, the RCA database can enable queries to journals by category, such as direct querying Gastroenterology & Hepatology, which also brings great convenience to researchers.

However, the lack of statistical timeliness of JAII is also a place where it is slightly inferior to JIF and CS, and the different developments of the same journal in different periods are not taken into account. JAII also has some of the same drawbacks as JIF and CS, such as the lack of evaluation of citation quality and the inclusion of its own citations.

Non-linearity interpretation

As we have showed in Figure 1 and revealed in “Results” section, the linearity of JAII-JIF-CS is clear in lower-quality journals but failed to match each other perfectly for higher-quality journals.

Our explanation is that JIF and CS are subject to changes in citation frequency and number of published articles in different years, and their correlation with time exacerbates the influence of human manipulability^[21]. JAII reduces this time randomness. In addition, the JIF and CS of high-quality journals may be more susceptible to this effect, and their fluctuations can be effectively explained.

Threats to validity

In addition to the lack of evaluation of citation quality, including their own citation and other factors that may threaten the effectiveness of evaluation factors. Research on JIF, CS and other statistical standards for journal quality shows that there are still many statistical violations, including reliability, incomplete reporting of validity, insignificant

results, insignificant effect sizes, hypothesis checking, and uncorrected inferences and multiple comparisons from descriptive statistics^[22]. JAII is also inevitably affected to some extent. Maybe this is the limitation of our study.

CONCLUSION

The main differences between JAII and JIF and CS indicators mainly come from the differences in the scientific databases used as the cited sources, as well as the differences in the evaluation methods of these indicators. Due to the limitation of the time factor, the JAII method based on the RCA database can evaluate more journals. Besides, JAII considers categories of journal papers in more detail. In terms of practicality, the novelty introduced by the JAII indicator is its openness and accessibility. To summary, JAII is a reliable index to evaluate the quality of journals. In the future, researchers can focus on the differences of different journal evaluation indexes, further study the origin of the nonlinear characteristics, and put forward a more perfect journal evaluation standard.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Research background

The evaluation of journal quality is very important for researchers. Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and CiteScore (CS) are two of the most popular and authoritative journal evaluation indicators. Meanwhile, new journal evaluation indicators are still emerging. Therefore, it is inevitable to judge the reliability and novelty of the new journal evaluation index.

Research motivation

The Reference Citation Analysis database of Baishideng Publishing Group is an open multidisciplinary Citation Analysis database based on artificial intelligence technology. Based on this database, the authorities provided Journal Article Influence Index (JAII) as the new journal evaluation indicators. We would like to evaluate its pros and cons

based on 102 core journals of gastroenterology and hepatology published in this database.

Research objectives

To compare the advantages and disadvantages of JAII, JIF, and CS.

Research methods

Through the comparison among JAII, 2021 JIF and 2021 CS, we conducted statistical analysis and completed data visualization.

Research results

In low quality journals, JAII, 2021 JIF and 2021 CS have good linear correlation. However, their assessments of high quality journals vary widely. These three evaluation indexes have their own advantages and disadvantages.

Research conclusions

JAII is a comprehensive assessment of the quality and performance of journals.

Research perspectives

In the future, we hope to better explain the nonlinear relationship among the three, and combine a variety of journal evaluation indicators to evaluate journal quality more comprehensively.

Figure Legends

Figure 1 Scatter distribution plots for Journal Impact Factor-Journal article influence index and CiteScore-Journal article influence index. A: The scatter distribution plot for Journal Impact Factor-Journal article influence index (JAII); B: The scatter distribution

plot for CiteScore-JAII. JIF: Journal Impact Factor; CS: CiteScore; JAII: Journal article influence index.

Figure 2 The visualization of the three journal evaluation indicators. A: The comparison of the values between the three evaluation indicators; B: The Journal Impact Factor (JIF)-Journal article influence index (JAII) and CiteScore (CS)-JAII ratios for each journal; C: The values of JIF and CS in descending JAII order; D: The histogram which combined the three journal evaluation indicators together. JIF: Journal Impact Factor; CS: CiteScore; JAII: Journal article influence index.

Table 1 Comparison of Journal article influence index, Journal Impact Factor and CiteScore (in decreasing order of Journal article influence index)

Journal name	JAI	2021 JIF	2021 CS
SEMINARS IN LIVER DISEASE	48.011	6.512	9.4
HEPATOLOGY	43.087	17.298	25.8
GASTROENTEROLOGY	37.347	33.883	33.0
GUT	36.77	31.793	40.1
NATURE REVIEWS GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY	35.564	73.082	-
GUT MICROBES	31.922	9.434	9.4
ALIMENTARY PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS	28.815	9.524	-
JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY	28.63	30.083	39.2
BEST PRACTICE & RESEARCH CLINICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY	28.443	2.695	-
DISEASES OF THE COLON & RECTUM	26.986	4.412	-
LIVER TRANSPLANTATION	26.916	6.112	8.0
GASTRIC CANCER	24.132	7.701	12.5
LANCET GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY	23.661	45.042	-
THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	23.599	12.045	-
JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	22.863	6.772	13.7

CLINICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY	22.413	13.576	12.2
NEUROGASTROENTEROLOGY AND MOTILITY	22.381	3.96	6.5
WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	21.897	5.374	8.1
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY-GASTROINTESTINAL AND LIVER PHYSIOLOGY	21.407	4.871	-
JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR SURGERY OF THE ALIMENTARY TRACT	20.787	3.267	-
LIVER INTERNATIONAL	19.971	8.754	11.2
CLINICS IN LIVER DISEASE	19.939	6.265	8.0
JOURNAL OF VIRAL HEPATITIS	19.545	3.517	6.1
DIGESTIVE DISEASES AND SCIENCES	19.37	3.487	5.5
WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	18.735	-	-
SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	18.364	3.027	3.6
GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY	18.175	10.396	9.8
HELICOBACTER	18.162	5.182	8.6
INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES	17.936	7.29	9.8

GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINICS OF NORTH AMERICA	17.833	3.867	6.1
JOURNAL OF PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY AND NUTRITION	17.742	3.288	4.8
HEPATOLOGY INTERNATIONAL	17.664	9.029	8.9
JOURNAL OF CLINICAL GASTROENTEROLOGY	16.888	3.174	5.5
JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY	16.793	4.369	6
WORLD JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY	16.007	-	3.6
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COLORECTAL DISEASE	15.433	2.796	3.9
GUT PATHOGENS	15.39	5.324	6.5
WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS	14.797	-	-
PANCREAS	14.71	3.243	4.4
HPB: THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEPATO PANCREATO BILIARY ASSOCIATION	14.453	3.842	-
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY	14.249	-	6.1
LIVER INTERNATIONAL	19.971	8.754	11.2
CLINICS IN LIVER DISEASE	19.939	6.265	8
JOURNAL OF VIRAL HEPATITIS	19.545	3.517	6.1

DIGESTIVE DISEASES AND SCIENCES	19.37	3.487	5.5
WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	18.735	-	-
SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	18.364	3.027	3.6
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PANCREAS	14.71	3.243	4.4
⁶ HPB: THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEPATO PANCREATO BILIARY ASSOCIATION	14.453	3.842	-
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY	14.249	-	6.1
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY	14.227	2.586	-
THERAPEUTIC ADVANCES IN GASTROENTEROLOGY	13.823	4.802	5.8
JOURNAL OF NEUROGASTROENTEROLOGY AND MOTILITY	13.594	4.725	7.4
PANCREATOLOGY	13.497	3.977	5.8
HEPATOLOGY RESEARCH	13.332	4.942	7.8
GUT AND LIVER	13.193	4.321	6.6
DIGESTIVE DISEASES	13.081	3.421	4.2
BMC GASTROENTEROLOGY	12.991	2.847	3.3
ENDOSCOPY	12.541	9.776	11.0
JOURNAL OF CROHNS & COLITIS	12.432	10.02	
COLORRECTAL DISEASE	12.341	3.917	4.4
LIVER CANCER	12.174	12.43	12.6
DIGESTIVE AND LIVER DISEASE: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE	12.096	5.165	-

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¹⁵

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

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DISEASES OF THE ESOPHAGUS: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

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CURRENT OPINION IN GASTROENTEROLOGY

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UNITED EUROPEAN GASTROENTEROLOGY JOURNAL

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WORLD JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY

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CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL GASTROENTEROLOGY

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GASTROENTEROLOGY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

JOURNAL OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES

CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR GASTROENTEROLOGY AND

HEPATOLOGY

11.969	2.822	-
11.929	2.741	4.9
11.552	3.404	3.6
11.453	6.866	7.9
11.251	8.337	8.9
11.226	2.459	4.2
10.885	4.095	-
10.598	-	-
10.579	2.505	-
10.45	4.396	5.2
10.149	-	5.0
9.902	1.919	3.7
9.302	3.366	4.2
9.277	8.797	-

DIGESTION	9.189	3.672	5.1
CLINICS IN COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY	9.059	2.403	3.5
TECHNIQUES IN COLOPROCTOLOGY	9.056	3.699	4.6
JOURNAL OF GASTRIC CANCER	9.031	3.197	4.4
HEPATIC MEDICINE: EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH	8.847	-	-
ANNALS OF HEPATOLOGY	8.782	3.388	4.7
JHEP REPORTS	8.693	9.917	8.1
BMJ OPEN GASTROENTEROLOGY	7.884	-	3.5
CLINICAL ENDOSCOPY	7.72	-	3.5
INTESTINAL RESEARCH	7.651	-	6.0
CANADIAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY	7.615	2.605	-
DIGESTIVE ENDOSCOPY	7.111	6.337	7.5
HEPATOBIILIARY & PANCREATIC DISEASES INTERNATIONAL	7.052	3.355	-
ESOPHAGUS: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE JAPAN ESOPHAGEAL SOCIETY	6.775	3.671	-
ENDOSCOPY INTERNATIONAL OPEN	6.725	-	-
GASTROENTEROLOGY REPORT	6.685	4.063	4.9

4	CLINICS AND RESEARCH IN HEPATOLOGY AND GASTROENTEROLOGY	3.189	6.59	3.1
4	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL HEPATOLOGY	-	6.236	5.3
	SAUDI JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	3.214	6.205	4.3
	HEPATITIS MONTHLY	1.214	6.037	1.1
	HEPATOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS	5.701	6.006	7.7
	LIVER RESEARCH	-	5.941	6.3
	ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND	5.275	5.932	5.9
	GASTROINTESTINAL TUMORS	-	5.556	-
11	INDIAN JOURNAL OF GASTROENTEROLOGY: OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY	-	5.311	-
	FRONTLINE GASTROENTEROLOGY	-	4.933	3.8
	JOURNAL OF CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL HEPATOLOGY	5.065	4.562	6.4
	INFLAMMATORY INTESTINAL DISEASES	-	4.474	0.2
	ANNALS OF GASTROENTEROLOGICAL SURGERY	3.583	4.427	5.5
	CASE REPORTS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY	-	4.117	1.0
	ANNALS OF COLOPROCTOLOGY	-	3.946	2.4
	TRANSLATIONAL GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY	-	3.945	5.5

CLINICAL LIVER DISEASE	3.934	-	2.4
JOURNAL OF GASTROINTESTINAL ONCOLOGY	3.029	2.587	3.3

JIF: Journal Impact Factor; CS: CiteScore; JAll: Journal article influence index.

10%

SIMILARITY INDEX

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