

The Impact Factor: Just the Facts

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Published online: 2 April 2013
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Calculated each year by the Web of Science® (Thomson Reuters), a journal's impact factor (IF) for a given year is a measure of the frequency with which its recent articles are cited on average during that year. "Recent" refers to the two prior calendar years. Thus, *Archives'* 2011 IF is the number of times that its 2009 and 2010 articles were cited in 2011, divided by the number of articles the *Archives* published in 2009 and 2010. Although the IF is the best known metric for citation analysis, there are other measures, including the Immediacy Index (II) and the Cited Half-Life (CHL). The II is a measure of how frequently the journal's "average article" is cited the same year in which it is published. Thus, the II for a year is calculated as the number of times articles from that journal are cited during that year, divided by the number of articles that journal published that year. The CHL is a measure of the longevity of the frequency of citations to articles in the journal, that is, for how long the average article maintains its currency. The CHL for a year is determined by the time required to account for a cumulative total of 50 % of that year's citations to the journal. The scientometrics of scholarly impact is a specialty field that is worth studying, but I retain the view, as does Brody (2012), that the IF is still a pretty damn good metric.

I had an IF fantasy for 2011. In the April 2010 issue of *Archives*, we published a number of review papers from the *DSM-5* Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Workgroup. I figured they would attract a lot of attention. So, my fantasy was that the IF for 2011 would "soar" to at least 4.0, which would impact me far better than a White Russian or Baileys (which is as about as good as it gets for me).

Table 1 shows the IF of the sex and gender periodicals, broadly defined, for the year 2011. Alas, the IF of *Archives* remained stable: at 3.66 in 2010 and 3.52 in 2011. I better stick to the White Russians for now.

The meaning of the IF can be crudely gauged in comparative perspective: For 2011, of 2,943 Social Science journals, *Archives* was ranked 102nd (96th percentile). Of 109 journals classified as Psychology (Clinical), *Archives* was ranked 11th (90th percentile). Of 89 journals classified as Social Science, Interdisciplinary, *Archives* was ranked 1st. Not bad.

In previous Editorials, I have observed that there are many sex and gender journals that are not given an IF by the Web of Science®. Colleagues pointed out to me that *Sexualities*, a social constructionist periodical, has now been issued an IF (it's about time, since it was first published in 1998). Its 2011 IF of .63 nested it in-between *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* and *Feminism and Psychology*. That seems to be the right fit (or maybe the left).

We appear to be in an era of a mini-boom of new sex and gender journals. In 2012, *Journal of Language and Sexuality* was launched. The American Psychological Association's Division 44 has announced the launching of *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity* (Editor, John Gonsiorek, Ph.D.). The publisher Mary Ann Liebert announced the launching of *LGBT Health* (Editor, William Byne, M.D., Ph.D.), and Duke University Press announced the launching of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* (Editors, Paisley Currah and Susan Stryker).

On the listserv *SEXNET*, some colleagues expressed worry that the field is already saturated with too many journals. My view is more empirical. To quote President Bush: "Bring 'em on." As to the saturation problem, consider the wise, eloquent words of Donald Rumsfeld: "As we know, there are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say, we know there are some things we do

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Table 1 Impact Factor for the year 2011: Sex- and gender-related journals ($N = 72$)

Journal	Impact factor	2011 total cites	2011 articles	Immediacy index	Cited half-life
Archives of Sexual Behavior	3.525	3242	118	0.720	6.5
AIDS	6.245	23156	259	1.784	6.0
Psychoneuroendocrinology	5.809	8114	164	0.860	6.0
Human Reproduction	4.475	25706	395	0.676	8.1
Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes	4.425	12690	275	1.127	5.7
Hormones and Behavior	3.865	7262	185	0.784	6.3
Menopause	3.758	3383	175	0.764	4.1
International Journal of Andrology	3.591	2838	123	0.593	5.5
Fertility and Sterility	3.564	26877	693	0.990	7.0
Journal of Sexual Medicine	3.552	5289	369	0.596	2.8
AIDS Reviews	3.512	652	20	0.450	4.7
AIDS and Behavior	3.494	3241	211	0.455	3.8
Evolution and Human Behavior	3.113	2277	42	0.524	6.7
Journal of Andrology	2.968	4202	95	0.389	8.9
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	2.873	5200	192	0.573	6.2
Sexually Transmitted Infections	2.854	4066	131	0.939	5.5
Journal of Sex Research	2.532	2121	49	0.245	9.6
Gender and Society	2.414	1787	25	0.320	>10.0
AIDS Patient Care and STDs	2.411	2126	88	0.455	4.7
Sexual Development	2.268	395	36	0.250	3.2
Psychology of Women Quarterly	2.115	2310	44	1.295	>10.0
Psychology of Men & Masculinity	2.078	573	31	0.161	5.9
Body Image	1.900	937	66	0.121	4.9
International Journal of Impotence Research	1.712	2028	42	0.214	7.6
Women's Health Issues	1.610	918	94	0.181	5.5
AIDS Care	1.603	3625	216	0.310	5.8
AIDS Education and Prevention	1.589	1535	53	0.075	7.6
Hormone Research in Pediatrics	1.571	258	160	0.275	1.4
Journal of Women's Health	1.569	2404	218	0.193	4.1
Culture, Health, and Sexuality	1.553	747	86	0.209	4.5
Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment	1.538	724	25	0.160	7.5
Asian Journal of Andrology	1.521	1413	124	0.685	4.5
Sex Roles	1.471	4738	134	0.246	9.6
Sexual Health	1.447	519	82	0.427	3.4
Body & Society	1.440	479	18	0.111	7.9
Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health	1.413	999	37	0.730	5.8
Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology	1.389	850	29	0.138	8.4
Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy	1.273	1312	28	0.214	9.8
International Journal of STD and AIDS	1.086	2488	183	0.235	6.3
International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health	1.060	74	41	0.073	
Evolutionary Psychology	1.055	329	28	0.179	4.1
Women & Health	1.000	1029	45	0.089	9.1
Politics and Gender	0.875	161	15	0.000	4.6
Men and Masculinities	0.815	335	27	0.074	6.0
Gender, Place, and Culture	0.805	457	37	0.432	7.1
Journal of Child Sexual Abuse	0.747	286	38	0.053	7.1
Sexuality Research and Social Policy	0.722	200	31	0.903	4.6

Table 1 continued

Journal	Impact factor	2011 total cites	2011 articles	Immediacy index	Cited half-life
Sexuality and Disability	0.717	295	32	0.062	10.0
Feminist Theory	0.711	209	17	0.294	5.7
Journal of Gender Studies	0.667	128	25	0.000	5.9
GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies	0.651	211	37	0.027	8.4
Sexualities	0.635	439	33	0.212	5.9
Feminism and Psychology	0.582	432	36	0.083	7.4
Sexual and Relationship Therapy	0.508	277	28	0.250	7.3
Journal of Men's Health	0.484	77	30	0.067	
Journal of Homosexuality	0.471	863	70	0.086	>10.0
Gender and Education	0.460	522	56	0.089	7.9
Signs	0.458	1155	56	0.196	>10.0
Women's Studies International Forum	0.455	641	57	0.035	>10.0
Feminist Review	0.442	334	24	0.208	>10.0
International Journal of Sexual Health	0.356	52	24	0.167	
differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies	0.341	176	21	0.048	9.4
Zeitschrift für Sexualforschung	0.333	54	14	1.429	
Feminist Studies	0.239	392	25	0.000	>10.0
European Journal of Women's Studies	0.216	229	23	0.000	5.8
Indian Journal of Gender Studies	0.212	39	17	0.000	
Feministische Studien	0.208	24	14	0.000	
Women and Therapy	0.172	224	27	0.333	10.0
Frontiers: Journal of Women's Studies	0.154	74	18	0.000	
Asian Journal of Women's Studies	0.152	30	15	0.000	
Australian Feminist Studies	0.141	92	26	0.038	
Journal of the History of Sexuality	0.103	100	20	0.000	>10.0

Total Cites indicates the total number of times that each journal has been cited by all journals included in the ISI database in 2011. Immediacy Index means cites in 2011 to articles published in 2011/number of articles published in 2011. Cited half-life is the median age of its articles cited in the current year. Half of the citations to the journal are to articles published within the cited half-life

not know. But there are also unknown unknowns; the ones we don't know we don't know."

to major revision ranged from 28.4–47.5 %; and the percentage of manuscripts that were rejected ranged from 31.2–57.7 %.

Submissions and Disposition

Figure 1 shows the number of new submissions per year between 2002 (when I became Editor) and 2012. There were 80 submissions in 2002 and 359 in 2012, a 4.5-fold increase. To assist in the handling of this marked increase, I am pleased to note that in 2013 the *Archives* now has 7 Associate Editors. Drs. Martin L. Lalumière and Michael C. Seto have come on board. Dr. Andrea Bradford has replaced Dr. Marta Meana, who ably served as an Associate Editor for the two prior years. The other Associate Editors Brotto, Carey, Dworkin, and Parsons have all done a superb job and have made my own life as Editor much less complicated.

Figure 2 shows the Editorial decision data for the original submissions as a function of year (2002–2011). The percentage of manuscripts that were accepted or provisionally accepted ranged from 12.4–21.2 %; the percentage of manuscripts that were subject

Transitions

After serving on the Board since 2002, David L. Rowland has stepped down. He has always been immensely helpful in handling submissions pertaining to sexual dysfunction in males. He will be hard to replace. I am pleased to report that we have added 10 new members to the Board: Helen M. Conaglen, Aniruddha Das, Annelou L. C. de Vries, Baudewijntje Kreukels (after a few White Russians, I can even sort of pronounce Baudewijntje), Amy D. Lykins, Michael E. Newcomb, Pedro J. Nobre, Natalie O. Rosen, Thomas D. Steensma, and Kelly D. Suschinsky. My Managing Editor, Dr. Hayley Wood, has abandoned me in favor of motherhood (her son, Woody, is much easier to get along with than me) and has been ably replaced by Amanda Fuentes, M.A., a doctoral student in clinical psychology.

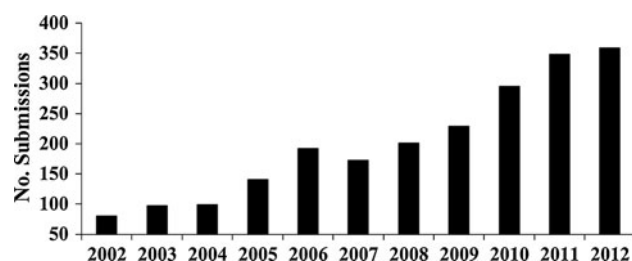


Fig. 1 Number of submissions (2002–2012)

2012 was a personal transition for me. After being in the same building and same office since 1975 (I was a graduate student back then), my department moved to a new building at a new location, along Queen St. West, one of the coolest locations in Toronto. It was quite a feat packing up my office, which contained 3000 books, along with my “satellite” student offices, one of which housed the entire set of hard-copy manuscript submissions, reviews, and decision letters for *Archives*. My new office is about a fifth the size of my old office and the walls are not strong enough to hold bookshelves. So, I am down to about 30 books from 3000. The rest are stored in banker boxes in my basement, as I patiently wait for my 25-year-old daughter to move out already (she has some nice long walls in her bedroom). The *Archives* banker boxes

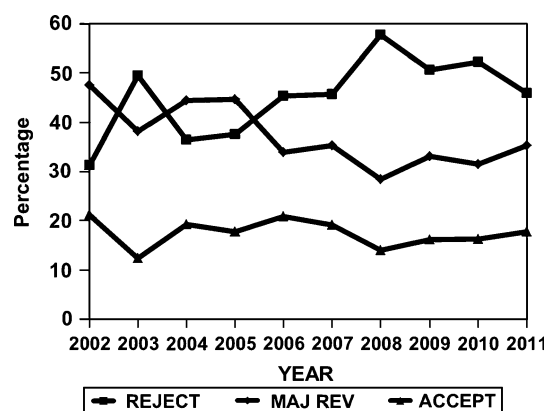


Fig. 2 Manuscript disposition after initial submission (2002–2011)

are currently safely stored in a subbasement room at the new site, just in case.

Reference

- Brody, S. (2012). Impact factor: Imperfect but not yet replaceable. *Scientometrics*, doi:[10.1007/s11192-012-0863-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-012-0863-x).