

## Libcast outline

### Journal Citation Reports (also known as JCR)

This libcast will introduce you to a specialized tool and database known as the Journal Citation Reports, or JCR. JCR can help you to identify and compare the most highly cited scholarly journals in a field of study.

JCR includes rankings for both Science and Social Sciences journals. The rankings are calculated using standard formulas, and an update is published annually. The JCR journal list and the citation rankings can change from year to year.

For each journal in its listings, JCR provides an indicator known as the "impact factor". The impact factor compares one journal to another in terms of citation rate.

On the opening screen, select Social Sciences or Sciences edition. If you are interested in the most recent rankings, select the most recent year available. Then click on Submit.

You can search for a specific journal title or View a group of journals by subject category or by several other criteria. Select a category from the dropdown. eg. Psychology

You can View the Journal Data for this category in a number of ways. This tutorial will focus on Impact Factor. From the list, select Impact Factor and then click on Submit.

A Journal Summary List will appear which ranks the journals starting with the ones with the highest impact factor. For the 2007 rankings, 61 journals appear in the Psychology category.

Journal titles are abbreviated and their respective impact factors are located in the column highlighted in yellow.

For example, the 8th journal on the list [COGNITIVE PSYCHOL] has an impact factor of 4.026. This means that taken together, articles from the 2 most recent years of this journal were cited on average 4.026 times.

When you click on a journal title in the list (eg. COGNITIVE PSYCHOL), you will find more information about the journal, including its full title [COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY], the names of additional subject categories in which it is included and the calculations for the impact factor and other indicators provided by this database.

Researchers are sometimes interested in knowing journal impact factors, because this information can help them to choose journals to which to send their article manuscripts for potential publication. Journals with high impact factors are often considered to be more prestigious, and depending on the field of study, may be favored by researchers who are considering submitting their articles.

It is important to note that although Journal Citation Reports includes thousands of journals in its rankings, it does not include all journals. Only the most highly cited journals are included. Absence from JCR is not necessarily a reflection of a journal's credibility. For example, some journals on specialized topics may never achieve high citation rates, and yet they may still be very important and well-regarded by researchers in these fields of study.

This has been a brief introduction to Journal Citation Reports. If you need further assistance please visit one of our reference desks, or you can get online help through our live help service.