

Indian journals in JCR 2016

According to the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR; 2016)*, there are 107 Indian journals indexed in both Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE; $n = 100$) and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI; $n = 7$) of Thomson Reuters, with impact factor (IF; 2015) ranging between 0.027 (*Journal of Camel Practice and Research*) and 3.263 (*Episodes*). Among these journals, the following two are new to the 2016

edition: *Journal of the Indian Institute of Science* (IF 2015 = 0.857) and *Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants* (IF 2015 = 1.351). The journal *Advances in Vibration Engineering* has been renamed as *Journal of Vibration Engineering and Technologies*.

Indian journals are grouped into 20 broad subject disciplines: most of the journals are from clinical medicine

(15.89%) followed by agricultural sciences (11.21%) (Table 1).

Among the 107 journals, only 19 had IF > 1 (Table 2) and all are indexed in SCIE, except *Conservation and Society* (which is under SSCI). These top 19 journals are scattered in 14 subject disciplines. Among the 107 journals, IF increased from 2014 to 2015 for 59 journals, while there was a decrease in IF for

Table 1. Distribution of Indian journals by broad disciplines

Discipline	No. of journals	Percentage of 107
Clinical medicine	17	15.89
Agricultural sciences	12	11.21
Plant and animal science	9	8.41
Biology and biochemistry	8	7.48
Chemistry	8	7.48
Engineering	8	7.48
Geosciences	7	6.54
Social sciences, general	7	6.54
Materials science	4	3.74
Mathematics	4	3.74
Pharmacology	4	3.74
Physics	4	3.74
Multidisciplinary	3	2.80
Environment/ecology	2	1.87
Microbiology	2	1.87
Molecular biology and genetics	2	1.87
Neuroscience and behaviour	2	1.87
Space sciences	2	1.87
Immunology	1	0.93
Economics and business	1	0.93
Total	107	100

Table 2. Journals with impact factor (IF) > 1

Journal	Discipline	IF 2015
<i>Episodes</i>	Geosciences	3.263
<i>Energy for Sustainable Development</i>	Engineering	2.379
<i>Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprology</i>	Clinical medicine	1.488
<i>Indian Journal of Medical Research</i>	Clinical medicine	1.446
<i>Journal of Biosciences</i>	Biology and biochemistry	1.419
<i>Neurology India</i>	Neuroscience and behaviour	1.41
<i>Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology</i>	Plant and animal science	1.352
<i>Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants</i>	Plant and animal science	1.351
<i>IETE Technical Review</i>	Engineering	1.304
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	Agricultural sciences	1.241
<i>Annals of Thoracic Medicine</i>	Clinical medicine	1.235
<i>Tropical Ecology</i>	Environment/ecology	1.169
<i>Indian Journal of Physics</i>	Physics	1.166
<i>Indian Journal of Experimental Biology</i>	Biology and biochemistry	1.165
<i>Indian Journal of Microbiology</i>	Microbiology	1.143
<i>Journal of Genetics</i>	Molecular biology and genetics	1.108
<i>Journal of Chemical Sciences</i>	Chemistry	1.085
<i>Conservation and Society</i>	Social sciences, general	1.031
<i>Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology</i>	Immunology	1.006

Table 3. Top five journals by highest increase/decrease in IF

Journal	Difference from 2014
Increase	
<i>Episodes</i>	1.263
<i>IETE Technical Review</i>	0.416
<i>Energy for Sustainable Development</i>	0.386
<i>Indian Journal of Experimental Biology</i>	0.33
<i>Range Management and Agroforestry</i>	0.329
Decrease	
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	-0.962
<i>Journal of Biosciences</i>	-0.645
<i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>	-0.641
<i>Conservation and Society</i>	-0.613
<i>Annals of Thoracic Medicine</i>	-0.568

Table 4. Top five journals by highest and lowest IF growth

Journal	Growth in percentage from 2014
Positive growth	
<i>Range Management and Agroforestry</i>	530.64
<i>Himalayan Geology</i>	366.67
<i>Journal of the Anatomical Society of India</i>	247.62
<i>Journal of Agrometeorology</i>	148.96
<i>Indian Journal of Gender Studies</i>	131
Negative growth	
<i>Journal of Camel Practice and Research</i>	-70
<i>Contributions to Indian Sociology</i>	-69.90
<i>Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy</i>	-53.73
<i>Indian Journal of Cancer</i>	-46.13
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	-43.67

Table 5. Top Indian journals (C 2015 \geq 2000)

Journal	No. of citations
<i>Current Science</i>	8289
<i>Indian Journal of Medical Research</i>	4522
<i>Bulletin of Materials Science</i>	3264
<i>Indian Journal of Experimental Biology</i>	2872
<i>Journal of Food Science and Technology-Mysore</i>	2849
<i>Journal of Biosciences</i>	2353
<i>Indian Journal of Pediatrics</i>	2172
<i>Indian Journal of Chemistry, Section B</i>	2112
<i>Indian Pediatrics</i>	2085

45 journals (top five journals in each case are provided in Table 3). Only one

journal, i.e. *Indian Journal of Orthopaedics* had the same IF. The IF of the jour-

nal *Episodes* increased by 1.263, i.e. almost 65%.

In terms of growth in IF, 59 journals showed positive growth between 1.38% and 530%, while 45 journals had negative growth between -70% and -0.69% (top five journals in each case are provided in Table 4). The IF of *Range Management and Agroforestry* increased from 0.062 in 2014 to 0.329 in 2015, almost five times.

Among the 107 journals, only nine received more than 2000 citations in 2015 (Table 5). *Current Science* was the top-ranked Indian journal¹ with IF 1999 = 0.567. Even though the journal received the highest number of citations ($n = 8289$) in 2015, it is ranked 21st among Indian journals in terms of IF (IF 2015 = 0.967). This can be attributed to the fact that *Current Science* focuses only on publications related to India or Indian science² and 85% of publications were contributed by Indian authors during 2005–2014 (ref. 3).

Compared to the earlier study¹, the number of Indian journals in SCIE has been doubled from 47 (0.84%) in 1999 to 100 (1.14%) in 2015. The present study provides a clear picture on the performance of Indian journals and may be useful to decision-makers of the concerned journals.

1. Jain, N. C., *Curr. Sci.*, 2000, **79**(11), 1513–1514.
2. Ifremova, O., Das, D. and Kozak, M., *Curr. Sci.*, 2016, **110**(8), 1414–1418.
3. Parameswaran, R., *Am. Int. J. Res. Hum., Arts Soc. Sci.*, 2015, **12**(2), 179–182.

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Open access repositories in India: a lost opportunity?

In the last week of May 2016, the European Union ministers of science, innovation, trade, and industry in a meeting agreed that by 2020 all scientific papers should be freely available¹. And in early 2016, it was reported that a consortium of higher education institutions in the

Netherlands has negotiated agreements with major publishers including Elsevier to make all Dutch scientific publications available in open access domain². Both these important developments aim at barrier-free access to scholarly information and have been generally welcomed. But

some noted open access evangelists are of the view that this road taken to open access by negotiating deals with publishers that involves paying article processing charges (APCs) is only flipping the payment model. These advocates of open access believe that Green