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Impact and Citation of Iraqi Publications in International Journals at the Period of 1996-2012

KEYWORDS: IF H-index, citation Iraqi publications, international journals

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ABSTRACT *The citation and IF of academic articles and journals reflect the frequency with which the journal's articles are cited in the scientific literatures. It provides a quantitative tool for ranking, evaluating, categorizing and comparing journals worldwide. The objective of this study was to determine the level of impact and cited of Iraqi publications in an international of information scientifics institute and journal citation reports. The materials and data base of this study were obtained from research and deployment department, ministry of higher education, Iraq, and data base of website of SJR-SCImago Journal and country Rank on December 09, 2013 that reported in the information scientific institute (ISI) and journal citation reports (JCR) of Iraqi publications and citation on period of 1996-2012. The results of this study showed that the Hirsch Index (H-Index) was 41 only out of 26,059 papers, Iraq rang was listed at 91st out of 238 countries in the world on 2012. The total number of publication was 5,836 articles, citable documents 5,526, citations were 14,909 and self-citations were 1,831. The total number of documents was 1,252 articles and citable document was 1,173 (93.69%). The total number of international cites was 204, while the Iraqi cities as a (self cites) was 71 cites. The percentage of cites per document was 0.19 and self-cites was 0.06. The number cited documents showed 129 (10.3%) while un-cited documents were 1,123(89.69%). An international collaboration was 40.97% and the percentage of regional contribution was 1.03% while worldwide was 0.05%. The relative regional publication percentage was 1.932 and worldwide was 0.051. The citation per document in self-cites and external cites per document was 0,192.The highest publications showed in the medicine, engineering and chemistry were 225, 162 and 118 articles respectively. While the lowest publications were in the subjects of psychology, health professions, finance, art and humanities, business, managements and accounting were 1, 1, 2, 5 and 6 documents respectively. The total number of publications in both of Arabic and English languages was 77636 articles that published by 237 academic open access peer-reviewed journals. A total number and ranking of Iraqi journals on 2012 was only three scientific journals that indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and SCOPUS.In conclusion, Iraqi publications citation were increasing on last three years compared with previous period, but the publications seemed low quality, therefore the number of cited publications internationally and self-cited are poorly reported and also the number of impacted journals is considered pitiable or nonexistent.*

Introduction

Journal IF (JIF) provides a systematic objective means to critically evaluate the world's leading national and international journals with quantifiable, statistical information based on citation data available in online and print mode. By compiling paper cited references, JIF helps to measure research influence and IF of the journal in category wise (Thomson, 2011). The IF (IF) of an academic journal reflects the frequency with which the journal's articles are cited in the scientific literatures. It provides a quantitative tool for ranking, evaluating, categorizing and comparing journals worldwide (Nimbekar et al., 2012), it is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in the journal. The IF was devised by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Information Scientifics Institute (ISI). IF are calculated yearly for those journals that are indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) (Hirsch, 2005; Web of Knowledge, 2005; Hirsch, 2010).

The IF is highly discipline-dependent, perhaps due to the speed with which papers get cited in a field. The percentage of total citations occurring in the first two years after publication varies highly among disciplines (Nimbekar et al., 2012). Furthermore, the IF is based on the arithmetic mean number of citations per paper, and therefore the arithmetic mean is a statistically inappropriate measure (Rossner et al, 2007).

Editorial policies that affect the IF of journal might adopt editorial policies, which increase its IF (Douglas and Kristine, 2011). Journals may publish a larger percentage of review articles which generally are cited more than research reports (Garfield, 1994; Davis, 2011). Beyond editorial policies that may skew the IF journals can take overt steps to game the system (Schuttea and Svec, 2007). An indicator of journals' scientific prestige, the journal citation reports (SJR) indicator for ranking scholarly journals based on citation weighting schemes and eigenvector centrality to be used in complex and heterogeneous citation networks such Scopus (Coralio and Alfonso, 2011).In many countries, IF is consider one of the criteria applied to evaluate not only the status of scientific journals, and also the publication output of scientists. IF is frequently considered as an indicator of research quality and scientific excellence. Sometimes, publication in mainstream journals or impact journals-defined as those with an IF that covered by the journal citation reports used as the only evaluation criteria in such a way that scientific tribunals pay more attention to the IF of the journal than to the quality of the scientific contribution itself. IF in simple terms indicates the rating of journal articles (Nimbekar et al., 2012).

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The Hirsch index (H-index) is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications. The index can also be applied to the productivity and impact of a group of scientists, such as a department or university or country, as well as a scholarly journal. Scopus is a-bib liographic database containing abstracts and citations for academic journal articles. It covers nearly 21,000 titles from over 5,000 publishers, of which 20,000 are peer-reviewed journals in the scientific, technical, medical, and social sci ences (including arts and humanities). Since Elsevier is the owner of Scopus and is also one of the main international publishers of scientific journals, an independent and international Scopus contents selection and advisory board was established to prevent a potential conflict of interest in the choice of journals to be included in the database and to maintain an open and transparent content coverage policy, board consists of scientists and subject librarians -(Nim bekar et al., 2012). However, there are no more compre hensive studies reported on the impact and cited of Iraqi publications in an international Journals, ISI, SCOPUS and JCR. Hence, the objective of this study was determine the level of impact and cited of Iraqi publications in an international of information scientifics institute and journal cita tion reports.

Material and Methods

The entire data base of this study were obtained from re search and deployment department, ministry of higher ed ucation, Iraq (http://www.rddiraq.com/rdd/gmanager/3348. html), and data base of website of SJR -SCImago Journal and country Rank on December 09, 2013 that reported in the information scientific institute (ISI) and journal citation reports (JCR) of Iraqi publications and citation on period of 1996-2012. Iraqi publications and analysis were used from the website of SJR -SCImago Journal and country Rank that retrieved on December 09, 2013 (http://www.scima gojr.com SCImago).

RESULTS

Iraqipublicationsranking, rating of publications and sci entific journals are lagging far behind as compared to in ternational journals reported on 2013. According to the Information Scientifics Institute (ISI) and Journal Citation Reports (JCR) of Iraqi publication and citation on period of 1996-2012 showed that the Hirsch Index (H-Index) was 41 only out of 26,059 papers have been citied comparing to international publications (Table I).

According the total number of documentation on 2012, Iraq rang was listed at 91st out of 238 countries in the world. The total number of publication was 5,836 articles, citable documents was 5,526, citations was 14,909 and self-citations was 1,831 (Table II). The total number of pub lication and citation of Iraqi articles on 2012 compared to the publication with previous years until 1996 (Table III). The total number of documents was 1,252 articles and citable document was 1,173 (93.69%) articles (Fig.1). The cited documents showed 129 (10.3%) while un-cited docu ments was 1,123(89.69%)(Fig. 2). An international collabo ration was 40.97% with more than one country (Fig. 3), the percentage of contribution in the region was 1.03% while worldwidewas 0.05%.The rate of citation document was 0.19 and self-cities per document was 0.06 (Table III). The relative publication contribution percentage in the regional was 1.932 and worldwide was 0.051, however there was increased comparing with previous years (Fig. 4). The total number of international cites that were used an Iraqi pub lication was 204 cities, while the Iraqi cities as a (self cites) was 71 cites (Fig. 5). The citation per document in self-cites and external cites per document was 0,192 (Fig. 6).

The total number of documents was published according to the subject areas were summarized in figure 7 and ta ble IV. The highest publications in the subjects of medi cine, engineering and chemistry were 225, 162 and 118 respectively. While the lowest publication in the subjects of psychology, health professions, finance, art and humanities, business, managements and accounting were 1, 1, 2, 5 and 6 documents respectively. According to the research and deployment department, Ministry of higher education of Iraq report on 2013, the total number of publication in both of Arabic and English languages was 77636 articles published by 237 in academic open access peer-reviewed journals from 43 of Iraqi institutions. A total number and ranking Iraqi journals on 2012 was only three Iraqi journals that indexed in the Journal citation reports (JCR) and SCO PUS, whichnamed Iraqi journal of veterinary sciences, Arab gulf journal of scientific research and new Iraqi journal of medicine(Table V).

Table I: Showing the rate of H-index and citation of Iraqi publications compare to international publication on- pe riod of 1996-2012

Iraqi Publication		World Publication
H Index	41	26,059
Documents	5.836	28.434.035
Citable Documents	5.526	26.253.059
Citations	14.909	292.931.357
Self-Citations	1.831	10,30

Table II: Showing the total number of publication -arti cles, citable documents, citations, self-citations, -Cita tions per Document and H index on 1996-2012, (2013)

	Country	Documents	Citable documents	Citations	Citations	Citations per Document	H index
80	Ethio-pia	8,015	7,825	60,457	12,411	10.42	73
81	Tanza-nia	7,983	7,708	91,706	14,922	14.46	93
82	Uzbeki-stan	7,551	7,414	29,026	5,687	3.99	53
83	Cam-eroon	7,543	7,318	59,454	12,199	10.42	72
84	Georgia	7,490	7,309	50,895	7,781	7.74	78
85	Azer-baijan	7,472	7,373	18,607	4,318	3	45
86	Uganda	7,389	7,014	87,647	14,831	17.01	99
87	Ghana	6,825	6,594	52,958	6,618	10.73	73
88	Luxem-bourg	6,736	6,459	52,218	5,038	12.97	80
89	Costa Rica	6,491	6,319	86,713	9,950	15.67	103
90	Nepal	6,070	5,582	41,907	5,494	9.73	71
91	Iraq	5,836	5,526	14,909	1,831	4.82	41
92	Qatar	5,788	5,542	23,880	2,554	5.74	50
93	Mac-edonia	5,753	5,611	30,344	3,717	6.98	62
94	Kazakh-stan	5,654	5,563	21,197	3,306	4.48	52
95	Zimba-bwe	5,254	5,092	55,075	6,025	10.71	72

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96	Senegal	5,052	4,844	44,909	5,892	10.73	75
97	Ecua-dor	4,568	4,406	51,303	6,817	14.47	83
98	Mol-dova	4,553	4,513	27,987	5,555	6.5	60
99	Bosnia	4,448	4,336	14,364	2,274	6.92	44
100	Sudan	3,980	3,860	24,909	3,661	9.29	52

Table III: Showing the documents, citable documents, cites, self cites, cites per doc., self cites per doc., cited documents, un-cited documents, % international collaboration, % region and % world on 1996-2012

	Documents	Citable Documents	Cites	Self Cites	Cites per Doc	Self Cites per Doc.	Cited Docs.	Uncited Docs.	% International Collaboration	% Region	% World
1996	95	95	829	58	8,73	0,61	71	24	38,95	0,41	0,01
1997	99	99	664	85	6,71	0,86	75	24	37,37	0,41	0,01
1998	78	78	432	50	5,54	0,64	64	14	35,90	0,31	0,01
1999	75	73	557	60	7,43	0,80	55	20	25,33	0,29	0,01
2000	84	84	593	41	7,06	0,49	67	17	17,86	0,32	0,01
2001	100	97	515	66	5,15	0,66	75	25	18,00	0,34	0,01
2002	119	113	650	83	5,46	0,70	81	38	21,01	0,35	0,01
2003	143	132	854	66	5,97	0,46	95	48	27,27	0,35	0,01
2004	126	118	862	62	6,84	0,49	71	55	31,75	0,27	0,01
2005	187	179	895	95	4,79	0,51	117	70	34,76	0,35	0,01
2006	322	305	1,547	184	4,80	0,57	192	130	38,51	0,53	0,02
2007	320	300	1.898	182	5,93	0,57	193	127	39,38	0,47	0,02
2008	431	408	1,451	201	3,37	0,47	228	203	42,23	0,57	0,02
2009	565	536	1,170	201	2,07	0,36	291	274	41,59	0,64	0,03
2010	777	735	922	136	1,19	0,18	280	497	30,50	0,78	0,03
2011	1,063	1,001	830	190	0,78	0,18	326	737	34,34	0,92	0,04
2012	1,252	1,173	240	71	0,19	0,06	129	1.123	40,97	1,03	0,05

Figures1: Shows the citable and non-citable documents on 1996-2012

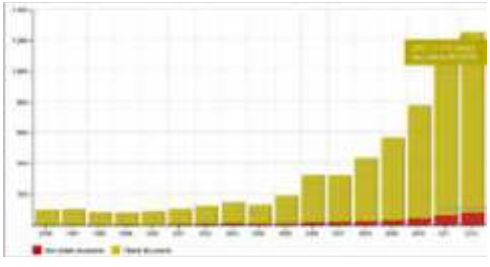

Figure 2: Showsthe cited and uncited documents, where the lowest cited documents was on 2012 compared with previous years

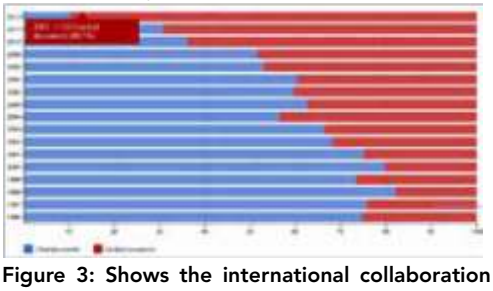

Figure 3: Shows the international collaboration of Iraqi publications (40.97%) in 2012 compared with previous years with more the\an on country

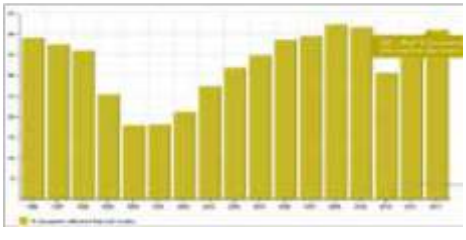

Figure 4: Shows the relative publication percentage of region and worldwide on 1996-2012

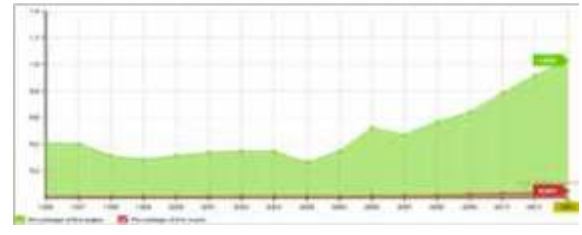

Figure 5: Shows the total international cites and self-cites 2012

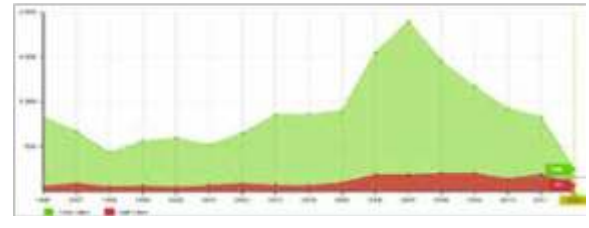

Figure 6: Shows the national cites per document and external cites per document on 1996-2012

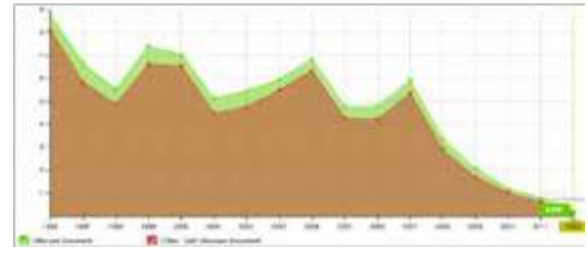

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Figure 7: Shows the documents publication percentage by subject areas on 1996-2012, where the medical publication was the highest rate

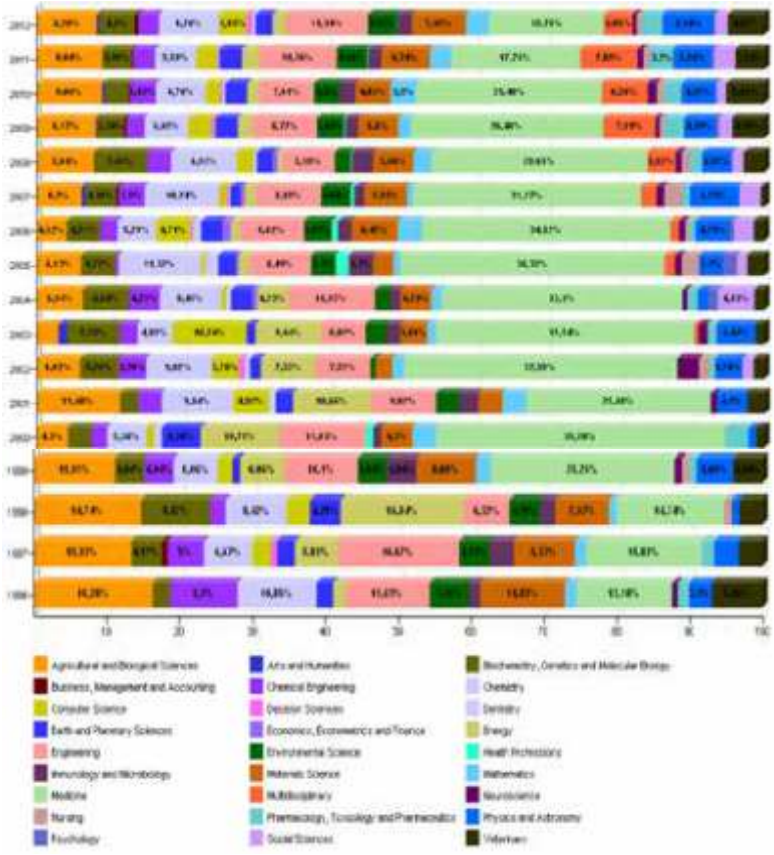

Table IV: Shows the number of publication per subject of different areas 1996-2012

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	21	16	14	11	4	14	8	5	9	13	14	23	36	54	75	110	118
Arts and Humanities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	5
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	3	5	9	4	3	3	7	12	9	10	16	16	34	25	28	50	70
Business, Management and Accounting	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	6
Chemical Engineering	12	6	2	4	2	4	5	4	6	1	8	13	15	16	30	37	41
Chemistry	14	8	8	6	5	12	12	8	12	24	18	38	41	40	56	68	118
Computer Science	-	3	3	2	1	6	5	17	1	1	16	4	11	21	17	35	55
Decision Sciences	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	3	2	10
Dentistry	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4	4	1	2	1	3	2	7
Earth and Planetary Sciences	3	3	4	1	5	3	2	2	4	5	10	5	10	19	25	37	32
Economics, Econometrics and Finance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	3	2	-	1	2
Energy	2	7	16	6	10	13	10	15	6	3	4	6	3	13	13	27	25
Engineering	15	20	6	10	11	11	10	10	17	18	30	33	33	58	63	131	162
Environmental Science	7	5	4	4	-	4	1	5	3	7	13	15	10	24	29	51	55
Health Professions	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	2	1	2	-	2	1
Immunology and Microbiology	2	4	2	4	1	3	-	3	2	7	6	5	13	11	18	21	29
Materials Science	15	10	7	8	4	4	3	6	6	6	22	22	26	37	40	82	106

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Mathematics	2	2	1	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	11	3	11	11	29	35	47
Medicine	17	19	14	25	37	31	50	59	47	77	116	116	136	175	211	216	225
Multidisciplinary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	8	18	47	52	96	55
Neuroscience	1	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	4	11	10	9
Nursing	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	5	2	9	5	4	8	11	10
Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	2	2	-	1	3	-	1	2	2	-	3	4	8	18	20	39	40
Physics and Astronomy	4	4	1	5	1	5	5	9	2	7	16	25	18	29	38	64	102
Psychology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2	-	1	3	2	4	1
Social Sciences	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7	3	9	11	7	12	11	36	26
Veterinary	9	4	3	4	1	3	2	2	2	5	5	2	13	29	43	48	71

Table V: Showing total number and ranking of Iraqi journals on 2012*

	Title	SJR	H index	Total Docs. (2012)	Total Docs. (3years)	Total Refs.	Total Cites (3years)	Citable Docs. (3years)	Cites/ Doc. (2years)	Ref./ Doc.	Quartile (Q1-Q4)
1	Iraqi Journal of Veterinary Sciences	0,165	2	40	46	976	16	46	0,37	24,40	Q4
2	Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research	0,115	8	0	76	0	7	74	0,06	0,00	Q4
3	New Iraqi Journal of Medicine	0,100	1	16	145	317	3	139	0,02	19,81	Q4

***Retrieved April 18, 2014, from http://www.scimagojr.com**

Discussion

The results of this study showed that the Hirsch Index (H-Index) of Iraq publications was 41 only out of 26,059 papers, therefore Iraqi rang was listed at 91st out of 238 countries in the world on 2012. That is indicted Iraq publications did not meet the international contribution and citation, therefore Iraqi was listed at 91st out of 238 countries worldwide. The Hirsch index (H-index) is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of publications. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications (Nimbekar et al., 2012). The H-index is an index that attempts to measure both the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar. The index is based on the set of the scientist's most cited papers and the number of citations that they have received in other publications. The index can also be applied to the productivity and impact of a group of scientists, such as a department or university or country, as well as a scholarly journal. The index was suggested by Jorge E. Hirsch and it is sometimes called the Hirsch index or Hirsch number(Hirsch, 2005).

The results showed that the citable documents were 5,526 publications out of 5,836 articles, but the publications-cited was 240 (0.19) times internationally, and 71 (0.06) times self cites. The SJR indicator measures of the scientific influence of the average article in a journal that it expresses how central to the global scientific discussion an average article of the journal. Cites per document with two years measures the scientific impact of an average article published in the journal, it is computed using the same formula that journal IF according to the Thomson Reuters. An evolution of the total number of citations and journal's self-citations received by a journal's published documents during the three previous yearsfrom SJR-SCImago Journal and country rank (http://www.scimagojr.com Retrieved April 18, 2014).

An international collaboration of Iraqi publications was very low (0.05%) and also the percentage of regional contribution was 1.03%. The rate of document citation was 0.19 and the self-cities per document were 0.06. The relative regional publication percentage was 1.932 and worldwide was 0.051. The citation per document in self-cites and-external cites per document was 0,192. The results of this study showed that an Iraqi publication was weakly contribution and poorlycitations. Cites per document and external cites per document that evolution of citations per document to a journal's published documents during the two, three and four previous years. International Collaboration: International Collaboration accounts for the articles that have been produced by researchers from several countries. The chart shows the ratio of a journal's documents signed by researchers from more than one country.Journal's citable and non-citable documents that not every article in a journal is considered primary research and therefore "citable", (Figure1) shows the ratio of a journal's articles including substantial research (research articles, conference papers and reviews) in three year windows.

The IF is used to compare different journals within a certain field. The Information Scientifics Institute (ISI) Web of Knowledge indexes more than 11,000 science and social science journals (Hirsch, 2005; Web of Knowledge, 2005; Hirsch, 2010). Numerous criticisms have been made of the use of an IF and it might not be consistently reproduced in an independent audit (Rossner et al., 2007).

The results of this study showed that the total number and ranking of Iraqi journals on 2012 was only three journals that indexed in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and SCOPUS. In our country, ranking, rating of scientific journals is lagging far behind as compared to international journals. The main reasons are comparatively low content value of publication, and unpadded researches and weak articles writing presentation in our country. Therefore, we need to increase the research works, improving the writing and presentation of the article knowledge and also publicity of Iraqi journals and make them available online which reduces the cost as well. The IF of a journal reflects the frequency and it provides a quantitative tool for

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ranking, evaluating, categorizing and comparing journals worldwide. Along with the IF another term cita tion index rates the journal articles. It counts for an- indi vidual article, an author and a journal altogether (Nimbekar et al., 2012).Editorial policies, which increase its IF (Douglas and Kristine, 2011). Journals may publish a larger percentage of review articles which generally are cited more than research reports (Garfield, 1994; Davis, 2011). Therefore, review articles can raise the impact fac tor of the journal and review journals will therefore often have the highest IF in their respective fields. Journals may also attempt to limit the number of "citable items", the denominator of the IF equation, either by- de clining to publish articles (such as case reports in medical journals) which are unlikely to be cited or by altering ar- ticles. As a result of negotiations over whether items are "citable", IF variations of more than 300% have been observed. Another less insidious tactic is that a jour- nal may publish a large fraction of its papers, or at least the papers expected to be highly cited, early in the cal endar year. This gives those papers more time to gather citations. Several methods, not necessarily with nefarious intent, exist for a journal to cite articles in the same journal which will increase the journal's IF (Fassoulaki et al., 2002; Agrawal, 2005).

The highest publications showed in the medicine, -engi neering and chemistry, while the lowest publications were in the subjects of psychology, health professions, finance, art and humanities, business, managements and accoun ing. The total number of publications in both of Arabic and English languages was 77636 articles that published by 237 academic open access peer-reviewed journals (http://www.rddiraq.com/rdd/gmanager/3348.html, 2014). While atotal number and ranking of Iraqi journals on 2012 was only three journals that indexed in the Journal -Cita tion Reports (JCR) and SCOPUS (SJR-SCImago Journal and country rank, (http://www.scimagojr.com, 2014, Kulkarni et al., 2009). New journals which are indexed from their first published issue, will receive an IF after two years of indexing in this case, the citations to the year prior to volume 1, and the number of articles published in the year prior to volume one are known zero values. Jour- nals that are indexed starting with a volume other than the first volume will not get an IF until they have been indexed for three years (Chanchal, 2013).- An nuals and other irregular publications sometimes publish no items in a particular year affecting the count. The im pact factor relates to a specific time period, it is possible to calculate it for any desired period, and the Journal Ci tation Reports (JCR) also includes a 5-year IF. The large number of citations meant that the IF for that journal increased. A survey published in 2012 indi cates that coercive citation has been experienced by one in five researchers working in economics, sociology, -psy chology, and multiple business disciplines, and it is more common in business and in journals with a lower IF (Wilhite and Fong,2012). However, many Iraqi of open excess journal are issued before more than five years ago, but unfortunately, these journals non indexed at this moment except of three journals.

An indicator of journals' scientific prestige, the SJR in dicator for ranking scholarly journals based on citation weighting schemes and eigenvector centrality to be used in complex and heterogeneous citation networks such Scopus. The results showed that SJR indicator and JIF dis tributions fitted well to a power law distribution and that both metrics were strongly correlated, although there were also major changes in rank. There was an observable gen eral trend that might indicate that SJR indicator values de creased certain JIF values whose citedeness was greater than would correspond to their scientific influence (Coralio and Alfonso 2011). In conclusion, Iraqi publications citation were increasing on last three years compared with previous period, but the publications seemed low quality, therefore the number of cited publications internationally and self- cited are poorly reported and also the number of impact ed journals is considered pitiable or nonexistent.

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