



Loughborough  
University

**Dr Elizabeth Gadd**

@lizziegadd

# Alternatives to journal based metrics in research assessment



# What's wrong with journal metrics?

- How long have you got? 😊

# What's wrong with journal metrics?

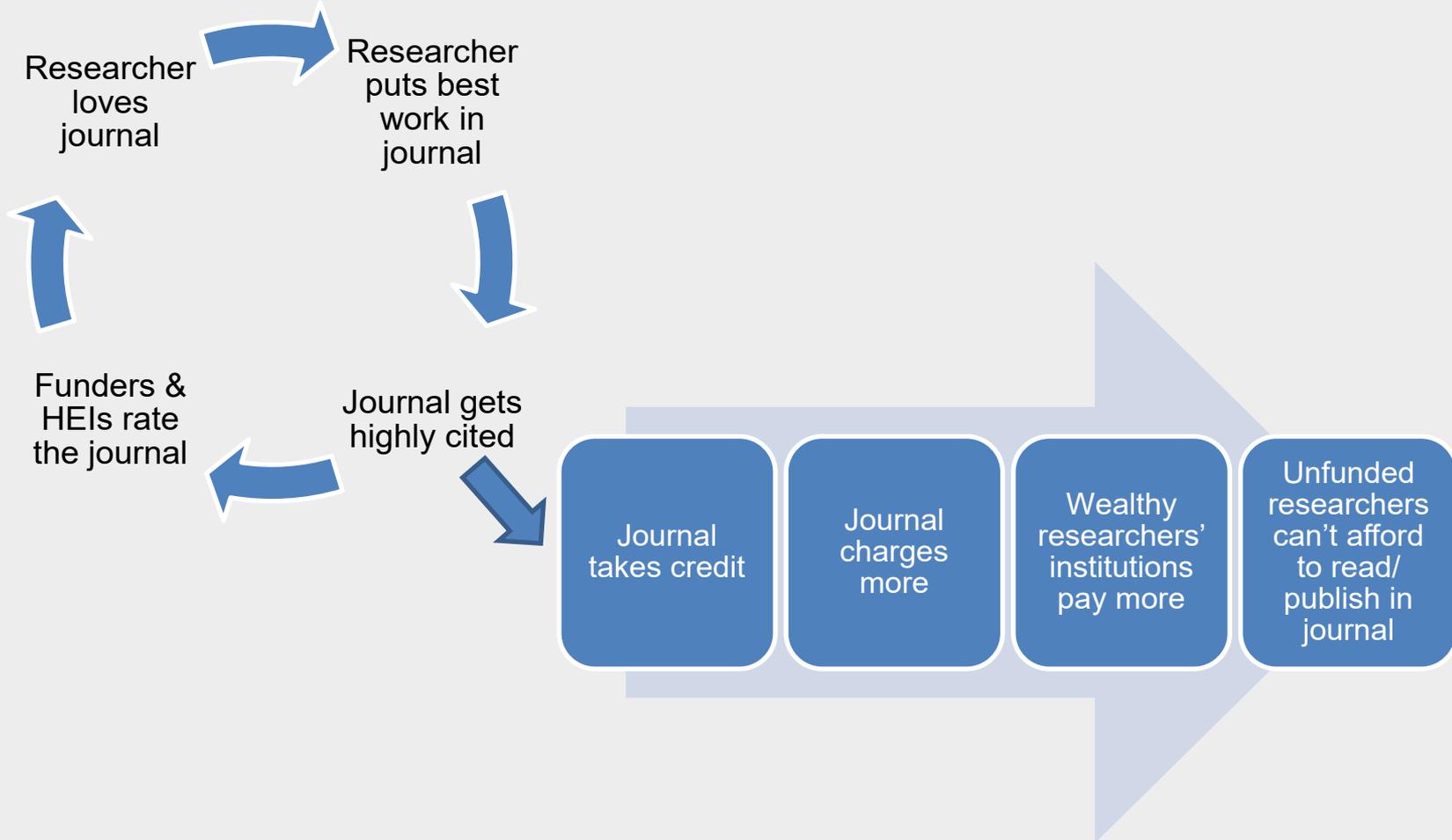


Figure 5 *Average APC in USD by impact factor* below illustrates the same data.

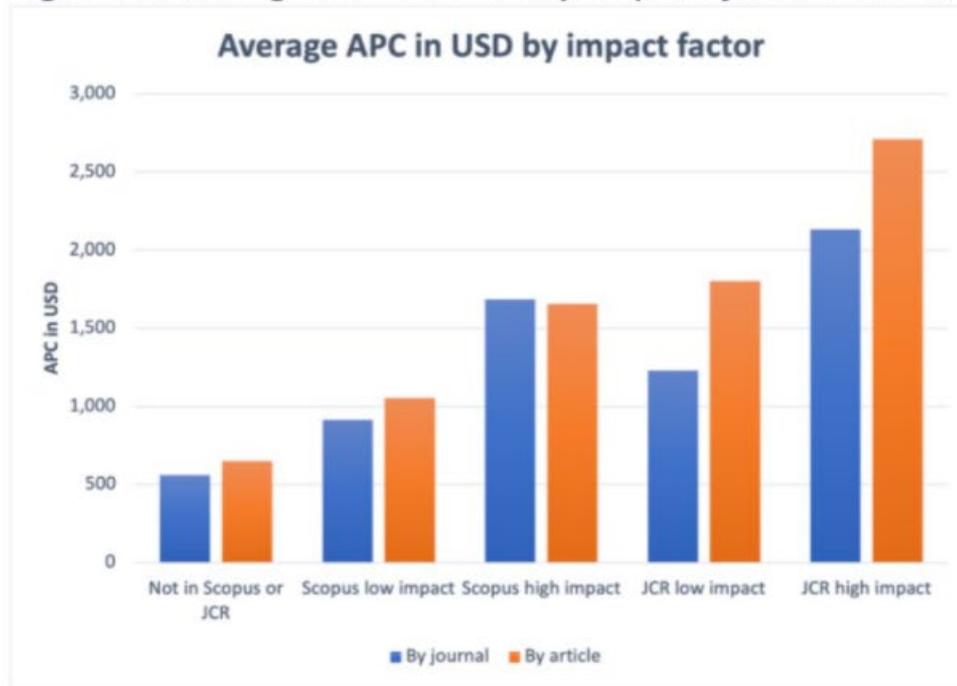
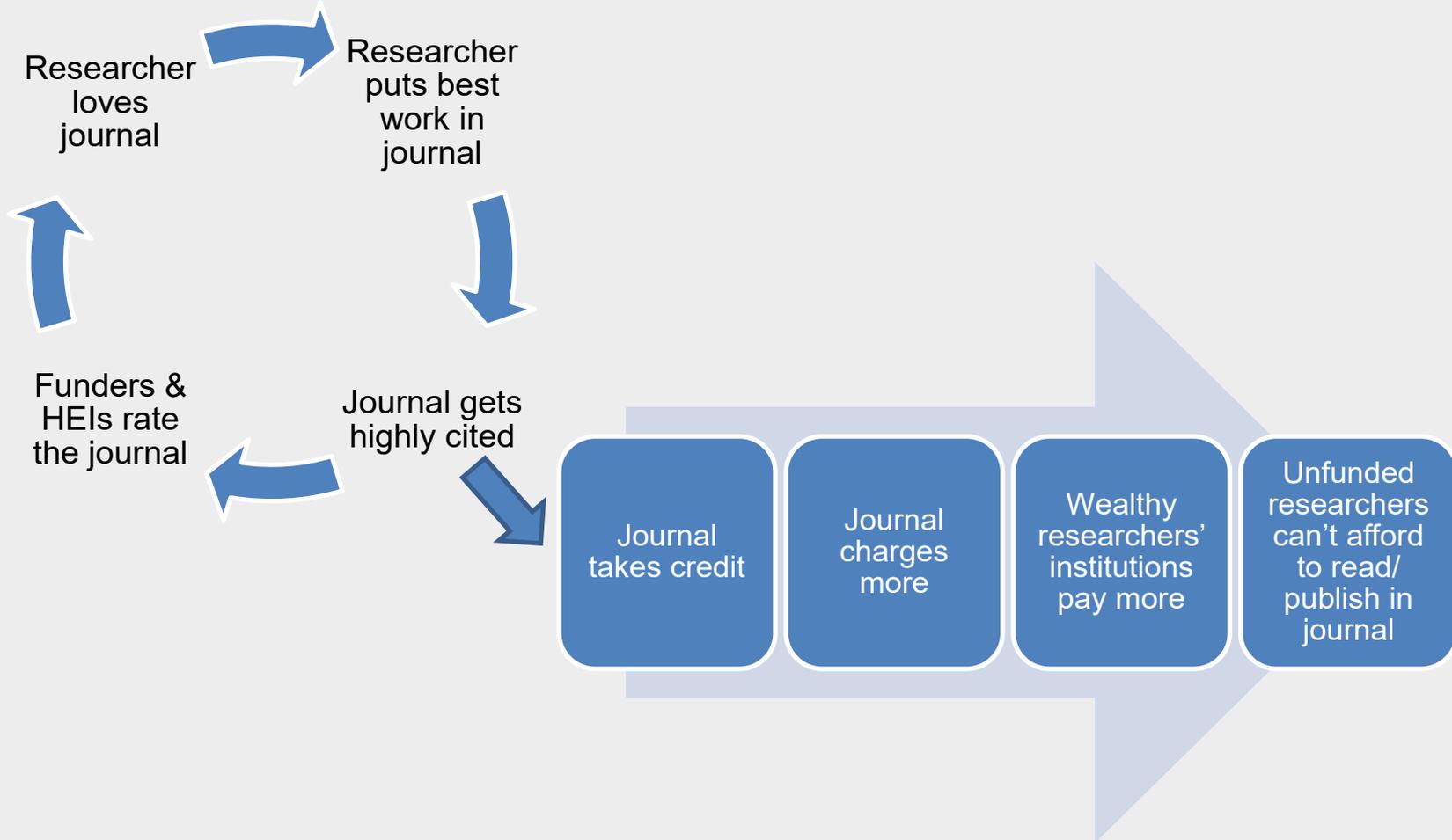


Figure 5 Average APC in USD by impact factor

Heather Morrison et al, 2021,  
<https://sustainingknowledgecommons.org/2021/06/24/open-access-article-processing-charges-2011-2021/>

# What's wrong with journal metrics?



# Alternatives to journal based metrics for assessing

- Journals?
- Research?
- Researchers?

# Alternatives to journal metrics for assessing journals

1. Add in even more journal citation metrics?
  - proposed by DORA

# San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

A number of themes run through these recommendations:

- the need to eliminate the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, in funding, appointment, and promotion considerations;
- the need to assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which the research is published; and
- the need to capitalize on the opportunities provided by online publication (such as relaxing unnecessary limits on the number of words, figures, and references in articles, and exploring new indicators of significance and impact).

# Also DORA:

## For publishers

6. Greatly reduce emphasis on the journal impact factor as a promotional tool, ideally by ceasing to promote the impact factor or by presenting the metric in the context of a variety of journal-based metrics (e.g., 5-year impact factor, EigenFactor [8], SCImago [9], h-index, editorial and publication times, etc.) that provide a richer view of journal performance.

# Other journal metrics suggested by DORA

- 5 year impact factor
  - Average cites per paper over 5 years
- Eigenfactor
  - Based on a journal's influence (citedness) within the Clarivate citation network. All journals' Eigenfactors sum to 100.
- H-index
  - Number of articles (h) with at least h citations.
- SJR
  - 'Prestige' journal metric
  - More highly cited journals lend 'prestige' to the journals they cite

# Alternatives to journal metrics for assessing journals

1. More journal citation metrics
  - proposed by DORA
2. Curated lists
  - Peer assessment of journal brand / reputation

# Curated lists



## Publication Forum



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PUBLICATION FORUM

EVALUATIONS

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NSD

NORWEGIAN REGISTER FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, SERIES AND PUBLISHERS



## Publication Forum

Publication Forum (in Finnish often referred to as the Journal Quality Assessment of Research Output Tool) is a tool for the quality assessment of research output. To be included in the Forum, journals in various disciplines, the classification includes journals and publishers. The four-level classification rate is used in various disciplines as follows:

- 1 = basic level
- 2 = leading level
- 3 = highest level
- 0 = publication channels that don't meet the criteria for level 1.

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- Download Lists (Login)
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- Approval procedures
- Criteria for inclusion
- About NPI
- Statistics
- Decision Level 1
- Decision Level 2

- NSD Indexes
- Norwegian Register
- ERIH PLUS
- NPI

### Download current list:

This action requires login.

You can download the present list of the Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers here. It is divided in two parts: one for journals/series and one for publishers. Both parts can be opened by spreadsheets like Excel or equivalent tools. If problem, try importing the file using a separator. Saving in native spreadsheet format enables you to add formatting and data filter, freeze top row and adjust column widths as desired.

Part 1: Scientific Journals, Series (~1 minute preparation, ~7 MB) Larger image of sample columns

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
NSD ID	Original title	International title	Present Level	Price (DKK)	Online HTML	Open Access	NPI	Stichting	URL	Publishing company (not part 2)	Publisher	Country of publication	Language	Level 2016	Level 2015
0101	010107 Dialog	Dialog	1	9512-0010	1449-0100				https://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	0	0	
0101	048719 Dialog (Oscarson)	Dialog (Oscarson)	0	0012-2041					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	0	0	
0101	471648 Dialog	Dialog	1	2410-9024	2222-7908				http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	0	0	
0101	483420 Dialog Pedagogisk An (Dialog Pedagogisk An)	Dialog Pedagogisk An	0	2222-7908					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	0	0	
0101	483420 Dialog de la Lengua	Dialog de la Lengua	1	1889-2144	DOI				http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	1	1	
0101	472000 Dialogs - Revista Direct Dialogs - Revista Direct	Dialogs - Revista Direct	1	2210-3202	1409-4019	DOI			http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	1	1	
0101	471900 Dialogs Litteraturvitenskapelige	Dialogs Litteraturvitenskapelige	1	1889-2144					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	1	1	
0101	471807 Dialogs og Diskursus Dialogs og Diskursus	Dialogs og Diskursus	1	2210-3202					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	1	1	
0101	483420 Dialogs in press	Dialogs in press	0	2210-3202					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	0	0	
0101	471817 Dialogs Studies	Dialogs Studies	1	1876-1792					http://www.dialogforlaget.no/	Dialogforlaget	USA	English	1	1	

Part 2: Scientific Publishers (~5 seconds preparation, ~0,5 MB)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
NSD ID	Original title	International title	Present Level	ISBN Prefix	URL	Country	Level 2016	Level 2015
630	12698 Dialogos Förlag	Dialogos Förlag	1		http://www.dialogosfc.se	Sweden	1	1
631	23464 Diaphanes Verlag	Diaphanes Verlag	0		http://www.diaphanes.ch	Switzerland	0	0

# Alternatives to journal metrics for assessing journals

1. More journal citation metrics
  - proposed by DORA
2. Curated lists
  - Peer assessment of journal brand / reputation
3. Alternative metrics
  - Assess other dimensions of journal ‘quality’

# TOP Factor

A project by Center for Open Science

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TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS PROMOTION



TOP Standards  ^

- Data Citation
- Data Transparency
- Analysis Code Transparency
- Materials Transparency
- Design & Analysis Reporting Guidelines
- Study Preregistration
- Analysis Plan Preregistration
- Replication
- Registered Reports & Publication Bias
- Open Science Badges

Search Journal Titles

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Journal	↓ Total	Data Citation	Data Transparency	Analysis Code Transparency	Materials Transparency	Design & Analysis Reporting Guidelines	Pre
Meta-Psychology  LNU Open	<b>27</b>	3	3	3	3	3	
Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science  SAGE	<b>25</b>	2	2	2	2	3	
Personality Science 	<b>24</b>	3 	2 	2 	2 	3 	
European Journal of Personality  Sage	<b>23</b>	2	2	2	2	3 	
Cortex  Elsevier	<b>23</b>	3 	2	2	2	2	
Comprehensive Results in							

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Molecules

ISSN: 1420-3049  
 Publisher: MDPI  
 Language:  
 Discipline: chemistry

- Publish a Score Card  
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 - Group invitation

Score  
**4.2**  
 Scored by 81

Score Cards Additional comments Price information

Score Card Reviewer	Date	Score	Action
asadkhanbmj	23/05/2019	3.8	View
mfz55	31/10/2018	4.8	View

## Journal Score Cards

*Journal Score Card*

*The life cycle of Journal Score Cards*

## Journal Score Card

By completing a Journal Score Card in QOAM authors may review the quality of the services of the journal they published in. The Card has four bullets that can be rated from 1 to 5:

### Scores

- The editor of the journal is responsive.
- The peer review of the journal has added value.
- I would recommend scholars to submit their work to this journal.
- I would deem this journal good value for money

Per bullet, the rating options are:

1: Absolutely not (1 pt)  2: Poor (2 pt)  3: Neutral (3 pt)  4: Good (4 pt)  5: Excellent (5 pt)

The average of the ratings is called the Score of the journal.

The Score Card has a free text box for additional comments, with a placeholder question:

*Why would/wouldn't you recommend this journal?*

For transparency reasons, editors are requested to tick the following box.

I am an editor of this journal

## Scientometrics

### Journal info (provided by editor)

The editor of Scientometrics has not yet provided information



- Issues per year
- Articles published last year
- Manuscripts received last year
- % accepted last year
- % immediately rejected last year
- Open access status
- Manuscript handling fee?
- Kind of complaint procedure
- Two-year impact factor
- Five-year impact factor

Disciplines: Computer science, Social sciences, Law, Librar

## 597 reviews for 'Computer and information sciences'

« Previous 1 2 3 4 ... 8 ... 16 17 Next »

Journal title	Average duration			Review reports (1 <sup>st</sup> review rnd.)			Review rounds	Overall rating	#
	1 <sup>st</sup> rev. rnd	Tot. handling	Im. rejection	Number	Quality ↓	Difficulty			
ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems	3.2 months	6.0 months	n/a	3.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	5.0 (excellent)	1 »
International Journal of Advanced Robotic Systems	4.0 months	5.0 months	n/a	2.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	5.0 (excellent)	1 »
Computational Linguistics	1.5 months	3.0 months	n/a	3.0	5.0	4.0	2.0	4.0 (very good)	1 »

# Platform for Responsible Editorial Policies (PREP)

responsiblejournals.org/database/search

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Journal name: journal  
 ISSN:  
 Publisher:

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 Select options

To what extent are reviewers anonymised in your journal's review process?  
 Select options

To what stage of the publication process does review take place?  
 Select options

To what extent are review reports accessible?  
 Select options

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153 journals found

Title	Timing	Anonymity of authors	Anonymity of reviewers
Alexandria Journal of Health Sciences	Pre-publication review	Author identities are blinded to reviewer but known to editor	Reviewers are anonymous (both to authors and other reviewers as well as to readers of the published manuscript)
American Journal of Health Services Research	Pre-submission review (including registered reports)	Author identities are blinded to reviewer but known to editor	Reviewers are anonymous (both to authors and other reviewers as well as to readers of the published manuscript)
American Journal of Kidney Diseases	Pre-submission review (including registered reports)	Author identities are blinded to reviewer but known to editor	Reviewers are anonymous (both to authors and other reviewers as well as to readers of the published manuscript)

Timing

- Pre-publication review
- Pre-submission review (including registered reports)

Anonymity of authors

- Author identities are blinded to reviewer but known to editor

Anonymity of reviewers

- Reviewers are anonymous (both to authors and other reviewers as well as to readers of the published manuscript)

External reviewers suggested and selected by editor(s)

External reviewers suggested by authors

At what stage of the publication process does review take place?

To what extent are authors anonymised in your journal's review process?

Author identities are blinded to editor and reviewer

Author identities are blinded to reviewer but known to editor

Author identities are known to editor and reviewer

To what extent are reviewers anonymised in your journal's review process?

## Timing and selectiveness

At what stage of the publication process does review take place?

**If you want to ditch journal metrics,  
you'll need to ditch journals...**



# Octopus

## Publication types

- ✓ Research Problem
- ✓ Rationale/Hypothesis
- ✓ Method
- ✓ Results
- ✓ Analysis
- ✓ Interpretation
- ✓ Real World Application

### Research Problem

When presenting people with their personal ri...

A Freeman  
19 July 2022

### Rationale/Hypothesis

Investigating the effects of the format that ...

A Freeman  
19 July 2022

### Method

Testing the effects of different numerical fo...

A Freeman  
21 July 2022

### Results

Results of testing the effects of different n...

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### Analysis

**Analysis of the effects of different numerica...**

J Kerr  
21 July 2022

### Interpretation

Interpretation of an analysis of the effects ...

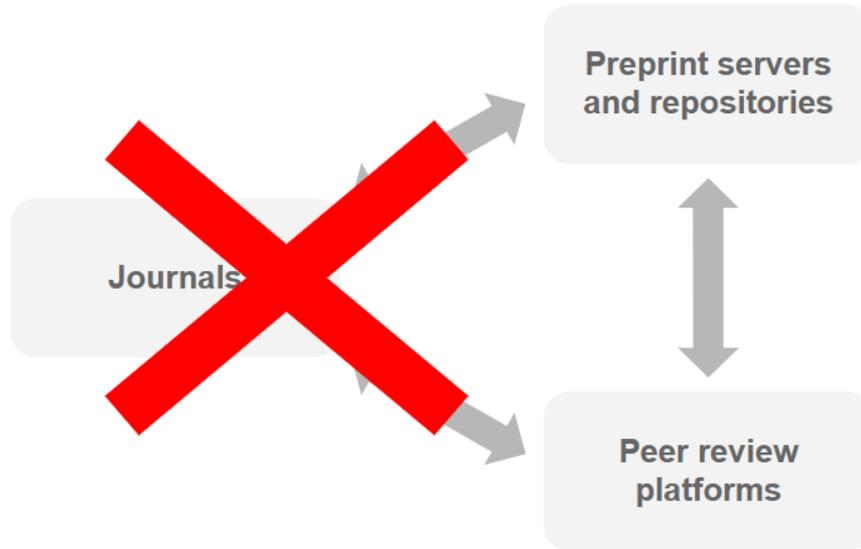
A Freeman  
22 July 2022

### Real World Application

The benefits of F-effects

T Faisal  
13 September 2022

The future of scholarly communication  
*Scenario 3: Death of the journal*



Waltman (2022)  
[https://zenodo.org/record/7076317#\\_Y0Iyatf](https://zenodo.org/record/7076317#_Y0Iyatf)  
MI2w

# Preprints + (open) peer review

## Part 1: Preprinting - where?



Jeroen Bosman, Bianca Kramer, Jeroen Sondervan, Ludo Waltman  
<https://zenodo.org/record/7040997#.Y0WVDVnf>  
 MI2x

# Peer review platforms



## Leiden Madrics

HOME CONTRIBUTORS ABOUT

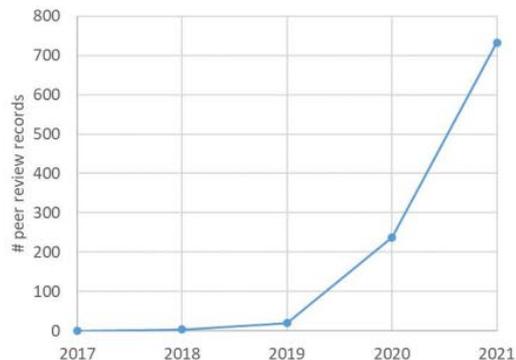
Ludo Waltman  
Professor of Quantitative  
Science Studies

Nees Jan van Eck  
Senior Researcher &  
Head of ICT

### The growth of open peer review

July 06, 2021 • Science & Society and Long read • 7 min read

The closed nature of the traditional journal peer review system is often criticized. Over the past two decades, significant efforts have been made to make peer review more open. Ludo Waltman and Nees Jan van Eck use data from Crossref to analyze the growth of open peer review.

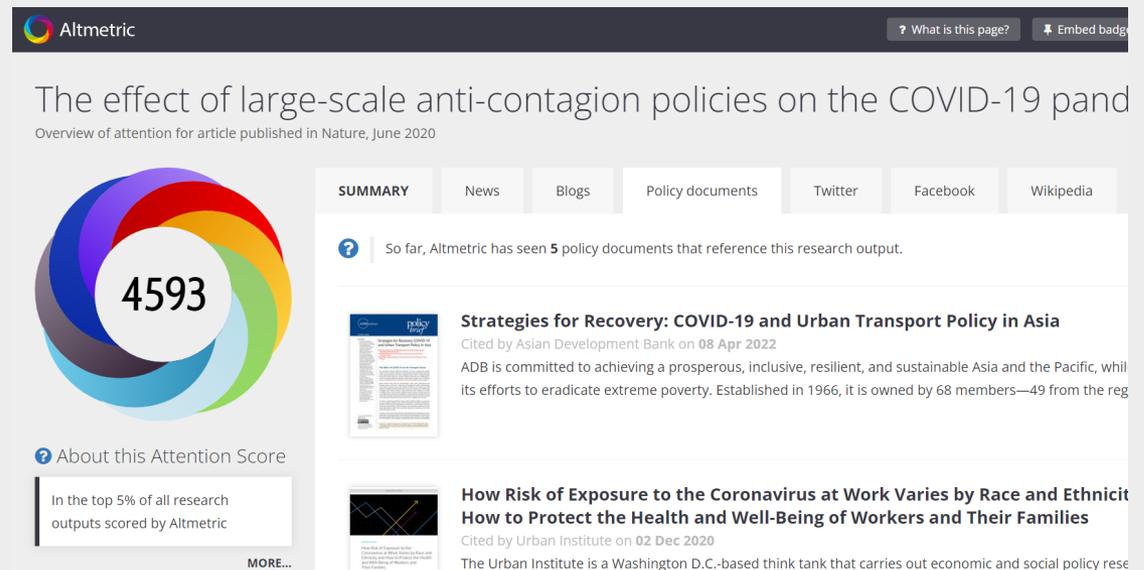


Bosman, Kramer, Sondervan, & Waltman

<https://zenodo.org/record/7040997#.Y0WVDVnfmI2x>

# Alternatives to journal metrics for assessing research

- Peer review
- Output level metrics
  - Citations
  - Altmetrics





WORLD VIEW · 19 JUNE 2018

# How will you judge me if not by impact factor?



Stop saying that publication metrics don't matter, and tell early-career researchers what does, says John Tregoning.

John Tregoning



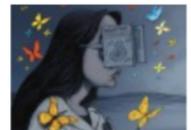
Rumours among junior faculty members are that reports of the death of the impact factor are greatly exaggerated. In a round of funding earlier this year, my research output was described as being in “high-impact journals” by one reviewer and in “middle-tier journals” by another, with knock-on effects on their grant scores. It is not unheard of for people to be told that the only articles that count are the ones in journals with an impact factor that is over an arbitrary value. Or, worse, that publishing in low-tier journals pollutes their CVs.

That's true even at institutions that have signed on to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which advocates replacing journal impact factors (JIFs) with something better and fairer.

[PDF version](#)

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# Alternatives to journal metrics for assessing researchers

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nature > career news > article

CAREER NEWS | 08 June 2022

## Swiss funder unveils new CV format to make grant evaluation fairer

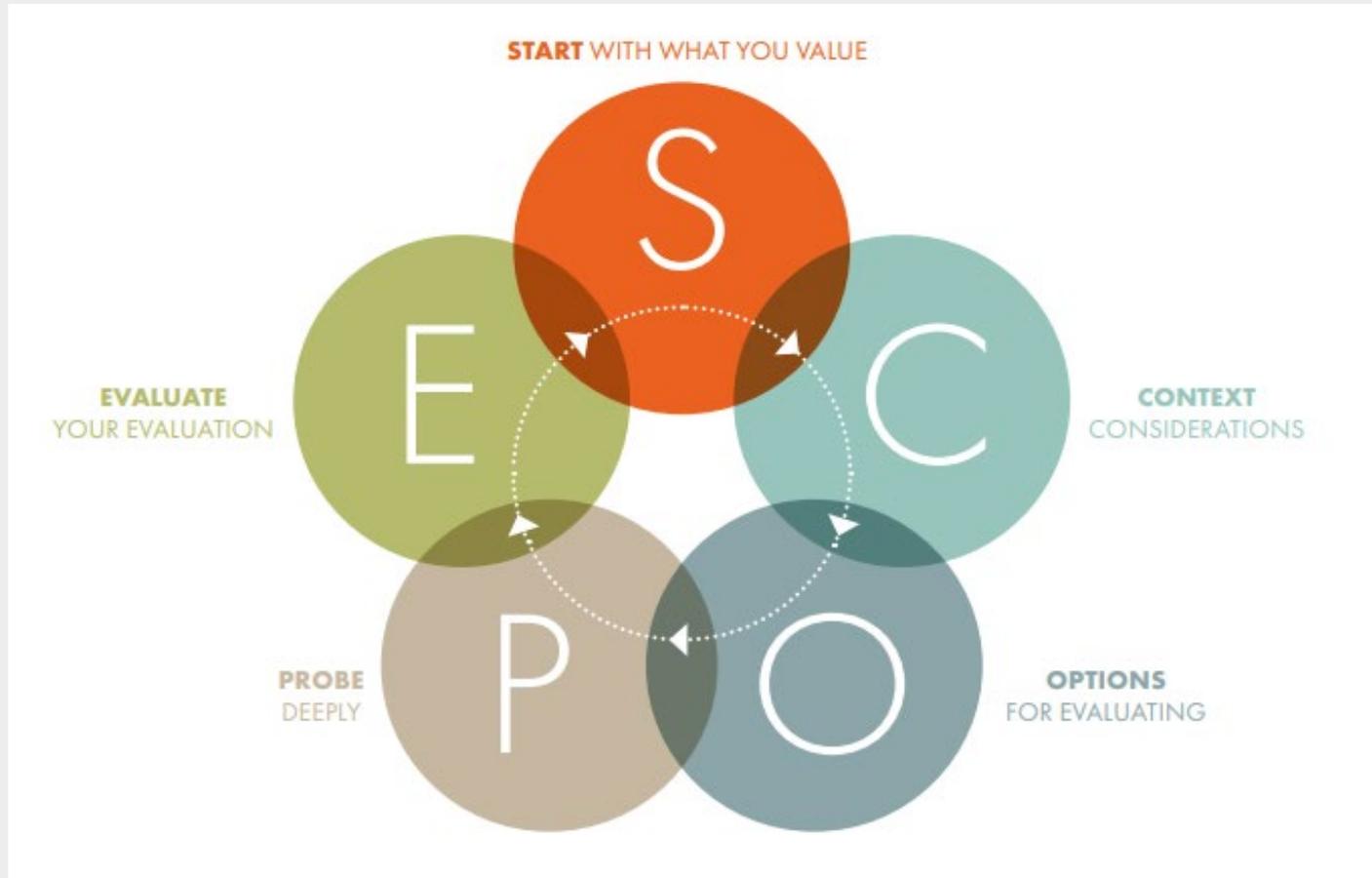
The Swiss National Science Foundation's 'narrative' template seeks evidence of applicants' wider contributions to science.



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# The INORMS SCOPE framework



# To conclude

- To eliminate journal metrics, first eliminate the journal
- To design alternative assessments, adopt a value-led evaluation framework

# Thank you for listening

**Dr Elizabeth Gadd**

**Chair, INORMS Research Evaluation Group**

**Research Policy Manager**

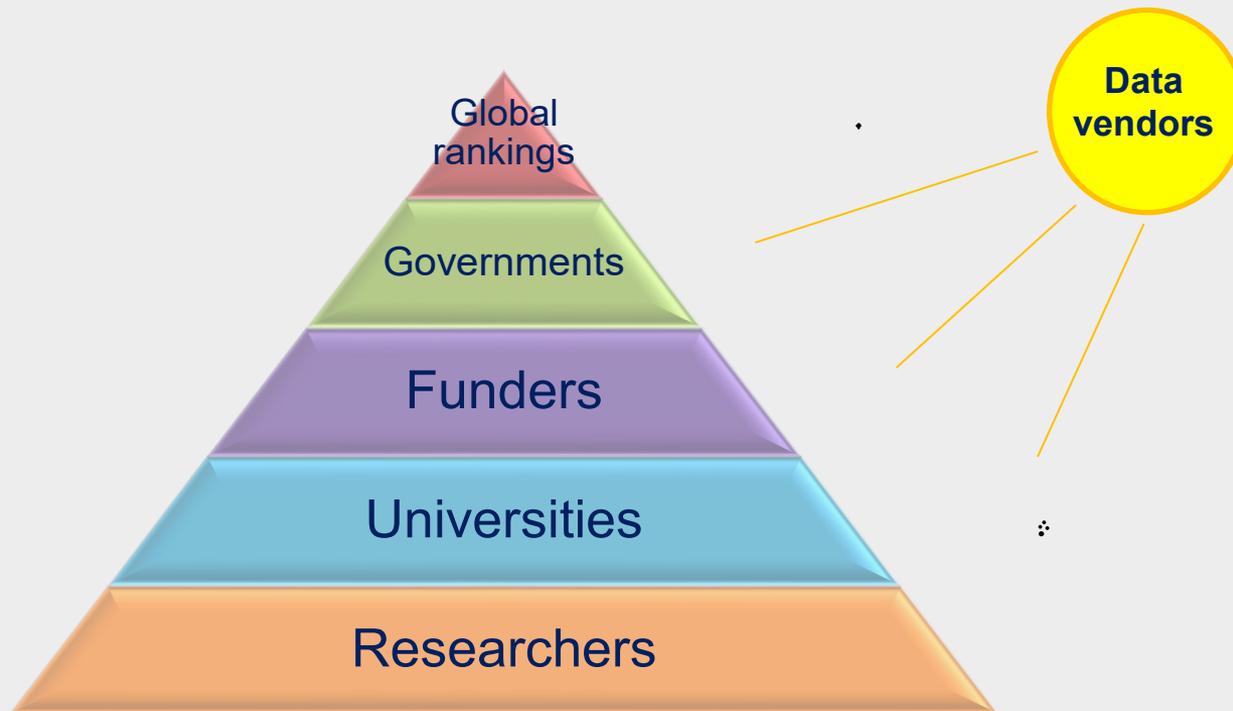
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# The research evaluation food chain



# Context: Why and what are you measuring?

		Country	HEI	Group	Individual
Analysis	To understand	Low impact	Low impact	Medium impact	Medium impact
Advocacy	To show off	Low impact	Low impact	Medium impact	Medium impact
Accountability	To monitor	Low impact	Medium impact	Medium impact	High impact
Acclaim	To benchmark	Medium impact	High impact	High impact	High impact
Adaptation	To incentivise	Medium impact	High impact	High impact	High impact
Allocation	To reward	High impact	High impact	High impact	High impact



# SHERPA RoMEO & Journal Checker Tool

Jisc Digital Resources > Open Access

## Sherpa Romeo

About Search Statistics Help

### Scientometrics

Publication Information

Title	Scientometrics (English)
ISSNs	Print: 0138-9130 Electronic: 1588-2861
URL	<a href="https://www.springer.com/journal/10994">https://www.springer.com/journal/10994</a>
Publishers	Springer [Primary Co-Publisher] Akadémiai Kiadó [Co-Publisher]
Notes	Formerly published by Kluwer

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