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Scholarly communication in Journal of Financial Crime, 2006-2010: a bibliometric study  
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# Scholarly communication in *Journal of Financial Crime*, 2006-2010: a bibliometric study

Scholarly  
communication  
in *JFC*

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – The purpose of this paper is to investigate the scholarly communications in *Journal of Financial Crime (JFC)* during the last five years and to study the key dimensions of its publication trends.

**Design/methodology/approach** – For the analysis of the study, five volumes containing 20 issues of *Journal of Financial Crime* during the years 2006 to 2010 have been taken up for evaluation. The authors employ necessary bibliometric measures to analyze different publication parameters.

**Findings** – It is found that the contribution of articles to each volume of *JFC* is very consistent and the journal has published around 30 articles per year. Single authored papers are found to be the highest, followed by two-authored and then three-authored papers. The degree of collaboration in *JFC* is found to be 0.246. In regards to ranking of country productivity, the UK topped the list followed by the USA, Canada and Australia. *Journal of Financial Crime*, which is the source journal, leads the table followed by *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Crime Law and Social Change* and *Journal of Money Laundering Control*.

**Research limitations/implications** – This paper focuses on the publication traits of *Journal of Financial Crime* over a five-year period. Patterns of research output in 155 publications are analyzed. Further studies can include other journals in the field of economics.

**Practical implications** – Scholars can benefit from insights into the scholarly contributions of *Journal of Financial Crime* that has accommodated 220 authors from 41 different countries of the world.

**Originality/value** – The paper provides valuable insights into the nature of academic publishing of *Journal of Financial Crime*. It can help *JFC* readers to understand the most striking contributions, highly cited journals, the most prolific authors, country productivity, and assorted parameters.

**Keywords** Journals, Financial crime, Research work, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics, Equal credit method, Citation counts

**Paper type** Research paper



## Introduction

Though the statistics was applied to study the literature in any subject but the first recorded study of bibliometric topic was in 1917 by Cole and Eales (1917) with the title “Statistical analysis of literature of history of comparative anatomy” which served as a model for applying the counting technique in the evaluation of international activities.

However, Prtichard (1969) pioneered the term “Bibliometrics” in 1969 to mean “the application of mathematics and statistical methods to books and other media of communications”. Roy (1983) has defined bibliometrics as a “study of the process of information use by analysing the characteristics of documents and their distribution by statistical methods”. There have been a good number of single journal bibliometric studies so far conducted by the LIS scholars from different parts of the world. However, the present study intends to measure the publication traits of *Journal of Financial Crime (JFC)* from 2006 to 2010 which has not yet been explored.

The *JFC* is an international peer reviewed quarterly journal hosted and published by Emerald. As stated in the home page, *JFC* aims to maintain its position as one of the leading sources of authoritative and detailed information on understanding the methods used in economic crime and the steps that can be taken to avoid and combat it. *JFC* delivers a series of analysis, briefings and updates. They are of direct relevance to practitioners, whilst ensuring the highest intellectual standards. As such, the journal is essential reading for all those concerned with the prevention, detection and prosecution of financial crime and the protection of assets. *JFC* is primarily intended for auditors, senior police officers, investigators, regulators and policy makers, bankers, lawyers, accountants, and academic researchers. *JFC* is indexed in ABI inform, Business Source, Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Economics and Finance, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Current Abstracts, OCLC-Electronic Collections Online, National Criminal Justice Reference Service Abstracts Database, TOC Premier, and Scopus ([www.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=jfc](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=jfc)). Therefore, a bibliometric study of this leading journal carries a vital significance to the scholars, academicians, people of financial institutions, teachers and scholars of bibliometric studies.

### Review of literature

As a platform to the present study, some of the pertinent studies conducted in the area of bibliometric studies are worthy of examination. In this context, Oyedokun (2001) analysed scientists’ activities in the agricultural research institutes in Nigeria and reported that activities of scientists in agricultural research institutes span through technological development and delivery. Thorpe (1990) made a study of agriculture research activity which was developed to assist in the evaluation of the knowledge transfer component of an agricultural research network involving the six southern core countries of South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay). Kumar and Gupta (2003) reviewed the different approaches for studying the growth of scientific knowledge as reflected by publication, and explored the applicability of selected models in the growth of world research output in the form of articles, patents and books in the field of chemical science. Yadava (1986) studied the communication trend of potato scientist and found that research journals are the main instrument of communication among them.

Jena (2006) in his study on “*Indian Journal of Fibre and Textile Research, 1996-2004*” provided vivid details of publication traits of this journal. Biswas *et al.* (2007) conducted a bibliometric study on “Economic botany” from 1994 to 2003 and revealed that among the citations, books accounted for 59 per cent, and articles 41 per cent and e-citations were quite negligible. Furthermore, they found that the highest numbers of contributions were emanated from academic institutions such as universities.

Willett (2008) found that many of the most cited papers in the *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* describe software packages that play a key role in modern chemoinformatics research. Zainab *et al.* (2009) in their bibliometric study on *Malaysian Journal of Computer Science* evaluated the article productivity of the journal from 1985 to 2007 using Lotka's Law. The study further revealed authorship, co-authorship pattern by degree of authors' collaboration that ranged from 0.25 to 0.95, and journal impact factor of *MJCS*. Asha and Anil (2010) undertook a bibliometric study of 4,798 citations appended to 400 articles in five volumes (2003-2007) of the *Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics* and found that the most cited documents are articles from research journals and the foreign authors have contributed more than Indian authors. Swain (2011) conducted a bibliometric study on *Library Philosophy and Practice* from 2004 to 2009 and found that journal articles were found to be the most frequently cited materials followed by books, and web resources. He observed that the degree of collaboration in LPP ranged from 0.22 to 0.52. Kumar and Moorthy (2011) analysed the publication pattern of *DESIDOC Journal of Library and Information Technology* during 2001-2010 and vividly discussed the content coverage, authorship patterns, subject wise distribution of articles. Hussain and Fatima (2011) conducted a bibliometric and analysis of *Chinese Librarianship: an International Electronic Journal* from 2006 to 2010 and revealed the scholarly communication trends of this journal during the period taken under study. However, the present study promises to add yet another portrait to the map of bibliometrics.

### Objectives of the study

The present study intends to analyze the publication trends in the journal *JFC* during the period 2006-2010. The main objectives of the study are:

- (1) to study the types of contributions;
- (2) to study the year wise distribution of articles published in the journal and the citations/references appended at the end of each articles;
- (3) to study the average length of articles published in *JFC*;
- (4) to study the bibliographical forms of documents published in *JFC*;
- (5) to study the authorship pattern;
- (6) to study the geographical distribution of contributors;
- (7) to study the ranking of journals; and
- (8) to study the chronological distribution of citations.

### Methodology

For the analysis of the study five volumes (Vols 13-17) containing 20 issues of *JFC* during the year 2006-2010 have been taken up for evaluation. The references appended at the end of each HTML version of article that appeared in Emerald Management Extra were copied and stored in a separate MS word file. The details with regard to each published article such as type of papers, number articles in each issue of the journal, number of references and their forms in each article, number of pages, number of authors, place of authors and the name of journals, etc. were recorded and analysed for making observations. The gathered data was then fed into MS-Excel 2007 software for subsequent analysis and interpretation. The tables were generated in accordance with the objectives of the study.

For the sake of convenience, only major forms of citations comprising of journals, books and web resources, were taken into the purview of the study while, seminar/workshop proceedings, reports, theses, notes, lectures, speeches, press releases, white papers, employment gazettes, interviews, commentary, news papers, news items and such other materials which were found relatively less by their individual numbers were clubbed up into others category. Furthermore, web resources were differentiated from electronic journals. The degree of collaboration (DC) of the contributors was derived using the Subramanyam (1983) formula:

$$DC = \frac{NM}{NM + NS}$$

where:

- DC = degree of collaboration.
- NM = number of multiple authored papers.
- NS = number of single authored papers.

### Types of contributions

The number of articles published under each category is depicted in Table I. The articles published in *JFC* have been broadly categorized into seven types namely, Research Paper, View Point, General Review, Case Study, Conceptual Paper, Technical Paper, and Literature Review. It is evident that more than half of the contributions fall under the category of Research Paper (58.06 per cent) followed by View Point (14.83 per cent), General Review (11.61 per cent). Contributions made towards Case Study (7.09 per cent), and Conceptual Paper (5.80 per cent) are found minimum. Concurrently, Technical Paper (1.29 per cent), Literature Review (0.64 per cent) are found to be quite less and negligible. Therefore, it is deduced that authors of *JFC* have primarily expressed their thought contents through research papers (Figure 1).

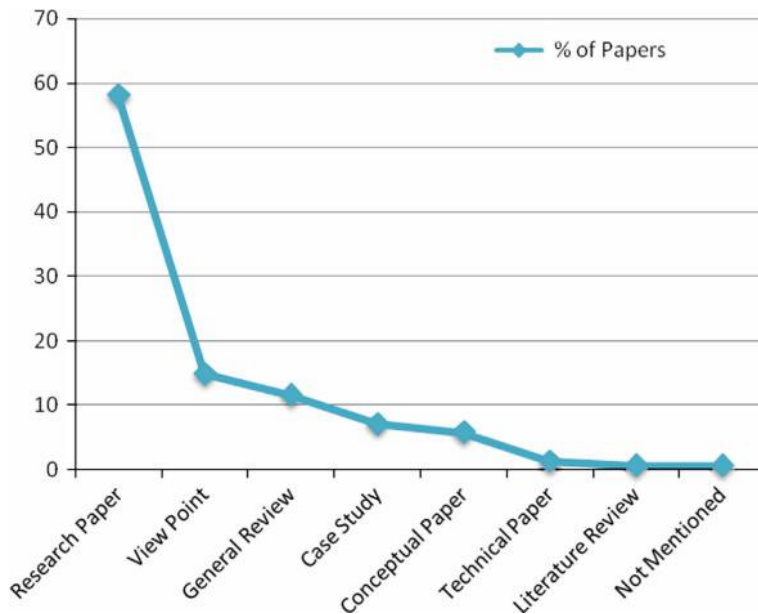
### Year wise distribution of articles and references

Table II shows the year wise distribution of articles and corresponding references. Out of the total 155 articles the highest numbers of articles were published in the year 2006 (33 articles) and lowest numbers of articles in the year 2008 (29 articles).

Though the number of articles published in each year remains at constant, the references cited in the articles have witnessed an increasing trend from year to year.

Sl no.	Types of paper	No. of papers	% of papers	Cumulative no.	Cumulative %
1	Research paper	90	58.065	90	58.065
2	View point	23	14.839	113	72.903
3	General review	18	11.613	131	84.516
4	Case study	11	7.097	142	91.613
5	Conceptual paper	9	5.806	151	97.419
6	Technical paper	2	1.290	153	98.710
7	Literature review	1	0.645	154	99.355
8	Not mentioned	1	0.645	155	100.000

**Table I.**  
Types of contributions



**Figure 1.**  
Types of contributions

Year	No. of articles	Cumulative total of articles	No. of citations	Cumulative total of citations	Average citations per article	Cumulative average of citations
2006	33	33	595	595	18.030	18.030
2007	32	65	639	1,234	19.969	18.985
2008	29	94	869	2,103	29.966	22.372
2009	30	124	893	2,996	29.767	24.161
2010	31	155	974	3,970	31.419	25.613

**Table II.**  
Year wise distribution of articles and references

It is evident that *JFC* authors have increasingly referred more and more documents in their research papers which has ensured qualitative research output.

### Length of articles

The study intended to know the average length of articles published in *JFC*. The results of the study are depicted in Table III.

Year	No. of articles	Cumulative total of articles	Pages	Cumulative total of pages	Average pages per article
2006	33	33	458	458	13.879
2007	32	65	468	926	14.625
2008	29	94	413	1,339	14.241
2009	30	124	415	1,754	13.833
2010	31	155	443	2,197	14.290

**Table III.**  
Length of articles

The lowest average pages per article (13.83 pages) were noticed in the year 2009 whereas, the highest average pages per article (14.62 pages) were found in the year 2007. On a total average, the length of articles published in *JFC* was found to be 14 pages which can be considered as an ideal length for a research paper that can in turn provide the authors to express their thought contents and research results more accurately and comprehensively.

### Bibliographical forms and ranking of documents

In the bibliometrics analysis, the study of bibliographical forms plays a crucial role in deciding authors' preferred channels of scholarly communication. Table IV represents the year wise distribution of citations and the ranking of documents as well. As stated in the methodology, here the authors have taken three major and key forms into the ambit of analysis. It is found that *JFC* authors have preferred journals (27.58 per cent) predominantly in their scholarly communications followed by books (20.73 per cent) and web resources (18.86 per cent). Rest forms like seminar/workshop proceedings, reports, theses, notes, lectures, speeches, press releases, white papers, employment gazettes, interviews, commentary, news papers, news items and such other materials which were clubbed up into the others category were appeared less by their individual numbers.

### Authorship pattern of documents

The authorship pattern determines whether the researches in a particular subject are prominent at the level of individual capacity or from the collaborative front. From Tables V and VI it is revealed that majority of authors preferred to publish the research results in single authorship mode (75.484 per cent) than the collaborative mode. It is evident that contributions made by two authors constituted 16.129 per cent, three authors 4.516 per cent and more than three authors 3.871 per cent.

**Table IV.**  
Bibliographical forms  
and ranking of  
documents

Rank	Bibliographical form	No. of citations	% of citations	Cumulative no. of citations	% of Cumulative citations
1	Journals	1,095	27.582	1,095	27.582
2	Books	823	20.730	1,918	48.312
3	Web	749	18.866	2,667	67.179
4	Others	1,303	32.821	3,970	100.000
	Total	3,970			

**Table V.**  
Authorship pattern  
of documents

Authorship pattern	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Single	28	22	20	23	24	117
Two	5	8	4	4	4	25
Three	0	2	2	2	1	7
> three	0	0	3	1	2	6
	33	32	29	30	31	155



The degree of collaboration of authors can be calculated as:

$$DC = \frac{38}{(38 + 117)} = 0.246$$

As DC value is less than 0.5 and tends to 0, it is deduced that single authored articles occupy the prominent position which makes it evident that revelation of solo research is quite intense in *JFC*.

### Prolific authors

There are a total of 220 authors who contributed articles to *JFC* during 2006-2010. It is evident from Table VII that Kristy Holtfreter (USA), Michel Dion (Canada),

Rank	Authorship pattern	No. of articles	% of articles	Cumulative articles	Cumulative % of articles
1	Single	117	75.484	117	75.484
2	Two	25	16.129	142	91.613
3	Three	7	4.516	149	96.129
4	> three	6	3.871	155	100.000
	Total	155			

**Table VI.**  
Ranking of authorship pattern

Sl no.	Rank	Name of authors	No. of contributions	Country
1	1	Kristy Holtfreter	3	USA
2	= 1	Michel Dion	3	Canada
3	= 1	Paul Larsson	3	Norway
4	= 1	Petter Gottschalk	3	Norway
5	2	Anthony Kennedy	2	UK
6	= 2	Antonello Biagioli	2	Italy
7	= 2	Brendan Quirke	2	UK
8	= 2	Carl Pacini	2	USA
9	= 2	Dayanath Jayasuriya	2	Srilanka
10	= 2	F.N. Baldwin	2	USA
11	= 2	George Gilligan	2	Australia
12	= 2	Hongming Cheng	2	Canada
13	= 2	John T. McCormick	2	USA
14	= 2	Joshua J.S. Chang	2	Australia
15	= 2	Kadriye Bakirci	2	Turkey
16	= 2	Louis de Koker	2	Australia
17	= 2	M. Michelle Gallant	2	Canada
18	= 2	Massimo Nardo	2	Italy
19	= 2	Michael D. Reisig	2	USA
20	= 2	Michael Levi	2	UK
21	= 2	Nlerum S. Okogbule	2	Nigeria
22	= 2	Rosalind Wright	2	UK
23	= 2	S.M. Solaiman	2	Australia
24	= 2	Simone White	2	Belgium
25	= 2	Tajudeen Olalekan Yusuf	2	Nigeria
26		Other 169 authors	1 each	-

**Table VII.**  
Ranking of authors



Paul Larsson (Norway), and Petter Gottschalk (Norway) have been featured as the most prolific authors of *JFC* who have contributed three articles each during the period taken under study. Concurrently, 21 authors have contributed two articles each and 167 authors have contributed one article each.

### Country productivity ranking

Table VIII depicts the country wise share of contributions of papers. Here, equal credit method (Chua *et al.*, 2002; Lowry *et al.*, 2007; Serenko *et al.*, 2010) is employed for ranking of country productivity by scores. In this method, each article is assigned one point which is equally shared among authors. For example, if an article has been contributed by  $n$  authors, then each author will earn  $1/n$  points for his country. For instance, three authors from USA, two authors from India, and one author from UK have contributed one article. In that case, each author will earn  $(1/6)$  a score of 0.16 for his country and by that way USA will score 0.48, India – 0.32, and UK – 0.16. In this study, the share of contribution of UK (33.17 points) is found to be greater than USA (31 points) though the number of contributors of USA (66) far ahead than UK (37). Concurrently, Canada (19 points, 23 authors), Australia (12 points, 14 authors), and Norway (six points, six authors) are ranked third, fourth and fifth, respectively. However, it is evident that USA share of contribution is dominated from the collaborative front.

### Ranking of journals

Out of the total 3,970 citations, journals have been cited as many as 1,095 times and constituted 27.58 per cent of total citations. Table IX reveals that *JFC*, which is taken as the source journal for the present study, gets the first position scoring the highest citations of 89 constituting 8.128 per cent of total citations. Concurrently, *Journal of Business Ethics* is ranked second (25 citations; 2.283 percent) and *Crime Law and Social Change* (19 citations; 1.735 per cent), *Journal of Money Laundering Control* (18 citations; 1.644 per cent) are ranked third and fourth, respectively. However, fifth rank is shared by *Journal of Finance* and *Journal of Risk and Insurance* (17 citations; 1.553 per cent each). In this way, top 20 journals which have been frequently cited by *JFC* authors carry nearly one-third of total citations.

### Chronological distribution of citations

The analysis of the age of citations helps to determine the useful life of information resources used in any field of knowledge. It is also used by academic librarians to maintain or discard documents in the library which would be no longer needed by researchers (Zainab *et al.*, 2009).

Table X (Figure 2) represents the age distribution of all documents. It is found that the citations of documents ranged from very recent year of publication to as old as documents of 358 years old, and the half life of the cited documents is five years.

### Findings

The findings of the study are summarized as:

- The contribution of articles to each volume of *JFC* is very consistent and it has published around 30 articles per year.
- The average citations per article are 25.61.

Rank	Score	Country	No. of authors
1	33.17	UK	37
2	31	USA	66
3	19	Canada	23
4	12	Australia	14
5	6	Norway	6
6	4.5	Jamaica	5
7	4	Italy	5
= 7	4	Nigeria	5
8	3	Hongkong	4
= 8	3	Malaysia	3
= 8	3	Turkey	3
9	2	Brazil	2
= 9	2	Ghana	2
= 9	2	India	2
= 9	2	Srilanka	2
= 9	2	UAE	2
10	1.5	Trinidad and Tobago	2
11	1	Barbados	1
= 11	1	Bermuda	3
= 11	1	Bulgaria	1
= 11	1	China	1
= 11	1	Cyprus	2
= 11	1	Egypt	1
= 11	1	Finland	2
= 11	1	France	1
= 11	1	Germany	1
= 11	1	Iran	3
= 11	1	Japan	1
= 11	1	Jordan	2
= 11	1	New Zealand	1
= 11	1	Pristina Kosovo	1
= 11	1	Romania	1
= 11	1	Serbia	5
= 11	1	South Africa	1
= 11	1	Sweden	1
= 11	1	Switzerland	2
= 11	1	Thailand	1
12	0.455	Belgium	2
13	0.125	Austria	1
= 13	0.125	Denmark	1
= 13	0.125	Peru	1
Total	155		220

Scholarly  
communication  
in *JFC***379****Table VIII.**  
Country productivity  
ranking (equal credit  
method)

- The average number of pages per article is 14.174.
- It is found that the journal citations are predominant (27.582 per cent) of the total citations followed by the books (20.730 per cent) and web resources (18.866 per cent).
- Single authored papers are found to be the highest followed by two-authored and then three-authored papers. The degree of collaboration in *JFC* is found to be 0.246.

Sl no.	Rank	Name of journal	No. of occurrence	Cumulative occurrence	% of occurrence	Cumulative % of occurrence
1	1	<i>Journal of Financial Crime</i>	89	89	8.128	8.128
2	2	<i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>	25	114	2.283	10.411
3	3	<i>Crime Law and Social Change</i>	19	133	1.735	12.146
4	4	<i>Journal of Money Laundering Control</i>	18	151	1.644	13.790
5	5	<i>Journal of Finance</i>	17	168	1.553	15.342
6	= 5	<i>Journal of Risk and Insurance</i>	17	185	1.553	16.895
7	6	<i>Criminology</i>	16	201	1.461	18.356
8	7	<i>British Journal of Criminology</i>	15	216	1.370	19.726
9	8	<i>Journal of Political Economy</i>	12	228	1.096	20.822
10	= 8	<i>Journal of Financial Economics</i>	12	240	1.096	21.918
11	9	<i>Journal of Criminal Justice</i>	11	251	1.005	22.922
12	10	<i>Journal of Public Economics</i>	9	260	0.822	23.744
13	= 10	<i>Research in Corporate Social Performance and Policy</i>	9	269	0.822	24.566
14	11	<i>American Sociological Review</i>	8	277	0.731	25.297
15	= 11	<i>Company Lawyer</i>	8	285	0.731	26.027
16	= 11	<i>Harvard Law Review</i>	8	293	0.731	26.758
17	= 11	<i>National Tax Journal</i>	8	301	0.731	27.489
18	= 11	<i>Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies &amp; Management</i>	8	309	0.731	28.219
19	12	<i>Australian Journal of Corporate Law</i>	7	316	0.639	28.858
20	= 12	<i>Crime and Delinquency</i>	7	323	0.639	29.498
21	13	5 nos of journals	6	353	0.548	32.237
22	14	9 nos of journals	5	398	0.457	36.347
23	15	14 nos of journals	4	454	0.365	41.461
24	16	26 nos of journals	3	532	0.274	48.584
25	17	81 nos of journals	2	694	0.183	63.379
26	18	401 nos of journals	1	1,095	0.091	100.000

**Table IX.**  
Ranking of journals

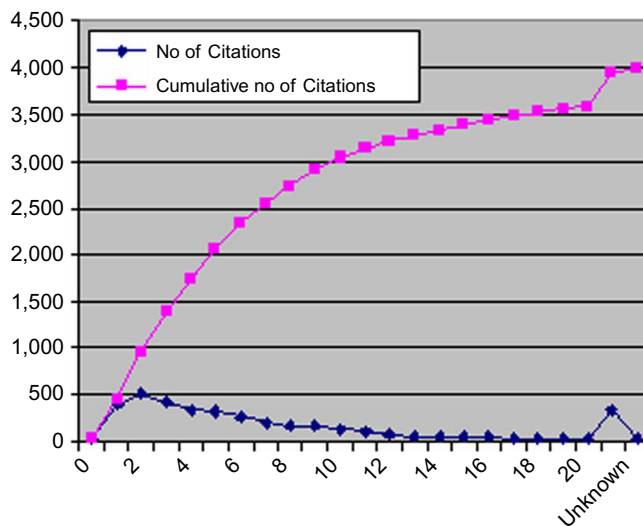
- In regards to country productivity, UK topped the list followed by USA, Canada, and Australia.
- *JFC* which is the source journal leads the table followed by *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Crime Law and Social Change*, and *Journal of Money Laundering Control*.
- The half life period of document citations is five years.

### Conclusion

Bibliometric study of a single journal provides a portrait of the concerned journal by indicating the quality, maturity and productivity of the journal. It informs about the research orientation that the journal supports to disseminate and its influence on author's choice as a channel to communicate or retrieve information for their research needs (Zainab *et al.*, 2009). In the aforesaid direction, *JFC* from 2006 to 2010 was evaluated through required bibliometric measures. From the findings of the study it

Sl no.	Age of document	No. of citations	Cumulative no. of citations	% of citations	Cumulative % of citations
1	0	44	44	1.108	1.108
2	1	411	455	10.353	11.461
3	2	512	967	12.897	24.358
4	3	416	1,383	10.479	34.836
5	4	354	1,737	8.917	43.753
6	5	331	2,068	8.338	52.091
7	6	272	2,340	6.851	58.942
8	7	205	2,545	5.164	64.106
9	8	181	2,726	4.559	68.665
10	9	170	2,896	4.282	72.947
11	10	128	3,024	3.224	76.171
12	11	114	3,138	2.872	79.043
13	12	74	3,212	1.864	80.907
14	13	54	3,266	1.36	82.267
15	14	62	3,328	1.562	83.829
16	15	58	3,386	1.461	85.29
17	16	53	3,439	1.335	86.625
18	17	39	3,478	0.982	87.607
19	18	33	3,511	0.831	88.438
20	19	35	3,546	0.882	89.32
21	20	35	3,581	0.882	90.202
22	>20 < 359	353	3,934	8.892	99.094
23	Unknown	36	3,970	0.907	100.000

**Table X.**  
Chronological  
distribution of citations



**Figure 2.**  
Chronological  
distribution of citations

is evident that *JFC* has indeed taken a leading role in the field of economics by accommodating scholarly papers of 220 authors representing 41 countries which reflect the popularity of the journal at the top of the world. Moreover, it is further evident that editorial policy of this journal has made a balance in the quantity and quality

of publications over last five years. It is expected that the journal will solicit more qualitative contributions and will strive hard to enhance its values tailoring to the practical needs of economists, practitioners of financial institutions, students, teachers, and research scholars of economics in the days ahead.

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