



“Updating the evolution of nursing research journals on journal citation report: 2009 to 2015”: Author’s reply



To the Editor:

We want to thank Rico et al., 2017 for their letter and contributions related to our article “Impact factor evolution of nursing research journals: 2009 to 2014” (Cáceres et al., 2017). Although we admit little differences with the data presented by our colleagues, these may be due to the following. An up-to-date journal citation report (JCR) version is currently available in which the handling of historical impact factor (IF) data from scientific journals is very simple. It is now possible to export the data automatically to an excel sheet, allowing the possibility of facilitating bibliometric analysis such as the one we performed. That tool was not available at the time our study was done, so we did it manually and therefore with much more effort and less precise.

The differences between the previous JCR version and the brand new one can be visualized by searching, for example, the *European Journal of Critical Care* and selecting in the searching criteria at Science Citation Index the year 2009. This way, that journal does not appear in the database. Taking into account this fact, the total amount of journals included in the year 2009 would be 72 and not 73. This clearly explains why certain data related to the IF may not have been included in some journals because the old tool we had available at the time of our analysis was not the same one that the one we currently have access to. In any case, the authors do apologize if some data have been omitted by mistake, as a result of the manual introduction of all data (Thomson Reuters, 2016).

We take advantage of the unique opportunity offered by *Nursing Outlook* to update our data including the year 2015. From 73 journals included in 2009 (*European Journal of Critical Care* was manually included, IF average = 0.977; standard deviation [SD] = 0.42) in the Science Citation Index, to the 116 that we can find in 2015 (IF average = 1.14; SD = 0.60), an increase of 58.9% has occurred (data extracted

from JCR on April 28, 2017). Analyzing exclusively the shift in IF of the journals that have IF throughout the period 2009 to 2015 ($n = 72$), statistically significant differences were found (Greenhouse–Geisser statistics: degrees of freedom = 3.8; $F = 6.474$; $p < .001$).

As pointed out in our article, there exists a slow but progressive increase in the IF average of the 72 journals who kept their presence during the whole 7 years studied (from IF average = 0.986 in 2009 to IF average = 1.246 in 2015, with a total increase of 26.3%).

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