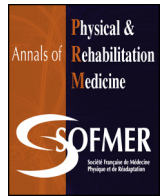




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Editorial

Outstanding increase in immediate citations of *Annals* articles



Much effort has been made to increase the quality of the *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* [1,2], and the feedback from readers, authors, and reviewers confirms that we are reaching this objective. This enhancement is documented by bibliometric indices, particularly the number of citations per document in a 2-year period. For the *Annals*, this number is 1.69 for 2016 (SCImago ranking; <http://www.scimagojr.com>). In the SCImago database, this number corresponds to a rank of 22 among 125 journals in the category Rehabilitation and 64 among 240 in the category Orthopaedics and Sport Medicine. The advance is spectacular in the category Rehabilitation, with a gain of 26 places in the rating since 2010.

Most bibliometric indices evolve with some inertia linked to the time period over which the citations are monitored; thus, it takes some time to prove that a journal with a modest ranking in the past is progressing upwards. Within the myriad bibliometric indices, the Immediacy Index (Journal Citation Report [JCR], Clarivate analytics) is well suited to early detect transformations in a journal's status. This index represents the average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published. It indicates how quickly articles in a given journal are cited, so it detects the journal's capacity to promote cutting-edge research and announces interesting perspectives (Clarivate analytics). It is calculated by dividing the number of citations for articles published in a given year by the number of citable articles published in the journal in that year; and displayed in the JCR. Consistently, the aggregate Immediacy Index presented in the JCR indicates how quickly articles in a category are cited (Clarivate analytics).

In 2016, the aggregate Immediacy Index was 0.40 for the category Rehabilitation. The estimated 2016 Immediacy index for the *Annals* would be 0.55. This outstanding score is obtained as follows: papers published in the *Annals* in 2016 were cited 24 times in the 2016 Web of Science (Clarivate analytics), divided by the 44 source items published in the *Annals* in 2016. This number is far greater than that for the average article in the category Rehabilitation and would correspond to a rank of 11 among the 65 Rehabilitation journals covered by the JCR. These data confirm the trend noticed in 2015 (Fig. 1), the first year the *Annals* was published entirely in English [2].

Most *Annals* papers immediately cited were part of the special issues “Osteoarthritis” (coordinated by Drs. François Rannou and Emmanuel Coudeyre) and “Behavioral Disorders after Traumatic Brain Injury” coordinated by Drs. Jacques Luauté and Philippe Azouvi and conveying several recommendations of the French Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The greatest number of immediate citations was 5, for the article “Risk factors

Estimation of the Immediacy Index for the *Annals*

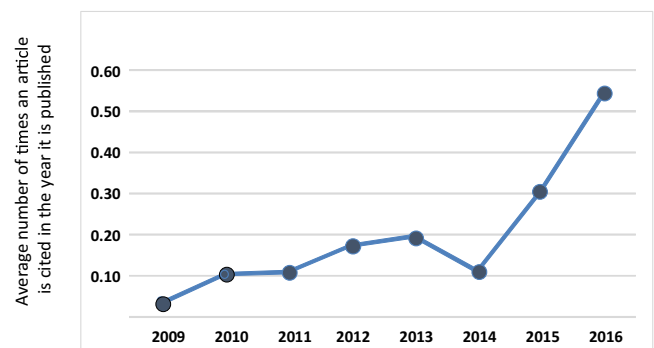


Fig. 1. Average number of times an article published in the *Annals* (source article) is cited during the year it is published, showing a clear increase since 2015, the year when the *Annals* started to be published entirely in English (previously, French–English bilingual edition). Of note, the 2016 aggregate Immediacy Index was 0.40 for the category Rehabilitation in the Journal Citation Report.

and burden of osteoarthritis”, by Palazzo et al. [3]. We were also delighted to see that three papers were cited by top-tier journals. A systematic review by Gay et al. [4], on educating patients about the benefits of physical activity and exercise for their hip and knee osteoarthritis, was cited by *The Lancet* (2017 Impact Factor [IF] 47.8). The paper by Luauté et al. [5], reporting French recommendations on management of the agitation or aggressiveness crisis in patients with traumatic brain injury, was cited by *The Lancet Psychiatry* (IF 11.6) and by *Nature Reviews Neurology* (IF 20.3). The paper by Plantier and Luauté reporting French recommendations on drugs for behavior disorders after traumatic brain injury [6] was also cited by *The Lancet Psychiatry* (IF 11.6). The immediacy of these citations, together with the quality of the citing journals, shows that the *Annals of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* is becoming a recognized international platform for academic exchange related to rehabilitation.

Disclosure of interest

The author has not supplied his declaration of competing interest.

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