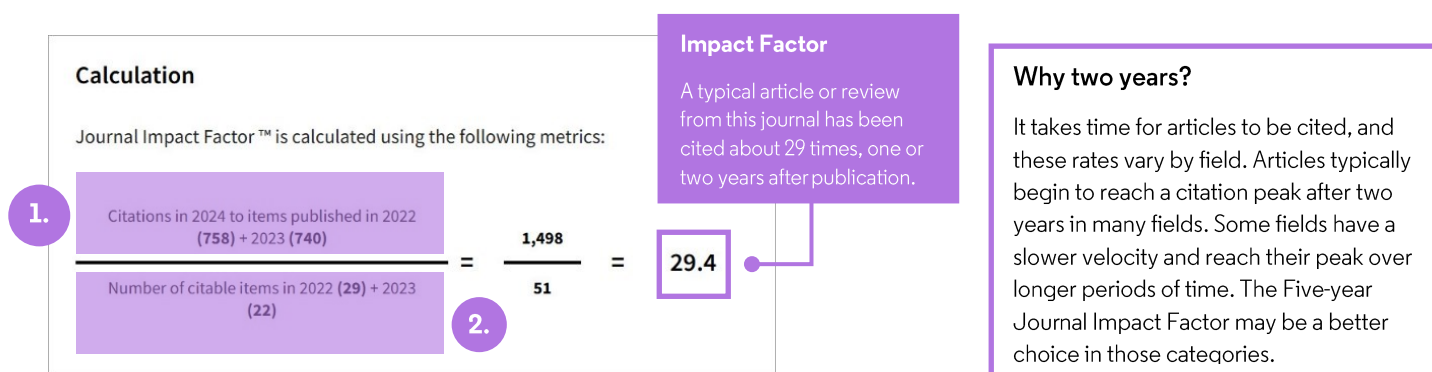


Journal Impact Factor (JIF)

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is a ratio which divides a journal's received citations by a count of its published articles. It's not a mathematical average, but it does provide an approximation of the mean citation rate for a typical article. The detailed explanation below will help you understand exactly what is counted in both the numerator and denominator of this ratio.

The anatomy of the Journal Impact Factor:



1. JIF numerator

A subset of all citations to this journal in the calendar year: citations only to items with a publication date from the prior two years.

These citations are sourced from all item types included in Web of Science Core Collection indexes:

- ✓ Science Citation Index Expanded
- ✓ Social Sciences Citation Index
- ✓ Arts & Humanities Citation Index
- ✓ Proceedings Citation Indexes
- ✓ Book Citation Indexes
- ✓ Emerging Sources Citation Indexes

Citations to all document types, even those excluded from the denominator, are included. Visit [this site](#) for details on the inclusion of Early Access content.

New from this year's JCR release:

Citations to and from retracted content are excluded from the JIF numerator. This ensures that **citations from retracted articles do not contribute to the numerical value of the JIF**, improving the metric's integrity. Read more [here](#).

2. JIF denominator

The number of citable items this journal published in the prior two years.

Items identified in Web of Science Core Collection as Articles or Reviews are included here as citable items. These represent the size of the scholarly contributions of the journal. Items like editorials, letters, and news items are excluded from the denominator. These serve a different communications role that is not generally reflected through scholarly citation. The contributions of these materials to JIF are visualized in the Citation Distribution graph.

Note: Retracted articles are still included in the JIF denominator as citable items, maintaining transparency and accountability.

Best practices when using the JIF:

- JIF values vary by discipline. What is good in one category may be very different than another.
- JIF is most useful when considered through the category percentile or quartile data which allow comparison of relative citation impact across different fields.
- JIF is a journal-level metric. It **does not** measure the contribution of individual papers or authors.