

The Impact of the Open-Access Ophthalmology Journals Status on Journal Indices

Saif Aldeen AlRyalat, MBBS* Mouna Al Saad, MBBS, Certificate of Higher Specialisation in Ophthalmology, CJB Ophthalmology, FRCS (Ophth) Glasgow** Ahmed Al Amer, LRCPI &SI, MBBCh, BAO, PgDip LHPE*
Siraj Mohammad Saleem*** Mohammad Madi Ahmad*** Hamad Alrashidi*** Fayeze Alazmi***
Yousef Mallah*** Hussain Dashti*** Eid Albuainain*** Alaa Abed, MD*

Background: In recent years, there has been an increasing trend towards open-access (OA) publishing.

Objective: To evaluate the current status of OA Scopus-indexed journals of ophthalmology regarding quality and volume.

Design: A Cross-Sectional Study.

Setting: University of Jordan Hospital, Amman, Jordan.

Method: Active journals indexed by Scopus in 2017 were investigated. Data were gathered and filtered into OA or non-OA ophthalmology journals. Eight variables were adopted to compare the quality of the included journals namely: CiteScore, CiteScore Percentile, Citation Count, Scholarly Output, Percent Cited, SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP), and SCImago Quartiles.

Result: One hundred eight ophthalmology journals were indexed by Scopus in 2017. OA journals were 29 (26.9%). We found that OA journals did not have higher impact indices, and the only index that differs between OA and non-OA ophthalmology journals was SJR.

Conclusion: The increasing demand of OA publishing has not yet been linked to improved quality and citation advantage.