

UNDERSTANDING SCOPUS RE-EVALUATION CRITERIA AND HOW TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND IMPACT OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS



Peter Brimblecombe
School of Energy and Environment
City University of Hong Kong

NEED TO RE-EVALUATE

- Maintaining high-quality content in Scopus
- Annual journal re-evaluation process to maintain content quality
- Journals must also demonstrate the ability to maintain their quality status year over year.

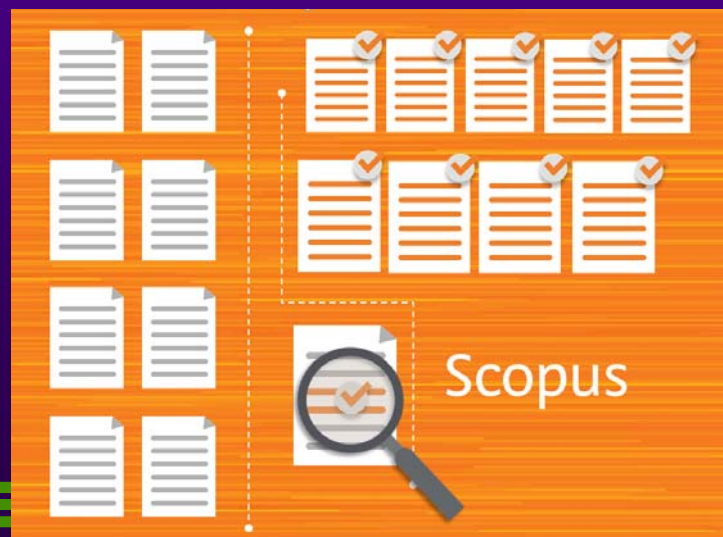
RE-EVALUATION

- More citation information on where and how they arrive, but often low rates for re-evaluated journals
- Are the articles of high quality, but not being cited?
- Has country of origin changed?
- Have the article topics changed?

Journals occupying niche areas or at subject boundaries can be especially vulnerable, so much care needed at re-evaluation

RE-EVALUATION

- **Metrics and benchmarks –performance**
- **Publication concerns - ethical issues**
- **Radar – outlier**



PUBLICATION CONCERNS

- Re-evaluation based on publication concerns on either publisher or journal level
- Concerns identified by the Scopus team or the research community

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RADAR TOOL

CHECKING THE FULL SCOPUS JOURNAL LIST

- Elsevier data analytics algorithm identifies outlier journal behavior in Scopus database
 - rapid and unexplainable number of articles published
 - changes in geographical of authors diversity or affiliations
 - self-citation rate and publication concerns
- Once flagged by Radar tool journal will be re-evaluation

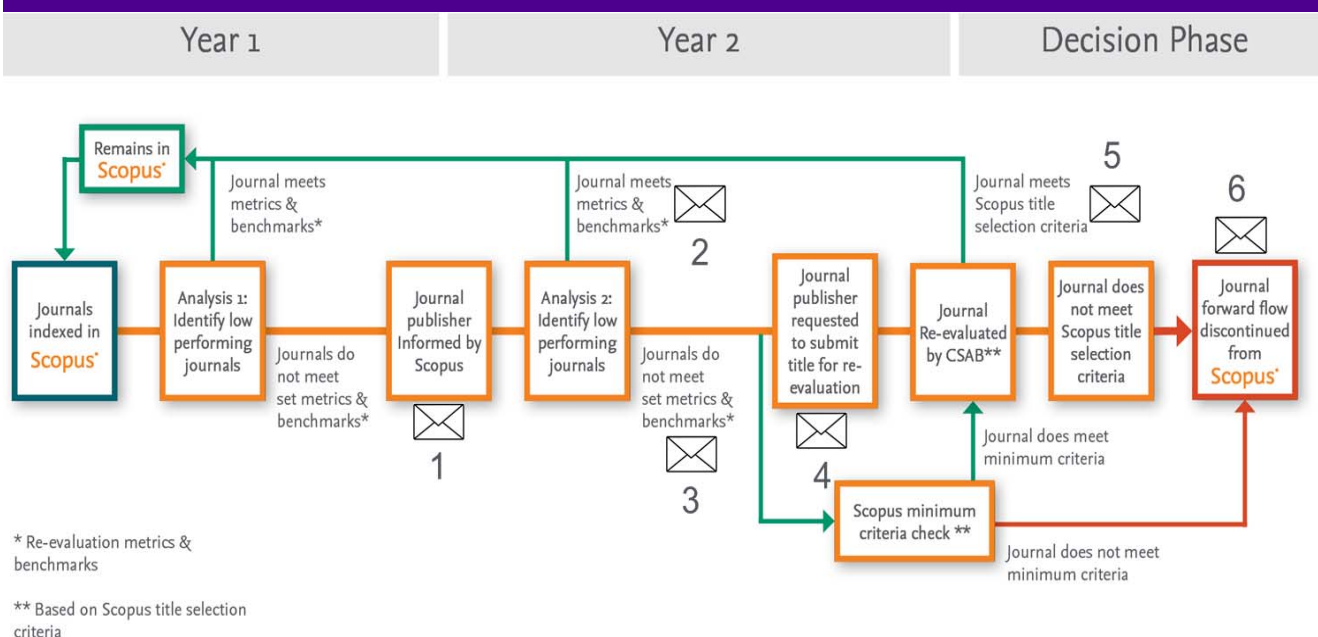


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PERFORMANCE

Self-citations	200%	The journal has a self-citation rate two times higher, or more, when compared to peer journals in its subject field.
Citations	50%	The journal received half the number of citations, when compared to peers.
Impact Per Publication	50%	The journal has an IPP score half or less than the average IPP score, when compared to peers.
Article Output	50%	The journal produced half, or less, the number of articles, when compared to peer.
Abstract Usage	50%	The journal's abstract are used half as much, or less, when compared to peers.
Full Text Links	50%	The journal's full text are used half as much, or less, when compared to peers.

RE-EVALUATION SEQUENCE



JOURNAL OF BOTANICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARLY JOURNALS INC

- Claims to be based in US, yet almost no articles from US
 - India 100 Nigeria 87 China 46 Egypt 42 Saudi 24 Brazil 22 M'aysia 22 Ghana 18 Iran 13
- Web site seems to be in Dubai
- Vast number of editors and none from US universities or institutes
- Time between to acceptance is very short
- Articles general, not discipline specific
- English was poor in all cases examined

IDENTIFYING POOR QUALITY AND PREDATORY JOURNALS EVALUATION AND RE-EVALUATION

- Criteria are the same in both as the standard evaluation and re-evaluation the processes
- However, some shift in priorities

RE-EVALUATION ISSUES

- Difficulties in attracting referees may lead to unqualified or even biased referees
- Hard to sense reading the published papers that there has been serious peer review
 - Noticeably out-of-scope
 - Poor diagrams
 - Strange mathematical expressions
 - Mere descriptions of results
 - No conclusions – paper just ends
 - Naïve science

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RE-EVALUATION ISSUES

- Claims of double blind
 - Seem unlikely many times
 - Double blind can be complex



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CONTENT QUALITY

- Quality of layout counts
- Figures can be revealing cut from Excel!
- Are abstracts useful?
- Are the articles readable and not plagiarised
- Look at the hypotheses and conclusions especially
- Frequent problems
 - descriptive/repetitive
 - essay/review lacking intellectual synthesis

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EDITORIAL BOARD

- Who are the members?
- Are they aware of their membership?
- Do they really play a role in the journal?
- ... hard to know as I found:
 - Dead board members
 - One committed to a mental institution!
 - Climate deniers dominating a climate change board
 - Students, without special knowledge
- Board never meets



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LACK OF CLARITY OVER BUSINESS MODEL

- How is the journal financed?
- Is there a subscription cost?
- Often difficult establish the publishing costs to the author



CONFORMITY WITH STATED AIMS AND SCOPE

- Are the articles recognisably associated with the journal title and scope?
- Are they reasonably distributed across the scope?



JOURNAL STANDING - CITATIONS

- What percentage of articles have been cited?
- How many times are articles cited?
- How recent are the citations?
- Who is citing the articles?
- What country does the citation come from?

Inclusion in Scopus may shift this so at re-evaluation citations give a better sense of the trajectory





Cite this article: Letchford A, Moat HS, Preis T. 2015 The advantage of short paper titles. *R. Soc. open sci.* **2**: 150266. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.150266>

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The advantage of short paper titles

Adrian Letchford, Helen Susannah Moat and Tobias Preis

Data Science Lab, Behavioural Science, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK

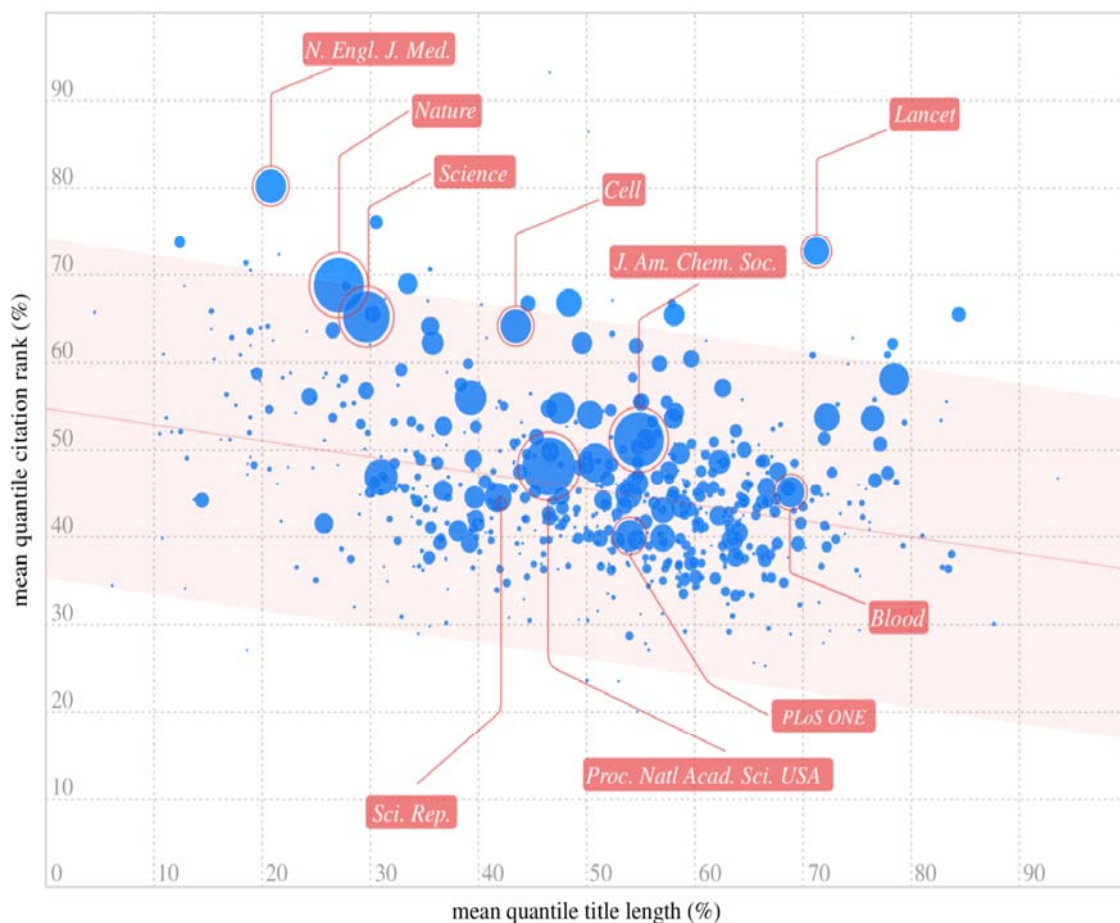


Figure 3. Journals which publish papers with shorter titles receive more citations per paper. For each year in our dataset, we rank all of

IMPROVE KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACTS

- **KEYWORDS**

More than a copy of words in the title

- **ABSTRACTS**

Well structured –

Often include ideas concepts in keywords

Give results not promises: Numbers, equations, results

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Often seem to be omitted by many authors
- Is this simply a case study?
- Description without hypothesis
- This often leads to weak conclusions

Some articles seem to be data in search
of a hypothesis....

PROPER REFERENCING

- References refer to respected sources
- General claims general sources/references (a review?)
- Specific claims require specific sources
- Placement – specific at the right point
- Reference lists – not excessively long
- Proper balance of self-citation
- Extraordinary claims require extraordinary references

HENS HAVE TEETH

"quand les poules auront des dents"

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REVIEWS

CAN BE INVITED

- Types of reviews.
 - Clinical reviews
 - Data synthesis e.g. global budgets
 - Literature reviews
- Can be used to refocus a journal
- Especially after changes to scope or title
- Attract large numbers of citations if:
 - timely
 - represents a novel intellectual synthesis
 - redirects the field

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PROBLEMS WITH REVIEWS

- Simple listing of literature
- Crude bibliometric analysis with little reason or sense of direction
- Often require
 - Novel intellectual synthesis
 - Projecting future directions

NOVELTY

DIFFERENT TYPES OF NOVELTY

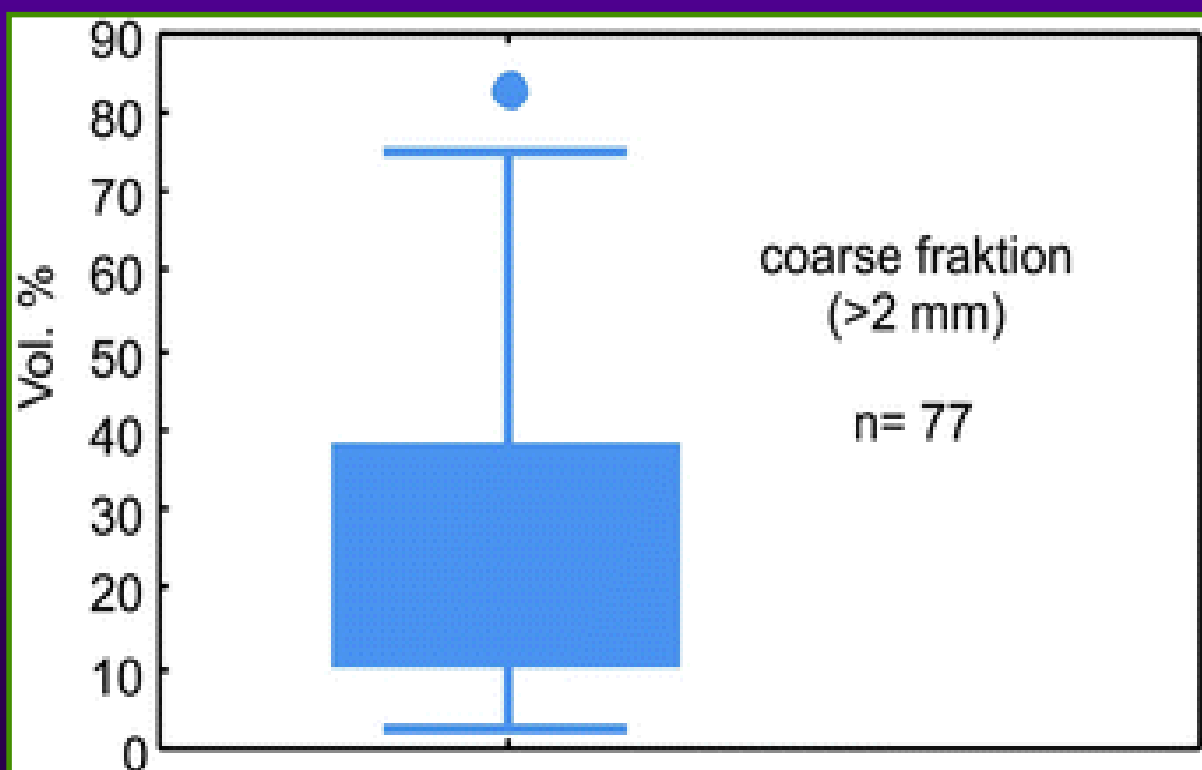
- In research- often clearest innovation
- Repeats earlier work at new location, chemical, species...
 - Can easily become descriptive
- In interpretation – linked to other work
 - This is the hardest and is the most effort
- In conclusion

FIGURES

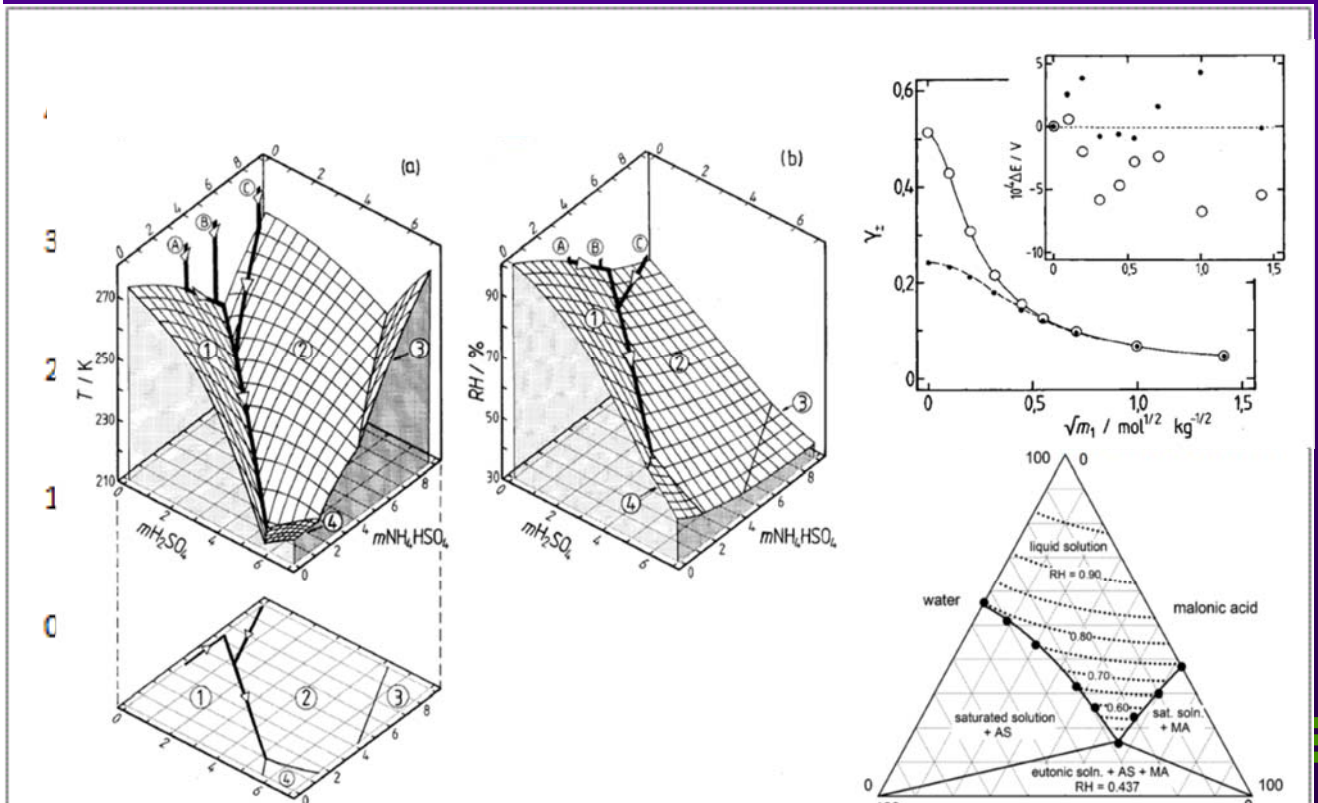
- Often seem cut and pasted from Excel!
- Not always tuned to understanding the data
- Poorly positioned and
- Mock 3-D very popular!

Suggests a lack of professionalism....

LOW INFORMATION CONTENT



FIGURES RELEVANT TO THE TASK



REFEREES

- Critical to journal quality
- Choice and matching to expertise critical
- Citation analysis
 - a referee will likely review a paper from an author that they cite
- Attracting the referee by defining role i.e.:
 - noting recent relevant work
 - just statistics
 - overview
 - context

**DON'T OVERUSE
REVIEWERS – I HAD
53 IN 2019**

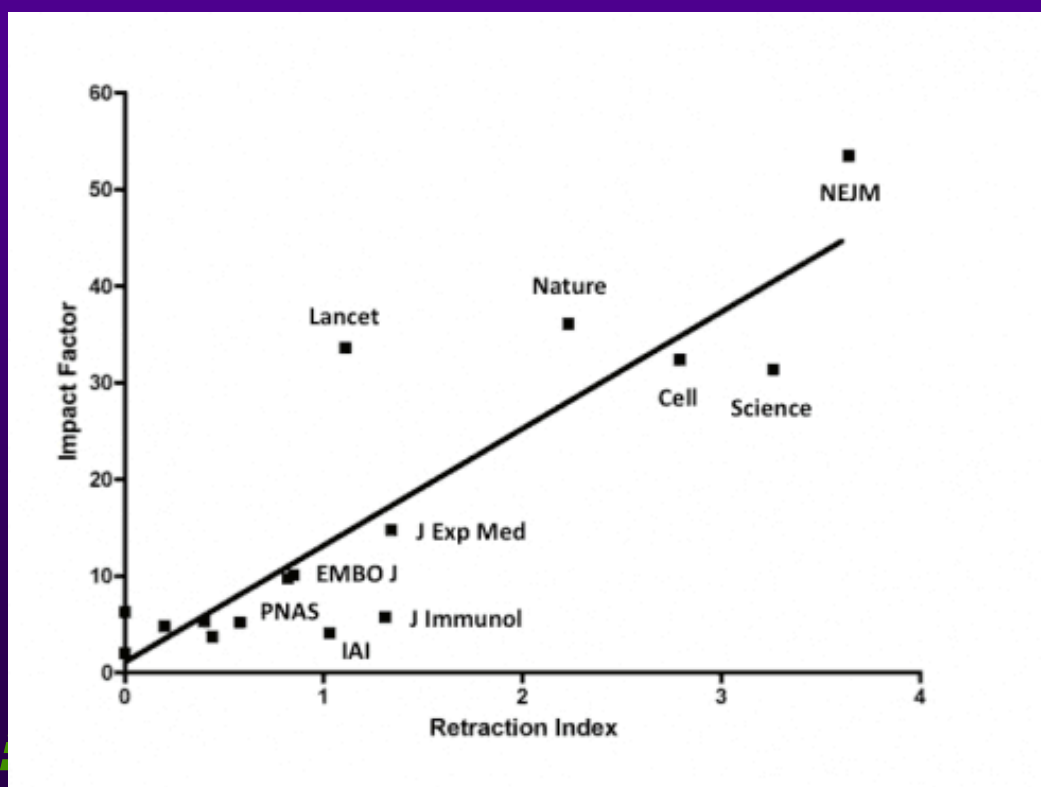
IMPACT FACTOR– WEAKNESSES

CITESCORE TRIES TO IMPROVE

- Politics of impact factors
- Delays to publication
- Citation engineering
- (Mis)calculation of impact factors: N_{cit}/N_{art}
- Time span and citation half lives
- Individual impact: IF ~ 20% of variance

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HIGHER IMPACT FACTOR HIGHER RETRACTION FREQUENCY



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INCREASING THE IMPACT FACTOR

- Increasing quality
- Care with short/preliminary communications
- Publishing timely reviews
- Increasing publication speed
- Integrated cross-referenced special issues
- Requiring updated reference lists
- Saving good articles for beginning of year
- ORCID

**Generally
regarded as
ethical...**

INCREASING THE IMPACT FACTOR

- Increasing collaborative authorship
...may have ethical risks
- Publicity via journal board or authors
- Press release

**Generally
regarded as
ethical...**

PRESS RELEASES

Profile of interesting, but potentially neglected papers

Carbon in Black Crusts from the Tower of London

DRA BONAZZA,* PETER COMBE,** CARLOTTA M. AND CRISTINA SABBIONI*
*CNR, Bologna 40129, Italy, and School of Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK



Stones of cathedral tell corrosive story



investigates the origin, fluxes, and transformation of carbon compounds within black crusts on the stone of the Tower of London. The crusts were analyzed for elemental carbon and organic carbon, including the water soluble fraction. Elemental carbon and low solubility compounds appeared to be conserved because of long residence times. Conversely, more soluble ions, like nitrate, would be removed from the layers quickly by rainfall. At higher organic carbon contents, acetic acid may be produced within the crusts through biological transformations. Currently, traffic is the main contributor to increasingly organic rich crusts. The presence of elemental carbon to buildings darkens them and has important aesthetic implications. The

documented. Nevertheless, we have tried to examine samples of crust from the Tower of London to gain an understanding of the deposition, transformation, and accumulation of disfiguring black layers on urban stone surfaces.

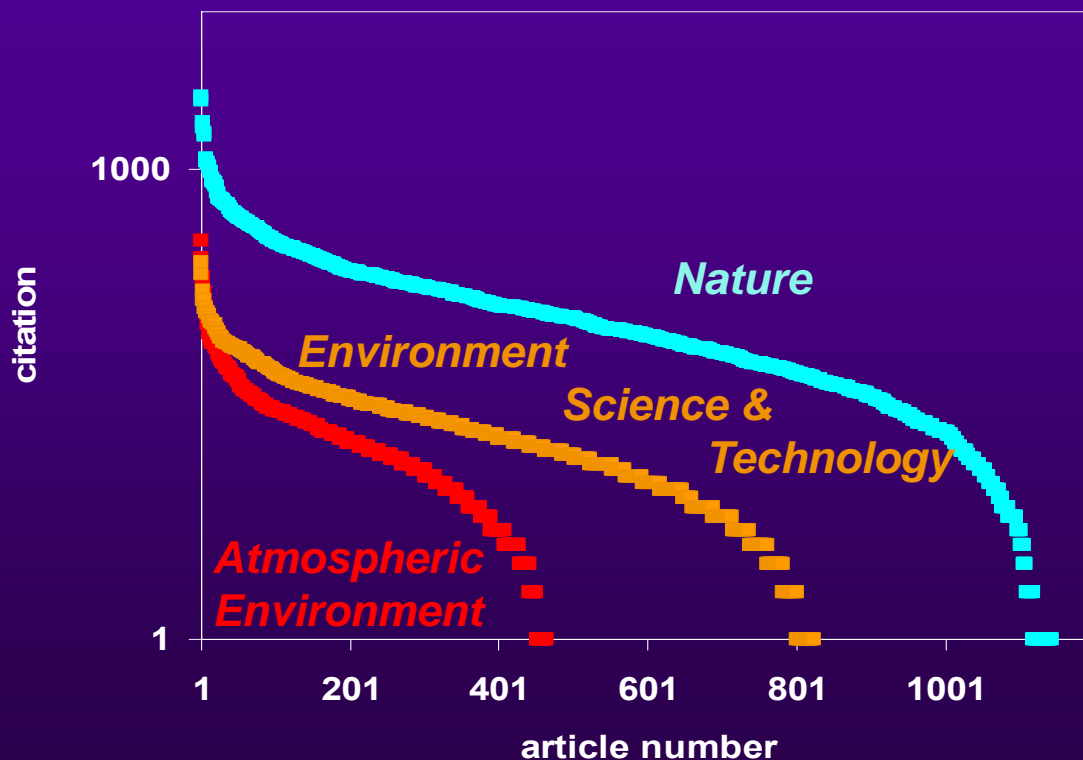
Experimental Section

Tower of London. The Tower of London incorporates many buildings in addition to the central *White Tower* and is divided into three fortified wards: the *Inmost Ward*, comprising the central and Norman parts of the building (5). To the north, east, and west, this is surrounded by the *Inner Ward*, and beyond lies the *Outer Ward*, a fortified corridor created at the end of the 13th century. The wharf and moat revetment are outside these wards. More than twenty different stones were employed during the centuries of construction. One widely used material was a hard limestone (Kentish Ragstone), which is most frequently encountered in uncoursed walling (6), and is the substrate for most of the sampling undertaken during this project.

Environment. Since the late 13th century London has been a polluted city. The last 100 years have seen a transition from coal smoke to emissions from petrol and later diesel fuels (7). In the Victorian period, English cities were badly polluted, and building stones rapidly became blackened and damaged by sulfation (8). Although there have been many improvements in overall air quality in the last 50 years, emissions in central London remain high. Before the 1950s air pollution came from coal burning (3), and contained elemental carbon (with adsorbed organic compounds) and

Europhotonics, press, television, radio... even National Geographic!

CUMMULATIVE CITATIONS



CITATION ENGINEERING

... typically by increasing internal citations

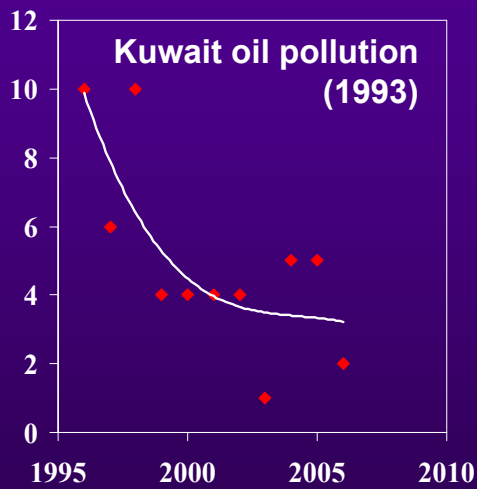
- Increasing the number of citable non-article items: letters, product reviews etc
- Writing heavily self-referenced editorials
- Pressuring authors to cite the journal
- Manipulating the reference lists

Usually regarded as unethical...?

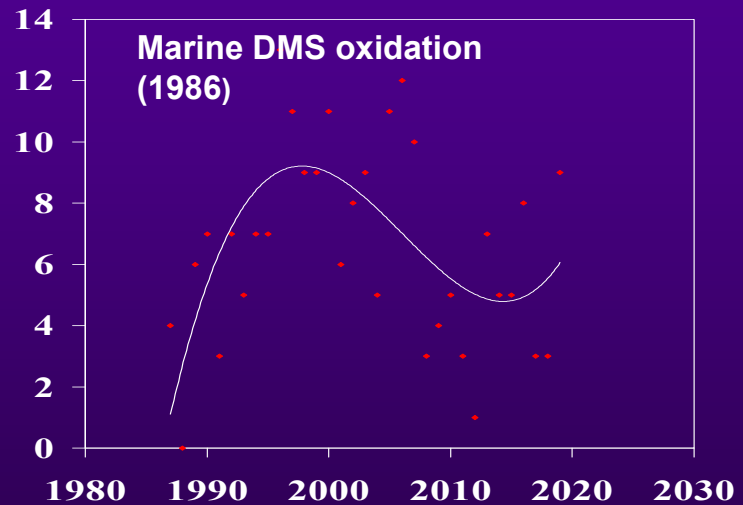
IMPACT OR INFLUENCE

- Impact factors or cite-scores relate to journals
- H-index, citations relate to authors
- Citations derive from authors: down loads from readers
- Citations have long growth times: downloads grow quickly
- Indices derive from commercial products, so reflect their design criteria

CITATION RATES CLASSIC TREND vs SLEEPERS



Event based or temporary relevance



An idea ahead of its time...

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IMPACT OR INFLUENCE

- Almost undefinable, but understood with research fields
- Not equivalent to metrics
- *Studies in Conservation* CiteScore = 0.55
- Readers not authors
- Many downloads
- Big impact
- Takes time to acquire



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ALTMETRICS

- Alternate measures of impact because of problems:

Citations accrue slowly

Some fields citation is rare

Does not account for use by non-authors

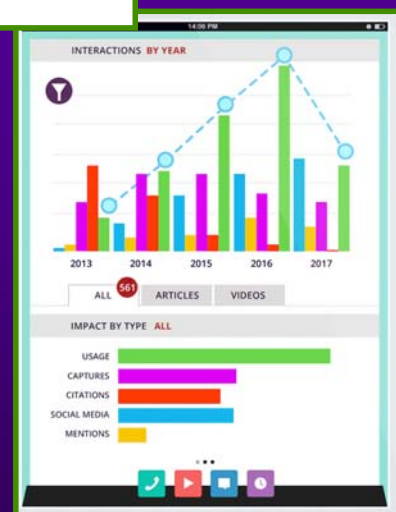


<https://www.elsevier.com/authors-update/story/impact-metrics/citescore-a-new-metric-to-help-you-choose-the-right-journal>

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PlumX METRICS

- Usage: clicks, downloads
- Captures: bookmarks
- Mentions: news, blog posts
- Social media: Facebook likes

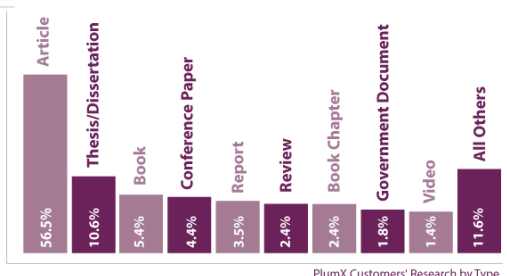


What is Research Output?

There are **67** ARTIFACT TYPES

Research output is more than articles.

Measure it ALL



PlumX Customers' Research by Type

<http://plumanalytics.com/>

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THE END



Peter Brimblecombe

School of Energy and Environment
City University of Hong Kong