

# Finding Influential journals:

## Journal Citation Reports (powered by Web of Science)

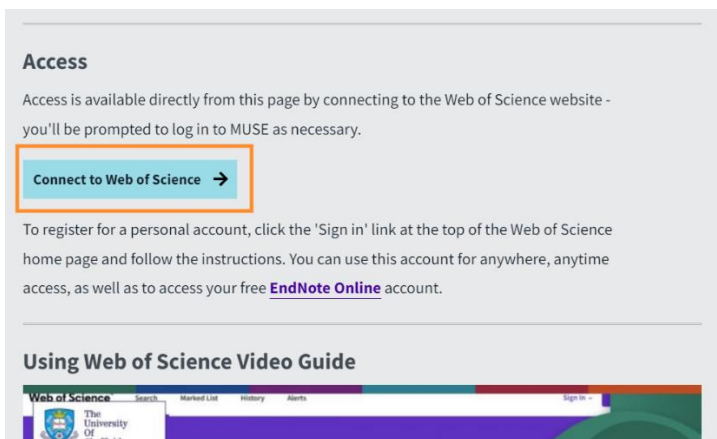
Journal Citation Reports uses citation data from Web of Science to help users compare academic journals. It is the source of the Journal Impact Factor metric and can be used to find the impact factor of any journal that has one, as well as a range of other citation metrics.

You can use it to look up citation data on individual journals, or view lists of journals in a particular subject area ranked according to various different metrics. This can help you to identify the highly-cited journals in your subject area.

When comparing journals, it is always best to use a variety of methods and we recommend that you use Journal Citation Reports in conjunction with other journal ranking tools and alongside qualitative judgements.

Search for Web of Science via StarPlus, or go directly to:  
<https://students.sheffield.ac.uk/library/eresources/web-science>.

From here, click Connect to Web of Science



**Access**

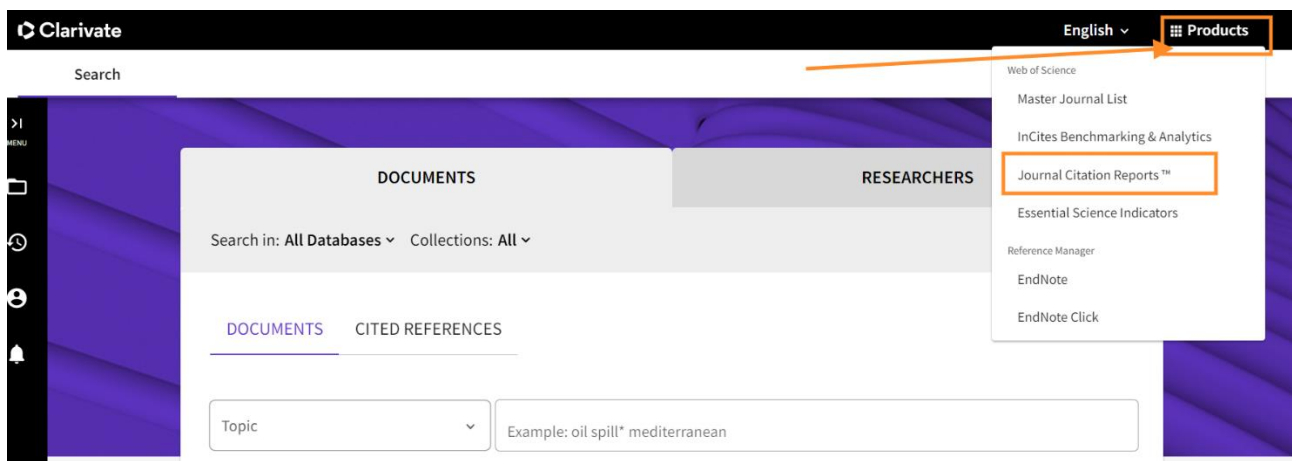
Access is available directly from this page by connecting to the Web of Science website - you'll be prompted to log in to MUSE as necessary.

[Connect to Web of Science](#) →

To register for a personal account, click the 'Sign in' link at the top of the Web of Science home page and follow the instructions. You can use this account for anywhere, anytime access, as well as to access your free [EndNote Online](#) account.

**Using Web of Science Video Guide**

Once in **Web of Science**, click the **Products** menu at the top of the page, then select **Journal Citation Reports** from the list



Clarivate English ▾ **Products**

- Web of Science
- Master Journal List
- InCites Benchmarking & Analytics
- Journal Citation Reports™**
- Essential Science Indicators
- Reference Manager
- EndNote
- EndNote Click

Search

DOCUMENTS RESEARCHERS

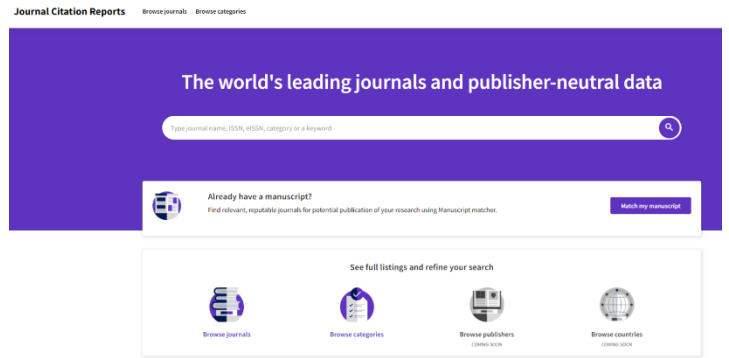
Search in: All Databases ▾ Collections: All ▾

DOCUMENTS CITED REFERENCES

Topic ▾ Example: oil spill\* mediterranean

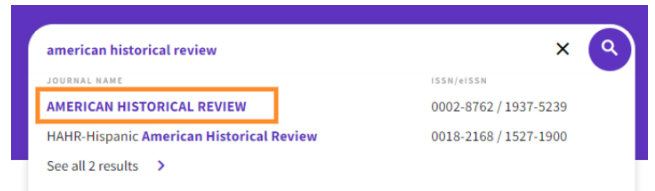
This should bring you to the JCR homepage:

You can use JCR to look up citation data on individual journals, or compare all the journals in a particular subject category.



## Search for an individual journal title

Enter a journal name in the search box (eg: **American Historical Review**)



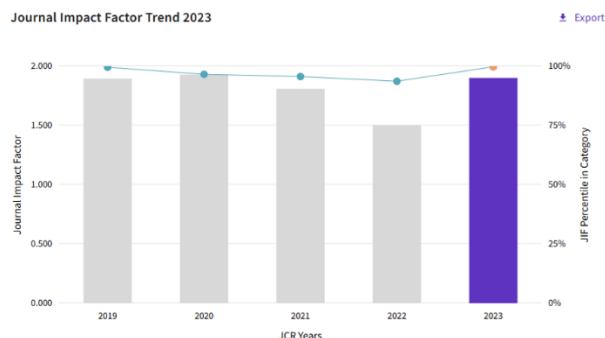
If the journal is included in JCR, the title should appear under the search box as you type. Click on the journal title you are interested in.

You should now see a range of information on the journal. Scroll down the page to see the Impact Factor for this journal for the most recent year. The Journal Impact Factor is a journal-level metric which is calculated by dividing the total number of citations to papers published in the journal in the last two years, by the total number of papers published in the the journal during the same period.

Click on View Calculation to see how the impact factor was calculated.

The screenshot shows the Journal Impact Factor page for the American Historical Review. The main heading is "Journal Impact Factor". Below this is a description of the JIF metric. The current JIF for 2023 is displayed as "1.9". A "View calculation" link is present. Below the JIF, there is a "Journal Impact Factor Trend 2023" section with a line graph showing the trend from 2019 to 2023. A "Calculation" pop-up window is overlaid on the page, showing the formula for JIF: 
$$\frac{\text{Citations in 2023 to items published in 2021 (76) + 2022 (64)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2021 (40) + 2022 (35)}} = \frac{140}{75} = 1.9$$

**Journal Impact Factor Trend:** shows how the Impact Factor for this journal has changed over the past 5 years



**Journal Impact Factor contributing items:** shows the articles published in this journal which contribute to the current Journal Impact Factor. Click on any to read them.

You can also see the journals which have cited them by clicking on the 'Citing Sources' tab

**Journal Impact Factor contributing items**

Citable items (75)		Citing Sources (103)
TITLE	CITATION COUNT	
Fiduciary Colonialism Annuities and Native Dispossession in the Early United States	9	8
Gender History, Global History, and Atlantic Slavery On Racial Capitalism and Social Reproduction	6	
Sounds of February, Smells of October: The Russian Revolution as Sensory Experience	6	
Befeathering the European: The Matter of Feathers in the Material Renaissance	5	

There's a range of other information available which will help you to understand how the journal has been cited

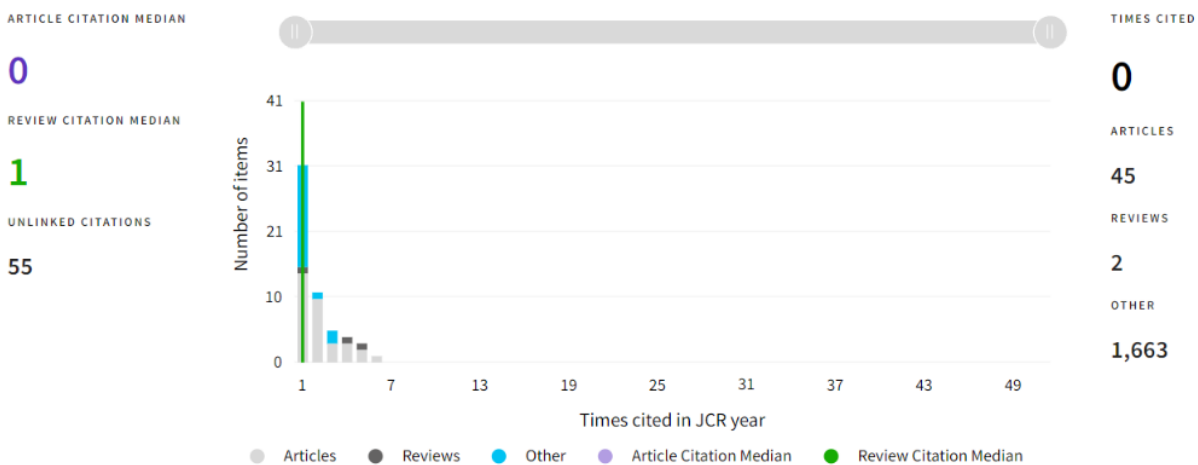
**Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)** is the average Category Normalized Citation Impact (CNCI) of citable items (articles & reviews) published by a journal over a recent three year period. The average JCI in a category is 1. Journals with a JCI of 1.5 have 50% more citation impact than the average in that category. It may be used alongside other metrics to help you evaluate journals.

**Citation Distribution** gives a breakdown of the number of times articles in the journal have been cited for the given year. Also gives the median number of citations for articles and reviews in the journal.

## Citation distribution

[Export](#)

The Citation Distribution shows the frequency with which items published in the year or two years prior were cited in the JCR data year (i.e., the component of the calculation of the JIF). The graph has similar functionality as the JIF Trend graph, including hover-over data descriptions for each data point, and an interactive legend where each data element's legend can be used as a toggle. You can view Articles, Reviews, or Non-Citable (other) items to the JIF numerator. [Learn more](#)



The impact factor of a journal doesn't mean much on its own – you need to see how it compares to other journals in the field. Scroll down the page to see the Rank by Journal Impact Factor and JCI. In this example, the journal was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by impact factor out of the 101 journals in its subject category for 2020.

## Rank by Journal Impact Factor

Journals within a category are sorted in descending order by Journal Impact Factor (JIF) resulting in the Category Ranking below calculated by category. [Learn more](#)

CATEGORY

HISTORY

2/525

JCR YEAR	JIF RANK	JIF QUARTILE	JIF PERCENTILE
2023	2/525	Q1	99.7

Rank by JIF before 2023 for HISTORY

EDITION

Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)

JCR YEAR	JIF RANK	JIF QUARTILE	JIF PERCENTILE
2022	7/101	Q1	93.6
2021	5/102	Q1	95.59
2020	4/101	Q1	96.53
2019	1/100	Q1	99.50

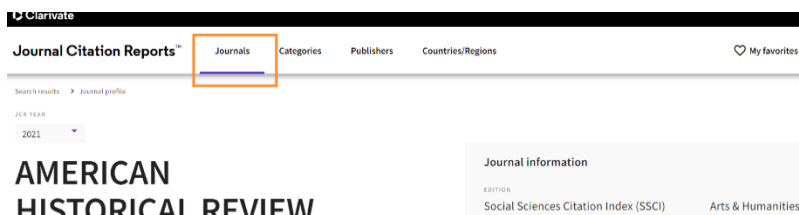
There are a range of other metrics available, which will help to give you a balanced picture of how a journal has been cited:

- **Journal Citation Indicator (JCI):** the average Category Normalized Citation Impact (CNCI) of citable items (articles & reviews) published by a journal over a recent three year period. The average JCI in a category is 1. Journals with a JCI of 1.5 have 50% more citation impact than the average in that category.
- **Immediacy Index:** similar to the Journal Impact Factor but only looks at citations from most recent year. Can help indicate how quickly papers in a journal are cited.
- **Cited Half-life:** indicates how many years back you need to go to reach the point where half the citations are included. The higher the figure, the longer the time period during which research is actively cited.
- **Normalised Eigenfactor:** gives an indication of the relative importance or influence of a journal within its citation network. The average score is 1. Journals with a score higher than 1 can be considered to be more influential than those with a score less than 1.
- **Article Influence score:** determines the average influence of a journal's articles over the first five years after publication. The mean Article Influence Score for each article is 1.00. A score greater than 1.00 indicates that each article in the journal has above-average influence.
- **Average JIF percentile:** many journals cover more than one subject area. A journal classed under 2 different subject categories might have 2 different impact factor scores (one for each category). This metric gives the average Journal Impact Factor score across all the subject categories a journal is classed under. It's represented as a percentage – journals scoring 100% could be considered highly cited for their fields.

## See a list of the top journals in a subject area

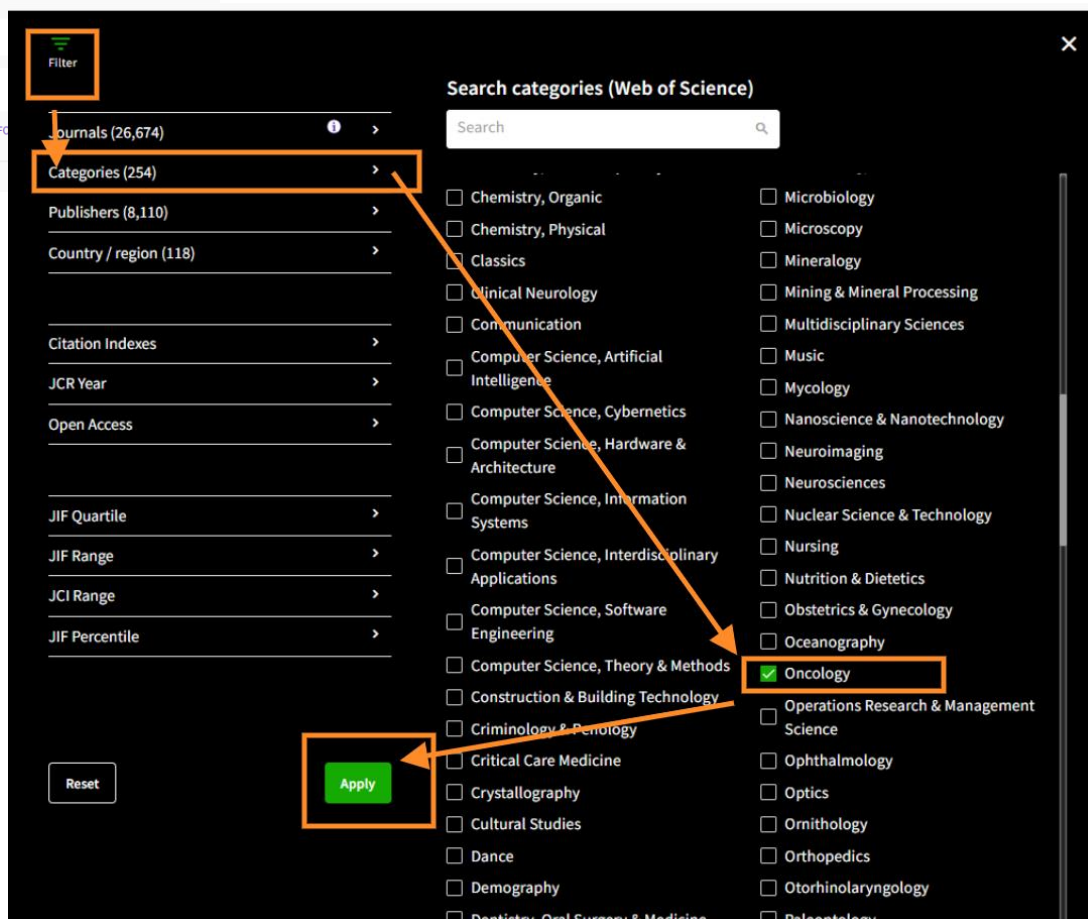
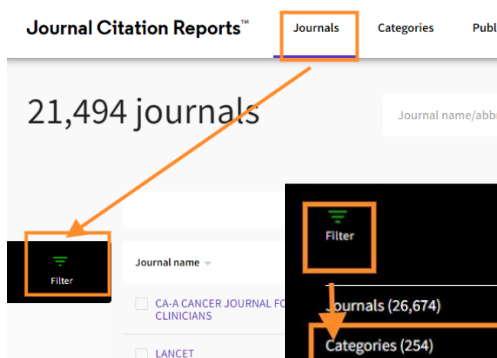
Journal Citation Reports can also provide a list of the most highly-cited journals in a particular academic field.

Scroll to the top of the page and click on **Journals**



This should display a list of all the journals indexed in Journal Citation Reports, ranked in terms of their impact factor. We don't recommend comparing journals from different subject areas, as very few metrics take into account differences in citation behaviour between disciplines, and so it doesn't allow for a fair comparison. For example, maths papers generally cite far fewer papers than life science ones, so the impact factor for life science journals will always be much higher than those of maths journals. This does not mean that life science journals are better, it's merely a reflection of the different conventions in those disciplines.

You can use the Filter menu to filter the list of journals by subject category. To do this click on Filter and select Categories. This will open a list of subject categories. You can either select the one you're interested in, or search for a subject in the search box. Note that you're limited to the subject categories provided by Journal Citation Reports.



This will bring up a list of journals for that subject category, ranked by Journal Impact Factor

313 journals <sup>Ⓞ</sup>

Type journal name, ISSN, eISSN, category or a keyword 🔍 Export

Indicators: Default ▼ ⚙️ Customize

ONCOLOGY Ⓞ

Journal name <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	ISSN	eISSN	Category	Total Citations <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	2020 JIF <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	JIF Quartile	2020 JCI <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	% of OA Gold <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>
CA-A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS	0007-9235	1542-4863	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	55,868	508.702	Q1	77.64	8.75 %
Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology	1759-4774	1759-4782	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	17,973	66.675	Q1	7.72	4.38 %
NATURE REVIEWS CANCER	1474-175X	1474-1768	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	62,391	60.716	Q1	7.64	0.68 %
JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY	0732-183X	1527-7755	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	189,443	44.544	Q1	5.25	15.70 %
LANCET ONCOLOGY	1470-2045	1474-5488	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	72,804	41.316	Q1	7.95	5.98 %
Cancer Discovery	2159-8274	2159-8280	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	27,020	20.207	Q1	6.48	1.20 %

You can re-order the list according to different metrics. Try clicking on any of the column headings to see which journal is ranked highest by each metric. You may see that the order of the list changes quite significantly – this is because different metrics measure different aspects of citation impact.

You can explore the other metrics available by clicking on Customise:

Indicators: Default ▼ ⚙️ Customize

ONCOLOGY Ⓞ

Journal name <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	ISSN	eISSN	Category	Total Citations <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	2020 JIF <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	JIF Quartile	2020 JCI <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>	% of OA Gold <span style="font-size: 0.8em;">▼</span>
CA-A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS	0007-9235	1542-4863	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	55,868	508.702	Q1	77.64	8.75 %
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### Impact Metrics

Metrics focused on the citation impact of the journals.

- Total Citations
- 2023 JIF
- JIF Rank
- 5 Year JIF
- 5 Year JIF Quartile
- JIF Without Self Cites
- Immediacy Index

### Normalized Metrics

Metrics that have been adjusted mathematically to a particular context.

- 2023 JCI
- JCI Rank
- JCI Quartile
- JCI Percentile
- Eigenfactor
- Normalized Eigenfactor
- Article Influence Score
- JIF Percentile
- JIF Quartile
- AIS Quartile

### Source Metrics

Metrics based on the content of the journals.

- Citable Items
- % of Articles in Citable items
- Cited Half-Life
- Citing Half-Life
- Total Articles
- % of Citable OA

Name your indicators

Save

Apply

Clicking on any of the journal titles in the list will open a page with more metrics for the journal.

The screenshot displays the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Journals', 'Categories', 'Publishers', and 'Countries/Regions'. On the right side, there are links for 'My favorites', 'Sign In', and 'Register'. Below the navigation, the page title is 'Journal Citation Reports™' and the breadcrumb is 'Journals > Journal profile'. A 'JCR YEAR' dropdown menu is set to '2021'. The main content area features the journal title 'CA-A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS' in large, bold letters. Below the title, the ISSN is '0007-9235' and the E-ISSN is '1542-4863'. The JCR abbreviation is 'CA-CANCER J CLIN'. To the right, there is a 'Journal information' section with the following details: EDITOR: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE); CATEGORY: ONCOLOGY - SCIE; LANGUAGES: English; REGION: USA; LIST ELECTRONIC JCR YEAR: 1997; PUBLISHER: WILEY; ADDRESS: 111 RIVER ST, HOBOKEN 07030-5774, NJ; PUBLICATION FREQUENCY: 6 issues/year.

## Using metrics responsibly

Metrics are a measure of attention, not quality. They can't tell you which the 'best' journal is, they merely measure how something has been cited.

The ranking of journals will vary significantly depending on which metric you use – make sure you use a range of metrics for a balanced view.

Only compare like with like. Most metrics don't take into account the differences in citation behaviour between different scholarly disciplines, so you can't use them to make fair comparisons between journals from different subject categories.