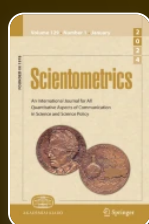



[Home](#) > [Scientometrics](#) > [Article](#)

The probability of publishing in first-quartile journals

Published: 22 December 2015

Volume 106, pages 1273–1276, (2016) [Cite this article](#)

Scientometrics

[Aims and scope](#) →[Submit manuscript](#) →[Weishu Liu](#)¹, [Guangyuan Hu](#) ² & [Mengdi Gu](#)¹ **2140** Accesses  **50** Citations  **1** Altmetric [Explore all metrics](#) →

Abstract

As an alternative metric of journal impact factor (JIF), journal impact factor quartile is increasingly adopted to compare the research impact of journals within and across different domains. We adopt both optimistic and pessimistic approaches to illustrate the JIF distributions of journals listed in the 2015 Journal Citation Reports. We find that at least one-third of Web of Science publications are actually published in the first quartile (high impact factor journals). In comparison, at most 16.5 % of publications are published in the fourth quartile (low impact factor journals). We argue that Bornmann and Marx's (Scientometrics 98(1):487–509, [2014](#)) claim that “One can expect that 25 % of a researcher's publications have been published in the first quartile” is not precise.



Access this article

[Log in via an institution →](#)

[Buy article PDF 39,95 €](#)

Price includes VAT (Poland)

Instant access to the full article PDF.

Rent this article via [DeepDyve](#) ↗

[Institutional subscriptions](#) →

Notes

1. For more precise calculation of the JIF quartiles please refer to:
<http://ipscience-help.thomsonreuters.com/incitesLive/9053-TRS.html>.
2. Citable items denote articles and reviews. In this letter, only these two document types are considered.

References

Alvarez, P., Boulaiz, H., Velez, C., Rodriguez-Serrano, F., Ortiz, R., Melguizo, C., et al. (2014). Qualitative and quantitative analyses of anatomists' research: Evaluation of multidisciplinary and trends in scientific production. *Scientometrics*, 98(1), 447-456.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Bornmann, L., & Marx, W. (2014). How to evaluate individual researchers

working in the natural and life sciences meaningfully? A proposal of methods based on percentiles of citations. *Scientometrics*, 98(1), 487–509.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Chinchilla-Rodriguez, Z., Arencibia-Jorge, R., de Moya-Anegon, F., & Corera-Alvarez, E. (2015). Some patterns of Cuban scientific publication in Scopus: The current situation and challenges. *Scientometrics*, 103(3), 779–794.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Ibáñez, A., Bielza, C., & Larranaga, P. (2013). Relationship among research collaboration, number of documents and number of citations: A case study in Spanish computer science production in 2000–2009. *Scientometrics*, 95(2), 689–716.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Tang, L. (2013). Does “birds of a feather flock together” matter-Evidence from a longitudinal study on US-China scientific collaboration. *Journal of Informetrics*, 7(2), 330–344.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Tang, L., Shapira, P., & Youtie, J. (2015). Is there a clubbing effect underlying Chinese research citation increases? *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*, 66(9), 1923–1932.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Zhou, P., & Lv, X. (2015). Academic publishing and collaboration between China and Germany in physics. *Scientometrics*, 105(3), 1875–1887.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Acknowledgments

This research is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (#71303147). We appreciate the valuable comments and feedback of two anonymous reviewers. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the funder listed here. We are responsible for any errors.

Author information

Authors and Affiliations

Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, 200052, China

Weishu Liu & Mengdi Gu

School of Public Economics and Administration, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Shanghai, 200433, China

Guangyuan Hu

Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Guangyuan Hu](#).

Rights and permissions

[Reprints and permissions](#)

About this article

Cite this article

Liu, W., Hu, G. & Gu, M. The probability of publishing in first-quartile journals. *Scientometrics* **106**, 1273–1276 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-015-1821-1>

Received

05 November 2015

Published

22 December 2015

Issue Date

March 2016

DOI

Keywords

[Impact factor](#)

[JIF quartile](#)

[Journal Citation Reports](#)

[Research evaluation](#)

Search

Search by keyword or author



Navigation

[Find a journal](#)

[Publish with us](#)

[Track your research](#)