


# Reflections

David E. Quain 

Institute of Brewing & Distilling,  
 London, SE1 2ND, UK

Email: david.quain@IBD.org.uk



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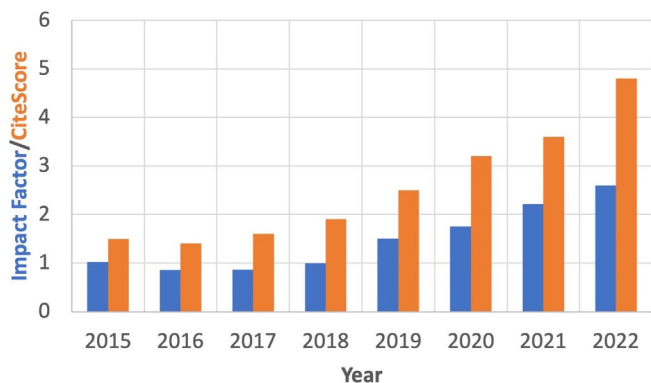
This is the 10th *Reflections* and the second issue of the JIB published by the Institute of Brewing & Distilling. The world of the Journal has moved on significantly since January 2021. As is the way, there have been further ‘learnings’ and associated changes to the website and construction of the pdfs. In this Editorial, there is some good news on JIB’s Journal Impact Factor and the introduction of new metrics to track (and improve) the process from submission to publication. Another less sophisticated but nevertheless interesting metric is the number of downloads a paper receives. In this, the 129th volume of JIB, the new publishing model was a step into the unknown. According, it’s nice to see that the first few publications in the *new* JIB have been found by readers and, importantly, downloaded on more than 1500 occasions. Finally, in 2023, the abstracts of papers in JIB are changing from an open style to a prescriptive four-part model (outlined below). As the ‘shop window’ for a publication its important that the abstract does the best job possible.

## Journal metrics

The back story for Journal Impact Factor (JIF) from Clarivate Analytics was outlined in *Reflections* last year (<https://doi.org/10.1002/jib.700>). The JIF is most used metric to describe the ‘performance’ of academic journals. Pleasingly, the JIF for JIB in 2022 has increased from 2.216 to 2.6.

The 2021 JIF is calculated from the number of citations of publications in JIB in 2020/21 (200) divided by the number of citable publications (77). The JIF of 2.6 suggests every paper published in 2020/21 has been cited two (and a bit) times. In practice, the JIF is an average of papers with many to no citations. Indeed, of the 77 papers, 20 were cited once, 13 twice, 12 three times all the way up to one cited 14 times. However, 15 papers were uncited, accounting for 20% of the total (23% in 2021).

A different metric – Scopus CiteScore – is also increasingly used to describe the citation impact of Journals. The calculation is similar to that of JIF but the timescale is four rather than two years. The CiteScore for 2022 – between the years 2019-22- is 4.8. The history for both metrics is reported below.

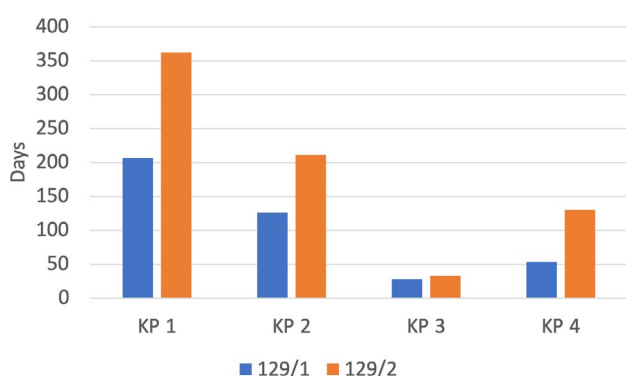


## Publication KPIs

As the Journal is now published independently with greater local control, it is timely to consider some new metrics in the interest of prospective authors and readers. Many journals report the average time from submission to publication. Here, rather than one measure, four ‘key performance indicators’ (KPIs) are captured that segment the process from submission to publication. These will be updated for each issue of JIB in ‘Reflections’ and on the website.

KPI	Activity
1	Total process time (in days) from submission to publication
2	Time from submission to ‘soft’ accept (intention flagged to the authors)
3	Time to edit the manuscript by the EiC. On completion, ‘hard’ accept.
4	Time for pdf creation, review by authors and EiC and sign off.

The four KPIs for the first two issues of JIB in 2023 are reported below. It is early days and there have been inevitable ‘knock on’ effects from introducing the new process. Further, with four papers per issue, the data can be skewed by publications that are in the system longer than is normal. Despite this, over time, I would anticipate the various KPIs to reduce and become more stable. We shall see!



## ‘Top five’ downloads (February-July)

Although a snapshot in time, it is encouraging to see the take up by readers of the first papers in the Journal. These figures compare favourably with the data for downloads from JIB in 2022 (the final year of the Wiley contract). In the future, this little list will be compiled annually and reported in the first *Reflections* of the year.

Author	Title	Abstract views	Pdf downloads
Bamforth	Provocation: prolonged maturation of beer is of unproven benefit	811	504
Picard et al	The role of oak wood in the mint and floral notes of whisky: identification of common terpenoids by aromatic fractionation	428	407
Wefing et al	A continuous mashing system controlled by mean residence time	313	236
Quain	Reflections	227	149
Uotila & Krogerus	A simple and rapid CRISPR-Cas12a based detection test for diastatic <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	254	72

## Four-part abstract

The ‘abstract’ of a paper is important as it provides a synopsis of the work that is being reported. This may be lifted via abstracting services or used by a reader to assess whether (or not) to read or save the paper. Consequently, there is real value in adopting a more structured approach to the construction of the abstract. Accordingly, accepted original articles submitted in 2023 (and beyond) must consider four questions in the abstract; ‘why was the work done’, ‘how was the work done’, ‘what are the main findings’ and ‘why is the work important’. With reviews, three questions need to be addressed as ‘how was the work done’ is not relevant.

## To conclude

Finally, as has become the norm, there are four papers in this issue. Subjects include dimethyl sulphide separation in wort, a test for diastatic *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, computational analysis of hop bitterness and the influence of yeast format and pitching rate on Scotch malt whisky fermentation. The papers are from China, Finland, Spain and the UK.

Cheers,

David Quain  
Editor in Chief