

Reflections

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Headlines

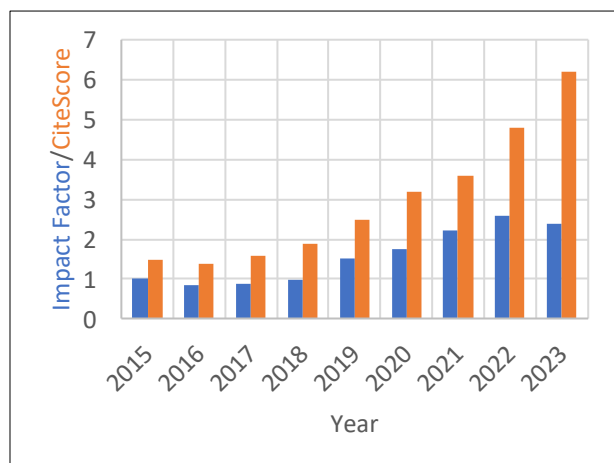
This issue of *Reflections* reports the latest update of ‘citation impact’ metrics for the Journal. The two year ‘Impact Factor’ has dropped marginally from 2.6 to 2.4 whereas the four year CiteScore has jumped from 4.8 to 6.2. These metrics capture the average citation per paper over time. With the Impact Factor this reflects a range of citations over two years from 11 to none! Pleasingly, the publication KPIs that segment the process are showing encouraging signs of tightening, especially the previously problematic ‘time to create/edit pdf’. Changing tack, ‘appearances matter’. In this case, the cover for the ‘new’ Journal has been the fixed image used during the Wiley years. This has been replaced with a new cover image differentiated by colour to reflect the four issues by season. In terms of content, this issue contains three research papers and a major review from Evan Evans and colleagues on innovation and efficiency in malting.

Impact factor

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) from Clarivate Analytics is most used metric to describe the ‘performance’ of academic journals. The 2023 JIF is calculated from the number of citations of publications in JIB in 2021/22 (108) divided by the number of citable publications (45). The JIF for the Journal has dropped marginally from 2.6 to 2.4. This suggests every paper published in 2021/22 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 45 papers, eight were cited once, eight twice, seven three times all the way up to one cited 11 times. However, over the two years, 11 papers were uncited, representing 24% of the 45 publications. By way of comparison, these accounted for 20% in 2022 and 23% in 2021.

A longer term and newer metric – Scopus CiteScore – is also used to describe the citation impact of Journals. The calculation is similar to that of the Journal Impact Factor but the timescale is four rather than two years. In this case, the CiteScore for the Journal in 2023, between the years 2020-23 has increased from 4.8 to 6.2.

Journal Impact Factor and CiteScore



New 'seasonal' cover

In 2023, the Journal moved to its new, solely online home. The 'cover' of each issue remained the image from the Wiley years. This was not ideal. Accordingly, the JIB cover has been reimagined, using four different colours to differentiate the quarterly issues by season – autumn, winter, spring and summer.



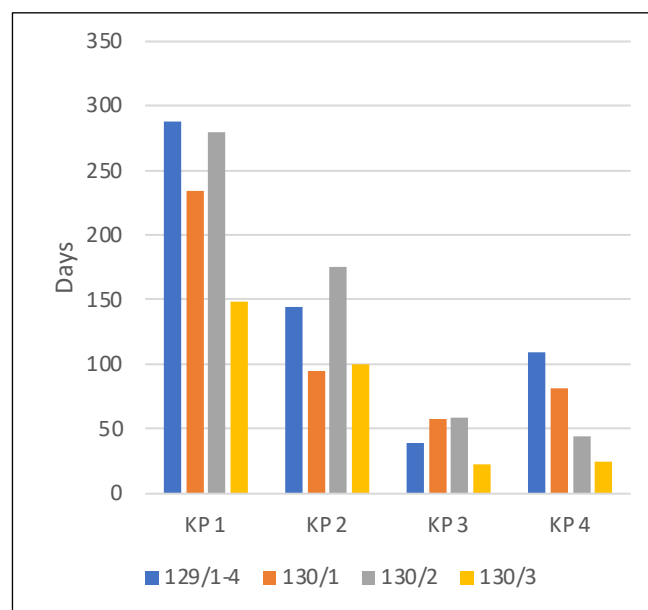
Big thanks to Sophie Quain for her creativity, design skills and making these 'covers' real.

Publication KPIs

The KPIs track the key steps from submission of the manuscript to the publication of the paper.

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 for copy editing by the EiC. On completion, 'hard' accept
4	Time for pdf creation, review by authors, final proof edits by the EiC

KPIs are reported for each issue together with a consolidated metric for 2023 (129/1-4). As previously anticipated, there is a continuing reduction in time for KPI4 reflecting new ways of working in the generation of pdfs.



To conclude

In this issue, there is one (mighty big) review and three research papers. The review focusses on innovation and efficiency in malting, with the papers considering routes to enhance the formation of dextrin, lowering the gushing potential of hydrophobin and heat resistance of bacteria in alcoholic and alcohol-free beer. The lead authors hail from Australia, USA, Belgium and the UK.

Cheers,

David Quain
Editor in Chief