

# Impact Factor

The **Impact Factor (IF)** is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a Journal has been cited in a particular year. It is used to measure the importance or rank of a Journal by calculating the times its articles are cited.

The **Impact Factor (IF)** or **Journal Impact Factor (JIF)** of an academic journal is a scientometric index calculated by Clarivate that reflects the yearly mean number of citations of articles published in the last two years in a given Journal, as indexed by Clarivate's Web of Science.

As a Journal-level metric, it is frequently used as a proxy for the relative importance of a Journal within its field; journals with higher impact factor values are given the status of being more important, or carry more prestige in their respective fields, than those with lower values.

While frequently used by universities and funding bodies to decide on promotion and research proposals, it has come under attack for distorting good scientific practices