

# What makes top 20 JIF journals “top”?

Exploring characteristics of journals indexed in the  
Journal Citation Reports

# Who are we?



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# Why JIF is a significant milestone (!)

Publication Titles  Example: Cancer\* OR Molecular Cancer

And  Example: water consum\* "Global cancer statistics"

[Advanced Search](#)

8 results from Web of Science Core Collection for:

Q CA A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS (Publication Titles) and "Global cancer statistics" (Title)

Times Cited ⓘ

119,371

Total

19,895.17

Average per item

119,366

Without self-citations



CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

@CAonline



CA is pleased to announce that the Impact Factor for 2020 has increased to 508.7. We express our sincerest thanks to our editors, authors, reviewers, and readers for helping us achieve this significant milestone.

THE 2020 IMPACT FACTOR FOR  
CA: A CANCER JOURNAL FOR  
CLINICIANS IS...

508.7



CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

Karen Knudsen, MBA PhD and 3 others

7:07 PM · Jul 1, 2021 · Twitter Web App

43 Retweets 176 Quote Tweets 173 Likes



# "... revealing factors that make top journals top"

Research questions:

- Are the top journals stand out among others in terms of all variables?
- Are they published in specific subject categories by oligopoly publishers?
- Are the number of citable items, total citations and share of articles in citable items for these journals higher?
- Do they have shorter cited and citing half-lives?

# Two different perspectives

**Broad**

Investigating all journals indexed in JCR 2020

**Narrow**

Investigating top 20 journals of JCR 2020, and changes between 1997-2020

# Results

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## Distribution of all JCR journals and the top 20 by subject category

Subject category	N of all	% in all	N of top 20	% of journals by oligopoly publishers
Medical Sciences	3,128	25.4	9	33.4
Natural Sciences	3,062	24.9	6	36.1
Multidisciplinary	2,284	18.5	2	42.4
Social Sciences	2,187	17.7	0	40.1
Engineering & Technology	1,074	8.7	3	38.3
Agricultural Sciences	357	2.9	0	32.2
Humanities	231	1.9	0	18.6
Total	12,323	100.0	20	37.1

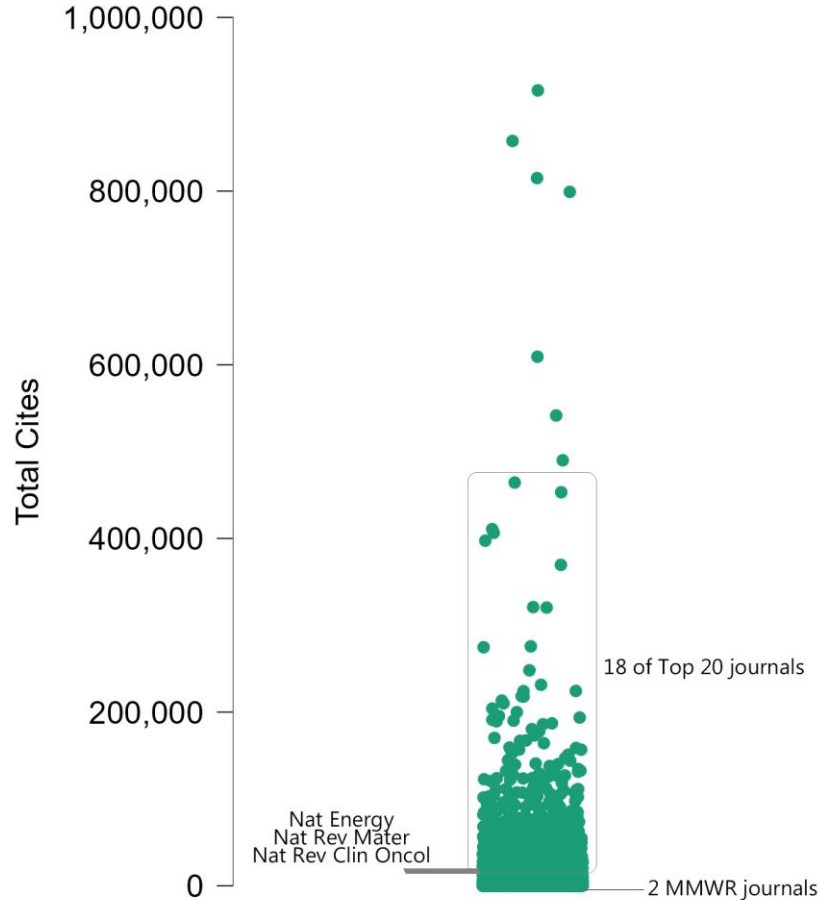
## Distribution of all JCR journals and the top 20 by oligopoly publishers

Publisher	N of all	% of all	N of top 20	% of top subject categories
Springer Nature	1,316	10.7	11	35 (Natural sciences) 21 (Medical sciences)
Wiley-Blackwell	1,177	9.6	1	27 (Medical sciences) 24 (Social Sciences)
Taylor & Francis	683	5.5	0	27 (Natural Sciences) 24 (Multidisciplinary)
Elsevier	681	5.5	0	29 (Natural Sciences) 26 (Multidisciplinary)
Sage	649	5.3	0	50 (Social Sciences) 25 (Medical Sciences)
ACS	61	0.5	1	41 (Multidisciplinary) 41 (Natural Sciences)
Total	4,567	37.1	20	25 (Medical Sciences) 25 (Natural Sciences)



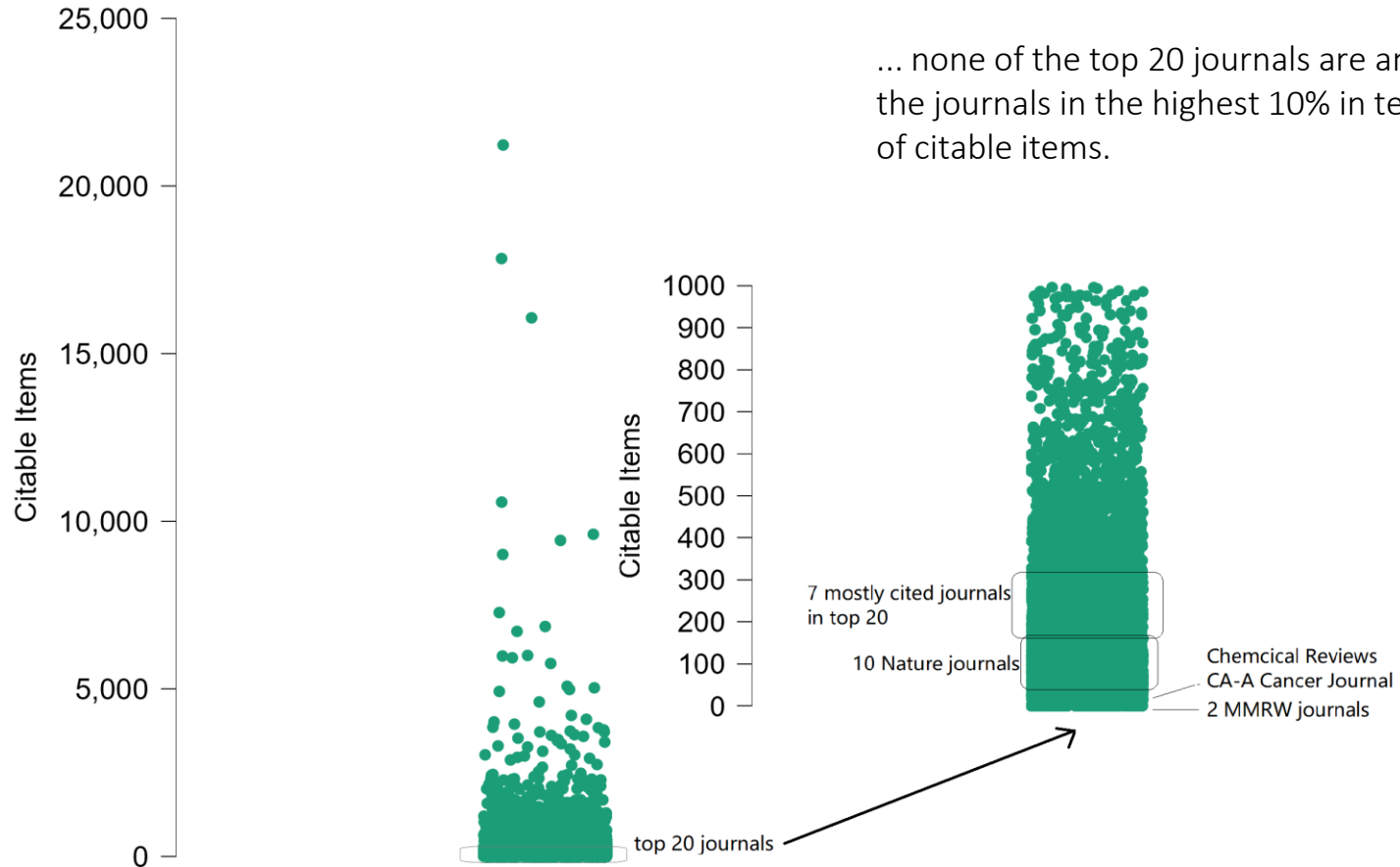
# Scatter of journals by total citations

All top 20 journals except two (MMWR Surveillance Summaries and MMWR Recommendations and Reports) are located in highest 10% in terms of the total citations

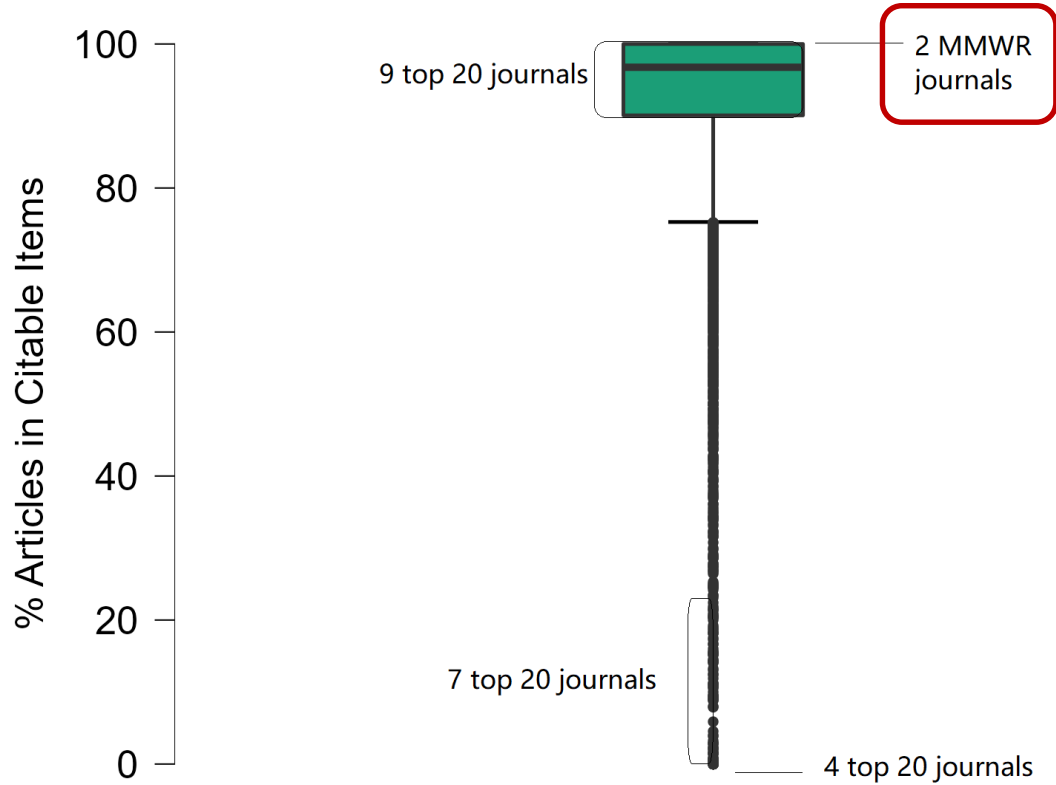


... these two journals are reports, which are published by CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) since the beginning of 1980s, and they are indexed in JCR for the first time in 2020.

# Scatter of journals by citable items



# Boxplot for the share of articles in citable items



# MMWR Surveillance Summaries

Q MMWR SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES (Publication Titles) [Analyze Results](#) [Create Alert](#)

[Export Full Report](#)

<b>Publications</b> 129 Total From 1945 to 2022	<b>Citing Articles</b> 15,770 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Total 15,720 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Without self-citations	<b>Times Cited</b> 16,716 Total 16,624 Without self-citations 129.58 Average per item	53 H-Index
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Search > Results for MMWR SURVEIL... > Citation Report: MMWR SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES (Publication Titles) AN...

## Citation Report

Q MMWR SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES (Publication Titles) and Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (Title) [Analyze Results](#) [Create Alert](#)

[Export Full Report](#)

<b>Publications</b> 8 Total From 1945 to 2022	<b>Citing Articles</b> 4,566 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Total 4,560 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Without self-citations	<b>Times Cited</b> 4,848 Total 4,838 Without self-citations 606 Average per item	7 H-Index
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Q MMWR SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES (Publication Titles) and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (Title)

<b>Publications</b> 3 Total From 1945 to 2022	<b>Citing Articles</b> 2,798 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Total 2,796 <a href="#">Analyze</a> Without self-citations	<b>Times Cited</b> 2,894 Total 2,892 Without self-citations
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### Times Cited and Publications Over Time

Average per item

DOWNLOAD

# MMWR Recommendations and Reports

Search > Results for MMWR Recomm... > Results for MMWR Recommendations and Reports (Publication Titles)

51 results from Web of Science Core Collection for:

MMWR Recommendations and Reports (Publication Titles)

Analyze Results

Citation Report

Create Alert

Copy query link

Publications

You may also like...

Refine results

Search within results...



0/51

Add To Marked List

Export

Sort by: Citations: highest first

1 of 2

1

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2015

2,440

Citations

Workowski, KA and Bolan, GA

Jun 5 2015 | MMWR RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS 64 (3) , pp.1-137

887

References

Guidelines for the treatment of persons who have or are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were updated by CDC after a group of professionals knowledgeable in the field of STDs who met in Atlanta on April 30 May 2, 2013. The information in this report updates the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2010 (MMWR Recomm Rep 2010;59 [N ... [Show more](#)

Related records

Quick Filters

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	1,529	1,870	2,226	2,492	1,341

Authors

2

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain - United States, 2016

2,265

Citations

48



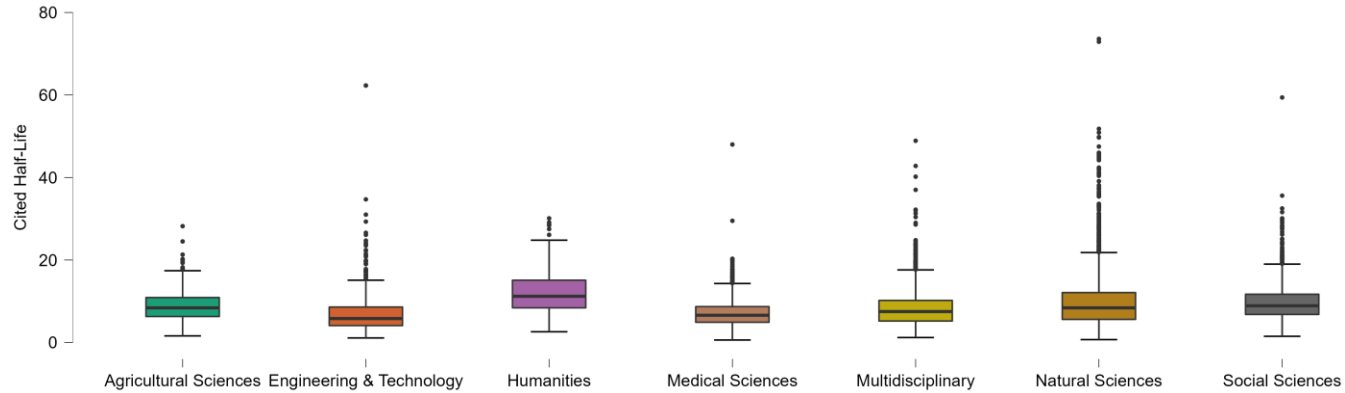
# JCR 2021 – Top 20

Journal name ▼	ISSN	eISSN	Category	Total Citations ▼	2021 JIF ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> CA-A CANCER JOURNAL FOR CLINICIANS	0007-9235	1542-4863	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	61,124	286.130
<input type="checkbox"/> LANCET	0140-6736	1474-547X	MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL - SCIE	403,221	202.731
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE	0028-4793	1533-4406	MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL - SCIE	506,069	176.079
<input type="checkbox"/> JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION	0098-7484	1538-3598	MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL - SCIE	242,479	157.335
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE REVIEWS MOLECULAR CELL BIOLOGY	1471-0072	1471-0080	CELL BIOLOGY - SCIE	66,072	113.915
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE REVIEWS DRUG DISCOVERY	1474-1776	1474-1784	Multiple ▼	47,615	112.288
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE REVIEWS IMMUNOLOGY	1474-1733	1474-1741	IMMUNOLOGY - SCIE	67,751	108.555
<input type="checkbox"/> Lancet Respiratory Medicine	2213-2600	N/A	Multiple ▼	29,214	102.642
<input type="checkbox"/> BMJ-British Medical Journal	0959-535X	1756-1833	MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL - SCIE	183,681	93.333
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE MEDICINE	1078-8956	1546-170X	Multiple ▼	141,857	87.241
<input type="checkbox"/> Lancet Microbe	N/A	2666-5247	Multiple ▼	3,096	86.208

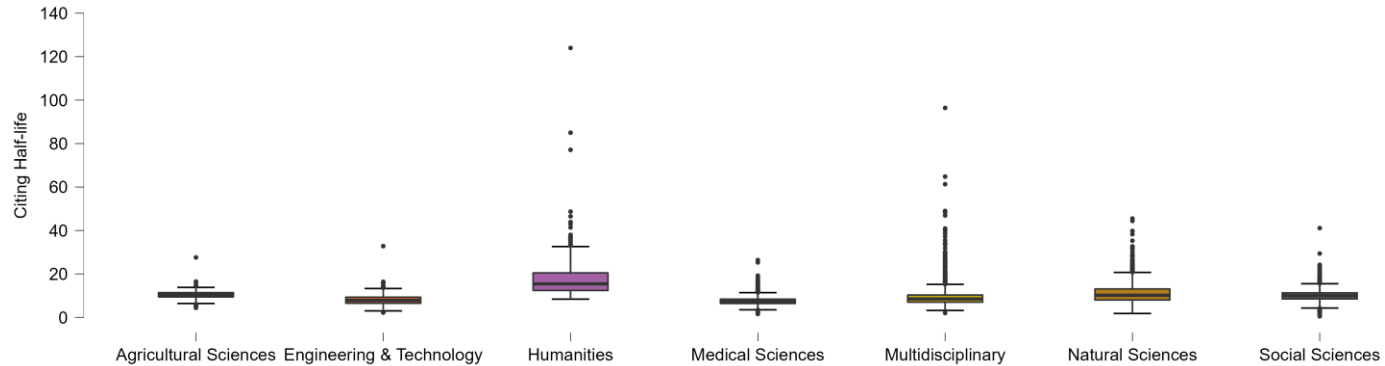
<input type="checkbox"/> World Psychiatry	1723-8617	2051-5545	Multiple ▼	11,951	79.683
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE REVIEWS MICROBIOLOGY	1740-1526	1740-1534	MICROBIOLOGY - SCIE	51,100	78.297
<input type="checkbox"/> Lancet Psychiatry	2215-0374	N/A	Multiple ▼	21,986	77.056
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Reviews Materials	2058-8437	2058-8437	Multiple ▼	27,820	76.679
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology	1759-5045	1759-5053	GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY - SCIE	21,962	73.082
<input type="checkbox"/> Lancet Public Health	2468-2667	2468-2667	Multiple ▼	10,449	72.427
<input type="checkbox"/> CHEMICAL REVIEWS	0009-2665	1520-6890	CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY - SCIE	243,908	72.087
<input type="checkbox"/> LANCET INFECTIOUS DISEASES	1473-3099	1474-4457	INFECTIOUS DISEASES - SCIE	52,835	71.421
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE REVIEWS CANCER	1474-175X	1474-1768	ONCOLOGY - SCIE	66,699	69.800
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE	0028-0836	1476-4687	MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES - SCIE	1,008,544	69.504
<input type="checkbox"/> NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY	1087-0156	1546-1696	BIOTECHNOLOGY & APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY - SCIE	91,927	68.164
<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Energy	2058-7546	2058-7546	Multiple ▼	37,355	67.439

No MMWR journal

## Cited half-life of journals by subject category



## Citing half-life of journals by subject category



# Results



The results showed that top 20 journals stand out in terms of their subject categories and publishers.

Subject category is more decisive than the publisher



More than half of top 20 journals locate as outliers among all journals in terms of the share of articles in citable items

This is mainly due to high density of review journals in top 20.



# Results



The patterns of journals regarding cited and citing half-life are different

They generally locate in the boundaries of middle half of all JCR journals in terms of cited half-life. However, they are in the first shortest quartile of citing half-life

# What makes top 20 JIF journals “top”?

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