# natureresearch

# Journal Metrics — Quick Guide

There are a great number of metrics available to measure a journal's performance. This reference guide was created to support understanding and interpretation of the metrics we provide. In deciding what to include, we surveyed authors, readers and librarians to determine which metrics were important to their decision-making. We will continue to review and shape our provision of data going forward. For full information on our journals and their metrics, please visit our dedicated **journal metrics page**.

### **Processing Timelines**



## Submission to first editorial decision

Median time (in days) taken from complete submission of a paper to receipt of a first editorial decision about whether the paper was sent out for formal review or not.



## Submission to first post-review decision

Median time (in days) taken from submission of a paper to receipt of the first post-review decision.



#### **Submission to Accept**

Median time (in days) taken from the published submission date to final editorial acceptance.



#### **Acceptance to Publication**

Median time (in days) from editorial acceptance to publication of a manuscript.

#### **Traditional Journal Metrics**

#### 2 year Impact Factor

The average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the Journal Citation Report year.

#### **Eigenfactor Score**

Based on the number of times articles from the journal (published in the past five years) have been cited in the Journal Citation Report year, it also considers which journals have contributed these citations. Highly-cited journals will influence the network more than lesser-cited journals.

• Available after five years

#### 5 year Impact Factor

The average number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the Journal Citation Report year.

· Available from 2007 onward.

#### **Article Influence Score**

The average influence of a journal's articles over the first five years after publication. It takes the journal's citation influence (Eigenfactor Score) relative to the journal's article contribution (count) over a period of five years.

• Available after five years

#### **Immediacy Index**

The average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published. It indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited.

· Available after one year

#### 2-year Median

The median number of citations received for articles published in the two preceding years (i.e. the 2015 median represents 2013-14). To calculate the median, datasets for individual journals are downloaded from Web of Science.

### **Upcoming Journal Metrics**



#### **Journal Readership**

Demographic information on journal readership.



#### **Experience with Our Editors**

Via an annual survey of authors.



#### **Journal Reputation**

Via an annual survey of readers.



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