

Transcendence of scientific research: dissemination, diffusion, and impact factor

Trascendencia de la investigación científica: divulgación, difusión y factor de impacto

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Scientific research is a valuable activity, whose significance depends on its results reaching the target audience, which assigns importance in a particular area.

There are several reasons why physicians should publish in scientific journals; among the main ones are: knowledge should be the property of all humanity, the importance of providing truthful and reliable information, high professional education, and possibly some benefits such as career promotion or attracting scholarships and resources, among others. The main objective of publishing as physicians should be the dissemination of knowledge¹.

The dissemination of articles can be done through the publishing house, and currently, personally, this activity is facilitated through social networks. More than obtaining a “like” reaction, which can lead to developing “vanity metrics,” the dissemination of articles on social networks amplifies reaching out to the public, thus favoring that research results reach those who can use them, as references or for decision-making.

While general networks like Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), and Instagram can offer broad exposure of research results, academic networks facilitate access to other communities. Thus, ResearchGate, Academia, and even Mendeley allow access to niches where the target audience of the research may be found, which can determine its significance.

Unlike unrecommended practices, such as citation circles, where authors or journals cite each other, disseminating articles on networks does not imply a

response from the target audience. Sharing research results on networks is a proactive way for them to reach their users before they even engage themselves in the search process. Legally recommending or sharing articles from our network extends the dissemination of websites, and this is one of the activities supporting the articles of *Cirugía y Cirujanos*.

The impact factor (IF) of publications refers to the number of citations in the JCR among the overall number articles published in the last 2 years². Although the IF is an important gauge for scientific research to reach target audiences that can use it as a basis for other studies, it is also important to maintain the pursuit of humanity's benefit and not just the numerical value of the impact factor alone^{2,3}.

More frequently, the IF of journals has been used to guide decisions on appointments, grant allocations, and scientific policies. The true value of the measure lies in evaluating the relative importance of articles published in a journal compared to a different journal with similar content⁴. The primary objective should not only be to have a high IF because to increase academic quality the following is required: 1) attracting quality articles, 2) editorial work, 3) increasing the visibility of the journal, and 4) cooperation between editors and reviewers². To achieve this, it is essential to have a reliable publishing platform, an objective review process, a low acceptance rate (controversial if knowledge dissemination is required), timely work, good professional English editing and proofreading, statistical review, continuous education of editors,

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authors, and reviewers (something that still needs to be improved), and collaboration with international publishers².

The IF of *Cirugía y Cirujanos* has been gradually increasing, reaching 0.5 this year. Editorial work can only be evaluated over time, as changes are slow (after year 4). Annual changes in citable production and the IF are not correlated. The impact of academic work is of utmost importance, so academics and other researchers are invited to continue submitting their high-quality work to *Cirugía y Cirujanos*.

Finally, the objective of writing, publishing, and disseminating in a scientific and academic manner could

be driven by the desire to make a change in the world, with compassion and commitment, with something rigorous and valuable to contribute. Writing with the sole purpose of fulfilling the legacy of medicine and serving the goals of academic life⁵.

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