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Volume 53 Issue 4, October 2022, pp. 192-211



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Review Policy Moderates the Correlation Between CiteScore and JIF For BMC Journals

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Department of Computer Science and Communication, Østfold University College, Halden, Norway

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This article examines the relationship between four review policies (RP) run by different BioMed Central (BMC) journals, namely single-blind peer review (SBPR), double-blind peer review (DBPR), open peer review (OPR), and transparent peer review (TPR), and CiteScore and Journal impact factor (JIF). As of December 12, 2021, BMC publishes 306 journals, of which 14 were discontinued. The final data set was 213 journals with data on CiteScore and JIF. Descriptive statistics and the use of violin and mosaic plots were used. Normality tests were conducted and non-parametric correlation and analysis of variance and Mann Whitney tests were used. Moderation analysis was used to assess the extent of the relationship between CiteScore and JIF. 14 (4.8%) are run with DBPR, and 22 (7.5%), 211 (72.3%) and 45 (15.4%) are run with OPR, SBPR and TPR respectively. Analysis of the final dataset shows that the mean, median, and standard deviation of the CiteScore of the 213 journals are 5.64, 4.80, and 3.65, respectively, while the mean, median, and standard deviation of the JIF of the 213 journals are 4.27, 3.36 and 2.90. In descending order, the CiteScore and JIF across the four RP are highest in DBPR, SBPR, OPR, and TPR. There is a strong positive correlation

(Spearman rho = 0.87318, p-value < 8.7e-68) between the CiteScore and JIF of the 213 BMC journals. Mann Whitney test (U = 14771.5, Wilcoxon W = 37562.5, Z = -6.228, p-value < 0.000) shows that there is an evidence of significance median differences between the CiteScore and JIF of the 213 journals. There are significant median differences in the CiteScore in JIF across the four review policies. Finally, the RP moderates the relationship between CiteScore and JIF and between JIF and CiteScore, respectively. This article reveals that the review policies adopted by BMC journals are somewhat related to the journal metrics that measure the impact, prestige, relevance, and acceptability of the respective journals.

Keywords: [BMC journals](#), [CiteScore](#), [correlation](#), [journal impact factor](#), [moderation](#), [review policy](#)

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