Correlation between self-citation and impact factor of LIS journals indexed in Web of Science during 2006 to 2008

Zahra Behzadi[*]
MA in Library and Information Science

Abdulrasool Jowkar, Ph. D
Professor of Library and Information Science, Shiraz University

Abstract

Purpose: This study investigates the correlation between journal self–citation and impact factor of journals in the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) indexed in the journal citation reports (JCR) of Web of Science (WoS) during 2006 to 2008.

Methodology: Citation analysis is used to conduct the research. It studies the LIS journals indexed by Thomson Reuter's database during years 2006 to 2008.

Findings: The results indicate a significant correlation between impact factor and journal self-citation in the level of 0.001 in LIS from 2006 to 2008. This means that with increasing self-citation, the impact factor of journals has also increased. The relation between the number of articles and impact factor in the three years showed several results; for example, in 2006 and 2008, this relationship is very weak. This reflects the influence of impact factor in the number of articles. Findings also show that synchronous self-citation rate has ascending process but diachronous self-citation has a descending process.

Conclusion: Self-citation is a natural phenomenon, but this factor affects the impact factor and thus the real stand of scientific journals. Hence, its role should be cautiously considered in the future evaluations.

Keywords: Journal self-citation, Synchronous self-citation, Diachronous self-citation, Journal impact factor, Library and Information Science

[*] Corresponding author : Behzadi.zahra@gmail.com