


EDITORIAL

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Reflections

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Headlines

This issue of *Reflections* considers the humdrum but important world of publication 'metrics'. The 'Journal Impact Factor' in 2025 for the *Journal* is holding at 2.1 (from 2.0 in 2024) with papers cited during 2023/4 anywhere between one and 11 times or not at all! 'CiteScore' is similar but over a four year period and in 2025 the impact factor was 4. Hitherto 'Crossref' has been a favoured metric that tracks the number of times an article is opened via a weblink or digital object identifier (DOI). This is of interest as Crossref tracks *all* papers that have been published in the *Journal* in both the current and legacy Wiley site. Bizarrely, the most recent metrics from Crossref reveal that a paper published in 2016 was opened more than 24,000 times in September. As the monthly best is typically 500 or so openings, Crossref suggest that the numbers for September have been compromised by bots, LLMs or, more generically, AI.

Impact factors for 2025

The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) from Clarivate Analytics is a metric used to describe the 'performance' of academic journals. The 2025 JIF is calculated from the number of citations of publications in JIB in 2023/24 (67) divided by the number of publications (32). The JIF for the *Journal* is holding at 2.1 (from 2.0). Rather than each paper being cited twice, nine were cited once, seven twice, two three times, all the way up to two reviews being cited ten and 11 times. Over the two years, nine papers were yet to be cited. At 28% of the 32 publications this is an increase on previous years (22, 24, 22 and 23%).

Another metric – Scopus CiteScore – is also used to describe the citation impact of Journals. The calculation is like that of the Clarivate impact factor, but the timescale is over four rather than two years. The most recent CiteScore impact factor for 62 papers (two have not been included!) with 246 citations (2022-25) dropped to 4.0 in 2025 (4.8 in 2024). For the record, consolidated metrics for the two impact factors between 2015-25 for the *Journal* are reported [here](#) on the website.

Metrics - handle with care

During my 10 years as Editor, a variety of metrics have been reported in *Reflections* that (to me) are insightful and illuminating. However, a recent experience has reminded me of the need to take the numbers with a 'pinch of salt'.

Crossref - an open infrastructure - tracks the number of times an article is opened via a weblink or 'digital object identifier' (DOI). For example, the DOI for this article is <https://doi.org/10.58430/jib.v132i3.105>. Happily, publications - in both the current and previous Wiley site - are tracked.

Over time, the monthly reports show the number of hits growing from *ca* 20,000 a month in 2023 to *ca* 80,000 hits in July and August 2026. However, in September, this jumped to 124,500 with the top paper registering > 24,000 'resolutions'. The publication from 2016 (<https://doi.org/10.1002/jib.295>) - 'Further purification of food-grade alcohol to make a congener-free product' - feels like an unlikely candidate for such extraordinary traffic.

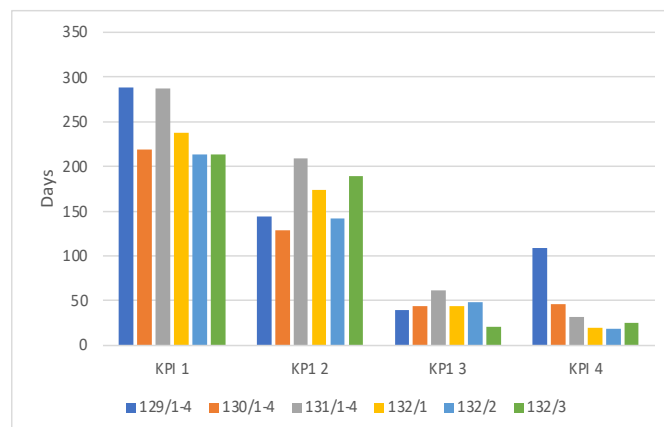
This merited further examination, as the run rate for papers over the last four years, the top 10 has grown modestly from 200 to 500 per month. Crossref were unable to help as they 'receive 3 billion resolutions per month, so we just don't have the capacity for this type of analysis'. Resolutions are apparently increasing due to bots and LLMs (Large Language Model). So - hey ho - whilst AI is causing headaches for the world at large it is also distorting hitherto useful publication metrics for scientific Journals.

Publication KPIs

Four 'key performance indicators' (KPIs) are reported which capture 'how long' the steps take between submission of the MS to publication of the paper. These are;

1. Total time from submission of the MS to publication.
2. Time from submission of the MS to 'soft' accept
3. Time for copy editing of the MS by the EiC. On completion 'hard accept'.
4. Time for creation of the draft pdf, review by authors, final edit and publication by the EiC.

These KPIs are reported for each issue of 2026 (132/1-3) together with consolidated data from volume 129 (2023) to 131 (2025).



To conclude

In this issue there are four research articles. These cover 'the malting potential of Canadian hulless barley varieties: effects of steeping and germination times', 'characterisation of Swiss wild hops - agronomic, genetic, phytochemical and aromatic diversity', 'control of beer-spoilage lactic acid bacteria during fermentation by a heat-stable bacteriocin' and 'sensory terminology for descriptive analysis of cachaça'. The corresponding authors hail from Canada, Switzerland, Republic of Korea and Brazil.

Cheers,

David Quain

Editor in Chief