

NDPLS Journal Citation Report 2010

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Impact and Immediacy factors are now available for *NDPLS* current through December 2009. We compiled Impact and Immediacy Factors based on information available in ISI's *Web of Science*, which encompasses a data base of approximately 4500 scientific journals plus approximately 1400 journals categorized as social sciences.

Impact Factor – We used the traditional computational method, which is the number of citations of *NDPLS* articles that were publishing over a 5-year period divided by the number of articles published during that period. Thus for the 2010 report we counted the citations to *NDPLS* articles that were published in 2004-2008 that were cited in articles that were published in 2004-2009, plus any citations that we found for those articles at the time they were in press and not yet published in *NDPLS*. *NDPLS* published 104 articles during the years 2004-2008. We found 170 citations to those articles in *Web of Science* journals, plus 100 more citations in *NDPLS* 2004-2009. The total of 270 citations divided by 104 articles produces a current impact factor of 2.596.

Compared to last year's report, *NDPLS*' impact factor is up 39% from last year's value of 1.871. The Impact Factor does not reflect citations to *NDPLS* articles that were originally published before 2004. Many of the earlier articles continue remain influential to works currently appearing in *NDPLS* and in other journals.

Immediacy Factor -- This is the number of citations of *NDPLS* articles within one year of the date of publication of each article. In other words, citations for 2004 articles that would count for this index would have had to be published in 2004 or 2005, and could possibly include citations to an *NDPLS* article in press insofar as that information could be ascertained from the data base. For articles published in 2004-08, there were 45 qualifying citations in the *Web of Science* data base. There were 40 additional citations within *NDPLS* for *NDPLS* articles. The total of 85 citations divided by 104 articles renders an immediacy factor of 0.817. Compared to last year's report, *NDPLS*' immediacy factor is up 38% from last year's value of 0.594.

Commentary – We are aware the ISI's *Journal Citation Reports*, which are produced for some of the journals in the *Web of Science* are now based on an exposure window of two years instead of five years. The earlier thinking was that the five year time period constituted the average "half-life" of an article's influence at the time it was instituted. The two-year system allows for more recent updates regarding a journal's influence with less influence of the past, but in our opinion, permits incomparable levels of fluctuation for relatively small-sized journals compared to large-sized journals. The two-year system also conflates the meaning of the impact factor with the immediacy factor.

The two-year system is accompanied by a new index of the journal's half-life, which purports to individualize the computation of the half-life. The half-life index often produces the default value of 10 years for journals that are relatively new, often less than 10 years old. We do not make a comparable computation for *NDPLS*.