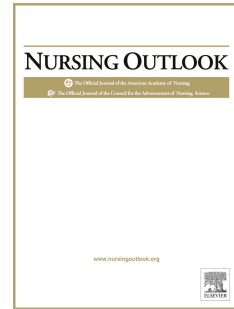


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Impact factor evolution of nursing research journals: 2009-2014

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Abstract:

Introduction: The use of bibliometric indicators (Impact Factor, Impact Index, H-index, etc.) is now believed to be a fundamental measure of the quality of scientific research output. In this context, the presence of scientific nursing journals in international databases and the factors influencing their impact ratings is being widely analyzed. **Aims:** To analyze the presence of scientific nursing journals in international databases and track the changes in their impact factor. **Methods:** A secondary analysis was carried out on data for the years 2009-2014 held in the JCR database (Subject Category: Nursing). Additionally, the presence of scientific nursing journals in Medline, CINAHL, Scopus and SJR was analysed. **Findings:** During the period studied the number of journals indexed in the JCR under the nursing subject category increased from 70 in 2009 (mean IF: 0.99 DS:0.53) to 115 in 2014 (mean IF: 1.04 DS:0.42), of which only 70 were listed for the full six years. Although mean IF showed an upward trend throughout this time, no statistically significant differences were found in the variations to this figure. **Discussion:** Although IF and other bibliometric indicators have their limitations, it is nonetheless true that bibliometry is now the most widely used tool for evaluating scientific output in all disciplines, including nursing, highlighting the importance of being familiar with how they are calculated and their significance when deciding the journal or journals in which to publish the results of our research. That said, it is also necessary to consider other possible alternative ways of assessing the quality and impact of scientific contributions.

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