

Responsible Metrics

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ADVANCING
DISCOVERY

Let's acknowledge the flaws

“I expected it to be used constructively while recognizing that in the wrong hands it might be abused,” he said. “It did not occur to me that ‘impact’ would one day become so controversial.”

Eugene Garfield

(<https://nature.com/news/time-to-remodel-the-journal-impact-factor-1.20332>)



Image credit: pixabay.com

What role does a publisher play?

Add our voice to the debate

Editorials, articles, participation in the responsible metrics movement

Establish policy

DORA signatories (Nature Research, BMC, SpringerOpen)

Article level metrics: not just journal level

Article level metrics introduced in 2012

Display a broader range of metrics

2-year Impact Factor; 5-year Impact Factor; Immediacy index; Eigenfactor® score; Article Influence Score; 2-year Median; Submission to first editorial decision; Submission to first post-review decision; Submission to first post-review decision; Submission to Accept



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NATURE RESEARCH JOURNAL METRICS

This page provides information on peer review performance and citation metrics for the Nature Research Journals. Data are collected annually for full calendar years. More information regarding the release of these data can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) to download our quick reference guide to journal metrics.

2017 Peer Review Metrics

Submission to first editorial decision: the median time (in days) from when a complete submission is received to when a first editorial decision about whether the paper was sent out for formal review or not is sent to the authors.

Submission to first post-review decision: for manuscripts that are sent to external reviewers, the median time (in days) taken from when a complete submission is received to when a editorial decision post-review is sent to the authors.

Submission to Accept: the median time (in days) from the published submission date to the final editorial acceptance date; submission date corresponds to the date of receipt of the version of the paper that received an editorial decision to revise and resubmit.

Nature Research journals	Submission to first editorial decision (median, days)	Submission to first post-review decision (median, days)	Submission to Accept (median, days)
Nature	9	43	193
Nature Astronomy	9	36	123
Nature Biomedical Engineering	4	52	209
Nature Biotechnology	7	51	205
Nature Cell Biology	8	47	192
Nature Chemical Biology	8	47	183
Nature Chemistry	9	49	170
Nature Climate Change	12	78	218
Nature Communications	10	49	189

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Can we still talk about the impact factor?



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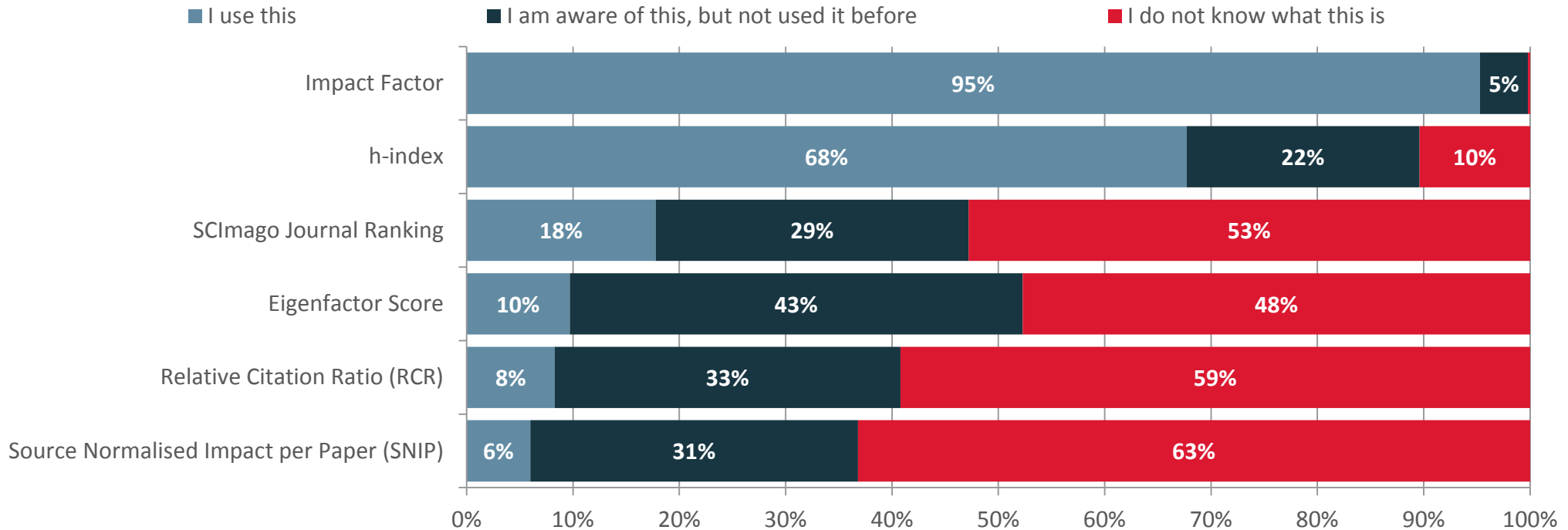
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<https://www.nature.com/content/scirep-facts/index.html>

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What metrics are important to researchers?

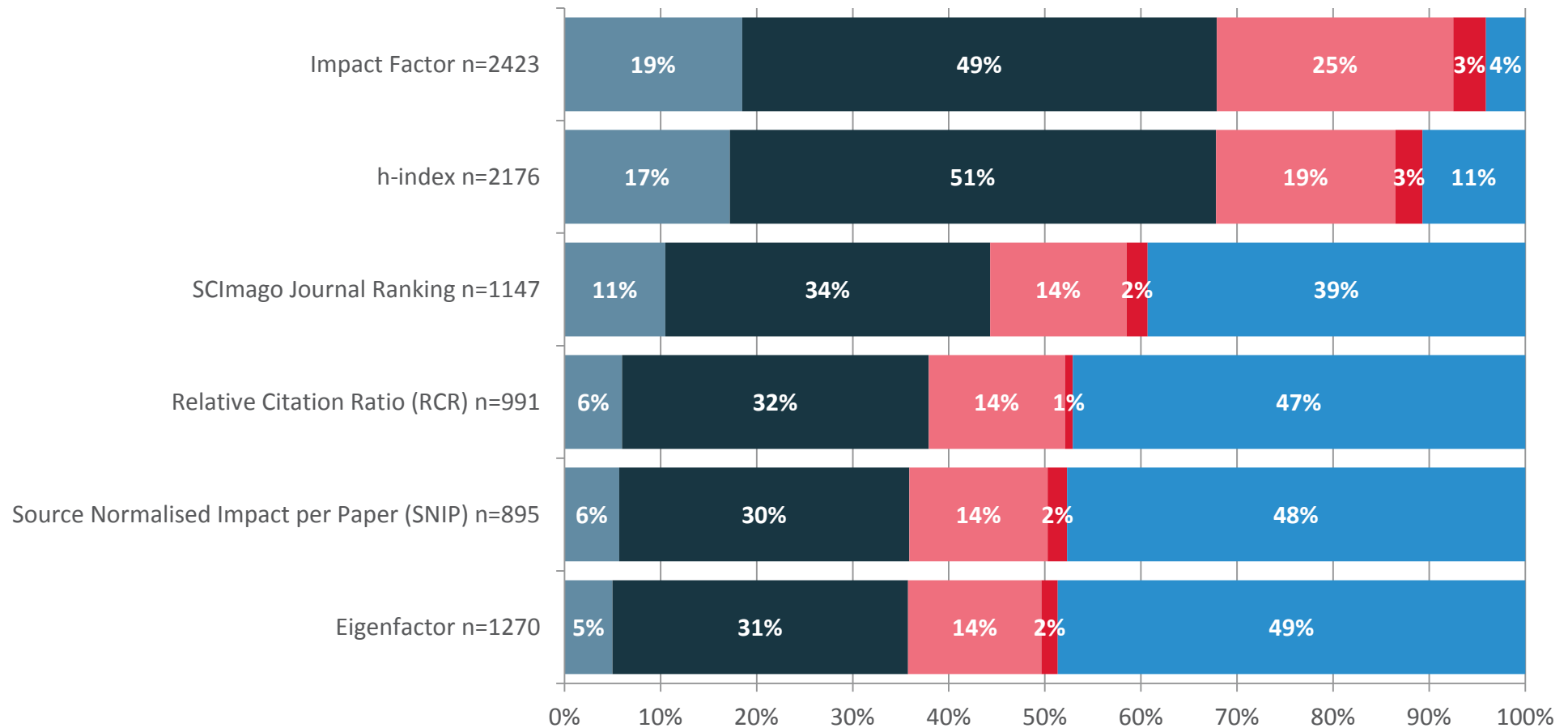
How familiar are you with each of the following metrics? n=2429



Reliability of metrics

How reliable do you think the metrics are that you use?

■ Very reliable ■ Reliable ■ Not very reliable ■ Not at all reliable ■ I am unsure



Why do authors still make use of these metrics if they see them as flawed?

“Even though impact factors are clearly manipulated and misleading, they continue to be used for evaluating tenure, promotion, and grant applications.”

The reason is that there is a lot of pressure on us (the scientists) to publish in journals with a high impact factor - we are measured on it. therefore, we have to care about it, even if we don't personally find it a very relevant or reliable metric.”

“Although I know that h-index and impact factors are poor ways to measure quality, I still use them because these are figures of merit that my institution and research funding agencies apply.”

“I think the other journal metrics are interesting and may be worth providing, but until they gain wider recognition among people who actually make decisions that impact scientific careers (i.e., tenure committees, granting agencies, etc.), I will continue to favor the more traditional rankings like Impact Factor.”

Researcher education: now and what's next?

- Get researchers to care about a range of metrics
- Insights on the reach and impact of our content
- Reports that show alternative metrics as signals of impact



Online attention



Altmetric score (what's this?)

- Tweeted by **380**
- Blogged by **18**
- On **40** Facebook pages
- Mentioned in **12** Google+ posts
- Picked up by **259** news outlets
- 7** Reddit
- 241** readers on Mendeley
- 1** readers on Citeulike





Image credit: pixabay.com

- **Let's dig deeper: bibliometrics aren't enough:**
- Qualitative indicators of impact
- Who's reading articles? What is the real world (societal/economic) impact?
- Indicators for open science

Thank you

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The story behind the image



Antarctica meltdown could double sea level rise

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University have been considering how quickly a glacial ice melt in Antarctica would raise sea levels. By updating models with new discoveries and comparing them with past sea-level rise events they predict that a melting Antarctica could raise oceans by more than 3 feet by the end of the century if greenhouse gas emissions continued unabated, roughly doubling previous total sea-level rise estimates. Rising seas could put many of the world's coastlines underwater or at risk of flooding and storm surges.

SPRINGER NATURE