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| * [Journal CiteScores 2017-2019](#citescores): citation metrics from the Scopus database.

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## Journal CiteScores 2017-2019: citation metrics from the Scopus database

**Will G Hopkins**, Institute for Health and Sport, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. **Email**. Sportscience 25, i, 2021 (sportsci.org/2021/inbrief.htm#citescores. Reviewer: Andrew Stewart, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. Published May 2021. [©2021](file:///D%3A%5CWill%27s%20Documents%5Csportsci%5Ccopyright.html)

**Updated 6 July**. The spreadsheet sorted by cite score had not been properly sorted. It now shows *International Review of Sport and Exercise* as the journal with the highest score, followed closely by *British Journal of Sports Medicine* and *Sports Medicine*.

**Updated 28 June**. A new [workbook](ScopusCiteScores2021.xlsx) shows the latest (2020) and only the previous year's (2019) cite scores, as published by Elsevier in June 2021. Amongst the top journals, *Sports Medicine* has made the biggest jump and is threatening *British Journal of Sports Medicine* for first place. My previous summary workbook showing the scores for 2017, 2018 and 2019 (and the comparison with the impact factors for the top-10 journals in 2019) is still available [here](ScopusCiteScores2020.xlsx) and from the links in the item below.

**Updated 18 May** to include relevant journals with *measurement* or *musc* in the title and a few more relevant clinical journals. Note: [*Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*](https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/sports-and-active-living) started publishing in 2019, so it is not yet in the Scopus or Web-of-Science databases.

Download a [workbook](ScopusCiteScores2020.xlsx) of the current year (2019) and two previous years of CiteScores for journals in sport and exercise medicine and science. Please email me with any journal titles I have missed and I will update the workbook. The rest of this item explains and compares the CiteScore and the traditional impact factor.

After a four-year hiatus, I am again providing a summary of citation scores for the journals in the disciplines of exercise and sport science. As noted in my [2015 article](../2015/wghif.htm), I abandoned the traditional impact factor in favor of Elsevier's metric, which is derived from a bibliographic database (Scopus) more relevant to sport and exercise science. The [Scopus site](https://www.scopus.com/sources) allows free access to scores for individual journals and for journals grouped by subject area, but exercise and/or sport science are not included in the available subject areas. I have therefore downloaded the very large and unfriendly workbook (25 MB) of over 40,000 titles from the [Scopus site](https://www.scopus.com/sources) and extracted our journals into a more user-friendly smaller (74 KB) [workbook](ScopusCiteScores2020.xlsx), which has spreadsheets sorted by 2019 CiteScore and by journal title. I have included on one of the tabs the SAS program I used to filter for our journals.

The method of calculation of the CiteScore has changed somewhat since [my last article](../2017/inbrief.htm#impactfactors); specifically, and to quote from the Scopus site, "[the] CiteScore [for a given serial for] 2019 counts the citations received in 2016-2019 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in [the given serial in] 2016-2019, and divides this by the number of publications published in [the serial in] 2016-2019." The traditional impact factor (compiled by Clarivate, formerly Thomson-Reuters and Web of Science) is calculated from the citations in all articles published in 2020 to articles published in a given journal in 2018 and 2019. For formulae that make the definitions clear, see the Wikipedia articles on the [CiteScore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CiteScore) and [impact factor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_factor). Elsevier's previous metric, the impact per paper, was calculated in the same manner as the impact factor, except that it used the previous three years rather than the previous two; the values were very similar, as detailed in my [2015 article](file:///C%3A%5CWillsDocuments%5Csportsci%5C2015%5Cwghif.htm).

I am unaware of any comparison of the new CiteScore with the impact factor for our journals, so I accessed (via my institution) the impact factors of the top 10 journals in the sport-sciences category at the [Clarivate site](https://jcr.clarivate.com) and added them to the spreadsheet. You will see that Clarivate has omitted many high-scoring journals relevant to our disciplines. You will also see that the CiteScores are higher than the impact factors, on average by 52%, with a range of 21% to 94% (a geometric mean factor of 1.52, with a range 1.21 to 1.94, as shown on the last tab of the spreadsheet). The discrepancies are much greater than those with the original impact-per-paper metric. Is the CiteScore better than the impact factor? Who knows? I suspect that neither is a particularly good measure of a journal's quality, but both are obviously good measures of a journal's popularity with researchers and prestige with bean counters.

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