



Ishfahan University of Medical Sciences  
Vice-Chancellory for Research  
Ishfahan, Iran  
13-14 May 2009

# Role of regional and national journals in international knowledge flow and transfer

**Karen Shashok**

**AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean**

[kshashok@kshashok.com](mailto:kshashok@kshashok.com)

**Factors not related to science influence the decision to accept or reject a manuscript.**

- National origin, affiliation**
- Use of English**
- Balance in topics**
- Citability**
- Potential media attention**
- Ethical issues**

# Why do journals published in developing countries fail?

**Economics:** Income is insufficient, and public funding is limited.

**Quality:** Good manuscripts and good peer review are hard to attract.

**Anglocentrism:** Databases and research demographics favor English.

“Skewed coverage of the magnitude and gravity of global health problems diminishes awareness and impedes mobilization of attention and resources in rich countries to respond to prevailing conditions.”

Lown B, Banerjee A. The developing world and the New England Journal of Medicine. Globalization and Health 2006; 2: 3. DOI: 10.1186/1744-8603-2-3

“Thus inadvertently publication imbalances adversely affect global health.”

“Medical journals cannot rectify global inequities. Nevertheless, they have an important role in educating their constituencies about the global divide.”

Lown B, Banerjee A. The developing world and the New England Journal of Medicine. Globalization and Health 2006; 2: 3. DOI: 10.1186/1744-8603-2-3

In NEJM between 1997 and 2004, less than 3.0% of original articles, review articles and editorials addressed health issues in the developing world.

Lown B, Banerjee A. The developing world and the New England Journal of Medicine. *Globalization and Health* 2006; 2: 3. DOI: 10.1186/1744-8603-2-3

# Lost citations from developing countries

The impact factors for articles from Latin American countries averaged 66% of the journal's overall impact factor.

Astrophysics J, Chem Materials, J Am Chem Soc, J Biol Chem, Proc Nat Acad Sci USA, J Immunol, Physics Rev Lett B

Meneghini R, Packer AL, Nasi-Calò L. Articles by Latin American authors in prestigious journals have fewer citations. PLoS ONE 2008; 3(11): e3804

# **The developing world needs its own science journals**

1. “Research published in international journals might not be relevant to the needs of individual countries.”
2. “By developing the research culture, local health journals can empower societies to be more engaged in the way healthcare is administered.”

# **The developing world needs its own science journals**

**3..”In non-Anglophone countries, journals in the locally used language can provide a useful channel to publicize local research that has appeared in international journals.”**

# **The developing world needs its own science journals**

**4. Preference to publish in prestigious journals in English “will inevitably skew the direction of scientific inquiry.”**

Shetty P. Comment: The developing world needs its own science journals. *New Scientist* 2008;2664:20

# **Regional journals are**

- 1. essential in building significant and sustainable science capacity**
- 2. indispensable components of truly globalized scholarship**
- 3. Should operate on a not-for-profit (subsidized) economic model**

Gevers W. Regional journals can boost science capacity. SciDev Net 19 September 2008. Available at [www.scidev.net/en/opinions/regional-journals-can-boost-science-capacity.html](http://www.scidev.net/en/opinions/regional-journals-can-boost-science-capacity.html)

# Should **regional** journals imitate **international** journals?



M. Xeridat, in Van Kolschooten F. Can you believe what you read? *Nature* 2002;416:360-363

# Why are non-English journals vital for knowledge transfer at the national level?

1. Adopting English as the language of publication may **alienate lay people** from the products of science.

2. The **local language** may lose its ability to depict new concepts and phenomena.

La Madeleine BL. Lost in translation. Nature 2007; 445: 454-455

# Why are non-English journals vital?

3. “Healthcare professionals and journalists find it easier to access and understand an article if it is written in their native language.”

Both communicate with **patients** and the **general public** in their native language.

Meneghini R, Packer AL. Is there science beyond English? EMBO Reports 2007; 8:112-116

4. Even as multilingual scholars' material conditions may hinder their English publishing, the **global research community suffers from not receiving their research findings, insights, and methodologies. The result may...an “academic monoculture.”**

Curry MJ, Lillis T. The Dominance of English in Global Scholarly Publishing. *International Higher Education* 2007; 46: 6-7

“Under globalization, the **multidirectional circulation of knowledge** from academic research has greater potential for benefit than does a unidirectional flow outward from Anglophone countries.”

Curry MJ, Lillis T. The Dominance of English in Global Scholarly Publishing. *International Higher Education* 2007; 46: 6-7

“Several initiatives now aim to strengthen the impact and quality of national journals with the goal of gaining greater international visibility for articles published in a language other than English.”

Meneghini R, Packer AL. Is there science beyond English?  
EMBO Reports 2007; 8:112-116

# Link between Thompson Scientific database and SciELO and other evolving regional databases?

Gevers W. Regional journals can boost science capacity. SciDev Net 19 September 2008. Available at [www.scidev.net/en/opinions/regional-journals-can-boost-science-capacity.html](http://www.scidev.net/en/opinions/regional-journals-can-boost-science-capacity.html)

# **How can journals gain greater international visibility?**

## **1. Full text translation**

- All articles
- Selected article

## **2. Title, abstract and key words in English (and other languages)**

## **3. Extended summary in English (and other languages)**

# How can journals gain greater international visibility?



REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE  
**CARDIOLOGIA**

ONLINE  
Publicación oficial de la Sociedad Española de Cardiología

**Número actual**  
Vol. 62, num. 04 Abril 2009

**Números anteriores**

**Próximo número**

**Suplementos**

**Índice por secciones**

**Factor de impacto  
año 2007 – 2,207**

**Avance online**  
Actualizado 03/04/2009

 [Envío de manuscritos online](#)

**English Version**

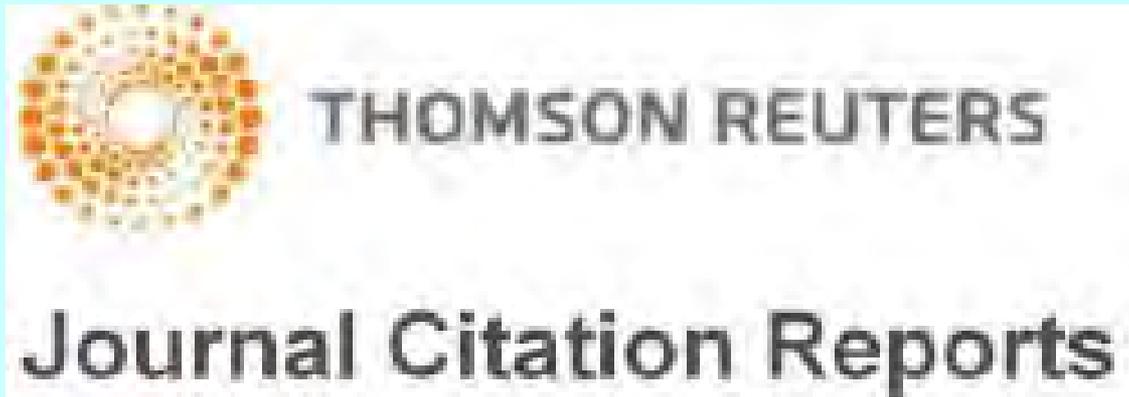
imacional  
Cardiovasculares

# **How can journals gain greater international visibility?**

**4. Good regional indexing system with user interface in English in addition to regional languages and good technical support**

**5. Indexing in international systems**

**6. Equal status for all language versions**



# PubMed

A service of the [U.S. National Library of Medicine](#)  
and the [National Institutes of Health](#)

My NCBI   
[\[Sign In\]](#) [\[Register\]](#)

[All Databases](#) [PubMed](#) [Nucleotide](#) [Protein](#) [Genome](#) [Structure](#) [OMIM](#) [PMC](#) [Journals](#) [Books](#)

Search PubMed

for

[Advanced Search](#)

[About Entrez](#)

[Text Version](#)

[Limits](#)

[Preview/Index](#)

[History](#)

[Clipboard](#)

[Details](#)

[Entrez PubMed](#)

[Overview](#)

[Help | FAQ](#)

[Tutorials](#)

**To get started with PubMed, enter one or more search terms.**

**Search terms may be [topics](#), [authors](#) or [journals](#).**

**SciELO website**

**<http://www.scielo.br>**



[Home](#)[About WHO](#)[Countries](#)[Health topics](#)[Publications](#)[Data and statistics](#)[Programmes and projects](#)[Library and](#)[WHO](#) > [Programmes and projects](#) > [Library and Information Networks for Knowledge](#) > [Databases](#)[📄 printable version](#)

## Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region

In order to give access to health literature published in or related to the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the Eastern Mediterranean Region Library Network (EMLIBNET) produces an international index to Eastern Mediterranean health literature and information sources using headings according to the Medical Subject Headings MeSH list of the U.S. National Library of Medicine. This index is called Index Medicus for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR).

Islamic Republic of IRAN  
Ministry of Science, Research and Technology  
*Regional Information Center for Science & Technology*



وزارتخانه‌ی اطلاع‌رسانی علوم و فناوری

## *Islamic World Science Citation Database (ISC)*

ISC

**The First Citation System in Islamic  
Countries**

[FAQ](#)

[ISC Seminar  
2008](#)

# Islamic World Science Citation Database

Run by the Islamic Citation Center,  
Shiraz University

“a science citation index similar to that of Thomson Scientific, which will analyze research performance in Islamic countries with the aim of improving research output and impact”

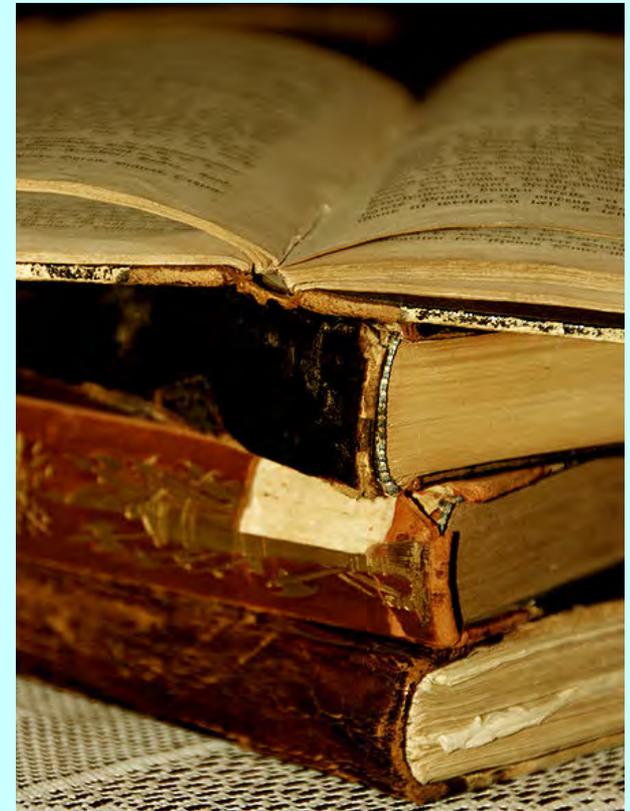
# **Islamic World Science Citation Database**

Sawahel W. Islamic countries to get own science citation index. Science and Development Network. Available at **[www.scidev.net/news/islamic-countries-to-get-own-science-citation-inde.html](http://www.scidev.net/news/islamic-countries-to-get-own-science-citation-inde.html)**. Accessed 20 October 2008

# Ask your librarian or information scientist about bibliographic databases and journal indexes.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F
30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	6F
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	7A	7B	7C	7D	7E	7F
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	8A	8B	8C	8D	8E	8F
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	9A	9B	9C	9D	9E	9F
A0	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF
B0	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF
C0	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	CA	CB	CC	CD	CE	CF
D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	DA	DB	DC	DD	DE	DF
E0	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	EA	EB	EC	ED	EE	EF
F0	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	FA	FB	FC	FD	FE	FF

- Latin scripts and symbols
- Linguistic scripts
- Other European scripts
- Middle Eastern and Southwest Asian scripts
- African scripts
- South Asian scripts
- Southeast Asian scripts
- East Asian scripts
- Unified CJK Han
- Canadian Aboriginal scripts
- Symbols
- Diacritics
- UTF-16 surrogates and private use
- Miscellaneous characters
- Unallocated code points



Wikimedia Commons

# Editorial quality

Use an accurate **title**,  
a good **abstract**, and  
good **key words**  
so that computerized indexes and  
search engines can  
find articles easily.

**Pay particular attention to the parts that **readers look at first:****

- Title, abstract, key words**
- Tables, figures, conclusions, references**

**EMAME website**

**<http://www.emro.who.int/EMAME/index.htm>**

Eastern Mediterranean Association of  
Medical Editors

*About* **EMAME**

---

What is EMAME?

**WAME - [www.wame.org](http://www.wame.org)**

**ICMJE - [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)**

**EASE - [www.ease.org.uk](http://www.ease.org.uk)**

**CSE - [www.](http://www.councilscienceeditors.org)**

**[councilscienceeditors.org](http://www.councilscienceeditors.org)**

**MET - [www.metmeetings.org](http://www.metmeetings.org)**

**CONSORT - [www.consort-statement.org](http://www.consort-statement.org)**

**EMWA - [www.emwa.org](http://www.emwa.org)**

**Thank-you very much**



**Wikimedia  
Commons**

**AuthorAID in the Eastern  
Mediterranean**

# Copyeditor performance

Preferred version, major errors and readability (Number of papers)

Publisher's version	16
Author's version	2
Different, neither version unequivocally preferred	2
Equally good	4

Wates E, Campbell R. Author's version vs. publisher's version: an analysis of the copy-editing function. *Learned Publishing* 2007; 20(2): 121-129

**For non-native English speakers  
publication is slower, and there  
is a higher risk of being  
misunderstood or ignored if the  
English or writing are not good.**

**La Madeleine BL. Lost in translation. Nature 2007;  
445: 454-455**

**Don't give away **copyright** for all languages including the first language in your setting.**

The global spread of English, scientific communication and ESP: questions of equity, access and domain loss

**Gibson Ferguson**

University of Sheffield

[g.r.ferguson@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:g.r.ferguson@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Ibérica 2007; 13: 7-38**