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ABSTRACT

Objective: This project aimed to assess nursing faculty awareness and knowledge of the journal impact factor (JIF) and its impact on their publication choices.

Methods: A qualitative cross-sectional questionnaire was developed using Fluid Survey and distributed electronically to nursing faculty and instructors at three post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan. Data were collected on place and status of employment, knowledge and awareness of JIFs, and criteria used to choose journals for publication.

Results: A total of forty-four nursing faculty and instructors completed the questionnaire. The authors found that faculty lack awareness or complete understanding of JIFs and that JIFs are not the most important or only criterion used when they choose a journal for publication.

Conclusions: There are various reasons for choosing a journal for publication. It is important for librarians to understand faculty views of JIFs and their criteria for choosing journals for publication, so that librarians are better equipped to guide researchers in considering their academic goals, needs, and personal values.

CITATION

The study is now published:

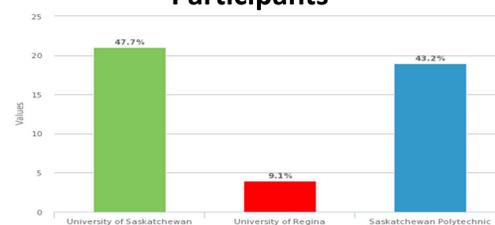
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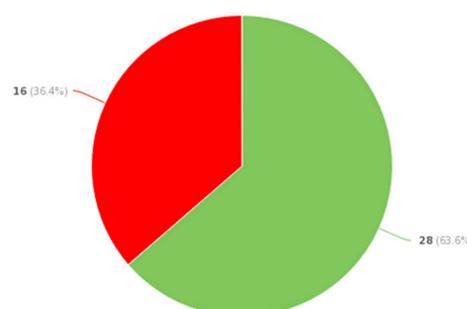
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RESULTS

Participants



Do you know about JIF?



At your institution does JIF matter for tenure purposes?



QUALITATIVE RESPONSES – Define JIF in your own words

“An impact factors means that the journal is respected by scientific community and highly subscribed”

“ok i thought I knew what this meant, but I looked it up and I didn't get it right!”

“How many people read the journal. How well known it is for its information”

“It is a rank that is given to a journal in relation to how it is valued by peer reviewers based citations”

“The likelihood of an article in a journal being cited in another article”

Conclusions

Regardless of their knowledge of JIF or institutional requirements regarding JIF for tenure/promotion purposes, faculty chose the journal for publication based on three criteria: aim and scope; target audience, and peer review.

Top 3 criteria used for publishing

Response	Count	Percentage
Subject matter (aim and scope)	28	63.6%
Target audience	24	54.9%
Peer reviewed	22	50.0%

It is important for librarians to know about:

- Faculty awareness and perceptions of the JIF, and,
- The nature of publication choices and their impact in nursing scholarship.

This knowledge will help librarians better understand, converse with, and educate faculty on the choice of a journal based on individual academic goals, organizational needs, and personal values, particularly when faculty apply for grants and scholarships that may require them to publish in high impact journals. Understanding faculty goals and values will help librarians to offer unbiased information during the consulting process.

LIMITATIONS

The small number of survey respondents makes it difficult to draw generalized conclusions regarding nursing faculty's knowledge and perception of the value of the JIF. A follow-up study employing interviews with faculty who are required to publish may yield richer qualitative results.

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